



CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON



North Branch Grad
Gets Global Perspective!!!

When people are getting ready to graduate from high school, they often say that they are going to travel and see the world! This is often easier said than done! Not so for Sarah Willson, a 2004 graduate of North Branch High School.

After graduation, Sarah attended Davis College in Johnson City, New York, to study English as a Second Language. As her college graduation approached, she began looking for jobs overseas. After hearing about some opportunities in China and researching the program online, Sarah got in contact with a recruiting agency who hired her for the job. She then went to California for two weeks of training before traveling to her new job at SIAS University in Xin Vheng, China!

Sarah works with sophomores at the university to help them with conversational English. Although Chinese students begin studying English when they are in kindergarten, they need experience in using English while speaking. The students are very interested in the American culture and often ask Sarah about everyday life in America. According to Sarah, the students often have a lot of misconceptions about America (just as we probably do about China) and Sarah is able to give them accurate information. Sarah is part of a group of other teachers from the United States and lives on campus with the other teaching staff.

Sarah got involved and interested in teaching English as a Second Language while helping a friend from Japan with her English. It was such a rewarding experience that Sarah decided to major in it while in college. She stated that it is a great feeling to be able to help others.

Sarah will be heading back to China for another year of teaching this fall! She really enjoys working with the students there and describes them as very helpful and serious about learning. She states that the competition is fierce and there is a lot of pressure for students to do well. In fact, education is so important that sometimes a village will choose its most promising student and then provide the support necessary for that student to go to college!

Sarah is looking forward to another great year at SIAS University! She is really glad to have the opportunity to teach in a foreign country, learn about a different culture, and meet new people! Sarah is the daughter of John and Shari Willson of North Branch.

**NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jack Lewis, *President.*
Ginger Russell, *Vice President.*
Lorrelei Natke, *Secretary*
Cathy Severance, *Treasurer*
Kevin McCrory, *Trustee*
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Rosann Clark, *Trustee*

NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS

MISSION STATEMENT

North Branch Area Schools...a learning community dedicated to excellence.

BELIEFS

- ❖ Children come first
- ❖ Each child can learn
- ❖ Collaboration among parents, children, staff, and the community is essential to school success
- ❖ Learning is a life-long experience
- ❖ A safe and caring environment is essential to quality learning
- ❖ High expectations lead to an individual's highest achievement
- ❖ In creating educational opportunities to meet individual needs
- ❖ Successful schools continually evaluate and adapt to changing needs
- ❖ The responsibility for our children's overall success rests with the entire community

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?

NEED HELP SOLVING A PROBLEM?

You are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals to assist you in answering your school-related questions, or to assist you in resolving problems. We are always open to your suggestions and ideas for improving North Branch Area Schools.

- Al Piwinski, *Superintendent* 810-688-3570
Adair Aumock, *Director of Curriculum & Technology* 810-688-3570
Cheryl Bruff, *Director of Finance & Business* 810-688-3570
Matt Hess, *Director of Operations & Transportation* 810-688-3660
Food Services. 810-688-2226
Leann Gwinn, *FABS Child Care* 810-688-4634
Louis Dominick, *Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor* 810-688-4625
District Website: www.nbbrncos.net

HIGH SCHOOL

- Mark Hiltunen, *Principal* 810-688-3001
John Sherman, *Asst. Principal* 810-688-3001
Jim Fish, *Asst.Principal/Athletic Director* 810-688-2518
Richard Stevens, *Counselor* 810-688-3564
Susan Strump, *Counselor.* 810-688-3564
Georgette Aguilar, *Quest High School* 810-688-7581

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Shelly Cranick, *Principal* 810-688-4431
Sue Shoemaker, *Counselor* 810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

- Ann Wood, *Principal* 810-688-3284
Tammy Siegler, *Counselor* 810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

- Merry Hosner, *Principal* 810-688-3041
Wendy Spivy, *Principal* 810-688-3042
Brenda Jefferey, *Counselor* 810-688-3041

It takes a Village to Raise a Child

The citizens of Michigan are experiencing the most significant decline in our economy in recent history. With the demise of the auto industry Michigan is hurting more than many of our states during these tough times. What we keep hearing is that Michigan must redefine itself from a manufacturing state and develop a more diverse economy. The new Michigan will require a more highly skilled work force. Education will be more important for our children then ever before.

In response to this need the State of Michigan has raised the bar for our high school students. Today’s graduates are expected to be prepared to go beyond high school and are expected to go on to college for a two or four year degree or obtain advanced training in a skilled trade.

In a recent article our state Superintendent Mike Flanagan stated that he is worried about Michigan students dropping out of high school. He states that today, one of every four Michigan students fail to graduate with their class. He is asking all community members, and caring adults to help share in the vision of parents and educators in helping all kids to be successful in school.

He has challenged educators to use research, create special programs, and work with parents in providing support for all students. He is also asking all members of the community to get involved in sharing the vision of success in school for all students and helping them graduate from high school.

With this in mind, why not consider volunteering as an adult advocate for North Branch children? Beginning now, volunteers can help tutor children to help close the learning gap. During the school year, volunteers can help monitor attendance, serve as a mentor or tutor and help with organized after school programs.

You can help us make a meaningful difference so that our children, North Branch children, grow into productive citizens. That’s where the familiar cliché comes in “It takes a Village to Raise a Child.” We, as educators are taking a stand to improve the lives and change the outcomes for our children. Won’t you join us?

If you can give your time and expertise please call one of our schools or call the superintendent’s office at 688-3570 to learn how you can become involved.

WHAT IS THE LAPEER COUNTY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE (GSC)?

The Lapeer County Great Start Collaborative is part of a state-wide initiative to create public understanding that learning *begins at birth!* This investment in early childhood health, development, and learning is crucial to the well-being of our children AND the state’s economic future. Each year, too many Michigan children enter kindergarten with previously unidentified problems. For these children, not being ready for school becomes a life-long sentence of poor academic achievement and limited opportunity!

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN THE LAPEER COUNTY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE AND PARENT COALITION?

There are many ways that parents and child care providers can be involved! We are looking for parents in this community to work with the Parent Liaison for Lapeer County to help identify the needs of our children to better prepare them for school. We need local parents that have children age 12 and under who would like to form a group to meet and talk in detail about their community and, as parents, create a “Wish List” of what could be done within our community to help families with young children.

We need parents to actively participate in these group discussions and offer suggestions about the strengths and weaknesses in our community regarding opportunities, services and resources. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Join us for a KICKOFF MEETING – September 22, 2009 5:30 p.m.
at the Ed-Tech Center
Meal and Child Care Provider. Contact Teresa Gormley to RSVP!!
Linda Detavernier (NB Class of ’76) Phone: (810) 664-5917 ext 1179
fax (810) 664-1011 Great Start Coordinator Lapeer County
email: ldetavernier@lcisd.k12.mi.us
Teresa Gormley (NB Class of ’79) Phone: (810) 245-3967
Great Start Parent Liaison Lapeer County email: tgormley@lcisd.k12.mi.us

EMPOWERING FAMILIES IN LAPEER COUNTY TO PROVIDE A GREAT START FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND IN LIFE!

Welcome back to learning

By Adair W. Aumock, Director of Curriculum & Technology

Welcome back! It’s been a long summer, and I’m sure many of you are eager for school to finally start. Thank you for entrusting us with your child’s education. Our aim is to prepare every North Branch student to become a successful, productive citizen in our global community. While this seems like a daunting task in these turbulent times, it’s really just a matter of focusing what schools have always done. The most important fact is that it takes a community effort to prepare our children for the 21st century. I ask for the help of every community member this year in the following areas.



In this emerging information age, with technology abounding in every corner of life, READING is more important than ever. Whether reading books, magazines, or web pages for information or leisure, reading is a key that opens doors to the entire world. When someone cannot read, they are at the mercy of “talking heads” for news, information, and opinions, essentially enslaving them. This year, I encourage everyone to read more. As a family, take time to share books and articles of interest. Check out the great collection of new releases and classics in our school and public libraries. Check out the “AR” books your kids are reading in school. We will be forming “Reading Circles” for students around common interests and gender based reading groups in Ruth Fox and the Middle School. As someone who didn’t discover the power of reading until later in life, I encourage you to make time to build a love of reading in your children. You just might rediscover a passion for yourself.

When the state established new graduation requirements three years ago, the hallmark of the legislation was every student successfully completing Algebra II. This was added because math skills and logical thought processes are vital in most 21st century careers. This has increased the importance and rigor of math beginning in the earliest grades. Today’s 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are doing math most of us had in high school, if at all. Basic math skills like adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing are the foundation upon which high school graduation will be built, so they must be mastered early. Encourage your students to learn their math facts by heart and to practice their math skills often.

Finally, and most importantly, encourage your children to be responsible. In an era when lax ethical standards have lead to economic and political chaos in our world, the best hope is the rising generation. Please encourage your children to think about the impact of their decisions before they act, and to own the consequences for those decisions after the fact. Complete homework when it is assigned. Show respect for self and others. Take turns and share. Cheer enthusiastically and positively instead of complaining and tearing down. Volunteer to give of your own time to help others around you in need. This is an important lesson, not only for children, but for each one of us to remember and practice. If North Branch is to be “a learning community dedicated to excellence” as our mission states, it must begin with each of us dedicating ourselves to ethical, responsible, excellent behavior.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

September 8, 2009

a full day for students (grades 1st – 12th)

2009-2010 Building Schedules

High School & Middle School (grades 7 – 12) – 7:35 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Ruth Fox Elementary (grades 5 – 6) – 8:40 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.
North Branch Elementary (grades K– 4) – 8:40 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
AM Kindergarten 8:40 a.m. – 11:55 p.m.
PM Kindergarten – 12:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NORTH BRANCH LIONS

Auto Cross

Bump & Run

4&6 Cylinder cars on circle dirt track racing with jumps

Saturday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m.

“Rain Date” Saturday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m.

**Presented by the North Branch Lions Club
at the North Branch Lions Club Grounds
Beech Street, South of M-90**

\$2,000.00 Cash Prize Money & Trophy’s

Annual Pesticide Notification

As part of the North Branch Area School District’s pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and building. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application if you need prior notification, please complete the information below and submit to:

Matthew Hess, Director of Operations, North Branch Area Schools, 6655 Jefferson Rd., P.O. Box 3620, North Branch 48461. (810) 688-4625

Pesticide prior notification request should include:

- Parent/Guardian Name
- Student’s Name
- Home Address
- Telephone Numbers (Daytime & Evening)
- School Building or Site
- Please indicate whether prior notification is requested for treatment inside the building, on outside grounds or both
- Please sign and date the request
- Requests must be filed annually

A.H.E.R.A. Notification

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires that schools be inspected for asbestos at least once every three years. The inspection must identify, catalog, and provide directions for maintaining asbestos found in any school buildings. The inspection reports are on file in the principal’s office at each building. Mr. Lou Dominick, the Facility Supervisor is the designated person responsible for maintaining these records and insuring that any necessary maintenance is properly completed. All of the school district’s maintenance and custodial staff have received the required training in understanding and handling issues relating to asbestos containing materials. Questions concerning North Branch Area School’s asbestos management plan should be directed to Mr. Lou Dominick at (810) 688-4625.

Got a used band instrument?

With the hard economic times, we are asking for donations of any used instruments that you may have in a closet, attic, or garage. We have students and families that need your help. If you would like to donate an instrument, please call the Band Office at 688-7251. Mr. Ehardt will return your phone call as soon as possible. Thank you for your support!

Summer time blues??

Blues and red and maroon, pink, white, green, black, beige and especially yellow is more like it! Our Custodians, Maintenance, Grounds and Mechanic staff would all agree that 14 weeks of summer is not very long. Our employees have been hard at work this summer getting the school district ready for the coming school year. It is hard for most to see or imagine the work that gets done from the moment the last bell in June rings until the first buses roll in to drop off students in September. But our staff knows their tasks well and gets a huge list of assignments done so that the learning environment at North Branch Area Schools will be ready for your students on the first day of school. This summer we were able to add a few special projects in to the mix and we hope you will notice their handiwork in how the buildings look. I know that I am always amazed and very impressed with how it all comes together for that first day. My thanks and congratulations for a job well done to all our support staff who work hard to get those summer jobs done!

F.A.B.S.

Fun After & Before School

Any North Branch Area School student from
Preschool to 6th grade is eligible to register.
The hours of operation are 6:00 AM – 6:30 PM
every week day.

We are open on 1/2 days,
In-service days and snow days.
F.A.B.S. will be closed for Thanksgiving break,
winter break and spring break.

This program is funded by user fees

\$2.25 per hr. 1st child

\$1.75 per hr. each additional sibling

FABS is licensed by The State of Michigan.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Fall registration will be available August 10th.

For further information, contact Leann Gwinn
(810) 688-4634 OR 688-3041Ext.2881.

FLU ALERT

This fall—as every fall—we not only have to plan for a new version of seasonal influenza, but in addition, another potentially serious strain, the 2009 H1N1 virus.

We first saw the new H1N1 virus in the U.S. last April, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to report higher than normal levels of flu-like illness and actual H1N1 outbreaks in some parts of the country. That’s very unusual at this time of year.

CDC estimates so far we’ve had more than 1 million cases of H1N1 in the United States. Similar to seasonal flu, with H1N1 you’ll get a fever, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, achiness, headache, chills and fatigue. Sometimes H1N1 causes diarrhea and vomiting. Just like seasonal flu, it can be severe and potentially deadly.

H1N1 can be dangerous for a person with an underlying medical condition—such as asthma or diabetes—or if you’re pregnant. So far, it’s been most contagious among children and young adults age six months to 24 years. Health care workers, emergency responders, and people caring for infants should be on guard.

Scientists believe this virus could worsen with the arrival of school. But if we prepare for the virus now, it does not have to.

Some of these precautions are simple and personal. Make it a routine to wash your hands often with soap and water. Cough into your elbow or into a tissue, not in your hands.

Stay home if you’re sick, and start planning now in the event that one of your kids gets the flu. And ask yourself these questions: If you work, have you made arrangements for child care? Have you talked with your employer about what to do in case you need to be out?

At the national level, scientists at the National Institutes of Health, the CDC, and the Food and Drug Administration are working with vaccine manufacturers to make sure that an H1N1 vaccine is not only safe, but that the virus is not changing in ways that would reduce a vaccine’s impact. They expect to have a vaccine ready this fall.

If you want more information, please visit-www.cdc.gov or www.michigan.gov/flu . The sites provide guidance to prepare for, prevent, and respond to an outbreak.

To wrap up: Remember to wash your hands, cough in your sleeve, and stay home when you’re sick. Get the vaccine when it’s available. No one knows what the impact of the fall flu season will be until we’re in the middle of it. But how severe the flu becomes this fall will depend on how seriously each of us takes action to reduce the risk now.

North Branch Area Schools Cafeteria News...

Our food service department welcomes your family back for the 2009-2010 school year and we welcome those families new to our school district.

On July 1, 2009 the North Branch Area Schools Food-Service Department left the Chartwells organization and began operating our own food services. We promise to continue to deliver healthy, good, quality food and services to you and your children. The employees of the department have all remained with the district and are all looking forward to continuing our relationships with you.

Breakfast is offered daily in all schools. Students who eat breakfast perform better in school. Research shows that students who eat a healthy breakfast show increased attention at school, visit the nurse less often, and have lower rates of tardiness and absenteeism.

Please fill out only **one** Family Meal Application *per household* and return it as soon as possible. Students must have a new application on file within the first 30 days of the current school year.

2009-2010 Meal Prices

Elementary:	Breakfast \$1.35	Lunch \$2.00
Secondary:	Breakfast \$1.50	Lunch \$2.35
Sandwich	Central \$3.00	Adult \$3.50
Milk:	\$.50	

Did you know?

Parents of students attending North Branch Area Schools can enjoy the convenience of sending in meal money on a weekly or monthly basis. You may send in a check or cash to prepay for meals. Here is how the system works:

Send a check payable to North Branch Area Schools or cash in an envelope. Include the name(s) and grade(s) of the student(s) for whom the meal is being paid. This payment and information may be sent to the building your student attends.

The money will be immediately deposited in your student’s meal account.

As your student(s) check out of the food service line, their purchase will be automatically debited from their account balance.

When the amount of your account gets low, your student(s) will be notified. You may then send in additional funds.

Any balance on your account at the conclusion of a school year will either be refunded to you by check or the balance may be carried forward to the next school year, or transferred to another child’s account.

Give our prepaid meal program a try. It’s secure and convenient.

Thank you for your participation in North Branch Area Schools breakfast and lunch program. Please contact Matthew Hess, Director of Operations at 810-688-3660 if you have any questions about food services.



Access to Student Directory Information

Under the General Provisions (Section 9528) of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*, student directory information (names, addresses, and telephone listing) must be made available to military recruiters in every branch of the U.S. Military and institutions of higher education, upon their formal request. In order to receive funding under *No Child Left Behind*, districts must comply with this request. Failure to comply in a timely manner could lead to the withholding of federal funds.

A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student’s name, address and telephone listing, not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency shall comply with this request. If you would like to exercise this option, please contact the high school office in writing.

Parents can also find more information regarding *No Child Left Behind* by going to the following website:
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/nclbguide/parentsguide.html>

Attendance Policy Change

School attendance is a major factor related to academic success. To earn a credit in any class at North Branch High School, students must have a passing grade and be in attendance 90% of the days the class is scheduled to be in session. This means that a student can miss up to six (6) days per class before losing credit due to attendance issues. In the past, a student who went over the six (6) day limit had to buy time back by serving Saturday detention. That policy is no longer in effect. Students exceeding six (6) absences in a single trimester must attain both a minimum of 77% (C+) on the final exam and a minimum of 60% (D-) in the calculated term grade in order to receive credit. Students not earning credit due to failing to meet the attendance guidelines will receive a grade of “NC” (No Credit) on their transcript. This grade is calculated as 0.0 in the GPA.

Attendance Appeals A student who fails to earn credit in a course due to attendance may appeal in writing to the principal within five (5) school days of the end of the term. The basis of the appeal must be a hardship or extraordinary circumstance that has adversely affected attendance. The decision of the principal will be made within five (5) school days of the appeal and is final.

The new attendance policy will be explained in detail with each student on the first day of school. Questions can be directed to the High School office at 688-3001. Parents may also stop by the High School office to pick up a brochure that explains the new policy.

Student Dress Code

It is the responsibility of parents and students to see that school dress is appropriate and not disruptive to the educational process. We want all students to take pride in their appearance, pride in their education, and pride in their school. We ask that Students and Parents take care in their selection of apparel for school. A copy of the Dress code can be found in the Student Handbook and under the “School Policies” section on the NBHS website.

Student Handbooks

The student handbook, which includes the Code of Student Conduct, may be found on the NBHS website (Go to website and click on “Schools.” Next, click on the picture or text of “North Branch High School.” It is suggested that both parents and students review this document before the start of the school year. If you do not have access to the internet, please stop by the North Branch High School Main Office.

Counselor’s Corner

A new school year, a new start! This is the outlook that parents, students and staff share at the start of the fall semester. For some students, the initial enthusiasm to “do better” may diminish over the first few weeks. Collectively, we are all responsible for ensuring opportunities for students to succeed. At NBHS, several tools are available for parents and students to keep track of the ongoing progress students are making. *Family Access* assists families in monitoring student progress in each class. Teacher websites depict the upcoming projects, assignments, tests and more. Your counselors are here to guide students through career, academic, personal and social development and their families through the high school experience. The counselors provide presentations throughout the year and stress the importance of how being successful in school transfers over to being successful in the workplace. This year, to even out numbers, the student caseload for the counselors has changed to **Mrs. Strump A-K** and **Mr. Stevens L-Z**.

Students take several standardized tests through the year. Freshmen will take the DAT in their Critical Reading class. This test assists with career choices and program selection for Ed-Tech. On October 22nd all students will be tested. **Freshmen** will test with the MEAP social studies. **Sophomores** will take the PLAN test. This test is a pre ACT. It not only helps the student prepare for the ACT, it is also another tool used for Ed-Tech placement. **Juniors** will take the ASVAB. While the ASVAB is a military test, it is used throughout the Nation to help all students discern their career pathway. **Seniors** will have another opportunity for direction in their career path.

Students received their class schedules in May, therefore, the only schedule changes that will be allowed will be those where students need a failed course recycled, are in the wrong level or there is a hole in the schedule. Freshmen will have a bit more latitude in this area.

Look for changes in the counselor’s website. To assist students and families, timelines for each grade level, scholarships, college representative visits and many other items will soon be added. Make sure to take advantage of any posted workshops (usually in conjunction with parent/teacher conferences) such as the financial aid conference in January.



FORENSICS

Huzzah! The forensics team is raising money for summer camps and their annual trip to the Grand Hotel. They will be selling t-shirts and souvenirs at the renaissance festival in Holly for the seven weekends that it is held. Our students are dressed in the 14th century period costumes and use the vernacular of the times. The speech activities at NBHS include forensics: a competitive activity occurring on weekends from January to May. Students begin in late fall to write their speeches or select literature; depending on which of the 14 categories they choose to compete in. Model United Nations has students representing various countries and simulating the United Nations. Students travel to Wayne State University, Hope College and the Tri-Valley League. Legislative debate used to be called Student Congress. It is also called congressional debate where students debate National issues. Teams for Legislative debate and Model United Nations are built after school starts. While interviews of former members of the forensics team are finished, the team will take new members. Students should contact Mrs. or Mr. Stevens if interested.

Fall ACT sign up deadline nears

North Branch will once again be a testing site for the ACT. The fall test will be held on Saturday, October 24th. The deadline to sign up for the fall test is Friday, September 18th, 2009.

High School Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences set

The annual Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences have been set for Wednesday, October 14th, from 4 – 6 p.m. and Thursday, October 15th, from 5 – 7 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend one of these sessions to meet with their student’s teachers and discuss their students’ academic needs. A College Planning Seminar will be presented by the Counseling Department during conferences. Parents of seniors should attend to find out more about what is required to begin college entrance plans.

Parent Newsletters Online

Parent Newsletters will be available on-line throughout the school year on the High School Website. Parents are encouraged to regularly check out the “Parents Newsletters” section along with other informational sections of our website.

Hard Work Pays Off

By Adair W. Aumock, Director of Curriculum & Technology

This past spring, all 11th grade students in Michigan took the Michigan Merit Exam (MME). This 3-day examination combines an ACT plus Writing test with Work Keys Math and Reading tests and tests written by the Michigan Department of Education. This statewide examination attempts to measure the proficiency of Michigan students according to the state’s established curriculum standards. It also provides each student with a college-reportable ACT score.

This year, North Branch High School’s students fared very well on this test. Our high school scored at or above the county average in all subject areas. In fact, North Branch High School had the highest percent proficient of any Lapeer County high school in both Math and Reading. Additionally, North Branch High School bested the State Average in Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies, and we were only 2 percentage points below in Writing. While we still have room to improve in each of these areas, we are very proud of these results. They reflect the hard work and dedication to excellence of our students and staff.

Additionally, North Branch once again had the lowest dropout rate of any Lapeer County district, and one of the highest graduation rates in the region. We are very

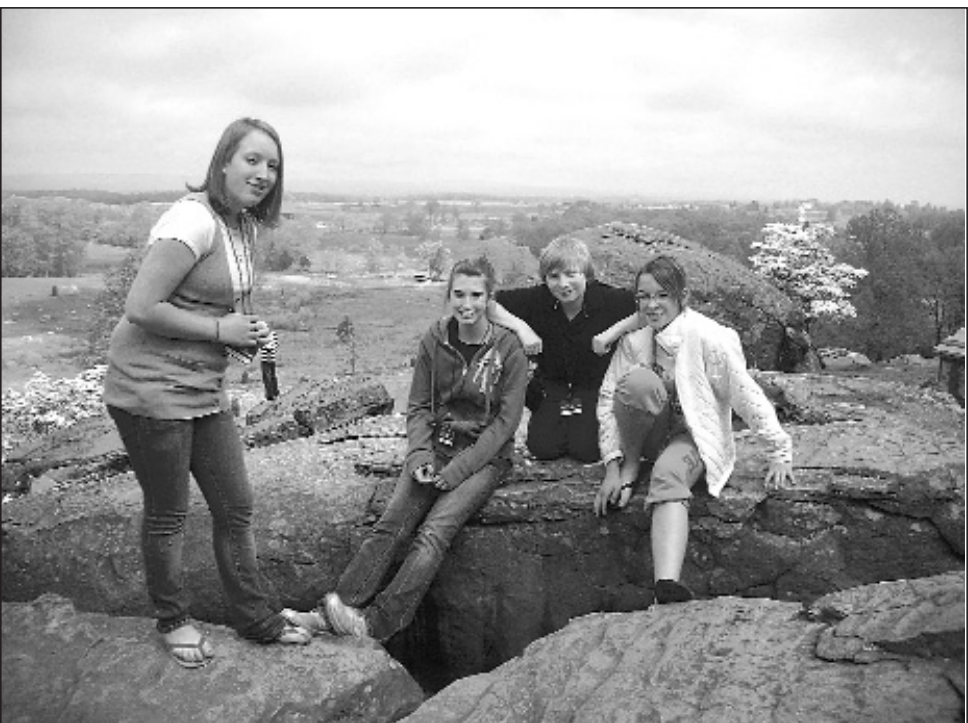
Senior Pictures

Senior Pictures are due by 3 p.m. October 1st to Rm. 115 (disc or hard copy) OR via e-mail rstoverlange@nbbrnconcos.net.

Senior Picture Requirements are:

CLASS OF 2010 SENIOR PICTURE /CLASS COMPOSITE REQUIREMENTS

1. ABSOLUTE DEADLINE OF THURSDAY, October 1, 2009 with a digital photo on CD or e-mailed or TWO hardcopy photos (one for yearbook, one for composite)
2. Overall size: 1 1/2î wide by 2î long
3. Head Size: 1 1/4î (chin to top of head)
4. Medium: JPEG preferred (300 dpi or greater) or Color Glossy (2)
5. Composition: No props, hands, canes, hats, purses, gestures, etc.
6. Plain Background: subdued blues, grays, etc.
7. Questions may be referred to Ms. Stover-Lange, (810) 688-3001 x 2156 or rstoverlange@nbbrnconcos.net.



The Eighth Graders Once Again Travel to Washington, DC

The trip started on the evening of Tuesday, May 5th. The students, their class sponsors, and the chaperones arrived in Gettysburg early Wednesday morning, and then traveled to Washington D.C. where they had the opportunity to gaze at the White House, dine at Pentagon City, and then arrived at their hotel. Bright and early on Thursday morning, the students had breakfast and then traveled to Arlington Cemetery, and later visited some history at the Smithsonian Museums. They moved on and viewed many memorials throughout the city. That evening, the students dressed up and went to Toby's Dinner Theatre where they enjoyed "High School Musical". The next morning was filled with students packing their bags and preparing to leave the hotel to travel to the Ronald Reagan Building. They saw the Giant Pandas at the National Zoo and rode the subway to Union Station for lunch. After lunch, an enlarged color photo of the entire group was taken in front of the Capital Building. The final DC visitation was at Dulles Air and Space Museum before having a wonderful dinner at Golden Corral. On the way back to North Branch, the students stopped one more time for a tour of the Luray Caverns. The North Branch Middle School students arrived home early in the morning on Saturday, May 9th. Next year's trip will be planned for the first week in May for the present eighth grade students choosing to make this fabulous trip. There will only be two busses this year, so students will have to decide pretty quickly whether or not this exciting trip is one they want to make as part of their North Branch Middle School experience.

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Three Miracles in DC ... 2009

Article Submitted By: Mrs. Shoemaker, Eighth Grade Class Sponsor

The 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. is one of the highlights of the school year here at NBMS. The 2009 trip was the twelfth time we have taken an 8th grade class to Washington. Each trip has been unique and full of special memories for the participants. This year stands out in my mind due to three "miracles" that occurred ... one on each of the motor coaches.

The first "miracle" took place on the first night that we were in DC. We had taken a twilight tour of some of the monuments and memorials. While visiting the World War II memorial, one of the students on Bus 1 lost his wallet. When he realized it was missing, he immediately shared his concern with his chaperone and his bus leader. The chaperone was on the phone taking a call from North Branch. A couple with "southern accents" had found the wallet at the WWII Memorial and they found the student's home phone number inside. They called NB and the student's parents called his chaperone and all we had to do was walk back to the memorial and find a couple "southern accents" who would be happy to return the wallet to our student. It seemed like a "needle in a haystack" proposition ... but within a minute or two of re-entering the memorial, the student spotted a gentleman who was holding the wallet quite visibly out in front of himself. The student sincerely thanked the man with the "southern accent" who was so happy to find the rightful owner of the wallet. This was just one example of where our modern technology was used appropriately and for the good of everyone involved.

The second "miracle" happened early in the morning on the second day of our trip. When everyone on Bus 3 got off to tour Arlington National Cemetery, a "wad" of money was found lying on the ground. When the bus leader unfolded the bills ... it was apparent that the money more than likely belonged to someone in our group. (During the trip to DC, there are three times that each trip participant gets a "cash back" to buy a meal. By the second day we had received two cash backs ... one for \$7 and one for \$12. The tour company that organizes the DC trip, Travel Adventures,



will often use \$2 bills in place of giving everyone multiple dollar bills.) So by Thursday morning, each of us had received two \$2 bills. In the "wad" of money, there were two \$2 bills and one \$100 bill. It would have been a huge loss of money for anyone on the trip. When we finished the tour of Arlington, a concerned student approached the bus leader to say that she was missing some money, and she told the bus leader the "exact" amount of money missing ... it was obvious that another "miracle" had taken place and the money was returned to the person who lost it.

The third "miracle" transpired on day three of the trip while we were all touring the Capitol Building. This was the first time we had been able to visit the Capitol since the spring of 2001. It had been a busy morning. We checked out of our hotel, ate breakfast at the Reagan Building, visited the pandas at the National Zoo, rode the subway from the zoo to Union Station to have lunch, and after lunch we walked from Union Station to the Capitol. During our tour of the Capitol, one of the bus leaders

got a call from NBMS. The parent of one of the students on Bus 2 had received a phone call from the Security Desk at the food court at Union Station. One of our students had left her iPod and camera on a table during lunch. They were holding the items for us at Union Station. The bus leader called the Tour Director who went back to



Union Station, and the items were returned to the student on Bus 2 before we left Washington, D.C. Another "miracle" through the use of modern technology!

So ... what are the lessons here? There are so many things that we can learn from these experiences ... but let me just share a few that seem so apparent to me:

— There are good and honest people all around us. When we "find" something of value, it is important to do everything in our power to try to re-unite the missing item with its owner. We each need to take the responsibility to BE the "good and honest people" we want to have around us in the world. Mahatma Gandhi said it best: "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

— Technology is a godsend ... when used appropriately. We hear so many stories in the news about people using technology in negative, hurtful, and destructive ways. If we look at technology as the "gift" that it is ... and we choose to use the gift for good rather than evil ... we could make the world a better place for all of us. Once again, Gandhi said: "Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good."

— Miracles are happening around us each and every day! Life is a miracle, and it is our responsibility to notice and be grateful for the awesome things that happen around us each and every day. It is said that, "Energy flows where attention goes." In other words ... if we give our attention to things that are good, helpful, encouraging, positive, and inspiring ... we will "see" more of those things in our world. Remember ... you get "more" of what you pay attention to in life. According to Gandhi: "A man is a product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes."

To the Class of 2014 ... get ready for 8th grade. Hopefully, you won't require as many "miracles" during your trip to D.C. next May. My suggestion to all of you who plan to go to D.C. in 2010 is this:

"Hang on to your stuff!"



North Branch Broncos Sports News

The 2008-2009 athletic year saw many of the North Branch teams finish in the upper half of the TVC East Division. In the fall, the volleyball team won its 5th consecutive TVC East Title and has not lost a league match since the 2003-2004 season going 34-0 over the past five years. The volleyball team also won its fourth consecutive District Title and finished the season ranked #1 in Class B and 70-5 overall. North Branch advanced to the Class B State Semi-Finals before losing in four games to Fruitport. In addition, the team received Academic All-State recognition with an overall team grade point average of 3.54. The boys' soccer team finished in second place in the TVC East Division and advanced to the District Finals before losing a tough 1-0 game to Oxford. The girls' basketball team defeated Crosswell-Lexington and Vassar to advance to the District Finals for the first time since 2002. The varsity boys' golf team finished with an outstanding 7-1 dual record and battled to a third place finish in the District Tournament to qualify as a team for the Regional Tournament for the first time in school history. Boys' basketball, girls' bowling, softball, girls' soccer, boys' track and girls' track all had winning seasons last year. Finally, the girls' soccer team received academic all-state for the second consecutive season for having a collective grade point average of 3.49.

Individually, in Cross Country Meghan Petiprin qualified for the State Cross Country Meet for the third consecutive year where she placed 195th out of 251 runners. In football, Jerome Sullivan was selected by the Associated Press as the Division 4/5 first team all-state punter. In volleyball, Olivia Kohler was selected first team all-state for the second consecutive year and capped off her stellar career by winning the 2008 Miss Volleyball Award given by the Detroit Free Press to the best senior volleyball player in Michigan. Also, Jordan Fish received first team all-state status while Taylor Miner and Catherine Brusie were selected to the Class B All-State second team. In girls' soccer, Katie Owens received Honorable Mention all-state status for her stellar season. Tonya Calkins received honorable mention all-state recognition in softball for the second

teams and athletes have been working hard to prepare for the 2009-2010 year. Many of our athletes have participated in strength training, camps, and scrimmages. The football team has participated in several 7-7 scrimmages and been involved in team camp activities. The boys' and girls' soccer teams held camps and participated in scrimmages during the summer. The girls' basketball team hosted several scrimmages with various schools and hosted a camp at North Branch. The boys' basketball team went to Central Michigan University for a team camp, played in a summer league, and hosted a skills camp. The wrestling and cheerleading teams went away to camps. The volleyball program hosted a camp and participated in a summer tournament. Of course, many of our baseball and softball players were playing on traveling teams throughout the summer. The coaches and athletes are very excited for what could be an outstanding athletic year at North Branch as the Broncos will be in contention for several league and



SOCCER — Placed 3rd in TVC with Record of 9-3-2 and a 13-6-2 overall record. Kayla Lucik, 1st Team; Katie Owens, 1st Team; Karisma Leon, 1st Team; Katie Reid, 2nd Team; Morgaen Vauter, Kayla Snoblen, Stephanie Marsh, Honorable Mention

district titles.

Football: The 2008 season finished with the Broncos going 2-7 overall for its second consecutive losing season after two consecutive winning seasons. Coach Pat Forster will enter his first season as the varsity coach after a season of running the defense for the Broncos last year.



BOYS' TRACK— Record of 4-2 in TVC East placing 3rd and overall record of 7-2 for the season. Camerin Friske, 1st Team Long Jump, 1st Team 400M Relay, 1st Team 800M Relay, State Qualifier 800M Relay, 2nd Team 200M Dash; Dalton Bates, 1st Team 300M Hurdles, State Qualifier 300M Hurdles, 3rd Place 300M Hurdles State Finals, 2nd Team Pole Vault, State Qualifier Pole Vault, 1st Team 800M Relay, State Qualifier 800M Relay, 1st Team 400M Relay; Cody Stawecki, 1st Team 800M Relay, State Qualifier 800M Relay, 1st Team 400M Relay, 3rd Team 1600M Relay; Doug Griffin, 1st Team 800M Relay, State Qualifier 800M Relay, 3rd Team 1600M Relay; Spencer Dudley, 2nd Team High Jump, State Qualifier High Jump; Ronnie Jones, 3rd Team 1600M Relay; Brian Curell, 3rd Team 1600M Relay, Honorable Mention Long Jump; Tyler Kreiner, Honorable Mention 800M Run

consecutive year. In girls' track, Olivia Kohler finished her career finishing 7th in the 100 Hurdles giving her all-state status for the 6th time in her track career. In boys' track, Camerin Friske qualified for the State Meet and finished in fourth place in the high jump making him an all-state track athlete. Dalton Bates participated in the State Meet in the 300 Hurdles placing 3rd and missing a state championship by less than one second.

It has been a very busy summer at the high school as the vast majority of the

The Broncos will be returning 14 letter winners from last year's team and outstanding talent from an 8-1 JV team. Coach Forster also has many first time varsity players and should open the season with a roster of 36-38 varsity players. The season opener will be on Friday, August 28 at home vs. Imlay City with kickoff at 7:00 p.m. The Broncos will play 5 home games this year including September 25 vs. Caro in the annual Light's Out game. Homecoming will be a week later this year on Friday, October 9



BASEBALL — 3-9 Record for 6th Place Finish in TVC East with overall record of 8-17-1. Joe Clemens, 1st Team Infield; Deane Baker, 2nd Team Infield; Dan Jacobson, 2nd Team Infield; Dennis Natke, 2nd Team Outfield; Will Orr, Honorable Mention Catcher

vs. Bridgeport and the band night/parent night game will be the next week on October 16 vs. Millington. Season passes for all home football games will be on sale in the athletic office during regular school hours and at all home football

return 11 players with varsity experience and is hopeful of taking the next step and winning the TVC East Division Title. Catch the action early as the team will play 4 of its first 5 contests at home opening the season on Monday, August 24 vs. Garber and Wednesday, August 26 vs. Caro. Highlights on the schedule include home games on September 16 vs. last year's champion Valley Lutheran and home game on September 28 vs. conference rival Frankenmuth.

Volleyball: The Lady Broncos lose 8 seniors from last year's team, but will return 5 players with varsity experience with all 5 of those players starting their third year on the varsity squad. The team won its 5th consecutive TVC East Division Championship and made it to the Class B State Semi-Finals. With so few returning players, the varsity team will count on talent from its 58-0 JV team of last year. Highlights on the schedule include attending the Frankenmuth Tournament on Sept. 4, visiting Class A power Birmingham Marian on October 3 and hosting the North Branch Tournament on October 24.

NOTES OF INTEREST:

The first booster meeting of the year will be held on Monday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. The booster club is interested in all ideas and welcomes input from everyone. Meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month in the high school media center. Any changes to the schedule will be published in the local papers. Please contact any of the elected officers or the athletic office if you have any questions about athletic booster activities. The sole purpose of the booster club is to support the North Branch athletic programs. Individuals or businesses may become booster members with registration forms available in the athletic office or at the first varsity football game. All businesses or individuals that join the booster club will be recognized in our fall and winter athletic programs.

The sixth annual Community Pep Rally will be held on Tuesday, August 25 at the football field beginning at 8:00 p.m. We will be introducing all fall sport teams and coaches. All teams will be holding a parent meeting immediately after the festivities at the stadium. In addition, the



VARSITY GOLF — Placed 2nd in TVC with Varsity Dual Record of 7-1. Andy Peplinski, 1st Team; Dillon Montgomery, 1st Team; Mike Keith, Honorable Mention; and Andrew Beckwith, Honorable Mention.



GIRLS’ TRACK — Placed 3rd in TVC East with 4-2 record and 7-2 record overall. Olivia Kohler, 1st Team 100M Hurdles, State Qualifier 100M Hurdles, 1st Team 300M Hurdles, State Qualifier 300M Hurdles, 7th Place State Finals 300M Hurdles; 1st Team Long Jump, State Qualifier Long Jump; Sasha Ferrett, 1st Team; Amanda Cranick, 2nd Team Shot Put, State Qualifier Shot Put, 4th Team Discus; Teal Washington, 2nd Team 400M Dash, 3rd Team 800M Relay, Honorable Mention 200M Dash, State Qualifier 200M Dash, Honorable Mention 100M Dash; Taylor Kaiser, 3rd Team 800M Relay, 4th Team 400M Relay; Kirstyn Cordner, 3rd Team 800M Relay; Linsay Bartle, 4th Team Long Jump, 4th Team High Jump, Honorable Mention 1600M Relay; Shannon Cobb, 4th Team 400M Relay; Layne Molosky, 4th Team 400M Relay, Honorable Mention 100M Hurdles; Kirstyn Cordner, 4th Team 400M Relay; Meghan Petiprin, 4th Team 3200M Relay, Honorable Mention 1600M Run; Danika Racknor, 4th Team 3200M Relay, Honorable Mention 1600M Relay; Catherine Brusie, 4th Team 3200M Relay, Honorable Mention 300M Hurdles, Honorable Mention 1600M Relay; Jessica McKnight, 4th Team 3200M Relay; Jordan Fish, Honorable Mention 1600M Relay.

marching band will be recognized and will be performing throughout the evening. The booster club will open up the concession stand for those wishing to purchase cold drinks and hotdogs. Please come out to support our student-athletes and band members.

The booster club has provided plaques for individuals who have been given all-state recognition at any time in the history of North Branch athletics. We need the help of the community. If you know of an individual who was all-state in any sport, please contact Jim Fish at 688-2518. We need some type of documentation such as a newspaper clipping or an all-state certificate. Some of the plaques have been put up outside the gymnasium, but we need help in order to properly recognize those individuals who excelled athletically at North Branch.

Ticket Information:

An individual ticket to all North Branch varsity contests will be \$5.00 for students and adults. Freshman/JV football games will be \$4.00 and includes admission to both games. Freshman only contests will be \$3.00 with all Middle School games priced at \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. The best way to see your favorite North Branch team at a significant savings is by purchasing season passes for individuals or families. Again, passes may be purchased during school hours in the athletic office or at all home games.

Football:
Individual Pass for \$30.00 includes admission to 5 varsity games, 4 FR/JV



SOFTBALL — Placed 4th in TVC East with 6-6 record and a 18-15 overall record. Tonya Calkins, 1st Team, All-State Honorable Mention; Kelsey Roloson, 2nd Team; Amanda Beam, 2nd Team; Emily Wickerham, Maegan Hyde, Stephanie Hart, Shanel Johnstone, Honorable Mention

games, and 3 middle school games (savings of \$24.00 on single ticket purchases)
Family Pass for \$75.00 is a savings of \$136.00 for a family of four!

Basketball:
Individual Pass for \$40.00 includes admission to all boys’ and girls’ Varsity, JV, Freshman, and Middle School games. Passes are good for both boys’ and girls’ events even if they are played on separate nights. (Savings of over a \$100)
Family Pass for \$75.00 is a significant savings for a family of four)

Volleyball and Wrestling:
Individual Pass for \$20.00 includes admission to all volleyball and wrestling games. The Family Pass for \$40.00 includes admission to all volleyball and wrestling games.

ALL SPORTS PASS:
Individual (\$65.00).....a huge savings!
Family (\$125.00).....a major savings for

any family

Purchasing the All Sports Pass includes admission to all home events for all sports with the exception of MHSAA Tournaments. Rates for the All Sports Pass have not increased in seven years. This pass is a terrific bargain even if you attend less than half of the home events. The Family All Sports Pass covers parents and all children still in school. Graduated family members will have to purchase their own passes. Our teams will be highly competitive and very entertaining this year. High school sports are still the best bargain for quality and exciting family evenings. If you need more information or have questions or concerns, please contact the Athletic Office at 688-2518 during normal school hours. Please make plans to get involved and support our student-athletes as they continue to strive for excellence both academically and athletically.

NORTH BRANCH FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE 2009

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 28	WILF CITY	HOME	7:00
Aug. 03	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	7:00
Sep. 11	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	7:00
Sep. 18	GRABER	AWAY	7:00
Sep. 25	CARGO (light's out)	HOME	7:00
Oct. 02	OGEMAW HEIGHTS	AWAY	7:00
Oct. 09	BRIDGEPORT (SCHEDULED)	HOME	7:00
Oct. 16	HILLINGTON (Parent & Band)	HOME	7:00
Oct. 23	YALE	AWAY	7:00

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 27	WILF CITY	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 02	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 10	BIRCH RUN	HOME	8:30
Sep. 17	GARBER	HOME	8:30
Sep. 24	CARGO	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 01	OGEMAW HEIGHTS	HOME	8:30
Oct. 08	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 15	HILLINGTON	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 22	YALE	HOME	8:30

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 27	YALE	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 02	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 10	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Sep. 17	GARBER	HOME	4:30
Sep. 24	KINGSTON	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 01	OGEMAW HEIGHTS	HOME	4:30
Oct. 08	ALGONAC	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 15	HILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 22	YALE	HOME	4:30

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 09	Sol message at HILLINGTON	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 15	CARROLLTON	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 22	CRAMER	HOME	8:00
Sep. 29	CARGO	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 06	BIRCH RUN	HOME	5:00
Oct. 13	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	8:00
Oct. 20	HILLINGTON	AWAY	8:00

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 22	CASS CITY	HOME	8:30
Oct. 05	CASS CITY	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 20	CROSS-LEX	HOME	5:00
Oct. 27	UBLY	AWAY	8:00

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 21	TECH HILL TOURNA	AWAY	10:00
Aug. 28	WACONIA DAKOTA INV.	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 01	CORFORD QUAD	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 04	FRANKENMUTH INV.	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 12	GROSSE POINTE SOUTH INV.	AWAY	TBD
Sep. 18	HILLINGTON	HOME	8:00
Sep. 19	FLUSHING INVITE	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 25	CARGO	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 26	GOODRICH INVITE	AWAY	TBA
Sep. 30	BIRCH RUN	HOME	8:00
Oct. 03	WILSON TOURNA	AWAY	TBD
Oct. 08	QUAD AT MS	HOME	8:00
Oct. 14	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 17	MICH. ELITE TOURNA	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 21	GARBER	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 24	NORTH BRANCH INV	HOME	8:30
Oct. 28	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	8:00
Oct. 31	TVC @ DELTA COLLEGE	AWAY	TBD

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 22	GARBER INVITE	AWAY	8:00
Aug. 29	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	8:00
Aug. 29	FLUSHING WHITE	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 01	FLUSHING QUAD	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 12	LAKEVILLE	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 12	GOODRICH INVITE	AWAY	TBD
Sep. 18	HILLINGTON	HOME	8:00
Sep. 19	WILAY CITY INVITE	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 22	PORT HURON NORTH	HOME	8:00
Sep. 29	CARGO	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 30	BIRCH RUN	HOME	8:00
Oct. 03	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 06	NORTH BRANCH QUAD	HOME	8:00
Oct. 14	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 17	NORTH BRANCH INV. (TBD)	HOME	8:30
Oct. 21	GARBER	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 28	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	8:00

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 28	MT. MORRIS INV.	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 01	CLARKSTON QUAD	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 08	LAKEVILLE	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 12	FRANKENMUTH INV.	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 18	HILLINGTON	HOME	8:00
Sep. 22	PORT HURON NORTH	HOME	8:00
Sep. 28	CARGO	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 30	BIRCH RUN	HOME	8:00
Oct. 03	WILAY CITY INVITE	AWAY	TBD
Oct. 06	NORTH BRANCH QUAD	HOME	8:00
Oct. 14	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	8:00

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Oct. 17	NORTH BRANCH INV. (TBD)	HOME	8:30
Oct. 21	GARBER	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 24	MT. MORRIS INV.	AWAY	8:00
Oct. 28	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	8:00
6TH GRADE GIRLS' BASKETBALL			
DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 16	UBLY	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 17	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Sep. 28	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Sep. 28	OWNER	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 30	HILLINGTON	HOME	5:00
Oct. 06	BRIDGEPORT 'A' TEAMS	HOME	6:00
Oct. 07	CARGO	HOME	4:30
Oct. 12	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 19	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 21	OWNER	HOME	4:30
Oct. 28	HILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 27	BRIDGEPORT 'A' TEAMS	AWAY	8:30

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 16	UBLY	HOME	4:30
Sep. 17	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 23	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 28	OWNER	HOME	4:30
Sep. 30	HILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 06	BRIDGEPORT 'A' TEAMS	HOME	4:30
Oct. 07	CARGO	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 12	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Oct. 19	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Oct. 21	OWNER	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 28	HILLINGTON	HOME	5:00
Oct. 27	BRIDGEPORT 'A' TEAMS	AWAY	4:30

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 24	GARBER	HOME	4:30
Aug. 28	CARGO	HOME	4:30
Aug. 31	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 01	OGEMAW HIGHER	HOME	4:30
Sep. 08	WILAY CITY	HOME	4:30
Sep. 09	HILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 12	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	8:00
Sep. 14	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 18	VALLEY LUTHERAN	HOME	4:30
Sep. 21	GARBER	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 23	CARGO	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 28	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Sep. 30	DAVISON	AWAY	7:00
Oct. 05	HILLINGTON	HOME	4:30
Oct. 07	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Oct. 08	LAKEVILLE	HOME	4:30
Oct. 12	VALLEY LUTHERAN	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 14	LAPEER EAST	AWAY	8:45

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 25	OPAC INVITE	AWAY	4:30
Aug. 27	CROSS-LEX	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 02	WILSON CITY INV.	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 12	BAD AXE INV.	AWAY	10:00
Sep. 15	TVC #1 at NORTH BRANCH	HOME	4:30
Sep. 17	COUNTY MEET	HOME	4:00
Sep. 23	WILLETTTE INV.	AWAY	4:00
Sep. 29	TVC #2 at FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 03	BRIDGON BIRCH INV	AWAY	10:00
Oct. 10	CASS CITY INV.	AWAY	9:00
Oct. 13	TVC #3 at BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 17	WEESE INV.	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 20	TVC CONF. MT @ ST. LOUIS	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 24	THUNDER MT @ CARGO	AWAY	10:00
Oct. 30 or 31	REGIONALS	AWAY	TBD
Nov. 07	FINALS	AWAY	TBD

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 12	BAD AXE	AWAY	11:18
Sep. 14	NORTH BRANCH INV.	HOME	4:30
Sep. 23	WILLETTTE INV.	AWAY	4:40
Oct. 03	BRIDGON BIRCH INV	AWAY	11:00
Oct. 05	WILSON CITY INV.	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 10	CASS CITY INV.	AWAY	10:00
Oct. 17	WEESE INV.	AWAY	TBD

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 12	BAD AXE	AWAY	11:18
Sep. 14	NORTH BRANCH INV.	HOME	4:30
Sep. 23	WILLETTTE INV.	AWAY	4:40
Oct. 03	BRIDGON BIRCH INV	AWAY	11:00
Oct. 05	WILSON CITY INV.	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 10	CASS CITY INV.	AWAY	10:00
Oct. 17	WEESE INV.	AWAY	TBD



North Branch Middle School Seeking Volunteers

Parent volunteers can be found daily wandering the halls of elementary schools all over, but these adults are seldom seen in middle schools. Why is this true? North Branch Middle School is hoping to start a parent volunteer program and have these dedicated volunteers be a continual, community connection with our students. We are hoping to have the volunteers assist our office staff by helping them with phones or running passes. They may also help the teaching staff and Media Center staff with making copies, helping with bulletin boards, organization, or giving support to students in the classrooms.

People sometimes forget the impact that can be made with some of the contacts that these adults may make daily with our student body. Some days the volunteer may simply offer a smile to a student they pass in the hall. That student may not have had a comforting greeting the entire day or may just need one at that given moment. When they help or give support to a student that struggles with their daily assignments, this is greatly appreciated by the teacher and that student, but every student’s parent, as well, as they want to make sure that their child is being given every opportunity at success daily in their studies. These are all things that parents volunteered for in their children’s earlier educational years, so where in our educational manuals or parenting manuals does it say that once a child reaches middle school that these things need to just stop happening? I have never seen it, nor do I expect that it exists anywhere.

Our middle school students appreciate the community’s involvement with their educational process. Please consider volunteering any time that you may have. It is always a pleasure having community members in our building. There is a simple procedure that needs to be completed before any adult can volunteer for anything in all of the buildings, whether it is working with staff and students on given days, or going on a field trip. Adults that would like to be considered for volunteer work must complete the Central Registry available in all buildings. Once this form is completed yearly and the volunteer has been cleared, they may volunteer in any of the buildings, K-12. If you would like to become a middle school volunteer, contact Shelly Cranick at North Branch Middle School (688-4431; ext. 2203).

A Beautification Project in the Making in the Front of North Branch Middle School

Many North Branch Middle School Staff assisted throughout the summer in a beautification project that actually got its start a couple of years ago with Chris McNulty and Morna Rinn attending a Service Learning class at the ISD where they each received a \$200 grant. They purchased a gift certificate and started pulling the plants together for the eleven Bradford/Cleveland Pear trees that were recently planted in the front of the building. Mrs. Rinn and Mrs. McNulty



were helped by five young men from the high school, Ryan Kosko, Ethan McNulty, Dennis Natke, Daniel Thompson, and Chris White, along with Mrs. Rinn’s son, Keegan.

These trees have been watered throughout the hot summer days by Mrs. Rinn, Mrs. McNulty, and Mrs. Stawecki. The next phase in this beautification project will have been completed on August 19, as two berms will be constructed at the front entrance where a weeping cherry, 2 bird’s nest shrubs, creeping phlox, and day lilies will be planted. This fall, a few spring flowering bulbs and maybe a mum or two will be added to each berm. To complete the new look to North Branch Middle School, a sign will welcome all who enter this facility in the future years to come.

A special thank you goes out to all who helped with this beautification project and the time that Mr. Barry White and Mrs. Rinn have put into it, as they have completed their Master Gardner requirements through the MSU Extension program to plan for this project.



8th Grade: The eighth graders rocked out at their final celebration in May after a beautiful dinner. Best of luck to those students as they start their high school days.



7th Grade: The seventh grade students had a great time in celebrating the accomplishments of the 8th graders during the Dinner/Dance in May. Next year they will have their own celebration May 21, 2010 with “A Day at the Beach” theme.

Bringing Literature to Life

On Wednesday, June 3rd, students from Mrs. Stawecki’s seventh grade reading class enjoyed a presentation on wolves and other wild animals from Lois Rheame, a staffer from Seven Ponds Nature Center. One service that Seven Ponds offers is on-site seminars for students and teachers, customizing the material according to the request of the teacher.

This activity was the culmination of a reading unit on Jack London’s book, *White Fang*. Ms. Rheame did an excellent job of connecting information to material from the novel. This unique experience provided students with an opportunity for a hands-on



approach to learning as Ms. Rheame brought several skeletal structures of a wolf, coyote, and fox, comparing and contrasting each one and encouraging students to explore and ask questions. Students also learned about the habits of these animals as well as others who share the same habitat. A preserved moose pelt and beaver were displayed for students to touch and hold, further generating questions and exploration. To make sure students remembered their experience, Ms. Rheame gave each student an informative poster on wolves. This was an awesome experience for all who were present!

Two Familiar Faces will be NBMS Staff Members for 2009-10 School Year

Two familiar faces will be among the staff at NBMS this year as Shelly Cranick returns as the middle school principal after being the assistant principal at the high school for the last three years. Cranick is starting her 25th year at North Branch Area Schools. Also moving into the middle school will be Theresa Rae, a familiar face to the 7th and 8th grade students as she has been a language arts teacher at Ruth Fox Elementary for the past three years. Welcome aboard!!



7th Grade Detroit Trip

On May 15, 2009, North Branch Middle School took a group of 82 students to the grand city of Detroit. The students visited the Renaissance Center with a guided tour all the way to the top with a glass elevator ride to the 72nd floor. Everyone enjoyed a walking tour of downtown including the “Guardian Building”, the “Spirit of Detroit”, “Campus Martius Park”, and a ride on the “People Mover”. Then the group visited the Detroit Science Center which concluded with an Imax movie. On the way to dinner at the Hard Rock Café, the students took a bus tour through the Eastern Market, Detroit’s newest green space called the “Dequindre Cut”, and Belle Isle. On the way home, the bus tour continued with seeing the old Tiger Stadium, Comerica Park, Michigan Central Railroad Station, Hitsville USA (Motown), the Fisher Building, and Mr. Song Millinery (the maker of Aretha Franklin’s Inaugural hat).



Gender-based book clubs

As the start of the 2009-2010 school year approaches, North Branch Middle School is excited to introduce an addition to our Middle School 7th grade elective choices. This year, the change will come as we are piloting two gender-based book clubs. Each trimester, the 7th grade English teachers, Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Schulte, will welcome a new group of all boys and all girls, respectively. Both classes will follow the same format:

- teach reading strategies to improve comprehension in all core subjects
- introduce all genres of literature in order to explore variety of choices
- connect reading and writing through journal responses
- engage students in activities that encourage success in Accelerated Reading

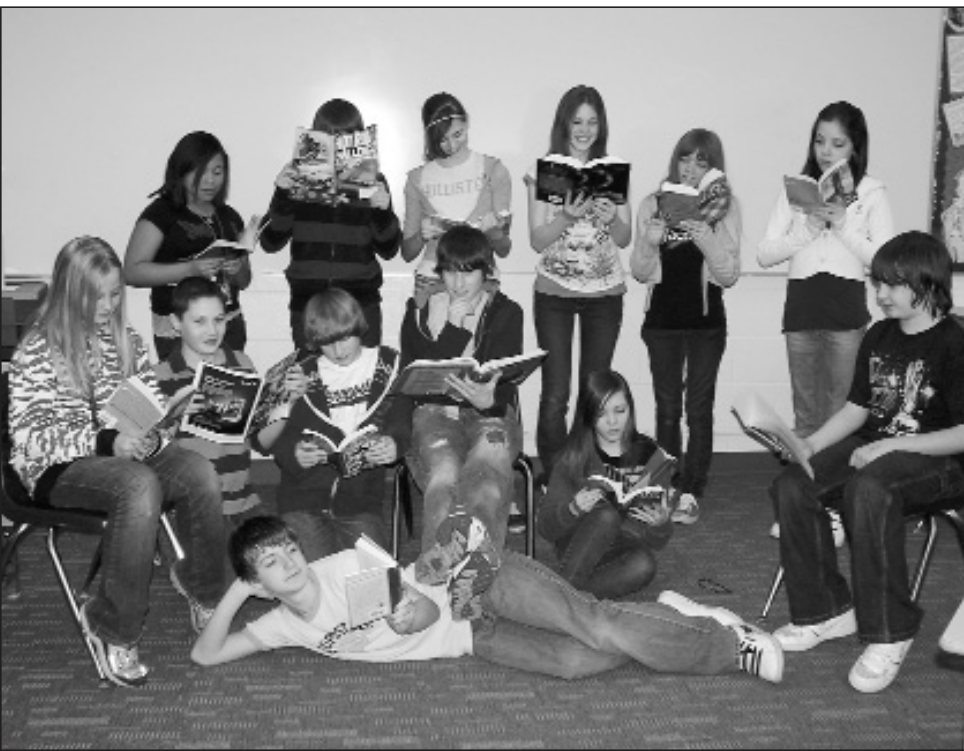
Reading

- help students develop a life-long love of literature

There is research/ data to support the need for such classes due to anxieties sometimes felt by middle school-aged boys and girls alike. Issues, along with physical and emotional changes, sometimes create non-productive atmospheres in co-ed classrooms. The data supports that some middle school students excel and even feel more comfortable when placed in groups of the same gender. Our classroom structures will be similar in philosophy, but resources and topics will obviously vary based on gender.

As always, students thrive when given support both in school and at home. Please help us in trying to establish your son/daughter as a life-long reader!

Middle school students have many options to read daily; this year, it can be done in gender based reading elective classes each trimester



Levi Horton Takes Home the Principal's Award

Over 225 North Branch Middle School students were presented Honor Awards at the 2008-09 Honor's Assembly last spring. These students received academic awards, attendance awards, and awards for band. Levi Horton, an eighth grade



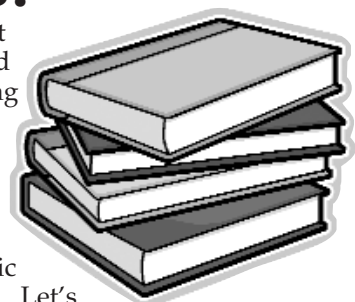
student last year, took home the coveted Principal's Award. Congratulations to all and best of luck as last year's eighth grade students have moved over to the high school to start their next level of academic achievements.

Attention Book Lovers!

As a busy Middle School teacher, I often find that summertime is the only chance I get to sit down and enjoy a good book. This summer, I did some reading and exploring for a new Book Club being offered to our 7th grade students. It was through that research that I came upon several local book clubs being organized through community libraries and online. What a great network for avid readers!

My search brought me to our North Branch Public Library, where I discovered that no book club exists. Let's change that around! It's as easy as selecting one book per month, meeting one evening per month, and sharing thoughts and ideas with other adult readers! Anyone interested in participating in a North Branch Community Book Club, please contact me at (810) 656-0588, or sign the flyer at the North Branch Public Library to show your interest.

Let's continue to model to our community's young people the importance of becoming life-long readers, and having some fun at the same time! —Annette Schulte





Take a Walk on the Fitness Trail

Have you had a walk on the Fitness Trail at North Branch Elementary School while your children play on the playground? This has been a summertime activity for many families as the new Fitness Trail has attracted moms and dads all summer long. On the evening of the 4th of July the Fitness Trail and the playground was the center of activity for families waiting to see the North Branch fireworks. Families pushing strollers or friends in pairs can be seen daily walking the Fitness Trail while their children play on the playground.

Students at North Branch Elementary walk or run the quarter mile Fitness Trail at the beginning of each outdoor recess period. Students benefit not only from this sustained cardiovascular activity but also from the time to plan their recess activities with their friends. Our physical education teachers report that students have increased stamina and better results on the Presidential Physical Fitness Tests since the inception of the Fitness Trail. We have also noticed a decrease in behavior problems during recess.

The Fitness Trail was made possible by grants from Four County Community Foundation and Lapeer County Community Foundation. Additional funds were provided by the North Branch Elementary Parents and Teacher Club and proceeds from the First Annual North Branch Elementary Walk-a-thon. Without the contributions of these groups we would not have been able to provide this excellent fitness resource to our students and community.

In the future we hope to add Fitness Stops along the trail. The Fitness Stops would provide for upper body exercise. We also hope to connect the Fitness Trail to other walkways within the North Branch Area Schools Campus.

During the school year the Fitness Trail will continue to be available to families and community members after 4:00 p.m. daily. We hope that you will take advantage of this fun and safe way to exercise.



North Branch Elementary *OPEN HOUSE*

All students and families are welcome!

**Start the new school year by visiting your
classroom and meeting your new teacher!**

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 3, 2009

North Branch Elementary Parent and Teacher Club

We are looking for parents who want to contribute to making North Branch Elementary a fun learning place for our children. You can participate as often as you like or as little as an hour or two. We sponsored many events during last school year including: Mother/Son Frog Hop, Math and Science Night, Daddy Daughter Night, Roller Skating, Movie Night. We have one or two fundraisers which help us support these activities.

If you are interested in being part of the North Branch Elementary Parent and Teacher Club stop by our information table at the Open House, look for our September meeting date and time in the weekly newsletter, or call the Elm Creek office at 688-3041 or the Jefferson Trail Office at 688-3042.

Family Literacy Summer Reading

You may know Family Literacy for the excellent parent and child reading workshops they sponsor at our Elementary. But this summer Family Literacy provided one on one tutoring at North Branch Elementary for thirteen students. Donna Woodward from Family Literacy and twelve trained volunteers spent Tuesday and Thursday mornings for six weeks to boost the reading skills of these students. Students were provided with reading materials at their reading level along with fun activities and snacks. There was also a parent component to this program with parents making a commitment to attend the parent workshops and assure that their child regularly attends. This wonderful program helped students to improve their reading skills and love of reading and was made possible by Family Literacy and dedicated volunteers.

Sandy Sharp Remembered

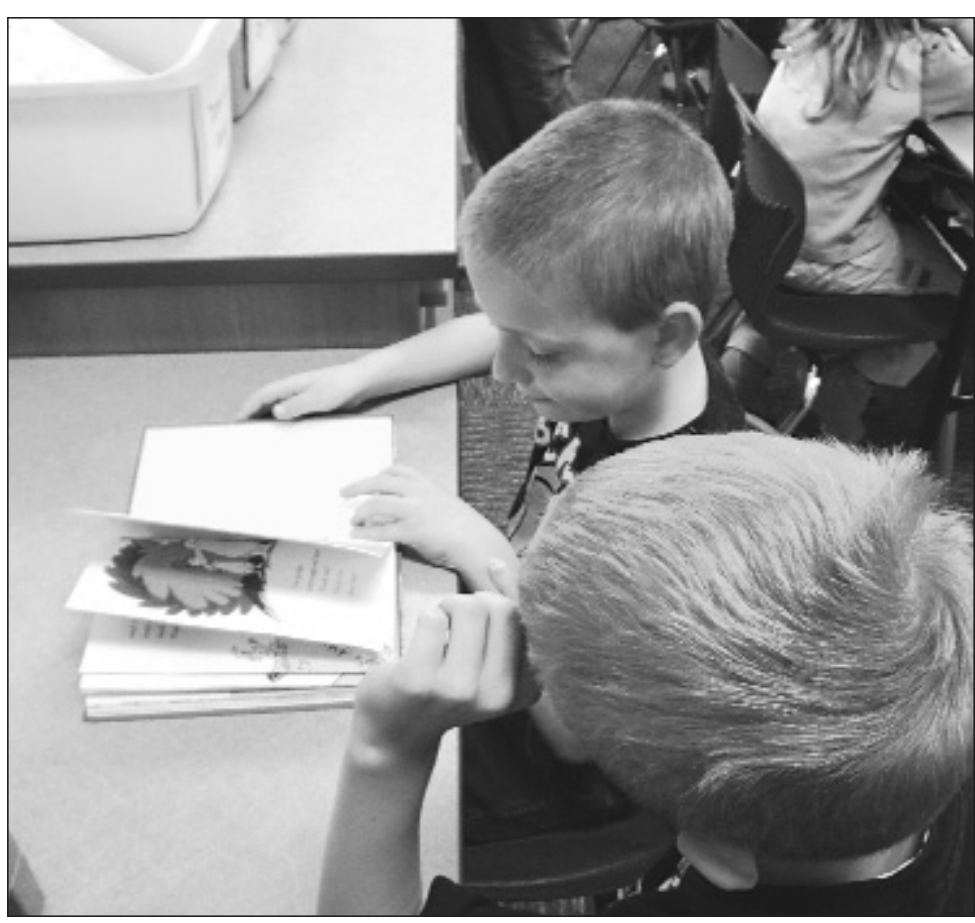
We are mourning the passing of our friend, colleague and a wonderful teacher, Sandy Sharp. Mrs. Sharp was a first grade teacher for North Branch Area Schools for 35 years at the Johnson School and Sweet School. During that time she touched the lives of more than 800 students that also included the children of many of her former students. Mrs. Sharp retired in 2006. Students from her last first grade class will be in fifth grade this year.

Sandy passed away on August 6, 2009 at her home. She is survived by her husband John, son Chris and wife Tanya and son Chad and wife Jen, and four adorable grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Her legacy will live on in the many lives she touched.



Otter Lake 1st Graders Visit North Branch Elementary

First graders at Otter Lake Elementary had the opportunity to attend Safetyville at North Branch Elementary on May 12, 2009. After visiting safetyville, first graders had the opportunity to buddy read with second graders at North Branch Elementary. This was a wonderful experience for our two communities to meet and share their enjoyment for reading good books. It was also a nice opportunity for Mrs. Berridge (1st grade) and her daughter Miss Berridge (2nd grade) to share their experiences of teaching and learning with their children and with our two local communities.



It's A Picnic!

During the North Branch Elementary Open House on September 3rd, the Parent and Teacher Club will be sponsoring a family picnic. So while you are visiting your new classrooms stop by the cafeteria for a quick bite to eat or sit and visit with your friends!



Here’s the crew! Pictured right to left: Anne Wood, Madison Farnsworth, Jessica Neff, Kayla Yakes, Olivia Smith, Madison Eckstrom and Trainer Ann-Marie Lavallee.

Ruth Fox Students Read Their Way to Camp!

Several students in Mrs. Wood’s Reading Choice Time took on the challenge of reading a series of books in order to attend a summer horse camp! The students who read the most books during the year (from December on) were treated to a day camp with trainer Ann-Marie Lavallee (www.thetravelingtrainer.net) this past June 16th at her facility in Dryden. The weather was absolutely perfect and everyone had a great time! Students toured the farm, learned about different horse breeds, talked about the care and feeding of horses, had a chance to round-pen a horse, and then got a chance to ride several different horses – including Mrs. Wood’s horse Duece! Special thanks to Ann-Marie for all of her assistance and her generous donation to the program and to Tammy Siegler for taking all of the photos!



Jasper, Madison Eckstrom and Jessica Neff work on some ground manners in the round pen.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES RUTH FOX PLAYGROUND!



Students at Ruth Fox Elementary will be happy to hear that they will be receiving new playground equipment this fall! The School Board recently approved the purchase of several new pieces of equipment to replace some equipment that can no longer be used. The current swings and the slide will be removed from the playground and replaced with some new and exciting pieces! The staff at Ruth Fox Elementary is very excited and greatly appreciates the support of the School Board (and the community) in approving this proposal! The students will certainly enjoy the much needed update to the playground!!!

Ruth Fox Elementary to Host Orientation/Open House

Ruth Fox Elementary students will have the opportunity to visit their classrooms, meet their teachers, and look at the objectives for the coming year on September 1st! All parents and students are invited to a short meeting in the gymnasium beginning at 6:00pm. From 6:30pm until 7:30pm, students and parents will have an opportunity to visit the classrooms. Most of the teachers will begin with a short introduction and a team meeting before issuing locker combinations and selling planners, etc. We are looking forward to seeing you on September 1st!



Kayla Yakes enjoys a ride on Duece!



Olivia Smith, a brand new rider, gets along very well with Buckshot!

National Writing Project Teachers

North Branch Area Schools is expanding the number of National Writing Project (NWP) teachers within the district. National Writing Project certification requires a four week intensive process, where teachers strengthen their knowledge of writing through inquiry, demonstrations, professional reading, discussions, literature response groups, writing response groups and most importantly, by writing themselves. The National Writing Projects of Michigan are university-school partnerships. The sites develop regional leadership and research-based practices in reading, writing, and thinking, pre-k-college.

NWP certification is one of the best ways to create effective facilitators of writing. Currently, the district has five teachers who have received National Writing Project certification: Theresa Rae, Anne Sherrieb, Amber White, and Kevin Withey. Sara Krugielki is the latest teacher to attend the Saginaw Bay Writing Project’s 2009 Summer Institute. As a result of this process, Sara will have a community of writers to correspond with, as well as a vast list of resources and ideas to share with students and colleagues at North Branch Elementary. Congratulations Sara!