

Developing Great Leaders

Have you had the chance to read the book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey? This book outlines basic universal principles that, according to Covey, determine a person's effectiveness. Covey states that once these principles are ingrained in your daily life, they become your habits and your personal level of effectiveness increases. These 7 habits are:



Superintendent
Deb Wanek

- **Habit 1: Be Proactive®** • You're in Charge
- **Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind®** • Have a Plan
- **Habit 3: Put First Things First®** • Work First, Then Play
- **Habit 4: Think Win-Win®** • Everyone Can Win
- **Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood®** • Listen Before You Talk
- **Habit 6: Synergize®** • Together Is Better
- **Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw®** • Balance Feels Best

A number of years after the publication on this book Covey introduced a new book entitled, *The 8th Habit, From Effectiveness to Greatness*. The premise of this book is to find your voice and inspire others to find theirs.

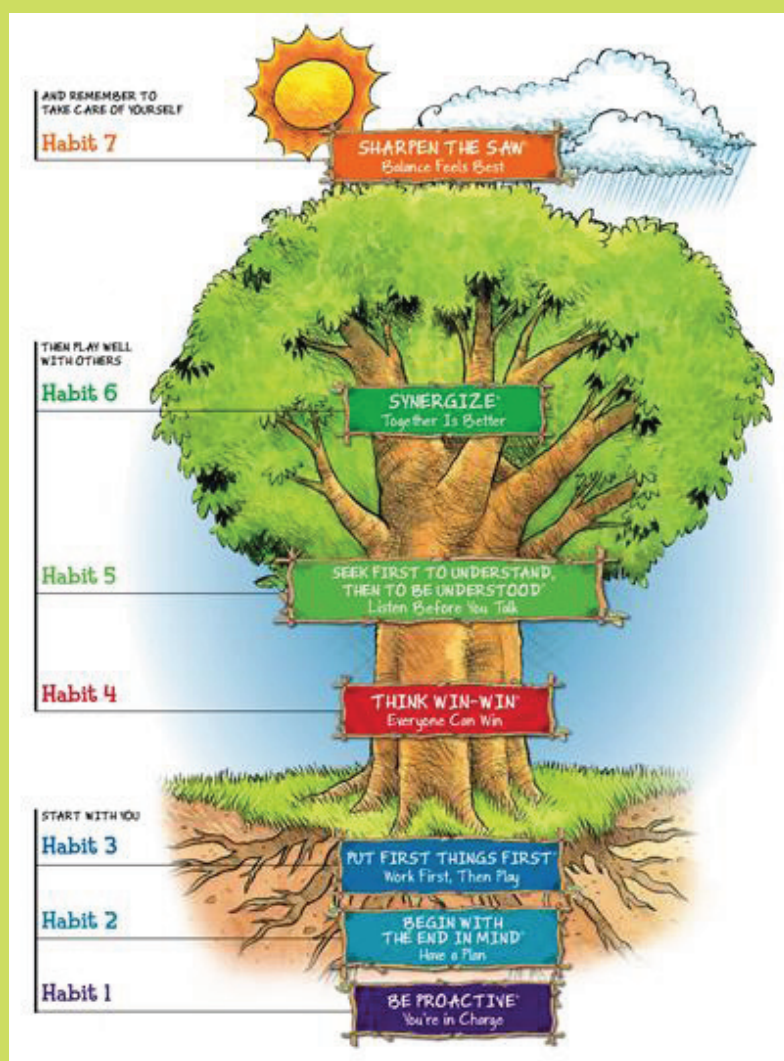
Covey combined the principles of these two books to create a program for schools entitled *The Leader in Me™*. His book with the same title, *The Leader in Me™*, is a fascinating read about a variety of schools that have implemented the 8 habits and details the impact these habits have had on the school, students and families. The program is implemented in over 600 schools across the world and the results include increases in students' self-confidence, teamwork, initiative, creativity, leadership, problem-solving, communication, academic performance and greater parent satisfaction.

Recently several teachers and administrators from the Pelican Rapids Schools toured Owatonna elementary schools where this program has been implemented. It was very evident that the elementary students had been impacted by this program in the seven months of its implementation. Four fourth grade students greeted us at the door, shook our hands and invited us into the conference room where they proceeded to use an interactive white board to present how *The Leader in Me™* philosophy has been woven into their day. The students were at ease and relaxed enough to chuckle at themselves as they cheerfully shared different components and accomplishments that had happened at their school. These 8 and 9 year olds were composed, confident and proud of their school. It wasn't until about 30 minutes into the presentation that the Principal introduced herself. The students had literally taken on the responsibility and the leadership role to welcome us into their building and share what was going on in their school—a direct result of *The Leader in Me™* philosophy.

7 Habits training was actually written into the 21st Century Grant in 2009 but we were unaware of *The Leader*

Wanek continued on page 2

The Leader in Me™



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“Where are they now?”

PRHS Graduate-John Strand

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

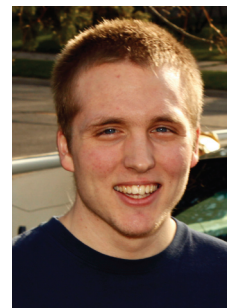
I am currently enrolled at Alexandria Technical and Community College. I will be graduating this May from the Mechanical Drafting, Design and Engineering program. Next Fall I will be going back to school for the Machine Tool Technology program.

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

I work at ITW Heartland in Alexandria as a machinist, down the road I plan on moving into the drafting department at ITW. The reason why I enjoy machining is the satisfaction I get from knowing I am making quality parts that meet the specifications that the customer requires. Another thing that I like about my career is whether it's in the drafting room or on the machine shop floor, I get challenged every day.

3. How did PRHS prepare you for college?

The CAD class that I took in high school is what made me realize that I enjoy drawing different parts on the com-



John Strand
Class of 2009

puters. Another essential thing that PRHS did for me was provide a top notch math program. During high school I always heard the math instructors talk about how good the math program was, but I thought they were only talking about the advanced math students. At Alex Tech, the Drafting Program requires the most math out of all of the programs, and because of the math program at PRHS, most of the math that I've taken at Alex Tech has been review for me.

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

In Jr. High I was in Basketball, Baseball, Math Counts, Knowledge Bowl, and I went to the science fair. And in high school I volunteered at my church's youth group.

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

When you're thinking about what to go to college for, make sure that there is a demand for that career. If you choose a career that is in need of skilled employees, the employers will find you, and you will have a choice of where you want to go.



Reading: The Cornerstone of All Learning

Do you remember the first time you were able to read something? As you learned how to read did you realize the complex scientific brain research that describes how we learn to read? Probably not. For most of us, it felt like it just happened over time. However, just because we didn't realize the complicated steps that go into learning how to read, that doesn't mean it just happened. We all had teachers who were supporting our learning each step of the way. As the anonymous quote states, "If you can read this, thank a teacher".



By Sheila Flatau,
Viking Elementary
Principal

Today, we have more knowledge than ever before about how we learn to read. While there are key steps that teachers focus on in school, we now know how important it is for parents to establish a strong foundation before a child ever enters school. Decades of research have taught us that in order to become confident readers, young children need repeated opportunities to experience these critical building blocks of reading:

- A solid spoken language developed through talking and listening
- Exposure to printed words and books
- Listening to books read aloud

Once children are in school, we have many supports in place to continue the learning process. Research has demonstrated that there are key building blocks for teaching children to read. These are embedded into our daily instruction and reading curriculum. After students learn how to read, the focus shifts to reading to learn. This shift occurs between third and fourth grade. There is strong evidence that if children do not learn how to read well by third grade they will struggle in school. Due to this, the Minnesota legislature passed the **Read Well by Third Grade** legislation. As a response to this legislation, all schools are required to complete a PreK-3rd Grade Literacy Plan that supports scientifically-based reading instruction, on-going assessment and intervention opportunities, parent notification, and staff development.

Viking Elementary has always taken our responsibility to teach children how to read very seriously. The development of our PreK-3 Literacy Plan allows us to evaluate our current instruction and find ways to improve. Mostly, we are excited about this opportunity to align our methods so there is a clear instructional path from pre-school through third grade.

We are proud to have many of the additional supports already in place due to our School-wide Title I Program. Beyond our classroom reading instruction, we monitor all K-6 students' reading growth three times each year using AIMSWEB. These results are shared with parents at conferences and school-wide results are reported in school newsletters. Our classroom and Title I teachers collaborate each month regarding student reading growth and determine which students need additional support during daily 30 minute intervention/enrichment blocks. This is provided above and beyond the regular classroom instruction and is accomplished in a small group setting.

We are also fortunate to be awarded a Minnesota Reading Corps member to support our K-3 students in a one-on-one setting. Identified students receive twenty minutes each day of reading practice until they meet their goals. We have had this program in place for three years and were thrilled to recently learn that we are granted another K-3 Reading Corps member as well as a Pre-K Reading Corps member for the 2012-2013 school year. We are currently looking for qualified applicants for these positions. If you are interested, please visit the

Viking Elementary Awarded Minnesota Reading Corps Tutors

Great news! Viking Elementary has been awarded Minnesota Reading Corps tutors! We will have 1 full-time Elementary Literacy Tutor and 1 Part-time Preschool Literacy Tutor next year, who will continue working with kids who need a boost to catch up to grade level in reading. Minnesota Reading Corps tutors are AmeriCorps members and do not replace teachers. Every year, the program sees real growth in its students. Here's what you should know about our tutors:

We will recruit our Literacy Tutors to serve 11 months, beginning in August. In exchange for their service, tutors receive a living allowance of about \$500 biweekly (full-time) and an education award of up to \$5,550 to use towards their own schooling. The Preschool Literacy Tutor will be placed in a classroom and will work with children ages 3 - 5 to develop their early literacy skills in prepara-

tion for kindergarten. The Elementary Literacy Tutor will provide research-based interventions to Kindergarten – 3rd grade students one-on-one, who are just below proficiency in reading (Tier II children). They tutor each student daily for 15 or 20 minutes to build phonics, phonemic awareness, and fluency skills. Reading Corps provides our school with the expertise of an outside literacy consultant (Master Coach) who provides support and oversight by visiting the school regularly.

If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a literacy tutor – a graduating college student, a friend in career transition, a grandparent or stay-at-home parent (click to see Meet Potential Members<<http://mnedc.org/toolkit/6>>)– please direct them to www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org<<http://www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org>> to learn more and apply.

The Leader in Me™

How Extraordinary, Everyday Schools Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child at a Time.

•Habit1: Be Proactive® You're in Charge

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong action. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

•Habit2: Begin With the End in Mind® Have a Plan

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision, and look for ways to be a good citizen.

•Habit3: Put First Things First® Work First, Then Play

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

•Habit4: Think Win-Win® Everyone Can Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

•Habit5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood® Listen Before You Talk

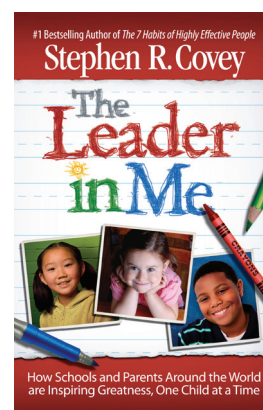
I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

•Habit6: Synergize® Together Is Better

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than any one of us along. I am humble.

•Habit7: Sharpen the Saw® Balance Feels Best

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I take time to find meaningful ways to help others.



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Covey, Stephen R. *The Leader in Me: How Extraordinary, Everyday Schools Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child at a Time*. New York: Free, 2008.

Watch two short videos on *The Leader in Me*™ philosophy: <http://www.theleaderinme.org/what-is-the-leader-in-me/>

Flatau Continued

employment page on our district website for more information.

Reading is absolutely critical to all other learning. This summer make time to read books with your children. It is a great way to spend special time together and you will be setting them up for future success in school!

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/>

Wanek Continued from page 1

in *Me*™ training until recently. A large program like this requires training and Owatonna administrators explained they let their students out early in the spring to complete the training. Even though the four day school week provides us with a thousand more instructional minutes at the high school we were very hesitant to release our students early. Owatonna administrators said they had similar thoughts but said their students had taken *The Leader in Me*™ philosophy so seriously that when they completed some testing they had higher test scores. It was with this information about increased student achievement that the Pelican Rapids school board agreed to release the students 4 days early in order to train staff so this program could be implanted this Fall. I am really excited to have this training and this philosophy woven into our school. We want to develop great leaders; I truly believe that our students will make this world a better place. Great things are happening in Pelican Rapids where, "We learn not for school, but for life!"



SUMMER FUN

in Pelican Rapids 2012



The 21st Century Grant & the Pelican Rapids Public schools are excited to offer students in Grades K-12 an abundant amount of fun, safe & enjoyable summer activities.

All summer programs include: **free breakfast, lunch & snack**

Our 21st Century Grant camps & Club Vikes program also include:

- a free water bottle for use each day at the summer camps
- highly qualified staff who are CPR & First Aid trained
- staff to accompany your child between our camps & summer rec activities (except golf)

Scholarships are available for our summer camps- contact Julie Gamble at 863-5910 extension 4806.

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.

Additional programs offered by the Pelican Rapids schools include:

Summer Recreation

Summer Extended Learning

- Kindergarten Boost (in-going)
- English Immersion Grades K-1
- Targeted Services K-6
- Summer School Grades 7-8
- Summer School Grades 9-12



Summer Fun

Free lunch: 12-12:30pm Camps: 12:30-4:30pm Pick Up Time: 4:30-5:00pm * Drop Off-Pick Up Site: Viking Elementary

JUNE 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 •Summer Fun Fitness YMCA (K-6) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	5 •Summer Fun Fitness YMCA (K-6) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	6 •Summer Fun Fitness YMCA (K-6) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	7 •Summer Fun Fitness YMCA (K-6) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	7 •Club Vikes (K-6)
11 •Nature from A-Z (K-6) •Video & Multimedia (7-12) •The Power of Wind (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	12 •Nature from A-Z (K-6) •Video & Multimedia (7-12) •The Power of Wind (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	13 •Nature from A-Z (K-6) •Video & Multimedia (7-12) •The Power of Wind (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	14 •Nature from A-Z (K-6) •Video & Multimedia (7-12) •The Power of Wind (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	14 •Club Vikes (K-6)
18 •Kick, Pass, Bounce-Sports Camp YMCA (K-5) •Sports Camp (6-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	19 •Kick, Pass, Bounce-Sports Camp YMCA (K-5) •Sports Camp (6-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	20 •Kick, Pass, Bounce-Sports Camp YMCA (K-5) •Sports Camp (6-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	21 •Kick, Pass, Bounce-Sports Camp YMCA (K-5) •Sports Camp (6-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer School (7-8) & (9-12) •Summer Rec	22 •Club Vikes (K-6)
25 •Club Vikes(K-6) •Summer Rec	26 •Club Vikes(K-6) •Summer Rec	27 •Club Vikes(K-6) •Summer Rec	28 •Club Vikes(K-6) •Summer Rec	29 •Club Vikes (K-6)

*Club Vikes is available until 6pm for late pick up. Contact Candace at 863-5910 ext. 5022 for details. Club Vikes summer schedule is Mon-Fri 6:30am-6:00pm from May 29-August 24 (closed July 4th).



The Pelican Rapids School District
is pleased to be participating in the Summer Food Service Program

Friends, Fun & Food!
Summer meals are available
to all kids age 18
and younger at no cost.



Where? Viking Elementary Cafeteria

When? May 21-August 24
(closed May 28 & July 4)

What Time? Breakfast 7:45-8:40am
Lunch 11:45-12:45pm

Sponsor Name: 21st Century Grant
Telephone: 218-863-5910 ext 5022

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



JULY 2012



in



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 •Club Vikes (K-6) •Summer Rec	3 •Club Vikes (K-6) •Summer Rec	4 Closed for Holiday no programming	5 •Club Vikes (K-6) •Summer Rec	6 •Club Vikes (K-6)
9 •Wet & Wild YMCA (K-6) •Messy Fun with Silly Slimy Goey Science (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer Rec	10 •Wet & Wild YMCA (K-6) •Messy Fun with Silly Slimy Goey Science (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer Rec	11 •Wet & Wild YMCA (K-6) •Messy Fun with Silly Slimy Goey Science (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer Rec	12 •Wet & Wild YMCA (K-6) •Messy Fun with Silly Slimy Goey Science (4-7) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Targeted Services (1-6) •Summer Rec	13 •Club Vikes (K-6)
16 •Kindercamp (K) •Adventures in Art (1-5) •Dynamics in Art Design (6-12) •Camp Maplewood (K-6) & (7-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	17 •Kindercamp (K) •Adventures in Art (1-5) •Dynamics in Art Design (6-12) •Camp Maplewood (K-6) & (7-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	18 •Kindercamp (K) •Adventures in Art (1-5) •Dynamics in Art Design (6-12) •Camp Maplewood (K-6) & (7-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	19 •Kindercamp (K) •Adventures in Art (1-5) •Dynamics in Art Design (6-12) •Camp Maplewood (K-6) & (7-12) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	20 •Club Vikes (K-6)
23 •Beauty & the Beast Theatrical Camp (2-12) •English Immersion Camp (K-1) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	24 •Beauty & the Beast Theatrical Camp (2-12) •English Immersion Camp (K-1) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	25 •Beauty & the Beast Theatrical Camp (2-12) •English Immersion Camp (K-1) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	26 •Beauty & the Beast Theatrical Camp (2-12) •English Immersion Camp (K-1) •Club Vikes (K-6) •Kindergarten Boost (K) •Targeted Services (1-6)	27 •Beauty & the Beast Theatrical Camp (2-12) •Club Vikes (K-6)
30 •Club Vikes(K-6)	31 •Club Vikes(K-6)			

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Pelican Rapids



Summer Recreation Activities start June 4th-July 13th. Questions: Call Cara Dunn at 863-5910 ext. 4500

Activity	Age or Grade Completed	Days & Times Practice	Games
Preschool Playtime	3-5 yrs old	W 10:30-11:30am	
T-Ball	Grades K-1	M-Th 10:30-11:30am	
Rookie League Baseball	Grades 1-2	M-Th 10:30-11:30am	
Pee Wee Baseball	Grade 3	M-Th 10:30-11:50am	M & W 1:00pm
Knot Hole Baseball	Grade 4	M-Th 10:30-11:50am	M & W 1:00pm
Ponytail Softball	Grades 3-4 & Grades 5-6	M & W 9:00-10:15pm T & Th 10:30-11:50am	T & Th 1:00pm
Little League Baseball	Grades 5-6	to be determined	M & W 6:30pm
Babe Ruth Baseball	13 yrs old	M-F 9:30-10:30am	M & W 10am or 6:30pm
	14-15 yrs old	M-F 10:30-12:00pm	M & Th 6:30pm
Fast Pitch Softball	12-18 yrs old	to be determined	
Soccer	Grades K-2 & Grades 3-6	M-Th 9:30-10:30am	F 9-11:30am
Tennis	Grades 4-6	W 1:00-2:00pm	
Golf	Grades 4-7	M, T & Th 1:00-2:30pm	
Crafts	Grades K-3	M, T & Th 9:00-10:15am	
Open Gym & Weight Room	Grades 7+	M-Th 6:00-8:00pm	
Sports & Fitness Training	Grades 7-Adult	M-Th 6:00-8:00pm (exact times & days may vary)	



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Notes from the High School Principal

Technology and Learning

Technology in the classrooms has increased and we have been very excited with our iPad initiative. This past school year, we implemented iPads into classrooms for all juniors and seniors. We are very excited about our first year and are looking forward to continuing the implementation of iPads in the future. After researching and using the iPads in the classroom, we have learned that iPads:

- Engage and motivate student learning at advanced levels
- Allow teachers to monitor and assess student progress
- Design instruction in more effective ways
- Prepare students to be college and career ready

Many schools are researching and implementing iPads in the classroom. Technology is greatly affecting teaching and learning in the classrooms and must be used in order for students to learn at advanced levels and to be college and career ready.



Brian Korf

Prom

Prom will be held on May 5th at Pelican Rapids High School with Grand March starting at 5:30pm. Doors will open at 4:30pm. Students will travel to Fair Hills after Grand March for supper and dance. The Post Prom Party will then host activities and food at the elementary school for all the juniors and seniors. Students worked hard to fundraise the money to help cover expenses for Prom.

High School Staff Retirements

As the school year comes to an end, there will be three high school staff members who will be starting a new chapter in their life. Liz Tredennick, Rita Hayek, and Glenn Moerke will be retiring after this school year and we will miss working with them. They have made a huge impact on students lives and their education. We wish them the best of luck in their next chapter of life.

We want to thank you for all of your support and ideas to make this a great school year. We appreciate all of our students, staff, parents, and our strong community and want to thank all of you for all of the memories this school year.

Pelican Rapids High School Spanish Hits the Road

by Bridgette Holl

For the first time in school history, the Spanish classes at PRHS hit the road for five days of study and travel. Leaving after school on March 28, two charter buses carrying 57 students, 10 chaperones, and 4 bus drivers, traveled the 1,400 miles to San Antonio, Texas in just under 24 hours.

The group arrived Thursday afternoon and enjoyed an evening of fun and education on the River Walk. Students especially enjoyed the evening River Walk cruise. The tour was filled with interesting facts about the history and culture of not just San Antonio, but the entire southwestern part of the U.S.

Friday was filled with activity. Students visited the Institute of Texan Culture. An exhibit on toys was a big hit with students and chaperones alike. The group also visited

the Tower of Americas, experiencing a 4D show that featured Texas. Lunch at an authentic Mexican restaurant, Mi Tierra, was "amazing" according to one tour member. Students had an opportunity to shop at an authentic Mexican market place and rounded out the day with a visit to the Alamo and a movie detailing the history the Alamo at the IMAX theatre.

On Saturday students traveled to the world famous San Antonio Zoo. The highlight of the day was several hours in the hot Texas sun at the famous theme park, Six Flags Fiesta Texas.

Early Sunday (April 1) the group loaded the familiar buses and headed back to Pelican Rapids, arriving early Monday morning. Lots of learning, lots of memories, and certainly lots of fun made the trip home with them too!



Small School, Big Opportunities for Involvement

Pelican Rapids students emerge ready to excel and make a difference!

We learn not for school but for life!

Regional Robotics Competition



The Pelican Rapids Robotics Team took fourth place in the Northern Plains Mini-Regional Robotics competition held in Fargo, December 10th. The team netted 540 points in the final round of competition, behind Kittson Central's first place score of 855; the REACH school's 841, and Drayton's 608. Not only did Pelican Rapids take 4th place out of the sixteen teams competing, but their robot also won the "Most Elegant Robot" award. This award was given to the robot that performed the tasks of the game with consistent precision and accuracy, reported Robotics Team coach Steve Maresh, industrial technology teacher at Pelican Rapids High School.

Members of the Robotics team that participated in the competition are picture above.

Bottom Row, from left, David Murillo and T. J. Johnson.

Middle Row, Luis Diaz, Zach Ballard and March Urbano

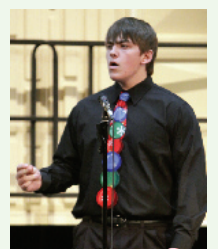
Top Row: assistant coach Jim Lund, Weston Buchholz and Coach Steve Maresh.

Minnesota All State Band and Choir Students



Emily Field Olson
All State Band

Trudy Johnson
All State Band



Ian Johnson
All State Choir



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Another Year of Excellence in Arts, Academics and Athletics



Al Siegle Scholarship

Surrounded by Pelican Rapids High School three-sport athletes is Al Siegle, foreground. The "Al Siegle Scholarship" is being established, and contributions to the scholarship are being sought. This spring, one female and one male, who have participated in three sports, will be honored with the Siegle scholarship.

Speech Team Section Tournament

by Denise Borgen

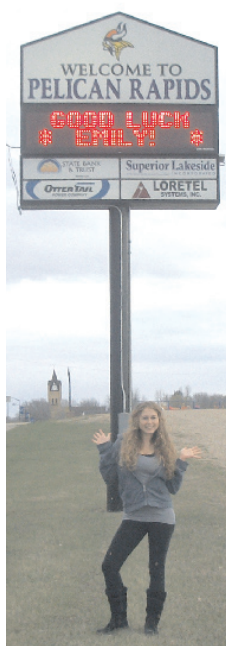
The Pelican Rapids Speech team had a great season participating successfully in many meets throughout the season. The team consisted of Hailey Peterson, Esmeralda Mancilla, Ashley Johnson, Lily Welder, Kallia Rinkel, Reilly Knorr, Bailee Lass, Johanna Knorr and Emily Field-Olson.



A speech tournament provides many different opportunities to competitors as there are 13 different categories ranging from dramatic interpretation, to originally composed speeches, as well as draw categories where competitors aren't aware of the selection they will be performing until 30 minutes prior to speaking.

The team had several highlights throughout the season including the Underwood tournament where out of the eight speakers that participated each earned an award. Similarly, six speakers participated in the subsection tournament and each of them advanced to finals round!

Speakers advancing to the section tournament included Johanna Knorr, Bailee Lass, and Emily Field-Olson. In the section meet Johanna Knorr received a second alternate placement while Emily placed first in the section, advanced to the state tournament on April 20th-21st in Chanhassen. Congratulations to all on a great season!



State Knowledge Bowl Meet

By Bridgette Holl

PRHS placed second runner up behind first runner up Minnesota Valley Lutheran and state winner St. John's Prep. We scored 48 points in the written round (placing fifth) and then climbed two places-finish five oral rounds with a combined score of 113.5 points.

The team will be recognized at the Lakes Country Service Center Leadership Banquet in Fergus Falls on May 2, 2012. They will be awarded \$200 for the PRHS Knowledge Bowl Team.



Winter Athletics Teams

by Stephanie Winjum

The Pelican Rapids athletic teams finished up a great winter season with number of successes for all teams. Winter athletic teams include Danceline, Wrestling, Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball.

The Valkyries had a great season, coming away with the Section 4A Jazz Champions title, and also the Section 4A Kick Runners Up title. Coach Tami Seifert noted that team bonding was a high priority this season, and it was definitely accomplished, with upper classmen welcoming rookies and helping them throughout the season. Seniors on the team this year included: Tracey Dillon, Amy Seifert and Dacia Johnson. Coach Seifert stated, "We'll be sad to see our senior leaders go, but have a great group of kids coming up into the program!"

The PRHS wrestling team had 21 letter winners this year and 11 Junior Varsity members. The team ended the season with a 4-6 record with several highlights including Jesus Remero finishing 2nd in the section at 120 pounds and competing at the state level. Also, Robert Mazariegos competed in the MN 9th grade and under league state tournament. He finished 2nd in sections and 4th in State at 119 pounds.

The Pelican Rapids Boys Basketball team had another great season finishing with a record of 25-4 as well as claiming the title of HOL Conference Champions and Sub Section Runner-Up. The team had four players named to the All-Conference team as well as one player named as All-Conference Honorable Mention. This year's seniors included Casey Bruggeman, Luke Halbakken, and Ryan Huseby.

The girls basketball team had a great season. The Lady Vikings won the Holiday Tournament, won the Heart O' Lakes Conference, were Sub Section Runner-Up and were ranked in the Top 10 throughout the season. They ended the season with a 23-6 record which is the second most wins in school history. The Lady Vikings were led by seniors Maria Johnson, Erika Morgan, Anna Skow-Anderson and Mackenzie Strand. The Lady Vikings look forward to continuing the success with a strong nucleus returning for next season.



Technology Expands Middle School Academy Learning Opportunities

by Ashley Schultz, Middle School Academy Teacher

The Middle School ALC, also called Middle School Academy, has had a great first year. Our program offers students in Grades 7-8 both classroom instruction and remedial help. The small class size and comfortable environment is really allowing students to excel.

The Middle School Academy tries to provide several different ways for students to learn so that each student can succeed. For math, we use a computer program called Compass Learning where students work on math skills that they have not yet mastered. We also do full class instruction with paper and pencil assignments. Finally, we use a program called VoiceThread which allows students to create their own lessons on the iPad. These lessons are on the topics we are learning about in class. The lessons they create are then used to teach other students about the same topics.



We also use the Compass Learning program for reading. This allows students to listen to the passage as well as follow along in the book. It provides immediate recall exercises which help the students improve their comprehension.

The students recently started using their public library card to rent eBooks which they get to read on the iPad. This is a great way for them to read because when the students find a word they do not know, they click on it and immediately a definition is in front of them. The students also have the option of renting audio books through

the public library; this allows the auditory learners to listen to their book while jotting down important tidbits along the way.

We are excited to be providing so many learning opportunities for our students. It is so wonderful to see students excited to read and learn. Our goal is to set these students up for success!

And the Beat Goes On

By Tessa Martinson, Cultural Collaborative

After taking a year off, the African Drumming Club restarted last fall with new energy and new drummers. This year, the African Drumming Club includes students in grades 4-7, who drum together every Friday after school. Instructor Geralyn Lyseng leads the drumming clubs in both Pelican Rapids and Fergus Falls as a partnership venture through the cultural collaborative programming for both districts and the 21st Century Grant of the Pelican Rapids School District. Fifteen Pelican Rapids students have learned about African culture and the different instruments and drumming traditions of various countries through the after school African Drumming Club.

In February, master drummer Marc Anderson, of St. Thomas University, came to Pelican Rapids to lead a drumming workshop. The drumming club of Fergus Falls joined the Pelican Rapids drummers for a four hour workshop learning various drumming patterns and layering rhythm upon rhythm in different variations. Students enjoyed learning new rhythms, hand-clapping patterns and games, and "call and response" African songs.



The students in both groups continued to develop the rhythms and songs they learned in the workshop to prepare for their first joint performance at the Festival of Cultures in Fergus Falls. The Festival of Cultures event, held April 12 at the Minnesota State Community and Technical College, included cultural displays, presentations, and performances from area residents. Hundreds of visitors participated in the evening's activities and enjoyed the songs and rhythms of the joint African Drumming performance by the students of Pelican Rapids and Fergus Falls.

April 16 the drumming groups met for another performance, this time for the residents at the Mill Street Residence in Fergus Falls. Students started off the performance playing the rhythms and songs they'd learned throughout the year, but were later joined by the residents towards the end of their time together to participate themselves. The teaching and sharing between the young and old brought many smiles and laughs to all involved. The African Drumming Club's final performance will be at the Celebration of Cultures at the Kennedy Secondary School in Fergus Falls on May 29 at 1:30 p.m. This renewal of drumming interest in Pelican Rapids is sure to carry on and involve more students in more grades next year.

21st Century Grant Partners with Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

By Candace Roesch, Elementary Program Coordinator

Pelican Rapids students have the opportunity to shape the wetlands in our local area. The project began in March with students in grades K-6 who participate in the Magnificent Monday Program and Targeted Services going to the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center (PWLC) in Fergus Falls.

Under the direction of David Ellis and other PWLC staff the students planted native prairie seeds on March 5th where the seeds were left to grow in their greenhouse.



On May 14th the students will be transplanting the seedlings to a waterfowl restoration site north of Erhard called the Backstrom WPA.

Parent volunteers are wanted for the May 14th planting expedition. Please contact Candace Roesch at 863-5910 ext. 5022 if you are interested.

Magnificent Mondays is one of the many programs funded by the 21st Century Grant. Collaborating with local organizations for this type of project is just one example of the enrichment activities the grant provides.

Pelican Rapids School District #548

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Jon Karger, Mitch Monson
Kathy Ouren, Don Perrin

This newsletter is funded by the
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DATE:
June 12 & 13, 2012

LOCATION:
**Viking Elem School
Pelican Rapids, MN**

Appointments must be made in advance by calling
toll-free 1-888-683-1038
8:30 am to 4 pm,
Monday through Friday.

If you need help with transportation, call your insurance provider or ask at the time you make your appointment.

A Dental Outreach Clinic specifically designed to provide dental services to children between the ages of 1 and 12 years of age. Dental Health staff will be available to provide all dental services for children covered by [Minnesota Health Care Programs](#) and [Minnesota Medical Assistance](#).

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