

## Pelican Rapids to Return to the 5-day School Week for the 2016 School Year

by Deb Wanek, Superintendent

On Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioner of Education, Brenda Cassellius, notified the Pelican Rapids School District that she had approved the Pelican Rapids School 4-day school week application for the 2014-2015 school year. The letter stated that the 2014-2015 school year would be a transition year and the District will need to move back to the 5-day school week for the 2015-2016 school year.



She complimented the district on the work that had accomplished but felt a 5-day school week would better meet the needs of the students of Pelican Rapids School District.

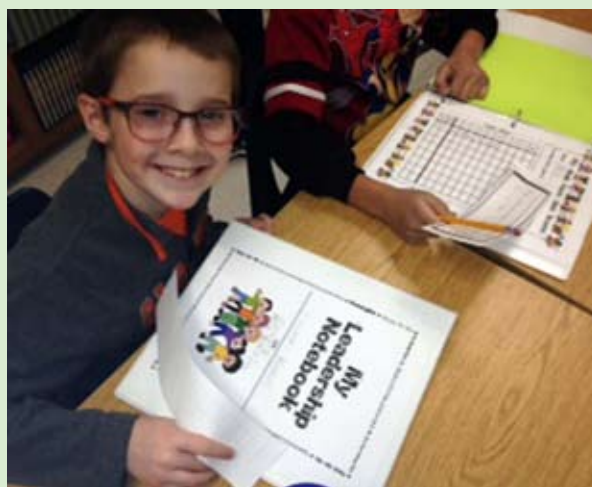
To my knowledge all but two of the school districts that reapplied this spring for the 4-day school week received the same response, a year to transition back to the 5-day school week. Two districts are required to move back to the 5-day school week this fall.

This announcement may not be the response we expected but please keep in mind the political climate. In his initial run for Governor, Mark Dayton promised to fund schools and there would be no 4-day school weeks under his tenure. To his credit he has increased funding each year. The problem is the fact that a .5% increase each year is not enough to make up for years of inadequate funding. On May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, Dayton called for more school days and keeping schools open longer each day. Obviously he does not support a 4-day school week.

What does this mean for the Pelican Rapids School District? We will examine our finances for the 2016 school year early this fall to determine what this will mean for our school district financially. The 2016 legislative year is a funding year so I hope we will have significant data to convince the legislators that they need to fund schools equitably. The Pelican Rapids School District currently receive \$1,000 less per student than the state average. If they could fund schools equitably the increase would allow us to better provide for the many needs of our students. I will be meeting with the executive director of the Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) this summer to look at possible legislative strategies and to identify legislators that may be supportive of this change.

We will have this next year to transition and make plans to go back to a 5-day week. We will also spend this time gather the necessary data to bring to the legislators requesting legislative changes in school funding.

As always we want what is best for students and even though many wanted to remain on the 4-day school week we will make the 5-day school week a positive experience for our students.



### Student Leader Notebook

Second grader updating his Student Leader Notebook. As part of practicing the 7 Habits, all students set learning goals and monitor their progress through Student Leader Notebooks.

### Sixth grade student reads with a kindergarten student.

As a Leader in Me school, we emphasize synergy and student leadership.



## "Where are they now?" - PRHS Graduate Kate Woolever Martinez- Class of 2006

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

I attended Augsburg College and graduated with a major in Art Education K-12 License.

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

Growing up in Pelican our culturally diverse community gave me a taste of the ever-growing diversity that our world encompasses. With this as my foundation, I found my natural fit to be Augsburg College with its strong support for students with learning disabilities and its location within the most diverse neighborhood in the state, Cedar Riverside in Minneapolis. I always knew I wanted to teach but I soon discovered that the nonverbal language of art had the ability to communicate and bridge relationships.

Throughout college I mentored and tutored neighborhood youth and adult refugees, co-lead a summer art program for immigrant, inner-city youth and developed/ conducted research on the effects of visual art on teacher-student relationships. All of these experiences led me to becoming an art teacher.

PRHS gave me an understanding of diversity and soon thereafter I had "the bug" to travel. In some of my overseas experiences – though considered their guest teacher - I left learning about political tolerance from a 6th grader in Bangkok, the realities of climate change from high school students in Bangladesh, and the scars of apartheid living in a dung-sided hut in Namibia.

The more I traveled, the deeper insights I was able to bring back to the school where I presently teach. My school is a high school in downtown St. Paul and is comprised of students from 35 countries. They are empowered to use events (historical or current) along with personal experiences as "springboards" for justice and change through art.

This summer I'll be traveling to the Middle East with 12 teachers under a Fulbright Hayes Scholarship. My focus will be developing an art curriculum based on interviews with both Syrian political refugees living in Jordan and

Palestinians living within the West Bank. I feel very blessed to be working in a field I love. I try to affirm each student for whom they are. I am equally thankful for PRHS... for opening up my eyes to a greater world while instilling in me a life-changing foundation of knowledge, acceptance, and individual support.

### How did PRHS prepare you for college?

The mosaic of languages, religions and cultures that represent PRHS alone helps prepare students for life after high school.

A defining moment in my life happened in seventh grade when I joined the Pelican Tigers summer soccer team. Unfamiliar with the game of soccer, my innocent determination to learn was further compounded by the fact that I was the only female player and one of few from the United States. We were an eclectic clan; a host of languages were spoken on the field, seldom English. As a member of the team, I became aware of how often, as teammates, we were the victims of racism, bigotry and sexism. I began to question these acts of hatred and realized they were driven by fear. In the beginning, we played as separate cultural entities. As we played and worked together for six years, we discovered how to blend our unique cultural strengths to our advantage—we not only advocated for each other, but we also became friends on and off the field. At a young age, I was able to see the strength that diversity created and little did I know it was the place I would meet my husband-to-be, Rudy Martinez.

Many times when the word diversity is spoken, it brings to mind culture, religion and language. A less visible form of diversity that also has had an impact on my life is that of being a student with ADHD and a reading disability. I am grateful to the teachers, coaches, friends that allowed me to learn differently. At times I knew it was annoying, such as wiggling in my desk at the back of the room, which

Woolever Martinez continued on page 3







## Synergizing for Success: Using School Community to Motivate & Celebrate

by Sheila Flatau, Viking Elementary School Principal

As a school that uses The Leader in Me program, Viking Elementary incorporates The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey. These habits are intended to promote skills for life so they apply to both students and staff. Habit 6 is the practice of synergizing, or working with others to reach a better outcome than an individual might on his/her own.



Viking Elementary teachers and students use synergy to improve student achievement in many ways, but they are taking this habit to a new level for the 2014 MCA testing season.

Most educators understand that the MN Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) can dominate the school climate in the spring of the year. These annual assessments often cause anxiety for both staff and students. As our testing dates loomed closer, our leadership team began to discuss ways we could improve the climate during testing and strengthen our school community at the same time. In other words, we were trying to Think Win-Win (Habit 4).

The resulting idea was designed to both motivate our students and celebrate their hard work. Since only grades 3-6 are required to participate in the MCAs, the K-2 classrooms decided to show their support by adopting one of the upper elementary classes. The K-2 classrooms created posters and developed positive messages and cheers for their adopted classroom. Then, as the classroom arrived at their computer lab for testing, they were met by a cheering group of students encouraging them to do their very best.

We don't know if this will improve our test scores. More importantly, students feel this encouragement and support. We had one teacher report, "My kids aren't testing until Thursday, but they are actually excited after hearing all the cheers and seeing all of the other kids getting attention going into take their tests today!" We are optimistic that this will bring our school community even closer together and as Habit 6 – Synergy teaches us, "Together is better!"



## Elementary Artwork Showcase

by Laura Moe, Elementary Art Teacher

The sixth graders are leaving an artistic legacy at Viking Elementary. The traditional ceiling tile collages are underway and will soon be breaking out into the sixth grade hallway.



The students are working in groups of two or three on images that they feel a connection with. Some of the images deal with sports, computer icons, cancer ribbons, dinosaurs, cartoon characters and local business logos.



## Record attendance for Viking "Family Math Game Night"



Attendance at the March 27<sup>th</sup> "Family Math Game Night" was a record for the family series hosted at the school. Principal Flatau reported that a total of 185 people came for the evening event. The total included

116 students, accompanied by 69 adults. Flatau said she felt that record turnout may be attributed to the long winter, and a desire for families to get out of the house for an evening.



Family Nights are offered at least two times each year by our Title teachers. They use these opportunities

to share fun literacy or math strategies with parents so students can continue to practice their skills at homes.



## Pelican Rapids 5th Grade Class Wins Trip to Mall of America

by Sheila Flatau, Viking Elementary School Principal

Viking Elementary's 5th grade class is serious about recycling. They have been working hard to inform their families, friends, and teachers that paperboard is now able to be recycled. Along with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders from Fergus Falls, Underwood, and New York Mills they entered a contest sponsored by Otter Tail County Recycling and Lakes Radio. In this contest, each classroom had to collect paperboard from 50 different households or businesses, and once they reached that goal they won a field trip to the Otter Tail County Recycling Center and Transfer station in Fergus Falls. While all of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes met this goal, one class was chosen at random for a trip to the Mall of America with passes to Nickelodeon Universe. Mr. Jon Moe's class is the very excited winner!







# Run, Vikings, Run!!!



Run, Vikings, Run came about as a way for kids to experience run/walking in a positive atmosphere. We only have one body and we need to take care of it. Running is not easy for some but the students got to see role models cheering and helping them "sharpen the saw". When a student was asked "what surprised you about the run?" His excited answer was "I ran the entire way, I didn't think I could do it."

## Second Annual Family Fun Festival

*Article Exerpts used with Permission of The Pelican Press*

The Family Fun Festival was held on Friday, April 25 from 4:30-7pm. The event was sponsored by the Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) group.

The festival is not only about raising funds toward educational needs but it primarily an event centered around bringing school families together and building connections and friendships. The Parent Teacher Partnership's motto is: "Partnering Together to Enhance School Success".

This year the event was "bigger and better," said co-chair Staci Haiby. The PTP

added extra features, thanks to a generous donation by Brent and JoAnn Frazier through Bell State Bank's Pay it Forward Program. A sum of \$1000 was donated by the Frazier's which enabled the group to add an extra bounce house, more concessions, The Princess Parlor, and more prizes for games.

A few of this years attractions included the following (see photos clockwise from above): operating the



duck pond attraction at the carnival was VES teacher Ryan Syverson, Greta Tollefson is shown doing the Hula Hoop Toss event, "Bingo for Books" was a new feature this year, kids enjoy the treasure hunt and 5<sup>th</sup> grader Grace Haugrud paints a design on 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Kaden Holt.

Attendance was up from last year with approximately 220 students and their families enjoying the event, according to organizer Staci Haiby.

A donation of \$3,000 from the funds raised is being donated toward Literacy Programming for grades pre-K through grade 6.

Co-chairs are Haiby and Judy Simpson; Dee Dee Stephenson, secretary; and other members of the committee include Candace Roesch, Maree Pesch, Sherri Larson and Jessica Brosowske.

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.

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vibrated every desk in line all the way to the front. Uniqueness is accepted, its not limited to the walls of PRHS, our whole town continues to host such things as the regional Special Olympics track meets. Our community & PRHS student's volunteer donations pour in, with the hopes that each athlete feels recognized and valued.

As our society continues to change, the word diversity continues to evolve, embracing religion, language, learning styles, race, cultural norms, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, social economics, dress and family structures. The hallway of PRHS mirrors this and laid a strong foundation for me and for other students to move forward after high school.

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

I participated in SADD, soccer, cross-country, basketball, track and field, softball, NHS, Cultural Committee, and Student Council.

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

Top ten list of great memories of Pelican and PRHS

1. Walking the streets of Chinatown and buying knockoff perfume that smelled nothing like the original on our band trip in New York City.
2. Snowball fights in the courtyard of PRHS, eventually being shut down by a smiling Mr. Moerke.
3. The amazing Al Siegle singing and playing the guitar for each class he substituted for.
4. Blaring the radio and dancing on the benches, in the locker room, before basketball games.
5. Mr. Brown jumping on his desk yelling: "Never call a person a which or a that" (It worked!)
6. Eric Christenson being crowned Homecoming king.
7. Randomly hearing "Gasolina" by Daddy Yankee, blasting over the intercom, throughout PRHS, in the middle of 5<sup>th</sup> period.
8. Endless support and a sea of orange from the community of Pelican Rapids at any major sporting event.
9. Watching the dramatic events unfold as we (the junior girls) pranked the senior girls by telling them that prom was going to be a "barnyard" theme.
10. Coasting passed PRHS – downhill - in Trevor Bakken's car - in neutral, - as he was too cheap to use gas.... AND we were dumb enough to get out and push to keep the coasting going a little farther.

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

Periodically throughout the school year, my present principal writes to each staff member a handwritten note of encouragement. He always signs it "Nice Bike". This is based on a story, about a guy, who stumbled onto the Harley-Davidson's 100th year anniversary celebration. While driving his beige rental car amongst thousands of black-leathered, bandana-clad, and hardcore Harley riders, he kept noticing that the two words that connected strangers were simply "Nice bike!" These two simple words take no effort but carried great meaning to the receiver as it acknowledged, affirmed, and thereby built bridges.

At PRHS you have a true gift of diversity. I challenge each of you to "Nice Bike" your classmates. Walking by someone in the hallway doesn't make you a part of a diverse school. Immerse yourself in one another's lives, break down those walls, and learn from one another. What you gain and the connections you make at PRHS can be a gift...a gift that could easily had become a lost opportunity for powerful growth.

"Hey Pelican....thank you..... and NICE BIKE!"

## Elementary Students Exceed Healthy Heart Fundraising Goals

*Article Exerpts used with Permission of The Pelican Press*

Some of the Pelican Rapids elementary school students chose to participate in the American Heart Association's (AHA) fundraiser called "Jump for Heart" as part of their physical education class.

This school year students continued the strong Viking Elementary tradition of meeting and exceeding original monetary goals for the AMA, set at \$1,000.00.

"Forty-two awesome elementary students raised \$1,997.67 in eight days for AHA," reported Sheri O'Brien, phy ed instructor. "As a public educator, I am very thankful for living in such a supportive community as Pelican Rapids. Every year, our community assists our fundraisers in meeting and exceeding our monetary goal for AHA."

As a reward for the students' efforts, the top five

students got the privilege of choosing one of four teachers (Sherri Larson, Steve Schwantz, Jon Moe and Sheri O'Brien) to throw a whipped cream pie at on Friday, April 4th.

The top five fundraisers are as follows:

1. Oakley Carlson-Grade 3 \$153.00
2. Sophia Kulsrud-Grade 4 \$150.00
3. Emma Seter-Grade 5 \$140.00
4. Evan Fankhanel-Grade 4 and Alix Hatle-Grade 5 tied with \$100.00 each.

The money the students raised for AHA goes towards educating adults and youth regarding heart and lung issues and different ways to exercise to keep their cardiovascular system healthy throughout their lifetime.





# Join us for Summer Fun!!!

Minnesota Department of  
**Education**

## Food and Nutrition Service Summer Food Service Program Fact Sheet 2014



The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides cash reimbursement for meals served at eligible sites when school is out for the summer. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Food and Nutrition Service.

### Benefits

- Children receive free, nutritious meals.
- Organizations receive meal reimbursement.
- Helps families stretch budgets. Reduces demand on food shelves. Children return to school ready to learn.
- Education and recreation activities reduce summer weight gain and the learning gap.

### Who Can be a Sponsor?

The SFSP relies on local organizations to sponsor sites and manage the meal service and program activities. Organizations that are eligible to sponsor a program include:

- Public or private nonprofit schools.
- Public or private nonprofit summer camps.
- Private, nonprofit organizations.
- Units of local government, tribal or migrant organizations, and colleges or universities.

### What is a Site?

Sites are the location where meals are served. Sites can be classified as camps, open, closed enrolled or migrant. Sponsors must be able to show they are eligible.

### Determining Site Eligibility

#### Area Eligible

- At least 50 percent of the students enrolled in the local public school are eligible for free/reduced-price meals.

#### Census Eligible

- Census data identifies the area as low-income.

#### Other Data

- Household Income Statement.
- Local school district determination.
- Public housing data.
- Native American certification.

### Who Can Participate?

Children 18 and under or individuals 19 and over with state-defined mental or physical disabilities who participate in school programs.

### How are Sponsors Reimbursed?

Sponsors receive reimbursement based on the number of eligible meals served. Reimbursement is paid after a monthly claim is submitted. Rates are set by the USDA.

### 2014 SFSP Reimbursement Rates

	Rural and/or Self-prep	Urban & Vended
Breakfast	\$2.0225	\$1.9850
Lunch/Supper	\$3.5450	\$3.4875
Snack	\$0.8400	\$0.8225

### Are There Meal Requirements?

Sponsors purchase or prepare meals to be served to children at sites. Most sites serve up to two meals a day: breakfast, lunch/supper or snack.

All meals must meet USDA meal pattern requirements. All meals must meet USDA meal pattern requirements for food groups and portion size.

### For More Information

Visit the SFSP web page:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/FNS/SFSP/index.html>

E-mail: [mde.fns@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.fns@state.mn.us)

Call: 651-582-8526 or MN toll-free 800-366-8922

Contact: Jenny Butcher, SFSP Coordinator

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	<i>Please note these important dates in August.</i>				9
10	11					16
17	18 CLOSED	19 CLOSED Teacher Workshops	20 CLOSED Teacher Workshops	21 CLOSED Teacher Workshops	22 CLOSED	23
24	25 CLOSED Teacher Workshops	26 1st Day of School	27 School	28 School	29 No School CLOSED	30
31	Sept 1 Labor Day No School CLOSED	Sept 2 School	Sept 3 School	Sept 4 School	Sept 5 School	

## Keep Saving Box Tops & Labels This Summer!

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
- to check expiration dates
- to call Ruth Holmgren at 863-6539 if you are interested in helping cut & sort labels.

Thank you for helping us save for educational resources!



Friends, Fun & Free Food!



### Summer Food Program at the Pelican Rapids Schools

Where: Viking Elementary Cafeteria  
1 Viking Drive, Pelican Rapids

When: Mon-Fri May 27<sup>th</sup>-August 15<sup>th</sup> 2014  
(except June 13<sup>th</sup> & July 4<sup>th</sup>)

Times: Breakfast 7:45-8:45am  
Lunch 11:30-12:45pm

Sponsor Name: 21st Century Grant/Pelican Rapids Schools

Telephone: 218-863-5910 ext. 5022

*The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



# Free Camps & Activities

## Summer 2014



### \*FREE\* Week-long Camps (M-Th)

Please note: Trips to the pool are included without extra fees, however, some field trips may require fees.

**Cool Crafts Camp**

- Grades 3-5
- Monday-Thursday 12:30-3:30pm
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup>



**The Great Outdoors**

- Grades 2-4
- Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm
- June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
- Includes Field Trips to: Maplewood State Park & YMCA

### \*FREE\* Weekly Activities

**K-2 Playtime**

- Grades K-2
- Tuesdays 10:30-12pm
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup>

**Summer-tastic Book Club**

- Grades 4-8
- Wed. 9-11:00am
- June 11<sup>th</sup>-July 30<sup>th</sup>

**Tech CLUB**

- Grades 3-8
- Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm
- June 10<sup>th</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup>
- Working with coding software & other technology

**Art Zone**

- Grades 4-6
- Mondays 4-6:00pm
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup>
- Work on mural & sculpture projects with Mrs. Laura Moe

**The Art of Cooking**

- Grades 5-8
- Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm
- June 5<sup>th</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup>

**In-Town Busing**

You will be contacted with your child's individual schedule after you have registered.

Busing routes will run:

- 7:30-8:00am pick up only
- 11:30-12:15pm pick up/drop off
- 3:30-4:00pm drop off only

Drop offs will only take place at the address listed on the registration form and Viking Elementary School

**SCHOOLBUS**

- In town busing
- Monday-Thursday
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> & Aug 4<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>
- Must register

### What do the kids do in Summer Club Vikes?

We do fun stuff like:

- \*take trips to the pool\*make and eat fun snacks\*take field trips\*go to the minnow races\*play outdoor water games\*play gym games\*have play-ground time\*arts & crafts\*read and write stories\*play board games and iPads\*have dance parties\* and much, much more!
- We are open 6:30 am-6pm Monday-Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>-August 15<sup>th</sup>
- We take drop-ins as long as you give a 24 hours' notice
- We are very flexible, you can pick-up and drop off whenever you like.
- We are open to students registered for Kindergarten in the fall of 2014 up through students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall.



**Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Camp** is shaping up to be quite an experience this summer! It's our first camp and kids will be making rockets with Mr. Moe! It goes without saying that this will be a hands-on experience and that goes for their time with Mrs. Graham as well learning about technology!

**KinderCamp** participants are going to learn new games, make crafts, do cooking projects, read books and play outside. Julie Severson will instruct the group with a focus on trying new things and working with friends!

**The Great Outdoors Camps** are split into two weeks. The camps will be similar in that trips to YMCA Camp Cormorant and Maplewood are planned for each. However, we've geared activities for each group to match their age. For instance, the group for the second week will have the opportunity to participate in a high ropes course during their week. Both groups will learn some basics of Archery taught by Ryan Huseby!

Your kids will love trying all those fun projects on Pinterest in **Cool Crafts Camp**! Crafts with Duct tape, jewelry, and yarn, FUN!

Kids will know what **Wet n Wild Camp** is all about! Bring a swim suit and towel every day and remember to still wear shoes appropriate for running outside (shoes may also get wet). Mark all your child's extra dry clothes/shoes with their name or put them in a bag with their name on it.

**Yard Games Camp** kids will play all their favorite outdoor summer games and quite a few that they love playing in gym class!

**Art of Cooking** participants should get ready to have some fun with food. This club will do more "art" with food then actual cooking :-)

Even though kids seem to all there is to know about every gizmo that's out there, in **Tech Club**, they will get hands-on and get to know even more.

**K-2 Playtime** is for your student who is interested in getting some time out of the house to play with his/her friends at the school, maybe while mom/dad have time to go run errands.

Please note: We are closed on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will also be closed August 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, have regular after school programming August 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and closed on August 29<sup>th</sup> & September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Questions or to register: please contact Candace Roesch, Program Coordinator at 863-5910 extension 5022 or email croesch@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us.

**Kinder Camp**

- Grades K&1
- Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm
- June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

**STEM Camp**

- Grades 3-8
- Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30 pm
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>-June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Yard Games Camp**

- Grades 1-8
- Monday-Thursday 12:30-3:30pm
- Aug 11<sup>th</sup>-Aug 14<sup>th</sup>

**Summer Rec**

- Ages 4 yrs-18+
- Mon-Fri (see schedule)
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>-July 11<sup>th</sup>
- separate registration required

**The Great Outdoors**

- Grades 5-8
- Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm
- June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>
- Field Trips to: Maplewood State Park, Ropes Course & YMCA

**Summer Targeted Services**

- Grades 1-6
- Mon-Thurs 8:30-12pm
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup> & Aug 4<sup>th</sup>-Aug 14<sup>th</sup>
- separate registration required

**Jack & the Beanstalk Play**  
Prairie Fire Theatre

- Grades 2-12
- Auditions: Monday July 21<sup>st</sup> 1-3:00pm
- Practices: Tuesday-Thursday 12-4:30pm July 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>
- Practice & Performances: Fri. July 25<sup>th</sup> 1-8pm & Sat. July 26<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm
- VES Gym

Staff will accompany registered students to and from their activities (except golf).

**Wet 'n Wild Camp**

- Grades 1-8
- Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm
- Aug 4<sup>th</sup>-Aug 7<sup>th</sup>

**Kindergarten Boost**

School Readiness Program for incoming Kindergartners Fall 2014

- Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30pm
- Aug 4<sup>th</sup>-Aug 14<sup>th</sup>
- separate registration required

**Summer Club Vikes**

- Grades K-6
- Monday-Friday 6:30am-6pm
- May 27<sup>th</sup>-August 15<sup>th</sup>
- (Closed on June 13 & July 4)
- Small hourly fee applies
- Schedules are individualized
- Must register separately

**FREE Summer Meals**  
Sponsored by: 21st Century Grant, MDE & the USDA  
Includes: Breakfast, Lunch, Snack  
Extended Learning students should plan to arrive for breakfast no later than 8:00am  
Summer Camp participants should plan to arrive for lunch no later than 12:15pm

**Friends, Fun & Free Food!**

**Summer Food Program**  
at the Pelican Rapids Schools  
\* USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Call Candace at 863-5910 ext. 5022 with questions.



# Join us for Summer Fun!!!

Summer Recreation Activities 2014 start June 2<sup>nd</sup>-July 11<sup>th</sup>

Activity	Age or Grade Completed	Days & Times Practice	Games
T-Ball	4-5 yrs old	T-Th 6:30-7:30pm	
Rookie League Baseball	6-8 yrs old	M-Th 10:30-11:30am	W 10:30-11:30am
Pee Wee Baseball	grades 2-3	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-Th 10:30-11:50am	T & Th 1:00pm
Little League Baseball	grades 5-6	T & Th 10:30-12pm	M & W 6:30pm
Babe Ruth Baseball	13 yrs old 14-15 yrs old	to be determined	M, W & F 10am or 6:30pm M & Th 6:30pm
Fast Pitch Softball	12-18 yrs old	to be determined	
Soccer	4-5 yrs old 6-8 yrs old & 9-12 yrs old	M & W 10:30-11:30am M-Th 9-10:15am	no games F 9-11:30am
Tennis	grades 3-6	M & W 9-10:00am	
Golf	grades 3-7	M & T 1-3:00pm	
Couch to 5K	ages 10-adult	M & W 6:30-7:15pm	5K on July 12 <sup>th</sup>

Please note: staff will accompany registered students to & from their other activities (except golf)  
Call Amanda Guler at 651-503-2512 or stop by either school office for registration forms. Registration deadline May 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Summer 2014 Extended Year Learning Registration

It is important to continue the learning support for your child so they are more prepared for the upcoming school year.  
Summer Targeted Services includes fun things like field trips, yoga, collaborations with other schools & fun weekly themes.  
Summer classes will be held at Viking Elementary (VES)



### Typical Monday-Thursday Schedule:

- |                               |   |                                |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| •6:30-8am Club Vikes          | •8:30-12pm Targeted Services Classes        | •12:30-3:30pm Summer Camp      |
| •7:30-8am In town bus pick up | •12-12:30pm Free Lunch                      | •3:30-4pm In town bus drop off |
| •8:00-8:30am Free Breakfast   | •11:30-12:15pm In town bus pick up/drop off | •3:30-6pm Club Vikes           |

Please note:  
•Club Vikes is available on Fridays  
•Summer camps will be Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3:30pm (registration forms will be available at the PTP Carnival)  
•Busing, breakfast/lunch, Club Vikes & summer camps are optional-Call Candace at 863-5910 ext 5022 with questions or for more information

## Kindergarten Boost 2014

### School Readiness Program

Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:30pm August 4<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

There are no fees for this program.

The goal of this school readiness program is to help preschoolers, soon to be Kindergarteners, extend their preschool experiences so they will enter school with the skills and behaviors necessary to be successful in future learning.

This two week summer session will be filled with age appropriate learning, exploration and social activities.

Breakfast, Lunch & Snack are included. In town busing is available. If you choose to drop off your child & have them eat breakfast with us, plan to meet us in the lobby at 8:30am as we will be eating as a group at 8:35am. Plan on picking up your child at 3:30pm.

Please make arrangements with Club Vikes if you need to drop off or pick up your child before or after the designated times as they cannot be left unattended in the lobby.

Teachers will be Terra Fitzsimmons & Megan King.  
Please Call Candace at 863-5910 extension 5022 if you have any questions about registration.



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.

## Summer Programming for Students in Grades 7-12

### Opportunities for kids going into grades 7-12 in the fall 2014:

#### LED (Leading Every Day)

Mon-Thurs 1-4:00pm  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup>

PRHS Media Center with Mr. Kohler & Mrs. Albright

#### Strength & Conditioning

Mon-Thurs 7:30-8:30am & 8:30-9:30pm  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>

PRHS Weight Room

Mr. Richter & Mr. Fankhanel

#### Jack & the Beanstalk Play Prairie Fire Theatre

Auditions: Monday July 21<sup>st</sup> 1-3:00pm

Practices: Tues-Thurs 12-4:30pm  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>-July 24<sup>th</sup>

#### Practices & Performances:

Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> 1-8:00pm  
& Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup> 1-4:00pm

#### Summer School

Mon-Thurs 8-10:00am &/or 10-12:00pm  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup>

You will receive a letter in the mail if your child needs to attend summer school.

### Opportunities for kids going into grades 7-8 in the fall 2014:

#### STEM Camp

Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm  
June 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

#### The Great Outdoors

Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm  
June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Field Trips to: Maplewood State Park, Ropes Course & YMCA

#### Yard Games Camp

Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm  
Aug 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

#### Wet n Wild Camp

Mon-Thurs 12:30-3:30pm  
Aug 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

#### Summer-tastic Book Club

Wednesdays 9-11:00am  
June 11<sup>th</sup>-July 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Tech Club

Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm  
June 10<sup>th</sup>-June 24<sup>th</sup>

#### The Art of Cooking

Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm  
June 5<sup>th</sup>-June 26<sup>th</sup>

These activities will be held at Viking Elementary.  
Call Candace Roesch at 218-863-5910 ext. 5022 with questions.

### Opportunities for kids going into grades 9-12 in the fall 2014:

#### Book Club

Mondays 7:00pm Starts June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
PRHS Media Center with Mrs. Albright

These activities will be held at PRHS-enter through the Library Entrance door #8. Call Bob Kohler at 218-863-5910 ext. 4065 with questions.

### Free Breakfast, Lunch & In Town Busing is Available for all students.

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



Preschool/Kindergarten Roundup



*Fun for all Ages & Stages!*

## IMPORTANCE OF STUDENTS READING DURING SUMMER BREAK

by Porfirio Diaz, Parent Liaison

As summer break approaches, it makes it more challenging for students to maintain focus in school. Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning, especially when it comes to reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but children who continue to read actually gain skills. During the summer, parents can help children sustain (and even strengthen) reading skills, strengthen their vocabulary and reinforce the benefits of reading for enjoyment. Remember that children need free time, away from structured academic learning, and the summer is the perfect time to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So summer reading should be fun. The following are a few tips to make summer reading enjoyable for your children:



- Read aloud together with your child every day.
  - Make it fun by reading outdoors-on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you. For younger children, be sure to practice letter-sound correspondence, do lots of rhyming and clapping out syllables, and explore the relationships between oral language and print.
  - Set a good example!
  - Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have family reading time (including mom and dad).
  - Let kids choose what they want to read.
  - Every so often, read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.
  - Buy audio books or check them out at the library (this can be especially helpful for a child with a learning disability). Listen to these recordings in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together at home.
  - As you go through the day...utilize time cooking, gardening, grocery shopping, and playing games as an opportunity to engage in verbal word play, vocabulary building, recognizing new and familiar words or attaching meaning to words and sentences.
  - Take your children to the library regularly. See the information in the summer fun section of this issue of the newsletter about the special summer reading activities and events at the Pelican Rapids Library and academic and enrichment activities offered through the 21st Century Grant. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.
  - Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines. Some magazines you can subscribe to are Sports Illustrated for Kids, Highlights for Children, or National Geographic World. Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines as a way of keeping up the reading habit over the summer and enhancing a growing vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.
  - Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals. Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, email or instant messaging are other options.
  - Trips can be a fun way to encourage reading. Ask your children to read traffic signs and billboards aloud.
- Reading is the foundation of a good education. As parents and teachers we need to encourage our students to read over the summer months to improve their knowledge.

*Thanks for the Memories*

A Final Farewell to the  
PRHS Auditorium

A Revue of Songs, Scenes  
and Remembrances of Performances

Starring:  
PRHS Drama Alumni

Join us for this  
Unique Performance on  
Saturday, May 31st at 7:30pm  
and  
Sunday, June 1st at 2:00pm  
**\$5.00 Admission**

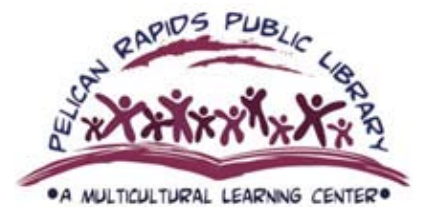


## Summer Reading Programs at the Pelican Rapids Public Library

## Random Acts of Weekly Reading

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS @ 10:30 a.m.**

**\*All activities are FREE!\***



## Tween S.T.E.A.M.

for kids in grades 4<sup>th</sup>-up\*!

All programming is FREE

Summer programming for those  
interested in **Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Art & Math**

Join us the second and fourth  
**Wednesdays** of the month during  
June, July, and August at 1:00  
p.m. for fun speakers & hands on  
programs!

(\*1st-3rd graders are welcomed as well.)

## June 4<sup>th</sup>: The Wild Rumpus

- Register for summer reading
- Become a Wild Beast or King Max

### June 11<sup>th</sup>: Actual Size

- Learn Crazy Creature Facts & see how you match up

**June 18<sup>th</sup>: Please Bring Balloons**

- Carousel Animals and Curiosity

## June 25<sup>th</sup>: BRODINI

- Enjoy the magical and comedy styling of this wonderful family act funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

*\*Sponsored by Pelican Rapids Public Library & Viking Library System*

**July 2nd: \*No Programming the**

*week of July 4th\**

## July 9<sup>th</sup>: I'll Save You BoBo

- Bring your favorite stuffed animal along as we adventure to save BoBo

## July 16<sup>th</sup>: Oh No George

We'll treat you to a sweet, as you  
learn a new trick

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> :OLD SCHOOL  
GAMES@ 2 PM**

An afternoon with the MN Historical Society teaching us to play and make some non-tech games

### July 30<sup>th</sup>: It's A Tiger

Ferocious beasts help us close out  
our summer

**Questions? Call Us: 218-863-7055**





## PRHS Artwork Showcase

### Pelican Art Students Selected for Nationwide Publications

Pelican Rapids students will be published artists, in the nationwide "Celebrating Art" book.

The top 25 percent of student artwork in the nation are published in this book, according to Pelican school art instructor Robyn Dial.

"It's a great honor for the students," noted Dial.

In addition to high school-aged art students, a couple of younger pupils that Dial teaches at Viking Elementary School will also be featured in the book.

The contest is a great motivator for students. When students know they are creating art for a contest with the possibility of being included in a book, students will often make an extra effort to do the best job possible. The student work is recorded forever in the full-color hardbound book published by Celebrating Art. The book is a tool to get students excited about art.

Tens of thousands of artwork nationwide were reviewed for printing and the best 25 percent were chosen for publishing. Congratulations to our Published Pelican Artists.

#### Fall 2013 Book

Emma Ballard grade 11, Jessica Weinrich grade 8, Viktoria Stephenson grade 4

#### Spring 2014 Book

Emma Ballard grade 11, Julianna Martinez grade 11, Angel Murillo grade 10, Dakota Walter grade 9, Jennessa Ballard grade 8, Lily Williams grade 4

### Art Awards Presented to PRHS Students

*Article Exerpts & Photos Courtesy of The Pelican Press*

Pelican Rapids High School art students brought home 11 awards at a recent arts competition. The award winners' artwork was on display at the student art show in April.



**Excellent Awards (shown in photo above):** Fernanda Rojas gr.10-Ceramics, Firdawsa Muxammadkoosar gr.12-Ceramics, Rebeca Martinez gr.12-Ceramics, Carina Martinez gr.10-Sculpture, Jennessa Ballard gr.8-Painting, Emma Ballard gr.11-Mixed Media, Julianna Martinez gr.11-Ceramics, Hodan Odawa gr.9-Printmaking

#### Superior Awards

(shown in photo on right): Emma Ballard gr.11-Drawing, Julianna Martinez gr.11-Mixed Media

#### Best in Category:

Julianna Martinez gr.11-Mixed Media



Ivon Diaz  
Grade 10



Andy Mai  
Grade 11



## The New York City Experience

*by Emma Sjoström*

On March 24, 2014 I was privileged to get on a bus with 69 other band students, with our final destination being New York City! When we departed from the school, everyone was excited. Our band was able to work with St. Cloud State's new band director, Dr. Catharine Bushman, on our first day of the trip. On our way to NYC we made a pit stop at Chicago to go to the Medieval Times dinner theater there.



On the eve of our second day on the trip, we arrived in NYC! We drove through the city to visit Grand Central Station and from there we walked to Times Square. The beautiful bright lights of Times Square left all of us in a state of awe.

During our stay in New York City, we got to visit many of the landmarks the city has to offer. Central Park, the Empire State Building, and Radio City Music Hall were some of my favorite places. We were privileged to visit the 9/11 Memorial Site, and I will never forget the somber feelings I had.

Our band got to play at one of New York's most

prestigious venues, Lincoln Center. Having strangers stop and watch us play as they were passing by was a cool experience. Les Misérables and Wicked were the two Broadway shows the PRHS band got to see. We also saw the Off-Broadway show, The Blue Man Group. All three of these shows gave me a greater appreciation of music. We visited the Brooklyn Bridge and Chinatown before leaving the city. The trip was an experience of a lifetime and I am so glad I was able to share it with so many of my friends.



### PRHS Students Earn Superior & Excellent Ratings at Band Contest

*Article Exerpts Courtesy of The Pelican Press*

Pelican Rapids high school students competed in the Section Instrumental Solo and Ensemble Contest at NDSU on March 17.

Band members earned 60 superior and 26 excellent ratings. Sydney Haugrud, Erin Christenson and Madelin Berube earned "contest high" totals at more than 40 points.

### Spanish Class Collaborative

*by Bridgette Holl*

On March 29<sup>th</sup> our Spanish class met with a group of students from Barnesville, LPA, and Underwood to discuss a movie, **bajo la misma luna**, that we have watched in our Spanish class. **Under the Same Moon** is the story of a young Mexican boy who crosses the border to find his mother who is living and working illegally in Los Angeles. Guest speaker Rigo Castillon was there and talked with the kids about immigration. It was a very personal story of his experiences living in two countries: Mexico and the United States. This event was sponsored by the Cultural Collaborative.





## BE MORE AWESOME . . . WHY THE “LEADER IN ME” ROCKS!

by Doug Bruggeman

I ‘m not a big Facebook user, in fact, the Facebook account I set up for myself six years ago is pretty much used solely by my wife. One aspect of Facebook that I enjoy, however, is coming across motivational messages or post that direct you to sites with inspirational or thought provoking messages.

Recently, I was scrolling across this social media phenomenon when I came across a post that directed me to a Blog page of a Michigan teacher. The Blog was called “Affective Living” and the post that drew my attention was titled “What Students Really Need to Hear”.

The heart of Mr. Mielke’s post was his belief that the “Main Event” in our schools is not academics but rather teaching our students how to handle life when life gets tough.

I myself have shared a similar message with my students. I refer to it as my “20/80” philosophy on education. Explaining this philosophy is job number one for me on the first day of school.

To me, 20% of what I do as an educator is teaching students the academics of my class. I assure the students that the study of history, citizenship and government are important and have real value, however, I emphasize that 80% of what I do in the school setting is centered around helping students learn the habits of success. A major focus of my daily contact with students is taking advantage of the opportunities to help them improve their life habits.

Because I believe it is important for students to be able to handle the responsibilities of life, I found the following excerpt in Mr. Mielke’s blog very inspirational.:

**The “Main Event” is learning how to deal with the harshness of life when it gets difficult — how to overcome problems as simple as a forgotten locker combination, to obnoxious peers, to gossip, to people doubting you, to asking for help in the face of self-doubt, to pushing yourself to concentrate when a million other thoughts and temptations are fingertips away. It is your resilience in conquering the main event — adversity — that truly prepares you for life after school.**

Upon reading this statement, I immediately thought about the 7 Habits of Effectiveness and the opportunities the “Leader in Me” program has to help our students become more resilient to the adversities of life. I also started visualizing a lot of the problems kids face in school and how each one of the 7 Habits was a way for them to face these trials and win.

In order for one to be an effective problem solver it starts with winning what Stephen Covey(author of the 7 Habits of Effectiveness) referred to as the “Private Victory” gained through the first three habits.

**Habit 1 – Be Proactive:** *Being proactive is really telling students that they have all the power they need to meet life’s challenges with-in themselves. That they get to decide if and when they “quit”. I mention quitting here because that is the one thing that Mr. Mielke’s blog article talked about. We need to help kids learn to persevere through tough times and not give up! It is our job as teachers and parents to use the principles of Habit 1 to make our students more resilient to the challenges and not allow them to use excuses and blame when life does not go as expected.*

**Habit 2 – Begin with the End in Mind:** *Beginning with the end in mind asks our students to look at the bigger picture. To see that their choices have affects on where they go and what they do. Coming up with plans of actions can help them avoid some challenges that*

*rise up but more importantly, looking into the future give us a destination. When obstacles get in our way our long range view helps provide the motivation to get around or through these road blocks.*

**Habit 3 – Put First Things First:** *This habit wants our students to start seeing that they have the power to handle the challenges in life if they start discovering what their “big rocks” are and tend to things that matter the most right away. Too many times we spend so much time on the little things in life that we feel there is not enough time to get everything done. By prioritizing our actions we usually find out that there is enough time to work and play, thus solving a lot of issues.*

The 7 Habits of Effectiveness is built around strong principles that do not change through time. Once a solid foundation is established by making the first three habits a part of their lives our students will be able to expand and help not only themselves but others through Habits 4, 5 & 6.

### Habit 4 – Think Win-Win:

*The win-win philosophy can have a huge effect on our school culture. A simple example to a major problem would be how the habit of win-win can help defeat the bully mentality. We need to sell the fact that bullying does not add to a bully’s life in any way, shape or form. The win-win attitude would show our students that helping other is the quickest way to help improve their own lives. You can achieve true success in life by helping others.*

### Habit 5 – Seek First to Understand

**& Then to be Understood:** *This habit helps all of us break down the obstacles that are created by miscommunication. Teaching our students to make it a priority to understand what others are saying can really eliminated a ton of life problems. Too often we act on what we think is the reality and what we think another person is saying. Learning how to communicate is one of life’s most important lessons.*

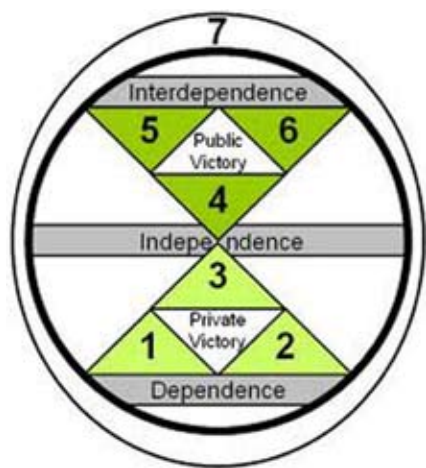
**Habit 6 – Synergy:** *Synergy is bringing all of the habits together and finding ways to overcome the challenges of life not through compromise but through the combination of ideas from a number of people. This is the true essence of effectiveness. How great would it be if our students would understand that great things can be accomplished by working with others.*

Habits four through six allow us to help others and get help from others. It is what Stephen Covey calls the “Public Victory”. By following these three habits we quickly find out that it is through helping others that our own life becomes more complete.

**Habit 7 – Sharpen the Saw:** *This habit stands alone and is all encompassing. I feel it is one of the easiest of the habits for me to follow but at times we all fall into the trap of not taking the time to re-energize ourselves and when this happens we become our own obstacle. Helping our students manage their time and make sure they understand the importance of renewing their body, mind and soul is an important step in their life journey.*

No matter the value you place on the teaching of life skills in the school setting, I think we can all agree that helping our students be problem solvers is a pretty important and worthwhile aspect of their education and should be an emphasis in our schools and homes.

The “Leader in Me” program, with its utilization of the 7 Habits of Effectiveness, is giving our school the tools to create the resilience to conquer adversity now and in the future. I am excited that this program has become a major initiative for our school district. We have a golden opportunity to really help our students “Be More Awesome”. Let’s Go!!!



## Superintendent Wanek Testifies Before the K-12 Education Committee

This winter Superintendent Wanek testified before the K-12 House Education Committee.

This is only one in a series of attempts to create an equitable school funding system. In recent years the drive has been to put seasonal recreational property taxes back on the Referendum Market Value (RMV). This would not increase the taxes on the seasonal recreational property but channel what they pay the state back to the schools. In the case for Pelican Rapids this would cut almost every property owners school taxes in half. This was the fourth year that both the Senate and the House had a bill centered around this need.



Early this winter the Pelican Rapids School Board was able to gather a lot of support for this bill from districts with similar issues, however updated tax information from the Department of Revenue was not updated until April and all bills had to have their first hearing by March 21<sup>st</sup>. The most recent information on the impact of seasonal recreational property was from 2010. Each Senator and Representative want the details of how this bill would impact their districts and this information was not available by time the House and Senate needed it.

This delay will not deter the continuation of efforts to correct this inequity in school funding. This summer the seasonal recreational coalition will review this new data and will be ready to go legislators this fall in preparation for the 2015 legislative session. This is very important to the Pelican Rapids School District. Currently the District receives \$1,000 less per student and this needs to be corrected.

## District Strategic Planning Update

We have finished gathering feedback from community members, staff and students regarding our schools’ strengths and weaknesses. The entire community (including seasonal residents) was invited to participate with approximately 200 individuals choosing to give their input via on-line surveys or in a series of meetings. In addition to the general population this included representation from parents, Rotary & business owners, senior citizens, alumni, elementary & high school staff and students.

As a result of the feedback, three top priorities for the district have been identified:

- 1) To be Well-Known for Academics
- 2) To Continue with Deep Implementation of the 7 Habits
- 3) To Meet the Needs of All Students

The district will work with staff and the school board to plan, set timelines and decide the best way to communicate information and begin implementation of these priorities.

Even though the timing of this project is challenging when we are just beginning Phase 1 of the reconstruction at the school Superintendent Wanek feels it is still a good time to move forward on the district strategic planning process. “This was driven in part by The World’s Best Workforce bill, which was designed to ensure every school district in the state is making strides to increase student performance,” said Wanek. “I look at this as a great opportunity to partner with our community in making our schools the best they can be. Our decision to hire a consultant to assist us in this process was intended to create a safe, objective environment to gather and implement input.”

The World’s Best Workforce bill, passed in 2013, requires each district to develop a plan that addresses the following five goals:

- 1) All children are ready for school.
- 2) All third-graders can read at grade level.
- 3) All racial and economic achievement gaps between students are closed.
- 4) All students are ready for career and college.
- 5) All students graduate from high school.





# Pelican Rapids High School News

## The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Remains a Focus at School

by Brian Korf, High School Principal

As I look back on the 2013-14 school year, I feel honored to be part of a school community that is so supportive of all students. It has been a great school year at PRHS as we continue to implement technology in our classrooms and have implemented the 7 Habits district wide.

This past school year, we implemented a student lighthouse team. The Student Lighthouse team attended a 7 habits workshop and then planned student activities throughout the school year. The Student Lighthouse team focused on the following 7 Habits:

1. Be Proactive
2. Begin With the End in Mind
3. Put First Things First
4. Think Win-Win
5. Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the Saw

The Student Lighthouse team will be looking to incorporate more activities next school year and are very excited to learn more about the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

As we near graduation, I would like to thank the seniors and their families as it has been a pleasure to work with every senior at PRHS. Congratulations to all of our seniors and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

Thank you for a great school year and I want to thank you for sharing your child with us!



## Knowledge Bowl Squad Goes to State for Third Consecutive Year

Four PRHS students advanced to the State Knowledge Bowl Tournament for the third year in a row. Out of a total of 9,000 students, PRHS team members Travis Hagen, Reilly Knorr, Logan Knorr, and Guillermo Rosiles placed seventh at the state tournament which was held in Brainerd on April 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.



## Pelican 'Mathlete' Guillermo Rosiles Offered Spot on All-State Math Team

Article & Photo Courtesy of The Pelican Press

Pelican Rapids junior Guillermo Rosiles has been honored as one of the top "number crunchers" in the state.

After strong performances as a member of the Pelican high school competitive math team, Rosiles was recognized as one of the top mathematicians in the state— and was selected for training on the All-State Math Team. He has the opportunity to go for orientation in the Twin Cities in April and May. If he is selected, he will represent Minnesota at one of four regional competitions in the nation. That will be held in Iowa the weekend of May 30-31.



"He would be training with Minnesota's top math coaches ...then potentially relax for one weekend over graduation before going to nationals," reported teacher Lisa Petznick, who is Pelican's competitive math coach.

Rosiles is naturally gifted in mathematics, but he and the other top Pelican mathletes also go above and beyond to prepare for competitions by doing practice tests, said Coach Petznick.

"Natural abilities can only take a person so far, it's the extra work that enables the smart kids to become award winners," said Petznick.



Commencement will be held on  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm.

Co-Valedictorians for the Class of 2014  
are Emma Sjostrom and Reilly Knorr.  
Salutatorian is Michael Halbakken.

## COMPETITION AT THE FFA STATE CONVENTION

by Lee Larsen, Agriculture/Natural Resource Educator

The 2014 State FFA Convention was held April 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campuses. Competing this year were the Forestry and Wildlife teams. The forestry team consisted of Chloe Evenson, TJ Dahl, Hally Evenson and Chelsey Hart. The team had a strong showing placing 10<sup>th</sup> in the state.

Chloe Evenson was the high scoring individual receiving a gold rating. The Wildlife team also performed well placing 18<sup>th</sup> in the state. Kris Olson showed his strong wildlife skills individually placing 11<sup>th</sup> overall. The students also attended several educational workshops and the Annual FFA Awards Banquet.

The FFA also recently participated in the regional Envirothon competition at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls. Pelican Rapids had four teams competing against teams from Breckenridge, Detroit Lakes, DGF, Fergus Falls and Underwood. The five person teams competed

in the six different areas of wildlife, aquatics, soils, forestry, current events and also an oral presentation on sustainable agriculture. The team of Chloe Evenson, TJ Dahl, Kris Olson, Conor Egge and Hunter Gray placed fourth as a team and missed a trip to state by only three points.



### 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 get 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



## 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/>

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





# Spring Sports and Activities Updates

## Basketball Coach and Players Honored with Awards

*Article excerpts used with permission of The Pelican Press*

### High School Principal Brian Korf Honored as "Coach of the Year"

The Pelican Rapids girls basketball head coach Brian Korf was honored as "Coach of the Year" for Class 2A, Section 8. A veteran coach and Pelican Rapids high school principal, Korf commanded a team that appeared bound for the state tournament for the second consecutive year but was hampered by injuries that essentially knocked the team out of the running.



### Two Pelican Rapids Athletes Awarded Heart O' Lakes Conference MVP

For the first time since 1998, two Pelican Rapids players had the rare distinction of being named Heart O' Lakes Conference Most Valuable Players in their respective sports: Ryan Bruggeman for boys basketball and Mackenzie Korf for girls.



## Girls JV and Varsity Golf Update

*Exerpts from an article by Connie Evenson*

Toni Rossow won a first place medal at the Pelican JV Girls Tourney at Birchwood on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. She shot a 54. Pelican's team took second place with a 248 behind DGF's winning score of 232.

Pelican's JV has been busy the past several weeks. They've played at The Meadows in Moorhead on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This 18 hole tournament tested their endurance and toughness as it was very windy with temps in the 30s. Toni Rossow was low for Pelican with a 134 and Desi Hurley was second with a 139. Their second tourney was at Hawley on May 5<sup>th</sup> where Pelican played two teams. Pelican Orange took second and Pelican Black tied for third. Toni Rossow won a second place medal with a 56.

Assistant Coach Connie Evenson says, "Gaining experience and playing competitive golf has helped all ten junior varsity girls improve. There will be at least three varsity spots open next year due to seniors graduating so these ten girls know they have to work hard to earn a spot." On May 6<sup>th</sup> Pelican JV played an 18 hole tourney at Tip-sinah Mounds at West Central Area. There were 70 golfers and eight schools playing so it gave

our girls great experience. Toni Rossow from Pelican won a 5<sup>th</sup> place individual medal with a 116. Pelican again played two teams; Pelican Orange took second and Pelican Black took third. The JV will compete on Tuesday at Barnesville and end their season at Perham on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Varsity Girls Golf Team

There are eight Senior high girls on Varsity. Pelican is currently tied for first place in the Conference with Perham. There are three meets left. The Section Tourney is at Long Bow Golf Course near Walker, MN on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We won't know if anyone advances to State until after that tourney. Alexa Bekkerus is currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Conference individually. She still has a chance to be the Conference MVP.



*Shown in photo above are Mason Thornton, Desi Hurley and Toni Rossow, all 9<sup>th</sup> graders who play on Pelican's Junior Varsity Girls Golf Team.*

## The Regional Special Olympics Track and Field Meet Was Hosted In Pelican Rapids



May 15, 2014



*Photos taken by Zierke Studio-used with Permission of The Pelican Press*



Pelican Rapids High School

AT PRHS EVERYONE IS A LEADER  
AND EVERY LEADER VALUES INTEGRITY,  
SHOWS RESPECT AND ACTS RESPONSIBLY.

### 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](http://www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us)

### School Board Members:

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





## Free Summer Programs

by Jake Richter, Director 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant & Community Education

We wish to express our heartfelt and profound gratitude to the entire Pelican Rapids Community for their extraordinary efforts and support for our outside of the school day programs. We feel honored and privileged to be members of this wonderful community. It is our firm belief that the community is appreciating the benefits of our 21st Century Learning Center's programs. We are pleased to announce that all of our 21st Century learning programs will be free this summer for all students as our little way of saying thank you.



We are rapidly approaching the conclusion of the grant cycle with the closing date set for July 31st. I don't personally like to think about the negative impact it will have on our students and families if we lose our grant funded aid. Over the last five years the grant has enabled us the ability to offer programming at a much lower cost and occasionally free for our students. Free programming does not happen during the summer at any of our neighboring districts. Our mission is to continue to offer programming at an affordable rate to all families in our community. If we happen to be 21st Century Learning grantees again, funding would be for another three years. If we remain in excellent standing with Minnesota Department of Education and the Federal Government we may get an additional 2 years for a grand total of 5 years of funding.

Status Update: We are currently competing against 55 other learning centers throughout the state of Minnesota. This year the state received over 22 million dollars in requested funds and only 4 million dollars to award. The department is considering awarding 13 grants in the whole state. Hopefully, we find out by the end of the month if we make the list. We have a one in four chance in this competitive arena and we put forth a very extensive application. Another positive note is the fact that the state must distribute equally throughout the state. Our location and excellent standing with the department will definitely not work against us. If we do miss out this year we will apply again next year and try to sustain as many programs as we can in the meantime.

## Student Volunteer Projects & Opportunities

by Bob Kohler, Volunteer Mentor Coordinator

How do you describe the end of a school year? BUSY! After community donations, bake sales and staff and student coin donations the LED group collected \$300.00 for Free The Children's WE CREATE CHANGE program. This is a great start at building a school in developing communities around the world. Just think we may have had part in educating the next Nelson Mandela.

**LED also just wrapped up the annual Day of Caring.** It turned out to be a cold rainy day on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> but some students still came out to help others in the community. We hope you enjoy some of the pictures. If you were hoping to be part of Day of Caring or know of someone who could benefit keep it in mind for next year.

**LED is excited to announce LED Summer Edition.**



We are planning some really awesome Middle School programming. Students who



will be going into 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade next year will be able to participate. Each week there will be a different theme. We will kick off the summer with a Sports Week. There will be archery, soccer, golf and tons of fun! Other weeks you can look forward to a High Ropes Challenge Course, visiting area state parks, Red Hawks baseball, camping skills, fishing and the list goes on. This will be headed up by Nanette Albright and Bob Kohler. They are both very excited for the fun they will have with the students this summer. If you have any questions feel free to contact Bob Kohler at [bkohler@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us](mailto:bkohler@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us) or 218-863-5910 X4065.



## School Construction Update

by Trevor Steeves, ISD #548 District Engineer

Graduation is fast approaching and with it brings a new construction season. This will be the start of our building and grounds remodeling project-replacements and updates that will require 2 years of construction and we will need the cooperation of students, staff, parents and community members.

### Phase 1 includes:

#### high school

- the relocation and remodeling of locker rooms
- the remodeling of 12 class rooms & 8 bathrooms
- the addition of 3 new class rooms

#### elementary school

- the replacement of the front walkway, parking lots and sewer
- the running track & lights replaced

### Phase 2 includes:

- the auditorium being torn down (late summer)
- construction on new the auditorium, kitchen and athletic area (in the fall)

As we begin with the end in mind, we are confident these enhancements to our facilities will benefit our students, staff and community. This is a very exciting and busy time for the Pelican Rapids schools and we look forward to the challenge and are ready to move forward.



## August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>School Starts Before Labor Day for the 2014-2015 School Calendar</b>						
The Pelican Rapids School District is in the process of gearing up for the renovation project that will begin right after school is out this spring. There will be many exciting changes to the High School. This is an extensive project and to provide more time for the construction that begins in 2015 the District will start school before Labor Day this fall. There will be three days of school in August, the 26 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> . <b>The first day of school for students will be on August 26<sup>th</sup>.</b> The District will remain on the 4-day school week for the 2014-2015 school year but will be on a 5-day week for the 2015-2016 school year.						
		26	27	28	29	30
		1st day of school for students	School	School	No School	
31	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4	Sept 5	
	Labor Day No School	School	School	School	School	