

Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

November 11, 2019

Pittsville School District's Vision and Mission:

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

***On behalf of all the staff and students at Pittsville Elementary School,
we would like to thank all of our veterans for their service.***



Student and Staff Notable Learning

Enrichment Opportunities for JH Math

As a way to provide students with enrichment opportunities for math, Mrs. Knutson is using Khan Academy with 7th and 8th graders. 6th Graders will be starting 2nd semester. Khan Academy has video lessons, practice problems, and assessments available for all grade levels. 7th graders are enrolled in 8th grade content; 8th graders are enrolled in 9th grade algebra content. When students are in high school, they will enroll in the regular scheduled classes, but will be better prepared. Students are chosen by Mrs. Knutson if they are proficient in their current grade level; Students do this on their own time or during WIN time. At this time, students are not doing Khan Academy to skip content / grade level classes.

First Lady and State Superintendent Visiting Pittsville Elementary School

First Lady, Kathy Evers and State Superintendent, Carolyn Stanford Taylor are visiting Pittsville Elementary School on Friday, November 15th at 9:30 a.m. They will begin their visit in Ms. Van Haren's classroom and then they will speak to students in Grades 4-12 in the auditorium about the 19th Amendment. Ms. Van Haren has been working closely with the Historical Society developing curriculum materials focused on teaching about the 19th amendment. Kathy Evers is using Ms. Van Haren's curriculum resources to teach students all over Wisconsin about this important topic! This is why Kathy Evers' first school visit is to Pittsville Elementary School. Great work, Ms. Van Haren.

3D Printers in the Junior High Classes

Mr. Natzke recently received two 3D printers to implement technology projects with the junior high students. Students use computer software to design 3D objects and then they are created!

Mr. Natzke's 8th graders have been designing and creating objects to suit various needs. For example, one student designed an ornament, while another built what she wants her small business to look like and made a small model of the building. Our students now have the ability to generate an idea, design it in a 3D imaging program, then build it using the 3D printer. All of this creates a genuine learning experience, gives an opportunity to problem solve, and gives them foundational technical skills to be a 21st century citizen.

3D printers will be a household item in the near future. NASA is planning on using massive 3D printers for future missions to the moon and Mars, and engineers are using 3D printers to create affordable housing in less than 24 hours per house. However, with our smaller-scale printers, students may need to think a little smaller, but no less innovative. The 3D printers give students an opportunity to collaborate between disciplines and grades. One of Mr. Natzke's upcoming projects include working with the primary grades to create a toy, then develop a prototype, receive feedback from the children, and redesign to improve.

Innovation and Recognition

Long Term Substitute Art Teacher Hired

Alex Heiden will be our long - term substitute art teacher for the remainder of the school year (start date of November 1st). Alex graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree with Three Dimensional Emphasis and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. He has been recognized for the following awards: Emerging Artist Booth in the Wausau Festival of Arts; "Large Terracotta Vase" in the Student Juried Exhibition - Award of Ceramics, and much more. He was the Sculpt President at UW-Stevens Point; he has donated many of his ceramic creations to different places / events. He has substitute taught in Stratford.

District Offerings - Parent Opportunities / Parenting With Connection

On Tuesday, October 15th, Pittsville School Counselors hosted an evening session called "Parenting with Connection." This is an opportunity for parents to have conversations with a licensed therapist / counselor and other parents about various aspects of parenting. The therapist shared some resources with the group. There were five parents in attendance. The parents who attended had the opportunity to share celebrations and struggles and connect with other parents. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19th at 6:00 p.m. in Ms. Raygo's Classroom (Room 146).

Looking Ahead

Harlem Wizards Coming to Pittsville

Please mark your calendars for our Harlem Wizards Basketball Game on Thursday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. It is a great opportunity for our students and community. Information on tickets sales will be coming soon. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to build our classroom libraries / read alouds and instructional materials to enhance student engagement / hands on activities in classrooms.

