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Pittsville School District NEWS

Third Quarter, 2013-14

Home of the Panther Pride

From the Desk of District Administrator Terry Reynolds...



The Common Core State Standards have been in the news in past months. So what is all the fuss about? The Common Core State Standards is simply an effort to establish a single set of educational standards for grades K-12 in **Mathematics and English Language Arts**. 46 states and the District of Columbia voluntarily adopted the standards, which are designed to ensure that all students have the academic knowledge and skills they need to be successful after graduation from high school. It is surprising that a concerted voluntary effort to align expectations would receive any opposition.

The Common Core State Standards are internationally benchmarked against standards from some of the highest-performing countries (including Singapore and Japan). They are aligned with the ACT, the assessment all colleges and universities use to determine college readiness. Furthermore, the Common Core State Standards are based on research, student assessment data and input from educators, business, higher education, and the general public.

Several myths surround the Common Core State Standards. First, it is not "curriculum." The Common Core State Standards represents a set of reading, speaking, listening, and mathematics skills students should attain by graduation. School districts will continue to adopt their own curriculum just like they have in the past. Decisions about content, materials, and methods will continue to be made at the local level by educators, administrators, and boards of education who know their students and their community the best.

Another myth is that the Common Core State Standards are not rigorous enough. Although the Common Core State Standards are more rigorous than those currently used in nearly 40 states, they are not intended to be the "ceiling," but instead a **baseline** of the knowledge and skills that all students need in order to succeed in college and careers. Teaching to the Common Core State Standards will not limit students' learning potential or opportunities.

The movement toward the Common Core State Standards has already increased educator collaboration in Pittsville and across the states in the development of common assessments and model curricular and instructional materials in K-12. In colleges and universities, new educators will now be prepared based on a common set of standards. Resources currently being diverted to train/retrain educators can be used in other ways, such as customizing the standards based on their local needs and priorities and personalizing the learning experience for students.

In the interest of the students who will pursue a degree after high school, why would schools not teach to the standards required by postsecondary institutions which, as previously noted, are assessed on the ACT?

~ Continued on Page 2 ~

School District of Pittsville

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

SECTION 120.06(8)(c), WIS. STATS.

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the Pittsville School District that on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, election of School Board Members will be held.

Candidates for the School Board are as follows:

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO

Mandy Hoogesteger
Dick Koeshall
Matt Faber
Melissa Marti

Electors will vote in their regular polling places. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Connie Potter, Clerk

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



~ Continued from Page 1 ~

Skylert / SchoolMessenger Notification System

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 up-coming 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 no 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

According to the Future Ready Project (<http://www.futurereadyproject.org/>), voters believe it is "better for all states to have the same standards at each grade level in Math and English so students across the country have to meet the same expectations" rather than for states to have "their own standards reflecting their own priorities."

Teachers and educators all over Wisconsin have embraced this change. Despite decades in which new mandates and initiatives—those imposed externally from curriculum vendors, political bodies, and state and federal bureaucratic processes—have come and gone, our teachers are continually looking for ways to engage students and customize the learning process so that **all** students are successful. The Common Core State Standards represents a tool that, for the first time in our nation's history, would ensure that all students are held to the same expectations, regardless of zip code.

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.



Maggie Mae Country Saturday, April 12th

Country singer Maggie Mae, a home-grown talented country singer/Nashville recording artist from Oxford, WI, in Marquette County, has been entertaining crowds with her country music and yodeling. She is becoming one of the biggest Midwestern names in pure country music. Visit her at www.maggiemaecountry.com.

This concert is a benefit for the High Ground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, WI. Visit them at <http://www.thehighground.org>.



Showtime: 2:00 PM

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be ordered by calling the High Ground Memorial Park at 715-743-4224

Art Stevenson and High Water Saturday, May 10th

This four-piece bluegrass band from the heart of Wisconsin is back for their 12th annual performance. They are a local favorite closing out our 2013-2014 concert season. You will hear bluegrass classics, early country and mountain songs, as well as gospel vocal trios and quartets; warm with friendly humor. Visit them at www.highwatermusic.com.

Sponsored in part by: Pittsville Therapy Services, Inc., Chasteen Agency, Hay Creek Pallet, Pittsville Homes, Arnie & Linda Schwanebeck.

Showtime: 7:30 PM

Tickets: Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Students \$5





Counselor's Corner: 3rd Quarter ~ Emily Krystowiak, 8-12 School Counselor

Greeting to all! I hope this article finds you well and looking forward to spring...finally! ☺ Please take a minute to read the follow important reminders for students this spring. As always, if you have any questions about any of the information provided, please feel free to contact me at any time!

SENIORS

Upcoming Important Dates: *Josten's Delivery Date:* Tuesday, March 25 at 9:30 AM, Cafeteria (all unpaid balances due)

NEW--Awards Evening: Wednesday, May 21st at 7:00 PM, Auditorium (this will replace the traditional Awards Day morning held the Friday prior to graduation)

Graduation: Saturday, May 24th at 10:00 AM PHS Gymnasium (Senior Breakfast will be held prior at 8:30 AM in the cafeteria; all seniors must report to the LMC by 9:00 AM)

Paying for school: Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships! As most of you know, most local scholarships are due Friday, April 11th, but some are due before spring break. For more information, check out the Scholarship Tab (specifically 2013-2014 Scholarships and Contests) 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.)

Next Steps for post-secondary: Seniors attending a UW next fall are asked to take placement tests to determine what classes they should be placed in. Placement tests are administered March-July at numerous UW locations; students can register online at <http://testing.wisc.edu/centerpages/regionaltesting.html>. (There is also a link off the HS Counseling website under the "University of Wisconsin Information" tab.) Additionally, most schools require a housing deposit of some form this spring yet to secure a spot in the dorms; please make sure you have completed this step to guarantee yourself a spot with university housing next fall.

JUNIORS

Spring Campus Visits: Spring is great time for juniors to visit prospective campuses to get the "real feel" for campus life with classes still in session. Many colleges provide students and parents the opportunity to experience this together through their *Preview Days* programs.

Summer/Early Fall ACT Dates and Registration Deadlines: Students can register online at www.actstudent.org (There is also a link off the HS Counseling website under the "Testing" tab.)

a. Test Date: June 14th, 2014—Registration Deadline: May 9th, 2014

b. Test Date: September 13th, 2014—Registration Deadline: August 8th, 2014

Apply Early: Students who plan to attend *Mid State Technical College* after graduating can apply as early as 2nd semester of their junior year. This is a very smart thing to do as some programs fill up quickly (WELDING, NURSING, etc.) and applying early decreases the chance of being put on a wait list. Students need to take the Accuplacer or the ACT as part of the admissions process; the Accuplacer can be taken at PHS (see Mrs. Krystowiak to sign up,) the ACT needs to be taken at an official ACT testing site.

SOPHOMORES and FRESHMEN

Sophomore Meetings: All Sophomores will be finished with their spring meetings by the time spring break begins. Be sure to touch base with them to see what they discussed. The 20 minute meetings were very beneficial both academically and personally. Sophomore students are encouraged to get involved in extra-curricular activities so as to help them and the community they live in!

Freshmen Spring Meetings: All freshmen are asked to meet with Mrs. Krystowiak 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* and *participating in a job shadow experience*. Freshmen meetings will begin after spring break until the conclusion of the year.

8TH GRADERS

Recently, the 8th grade was presented to on facts about depression and suicide. In addition to this, students were able to be screened if they chose to do so. This was a great opportunity for students to both learn and do a check-in on their mental health.

Spring Field Trip: The "Reality Store" field trip is a real life budgeting simulation event hosted at Marshfield Middle School by MACCI on April 15th. Information about this trip will be given out prior to spring break. This is a very memorable and useful opportunity for all those who will be in attendance.

FFA Flower Sale

FFA Flowers will go on sale the week before Mother's Day, May 6-10 from 8AM-3PM at the high school greenhouse. Last year because of your support, all the flowers our students nurtured and raised were sold in three days. We once again will keep our prices very, very low. So please don't delay stopping by our greenhouse May 6-10. Thank you for supporting the Pittsville FFA and its members through your flower purchases.



Pittsville FFA Alumni's 31st Dairy Breakfast

Saturday June 28, 2014 serving from 7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Jack & Kathy Hahn's Homestead Acres
6231 Cty Rd E North, Pittsville

All proceeds go to support the Pittsville FFA.



PHS News

Greetings!

With snow piles starting to melt, a greater warmth felt by the sun, and a few bird-songs in the air, we can finally look forward to Spring being right around the corner. With such optimistic signs of the end of Winter around us, it seems like a great time to communicate some of the positive things that are happening at Pittsville High School.

Our first year administering the CTE Academy was a rousing success. There are two parts to the Academy; students study workplace skills, which include learning in a variety of areas, including resume' writing, working with difficult co-workers, career aptitude, strategic job searching, and many others. The second component of the Academy is workplace experience, which means juniors job-shadow at several different locations, and (most) seniors perform internships at various businesses in the region. A great thanks to former counselor Julia Backaus for getting this program started, as well as current counselor Emily Krystowiak and teachers Rae Ann Leonard, Stephen Hadfield, Bill Urban, and Kate Kaster for developing it and making it such a success in its first year. It has received such acclaim that Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Reggie Newson will be visiting in April to learn about it, with the idea that the CTE Academy could be duplicated in other schools across the state.

We have finished our high-stakes testing for this year, which include the EXPLORE for freshmen, PLAN for sophomores, and ACT for juniors (a practice test this year). These tests will give students and families a wealth of information about how they compare academically with other students in the state and nation, as well as what classes they are ready to take in coming years here at the high school. They are also predictors of how ready they may be for college and technical school classes. Next year, these tests (to be called ASPIRE) will be mandated by the state, and will replace the WKCE test that has been used for the last 20+ years. As our freshman and sophomores have been taking the EXPLORE and PLAN for years now, we can establish a baseline of data which will help the faculty determine the needs of individual classes and students. Through this process, we hope to see student learning and achievement, as well as test scores, increase.

The scheduling process is finished for next year, and I would like to thank all of the parents that were part of the scheduling aspect of our Advising Program. With parents and advisors working closely with students, classes were chosen that were both of interest to the students and well-suited to move them toward their post-high school goals.

We had a great turnout for our dedication of the new school forest shelter and the celebration of Stephen Hadfield's State Environmental Educator of the Year Award. I see a great future of teaching environmental education at our school forest for years to come as we expand the program. This is just one more of many positive indicators of the forward movement of PHS and its students and staff. Similar to our anticipation of Spring, we are looking toward a bright future here at PHS.

Mark Weddig
PHS Principal

Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities

On March 5th, metal fabrication students visited Pointe Precision in Plover. Students were able to observe large scale precision manufacturing by a variety of CNC machinery.

The Technology Education Department is working with Pointe Precision to form youth apprenticeship opportunities for the 2014-2015 school year.



PHS Math Department

Mr. Lilly, Math Instructor

At the start of the new semester here at PHS, the math department enrolled a whole new set of students. I have found a neat activity to help prepare our students for the up and coming ACT exam. We do what is called ACT Tuesday. Every week, I give them a 12 minute, 12 question exam made up of retired ACT exam questions. When the 12 minutes have expired, we go over the answers as a group and we work through some of the problems that they got wrong. We address key skills that they will need to succeed at this high stakes test being taken by all juniors this year.

In addition to seeing ACT type questions, they get use to taking timed tests that push them both mentally and academically.

English Classes Creating Drama

Students in Ms. Freedlund's English classes have been creating drama, literally, the past few weeks. In English 9 students have read and acted out William Shakespeare's tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*. Students read as one character or several, depending on the size of the part, and really got to understand each character more deeply. Some students got into the 'act' by dressing in costume or using props relevant to the person they were portraying. (By far, any scene in which the freshmen boys could carry a plastic weapon was especially popular!) Hats and wigs borrowed from the PHS Drama Department proved to be a hit as well. All the students could relate to the themes of love and alienation in this classic. If you see a freshman, ask him or her to tell you what "Let lips do as hands do" or "Do you bite your thumb at me" means. Or have them explain why *Romeo and Juliet* are star-crossed lovers. Chances are they will tell you a whole lot more.

Advanced Placement Literature students were not to be out done by the freshmen. The juniors and seniors in this course read *Death of a Salesman* and will have completed Shakespeare's shortest history/tragedy *Macbeth* before Spring Break. AP students acted out the roles in Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize winning two act play, and have chosen to dramatically read the "Bard's Scottish Play". An underlying theme between the two plays is the protagonist's role as a Tragic Hero. A Tragic Hero is a noble or virtuous character who experiences a fall from grace. Both *Willy Loman* and *Macbeth* fit this literary description well. In addition, Semester One AP Literature students read George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion* which was later recreated by Hollywood as *My Fair Lady*. Although by far, the most commented and drama-evoking literary selection this year was -Jane Eyre.



FBLA - Future Business Leaders of America

The FBLA 2014 Regional Leadership Conference was held on February 1 at Greenwood. We had 34 members participating in a variety of events. The following 18 students achieved a ranking which advances them to the State Competition in Appleton which is to be held April 7-8.

Cyber Security: Colton Ortner

Digital Design & Promotion: Jenna Sanken, Audrey Meis

Entrepreneurship: Makida Lathrop, Brittaney Peterson, Ashlee Zakrewski

Help Desk: Breanna Kumm

Management Decision Making: Damien Moore, Austin Carlson, Katie Hardinger

Network Design: Jessie Poppy, Jack Zdun

Public Speaking: Adrianna Zickert

Web Site Design: Adam Sturgis, Alex Williamson, Brad Wesley

Computer Game and Simulation Programming: Aileen Ida and Calvin Amundson



PHS Forensics Team Confronts American's Greatest Fear

According to a 2012 Psychology Today article, American's number one fear is public speaking. Twenty-six PHS students traveled to Auburndale on February 24th for three rounds of speaking competition. There are eight schools in Sub-District 7 including: Auburndale, Port Edwards, Assumption, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln, East and West Junior High, and Pittsville. Over 120 speakers participated in this year's event.

The PHS Team was very successful moving 11 Individual Speakers and 4 Groups on to District Competition which will be hosted at East Junior High in Wisconsin Rapids on March 8th. Speakers must earn two 20/25 scores to qualify for State Forensics April 12th. Family and friends are welcome to attend. Round One will begin at 8:00 am. The team is coached by Ms. Freedlund and Mr. Hadfield.



Spanish Club

The Costa Rica trip is set for Spring Break 2016. Six students are going and are bound to have a great time and learn a ton!! They are selling cookie dough and magazine subscriptions to help raise funds for the trip. You can support them by ordering online at gaschoolstore.com and using our School ID: 35897. We appreciate your support!

Pittsville's 2014 Porcupine Study Group

The 2013-2014 Porcupine Study at Sandhill Wildlife Area is winding down. Each year students have to apply to be accepted to participate in trapping, tagging, and data analysis of porcupines. The application process starts by students being nominated by Mr. Steward for their academic grades, drive and interest in research projects. Next students submit an application and complete an interview with Britt Searles, DNR biologist, before being accepted. This year's students from left to right are Walter Harris, Adrianna Zickert, Sophia Schwanebeck, Kayla Larson, Katie Hardinger, Hannah Downs, and Cedric Neve. The annual research study is an integral component to learn about one of Wisconsin's unique creatures. The data collected will provide biologists invaluable information on ensuring the survival of the species, *Erethizon dorsatum* – the North American Porcupine.



PHS National Honors Society

The 2014 Pittsville High School National Honors Society chapter recently donated a sum of \$283.70 to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The fund was raised by a Penny War between the freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors at Pittsville High School and donations from supportive fans at sporting events held at the Pittsville Gymnasium. The money will be used to help find a cure for the debilitating and deadly diseases leukemia and lymphoma. Pictured is the Pittsville NHS club, missing from the photo is the NHS Advisor Mr. Steward, with the check that was donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Pittsville NHS would like to send a very sincere thank you to all of the individuals that supported the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through your generous donations. Together we can make a difference.





Elementary News

Dear families,

We have had a tremendously busy winter, despite having so many indoor recesses at the elementary school!

The staff and I have been working very hard on several new state and national initiatives. One is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and it will be project based activities for grades 3-8 next school year. In each of these grade levels, students will be able to create hands-on science experiments that also incorporate technology and math. The Next Generation Science Standards (<http://www.nextgenscience.org>) are important for students to know and be able to do as we look into College and Career Readiness. Not all students will become engineers, inventors or scientists, but we do need a scientifically literate population in the 21st century to understand things happening around the world. We are very excited to see students become more and more interested and engaged in science and hands-on experiments.

Another exciting initiative happening at Pittsville Elementary is PBIS Tier 2. We have been successful at Tier 1 with School Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, but the staff and I believe some of our students need more layers of support. The PBIS team and I have been going to training and learning about Check In Check Out systems for Tier 2. Some students benefit from this additional layer of support because it is rewarding and positive. Students who are nominated for this have a greeter on staff who talks with them at the beginning and end of the day, making sure things are going smoothly and the student has a chart that they take to each class. Each classroom teacher gives points for the student for a variety of things, including having homework turned in. At the end of each week, the student is rewarded for their effort.

The US Department of Education recently released the School Discipline Guidance Package (<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-departments-education-and-justice-release-school-discipline-guidance-package->). I believe the school climate we have established at Pittsville Elementary aligns well with these guidelines.

The staff and I would like to thank everyone who came to the Learning Fair/Art Show/STEM night and Empty Bowls event on March 11. We raised over \$4,000.00 from Empty Bowls that will be donated to the Pittsville Food Pantry.

We will have an Early Release on Friday, March 28. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm. Spring Break is March 29-April 6. School resumes Monday, April 7.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fischer,
Elementary Principal

*"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back
and relax, all you need is a book." ~Dr. Seuss*

Kindergarten Classroom Updates

Recently the kindergarten students have been learning about Community Helpers. The children were able to travel to Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids and toured a pediatric room and participated in lessons about the body. Students were shown proper hand washing techniques, learned about germs, listened to their heartbeat, and saw various instruments that doctors and nurses use in their jobs. The human skeleton was used to teach the children about how many bones are in their bodies, as well as to identify and compare a bone to its x-ray picture. We would like to thank the hospital auxiliary for providing the bus transportation fees for our trip. Our students also learned about Dental Health and we were fortunate to have Dr. John visit our classes and speak to the children about taking care of their teeth, so that they last them a lifetime. Children were able to model how to brush and floss their teeth using very large scale toothbrushes and floss (rope). The children shared ways they use their teeth and how to keep them healthy. A special thank you to Dr. John for providing our students with dental supplies for good hygiene.

A great addition to our curriculum this year was talking about the Post Office. Carmen Kumm, U.S. postal employee, shared with the students her duties at her job and brought examples of flats, bags, and boxes that are utilized in the mail room. She also spoke about the routes that the mail carriers have outside of the city limits. The children learned about things available for purchase at the post office, such as stamps, flat rate boxes, and special collector coins. The children were able to view a DVD from The Safe Side that addressed keeping themselves safe in many different locations and situations. We also read a story about Police officers and will soon be visited by Police Chief Zawislan and the K-9 unit. We look forward to this opportunity!

Later this spring, we will be going to the Pittsville Public Library where the children will learn about the job of a librarian, will be able to obtain their own library card, listen to stories, and become more familiar with what is available at the library.

Happy Spring!

Mrs. Niehaus and Mrs. Heinzen



Kindergarten students participating in a hand-washing demonstration at Riverview Hospital.



Dr. John helps the Kindergartners learn important things about Dental Health.



Mrs. Carmen Kumm talks with Kindergartners about the Post Office.



February in First Grade

February has been a very busy month in first grade with students observing the Chinese New Year, Groundhog Day, 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Dental and Heart Health month!



Mrs. Kuehn's and Mrs. Hautala's students observed the Chinese New Year with 2014 being the Year of the Horse, starting in late January and transitioned into February. Students learned about the Chinese Zodiac and discovered characteristics of each animal of the Zodiac. We read and discussed the cultural customs associated with this holiday.

First Grade also celebrated the 100th day of school by doing various "100" activities. Students enjoyed doing a portrait of themselves should they live to be 100 years old! Children's perspective of the aging process is quite unique! Both classes also created Abraham Lincoln and George Washington fact booklets and projects. They learned the importance of these two famous presidents and why they are significant individuals in our country's history. All in all, February was a fast and furious month with activities each and every day. It made the month fly by, regardless of how cold the month remained!

Second Graders in Miss Sischo's class wrote friendly letters to second graders at Neillville Elementary School and to their parents. They made a Valentine's Day bear art project.



Miss Sischo's second grade class made a PowerPoint presentation on Martin Luther King Jr. The presentation focused on why he was a hero.

Miss Sischo's class also studied the Arctic habitat. The children researched animals and plants of the Arctic. The children wrote a paragraph about Arctic plant adaptations. They made a plant art project as well.



4th Grade News

Mrs. Moore's 4th grade Wisconsin History class recently did a unit on Immigration and Heritage. Students researched their country of origin and interviewed relatives about their background.

Many guest speakers attended and brought in a food sample of their country. Here is a picture of 4 generations of Abbi Knutson's relatives: Abbi, Mom (Liz Knutson), Grandma, (Barb Calaway) and Great-Grandma (Shirley Gachnang).

In February, the 4th grade went to see the play "Civil War" at the Lucille Tack Center in Spencer. The students are currently reading about Slavery and the Civil War in their Wisconsin History at this time, so it tied in nicely with their lessons.

We also had many 4th graders participate and attended the school's Learning Fair on March 11. The students enjoyed these events and learned many facts about the Civil War as well as varying topics at the Learning Fair.

Mrs. Moore/Mr. Downing



Looping News

The students in looping continue to be extremely busy growing in their reading, writing, and math. We are so proud of them. Walk in the classroom during reading and you will find first graders practicing reader's theaters and second graders reading Henry and Mudge books discussing the importance of good friends. You can observe noun collages created by first graders and idiom posters created by second graders in the front lobby.

Math has the first graders understanding place value. They have been working on identifying the ones and tens places, along with understanding their values. The second graders are hard at work identifying coins and their values, along with counting a small collection of coins. They are also busy working on different ways to write a number. Can you write a number in standard form, expanded form, or word form? IF not, ask a looping 2nd grader.

In theme, the students have been busy learning about the different forests. Did you know that the coniferous forests have trees that look like Christmas trees and the trees in a deciduous forest drop their leaves? The rainforests are located near the equator and are amazing in color, animals, and sounds!

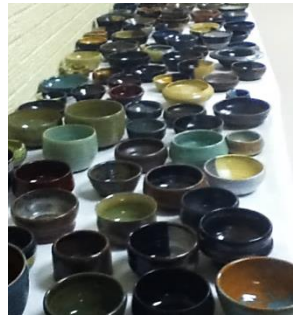
February has proved to be very busy in the looping classroom as we visited the Lucille Tack Center in Spencer to watch the play *The Teacher from the Black Lagoon* and various other stories on February 6th. The students WOWED their teachers with their awesome PBIS behavior on the bus and in the theater. We also celebrated 100 days of school on February 10th. Students completed a computer project with 100 items from Kidspiration, created self-portraits of them at 100 years of age, read 100th day books and poems, and played games using 100 charts. Valentine's Day was celebrated with heart art projects, math activities with conversation hearts, reading "love" books while identifying setting, characters, problem, solution, and themes.

There is never a dull moment in an elementary classroom!



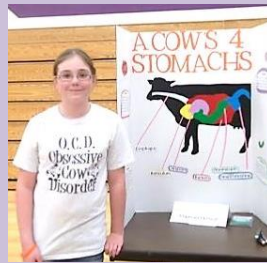
K-12 Art Show

This year at the art show, there were many new projects created by the students. The sixth grade thrones, fourth grade collagraphs and value lights, third grade story tee shirts and radial designs, kindergarten ceramic hands, and high school copper reliefs and holiday trees added a nice variety to the show. Of course, the high school artist studies created a center of attraction. Thank you for joining us in supporting the students in the visual arts.



Empty Bowls Dinner

The Pittsville Pottery Group would like to thank everyone that attended the "Empty Bowls" dinner on March 11th. We had such a great turn out, we even ran out of soup! Thank you to Baum's Merchantile, Bruce Mound Snack Shack, Castle Hill, Charlie's Pine Crest, Diana Coulthard, Dexterville Drive Inn, Horsin' Around, Jerry Minor, Judy Papke, Julie Strenn, Laura's Café, Misty's Menu, Shawn and Penney Dupee, and Spikes for donating soup for our "Empty Bowls" dinner, as well as Joe Dostal for organizing the food service area. Thank you to the staff and parents that helped to make the event a "souper" success. Proceeds of \$4000.00 will be donated to P.A.N.S. (Pittsville Area Neighbors Shelf).



Learning Fair



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

March 11th was an amazing night as there were many events for all ages to participate in. Included in the night were STEM activities which including: marshmallow and toothpick structures, Tangrams, straw bridges, paper airplanes, straw bridges, 'angry animals' which proved to be a big hit and many more. All ages seemed to enjoy the activities!





4K SPOTLIGHT: Olympic Fun

The 4K students played Hockey and Olympic Ring Toss and we had a Gold Medal ceremony to celebrate our winners! The students also painted an Olympic headband showing the rings and colored a USA picture. The students had fun celebrating these fun events and cheering on team USA!



STEM NEWS....from 8th, 7th, and 6th grades implemented during their Math/Science block (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)



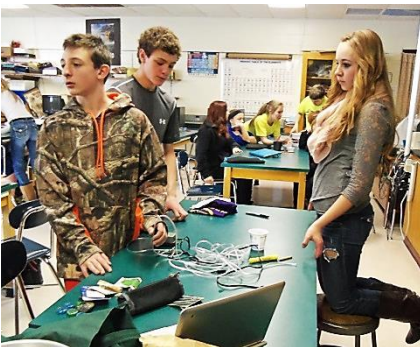
8th Grade were first given a task to make a car that will go the farthest as it is allowed to roll down a ramp.

Next, students were given the opportunity to create a car that can go the farthest on its own power.



Students are now rethinking what they have made and need to come up with ideas to re-do their cars for a future competition for distance.

7th Grade built hydroponic units; it seems that the most difficult component was to keep the plants growing after germination.



Students will try to make a system using soil and again with the use of recycled materials in the hope to have May Day Flowers.



6th Grade reported on bridge design and then built toothpick bridges that were tested for strength by placing them across two tables and weights were added to a container that hung down from the bridge.



Students are now studying Newton's Laws of Motion and Bernoulli's Principle to understand flight. They will next be using this information for construction of a variety of projects.

Don't forget to come back for the next newsletter to see what each grade is up to as there are exciting STEM projects in the near future!



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.

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.

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

Food Service News

NEW "DOUBLE-UP" for PHS

Starting in March for a \$2.00 charge, high school students are able to "DOUBLE-UP" (purchase a second entree) or go through the salad bar to complement their lunch from home. We will not be accepting money in line at this time.

A \$2.00 charge will be added to each student's existing food service account for the purchase. Students that participate in the free lunch program will also be able to "DOUBLE-UP" as long as money is available in their account. Parents can track their student's purchases through Skyward found at our school web site. Other items may be added in the future.

If you do not want your student(s) "DOUBLING-UP," please contact Joe Dostal by phone (715-884-5220) or email (dostajos@pittsville.k12.wi.us) and a block can be placed on your student's account. They will be able to purchase school lunch but nothing else.

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

Farm to School Update: Breakfast - An Important Part of the Day!

This year during the week of March 3-7, 2014 Wood County Schools celebrated National School Breakfast Week with the theme for the week being "Take Time for School Breakfast". There are many great benefits to eating breakfast, two of which are improved learning and better weight control. Studies have shown that students who eat school breakfast are found to miss less school, are less likely to be tardy, and tend to do better in academics. School breakfasts offer a great, fast and nutritious meal for children. Every breakfast comes with low fat or fat-free milk and offers a healthy mix of whole grains, and lean proteins such as yogurt or string cheese, and fruit. School breakfasts are planned to meet age appropriate calorie intake levels. Students who qualify for a free or reduced lunch also qualify for school breakfast at no charge. No matter where you eat, it is important to start your day off right with a good wholesome breakfast including lean proteins, whole grains, and fruit.

Through the Decades at PHS: Spring Edition

Contributors: Aileen Ida, Tim Zogleman, Hannah Downs, Tristan Gardener, Nicholas Sherwood, Mr. Downs and Mr. Piotrowski for The History Club

As the snow begins to melt (or at least as we hope it will melt), and the signs of life come out from their long hibernation, memories of springs past may also come out of hibernation. Some may remember the first time a Macintosh personal computer became available in 1984, when the iconic movie "Schindler's List" received 7 oscar awards in 1994, or even the launching of Facebook in 2004. Today, these memories may seem just a thing of the past, but we must remember that this history has made us who we are today, and who we will become tomorrow. While the world was changing, the students at PHS were creating their own lasting memories.

Prom. Spring brings with it many various memories of Prom. Themes and members of past Prom Courts included...A "Starlite Night" was the 1984 Prom theme and members of the court were Tammy Schwanebeck escorted by Mark Slovensky, Angie Dickson escorted by Eric Heggelund, Denise Palmer escorted by Jim Ewer, Chris Skebba escorted by Tim Grutzik, Trudi Robus escorted by Paul Sebold, Mary Orther escorted by Gerald Palmer. 1983 Homecoming King Howard Piotrowski crowned 1984 Prom King Jodi Wilke and 1983 Prom Queen Dana Scott crowned 1984 Prom Queen Teresa Skon. A decade later saw Renee Bain escorted by Kevin Moore, Sarah O'Keefe escorted by Ben Giles, Jacinda Wood escorted by Matt Grutzik, Julie Itzen escorted by Eric Young, Jamie Kumm escorted by Jason Brandt, Janny Rademan escorted by Jeremiah Harder, Luanne Sojka escorted by Jay Kummer, Ann Turnquist escorted by Marcus Malyuk. The miniature couple was Kelly Hahn and Christopher Walter. "A Night in Paradise" in 2004 saw Heidi Accola escorted by Aaron Anderson, Molly Baum escorted by Eric Voight, Jenna Fox escorted by Jason Jacobson, Kaci Kasner escorted by Josh Sojka, Heather Nichols escorted by Brad Luther, Whitney Petersen escorted by Jake Halama, Tanya Ponshock escorted by Ryan Scott, and Nicole Seebruck escorted by Terry O'Keefe. The King was Terry O'Keefe escorting Queen Heather Nichols.

Track. In 1984 the Panther track teams were led by Coaches Noel Denniston and Karen Iwanski. They were assisted by Chuck Soper and JoAnne Raabe. The boys were led by seniors Scott Larson, Rob Miller, Tim Volk, Ken Tomsyck, Kevin Korslin, Brian Whyte and Eric Pelot. Seniors leading the girls were Elaine Andersen, Hazel Guerrero, Cheryl Woiak, Lisa Holden, Beth Macha, and Lisa Grorich. A decade later found the Panther track teams led by Head Coach Karen Brownell and assistants Dan Brownell, Tammy Schmidt, Robert Piotrowski, and Karen and Lee Garrels. Helping lead the way were seniors Carrie Jepson, Carla Nelsen, Rob Radlinger, and Rachael Jevaltas. Some highlights for the season were the girls establishing a school record in the 3200m Relay and Kim Wolff earning a 7th place finish at the state meet held in La Crosse. 2004 turned out to be a memorable year for Coaches Rick Winters and Kevin Korslin and the Panther speedsters as various records fell. Laura Palmer set records in the 800m run (2:18); 1600m run (5:16.07), and the 3200m run (11:35.74). She was also a member of the record setting 3200m relay (9:52.26) along with Amy Franson, Aly John, and Tanya Palmer. Candi Fox also tossed the discus 119' 11" to set that record and Ashley Baker cleared 5'5" in the high jump. Placing at the state meet were the 3200m relay (3rd), Laura Palmer earned 4th places in the 1600m and 3200m runs, Ashley Baker in the High Jump (2nd), and a 15th place finish in the discus for Candi Fox. Senior leaders for the 2004 Panthers were Colton Heuer, Jake Hahn, Sam Baum, Paul Greene, Bobbi Schiller, and Kelli Fox.

Baseball. In 1984 the baseball team was coached by Bob Wolff. The team was led by seniors Gary Skon, Sam Neve, Scott Tyler, Mike Solatycky, Chuck Kolar, Brian Wills, Eric Iverson, and Rick Larson. 1994 was a great year to be in baseball. Coach Bruce Rademan's team had an overall record of 10-9. After a slow start to the season the Panthers heated up for the playoffs taking 3 straight games to win a Regional Championship. The boys took the first game at Sectionals with a 9-4 win over Mineral Point. The next game was played hard but the Panthers fell a run short in a 2-1 loss to Bangor. End of the season awards were given to Josh Pryne who led the team in batting and to Todd Rademan and Josh Pryne as Co-MVP's. Captains of the team were seniors Dan Denniston and Jamey Kohlbeck. It's 2004 and Coach Bill Urban's baseball team is a force to be reckoned with. The boys finished up with a 16-3 record in the regular season. Moving on they clinched a Regional Championship with a 8-7 win and then it was on to Sectionals. At Sectionals the boys won their first game behind the strong pitching of freshman Ty Copeland. In the final the boys suffered a tough loss to Abbotsford 6-8. The team broke the school record for most wins in a season at 19. Seniors consisted of Paul Greene, Mitch Romans, Brian Urban, Jerome Quinell, Brian Mews, and Dave Olsen. Awarded 1st Team All-Conference were Paul Greene and Ty Copeland. Earning 2nd Team All-Conference honors was Brad Luther. Casey Krohn and Mitch Romans were selected as All Conference Honorable Mentions.

Softball. The 1994 Panther softball team was coached by Bob Wolff. The team was led by co-captains Tracie Grossman and Jenny Rademan; seniors Tracie Grossman and Jamie Scholzen became the first four year softball players as the program was begun in 1991. The Panthers' finished with an overall record of 3-8. The 2004 Panther softball team had a good season, finishing 11-9 overall and 7-6 in the conference for first year coach Dan Hoffa. The team had a number of underclassmen playing key roles and was led by seniors Mindy Wesely and Kirsten Hackett. Other team leaders included First Team All-Conference catcher Nicole Seebruck and Second Team All-Conference pitcher Britt Zieher.



Music Department News

As the third semester is coming to a close, our music department has been very busy preparing for the variety of events coming up in the weeks ahead after spring break. The high school band and part of the 8th grade band went on a field trip to Edgar High School. As we continue to grow the band program at Pittsville, the students got a chance to play some concert and pep band music with the Edgar High School Band which has over 70 members. The students all had a great experience playing with Edgar's Band and would like to continue having this opportunity in the future to play with other bands in the area.

Solo and Ensemble is on March 28 and students from grades 7 - 12 have been working hard preparing their music. Students will be performing at Stratford High School all day so come on out to support Pittsville Music. We are still 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! Pittsville is hosting Large Group Band (April, 10) and Large Group Choir (April, 15). Schools that are visiting this year for the music festival are Stratford and Spencer High School and Junior High. Please come and listen to these fine ensembles perform live music. Each ensemble will perform three pieces that are contrasting in style and technique. While performing, there will be three adjudicators critiquing each ensemble on a variety of music skills. Afterwards, the adjudicators will give a short clinic to help improve the skills of the ensemble on the music that was performed. We are looking for several student and parent volunteers to help in running each event. Please contact Emily Pearse for more information.

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 timesheet and have an advisor or adult sign off on your hours worked! There are extra time sheets on the board in the music room.

We would like to recognize all band students who have participated in Pep Band this school year. We appreciate your hard work, dedication, and school spirit you show at every game we performed at this year. Also, congratulations to all 7th and 8th grade choir students for auditioning for Junior High Show Choir. The Junior High School Choir will be performing at the Spring Concert this year.

Upcoming Performance Dates

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 (7 th 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

Athletic Department News...

Greetings from the Athletic Department! We have completed another winter sports season and I would like to congratulate all of the athletes that participated this past season. I would also like to thank and applaud all of the winter coaches for their hard work and dedication to student athletes.



Coaching is hard work, time consuming and at times one of the more stressful jobs around. It can also be very rewarding and satisfying when the hard work pays off and student athletes improve and experience success. To the parents of the athletes, THANK YOU for all of your support throughout the season. I know you spend a lot of time sitting on bleachers, eating from concession stands and driving in to pick up your children from practices. Positive parent attitudes are so important to successful athletic programs. My final extension of gratitude goes out to the local officials that help us make the games happen. Without these individuals, the games would not be played and student athletes would not have the opportunity to participate. If there are individuals that are interested in starting to officiate, please feel free to contact me at school and I will do what I can to get you involved.

Looking forward, spring will come. Last year was an awful spring with many canceled games and meets. Most of the events that did get played were in cold, dreary and wet conditions. We have a lot of snow on the ground right now, but I have a positive attitude about it going away soon and having a long successful season. There will inevitably be some changes to the current sports schedules. The best way for you to get the latest updates and most current schedule is by signing up for the Notify Me feature on our school webpage (www.pittsville.k12.wi.us) and then click on the school calendar. In the top right corner of the calendar webpage is a link called Notify me! that you can click on and fill in the info. Once you are registered, you will get notifications whenever I make changes to the sports schedules. We will also use the Skylert instant message program to inform parents about last minute cancellations. If you don't currently get these messages, please contact your child's school office and they can help you get signed up.

Have a great spring and GO Panthers!!!

GO PANTHERS!

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

PHS Track

The track season is under way and the athletes are working hard to get ready for the season. Coaches Jicinsky and Piotrowski are looking forward to a great season with a great group of hard working athletes. Please support us at our first home track meet on April 8th (weather permitting. ☺)

PTO Corner....

Thank you to everyone who donated to and helped count, trim and collect the **Campbell's Soup Label, Box Tops for Education, Coke Points, and Milk Caps Challenge and Competition**. We collected almost 25,000 items. The winning rooms were Looping and Mr. Downing's classroom. Please start trimming and collecting for next year's competition and remember items must be trimmed to be counted for the competition and expired Box Tops will not be accepted. Please check the dates.

Thank you to Joe Dostal and the kitchen staff for baking the cookies for the **Learning Fair, STEM, and Art Show**. We really appreciate their help and support. Thank you to the volunteers who donated food to provide a potato bar to staff as a St. Patrick's Day meal.

Spring Pictures: April 9 and 10. New this year, family pictures available after school on April 9th. Students have brought home more information. Pricing is available at beckerphotography.net on the far left side at the bottom of the page.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9. We will be looking for volunteers to help us show our staff how much we appreciate everything they do for our students.

BOGO Book Fair will be held in conjunction with the **Bike Rodeo** on May 16 immediately after school. In case of inclement weather, the Book Fair will still be held but the Bike Rodeo will be moved to May 30. The BOGO Book Fair will also be open various hours throughout the school day the week of May 12-16. Specific information will be sent home with your children at a later date.

Thank you to the many volunteers who have helped at numerous PTO sponsored activities. We had almost one hundred volunteers who helped make events happen throughout the school year. These volunteers helped in the school, from home, and through food donations sent in to the school. Thank you for your contributions!

SPORTS SCHEDULES

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

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Administrative Contacts

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

N Pittsville School District **NEWS**

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