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March 2010

Nordic Tribune

"NORDIC READ-IN"

"ND Super Heroes Read Super Authors!"

-Our Students are Superhero Readers!"

When: March 30th, 2010
Where: North Dickinson County School.
Time: 5:30 - 7:00pm
Cost: FREE!!

An evening of fun for the entire family to celebrate the love of reading!

Reading, crafts, games and puppet shows.

Fantastic Door Prizes! "Wii" won't tell what they are! Prizes in every room! Hope you can make it! It will be super!!

North Dickinson students will be reading to family members for a money donation. All proceeds will go to our local area heroes in the EMT and fire departments.

The Nordics love our local heroes!

Office Notes

Board Settles Contract With North Dickinson Education Association (NDEA)

The Board ratified a contract with the NDEA at its February 8th Board meeting. The ratification came after the NDEA ratified earlier and after months of negotiations. There were no wage increases and no changes in the insurance program for the union. One of the union's positions was to reduce the number of instructional days for the current school year.

School districts in Michigan are required to hold classes for 1098 hours per year. A few years ago the 1098 hours of instruction was also paired with requiring a minimum of 180 school days. The school day requirement was subsequently removed leaving only the 1098 hours of instruction as a requirement. This year the law was changed again to require that whatever number of instructional days a district operates this

year it must operate at least the same number of days next year and in any case no less than 165 days. In the 2011-2012 school year there must be 170 days of instruction.

Many districts across the state have reduced the number of days of instruction as a means to cut operating costs and as a way to compensate unions without adding wages. In other words teachers would work fewer days but receive the same amount of pay by working a few more minutes each day. When this occurs, support staff including instructional aides, bus drivers, secretaries and custodians would not be paid for the lost days.

As an example, students would typically receive 1098 hours of instruction over 180 days or the equivalent of 366 minutes per day. If the instructional days were reduced by 10 days to 170 days per year, students would need 388 minutes in their instructional day or

22 more minutes.

However, in a 7 period day for middle and high school students, this is only 3 more minutes per period.

The concern the Board has had with the reduction of days is an equivalent reduction in lessons taught to students. In the above example students could effectively receive 10 fewer lessons per year, even though they received the full 1098 hour of required instruction.

Reducing days of instruction is a way to reduce costs but at a cost of effective instructional lessons for students. As I pointed out in an earlier newsletter, if every employee (teachers, administrators and support staff) in the district reduced a day of wages, the cost savings would be over \$9,700 per day. However, when only support staff lose wages the cost savings per day is only \$2,700.

The Board believes that our students' instructional time is worth more than \$2,700 in savings. School districts across the state have been required to teach our students more and rigorous content with greater graduation requirements. At the same time, financial support for schools is dwindling rapidly. The Board believes our students deserve and need the 180 days of instruction as the teacher contract requires. Our primary mission is teaching our students so they can be successful in life.

Board Continues Receiving and Considering Ideas for Cost Savings

The Board will act on a series of cost savings measures at the regular March 8th Board meeting. These will include reducing custodial time; bidding out support services including transportation, custodial and foods; reducing administrator time and eliminating meals from ND sponsored banquets. Other cost savings measures are being studied and further cuts will be brought to the Board in the future.

School Board Votes to Continue Seeking Information on a Bond for Technology, Busses and Other Equipment

At the February meeting, the Board directed the Superintendent to seek more details and to bring a proposal to the Board to seek a bond levy on August 3rd of this year for technology, busses and other equipment. The bond would be no more than 1 mill and would replace the current one mill renovation bond passed in 1999. The last

collection for the renovation bond will be collected this summer. The new bond would be collected with the 2011 summer taxes.

Juice Prices in Vending Machines to Increase

Effective Monday, March 15th all juice and other bottled products sold from the vending machines in the commons will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.50 each. This increase was necessary due to the increases in the cost of the products from the suppliers.

From the Principals:

All juniors will be taking the MME/ACT March 9 – 11, 2010.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are March 11, 2010. **Just a reminder, please do not bring your child to conferences with you** as there may be a need for a private conversation between you and the teacher. If you need to bring your child due to lack of child care, there will be an activity for them in the high school library. There will be a survey for parents to fill out during conferences, please make an attempt to enter the library and answer our survey. Also, please be sure to pick up the MET (Michigan Education Trust) pamphlet as you enter the building.

Kindergarten Registration

North Dickinson will be having its registration for kindergarteners on Monday, March 29th. It is important for parents to enroll their children at this time so the school can make plans for the upcoming school year. Parents may register at any time during the day, however, if parents want to have a kindergarten screening appointment, please call

the office at 542-9281. The screening takes about a half hour. Children are eligible if they are at least five years of age on or before December 1, 2010. When registering your child please bring your child's immunization record and certified birth certificate (not the hospital certificate). Certified birth certificates can be obtained at the courthouse in the county where your child was born. We also need verification of the child's vision and hearing tests. In addition, the parent must show verification of their physical address such as a driver's license, or current light bill or phone bill. The address must show your physical address not a post office box.

Informational Meeting for

Parents of 2010-11

Kindergarteners

On Tuesday, March 9th at 6:30 PM there will be an information night at the Nordic Head Start Building for parents of prospective kindergarteners. Principal Dan Nurmi and kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Mattson, will be present to answer questions about kindergarten registration and the upcoming new school year.

Parent/Teacher Conference and Early Student Dismissal

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 from 1:30-4:00 and 5:00-7:30 PM. School will be dismissed at 12:45 PM

Spring Break

Spring break will be Friday, April 2nd through Friday, April 9th. School will resume on Monday, April 12th.

Driver Education Up-Date

Informational letters regarding driver education will be sent out in late March or early April to the parents of the students who have signed up for the classes.

Reminders to Seniors

Seniors are reminded to turn in three pictures to the office as soon as possible. They will be used for the class composite, the yearbook, and *The Daily News* senior display.

N.D. District Spelling Bee**Winners**

Congratulations to the following students who were winners in the recent District Spelling Bee held at North Dickinson.

2nd GRADE – 1st - Grace Mattson, 2nd – Emily Curtis, 3rd – Mayson Alexa, 4th – Briana Smith, 5th – Christina Bruette

3rd GRADE – 1st – Peyton Carlson, 2nd – Dusty LaFave, 3rd – Nicholas Gagnon, 4th – Emily Forstrom, 5th – Zachary Depotie

4th GRADE – 1st – John Nelson, 2nd – Mary Palluconi, 3rd – Hans Hesse, 4th – Reighan Johnson, 5th – Juliann Wickman

5th GRADE – 1st – Cassidy Morkin, 2nd – Aleesha Carlson, 3rd – Claire Lindholm; 4th – Haley Kaminski, 5th – Veronica Nord

6th GRADE – 1st – Mara Smith,

2nd – Margaret Whitaker, 3rd – Amber Shalifoe, 4th – Amber Chiamulera, 5th – Brody Priestap

7th GRADE – 1st – Franchesca Priestap, 2nd – Chelsea Stroud, 3rd – Miranda Jacobson, 4th – Irelynn Hesse, 5th – Jacob Thomann

8th GRADE – 1st – Hannah Miller, 2nd – Victoria Watson, 3rd – Sarah Swiss, 4th – Kenny Luedtke, 5th – Khea Nelson

Marlana Smith received the grand champion trophy.

The 1st and 2nd place winners in grades 5 through 8 went on to the Regional Spelling Bee held at the Norway-Vulcan Schools on February 25, 2010.

The U.P. Spelling Bee will be held in the Iron Mountain/Kingsford area on Wed., March 17th.

District Basketball Tournaments

This year the non-traditional draw format was used for both the girls and boys district tournament draw. In this type of format, the host school receives a bye, is placed in the top of the bracket and will play at home. All teams ending up in the top of the bracket will play at home. North Dickinson will host the girl's district and will play Bark River-Harris at home on March 3rd. North Central and Republic will play at Powers on March 1st with the winner hosting a game on March 3rd against Carney-Nadeau. The finals will be played on March 5th hosted by the winner of the North Dickinson and Bark River game. All game times are 6:00 PM CST.

The boy's district follows the same format and is hosted by Bark River-Harris. North Dickinson will play Republic-Michigamme at home on March 8th. The winner of this game will play at home against Carney-

Nadeau on March 10th. Bark River-Harris will play North Central at home also on March 10th. The finals will be played on March 12th at the home of the winner of the Bark River-Harris/North Central game. All game times are 6:00 PM CST.

Basically, as long as the Nordic girls keep winning they will play at home. The Nordic boys could possibly play their first two games at home with the finals at either Bark River-Harris or North Central.

SPRING Band Concert

The North Dickinson middle school and high school spring band concert will be Thursday, April 15th at 7:00 PM.

Board Highlights – February 8, 2010

- Presented certificates of appreciation to Mrs. Inglese and Mr. Nurmi in recognition of Principal's Week.
- Received the proposed itinerary for the senior class trip.
- Jennifer Vollenweider, art instructor, presented a video presentation on the art program.
- Ratified the Master Agreement between the Board and NDEA for 2009-2010.
- Approved the revised FY10 budget as presented.
- Increased the juice prices for vending sales from \$1.25 to \$1.50 effective March 15, 2010.
- Hired Mike Christian as the middle school student council advisor for 2009-2010.
- President Jauquet appointed the personnel committee to develop the superintendent's evaluation procedure and review the superintendent's contract of 2010-11.

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

-Discussed possible cost cutting measures the district may take to reduce the budget.

5th Grade

The read-in is just around the corner! Since 5th grade has two rooms and two teachers, they will be celebrating two very talented authors that students are familiar with: Gary Paulsen and Roald Dahl. Gary Paulsen is an author who writes fiction adventure stories. Roald Dahl writes magical and hilarious stories such as The Witches, The BFG, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

In science students are learning about biomes and will be creating dioramas of the biome of their choice. They are also going to be starting their science fair projects. Some of the work will be done in class, and some will be done at home. The 2010 Regional Science Fair is to take place at Niagara Middle/High School on April 24th. All students attending will receive a free movie pass just for entering their project. Mrs. Bruno strongly urges students to enter, especially since their projects will be done and ready to go since they are required in my class.

In Writing we will be working on brushing up on some grammar skills and research papers.

First Grade

The first graders are reading, reading, reading! We love accelerated reader and are really good at it! For every test passed, the children earn a Nordic dollar to use for shopping in the first grade store-a real incentive. In math we are practicing identifying coins. You can help us out by having your child identify the coins in your purse, on the floor if the car, or around the house. Then, have them tell you the value of each. We are looking forward to "March is Reading Month" activities. First grade is focusing on the Little House on the Prairie Series for the read-in.

Kindergarten News

Will March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? Our kindergartners will be able to tell you at the end of March because we will be charting it. In the mean time we will be very busy designing a trap to catch the tricky leprechauns that try to sneak into our classroom when we are away. We will also try to discover where leprechauns are hiding all of their gold. We've heard that it is at the end of a rainbow, but we might find some other places also. We will also be shaking a leg or two while we learn the Irish jig.

In math, we will be continuing to explore the concepts of time and measurement and we will start to talk about adding and subtracting. Our kindergartners are still racing their way to reading so please continue to practice with your child using their individualized reading goal folders. Also, please remember to return these folders to school daily.

Elementary Library News

New books have arrived at our library. These books include: The Lego Book, Cool Cars and Trucks with Legos, Star Wars-The Visual Guide, The 7 Habits of Happy Kids, Leprechaun in Late Winter by Mary Pope Osborne and The Greatest Moments in Sports by Len Berman.

Winners of The Valentine Heart Guessing Contest include:

Chrislyn Ingelse-Kindergarten

Ramsey Nord- First Grade

Karanda Smith-Third Grade

Claire Lindholm-Fifth Grade

Scholastic Book Fair

Look for the Scholastic Book Fair the week of March 29th. Once again there will be a nice selection of books to choose from. We will be sending notices home with the students.



