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N Pittsville School District NEWS

Second Quarter, 2013-14

Home of the Panther Pride



From the Desk of District Administrator Terry Reynolds...

New Evaluation Model for Teachers and Administration

What is the new Educator Effectiveness systems being discussed in the news? In 2011, the Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness system was legislatively mandated in Wisconsin Act 166. The purpose of the Educator Effectiveness (EE) model is to provide a fair, valid and reliable state evaluation model for teachers and principals. The primary goal of the system is to improve student achievement by creating a system that will result in enhanced effectiveness for every teacher, specialist, and school administrator. The new system will also assist districts to successfully recruit, support, access and retain teachers and leaders.

The EE model is mandated by the Department of Public Instruction for all public school districts in the state to have fully implemented beginning with the 2014-15 school year. Each district in the state had an option of adopting the state model or any other equivalent models. The Pittsville School District adopted the state model, which the Department of Public Instruction is providing full support for. The DPI model was built around Charlotte Danielson's 2013 Framework for Teaching. The framework for teaching is a research based model for assessing and supporting teaching practices aligned to the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) standards and recognized as rich and robust standards of professional practice. The framework is organized into 4 domains and 22 components. The four domains are as follows:

Domain 1: Planning and Preparation

Domain 2: The Classroom Environment

Domain 3: Instruction

Domain 4: Professional Responsibilities

The EE Model multi-tiered professional evaluation system for educators includes the following components: Self-Evaluation, Observation, Documentation Log, Surveys, Goal Setting, Interim Report, Summative Report, and Performance Improvement.

The EE model will provide all districts with a comprehensive system that creates a balance between teacher practice and student outcomes. Teacher performance is broken down by: practice, behaviors, knowledge/skills and strategies. The student outcomes are broken down by student achievement, growth and attainment. The EE model further breaks each area down as follows:

- Teacher Performance/Educator Practice – 50%
- State Assessments – 15%
- District Assessments – 15%
- Student Learning Objectives (SLO's) – 15%
- District Choice – 2.5%
- School Wide Reading (elementary/middle school) and high school graduation – 2.5%

This new system is very complex compared to what has been used by school districts in the past. The Pittsville School District has been involved in a state wide pilot program for both the teacher and principal models the last two years, in our attempt to better understand the model and prepare for its full implementation in 2014-15. The goals of the new system are to:

- Increase student achievement
- Ensure an effective educator in every classroom
- Ensure an effective leader in every school
- Ensure an effective educational system in every community

We will be ready for full implementation of the EE model and will work with our staff to ensure that the expectation, vision, and goals of this new state reform initiative is carried out here in our Pittsville Schools.

OPEN ENROLLMENT IN WI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The open enrollment application period for the 2014-2015 school year is from Feb. 3 – Apr. 30, 2014.

The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on Apr. 30, 2014. *Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.*

Parents may apply in one of two ways:

- On-line (recommended) at http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_psctoc.
- Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district.



Skylert / SchoolMessenger Notification System

Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative Students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

SchoolMessenger allows the district to quickly send mass notifications to employees, parents, and students. It can provide you with information through telephone or cell phone, e-mail, and/or text message. We will be using the system to let families know about emergency situations, weather related delays, cancellations, attendance, lunch balances, changes to athletic and other events, and general information about upcoming events.

Skylert works through Skyward's Family Access to provide you with the means to manage your contact sources and choose how you will be contacted for a variety of purposes. To check and update your Skylert contact information, go to our district home page at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us. Hover your mouse over 'Skyward' on the left side bar, click on the 'Family & Student Access' link from the pop-up menu, and login to your Family Access account. Click on the **Skylert** option listed on the left hand side. Click **Edit** to make changes to the information or to change your preference of notification delivery. You can add and remove checkmarks as you wish for the various types of contact calls, emails, or SMS text messages. Even though you may have checked phone numbers to receive SMS text messages, you must also 'opt in' to receive the services for each number.

If you do not know your Family Access login information or if you need more assistance with this issue, please contact your child's school: High School - 715-884-6412; Elementary School - 715-884-2517.

Cancellations, Delays, Early Dismissal

If weather conditions are such that you think the school schedule may be interrupted, please listen to one of the radio stations listed below. Notification of cancellations, delays, or early dismissals due to inclement weather will also be made through the Pittsville School District's SchoolMessenger alert system. Parents should have an emergency plan for dealing with these situations for the safety and health of their children. Do not drop children off at school on mornings when school is to be delayed, as there is not supervision available on those days.

WIFC	95.5 FM	WOFM	94.7 FM
WOSQ	92.3 FM	WEAU	TV-13
WSAW	TV-7	WAOW	TV-9

2013-2014 Budget Information

On October 28, the School Board members approved the 2013-2014 budget and tax levy. Our enrollment, which is directly related to how much a school district may levy each year, decreased by 12 students. However, the revenue limits are based on a three year average. Our enrollment count (three year average) this year is **617** (last year's three year average was **618**). We continue to experience a decline in our enrollment for revenue limit purposes.

To cover the total costs to educate our students, this year a 2013-2014 budget (all funds) of **\$8,094,233.53** was developed. This amount equates to an increase of **1.11%** from last year's budget. The District will have an increase from State general aids of **\$135,454.00**.

The Board also approved the 2013-2014 tax levy of **\$2,980,710.00**. The rate is a **-11.51%** decrease over last year's levy. The District levy rate for 2013-2014 is **\$9.75** per \$1,000.00 (last year **-\$11.51**).

QUESTIONS MANY WILL ASK:

How many years do we have left to pay on our school building debt?

We have one final payment in the Spring of 2014. This year's payment is \$304,460.00, which works out to roughly \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 valuation in the tax levy rate. The School Board refinanced this debt in 2009 and received a substantial rate decrease and saved a little over \$27,000.00 each of the final five years for a total of \$135,000.00 savings over that time period. The District also pre-paid an additional \$145,000.00 in 2010-2011 towards this debt which will offset this final payment in 2013, decreasing the levy this fiscal year as well.

How was the District able to balance the budget with less revenues coming into the District?

The District was not able to balance the budget for the 2013-2014 school year and continue to provide the necessary programming for our students. There is an anticipated deficit of \$59,221.00. All major capital projects and any new computer purchases were excluded in this year's budget to assist in bringing the budget down to the current deficit levels. The District has been continuously decreasing staff and its operating budget over the past years, and we are at a point where we cannot cut without impacting the student programming. The District is investigating other revenue generating resources to assist in maintaining our current programming levels in the future.

Questions regarding this year's budget? Please contact Terry Reynolds, District Administrator, School District of Pittsville at 715-884-6694.

Family Access - Please remember to access the District website, go to Family Access, and log-in to update your student information. Please make sure your guardian and emergency contact information is accurate, as well as your phone number, home address, and email address. This information could be critical if we need to reach you regarding your child in an emergency, and it also enhances communication between families and the district. Accessing your account will also allow you to check food service balances, see your child's schedule, and view a wealth of other information. Thanks!



Counselor's Corner: 2nd Quarter ~ Emily Krystowiak, 8-12 School Counselor

As we come to a close on the end of first semester, please keep the following points of information in mind to plan ahead for a successful spring.

Seniors:

Please continue to work on **scholarships** and stay tuned for the local scholarships which will be posted by the end of January. Most local scholarships are due Friday, April 11th, but some are due sooner. For more information, check out the Scholarship Tab under High School Counseling on the PHS Home page. Also, please remember to complete your **FAFSA** before the priority date for your college; your 2013 taxes should be completed before you apply for the most accurate information. Applications are available online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> (There is also a link off the HS Counseling website.)

Juniors:

If you are planning to **register for the ACT** this spring, please make sure you register online before the registration date ends to avoid paying a late fee. Students can register online at www.actstudent.org (There is also a link off the HS Counseling website under the "Testing" tab.) Spring test dates include:

- Test Date: February 8, 2014—Registration Deadline PAST: January 10, 2014
- Test Date: April 12, 2014—Registration Deadline: March 7, 2014
- Test Date: June 14, 2014—Registration Deadline: May 9, 2014

Students who plan to attend Mid State Technical College after graduating should consider taking the **Accuplacer** this spring as well. The Accuplacer can be taken at PHS and does not require an official registration. Students should see the school counselor to sign up.

Sophomores and Freshmen:

As we head into the registration for next year, please make sure you are taking time to plan out your courses based on what is best for your future. To assist in this process, sophomores should attend sophomore night on **January 15th at 6:00 pm** at the high school. This evening is designed for students to look ahead to their final years of high school and taking the proper classes that will help them achieve success. In addition to this, during 3rd and 4th term, freshmen and sophomore **individual planning conferences** will be held to discuss current high school goals and future plans. During these meetings, students are also encouraged to look for ways to **volunteer** in their free time and over the summer to begin building a strong scholarship résumé. Students are reminded to continue their career and post-secondary exploration and planning by using their **WISCareers** account.

Please feel free to contact Emily Krystowiak, 8-12 Counselor, if you have questions about any of the information provided at 715-884-5223 or krystemi@pittsville.k12.wi.us

Transcribed Credit

As the scheduling process for next year begins, the CTE department would like to remind students to look into the Transcribed credit courses that are offered at PHS while earning credit at MSTC. Each of the CTE departments, Business, Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences and Technology offer a variety of courses teaching the exact same competencies that are taught at MSTC. This is a great opportunity for students to earn postsecondary credit while still in high school, with no cost to them. If you would like more information refer to the course handbook or talk with the department instructor.

2014 Washington DC Trip Registration Extended

Current 7th and 8th grade students will again have the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. in the summer of 2014. On this program, we will see many sites, including the Capitol Building where our Representatives from Wisconsin work to make our laws. We'll see the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence and will spend time at the Smithsonian Institution; the world's largest and most impressive museum complex. We'll visit Arlington National Cemetery where John F. Kennedy is buried, and witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Finally, we will see many of the monuments and memorials that commemorate important historical events and people, including the Washington Monument and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, FDR, World War II and Iwo Jima Memorials.

Students will also participate in a summer school program three days before the trip and three days upon returning home. The purpose of the summer school is to prep the students for what they are going to see and to provide them with information about behavior and expectations. The return-trip summer school allows students to share their pictures and make digital scrapbooks as well as video slide shows. There is still time to register. Please contact Mrs. Sanken if you are interested in joining this trip.

COMMUNITY WALKERS

Pittsville Elementary School will be open for walking every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Please use Entrance B.



PHS News

Greetings!

With winter closing in, it is time to take a look at what is happening inside the walls of Pittsville High School. Believe me - we are busy!

We are right in the beginning stages of the scheduling process, so this is a very important time to work with your children to choose the right classes based on their skills and interests, both for high school and career purposes. We offer Advanced Placement classes taught both here and online, as well as Distance Learning classes, in addition to the wide variety of classes we traditionally offer. With these options, students can theoretically take classes in any imaginable subject in the world. Please spend some time with your child putting together a four-year plan, so they can be ready to register for classes beginning January 27th (at which time they will need the registration forms signed by both parents and advisors). Resources such as the Course Handbook can be found on the high school website, if you click on High School Counseling>High School Course Planning. Please contact your child's advisor, or Mrs. Krystowiak, if you have questions.

Also of ultimate importance right now is how students are doing in their current classes. We will be conducting Final Exams on January 23rd and 24th. Please check out your student's grade status on the website under Family Access, and encourage them to get plenty of rest and begin studying early for Finals; it will be well worth it!

We had an exciting activity on January 15th that will happen more often in the future. We held a "forum", which is a school-wide activity that consolidates knowledge the students have been working on. Each forum may look very different: this term we had a speaker from the UW Extension talk to the student body about Sand Frack Mining. What makes this different than simply bringing in a speaker is that the entire student body spent a day the week before the forum doing critical readings regarding the "Fracking" issue. Not only did the forum heighten the intellectual knowledge base of the students, the preparation increased their reading abilities and critical thinking skills.

Our sports teams are in full swing, with Girls and Boys Basketball, Wrestling and Wrestling Cheer, as well as Pom-Pon going full speed. Please come out and see our athletes perform; you will be amazed at the talent we have at PHS. The schedule for all sports (and other activities) can easily be accessed by clicking on the calendar found on the district website.

Our music department put on a fantastic show in December, which showcased a wide variety of talent and music. And they are not finished by a long shot! Solo and Ensemble is beginning in March, followed by Large Group Band and Choir. Students will be working hard to get ready for these events, honing their skills and getting ready to "show their stuff". I am always personally in awe of quality of the performances that these young musicians put forth!

Our clubs, such as snowboard, forensics, and FBLA are also very active with trips and competitions. Year-round, there is always something "going on" at PHS (inside and outside)!

Mark Weddig
PHS Principal

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH WRITE CHILDREN'S STORIES

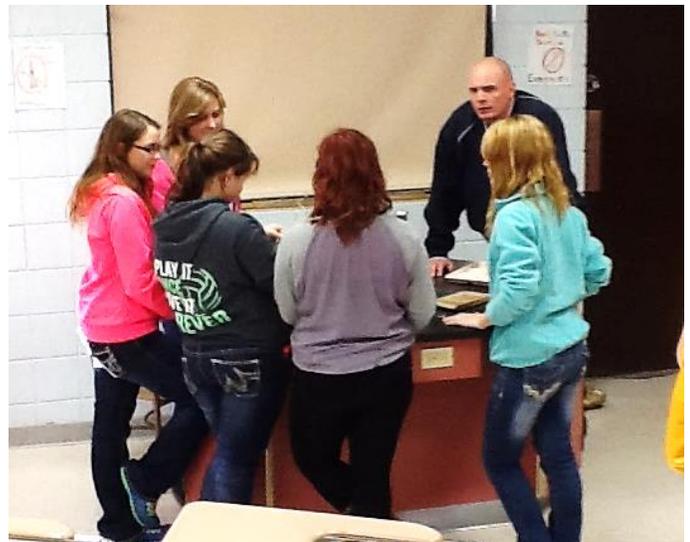
The sophomore English class has been busy creating children's stories to be read to the kindergarten classes. This year, the sophomores started by examining current children's stories for similarities in themes, character and plot elements. They also delved into commonly used figurative language used in books geared toward young readers. Another aspect that the sophomores examined was the illustrations used. After creating a list of common elements, the students created their own plot and illustrations for an original children's story that they will take to the elementary and read to kindergartners.

James Lassa and Luke Huber work on a small engine in **Agriculture Mechanics Class**. Mr. Urban's class focuses on "hands on learning," by the students



Chemistry Class

On November 12, Sgt. Joshua Cramlet of the Wisconsin National Guard was a guest speaker in the PHS chemistry class. Sgt. Cramlet shared with the class a lesson on how oxidation-reduction reactions are used to generate the energy used to heat MREs (Meal Ready to Eat) for consumption. Students were able to sample several different varieties of MREs and were pleasantly surprised at the taste, and also gained an appreciation for some of the conditions our military personnel face in the field.



FBLA Future Business Leaders of America

The FBLA 2014 Regional Leadership Conference will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at Greenwood. We have 34 members competing in a variety of events. We hope to continue on to state and nationals as we did last year.



Music Department News.....

Congratulations to all of the 6th through 12th grade music students on a successful Winter Concert! With over 600 in attendance, this was our biggest music department event to date! Special recognition goes out to our Music Boosters, PTO, music parents and community members who helped to make this concert a success. Thank you also to all of our Tri-M Music Honor Society members who helped with set up and tear down. We are always grateful for your help and dedication!

Our Music in Theatre class (new this year) has been preparing various solo and group acts for their first ever Cabaret on Monday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Come out to see what our talented students have been working on! There is no admission fee, but we are asking that audience members donate a non-perishable food item to help stock the Pittsville Food Pantry. See you there!

Solo and Ensemble is coming up at the end of term 3! All music students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to take an event to solo and ensemble this year. Students can choose from a huge variety of vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles. They will work on their chosen pieces throughout term 3 and perform them for a judge who will offer constructive comments on how they might improve their performance. This is not required, but we do encourage those students who are looking for more feedback on their skills to collaborate with their teacher to choose an appropriate piece to work on. This is an all-day event on Friday, March 28th at Stratford High School. We are looking for several parent volunteers who would be willing to help chaperone the students that day. Please contact Emily Pearse if you're interested in chaperoning!

Tri-M members are reminded that they must complete 10 hours of community service this year to fulfill their service requirement. Two of those hours must be music department related. Be sure to fill out your time sheet and have an advisor or adult sign off on your hours worked! There are extra time sheets on the board in the music room.

Large Group Band and Large Group Choir are hosted at PHS this year! We are looking for several student and parent volunteers to help in running each event. Please contact Emily Pearse for more information.

We would like to recognize the following Concert Choir students who were selected to the 2014 Dorian Vocal Festival Choir: Miranda Coulthard, Katie Delaney, Hannah Downs, Walter Harris, and Sophia Schwanebeck. These five students were nominated by their director and selected from a pool of thousands of music students in the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa area. They traveled to Luther College on January 12-14 to join 1200 other music students and take part in a two day workshop that culminates in a grand concert. Congratulations to our music students!

HS Spanish *by Miss Jicinsky*

The semester is coming to a close and the Spanish students are really starting to shine. Spanish 3 students are reading a book about a mysterious kidnapping. They recently wrote songs and made music videos to sum up the uses of the subjunctive tense. One group performed a rap and another wrote the song to the tune of a Christmas song. Both songs were fantastic and made me really appreciate the diverse talents of the students.

Spanish 1 students have breezed through the material this semester. They are currently working on phone vocabulary and will be presenting phone skits this week. We will spend the last two weeks putting all we have learned together and using it in a variety of contexts.

Spanish 2 students have been speaking in all Spanish in class for the past couple of months. It is really quite impressive to see. Some students have filled in the role of the "English police" by enforcing this Spanish only policy. Spanish 2 is currently learning one of the past tenses in Spanish. They will be learning a second past tense before the end of the semester as well. This will lead up to the semester final of writing an original or twisted fairy tale.

The progress all students have shown this semester has been a joy to see. I am looking forward to watching these students progress throughout their high school careers. I am also excited to get to know a new group of students next semester!

I am excited to announce that all students who are currently enrolled in/ or have completed Spanish 2 or higher are eligible to travel to Costa Rica through PHS! Spanish students will be going on a trip to Costa Rica for 8 days over spring break 2015 (between March 28th and April 5th, 2015.) The trip will cost \$2,095 and includes everything (all meals, travel, etc.). Fundraising opportunities will be available to help off-set the cost. There will be a 4 night stay with a family, a visit to Arenal volcano, a boat ride through the rainforest, and day on the beach, among many other activities. The trip will also include countless opportunities to use Spanish! To see the full trip itinerary and learn about *Interact*, the company we will be traveling with, please visit <http://goo.gl/dHnn4e>. The trip itinerary can be found under *Programs* → *Costa Rica* → *Bosque Tropical*. More information will be going home with students shortly. Feel free to contact me with any questions at jicinale@pittsville.k12.wi.us or (715) 884-6412 ext. 505.

We have several important music dates coming up in the next semester for our music students:

- Jan 20** Music in Theatre Cabaret at PHS, at 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 28** District Solo and Ensemble at Stratford High School
- Apr 10** Large Group Band at PHS, 4:00-8:00
- Apr 15** Large Group Choir at PHS, 4:00-8:00 (7th Grade Choir & Concert Choir only)
- May 3** State Solo and Ensemble at UWSP
- May 11** High School Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- May 20** Junior High Spring Concert, 1:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- May 22** Grades 3-5 Spring Music Program, 1:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- May 24** Commencement at PHS



Elementary News



Citizenship, College, and Career Ready

Students at Pittsville Elementary are consistently exposed to developing their citizenship skills as well as academic skills. 8th graders will be finishing their semester long Careers class with Mrs. Emily Krystowiak. During second semester, 8th graders will be exposed to Financial Literacy with Ms. Hedstrom. Both of these classes serve as outstanding educational experiences for our students, better preparing them to make sound personal decisions.

December was a busy month for everyone at Pittsville Elementary with the school play; 'The Aliens are Coming!' Winter Concerts and Random Acts of Kindness! A big thank you to Ms. Duberstein, our 4K intern, and Mrs. Garrels, our school secretary for all of their work as play directors and to all of the actors and actresses for an incredible job well done!

Part of the Random Acts of Kindness was Spread the Bread, where classrooms came into the cafeteria and worked with 7th and 8th graders and myself making dessert bread loaves (no yeast) for the elderly, staff members, Food Pantry and many others. Each day was a different recipe or two: Egg Nog Bread and Applesauce Bread were the favorites. We hope everyone who was on the receiving end of the bread loaves enjoyed them! Many other Random Acts of Kindness activities were seen happening around the school, as you can read about in other areas of the newsletter. I am very proud of all of our students for thinking of others through these activities. This is another way the staff and I emphasize Citizenship throughout the school and the larger Pittsville community. A thoughtful citizen thinks of others and helps the community whenever they can, not just at the holidays.

In November, we have added a new recognition into our monthly Golden Awards assemblies: Student of the Month awards. Throughout the month, teachers nominate students they seen exhibiting the four Panther Traits: Respectful, Responsible, Honorable and Engaged. Students' names are put into a drawing and announced at the Golden Awards Assembly. Anyone nominated received a prize in Mrs. Fischer's office. Those who have their name drawn for 4K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th and 6th-8th grades have their name and picture put in the Pittsville Record and also receive a Citizenship medal of honor. All nominees have their names displayed on the Panther Pride Wall outside of our school office. This idea came from our Community Communications team, which meets monthly and looks for ways we can improve our school climate and communication with the community. Our November assembly also featured recognition of students who raised money for our PTO's Little Caesar's fund raiser. Part of this recognition was allowing students to put a pie in the face of school and community volunteers! I had also challenged students that if they were able to exceed last year's goal, they would receive candy from me (at lunch) and I would kiss a goat (the Zickert's goat, Tinkerbell). Being Pittsville students, they exceeded all expectations!

In January, 2nd-8th graders will be participating in MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) tests in Reading, Language Arts, Math and Science (3rd-8th grades). 1st graders will take the Math test only, and 1st graders and Kindergarteners will do the PALs tests in early February.

Mrs. Doering and I are very excited by the Pottery Throw Project that takes place Tuesdays after school and Wednesdays from 9:30-10:10 a.m. The Tuesday night class also involves UWSP undergrads and professors as part of the Neale Grant Award. All of the students involved are making ceramic bowls that will be sold on March 11 from 4:30-6:00 at the Empty Bowls event. You can buy a bowl, soup and bread and all proceeds will be donated to the Pittsville food pantry!

Also on March 11, the Learning Fair, Art Show and STEM night will take place. Students received their permission slips for the Learning Fair Jan.3; these should be returned to the school office by Jan.31 if a student is interested in participating in Learning Fair this year. Display boards are available in the school office for \$3.00. STEM night will be in the big gym on March 11 along with Learning Fair. STEM is: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math and is a great way for families to explore how to create things like catapults, ferris wheels, etc. The staff and I encourage everyone to take a look and try it out March 11!

The staff and I wish you all a healthy winter season and thank you for your partnership in making Pittsville Elementary a wonderful place to learn!

Mrs. Fischer, Elementary Principal

On November 27, the Elementary School had a **GOLDEN AWARDS ASSEMBLY** along with a Pie in the Face activity for students who participated in the Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser. Members of the community and staff received Cool Whip 'pies' in their faces from 25 students. Mrs. Fischer also had challenged the students to go beyond last year's record of fundraising, and if they did so she would kiss a farm animal. The students met this goal and as a result Mrs. Fischer kissed Tinkerbell the goat.

The Golden Awards were increased this month with new awards for Student of the Month. Students were nominated by staff for showing excellent citizenship with the Panther Traits: Respectful, Responsible, Honorable and Engaged. November's Students of the Month are: Eric Neve (gr. 6), Brittany Lewer (gr. 3), and Emma Bowden (gr. 1). Their pictures will be in the Pittsville Record. Any student who was nominated for the Student of the Month also received recognition and prize.



ES Drama Presents: The Aliens Are Coming!

On December 5th, some of the 3rd through 8th grade students put on the play "The Aliens are Coming!"

They held a captivating UFO Convention at a nearly bankrupt Meteorite Inn. As strange things continued to happen, Sheriff Chickamauga (Laney Garrels), Commander Coburn (Fox Klein) and Captain Davis (Sarah Downs) tried to regain control of the small inn. As the aliens started to arrive, they caught one and held an autopsy right in the lobby! As the aliens continued to come, the motel guests soon learned it was all tricks played by Captain Davis, but can she explain everything? Congratulations to all cast and crew on a fun, successful, and riveting performance.



Bringing in the New Year

Happy New Year from Mrs. Hautala's and Mrs. Kuehn's first graders. Everyone has been working on a New Year's resolution—including the first graders! In our discussion we talked about setting goals and improving ourselves at home and in school. Here are some of the resolutions the students created:

I will:

- **Be a better listener.**
- **Get along better with my brother.**
- **Help others read.**
- **Become a better reader.**
- **Get better at my math facts.**
- **Help my parents at home.**

We look forward to 2014 and we will continue to work on our resolutions. Good luck with your resolutions!

For one of their random acts of kindness, the **3RD GRADE STUDENTS** decided to surprise the **4K STUDENTS** with a gift. The 3rd graders spent time coloring the train and then delivered this special gift to the 4K students. The 4K students are enjoying the train and the 3rd graders are excited to see the 4K class having so much fun playing in the train!



Random Acts of Kindness in Pittsville

During the Random Acts of Kindness in December, 4K students with Mrs. Petersen and Ms. Duberstein made hand printed wreaths for the office and kitchen staff, sang holiday songs for other classrooms, and collected items for the Humane Society. Mrs. Hautala's and Mrs. Kuehn's first grade classes had students write a special note to their parents, serve breakfast to their parents, and give their parents back rubs or foot rubs. Mrs. Denniston's and Ms. Sischo's Second Grade classes collected non-perishables for the food pantry, gave cookies/cards to the staff, donated money to the Humane Society, and made thank you and Christmas cards for the staff. Fifth graders with Mr. Sanken and Mr. Schultz donated money to buy for Toys for Tots, sent treats to other classrooms, made cards for Mr. Wolff (crossing guard), safety patrol, the elderly, firefighters and made hot chocolate for support staff. Many other Random Acts were seen from other grade levels throughout the month of December. Thank you to all who contributed!

MR. DOWNING AND MRS. MOORE'S 4TH GRADE CLASS at Pittsville Elementary School created Christmas cards for patients at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. Renee Downing, a volunteer at St. Josephs (pictured in Santa hat below), collected the cards for distribution to patients.



LOOPING STUDENTS invited the residents of the Delaney Home and the Wood Co. Apartments to school on December 13. The residents and students had an awesome time frosting and decorating Christmas cookies. Many fingers were licked and sweetness was shared by all. After the cookie decorating, they all participated in an exciting game of BINGO that included yummy treats as prizes. We hope the residents enjoyed this fun hour as much as the students.

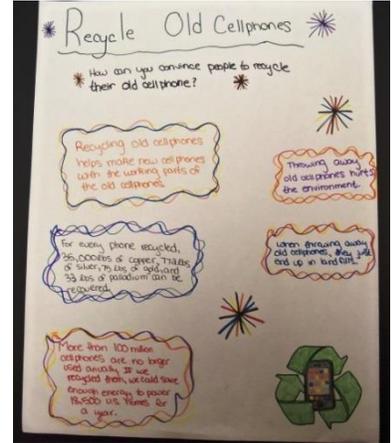




STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Starting in the school year 2012-2013 the sixth grade had an opportunity about twice a month to do a variety of activities during their science/math block. This school term, 2013-2014, students in grades seven and eighth are also getting opportunities to work in these areas during their math/science block. In September students in seventh and eighth grade learned how to do orienteering and were given the opportunity to practice at Sandhill's course. In the past month each class has been working in the areas encompassed in STEM.



8th grade has made posters and/or videos about the importance of recycling cell phones and then they presented them to the class.



6th grade has designed a variety of items and are currently making toothpick bridges.



7th grade is in the process of researching, designing and will be building hydroponic units.

STUDENTS IN 7th & 8th GRADE have been given time since the beginning of the year to do a variety of team building activities. On December 20th, students shared breakfast and a movie before they got into their teams to run a diversity of games.



Highlighting Kgn in December

December was a busy, fun-filled month in the kindergarten classrooms. The children started out the month learning about holidays around the world. Each child had a passport for our journey around the world as we learned about Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Las Posadas, Saint Lucia Day, and Christmas. The kids learned about traditions in those countries and learned how others may celebrate holidays differently. Literature was used from our collection of stories in our English/Language common core curriculum.



While learning about Las Posadas and the origin of the poinsettia, we were able to visit the high school greenhouse to see and learn about the poinsettia plants. We brought back several poinsettia plants which were given as a random act of kindness to several special faculty members for 12-12-13. Our classrooms also donated money to purchase games for Toys for Tots, made specialty breads to give to community service organizations, and focused on doing kind deeds for others (pictures are shown working on Spread the Bread project and the Toys for Tots drive).

January learning objectives will focus on studying about the continents through the use of literature, learning about Famous Americans, signs of winter, and learning about reading and creating addition sentences. Happy New Year!

Mrs. Heinzen & Mrs. Niehaus



Administrative Contacts

Mr. Reynolds, District Administrator 715-884-6694
 Mr. Weddig, Senior High Principal 715-884-6412
 Mrs. Fischer, Elementary Principal 715-884-2517

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Robert Wolff	President
Jane Wesely	Vice President
Connie Potter	Clerk
Lisa Schulz	Treasurer
Julie Strenn	Member-At-Large

MILK PRICE NOW 30¢

Due to a recent price increase in milk, the district has increased the price of Ala Carte Milk from 25¢ to 30¢ a carton. This price took effect on Jan. 2, 2014.

LOW LUNCH BALANCES

Accounts below \$25.00 will be notified weekly through the Pittsville School District's SchoolMessenger alert system. The notice explains that your family food service funds are running low and money should be added as soon as possible.

If a family account gets below zero, a notice will be sent out stating if the amount due is not paid in three working days, your children will no longer be able to participate in the breakfast and/or lunch program. If no money is received, a note will go home explaining the account is closed and Pittsville Schools will no longer be providing breakfast, lunch, or milk. It is then the parent's responsibility to provide their child with a lunch from home. Once money is added, your children may again participate in the school's food service programs.

Here are a few tips to insure your family food service account is up-to-date and in good standing.

- Check with your answering machines and email to see if your family received an alert message concerning a low lunch balance.
- If you received a notice, please send payment as soon as possible.
- When sending in a payment, please include your family name and amount sent.

View your family account online through Skyward Family Access at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Dostal at 715-884-2517.

Food Service News

FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS

Your children may qualify for free milk, free meals, or reduced price meals. To apply, complete a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application. Use one application for all students in your household. Be sure to fill out all required information and return the application to Joe Dostal, Food Service Director, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 1, Pittsville, WI 54466. If you have not received an application in the mail, please contact the District Office at 715-884-6694. The free or reduced lunch program not only benefits families but it also helps your school. Please apply for free or reduced lunch at Pittsville Schools. Your application is completely confidential.

2013-2014 MEAL PRICES

4K- Grade 3 Lunch	\$2.10
Grade 4-8 Lunch	\$2.60
Grade 9-12 Lunch	\$3.10
Adult Lunch	\$3.75
Reduced Lunch	\$.40
Milk	\$.30
4K-Grade 12 Breakfast	\$.60
Adult Breakfast	\$1.20

ONLINE PAYMENTS

Parents can make online payments from home or work by using their VISA or MasterCard credit or debit card. Payments are made through the student's Skyward Family Access account. To make online payments:

- Visit our district website www.pittsville.k12.wi.us
- Click on For Students/Parents tab
- Click on Family and Student Access
- Log in to Skyward Family Access (you will need your Login and Password)
- Use your MasterCard or VISA (Debit or Credit Card)

Payments made through Skyward Family Access will immediately be posted to the student's food service account. Parents will be charged \$2.50 for the convenience of making an online payment.

Breakfast and Lunch menus are available on the district webpage at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us

PTO Corner....

We hope you had a wonderful holiday and Happy New Year. We are looking forward to spring with the following activities:

In January, we will host the *Campbell's Soup Label, Box Tops, Milk Caps, Coke Points, and Loaves4Learning* contest. Please watch for more details via your children and in the Pittsville Record. We will be finalizing details at our January meeting.

Looking ahead into later spring we will be having Spring Photos, BOGO Book Fair, and Teacher Appreciation Week.



Athletic Department News . . .

The Pittsville athletic programs had a very exciting and successful fall season, and the excitement is carrying over to the winter season as well. We are currently well into our Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Pom and Wrestling Cheerleading seasons. The student athletes are working hard at practices and representing Pittsville extremely well.

One issue that has come up this winter has been the weather, with school being cancelled twice already for cold weather. When this happens, all school activities are cancelled and need to be rescheduled. The best way to keep up with rescheduled athletic events is through the school calendar on the school webpage. www.pittsville.k12.wi.us. The calendar on the school webpage is a link to our school calendar with all of the latest changes and updates of cancelled and rescheduled games. At the top right of this school calendar, there is a link called Notify Me that will enable you to be contacted when there are changes to athletic events throughout the year. If we have a spring season even close to last year, we will need to use this service. Hopefully, the weather will stay mild and we won't need to make many changes the rest of the year.

If the winter weather has you down, please think about coming out some night and watching our student athletes compete. I'm sure they will entertain you and make you proud to be a Panther Fan!

GO PANTHERS!

Todd Sanken
5th Grade Teacher/Athletic Director
sanketod@pittsville.k12.wi.us
715-884-2517, 715-884-6412

SPORTS SCHEDULES
Please check www.pittsville.k12.wi.us for the most current information.

Ski/Snowboard News

The Pittsville Ski/Snowboard Club sponsored a trip to Bruce Mound over Christmas break. We attempted to go on Monday, December 30th, but the weather did not cooperate with 25 below temps. We did go on January 1st, another cold day, with a high of 6. Those brave people who came had a great time skiing, snowboarding, and tubing. Thank you Mrs. Doering for bringing the hot chocolate to warm us all up. This trip has become an annual event for everyone in the family. Hope you can join us next year! Thanks to everyone who made this trip a success.

We have many trips planned this winter. January 11-Mount LaCrosse, January 31-Feb 2 HS overnight weekend trip to Powderhorn, February 22-Coach Bus trip to Ski Brule, February 15 Granite Peak PM trip. Bruce Mound has a buy one ticket, get one free on Friday nights so Kris will be taking Jr High students who would like to go and bring a friend on February 7, 14, 21 & 28.

We have two big fundraisers to help earn money towards the HS weekend trip and JR High coach bus trip. We will be having a chili/pizza supper on January 17. And mark your calendar for March 14, when Jim Wand Hypnotist comes to town.



8th Grade Entrepreneurship News

The 8th Grade Entrepreneurship class has divided into manufacturing and marketing teams to produce and sell products designed and built by students. The classes collaborated to create unique wooden wind chimes that came in a variety of designs. The teams have sold over 150 wind chimes.

As part of the class, students have the option to invest in the company in the form of stocks. This is real money and students can earn or lose money based on dividends of the company. Students also use time cards to keep track of hours worked each week. At the end of the course, students will receive fake money based on the hours worked that they can use to purchase items at an action. Auctions items are bought with the profit of the company.

For more information regarding this incredibly successful program, please contact Mrs. Kaster at 715.884.6412 Ext. 423 or email at kastekat@pittsville.k12.wi.us or Mr. Hadfield at 715-884-6412 Ext. 310 or email at hadfiste@pittsville.k12.wi.us



High School Math News

The Math Department is trying out a new resource. Kahn Academy is a free online resource for all math students, kindergarten through grade twelve. It features both video lessons and skill practice sets with guidance. All practice sets include the option to accept hints, watch related videos and finally the correct answers with step by step instruction for their completion.

Many students have found this resource helpful because they are able to view the lessons at their own pace, practice and return to the videos for more lessons. It acts as a great tutor on the chromebooks. Other students have found this resource useful in preparing for the ACT and SAT tests.

They are able to take the "Mastery Challenge" which randomly selects skills to quiz students on and helps motivate their achievement by awarding badges as they complete sections.

Again, any skill that they struggle with is linked to video lessons and hints, offered to teach to each student missing knowledge and build up their skill mastery.

Check out Kahn Academy online.

SAVE THE DATE!

Learning Fair, Art Show, STEM Night, Empty Bowls Dinner

March 11, 2014
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Fun-filled Evening Coming – March 11

We are hosting an "Empty Bowls" dinner at Pittsville School District on March 11 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. to start off the evening. The Pottery Throw Group has been making ceramic bowls after school on the pottery wheels. At the dinner, you can select your favorite bowl and enjoy a soup dinner. Baum's Mercantile, Bruce Mound Snack Shack, Castle Hill, Dexterville Drive-In, Jerry Minor, and Pinecrest Supper Club have already donated a roaster of soup for the dinner with more donations expected. The proceeds will benefit P.A.N.S (Pittsville Area Neighbors Shelf). Like us on Facebook – Pittsville Empty Bowls! Not only do you have the opportunity to enjoy a soup dinner, you can support our students through visiting our annual **K-12 Student Art Show, Learning Fair, and NEW this year - S.T.E.M.** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Everything will be located in the Administration Building. Hope to see you on March 11th for a fun-filled night!



Through the Decades at PHS: Winter Sports Edition, by R. Piotrowski and J. Downs for the History Club

In this installment of our quarterly article, we will look at the decades ending with *fours* and our emphasis will be on the winter sports. In 1974, though it is a tad cold outside, things were heating up in Pittsville for the wrestling team coached by **Dave Thompson** and **Jerry Hahn** and led by seniors **Ed Tometzak, Jerry Glorvigen, Gary Stutz, Craig Coulthard,** and **Steve Zdun**. The boys' basketball team was coached by **Noel Denniston** and led by seniors **Andy Krueger, Darrell Brey,** and **Gary Hubbard**. **Neil Miner** served as the "stats man" for the Panther Five. The fledgling girls' basketball team was coached by **Miss Hofschild** and led by seniors **Chris Serritella, Debby Kumm,** and **Ann Zdun**.

In 1984, the wrestlers were led by seniors **Eric Pelot, Al Lyrenmann,** and 119 pound State Champion **Scott Schooley**. The Class C 10th ranked Panthers were coached by **Jerry Hahn** and **Rick Winters**. The Panther boy's hoops team coached by the inimitable **Tom Possley** was led by seniors **Bruce Christiansen, Eric Iverson, Chuck Kolar, Kevin Korslin, Scott Larson, Brian Patrick, Gary Skon, Ken Tomsyck,** and **Brian Steinwagner**. The girls' varsity basketball team was coached by **Becky Coon** and led by seniors **Jodie Heck, Lisa Holden, Stacey Urban, Cheryl Woiak, Denise Amundson, Clara Roppo, Bonnie King,** and **Beth Macha**.

The 1994 Panther wrestling team compiled a 3-6 dual meet record. Senior leadership was provided by **Sean Calflich, Mike Fox,** and captains **Shane Dammann,** and **Matt Malyuk**. Working their way to sectionals at 112 was **Malyuk,** 119 **Matt Grutzik,** 140 **Eric Marten,** and 160 **Jesse Phillips**. **Eric Marten** qualified for state and **Matt Malyuk** earned 5th at state. The head coach of the Panthers was **Mike Brogan,** assisted by **Rick Marten, Dan Hahn,** and **Todd Sanken**. The girls basketball team was coached by **Don Neve** and assisted by **John Downs** and were led by seniors **Tracy Ruckwardt** and co-captains **Carrie Rademan** and **Tracie Grossman**. The boys' basketball team saw another successful season as they earned their second straight conference title. Seniors leading the way were **Kevin Carlson, Julio Deschamps, Kevin Horban, Joel Houston, Chad Lilley,** and Co-captains **Jamey Kohlbeck** and **Dan Denniston**. Earning awards were **Houston** and **Todd Rademan** with Honorable Mention All-Conference, **Kohlbeck** earned 2nd team all-conference and **Dan Denniston** ended a stellar career as a 4 time conference scoring champion and was the 1st 4 time Channel 7 All-Star performer in the 33 years of the award. He ended his career with 2,283 points - and 6th all-time leading scorer in Wisconsin basketball. Coaching the Panthers was **Noel Denniston** assisted by **Chuck Soper, Ted Urban,** and **Ed Hendrickson**.

The 2004 Panther basketball team was headed by 1st year Coach **Dan Hoffa** with assistance from Dan Rayburn and Brad Zieher. Lacking seniors, they were a young team. **Scott Normington** and **Justin Rayburn** earned Honorable Mention and **Chris Wesely** was named second team All-Conference. Earning another conference championship was the 2004 wrestling team. Coaching the team was **Dan Hahn** assisted by **Rick Winters, Todd Sanken, Eric Marten,** and **Dan Schooley**. Leading the way were seniors **Brian Besehlich, Kyle Duerr, Jesse Pollard, Sam Baum,** and team MVP's **Jake Hahn** and **Paul Greene**. Earning the 13th State Championship in Pittsville's history was **Paul Greene** (155-11 career record) and **Jake Hahn** (143-17 career record) was our 8th ever runner-up. Their career records were both in the state's top 20 all-time best records. The girls' basketball team compiled a 24-2 overall record and its first ever state tournament appearance. Led by seniors **Mindy Wesely,** and **Emily** and **Erin Wegner,** the Panthers also earned another conference title as well. Head Coach **Mark Denniston** was assisted by **Don Neve, Wanda Neve, Bruce Zieher, Noel Denniston,** and **Ed Hendrickson**.

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Second Quarter 2013-2014 *Home of the Panther Pride*