



SchoolTalk

www.nbbronzos.net

North Branch Area Schools

December 2023



On Friday, December 8th, 2023 families in the North Branch community and surrounding area are invited to attend North Branch Area Schools' 21st Annual Old Fashioned Family Christmas!

The annual event will be held from 6:00-8:00pm at Ruth Fox Middle School and will host a variety of games, food, pictures with Santa, and more! Following the activities at 8:00 is the much anticipated drawings. There will be drawings for the \$1 baskets (valued at over \$100 each), and our \$.25 raffle items. You do not need to be present to win.

Tickets for the \$1 basket drawing may be purchased the day of at the event, or in advance from the Ruth Fox office. Information will be posted on the Ruth Fox Middle School Facebook page, as it becomes available.

The OFFC is designed to raise money to send Ruth Fox Middle School students to the U. S. Space and Rocket Center Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. The application period for students to apply to be one of this year's Space Campers will open around February 2023.

Come out, have fun & support this great cause.



NB Broncos Varsity Volleyball Team

2023 MHSAA DIVISION II STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS



1st Row L to R:

Danika Franklin, Maci Kaake, Adrienne Greschaw, Hailey Green, Alana Deshetsky, Kate Welch, Clara Gyomory, Brookelynn Franklin, Kaela Chingwa, Peyton Franklin

2nd Row L to R:

Asst Coach Zoie Andrews, Asst Coach Olivia Bosch, Aubree Deshetsky, Josie Greschaw, Clara McNees, Ella Swoish, Hannah Thomas, Lauren Leach, Aubrey Fritz, Riley Green, Sophia Leach, Kylie Doherty

3rd Row L to R:

Asst Coach Autumn Deshetsky, Asst Coach Laura Willson, Asst Coach Curt June, Asst Coach Dan Purvis, Asst Coach Sue Fish, Head Coach James Fish



Message from the Superintendent



Dear North Branch Families and Community Members,

It is the holiday season and we have so much to be thankful for at North Branch Area Schools. Again this year, North Branch Area Schools was voted 'Best of the Best' by Lapeer County residents. There are many reasons why North

Branch Area Schools continues to excel and I would like to share a few with you:

1. Student Achievement: Recently, we shared the Spring 2023 English Language Arts (ELA) and Math testing results with our entire staff. The theme for each building meeting was "Let's Celebrate Progress" and we had much to celebrate. Below is a snapshot of some of our student scores:

- **Grades 3-7 ELA:** Above the State averages in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7;
- **Grade 5 ELA:** 3rd highest scores;
- **Grade 6 ELA:** 8th highest scores
- **Grades 3-7 MATH:** Above the State and County averages in Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and out of 41 districts and charter schools in Genesee and Lapeer County, North Branch Area School had the following results:
 - **Grade 3 Math:** 3rd highest scores;
 - **Grade 4 Math:** 2nd highest scores;
 - **Grade 5 Math:** 6th highest scores;
 - **Grade 6 Math:** 7th highest scores;
 - **Grade 7 Math:** 3rd highest scores

2. New STEAM Labs at North Branch Elementary and Ruth Fox Middle School: The North Branch Board of Education invested close to \$800,000 to build two new STEAM Labs which are utilized by all K-8 students. It is vitally important that all of our students are exposed to hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). Please contact my office if you would like a tour of the new labs.

3. North Branch Area Schools has outstanding learning facilities for all students and we are a financially strong school district. We continue to utilize board approved 5-year plans in

Curriculum, Technology, and Facilities to prioritize needs in our district.

4. North Branch Area Schools will continue to make staff and student safety its top priority. All employees wear Centegix badges which allows our entire district to go into a Secure Lockdown Mode in seconds. All staff and students are trained in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) in the event of an emergency. This year we have implemented the use of SmartPass for grades 7-12 which has enhanced the security of our buildings, reduced movement in the hallways, and has decreased student discipline issues in the hallways and bathrooms.

5. On Friday, December 8, the Ruth Fox Middle School will host its 21st annual "Old Fashioned Family Christmas" event to raise funds for students to attend space camp in Huntsville, Alabama. I highly recommend you attend this family fun night as it is an absolutely wonderful community event right before Christmas.

Finally, I truly believe the primary reason we are a successful school district is because of our amazing and caring teaching and support staff! Staff members shared with me words of gratitude about their colleagues they work with on a daily basis. The comments truly reflect the "All In" approach that we strive for at NBAS. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did:



► I am thankful for the specials teachers we have in the elementary! They treat every single student that walks through their (very busy) door as if they are family, and that is no easy task when we have as many students as we do. They know the students by name and know when something is "off" with any one of them. Every one of the teachers is organized and ready to hit the ground running when they receive the children, from BK all the way up to 4th grade. They make the most of the limited time they have with the students, and pour their hearts into the life-long lessons they are teaching the students.

► This is why I'm here. If I can make a positive difference in at least one person's work day, I'm happy! Just thought I would share.

► Melissa Montgomery: I wanted to take a moment to thank you for everything you do! I know that sounds cliché to just say "everything", but truly, I see the sacrifices that you make. You truly care about and do everything in your power to make sure staff have what they need. We are such a better district because you are part of it! I can't tell you how many times I advised teachers to speak to you directly knowing that you would be fair and would do what you could to ease whatever burden you could. You are the difference to so many people, whether they express it to you or not. Personally, I am always going a million miles per hour, and I appreciate how you have that magic way of slowing me down, even if it is just asking me about my day.

► I wanted to share how thankful I am for my BK teachers that I work with- Julie Ludwig, Kim Friday and Karen Bareither. They are loving, kind, supportive people who advocate for our students and teachers. All 3 of them have gone from coworkers to friends and I can't imagine my personal or work life without these ladies. Thanks for listening!

► To all of my RFMS teammates and colleagues, (way too many to list... but you all know who you are), you make my life a little more enjoyable every single day. Inside and outside of school, these friends have gotten me through some of the most difficult life moments imaginable! You are my escape, my lifeline, my laughter, and my joy. Even though retirement is starting to peek on the horizon, I can't picture a day without spending time with all of you. That settles it... we'll all have to retire together!! Sorry in advance Dane!!

► I am grateful for Lisa Grzecki, our team's special education teacher. Every day I see her going above and beyond for each and every one of her students and for us as her colleagues. She is very knowledgeable and is always the person we turn to for advice when struggling with how to help one of our students. Without her, I don't know if I would have made it through my first year teaching. I appreciate everything she does for me and my students.

► I am thankful for David Scalf. Dave is committed to our students at Quest! He is patient, flexible, and accommodating for every situation. He is committed to finding a solution, and I appreciate everything that he does for both our students and for me. Quest would not be the program that it is without him!

► Katie Wagner: I wanted to take a moment to tell you how thankful I am to work with you! I have the utmost respect for you as a coworker and teacher. I appreciate that you genuinely want the best for your students and for staff. Thank you for being you!



Message from the Superintendent, *continued*

► Corey Rosser: Thank you for your kindness. You are always so generous with sharing your appreciation and it is a quality I greatly admire in you. You are a great advocate for North Branch students and teachers and we are fortunate you choose to be here.

► I am thankful for Deanna Brusie!! She has been my Ruth Fox Mom since starting here in 2001. I appreciate her help when solving problems, stories, to make me laugh when I visit the office, countless hours of extra work to make things better at Ruth Fox, her voice on the other end of the phone when I call the office, and everything else she does that no one notices. This school is a better place because she is here!!

► I am EXTREMELY thankful for Anne Sherrieb! As I was new to this job and pretty nervous she made me feel at home. She welcomed me with open arms from the first day I walked into her classroom. She is always there whenever I may need her, whether it's for work or just an ear for personal issues. She shows up and makes a positive impact on all of her students past and present. She is truly the BEST!!!

► I am VERY thankful for Alana Weingartz and Lauren Kinsey! They have so much compassion towards and make such a great impact on our special education students. Whenever I need tips or pointers to help me through the day they have the best advice. I would not be able to do my job without them!!

► I am thankful for all the 2nd and 3rd grade teachers, the office staff, and the special education staff! They have all made me feel extremely welcome and like I have always been a part of the team. In my previous district I was a local staff and the itinerant staff were not welcomed the way I have been in your district.

► I am thankful for Danielle Buchanan. She is the hardest working, most caring, strongest person I know. I am very fortunate to see her everyday, even if it is only for a few minutes between classes. Our students are even more lucky to learn, math and life lessons, from her!

► I am thankful for Leah Tatro. She has been a great addition to our staff! I appreciate her hard work and collaboration. This first marking period with her has been wonderful! She has taught me many new things. I look forward to years of collaborating together!

► I am VERY thankful for Sondra Jasik! She is amazing! She makes life in the classroom so much easier for me. She goes above and beyond to help out with every lesson every day. Somehow, she manages to help with each lesson, while providing quality support for her special education students! They all are very lucky to have her in their lives. She cares for and helps each and every one of them all of the time.

► I am thankful for Roxanne Boyle! She has been a tremendous support in this crazy world that is Food Service. When it comes to all my Skyward tasks, she

is on it without hesitation! I would be drowning without her.

► I am thankful for Melissa Montgomery! She has been the most supportive, uplifting and patient mentor. I feel that I can go to her with any question, whether it be work or personal related, and she will have the perfect response. I could not ask for a more positive superior.

► I may be 100% biased, but I am thankful for Annette Schulte. I never had her as a teacher, but as her daughter, I have had a front row seat to see her passion when it comes to teaching. It is because of teachers like her, that I choose to have my children in this district. She gives 1000% EVERY SINGLE TIME. It's the grading papers to the wee hours of the night, pulling literal all nighters to make an end of year video for students to view, attending events to take photos for yearbook club, the attention to detail in her curriculum, the artistic touch in lesson plans and classroom decor, and the list could go on and on. She does all of this and so much more without complaint, or at times, recognition. It's these behind the scenes things that she continues to do 20+ years into her teaching career that make her shine as a teacher in my eyes.

► Brooke Polcik: She has been met with more than she probably imagined she would have accepting this position and still shows up to work every day looking for the best solutions possible.

► Cindy Howe: She reminds us, every day, how great of a job teaching is AND never fails at making everyone around her feel loved and cared about.

► Ali Reed: Her honesty and creativity benefit the school in many ways.

► I am thankful for Kierstyn Cooper in food services. She is always willing to help out wherever she is needed. Kierstyn jumps right in if necessary to make sure that her team is on task and all of the NB students have delicious and proper meals for breakfast and lunch. Kierstyn is always willing to listen whether work related or personal. She is always running from building to building making sure things are running smoothly in the kitchens. Thanks, Kierstyn for taking care of your team and all of the students.

► I am thankful for our dedicated teachers, counselors and coaches for the daily and lifetime positive impact they have on our students. I am thankful for our support staff; our secretaries who keep the buildings running smoothly, our paras and aides for their support of the students and teachers, our bus drivers for getting the students to school and home safely every day, our cooks and cashiers for making sure our students get healthy meals while at school, our custodians who keep our buildings looking great and our maintenance team for keeping everything up and running. I'm thankful for our technology department for providing us and our students with support and the most up to date technology. I'm thankful for our

Central Administration staff that make sure we have students enrolled, that make sure we get paid, that make sure all the bills are paid and that we have the supplies we need to get the job done, and that help us with any and all life changing events we may have. Lastly, I'm thankful for our Leaders and Administration. They put in countless hours of their own time to keep our school district safe, compliant with the ever-changing rules and regulations, supplied with everything that is needed to educate, feed, and support our students and for setting the standard for excellence in education for us, our students and the community. It is truly an honor to be part of the "All In" family that is North Branch Area Schools.

► I am thankful for our great group of young teachers, particularly Austin James. Austin is dedicated to being the best he can be and is passionate about making North Branch Area Schools the best environment for all students. He is inclusive by nature, and makes all students and athletes feel welcome in his space. Austin is intuitive and wise beyond his years.

► I am thankful for Ali Reed. Ali serves numerous roles at the high school serving students. I am thankful for her efforts in creating a student culture where every student that walks through the door feels important. I am thankful she creates opportunities and memories for so many students.

► I am thankful for Dusty Hardies! The help she has given me in the last several years has been priceless! The laughs and stress relieving conversations we have shared have made my life and job so much better. Since doing an amazing job of taking over our school library, she continues to do things to help the students learn science in my classroom. The adults and students in our building are lucky to know her.

In closing, while speaking with our teachers in the elementary, I noticed the following sign hanging in one of the classrooms:



A week later, I received a copy of the sign which is now hanging in my office. We certainly have our challenges and daily struggles, but as you just read we have so much to be thankful for and we will continue to accentuate all that is good in our district.

Wishing you a great

holiday season!

Jim Fish
North Branch Superintendent



NBHS Band News



Pictured L-R:

Nicholas Caldwell, John Ehardt, Seth Wagner

Sophomores John Ehardt and **Seth Wagner** will be participating in an opportunity of a lifetime this coming summer. John, who plays trombone, and Seth, who plays trumpet, will be performing on tour with the Flint Youth Symphony Orchestra in Limonest, France and Ahrensberg, Germany in June. Last year, John performed as a member of the Flint Youth Wind Ensemble and Flint Youth Philharmonia. This year, he was recently accepted into the FYSO with Seth, already a member as of earlier this fall. Both students perform in the Flint Youth Wind Ensemble as well.

Junior, Nicholas Caldwell, and **sophomore, John Ehardt**, were recently accepted into the Oakland University Honors Bands. These bands were open to high school bands in the area. Students were accepted based on the results of past performances at district and state solo and ensemble. There were two honors bands: 9th/10th grade band and 11th/12th grade band that performed on November 11th at Oakland University with guest conductor and composer, Randall Standridge.



Don't Break the Bank paying for College!

Talk with our Counselors about NBHS's Early College Option known as the North Branch Early College.

Irene Miller ASSEMBLY

On Thursday, November 7th, the NBHS student body met in the gymnasium for an assembly featuring guest speaker, **Holocaust Survivor, Irene Miller**. During her presentation, Mrs. Miller detailed her and her family's experience escaping Poland during the Holocaust. Her story took us on a survival journey little written and known about.

The four main objectives of her presentation were to:

- 1) Give face to the darkest chapter of Human history.**
- 2) Promote tolerance and diversity.**
- 3) Inspire positive action, including anti-bullying.**
- 4) Empower people to overcome obstacles in life, by example.**

Mrs. Miller's shared testimony and experiences deeply impacted our students. In sharing her life and memories with us, she brought history to life.

Many thanks to Irene Miller for making such an impact on our students. **We were honored and blessed to have heard her account of this period in history.**





Drama Department DEVELOPMENTS



The North Branch Drama Department has been very busy again this year. Our first production of the year was...

The show was a huge success and crowd pleaser. The cast and crew spent countless hours rehearsing the show and did a tremendous job on performance nights. Special thanks go out to Alex Naracon who served as technical director. We would also like to thank all of the parents who volunteered their time and talents to help make this show a success.

We are currently working on two projects: the NBHS 2023 talent show and our night of one act plays. Talent show performances will



take place on December 19th during the last period of the day. Due to seating and other restrictions, ONLY NBHS students may attend.

Our night of one act plays will be performed on January 18th, 19th and 20th, 2024. We will be performing three one act plays entitled: "Don't Fear the Reaper", "The Mysterious Mystery of the Lost Letter", and "Box of Ghosts." Each of the plays are student directed. One of the shows will be representing North Branch at the Mid-Michigan Theater Arts Festival on January 26th and 27th, 2024.



Let's See How Far We've Come



Thank you to 2020 Quest graduate **Jalen Lewis for coming to speak to our current students.**

Jalen is currently a corrections officer. He attended Mott College, graduating in 2022 with a Criminal Justice degree.

He spoke about the benefits of bettering yourself through education and through being open to grow as a professional.

Jalen was involved heavily in the Jobs for Michigan Graduates program that we operate through the Lapeer Family Literacy Center! He is a great example of how our partnership has shaped and enhanced the futures of our Quest graduates!

Enroll Today at Award Winning Quest High School!

Students interested in enrolling at Quest High School or obtaining more information about the programs offered at Quest can learn more about us on our Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/

To enroll at Quest, contact Program Coordinator Corey Rosser by email at

crosser@nbbronzos.net

or by phone at 810-688-7581.

Quest Benefit Dinner... Again a Success!

Quest would like to thank the North Branch Masonic Lodge, the Order of the Eastern Stars, our Quest families, former graduates, our many current NBAS staff, and our community for another great Quest Benefit Dinner!

We greatly appreciate your love and support each and every year at this event! As always, the event was a financial success. Even more so, it was great to "break bread" and enjoy a lively atmosphere with you!



Quest reignites partnership with NB Thrift Shop

Quest High School is grateful to again be celebrating a partnership with the North Branch Thrift Shop! Thank you to volunteer Nancy Rouix! Each Monday Nancy takes 4 volunteers to the thrift shop to help sort and display donated items for sale. The Thrift Shop is open most Wednesday to Saturdays from 10am-1pm.

Thank you to Questers Max Andrews and Jaxson Goines for volunteering. Thank you for allowing us to serve!

Quest Service-Learning Projects

Quest took the opportunity of a beautiful day for this year's annual service-learning project.

Every year Quest students' clean leaves and debris from local senior citizens' lawn. This year Quest was fortunate to have the opportunity to help 5 local community members!

Special thanks to all those who participated in helping our great community!

Pictured right: Wade Collum.





Quest Hosts 6th Annual Disc Golf Championship

Quest hosted Ascent alternative and Caro alternative for the TASL Disc Golf Championship, right here at our disc golf course in North Branch. Quest did a great job hanging with a very good Ascent team, finishing 2nd by just a couple of strokes.

Seniors **Nate Noth** and **Carlos Hererra-Mobley** finished 3rd and 4th respectively overall for top individual scores. **Zach Wright**, **Max Andrews**, and **Cam Guerrero** also had qualifying scores for Quest!

The Quest Disc Golf Course is located between the Ruth Fox Middle School and the Catholic Church, and is free to play!



JOBS for MICHIGAN'S GRADUATES

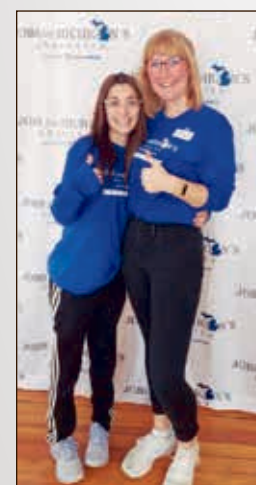
Quest's JMG program prepares students for their future

Our Jobs for Michigan Graduates program, led by Nicole Medellin, regularly brings career-oriented guest speakers to our classrooms. Recently Nicole brought a lawyer to discuss subjects like leasing, tenant rights, and the potential dangers of online activity.

Quest has also been fortunate enough to have HR representatives speak to applying for jobs and resumes, among several other topics brought to Quest through guest speakers.



JMG LEADERSHIP DAY



Quest senior **Autum Sanchez** accompanied JMG Nicole for the Jobs for Michigan Graduates Leadership day! The Jobs for Michigan Graduates program partners with Quest in preparing students for careers and life after high school!

Congrats Autum on being selected!

Quest students volunteer at Family Fun Fair

Quest students lent a helping hand at the annual Family Fun Fair put on by our North Branch PTC!

A big thank you for inviting Quest students to volunteer! A great event by a great organization!

Great job Lacie Bitters, Vincent Branch, and Melissa Ptasznik! Your work was greatly appreciated!





Ruth Fox Cool Kids Café



Mrs. Schaaf and Mrs. Hiroskey's Peer-to-Peer students have been working up special treats for the Ruth Fox teachers, from the Cool Kids Café.

They have been honing functional skills by filling coffee, latte, hot chocolate, and soft drink orders from an electronic menu. Students then use a map of the school to deliver their products to the correct classrooms, and spread a little sunshine on the way.

Students feel the café is "fun", and enjoy the delivery aspect the most. In this second year of the Cool Kids Café, students are spanning their services over two days to meet the demand. Students look forward to the end of the week to make their special deliveries.

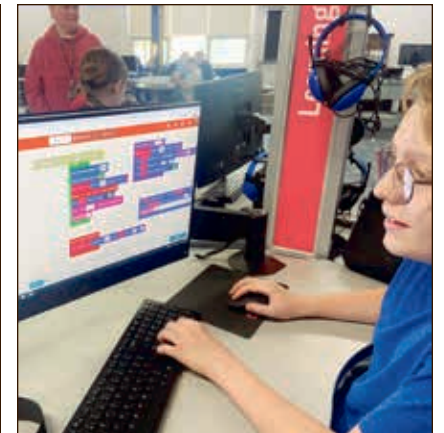


Follow Us
RFMS@
ruthfox
middle

RFMS STEAM Lab



On October 2nd, Senator Daley and Representative Alexander presented NBAS Mrs. Brown, with a State of Michigan Tribute for its STEAM Lab initiative.





RFMS Homecoming Relay



Ruth Fox Middle School students participated in a new Homecoming tradition, the Ruth Fox Relay Races. Teams participated in tire runs, wobble boards, football throwing, and scooter races to determine a champion!



RFMS Robotics Junk Yard Bots



On November 13th, RFM Robotics team, the Junk Yard Bots (FTC7065) competed in a home FTC Qualifier. They have shown improvement throughout the season, including making it to the Semi-Finals in this competition, and taking home the Judges Choice award. Along with competing, the North Branch team also hosted the event bringing a packed house of 32 teams and spectators from the region. To accommodate the large turnout, local food trucks provided refreshments and dining options.

Great job team, and thank you for the community support!



PENNY WARS

This year the Ruth Fox Middle School once again participated in Penny Wars the week of the Michigan vs. Michigan State football game. Students put money into the corresponding jar to support their favorite team. Though it was a close contest, Michigan was once again victorious in the RFMS Annual Penny Wars over MSU. Over \$700 was raised in just 4 days, of which every penny will be used to support Ruth Fox students in our PBIS initiatives and supporting families who are in need during this upcoming holiday season.



FOCUSING ON Gratitude

This year Ruth Fox Middle School has focused on Core Values, through a program called Re:Connect (Re:Co). The value for December is Gratitude, "Letting others know you see how they've helped you".

Throughout this month, there will be reminders about Gratitude through the morning announcements, in classroom lessons, and through the building. Parents also get parenting tips for supporting our value of Gratitude.

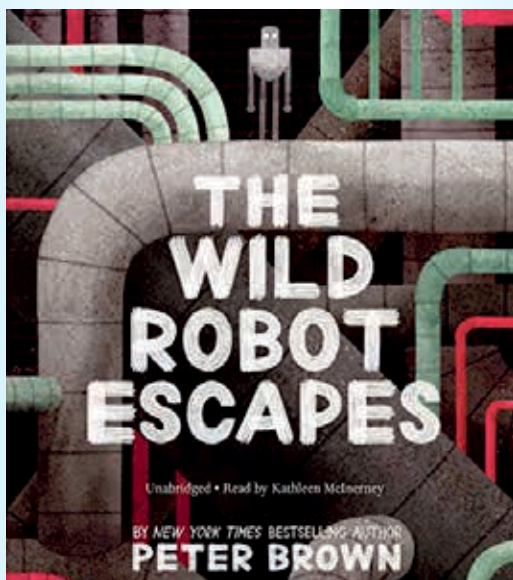
As an incentive, students can get "Bronco Busted" by demonstrating Gratitude this month, and be entered into our weekly drawing.



The **HoWND Team** classes gathered for an intense book discussion in a Socratic Circle arrangement. The outside circle tracked quotes spoken from the text, *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown, as well as tracked class participation, group strengths, weaknesses, and text references. The inner group conversed by stating their opinions on the dynamic characters in the text and how they changed throughout the novel.

Students challenged each other's thinking by asking their peers for textual evidence. In the end, the outside circle shared positive and negative feedback they witnessed. The entire team of students was enriched by the deep discussions that took place leaving them wanting more time with the heart-warming book series.

Check out *The Wild Robot Escapes* to continue the journey at home!



Students from Ms. Picarski's First Grade Class had a great time learning about pumpkins and planting their own pumpkin seeds.



FIRE Safety



In October, Miss Ellsworth's 2nd grade class, along with all of NBE learned all about fire prevention. They even got to go inside a fire truck and pretend like they were firefighters. As a thank you to our first responders for coming to our school, students wrote thank you letters and delivered them to the fire station.



NBE GARDEN CLUB

The NBE Garden Club continues this year under the guidance of Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Nies, Mrs. Opperman, and Mrs. Waldeck. The club's primary mission is to foster a love for gardening and nature, to take care of our school district's flower beds, and to grow food to share with their classmates. One of the most exciting aspects of the Elementary Garden Club's work is their contribution to the school's cafeteria menu through the vegetables they planted over the summer. The STEM enrichment classes proudly harvested a variety of vegetables, including zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, and lettuce, which are then integrated into the cafeteria's meals. With the addition of an outdoor classroom space between the hoop houses, students in STEM class will have the opportunity to learn more about the garden, try new foods, and help to plan for the next year's garden.



4th Grade Art Class

4th grade students learned about the Mexican holiday, **Día de los Muertos**, or **Day of the Dead** in art class with Mrs. Opperman. Students joined in with this celebration of life by creating their own Sugar Skull Paintings using oil crayons and neon water-color paint. These amazing pieces are displayed with a black light to create a glowing effect.



SMART LAB

1st graders from Mrs. Jones' class celebrated their first week in the Smart Lab this month! Students worked on creating 2D and 3D shapes and working in collaborative partnerships.



Congratulations to our North Branch Running Club

They did a spectacular job at the meet in Caro!

Special thanks to Miss Berridge for leading this great group of young Bronco runners. This year we had over 80 runners!



DONUTS with Dad



Donuts with Dad was a huge success this year. Well over a thousand dads, grandpas, step-dads, and father figures of all kinds attended the event with their NBE students.

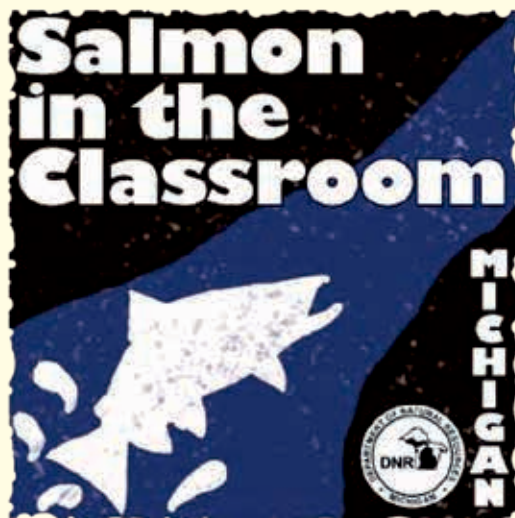
Thank you to PTC for hosting such a wonderful event.



NBE, lead by our PTC, partnered with Apex to raise funds through an amazing fun run. The Apex team spent two weeks in our building challenging our student to be leaders and make a positive impact on those around them. The two weeks ended with a fun run where students got to run to earn the pledges they collected. Collectively students ran nearly 2,000 miles and collected almost 1,500 pledges from all over the country.

Apex also donated meals to Feeding America for any student who raised over \$10/lap in pledges. Several students met that goal and Apex was able to donate 760 meals to help those in need.





The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and North Branch Elementary STEM teacher, Sara Hyde formed a partnership this year to bring salmon into the classroom. As one of 300 teachers participating in this program in the state, Hyde picked up 150 Chinook salmon eggs in mid-November to begin the journey with all NBE students of raising and learning from the salmon. Activities will include learning about the reason for raising them, how to maintain the tank and care for the fish, as well as releasing the young smolts in the spring.

For live feeds and updates, look for and subscribe to @NorthBranchSalmon on YouTube.



Thank you, Kiwanis,

for helping us to recognize our terrific kids! It is so nice to be able to recognize our students for being so amazing every day! NBE greatly appreciates your partnership.



TRUNK OR TREAT

NBE's PTC hosted the first (hopefully) annual Trunk of Treat this year and had a stupendous turn out. With nearly 50 trunks decorated by local community members, NBE staff and families, and local business, it was a wonderful family event.



Camp Lael is always a field trip that students look forward to in fourth grade. This year students participated in games like Camouflage, Predator/Prey, and Migratory Birds. They also forged copper beads, made apple cider, learned about some edible plants, went canoeing, walked on top of a beaver lodge, and much more.





Mrs. Bailey's Kindergarteners had so much as they celebrated learning their alphabet this year with an ABC party day, fashion show and even paraded through FABS Preschool, Little Learners Preschool, and Mrs. Picarski's 1st grade classroom.

Students ended their special day with a variety of yummy snacks that included ABC cupcakes, ABC crackers, and ABC fruit snacks.



Special thanks to The North Branch Knights of Columbus and Rick Swoish for the generous donation of winter coats, hats, and gloves for our students. We appreciate the support we have received over the years and will make sure these donations help keep students warm as winter approaches.

ALL★READING NIGHT!

On the evening of September 25th, families filled the North Branch High School football field to participate in the annual All Star Reading Night event. Over 130 children from PreK-6th grade spent time being read to by high school athletes representing football, volleyball, cheerleading, girls soccer, baseball/softball, wrestling and cross country teams. Students were entertained by returning storyteller Beverly the Music Lady and had the opportunity to take home numerous free books. Additionally, several Lapeer County organizations working in areas of literacy were on hand to share programming information and resources with parents.



Chicken Wings



The first science unit in 4th grade is "The Human Machine." To get a first hand, or wing, view of how bones and muscles work together, the HoWND Team dissected chicken wings. After a slightly tentative start, the students dug right in. Students observed how muscles connected to tendons, how the tendons connected to bones and feel what cartilage felt like. They had fun making the chicken wave and point by pulling on the bicep and tricep muscles.

INDIVIDUAL VARSITY SPORT HONORS



CROSS COUNTRY – BOYS:

BWAC 1ST TEAM:
Wyatt Opperman

BWAC HONORABLE MENTION:
Bryce Barkowska

CROSS COUNTRY – GIRLS:

BWAC 1ST TEAM:
Rowan Conley & Isabelle Hunt

STATE MEET QUALIFIERS:
Karlie Schlaud



Conference Athletes for boys & girls



GIRLS GOLF:

Girls Golf is now a recognized school sport
in the MHSAA.



North Branch High School's first Girls Golf Team!



FOOTBALL:

NEW COACH: Chris Sikora

BWAC: 3rd place, tied with Armada

BWAC 1ST TEAM:
Kevin Gorman (RB), Mason Howe (DL),
Wyatt Bruff (LB), and Jaydon Hutchinson (DB)

BWAC 2ND TEAM:
Mason Howe (TE), William LaBlanc (OL),
Eli Bickel (OL), and Jiovanni Travis (DL)

BWAC HONORABLE MENTION:
Braydon Robinson (QB), Meris Cehajick (K),
Jiovanni Travis (RB), Hunter Waite (OL),
Gabe Miles (LB), and Martin Mersino (DB)



SOCCKER:

BWAC 1ST TEAM:
Leyton Hutchins, Ethan Dinanath

BWAC HONORABLE MENTION:
Joel Bruman, Meris Cehajic



VOLLEYBALL:

7-0 League, 56-4-1 Overall

Freshmen & JV were first in their league also!
BWAC Champ, District, & Regional Champion,
Division II State Champions



Freshmen Volleyball



JV Volleyball



Varsity Volleyball • District Champs



Varsity Volleyball • Regional Champs

NB VARSITY VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS



(L to R): Maci Kaake, BWAC Honorable Mention. Alana Deshetsky, BWAC League MVP & First Team, All-Region, First Team Division II All-State, American Volleyball Coaches Association All Region & Honorable Mention All-American. Adrienne Greschaw, BWAC 1st Team, All-Region, Second Team Division II All-State. Hailey Green, BWAC 1st Team, All-Region, First Team Division II All-State, American Volleyball Coaches Association All Region & Honorable Mention All-American. Clara Gyomory, BWAC 1st Team, All-Region, First Team Division II All-State. Ella Swish, BWAC Honorable Mention. Aubree Deshetsky, BWAC 1st Team, All-Region, First Team Division II All-State.



North Branch Volleyball Seniors holding trophies for four league titles, four district championships, three regional championships, one state runner up and two state championships (L to R): Brookelynn Franklin, Alana Deshetsky, Maci Kaake, Adrienne Greschaw, Hailey Green, Clara Gyomory, Kaela Chingwa, Cate Welch.



Cate Welch signs with West Virginia Wesleyan College to play Softball.



Alana Deshetsky signs with Ferris State University to play Volleyball.



Hailey Green signs with Wingate University to play Volleyball.



Clara Gyomory signs with Northwood University to play Volleyball.

SAVE THE DATE
North Branch Athletic Boosters
Annual Fundraiser
REVERSE
RAFFLE **GRAND PRIZE \$2000**
80s
NEON NIGHTS
 Saturday, February 24th, 2024
 6PM - 10PM
ONLY 250 TICKETS SOLD
\$50/Ticket
 See Booster Member or Varsity Coach to purchase your ticket!
DINNER * DRINKS * PRIZES

North Branch Athletic Boosters will hold their Annual Reverse Raffle Dinner on Saturday, February 24, 2024 @ 6pm.

The event will be held at the Sweet Wedding Chapel & Fellowship Hall (formerly known as Sweet School) located at 473 W. Barnes Lake Rd. Tickets are \$50 per person, and will go on sale after winter break. Contact a coach or the Athletic Office to purchase a ticket. There will be many raffles and a grand prize of \$2,000 cash.

Come join the fun! We hope to see you there!

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 8	Vassar	Home	7:30pm
Dec 12	Algonac	Home	7:30pm
Dec 15	Cros-Lex	Away	7:30pm
Dec 19	Flint Powers	Away	7:00pm
Dec 21	NB Tournament	Home	5:30pm
Dec 22	NB Tournament	Home	5:30pm
Jan 4	Yale	Home	7:30pm
Jan 9	Almont	Home	7:30pm
Jan 12	Richmond	Away	7:30pm
Jan 18	Armada	Home	7:30pm
Jan 23	Imlay City	Away	7:30pm
Jan 26	Cros-Lex	Home	7:30pm
Jan 30	Brown City	Away	6:00pm
Feb 1	Yale	Away	7:30pm
Feb 6	Algonac	Away	7:30pm
Feb 9	Richmond	Home	7:30pm
Feb 12	Marlette	Home	7:30pm
Feb 15	Armada	Away	7:30pm
Feb 20	Almont	Away	7:30pm
Feb 23	Imlay City	Home	7:30pm

JUNIOR VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 8	Vassar	Home	6:00pm
Dec 12	Algonac	Home	6:00pm
Dec 15	Cros-Lex	Away	6:00pm
Dec 19	Flint Powers	Away	5:30pm
Jan 4	Yale	Home	6:00pm
Jan 9	Almont	Home	6:00pm
Jan 12	Richmond	Away	6:00pm
Jan 18	Armada	Home	6:00pm
Jan 23	Imlay City	Away	6:00pm
Jan 26	Cros-Lex	Home	6:00pm
Jan 30	Brown City	Away	4:30pm
Feb 1	Yale	Away	6:00pm
Feb 6	Algonac	Away	6:00pm
Feb 9	Richmond	Home	6:00pm
Feb 12	Marlette	Home	6:00pm
Feb 15	Armada	Away	6:00pm
Feb 20	Almont	Away	6:00pm
Feb 23	Imlay City	Home	6:00pm

FRESHMAN BOYS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 12	Algonac	Home	4:30pm
Dec 15	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30pm
Jan 4	Yale	Home	4:30pm
Jan 9	Almont	Home	4:30pm
Jan 12	Richmond	Away	4:30pm

Jan 18	Armada	Home	4:30pm
Jan 23	Imlay City	Away	4:30pm
Jan 26	Cros-Lex	Home	4:30pm
Feb 1	Yale	Away	4:30pm
Feb 6	Algonac	Away	4:30pm
Feb 9	Richmond	Home	4:30pm
Feb 15	Armada	Away	4:30pm
Feb 20	Almont	Away	4:30pm
Feb 23	Imlay City	Home	4:30pm

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 12	Davison	Away	7:00pm
Dec 14	Cros-Lex	Away	7:30pm
Dec 19	Algonac	Home	7:30pm
Jan 3	Fenton	Home	7:30pm
Jan 5	Yale	Home	7:30pm
Jan 9	Kingston	Away	7:30pm
Jan 11	Richmond	Away	7:30pm
Jan 16	Almont	Home	7:30pm
Jan 19	Armada	Home	7:30pm
Jan 22	Brandon	Away	7:00pm
Jan 25	Cros-Lex	Home	7:30pm
Jan 30	Imlay City	Away	7:30pm
Feb 2	Yale	Away	7:30pm
Feb 6	Caro	Home	7:30pm
Feb 8	Richmond	Home	7:30pm
Feb 13	Algonac	Away	7:30pm
Feb 16	Armada	Away	7:30pm
Feb 22	Imlay City	Home	7:30pm
Feb 27	Almont	Away	7:30pm
Feb 29	St. Clair	Away	7:00pm

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 12	Davison	Away	5:30pm
Dec 14	Cros-Lex	Away	6:00pm
Dec 19	Algonac	Home	6:00pm
Jan 3	Fenton	Home	6:00pm
Jan 5	Yale	Home	6:00pm
Jan 9	Kingston	Away	6:00pm
Jan 11	Richmond	Away	6:00pm
Jan 16	Almont	Home	6:00pm
Jan 19	Armada	Home	6:00pm
Jan 22	Brandon	Away	5:30pm
Jan 25	Cros-Lex	Home	6:00pm
Jan 30	Imlay City	Away	6:00pm
Feb 2	Yale	Away	6:00pm
Feb 6	Caro	Home	6:00pm
Feb 8	Richmond	Home	6:00pm
Feb 13	Algonac	Away	6:00pm
Feb 16	Armada	Away	6:00pm

Feb 22	Imlay City	Home	6:00pm
Feb 27	Almont	Away	6:00pm
Feb 29	St. Clair	Away	5:30pm

VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 16	Novi Competition	Away	
Jan 6	Oxford	Away	
Jan 10	BWAC	Away	
Jan 13	Lake Orion Competition	Away	
Jan 24	BWAC	Away	
Jan 27	Vassar Competition	Away	
Jan 31	BWAC	Away	
Feb 3	NB Competition	Home	

VARSITY WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 9	Frankenmuth	Away	9:00am
Dec 13	Quad	Home	5:30pm
Dec 16	Mayville	Away	TBA
Dec 20	North Branch	Home	10:00am
Jan 5	Quad	Away	5:30pm
Jan 6	TBA	TBA	TBA
Jan 12	Quad	Away	5:30pm
Jan 13	Bad Axe Hatchet Invite	TBA	TBA
Jan 19	Quad	Home	5:30pm
Jan 20	St. Clair	TBA	9:00am
Jan 26	Imlay City	Home	5:30pm
Feb 3	BWAC League Meet	Away	TBA
Feb 7	Team Districts In Clio	Away	TBA
Feb 10	Individual Districts	Home	TBA
Feb 17	Individual Regionals	TBA	TBA
Mar 1	Individual States	TBA	TBA
Mar 2	Individual States	TBA	TBA

VARSITY BOWLING

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 12	Armada	Home	3:30pm
Dec 14	Richmond	Home	3:30pm
Dec 19	Yale	Home	3:30pm
Jan 4	Imlay City	Home	3:30pm
Jan 8	Algonac	Away	3:30pm
Jan 10	Cros-Lex	Away	3:30pm
Jan 17	Almont	Away	3:30pm
Jan 18	Armada	Away	3:30pm
Jan 22	Richmond	Away	3:30pm
Jan 25	Yale	Away	3:30pm
Jan 29	Imlay City	Away	3:30pm
Jan 31	Algonac	Home	3:30pm
Feb 6	Cros-Lex	Home	3:30pm
Feb 8	Almont	Home	3:30pm

HOCKEY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 9	Downriver United	Away	5:00pm
Dec 13	Tri Valley Titans	Away	7:15pm
Dec 14	Larry Manz Tourn.	Away	TBA
Dec 15	Gladwin	Away	6:00pm
Dec 18	Grand Blanc	Home	6:30pm
Jan 4	North Oakland	Away	6:00pm
Jan 6	Downriver United	Home	3:30pm
Jan 12	Mid Michigan Raptors	Home	6:30pm
Jan 19	Downriver United	TBA	TBA
Jan 20	Kalamazoo United	TBA	TBA
Jan 27	New Boston United	Away	4:30pm
Feb 1	Port Huron	Home	7:15pm
Feb 2	Bay Area Thunder	Away	7:30pm
Feb 3	Lenawee United	Away	7:30pm
Feb 10	Bishop Foley	Home	3:30pm
Feb 14	FNV Griffins	Away	7:00pm
Feb 16	Mid Michigan Raptors	Away	TBA
Feb 17	Tawas	Home	3:30pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPETITIVE CHEER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Feb 7	BWAC	Away	TBA
Feb 14	BWAC	Away	TBA
Feb 21	BWAC	Home	TBA
Feb 28	BWAC	Away	TBA

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 11	North Branch Quad	Home	4:30pm

7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Dec 11	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30pm
Dec 13	Richmond	Home	4:30pm

7TH & 8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Jan 15	Imlay City	Home	4:30pm
Jan 17	Almont	Away	4:30pm
Jan 22	Yale	Away	4:30pm
Jan 24	Algonac	Away	4:30pm
Jan 29	Armada	Home	4:30pm
Jan 31	Cros-Lex	Home	4:30pm
Feb 5	Richmond	Away	4:30pm
Feb 7	Imlay City	Away	4:30pm
Feb 12	Almont	Home	4:30pm
Feb 14	Yale	Home	4:30pm
Feb 19	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30pm
Feb 21	Richmond	Home	4:30pm

