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ND Students Learn Bowling and Snow Shoeing.

Early elementary students continue to work on concepts such as left-right, high-medium-low, fast-slow, bend-straighten (flex-extend), and turn-twist. They will continue to play various games of tag, bowl, and begin to play pillow polo hockey during the third marking period.

Upper elementary and middle school students continue to work their skills in bowling, basketball, archery, snowshoeing (if the weather is between 20 and 30 degrees and we have snow), and games of tag. They are also working on improving their President's Challenge results in running, agility, strength, endurance, and flexibility.

High school students will be improving their Presidential Challenge results and further develop skills and abilities in weight lifting, bowling, volleyball, basketball, and soccer.

Office Notes

School Funding Still in Jeopardy

I have talked with you in earlier newsletters about the financial crisis facing our state and how it is affecting our school and most others around the State of Michigan. We saw a \$165.00 per pupil cut in our funding in October. Shortly after that we were hearing that we would once again see a cut of \$127.00 per pupil that was required by state law because state revenue was less than projected expenditures. This more recent cut has been averted due to less expenditure in last year's budget than was earlier projected.

We will continue to see this type of uncertainty because of significant funding problems for the state services including our schools. Fixing our funding systems should be the legislature's highest priority for this year and next. Our legislatures' past actions have mostly pushed the problems to a local level rather than deal with

them systematically at the state level. It's time for our elected officials to do their job before they leave office.

Continued cuts will hurt Michigan's image and ability to attract businesses. We already have a record number of school districts in deficit-essentially bankruptcy (41 districts as of July 1, 2009). Having schools and cities in bankruptcy, and universities and community colleges increasing tuition to make up for losses in state funding, and roads in disrepair will make Michigan less attractive to businesses looking to move into our state.

Lansing took over the school funding system when Proposal A passed, and Lansing has an obligation to help resolve these problems.

We need to change the school funding system in order to match up to Michigan's changing economy and provide an equitable system with more

stable revenues for the future of our state and our students.

Please contact your elected officials to tell them to fix funding for schools. The contact information is provided below:

Senator Michael Prusi
(38th District)
P.O. Box 30036
S105 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
Phone: (517)373-7840
Fax: (517)373-3932 Email:
senmprusi@senate.michigan.gov

Representative Judy Nerat
(108th District)
P.O. Box 30014
S1487 House Office
Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
Phone: (517)373-0156
Toll free: (866)779-1108
Fax: 517-373-9370
Email:

JudyNerat@house.mi.gov

Michael Bishop, (12th District) Senate Majority Leader
PO Box 30013
S-106 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
Phone: (517)373-2417
Fax: (517)373-2694

Andy Dillon, (17th District)
Speaker of the House
Room 166 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
Ph: 517.373.0857
andydillon@house.mi.gov

Governor Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
PHONE: (517) 373-3400
PHONE: (517) 335-7858—
Constituent Services
FAX:(517) 335-6863

Northern Michigan Office
1504 West Washington, Suite B
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: (906) 228-2850

ND Board Continues to Look at Cost Cutting and Revenue Enhancing Measures

The ND Board has met three times in the last two months to discuss ways to reduce costs and increase revenue. As the article above points out, we have not received help from the state on this funding crisis, and therefore, we must look internally to keep our school solvent and operating.

The Board has received many suggestions from students, staff and the public. The Board is considering each of these suggestions. Please see the attached "Cost Savings/Revenue Enhancing Proposals" for an update on the status of each suggestion.

Board Highlights – January 2010

*Heard a presentation by Katie King on new Spanish program.

*In honor of School Board Recognition Month, each member was given a certificate

of appreciation for their dedication to the children and the district.

*Went into closed session for the purpose of reviewing attorney/client privilege information.

*Approved modifying the Memorandum of Understanding for Race to the Top Funds that was adopted 12/14/09.

*Approved the lay off of Roberta Shelby indefinitely as an employee effective January 20, 2010.

*President Jauquet appointed members Chris Minella, Paul Schuiteman, Carl Steinbrecher with Marsha Hord as alternate to serve on a joint committee for Consolidation of Services with West Iron County and Forest Park Schools.

*Passed a resolution to enter into a Consolidation of Services Plan Agreement with Michigan Department of Education.

*Authorized the superintendent to approve the internet provider contract effective July 1, 2010 based on best price and capacity.

*Approved the superintendent to develop bond proposal language for technology, busses and other uses to be placed on the August, 2010 primary ballot.

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 14, 2010, will be eligible for the class. Students wishing to take the class should sign up in the office. Parents of these students will receive more information at a later date regarding cost and exact

dates. Deadline for signing up is Monday, February 22, 2010.

Great Eight Winter Games

The annual Great Eight Winter Games, for grades 4-8, will be held on Saturday, February 20th in the Iron Mountain-Kingsford area. Students interested in participating should sign up in the 4th & 5th grade classroom and the middle school/high school library.

Winter Games Shirts

Order forms are available in the office for Great Eight Winter Games sweatshirts and t-shirts. A sample is on display in the office. All orders, including payment, must be turned into the office by Thursday, February 10th. Short Sleeve T-Shirt-\$10; Long Sleeve T-Shirt-\$17; Crewneck Sweatshirt-\$21; Hooded Sweatshirt-\$25.

Please make checks payable to the North Dickinson County School.

Schedule Changes-Boys & Girls Basketball

Republic High School does not have a junior varsity boys or girls basketball team therefore some changes have been made in our schedules.

When we play at Republic on January 28th (girls) and February 12th (boys), only our varsity teams will be playing. Start times for these games is 6:00 PM CST.

When Republic girls come to North Dickinson on February 11th, there will be only a varsity game. Start time is 6:00 PM.

Walkers Welcome

Walkers are welcome to use the high school halls before school from 7:00 to 8:00 AM and after school from 3:30-5:00 PM. The weight room will also be open during these times.

District Spelling Bee

The North Dickinson District Spelling Bee for grades 2-6 will be held in the gym on Wednesday, February 3rd at 1:30 PM.

No School

No classes will be held at North Dickinson on Monday, February 15th.

Girls Basketball District Tournaments

North Dickinson will be considered the host in the girl's district basketball tournament the week of March 1st. A non-traditional draw format will be used to determine opponents and location. This format was also used in the volleyball districts last fall. As the host school, we will receive a bye and will host and play in at least a semifinal round of the district tournament on Wednesday, March 3rd. If North Dickinson advances to the finals, it will be played at North Dickinson on Friday, March 5th. A schedule with dates, times and locations will be released upon completion of the tournament draw.

Yearbook Orders

Yearbooks for the 2009-10 school year can still be ordered. Cost is \$25.00. Payment must be included with order. Order forms are available in the office. Books will be delivered next fall.

Spring & Group Pictures

Individual spring pictures for students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade will be taken on Wednesday, February 10th. Class group pictures for grades K-12 will also be taken on that day. The group pictures must be paid for

when the pictures are taken. Order forms are available in the office.

The U.S. Census Bureau is NOW HIRING

The U.S. Census Bureau is opening a new office in the area and will begin operations for conducting the 2010 Census. This opportunity includes office and field staff. This is an exciting opportunity to enhance your job skills, further your career and improve your community. Call toll free 1-866-861-2010 or 1-906-464-6000.

Reminder to Seniors

Please turn in 3 pictures to the office as soon as possible. They will be used for the composite, yearbook and the graduation article in The Daily News.

From the Principals:

Posted in the school and sent home in your child's backpack was a flyer about the Michigan Dream Out Loud Challenge. This is a statewide contest that challenges students to think about how they will change the world after college. Michigan students in grades K-6 and their parents could have a chance to win \$2,500 and \$1,000 for their schools. If you would like more information about this challenge, please do not call the school. There is a website, e-mail address and phone number listed below you so you can get the official rules and any information you may need.

www.DreamOutLoudMI.com

Jill Holden at
holden@paceandpartners.com

(517) 853-3874

En la clase de Español—In Spanish Class:

¡Hola! The elementary students have been working on compiling "libritos" or small books of the work that we have completed in the past nine

weeks. This work is to be shared with you, the parents. Please take a few minutes to go through these books with your child, ask questions, and discuss the different projects, vocabulary, and concepts learned. If there are any questions for me, please don't hesitate to contact me 542-9281.

In the classroom, we continue to expand our vocabulary. We are learning more numbers, the alphabet, and will be learning about Carnival, Valentine's Vocabulary and Emotions vocabulary in the next month.

5th Grade Class

In writing class, we finished our persuasive papers about healthy habits and will now be moving on to an autobiography piece that will be published as a class book. The class will receive a free copy of the published book. If a student decides to purchase a copy of the class autobiography book they may do so. More details will come out when we are closer having our book done.

In science, we finished learning about animal diversity, and will continue to learn about animals and their interactions. We will be working on a diorama of an ecosystem of choice. Students need to bring in a shoe box for this project. If they can bring in more than one we can always use extras.

3rd Grade Class

The students did really well with multiplication and now are working on division. Please keep practicing these facts at home. The students also read and wrote fables. The Valentine's Day party will be on Friday, February 12th at 2:15. Thank you to all of you who sent in items to sell or money to buy at our 3rd grade sale. We were able to raise \$187.00 for the elementary library. Congratulations to all who competed in the Spelling Bee and were the Academic Students of the Month.

P.T.O. saves Econo & Super One
Slips, Empty Ink Cartridges,
Box Tops for Education, Kids
Caps & Cash Milk Tops.

Any Campbell Soup labels we
receive go to the Felch VFW
Women's Auxilliary
