



# Nordic Tribune

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December, 2009

## What is Mrs. Lindholm's Class Reading?

With the November movie release of the Twilight saga, New Moon, students have been revisiting a favorite reading series. Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse, and Breaking Dawn, written by Stephanie Meyer, has regained its popularity with students in the high school and middle school. Even though this series is about werewolves, vampires and some humans, students are reminded of an old-fashioned, forbidden, and innocent love story. Students can't get enough of the Twilight series and vampires. Other popular books with this theme are the Vampire Diaries by LJ Smith, Vampire Academy series by Richelle Mead and the Evermore series by Allison Noel.

What is it about these crazy vampire stories that attract our students? Well if you haven't read the Twilight series you will just have to see for yourself. Enjoy a good read or at least four of them.

## Office Notes

### School Funding Still in Jeopardy

In October the Legislature passed a school funding bill that cut all school districts in the state by \$165 per pupil. Shortly after that, the governor made a mandatory cut of \$127 per pupil because the legislature passed a funding bill that did not have sufficient revenue to support it. The legislature now has the opportunity to fix the funding shortfall with new revenue or cuts in other state departments.

There is a standoff in the legislature. The Senate Majority Leader, Michael Bishop, believes the cuts should stay in place. The Speaker of the House, Andy Dillon, believes there should be additional revenue, either new or from cuts in other departments as well as use of set aside Federal Stimulus funds to fix the problem. Neither side is budging.

If the \$127 cut is not fixed, the cut will go into effect in December. The

\$165 per pupil cut earlier plus this \$127 per pupil cut would equate to a loss of about \$100,000 for North Dickinson School.

There are more funding problems for schools in the near future. State revenue from various taxes are coming in shorter each month than projected in May. There is another potential cut coming in January, possibly as much as \$200 per pupil.

Please contact each of the following elected officials with a message to fix this problem now. You may hear from the staff of Rep. Dillon and Sen. Bishop that you should contact your own senator and representative. Senator Bishop and Representative Dillon are the key to getting a solution to this problem. Insist they hear your message. Also, contact Rep. Nerat, Sen. Prusi and Governor Granholm.

### Contact Information:

Senator **Michael Bishop**,  
Senate Majority Leader  
Republican of District 12

PO Box 30036

Lansing, MI 48909-7536  
Office Phone: (517) 373-2417

Office Location: S-106  
Capitol

E-mail Address:

[SenMBishop@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenMBishop@senate.michigan.gov)

### **Representative Andrew Dillon, Speaker of the House**

Democrat of District

PO Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Phone: (517)373-0857

Toll Free: (888)737-3455

Fax: (517)373-5976

E-mail:

[andydillon@house.mi.gov](mailto:andydillon@house.mi.gov)

### **Senator Michael Prusi (38<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:senmprusi@senate.michigan.gov)

### **Representative Judy Nerat (108<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:JudyNerat@house.mi.gov)

### **Governor Jennifer Granholm**

P.O. Box 30013

Lansing, Michigan 48909

**PHONE: (517) 373-3400**

**PHONE: (517) 335-7858**

Constituent Services

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### **Northern Michigan Office**

1504 West Washington, Suite B

Marquette, MI 49855

**Phone: (906) 228-2850**

### **Bill Introduced to Consolidate School Districts**

House Bill HB 5561 was recently sent to a House committee. The bill, as written, would form a twelve person commission appointed by the Governor with broad representation to study school district consolidations throughout the state. It has two charges:

Review current school district boundaries to identify instances where consolidation of 2 or more school districts or other action affecting school district boundaries, including the division of larger school districts, would likely result in significant cost savings without negative educational impact. Not later than August 1, 2010, compile a report detailing instances where consolidation of 2 or more districts or other action affecting school district boundaries, including the division of larger school districts, would likely result in

significant cost savings without negative educational impact, submit this report to the legislature, and make this report available to school districts and the general public.

The legislation goes on to say that the commission “Shall attempt to preserve or encourage class sizes for grades K to 3 of not less than 17 nor more than 19 pupils per classroom”. As this bill is written, the legislature would then be able to vote the entire package of proposals up or down.

Please contact your elected officials with your concerns about this bill. (See contact information above.)

### **Student Success through Virtual Learning: Seat Time Waiver Goes Statewide**

The Dickinson-Iron ISD will be hosting a community informational meeting on Student Success through Virtual Learning on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Dickinson-Iron Technical Education Center, 300 North Blvd. in Kingsford.

Dickinson-Iron ISD along with its constituent school districts; Breitung Township Schools, Forest Park School, Iron Mountain Schools, North Dickinson School, Norway/Vulcan Schools and West Iron County Schools has joined a partnership with the Genesee Intermediate School District (Genesee ISD) to allow students to take online courses through a seat time waiver. This

opportunity is part of a waiver of state rules granted by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan who agreed to allow districts across Michigan, who in partnership with their respective ISDs/RESA’s, agreed to follow the protocol and process requirements established by Genesee ISD for its countywide seat time waiver. The approved waiver applies to four sections of the Pupil Accounting Manual that address expelled/suspended students, virtual learning students, post-secondary options, and work-based learning experiences. Students to be served but not limited to would be expelled/suspended, attendance issues, social/emotional issues, medical situations, pregnant/parenting teens, students on the move, working students and home schooled students.

School districts are now thinking “outside the building”. The program will provide enhanced learning opportunities for Michigan high school students to take up to 100% of their coursework online and/or off site from a highly qualified teacher. All juniors in the program must take the Michigan Merit Exam and will be counted in membership for the high school report card and adequate yearly progress (AYP) reporting. A mentor teacher will have a minimum of one hour of contact per week

with participating students and extended hours of availability online and by phone, as well as face to face contact emphasizing student support and monitoring student progress.

For more information on the application process and guidelines for acceptance, please contact Angel Inglese, Principal, at 542-9281 or attend the informational meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Board Highlights- October 2009**

-Presentation of the district's annual report.

-Approved a Letter of Agreement between the Board and NDEA.

-Authorized the superintendent to spend up to \$20,000 to have built in cabinetry installed in classrooms with the project being funded through the Sinking Fund account.

### **Board Highlights –November 2009**

-Received and placed on file the district audit report for FY09 as presented.

-Approved the resolution to collect 100% of the district's taxes during the summer of 2010.

-Hired Carl Lemin as the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball coach.

-Approved the Michigan School Readiness resolution as presented.

-Accepted the NEOLA policies presented as a first reading.

-Scheduled a board work session on December 7 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the District budget and consider ways to reduce

costs.

-Approved a resolution in support of educational funding.

-Tabled action on the purchase of a tractor for mowing and snow removal.

-Approved the quote from The Markell Company to repair the roof drain.

-Went into closed session for the purpose of contract negotiation strategies.

### **From the Principals:**

As we are aware that the flu season is upon us and students may have an increased amount of absences, please keep the attendance policy in mind. The following information, along with the procedure involved with attendance, can be located in the High School and middle school handbook, section IV.

Attending school is both necessary and the law. State law requires school attendance until the age of sixteen. Students who do not maintain good attendance may fail, lose certain privileges, and/or have their parents taken to court. North Dickinson County School has an attendance policy to avoid these negative consequences.

Regular attendance at school is vitally important to each student as it can directly affect his/her progress academically and his/her development of attitudes and habits for later life. The following procedures are based on the assumption that a maximum of five (5) absences per nine week marking period are more than adequate to cover the legitimate needs of the majority of students. (Documented absences do not count towards the five absences.)

While keeping records of student attendance is a school function, the primary responsibility for insuring regular attendance at school rests

with the parent/guardian and the student.

We believe in giving students the opportunity to correct mistakes made. If a student has reached six (6) absences in a class and stands to lose credit, that student may "buy back" one class absence by serving a 50 minute after school detention.

For elementary students (grades K-5) see page 17 of the Elementary handbook.

### **EMT Classes**

Sagola Township Area Rescue (STAR) may sponsor an EMT class if there is enough interest. The projected class would start in late March and run thru July. Classes would be in Channing, 4 hours, two nights a week, one or two Saturdays a month. If you are interested please contact Jake Smith at 282-8377 or Amy Smith at 396-0511. Please call by December 15th if you are interested.

### **Parents of College Bound Seniors and Juniors**

There will be a Financial Aid Night on Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the North Dickinson School Library. Sue Hebert from the Financial Aid Office at Bay de Noc Community College will be the speaker. She will talk about the financial aid process and answer questions about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

This seminar is for anyone planning to go to any college or vocational/technical school. Seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. Although it is too early for juniors to apply they and their parents are also welcome.

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## **Christmas Break**

Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last day of school before Christmas break. School will resume on Monday, January 4, 2010.

## **Christmas Concert and Band Concert**

The Christmas band concert will be held Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Both the middle school and high school bands will participate. The Christmas program for the elementary and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade band will be held at 1:30 PM on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Emergency Closing and Delays**

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify the following radio and television stations:

WLUC TV6, The Bear 93.1, WMIQ-94.1, WIMK 94.3 FM, WZNL 1450 AM, WGLQ 97.1, WCOMM 102.5, WGKL 105.5, WCHT 600, WYKX 104.7, WDBC 680 AM, ABC TV 10 (WBUP), WNMU 90.1, WMXG 106.3.

## **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.

## **Student Council News**

There is a Blood Drive that will be held December 1<sup>st</sup> from 2 pm to 4:45 pm. To make an appointment call the school at (906)-542-9281 or contact Cory Roell; [coryroell@go-nordics.com](mailto:coryroell@go-nordics.com)

The student council will be holding the annual can-a-thon

from November 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please have your child bring in cans, no glass please. This will be a competition between classes so bring in as many as possible!

## **Appropriate Clothing for the Weather**

A notification for all parents, make sure your child is dressing appropriately for the winter when waiting for the bus. Jackets, hats, gloves, boots, snow pants etc.

## **From the Shop**

Mr. Nurmi's 5<sup>th</sup> hr. **Woodworking** class is "Themematic". The first theme was "For the Birds". The students constructed various bird feeders, blue bird houses, wood duck nesting houses and woodpecker door knockers. Other items such as penguin and duck push toys for children were also constructed.

In 6<sup>th</sup> hr. **Intro. To Industrial Arts**, Mr. Nurmi's students are working with metal. Some of the projects students are working on include: Shepard Hooks to hold flower pots, hangers for archery equipment, fish pole holders, and scrolled wall hangers. Another project will be to make Turkey feeders out of 55 gal. drums.

In 7<sup>th</sup> hr. **Applied Technology**, Mr. Nurmi's students are studying electronics. Students have been learning about electronic components and circuit design. They did a lot of practice with soldering and have constructed some small "Robots". One robot is a 3-wheeled device that travels around the room and changes direction by sound activation. Another style robot has a built in light sensor and will travel along a black line.

## **News from the Art Room**

The students in Drawing class are about to begin a service-learning experience by participating in *The Memory Project*. *The Memory Project* is a unique initiative in which art students create portraits for children in orphanages around the world. The goal of the project is to inspire caring,

friendship, and a positive sense of self.

Given that children who have been abandoned, orphaned, abused, or neglected usually have few personal keepsakes, the purpose of the portraits is to provide them with a special memory of their youth, to honor their heritage and identity, and to help them build a positive self-image. For the high school students who make the portraits, this is an opportunity to open their hearts to children who have endured many hardships, and to promote the value of sharing kindness with others. The high school students will receive a photograph of the portrait in the hands of the child after it is received.

*The Memory Project* is directed by the nonprofit organization *My Class Cares*. So far, art students from the USA, UK, and Canada have created more than 20,000 portraits for children in several dozen countries. We at North Dickinson High School are very excited to have the opportunity to take part and contribute. For more information about *The Memory Project*, visit [www.thememoryproject.org](http://www.thememoryproject.org).

## **Physical Education**

We celebrated a successful American Heart Day on November 4th. Thirty seven students raised \$1,100.00 for the American Heart Association to help fund needed research and educational materials to lessen the negative effects of heart attacks and strokes. Thank you to the many community members who supported the students and AHA with life saving donations.

Our Physical Education focus for the second marking period is on basketball, big base, dodge ball and rhythmic activities.

## Elementary News

### Kindergarten

During the month of November, the kindergarteners have been very busy learning about the natives and pilgrims. We built a teepee in our classroom and learned to write stories using native symbols instead of words. We have read several books that talk about different cultures of the natives and pilgrims, comparing them to our own lives today. We also looked at pictures of many artifacts left by the early people and made our own dream catchers.

Along with learning about the natives and pilgrims, we have been learning to read and write several words and are hard at work learning our numbers 1 to 10.

### The First Grade

First graders will do a \$2-\$3 gift exchange at our Christmas party. The exchange name will be coming in early December. The reading is getting progressively more difficult. It is really important to keep practicing sight words and having your children read to you. We will be starting the accelerated reader program later in the month. This is a great opportunity for the children to make their own book choices and take quizzes on the computer that could earn them extra Nordic Dollars!

The money unit is coming soon in math. Great practice is to have your children identify coins and amounts for you. Happy Holidays!

## 3rd Grade

Those students who are participating in Reading Olympics, seven books with reading journals are to be completed and shown to Mrs. Slagle on January 8th, absolutely no later. Teams will then be made.

The third grade class is just trying to stay healthy. We will soon be finishing up Social Studies and will be starting Science the second semester. Students did research papers via Internet on an animal. The Christmas Party will be on Friday, December 18th at 1:30.

### 4th grade

The fourth grade class participated in the Veteran's Day Program by dressing up in uniforms (supplied by Greg Harper) and presented each Veteran a calendar which were made by the fourth grade class. In Social Studies we are talking about Michigan's Government and English we are writing descriptive paragraphs describing a special place.

### 5th grade

We have been working on our children's stories that will be made into hard cover books before Christmas. We can't wait to read them to the kindergarteners! In science, we used the microscopes to check out all kinds of plant and animal cells. We even illustrated what animal and plant cells look like and what structure they're made of (see our bulletin board). After learning about characteristics of living things, we will be taking a closer look at animals and their traits.

Christmas is just around the corner, so we'll be looking forward to our Christmas party and making some winter art to hang up as well.

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

## PTO Information

### 2009-2010 Junior High Boys Basketball Schedule

Monday, November 30th  
Forest Park (A) 6:00PM

Monday, December 7th  
Kingsford Gold (H) 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 10th  
Kingsford Blue (A) 6:00 PM

Monday, December 14th  
Florence (H) 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 17th  
Niagara (A) 6:00 PM

Tuesday, January 5th  
Norway, (H) 6:00 PM

Thursday, January 7th  
Forest Park (H) 6:00 PM

Monday, January 11th  
West Iron (A) 6:00 PM

Thursday, January 14th  
Norway (A) 6:00 PM

Thursday, January 21st  
Iron Mountain (H) 6:00 PM

Monday January 25th and Thursday  
January 28th Tournaments TBA