



Pittsville

Second Quarter, 2014-2015

SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS



From the Desk of District Administrator Terry Reynolds...

It is hard to believe that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is over and the end of our first term is approaching. As we approach second semester it is time to reflect on our first semester goals and begin to think about what needs to be addressed as we enter the second half of the school year. Regardless of the challenges we face, our guiding principles guide us in what we believe and how we move forward as a District in facing these challenges.

At the school level we are busier than ever, whether it is our staff preparing and implementing best practice initiatives in the classroom or our students preparing for the various learning opportunities and/or their co-curricular events. We all are committed to continuous improvements in all that we do.

It is evident to me that the Pittsville School District staff and residents are in tune with the same belief: Students are our first priority. No matter where in our organization/community we serve, we remember always that caring for the needs of each individual student is the heart of our mission. We embrace the same core values which serve as a foundation in our efforts to ensure a rigorous learning experience that equips our students for success in this ever changing global society.

For both staff and students, "accountability" has been a word that resonates clearly for all. Accountability means that we, as individuals or the organization as a whole, must account for our activities, accept responsibility for them, and disclose the results in a transparent manner. Whether it is district/state level assessments, curricular standards, or goals/objectives, we all know the importance of striving to meet the highest level of performance. As educators, we constantly "push" our students to meet high expectations. However, all of the work we do is not possible without "collaboration". Working together as an educational team, is a key element in achieving success in any school district.

Over the last few years our teachers have been focusing collaboratively on improving student learning. This commitment among staff has assisted our district in moving forward in increasing student achievement. There is abundant research linking higher levels of student achievement to educators working in a collaborative learning environment. The achievement levels increase even higher when parents are included in this collaborative model. I encourage parents to continue to be involved in your child's education programming throughout their educational career, and stay connected with their teachers as much as possible to maximize the potential of student learning and success.

OPEN ENROLLMENT IN WISCONSIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Open Enrollment application period for the 2015-2016 school year is from February 2 to April 30, 2015. The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on Apr. 30th. *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.

2014-2015 Budget Information

On October 29, the School Board members approved the 2014-2015 budget and tax levy. Our enrollment, which is directly related to how much a school district may levy each year, decreased by 28 students. However, the revenue limits are based on a three year average. Our enrollment count (three year average) this year is **605** (last year's three year average was **617**). 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 2014-2015 budget (all funds) of **\$9,031,454.00** was developed. This amount equates to an increase of **10.10%** from last year's budget. The District will have a decrease from State general aids of **\$265,676** which is a **-7.71%** decrease from last year.

The Board also approved the 2014-2015 tax levy of **\$3,201,323**. The rate is a **-7.40%** increase over last year's levy. The District levy rate for 2014-2015 is **\$10.65** per \$1000 (last year - **\$9.75**). This rate increase also includes the **\$.50** per \$1000 for the \$150,000 levy exemption increase for the Energy Efficiency facility project.

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2014-2015 Budget Information – *continued*

QUESTIONS MANY WILL ASK:

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

The District made the final payment in the Spring of 2014. Last year's final payment was **\$304,130**, which worked out to roughly **\$1.00** per \$1,000 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** each of the final five years for a total of **\$135,000** savings over that time period. The District also pre-paid an additional **\$145,000** in 2010-2011 towards this debt, which will offset this final payment in 2014, which also decreased the levy this fiscal year as well.

What impact does the \$2,560,000 Energy Efficiency Facilities Project on our taxes?

On September 29, 2014, the District School Board approved borrowing \$2,560,000.00 over the next 15 years for an Energy Efficiency Facilities project and equipment upgrade. The projected yearly payment for this project will be approximately **\$150,000** with a tax rate cost of **\$.50 per \$1,000**.

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

The District was able to balance the budget this year by cutting approximately \$400,000 from last year's operational budget. The 10.10% increase indicated above is deceiving as this number includes the PEP Grant, and new debt service payment. All major capital projects and any new computer purchases were excluded in this year's budget to assist in bringing the budget down. 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 continues to search for 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.

Kumm Named Wisconsin Rural Support Staff Person of the Year

Pam Kumm, Pittsville School District Secretary, was honored by the Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WIRSA), a non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping address challenges faced by rural school districts, at the annual Rural School Conference on November 13, 2014.

Ms. Kumm is extremely dedicated to education, and always keeps the needs of the student in the Pittsville School District in the forefront of her actions. Along with her duties as high school secretary, she serves as secretary for the guidance and athletic departments. She keeps track of the school's attendance, serves as the nurse, is a mentor to students who need advice and direction, and is the volunteer snowboard/ski club advisor. In a small school, everyone must serve in many capacities and Pam does so in a positive and proficient manner.



Ms. Kumm is an expert in the Skyward Student Management System providing valuable training and troubleshooting to users in the district. She performs all the secretarial duties expected in a high school office, as well as mending wounded, encouraging those students who may be having a bad day. Students know they can come to Pam to be in a safe, encouraging atmosphere. When security systems were installed in the schools, Pam became the first line of defense by greeting and filtering those who now must ring the bell to gain entry to the school.

Pam's interaction with students is almost magical, but she is not a push-over. If a student shows poor manners in her presence, she corrects the student's behavior in a firm yet kind manner. She is also the principal's eyes and ears in terms of understanding the "climate" of the school which is important in decision making for the school. Pam is truly an indispensable staff member in the Pittsville School District and a great asset to the community.

Other award winners honored by the WIRSA at the Rural Schools Conference included Joseph Simonich, Hurley School District, Rural Board of Education Member of the Year; Randy Bergman, Superintendent of the Prentice School District, and Scott Foster, Principal of Land O'Lakes Elementary School, Rural Administrators of the Year; Craig Cegielski, Eleva-Strum School District, Rural Teacher of the Year; Steven Ricks, Lodi Community Action Team, Rural Community Partner of the Year; and Dr. Frederick Yeo, UW Oshkosh Dean of College of Education & Human Resources, Rural Advocacy Award.

The Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance was formed to help rural school districts address the unique issues that affect rural schools as they seek to achieve the highest quality education for every student. Members include a cross-section of administrators, educators, school board members, post-secondary representatives, rural community members, and other concerned individuals who want a strong voice for rural education.

Cancellations, Delays, Early Dismissals

If weather conditions are such that you think the school schedule may be interrupted, please listen to one of the radio or television stations listed below. Notification of cancellations, delays, or early dismissals due to inclement weather will also be made through the Pittsville School District's Skylert/SchoolMessenger 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	WSAW	TV-7
WOSQ	92.3 FM	WEAU	TV-13	WAOW	TV-9

COMMUNITY WALKERS

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



“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 10th, 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 2014 taxes should be completed before you apply for the most accurate information. Financial Aid night will be held on January 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. 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:

- a. Test Date: February 7, 2015—Registration Deadline *PAST*: January 9, 2015
- b. Test Date: April 18, 2015—Registration Deadline: March 13, 2015
- c. Test Date: June 13, 2015—Registration Deadline: May 8, 2015

As a reminder, the state required ACT will be offered at school on March 3 and 4, 2015. This test can be used for college entrance if they’d like. Students must indicate this during the time of the test. 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 28th 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 School Counselor, if you have questions about any of the information provided at 715-884-5223 or krystemi@pittsville.k12.wi.us

PTO Corner....

Happy New Year from PTO! Thank you for a great fall semester and we look forward to working with you again this spring to provide some great opportunities for our students.

October was a busy month for the PTO and its many parent volunteers. **Thank you so much for our many volunteers to make our busy October such a successful month! We couldn’t have done it without you!!** We held the Scholastic book fair, Little Caesars pizza/no pizza sale and provided meals to the teachers during parent teacher conferences. Thank you to our volunteers for working at the book fair, we are able to earn Scholastic dollars to purchase more books for the school. Thank you to everyone who donated a food item to the teacher meals. Because of your generosity we were able to provide these meals without any use of PTO funds. Thanks to everyone for your support in the Little Caesars pizza/no pizza sale.

This year, the Little Caesar's and No Pizza fundraiser was able to raise \$5376 for our school. We gave away over 100 prizes during our assembly. Top sellers were Abbi Knutson (52), Shane Brockman (46), Tristan Niedfelt (32) and Hoyt Cournoyer (31). Students who sold more than 20 kits were Kendra Felch (25), Drew Krey (23), Emma Kurtzweil (22), Grant Rademan (23), Bennett Whitrock (24), James Winer (25) and Gregory Hoffman (20). We would like to thank all of the volunteers and businesses that helped make this possible, including Pizza Hut, Cenex, Baum’s Mercantile, Rose Bowl Lanes and The Gathering Place.





PHS News

Greetings!

At about the half-way point in the school year, we are very busy here at the high school. A lot more goes on than just our athletic contests in boys and girls basketball, and wrestling (as well as Pom and Cheerleading).

We are well into the scheduling process, and advisers are working hard with our students to set up their four-year plan. Please spend some time talking to your children about their future plans, so they can prepare themselves as fully as possible for their life after high school. We start this process with freshmen, and it is very important. A wealth of information can be found in our course handbook, which is on our webpage. This will help with planning what classes to take each year in high school. We have next year's matrix finished, so student can plan their schedule for next year, before they register during the second week of February. It is an exciting time!

On January 28th we will have our "Your Future is Now Night", for 8th and 10th grade parents and students, at 6 pm, starting in the gym. This is a very critical time for both groups, so I hope you can attend, and learn about anything from HS registration to post-secondary planning, (as is relative to your child).

Just around the corner are Final Exams, on January 22. Students will be taking all four exams in one day, so make sure they start studying early and get plenty of rest!

On February 4th we will be attending an assembly in Nekeosa, sharing the auditorium with Port Edwards High School. The assembly will be conducted by a group called "Rise Together", whose mission is to bring awareness and resources to youth regarding substance abuse. It promises to be a very enjoyable and informative afternoon. I am grateful to local community members who donated to make this assembly possible and for the collaboration with our neighboring schools. There will also be a parent/family session with the Rise Together staff that evening at Nekeosa HS from 6 pm - 8 pm, to increase parental awareness of substance abuse in our society. If for some reason you do not want your child to attend, please send a note to school, and they can stay here at PHS and use the time for studying that day.

We recently conducted a Forum, in which students spent an afternoon doing critical readings of issues regarding Social Media, and the next morning going out into the local communities and "Paying it Forward", by helping out those in need. Then students posted their good deeds on various social media sites. This also came with a challenge for other schools to do the same. Nice work Panthers; your pride continues to shine through!

All around the school, our clubs, such as snowboard, forensics, and FBLA are also very active with trips and competitions this time of year, and our music department is gearing up for Solo and Ensemble and Large Group. I think we are too busy to get cold!

Mark Weddig, PHS Principal

Science Department News

Chemistry students recently investigated the colligative properties of solutions, which refers to how changing the amount of solute dissolved in a solution changes the properties of a solution. A topic appropriate for the current weather conditions, students learned how different anti-freeze blends affect freezing point and how freezing point depression can be used to determine the identity of an unknown substance. Students also had the opportunity to sample root beer floats made with both regular and diet root beer, and explain how colligative properties account for the different texture of each type of root beer float.

Las Noticias ... The News

As the end of the semester draws to a close, Spanish students are beginning their final projects. Spanish 4 students have been reading a novel "La Casa en Mango Street" or "The House on Mango Street". This is the first large novel the students have read in Spanish. What an accomplishment! They are creating a project about the themes covered in the book. Spanish 3 students are researching the people, crafts, and geographical information about a Spanish speaking country. The students will be presenting a variety of information related to the country they choose. Spanish 2 students are putting together a mini-newspaper with a group. Each student wrote two articles to contribute to the paper. Spanish 1 students are finishing up the semester by practicing speaking on the phone in Spanish. Students will be required to perform a skit demonstrating their ability to have a phone conversation. In other news, the trip to Costa Rica is coming up quickly. Six students and I will be flying to Costa Rica to spend our spring break. The trip includes many great opportunities for practicing Spanish and learning about Costa Rican culture.

PHS Competes at Math League

On November 4, twelve high school students traveled to the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point to participate in the first meet for the High School Math League Competition. The competition has 3 categories: Algebra, Geometry, and Advanced Math. Forty seven different schools brought their top math students to compete in the competition. The 4 students who represented Pittsville School District in the Geometry category were Tyler Carlson, Luke Denniston, Brett Peters, and Trevor Winterhack. Jake Allind, Kari Beckman, Cade Clark and Alissa Korslin took the challenging Algebra 2 test. The 4 students competing in the Advanced Math category were Paul Baum, Austin Carlson, Cedric Neve, and Tim Zogleman. All students worked hard and scored points for their team. Tying for 1st place in the Geometry category out of 38 students were Luke Denniston and Trevor Winterhack. Kari Beckman placed 15/38 students in the Algebra category while Paul Baum placed 9th out of 39 students in the advanced category. For school size, Pittsville is in 6th place out of 10 teams after the first meet. The next competition is January 21 and the final competition is March 26. Congratulations to all participants! Good luck on January 21.

FBLA Future Business Leaders of America

The FBLA 2015 Regional Leadership Conference will be held on February 7, 2015. We have 47 members competing in a variety of events. We hope to continue on to state and nationals as we did last year.



Public Speaking, America's Top Fear

Juniors and seniors at Pittsville High School have been learning to overcome the top fear by most adults in America in their Speech class. The class focuses on getting students in front of their peers to perform speeches that are well-practiced and polished; however, another focus is having student understand the importance of being able to speak in an impromptu method. Students so far have written informative and special occasion speeches. Many staff have been eulogized during the students' special occasion speeches, and the class has learned about a variety of topics, including make-up, carburetors and Johnny Manziel, during the informative speeches.

Students have also been watching some of the best speeches giving by famous orators, examining them for successful rhetorical devises. In the future, the students will be practicing their acting skills and working on their persuasive techniques.

Order Your **YEARBOOK**

Don't miss this opportunity to remember the friends, fun, and activities from the 2014 -2015 school year by ordering an ALL COLOR High School Yearbook.

The cost is \$40.00 if you purchase before February 1; after that the cost increases to \$45. Yearbook orders will be online only this year. Go to jostensyearbooks.com to place your order.

PHS Drama Club: "An All You Can Murder Buffet"

"Save the Whales" is a rallying cry for the local community college cheerleaders as they try to raise money for their squad. Confusion ensues when an odd cast of characters arrive at the local eatery, IHOFF, during a blizzard. Dead bodies and the anticipation of a "Special Guest" make this mystery/comedy a lot of fun. Who could the murder be? The female impersonator? The tattooed bikers? The conjoined twins or the irritable French cook? A love-struck ventriloquist? Even Santa and his elf are likely suspects as Madam Adelina tries to solve this crime-with a little help from the audience. The PHS Drama Club performed "An All You Can Murder Buffet" directed by Ms. Sarah Freedlund and Mr. Tim Delnay on November 15 and November 16. There are over 25 students involved in this year's production.



Et tu, Brute? Sophomores Finish Reading Caesar

Students in sophomore English recently finished reading Julius Caesar as part of as drama unit. Throughout the play, students dressed in togas and used props to make the play easier to understand and to add engagement to the Shakespearean Historical Tragedy. The sophomores read both from the Shakespearean text and from a parallel modern text to improve understanding. They really enjoyed the discussion of battle tactics and the tactical errors that were committed throughout the play. They also received a good understanding of how rhetorical devices can persuade an audience. Thanks to St. Joseph's Hospital for the donation of bed sheets to be used as togas.



Pittsville



Empty Bowls Dinner

March 12, 2015

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Pittsville Elementary Cafeteria
5459 Elementary Ave, Pittsville

Adults \$10.00

Includes Ceramic Bowl & Meal
All Proceeds Benefit PANS



Elementary News



Dear Families,

PBIS is all about growing good future citizens who respect and give back to their community. A recent example of this was a 4K-3rd grade Walkathon for the Fire Department. This stemmed from the Kindergarten teachers taking a field trip to the Fire Department and seeing the many things that are needed there. They invited the 4K-3rd grade teachers to join them in giving back to the Fire Department with a Community Heroes Walkathon. The 4K-3rd grade students raised almost \$2,400 for the Pittsville Fire Dept. A check was presented to Fire Chief Minor on Dec. 19 at our Golden Awards Assembly.

The staff and I challenged students to continue to give back to their community with Random Acts of Kindness after Thanksgiving Break. We focused on 12 days of doing 12 kind things for 12 people. Thank you to all of our students for their outstanding Random Acts of Kindness! Our students held a food drive, donated non-perishable food to PANS, competed in Bags for Bravery (to raise money for a Pittsville Veteran to go on a Honor Flight to Washington DC), and did many other acts of service, both in and outside of school.

Giving back in service to our friends and neighbors draws us closer to each other while also setting a positive example for children and teens as they journey from birth to career. Volunteerism creates a sense of belonging, sharpens life-skills, boosts confidence, and improves self-esteem. Many meaningful volunteer opportunities can be found through food pantries, animal shelters and libraries, to name a few. A recent survey of volunteers conducted by United Healthcare found that 94 percent of people experienced an improved mood, 96 percent developed a greater sense of purpose and 78 percent had reduced stress—all as a result of giving back. When I reflect on what Pittsville Elementary has already done in service to our community, it makes me more excited about new opportunities we have for service coming up in 2015!

Fostering volunteerism in children can turbo-charge their life-skills, enabling them to be prepared for whatever developmental milestone life throws at them, and strengthening their ability to reach their full potential. Here are some ways to incorporate volunteerism into your family's day-to-day life:

Be Thankful. Talking to your children about gratitude will model thankfulness. Discussions around the dinner table can help teach basic human needs, how those needs are usually met and what role your children can play in filling those needs of others. Once you know what your children are interested in, be on the lookout for opportunities (causes, drives, donations, activities) to connect them to those passions.

Involve the Whole Family. Empathy and responsibility are better understood when demonstrated rather than defined. If you're regularly involved in charity walks, food drives and other philanthropic events, then you should get your children involved too. You will find that charitable family outings often turn into lifelong, transformational habits.

Donations. Instead of stockpiling toys and/or birthday gifts, many children are choosing to donate their items to support a cause that interests them. Encourage your child to donate her gently used items to a local foundation or organization, such as Toys for Tots, or a local holiday Angel Tree program and model the same practice in your own life.

Celebrate caring. As parents, we are often quick to respond to misbehavior in order to stop a child's bad habits. Similarly, good behavior should also be encouraged and recognized. Celebrate when your child demonstrates caring for others.

Good giving. The urge to volunteer should be selfless and without the expectation of a reward. As role models, we should be careful not to spoil and act of caring by accepting a reward or some sort of payment. Teach your children to help just because it is needed. Opportunities like helping the elderly, mowing a lawn or shoveling snow can easily be considered a job. A simple 'thank you' is the payment that transforms. The Random Act of Kindness without expecting something in return is where we discover purpose, meaning and contentment.

A recent Harvard study highlighted that there is a disconnect between the expectations of parents and children. While parents believe they are making caring a priority, their children indicate that they believe their parents expected good grades over caring. This study revealed the need of adults to be more intentional about teaching and modeling service if they hope to raise caring and service-minded children.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Mrs. Fischer, Elementary Principal

**Empty Bowls, Art Show,
Learning Fair, STEM Night
THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH**

Please join us from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the ES cafeteria for Empty Bowls Pittsville. We will be serving handmade bowls created by our students and outstanding soup from area restaurants for \$10.00. All proceeds benefit PANS!

The Learning Fair will take place in the big gym from 5:30-7:15 p.m. Students will be able to set up their displays as soon as they come to school on Thursday, March 12. The Art Show and STEM activities will be held during this time in and around the big gym area.

Looping Class Learns about Veteran's Day

The Looping class was fortunate to have four community members visit their classroom as guest speakers for Veterans Day. Amy Bartlett came in to talk with us about her past and current job responsibilities and experiences in the Air Force. She brought along her various uniforms and explained the occasion to wear each particular uniform, as well. Donald Hahn, Marvin Kummer, and Dave Rasmussen spoke about their past experiences in the Army, Coast Guard, and Air Force. They spoke of their experiences during training and combat, as well as the areas of the world they were located at during these times. These men had a lot of memorabilia to share with the children including pictures, equipment used during the war, and medals. The looping students were presented with a wealth of information to add to our study of veterans. The students and teachers greatly appreciated these guest speakers who were able to share their first-hand knowledge.



Special Ed Department

On Friday December 5th, the special education students participated in an annual Christmas shopping trip. The students made lists with their families of possible gift ideas. Then the students were able to shop, using money they brought from home, for items at the Dollar Tree and Wal-Mart in Wisconsin Rapids.

The students were able to practice life skills such as staying within a budget, figuring out tax, using a shopping list, and counting change in a real world setting. The students also had the opportunity to eat lunch at Pizza Hut. The students were complimented many times by employees about their respectful behavior. The students had a lot of fun shopping for gifts for their families.

After returning to school, the students wrapped all the gifts so that they could take them home as a surprise for their families. This annual shopping trip is a fun and educational experience that the students look forward to each year.

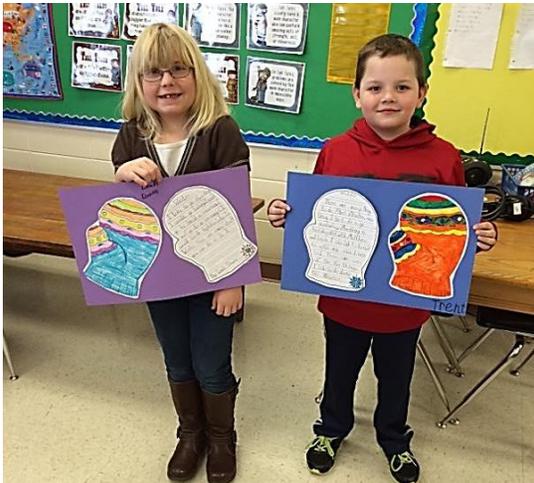
2nd Grade News

The second graders worked on a winter writing project telling about what they enjoy doing in the winter. They also wrote an informational paragraph on how to build a snowman and are working on making their own snowman.

We just finished learning about the rainforest habitat and we are starting to learn about the grassland habitat.

The second graders are learning about historical heroes, such as, Ruby Bridges and Martin Luther King Jr. They will be creating their own power point presentation on Martin Luther King Jr. and sharing it with the class.

The students have been reviewing the PBIS Panther Traits and working on being good citizens. We discussed how these traits can extend from school into the community.



National Character Education Leader, Youth Frontiers, Partnered with Pittsville 7th Graders with a Challenge Retreat to Focus on Bullying and Disrespect ~ Ms. Raygo & Mrs. Krystowiak, Guidance Counselors

Pittsville 7th graders joined Ms. Raygo and Mrs. Krystowiak for a day long retreat in December with Youth Frontiers. To help build a more respectful school culture, Youth Frontiers, the leading character education organization in the Upper Midwest, partnered with **Pittsville Elementary School** on **December 12, 2014** to host a comprehensive **Courage Retreat** for the **7th grade** class to help reduce bullying. Through initiatives that focus on the importance of being respected and valued, Youth Frontiers delivers programs that build positive school communities and strengthen student character in schools across the country.

For more than 24 years, Youth Frontiers' successful and highly regarded retreats seek to teach students how to incorporate the values of kindness, courage, respect and integrity into their personal and school lives. The Twin Cities-based organization aims to strengthen core values, confront negative behaviors and enable students to recognize the consequences of their actions. Last year, the nationally renowned nonprofit held more than 600 retreats for nearly 100,000 students and educators. Since its inception, Youth Frontiers has reached more than one million students.

Youth Frontiers staff clearly understand the challenges students face every day in their often times complicated lives. They also know that at the root of one's character lies values.

Youth Frontiers Founder and CEO Joe Cavanaugh says, "Our mission is to change the way students treat each other in every hallway, lunch line and classroom of every school in America. We are not succeeding as a society if our children receive an 'A' in Math... and an 'F' in life."

Youth Frontiers offers high-impact retreats for schools, using interactive games, music, small discussion groups and gripping stories to break down walls between young people, helping them to see each other differently. Throughout the retreat day, students begin to exhibit traits of true character – mending relationships, stating acts of courage and respecting themselves and others.

PBIS CORNER . . .

Positive Behavior Intervention Support

Encouraging Positive Behaviors at our School

What is PBIS?

PBIS is a school wide system we are using to be proactive in guiding our students toward appropriate behavior. This system has a universal base for teaching social skills along with the ability to individualize strategies for those who need more guidance. This system applies to all students and adults who enter our building.

The students have been doing an amazing job following our four panther traits: *Be Responsible, Be Honorable, Be Engaged, and Be Respectful.*

When an adult witnesses this behavior throughout the building the student(s) are rewarded with a "golden" ticket. These tickets are then redeemed for various classroom rewards.

Please mark your calendar for a PBIS Scavenger Hunt that will take place on March 12th. Details on this family friendly event will be presented as the event gets closer.



Phoebe Vanatta accepts the Golden Slide Award on behalf of her class who were nominated for great PBIS playground behavior.



Caleb Armstrong receives the award for Student of the Month at the recent Golden Awards assembly.

Very Merry in 4K

The 4K students and their families were giving and delivering joy during this holiday season. They collected food, hygiene items and money to give to a local family in need. Celebrating the season wouldn't be complete without a visit from Santa! He shared his holly jolly stories and listened to the children's requests while each of them sat on his lap!



Kindergarten Connection

January has started with many extra moments of togetherness with our cold weather. We are learning about what it means to be a good friend and about the meaning of Peace. The children have learned that Peace has many definitions.

Peace can mean: having things they need to live, having family and friends, respecting others' differences, learning how to use our words to solve problems, and others. The students learned who Martin Luther King, Jr. was and how he strived for peace.

As this semester ends, the children are showing us the growth they've made in literacy and writing skills. The children will be assessed with the PALS screening test in mid-February and will also have their second writing task. We are projecting the 100th Day of School to be on February 10th. The kindergartners will be celebrating this special event and are hoping to receive 100 pieces of mail in our classrooms. If you would like to be a part of this, we would love to hear from you. Please send a note to the Pittsville Kindergarten Class at 5459 Elementary Avenue.

Mrs. Petersen, Mrs. Niehaus, Mrs. Heinzen
Pittsville Kindergarten Teachers

Boozhoo! (Greetings)

The fourth grade class has spent the last few months learning about the Northwest Fur Trade and the effects it had on the Native American tribes and Early European settlers of Wisconsin. Students were able to get into minds of the voyageurs by reading their journal entries and studying maps created by the early explorers. Some favorite activities including interpreting the early English language used by the first British fur traders and comparing the actual sizes of the great lakes to Joliet's interpretation on his first map of the Northwest Territory. Students also learned about the impact trade goods on Native American life and bartered for needed trade goods by using beaver pelts, the currency of the time. Students also discussed the impacts overhunting had on animal populations.

The Fur Trade provided many opportunities for further exploration through STEM. Students used maps and their math skills to determine the quickest routes between trading posts. Students studying how weight distribution affects the buoyancy of a boat and measured and created life size replicas of the canoes used by the voyagers. Almost twenty students could fit inside the legendarily massive Montreal!

The unit ended with a Rendezvous party, an annual event between Native American tribes and French fur traders celebrating a successful trading season. Students enjoyed singing traditional songs in French, playing the Moccasin Game and sampling the dreaded, but nutrient rich hard tack. We are looking forward to the next stage of Wisconsin history and the Fur Trades ends and farming and settlement begins.

Giga-waabamin naaga!
(See you later!)





6th, 7th, 8th Grade Bands & Choirs Performing at the December Golden Awards



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.

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.

2014-2015 MEAL PRICES

4K- Grade 3 Lunch	\$2.20
Grade 4-8 Lunch	\$2.65
Grade 9-12 Lunch	\$3.15
Adult Lunch	\$3.75
Reduced Lunch	\$.40
Milk	\$.30
4K-Grade 12 Breakfast	\$1.00
Adult Breakfast	\$2.00

"DOUBLE UP!!"

Last year, we start the new "Double Up" promotion at the high school. This year we will be extending this opportunity to Grades 6-8 at the elementary school. For a \$2.00 charge to your family's food service account, your 6-8 grader will be able to purchase a second entrée, just the entrée, or go through the salad bar to complement a lunch from home. Students that qualify for free meals may also participate in the "Double Up" promotion as long as there is money in their family account. To monitor your student's purchases, 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 or dostajos@pittsville.k12.wi.us.

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

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 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.



News from the Athletic Department at Pittsville Schools!

The Pittsville athletic programs had a very exciting fall season, and the excitement is carrying over to the winter season as well. Our Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Pom and Wrestling Cheerleading seasons are off to a great start. 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 once already for cold weather. When this happens, all school activities are cancelled and need to be rescheduled. We have also changed the start times for a lot of the Girls Basketball games because there isn't a JV schedule this year.

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!

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

8th Grade Entrepreneurship

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 trivets that came in a variety of designs. The teams have sold over 140 trivets. 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

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS Mrs. Niehaus, Mrs. Heinzen, and Mrs. Petersen presented Pittsville Fire Chief Jerry Minor with a check for \$2,393.05. The kindergarten classes sponsored a Walk-a-thon as a Random Act of Kindness event to raise money for the fire department. 4K through 3rd grade students and families participated. Through this event, the children learned how to give back to their community and people who will help them in times of need.



SPORTS SCHEDULES

Please check www.pittsville.k12.wi.us and click on Athletics for the most current information.



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!

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 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.





PEP Grant

We are happy to announce that the fitness and weight rooms are full of new workout equipment. The students have been enjoying the new equipment. This has been made possible by the Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant (PEP Grant). This is a three year grant and does have some requirements that we must follow.

One requirement is student fitness testing and pedometer logs. The purpose of this requirement is to show that by getting the new equipment the student's fitness levels increase and that they are more active.

Another requirement is keeping track of the number of fruits and vegetables that students are consuming. The purpose of this is again to show that there is improvement in the food choices that our students are making.

No names are being recorded with the student's results; all that is being reported are raw data numbers. Our baseline data that we collected this year, shows that 334 students participated and 31.74% were active at least 60 minutes a day, 61.68% were in the healthy fitness zone in at least 5 out of 6 fitness tests, and 2.4% consumed 2 or more fruits and 3 or more vegetables a day.

With the help of this grant, we will be able to purchase equipment and materials to help educate our students so that we can see these numbers increase.



Through the Decades at PHS: Winter Sports Memories

from the pages of *Ho-Ang-Ho*. Contributors: Messrs Piotrowski and Downs for *The History Club*

1964-65 The winter sports were in full swing as Coach Dave Vander Meulen's boys basketball team achieved a 17-1 overall record and won the Marawood Conference championship. The team was led by seniors Terry O'Keefe, Duane Frost, Connie Heeg, Dennis Behselich, John Laughlin, Ron Miller, Cliff Eggett, and Glenn Franson. Juniors Tom Chasteen and Vic Stewart also played key roles on the team.

1974-75 The boys basketball team coached by Noel Denniston and assisted by Mark Fuller were led by seniors John Schwanebeck, Mike Slovensky, Randy Jensen, Ronnie Bowden, Steve Chasteen, and Louis Janzen. The girls basketball team was led by seniors Becky Coon, Connie Niemeyer, Robin Yellowthunder, and Elcione Almeida. The Panther wrestling team coached by Gerald Hahn was led by seniors Gary Olds, Douglas Knapp, Robert Hiles, and Co-Captains Dennis Grutzik and Gary Olds. Olds and Grutzik were also individual conference champions. The team was 9-0-1 while winning the conference championship.

1984-85 The boys basketball team coached by Tom Possley were led by seniors Jim Ewer, Captain Don Neve, Mark Slovensky, Eric Heggelund, Shawn Patrick, Brian Steinwagner, and Most Valuable Player David Horn. Coach Don Neve, assisted with Nancy Stoffel, coached the Panther girls basketball team. Seniors on the squad were Denise Palmer, Kim Krueger, and Teresa Skon. On the mats, the Panther wrestlers fared well. Coaches Gerald Hahn and Mike Brogan guided the Panthers to 2nd in Conference, a Regional Championship, and 3rd in Sectionals. Seniors were Tim Grutzik, Gerald Palmer, Jim Irwin, Paul Sebold, Jodi Wilke, and Ken Rasmussen. Qualifying for state were Dean Schara and Dan Skon. Skon was the Conference, Regional, Sectional, and 6th place finisher at State that season.

1994-95 Coach Jeff Schlender's boys basketball team finished 5-16. The boys were led by seniors Jesse Redetzke, Jason Scheunemann, Todd Rademan, Jay Kummer, Kevin Moore, and Ben Giles. Todd Rademan was named second Team All-Conference. Coach Don Neve's girls basketball team earned a 12-9 overall record. Seniors for the girls were LuAnne Sojka and Amie Wolf. Sophomore Jackie Masephol earned Second Team All-Conference honors.

The wrestling team coached by Mike Brogan finished with a 6-3 dual meet record. Senior leaders included Marcus Malyuk, Matthew Grutzik, Corey Leigh, Jessie Phillips, Jamie Stascak, Eric Marten, and Jon Minor. Conference Champions included Eric Marten, Junior Jeff Kremer, and Freshman Brad Marten. Eric Marten won Regional and Sectional Championships and finished fourth overall at State in his weight class.

2004-05 Coach Dan Hoffa fielded a young boys basketball squad that finished up 11-8. Two seniors, Terry O'Keefe and Brad Luther, along with Juniors Tyler Copeland and Scott Normington and Sophomores Justin Rayburn, Ben Wright, and Chris Wesely helped the team achieve a successful season.

Channel 7 Coach of the Year Mark Denniston led a powerful girls basketball team that finished up 22-2 overall and won Conference and Regional Championships. The ladies were led by seniors Ashley Baker, Tanya Palmer, Whitney Petersen, and Aly John. Tanya and Ashley Baker were named First Team All-Conference while Whitney was named Second Team All-Conference.

Coach Dan Hahn had a team dominated by underclassmen. The boys finished with a 14-11 overall record despite having a very difficult schedule. The team was led by Senior Eric Voight. Junior Jeremiah Adrian won Conference and Regional Championships. Eric Voight won Regional and Sectional Championships and finished third at State. Jeremiah and Freshman Jordan Wilke also qualified for State.

History Club Members Attend Film

Some of the history club members had the chance to attend the film *Unbroken* which focuses on the life of Louis Zamperini. He was captured by the Japanese in World War II after being adrift in the Pacific Ocean. He suffered through many difficulties and this was shown in the film. His life's story and film was based on the book *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand, a book that is highly recommended to read. There will be future opportunities to explore history through film in the coming months.

Child Development Days Screening

Pittsville Public Schools

Thursday, February 19th from 4:00-7:00 pm

Friday, February 20th from 8:00-10:30 am

The screening will take place in the 4K/EC classrooms at the Elementary School. The screening is for children who will be turning 3 years old on or before June 1, 2015 through age 5 and reside in the Pittsville School District. Children who currently attend the Early Childhood or 4K programs do not need to be screened. The screening will provide parents with an opportunity to learn more about their child's growth and development.

Please call the Pittsville
Elementary Office at 715-884-
2517 to register your child for
Child Development Days
Screening.



4-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

Registration for 4K will be online. Follow the link on the Elementary website which will be open from February 9 through 20. If parents want to complete the registration in the school computer lab, there will be a staff member who can guide you through the process.

Administration

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
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Pittsville