



School Talk

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North Branch Area Schools

May 2014

2014's Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced



**Valedictorian,
Emily Andersen**

The Valedictorian of North Branch High School's Class of 2014 is Emily Andersen. Emily is the daughter of Todd and Alison Andersen. Emily's academic achievements include being a member of the Marching and Symphonic Bands, where she was a section leader during her junior year and the Drum Major her senior year. She was also a member of the Band Letter Club for 3 years, occupying the position of club President during her senior year. Emily was an integral member of the Quiz Bowl team, serving as the JV captain her freshmen and sophomore years as well as the Varsity captain her junior and senior years. Emily was a Student Council member during her sophomore, junior and senior years, holding the positions of Corresponding Secretary and Student Representative to the School Board. She also participated in the Drama club her junior and senior years, serving as the club Treasurer her senior year. Emily was a member of the National Honor Society, and was selected to the TriValley Conference Academic All-Conference Team. Emily earned

the Central Michigan University Academic Prestige Award. Emily plans on attending Central Michigan University in the fall and will major in Early Childhood Education. Her goal is to be either a preschool teacher or run her own daycare business.

The Salutatorian for the Class of 2014 is Cody Howe. Cody is the son of Scott and Patricia Howe. Cody's academic achievements include being a member of the Marching and Symphonic Bands, where he was a section leader and a member of the Band Letter Club. Cody was also a member of the National Honor Society and was Captain of the Quiz Bowl team. Cody acted in several school plays as member of the Drama Club. Cody earned Oakland University's Distinguished Scholarship (\$20,000) and Geographic Region Award (\$8,000). While keeping on top of his academics, Cody still had the time to be a Crew Trainer at McDonald's in Deerfield. In the fall, Cody plans to attend Oakland University and major in Biomedical Science to study medicine so that he can pursue his ultimate goal of becoming an Anesthesiologist or a Neurologist.



**Salutatorian,
Cody Howe**



North Branch Area Schools Board of Education

Back left to right: Cory Mabery-Vice President, Daniel Deshetsy-Treasurer, Doug Meiburg-Trustee Front left to right: Rosann Clark-President, Cathy Severance-Secretary, Mike Snoblen-Trustee

Class of 2014 Graduation Events

Monday May 1st:

- **College Decision Day** Recognizes ALL Seniors for their postsecondary plans (2-yr, 4-yr, military, postsecondary certificate).

Sunday, May 18th:

- **Baccalaureate Ceremony** (7:00 p.m.) in the High School Auditorium. This is a non-denominational, inspirational service honoring the achievement and future for the graduates. Attendance is optional and admission is free. This event is not sponsored by the school.

Tuesday, May 20th:

- **Last day for ALL Seniors.** ALL seniors will be required to attend on Monday, May 19th and Tuesday, May 20th. Seniors who need to take their exams in order to earn credit or make up for exceeding the attendance absence limit, will still do so on Wednesday, May 21st & Thursday, May 22nd.

Thursday, May 22nd:

- **Graduation rehearsal** (3:00 p.m.) in the Gymnasium (required to participate in the commencement ceremony). Seniors who have met all of the graduation requirements will receive their caps & gowns immediately after rehearsal.
- **Swing-Out** (5:00 p.m.) Students will line up at the front of the High School and will march through town. The parade will end at the corner of Main street and Jefferson. NOTE: If this event is canceled due to weather, it will not be rescheduled.
- **Class Night** (7:00 p.m.) Students will be honored with local scholarships, awards, NHS stoles, athletic awards and honor cords, etc. Participation is not mandatory but it is nice to see all of the seniors celebrating their accomplishments together. Students should arrive at 6:30 p.m. Students should wear something a bit more dressy (no shorts, tank tops or flip flops).

Wednesday, 28th:

- **COMMENCEMENT** (8:00 p.m.) Seniors "MUST" arrive in CAPS & GOWNS by 7:30 p.m. to line up in the south wing. Doors to the Gymnasium open at 7:15 pm.
- **Project Graduation:** This fun filled, action packed, all you can eat, alcohol-free lock-in has been a tradition in the North Branch community for over 20 years. The celebration will begin immediately following commencement on Wednesday, May 28th and will conclude early Thursday morning, May 29th. All students attending are eligible for door prizes but they must be present to win. Only students participating in commencement will be allowed to attend the post grad celebration.



NBHS Delegation Wins at Model UN Held at Wayne State

Recently, seven North Branch students traveled to Wayne State University to participate in a Model United Nations simulation. Over 500 other students from the metro Detroit area braved the snowy roads to debate real life issues about nuclear proliferation. The Students conducted research before the simulation to determine what treaties are active and what the countries' concerns are regarding the issue. Students then voted and interacted and while remaining in the "character" of that country throughout the event. Each participating school has at least one delegation, representing a different country. NBHS had three countries represented. North Branch came away from the simulation having the best delegation, led by Brenden Miller and Brenden Forster, who represented Canada. NBHS also participates in the Tri-Valley league and recently wrapped that season up. Scores will be made public in a couple of weeks. The team finishes its season at Hope College next month.



Pictured are Fox Parton, Brenden Forster, Brenden Miller; also attending Taylor Winslow, Claretta Walker, back row Chelsie Vipperman, Nate Mruzek

High School Symphony Band and State Festival!

On Friday, March 14th the North Branch High School Symphony Band scored straight 1's (all A's) at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra District 3 Band and Orchestra Festival. On Thursday, May 1st at 4:55 PM the Symphony Band will perform at Port Huron Northern High School for State Band and Orchestra Festival. Congratulations band and good luck.

Superintendent's Corner



North Branch Area Schools is a great school district in large part due to the continuing support of parents and community coupled with a staff of phenomenal educators! The 13-14 school year is quickly coming to an end so remember, due to the harsh winter, the last full day for students is June 13. While the winter was less than pleas-

ant for most of us, students continue to exhibit Bronco Pride in the classroom and beyond. This edition of School Talk highlights many of the great opportunities provided to our students. Here are just a few highlights. The district:

- Launched a Robotics Program (Team 5201, The Bronco Bots) which earned recognition as the Top Seeded Rookie Program.
- Implemented a one to one Google Chrome Book program in the elementary Multi-Age classroom.
- Recognized high school seniors for their post-secondary plans and those who are eligible for academic scholarships at its inaugural College Recognition Ceremony.
- Improved in every student outcome area measured by the Michigan Department of Education (www.mischooldata.org).
 - Students proficient in Reading at the end of 3rd grade
 - Student Academic Growth
 - Students Proficient in Math and Reading (grades 3-8)
 - ACT Composite Score

- ACT College Readiness Benchmarks
- 4 Year Graduation Rate
- Had 76.4% of its student athletes attain a 3.2 GPA or higher during the winter season.
- Has more than 300 seventh through twelfth grade students participating in spring athletics
- Continues to offer co-curricular activities (7-12 athletics, drama, solo & ensemble, Forensics, robotics, to name a few) at no cost to students.
- Offers a Running Club for 2nd through 6th grade students during the month of May
- Is sending six students to NASA Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama this summer.
- Received grants in excess of \$60,000 to support student learning and technology literacy from the Literacy & Beyond Foundation, the Stebbins Family Foundation, Lapeer County Community Foundation and DEAN Transportation.
- Is working with nationally renowned digital literacy expert Dr. Troy Hick from Central Michigan University to launch a Teacher Technology Institute for 20 teachers this summer.

Overall, it has been a tremendous year for North Branch Area Schools. The Board of Education deserves kudos for their continued focus on doing what is best for the students. Our greatest asset remains the vital relationship between the school and the parents and community members who support it. Working together, I believe even more educational opportunities will soon be a part of the district's offerings. I am grateful for the opportunity to work for such a caring and supportive community and wish you a fun and relaxing summer. I look forward to the 14-15 year and will be ready to welcome students back on September 2, 2014.

Inaugural College Decision Day

May 1 is a big day across Michigan and the nation in the college admissions process. It's the day by which seniors nationwide declare what they want to do with their futures and decide where they will go after high school.

North Branch High School will participate in Michigan's inaugural College Decision Day on May 1, 2014 by hosting its own College Decision Day ceremony to celebrate the Senior Class of 2014. We will be recognizing our seniors for making this important decision to achieve greatness by either attending college (2yr or 4 yr), trade school or enlisting into the armed services. This will be a day to celebrate our students, their accomplishments, and to anticipate the fulfilling future of our young people.

The intent of the ceremony is to mimic the NCAA College Signing Day model with purpose to reinforce that excellence in the classroom should be given as much (if not more) pomp and circumstance as excellence on the field, court, etc. We are hosting a school wide assembly, where our underclassmen will witness our seniors commit and physically sign a statement of intent to enroll, accompanied by admissions represen-

tatives from their respective schools.

Students, parents, school administrators, teachers, staff and community members are invited to join in the celebration. Students are asked to show support for their future by wearing a shirt representing the college or military branch they have chosen. Teachers and staff are also asked to join in by doing the same.

Brenda Weingartz and Susan Strump, College Decision Day event site coordinator/ Counselors for North Branch High School, expects more than 150 seniors to participate. "This celebration will continue to create a college-going culture within our school as well as within the community. We believe by promoting a college-going mentality, students will help build a better future full of exciting possibilities. We are extremely proud of our senior class for taking this next big step for their future."

The North Branch High School Decision Day 2014 ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 1st at 9:30 am in the HS Auditorium. Families are welcome to attend. For more information about this event, please contact Brenda Weingartz or Susan Strump at 810-688-3564.



Academic All Conference



Jacob Pasek

Each year, the 24 schools in the Tri-Valley Conference nominate the top 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.

On April 29th, the top three students, based on these scores were treated to a banquet in Curtis hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, where they were recognized for their academic accomplishments and received a TVC All Conference medal.

The students earning the right to represent NBHS on this year's TVC All Academic Team are Emily Andersen, Kiplin Kaldahl, and Jacob Pasek.



Kiplin Kaldahl

NBHS Alums Shine in Speaking Competition

The speech activities of Forensics and Model United Nations are great programs that North Branch Area schools offer to assist students to develop their public speaking skills. Four NBHS alumni are currently continuing to improve those skills by competing in Forensics at the college level. While High school students generally focus on one category through the eight month season, college students compete in multiple categories.

2010 NBHS graduate Kyle Manthei, began competing at Ohio University and is finishing his collegiate career at Central Michigan this year. He is competing in drama, prose and poetry.

Three 2013 NBHS graduates are making their collegiate debut. Trisha Oberlee of Northwood Institute is competing in two categories: After Dinner Speaking and Impromptu. Danni Archer is attending Oakland University and is competing in the Prose and Drama categories. Lee Stevens competes for Eastern Michigan University and competes in Impromptu, Extemporaneous Speaking, Persuasion, Prose, Communication Analysis, and



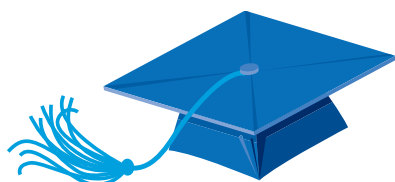
Informative Speaking.

Recently the three college novices went against each other at Hillsdale College. North Branch had the unique distinction of being the only high school having multiple alums on the circuit. All three of the North Branch graduates placed in the finals. Dani Archer placed sixth in Dramatic. Trisha Oberlee placed fifth in After Dinner Speaking. Lee Stevens placed first in Rhetorical Critique, Informative Speaking, and Second in Extemporaneous and Persuasion. Because Lee competed in at least four categories, he qualified to earn a distinction of Top Novice. He placed 2nd in the State.

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: Emily Andersen, Kiplin Kaldahl, Jacob Pasek, Allison Schneider, Rachel Kanaziz, Cody Howe, Cody Hawk, Erin Ruhlman, Nickolas Knowles, Kendra Snoblen, Olivia



Smith, Elizabeth Lovasz, Joseph Schulte, Douglas Stikeleather, Brian Ash, Kenneth Boss, Chelsie Viperman, Mariah Studer, Morgan Sawgle, David Utley, Robert Skovran, Troy Manthei, Jamie Barrows, Samantha White, Jacob Burger.

Winter One Act Plays

On January 23rd – 25th, the North Branch High School drama students held a night of one act plays. The performances included two classic children's stories, Alice in Wonderland, directed by Senior Paige Boone and Rapunzel, directed by senior Troy Manthei.

Rapunzel

Rene Schwartzbuckle is cuckoo for a turnip-like vegetable called rapunzel. When she spots a mouth-watering patch of the plant in Witch Izwitch's garden, she sends her husband Walt out to "borrow" some. Witch Izwitch is certainly not amused! With her diabolical henchmen, the Glumpwarts, she terrorizes Walt into promising her his firstborn child in exchange



Rapunzel

for his freedom. We then jump ahead many years to Rapunzel (now you know where the name comes from!) Schwartzbuckle's 18th birthday. The witch and the Glumpwarts show up as promised and whisk poor, innocent Rapunzel away to a tower in the forest. From here, a boisterously entertaining rescue attempt begins!

Alice in Wonderland

After Alice tumbles down a mysterious rabbit hole, she finds herself in a strange land where everyone is raving mad. With the help of a Cheshire Cat, an astute Caterpillar, and a righteous Humpty Dumpty, Alice must find her way home and discover who she really is. A darker, more faithful version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale that reimagines the experience of Wonderland, and ends with an unexpected new twist.

These same students participated in the Mid-Michigan theater festival held at Garber High School on January 31st and February 1st. They performed the one act play, Alice in Wonderland at the festival on January 31st. The festival was open to the public and many attended. North Branch and many other schools performed one act plays.



Alice in Wonderland

Spring Musical

The spring production was a Musical. The High School Drama Department performed the Disney Classic Aladdin. Aladdin, Abu, Jasmine, and Jafar thrilled the audiences by taking them on a magic carpet ride March 27, 28, and 29.

Quest Graduation Ceremony

The 10th graduation ceremony for Quest High School will be held on Thursday, May 29th, in the Quest Gym located at the Jefferson Educational Building. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. Seating fills up fast, so please plan on arriving at least 15 minutes early so the ceremony can start on time.

For graduates, the graduation rehearsal is on Thursday, May 22nd starting at 2:00 p.m. Rehearsal is mandatory unless prior arrangements have been made with Mr. Rosser. Swing-out will follow rehearsal at 5:00 p.m., weather permitting.



Several Quest students and staff are pictured with their special guest speaker, Mania Salinger. Mrs. Salinger survived stays at several concentration camps including Auschwitz.

The Holocaust Center Visit

Quest students and staff took a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills on Thursday, October 10th, 2013. A guided tour was provided by a knowledgeable staff member and included a presentation by a Holocaust Survivor. Some of the exhibits the students and staff saw included an introduction to the Jewish heritage, different causes of World War II and the devastating effects of the Holocaust. This educational field trip is planned to go along with what the students are studying in US History. Continuing with the study of this time period, Quest had a visit from published author Helen Bigelow. Mrs. Bigelow has written and published a book titled "Coffee Grounds and Potato Peeling Pancakes". The book includes personal experiences, interviews and many hours of research on how the war affected those here during the war. Quest students then had the opportunity to compose and mail letters to many of the individuals who were interviewed for the book. The students were so pleased to receive many positive responses from their letters.

Dodgeball

In December, Quest hosted the Quest Invitational Dodgeball tournament after school. Alternative schools from Bad Axe, Carsonville-Port Sanilac (CPS), Alma, Imlay City, and Caro participated. This year Quest was short on girls and combined with Caro to form one team. The girls performed well, taking Bad Axe all the way to a sudden death game in which they fell just short, finishing as tournament runner-ups. Hannah Lavalley and Mikayla Fick performed well, catching ball after ball, while Chelsey Fricke brought her usual competitive spirit and intensity.

Quest boys again fielded two teams, Quest Black and Quest Red. Quest Red led the day with sportsmanship, offering Alma a couple of their players, as Alma had only brought five with them. While this display of sportsmanship may have cost them the match, it kept the spirit of what the tournament is all about. Quest Red went on to defeat Caro in the consolation game.

The day would belong to the Quest Black team. Quest Black opened slowly with a 2-1 victory over Bad Axe Ascent Black. They then defeated their next opponent, CPS handily with a quick 2-0 victory. As they advanced to the winner's bracket final they were again pitted against Ascent HS, this time around it would be the Ascent Red team they would defeat 2-1, advancing to the championship game. In the championship Quest would need to be defeated twice by Venture, and only needed



Quest "Black" avenged their 2013 championship game defeat by winning the 2013-14 tournament

to defeat Venture once, as they had not lost yet in the double-elimination tournament. Venture persevered defeating Quest 2-1 in the first game, bringing the entire tournament down to one final best of three games. It looked like gloom and doom as Quest Black dropped the first match. With the North Branch High School Freshman Girls' Cheerleading team cheering on, Quest Black evened the score in the next match, bringing the tournament down to a winner take all game. Venture got out of the gates quick knocking out several Quest Black players and holding a 6-player to 3-player advantage. The tables quickly turned with a couple of caught balls by Quest, leaving Quest Black to prevail as the 2013-14 Quest Invitational Dodgeball Champions!!!

Scholarships for Quest Students

The following scholarships will be offered to the 2014 Quest High School graduates this year. Baker College offers up to a \$3,500.00 scholarship each year to help graduates with tuition costs. Students are also eligible to compete for the Quest Merit Scholarship which was founded and is funded by Carolyn and Ron Bower. Mr. and Mrs. Bower saw the need for scholarships for students who may not fit the regular scholarship criteria. Several students are in the application process for these scholarships, are preparing for their interviews, and will be anxiously awaiting the outcome. We wish them all the best of luck!

Quest Benefit Dinner

On Thursday, May 8th, the North Branch Masonic Lodge is putting on the 9th annual Quest High School Benefit Spaghetti Dinner. The benefit dinner will be hosted at Quest High School in the Jefferson school building from 4:30-7:00. The cost is \$7 per adult, \$4 for kids 4-9 years old, and free for students 3 and under. In the previous 8 years of the fundraiser the Masons have contributed over \$11,000 to Quest.

Summer School at NBAS

North Branch Area Schools will once again be offering a summer school program for students in grades 7-12th that need to recover lost credit. The online program, Edgenuity (Education2020), will be used for the credit recovery and the program offers over 50 courses. Orientation is required, and open orientation will be held on Thursday, June 26th from 5:00pm-8:00. Other orientation times may be made available. Orientation will begin on the hour during these times and will last approximately an hour. All sessions are on a first come, first served basis.

Summer school classes will tentatively begin June 30th and end in early August. Three hour sessions will be offered from Monday through Friday (8am-11am or 11am-2pm). The fee per course is \$80.00. For more information please see your student's counselor or for specific questions, please contact the Summer School Coordinator, Corey Rosser at crosser@nbbrnconcos.net or by calling (810) 688-7581, ext. 2820.



Quest 2nd Trimester Honor Roll

Quest proudly announces the 2nd trimester honor roll students. To qualify, students must receive a B or better in all teacher-led classes, including programs at the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center, and must have completed at least two on-line E2020 courses during the trimester. The students on the honor roll for the 2nd trimester were Nick Kreiner, Sarah Schaller, and Anne Marie Welch. Congratulations!

Order your Quest Yearbook Now!

Orders for Quest yearbooks are still being taken. The yearbook for this year has been almost 100% student assembled, with Senior Chelsey Fricke providing the design for the cover and Senior Bethany Clark volunteering long hours to provide our students with the best yearbook possible. The cost for the Quest Yearbook is \$20.00 and can be ordered from Mrs. Schneider, Quest Secretary, during the school day. The deadline to order a yearbook is May 9th. Yearbooks are a great keepsake and make a wonderful gift for seniors!

6th Hour Science

This class is ANYTHING science! Students will conduct investigations, build models, make predictions then test them out, conduct a peer survey, collect data to make graphs and charts, and learn about a variety of topics.

Some of the investigations include water spheres, duck calls, balloon rockets, slime, and lava cups. Some of the models students will make include parachutes, hoop gliders, and fling rockets. Students watch short video clips then complete a related activity. For example they learn about forest fires then play a game to simulate the cycle of forest fires. They watch a dive team research pollution in the Great Lakes then investigate how thermal pollution affects different kinds of local fish.

Students keep a journal of their investigations which include the steps involved, sketches, data collected, and an observed outcome.

ANYTHING science!!!



Colton Wood examines "spheres" – small beads that absorb water and are practically used in floral arrangements and for foot massages. Glass of "spheres" that have been hydrated.

MS Honors Band

Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District 3 Honors Bands, one high school and for middle school, are selected through a process where the band director nominates students based on their performances at the MSBOA District 3 and the Solo and Ensemble. The selection of students from the thumb region are reviewed by a committee of directors who selects participants based on director recommendations and the number of instruments needed to fill each band. The bands met Saturday, January 25th at Ortonville-Brandon high school for rehearsals and a Gala Concert that evening.



Pictured from left to right are Kaleb House, Bruno Voigt and Austin Pung.

Poem Book

Morgan Fike is a 7th grade student in my English class. Over the course of the year, Morgan has shown an interest in writing poetry. Initially, Morgan would submit poems that she had written for extra credit. Then, Morgan allowed me to share her poetry with my classes. Finally, she became so confident in her writing that she would ask me to share her poetry. Recently, an opportunity presented itself resulting in a published book. I immediately thought of Morgan and her poems. When I offered the opportunity to Morgan, she was ecstatic! She worked diligently to write numerous poems that would become known as "Poems from My Heart." Inside Morgan's published book, she graciously thanked me for my help and for believing in her throughout this process. However, I need to thank her, not only for being an exceptional student motivated and eager to learn, but also for allowing me the opportunity to guide her on her journey as a writer. I am so proud of you Morgan! Keep writing! -Kerry Rose



Study Island

Tyler Brewer begins his work on math instruction/review through the aide of a new program at the Middle School called Study Island. Study Island supports the learning process and builds off of our students' enthusiasm for technology with engaging, interactive lessons and activities.



Historical Fiction



Mrs. Rose's 7th grade students recently finished reading a historical fiction novel entitled *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. As a culminating project, students researched the 1800s and compared the author's use of historical fact in the novel. Students then created projects to showcase their research and presented them to the class. Projects included model ships, nautical terms and ropes, clothing, and food. Students did a fantastic job!

No Such Thing As An "Off Season"

All three of these boys were forces to be reckoned with during their Middle School wrestling season – now, they continue their pursuit for excellence on club teams from around the area.

Hunter Murphy wrestles in the 113-114 weight class for the North Branch MMWA. He has taken first in the NB tourney and second in the Durand tourney. He is working very hard to take yet another first in regionals this year.

Carlos Soto wrestles in the 122 weight class for Clio MMWA. Carlos has wrestled for 7 years. He hopes to take a State title again this year – impressively finishing 5th last year.

Hunter Hohman wrestles in the 120 weight class for the Michigan Gold Pitbulls. He has taken 1st place at nationals in Dayton, Ohio. PLUS, taken was awarded the Most Valuable 14 U Wrestler in the country! He travels to Boston, Massachusetts this weekend to defend his national title.



From left to right – Hunter Murphy; Carlos Soto; Hunter Hohman



Candace Sutter signs with Muskegon Community College to play softball.



Hannah Gordon signs with St. Clair County Community College to play volleyball.



Jamie Barrows signs with Grand Rapids Community College to play volleyball.



Morgan Sawgle signs with Lake Superior State to run Cross Country and Track.



2013-2014 ALL-CONFERENCE BOWLING
Front Row (l-r): Valerie Sutter, Honorable Mention; Candace Sutter, 1st Team; Jillian Dufort, 1st Team
Back Row (l-r) Brannon Roach, Honorable Mention, Brandon Berlin, 1st Team, State Qualifier; Travis Fike, 2nd Team



2013-2014 ALL-CONFERENCE BOYS' BASKETBALL
Front Row: Curtis Garza, 1st Team.
Back Row (l-r): Jacob Pasek, Honorable Mention; Josh Lopez, 2nd Team; Joe Schulte, 1st Team



2013-2014 ALL-CONFERENCE COMPETITIVE CHEER
l-r: Jessica Laur, Honorable Mention; Kierstin Rouse, Honorable Mention; Marlo Stevens, Honorable Mention



2013-2014 ALL-CONFERENCE GIRLS' BASKETBALL
l-r: Rachel Losey, 2nd Team; Aerial Skinner, Honorable Mention; Dani Leander, Honorable Mention



2013-2014 ALL-CONFERENCE WRESTLING
l-r: Devon Pingel, 1st Team; District Champion, Regional Champ, State Runner Up; Hunter Turner, 2nd Team, District Champion, Regional Champion, 7th in State; Jacob McNeil, Honorable Mention



HUNTER TURNER-ALL STATE WRESTLING
District Champion, Regional Champion, placed 7th in the State in the 145 pound weight class.

Get Your Sport Physicals For Next School Year!

North Branch Family Health Care Is Offering Sport Physicals For \$10.00 each

On The Following Dates And Times:

Tuesday, June 17 from 9 a.m.-12 noon and from 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 15 from 9 a.m.-12 noon and from 1-3 pm

Tuesday, August 5 from 9 a.m.-12 noon and from 1-3 pm



Obtain a sports physical form from either the school office or at Dr. Starbird's office. Completed form and fee of \$10.00 payable by cash or check will be required at time of service. \$5.00 of the cost of each physical is donated back to North Branch Area Schools' Athletic Program. Parents must accompany their child or send a "permission to treat" slip with the students. Questions? Call 810-688-3048.



2013-2014 BOYS' BASKETBALL ACADEMIC ALL-STATE TEAM



2013-2014 GIRLS' BASKETBALL ACADEMIC ALL-STATE TEAM



**DEVON PINGEL-
ALL STATE
WRESTLING**
District Champion,
Regional
Champion, placed
2ND in the State
in the 171 pound
weight class

WOMEN IN SPORTS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

Lauren Bickel, Sydnee English, Angelica Thibodeau, Alyssa DeMyers, Marlo Stevens, Sydney Skalski, Samantha Gowan, Jazlyn Teichow, and Kaylee Martin along with Head Softball Coach and teacher Ken Wickerham and Assistant Varsity Girls' Track and Field Coach Kristine Bickel attended the Women In Sports Leadership Conference put on by the Michigan High

School Athletic Association. The group traveled for two days, March 9 and 10 to East Lansing and was for students in the State of Michigan that are interested in becoming a high school coach, administrator, official or athletic trainer. Workshops covered a wide variety of topics including sports nutrition, injury prevention, coaching for character, being a good teammate, benefits of multi-sport participation,



becoming college ready, the importance of leadership, and many other topics. The conference is the largest in the nation of this type and is put on by the MHSAA every other year.

Spring Sport MHSAA District Dates & Sites

BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD REGIONALS

The Varsity Boys' & Girls' Track & Field teams will travel to Algonac to participate in the MHSAA Regionals on Friday, May 16, 2014. Time to be announced.

BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL DISTRICTS

The MHSAA Baseball/Softball Districts will be held at CrosLex on Saturday, May 31, 2014. Times will be announced after the District Draw.

GIRLS' SOCCER DISTRICTS

The MHSAA Girls' Soccer Districts will be hosted by North Branch. Pre-final games and times will be announced after the District Draw.

GOLF DISTRICTS

The MHSAA Golf Districts will be held at Metamora Country Club on Thursday, May 22.



NBHS students celebrated Snowcoming showing their school spirit with volleyball games between the classes and a pep assembly!

Football News

The North Branch Broncos will be opening their Fall 2014 season at home with a triple header taking on Chippewa Hills beginning with the Freshman battling the Warriors at 12:30 followed by the JV game at 2:30 and finally the Varsity game at 7:00 p.m.

Ruth Fox Hosts Science and Math Festival

Ruth Fox Elementary School hosted a Science and Math Festival for students during the month of February. There were several special workshops as well as an assembly for students! Students also had the opportunity to answer several "quiz questions" for prizes as well. The festival not only allowed a special focus on these curricular areas, but also gave the students an opportunity to learn from and meet different teachers. The assembly focused on "Wacky Science" and the students really enjoyed the presenter!



Wyatt Howe, Drake Deshetsy and Dominick Schierlinger have fun in Mrs. Goldstein's workshop building marshmallow structures by following classmates' directions.



The Ruth Fox sixth grade boys basketball players listen intently as Coach Tony Schlaud shares some strategies during the Francis Baldwin Tournament. North Branch provides many opportunities for students to be involved in extra-curricular activities.

Reading Results in Olympic Event!

The Ruth Fox staff, who are always ready for a little fun, showed their spirit by dressing up and participating in the kickoff celebration for March is Reading Month. Students had a goal of earning \$5000.00 "fake" dollars for the month. Each dollar earned equaled one hour of reading outside of the school day. The students did a fantastic job of reading and earned a special assembly where the teachers had to participate in "funny" Olympic events. Studies show that reading outside of school is very important and the staff wanted to place an emphasis on taking time to read each night. The Ruth Fox staff is always up for crazy activities that help students get excited about reading!!!



Miss McCarty and Ms. Bower show off their team spirit by dressing up for the celebration.

5th Graders Spell Their Way to Victory!

Three 5th Graders spelled their way into the Lapeer County Spelling Bee on February 18th at the Ruth Fox Spelling Bee! Out of a field of 24, the three 5th graders found themselves in the winner's circle when all of the rounds were finished. The competition included twelve fifth graders and twelve sixth graders. Winning 1st place was Alex Hunt, 2nd place - Chloe Caringi, and 3rd place - Brenna Miller. The three Ruth Fox students competed with many other students at the Lapeer County Spelling Bee on March 26th.



Delta College Math Competition Winners!!!

The following Ruth Fox Elementary School students won the school competition and were selected to attend the Delta Math Competition which was held on March 22nd at Delta College: Nathan Coulter, Hanna Gipson, Mason Kaake, Aubrey Kage, Jakob Kuhn, Chloe McConnell, Max Millerschinn, Spencer Murphy, Kara Myers, Regan Swish, and Lance Turner.

Pictured is Lance Turner signing in and getting ready for the competition. The students competed against about 180 other sixth grades from Michigan schools.



Gallery194 and Region 10 Show Highlight Student's Art Skills

Several students from Ruth Fox Elementary had artwork in the county wide K8ART. 2014 art show February 25th through March 22nd at Gallery194 in Lapeer: Jaclyn Stratton (6th), Jimmie Elizando (6th), Jenna Schlopert (6th), Madison Wiseman (5th). The art was entered by Mrs. Baksa. Students had an opportunity to attend a "Meet the Artist" reception where their art was on display!

Students also had an opportunity to participate in the Michigan Art Association Region 10 Show. This is a juried art show for art teachers that are members of the Michigan Art Education Association. Mrs. Baksa was able to submit five pieces of art for each level taught (K-5, 6-8, 9-12). The following students from Ruth Fox Elementary had



Madison Wiseman (5th grade) poses next to her beautiful piece of artwork!

work on display: Alexis Ostrum, Tessa Youngert, Chelsea Primeau, Adrianna Smith, and David Williams. Tessa Youngert's artwork was chosen as Top 65 in the state!!!

During the month of March, a Special Olympics basketball tournament was held at Ruth Fox Elementary with around 145 area athletes competing. At the closing ceremony, our very own Mary Bartel was honored for her involvement in organizing and bringing the event to North Branch. As many may know, Mary is an avid MSU fan and she was presented with a signed basketball which was donated by the Deshetsky family. Pictured is Mary with Daniel, Drake, (Mary), Levi, and Willie Deshetsky.



Madison Wenta tries to frighten Mrs. Wood by showing her a mouse! Good thing there is a cage for it!!!

Lapeer Soil Conservation Poster Winners!

Every year, Ruth Fox students from Mr. Withey's science class seem to do very well in the Lapeer County Poster Contest and this year was certainly no exception. Four students from the team placed in the poster contest and received awards at the annual meeting which was held on January 23, 2014 at the Soil Conservation Office in Lapeer.

Pictured with Representative Kevin Daley are Ian Liebler and Breann June who are both 5th graders at Ruth Fox Elementary. Tyler Schauld and Haley Hurd (both 5th graders as well) were also winners in the competition. In addition to taking first place in the county with her poster, Breann also placed 2nd in the state competition! The theme for the posters was "Where Does Our Water Shed."



Students Feel the Love on Valentine's Day

Ruth Fox students take some time out of their busy schedules to have a little fun on Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day at Ruth Fox is all about ice cream and chocolate! Each team plans their own activities but it generally involves an ice cream social as well as the traditional Hershey Hunt for the fifth graders! This year, fifth grade students had to work hard to find all of their Hershey's Kisses in the deep snow! The students who find the "gold" are given a special prize!



Hartley – A 6th Grade Tradition Continues!

Students in sixth grade have been going to Hartley for a long time and this year was no exception! It was a bit different than other years, however, because it was super cold! In spite of the weather, the students bundled up and had fun anyway! Students learn a lot about the environment and animal habitats but also have some time for fun, too! This winter, the sledding hills were perfect and the students (and staff!) had a great time!



Miss McCarty, sixth grade teacher, shows the students how it's done!

Begin-A-Garten / Kindergarten Registration!!



We are in the process of planning for the 2014-15 school year! This includes planning for our third year of all day, every day begin-a-garten and kindergarten!

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2014, and will be attending school this fall, please contact us at 688-3042 right away so we can begin the enrollment process.

(A reminder to please come in with the following documents)

- Birth Certificate
- Updated Immunization Records
- Proof of Residency – (Driver's License, Utility Bill, Lease, Etc.)

What parents are saying about our all-day program:

"I feel that kindergarten this year is much more advanced in comparison to last year when my son was in it. I am thankful that we have the opportunity to provide all-day kindergarten and I look forward to my daughter being able to take part in such a wonderful program."

"The full day program is yielding tremendous results and is allowing our fabulous kindergarten teaching staff to help our children reach their academic, social and emotional potential. My older children attended the half day program in North Branch, and compared to them, my daughter is experiencing a greater breadth of curriculum earlier and with greater depth."

We look forward to supporting you and your child for many years to come!

Artwork Display on the Way!

The 4th grade classes at North Branch Elementary have a display of work that celebrates the life of Georgia O'keeffe.

Our inspiration comes from the books we shared about the Wisconsin born artist, Georgia O'keeffe, (1887-1986) and her love of close-up looks at nature, landscapes, shells, wood, clouds, textures, bones and flowers.

Growing up on a farm, Georgia was always finding things in nature to draw or paint. She was introduced to art lessons at an early age and creating art was always her favorite pastime.

This project asked students to create their own picture using a



variety of objects and images that would have been like those of Georgia O'keeffe. The image was to be colorful and fill the page. In this project, students are free to decide how abstract their composition will be in color and form.

Having multimedia pictures with markers, crayons, texture pages,



colored pencils and watercolor gave a wide variety of looks. Student and teacher names are on each piece of work. Our display has begun. Be sure to take a look at our collection over the next couple of weeks!

Farewell, Mr. Lee

The end of the 2013-14 school year will mark the 28th and final year of service for Mr. Lee Maxwell at North Branch Area Schools, as he embarks on his new journey of retirement. Lee has served many roles in North Branch, including teaching 3rd, 5th, and 6th grades, as well as being on the NBEA Board of Directors and serving as Local President.

Lee has a passion for his students or as he calls his "Kiddos". He truly believes that reading opens doors, to the future. As a point of pride, Lee remembers having a 1st generation immigrant student in his room, and setting a goal with the mother for the child to graduate from college; of which she did. Lee will miss his students and the wonderful "folks" he has worked



with over the years, as he spends his time working out, biking, and taking his motorcycle out west. Lee, we wish you the best of luck, and you will be missed.

Third Graders' Night in the Spotlight

Miss Berridge's third grade class celebrated March's Reading Month with an Authors' Night celebration on March 27th, 2014. The classroom reserved a special night to have their published books read aloud on stage. Families were invited to hear their children share their published writing. The students have been taking the journey as authors all year. During writer's workshop, students have been working hard learning the importance of taking a piece of writing through the writing process, studying various genres and publishing pieces to share with others. Each student selected their personal favorites to share on the evening of their special "Author's Night."



The audience enjoyed listening to each author's book. Everyone was proud of how well each child spoke clearly to the audience as he/she read aloud their writing into the

microphone. These third graders definitely shined in the "spotlight" when they shared their published work. What a wonderful group of fine authors we have!

2014 Water Quality Report for THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BRANCH

This report covers the drinking water quality for the village of north branch for the 2013 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2013. 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, each over 200 feet deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by doing annual testing.

If you would like to know more about the report please contact Ron Seaman, DPW Supervisor at Village of North Branch, PO Box 704, North Branch, MI, 48461, Phone 810-688-3410.

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 wastewater 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 can be 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 2013 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, 2013. 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.

- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- 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 radioactivity).
- Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
 - EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.
 - Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	4	4	2012	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.12	0.1-0.12	2006	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	nd		2006	no	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.64	0.64	2013	no	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
TTHM – Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	6	4.4-6.0	2011	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	nd		2011	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL	MRDLG	1.1	.8 – 1.1	2013	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
	4	4					
Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Beta emitters (pCi/L)	50 *	0	1.70	1.70	2003	no	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	<3	<3	2003	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	2.34	.9-1.44	2010	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Special Monitoring and Unregulated Contaminant **			Average Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Sodium (ppm)			52	52	2013	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	MCLG	90% of Samples ≤ This Level		Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0		2012	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.31		2012	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

North Branch Days 2014

July 4 (Friday)

8:00 AM – Noon
11:00 AM
After Parade
Noon – Midnight
1:00 PM
5:00 PM
Dusk

OES Breakfast (Masonic Temple)
Grand Parade
Horseshoe Tournament (Memorial Park)
Beer Tent (St. Peter & Paul-Washington St)
Summer Rec Kid's Games & (Banker St Ball Fields)
Bump & Run (Lion's Field)
Fireworks (High School)

July 5 (Saturday)

7:00 – 7:30 AM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
9:45 – 10:45 AM
11:00 AM
Noon – 3:00 PM
Noon – Midnight
4:30 PM
6:00 PM

Freedom 5K Walk/Run Registration (Nb Healthcare)
Freedom Walk/Run Start
Mud Volleyball (St. Peter & Paul-Washington St)
Children's Parade Registration (Memorial Park)
Children's Parade
Children's Games (St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church)
Beer Tent (St. Peter & Paul –Washington St)
Texas Hold Em Check-In (St. Pete & Paul Washington St.)
Texas Hold Em Start

July 6 (Sunday)

4:00 PM

Tractor Pull (Lion's Field)

Contacts Mary Oliver 810-441-4686, Kathy Whitaker 810-656-0020

2014 North Branch Day's - Lions Club Schedule

Auto Cross Bump 'N Run on July 4th at 5:00 p.m.

Truck-Tractor Pull- July 6th at 4:00 p.m.

All events will be located on the Lions Field behind Harmon Oil

Admission for events - 13yrs-adult = \$10, 6yrs-12yrs = \$5,
5-under= Free, Pit Passes- \$5 extra

Kids Bike race during intermission of Bump-Run- ages 5-15 - \$2 entry fee

Water Report From Page 11

Information about lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The village of north branch is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Number Detected	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	>1 positive monthly sample (>5.0% of monthly samples positive)	0	0	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	Routine and repeat sample total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E. coli positive	0	0	NO	Human and animal fecal waste

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2013.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at the village office at 4018 Huron Street. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The monthly council meeting are the first Thursday of the month at village hall, meetings start at 7:00 pm. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Ronald Seaman (810-688-3410). For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater/.



NORTH BRANCH ALL-STATE ATHLETES

On February 7 before the Varsity Boys' Basketball game North Branch recognized All-State Athletes. Beforehand the athletes and their families enjoyed a nice dinner, reminisced, and was able to view the individual plaques hung in their honor in the commons area outside of the gymnasium.



- Exceptional buildings with top notch Technology and Wi-Fi capabilities
- 1 to 1 computing in the elementary Multiage Program
- A complete athletic program and no "pay to play" fees
- 126 Outstanding Teachers
- Year-long Core Classes (Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies)
- Dual Enrollment/Advanced Placement opportunities
- Computer adaptive assessments in math, reading, and science
- Instrumental music, art, physical education offered at all grade levels, computers, drama and video production

Applications for Schools of Choice are available now through 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 5, 2014

For more information, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 810-688-3570

For more information, please contact the superintendent, Thomas A. English at tenglish@nbbronzos.net or 810-688-3570 to schedule a personal tour of our district.