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# THE NORDIC TRIBUNE

## What the Journalism Class is Reading?

By Sunnie Lavigne

Kristin Haustein, a junior at North Dickinson, is reading The Guardian by Nicholas Sparks. This book is about a woman who loses her husband to cancer. A year later she receives a puppy on her doorstep with a letter attached which turns out to be from her dead husband. The woman raises the dog and when she starts to date again the dog doesn't like any of the men she brings home. The woman finally finds someone she really likes and runs away with him while a crazy ex-boyfriend stalks her and tries to kill her. Kristin says that this book is really good and she recommends it to anyone who enjoys love stories.

**Yearbook** Full colored yearbooks are on sale for \$30. About 20 yearbooks are still available from last year also \$30.

## OFFICE NOTES

### Board Adopts Meal Charge Policy

The Board of Education adopted a new meal charge policy at its January 14, 2008 regular meeting. This policy was published in the January newsletter for review and comment by parents, staff and the community. No comments were received, therefore no changes were recommended to the board prior to adoption. The new policy is posted at the end of the newsletter.

### China Comes to North Dickinson

Starting with the new semester two ND High School students, **Sunnie LaVigne and Anne Brzoznowski**, will be learning the Chinese language and culture through Michigan Virtual High School. Students will receive instruction through the Internet by a native Chinese instructor. The students will use a highly interactive multimedia learning software program. They will learn basic communication including

greetings, introductions, asking for information and describing objects. Students will also learn about Chinese culture and geography.

### Japanese Education- Part II (A Day at Nakajo Elementary School)-by Claude Siders

In Tainai City, Niigata, at Nakajo Elementary School a Japanese elementary student's day begins about 8:30 AM. Students walk to school, about 640 in all in grades 1-6. Bicycles are not permitted. The group of 20 American educators that I traveled with approached the school on foot at about 8:00 AM. The first students to see us were wide eyed and very startled even though they had been told of our coming visit in advance. They started pointing at us, chattering and giggling. Some approached us with a great amount of trepidation. As with kids everywhere, it did not take long for them to

warm up to us. Language was not a barrier as we waved at one another and smiled.

We met with the principal of the school prior to the start of classes and were then led to a large gymnasium. As we entered the gymnasium all students plus teachers and other staff met us with a standing ovation that lasted until we had walked from the back of the room and eventually onto the stage. We were then greeted by all those on the floor singing the school song. We felt very special and welcomed. Later, on during our trip we learned that this type of welcome is typical.

We were then free to move about the school as we wished and to visit any classroom. There were 21 classrooms in grades 1-6 including one special education classroom. I was able to visit at least one classroom in each grade and observed all subject classes available to the

students. At each grade level , students are instructed in Japanese, math, music, art, science, moral education, reading, society, English, P.E., home economics, cooperative learning and calligraphy.

We were welcomed in all the classes we visited. The students would smile at us and get us engaged in educational games and activities like calligraphy and music. Many students would form their index and middle finger into a V-shape to represent a “peace sign”. As we traveled throughout Japan, then use of the “peace sign” seemed to be universal. Students were happy and engaged in their learning.

Each of us was invited to eat lunch with a classroom. I joined Mrs. Otani’s 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. We ate in the classroom. The meal was prepared in the elementary kitchen and included baked salmon, rice, miso soup and fruit. Fish is a staple in Japanese diet and all students ate their meals.

School let out about 2:00 PM for grades 1 and 2 and 2:45 PM for grades 3 through 6. This is not the end of the day for students or teachers. Extracurricular activities begin and go until 7:00 PM. Students are involved in marching band, baseball, soccer (known as football in Japan), dance, basketball, gymnastics as well as academic clubs. Until about three years ago school was held Monday through Saturday. Now it is Monday through Friday only. The school year begins in April with a 6 week break in July and August and another short break in December. The school year ends in March with several weeks off before the new school year begins.

We left Nakajo Elementary School as night fall came on and the marching band was practicing on the playground. Next month we will visit Kurokawa Junior High School.

#### **Meal Charge Policy (Adopted by Board January 14, 2008)**

It is the goal of the Board of Education to provide nutritious meals for students in a cost effective manner. From time to time student charges arise because the student has forgotten to give money or a check to the person in food service receiving payments or the parent has failed to send money for the cost of the meals. Most charges are paid up in full in a short period of time. However, some meal charges accumulate over time to the point that the parent may have difficulty paying for the charges and the debt accumulated to the District becomes significant and may impact on the prices of meals charged to all students.

In order to ensure that the meal service continues to operate in a cost effective manner, the Board establishes the following policy for meal charges.

All meals should be paid at least one week in advance. Food service employees are available prior to the start of school each day to receive money for meals. Students and parents are encouraged to pay meals at this time and not in the serving line as this slows down service. If a student is paying for meals on a daily basis, the student must pay for that lunch at the designated time in the morning.

Charges are discouraged, however, the board recognizes there may be circumstances where charges are unavoidable and must be made so that the student receives a meal for the day. In these cases, the charge should be paid the following day.

When charges have exceeded \$20.00 for

one student or more in the same family a letter will be sent to the parent advising them of the amount owed and the dates involved in the charges. The parent will be asked to pay the charges in full immediately or if there are extenuating circumstances, to call the administration to make arrangements to pay the charges. If a parent does not pay the charges in full and or does not respond to the letter by a designated time, the administration will attempt to make contact by telephone with the parent to make arrangements for the charges to be paid. If none of these attempts are successful, then the administration will send a letter advising the parent that the student(s) will not receive school meals until the charges are paid or a plan has been developed with the parent and the administration. In certain circumstances the administration may authorize an alternative meal consisting of a simple sandwich side dish and milk. This would be provided at the parent request and with administration belief that denying a meal to the student may be harmful to the student. This meal would be charged at a reduced rate from the regular meals served.

If, after concerted effort by administration, charges are not paid up, the administration may file a claim in Small Claims Court.

#### **Board Highlights – January 14, 2008**

Each member was given a certificate of appreciation in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

Revised the FY08 budget as presented.

Approved the purchase of a 77 passenger school bus to be delivered

in July or August of 2008 in the amount of \$71,810 from Zaremba Equipment, Inc.

Approved the Michigan School Readiness resolution.

Approved a Food Service Meal Charge Policy.

Increased the Contract Ed contracted services for a bus driver and the principal/athletic secretary plus contract fees.

Held an open session expulsion hearing.

Approved the expulsion of a student.

Great Eight Winter Games The annual Great Eight Winter Games will be held in the Dickinson County area on Saturday, February 23rd for boys and girls in grades 4 through 8. Sign up sheets are available in the elementary classrooms and the high school library.

Winter Games Shirts Order forms are available in the office for Great Eight Winter Games

sweatshirts and t-shirts. Samples are on display in the office. All orders, including payment, must be turned into the office by Thursday, February 14th. Long sleeve t-shirts-\$17, crewneck sweatshirts-\$21 and hooded sweatshirts-\$25.

No School There will be no school on Monday, February 18, 2008. This will be a professional development day for the teachers.

Senior Pictures Requested Seniors are reminded to turn in three

pictures to the office as soon as possible. These pictures will be used for the class composite the class picture display in The Daily News, and the yearbook.

Driver Education Classes We will once again be offering a driver education course at North Dickinson beginning sometime in June after school is out. Students who will be 15 years of age by October 9, 2008, will be eligible for class. Students wishing to take the class should sign up

in the office. More information regarding cost and exact dates will be sent at a later date to the parents of the students who have signed up. Deadline for signing up is Monday, February 25th.

Parent/Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held

on Thursday, March 6, 2008, during the following times: 1:30-4:00 PM and 5:00-7:30 PM

Spring & Group Pictures.

Individual and group pictures for the K-2 through 5th grade will still be on Thursday, February 7th, and the group pictures for 6-7-8 will also be on Thursday,

February 7th. The high school will have their group pictures on Friday, February 8th. K-1 will have individual and group pictures on Friday, February 8th.

High School Winter Homecoming

There will be a Winter Homecoming dance on February 8th after the

boys' basketball game (Carney) from 8:30 – 11:30. The cost of a ticket will be \$6.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door. Pizza and pop will be available. The theme is "Welcome to the Jungle". Students will be decorating the gym as a contest and the class that has the best dressed wall will win a movie and popcorn party.

**Heart Health**

February is heart health month. To promote women's heart health we wore red on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Fourth and fifth grade students got into small groups and participated in an hour and a half of non-stop jump roping activities. Many middle school students participated in over two hours of hoop activities. A big thanks to the Nordic

communities for their continued support of our students and for financial support to the American Heart Association. Heart care begins with good nutritional foods including appropriate daily exercise and immediate medical attention when symptoms occur. Please take a few moments to become familiar with the warning signs of heart attack and stroke.

**Heart Attack:**

Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of the chest that last more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back. Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach. Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort. Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

**Stroke:** Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on the one side of the body. Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding. Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes. Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination. Sudden severe headache with unknown cause.

**PTO** The PTO will meet at 6:00 on the second Monday of every month. Anyone interested in being involved is welcome to attend! PTO will be collecting milk caps, Econo Foods and Super One receipts. If you have any, please drop them off in the school office.

**Girls Basketball** Congratulations to Jessica Roell for reaching 1000pts for her career on January 8<sup>th</sup> against Forest Park. The girls are having a good season. Both the JV and Varsity girls are currently leading the Skyline Conference with no losses. They are heading into a long stretch of conference games. The lady Nordics finish up their season on February 14<sup>th</sup> in Carney Nadeau. The girls are looking forward to the district tournament on February 18<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> in Forest Park. Please come and support them; they really appreciate it.

**Boys Basketball** JV boys are still improving constantly with a decent record. The Varsity boys are finally all healthy, so the full team is finally hitting the court. They are going to start a long stretch of conference games just like the girls. Their improvement is growing steadily, and they are looking forward to more wins. The boy's district games are in Baraga this year on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and the 29<sup>th</sup>. Please come and support them as they really like the support from the fans.

**Kindergarten** The Kindergarten class will be having Valentine's Day parties. K-1 will be having their party on Thursday, Feb, 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 p.m. K-2 will be having their party on Friday, Feb, 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 p.m. The Kindergarten class will also be receiving their Flat Stanley's and Flat Sally's by mail from around the country and the world. They will be tracking their travels on the map.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** The 1<sup>st</sup> grade class is really getting good at A.R. books. This program is really great for emerging readers. In math they are finished with fractions and are now working on number families. They will soon be working with money. They are looking forward to hearing back from their Pennsylvania pen pals!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class will be having their Valentine's Day party on Feb, 14<sup>th</sup> 2:15 p.m. In science the class is learning about the weather and in social studies the class is learning about U.S. history. Keep up the good work!

**Valentine's Day is just around the corner!**

Mrs. Slagle and her third grade class are throwing a party to celebrate the season of love on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. They will need a little fun since they have been learning how to multiply in math. Flashcards for multiplication 0-12 were sent home and practicing them is recommended. The class has been working hard and Mrs. Slagle gives her kudos to the five Spelling Bee contestants and the 9 students who made it on the Reading Olympics team.

**Creativity and hard work!** Despite the cold weather, Mrs. Grunlund's fourth grade class is keeping busy. They have been using their creative minds to learn how to make inventions, write mysteries and brainstorm for the medieval games. In science they learned about the three states that water can be in and how the water cycle functions. In math the students are studying algebra and learning to multiply bigger numbers .

**Working Steady!** Mr. Lindholm's fifth graders have been academically improving during the second 9 weeks. They are learning about colonies in history and are studying Newton's Laws in science. The students have been working hard in math and are currently learning about statistics. In English they are on their 8<sup>th</sup> book report and are composing writing. Band has been going great and the kids absolutely love it. It's been a great year so far and the kids have been on their best behavior.

**Middle School News**

In **Mrs. Santoni's room** they are currently reading The Devil's Arithmetic. Also, they are now learning about the Holocaust. Many of the students were also psyched for the spelling bee that was at the end of January.

**Mrs. O'Neil's room** has a student teacher. Her name is Mrs. Hiironen. She will be there till the 22<sup>nd</sup> and then will be moving into Mrs. Slagle's room for the remaining quarter. The students are getting prepared for the Great Eight Winter Games coming up. Students are writing poems in there language arts class and will be making poetry boxes where they will store all the poems they write.

