



PELICAN RAPIDS

Schools

We Learn For Life!

Volume 3 • Issue 3

February 2012

Pelican Rapids School District #548
P.O. Box 642
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

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Teaching with Technology

Early last spring the Pelican Rapids Schools received a grant and several large donations for technology. These funds allowed the district to purchase iPads for every junior and senior. The classroom teachers were trained on the various uses of the iPads in the spring and they had the summer to review and select various applications (apps) they would use in their classroom. With over 140,000 iPad apps available this was no small task. Once the teachers selected their apps the tech department loaded them on each iPad.



Superintendent
Deb Wanek

This Fall the students and teachers began to use this powerful device in the classroom. In addition, the iPad allows our students to read books, review reference information, memorize facts with electronic flashcards, listen to Spanish audio recordings, complete homework and send it to their teacher through their school email account. In their free time you will also see them working through some mind stretching problem solving interactive apps. Some of these interactive apps are based on physics and engineering principles and students gain knowledge as they work through these puzzles.

Accessing daily lessons through podcasts is another option for students. Teachers may record their lessons on their interactive white boards and then from that recording they are able to produce a podcast. This podcast contains the voice of the instructor and the video of all of the notes and examples that were shared in class. This podcast is then posted on our server and students are able to access it at any time and any place. If they have a homework assignment and they are working on it at home but they come to a point where they have a question or can't remember how to do the problem they have the opportunity to listen and watch the lesson again by accessing the podcast.

A student's day can be very long if they are also involved in after school activities. Recognizing the fact that some students may not get home until late if they are involved in activities the Pelican Rapids School District placed wifi on the activity buses. The wifi option allows students to access lessons on the podcast server, complete homework and complete research on the internet all while they travel to and from their activity.

Teachers and students are continuing to find ways to utilize this tool to enhance their educational experience. We are proud to be able to offer this exciting and innovative way of delivering education and preparing our students for the 21st Century.

SUPER FAN



Pelican's loosely organized cast of 'bleacher bum' characters add new spectacle to sporting events.

The Pelican Rapids High School "League of Super Fans" are adding colorful antics to the bleachers during Pelican home sporting events. The informal cast of characters numbers 40 strong.

"Where are they now?"

Former Graduate- Chris Satterlie

What year did you graduate from Pelican Rapids High School?

I graduated from Pelican Rapids in 2003.

What post-secondary educational institutions did you attend and what degree(s) did you earn?

Starting in the fall of 2003, I attended the University of Minnesota (twin cities) with a major in history and a minor in coaching. I graduated in 2007 with a bachelor degree in history. I immediately enrolled in graduate school and completed my master degree in social studies education in the summer of 2008. In the spring of 2009 I started a graduate program at the University of St. Thomas to get my teaching license for special education in the area of EBD (Emotion Behavior Disorders).

Describe your career choice and what you enjoy about your career.

I am currently a special education teacher for high

school students with Minneapolis Public Schools. This is my fourth year teaching. I am also an assistant girls basketball coach at Roseville Area High School. This is my seventh year coaching basketball. I absolutely love what I am doing, although it is not without its challenges, it is very rewarding. The reasons I teach and coach are because I love to challenge youth and see kids achieve their potential. I had great role models growing up and I want the kids I work with to be empowered to make a difference in the world.



Chris
Satterlie
Class of 2003

How did PRHS prepare you for college?

I really enjoyed my time at PRHS. I think the classes I took and learning from a great group of teachers prepared me to start college. I was not overwhelmed academically at all. Socially, the school provided a positive place to make friends, build relationships with faculty, and grow as a young person-it is one of the reasons why I wanted to become a teacher.

SATTERLIE continued on page 2



Teachers Work Together to Increase Student Achievement



Teacher collaboration is serious business at Viking Elementary. Research shows when teachers have opportunities to collaborate on issues related to curriculum, instruction, and professional development student achievement improves. Therefore, for the past few years Viking Elementary has made a concentrated effort to regularly bring teachers together in a meaningful way. Two Wednesdays each month teachers spend at least 65 minutes discussing curriculum, instruction, and student achievement.



By Sheila Flatau,
Viking Elementary
Principal

During their first monthly collaborative meeting, grade level teachers discuss curriculum and instruction. This year, teachers have been working hard to identify the essential learning outcomes for math and reading. Once these are identified and aligned across grade levels, teachers begin developing the best ways to measure student learning for each essential outcome. They share their results with each other and discuss how this will impact their on-going instruction. This is exciting and challenging work!

In the second monthly collaborative meeting, a larger group includes grade level teachers, Title and special education teachers, and me. We look at specific student data to determine growth in reading and math skills and whether or not students are getting the extra support they need. This allows us to carefully monitor every child's learning.

We also have teachers who choose to participate in book studies and other professional development opportunities outside of the school day. This year, we have a popular literacy book study on the implementation of the Daily 5. Please see the article by the facilitator, Jeanne Greenwood, for more details on the efforts of our teachers.

Student learning depends on ALL of us. By working together, we learn from each other and become better equipped to meet the needs of our students. Collaboration also allows us to provide consistent instruction across the grade level. Gone are the days of one-room school houses and teachers working in isolation. In its place we have challenging and thought-provoking discussion and a united effort in helping all students achieve.

Daily 5/CAFÉ

By Jeanne Greenwood, - Daily 5 Facilitator

This year some teachers at VES have begun what we call our Daily 5 and CAFÉ adventure. **The Daily 5 is a structure for classroom reading and writing time that teaches students independence and gives them the skills needed to create a lifetime love of reading and writing.** This structure consists of five tasks that are introduced individually. When each task is introduced, the students talk about what it looks like, sounds like and feels like when they are engaged in the task independently. After being introduced, students get time to practice the tasks until they are successful at doing the task for a set period of time. **The five tasks include: Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing and Word Work.**

Once the students have become successful at independently doing these tasks, the teacher has time to work with small groups and individual students and focusing on more specific needs. The Daily 5 also



provides students more opportunities for reading and writing, which will help them develop into better readers and writers.

The second part of our adventure is called CAFÉ. **CAFÉ is an acronym for the four major components of reading, which are: Comprehension, Accuracy (phonics), Fluency, and Expanding vocabulary.** The CAFÉ is a 'menu' of strategies that we teach students to use while they are reading. There are strategies for each of the four reading components. Students are taught



these strategies during whole group or small group instructional time and then use them as tools to help them become better readers and writers during Daily 5 sessions.

The key to success for using the Daily 5 and CAFÉ is to match each student with Good Fit books. Each student



chooses a few books based on their reading skill level and their interest. In the beginning, they may need teacher guidance in selecting good fit books, but eventually they are able to do this on their own. Teachers



have been amazed at how powerful the Good Fit books have been to keep students working independently and staying on task, while completing meaningful literacy tasks!

So far, there are twelve classroom teachers and six Title/Intervention teachers that have been or will be starting soon implementing Daily 5/CAFÉ in their classrooms or intervention groups. We are very excited to see the reading and writing skills of our students blossom throughout the year as well as see them develop a love for reading which will be lifelong!



THE KEY TO SUCCESS FOR USING THE DAILY 5 AND CAFÉ IS TO MATCH EACH STUDENT WITH GOOD FIT BOOKS

Satterlie

Continued from page 1

What school extracurricular activities did you participate in while you were at PRHS?

I participated in basketball up until 10th grade, and also participated in golf until my senior year. I also participated in band throughout high school. My one regret is that I did not work harder and stay committed to the athletics I participated in. PRHS offers great extracurricular activities and they only enhance the high school experience.

Do you have any special memories of your time at PRHS that you would like to share?

Many great memories, going on the band trip to New York, doing a sports show for channel 5, the boys basketball team making it to state, etc. There are

probably a lot more I am forgetting; overall it was a great experience.

Any words of wisdom you would like to give the students in Pelican Rapids?

Do everything to the best of your God-given ability, and remember, no matter what happens you are in control of your attitude. My dad gave our graduating class a great quote to remember during our baccalaureate service that I will repeat: "Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

-Howard Thurman

Pelican Rapids COMMUNITY EDUCATION Winter/Spring Classes

REGISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

By Mail:
Pelican Rapids Community Education
PO Box 642 • Pelican Rapids MN 56572

DROP OFF:
Completed form at the Administration Office
Pelican Rapids High School
8:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday – Friday

GENERAL INFORMATION

Enrollments are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Advanced PAID registration is required. Deadline to enroll is one week before starting date of class, unless otherwise indicated.

No confirmations will be sent. You are enrolled in a class once we receive your registration and payment. You will be contacted only if the class is cancelled. Refunds will be issued only if you withdraw prior to the first class meeting or if the class is cancelled.

Unless otherwise indicated, all classes offered are open to all adults and, on a trial basis, all Pelican Rapids High School students in grades 10-12.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

It is the policy of I.S.D. 548 to comply with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination.

STORM POLICY:

If the Pelican Rapids Schools are cancelled or release students early due to bad weather, Community Education classes will not be held.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Julie Gamble at (218) 863-5910 extension 4806 or by e-mail at commed@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

CLASS LOCATIONS

Pelican Rapids High School

Enter through the ADMINISTRATION ENTRANCE on the east side (front) of the building. Direction signs will be posted at this entrance.

Viking Elementary

Enter through the FRONT DOORS on the northwest side of the building. Signs will direct you to your classroom.

Pelican Rapids Public Library

Parking lot is on the north side of the Library. Meeting room is on the south end of the building. Signs will be posted.

WINTER/SPRING CLASSES

FITNESS

Zumba

SPECIAL INTEREST

Cowboy Jitterbug

Star Gazing in the Spring

Intro to Archery

LANGUAGE

Basic Spanish

ARTS & CRAFTS

How to Make Fleece Socks

T-Shirt Scarves

Landscape Oil Painting

Create Your Own Cards

and Notepads

COOKING

Pressure Cooking II

Cooking with Kids

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

iPads and 10 useful Apps

YOUTH

American Red Cross

Babysitter's Training

ACT Seminar

ECFE

Fun Fridays Jan 13-April

Music & Motion Mar 6-20th

Winter Open Gym February 9th

EVENTS

*Remember our Friends at
Maplewood State Park*

Candlelight Ski

February 25, 2012

6:00-8:30pm

Maplewood State Park

Making Maple Syrup

Mid-March to Mid-April

(dates to be announced)

Archery in the Park

May 5, 2012

1:00-4:00pm

Maplewood State Park

Call Maplewood State Park • 863-8383

See state park website for upcoming event details:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/index.html

EDUCATION
COMMUNITY

WINTER/SPRING CLASSES

FITNESS

Zumba Fitness

Tami Seifert

Tuesdays & Thursdays

March 6th – March 29th

April 3rd – April 26th

May 1st – May 24th

Note Time Change: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

PRHS Upper Study Hall

Please enter through the Library entrance in the back of the building

Fee: \$25.00 per month

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Zumba Fitness program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party for people of all shapes, sizes, and ages. No dance experience necessary. Just come and have fun with our new routines!

SPECIAL INTEREST

Cowboy Jitterbug

Cara and Eric Dunn

Monday, March 12th & Monday, March 19th

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Pelican Rapids High School Cafeteria

Fee: \$10.00

Come and dance the night away learning the Cowboy Jitterbug. We'll learn and practice various moves and end each session with plenty of time to dance and practice those moves in fun and creative ways. So bring a friend or partner to dance with and enjoy good music, great fun, and wonderful exercise!

Star Gazing in the Spring

Alecia Jongeward

Thursday, May 17th

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Pelican Rapids High School Media Center

Please enter through the Library entrance in the back of the building

Fee: \$10.00

Alecia Jongeward will start by teaching the basics of astronomy. She will cover such things as: planets, constellations, and basic observational astronomy. If weather permits you will be going outside to observe the night sky. Please bring binoculars with you to take a journey through our solar system.

Intro to Archery

Jeff Fjestad

Friday, May 4th

6:00pm – 7:30pm

Pelican Rapids High School Cafeteria

Fee: Free

Maximum 20 participants

Want to learn how to shoot a bow in a safe supervised setting? This class is designed for ages 8 and up; beginners welcome. Students 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Get hands on instruction from a certified instructor along with experience with target practice. Learn a lifelong skill with this program that you can use for years to come. All equipment is provided. If you cannot attend this session there will be another class offered at Maplewood State Park on Saturday, May 5th.

LANGUAGE

Basic Spanish

Maria Villagomez

Wednesdays, March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Pelican Rapids High School Room #219

Please enter through the Library entrance in the back of the building

Fee: \$25.00

(minimum 6 students)

This class is a beginner's level class. Maria will teach the very basics so you can communicate what you need in Spanish. She will teach words for dates, times, days of week, Holidays and simple questions and answer responses. Please register by February 22nd so we can order materials.

COOKING

Pressure Cooking II

Coleen Guhl

Tuesday, March 20th

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School Foods Room #416

Fee: \$20.00

Coleen is offering another Pressure Cooking class to show you some more wonderful recipes. Pressure cooking is making a comeback because it not only saves you time, money, but it also preserves valuable nutrients, enhances food flavors and it can all be done in minutes instead of hours. Participants will help prepare the food and enjoy the fruits of their labors with some tasty meals to take home.

* If you have your own pressure cooker, that has been tested, please bring it to class.

Cooking with Kids

For parents and their children 8 yrs old and up

Candace Roesch & Julie Gamble

Saturday, March 3rd

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School Foods Room #416

Fee: \$15.00 per parent & child

Get out of the house this winter and join us for a fun afternoon of making cookies and other fun treats. This will be a fun activity that you and your child can do on cold winter days or just when you feel like spending some time together. The fee includes supplies for the treats that you will make and get to bring home at the end of the day.

YOUTH

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training

Ages: 11 years and older

Mary E. Johnson

Saturday, May 5th 9:00am – 3:00pm

*Please bring a sack lunch.

PRHS Media Center

Please enter through the Library entrance

in the back of the building

Fee: \$40.00

(minimum of 5 students)

Get ready for babysitting jobs! This course includes first aid, rescue breathing, and instruction in basic infant and child care. Upon completion of this course, students will receive an American Red Cross Certification in Babysitting Training. Students must attend entire class in order to be certified. The fee includes a babysitting handbook and a certificate from the Red Cross.

Registrations for this class must be turned in by April 3rd.

ACT Seminar

ZAPS Educational Seminar

Thursday, March 22

8:30am – 2:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School

Fee: \$75.00

Register at www.zaps.com or

call toll free 877-927-8378.

The intensive test preparation seminar coaches high school Juniors and Seniors to do their best on the ACT. Students gain valuable insight into the ACT through a close examination of each type of question. The seminar teaches students those strategies necessary for answering specific question types and general test taking tips. The \$75 fee includes the 5 hour test preparation seminar, a comprehensive study guide and 6 practice tests per subject. If you have any questions please contact Lauren Runsvold, high school counselor, at 218-863-5910 x4036.

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ARTS & CRAFTS

How to Make Fleece Socks

Coleen Guhl

Tuesday, February 21st

5:30pm – 8:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School Sewing Room #418

Fee: \$15.00

Chase the chill away this winter by making your own fleece socks. Coleen has many different patterns for fleece socks so you can make baby to adult sizes. You can bring your own fleece or purchase some in class for an additional \$5.00.

T-Shirt Scarves

Tessa Martinson

Thursday, March 1st

5:30pm – 7:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School Room #219

Use Library entrance(back of the building)

Fee: \$10.00

Learn how to make a scarf from a T-shirt. It's quick and easy. NO SEWING REQUIRED! You will have several options to choose from (ruffle scarf, cord scarf, braided scarf). Please bring an XXL t-shirt (must be jersey knit – no polos- no side seams) in a color of your choice for each scarf you'd like to make.

Landscape Oil Painting

Sunny (Bell) Martinez

Monday, March 12th

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School Media Center

Use Library entrance(back of the building)

Fee: \$20.00 – includes materials for class

(maximum 10 participants)

This oil painting class is for all skill levels. During class you will be painting a picture called the Enchanted Forest. Sunny will demonstrate techniques with oils and the different brushes to use. Paints and brushes will be provided but feel free to bring your own supplies if you would prefer to use them.

Create your own Cards and Notepads

Monica Thompson

Wednesday, April 25th

5:30pm – 7:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School Media Center

Use Library entrance(back of the building)

Fee: \$10.00

In this class you will learn how to create personalized cards and notepads that you can give to people as special gifts. Monica will demonstrate how to make different kinds of cards such as birthday, thank you, baby, and congratulations cards. Supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your own stamps, stamp pads, and scrapbook supplies to make cards and notepads with your personal touch.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

iPads and 10 useful Apps

Monica Thompson

Wednesday, February 29 • 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 18th • 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Pelican Rapids High School Media Center

Use Library entrance(back of the building)

Fee: \$10.00

The instructor, Monica Thompson, is the Pelican Rapids High School Technology Integration Specialist. She will be teaching you the basic functions of iPads including how to type and do searches. She will show you how to find and download 10 of the most useful Apps the iPad has to offer.

Smartphones (Droid, iPhones, & Blackberries):

Learn the Latest and Greatest Technology

Sponsored by Arvig Communication Systems

Thursday, April 26th

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Pelican Rapids High School Media Center

Use Library entrance back of building

Fee: Free

This class will cover the options and features of today's latest Smartphones. Topics to be covered include downloading and utilizing apps, social networking, using email and calendars, personalizing settings and more. Bring your Smartphone if you have one, otherwise demonstration phones will be available for use. Each participant will receive a \$25 store gift certificate for redemption at the Arvig/Verizon Wireless store in Pelican Rapids.

ECFE

Class Offerings for Spring:

New: Your child's preschool tuition can now be paid on-line through our PaySchools account. Go to our mail web page at www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us to sign up.

FAMILY CLASSES

Fun Fridays

Join us for a non-separating parent child class, we'll do multiple activities, art, play and songs for children ages 0-5.

**Fridays 9:00am-10:15am
OR 10:30am-11:45am**

January 13th-April 2012
Please register.

Music and Motion

(ages 3-5 not yet in Kindergarten are welcome!)

The first part of this class will be free play time where you can explore the classroom and participate in table activities with your child.

Then we will clean up and get ready for circle time. During circle time we will move and dance, play instruments, and welcome special musical guests. After circle parents will separate for discussion, while the children have snack and continue to enjoy the ECFE classroom.

Tuesdays 6:00-7:30pm

March 6th, 13th, and 20th
Please register.

Winter Open Gym Nights

(ages 0-5 not yet in Kindergarten are welcome!)

Get those winter wiggles out and join us in the Viking Elementary gym for some fun and exercise. We will have many large motor activities for your and your child to try. Play with scooters, balls, hula hoops, tunnels, and more!

Thursday 6:30-7:30pm

February 9th

Please register.

VIKING PRESCHOOL

Viking Preschool offers two 1/2 day sessions for all children who are age 4 by September 1, 2011 and one 1/2 day session for children who are age 3 by September 1, 2011.

If you are interested in having your child join our Viking Preschool classes please contact Terra Fitzsimmons at 218-863-2911 extension 5393.

ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

ECFE is Pelican Rapids' birth thru kindergarten entry program that provides outreach, support, and education to our families. Sign up now for fun connections that can be made between you and your child. Come and meet families who are in the same stage!

Viking Preschool (School Readiness)

We use the math and language pre-k curriculum incorporated throughout Viking Elementary K-6. It is integrated in an age appropriate hands on pre-k experience. Our preschool program is supported by local levy, community education, and parent tuitions.

Bright Start Child Care Home Visits

Are you providing care for children? If you are interested in having a licensed teacher come to your home with activities, please indicate on the registration. A home visiting program supported by ISD 548 ECFE, United Way of Ottertail County and Child Care Resource & Referral.

Caring Connections

Caring Connections is a home visiting program to support first time parents in Ottertail County. We do get referrals from Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes hospitals, but do not get referrals from Fargo. If you are interested in this fantastic support system, or have a friend who just delivered, please contact ECFE.

Pelican ECFE loves families! Here's our staff:

Terra Fitzsimmons
Coordinator, Parent Educator,
Viking Preschool

Email: tfitzsim@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Voicemail: 863-2911 ext 5393

Megan King
ECFE/Viking Preschool, Teacher,
Caring Connections Visitor

Email: mking@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Voicemail: 863-2911 ext 5569
Preschool Classroom: 863-2911 ext 5022

Janet Woolever
Bright Start Home, Visitor
Kimberly Hernandez
Viking Preschool, Spanish Translator

Email: khernand@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Voicemail: 863-2911 ext 5393

Debbi Kunz
Viking Preschool Para
Chelsie Olson
ECFE Assistant



ECFE REGISTRATION FORM

Questions? Call 218-863-5910 ext 5593

Email: tfitzsim@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

Mail registrations: ECFE PO Box 642; Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

REGISTRATION:

Child's Name: _____ Age _____

Child's Name: _____ Age _____

Child's Name: _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____

Phone Number (day): _____ (evening): _____

FAMILY CLASSES:

Fun Fridays Jan 13-April _____ 9:00-10:15am or
_____ 10:30-11:45am

Music & Motion Tuesdays Mar 6-20th _____ 6:00-7:30pm

Winter Open Gym Thursday February 9th _____ 6:30-7:30pm

Please contact me about receiving home visits:

____ Caring Connections ____ Bright Start

School Census

It's very important that all residents of Pelican Rapids School District be included, even babies. If you or someone you know has recently moved to our district or had an addition to the family make sure you are counted. Contact Cherie at Viking Elementary to be included on our census list 863-5910 Ext. 5354

BABY BUNDLES

A cozy welcome to our community extended from the Public Library.

Babies born in the last 6 months are eligible for this free gift.

Contact Jerri Baker, email: arejay@arvig.net

218-849-2322 or 218-342-2618.

You may also bring in this coupon to the public library and Jerri will be in touch. What a nurturing way to introduce your new baby to books and language!

Friends of the Library Baby Bundle

Baby Name _____

Male _____ Female _____ (check one)

Birthdate _____ (must be 6 mths or younger to be eligible for free gift)

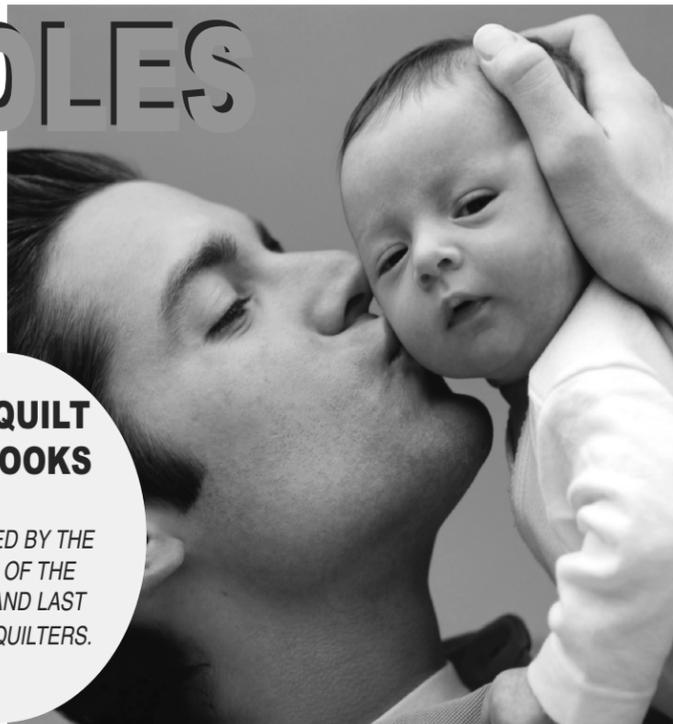
Parent Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

FREE QUILT AND BOOKS

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AND LAST TUESDAY QUILTERS.



COMMUNITY ED REGISTRATION FORMS

Class _____

Fee _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____

(work) _____

Class _____

Fee _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____

(work) _____



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Notes from the High School Principal

The school year is passing quickly, as high school students have completed Semester I. Our students have received many achievements to be proud of, and we look forward to seeing many more student accomplishments in the remaining days of the school year.

At the high school, we have implemented Response to Intervention (RTI). RTI is an academic intervention that provides assistance to students who are having learning difficulty. RTI seeks to prevent academic failure. Many of the interventions take place during Power Hour (Period 8). Power Hour has been devoted to meeting students at their academic level and helping students stay focused on assignments and school work. High school teachers and staff are focused on challenging each student and helping students reach their maximum levels of performance. In addition, our administration and staff have been interpreting test results received from MCA II and AIMS Web assessments, as well as classroom performance, to further serve our students.



By Brian Korf
PRHS Principal

ious to meet all parents during the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences, on Monday, March 5th from 1:00pm-7:00pm in the High School Gymnasium. Active parent participation in your student's conferences is appreciated.

During Parent-Teacher Conferences, the school counselor will be available to meet with parents of 8th and 10th graders who are interested in reviewing their child's results from the EXPLORE and PLAN tests. The 8th grade EXPLORE test results could help students plan for high school courses, prepare for the ACT, or choose a career direction. The 10th grade PLAN test results provide a measure of a student's current academic achievement, explore career training options, and could help your child make plans for the remaining high school years.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your child's education here at Pelican Rapids High School. We appreciate your ongoing support towards your child's education.

High School teachers and administration are anx-

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

By Lee Larsen

The FFA started off with a busy summer including officer training, county fairs, meetings, SAEs, and planning for the upcoming year. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA members have the opportunity to participate in Career Development Events including: Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Livestock, Dairy, Public Speaking, Mechanics, Sales, Floriculture, Agronomy, Farm Business Management, Parliamentary Procedure, Marketing, and much more. FFA members compete against students from around the region for the honor to compete at the State Convention. FFA members look forward to having a successful school year and continued participation in becoming tomorrow's leaders. Additionally, nine members will be attending the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis. The Pelican Rapids FFA currently has 55 members and is advised by Mr. Lee Larsen.



The FFA Officers for 2011-2012 are:
President – Ashley Neu Vice President – Austin Lammers Secretary – Dacia Johnson Treasurer – Jenna Seifert Sentinel – Marshall Ohe Officers at Large – Seth Carpenter, Jonny Dalman, Peter Scott

Podcasts in the Classroom

-By Stephanie Winjum

With ever-evolving advances in technology educators and school districts throughout the country are working to utilize new technologies in the classroom to further engage 21st Century learning. Pelican Rapids Public Schools is no exception and continues to find ways to implement new technologies into the classroom. One such tool that is being introduced into some high school classrooms is recordable podcasts.

A podcast is a type of digital recording that can be loaded to the internet and later be accessible to others to view online. Podcasts can be viewed on a computer, iPad, or other device that has access to the internet.

This valuable tool is currently being used by high school math teacher Brad Strand, business instructor Blaine Risdvedt, and Spanish teacher Bridgette Holl.

Brad Strand noted that he utilizes podcasts to record every lecture in the classroom so that students can later review the lecture online. He records such classes as Intermediate Algebra, Pre-Calculus, and AP Calculus. Students can listen to the podcast on the school website. Typically the podcasts are used by students not only for review, but also for students that may be absent for a lecture. One feature of podcasts is the fact that students can listen to the lecture in class and later replay the podcast to review or update notes. Similarly, students can pause and rewind portions of the lecture if they need further assistance. Podcasts allow students to listen to a lecture as if they were actually in the classroom. Brad stated that students like the technology and seem to focus better when the material is in a digital format.

Brad also addressed the fact that podcasts have helped him in the classroom, as he can listen to the podcasts and evaluate his own lectures. Similarly, if he is absent for a class period a substitute can play his lecture through podcast to the class, just as if he were in the class presenting the lecture.

Brad Strand closes his discussion regarding podcasts stating, "I do believe the future is very bright and our school has awesome technology compared to most school districts in the state."

Utilization of Podcasts is only one of the many ways the Pelican Rapids Public Schools infuses technology into the classroom. The district continues to evaluate new ways to introduce new technologies to students to prepare them for not only daily lessons but for life outside of the district walls.

Pelican Rapids Alternative Learning Center (ALC)

Based in the Pelican Rapids High School, the ALC offers programming throughout the year.

Middle School Students in Grades 7 & 8

Goal: To bridge the gap between student academic level and actual grade level.

The middle school alternative learning classroom was created to help 7th and 8th grade at risk students succeed. With the small class size and often one-on-one instruction, students are able to master the skills and objectives they have given up on in the past. This comfortable learning environment helps students look forward to coming to school and continuing on their path to success.

There are two programs available:

Middle School Academy

- Available for Math, English & Science
- Student pulled out of one or more regular school classes and attends the Academy for an alternative delivery of content
- Student works on skills & objectives not yet mastered
- Also works on grade level material so does not lag behind rest of grade
- Student does not receive homework unless does not work to their ability or is absent
- The parents of each student receive a progress report on the last school day of each month

Remediation

- Available for Math, English & Science
- Work on specific grade level skills
- Available during Study Hall and Power Hour

High School Students in Grades 9-12

Goal: School day and evening Independent Study sessions to catch up on credits.

Students attend full or part-time during the regular school day. Required and elective courses are offered. Teachers are available several times per week to provide lessons and coach students. Students then work independently and earn credits as each course is completed.

All programming is free of charge and is open to students 16 and older. However, students must meet State graduation incentive criteria and be referred by a parent/guardian, school staff or community services professional.

K-8 Targeted Services

This after school (grades K-6 at Viking Elementary) and summer program (grades 7-8) provides extra opportunities for learning by reinforcing reading, math, and school success skills.

For more information please contact:

ALC Office
863-5910 x4372

Pelican Rapids School District #548

310 S Broadway
PO Box 642

Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Phone Numbers:

Viking Elementary • 218-863-2911

High School • 218-863-5910

School Website:

www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

School Board:

Mitch Monson, Don Perrin
Charlie Blixt, Kathy Ouren
Dena Johnson, Jon Karger

This newsletter is funded by the 21st Century Grant, the West Central Minnesota Multidistrict Cultural Collaborative, and Community Education.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Math Contest at Bemidji State University

By Lisa Petznick

Fourteen individuals from PRHS competed in a math contest at Bemidji State University on Tuesday, October 25th. There were over 700 competitors registered. The junior division was for grades 9 & 10, while 11th & 12th graders competed in a senior division.

Our students in the junior division blew away the competition! Guillermo Rosiles claimed 1st place with a very impressive score of 33 out of 40. Reilly Knorr took 4th place with a 27, and Emma Sjoström tied for 5th place with a 25. Individual awards are not given separately for A & AA schools; all students are in one group. Therefore, it is very impressive to earn three of the top five places when competing against kids from much larger schools that participate regularly in a math league!

Our junior high team consisting of Rosiles, Sjoström, and Knorr earned 1st place overall out of 25 schools from both division A and AA. This is the sixth consecutive year that a Pelican Rapids team earned 1st place at this contest!

Our senior team was missing some top competitors



due to a conflict with football playoffs. Top individual score from Pelican was Mackenzie Strand, who tied for 20th.

PRHS has been attending this contest since 2004. During those eight years every team except two that we have brought has earned third place or higher! We have also brought home numerous individual medals every year.

Pelican Rapids Junior High Knowledge Bowl Team Hosts Area Tournament

By Bridgette Holl

Monday, November 13th nearly three hundred students from fifteen area schools filled the Pelican Rapids High School participating in a Junior High Knowledge Bowl Tournament. The Pelican Rapids top team placed fifth out of the forty-five teams in the competition and members of that team included Erin Christenson, Logan Knorr, Kayleigh Kubitz, Grace Forsgren, and Abby Johnson.

The Knowledge Bowl season runs from October until April, with junior high teams participating in the fall. There are generally three to four tournaments for junior high participants. In October, the team traveled to Fergus Falls and they completed their season on December 2 back in Fergus Falls.

Pelican Rapids has hosted a junior high tournament for a number of years. However, the last two years the number of area teams participating has increased from eighteen or twenty teams to more than forty. "Pelican Rapids is centrally located and area teams like Alexandria, Hawley, and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton like to come," comments Kathy Knuteson-Olson, tournament co-host and former Pelican Rapids coach. "The tournament just seems to keep on growing and we are able to accommodate the large group of kids because the classrooms are not in use on the Monday we schedule the tournament, due to the four day school week," adds Bridgette Holl, tournament co-host and current Pelican Rapids coach.

Knowledge Bowl is sponsored by Lakes Country Service Cooperative. Susan Ward, an academics coordinator for LCSC in Fergus Falls, and her assistant, Monica Thompson, coordinate the tournament schedule and teams. Ward and Thompson provide all questions for both the written and oral rounds, tabulate the results, and present the awards and ribbons at the conclusion of the tournament.

A typical tournament starts with teams competing in a sixty question written round. The kids on each team work together to select the best answer for each question. For the most part, the questions are academically based in history, math, English, or science. Sometimes a trivia question based in popular culture will be thrown into the mix. Could you answer this sample question? Rabbits live in a forest environment because they: (A) eat green plants (B) have thick fur (C) do not need much water or (D) need a cold environment. The answer: (C) do not need much water.

Following the written round, students take a break, resuming competition with a series of four oral rounds. Students continue to compete based on their written test score. Three teams compete in each round using elec-



Could you answer this simple question?

Rabbits live in a forest environment because they: (A) eat green plants (B) have thick fur (C) do not need much water (D) need a cold environment.

The answer is (C) do not need much water.

tronic strips that record which team buzzes in first. In contrast to the written round, when teams answer questions in the oral round, there are no multiple choice answers. For example, try this sample question: what people originally settled in Tahiti? The answer is Polynesians. Following each oral round of forty-five questions, teams are ranked again based on the score of each round. Teams rearrange themselves and float from room to room, based on their rank after each round of competition.

Competition concludes with an awards ceremony. Teams are recognized for their rank, but also for special achievements. For example, history questions may be identified throughout the written and oral rounds. A team may be recognized for how well they do on history questions only. Another example is when a team is recognized for making large gains in the ranking because they score average in the written round, but really score well in the series of oral rounds.

The knowledge bowl team practices daily. Members of the team practice with written round questions or participate with mock oral round questions recycled from tournament play in earlier competition. Team members include: Erin Christenson, Logan Knorr, Kayleigh Kubitz, Grace Forsgren, Abby Johnson, Tianna Wald, Jason Meyer, Nakita Britten, Halley Evenson, Alex Evenson, Cassie Nelson, Drew Cowie, Britton Erickson, Bailey Shulstad, Ramsey Norgren, Mason Thornton, Jayme Honrud, Joey Coronado, Kevin Nemeec, Sara Smischny, Tyler Bakken, and Ashley Johnson.

Practice began with the Senior High Knowledge Bowl team the first week in December. The senior high team also practices daily, but attends more tournaments. At the conclusion of the season, the senior high team competes at the sub-region, region, and state level depending on their performance.

Author Ben Mikaelson to visit Pelican Rapids Schools and Community

On March 28th, award winning author Ben Mikaelson will share three presentations with Pelican Rapids schools and community. Mr. Mikaelson is the winner of the International Reading Association Award and the Western Writer's Golden Spur Award. His novels have also been nominated to and have won many State Readers Choice award. These novels include Rescue Josh McGuire, Sparrow Hawk Red, Stranded, Countdown, Petey, Touching Spirit Bear, Red Midnight, Tree Girl and Ghost of Spirit Bear. Ben's articles and photos appear in numerous magazines around the world and he has been featured on national TB with Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures.

Ben is known for his in-depth research and the magical worlds he creates. His research has included flying to the North Pole, going undercover with narcotics agents, living with the homeless in Mexico, and with the Massai in

Africa, riding a horse across the United States from Minnesota to Oregon, boating the length of Mississippi, driving overland from Montana to the tip of South America (the Terra Del Fuego), over 1000 parachute jumps and racing sled dogs in Northern Minnesota.

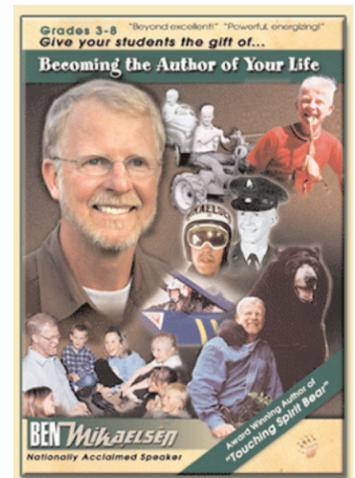
In preparation for Mr. Mikaelson's visit, students in grades 4, 5, and 6 will read (or listen to) at least one Mikaelson novel in class. His presentation will focus on "Becoming the Author of your own life" as Mikaelson recounts his own struggles to become a writer, while empowering students to realize their own potential. His goal is to motivate students to try reading and writing on their own. On the day of the presentation, students in grade 4 will have special activities with their buddy pen pal classes from Hawley Elementary School who will read the same novel prior to the presentation.

Students in grade 7 will partner with seventh graders from Detroit Lakes as teachers, Rita Hayek (Pelican Rapids) and Pam Daly (Detroit Lakes), collaborate on a special book project using one of Ben Mikaelson's novels. Detroit Lakes 7th graders will join Pelican Rapids students for the author visit and presentation, along with the Junior High Book Club of Pelican Rapids (led by Nanette Albright) and the partner Book Clubs of Perham and Lake Park-Audubon.

This author visit with Ben Mikaelson is sponsored by the Friends of the Pelican Rapids Public Library, with partnerships across districts coordinated through the Pelican Rapids Cultural Collaborative.

DON'T MISS the community presentation at the Pelican Rapids Public Library on the evening of March 28th at 7:00 p.m. with author, adventurer and speaker Ben Mikaelson as he shares his insights and a glimpse inside his unique and exciting world.

By Tessa Martinson (with excerpts from Ben Mikaelson, Press Release)





Club Vikes Annual Holiday Friends and Family Party

By Candace Roesch,
After School Program &
Club Vikes Coordinator

On December 19th, 2011 Club Vikes held their 3rd Annual Holiday Friends and Family party. Our party had a twist this year! It was themed a Holiday Fiesta! We had a great turn out once again with about 25 kids and about 15 adults that attended. We served some amazing munchies from a fresh fruit plate to Taco dip and chips and don't forget the hot chocolate and cookies. Participants were involved in many activities including; cookie and sombrero decorating. We also set up a picture booth to get everyone in the mood

for our fiesta. We had lots of games running in the cafeteria for the students to keep busy as well. We would like to thank everyone who takes part in the planning and participates in all the Club Vikes activities and keeps our program successful!



Everyone needs at least **one** friend.

- ◆ Someone to listen & care... someone to just *be* there.
- ◆ Who was the **one** for you?
- ◆ The **one** who encouraged you & helped you find your way... the role model who shaped the person you are today.

Be the one.

Join our team of volunteer mentors.
One student, **one** hour a week.
Make a difference in **one** life.

Contact Becky Wontor
863-5910 ext. 4250
bwontor@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

Volunteer Mentor Coordinator
Pelican Rapids Schools

21st Century Community Learning Centers funding for this program is provided by the federal government through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education.



21st Century Grant Expands Learning Opportunities

Well into its third year of providing additional before and after school programming for elementary, middle and high school students, and adults; the 21st Century Grant remains an important addition to the many exciting educational and extra-curricular offerings in the district. So, how was this grant made available and what are some opportunities for students and their families?

Interestingly, the extra money is provided by the Federal government, not the local tax base. Authorized through the No Child Left Behind legislation, the program supports student achievement by creating and funding community learning centers that provide academic enrichment, offer a broad array of other activities that compliment regular programming, and offer literacy and other educational services to families of participating students. With over \$1 million appropriated for before and after school programming in the Pelican Rapids School District so far, the grant has allowed for short term workshops, ongoing creative

endeavors, school-age child care, summer camps, intramural sports, and staff training.



By Ken
Alexander

Currently at Viking Elementary, the grant helps pay for staffing and activities during all-day school-aged child care and before and after school programming. Students may enjoy homework help, arts and crafts, science, tumbling, music, and recreational sessions. At the Middle/High School, before and after school gym is available; as well as art club, jam band, fall play, extended media center hours, academic coaching, English language lessons, credit recovery, video production team, and Book Club. During the summer, a wide selection of engaging camps, including a theater production, is scheduled.

Many thanks to the students, families, and staff that contribute to the success of these programs. For more information, look for flyers or contact the 21st Century Grant Office at 218-863-5910 x4806 or 4372.

21st Century Grant After School Programs Grades K-12

Club Vikes On-Site Child Care Center

This is a fun and safe place for children in kindergarten through grade 6 before and after school.

Days: Tuesdays through Friday

Hours: 6:30am to 8:00am before school

3:45pm to 6:00pm after school

6:30am-6:00pm during vacation and in-service days

Cost: \$2.50/hr. first child

\$2.00/hr each additional child

Not to exceed \$5.00/hr per family

Magnificent Mondays

Magnificent Mondays is an academic and enrichment program for children in grades K-6 located at Viking Elementary.

Hours: 6:30am-6:00pm

Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided. If you want your child to attend Magnificent Mondays you will need to register. Drop-ins will not be allowed.

To register for Magnificent Mondays please call Candace Roesch at 863-5910 ext. 5022.

All students attending these program meet after school for a snack before starting the various activities.

Grades K-6 Tues-Fri After School Programs Trimester 2 (through Feb 17th)

- Engineering Zone
- Crazy Cool Craft Zone
- Science Zone
- Fitness Zone
- Fun Friday Zone

Tues-Fri After School Programs Trimester 3

(Feb 21st to May 24th-last day of school)

- Art Zone
- Games & Hobbies Zone
- Science & Engineering Zone
- Creative Zone
- Fun Friday Zone

Program description and registration forms will be sent home with your child in early February.

Intramural Sports

Girls Basketball & Volleyball

Targeted Services

Mondays 9-12, Tues-Thurs 4-5:00pm

Grades 7-12 • Tues-Fri After School Programs

- Art Club
- Film Club
- Book Club
- African Drumming Club
- After School English
- Open Media Center
- Academic Coaching
- After School Weight Room
- Open Gym & Weight Room

Pelican Rapids High School & 21st Century Grant Partner for Theatre Performances

The theatre production of "The Wizard of Oz" took place November 11-13th. The mother-daughter team of Kristin and Gail Fox combined creative energies to direct and make costumes for the cast of nearly 30 Pelican Rapids students.

Watch for the upcoming production of "Our Town" on April 14th-15th. This play will be directed by senior student Emily Field-Olson.

