

Importance of Financial Equity for the District

By Deb Wanek, Superintendent

There are many exciting things happening at the Pelican Rapids Schools. May is a very busy month. State testing is finishing up for 2015, spring sports are in full swing, students and teachers are busy wrapping up the year, finals and culminating field trips are underway, graduation plans are being made and summer activities are being finalized. In addition to the normal busyness of the school year Phase III of the school renovation project has started and is gearing up for an intense summer work schedule.



This year is also an important legislative year for schools as the state will determine school funding for the next two years. There has been a lot of activity at the capital as the legislators are trying to determine what will be done with the larger than expected financial surplus. Schools have had flat funding for several years and are trying to catch up. One branch of the legislators proposed a 1% increase on the basic formula for schools. It is important to remember that the proposed increase is on the basic formula and not the budget itself. Let me put that into perspective for you. A 1% increase on the basic formula would equate to about \$67,000 on the District's almost \$9 million budget. We have been urging legislators to adequately fund schools. A 1% increase on the basic formula does not even cover overall inflationary rates.

During this legislative session the Governor has been very adamant about adding new funding for all day preschool. Increasing preschool programs is an honorable goal but it would be very difficult to start a new program without first ensuring we have proper funding for K-12 education. The state needs to adequately and equitably fund public schools before requiring to schools to add further programming.

Equity has been an important legislative issue for our school district. There are many, many formulas developed to provide equity in school funding. Somehow the Pelican Rapids School District often falls through the cracks. This District has very high property values which are in stark contrast to the student population which includes over 50% who participate in a free or reduced meal plan indicating challenging economic needs. Last year the state changed the calculations that determine when the state would provide tax relief but once again it was not favorable for this District due to high property wealth.

This high property wealth is present even when seasonal recreational property values are removed. A new bill was entered this session that would provide this District with tax relief. This bill was created for the 23 schools that fit into this same dilemma. If this bill is put into law it would provide over \$140,000 in tax relief for this District. This issue has been a problem for numerous years and a variety of bills have been offered to fix this inequity. Hopefully this will help increase state funding equity.

Proper funding for schools should be a high priority for our state; schools are an integral part of developing the next workforce. These same people in this next workforce will be the leaders of our community, counties, region, state and even nation. We need to be sure they have the strong educational foundation and background they need to prepare them to lead us well.



Viking Elementary has a Super Hero one mile run on a sunny day in April. Full story can be found on page 2.

4-Day School Week is Approved for One More Year

The Pelican Rapids School District will see the 4-day school week one more year.

The Commissioner of Education, Brenda Cassellius, notified the District that in light of the uncertainty of pending legislation she would allow one more year of the 4-day school week, for school year 2015-2016.

At this time, the proposed bill at the Capital will allow School Boards, not the Commissioner to authorize a 4-day school week schedule as long as the school meets all the requirements set by law.

Each year the District completes an evaluation on the 4-day school week and identified cost savings, higher attendance, fewer discipline issues and a neutral impact on academics.

Superintendent Wanek Testifies Before the Senate E12 Committee

Superintendent Wanek waits her turn to testify on SF 1323 before the Senate E12 Committee.

Cathy Bettino, Superintendent from Pine River Backus testifies on behalf of her district and is accompanied by the author of the bill Senator Tom Saxhaug (DFL Grand Rapids).

This bill, if passed, would provide over \$140,000 in state aid to the Pelican Rapids School District to offset local property taxes due to high property wealth.



PHASE III OF SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

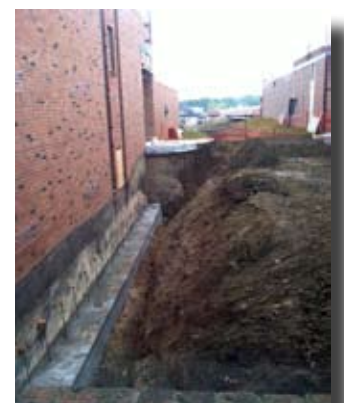
By Trevor Steeves, ISD #548 District Engineer

Phase III of the school construction has begun, the office area is demolished and work has begun on the infill of the courtyard between the office and the 1952 building to create a commons area for students.

The south parking lot will soon have excavators digging the footings for the new Gym and associated areas, when that is completed they will move to the

north end and dig the footings for the new auditorium, these areas are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2016.

The cafeteria and kitchen will be renovated this summer and need to be ready for the start of school on September 8th. These are very busy and exciting times, and we look forward to the finished project.



Pictured: The administrative office area (left) and the courtyard between the office and the 1952 building (above).



Viking Elementary News

By Dr. Edwin R. Richardson, Principal

This year has gone by quickly. I appreciate the work and commitment of our teachers and staff, the enthusiasm and focus of our students, and the support of our parents and community at The Viking Elementary School.

Students made great gains this year and as summer approaches I want to encourage our students and staff to take the time to Sharpen the Saw. But, it is also important for students to take time to enjoy reading and practicing some of the skills they spent so much time learning so as to not regress too much over the summer.

I would like to share a celebration. We recently had a visit from a school from Pembina interested in implementing 'The Leader in Me'. The board member, principal and teachers visiting shared how impressed they were with our Student Ambassadors, who eagerly shared their Wildy Important Goals (WIGS) and their reflections of how 'The Leader in Me' impacted our school and their learning. Our visitors also commented on our school-wide commitment to 'The Leader in Me', the common language throughout the school and the leadership students demonstrated both by our Student Ambassadors and in the classrooms they visited.



The Viking Elementary School Promise

- I WILL** speak up instead of acting as a bystander.
- I CHOOSE** to participate in activities that don't involve teasing.
- I FORGIVE** others if they make poor choices.
- I MODEL** good behavior.
- I ACCEPT** others for their differences.
- I INCLUDE** others in group situations.
- I WILL** talk to an adult when there is a problem I cannot manage on my own.
- I AM** powerful in making a difference in my school.

The Leader in Me™
great happens here



HAVING FUN WHILE SHARPENING THE SAW

By Laura Moe

Habit 7: Sharpening the Saw-Take care of your body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep. Spend time with family and friends.

On THE most beautiful April day, Mrs. O'Brien took the entire Viking Elementary school on a super hero one mile run. Students and staff donned on their favorite super hero garb, grabbed a water



Viking Elementary students and staff are committed to teach and live the 7 Habits and other leadership development into daily curriculum, activities, and culture. We are learning to set and achieve meaningful goals, take responsibility for our learning, work well with others, and use our individual talents to better the school community.



bottle and ran or walked the course. Older student's guiding and helping younger students, everyone encouraging each other to give it their best and finishing in a blaze of energy! Fun on the run was had by all!

Students Raise Over \$2,000.00 at "Jump for Heart" Fundraiser

By Sheri O'Brien

The 2015 Viking Elementary School Jump for Heart fundraiser went exceptionally well again this year thanks to 44 students that participated in the American Heart Association's "Jump for Heart" fundraiser. It is a great program that assists the American Heart Association in keeping the dollars raised here across the mid-western states. Last year students and businesses raised 13 million dollars for the American Heart Association to help educate and fight heart and lung disease related illnesses. Viking Elementary students raised \$2,000.00+ in just 14



days for the American Heart Association! I am so proud of our Viking Elementary participants!!

VOLUNTEER staff members participating in the Jump for Heart Toilet Paper Reward Day were 4th grade teachers Mary Storrusten and Heidi Isaman, 5th grade teacher Steve Schwantz and Principal Dr. Richardson. Judg-

ing by the photos, it's unsure as to if the students were having more fun or the volunteer staff members. Taking the photos for the fun day was 4th grade teacher Chris Coleman.

Third Annual Parent Teacher Partnership Family Fun Festival

By Staci Haiby

The annual Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) Family Fun Festival was held at Viking Elementary School on Friday, April 24th from 4:30-7:00pm. This year about 250 students and their families were in attendance.



The festival was the third year of the PTP sponsored event at VES and each year new attractions have been added such as a talent show that was organized by Mrs. Tollerud and the student council. In addition, there was a Crazy Hair Studio by local hair stylists, a variety

of games, nail art, face painting, bounce houses, a cupcake walk and Bingo for books.

The PTP committee would like to extend a huge, "Thank You" to all who helped with the organizing, donating, and volunteering-especially the students and staff at VES and PRHS. Each you are what makes this event a great success.





Archery Skills Unit a Success

By Sheri O'Brien

It was another successful object motor skills unit of archery thanks to Volunteer/National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) Certified Archery Instructor Brent Frazier for his assistance. Archery, during Viking Elementary's PE classes is for grades 4-6. This is the second year that the archery skills unit has been taught at Viking Elementary School with much enjoyment and enthusiasm from the students and instructors! Students practiced shooting anywhere from 10-26 aluminum arrows, depending on the age level, every other day during PE class.



The primary emphasis, during the archery unit, is to build upon the safety elements and the diameter of the archer's arrow groupings. The term "shoot your arrows in the ice cream bucket" helped them visualize the size of the arrow groupings. All students made positive progress in both areas.

Box Tops Collected Raises \$1,281.60 for Purchase of Books

By Ruth Holmgren

Based on previous years of Box Top funds raised, 28 teachers were allowed \$50 each to buy books for their classrooms and \$25 was awarded monthly to the classroom bringing in the most Box Tops to purchase books.

As of April 1st, there were 12,816 Box Tops collected for a total of \$1,281.60. We were short of our goal of 28,000 Box Tops, but made our \$1,650.00 commitments using the funds carried over from last year.

Please continue to save Box Tops and remember:

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

Thanks for helping us save for educational resources!



To celebrate Dr. Seuss's 111th Birthday, and as part of Read Across America Day, Viking Elementary School had a number of activities for the week of March 3rd-6th:

Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party

Birthday cake and a visit by The Cat in the Hat.

Buddy Read

Classes partnered up and students read to one another.

DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) and Guest Readers

A number of guests visited classes to read favorite stories and books.

Read and Feed

(emphasis on the Read)

Classes found a spot to enjoy a book and a bit of popcorn and the Student Council also sponsored a 'Pajama Day'.

The National Education Association's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2nd, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.



The weekly post-lunch concert series by 6th graders at our Viking Elementary School office.

'Pennies for Patients'

'Pennies for Patients' was a GREAT SUCCESS!! THE Viking Elementary School raised \$1,623.67- our highest Pennies for Patients total EVER!! A BIG 'THANK YOU' to the Student Council and to Mrs. Tollerud for organizing this year's VES 'Pennies for Patients'!



Early Childhood Family Education and Viking Preschool Classes

Join us in the fall as we resume our Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes for preschoolers and parents! Children attending Viking Preschool in the fall must have a 3rd or 4th birthday by September 1, 2015 to attend.

Contact Terra Fitzsimmons at 218-863-5910 ext. 5393 or tfitzsim@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us with questions. Please let the school know if you are new to the area so we can send you important information about our programs.



New to the Pelican Rapids district? Register here...

If you have recently moved into the Pelican Rapids School District or recently had a baby, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the school office so we can send you information about our opportunities for children ages 3^{1/2}-12th grade!

Return form to:

Viking Elementary School
310 S Broadway
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Parents/Guardians Names: _____

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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

Applications for Head Start-Fall 2015

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

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



Head Start is now taking applications for Fall 2015. If

your child will be 3 years old by August 31, 2015, they are eligible to apply for Head Start.

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

VES Second Grade Patriotic Music Program



Pelican Rapids Schools Fun Summer Programs

SUMMER TARGETED SERVICES CLASSES
June 1st-July 2nd Monday-Thursday 8:30-12pm
Contact Janell Schmidt at 218-863-5910 ext. 5237 with questions
FREE MEALS
May 20-Aug 28 Monday-Friday
Free Breakfast 8:00-8:30am & Free Lunch 12-12:30pm

There will be no bussing for summer programs.
Your child can participate in both summer rec and targeted services. Staff will escort your child to and from the various activities. Club Vikes is available for additional K-6 child care hours this summer.

Other Summer Programs

SUMMER CLUB VIKES
May 20th-August 28th Monday-Friday 6:30am-6pm
Contact Candace Roesch at croesch@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us to register

SUMMER REC ACTIVITIES
June 1st-July 10th Monday-Friday
Contact Amanda Guler at 651-503-2512 to register

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 20th-August 28th 2015**
(except May 25th, June 5th, & July 3rd)

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

Sponsor Name: **Pelican Rapids Schools-ISD #548**
Telephone: **218-863-5910 ext. 5022**

The USDA is a federal government agency.

Summer Recreation Activities June 1st-July 10th

Activity	Who	When	Where	Need to Bring	Fee
T-Ball <small>Parents are welcomed and encouraged to participate with their child.</small>	Boys & girls 4-5 yrs old	Tues & Thurs 6:30-7:30pm	Chauncey Martin West Field	Labeled glove	\$25 per participant
Rookie League Baseball	Boys & girls 6-8 yrs old	Mon-Thurs 10:30-11:30am Games Wed 10:30am	Carr Recreation Field	Labeled glove	\$30 per participant
Pee Wee Baseball	Boys who have completed 2 nd & 3 rd grade	Mon-Thurs 10:30-11:50am Games Mon & Wed 1pm	Chauncey Martin East Field	Labeled glove and game shirt. Baseball pants are optional.	\$40 per participant
Knot Hole Baseball	Boys who have completed 4 th grade	Mon-Thurs 10:30-11:50am Games Mon & Wed 1pm	Chauncey Martin West Field	Labeled glove and game shirt. Baseball pants are optional.	\$40 per participant
13 Year Old Babe Ruth Baseball <small>*One 13yr-15yr team may be created if numbers do not allow for two WHOLE teams.*</small>	13 yr old boys	Mon-Thurs times TBD Games Mon & Wed at either 10am or 6:30pm <small>*practice & games times are subject to change*</small>	Chauncey Martin Baseball Diamond	Glove. Baseball uniforms are provided by the Baseball Association.	\$65 per participant
14-15 Year Old Babe Ruth Baseball <small>*One 13yr-15yr team may be created if numbers do not allow for two WHOLE teams.*</small>	14-15 yr old boys	Mon-Thurs times TBD Games Mon & Thurs at 6:30pm <small>*practice & games times are subject to change*</small>	Chauncey Martin Baseball Diamond	Glove. Baseball uniforms are provided by the Baseball Association.	\$65 per participant
Little League Grade 5 & Grade 6	boys who have completed 5 th & 6 th grade	Tues & Thurs 10:30-12pm Games Mon & Wed 6:30pm	Chauncey Martin Field	Labeled glove. Baseball uniform provided by the Baseball Association.	\$40 per participant
Grades 3-4 Ponytail Softball	Girls who have completed 3 rd & 4 th grade	Mon-Thurs 10:30-11:50am Games Tues & Thurs 1pm	Chauncey Martin East Field	Labeled glove and your game shirt.	\$40 per participant
Grades 5-6 Ponytail Softball	Girls who have completed 5 th & 6 th grade	Mon-Thurs 10:30-11:50am Games Tues & Thurs 1pm	Chauncey Martin East Field	Labeled glove and your game shirt.	\$40 per participant
Soccer Ages 4-5 years old	Boys & girls who are 4-5 years of age	Tues & Thurs 10:30-11:30am	Carr Recreation Field	Shin guards, cleats or running shoes and a labeled soccer ball.	\$20 per participant
Soccer Ages 6-8 years old & 9-12 years old	Boys & girls who are 6-8 & 9-12 years of age	Mon-Thurs 9-10:15am Games Fri 9-11:30am	Carr Recreation Field	Shin guards, cleats or running shoes and a labeled soccer ball.	\$30 per participant
Tennis Grades 3 rd -7 th	Boys & girls who have completed 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , and 7 th grade	Mon & Wed 9-10:00am Grades 3-5 Tues & Thurs 9-10am Grades 6-7	Chauncey Martin Tennis Court	A racket. Tennis balls will be provided.	\$30 per participant
Golf Grades 3 rd -7 th	Boys & girls who have completed 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , 6 th , and 7 th grade	Tues & Thurs 1-3:00pm	Birchwood Golf Course	Golf balls and tees. You may bring your own clubs or they are available for \$2 per day fee from Birchwood.	\$40 per participant
Couch to 5K <small>*Goal to run a 5K on July 11th, 2015*</small>	Ages 10-Adult	Tues & Thurs 6:30-7:15pm	PRHS Track	Good running shoes, water bottle and a positive attitude!	\$25 per participant
Pelican Pete 5K Stampede <small>*Must complete separate registration form if doing 5K. Money goes to summer rec program.</small>	Ages 10-Adult	Saturday, July 11, 2015	Starts and finishes at Lake Region Electrical Coop.		Pre-registration is \$20 per participant or \$25 day of race

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 is May 5th (a \$15 late fee will apply after May 5th).

TOM SAWYER
Pelican Rapids Week of July 13th-18th

A true slice of Americana, complete with crooks, chases and buried treasure.
Directors roles: Aunt Polly & a Conman, the Rightful King of France.
Cast includes: Tom, Huck Finn, Cousins Sidney & Hildegarde, Becky Thatcher, Susie Harper & their Moms, the Townies, the River Rats, the Ghouls, the Bats & Roger, our Conman's Sidekick.

All kids in grades 2-12 are welcome to participate!
Auditions on July 13th 12:30-2:30pm at VES with Performances on July 17th at 7pm and July 18th at 2pm
Check the Pelican Press for more details as the date approaches

PFCT
PRAIRIE FIRE CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Club Vikes Summer 2015

By Candace Roesch, School-Age Care Coordinator

Club Vikes is offering a lot of what you are used to, with some small changes.
Club Vikes is the Viking Elementary's School-Age Care Program. It was started in 2009. It responds to the need of families, by having a safe and fun place for their children to go before and after school. We've also provided our services on full days off from school, like Mondays, holidays and vacation days. Club Vikes is open 51 weeks a year, which means it's open almost every day of the summer vacation as well. Children have gotten a tremendous amount of joy from what we've been able to offer throughout the program's 6 years. We respond very well to the input of the children. In essence we do the things the kids want to do! We are a structured program with room for the flexibility that school-age children need.

Club Vikes has always charged a small fee for its services but had a lot of funding help from the 21st Century Grant. The Grant was not renewed this year and we've had to make adjustments to how we collect fees from the families who use our program, to insure the program's sustainability. We receive reimbursement from the county for families who qualify through the Child Care Assistance Program. We also participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program on Mondays to be able to offer free Breakfast, Lunch and Snack to our participants. Students who attend any after school program also receive a free snack. This summer we are happy to once again participate in the Summer Food Service Program which provides Free Breakfast and Lunch to any child ages 18 and under in the entire community. No enrollment is necessary to attend the free meal program.
This summer, Julie Severson and Maria Soto will be returning as lead staff and Addy Monson will be returning as assistant staff. Depending on registration (student: staff ratios) we might be bringing on a new helper staff or two.
There will not be any bussing offered this summer. We will do our best to coordinate staff to bring children (walking) to and from their activities if they need it. We will coordinate a bus in the event of a field trip that is out of town and there may or may not be an extra bussing cost when and if that happens. Camps will not be a part of our summer programming this year due to funding cuts. Club Vikes will be offering exciting summer learning with outdoor and indoor activities with some themed weeks as we have always done in the past. Much will be planned in advance but as stated before we want to offer what the children are interested in, so we will be flexible in our plans.
Please register with the program coordinator this year, as there are a few changes that may need to be explained (email: croesch@pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us). Also, please register before May 29th if you are able.

Frequently Asked Questions:
Q:What ages are considered School-age?
A: In our program school-age is considered to be ages 5-12. We do take 4 year olds in the summer as long as he or she is enrolled in Kindergarten for the following school year.
Q: Do I have to register in order for my child to attend?
A: We always prefer that you register your child in the program. Now that the program is completely supporting itself without any additional financial aid, we are limiting staff to cover the amount of children registered only. Registration will guarantee your child a spot in the program. There may be cases that we would have enough staff to accommodate a non-registered child but you would need to call ahead and you would need to pay the 'Drop-In' rate. See brochure for details.
Q: How can I find out if my family qualifies for the county assistance program for child care?
A: Contact the program coordinator for more information or call Lakes and Prairie Community Action at 218-299-7157 or visit www.lakesandprairies.net.

Summer 2015 Information
Days/Times:
Monday-Friday 6:30am-6:30pm
May 20th-August 28th (except May 25th, June 5th & July 4th)

Contracted Care-Daily Rates:
Full Day: \$23/child per day (6-10 hours)
Partial Day: \$13/child per day (less than 6 hours)
This guarantees your child a spot in our program for designated days.

Drop-In Care-Hourly Rate:
\$3.50/child per hour with a minimum of \$7/child per day
If you choose to use drop-in care, you do not need to register or contract for any days, you need only to give notice before you arrive. However, your child is not guaranteed a spot and will only be allowed to attend if there is enough staff to accommodate your child.

Local Community Events and Services for Kids and Families

Summer Programs at The Pelican Rapids Public Library

MOO! Mondays

Get *Spotted* reading this summer at your library! Earn your reading spots, starting in May, as a family at the Pelican Rapids Public Library.

Sign Up for **Moo! Mondays** during story time at the library. (Story time starts at 10:30am Monday mornings!)

Your challenge is to read 25 books of your choice May to August as a family! They can be short, long or in-between, but they all have to be read as a family!

Every book logged will earn you a “spot” on the circulation desk & 25 books read will get you entered for an ‘udderly’ awesome grand prize!

There will also be “**Moo!**” related story times May-August on the last Mondays of the month! We hope that you and your family will join us this summer at the library for **Moo! Mondays!**

Please call with any questions or concerns at 863-7055!



Summer Reading Program

All Programs Are Free and Open to Elementary Aged Children of All Ages and Abilities

RAWR 2015 Activities

Wednesdays at 10:30am and 1:30pm*

6/3-Family Fun Night Kick-Off and Registration

Join us at the library from 4-6pm for music, games, and crafts while you get registered.

6/10-Rock ‘N Read

Get Ready to go on Tour!

6/17-You’re A Piano Man

Tickle the ivories with your Jazz hands

6/24-10:30am ONLY!*There will be no afternoon program

HEEBIE JEEBIES FAMILY COMEDY SHOW!!! Everyone is Welcome!!!

7/01-Boom Clap!

And we’re marching! To the Beat, to the beat!

7/08-Song & Dance Show

Groove is in the Heart

7/15-A Classical Approach

1 & 2 & 3, Zin zin, Bzzz, bzzz

7/22-A Real Show Stopper!

Our last chance to chicken dance, we will be singing the end to summer reading & we’ll blow out the prize closet!

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns at 863-7055! We hope to see you this summer!



Learn to Camp, Paddle and More at Minnesota State Parks

Registration for I Can Camp! and other skill-building programs has begun.

People who lack the experience or equipment to go on a camping, canoeing or fishing trip should consider signing up for one of the many introductory programs offered at Minnesota state parks and trails in 2015.

Reservations are now being taken for the following beginner-level programs, which start in June and continue through the end of August:



Develop (or brush up on) fire-starting and camp cooking skills, and stay overnight in tents, complete with air mattresses, that sleep up to six people.



Get out on the water for some guided canoeing, kayaking, sea kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding practice.



Experience the thrill of rock climbing with instruction provided by trained professionals from Vertical Endeavors Guided Adventures.



Learn riding techniques and ride mountain bike trails with guides from the Cuyuna Lakes Mountain Bike Club.



The Minnesota state parks and trails I Can! series also includes I Can Fish! and Archery in the Parks programs, which are both free and require no reservation.

“If you’d like to create some unforgettable outdoor experiences with your kids but don’t know how to get started, the I Can! skill-building programs are designed for you,” said Erika Rivers, director of Minnesota state parks and trails. “Minnesota has amazing state parks, trails and water trails, and we want to spark interest in more families to get out and enjoy them.”

No experience is necessary for any of these programs. Instruction and essential equipment is provided. Vehicle permits are required to enter Minnesota state parks and recreation areas. Registration for the I Can Camp! programs includes a one-day permit.

For more information about any of the programs-including program dates, cost, times, locations, and minimum age requirements, visit www.mndnr.gov/ican or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or call 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367 between 8 am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday.

To register, visit www.mndnr.gov/reservations or call 866-857-2757 (8am-8pm daily, except holidays).

The series is made possible with funding from the Parks and Trails Fund, created after voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in November 2008. The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25 percent of the three-eighths percent sales tax revenue that may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.



Department of Natural Resources

Boat & Water Safety Education

Online course

Complete the online boating safety course **Boat Minnesota** to receive a youth Minnesota watercraft operator's permit (12 to 17 years old).

In addition, this course may be required for youth and adults plan on boating in Canada.

Adults wishing to learn more about boating safety are encouraged to take the course and maybe eligible for a discount on boat insurance —check with your insurance agent. There is a \$22.50 fee after passing the exam to receive your youth or adult watercraft operator's permit.



CAN 'SUMMER SLIDE' BE PREVENTED?

by Jake Richter, Director Community Education

When most of us think about summer vacations as a young child we think of carefree, happy times and simply letting kids be kids. We often take for granted the enriching experiences such as summer recreation, clubs, academic services, camps, time with family, trips to the library, museums, and parks.

The reality is, to succeed in life and school, children and young adults need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. The summer months are crucial for preventing learning loss and decreasing childhood obesity. Research spanning over a 100 years can support my statements.

Unfortunately, some youth face anything but a perfect summer vacation. When the school doors close in May, many students of today struggle to access quality educational opportunities, as well as healthy meals or adequate adult supervision. Most children will lose two months of learning when they do not participate in anything over the

summer. Then when the summer relaxation is over and school starts back up in September, many students have fallen behind. Teachers then have to spend a significant amount of time re-teaching in the fall.

Children lose more than academic knowledge over the summer. Most children especially the children that are at risk of obesity tend to gain weight more rapidly over the summer months. Parents constantly express that summer is the most difficult time to make sure that kids have productive things to do. We can help-we have free academic services available in the summer and many other low cost opportunities for your children to be productive and be active physically and mentally.



Friends of the Library Baby Bundle

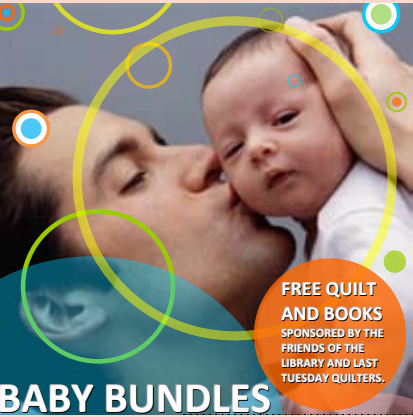
Baby Name _____ Male _____ Female _____ (check one)

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

Parent Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



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

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

Contact Jerri Baker, email: are-jay@arvig.net or call 218-849-2322 or 218 342-2618.

You may also bring in this coupon to the public library and Jerri will be in touch.

What a nurturing way to introduce your new baby to books and language!



Another Successful Season for the Pelican Rapids 'Mathletes'

By Lisa Petznick, Math Teacher and Competitive Math Coach



PRHS Math Team had a very successful year! At the Bemidji contest, Guillermo Rosiles claimed second place out of 405 students. Our senior team of Rosiles, Logan Knorr, and Lincoln Haiby earned first place out of 30 teams. This is the ninth consecutive year that a Pelican Rapids team earned first place at this contest!

At the large Tri-College contest, the 11th-12th grade team placed second with Rosiles and Knorr bringing home individual awards.

For MSHSL Math League, our team took second in the region. Rosiles was the region's MVP, earning a trip to the state tournament. Logan achieved 2nd place individually to also receive All-Conference honors. Freshman Brooklyn Korynta finished the season in 14th place individually to earn a Second Team All-Conference award.

After the state tournament, Rosiles and Knorr were both selected to train for Minnesota's All-State team. That is a tremendous honor!

The PRHS Junior High math team also had a successful year. Their team earned second place for the season

of math league, with Hayden Christenson earning first place individually in the region. At the Tri-College meet the 7th-8th grade team won second place, with Hayden Christenson and Timothy Brynildson earning individual awards.



SPANISH CLASS
TRIP TO TEXAS

The students in Spanish class took a trip to Texas on March 24th-29th. They are shown above at "The Alamo". Other stops included The River Walk, the San Antonio Zoo, Tower of Americas, Institute of Texan Culture, Market Square, IMAX Theater, USS Lexington, Mustang State Park, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

Knowledge Bowl Team Places Third in Regional Competition



Knowledge Bowl Advanced to Region 4 Competition - placed third and missed advancing to state by 4 points!

Minnesota Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention 2015

by Lee Larsen



The Pelican Rapids FFA Chapter recently attended the 86th Minnesota FFA Convention along with over 3,000 FFA members from around the state. Our chapter had two teams participating in this year's career development events.

The Forestry team consisted of Hally Evenson, Abby Fresonke, Cody Berndt and Mason Maus. The Wildlife team consisted of Kris Olson, Brandon Hench, Blair Hurley, and Casey Kulsrud.

All that attended improved their leadership and career skills through competing, workshops, sessions, and much more. Thank you to all that supported the Pelican Rapids FFA Chapter throughout the year.

Special Olympics Basketball Competition

By Karli Kirkwood, Special Education Teacher

Special Olympics competed in our annual Basketball Competition on February 12, 2015. Again, Fergus Falls did such an awesome job of hosting. Athletes and coaches all had a great day! The morning was spent doing individual skills (dribbling, spot shooting, passing) and the afternoon focused more on the team competition.



Encourage Summer Reading

by Amy Korf, Reading Teacher



With summer break quickly approaching, now is the perfect time to begin thinking about ways to support your child's independent reading skills and to help prevent summer reading loss. Summer reading loss, also known as the "summer slide" or "summer set back", is real. According to an article in *The Reading Teacher*, "Summer reading loss is a documented reality for many students. It is often of greatest concern for those who are already at risk, who typically have limited access to reading materials at home and whose parents or caregivers may be reluctant or unsure of how to help" (Mraz & Rasinski, 2007, p.784). A key to fighting summer reading loss is to help your child find the *right* books and reading materials during summer break.

Here are some ways to promote summer reading:

- **Motivate readers by helping locate the *right* books and materials**—ones that match interest and skill levels. Ask what types of books your child likes to read (genres, authors, themes, books in a series, etc.). Start small.
 - **Visit the public library** to access books and other reading resources, sign up for a library card and for the summer reading program, learn about downloading e-books or audiobooks on your smart phone and/or other devices.
 - **Provide a safe, quiet and comfortable environment** for your child to read.
 - **Set a summer reading goal**—for example, a suggested goal for young adults is to read at least six novels to help maintain reading skills, while reading more than six books could increase success.
 - **Have your child chart or record their reading**—this helps track progress and could encourage or facilitate discussion.
 - **Explore online reading sites**, such as "StorylineOnline" (<http://www.storylineonline.net/>). This is a free online website for young readers, which features actors who creatively read books aloud.
 - **Read aloud or offer audiobooks to all ages**—Read-alouds help model fluent reading, builds vocabulary and listening comprehension and offers opportunities to interact with your child—through questioning and discussion.
 - **Role model your own reading and set a good example.** Discuss your book with your child.
 - **Check out book lists for children.** Book lists could be found on the following websites: Goodreads Popular Summer Reading List Books, Amazon Summer Reading Recommendations, the International Literacy Association "Choices Reading Lists" and Reading Rockets "Summer Reading Book Lists".
 - **Take books with you** when traveling, waiting at appointments, picnics, etc.
- Reading for enjoyment is a lifelong skill and opens many opportunities for children to gain background knowledge and build new vocabulary. This summer, help your child maintain or improve his or her reading skills by encouraging summer reading. Enjoy your summer break and family time. Happy Reading!

Mraz, M. and Rasinski, T.V. (2007). Summer reading loss. *The Reading Teacher*, 60 (8). International Reading Association. 784-789.

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/>





*"And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man on the moon
When you comin' home Dad? I don't know when, but we'll get together then son
You know we'll have a good time then."*

- Activity Fees
- Activity Ticket
- Club Vikes Tuition
- Drivers Education
- Fundraisers
- iPad Rental Fee
- Retiree Insurance
- School Meals
- Viking Preschool Tuition



Pelican Rapids High School News

By Brian Korf, Principal

As I look back on the 2014-15 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, continue with the implementation of the 7 Habits district wide and see changes with our building project.



This spring has been busy with Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. Students and staff have been working hard to prepare for the tests. We look forward to evaluating the results and identifying areas to improve.

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!

PRHS GRADUATION WEEK

Class Valedictorian:
Guillermo Rosiles

Class Salutatorian:
Lincoln Haiby



Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 17th at 7pm

PRHS Gymnasium

Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 22nd at 7pm

PRHS Gymnasium



Numerous Changes in Sections for the 2015-2016 School Year

By Derrick Nelson, Activities Director

Fall Registration night for the 2015-16 school year will be on August 6th, from 4:00-8:00pm. Minnesota State High School League forms will be available as well as coaches meetings for the fall sports. More information will be sent out on specific meeting times and locations.

The 2015-16 school year will see many changes in activities for Pelican Rapids High School. Every two years the Minnesota State High School League realigns teams according to size and geography. Pelican Rapids will see changes in Football, Volleyball, Cross-Country, Baseball, Softball, Golf, and Track.

Here is a recap of the changes for these sports.

Football for this season only will start practice on August 10th. The early start is because of when the Prep Bowl could be played at TCF stadium. The first game will be played on August 22nd at Osakis. Teams in our section for next year are: Breckenridge, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle, Pillager, Staples Motley, Wadena-Deer Creek, and Ottertail Central.

The Pelican Rapids Volleyball team has moved from Section 8AA to Section 6A for next season. Teams that will be in our new section are: Ashby, Battle Lake, Brandon-Evansville, Breckenridge, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Frazee, Hancock, Henning, Hillcrest, Lake Park-Audubon, Menahga, NCE-UH, New York Mills, Ortonville, Park Christian, Parkers Prairie, Rothsay, Sebeka, Underwood, Waubun, West Central Area, and Wheaton H-N.

The boys and girls Cross Country teams will be participating in Section 8A instead of Section 6A. Teams that will be participating in the Section 8A meet are: Bagley/Fosston, Crookston, Crosby-Ironton, DGF, East Grand Forks, Frazee, Hawley/Ulen-Hitterdal, Lake of the Woods/Rainy River, Lake Park-Audubon, Laporte, Nevis, New York Mills, Park Rapids Area, Pequot Lakes, Perham, Pine River-Backus, Roseau, TrekNorth, United North Central, Wadena-Deer Creek, Warroad, and Stephen-Argyle/Warren-Alvarado-Oslo.

A major change will happen next year in both softball

and baseball. Both baseball and softball across the state is changing from three classes to four classes. Both Pelican Rapids Baseball and Softball teams will participate in Section 8AA. Teams in Section 8AA are: Bagley, Barnesville, Breckenridge, Crookston/Fisher, DGF, East Grand Forks, Frazee, Hawley, Mahanomen/Waubun, Northern Freeze, Ottertail Central, Park Rapids Area, Perham, Roseau, and Warroad.

Golf is also making the move from Section 8AA to Section 6A. Teams that are involved in Section 6A are: Breckenridge, Cass Lake-Bena, Frazee, Lake Park-Audubon, Nevis, Ottertail Central, Park Christian, Pillager, Pine River-Backus, Rothsay, Underwood, and Walker-Hackensack-Akeley.

The last team that is making a major move is the boys and girls track teams. Pelican Rapids Track and Field teams have participated in Section 6A for as long as people can remember. Section 8A will be the home for Pelican Rapids for the next couple of years. Teams that compete in Section 8A are: Bagley/Fosston, Barnesville, BGMR/Freeze, Cass Lake-Bena, Clearbrook-Gonvick, Crookston, DGF, East Grand Forks, Fertile-Beltrami, Fisher/EGF Sacred Heart/Climax, Frazee, Grygla-Gatzke, Hawley/Ulen-Hitterdal, Lake of the Woods/Rainy River, Lake Park-Audubon, Mahanomen/Waubun, Nevis, Norman County, Northome/Kelliher/Blackduck, Park Christian, Park Rapids Area, Red Lake County, Roseau, TrekNorth, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, Warroad, and West Marshall.

With the new sections means many new locations for tournament games and meets. At this time we do not know many of the locations where events will be taking place, but please check on the school web page next year for exact times and locations for all events.



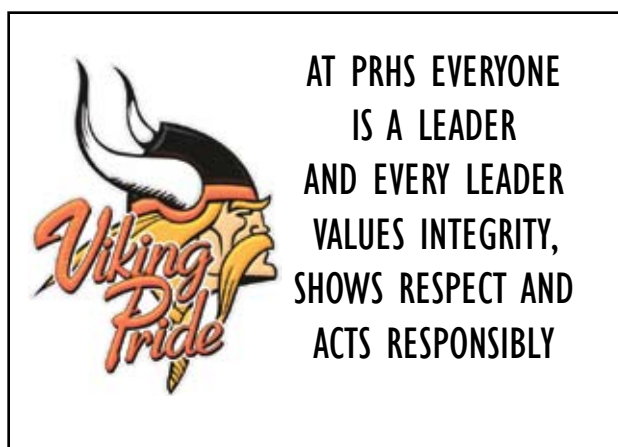
NEW TRAP SHOOTING TEAM

By Sheri O'Brien

The new Pelican Rapids Trap Shooting Team members began practice on Monday, April 6th from 8:00-10:30am. Four athletes, Madison Waller, Caleb Bradrick, Casey Kulsrud and Coulter Hanson, braved the very cold temps to practice their clay target shooting technique at the Pelican River Shooting Range in Erhard. We are fortunate to have a quality shooting range this close to Pelican Rapids for our athletes to compete.

Practice is also scheduled a second day, at the Pelican River Erhard Shooting Range, for Saturdays from 8:00-10:30am and ten more trap shooting athletes will be working to improve their clay target shooting skills. Formal true team based scoring, for the MN Clay Target League athletes, does not begin until April 19th. Other Pelican Rapids Trap Team athletes participating are Cody Berndt, Reed Stengrim, Samantha Waller, Brandon Hensch, Thomas Brynildson, Hailey Peterson, Britton Erickson, Abby Fresonke, Abigale Johnson and Carson Haugrud. The athletes shoot 2, 25 rounds and score is entered into the MN Clay Target League true team scoring system based on the total out of 25 for each round, which is great because it shows the value each athlete can offer the team. As a coaching staff, we wanted to make sure that all athletes could still participate in another Spring activity, in addition to trap shooting. Our coaches are excited for the program's future because of the one day a week commitment these athletes have made to the team.

The 2015 coaching staff consists of the following members: Patty Johnson, David Johnson, Marv Martinson, Andria Johnson, Nate McNeal, Travis Olson, Gary Kowlaski, Pete Waller, Chuck Waller, Terry Heller and Sheri O'Brien.



Pelican Rapids School District #548

310 S Broadway, PO Box 642 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

EDUCATION

www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us 218-863-5910

School Board Members:

Charlie Blixt, Mike Forsgren, Dena Johnson,
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