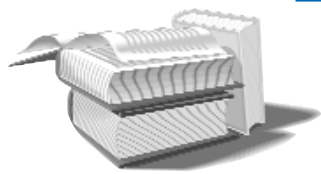




SCHOOL TALK



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CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced

The Valedictorian for the class of 2008 is Colleen Cross. She is the daughter of Howard and Carol Cross. Colleen finished her high school career with a GPA of 4.049 and excelled in the following activities: National Honor Society; Students Against Destructive Decisions; Student Council; French Club; Varsity Quiz Bowl; Senior Class Secretary; Volleyball; Basketball and Soccer. Her academic achievements include an Advanced Placement Scholar Award, the Michigan Promise Grant, a Dean's Scholarship at Defiance College, a Masonic Lodge Scholarship and Academic All-State Honors for Volleyball. In the fall,



Colleen Cross

Colleen will be attending Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio where she will major in Medical Technology and Forensics.

This years Salutatorian is Aaron Schroeder. Aaron is the son of Ronald and Mary Schroeder. He finished his high school career with a GPA of 3.95 and excelled in the following activities: Varsity Quiz Bowl; National Honor Society; American Red Cross Blood Drive volunteer. Aaron's academic achievements include an Advanced Placement Scholar Award, the Michigan Promise Grant, Michigan Competitive Scholarship, and a Presidential Scholar of Excellence at Michigan Technological University. Next fall, Aaron plans on attending Michigan Technological University where he will major in Computer Networking and System



Aaron Schroeder

Graduation Events for the Class of 2008!

The graduation events for North Branch High School's Class of 2008 are as follows:

The **Last day** for seniors who passed all four core academic areas of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) is Friday, May 16th. All other seniors will take exams on May 19th and 20th.

Baccalaureate is scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium.

Senior Exams take place on Monday, May 19th and Tuesday, May 20th.

Commencement Rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, May 21st at 3:00 p.m. in the HS Gymnasium and SWING OUT will follow at 5:00 p.m.

Senior Class Night is scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Commencement Exercises will be held on Wednesday, May 28th at 8:00 p.m. in the HS Gymnasium. **Doors will open at 7:30 pm.**



2008 Friend of Youth

Steve and Thelma Fowler are instrumental in the organization of the youth wrestling program. These two individuals work tirelessly to promote the sport of wrestling and give the North Branch youth an opportunity to practice during the week and show the skills they have learned at area youth tournaments. Steve and Thelma plan, organize, and run the annual youth wrestling tournament that is held at North Branch High School in early January.

Senior Scholars Named

Each year, the top 25 students in the senior class, based on a combination of Grade Point Average and ACT test scores receive the title of Senior Scholar. During Class Night, these students will be awarded a gold cord to wear with their graduation gowns on the night of commencement.

This year's Senior Scholars are: Aaron Schroeder; Colleen Cross; Diane Miklovich; Nicholas Tallman; Clorisa Finkbeiner; Ashley Beam; Sarah Herberger; Charles Hutchins; Alyssa Baker; Natasha Pettitt; Samantha Skovran; Kelsey VanWagoner; Rebekah Byers; Acasia Jeffrey; William Starbird; Renee Pishcke; Elisabeth Morquecho; Rachel Oliver; Jessica Bruman; Zachary Hueter; Lisa Thompson; Ashliegh Allen; Alysa Yacks; Samantha Goss; and Cortney Courtner.

TVC Academic All Conference

Each year, every school in the Tri-Valley Conference nominates three students to be named to the TVC All Academic Team. The students are nominated based upon a combination of their GPA and ACT scores.

The top three students, based on these scores are treated to a banquet at the Freeland Banquet hall in Freeland, MI, where they are recognized for their accomplishments and receive a TVC all conference medal.

NBHS's top three students this year are Aaron Schroeder; Colleen Cross; and Diane Miklovich.

Graduating with Honors!

It is a tradition in many high schools across the country to identify the students who have graduated with honors. The students are designated as "Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude" graduates.

Cum Laude means "with praise" and these students have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 to 3.649. This year's *Cum Laude* graduates are Alysha Yacks; Susan Watson; James Hogan; Courtney Cordner; Zachary Hueter; Rachel Oliver; Katie Bennett; Jessica Daniel; Monica Ankley; Chad O'Rourke; Krista Jones; and Rebekah Beyers.

Magna Cum Laude means "with Great Praise" and reflects a GPA of 3.65 – 3.79. Our *Magna Cum Laude* graduates this year are: Ashleigh Allen; Sarah Herberger; Nicholas Tallman; Kelsey VanWagoner; Jessica Curell; Elisabeth Morquecho; Niki Forester; Alyssa Baker; Jessica Bruman; Caleb Schank; Renee Pishke; and Karla Opperman.

Suma Cum Laude means "with Greatest Praise". These students have earned a GPA of 3.8 to 4.0. The *Suma Cum Laude* graduates for the class of 2007 are: Kierstyn Schulte; Samantha Skovran; Natasha Pettitt; Acasia Jeffery; Samantha Goss; Charles Hutchins; Ashley Beam; William Starbird; Clorisa Finkbeiner; Lisa Thompson; Diane Miklovich; Aaron Schroeder; and Colleen Cross.

QUESTIONS/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. Please feel free to clip this list of phone numbers and save it in the front of your telephone book for future reference.

Al Piwinski, Superintendent	810-688-3570
Adair Aumock, Director of Curriculum & Technology	810-688-3001
Cheryl Bruff, Director of Finance & Business.....	810-688-3570
Matt Hess, Director of Operations & Transportation.....	810-688-3660
Leann Gwinn, FABS Child Care.....	810-688-4634
Stacy Moyer, Director of Food Services.....	810-688-2226
Louis Dominick, Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor.....	810-688-4625

FITNESS CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, Principal.....	810-688-3001
Shelly Cranick, Asst. Principal.....	810-688-3001
Jim Fish, Asst.Principal/ Athletic Director	810-688-2518
Richard Stevens, Counselor.....	810-688-3564
Brenda Jeffery, Counselor	810-688-3564
Carolyn Medland, Counselor.....	810-688-3564
Georgette Aguilar, Quest High School.....	810-688-7581

MIDDLE SCHOOL

John Sherman, Principal	810-688-4431
Sue Shoemaker, Counselor	810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, Principal.....	810-688-3284
Tammy Siegler, Asst. Principal	810-688-3284
Melissa Radwick, Counselor.....	810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

Merry Hosner, Principal	810-688-3041
Wendy Spivy, Asst. Principal	810-688-3041
Ruth Lendt, Family Support Worker	810-688-3041

NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gary Manthei, President	C. Jack Lewis, Trustee
Dale Brinker, Vice President	Ralph Deshetsky, Trustee
Ginger Russell, Treasurer	Kevin McCrory, Trustee
Lorrei Natke, Secretary	

Hope for the Future

It has been a challenging year. The construction and remodeling of our schools has gone well but as all building projects go they do take on a life of their own. I am proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to our children moving into their new facilities. On another matter of importance I was encouraged to hear the news that Delta and Northwest Airlines were merging into one new company. You may wonder what does this have to do with North Branch Area Schools? I will try to explain.

As we all have experienced our state economy has caused great hardship for many families. People are generally frightened about their future. This past year the Detroit News reported that over 30,500 Michigan residents have left our state because of the loss of jobs. Yet, in listening to both state and national analysts about the Delta-Northwest merger they expressed a great future for Michigan.

They stated that the corridor from Ann Arbor to Detroit Metro will become an "Aeropolis". An area where the knowledge industry made up of pharmaceutical, technology, and medical companies will locate and flourish based on this new international transportation hub. They felt it was a great opportunity for Michigan to redefine itself into a leader in the new knowledge-based industries.

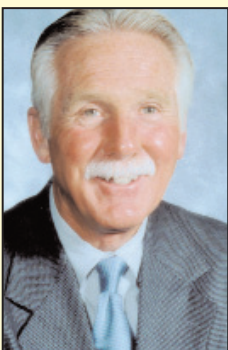
Our challenge as educators is to insure we provide a highly skilled workforce for these future industries. Michigan's new graduation requirements are intended to do just that. All students are now required to take a course of study that previously was thought to prepare them for college.

The requirements include:

- 4 Credits English Language Arts
- 3 Credits Science,
- 3 Credits Social Studies
- 2 Credits foreign language,
- 1 Credit physical education and health
- 1 year of fine arts including technology,
- 4 Credits mathematics-including geometry, algebra and advanced algebra

This curriculum is going to be tough and our children only get one chance at getting a good education to prepare for their future. As a parent it is critical that you understand these future requirements and support your children as they progress through school.

As parents and teachers we must also make certain that students know that adults care about them and that someone will take the time to talk to them every day. We need to listen, advise, support and add structure to their lives. Meeting the new state requirements for graduation does not begin when a student enters 9th grade, it begins long before that. We all share in providing children with guidance and support to develop the habits for future success. Together we can help our children find their place in this ever changing world.



Saddle Up And Read!

Dr. Jennifer Parker-Moore, District Media Specialist
(March is Reading Month Sheriff)

It's always a pleasure to see students fired up to read, and the media centers enjoy providing programs and prizes to help celebrate. This year we had so many activities, we had to start in February and end in April!

March is Reading Month was another great success at North Branch Area Schools, with students in every building participating in a variety of activities. Cat in the Hat kicked off the month, and accompanying him was Bob the Builder (aka Carpenter Carl). Authors, contests, drop everything and read, and special dress up days were only some of the fun activities enjoyed by students and staff.

The celebration began with a visit by Michigan authors and Knightscares duo, David Anthony and Charlie David. They introduced their Knightscares characters, as well as their new series, A2Z.

Students from Ruth Fox and the Middle School got to watch a Knighting Ceremony, hear about the writing process, and listen to a reading from one of their popular books! Students also had a chance to purchase books, and random drawings were held to win autographed copies.

At the high school, students always enjoy a visit from Flint native and critically acclaimed young adult author Patrick Jones.

His visit includes a discussion about his newest novel, *Cheated*. His novels, always on the cutting edge of social issues include *Things Change*, *Nailed*, and *Chasing Tail Lights*. A former librarian for teenagers, Patrick now concentrates on writing fiction for teens. His second novel *Nailed* was a runner-up in the Great Lakes Book Award.

His first young adult novel *Things Change* (Walker & Company, 2004) was named by the Young Adult Library Services Association as a best book for reluctant readers. He has won many writing and achievement awards both the Catholic Library Association, and the American Library Association. In March of 2006, he won the Scholastic Library Publishing Award.

Students had fun during DEAR time - "Dropping Everything And Reading". Students at the elementary school, where their theme was "Building Readers and Writers", were under construction. Home Depot donated a construction apron for every student, paint sticks to make a "book worm" to mark their spot in the library media center, and caution tape for the theme.

Farm Bureau Insurance donated book marks, and the students also received a book from Scholastic.

The media centers coordinated a book drive. Book fairs brought new books to the library during March, as did a gently used book drive. Community members and students donated hundreds of new and used books to be used in the school library media centers or classrooms.

Movie passes and Splash Village trips were the big prizes this year. Working with Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn, top readers in the Ruth Fox and Middle School buildings earned a trip for themselves and a friend to the Frankenmuth water park. Other reading champions earned movie passes to the high school auditorium. Winning classes for reading minutes also earned rewards.

Ruth Fox enjoyed the talents of local bronco bustin' cowboy Bob Cloutier at their awards ceremony. The high school senior has been bull riding since he was 12 years old, and showed the equipment and described the dangers of this challenging career. Bob described his first attempts to lasso a bull with a garden hose and a jump from the hay loft. His current career on the Professional Cowboy Rodeo Association circuit takes him across the United States and Mexico for his sponsors, among them, Wrangler and the U.S. Marines. Bob shared with the students that during his down time he reads 2-3 novels a week and he encouraged them to, "Saddle up and keep Reading"!



Making the grade

By Adair W. Aumock, Director of Curriculum & Technology



By now, you have probably heard about Michigan's new rigorous graduation requirements (see Mr. Hiltunen's article). These standards were adopted a year ago to ensure all Michigan students receive a world class education. These standards are based upon longitudinal research by ACT about courses passed by students who are most successful in college and job training programs after high school. These standards also aim to prepare students for a 21st century, information society career.

As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. This takes on new meaning for a school district. While these standards are being emphasized in high schools around Michigan since they first apply to this year's 9th

graders, this is by no means a high school issue for parents, students, and teachers. Ensuring all students succeed in this new rigor is a challenge for every teacher in every grade level. Most high school teachers agree a student's best chance to successfully complete these rigorous new requirements is to hit the ground running. It is important for every student take full advantage of high quality learning opportunities in middle school and elementary school, building necessary knowledge, skills, and work habits for high school. Now, more than ever, it is vital for students to master foundational skills in mathematics, reading, writing, and critical thinking. At the same time, students also should become well versed in the role of technology for learning and working.

In North Branch, teachers at all grade levels have been working hard, realigning lessons to the state's new Grade Level Content Expectations. This ongoing process has been slow and deliberate, but we are making significant gains. We now use the "6 traits" of successful writing to structure lessons in all grades, we have raised expectations of elementary students to master basic math facts, we have an integrated hands-on science curriculum engaging all students studying their world, and we are working to implement new Social Studies lessons that help students become more engaged and aware global citizens. Along with all this rigor, our district fortunately still offers students multiple opportunities to explore and grow in the fine, applied, and performing arts in all buildings.

Our community is fortunate to have so many concerned parents and dedicated teachers rising to this challenge so that every North Branch student can "make the grade." Thank you for your time and support.

Reading Champions 2008

Kindergarten
Madison Smith
Robert Vipperman
Alexis Wooster
Vicky Guerne
McKenna Forster
Emma Bloss
Rayennea Sutton
Jet Jones
Bo Martin
Scott Truax
Alex Bitters
Jimmy Kreiner
Gia Truax
Brant Mohr
Rachel DuRussel
Melody Horne
Eli Robinette
Rachelle Starling
Noah Bruman
Drew Ramey
Aubrey Kage
Mason Oliver
Alicia Mikinka

1st grade
Emma Knappen
Noah Gordon
Emily Muray
Emily Sealey
Grant Rose
Jenna Gormley
Reilly Roach
Reese Ruhlman
Tristan Webber
Alicia Hall
Alexandra Jackson
Nathan Farnsworth
Blake Volz
Carlie Jones

2nd Grade
Cole Fike
Rachel Schwartz
Haley Hansen
Elaine Youngert
Lupita Guererro
Destiny Roberson
Adrian Patino
Kyle Kleinknecht
Tyler Holcomb
Ashley Hall



Olivia Sweeney
Mikayla Havermale
Adam Barrows
Megan Wisswell
Leila Charboneau
Richard Schwerin
Katie Smith
Jonathan Holcomb
David Colby

3rd Grade
Alexa Finley
Laura Osbourne
Megan Clemens
Kayla Richardson
Keegan Bonesteel
Nathan Scott
Hunter Hurd
Rachel Barthel
Candy Deaton
Chanelle Jones
Amanda howell
Austin McIntosh
Stephanie Fifield

4th Grade
Splash Village Winners
Kirk Donaldson
Brienna Howay
Christian Howay
Chris Parent
Haley Walker
Jordon O'Brien
Jordan Armstrong

5th Grade
Splash Village Winners
Madison Skovran
Taylor Richmond
Austin Parvin
Calla McNulty
Maddy Eckstrom
Blake Schlaud
Will Grossbauer

6th Grade
Splash Village Winners
Chelsie Vipperman
Ashley ncarnate
Erin Ruhlman
Doug Stikeleather
Jenn Kaluk
Tyler Marek

7th Grade
Splash Village Winners
Ben Robinson
Ashley Sorenson
Karli Gormley

8th Grade
Splash Village Winners
Tyler Ventura
Iliana Guerrero
Shaina Alvesteffer
Hannah Laur
Patty Anderson
Chris Bedra
Rayne Johnson



Community Book Sale Brings New Books to Library Media Centers

During the annual Community Book Sale, the media centers generated thousands of new books for their collections. This year's sale was held at the North Branch Township Hall. The library media staff includes: Dr. Jennifer Parker-Moore, Lori Shaver, Margaret Lewiski, Susan Seaman, and library intern Pam Orr.

New Teacher

Stephen Verburg has joined the staff at North Branch Area Schools teaching high school Health/ Advanced Conditioning and is the new Head Varsity Football Coach. Stephen is a graduate of Adrian College, majoring in Health, Physical Education & Recreation with a minor in History and received a Masters Degree in 2005 through Marygrove College. He played football and track at Adrian. Stephen also joined the United States Marine Corp and served 9 months in Iraq in 2003.

His teaching career began at Howell Public Schools in 2004 teaching physical education and coaching varsity football.

Stephen is married to wife, Susan who teaches at Lapeer Community Schools and they have 3 beautiful children; Connor 6, Scarlett 2, and Lincoln 6 months.

"I'm very excited about being here in North Branch. This is a wonderful opportunity for my family. My goal is to make a POSITIVE impact on kids, both in the classroom and on the field."



QUEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Carolyn and Ron Bower Nominated for MAEO 2008 Outstanding Advocate Award:

Carolyn and Ron Bower have been outstanding supporters of the Quest High School students. We also cannot begin to measure the impact that this has had on all Quest students that have watched this all take place. Not only has the Bower's financial support contributed to the scholarship recipients, but it has sent a clear message to all Quest students that they are supported by the community, that someone besides our staff believe in their potential for greatness enough to aid them in their college aspirations by giving a substantial amount of money out of their own pockets.

Excerpt from the nomination:

As Mr. and Mrs. Bower witnessed the rapid success of the Quest program and their students, the Bower's wanted to become more active in Quest's pursuit of a true alternative to traditional education. Carolyn and Ron Bower single-handedly established, by personally funding, a competitive annual scholarship award of \$3,000 that is distributed to Quest High School graduates pursuing a higher degree of education.

Mr. and Mrs. Bower also take their time to serve on the committee that interview and select the winning scholarship applicants and determine the amount of each distribution. During the scholarship interviews, the Bowers were so moved by the stories of the applicants that they could not bring themselves to deny any applicant - they added another \$2000 to their initial contribution, and awarded \$5000 in scholarship money to the eight scholarship applicants from our 2007 graduating class.

It's difficult to really measure the impact this has had on these students. There was something that took place during this whole process that helped these kids go from starting to believe they just might be able to be successful at college, to believing that they might be able to actually apply, be accepted and attend college. There are a lot of obstacles and intimidating aspects during this process for these students and their families - it's uncharted territory for them. Most of these students would have never been able to make this happen without this support, not just the financial, but the belief in them.

Carolyn and Ron Bower's impact on our program has been tremendous and has been much more far reaching then they may ever realize.

We were notified by MAEO on April 6th that Carolyn and Ron Bower have been selected as the 2008 MAEO Outstanding Advocates of the Year!

The Mason's Nominated for MAEO 2008 Outstanding Advocate Award:

The Mason's, seeing a clear need and having a great desire to help Quest flourish, have been an outstanding advocate of the Quest program. The Mason's have hosted Quest's annual benefit since the 2005-2006 school year, donating all food, and giving all proceeds to Quest High School. In just the past two years, they have raised approximately \$3,500 for Quest High School and they project between a \$1,500 to \$2,000 contribution to Quest from this year's benefit dinner which was held on Thursday, April 24th.

Excerpt from nomination:

The Masons have sent a clear message that the community supports our districts efforts to serve ALL students in the community. Through community participation and support of our program, Quest students understand that they are not forgotten and not on the "back burner" of the communities hearts and minds.

BRONCO BUDDIES Say THANKS!

The 2nd and 3rd Grade Bronco Buddies at North Branch Elementary School would like to thank the high school students who became our friends, buddies, and mentors while spending time with us during this school year. You helped us by teaching and guiding us in being the best people that we can be. You helped us learn about the traits that make good people and the things that we need to know about sharing, cooperating, and just getting along in life. But most of all you taught us by your example and we will always be grateful for that.

High School Bronco Buddies Leaders: Anna Wells, Russell Arntz, Allison Phillips, Mike Brooks, Chelsea Rowley, Luke Bonner, Jessica Bruman, Courtney Sexton, and Kelly Van Wagoner.

NORTH BRANCH LIONS CLUB

Presents

Three Big Days of Excitement

Thursday, July 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

Tractor Pull

Admission: Adults \$10.00 – Children 6-12 \$6.00 – Under 5 Free

Friday, July 4th at 4:00 p.m.

Figure Eight Races & Demolition Derby

Admission: Adults \$7.00 – Children 6-12 \$4.00 – Under 5 Free

Saturday, July 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Auto Cross — Bump & Run

Front & Rear Wheel Drive Compact Cars

4 & 6 Cylinder Cars

Admission: Adults \$7 – Children 6-12 \$4.00 – Under 5 Free

All events will be held at the Lions Field on Beech Street, South of M-90 at the west end of North Branch





North Branch Players have a stunning year

What a great year we have had for performing at North Branch High School. Our season has come to a close, but it has been very exciting and filled with many accomplishments.

In November we joined forces with the band department to produce Rodgers and Hammerstein's classical musical version of the fairy tale *Cinderella*. Senior Jessica Schulte played the role of Cinderella and her prince charming was Sophomore Jason Armstrong. It was very well received and attended by audiences and both the actors and the orchestra really seemed to love performing for the show.

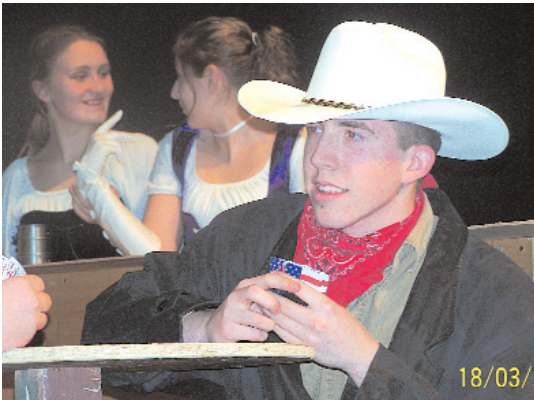


Four seniors were able to co-direct two one act plays for our "Night Of One Act Plays" which ran in January. Corey Patterson and Wade Kreiner directed "Dragons," a play dealing with drunk driving and loss. Lacey Bond and Jackie Dennis directed "Love is a Hot Fudge Sunday" which centered around a young girl whose writings were thought to predict the future. All of our senior directors did an outstanding job as leaders and made their productions very great to watch.

Our competition piece this year was entitled "A Thousand Words"

which tells the story Trent, a boy dealing with the loss of his friend, due to a school shooting. We competed at district competition at Clintondale High School and advanced to regional competition. Our school was fortunate enough to host the regional competition this year. Although we did not advance to the state competition, individual awards were given to Juniors Eric Eilersen and Jonathan Naracon for superior and excellent acting respectively. We also want to extend a big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out with the competition. Without you volunteers, it would not have been possible.

Our spring production, "How The West Was Fun" was a huge success. Set in the 1870's in Kansas, this western comedy finds our hero Curly, played by senior Corey Patterson, in love with Miss Lilly, played by junior Marne Fricke. Since she does not love him, he must buy a love potion from Dr. Sasquatch, played by Senior Philip Wells. When all the other ladies drink the potion, look out!! The production was a blast from beginning to end and really showed in their final performance.



Our drama banquet is scheduled for May 23rd after school in the auditorium. We will hand out awards, elect a new president, induct new members, but mostly just eat lots of food and socialize. Parents and alumni of the drama department are more than welcome to attend this event. Thank you for your continued support of the drama department and we look forward to some really great shows next year.

Poetry Out Loud Winner Gets Advice from Published Authors!

Junior, Kyle Manthei represented North Branch High School in the Poetry Out Loud state competition on March 8th in Lansing. Poetry Out Loud is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Michigan Humanities Council. This is the third year that the contest has been offered. Kyle recited 3 poems to be among the top 4 in the state. When Kyle began selecting poems he had great advice from a published poet, David Blaine who told him "It's all about the words". David Blaine presented a workshop for more than 12 North Branch high school students in March. Kyle selected three winning poems to recite. They included; *At the Vietnam Wall* by George Bilgere; *We Wear the Mask* by Paul Laurence Dunbar and *Father's Old Blue Cardigan* by Ann Carson. When Kyle did some research on author George Bilgere, and the poem, he e-mailed the author who currently is a professor of English at Ohio State University and the two began to e-mail notes on the poetry and its meaning. Kyle learned that it truly is "all about the words". North Branch High School looks forward to entering the competition again next year.

NBHS To Host Two College Courses Next Fall

Next fall, both ST. CLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE and MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE will be presenting courses in North Branch High School. Any community member is welcome to sign up for these courses through either college.

It is exciting to bring these courses "closer to home" so that area residents can find it easier and cheaper to attend college. High School students who dual enroll will also be able to do their courses more conveniently. We are grateful that theses colleges have agreed to bring these courses into our community.

These are the courses that will be offered in the fall.

Mott Community College- **Psychology 281 General Psychology**

This course is a beginning basic psychology course that is often a requirement for business, health, and other careers that involve dealing with people.

St. Clair Community College- **CIS 115 Microcomputer Applications**

This course will provide a hands on way for students to learn many of the important computer applications used in today's technologically equipped businesses and offices. The course will be taught using the industry standard Microsoft Office 2007 and will cover four weeks each of word processing, spreadsheets, and database creation.

NBHS QUIZ BOWL ENDS ON ANOTHER HIGH NOTE

The North Branch High School Quiz Bowl program has enjoyed another wonderful year. The High School fielded two varsity teams and one junior varsity team with a total of 26 students taking part over the course of the entire year. Our Varsity "A" team ended its winter season in first place and Varsity "B"



ended in third. Our JV team ended in second place. Clearly we have a lot of talented young people doing a fine job of representing our community. The Varsity "A" team's victory, fueled especially by co-captains Aaron Schroeder and Nick Tallman, earned North Branch a place at State competitions.

Of special note this year, NBHS was selected to compete in WFUM's High School Challenge. That every-other-year special program brings together Quiz Bowl teams from throughout southeast Michigan. Six students selected from all three of our teams were chosen to serve as our State team this year. Those six — senior Aaron Hall, senior Joe Krzystowczyk, sophomore Elliott Orr, senior Aaron Schroeder, senior Nick Tallman, and junior Dan Urchick traveled to WFUM in Flint where competitions were held and taped. Our State team represented North Branch very well. They won their first match and then lost their second by only a couple of questions to a very worthy team from Oxford. The first match was aired on PBS channel 28 on April 15th. The air date for the second match has not been released yet. Programming can be looked up online at <http://www.wfum.org/tvschedule/tv.html>.

Our State team traveled to Michigan State University Friday, April 18 for State competitions. Our first match was scheduled for 1:15 p.m. with others determined by our wins and losses. Results of those matches are not available at the time of this writing but can be seen online at <http://www.honorscollege.msu.edu/quizbowl/>.

We are already gearing up for Quiz Bowl at the High School for next year. All interested students are encouraged to apply; anyone who enjoys reading and learning something new every day is welcome to take part in Quiz Bowl. Application forms are available in the High School in room 109 or may be downloaded online from our web site (simply go to www.nbbrncos.net —> High School —> Clubs and Groups —> Quiz Bowl). There are sponsorship forms available there too if any in the community wish to help sponsor one or more of our students for next year.

We are very thankful for the continued support of the School Board, the central administration, members of our community, the faculty and staff at the High School, the parents of our Quiz Bowlers, and of course, the Quiz Bowlers themselves. Quiz Bowl fills an important niche in High School life, and the combined of support of everyone makes it all possible. — *Wayne Haney, NBHS Quiz Bowl Coach*

SWIFT Awards

Congratulations Teresa Upleger, Carolyn Medland and the students of SWIFT. They won the Shining Star Award presented by the Lapeer County K-12 Service Learning Center.

SWIFT is a student service club at North Branch High School. This group of student volunteers have been involved in several local service projects around the County for the last few years including hosting a Seniors Prom for the residents at Metamora Manor and Devonshire, raising funds to supply LACADA with a Playscape, and collecting donations for Hurricane Katrina relief to name a few.

The group received their award at the 2nd annual "Salute to Service" Dinner and Award Ceremony at the Lapeer Center Building on February 11th.



Forensics Regional Competition

The high school forensics team competed during break in regional competition. We are sending 9 students to State finals next month at Eastern Michigan University. This 50 % increase over last year was no small feat. These students have worked hard, attending some 7 competitions and facing teams that have sometimes, several coaches. Even a tornado warning and taking cover in the middle of their last round, found the team undaunted.

On May 6th at 7:00, please come out to our auditorium to enjoy the Night Of The Stars! You will be enlightened as well as entertained!

Friday April 18th our middle school team will travel to Detroit to compete at the Middle School State finals. They will enjoy a concert of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. On Saturday, they will compete with hundreds of other students at Wayne Sate University! Good luck Jade Topper, Lee Stevens, Danni Archer and Ashley Sorensen!

High School State finalists: Tanna Sherril, 2nd oratory, Liz Morquecho, 1st impromptu open, Kyle Manthei, 1st Prose, Anna Lee 4th, prose, Brittany Hiltunen, 5th storytelling 9/10, Jason Armstrong, 3rd, storytelling 9/10, Dakota Myers, 4th, impromptu 9/10, Brittany Manthei 2nd, Poetry and Sabrina Sorensen, 6th, informative.

14 students of the team traveled to Alma Monday April 14th to vie for the TVC championship. The team captured 2nd place with 3 all conference winners. Mary Helzer, Brittany Hiltunen and Tanna Sherril were outstanding in their categories. This is the first year that their results, Model UN and our stellar quiz bowl team's results will be tabulated to see which school wins the academic TVC title! Go Broncos!!!!

2008 SNOWCOMING

Congratulations to Sean McCormack, son of high school math teacher Patty McCormack and husband, Jeffrey, who was crowned Snowcoming King at Tuesday's basketball games. Snowcoming Queen is Jessica Curtis, daughter of Brian and Chris Curtis.

Senior Court ladies and their parents

Jessica Bruman - Don and Luanne Bruman
Jessica Curtis - Brian and Chris Curtis
Samantha Skovran - Bob and Lisa Skovran
Lisa Thompson - Kevin and Debra Thompson
Carrie Tran - Phuong and Donna Tran

Senior Court men and their parents

Adam Chapman - Bruce and Karen Chapman
Seth Ferrett - Dawn Hubbard and Dwight Ferrett
Dustin Hawley - Fred and Trudy Hawley
Sean McCormack - Jeffrey and Patty McCormack
Jacob Wiegele - Louie and Shellie Wiegele

Junior Representatives

Ashleigh Hile - Tom and Michelle Hile
Scott Burger - David and Judi Burger

Sophomore Representatives

Felicia Bader - Tom and Val Bader
Zach Thibodeau - David and Linda Thibodeau

Freshman Representatives

Mika Cook - Mike Cook and Wendy Peacock
Josh D'Arcy - Steve D'Arcy and Carrie Dieckmann

North Branch High School Forensics Team is awarded a Grant!

The North Branch Forensics Team has been awarded a grant totaling nearly \$5,000 from the Lapeer County Community Foundation. Coaches Rick and Cindy Stevens are ecstatic about to be able to send nine students to a week long intensive summer camp. The speech institute at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. is the site of their learning experience. Students will learn to find quality literary material to perform. They will develop skills to bring the character "to life" through spoken word. Public address students will learn skills of research, construction of arguments and delivery. The team will make this 750 mile trek in August. The Foundation has awarded the team their tuition and money to cover the renting of 2 mini vans. The team is seeking an additional \$700 to cover their gas expenses and hotel fees to be incurred on the way to and from the institute in Minnesota, through other donations or fundraising. The Stevens and the team wish to thank the Foundations board members for their support. The Lapeer County Community Foundation provides grants that enhance the quality of life in Lapeer County. The Foundation manages endowments totaling \$8 million in 44 funds for a wide range of charitable purposes.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

North Branch High School students have been proving they are ready for global competition through their efforts in Model United Nations. Students traveled to Ithaca twice during the school year to compete with other TVC schools. "Students come away from this experience with much more than they expected", states Coach Stevens. The students learn to compromise, strategize and develop solutions that might really work in the real world. North Branch was in the top half of the TVC schools once the overall results were in. Eric Eilersen was awarded Honorable Mention for his efforts. Team members included, Jeremy Sedlak, Dakota Myers, Alex Parton, Anna Lee and Kyle Manthei. The other members who also traveled to Hope College for State competition were Josh D'Arcy (who received outstanding accolades), Ryan Curell, Jared Sadler, Brittany Hiltunen, Brittany Manthei, Sabrina Sorensen and Sarah Herberger.

What you need to know about Michigan's NEW High School Graduation Requirements

Expect More

Getting students prepared and ready to take their place in the world is challenging. The knowledge and skills that were needed to enter college or land a well-paying job 10 or 20 years ago have changed.

Today, there is little difference between the skills students need to enter college or those needed for the workplace.

One thing is for certain, all parents want their children to be able to enter college without having to take costly remedial courses, as well as, secure a good job.

Achieve More

Just as world-class athletes continue to break records once thought unbreakable, high school students are becoming more and more capable of mastering the subjects and concepts needed to be successful in our global economy.

To ensure every student in Michigan is prepared for college, technical training, or the workplace after high school graduation, on April 20, 2006, Governor Granholm signed into law one of the most comprehensive sets of state high school graduation requirements in the nation.

It is called the Michigan Merit Curriculum. These graduation requirements are effective beginning with students entering 8th grade in 2006 (currently our high school freshmen).

The Michigan Merit Curriculum will:

- Increase students' opportunity of getting scholarships, going to college and getting better jobs, pay and promotions.
- Provide students the flexibility to select additional electives like arts or career training while in high school.
- Allow students to earn high school credits before entering high school through courses, by testing-out of classes, through Advance Placement, Dual Enrollment, Career and Technical Education programs, summer school, and other local elective options.
- Allow school districts to continue to set additional graduation requirements, make all staffing and scheduling decisions, award diplomas, etc.

Best in Nation

The new Michigan Merit Curriculum requires students to complete 16 specific state credits for graduation (see box above). In addition, in order to compete in a global market, students will need an online learning course or experience and two world language credits while in elementary, middle or high school or have an equivalent learning experience beginning with students entering third grade in 2006.

These requirements, for the first time in Michigan history, will provide students with a common set of graduation requirements and will provide educators with a common understanding of what students should know and be able to do for credit.

Prior to these new requirements, all school districts had graduation requirements, but the number and type of credits varied widely throughout the state. The only state requirement was one semester of Civics.

Frequently asked questions can be found at the following website.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/FAQ__Entire_Document_12.07_217841_7.pdf

The Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

Effective Beginning with Students currently in the 9th grade.

ENGLISH - 4 Credits

English Language Arts 9, English Language Arts 10, English Language Arts 11, English Language Arts 12

MATH - 4 Credits

Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II, one math or math-related course in final year of high school

SCIENCE - 3 Credits

Biology, Chemistry or Physics, one additional science credit

SOCIAL STUDIES - 3 Credits

World History & Geography, U.S. History & Geography, .5 credits in both Civics and Economics

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 1 Credit

VISUAL, PERFORMING and APPLIED ARTS - 1 Credit

ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Effective Beginning with students entering 3rd grade in 2006

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH - 2 Credits

In grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12

Additional Local Requirements



North Branch Broncos

Bronco Spring Sports:

Our spring athletic teams will be involved in state tournaments soon. Please go to mhsaa.com to follow the progress of the spring tournaments. As of press time, we have the following information about the tournaments:

North Branch High School will host the varsity baseball and softball Div. II Districts. A pre-district game will be played on Tuesday, May 27 at 4:30 p.m. and the semi-finals and finals on Friday, May 30 beginning at 12:00 p.m. Teams in the district are Flint Powers, Goodrich, Lapeer West, Linden, and North Branch. Admission to all district games will be \$5.00. Regionals will be held at Goodrich High School on Saturday, June 7.

In girls' soccer, North Branch High School will participate in the Division II Soccer Districts hosted by St. Clair High School. Teams in the district include Auburn Hills-Avondale, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, North Branch, Ortonville-Brandon, Oxford, and St. Clair. As of press time, game dates and times had not been finalized. Please check the local papers or the mhsaa.com web-site at the Tournaments link for game information. Admission to all games will be \$5.00. The winner of this District will play in the Regionals at Fenton High School the week of June 2-6.

The varsity boys' and girls' track teams will participate in the Division II Regional at Algonac High School on Friday, May 16 with the Field Events beginning at 3:00 p.m. The Finals will begin around 6:30 p.m. Teams participating are Algonac, Caro, Clinton Township-Clintondale, Croswell-Lexington, Flint-Kearsley, Goodrich, Imlay City, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, Marine City, Marysville, North Branch, Richmond, St. Clair, and Yale. Both the boys' and girls' teams have strong teams this year and should qualify multiple athletes for the state meet which will be held on Saturday, May 31 in Grand Rapids. Also, the TVC East Division Meet will be held at Frankenmuth High School on Tuesday, May 20 while the prestigious "Thumb Meet of Champs" will be held at Caro High School on Tuesday, May 27. Steve and Thelma Fowler will be recognized as North Branch Area Schools "Friend of Youth" during the meet.

The boys' golf team is off to a great start this year. Boys' golf last played competitive matches back in October of 2006. With the move to the spring, the team has picked up a few more players and is one of the favorites for the TVC East Division Title. North Branch will host the final TVC Jamboree on Friday, May 16 at Washakie Golf Course. The golf team will participate in the Div. II Districts hosted by Croswell-Lexington at Lakeview Hills Golf Club on Thursday, May 22. Teams in the tournament include Clio, Corunna, Croswell-Lexington, Fenton, Flint Northern Academy, Flint-Kearsley, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, Linden, Mt. Morris, North Branch, Ortonville-Brandon, and Owosso. The Regionals are scheduled for Thursday, May 29 at the Flint Elks Golf Club.

SENIORS HONORS NIGHT:

The Senior Honors Night will be held on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The athletic department will be presenting many awards including the following:

- Five or more varsity letters
- MHSAA Scholar Athlete Qualifiers
- United States Marine Corp. Distinguished Athlete Award
- United States Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award
- Detroit Free Press Scholar Athlete Award
- Recognition of Athletic Scholarships
- Female and Male Athlete of the Year

The most prestigious award is the Female and Male Athlete of the Year. Head Coaches nominate seniors for this award and vote on the most deserving recipients utilizing the following criteria:

- Athlete must have demonstrated athletic excellence in more than one sport and received a letter in more than one sport.
- Athlete must have demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom and have an above average G.P.A.
- Athlete must have demonstrated a commitment to North Branch Schools and/or the community of North Branch in a leadership or volunteer capacity.

NOTES OF INTEREST:

The spring sports' banquet will be held on Tuesday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The banquet will honor all of our athletes from baseball, boys' golf, softball, girls' soccer, boys' track, and girls' track. In addition, we will present scholar-athlete awards to all spring athletes with a grade point average of 3.2 or higher at the mid-term of the third trimester.

The MHSAA has mandated that schools designate 7 consecutive calendar days during the summer when school is not in session when open gyms, camps, and conditioning programs are not permitted to be conducted on school premises or sponsored by the school at other facilities. North Branch will observe the "dead period" from June 29-July 5, 2008.

All students in grades 7-12 next school year who plan on participating in athletics for the 2008-2009 school year will need an athletic physical. Dr. Starbird's office will once again be offering physicals for \$10.00 per athlete. Half of the fee will be donated back to the athletic department. The dates for the physicals will be announced at a later date in the local newspapers and posted on the school web-site. No appointments are necessary and physical cards may be picked up in the athletic office at any time this spring.



TVC EAST ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS' BASKETBALL

L-R: Chelsea LaBair, Honorable Mention; Tiffany Pettit, Honorable Mention; Taylor Kaiser, Honorable Mention; Kayla Snodden, Honorable Mention



TVC EAST ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS' BOWLING

(L-R): Rachel Thibodeau, Honorable Mention; Caitlyn McCormack, 1st Team; Ashley Arkinson, Honorable Mention



TVC ALL CONFERENCE COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING

Blissbeth Morquecho, TVC East Honorable Mention

Sports News



TVC EAST ALL CONFERENCE BOYS' BASKETBALL

Leo Bonner, 2nd Team; Justin Calvert, Honorable Mention



TVC EAST ALL CONFERENCE BOYS' BOWLING

Alax Owens, 2nd Team; Joey Clemens—Honorable Mention



TVC EAST ALL CONFERENCE WRESTLING

Brandon Urshick, Honorable Mention; Kyle Kaeling, 2nd Team
Not Pictured: Dan Urshick, Honorable Mention; Lee Roach, Honorable Mention

SUMMER CAMPS FOR NORTH BRANCH AREA STUDENTS

FOOTBALL:

Information on summer activities will be sent home with students before the end of the school year. Steve VerBurg, varsity football coach, has finalized the dates of two camps to be held at North Branch High School. A mini-camp will be held June 16-19 for football players in grades 9-12. A football skills camp will be held July 28-31 for football players in grades 4-12. Exact times of the camps will be publicized before the end of school.

BOYS' BASKETBALL:

June 9-12: Grades 9-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for Intensive Skill Development. Cost of the camp is \$50.00. Coach Marshall and his staff will direct the camp.

June 9-12: Grades 7-8 (next year) will run from 2-4 p.m. at the North Branch High School Gym for Intensive Skill Development Camp. Cost for this camp is \$25.00. Coach Marshall and his staff will direct the camp.

June 16-19: Grades 3-6 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 1-4 p.m. The cost is \$45.00 per student which includes a t-shirt and other gift. Registration forms will be sent home with students for early registration though athletes may register the first day of the camp. Coach Marshall and his staff will direct the camp.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL:

July 7-10: Grades 3-7 (next year) at North Branch High School from 5-7 p.m. Information on the camp will be sent home before the end of school.

July 7-10: Grades 8-12 (next year) at North Branch High School from 7-9 p.m. Information on the camp will be sent home before the end of school.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL:

June 16-19: Grades 3-6 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Camp cost is \$40.00 per person and includes a camp t-shirt. Registration forms will be sent home with students for early registration though athletes may register the first day of camp. There is no guarantee of t-shirts for those not registering early. Checks may be made out to North Branch Volleyball and mailed to the athletic department. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend. Coach June, Coach McNulty, and Coach Stawecki will direct the camp with members of the 2007 Class A State Runner-Up team helping with instruction.

July 14-17: Grades 9-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oakland University Coach Rob Beam will run this camp with enrollment limited to 36 players. Also, college members of the 2007 Class A State Runner-Up team will be on hand to instruct players. Cost is \$100.00 per player and includes a camp t-shirt. Players may pre-register or sign up the day of the camp if spots are available. Information will be sent home with athletes in late May.

July 14-17: Grades 7-8 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 2-4 p.m. The North Branch coaching staff and college members of the 2007 Class A State Runner-up North Branch team will instruct the athletes. Cost is \$50.00 per player and includes a camp t-shirt. Players may pre-register or sign up the day of the camp if spots are available. Enrollment is limited to 36 players.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' SOCCER:

July 14-18: Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach, Josh Spencer, will conduct a camp for boys and girls going into grades K-9 at the high school soccer field from 8 a.m. to Noon. Information on the camp will be sent home with students before the end of the school day.

GIRLS' SOCCER:

July 21-25: Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach, Marc Krugielki, will conduct a camp for girls going into grades 7, 8 and 9 next year at the high school soccer field from 9 a.m. to Noon. Information on the camp will be sent home with students before the end of school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



NBMS Student Council

The North Branch Middle School Student Council hit the ground running in August and has not stopped since. The student council officers, Jack Schulte, Ashley Orr, Michael Berlin, and Jenny Edwards spent a Saturday at the building working on a small “beautification project.” The early part of the school year also saw the council take on homecoming spirit week activities while helping our volleyball program by supporting their “Volley for the Cure” cause with a small donation and by helping to sell T-shirts in the middle school.

The winter season brought the council students the annual opportunity to serve our community by helping collect and sort food and gifts that our community thrift shop distributes to needy residents. Representatives Joel Yelland and Tyler Terry worked so well, they were invited back to help with some other small sorting projects during this busy week. This has been an event that the student



council looks forward to helping with each year.

Early in 2008, the middle school student council prepared and put on a “Deal or No Deal” skit. One lucky middle school student was chosen to play the game for the opportunity for a free dance for the student body. The free dance, which was held in March, was the fourth student council sponsored dance of the year.

The council sponsored a “Hat Day” in 2008 which generated around \$150.00 for the Lapeer County Human Development Commissions annual “Walk for Warmth”. North Branch students Jessie Wells and Jenny Edwards participated in the walk.

Representatives Ashlyn Law and Jennie Edwards organized a “Green Day” for St. Patty’s Day this year which was a big success. Student Council provided six different classrooms with cookies and milk. Mrs. Fory’s, Mrs. Schulte’s, Mr. White’s, Mrs. Rinn’s, Mrs. Stawecki’s, and Mrs. Buike’s seminAR classrooms supported this Green Day with 100 % participation and were the lucky recipients of the treats.

The council still has a busy schedule ahead. Student Council is sponsoring a talent show which is tentatively scheduled for late April. The annual “Dinner Dance” will be held in May. Student council is also planning a fundraising campaign that will help give 8th grade student Chelsea Covey the opportunity to participate in a local cancer “Walk for the Cure”. The year for the council will wrap up with our annual elections for our 2008-2009 student council officers.

From the bottom of our hearts, the members of the student council would like to thank the many people that have supported us this year in our endeavors including all students, teachers and our principal, Mr. Sherman. We especially would like to thank the many parents who have volunteered their time and energy to help chaperon at our dances and other events. We could not be the organization that we are without your help and continued support. Extra thanks goes out to the Orr family (and Orr’s Hardware Store) who have generously offered their time and even supplies as they have been needed for student council projects. Thank you for all that you have given. You have helped us to eNhance our Bodies, Mind, and Spirit.

AMANDA HARDWICK FINISHES 3RD AT COUNTY-WIDE SPELLING BEE!

Amanda Hardwick, 7th grader at North Branch Middle School, finished in 3rd place at the county-wide spelling bee, sponsored by *The Lapeer County Press*. Over fifty 5th-8th graders from every Lapeer County elementary, middle, and charter school competed on Wednesday, March 12, at the high school auditorium. The winner, a sixth grader from Dryden elementary, received a prize package that included a chance to participate in the *Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee* competition in Washington, D.C. Amanda won the county spelling bee last year as a 6th grader and participated in the national competition. Congratulations, Amanda, on your 3rd place finish this year and best wishes next year as you strive to return to Washington, D.C.!



South Africa Comes Alive!

Recently Mrs. Parsons’ and Mr. Peplinski’s 7th grade social studies classes were visited by a local family who grew up in South Africa. On March 18 Rod and Cheryl Sanderson-Smith and daughter Caylin, and their intern, Ferdi came in to speak to all 7th graders about South African culture! They treated our students to South African music and snacks. A Power-point presentation and family photos enhanced the lively presentation! Examples of traditional attire were modeled by the Sanderson-Smiths and Ferdi demonstrated the sport and equipment used for the game of Cricket. The students gained a clearer understanding of Nelson Mandela and his role in South African current events and each was encouraged by the Sanderson-Smiths to plan to visit a third world country at least once in his or her lifetime.

Each of Mrs. Parsons’ students followed up by writing a personal “Thank-you” letter to the Sanderson-Smiths. We would like to share some of the students’ letters with you.

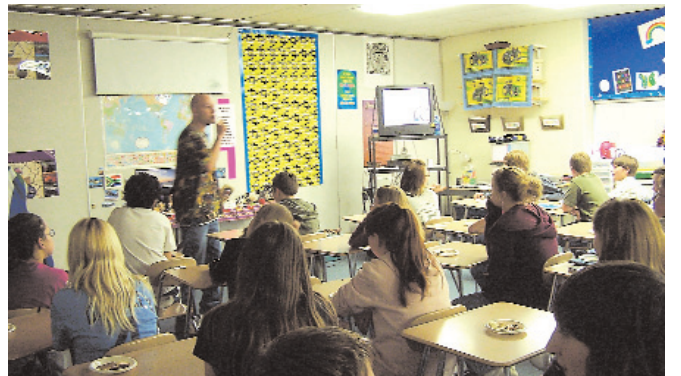
Thank you for coming to our school and teaching us a lot about Africa. I wasn’t that interested in Africa before, but after you, your family, and Ferdi came in I’m really interested. I really liked the homemade caramel. At first, I thought it was peanut butter. I liked how Caylin sang the happy birthday blessing and that my birthday was last Friday the 21st. Seeing all those photos of your family in Africa and how it looked so peaceful, now I want to go to Africa.

Sincerely, Blase Ruhlman

Thank you for coming to our school to talk to us. I really enjoyed it. I learned about what kind of food they eat, what kind of houses they live in, and other things about the African people. I thought that it was neat how you used American food to interpret what the African people eat. I like how you used the map in the slide show because we started to learn about Asia, and I forgot about Africa a little. When Ferdi spoke in the Afrikan language, I thought it would be cool to learn some of it. When Caylin sang Happy Birthday I thought it was so cute. Thank you so much for taking your time to come in and talk to us. I learned a lot more that I would have ever learned from just reading a text book.

Sincerely, Amanda Morrison

Most of the students shared similar sentiments and much appreciation for the experience. Thank you again Sanderson-Smiths!



Choice Time Allows Options for Ruth Fox Students

In addition to providing extra time for learning, students at Ruth Fox Elementary also have the opportunity to try new things. During choice time, some students stay with their teacher and work on homework or are re-taught something they may be having difficulty with. Students who have completed their work or don't need additional help are able to participate in many fun and interesting choice times such as creating a photostory, designing a fashion magazine, building boats or planes, playing a physical game, working with puzzles, etc. These activities allow students to try something they might not have an opportunity to do, socialize with other students, and have something fun to look forward to in their day! Students really enjoy Choice Time and look forward to the activities provided for them.

DTE Grant Winners!

Special congratulations to Cindy Mitchell and Jill Murphy for earning DTE Energy Grant Awards! The grant money will be used for classroom materials. Cindy and Jill are sixth grade teachers at Ruth Fox Elementary!



Ruth Fox Students are Scientists!

Ruth Fox sixth grade students got the opportunity to visit the new science labs at the high school and work with Mr. Baksa and his students to dissect cow's



eyes as part of a sixth grade science unit! Students loved the experience and the high school students did a fabulous job of working with the Ruth Fox students! The lab facility is beautiful and it was a great experience for the sixth graders! Special thanks to Mr. Baksa and his students for allowing the opportunity!

Ruth Fox "Western Themed" Read-In

As a culminating activity for March Reading Awareness Month, students at Ruth Fox Elementary participated in a building-wide read-in on April 4th. Students dressed in "western wear" to support the month long media theme "Saddle Up & Read". During the day, students enjoyed visits from guest readers and attended a grade level Reading Assembly Celebration for logging on their beyond the school day reading minutes for the month of March.

Surveying Ruth Fox

Fourth grade students at Ruth Fox Elementary experienced a small taste of what life was like for an early Michigan surveyor. The students worked in groups to survey the Ruth Fox courtyard. Smiles, laughs, and a little frustration filled the area as our young mapmakers honed their measurement skills. When asked about his surveying experience, fourth grader Zac Ostrum sighed, "If you think it's going to be easy to just walk around and jot things down, dude, think again!"



Students Enjoy Math and Science Festival

Students at the Ruth Fox Elementary have the opportunity to participate in some special days during the school year. This year, students had the opportunity to participate in the Science and Math Festival and will also have a special Writing Festival in May. These days give the students a break from their normal routine and allow a special focus in one area for the whole day. The day is generally based on activities and guest speakers. In the picture, students Ansley Orr and Natalie Kasperowicz are amazed by the guest speaker – Mr. Math – who presented an assembly with some neat math tricks and facts! This May, our own sixth grade teacher, Cindy Mitchell, will be the guest author! Cindy has written several books on space and we are looking forward to hearing from her at our Writing Festival. Students will also have the opportunity to share their own books which they have been working on this year!



The Importance of Summer Reading

With the summer quickly approaching, it's critical that students continue reading to prevent the well documented "summer reading loss". Evidence suggests that reading four or five books largely eliminates this summer setback. For some award winning suggestions, check out the American Library Association's list of 2008 winners at www.ala.org. For an extra summer incentive, check out *Barnes & Noble's* 2008 Summer Reading Program where your child can earn a free book by simply reading at home.

Skate Night

One of the goals for North Branch students is to build healthy habits, and learn how to make good choices. The Elementary has hosted two Skate Nights this year at the Lapeer Skating Center. The students and their families enjoyed a fun evening of learning and practicing the art of roller skating. There were a lot of smiles, anxious faces, and even tears as some children donned a pair of skates for the first time. The best part was watching the parents who seemed to enjoy reminiscing at the skating rink remembering days past when they could race around the rink. It was a joy to watch them share some quality family time with their children.



Ruth Fox student work to be VSA art exhibit

"VSA arts promotes arts, education and creative expression involving children and adults with disabilities, thereby strengthening the human spirit and improving the quality of life for all." (from VSA website)

Mariah Lovasz, a 4th grader at Ruth Fox Elementary, has had her artwork chosen to be in a touring art exhibit. Mrs. Fiedor sent her picture to the selection committee for this exhibit in December. Her painting was one of 60 that were chosen from 178 entries for the VSAMI emerging Artist Touring Exhibition, "Inside Out Art 2008." Her artwork, titled "My Confused Animal," was selected to travel as part of the exhibit through 2009. It was also chosen to be submitted as part of a national exhibit at Union Station in Washington D.C.

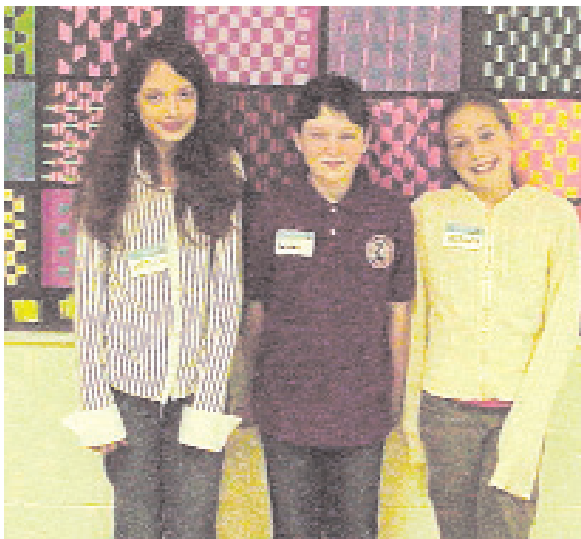
Mariah's picture will be at many venues in Michigan. Some of the closer exhibits will be Frankenmuth, Flint, Ann Arbor, Waterford and E. Lansing. You may check the website for the complete list at www.vsami.org.

Mrs. Fiedor watched Mariah create this fantastic animal. There were many steps and she took no shortcuts. She spent many classes finishing her masterpiece and it was well worth the time. Ruth Fox Elementary School is extremely proud of Mariah.

It is always nice to have students recognized for their achievements and Mariah deserves this wonderful honor.

Spelling Bee Winners

Ruth Fox Elementary would like to congratulate Niquole Caringi, Jordan Stack, and Morgan Coulter on a fantastic job in the Ruth Fox Spelling Bee! These three students advanced to the County Spelling Bee which was held in the North Branch Auditorium. All three students represented Ruth Fox Elementary very well!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

200 Acts of Kindness

During the month of January, Mrs. Gormley’s class tried to follow Martin Luther King Jr.’s ideas and they were challenged to complete 100 acts of kindness by Valentine’s Day. The students overwhelmingly exceeded the expectation and completed 204 acts of kindness in less than one month. The students helped each other in school, helped their parents and siblings at home to collect their acts. Because the class went above and beyond what was expected, the students were awarded with a pizza party. To this day, these acts continue to occur in class even after the challenge has ended. What a great group of students.



Brainstormers!

Page Turner and Sir Boldface competed for the title of Royal Scribe of the Kingdom and brought to life the writing process at North Branch Elementary. *Brainstormers!* is a theatrical group from Michigan who has been sharing their enthusiasm for writing with elementary students for nearly twenty years. Students were dubbed, young wizards and were invited to share their ideas for characters, setting, activity, problem, and solution as the stories developed. The *Brainstormers!* actors took the suggestions from the students and developed a story that was acted out with the help of volunteer student actors. The chant, “In every writing situation, I can always use my imagination,” was the cue for another element to be added to the story. Students had great fun and learned a format for developing a story in keeping with our theme of *Building Readers and Writers*. The students have received the royal request to “go forth and write” because *Brainstormers!* will return in May to perform stories that were penned by our North Branch Elementary student authors.



Community Christmas Cheer

A cheerful group of North Branch Elementary second graders entertained shoppers at Campbell’s Greenhouse on December 2nd. During Campbell’s Christmas Open House, the students sang Christmas carols to shoppers, parents, and Campbell’s staff. This was the second year that the Elementary music



teacher, Michelle Ruhlman, has taken a group to sing for the open house. Mrs. Ruhlman had the help of second grade teachers Kella Carter, Cheryl Barrows, and Bill Traubenkraut.

The children enthusiastically sang several traditional Christmas carols as well as new favorites such as “I’m Getting’ Nuttin’ for Christmas” and, appropriately enough, “All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth”.

Here is a list of the students who participated:

Logan Rutledge	Alec Proffer	Jonathan Holcomb
Montana Maher	David Colby	Stephanie Howard
Tharon Klutts	Allison Muntz	MichealSpringsteen
Ashlee Tallis	Haley Hansen	Donovan Natke
Luke Rutledge	Raiden Simmons	Maddison Boyle
Mikenzi Vauter	Chelsey DeWitte	Lupita Guerrero
Lauren Wilson	Ashlynn Smith	Britany Peralta
Cole Fike	Rachel Cummings	Shelby McKenney
Joey Roberts	Alex Miner	

For pictures please visit the school website and look under Mrs. Ruhlman’s music class page. www.nbbrncos.net

Construction Day

During March is Reading Month one of the special days at North Branch Elementary was Construction Day. In keeping with our theme of *Building Readers and Writers*, the students are asked everyday to bring their “tools” for learning, such as a good night sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and an open mind. But, on Friday, March 14th, we literally asked them to bring their tools, and hard hats, and tool belts. It was “Construction Day,” complete with “Build Your Own Sub Sandwiches” for lunch, and we even had some of the construction workers from the new building site join us. We are especially proud of our students and the work that they do to build knowledge, healthy life habits, and friendships.



Math & Science Night

On the night of February 29th North Branch Elementary students and families leapt into math and science fun. Students were encouraged to fill their “Big Dipper” star card by visiting at least seven of the fourteen hands on stations. Lapeer Family Literacy provided fun math games for families to play and take home. The Stardome, set up in the gym and manned by volunteers from Lapeer West was a big attraction. But



there were many students who loved making slime with the Mrs. Stover-Lange and her high school volunteers. Other experiences included experimenting with Lego simple machines, balloon experiments, digging up dinosaur “bones”, learning how exercise effects your heart rate, gummy bear math, sink and float penny boats, and making Styro Phones. Families gathered at stations in the hallways to contemplate and record their estimates of the number of pieces of candy in the guessing jars. The North Branch Elementary Parent and Teacher Club provided pizza, beverages and snacks and the supplies for the experiments. Families had more fun than the school fair and it was all free!

Story Telling Comes Alive!

Kindergarten students at North Branch Elementary have a lot to be excited about. The Parent Teacher Club purchased *Story Time Felt Board* sets for our kindergarten classrooms. Stories like Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs and many others, in addition to nursery rhymes, are included. Students can use the brightly colored felt pieces to tell a story, repeat a rhyme, sequence a story, invent a new story, practice their oral language and socialize with friends while they are learning. The opportunities for creativity are endless.



AUTHOR NIGHT

As a way to celebrate March as Reading Month, Mrs. Barrows’ second graders participated in an Author’s Night at the elementary school. Each student published his/her own book and read it aloud to an audience full of family members and friends. Students proudly stepped up on the stage one at a time and read their published pieces into a microphone. Every child felt the excitement as the audience clapped with enthusiasm after each book sharing on stage. Well deserved treats were enjoyed by all following the program. Way to go second graders!

Father and Son Night....

Dinner catered by Bryans.... \$\$
Materials for bird houses and bird feeder....\$\$
Photo of me and my dad.... \$\$
Smiles on our boy's faces.....priceless

On the smile meter the first Father and Son Night at North Branch Elementary was off the scale! An evening designed just for boys was enjoyed by fathers and sons. The elementary gym was transformed into a workshop where sons and dads glued and hammered to construct either a bird house or bird feeder. A scrumptious dinner was served in the cafeteria with plenty of time for dads and sons to

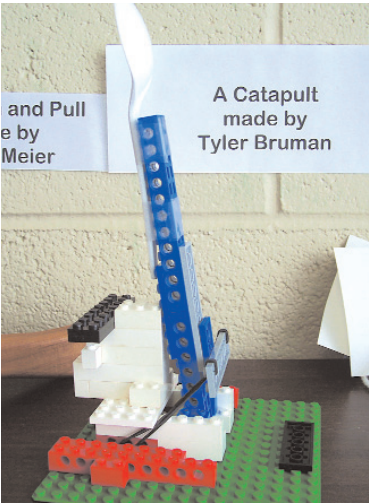


talk. Seven Ponds Nature Center provided an informational station on birds and wildlife. To top the night off fathers and sons had the night captured in a photo.

An evening such as this takes planning and the help of many volunteers, our thanks go to: North Branch Elementary Parent and Teacher Club, Curt June and his high school woodshop students, Bryans Catering and high school student volunteers.

Gadget Wars in Mrs. Gormley's Third Grade Room

During the second trimester, Mrs. Gormley's third graders became Gadget Wiz's. After reading Betsy Duffey's book, Gadget War, the third graders in Mrs. Gormley's class took on the challenge to create a gadget of their own. This homework project resulted in many wonderful projects and inventions to help make our daily lives easier. The creativity was extraordinary. The gadgets included a pencil holder, mouse trap, vacuum remote control, remote control finder, message sender, motor cycle wash, and even a reminding ring for those who are forgetful. All of the gadgets were amazing. The student's gadgets were displayed in the elementary library and were available for students and parents to view at the elementary schools math and science night. Way to go Gadget Wiz's.



Introducing Mrs. Gates!!!

Mrs. Gormley's Third Grade Class had the privilege of having a wonderful student teacher, Mrs. Gates. Mrs. Gates was with Mrs. Gormley's class for the second and part of the third trimester this year. Mrs. Gates is a senior at Spring Arbor University. When she graduates she will have a degree in Elementary Education with a major in Language Arts. She taught all subject areas for most of her 16 weeks with us. The students enjoyed having her with us. She was a great addition to our classroom family. We wish her luck in the future.



Gear Up For Kindergarten

Coming to kindergarten can be an anxious time for students and families. This year North Branch Elementary started a new program called "Gearing Up For Kindergarten" to help ease some of the fears that children and parents can have about coming to school. Elementary staff held two "Gearing Up for Kindergarten" events where families were invited to experience the school setting during a normal school day. The events were also geared to provide parents with information about our kindergarten programs, and allow them to ask questions and share concerns. In March students and their families joined us for stories, songs, tours, and even breakfast. The school staff geared up to teach students how to follow some of the school routines, and allow the students to see that school is a fun and safe place to be. Our goal is to make our new students and their families comfortable here before that all important "First Day." The second event was held in April and gave students time to get acquainted with teachers, build a craft, and take a ride on a school bus. The school nurse also gave a presentation regarding immunizations and parents were provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding their child's health.



The Heart of America

We all know that the children are the "Heart of America," but hearing the third grade students sing about it sent chills up your spine. With the skilled guidance of music teacher, Michelle Ruhlman, the third grade students performed at the high school auditorium to a full house of parents, grandparents, and siblings. Their songs were all based on patriotism and the pride of living in America. Hearing the lyrics come from the mouths of young children brought to life the spirit of America. We are very proud of our young singers.

Leaving Our Mark

The students and staff at North Branch Elementary are leaving their mark! They are leaving a wall of colorful handprints in the hall of the building that will remain long after the building renovations are complete. It is our hope that they will return years from now as they are graduating from North Branch Area Schools, and heading out into the world beyond North Branch and remember fondly their educational experience here. We are proud of our students and know that they will leave many marks in their life that will benefit others around them. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and we wish them the best!



Spirit of America

All of the third graders at North Branch Elementary participated in the "Spirit Of America" concert in the Donald Gleeson Auditorium on Tuesday, April 1st. They sang a variety of patriotic songs including "This Land is Your Land" and "God Bless the USA". They had an awesome performance with lots of smiling faces and patriotic outfits. Their music teacher, Michelle Ruhlman, is very proud of their hard work!

NORTH BRANCH DAYS FESTIVAL

July 3

6:00 p.m. - North/South Games – Saginaw St, next to Independent Bank
7:30 p.m. - Truck & Tractor Pull – Lion's Field

July 4

8:00 a.m til noon. - Mason breakfast – Masonic Temple
11:00 a.m. - Parade
After parade - Family entertainment – Elementary school stage
After parade - Horseshoe tournament – park
4:00 p.m. - Demolition Derby/Figure8 – Lion's field

July 5

7:30 a.m. - 5K Walk/run – Museum
11:00 a.m. – Children's parade (Theme 50s and 60s)
After parade - Chalk drawing contest – Elementary school
2:00 p.m. – Children's pedal pull – Elementary school
2:00 p.m. - Battle of Bands – Elementary school stage
7:00 p.m. - Street dance – Elementary school
7:00 p.m. - Bump & Run – Lion's field
Intermission - BMX bike race

July 6

8:00 a.m. til noon - Mason Breakfast – Masonic Temple
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. - NB Masonic Car show – Elementary athletic field

2008 Water Quality Report for the Village of North Branch

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Village of North Branch, for the calendar year 2007. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2007. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from three groundwater wells, #1 is located at 4291 Huron Street which is a standby for emergency only, and wells #3 and #4 located at 6700 Bernie Kohler Drive .These wells are about 225’ deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is a six-tiered scale from “very-low” to “high” based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is not known at this time, as the assessment has not been preformed on wells #3 & #4, which are the new production wells we use for the villages potable water system.

Contaminants and their presence in water: Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

Vulnerability of sub-populations: Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV / AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Sources of drinking water: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

- Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
 - Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic waste-water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
 - Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
 - Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
 - Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also, come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2007 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2007. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

N/A: Not applicable ND: not detectable at testing limit ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)..

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow...

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Our Water	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Barium	2	2	0.1	2006	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	N/A	5 NA	2006	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.69	7/17/06	NO	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Radioactive Contaminant						
Beta emitters (pCi/L)	50 *	0	1.70	9/4/03	NO	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	< 3	9/4/03	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	4	9/4/03	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminant **	MCL-MCLG not yet set by EPA					
sodium (ppm)	Not regulated		73	8/27/07	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level		90% of Samples ≤ This Level		Number of Samples Above AL	
Lead (ppb)	15		0	6/20/06	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3		0.21	6/20/06	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

The Village of North Branch installed about 900 feet of new eight inch waterman in 2007.

We are committed to providing you safe, reliable, and healthy water. We are pleased to provide you with this information to keep you fully informed about your water. We will be updating this report annually, and will also keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Village Hall is located at 4018 Huron street; monthly meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. . . .

For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact RONALD SEAMAN at 810-688-3410. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safe-water/.

Sincerely
Ronald J. Seaman

* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.
** Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.