

Seasonal Rec in 2014

by Deb Wanek, Superintendent

Over the last few years the Pelican Rapids School District has diligently tried to change legislation that would greatly benefit this district. Current legislation excludes seasonal recreational property taxes to be part of the operating levies; instead seasonal recreational property owners pay a tax to the state. When seasonal recreational property owners are excluded from the operating levies the rest of the property owners in the district pay a larger share. In the case of Pelican Rapids seasonal recreational properties make up almost 50% of the total taxable market value. Keep in mind the seasonal property owners are not off the hook, they pay a state tax that the other property owners do not pay. In the case of Pelican Rapids the state tax that seasonal recreational owners pay is larger than the tax they would pay if they paid only on the operating levy.



Last year we attempted to move seasonal recreational property tax back on the operating levy. The result of that change would have been a drop in taxes for everyone, seasonal recreational property owners as well as homestead property owners. The legislators were not interested in this; they were hearing from their constituents a concern about taxation without representation. This year we are asking the State of Minnesota to take a portion of the state tax they collect from the seasonal recreational properties and return it back to the schools to replace the taxes they would have paid on the operating levy. This change would not impact the seasonal recreational property owners at all. They would still pay the same tax they have in the past but the state would return a portion of it to the school. This law would lower the taxes for other property owners.

Each year we have tried to build a coalition with other districts that face the same issue. This year, with great determination, we contacted schools that are highly impacted by the current law to see if they would join forces with us. We asked them to meet with us at the annual Minnesota School Board Association conference in January. We were delighted to have almost 50 representatives from districts with high seasonal recreational property meet with us to discuss how we can join together to address this issue.

We are thrilled to gather this much interest in a law that has such a high impact on our district. We are a member of the Minnesota Rural Education Association and their lobbyist is meeting with various legislators over the course of the next few weeks to draft a bill that we will be able to bring forward in the 2014 legislative session. Once this bill has been drafted we will notify the other schools and our community. Legislation that impacts only greater Minnesota is not easy to pass, there are many more legislators in the metro area than in outstate Minnesota. Once the bill is drafted we will need your help to make this change a reality. We will keep you updated on the progress of the bill.



This drawing of a Hibiscus was done by Emma Ballard, an 11th grade student at the Pelican Rapids High School.

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"Where are they now?" - PRHS Graduate Tim Vo - Class of 2004

What Post-Secondary education institution did you attend and what degree did you earn?

After graduating from PRHS in 2004, I attended Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, Minnesota, where I earned my B.S. degree in chemistry just three years later in 2007.

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

When I was little, I loved working with plants, so I always believed I wanted to become a botanist. After learning PRHS had a Science Fair after school program, I joined Mr. Wichmann's Science Fair Club to work on a hydroponic tomato project. Again, I loved what I was doing. However, it was during my first semester of college that I discovered our world is made up of atoms and molecules—all the way from the food we eat, to the materials we use for building our houses, to the vehicles we drive. So I decided to study chemistry.

After getting my B.S. degree in chemistry, I worked in research and development chemistry, where I developed commercial processes for manufacturing pharmaceutical chemicals as well as chemicals for research. I loved developing and making new chemicals. However, I always have the desire to learn more.

Currently, I am pursuing my doctoral degree in materials chemistry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and will be graduating this summer 2014. As a materials scientist, I am working on developing a new material that can make electronic devices—such as mobile phones and computers—have better computing power as well as faster processing speed compared to devices that are currently on the market.

Also, through my work, I have opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with scientists across the globe. Recently, I had the opportunity to travel and conduct materials re-

search in Germany for a few months. That experience gave me the opportunity of learning different technologies and broadening my scientific knowledge.

I enjoy very much the career direction that I had chosen for myself because I love chemistry. Moreover, I find it very exciting when thinking about the fact that I have the ability to make almost anything—from new pharmaceutical chemicals to new materials.

How did PRHS prepare you for college?

Relocating from Vietnam without knowing much English, communication was a big problem at first. For me everything was so strange from what I was used to back in Vietnam. When I attended PRHS, I started learning English from Mrs. Elaine Johnson and Mrs. Joyce Burnham. More importantly, they not only taught me English, they also taught me the American culture, which helped me adapt and integrate into the society smoothly. They gave me a strong foundation that helped me excel in my later career. Furthermore, the math and science background that I got from Mr. Brad Strand and Mr. Michael Wichmann's classes at PRHS were invaluable. Attending PRHS helped me develop my language, mathematics and science skills, which led to my success in college.

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

I was involved with several extracurricular activities such as wrestling, track and field, and the science fair.

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

When I attended PRHS in 2001, VO continued on page 2





CELEBRATING A VISIT FROM THE COMMISSIONER

by Sheila Flatau, Viking Elementary School Principal

Viking Elementary had the distinct honor of receiving a visit from the Minnesota Commissioner of Education, Dr. Brenda Cassellius on November 1. She selected Viking Elementary because we had recently celebrated being one of ten schools to be removed from the Focus School list. Focus schools throughout Minnesota serve racially and ethnically diverse student populations with high levels of poverty and achievement gaps. Closing the achievement gap is one of the state's highest educational priorities. We celebrated Viking Elementary's removal from this list because it means we are making progress in closing our achievement gap.



The Commissioner visited Viking Elementary so we could share the instructional practices that are resulting in these improvements. As a Leader in Me school, student leaders were the first people to meet the Commissioner at the door and welcome her to our school. They gave her a guided tour before bringing her to a presentation delivered by students, teachers, and administration. During this presentation, we shared more about the Leader in Me program and the school improvement efforts we have put in place.



It was a privilege to be able to highlight the hard work our teachers have been doing to help each student meet his or her highest potential. This includes **beginning with the end in mind** and identifying the essential learning outcomes in reading and math for each grade level. Next, it involves **synergy** to develop common assessments to measure student progress in these essential outcomes. Finally, it includes collaboration as teachers review results and seek solutions for **putting first things first** to help every student be successful.



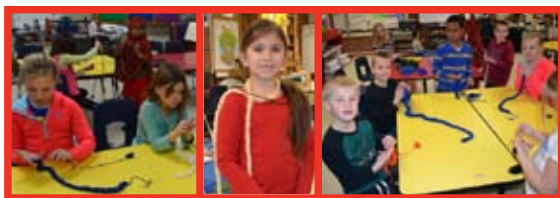
Viking Elementary is proud to have had the opportunity for this visit. We are proud of our students and staff and it was wonderful to have the chance for the Commissioner to see them personally. We recognize we still have work to do and will continue to implement these best practices so all students receive the education they deserve.

Elementary Artwork Showcase

by Laura Moe, Elementary Art Teacher



The kindergarteners and first graders are learning about living and nonliving things in our Minnesota environment. We are reading "Stranger in the Woods" by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick. The story revolves around a snowman (the stranger) and how it provides food for the animals in the woods. Students are creating drawings, watercolors, snowman boxes and 3-D birds.



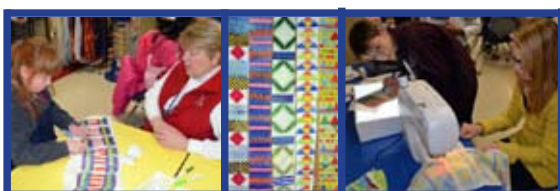
Second graders have learned to finger knit scarves or headbands. Each student will be using knitting needles to create a part of many scarves that will adorn the snowmen that we will be making.



Third graders are learning about radial design and symmetry in snowflakes. They have cut out intricate snowflake patterns and used them in a silk screening process with glue. Students then added glitter to the print to create a stunning piece of art work!



Fourth graders just finished a self portrait using a photograph and a grid technique. It was challenging for them but resulted in an amazing portrait.



The fifth and sixth graders learned about traditional Kente cloth designs and the meanings behind the colors and shapes. Kente is an Asante ceremonial cloth that is hand-woven on a loom. Four inch strips are sewn together into larger pieces of cloth.

Statewide VFW Patriotic Coloring Contest

Article & photo courtesy of The Pelican Press

Pelican Rapids second grade student Madi Tollerud may have accomplished a first for her school. For what is believed to be the first time, a Pelican student took first place in the state in the Veterans of Foreign Wars patriotic coloring contest. Her coloring in the "Proud to be an American" contest was a winner at the Pelican school level; she then won at the regional level; and it was announced last week that she had won at the Minnesota VFW Department level.

Appropriately, the announcement came right around the time of "President's Day," and Viking elementary was decorated with red, white and blue art and crafts created by students—on the walls in the background of the photo above.

Madi was awarded \$25 and a certificate, which are pictured here. Madi displays her winnings with Ruth Holmgren, who coordinates the contest locally on behalf of the Post 5252 VFW Auxiliary.



Leadership Shines at Viking Elementary

by Mandy Tollerud

Viking Elementary has been in full swing incorporating the 7 Habits into each and every school day this year. There have been various ways for students to let their leadership abilities shine. In 6th grade some student leaders were matched up with younger students in kindergarten and 1st grade to help them read. These students also serve as mentors to the younger students and interact and talk with them about the 7 Habits.

In each classroom, students are given the opportunity to let their leadership abilities show by earning a 7 Habits award petal. Students are given these select awards by demonstrating a habit in the classroom or around the school. Every two weeks, students who have earned a petal have the chance to get their name drawn at an assembly to win a prize. They all look forward to earning those petals!

Right before Christmas, our elementary student council leaders held a hot cocoa fundraiser to raise money for the local toys for tots program. This event was a huge success with more than \$250 raised and was a win-win for everyone who participated!

Our school environment has been changing as we incorporate more Leader in Me décor. The after school Art Zone students synergized to paint a mural of the 7 Habits. This mural now hangs in the cafeteria at school. Stop by and check it out sometime soon!

To keep up with Viking Elementary as we continue to incorporate the 7 Habits into our everyday school life, please see The Leader in Me link on the elementary school website. On this site, you will find photos, videos, and parent ideas to support the 7 Habits at home. We look forward to sharing the 7 Habits with you as we learn and grow each day!



VO-Continued from page 1

the first two months were so scary: different people, different school and different foods. As I mentioned earlier, without knowing the language and culture, my first few months in the USA were difficult. I did not know where my classes were, and I was late for classes several times because I could not find my rooms. I even showed up to wrong classes without knowing it for a couple days. But the people at PRHS were so friendly—from the secretaries, to the teachers, to the classmates. They helped and explained everything to me. It made me feel welcome. I remember how students tried to have conversations with me and my brother as they asked us about Vietnam. I was sure back then that they did not understand much of what we were saying, but they were patiently listening. I learned a lot from the teachers and students during my three years at PRHS. They helped me integrate into the American culture. I will always appreciate them.

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

When I went for my post-secondary education degree, I did not want to spend many years in school. I decided to go for three years instead of four. I worked hard and finished my B.S. in chemistry in three years with honors. That was the shortest time a person possibly could finish a B.S. degree in science. My advice is to set a goal and go for it. Everything can be achieved if you work hard for it.



Family Fun Festival

by Staci Haiby

The Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) is hosting it's annual Family Fun Festival on Friday, April 25th from 4-7pm.

We are in NEED of volunteers to set up, to work during the festival, and for clean up. If you would like to help, please contact Staci Haiby at Viking Elementary School. All students attending the festival must have an adult present with them.

The PTP meets monthly and welcomes anyone with a genuine interest in our school system, who is forward thinking and who would like to collaborate as a group for the benefit of our schools and community.

Contact Staci Haiby at 863-2080, Judi Simpson at 701-261-2902, or Maree Pesch at 218-342-2619 with any questions.



Keep Saving Box Tops, Labels & Larry's Supermarket Receipts

There was an increase of box tops and labels contributed to the school...so thank you and keep them coming in!

Please remember:

- that these items can be dropped off at either school office, at Larry's Supermarket or can be sent with your children to school
- to check expiration dates
- to call Ruth Holmgren at 863-6539 if you are interested in helping cut & sort labels.



We are also working with a company that will give us free educational items (i.e. educational games, classroom resources) if we **save our cash register receipts from Larry's dated September 1, 2013-March 31, 2014**. There is a wire bin at Larry's to put them in before you leave the store or bring them to either school office. Thank you for helping us save for educational resources!

Physical Education Tidbits

by Sheri O'Brien

1. Students in grades 4-6 are working, to improve the physical strength and cardiovascular system by 10% by the end of May 2014 through a variety of units. Related, please feel free to come up with fun and creative ways, as a family, to exercise together! Last, to assist students in creating a stronger and healthier body, students in grades 4-6 are beginning to use a FITT log calendar to track how many minutes they play or exercise for 5 days a week.

2. Grades 3-5 participated in the American Heart Association's, Jump for Heart, fundraiser during mid-February.

3. Viking Elementary School is looking for ice skates, that are in good condition, for the skate storage room for elementary student use. If you have a pair, with the size marked, please leave them at the elementary school for Sheri O'Brien.

Try to play moderately to vigorously 60 minutes a day!



Applications for Head Start Fall 2014

Head Start is a preschool program for children 3-5 years of age. We provide comprehensive services including:

- Individualized Teaching
- Nutrition
- Home Visits
- Parent Involvement
- Services to Families
- Health & Dental Services

Head Start is now taking applications for fall 2014. If your child will be 3 years old by August 31, 2014, they are eligible to apply for Head Start.

There is no cost to families who enroll. For more information about Head Start or to fill out an application call: 863-5910 Ext. 5805 and ask for Carrie, Deb or Shonna.



Fun After School Enrichment Programs for Kids in Grades K-8

by Candace Roesch, School Aged Program Coordinator, 21st Century Grant

BEYOND THE BELL: Kids in grades K-8 can join us on non-school days (Mondays and some vacation days) for academic and enrichment activities from 8-3pm at the elementary school.

CLUB VIKES ON-SITE CARE CENTER: Join us for an after school snack, then on to variety of activities including games, arts & crafts, indoor & outdoor play, and homework time. Grades K-6 Call Candace for rates & registration. **Club Vikes Dates & times:**

Days when school is in session (including make-up days)

- Monday-Friday
- Before school 6:30-7:30am & after school 3:45-6pm

Days when school is not in session

- Mondays (& some vacation days) 6:30-8am & 3-6pm.



ENCORE! is the new collaborative between Targeted Services and the 21st Century Grant where students get the perfect mix of academics and enrichment, homework help and free choice time, reading and physical activities. Grades K-6 Tuesday-Thursday

TUESDAY-FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL

- Art-tastic Zone** 3:45-5:15pm Tues-Thurs Grades K&1

- Cool Craft Zone** 3:45-5:15pm Tues-Thurs Grades 2-4



- Art Zone** 3:45-5pm Wednesdays Grades K-6 Feb 19-May 14 Students will help create community art works and projects for the school together and work on individual projects as well. Class will be taught by Laura Moe.

- Theatre workshops new!**

3:45-5:30pm Tues Grades 3-6 March 18-April 22. Here's a chance for your kids to see what it's like to be in a play on the PRHS stage. They will work on acting skills, learn improvisation, stage presence and have fun with friends. Whether they love being on stage or want to learn how not to shy in front of people this class taught by Nadine Brown is for them. They will be producing a short 15 minute play to be performed on April 25 & 26 (there will be plays performed by students in middle & high school as well). Please be prepared to commit to every class.

- Drumming** Grades 3-6 Students will have drumming sessions in the VES band room on Fridays to keep their drumming skills fresh. There will be 3 African drumming practices in Fergus Falls with Geralyn Lyseng on Thursdays: 3/20, 4/24, & 5/22. Students will leave Pelican on a bus at 3:45pm and return to VES by 5:45pm. There will be two performances, date TBA.

INTRAMURALS

- Volleyball** Grades 3-6 Feb 25-Apr 4
- Spring Sports Activities** TBA
- Wrestling** 4-5:30pm T & Th @HS Grades 2-8 Mar 11-May 8

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, and MATH (STEM)

Jon Moe, 5th grade teacher at VES, has been heading up our after school STEM program this year. They started

up in late October and have been going strong ever since, with an average of about 30 participants. They attended a toothpick bridge building competition on February 18th this year at MSUM where students were invited to child a structure using only round toothpicks and glue that: spans no more than 56 centimeters, stand no more than 30 cm tall, and weighs less than 85 grams. The bridges are loaded with weights and when the bridge breaks, the load it held is divided by the weight of the bridge to determine its strength. The strongest bridges won cash prizes. The photo on the right shows the STEM students weighing parts of their toothpick bridge as part of the building process.



One of our groups placed in the elementary division and has decided to donate a portion of their winnings to charity.



STEM programs are becoming increasingly popular after school, in our state and across the nation. It gives the students a hands-on way to look at science and math while developing language and social skills as well.



PROGRAM REGISTRATION: Please call Candace at 218-863-5910 ext. 5022 with questions and/or to register for all of these programs.

Remember if school is cancelled (mid-day) all after school activities are cancelled and kids will be sent home on the bus. Also, if a particular after school activity is cancelled (such as intramural sports) then kids can attend Club Vikes.

21st Century Grant Registration & Contact Information

- Jake Richter-Program Director 863-5910 x4372
- Candace Roesch-Program Coordinator 863-5910 x5022
- Program cell phone 218-341-6739 (leave a message or text for Club Vikes, Beyond the Bell or after school program staff)
- Email: jrichter@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us or croesch@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
- Instant Text Alerts: text CLUBVIKES to 30549
- Facebook: We also post updates on Facebook. We are Pelican Rapids After School Programs and Club Vikes.

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.

Health Reminders: Wash your hands, cover your cough, stay home when you're sick.

When not to send your child to school:

- Temperature of 100.0 or greater
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Pink Eye or Strep Throat



When your may return to school:

- Free of symptoms for 24 hours
- Temperature remains normal for 24 hours
- On an antibiotic for 24 hours; or
- Advised by Physician to do so.



Viking Preschool



- All Preschool sessions:**
- 8:00-11:00am or 12:30-3:45pm
 - Includes either breakfast or lunch
 - Please call or email Terra to register for spring semester



Viking Preschool ages 3-4

- Child must be 3 years old by September 1, 2013 to enroll
- Wednesdays (May 7th is the last day of preschool & there is a family program during your child's regular session)

Viking Preschool ages 4-5

- Child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2013 to enroll
- Tuesdays & Thursdays (May 8th is the last day of pre-school & there is a family program during child's regular session)



Our Programs

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

ECFE is a parent-child program for children aged birth-pre-k and their parents. ECFE strongly believes that parents are a child's first and most important teachers. The ECFE program of Pelican Rapids wants all families with young children to be aware of our program. If you know a family not receiving our mailing, please contact Viking Elementary.

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. Viking Preschool is a 4 Start Preschool, in accordance with Minnesota Parent Aware Rating!

Bright Start Child Care Home Visits and Family Outreach Program

You may participate in this once per month visiting program in which Janet Woolever will come into your home with activities and resources. Call Janet at 863-5910 ext 5393 with questions or to schedule a visit. *Supported in part by United Way of Ottertail County.*

Please Note:

- We would love to see you and your family. As our classes do have size limits, please register.
- Our ECFE Classroom is in the Kindergarten Hallway (last room on the right).
- Please check our school web page for current classes and changes. www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
- WEATHER ALERT: If school is cancelled due to weather, ECFE & Preschool classes are also cancelled. Please call if you have any questions as weather worsens throughout an afternoon/evening.
- You can reach Terra Fitzsimmons and Megan King at 863-5910 ext. 5393.

FREE QUILT AND BOOKS
SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AND LAST TUESDAY QUILTERS.

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: are-jay@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 _____ Birthdate _____
(check one) (must be 6 mths. or younger to be eligible for free gift)

Parent Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



New to district? Register here...

If you have recently moved into the Pelican Rapids School District or recently had a baby, please fill out the form below and turn it into the office at the address listed below.

We have opportunities for children ages Birth-12th grade!

We would love to be able to offer all of our services to you, so don't hesitate to register your child(ren) with us to ensure that you receive the proper information regarding your kids.

Return form to: Pelican Rapids School, 310 S Broadway, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Parents/Guardians Names: _____

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____ Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please call us at 218-863-5910 with any questions or visit our website: www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us



Early Childhood Family Education

Classes

Fun Fridays

- Fridays 9:30-10:45pm ECFE Classroom
- February 14th-May 2nd
- This class is for ages 0-5 (not yet in Kindergarten)
- This fun group explores our classroom activities, shares songs, books and finger plays. This busy class does not separate for parent discussion. All ages welcome.

Super Scientist Class Ages 3-5

- Thursdays 5:30-7pm ECFE Classroom
- March 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th
- We'll really blow our minds with some awesome kid friendly experiments around science. Enjoy time within our classroom and meet other friends. For parent discussion we'll look at some amazing brain facts about the little mind you're growing at home.



Pelican EFCE loves families!

Here's our staff:

Terra Fitzsimmons
ECFE & School Readiness Teacher/Coordinator
Email: tfitzsim@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Voicemail: 218-863-5910 ext. 5393

Megan King
ECFE Early Childhood Educator
Viking Preschool
Email: mking@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Voicemail: 218-863-5910 ext. 5569

Janet Woolever
Child Care/Family Home Visitor

Kimberly Hernandez
Classroom & Child Care Home
Visitor Assistant, Spanish Translator
Email: khernand@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Voicemail: 218-863-5910 ext. 5393

Cindy Hart
Minnesota Reading Corps

Wonderful Ones & Infants

- Thursdays 5:30-6:45pm ECFE Classroom
- April 3rd, 10th, 24th & May 1st
- Welcome baby and one year old along with parents to sessions centered around your young child. Parent discussion will happen during play time, children and parents will enjoy songs and activities that are delightful.

Events

PJ Book Party

- Monday March 3rd 6-7:00pm in the Elementary Cafeteria
- Get a free book, a local celebrity will be reading aloud, and we'll enjoy some activities around literacy.



Family Concert & Preschool/Kindergarten Roundup



- Tuesday April 22nd 6-7:30pm at the Elementary Gym
- Enjoy a Penny & Pals concert, sign up for preschool, visit the Kindergarten rooms, and meet all the PK-K staff and Principal.

Chahinkapa Zoo Family Field Trip

- Friday May 9th
- We'll carpool from Pelican Rapids football field parking lot at 8:50am or meet in Whapeton at 10:00am
- Pay at the gate \$8/adult; \$4 child 4 & up; \$1.50/carousel rider
- 12:00pm Meet at Carousel
- 12:30pm Sack lunch picnic in the park (bring your own lunch)
- We are typically back to Pelican by 2-3:00pm depending on play length at the park.

Please register for all classes that your family wants to attend.

Child's Name: _____ Age _____

Child's Name: _____ Age _____

Child's Name: _____ Age _____

Parent's Name: _____

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

Class Name	Days/Times	✓ box to register
Fun Fridays (ages 0-5)	Fridays 9:30-10:45am February 14 th -May 2 nd	
Wonderful Ones & Infants	Thursdays 5:30-6:45pm April 3 rd , 10 th , 24 th & May 1 st	
Super Scientist Class (ages 3-5)	Thursdays 5:30-7pm March 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	
PJ Book Party	Monday March 3 rd 6-7pm	
Penny & Pals Family Concert & Preschool Kindergarten Roundup	Tuesday April 22 nd 6-7:30pm	
Chahinkapa Zoo	Friday May 9 th	

Please contact me about receiving home visits:
_____ Caring Connections _____ Bright Start

To Register or if you have questions:

Call Terra at 218-863-5910 ext 5393 or Email: tfitzsim@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

or Mail registrations to:

ECFE, PO Box 642, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

ECFE REGISTRATION FORM



Recommendation Made to Continue the 4 Day School Week

The 2014 survey results were strongly favorable to continue the 4 day school week with parents, staff and students.

It is felt that the 4 day school week (with Mondays off):

- provides time for doctor, dentist and music lesson appointments which enables children/students to miss less school
- allows for increased family time, children/students being more rested and ready to go back to school
- gives students more time to get homework done
- meets the educational needs of students (survey response of 87% of parents)

Areas of improvement include:

- partnering with parents to encourage our English Learners, credit recovery students, and those needing additional assistance with reading, Math and/or homework to attend the available Monday and Tuesday-

Friday after school programming through the 21st Century Grant and/or Targeted Services

- implementing regular times throughout the school day to increase physical movement (especially with our longer school days)
- building additional snow days into the 2014-2015 school calendar so most Mondays can remain non-school days.

Although none of our end-of-year evaluations show that academic achievement is negatively impacted by the 4 day school week we are committed to remaining highly vigilant on our academic goals.

After reviewing and discussing the 4 day school week survey results at the school board meeting, the board is recommending that the Pelican Rapids school district apply to the Department of Education to continue the 4 day school week for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years.

SURVEY RESULTS FOR THE 4 DAY SCHOOL WEEK

Think the 4 day school week meets the students' educational needs:

parents/guardians 87%

teachers 86%

Want to continue with the 4 day school week:

parents/guardians 82%

elementary students 90%

high school students 93%

Alumni Summoned for Final Play in PRHS Fine Arts Auditorium

Dear alumni actors and technical (lights, sound, stage managers),

The Pelican Rapids High School auditorium has provided some amazing entertainment since 1924. Its floor has seen everything from basketball to choir to band to plays to name a few. However like everything, it cannot last forever. It is scheduled for demolition sometime during the summer of 2014.

My wife Nadine and I have had the privilege to produce 15 full scale plays and numerous other smaller plays in the last 20 years. We were thinking how we can say goodbye to the old building. We decided to do one final play. That play will be a revue of all the main stage plays that she and I have produced. I looked at all the cast lists of the 15 shows and counted over 300 students who have been in plays since 1995. The plan is to invite all of those 300 students to come back to PRHS and sing the songs from the musicals and act the scenes from the non musicals. Nadine and I would select one or two songs from the musicals and a scene from the non musicals.

In order to put this show together, the alumni students would be invited to a rehearsal on Friday, May 30 from 9:00AM to 9:00PM. We would have another rehearsal on Saturday, May 31 from 9:00 AM to 2:00PM. The first performance would be at 7:00pm on Saturday, May 31 and then again Sunday, June 1 at 2:00PM.

What we need now from the community is for those students who were in a main stage play from 1995 to 2013 to contact Mr. Brown and make a commitment. We need you to contact us at dbrown@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us or call us at our home phone 218-863-3377. You can also Facebook Nadine. Once we get that commitment, we will develop a rehearsal schedule for May 30 and May 31 and mail out songs and scenes for the alumni to practice. **WE NEED THE COMMITMENT TO US BY MARCH 15-APRIL 1 AT THE LATEST.**

This is going to be so cool to see again the amazing acting and singing talent that has graced the PRHS stage for so many years. Let's make it happen!!!

Mrs. and Mr. Brown

Collaboration Leads to Successful Production of "Aladdin"

The combined talent of staff and students dazzled the audience when the musical "Aladdin" was performed in November 2013 at the PRHS fine arts auditorium.

Returning to the Pelican school as director was David Brown who took a leave of absence from 2008-2013 to teach at an international school in Kuwait. Assisting David was his wife Nadine, who also has theater background.

Along with props such as the Middle Eastern rugs that were incorporated into the show, the play was also unique in its implementation due to the collaboration of people that came together and shared their talents throughout the experience.

The Browns taught stage production and acting classes for the students involved in the play where they learned behind the scene roles like makeup, hair, costumes & helped build the set. Students acting in the play learned the proper way to speak, move, act and entertain an audience.

Almost 100 people were involved in some aspect of the "Aladdin" production including approximately 86 students. There were also 11 adults who assisted with the program including high school band director Sean Fitzsimmons who orchestrated the individual parts for a live pit band. Carole Skalsky was the musical director, Tami Seifert and Dacia Johnson as the choreographers for two of the songs, Dawn Lysaker as costume coordinator, Mandy Paulson as scenic painter, Denise Borgen as assistant with set design and construction, and Rick Brynildson sound. There were even cameo performances by Principal Korf, Assistant Principal Nelson and Play Director Brown.

We look forward to more "drama" as the acting classes resume in early March with the goal of preparing students for plays that will be performed on April 25 & 26. These after school theater workshops are sponsored by the 21st Century Grant.



Community Ed Class Schedule

Fitness XaBeat

Instructor: Tami Seifert
Mondays & Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm March-May
Pelican Rapids Elementary School
Join us anytime...classes are on-going (vs. monthly)
Fee: \$40.00 per 8 sessions
(or \$100 for 24 sessions) or \$7.00 per class

XaBeat is a dance fitness program that provides cardio and toning in a party like atmosphere! The routines are simple and easy to follow. You can burn anywhere between 600-1200 calories in a XaBeat class! Our routines contain less turning and twirling so you can concentrate on the fitness part of it and get a better workout! In our XaBeat classes you will sculpt your body and burn calories while having a total blast! Our music sets the mood and creates a party-like environment that leaves participants asking for more.



Personal Interest Shutterfly for FUN!

Instructor: Nadine Brown
Monday, March 24th 1-3pm
PRHS Media Center
Fee: \$10.00

The electronic age offers many extra ways to utilize your computer for more than just sending emails and writing letters. Shutterfly is one of the programs that provides you with an opportunity to make calendars, cards, books with the photos you've taken (either digital or regular). The class will meet two times with the first one being a classroom instructional period explaining how these programs work. The second class will be a 1:1 training session with the instructor. There will be class instruction as well as time for individual questions.

Intro to Google Docs

Instructor: Bill Simmons
Saturday, April 5th 9am-12pm
Pelican Rapids High School Media Center
Fee: \$10

Google Docs is a free, Web-based office suite and data storage service offered by Google. It allows users to create and edit documents online while collaborating in real-time with other users. Topics covered in the course include: Google collaboration and the sharing of information online, Google Documents, Google Spreadsheets, Google Forms, Google Presentations and Google sharing. This course will be of great interest to business professionals and individuals who would like to know how Google Docs can help improve productivity. If you are not aware of Google Docs, here is your opportunity to learn some very cool new skills.

Computers for Seniors

Instructor: Nadine Brown
Monday, March 31st 1-3pm
PRHS Media Center
Fee: \$10.00

You know that the computer age is upon us, but you're reluctant to even turn on your machine. Learn how to use your computer for word-processing and sending emails in two low-stress, thoughtful training sessions. The class will meet two times with the first one being a classroom instructional period explaining HOW computers work. The second class will be a 1:1 training session with the instructor. There will be time for individual questions after each session.

Let's go on a Trip!

Instructor: Nadine Brown
Monday, April 28th 1-3pm
PRHS Media Center
Fee: \$10.00

This fun, low-key class is designed for people who have always wanted to take a trip but don't have any idea how to make the arrangements using the computer and other resources. In this class you will learn how to access travel information, what to look for in planning a trip, and what is a good bargain online.

Health and Safety Heartsaver CPR/AED



Instructor: Mary Johnson,
American Heart Association Certified
Tuesday, April 15th 6-9pm
PRHS Media Center
Fee: \$30.00

Heartsaver courses are intended for individuals who have a duty to respond to cardiac emergency because of job responsibilities or regulatory requirements. This would include teachers, childcare workers, fitness trainers, corporate workers, restaurant employees, coaches, parents, daycare providers, and anyone who wants to learn how to do CPR. The Heartsaver CPR AED course is hands-on and covers adult, child, and infant CPR and use of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Included in the course is relief of choking. This course is for non-health-care professionals.

Heartsaver First Aid



Instructor: Mary Johnson,
American Heart Association Certified
Tuesday, April 29th 6-8pm
PRHS Media Center
Fee: \$30.00

American Heart Association First Aid provides training in basic first aid procedures-including the first aid skills recommended by OSHA. The course covers first aid basics, medical emergencies, injury emergencies, and environmental emergencies.

Medicine Cabinet Makeover

Instructor: BJ Rylander,
Certified Natural Health Professional
Tuesday, April 22nd 6-7:30pm
PRHS Media Center
Fee: \$10.00

Do you know that synthetic chemicals can accumulate in your body and create side effects? Do you know that some synthetic chemicals stay in your body for years – even decades? In this class you will learn how to swap out over-the-counter synthetic products for safe, effective, alternatives from nature that have no toxins and no nasty side effects. Therapeutic-grade oils are naturally high in antioxidants and give non-toxic support that can enhance the immune system, help heal injuries faster, decrease pain, improve sleep, decrease hunger, and elevate mood. You will learn how to use Nature's Medicine cabinet for everyday challenges for both physical and emotional wellness. Make PREVENTION your new mantra.

Youth ACT Seminar



Zaps Learning Company
Friday, April 4th 8:30am-2pm PRHS
Fee: \$79.00

*Register at www.zaps.com or call 877-927-8378

The ZAPS test preparation seminar will help your student achieve their best-possible score on the ACT. Students who complete a ZAPS ACT prep seminar and practice the tips and strategies at home typically raise their scores by 2 to 4 points. Students will need to bring two #2 pencils and a calculator to the seminar. In the seminar students will learn tips for improvement in all four subtests, strategies to eliminate wrong answer choices, take short practice tests, and receive a Study Guide and 24 practice-test workouts.

BLAST (Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training)

Instructor: Mary Johnson,
American Heart Association Certified
Ages 11 years and older – Limit 15 students
Saturday, May 3rd 9am-3pm
PRHS Media Center
Fee: \$30.00

*Please bring a sack lunch

For many pre-teens and teens planning on picking up jobs, babysitting is one way to earn some extra cash. American Academy of Pediatrics and American Heart offers this course to help prepare you for the responsibility of babysitting. You will learn how to care for infants through school age children and perform tasks such as diapering, preparing simple meals, and dressing. In addition, the course will offer ideas for toys and games to play with the children. With safety as the utmost important factor, you will learn how to handle emergencies and focus on safe care of infants and children. Handouts and a book will be provided.



Community Ed Registration Information

Mail completed form to:
Pelican Rapids Community Education
PO Box 642, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

or call with questions or to register:
Julie Gamble at 218-863-5910 ext 4250 or Jake Richter at 218-863-5910 ext 4372 Tuesday-Friday
or **Email** commmed@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

Class Locations

Pelican Rapids High School Medica Center-Library entrance on west side (back) of building.

Viking Elementary-Enter through the front doors on the northwest side of the building. Signs will direct you to your classroom.

General Information

Enrollments are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Advanced paid registration is required. Deadline to enroll is 1 week before starting date of class, unless otherwise indicated.

No confirmations will be sent. You are enrolled in 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.

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of ISD #548 to comply with federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination.

Storm Policy

If the Pelican Rapids School is cancelled or releases students early due to bad weather, Community Education classes will not be held.

Text Notification

Sign up for text notifications by texting COMMUNITYED to 30549.



Community Ed Registration Form

Class _____ Fee \$ _____

Class _____ Fee \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Cell # _____

Email _____

Community Ed class(es) I would like to take:

I would like to teach the following class(es):



“Mathletics” is a Team Sport

Photos & Article Exerpts Courtesy of The Pelican Press

Recent “Math Wizards” on the Pelican Rapids High School campus have been, mostly, a Rosiles or a Knorr. The Knorr brothers and Guillermo Rosiles might be called the Vikings “trigonometry triumvirate.”



Junior Guillermo Rosiles earned All-Conference MVP in competitive math. The top Viking “numbers man” placed first individually in the West Central Region of Minnesota State High School League. His performance earned him a trip to the state tournament in math competition, which will take place Monday, March 10.

Also awarded were Logan and Reilly Knorr. Logan took 3rd place, and Reilly was 6th place for the season. All three earned First Team All-Conference awards. Close behind were Lincoln Haiby, who just missed second-team All Conference by one point, and Hally Evenson, who missed it by two points.



While the Knorr-Rosiles trio have been top award-winners, Math Coach Lisa Petznick is quick to point out that—like any competitive event—“Mathletics” is a team sport. “Pelican math teams have earned numerous plaques for 1st to 3rd place,” said math coach Lisa Petznick. “They earned at least one 1st place plaque at Bemidji every year for the last eight consecutive years. These cannot be earned by just a couple individuals; it takes the teamwork of up to eight individuals at most contests. While Reilly, Guillermo, and Logan have consistently been top-performers, many others contribute to the team’s success.”

MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

Pelican Rapids’ 7th and 8th graders did well at the MathCounts competition which was held at MSUM on February 5th. The team of Hayden Christenson, Brooklyn Korynta, Jennessa Ballard, and Grace Johnson earned trophies for achieving 3rd place out of 11 teams.



Individually, Hayden Christenson placed 7th overall out of over 100 competitors with a score of 19. Timothy Brynildson scored a 17 for 15th place and Brooklyn Korynta and Gavin Haugrud both scored 15s. Korynta earned 17th place and Haugrud got 25th place due to tie-breakers.

The top eight mathletes are also called up to participate in a Countdown Round. This is a fast-paced oral competition in which pairs of mathletes buzz in to answer questions. Hayden won the first round facing the second place individual, then lost 1-0 to the eventual Countdown champion, then claimed 3rd place by defeating the student who took 1st place in individual competition. That was the most exciting part of the day!

Pelican Junior High Math Squad

Article & photo courtesy of The Pelican Press

The Pelican Rapids junior high math team had their fifth and final meet of the league season in January. Out of about 100 competitors, Brooklyn Korynta claimed a third place medal and seventh grader Hayden Christenson earned eighth place for the year. Grace Johnson was not far behind in 15th place. The Vikings team started slow, but showed continuous improvement throughout the year. They clinched the third place trophy in the West Central division.



Multi-District Cultural Collaborative Learning Opportunities

by Amy Buck, Director Cultural Collaborative

Once a month student **mentors from Pelican Rapids High School work with K-6 graders at Frazee-Vergas Elementary**. Additionally, thanks to technology they are able to check-in with “their” students every couple of weeks. This has been a successful part of the multi-district collaboration for two years now, and mentors and mentees enjoy the extra time and attention involved in this commitment!



For **Perham World Culture Day**, PRHS Muslim Ambassadors gave pertinent information about the Islam religion. After an informative presentation, the Ambassadors answered many questions and dispelled stereotypes and assumptions. Overall, Perham students were impressed and gained much factual knowledge from the personal stories and testimonies of our Ambassadors.



Our **Mexican Ambassadors** are native Spanish speakers who go out to other school districts and share their unique insights, talents, and pride in

their Mexican heritage.

In these pictures they are working with students from Lake Park Audubon Elementary. Audubon Elementary. As Alicia Saavedra explains, “Kids need to know more than just the words in a textbook. Our goal is to teach them about the unique traditions and aspects of our culture that we take pride in. For example, just because you like to eat at a Mexican restaurant doesn’t mean you appreciate what is behind our customs when it comes to preparing and enjoying Mexican food.”



On January 31st all third graders from Viking Elementary joined third graders from Detroit Lakes and Perham at the **Holmes Theater for a performance by Tu Dance**, a dance company out of the Twin Cities. After the amazing performance, the 400 students rotated through two different stations. At one station, members of Tu Dance talked with them about Identity and the importance of recognizing what makes each of us unique. At the other station, student leaders worked with small groups on recognizing THEME and INFERENCE in an integrated learning environment.

While students were kept very busy, third grade teachers from all three districts had professional development time, collaborating with instructional coaches and third grade teachers on Early Learning Outcomes and upcoming MCA Reading Test Specifications.



High School Artwork Showcase





School Construction Update

by Trevor Steeves, ISD #548 District Engineer

We are in full planning mode for the upcoming construction season. We have several groups working on their specific areas and have taken field trips to other schools that have renovated and or built new, to talk to the people that use the building and gather information on what works and what doesn't. This is a very important part of the development process, we want to make sure everything is looked at and scrutinized to get the best finished product.

This summer you will see a lot of activity with parts of the building that are slated to be removed and replaced, also there will be interior renovations that will need to be completed for the upcoming school year. The total construction will involve 3 phases over 2.5 years. The logistics of keeping our business of education and everything moving smoothly and safely is at the forefront of this project. Everyone from parents, students, and school staff need to be patient and work together, knowing we will all have inconveniences that will be relatively short that will result in a great future for our community.



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



Viking News Network (VNN) is our very own film club who produces our morning announcements, takes awesome photos and video clips. Follow us on Facebook to for updates on sports and school events. Eric Dunn leads this dynamic team of students who meet before and after school to do all of the work required to bring us this stellar reporting. Like us on Facebook



Sign up for Notify Me for Activity Schedules

Email notification system for activities or changes to activity schedules

To register:
visit www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
and click on the Activities Calendar

Follow the simple instructions and you will begin receiving email notifications on changes in activity dates, times, and locations.

Pelican Rapids School Foundation

The mission of the grant program of the Pelican Rapids School Foundation is to provide financial support on projects which will provide and enhance educational opportunities for students of Independent School District (ISD) 548, thus making a positive impact on our community and world.



Tax deductible donations can be given through the West Central Initiative either by mail at: PO Box 318, 1000 Western Ave, Fergus Falls, MN 56572 or by email at <https://wcif.site-ym.com/>

Student Lighthouse Team Established at the High School

by Doug Bruggeman

Pelican Rapids High School is taking the next step in their journey to increase the leadership abilities of their students by creating a Student Lighthouse Team.

The Student Lighthouse Team is an extension of the Leader In Me program being implemented at Pelican Rapids' Schools. The Program emphasizes the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People developed by Steven Covey.

Students who were considering applying for this team were informed that members of a Lighthouse Team are to understand and practice the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Members are expected to work closely with the Staff Lighthouse Team and make a positive impact for the Pelican Rapids High School students, staff, families, and community. Members will also help plan leadership events and leadership opportunities throughout the school year and ensure PRHS stability as a Leader in Me school.

In order to be considered for the team, students submitted applications that included statements as to why he or she would be the best candidate for the job. The applications were viewed by members of the Staff's Lighthouse team who chose the students that would be on this team.

John Flokstra, a Leader in Me Coach from the FranklinCovey organization, came to Pelican Rapids and had a day long training session with these students. "Having these kids work with Mr. Flokstra was such a huge benefit," commented Doug Bruggeman, who is a member of the Staff Lighthouse team. "Flokstra is a great communicator and his ability to get these young minds thinking of the possibilities for the future was

really fun to witness."

Student Lighthouse member Nasi Thach is looking forward to using this leadership opportunity to help her school improve relationships among all groups. "I would really like to see a school that doesn't have cliques," commented Thach. "If I can help students make connections from a variety of different groups by doing activities during the school year, I think that would be pretty awesome!"

To be a true Leader in Me school PRHS wants their students to step up and step out. Like any successful adventure the school needs their primary stakeholders to really have a vested interest in the success of the program. The Student Lighthouse team is a solid step forward in getting the student body at PRHS more focused on helping make this program a success.

PRHS's Student Lighthouse Team members must consistently demonstrate the following leadership characteristics:

- 1) Dependability, reliability, and respect
- 2) Completes classwork and homework assignments
- 3) Strong work ethic
- 4) Exemplary conduct and citizenship in and out of school
- 5) Excellent attendance (on time with limited absences and early check-outs)
- 6) Good judgment and decision making skills
- 7) Comfortable with public speaking
- 8) Ability to teach and demonstrate the 7 Habits to other students.

IMPORTANCE OF STUDENTS MAINTAINING FOCUS

by Porfirio Diaz, Parent Liaison

As we approach one of the busiest times of the school year with end of quarter exams, section tournaments, state tournaments, work, and other out of school activities, it is extremely important to keep students focused on school work and their education. By no means am I expressing that students should not be involved in extracurricular activities. On the contrary, they should be involved in activities outside of the classroom. The reason being is that out of classroom activities prepare students for the future in so many ways that are not assessed in standardized testing. Extracurricular activities are a great way to adequately prepare students for future losses and disappointment. If children never make mistakes, and never fail, they're often devastated when, as adults, things don't go their way. An example of that can be not being accepted to the college of their choice. Educators and parents need to teach kids how to accept losing and what to learn from not always earning first place.

Too often, however, parents buy into our culture's "We have to win at all costs" focus. Too often, parents think that if their children fail, they are failures themselves. So they try to prevent losses in their kids' lives. But it's important to look at failure and losing in different ways. Failure is an opportunity to get your children to look at themselves. Participating in extracurricular activities is a great way to do just that and learn important life skills. Those skills include working hard, coping with losing, re-evaluating goals and continuing to persevere in the face of adversity. I'm not saying that we should expect and make our students fail, but I am saying that we should prepare them as best we can to

accept failure and learn from those mistakes. Not all successful people succeed on their first attempt at their dream.

As we enter this busy time of the school year we should educate kids on how to manage their time efficiently by implementing habit number 3 of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, which is to Put First Things First. Parents and educators need to assist students in staying focused with their education. Along with staying focused in school come many things that need to be accomplished in order to be successful in the classroom. Research shows that when the following is present, students perform better:

- Family support
- Sufficient rest
- Healthy eating habits
- Measurable goals

As parents and educators, let's support our students in the best way we can to keep them focused in their education, and teach them that anyone can be successful. Students a lot of times need an extra push or a few words of wisdom to get them motivated.

I would like to end on one of my favorite quotes, by Vince Lombardy, that I find fitting for this occasion.

"The difference between a successful person, and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will."





ferences on Monday February 24th. Active parent participation in your student's education is appreciated.



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.

Thanks to the parents who were able to attend con-

SMART Goal Checklist:

1. Does it **Goal** from an **Mid Quarter Grade Check Form**.
2. What **goal** did you choose?

Is your goal... (Yes or No) **Specific?**
Measurable?
Attainable?
Realistic?
Timely?

4. Complete the **SMART Goal Planning Form** for your goal. **Include** above. Refer to the example at the bottom of this worksheet for help.

Specific – WHO? WHAT? HOW? WHEN?

Measurement – HOW MUCH? HOW OFTEN? HOW MANY?

Attainable – REASONABLE?

Relevant – ALIGNED WITH DEPT / ORG. GOALS?

Time Framed – COMPLETED BY? WHEN?

5. Create a **NEW SMART Goal Statement** – PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

Example (Goal-Specific More in Biology)

Specific – WHO? WHAT? WHY? WHERE?
Measurable – HOW MUCH? HOW OFTEN? HOW MANY?
Attainable – REASONABLE?
Relevant – ALIGNED WITH DEPT / ORG. GOALS?
Time Framed – COMPLETED BY? WHEN?

Under the end of Semester 2

Create a NEW SMART Goal Statement – PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

[illegible]

ExCEL Award Recipients Recognized

Pelican Rapids High School juniors Guillermo Rosiles and Lincoln Haiby earned the ExCEL award.

The announcement was made at the Jan. 22 school board meeting by Pelican high school assistant principal Derrick Nelson. "Two great individuals," said Nelson of the pair, who will be recognized during winter tournaments.

ExCEL - Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership - is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school



juniors who are active in school activities, who show leadership qualities, and who volunteer in their communities.

Nominees must:

- a. be a junior in high school
- b. make satisfactory progress toward graduation
- c. participate in a MSHSL fine arts and/or athletic activity
- d. hold position(s) in their school
- e. be active in their community

This is the 18th year that the Minnesota State High School League has sponsored the ExCEL Award.

MCA Student Testing Dates for the 2013-2014 School Year

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are the state tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota’s academic standards and meet the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Please note the dates and times below as it is very important to have your child take these tests.

State Testing Dates-March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 eCIS (no ELL) no language exam(s)	11 eCIS (no ELL) English language exam(s)	12 eCIS (no ELL) English language exam(s)	13 eCIS (no ELL) no language exam(s)	14
15	16	17 eCIS (no ELL) no language exam(s)	18 eCIS (no ELL) English language exam(s)	19 eCIS (no ELL) English language exam(s)	20 eCIS (no ELL) no language exam(s)	21
22	23	24 eCIS (no ELL) no language exam(s)	25 eCIS (no ELL) English language exam(s)	26 eCIS (no ELL) English language exam(s)	27	28
29	30					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			MSA Reading	MSA Reading	MSA Reading	
4	5	6	MSA Reading Book 10	MSA Reading Book 10	MSA Reading Book 10	4
11	12	13	MSA Math Grade 1	MSA Math Grade 1	MSA Math Grade 1	11
18	19	20	MSA Math Grade 7	MSA Math Grade 7	MSA Math Grade 7	18
25	26	27	MSA Math Grade 8			25

[illegible]

Pelican Rapids School District #548

310 S Broadway, PO Box 642 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 **Phone Number:** 218-863-5910

School Website: www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

School Board Members:

Charlie Blixt, Mike Forsgren, Dena Johnson, Jon Karger, Mitch Monson, Kathy Ouren

2014 AAA AWARD RECIPIENTS HONORED

Article and photo courtesy of the Pelican Rapids Press

Two Pelican Rapids students have been honored for their balanced approach to education and personal growth—in academics, athletics and arts. The 2014 AAA award recipients are Ryan Bruggeman and Ashlyn French, who have achieved high grades while also participating in sports.



Appropriately, Ashlyn French plays the French horn in the Pelican concert band—while also participating in cross country running, basketball and track and field. Despite her busy schedule, she has earned a 3.75 grade point average. Bruggeman, meanwhile, is a baritone horn player in the band, and a star basketball and football player who also runs track. His GPA is about 3.7.

The purpose of the AAA program is to recognize and honor high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in the fine arts. The honor is intended to elevate academic standards while supporting and promoting extracurricular achievements. Nominations are limited to two qualifying students per school—one male and one female.

Engineering or law—or both—are in Ashlyn's sights as a career path. She is considering a degree in architecture or civil engineering at North Dakota State University; and then possibly a law degree. "I'd like to be a patent lawyer," said Ashlyn, about the concept of combining engineering and the law. In a student profile prepared for a career class at Pelican High School, French wrote as her inspiration entry: "Ever since I was little, I would draw out plans of what I want my own house to look like, so I thought becoming an architect would be fitting."

She's a three-sport athlete; and a two-instrument band member. In addition to the French horn in concert band, she plays the trumpet in the Pelican High School jazz band. Time management is the key to juggling athletics, the arts and academics. She has competed in Knowledge Bowl, math competitions; and has been a student council member. "You have to make sure you get your work done during any spare minute you have," said French. "I have about 20 minutes before basketball practice, so I use that time for homework."

In college, she hopes to play in one of the bands, but play intra-mural sports in order to focus on education. She has also held part-time jobs, primarily in landscaping with Express Edging, and has been active at Zion Lutheran Church on Franklin Lake, where she has taught Sunday school in the past.

Ryan Bruggeman appears poised to follow in his father's footsteps. Doug Bruggeman is a teacher and coach at Pelican Rapids High School. "A good coach will make his players see what they can be rather than what they are," wrote Ryan in a profile for a career class. He would like to be a school athletic director and coach. "Sports mean a lot to me...It runs in my blood. Ever since I was a little kid, I wanted to be a coach so I could help others love sports as much as I do," he wrote. His exploits on the court and in the field for Pelican Rapids High School are well known—earning MVP honors at the conference and state level.

A Pelican Rapids resident all his life, he is a town booster—applauding the community for its friendly atmosphere. He has been both vice president and president of the student council. He said it has been a privilege to play in the Pelican band, often described as one of the finest programs in the area.

Aiming to play basketball at the college level, Bruggeman has been considering Moorhead, Duluth or Bemidji. Academically, Ryan has a 3.7 grade point average, and has taken numerous college-level courses. “At Pelican, I have had many opportunities to achieve in sports, academics, arts, and most importantly...in life,” wrote Bruggeman in the AAA nomination form.



Pelican Rapids High School Winter Sports and Activities Update

by Derrick Nelson, Activities Director & Assistant Principal

Snow, cold, and wind is what you could say would best describe our winter to this point. Even though it has been cold outside, the Pelican Rapids teams and fans have been keeping the gymnasium nice and warm. I would like to thank the great fans of Pelican Rapids who come out every night to support our student athletes. Also, a huge thank you to the Pelican Rapids Pep Band for all of their time and efforts to set the tone and atmosphere during events. We wish all of the Pelican Rapids teams the best of luck this post season. Go VIKINGS!!!



score of 69-6.

The Vikings lost in the second round to Bertha-Hewitt-Verndale 67-9.



The individual part of the section 6A tournament was held on February 21-22 at Wadena High School with Danny Franco claiming a championship at 113 pounds.

Hobet Diaz, Danny Franco, and Eddie Ramos went on to compete at the state tournament on February 28. All three lost their first match but all three got a second chance because the opponent they faced in the first round won in the quarterfinals. Franco was the only one who won his wrestleback match on Friday night.



The Boys Basketball Team opened the Section 8 AA tournament by defeating DGF with a score of 68-43, then lost to Barnesville 102-98. The Vikings ended the season with an 18-8 record.



The Lady Vikings ended their regular season with a 19-6 record and start 8 AA playoffs on March 6.

1,000th Career Point Scored

Mackenzie Korf was given a game ball in recognition of her 1,000th career point in a special presentation prior to the February 13 game between the Pelican Rapids Vikings and Hawley.

Korf, pictured right, also broke the school record for most points in a single game on December 6, with 41 points. Korf finished her season early with a torn ACL on February 22. The sophomore is expected to resume her place on the team next year after an upcoming surgery and nine month rehabilitation.



New Viking Record

Setting a new record for single game scoring was Ryan Bruggeman—who netted more than half of the team's total, with 51 points. Bruggemann broke the record of 49 points in a single game—set by Jim Knutson on February 4, 1978.

Bruggeman finished his career with more than 1,500 points, and more than 600 assists.

Bruggeman, pictured right in the February 27 first round playoff victory over Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, will be playing in the Minnesota High School All Star Basketball series March 28-29.



The Valkyries Dance team competed in the Section 4A tournament in Aitkin. The dance team placed fourth in Jazz and second in Kick at the section tournament. With the second place in Kick the Valkyries advanced to the state tournament. For the first time in school history, the Valkyries made finals at the state tournament placing sixth. Congratulations on the great finish to a successful season.



The wrestling team defeated Breckenridge in the first round of the section 6A wrestling tournament by the

CONGRATS ON SUCCESSFUL SEASONS TO OUR FALL SPORTS TEAMS!



Boys & Girls Soccer



Cross Country



WE ARE PROUD OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

All State Band 2014

Photo Courtesy of The Pelican Press

PRHS student Carly Black performed with the All State Band on February 15th at Orchestra Hall. A flute and piccolo player, Black was one of nearly 2,000 high school students who auditioned at 17 different sites around the state. A total of 564 students were selected for the All State band, orchestra and choirs. Black was the sole representative from the Pelican Rapids music programs.



On-line payment processing system

To register:

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- iPad Rental Fee
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- School Meals
- Viking Preschool Tuition



BEYOND THE BELL-21ST CENTURY GRANT UPDATE

by Jake Richter, Director 21st Century Grant & Community Ed

Pelican Rapids Public Schools is pursuing the opportunity to expand, enhance and continue the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. With the completion of the first five years of the grant occurring in July 2014, the district is eligible to apply for another 21st century learning grant.

The funding is available for the purpose of sustaining and enhancing community learning centers statewide as part of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Program. These resources are intended to be used in order to provide a wide-range of high-quality enrichment opportunities designed to complement the regular academic program of participating students during those times when school is not in session, including before school, after school, evenings, school release days, and summer. If awarded we will be able to continue offering families of our students literacy and related educational programming.

Minnesota Department of Education estimates that \$4,000,000 will be available in the first year to fund projects statewide. The estimated grant period will be from August 1, 2014 until July 31, 2017. There is also an option for a two-year extension from August 1, 2017



to July 31, 2019. Pelican Rapids 21st Century Community Learning Center has full intention to submit an application to MDE by Monday, March 10, 2014.

After we submit our application we enter into a three phase process beginning with initial screening, reviewing, and clarification/feedback phase. The agency is aiming at completing the process in mid-April and we can expect to be notified within 2 weeks after the review is completed. The potential

outcomes are that we will be denied, partially funded or our goal of fully funded.

We are confident in our reputation for delivering quality programming that aligns with the purpose of the grant. The funding is intended to address each of the following goals:

- Increase participants' opportunities to develop and apply 21st Century skills.
- Increase school and community connectedness of participants.
- Increase the academic performance of participating students who are low performing/failing or at high risk of failure in core academics.

21st Century Grant Programming for Students in Grades 7-12

Leadership Opportunities

Beyond the Bell Program is on Mondays from 8:00-3:00pm at Viking Elementary School. High School Students can: •Read with students•Help with Homework•Teach games and/or activities. Please contact Candace Roesch at croesch@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us if interested.

LED (Leading Every Day) is a student volunteer program that works on projects in Pelican Rapids and surrounding communities. Last year LED students volunteered in the community, helped fill sandbags for the Fargo community, and organized the Day of Caring with the United Way. For more information contact Bob Kohler at Pelican Rapids High School.

Rotary Interact Groups complete at least two community service projects per year, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Last year Interact students organized a blanket drive for the Pelican Rapids community, held fundraisers, and volunteered in the Kindergarten classroom. For more information contact Julie Gamble at the Pelican Rapids High School.

Enrichment Activities

Chess Club Thursdays 4:00-5:00pm. This is a student led activity in which students meet every Thursday to play chess and learn more about the game.

Open Gym & Strength Conditioning Tuesday-Friday at 7:00am. The gym and weight room are open to students every day in the morning before school.

Viking News Network (VNN) Tuesday-Friday at 7:30am. VNN is the Pelican Rapids High School news network. Students can be on-air or behind the scenes reporting the news to the PRHS community.

Credit Recovery Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4-7:00pm. Credit Recovery is available to students in grades 9-12 who have failed one or more classes.

Open Media Center Tuesday-Friday 4:00-5:00pm. The Media Center will be open to all students to work on homework, use the computers, and read.

Homework Help Tuesday-Thursday 4:00-5:00pm

Film Club Tuesday-Friday 4:00-5:00pm. Students will write, direct and star in their own films, commercials or videos! Film Club is run by filmmaker Eric Dunn.

Spring Plays-Practice starts March 3-April 26, Performances on April 25 & 26

Programs that meet after school will meet in the Media Center for snack and then go to their program. Snack is served at 3:55pm Tuesday-Friday.

Contact Julie Gamble with any questions at jgamble@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us or 218-863-5910 x4250.

Students Partner with Food Shelf for "Fill the Truck" Community Food Drive

The Pelican Rapids Food Shelf has asked for help with their "Fill the Truck" food drive in March. Whatever donations they receive from the public in March the government will match.

The student Rotary Interact Group had a food challenge between the students in grades 7-12, with the 7th grade students receiving ice cream treats for bringing in approximately 100 items.

Watch The Pelican Press for details on when and where you can donate food items.

The student LED group will be helping to unload the truck at the food shelf once the food drive is completed.



We Can Change the World One Coin, One Brick, One School at a Time

by Bob Kohler, Volunteer Mentor Coordinator

How far can change go? The LED group at the High School is going to find out. They have accepted a challenge through an organization called "Free the Children" to collect coins to build a school in a developing country. To build a school takes 500 bricks. Each brick cost \$20.00. That comes to \$10,000.00 to build a school.

How will this change help others? Well here is the difference that a year of education makes: Future earnings boost up to 10%; the chance a future mother will survive child birth increases by 5-10%; life expectancy increases by up to 0.6 years.

Collect change, and your change can provide a brick for the construction of a new school. Build a school, and your change can educate hundreds of children. Give children a chance to learn, and your change can help a generation make change for themselves.

If you would like to make a change in the lives of children you can participate by donating to this worthy cause. You can send your donations to:

Pelican Rapids High School
LED attn. Bob Kohler
PO Box 642
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Day of Caring 2014

PRHS students will be participating in the United Way Day of Caring again this year in May (specific date to be determined). If you are a senior citizen or a disabled adult and would like some help with spring cleanup we will be glad to help you out. If you would like to volunteer to help you are more than welcome. Be watching in the Pelican Rapids Press for more details.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Bob Kohler at bkohler@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us or 218-863-5910 X4065.



*Everyone needs at least
one friend.*

Someone to listen & to care...
someone to just be there.

Who was the **one** for you?

The **one** who encouraged you
& helped you find your way...
the **one** who shaped the **one** you
are today.
Be the **one**.

Your school needs you! More importantly, the students need you!
Join our team of volunteer mentors.
Make a difference in **one** life.

Contact Bob Kohler
Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Pelican Rapids Schools
phone: 218-863-5910 ext. 4065 or email: bkohler@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us