

Pittsville School District NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of Superintendent Figueroa

Dear Community,

I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy. The School District and Board of Education have the safety and well-being of students, staff, and community at the forefront of decision making, followed by our full attention for maintaining productive student learning. We will continue to maintain a preventive and proactive stance throughout this national health emergency. A couple key topics to share:



Distance Learning. At the district level, we have been preparing since late February to facilitate learning with students at home in the event closing schools became necessary. Our staff has done an amazing job in a very short period. We are learning and adjusting alongside our students and families as we test the capacity of our distance learning program. Although the program is running generally well, we are encountering accessibility issues for some of our students. Mr. Nepper has increased the number of mobile hotspots for families who lack internet access. In addition, many internet providers are offering “free” temporary WIFI or upgraded service during this crisis. To increase signal strength while online, some families have found it helpful to disable WIFI on all other devices in the home, including cell phones.

Please continue to communicate with your teachers and principals if you have questions or encounter problems. On behalf of our entire staff, thank you for your continued patience, attitude, and partnership in these efforts.

Student Meals. PSD will continue to provide grab-and-go breakfast/lunch for pick-up in the Elementary School parking lot between 10AM and 12PM for district students, 18 years and younger. **Federal law recently changed, we will simply ask the person picking up the meal how many children are in the family and where they go to school.** The children do not need to be present to receive the meal. The meal program will run on scheduled school attendance days however, there will be no meal service over Easter Break, April 9 - April 14. Meal service resumes on Wednesday, April 15.

April 7 Election. Many of our residents and families are asking about the April 7 referendum. At the time of this writing, the WI Election Commission has not indicated intention to cancel or postpone the spring election. However, discussions are evolving on how to ensure safety and a fair process for all - *voters and poll workers*. We recognize the importance of voting and understand your desire to exercise your right to vote. As you do, please follow the CDC guidelines for your safety and those around you and consider the options available for early and absentee voting. Two important reminders:

1. Please visit www.myvote.wi.gov for the most current registration and voter information including how to cast an absentee ballot, vote by mail, early voting, and procedures at the polls.
2. You may register and vote early, in-person Monday, March 23 – Friday, April 3. Before you go, please call to confirm municipal clerk hours of operation.

In closing, I want to thank the community and individuals that I have been privileged to meet with about the referendum and proposed new CTE Facility. Your engagement, thoughtful questions, and commitment to making an informed decision, matters. I encourage you to review the REFERENDUM 2020 FACTS inside this newsletter and to call the District Office at 715-884-6694 if you have questions.

Although we are living in extraordinary times, we remain focused and certain of the planning, purpose, and potential of CTE programming for our students and the Pittsville community!

Our best for their best.

Fig



Referendum 2020

The safety of students, staff, and community remains the number one priority concern to the Pittsville School District; this includes how residents exercise their right to vote. PSD recommends following all CDC and DHS guidelines as residents obtain absentee ballots or go to the polls in advance of or on April 7.

- ✓ Please visit www.myvote.wi.gov for the most current information and to obtain absentee ballots by mail.
- ✓ Register or vote absentee (**in person**) Monday, March 23 – Friday, April 3. NOTE: Before you go, please call to confirm municipal clerk hours of operation, polling instructions, or need to schedule by appointment.

If you have any questions related to the referendum, please call the District Office at 715-884-6694.



THE FACTS!

- The proposed project as defined on the ballot **may not exceed \$6.7M.**
- The maximum tax increase over current levels is estimated at \$20 for 2021 and will decline to an average of \$13 for 2022-2035 per \$100,000 of (equalized) property value. **PSD has planned responsibly, leveraging a decline in debt service and historically low interest rates.**
 - The maximum tax increase equates to **\$1.70 per month** in 2021 and **\$1.08 per month** in 2022-2035 (per \$100k of equalized property value).
 - The **tax increase is not additive**...in other words; it does not build on itself.
 - The tax increase **includes both principal and interest.**

DID YOU KNOW?

The structural redesign and use of metal roofing for the Elementary School Primary Wing will increase expected life span to 50 years and minimize long-term maintenance needs.



Ag class/lab space totals <1,200 sq. ft., is isolated from academic/support spaces, lacks wash-stations, sufficient electrical/technology infrastructure, and space for animal science and Ag mechanics.



Some equipment in our Tech Ed lab is WWII surplus equipment and is over 75 years old. Modern equipment will prepare students for today's workforce.



Q: Why not renovate existing space or build on the current site?

A: Evaluation of both options highlighted five key concerns:

- Cost/risk associated with existing land conditions and renovation of a 1968 structure
- Code compliance, regulations, and restrictions as a mandated component of the renovation
- Disruption to student learning
- Less effective outcomes for collaborative space and alignment to CTE program goals
- Additional construction required to house maintenance shop



Cost estimates to renovate the existing facility or build within strict limitations of the existing site were approximately 96% of constructing a new CTE facility (including the purchase of two adjacent parcels of land). The analysis considered DNR regulated setbacks and restrictions; risks associated with potential 'unknowns' of 1968 structures, building systems, and required mitigation/abatement of building or ground materials; high cost of reconfiguring or relocating electrical and gas utilities; and mandated codes and regulations including ADA compliance.

Additionally, the availability and logistics of relocating students to an off-site facility during a year-long construction process presented safety, transportation, learning disruption, and cost/benefit concerns. Generally, these options met fewer overall program goals for upgrades to the classroom/lab space, accommodations for modern equipment and technologies, needs for storage and safety features; and practical design for classroom/lab space to support Technical, Agriculture, Family, and Consumer Science, and Business Education teaching and learning.

Q: What will be done with the current Tech Ed facility?

A: Originally built in 1968 as an out-building, this space will be re-purposed to house the District's maintenance equipment, supplies, and shop. This will support improved organization and consolidation of maintenance functions district-wide, creates efficiency for custodial staff, and eliminates the need to build additional maintenance structures to accommodate current needs for equipment, material storage, and practical workspace.

ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT

How will the referendum affect taxes?

If approved, the estimated maximum tax rate increase over current levels will be 0.20 in 2021 and then declines to an average increase of 0.13 in 2022-35.

The tax increase is not additive and reflects an increase based on the FY20 school tax level.

NOT TO EXCEED TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$6.7M	MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX INCREASE: \$0.20 (PER \$1,000 OF EQUALIZED PROPERTY VALUE, OVER FY20 LEVEL)	
	ANNUAL Estimated Tax Increase	MONTHLY Estimated Tax Increase
\$100,000 of Equalized Property Value	\$20.00	\$1.70
\$150,000 of Equalized Property Value	\$30.00	\$2.50
\$250,000 of Equalized Property Value	\$50.00	\$4.20

Estimated tax impacts are based on a 15-year borrowing with a projected interest rate of 3.25% and 1% annual property growth.
Source: PMA Securities, LLC

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TAX IMPACT ASSUMPTIONS AND TO CALCULATE YOUR ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT VISIT: www.pittsville.k12.wi.us

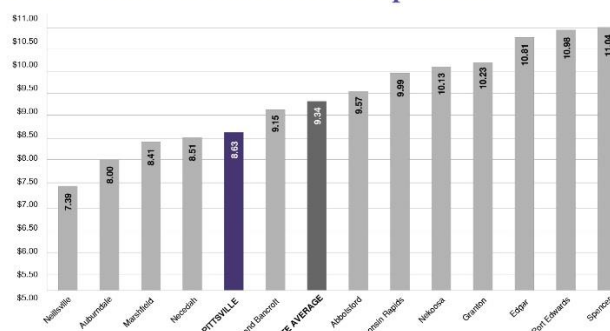
DID YOU KNOW?

- PSD's mill rate has decreased by \$2.02 since 2015

• PSD's current mill rate of \$8.63 remains below the state average of \$9.34 and among the lowest in our region

- PSD's mill rate, with an approved referendum, is estimated to be a MAXIMUM of \$8.83 (2021) then declines to an average of \$8.76 (2022-35)

2019 - 2020 Tax Mill Rate Comparison



*Source WIDPI

2020-2021 Open Enrollment

Application period for 2020-2021 Open Enrollment is Feb 3 – Apr 30, 2020.

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend a school district other than the one in which they live. The open enrollment application period for the 2020-2021 school year is from February 3, 2020 – April 30, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Late applications cannot be accepted for any reason. Parents may apply online at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>.

If weather conditions are such that you think the school schedule may be interrupted, please listen to one of the 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 and on the District's Facebook page. 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
WOSQ 92.3 FM

WOFM 94.7 FM
WGLX 103.3 FM

WSAW TV-7
WAOW TV-9
WEAU TV-13

Cancellations, Delays, Early Dismissal

NOTICE OF ELECTION

APRIL 7, 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of Pittsville on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

"Shall the School District of Pittsville, Wood, Jackson, Clark and Juneau Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,700,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school building and improvement program consisting of: the acquisition of land for and the construction of a new facility for career, technical and agricultural education; capital maintenance improvements at the Elementary School and the High School; and acquisition of related furnishings, fixtures and equipment?"

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing submission of the question set forth above to the electorate and information concerning District boundaries can be obtained from the District Clerk at the School District offices located at 5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

Acceptable photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Rodney Figueroa, District Administrator. Done in the School District of Pittsville on March 5, 2020.

Connie Potter, District Clerk



District Administrator

Rodney Figueroa

Board of Education

Mandy Hoogesteger, President

Robert Wolff, Vice President

Melissa Marti, Treasurer

Connie Potter, Clerk

Jane Wesely, Member-at-Large

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

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

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the School District of Pittsville that on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 an election of School Board Members will be held.

Candidates for the School Board is as follows:

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO

Nathan Bowden

Julie Strenn

Mandy Hoogesteger

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.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2020.

Connie Potter, School District Clerk



PHS Principal's Message

On March 3, the Juniors took the state required ACT. THANK YOU families for ensuring your student got to school, THANK YOU PHS Staff for cooking a delicious breakfast for the Juniors. A huge THANK YOU to Cross Roads Church; Pastor Bratlie and staff for being the generous exam hosting site.

A jazz band opportunity is happening during first semester next school year! Mr. Bertino will be trying out a "zero hour" band class. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Mr. Bertino.

Congratulations to Ms. Chauncey Jones on your Crystal Apple 2020 Teacher Award!

WARMER WEATHER IS COMING!

Dr. Porter

Snowshoeing the School Forest



January 14th turned out to be a great day for snowshoeing in the Pittsville School Forest. Mr. Rayburn's Physical Education class along with Mr. Steward's Biology class and Mrs. Veldman took advantage of the fresh snow and explored the school forest. Discussions centered around tree species, sustainable forestry, the construction of the shelter, and physical activity.

2020 Forensics Team

Ten forensics students participated in the Sub District event in Auburndale on February 17. All ten brought home scores earning their way to Districts. Unfortunately, due to school closure, they were not able to attend District or State this year. Following are the participants and the categories they were prepared to further compete in.

Jared Peters in Solo Acting Humorous; Alexis Redmond in Poetry; Dezeray Pelot in Prose; Bekah Downs, Libby Holford, Maria Esser and Melissa Giles in Group Interp; Cody Gonzalez in Prose; Maddy Hensel in 6 minutes speech; and Faith Buettner in Solo Acting Humorous.

Thank you to Hay Creek for funding our season this year with their generous donation to cover registrations and travel. Thank you to Mrs. Berg and Ms. Freedlund for the hours and visits to the school in order to coach these young performers.

~ Mrs. Downs





PES Principal's Message

Spring Greetings from the Elementary School!

We had a great time celebrating reading here at the Elementary School the week of March 2nd. On March 2nd, we had a school-wide celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. All students in Grades 4K-8 were served cake during lunch. During this week, the students and staff dressed up to celebrate the different books / themes of Dr. Seuss. Trivia questions made the week extra fun and students had the opportunity to win prizes. It is always a great week to celebrate reading! The week ended with a Family Reading Night on Thursday, March 5th. A special thank you to all the staff and community members for reading to our students. A fun snack was served to all the families in the administrative lobby area this year. Thank you to everyone who helped plan and organize that event - and thank you to everyone who came! We love reading!

With the school closure, please know the teachers and I are working together to ensure this is the best learning experience for your child. We are aware that each family has a unique situation and we are willing to work with you in any way we can. This is new to all of us, but I can assure you that we are working hard each day and collaborating with one another to make sure we are reaching all of our students.

We appreciate your support.

Mrs. Friday

The Great Kindness Challenge

~ Ms. Raygo

Congratulations to Pittsville Elementary School on becoming a Kindness Certified School! We participated in The Great Kindness Challenge along with 28,061 other schools in 115 countries for a total of over 15 million participants worldwide. This year, each class was assigned another classroom and a few staff members to complete secret kind acts for. Here are some of the kind acts that different classes performed:



- We did a donut theme revolving around the book-The Jelly Donut Difference. We did a craft/writing project about how we can sprinkle kindness to others. So, we sent Mr. Hahn's class donuts with a kind note. We are writing sprinkling kindness to Mrs. Friday by writing kind words about her and putting them into a book to give to her. Finally, we made Mr. Sherwood some kind cards because he is so caring to all of the kids in school!
- We made fake flower arrangements, made pictures, made cards, made a list of the nice things they do for us, sent plants, gave gift cards, and gave snacks to the people we had for our kindness challenge.
- We colored pictures and gave the target group pencils and candy!
- We made cookies for our first-grade classroom and made posters for the teachers we are assigned to.
- We colored pictures that said "Be Kind" and "kindness Grows." We also colored pictures of a rainbow and popcorn to go with starburst and popcorn gifts!
- We delivered popcorn for the treats for our kindness challenge class. We also delivered chocolates for the teachers and growth mindset coloring sheets for the classroom too.
- We gave coloring pages to the 4K, tea treats to the teachers and left kind notes for Mrs. Abel.
- My students wrote kind notes and typed them to piece of gum for their targets. We also wrote notes to Mr. Krueger (and gave him a Mountain Dew) and Mrs. Zdun (and gave her popcorn).
- We drew pictures in guidance, wrote notes, and shared cupcakes.
- In my classroom we read stories that are focused on Kindness for the children to learn about and gather ideas for what kindness is and looks like and what generosity is. Here are some of the book titles we read that week: Kindness and Generosity: It Starts with Me! by Jodie Shepherd, Kindness to Share from A to Z by: Todd Snow, The Caring Me I want to Be by: Mary DiPalermo, and Kindness Counts by: Jan and Mike Berenstain.

Nutrition Nuggets

News from our Food & Nutrition Services Department



PSD Meal Service during COVID-19 Outbreak

The USDA has given school districts the ability to provide meals for children during unanticipated school closures. Pittsville School District will be offering meals to students to help ease the burden during these difficult times.

- A **breakfast and lunch** meal will be available to any student in your household that is 18 years or younger, they do not have to attend our district on a regular basis.
- Meals will be **packaged** in to-go style packaging to maintain quality, freshness, and food safety.
- Meals will be served on **normal scheduled school days**, Monday through Friday.
- To maintain social distancing and make this service go as smoothly as possible, we will have a **drive thru pickup** for meals in the Elementary School Office parking lot. Please follow the flow of traffic around the cones.
- Pick up times will be between **10 AM and noon** in which both meals for one day will be picked up at the same time. There will be no preordering necessary, but you will be asked how many children are in the family and where they go to school.



Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

Our foodservice teamed up with our elementary/middle school team to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2. It was part of our weeklong celebrate reading week. Our foodservice department themed the meal after the great stories of Dr. Seuss including Green Eggs & Ham, Hop on Pop, The Grinch, Thing 1 & Thing 2 plus many more. The students enjoyed items such as Grinch themed Jell-O, scrambled eggs & ham, butter sided up butter side down waffles, hop on pop popcorn along with many other items. One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish punch was served

in the lunchroom along with Dr. Seuss cake to finish each student's meal. Overall the event was a big hit with our students and can't wait to expand and do it again next year.

Mr. Matt Andres

andremat@pittsville.k12.wi.us



5th Grade Math

During the 3rd Quarter, the 5th Grade Math classes worked on adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions. As part of the unit, they did a project based learning activity and created a class cookbook with their favorite recipes. In the cookbook, they doubled and halved the recipes. At the completion of the project, each class spent a day in the HS foods lab cooking their favorite recipes. Thank you to Mrs. Anderson for the use of the kitchens.

~ Mr. Sanken

Counselor's Corner 3rd Quarter

Mrs. Krystowiak
9-12 School Counselor

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Krystowiak, 9-12 Counselor, if you have questions about any of the information provided at 715-884-5223 or krystemi@pittsville.k12.wi.us

Important Reminders for Upperclassmen

Seniors

Paying for school: Scholarships, scholarships, scholarships! As most of you know, most local scholarships are due Friday, April 5th. For more information, check out the Scholarship Tab (specifically 2019-2020 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 2018 taxes will be used for applying. 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/regional_testing.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: April 4th, 2020—Registration Deadline: February 28th, 2020
- b. Test Date: June 13th, 2020—Registration Deadline: May 8th, 2020
- c. Test Date: July 18th, 2020—Registration Deadline: June 19th, 2020

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 must now be taken at MSTC, the ACT needs to be taken at an official ACT testing site.

Sophomores and Freshmen

Sophomore Meetings: Sophomores will be completing their spring meetings in March and April. Be sure to touch base with them to see what they discussed. The 20 minute meetings are 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! Also, the sophomore class took a trip to MSTC in Marshfield on February 14th to learn information about their programs that are offered. This was a hands on experience for students to see what kind of great jobs are available with a technical college degree.

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 Career Cruising account and participating in a job shadow experience*. Freshmen meetings will begin after spring break until the conclusion of the year.

It's that time of year.... Registration for School Year 2020-21 is upon us! Juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and 8th graders have been busy planning their schedules for next year. Registration takes place during the week of March 9-12. To help decide which courses they want to take, students have worked with their advisors, explored Xello, and attended an "Electives Fair" in which they learned about the wide array of courses offered at Pittsville High School. Sophomores and 8th graders, along with parents/guardians, also attended "Your Future Is Now Night" at the high school, which helped students think about their 4-year plan. Although incoming juniors and seniors have more flexibility than underclassmen in choosing which courses to take, all students are encouraged to continue challenging themselves academically and thinking about how the courses they select will prepare them for their post-secondary plans.

Individual planning conferences are also in full swing during the month of March to assist with academic and career plans and goals. Sophomore conferences are currently being held in Term 3, and freshman conferences will be held in Term 4. During these meetings, students discuss their 4-year plan, set current and post-secondary goals, and review their course schedule. They are also encouraged to explore volunteer and extracurricular opportunities to make the most of the remainder of their high school career. All students are reminded to take advantage of features available to them in Xello, including career and post-secondary exploration and planning, viewing their completed courses in "Course Planner," and recording volunteer and extracurricular activities/experiences in their profile to assist with college, job, and scholarship applications.

Academic & Career Planning

Hay Creek Pallet & PHS Spanish Classes Unite!

The Spanish 3/4 students began a language exchange with employees at Hay Creek Pallet. The employees are native Spanish speakers looking to improve their English skills. They are a great match for the Spanish students who are looking to improve their Spanish skills. Students will be meeting at Hay Creek each Monday for 40 minutes for the exchange. After our first week, students commented on how much more they understood than they were expecting. It is a great opportunity for them to put their years of classroom practice to the test! We are so thankful Hay Creek is willing to partner with us. What a benefit it is to Pittsville to have a company that cares about their employees and their community!

~Mrs. Madden

Spectacular Speakers

As the third quarter is wrapping up, the juniors in Speech are finishing up their last speeches! They have been working extremely hard all quarter to learn how to speak in front of their classmates and focus on important aspects of public speaking such as eye contact, appropriate voice levels, and presenting professionally. This class has shown huge growth, and I strongly believe they can now effectively speak in front of an audience!

~ Ms. Hale

10th Grade Takes a Stab at Shakespeare

10th grade finished up their adventure in Ancient Rome by way of Elizabethan England. Students started out with presentations on various aspect of Elizabethan England before diving right in to the tragedy of Julius Caesar. We read the play aloud in class, and we had plenty of volunteers! Over the past few weeks, students have learned about Shakespeare's writing, the dramatic arts, and historical events. We even tried our own hands at acting, with some excellent interpretations of Julius Caesar's death scene. Coming up, students will finish the unit with an analytical essay on major themes in the play, which they have been preparing as they have read.

~ Ms. Jones

CTE NIGHT

February is nationally known as Career and Technical Education month and to celebrate Pittsville High School hosted the 4th annual CTE Night. This year's theme was "Building the Future" and included a viewing and Q&A of the proposed new CTE facility. CTE teachers and post-secondary partners also hosted booths with hands-on activities for students, parents, and community members. Thank you to all that were able to attend and participate.

~ Mr. Hadfield



PHS Students Attend Athletic Leadership Conference



The Central Wisconsin Conference (CWC) held an athletic leadership workshop on Thursday, March 5, at the Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion, WI. Nearly 170 student-athletes, parents, coaches and administrators attended. The format of the workshop was individual reflection, small group discussion, and large group sharing of ideas to grow leadership in athletics across all interested parties in the CWC schools. Participants began by better understanding why they were there and then moved on to sharing core values and SMART solutions to enhance athletic experiences. SMART goals are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound. The PHS student-athletes decided to focus on increasing participation in athletics at our school.

~ Mr. Denniston

We don't grow when things are easy, we grow when we face challenges...

News from the Music Department ~ Ms. Schirger, Mr. Bertino



From left to right: Delaney Klamrowski, Ben Ruchti, Rachel Schooley, Emma Tolzmann, Jared Peters, Alexis Redmond, Cody Gonzalez.



On March 10, the high school choir attended the Clearwater Choral Invitational Festival at UW-Eau Claire. They performed a couple of pieces of choral literature as well as worked with Dr. Matthew Olson from Carleton College. Before the day was over, the choir students also had the opportunity to sit in on and participate in a rehearsal of a UW-Eau Claire's choir rehearsal.

The Pittsville Music Department sent 14 events to perform at District Solo & Ensemble on Feb. 22 at Pacelli High School. Students worked hard to perform vocal solos, musical theater solos, and instrumental solos before an adjudicator. The results are as follows:

Alex Delaney: Alto Solo - 2
Alex Delaney: Musical Theater - 2
Cody Gonzalez: Tuba Solo - 1
Delaney Klamrowski: Soprano Solo - 2
Delaney Klamrowski: Trumpet Solo - 1
Jared Peters: Bass Solo - 1
Alexis Redmond: Soprano Solo - 1
Alexis Redmond: Musical Theater - 2
Ben Rucht: Euphonium Solo - 1
Rachel Schooley: Soprano Solo - 1
*Emma Tolzmann: Soprano Solo - *1*
*Emma Tolzmann: Musical Theater - *1*
*Emma Tolzmann: Jazz Piano Solo - *1*
Emma Tolzmann: Piano Solo - 1

A special congratulations goes out to the student who received a star rating on three of her solos and will be performing at State Solo & Ensemble in May: Emma Tolzmann on her soprano solo, musical theater solo, and jazz piano solo.

In our Reading and Math Intervention classes, we try to present activities and lessons that support a variety of learning styles. Matching activities to a child's learning style can help them be more likely to want to learn. Here is some information, provided by The Parent Institute, to help you and your child decide on his or her preferred learning style to reference, if you wish, when deciding on practice activities to do at home.

Intervention Corner

Ms. Schooley
 Mrs. Frericks
 Mrs. Denniston

Activity ideas for **Auditory Learners**:

- Have your child record himself reading. Then review by listening to it.
- Use rhymes, songs, and associative words that make you think of other words to remember facts.
- Have him ask friends and family members to give you an oral quiz or recite math facts.
- When assigned to read fiction see if you can find an auditory version to listen to while reading along.
- Suggest that he "talk himself" through a problem orally.

Activity ideas for **Visual Learners**:

- Help her use color wherever possible when taking notes, practicing spelling words, etc.
- When reading a text take a picture walk and look at all the pictures, diagrams, etc. before reading.
- Help her make a study wall by making a poster that she needs to learn that week.
- Use flashcards for math facts, vocabulary, etc. Anything that needs to be memorized.
- Remind her to focus on the speaker during oral presentations.

Activity ideas for **Kinesthetic Learners**:

- Make learning hands-on by using things like counters and alphabet blocks.
- Include study breaks. Study for a while then have a movement break then go back to studying.
- Allow for ample room when studying. May want to pace the floor or lay on the floor while working.
- When working on reading comprehension have him act out a passage from the book and/or join in by playing a role yourself.
- Encourage hands on projects when an option.

Grades 6-7-8 Science

6TH GRADERS have been learning about Newton's laws of motion and did a lab that demonstrates Newton's 3rd Law: for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. They used 'rockets' with launchers to see how high the rocket would go when launched or as the ball was dropped from varying heights. Students are collecting data that they will graph and draw conclusions from the data.

7TH GRADERS are just starting a new unit on plants and will be doing a plant investigation/lab as they learn how plants behave under varying conditions. Students will be able to decide on what type of investigation/lab they want to work on. They might choose from any of the following or come up with an alternative idea: grow seeds under different conditions, investigate native and invasive plants or poisonous and edible plants in Wisconsin. Students are making their own rubrics up for grading so they know exactly what to do for the grade they want.

8TH GRADERS are learning about a variety of erosional forces and they will be making 3D models of either river, glacial or wave features. They examined the Yellow River Watershed to better understand how water gets to the river and why it is not always healthy. Students will be visiting the Pittsville Water System in May to see where our waste water goes and how it gets processed and put back into the ground to be used again.

~ Mrs. Kumm



ES/MS Math Happenings

6th grade is working on area of two dimensional figures. We have spent time practicing and collaborating to make our answers the best answers they can be. We extended our thinking to composite shapes and fractional dimensions.

7th grade math students practiced fractions and ratios to make a play dough recipe in their pod of four students. We then used the play dough to create different 3D figures and cut cross sections of those figures. This hands on math allows students to see the process as they learn.

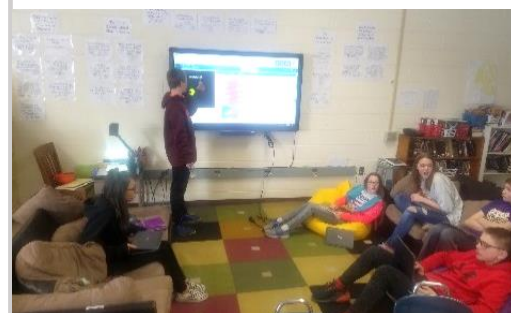
8th grade students are applying the skills they have learned in previous math classes to graph, write and evaluate linear functions. They are using doodle notes to create a solid foundation for their future math classes. ~ Mrs. Knutson

Expert Meetings in Computer Science

The 7th grade integrated technology class has been hard at work learning how to write animation and games using the coding language JavaScript. While coding might be an individual activity, there are many opportunities to work together and grow as learners! Student experts present every day, showcasing some of their work, how they overcame challenges, and present interesting problems to the class. Some students are shown new ideas, while others put on their "teacher hats" to explain how some coding nuances work.

The kids also had the opportunity to talk with a real game designer! An art designer for Epic Games, the game studio behind Fortnite, video called into class and the students prepared and asked some questions. He talked about what he does, converting two dimensional art into three dimensional objects for the game, and tips on how to make a great game.

~Mr. Natzke



Kindergarten Connection

Our month of March kicked off with Read Across America week. It was very enjoyable to read the works of Dr. Seuss and incorporate fun dress up days and activities around some of the Seuss stories. Our families were invited to join in on the fun of attending the Pajama Reading and Popcorn party night too. Our students have also recently been learning about Author Eric Carle. He is a well loved author and the children read some of his stories including The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Today is Monday, The Grouchy Ladybug and more and worked on some fun literacy projects to go with the stories. Our children are also growing in their writing abilities. Our students have completed a unit called "Writers are Readers!" The children were able to share their chosen story with students from another grade level. Our writing continues to GROW and it is exciting to see! Our new unit is now focused on Information books which are "How-To-Books." The children are learning that there are different kinds of writing. This type of writing tells what to do in steps. The students are drawing pictures for each step as well. Some of the children may even tell you that they want to be an author when they grow up!

~ Mrs. Heinzen, Mrs. Petersen



Collections and Rhyme Time in 4K ~ Mrs. Kuehn

What do you like to collect? Is it shells or bells? How about books or hooks? The 4K students have been learning about collections and answering important questions: Why do you collect what you do? Does your collection help you? We read a story called *The Button Box*. It is about a boy who visits his grandmother. He learns different things about her button collection. Then, the 4K students had a mini collection museum in their classroom and shared information about their collections with classmates. This led to a discussion about portfolios, which is a collection of items that show they are learning in 4K. Wesley said, "I have papers in my portfolio to show how I have learned my letters." They are excited to share their portfolio with their family members at Portfolio Night, March 23, 2020. Hope to see you there!



The students have also been busy learning about rhyme and enjoying many of Dr. Seuss's funny, rhyming books. When asked what rhymes with cat? Eisley said, "Hat and bat. Now they 'mustache' you a question: Can you make a list of rhyming words for fun?"



Growth Looks Different for Everyone



Throughout our year in early childhood we have explored many new learning opportunities. We have played with toothpaste slime for dental health week (this was quite messy), finger painted, made fingerprint ornaments with clay, worked on social development through play, and done many pre-academic tasks to get ready for 4k.

We look forward to seeing you next year for our Child Development Screener! Dates will be posted on our website when they are determined. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, please do not hesitate to contact us.

~ Mrs. Kremer

4th Grade News

The 4th grade class has been very busy through three quarters of the school year.

In writing, the 4th graders have finished writing their research papers on a subtopic of the American Revolution. The students learned the skills necessary to read nonfiction texts, how to take notes, how to organize the information, and how to properly put it into their own words. The 4th graders then took their newly learned research skills to research a dinosaur of their choice. They then had to present to the class how life would be like today if their dinosaur was still living. The entire class has learned a lot about how to research and write reports based off of their findings.

~Mr. Hahn

3rd Grade - Living Wax Museum

Our 3rd Grade students worked hard at researching a person from history and people of significance during our Information Unit in Reader's Workshop. They were reading non-fiction biographies, researching, and learning about the life of a person they chose. Then, they got into character of that person in the Living Wax Museum that we had for students and families at Pittsville Elementary. The students dressed up like the person, created a poster, and shared information about their life during the Living Wax Museum. We really enjoyed learning all about the amazing accomplishments each person had in their life. This was a fun way for students to learn about the research process and teach each about information.

~ Mrs. Blaser, Mrs. Neihaus, Ms. Maxey



5th Grade Reading

This quarter, fifth graders studied what makes fantasy novels so complex and they learned numerous strategies to become experts in reading fantasy. To enhance their critical thinking skills, the students found or created a recipe that connected with their fantasy novels. Some students cooked up their character's favorite treat while others recreated their favorite element or character!

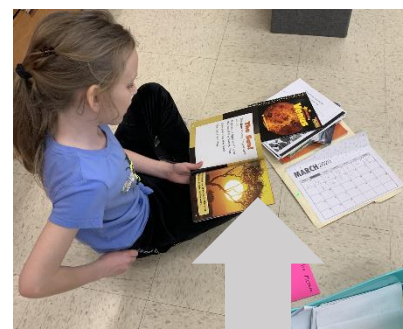
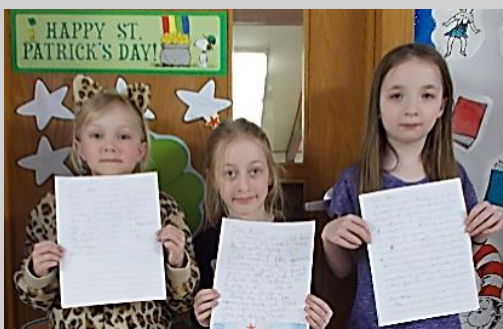
~ Ms. Molitor



2nd Grade

The Second Graders have been very busy. They have been writing letters to their pen pals. Mr. Klein's students wrote to pen pals in Alaska. Miss Sischo's students wrote to students in Neillsville. They have been reading great books and writing book recommendations about those books. They have been learning about how to add and subtract 3-digit numbers and to measure in inches and centimeters. They had a great time celebrating Read Across America Week. They got to dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character.

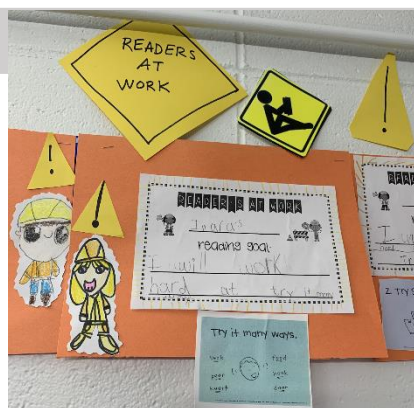
~ Ms. Sischo, Mr. Klein



Caution: Readers at Work

First grade students have become the boss of their own reading! They have added many tools to their toolboxes to get the job done! They stop at the first sign of trouble and try something like check the picture, get a running start, try the vowel many ways, read it part by part, crash the parts together, and lot more! These reading bosses then triple check it to make sure that it makes sense, looks right, and sounds right! They have tools to make sure they are understanding their books too. These include keeping track of what's happening, make a movie to picture what's happening, and to think what might come next. Be on the lookout for these readers at work!

~ Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Stone



Through the Decades at PHS: Prom and Graduation Edition

Contributors: Emma McLaughlin, Katherine Carter, Gage Thiel, Jaylynn Merritt, Asher Fiala, Connor Behselich, Natalie Fuller, Hunter McDaniel, Avery Vannetta and Messers, Downs and Piotrowski for The History Club. From the pages of Ho Ang Ho.

... When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,
That heavy Saturn laughed and leaped with him.

From Sonnet 98 by William Shakespeare

In this edition, we take a look at Spring and of proms and graduations past:

1980: Prom was held the evening of April 18. The theme was a starry night in the woods. There were seven couples on court: Sheryl Huber escorted by Todd Fox, Juile Tritz escorted by Steve King, Karla Hahn escorted by Robert Piotrowski, Cindy Cournoyer escorted by Scott Schara, Martha Anderson escorted by Bob Schooley, Rita Heggelund escorted by Dennis Volk. Tom Gardner was crowned king and Pam Palmer was crowned queen. **Graduation:** The 1980 graduation was a warm day and the graduates were aching to get out of their robes as soon as possible. Everyone was nervous and excited at all these years of school coming to an end. Many goals were reached and more looked forward to. The valedictorian was Tony Luken. The salutatorian being Deb Wolf. Class officers included Deb Wolf - president, Jerry Wilke - vice president, Ken Schiller- treasurer and Carrie Larson - secretary.

1990: Prom was held on May 19. The theme/song was "Forever-N-Always". There were seven couples on court: Jodi Cray escorted by Scott Grossman, Donna Bender escorted by John Jankowski, Jennifer Kohlbeck escorted by Darrell Fox, JoAnn Wilke escorted by Ted Skebba, Michelle Moore escorted by Jeff Kohls, Laura Shoemaker escorted by Jesse Wilke, and Christine Klevene escorted by Garth Fossen. Garth Fossen was crowned king and the queen was Christina Klevene. **Graduation:** Black and red were the colors of graduating class of 1990 with the flower being a red rose. Graduation took place on Sunday June 3, 1990. The valedictorian was Klarke Kruesel with the salutatorian being none other than Mark Denniston. The class president was Jason Knott, vice president Diana Rayburn, secretary Amy Hanutke, and treasurer Nikki Sojka. The honor graduates that year included Canyon Schultz, Mark Denniston, Becky Merk, Renee Peters, Eric Rasmussen, and Klarke Kruesel.

2000: Prom The prom colors were blue, silver and white, and the theme song was "When I See You Smile". There were 7 couples on court: Nicki Anderson escorted by Chris Hahn, Heather Montag escorted by Tom Schooley, Tonia Nordman escorted by Patrick Schiller, Lindsey Fox escorted by Matt Durand, Krissy Ratsch escorted by Ryan Brandt, Tami Strack escorted by Greg Kremer, and Trina Wolf escorted by James Federwitz. Chris Hahn was crowned king and Lindsey Fox was crowned queen. **Graduation:** The graduating class of 2000 valedictorian was Amanda Fox and salutatorian was Jessi Fochs. The students graduating at the top ten percent were our very own Tara Kroening, Craig Tork, Tami Kroening, and Danielle Klevene. The class president was Nicole Heurer, vice president Ebert Nitzke, secretary Paul Grossman, treasurer Craig Tork, and student council members included Amanda Fox, Jessi Fochs, Amy Greene, and Nicole Heuer.

2010: Prom: There were 11 couples on court: Emma Huber escorted by Jon Chasteen, Katie Potter escorted by Mason Frost, Katelyn Copeland escorted by Gavin Hautala, Brianna Fox was escorted by Kaleb Kronstedt, Cassy Ostrowski was escorted by Zac Schmitz, Ashlie Potter was escorted by Ryan Schwanebeck, Olivia Wesely was escorted by Justin Schueller, Cassandra Kuhlka was escorted by Ryan Knutson, Michaela Wolf was escorted by Vadan Haney, Mindy Bakken was escorted by Lee Friedl, and Amy Miner was escorted by Jordan Rayburn. Lee Friedl was crowned king and Amy Miner was crowned Queen. **Graduation:** Valedictorian in 2010 was Nathan Franson and the salutatorians were Devin Minor and Tonia Schueller. The class president was Cody Meyer. The rest of the top 10% of the class were Jessica Schuster, Carli Kronstedt, Joshua Robus, and Heather Adrian. The class flower was a white rose tipped with purple and their class motto was, "The memories we've shared, the times we've had together, they will stay with us always, goodbye is not forever".



FCE Updates

The Foundations of Early Childhood course, which is a transcribed credit through MSTC, have been working hard and having fun this term! Students have focused on various types of child care centers, child theorists, child development/milestones, mandatory reporter training, AHT (Abusive Head Trauma) Training and DAP (Developmentally Appropriate Practices). The classroom has 'turned' into a 4k setting where the students have been able to complete activities for holidays and children snacks geared towards that age group.

~ Mrs. Anderson



JH Forensics Team

On Thursday, February 27th, our Junior High Forensics team traveled to our second and final tournament. We competed with 500 other students at Eau Claire Delong Middle School. Our team did an excellent job competing and we got 10 first place finishes. We had 11 entries in the competition and 30 students on our team this year. The students performed in Reader's Theater, Prose, Poetry, and Informational Speech categories. It was a great way to end our Forensics season. We are very proud of the students and all of their hard work!

~ Mrs. Niedfeldt

Empty Bowls Gratitude

We would like to thank our local community members and school families for attending the 7th annual Empty Bowls. Many people watched demonstrations and some even tried the potter's wheel! Our young artists were honored to see the community's reaction to their pottery pieces! We appreciate your support of this important event, our young artists, and P.A.N.S. We look forward to seeing you at next year's event! Mark your calendars for Empty Bowls 2021 on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

The PTO completed its final fundraiser of the year. The Knowledge Quest is a 100% profit fundraiser for the Pittsville PTO. This year, we raised \$4,498.85. This money will be used to pay for field trips, and any other classroom materials that teachers need for their classrooms. Our prize winner for the PTO Knowledge Quest prize basket was Alena Callaway. The classroom winner for the most money raised was our Tuesday/Thursday 4K class. They earned a cinnamon roll party for the class. The 4K-3rd grade classroom with the highest percentage of participation was Mrs. Niehaus's third grade class. The 4th-8th grade class with the highest percentage of participation was Mr. Hahn's fourth grade class. Both of these classes earned an ice cream treat. The PTO will be hosting our spring buy one get one free book fair on March 17th, 18th, and 23rd. The book fair will be open during Portfolio Night. Stop in and check out all of the amazing books. The PTO is always looking for volunteers. We encourage you to attend our meetings. They are the second Monday of each month at 3:30 in Room 152 in the Elementary school. If you cannot make a meeting, but you are still interested in helping out, contact the PTO at pto@pittsville.k12.wi.us. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraisers this school year. We are so grateful to be part of such a wonderful community.

PTO-4TheArts brought Living Lincoln, an Abraham Lincoln impersonator to Pittsville schools on March 4th. The actor did four performances and spoke to our first through ninth graders as well as many visiting students about his life, from his humble origins through his trying years in the White House. It was an engaging performance and the students enjoyed getting to interact with the actor that played Abraham Lincoln at the end of the show. The final performances of the year will be Beauty and the Beast and The Velveteen Rabbit, both on Friday, April 17th, presented by BrightStar Children's Theatre. If you are interested in being involved with helping with these performances next year, please email the PTO at pto-4TheArts@pittsville.k12.wi.us. This program has brought many engaging, exciting, and powerful performances right to our own auditorium. In order for this program to continue, we need volunteers and we are looking for a coordinator for the program for next school year. Please consider contacting PTO for more information.



PTO Corner

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