

PITTSVILLE

School District

2011-12 Second Quarter Newsletter

From the Desk of District Administrator, Terry Reynolds



The Pittsville School District has been involved in Strategic Planning this past year, and through this process the District is building the educational foundation that it will be following for the next decade and beyond. This process will allow us to be strategic in our planning and giving priority to our limited finances, in order to continue to provide the quality of education our students need and continue to experience. Two Action planning teams were developed to design action plans for the first two initiatives.

- 1) Strengthen Communication and Partnerships - We will implement procedures and activities which promote family and community involvement in education.
- 2) Improve Student Achievement - we will establish competencies, which require action steps and staff development, required to compete in a global and technological society.

These committees which consisted of school employees, community members, and students are now completing their work. The School Board approved the first Action plan (Strengthen Communication and Partnerships) in a November 30 meeting. A summary of the objectives for this Action Plan are as follows:

- 1) District discussion of expectations and training for full use of Skyward (the school's administrative software program) by Staff for better communication to students and parents about their grades, attendance, behavior, and activities at school.
- 2) A reorganization and better utilization of time for the beginning of the school year "Open House" to make this time more beneficial for families.
- 3) The creation of a brochure for each grade level of class expectations. Parents and children will have a more clear understanding of what should be accomplished by the end of each grade level.
- 4) A curriculum map will be developed for all grade levels to be placed on the district web page. This will assist parents and students of curriculum goals and expectations.

Steps to accomplish the above objectives are now being developed and implemented. The School Board will be getting an update on the progress of the Action Plan in May.

The second Action Plan (Improve Student Achievement) is scheduled to be presented to the School Board for their approval of the action plan steps at its February 13 School Board meeting.

In other School News, the Administration and School Board is in the process of developing the 2012-13 school year budget. After reviewing the anticipated normal increases in district expenses, added with lower State aid allocations for schools and continued slight decline in district pupil enrollment, the district is anticipating an additional \$200,000 deficit at this time. Administration is now in the process of developing options for School Board to consider in order to balance next year's budget. These discussions will be taking place in the coming few months of meetings. Remember, the district eliminated 3.5 positions, cut employee benefits, and eliminated capital project funding last year to balance this year's 2011-12 budget. These next round of cuts will be very difficult to find and make.

The School Board has approved the 2012-13 and 2013-14 School Calendars. These have been posted on the District web site. A big thank you to all of the parents, students, and other community members who completed the calendar survey in November. The input we received provided excellent information and the final calendars were developed from the suggestions we received.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Open Enrollment, *page 2*
- Child Development Days Screening, *page 2*
- High School News, *page 3*
- Elementary School News, *page 5*
- Food Service Department, *page 7*
- PTO News, *page 8*
- Counselor's Corner, *page 11*

2012-13 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Pittsville Elementary School has begun taking registration for the 2012-2013 school year for 4-Kgn students and only those 5-Kgn students that did not attend the 4-Kgn program this school year. Registration material can be obtained from the district's website (www.pittsville.k12.wi.us) or in the elementary office between 8:00-3:00. Completed paperwork may be sent to or dropped off at the school office. The birth certificate must be viewed to complete the registration process.

Incoming students must be 4 (4-Kgn program) or 5 (5-Kgn program) on or before September 1, 2012 for enrollment in the 2012-2013 school year.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Garrels at Pittsville Public Schools, at 715/884-2517.



Parents: Please Keep Your Skyward Family Access Account Up-To-Date.

SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS...

is a free web-based application that gives parents and guardians online access to their child's grades, assignments, attendance, schedule, emergency information, and more! This access is made possible through our student information system, Skyward Family Access. Please contact your school's office for Family Access login names and passwords.

OPEN ENROLLMENT IN WI PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The open enrollment application period for 2012-13 school year is from February 6-24, 2012. The application period closes at 4:00 pm on February 24, 2012. **Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.**

Parents may apply in one of two ways:

- On-line (recommended) at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.htm>
- Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction or any school district after January 2, 2012, and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district during the application period.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS, DELAYS, EARLY DISMISSAL

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

WIFC	95.5 FM	WOFM	94.7 FM	WSAW	TV-7
WOSQ	92.3 FM	WGLX	103.3 FM	WAOW	TV-9
				WEAU	TV-13

CHILD DEVELOPMENT DAYS SCREENING

**Thursday, February 16th
Monday, February 20th**

4:00 – 7:00 pm



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, 2012 thru age 5 and reside in the Pittsville School District. Children who currently attend the Early Childhood or 4YK 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. Potential delays can be caught and appropriate interventions begun early.

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

WHO DO I CONTACT?

*Terry Reynolds, District Administrator
715-884-6694*

*John Olig Senior High Principal
715-884-6412*

*JoAnn Sondelski, Elementary Principal
715-884-2517*

PITTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

First semester ends on Friday, January 20. At that time, the two seniors who applied last March will be graduating early from Pittsville High School. Hawk Sabin will be looking for employment to raise money for post secondary education. Aubrey Korslin will start college at UW-Wood County. The early graduates generally take part in the May graduation ceremony. To do so they need to attend the graduation practices held prior to the ceremony. Juniors have the option to apply for early graduation. Those interested must submit a letter requesting early graduation prior to April 1. Interested juniors need to take the second semester of English 12, which is the only course seniors are required to take during their second semester. It is the responsibility of those interested in early graduation to insure that they meet the graduation requirements.



Another program which begins during second semester is the work experience program. Interested seniors are given the opportunity to use a portion of their scheduled school hours to work. Usually these jobs are paid positions. In a few cases students have taken unpaid positions to gain experience in a career the student was interested in pursuing after high school. About four years ago one student, who was looking into a career as a lawyer, worked in a legal office in an unpaid capacity. Generally, the hardest part of being in the work experience program is finding a job. Mrs. Leonhardt, the coordinator for the work experience program, has been speaking to interested seniors about the program since November.

The students who participate in the work experience program are graded on journaling about their experiences in the world of work, school attendance, and evaluations from their employer. The work experience program can help students gain valuable feedback on their strengths and weaknesses in that field of employment. Upon successful completion of the program, students will earn an Employability Skills Certificate from the DPI.

With the completion of the first semester, we need to begin preparing for the 2012-2013 school year. Shortly after first semester ends, Mrs. Backaus, our guidance counselor, will begin scheduling with the juniors. Eventually she will work her way through to the 8th graders.

Mr. Piotrowski is developing a new course to be offered during the 2012-2013 school year titled "Success 101". We are hoping that we will be able to articulate the class for post secondary credit through the Madison Area Technical College. The purpose of the course is to prepare our graduates for their education after high school. Topics covered in the class will include self responsibility, self motivation, self esteem and self management. The materials used in the course will pertain to techniques used in business, education, and psychology. The framework of the course is based on the book "On Course", written by Skip Downing. This book is used in many freshmen level orientations at colleges and tech schools around the country. We plan to offer this new course next year second semester.

With the start of the new semester we will be welcoming Ms. Jackie Bembeneck to our school. Ms. Bembeneck will be working as a student teacher with Mrs. Leonhardt in Family and Consumer Education. She is a graduate of SPASH.

Finally, during January, we have a number of boys and girls basketball games and a few wrestling matches. I encourage everyone to come out and support our athletes. Also in January, the Forensic Team will host a festival on Monday, January 30. Prior to the next board meeting, the drama club will be performing the play, "Just Another High School Play" on Friday, February 10; Saturday, February 11; and Sunday, February 12. This next month is filled with opportunities to see the many talents of our students.

Mr. Olig, Senior High Principal

SPORTS SCHEDULES

www.pittsville.k12.wi.us
and click on **Athletics** for
the most current and
accurate information.

1st Semester Report Cards will be going home with students after January 23rd.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TRIP

The K-12th Grade Social Skills/Math class took their annual Christmas shopping trip to Wisconsin Rapids in December. With their parent's and teacher's help, the students compiled shopping lists and budgeted money for their purchases. That day they went to the Dollar Store and Wal-Mart to buy their gifts. When they were done they enjoyed the pizza buffet at Pizza Hut. Pizza Hut, The Dollar Store and Wal-Mart have graciously accommodated us for many years. When we returned to school the students wrapped all their gifts to place under the tree when they returned home. The students worked on budgeting, math, and social skills, while having an opportunity to secretly get gifts for family members.



Standing: Chris Downs, Shelby Clark, Hannah Marti, Ashlee Conrad, Brit O'Keefe
Kneeling: Thomas Hughes, Katherine Redmond

In the spirit of giving, Pittsville students in grades 7-12 collected non-perishable foods items, personal care items and cash for donation to the local food pantry. Students were asked to donate items as their admission fee to December's PBIS reward event. They really took this project to heart; **437 ITEMS** were collected along with 20 lbs. of dried beans, 25 lbs. of rice and nearly \$30 cash!! Students who made donations were able to enjoy a fun afternoon of Christmas cheer with their friends following listening to an abbreviated concert performed by the music department. A big thank you goes out to all who helped make this generous donation to those whose holidays would have been a bit more bleak without such generosity!

RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Do you have electronic devices that are no longer working, broken, outdated, unwanted, or just taking up space and collecting dust? Then the Pittsville Ecology Club has the answer to your dilemma – recycle. Starting in January and ending in February the Pittsville Ecology Club is conducting a recycling campaign to collect unwanted electronics such as: cameras, phones, Laptops, Notebooks, iPods, iPads, gaming console (PlayStation, Nintendo, X-Box, etc.), MP3 players, and others.

Please don't throw electronics in the trash, do the right thing – recycle. If you have any electronics devices that you want to bring in and recycled, please drop them off at the Pittsville High School. If you have any questions about electronic items you want to recycle that was not specifically listed, contact Pam Kumm or Todd Steward at the Pittsville High School Office at 715.884.6412.

The Pittsville Ecology Club would like to thank you in advance for your support in recycling your electronic devices.



Family Fun at Bruce Mound

The Ski/Snowboard Club sponsored a trip to Bruce Mound over Christmas break. Forty-five people participated in a great day of tubing, skiing, and snowboarding. Six people (kindergarten through parenthood) learned how to ski, while five people learned how to snowboard. By the afternoon many of them were heading to the bigger hills!

Even though the weather has been warm there is snow on the hills. If there is anybody interested in learning how to ski or snowboard call the High School Office. Watch the Pittsville Record to participate in other Family Days at Bruce Mound.



Physical Education News

Mr. Hoffa, Instructor

This year I have been working to incorporate more technology into the physical education classroom. I have really been focusing on the iPad and all of its capabilities. After doing some research, I found some excellent applications (commonly referred to as "apps") that have allowed me to bring new activities into my classes.

Once a week, my P.E. and Weight Training classes do a cardio workout from an app called Nike Training Circuit. Different activities can be chosen to focus on specific muscle groups (for example: arms), and the workouts can last anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes. The program was designed very well and is easy to use. Students get a good workout and have fun doing it. This has been a fantastic addition to the P.E. program!

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email me at hoffadan@pittsville.k12.wi.us or call me at 884-6412 ext 413.





Pittsville Elementary School News

Dear Parents and Students,

It's January! The start of another new year. We look forward to learning many new things in the upcoming year.

Speaking about new - we have implemented a new program here at the Elementary School in the form of a morning math room. This room will be staffed by volunteer teachers who will have it opened from 7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. This time will be offered to students who need additional help or review in math concepts that are being taught. We look forward to the opportunity being afforded to our children and are especially grateful to the staff for providing this. If you feel that your child would benefit from this, please contact your child's teacher.

We have a learning fair on the horizon again this year. We have combined our learning fair and our art show this year. There is an article in this newsletter concerning these two opportunities for our students. We encourage everyone at the Elementary School to take part in the learning fair as an opportunity to branch out, learn something new and present it to others. Topics that a student can choose are endless. If they have a particular idea and would like some guidance on it, encourage them to talk to their teacher or to see me. I know we are all excited about the learning fair and would be very willing to lend some advice.

Semester 1 will be in the history books, and it was a great one at that. With the second semester here, we tackle the demands of school and the winter blues all at one time. What can we do to keep moving forward? Set aside every day at home to learn something--whether it be related to school or another topic of interest. Reading and learning keeps us excited and energized, and before we know it, the final bell of the school year will be here.

Let's continue to have a great year of learning and working together to make Pittsville Elementary School a great place to be!

Mrs. Sondelski, Elementary Principal

Geography Bee News

We are half way through the 2012 Geography Bee. The Geography Bee is a competition for grades 4-8 put on by National Geographic. The first round of competition is held in each student's social studies class. The goal is to get the top two competitors from each homeroom.

Here is a list of this year's winners by grade level.

4th Grade: Mariah Conrad, Renae Scheel, Alexis Redmond, & Jarreth Shaefer

5th Grade: Jenna Rasmussen, Derek Marten, Jessie Rasmussen, & Ryan Zickert

6th Grade: Mechayla Zeinert, Isis Ignatowski, Kyle Masanz, & Elizabeth Schultz

7th Grade: Martin Schwanebeck, Mya Larson, Josh Zogleman, & Daniel Piotrowski

8th Grade: Kayla Larson, Jesse Poppy, Brooke Zdun, Austin Carlson, Sara Minor, & Lexi Dupee

The second round of competition is the school wide competition held in Ms. Hedstrom's room. The homeroom champions compete against each other to see who will represent our school. The winner of this part will take a written test which is sent in to Washington D.C. If they score in the top 100 within the state, they will qualify for the state competition which will be held March 30, 2012. The winner of the state competition qualifies for the national competition. That competition will be held May 22-23, 2012 in Washington D.C.

On December 20th, Kayla Larson won the school competition with Derek Martin and Kyle Masanz taking second and third place respectively. Way to go! Kayla's test has been sent in, and we are waiting to see if she qualifies for state. Good Luck Kayla!!!

1st Semester Report Cards will be going home with students after January 23rd

News From Mrs. Niedfeldt's Class

Mrs. Niedfeldt's class has been hard at work reading this year. Each year, the students set a goal for how many books they would like to read as a class. This year, the class decided on a goal of 600 books! So far, they have been diligent readers and have already read 205 books. When the class meets the goal, they will earn a special reward that will be determined by the class. The students read a variety of books after they have completed assignments, or as part of AR reading time. Keep up the good work!

Golden Awards

October Winners

- Golden Spoon Award: Mr. Downing's 4th Grade
- Golden Table Award: Mrs. Brux's 3rd Grade
- Golden Slipper Award: Mr. Downing's 4th Grade
- Golden Dustpan: Mrs. Niemann's Classroom
- Broom Award: Mrs. Niemann's Classroom
- Golden Book Award: Ms. Hartwig's 3rd Grade
- Golden Present Award: Mrs. W Neve's 3rd Grade
- Golden Pencil Award: Mrs. Moore's 4th Grade
- Golden Slide Award: Looping Classroom
- Panther Diner: 4K Tuesday/Thursday Class

November Winners

- Golden Dustpan: Mrs. Heinzen's Kindergarten
- Broom Award: Mrs. Heinzen's Kindergarten
- Golden Pencil Award: Mr. Schultz's Homeroom Science
- Golden Slide Award: Mrs. Niehaus' Kindergarten
- Golden Table Award: Mrs. Brux's 3rd Grade
- Golden Present Award: Mrs. T Neve's 5th Grade
- Golden Book Award: Mrs. Niehaus' Kindergarten
- Golden Slipper Award: Mrs. Kumm's 6th Hour Classroom
- Golden Spoon Award: Mrs. Moore's 4th Grade
- Panther Diner Winner: Miss. Sischo's 2nd Grade

WOW -- over 600 veteran's names filled the administration entrance in honor of Veteran's Day. The Pittsville community is proud of their local veterans, along with the family members of students who have served in the armed forces!

If you are interested in receiving the hat with the name of your family's veteran, please contact the office at 715-884-2517 or e-mail lookkel@pittsville.k12.wi.us.

INSTANT ALERT FOR SCHOOLS

The system can be found through a link on the district website or at <https://instantalert.honeywell.com>. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity, as we will be utilizing this system for much of our school-to-home communication.

If you need assistance with your profile, please go to <https://instantalert.honeywell.com> and click on the **Help Request** link on the lower right hand side of the page, or contact the school at 715-884-2517 (elementary office), 715-884-6412 (High School office).



4 Year Old Kindergarten & Early Childhood Happenings

In place of a gift exchange, the 4 Year Old Kindergarten and Early Childhood classes collected items for the South Wood County Humane Society. The kids collected dog and cat food, toys, and treats. As a class, we delivered the items to the shelter on December 19th and 20th. We also toured the shelter, learned about pets, and visited with the animals.

Five Ways to Prevent Kids from Bullying ~An excerpt from "Helping Hand Newsletter" Volume 22, Issue 3

We focus a great deal-and rightly so-on the victims of bullying. But adults can focus on the bullies, too, by helping the bullying child face the reality of his or her behavior and taking responsibility for it. In his book, *How to Talk to Your Kids about School Violence*, Ken Druck, PhD, provides a list of five ways adults can intervene with a young person who is bullying.

1. Get the facts. If the child won't tell you about his or her behavior, talk to other parents, teachers and possibly the victim and/or the victim's parents.
2. The child should apologize to his or her victim and undo any damage to the extent it's possible. For example, if the child damaged another child's belongings, he or she should replace the damaged items.
3. Help the young person understand that physical, verbal, written and/or emotional abuse of another person is never acceptable.
4. If the young person hangs out with other bullies, separate him or her from that group. Parents can drive the young person to and from school and involve the young person in constructive after-school activities. In elementary grades, teachers can separate children in the classroom and designate "play buddies" for recess time (to reduce the vulnerability of a lone child). Make an action plan to address those problems, such as going for counseling or taking an anger management or an anti-bullying class.
5. Let the child talk about the fears and insecurities that might be causing him or her to act like a bully.



Primary Holiday Program



FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

LOW LUNCH BALANCES

Accounts below \$25.00 will be notified weekly using email and the Pittsville School District Instant 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.

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.

ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE

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

To make online payments:

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

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

FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS

Your children may qualify for free milk, free meals, or reduced price meals. Free and Reduced Price School Meals Applications are available on the district website (www.pittsville.k12.wi.us). 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.

2011-2012 MEAL PRICES

4Kgn- Grade 3 Lunch	\$2.00
Grade 4-8 Lunch	\$2.50
Grade 9-12 Lunch	\$3.00
Adult Lunch	\$3.75
Reduced Lunch	\$.40
Milk	\$.25
4Kgn-Grade 12 Breakfast	\$.60
Adult Breakfast	\$1.20

Breakfast & Lunch Menus can be viewed on the district webpage at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us

Digital Learning Day is February 2

Digital Learning Day is a national awareness campaign to improve teaching and learning for all children. On Digital Learning Day, the organizers are asking everyone - no matter your comfort with technology - teachers, librarians, school leaders, after-school programs, community groups, and parents—to be counted in this effort. How is digital learning a part of your daily life? From the Digital Learning Day website, "Technology has changed the way we do everything from grocery shopping, to listening to music, and reading books. It's time to take action to leverage this potential with more innovative uses of technology in our nation's schools to ensure every student experiences personalized learning with great teaching."

Here in Pittsville the Digital Learning Day team is busy planning activities for the day and year. This will be an opportunity for our teachers and students to demonstrate how web tools and new technologies are transforming learning. For a quick preview, did you know that: Mrs. Kumm's Spanish students communicate with students in Argentina using Skype? Mr. Krueger uses his iPad in the gym to project online fitness activities? Mrs. Sanken's students are learning to create and use QR codes? Ms Lewin's musicians have learned to blog and use a computer program that evaluates their performances?

What is Digital Learning? Digital Learning is any instructional practice that is effectively using technology to strengthen the student learning experience. Digital learning encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practice, including using online and formative assessment, increasing focus and quality of teaching resources and time, online content and courses, applications of technology in the classroom and school building, adaptive software for students with special needs, learning platforms, participating in professional communities of practice, providing access to high level and challenging content and instruction, and many other advancements technology provides to teaching and learning. In particular, blended learning is any time a student learns, at least in part, at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home and, at least in part, through online delivery with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace.

At <http://www.digitalllearningday.org>, you can see nation-wide events, digital learning projects, and get more information about how digital learning is transforming education, the workplace, and lives around the world. There is a link to the Digital Learning Day website on the school homepage.

COMMUNITY WALKERS
PITTSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WILL
BE OPEN FOR WALKING EVERY
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, & THURSDAY
FROM 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Logic and Life, Mr. Downs

In Plato's *Apology* Socrates argues that "the unexamined life is not worth living". I have heard this quote in various forms throughout my life from teachers, professors, clergy, friends and family in various forms from formal lectures or sermons to friendly advice. So much so in fact that even someone as dull witted as myself eventually thought that there might be something to it and so I began to pay more attention and to find out what it meant. In brief, I learned that Socrates and other ancient Greek philosophers asked basic questions about life's meaning and importance, just like most people have always done. But they may have been the first in history, or at least written history, to search for rational, demonstrable answers to those questions. Answers which they thought would stand up to scrutiny and which did not rely, for the most part, on Divine revelation but rather on human reason. Socrates himself did not come up with many answers to life's mysteries but he did come up with a lot of questions. That is what made him a great original (and also what got him killed, but I digress). We call his style of questioning the Socratic Method. It has been used, developed and systematized by many people over the years. One of those developments was a way to analyze statements, ideas and knowledge claims. It is called informal logic.

Now if you are still reading this you might be thinking to yourself 'why is he writing about this?' or other less charitable musings. It is written as a partial answer to a question - what are they teaching kids these days? In my Western Civilization class at PHS on Ancient Greece and Rome I teach a side unit on Socrates great invention of logic. We go over what makes for a good argument and how to detect an untrue or invalid argument. We practice some syllogisms and also go over about thirty-five different logical fallacies with definitions and common examples. I think it very practical and beneficial. If the student is willing he or she can develop their critical thinking skills which will come in handy later in life whenever they have to make a decision or consider the claims of advertisers and politicians, assess with a cool head the latest gossip raging around and probably most importantly it could well help them perform better on standardized tests!* Learning a bit of logic will also hopefully help students, to quote philosophy professor Peter Kreeft, "make their lives a little less unexamined and a little more worth living".

** Several of my students have confirmed this last hypothesis of mine though I concede the evidence is purely anecdotal.*



Kindergarten Kindness



The month of January began with the kindergartners learning how to play some new board games with one another. Playing games is a social activity to do throughout your lifetime; that's why we spend one week of our center theme time teaching the children how these games are played. There were many social skills that were emphasized during this time as well. They were: taking turns, following directions, playing fairly, being a team player, and winning and losing gracefully. The children played Checkers, Uno, Memory on Palm Pilots, Hi Ho Cherrio, Sequence for Kids, and Yahtzee Junior. Our next theme will focus on respecting others, showing kindness, and demonstrating peace as we learn about Peace later this month. The children will be working in cooperative groups to design the peace symbol using unifex cubes, and they will be coloring a large model of the earth and tracing their hands around it. The children will be making a dove project and writing a poem using the words peace. During the winter holiday concert the children also focused on what it would mean to have Peace on Earth. This was displayed in our last choral reading of the concert. Tied into all of this is also practicing what is meant to have good manners. The children will have an opportunity to do this as we talk about different scenarios and work on using our good manners daily as we encourage them to show their "Kindergarten Kindness".

PTO Newsletter Corner...

Our October book fair, held during parent teacher conferences, was a great success. We earned a BOGO book fair to be held in April and the PTO was able to earn Scholastic Dollars to purchase items from Scholastic to be used in the classroom. We have used some of our dollars to purchase two DVD players and 90 books to be used within the school. Most books will remain in the library for staff and students to use while others will be distributed to staff to help build classroom libraries. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended. You made it a great success!

We have started a give and take board in the elementary school teacher's lounge. This board allows staff members to post items that are needed and/or items that are able to be shared or given to other teachers. This allows staff members to reuse items within the school. Thank you to our staff for utilizing this.

Campbell's Soup Label, Box Tops for Education, Milk Caps and Coke Points Challenge will be held on February 6th - the 100th day of school. Information will be sent home with elementary students. These collections are used for items to be used in the classroom and on the playground.

Spring Pictures will be held February 15 and 16. Please watch for information which will be sent home with students.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 23. PTO earned pizza kits from the Little Caesar's Fund Raiser that will be used to provide a meal for the teachers. Anyone willing to donate drinks to this meal may bring in donations. We will be accepting soda, bottled water, juice etc. These will be used at the February 23 meal. Please be sure to label the item as a donation for the teacher meal. Thank you again for your support in the pizza fundraiser.

We would like to thank our volunteers who help make each of these events possible. We truly appreciate all you do!

FFA NEWS...

Pittsville FFA Member Attend 84th National FFA Convention

By Megan Christiansen, Pittsville FFA Vice President

On October 19th through 22nd Pittsville FFA members Jessie Robus, Mackenzie Robus, Connor Coyle, Cierra Coyle, Jenna Ginter, and Megan Christiansen went down to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana along with 50,000 other FFA members from all across the Country. The Pittsville FFA members, and their FFA advisor, Mr. Urban, experienced exciting tours. The first educational tour we attended was at Fair Oak Dairy Farm in Indiana, one of ten dairy farms in their corporation that milk over 28,000 cows daily, they observed a calf's birth, and learned that cow's do not have teeth on their upper jaw. Jenna Ginter commented, "The tour of Fair Oak Dairy Farm was an underly cool experience."

After the tour we loaded the van and headed straight to the heart of Indianapolis, Indiana to attend the first session of the 84th National Convention. During the beginning of the session we got to meet our National officers, get to know them better, and hear about this year's theme, "I Believe," which are the first words to the FFA Creed. We also experienced an inspirational speech from Dave Roever, a Vietnam Veteran, about overcoming challenges, doing the impossible, and changing someone's life in the process.

The next morning the Pittsville FFA members visited National Starch, where they learned that starch is produced from corn that is non-hybrid and naturally developed, it is a major part of almost all foods, and that starch has to go through four drying processes before being packaged and sold. After the tours they went straight to the Career Fair, they wasted no time getting college information, and other information about agricultural programs around the world.

That night they, along with 25,000 other FFA members attended a concert performed by Steel Magnolia, Little Big Town, and Blake Shelton. After leaving Indianapolis, we stayed overnight in Chicago and toured the world famous Science and Industry Museum.

"My favorite part of the trip was seeing all of the blue Jackets." Connor Coyle stated. All of the girls thought it was a very exciting and educational experience. Being part of the National FFA is something that they believe is very important to the future of this country. I see a very bright future for the Pittsville FFA. They'd like to thank Mr. Urban and the FFA Alumni for all of the support and the opportunity to experience this amazing trip.



FFA members stand in front of the University of Missouri Tiger while attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Pittsville Seventh Graders Tour Local Farms

The Pittsville Seventh Graders toured Vespertine Gardens, Cutler Country Comfort, Mead Wildlife Area and Dairy State Cheese. The first part of the field trip was hosted Craig Tormoen of Vespertine Gardens. Mr. Tormoen spoke about the importance of growing naturally produced crops and how he raises his locally grown products. The next stop on the tour was hosted by Sally Cutler of Cutler Country Comfort, Mrs. Cutler showed the students her various products, spoke of how she raises her crop without the help of fertilizers and toured her greenhouses. The students then went on a walk at the Meade Wildlife Center our host spoke of different plants that are edible and good for the environment. The final stop of the tour at Dairy State Cheese, the students were given a tour of how cheese is made and the different products produced at the dairy plant. The field trip was sponsored by the Wood County Farm to School Get Active Grant.



Craig Tormoen of Vespertine Gardens explains the process of raising naturally raised chickens on his farm. The field trip was sponsored by the Get Active Wood County Farm to School Grant.

Pittsville FFA Officers Host Poverty Supper

The Pittsville FFA Officers hosted a 7-12 grade Poverty Supper. The supper was the idea of Megan Christiansen and Connor Coyle. Both of the officers attended the Washington DC Leadership in FFA last summer and learned of the widespread poverty throughout the United States. As part of their obligation to the FFA and FFA Alumni who sponsored the majority of the trip, Megan and Connor took the leadership of the entire project.

The supper started with students given examples of different socioeconomic backgrounds, and how these groups may be fed differently, how the groups can be affected by factory layoffs, sickness or other economic factors. Then the groups watched a power point on poverty.



FFA Advisor Mr Urban, Cierra Coyle, Jessie Robus, Sam Solatycki, Connor Coyle, Megan Christiansen, Hannah Marti, Christine Sturgis and MicKenzie Robus

Some of the facts shared were: at least 80% of humanity lives on less than \$10/day, more than 80% of the world's population live in countries where the income gap is widening, the poorest 40% of the world's population account for 5% of the global income. According to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day to poverty.

After the power point presentation, Wood County's W-2 Director Brandon Vrwink spoke about how poverty is growing in Wood County and the effects it has on people's lives in our local communities. The FFA Officer team will have a food drive for Pittsville's local food pantry as a way to bring this information home.

Megan and Connor would like to thank the FFA Officer Team and FFA Advisor Mr. Urban for helping them organize and complete their project.



Sally Cutler of "Cutler Country Comfort" explains her vision of her farm. Mrs. Cutler allowed students to tour her natural farm. The field trip was sponsored by the Get Active Wood County Farm to School Grant.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MATH NIGHT

On Thursday, November 3rd families had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a variety of math activities. A few of the activities children were able to partake in that evening were: create origami figures, construct 3-D shapes with toothpicks and marshmallows, sort and graph noodles, play number Bingo, work with hundreds chart, and manipulate tangrams. Families were able to learn about our new math program and how to access it online. SmartBoards and i-pads were available for students to practice IXL and other math websites. Door prizes were handed out to the Rayburn, Weigel, and Knudson families. A math quilt, consisting of 21 math questions, challenged the children to think of how math is related to the everyday world. Math and numbers are all around us!! The following are the questions and answers, along with the individual's names who answered correctly. We had so many smart children AND adults!

1. How many donuts are in a baker's dozen? **Answer is 13.** Christina Pelot, Matthew Kissner, Ashely Weigel, Maddy Hensel, Cody Havlik, and Helen Durrant were correct.
2. How old is President Obama? **Answer is 50 years old.** Irene Klevene, Christina Pelot, Matthew Kissner, Maddy Hensel, and Cody Havlick were correct.
3. How many players are on 2 football teams? **Answer is 104 players.** Nancy Brux was the closest with 104.
4. How many ounces are in 9 pounds of butter? **Answer is 144 ounces.** Christina Pelot, Matthew Kissner, and Maddy Hensel were correct.
5. How many studnets are enrolled in Pittsville Elementary? **Answer is 436 students.** Christina Pelot was the closest with a guess of 429 students.
6. Can you name something that is a rectangular prism? **Answers given were a book, a block, and a cracker box**
7. How many cups are in 2 gallons? **Answer is 32 cups.** Irene Klevene, Jason Burch, Karl Durrant, Matthew Kissner, Christina Pelot, Ashley Weigel, and Maddy Hensel were correct.
8. What is the freezing temperature of water in degrees Fahrenheit and Celsius? **Answer is 32 degrees F and 0 degrees C.** Irene Klevene, Dawn Burch, Matthew Kissner, Christina Pelot, Ashley Weigel, Maddy Hensel, Carly Knutson, and Helen Durrant were correct on both questions.
9. How many miles are between Marshfield and Pittsville? **Answer is 18 miles.** Christina Pelot was the closest with 19 miles
10. Which president is on the half dollar? **Answer is John F. Kennedy.** Irene Klevene, Jason Burch, Karl Durrant, Christina Pelot, Matthew Kissner, and Maddy Hensel were all correct.
11. What is the decimal to 5/7? **Answer is 0.714.** Irene Klevene, Matthew Kissner, and Maddy Hensel were correct.
12. How many minutes are in the school day? **Answer is 440 minutes.** Irene Klevene was the closest with 420 minutes.
13. How many inches of snow would equal 3 inches of rain? **Answer is 36 inches.** Matthew Kissner was closest with 20 inches.
14. Write a letter from the alphabet that is symmetrical. Draw its line of symmetry. **Answers given were H, A, and O**
15. What is the weight of a newborn giraffe? **Answer is 110 pounds.** Matthew Kissner was correct.
16. How many nickels are in \$1.65? **Answer is 33 nickels.** Matthew Kissner and Maddy Hensel were all correct.
17. What is the perimeter (in feet) of the elementary cafeteria? **Answer is 252 feet.** Nobody was correct.
18. Can you name a fraction equivalent to 1/2? **Answers given were 3/6, 4/8, 6/12, and 5/10.**
19. How many different combinations can you make with the following choices: vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry ice cream WITH a sugar cone, waffle cone, or in a dish? **answer is 9 combinations.** Nobody was correct
20. How many cans of soda are in 4 12-packs? **Answer is 48 cans.** Irene Klevene, Matthew Kissner, Maddy Hensel, and Helen Durrant were all correct.
21. How many days are between Easter and the 4th of July in the year 2010? **Answer is 90 days.** Maddy Hensel was the closest with 100 days.
22. How tall is the Statue of Liberty? **Answer is 305 feet from foundation to tip.** Helen Durrant was the closest with 240 feet.

Father/Daughter Dance

"A Night of Memories"

Saturday, February 4

Refreshments 6:30 pm

Music from 7-9:00 pm

Pittsville High School Gym

Cost \$15 per couple

\$5 for additional daughter

All ages welcome to this semi-formal dance.



Call HS office with any questions 715-884-6412
Sponsored by PHS Ecology and Snowboard Club

Counselor's Corner

1 Night -- 3 Events

February 23rd, 2012 - SAVE THE DATE

8th Grade Night: 6:00 PM, HS Gymnasium: All 8th grade students and parents are **highly encouraged** to attend; freshmen registration information will be given out and many other important high school topics will be covered.

Sophomore Post Secondary Planning Night: 6:30 PM, HS Library: All sophomore students and parents are **highly encouraged** to attend; *junior and senior students and parents are welcome to attend if they feel the need.* Representatives from higher education institutions, local employers, and recent graduates will be there to provide information about planning for the next step and how to choose the most appropriate fit for you.

F.A.F.S.A. Help Night: 4:00-6:00 PM, HS Computer Lab #1: **Current seniors and parents and college students and parents** who would like help filling out the F.A.F.S.A (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) are welcome to come any time during the two hour time period to receive assistance in this process. Please bring your **completed** 2011 tax information (both student and parent) and plan to spend about 45 minutes to an hour to complete the whole process.

Please feel free to contact Julia Backaus, 7-12 Counselor, if you have questions about any of these events at 715-884-5223 or backajul@pittsville.k12.wi.us

ACT Dates and Prep Information

Spring 2012 ACT Dates: ALL dates are on Saturdays
 February 11th, 2012—Register by January 13th, 2012
 April 14th, 2012—Register by March 9th, 2012
 June 8th, 2012—Register by May 4th, 2012

Please register online at www.actstudent.org; a credit card will be required for payment upon registering. The cost for the basic ACT is \$34.00; the cost for the ACT plus writing is \$49.50. Students who qualify for **free/reduced lunch** are most likely eligible for a fee waiver; please see Mrs. Backaus for more information.

Saturday, March 31 ACT Prep at UW-Marshfield
 9:00 am - 2:30 pm (with time provided for lunch)

UW-Marshfield Campus, Main Building, Room 131
 The cost is \$49.00. Check (Payable to UW-Marshfield) or CC required when registering
 Call 715-389-6520 to register and/or receive more information.

Jim Wand, Hypnotist

March 13 - 7:00 PM

Pittsville Auditorium

Sponsored by
 PHS Snowboard Club

Tickets: \$8.00



ART SHOW & LEARNING FAIR



Evening of March 22

5:00-7:00 pm

Public Welcome

The K-12 Pittsville Student Art Show and Learning Fair is fast approaching. Our students have been busy completing their projects for the art show. Every art student in our district should have at least one art piece on display for your viewing pleasure. Our students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Learning Fair by selecting an area of interest. Students should start thinking about topics and watch for registration forms to be handed out by their teachers. Come and see everybody's talent and creativity on display in the auditorium lobby and gym! We hope to see all of you there in support of the students.

Pittsville School
 invites you to the
 Learning Fair
 and K-12
 Student Art Show

**Pittsville
 Auditorium
 Lobby & Gym**

PHS Student Wins Full Tuition Scholarship!

The PHS faculty would like to congratulate **Hannah Marti** in being selected as a recipient of the Michigan Tech Leading Scholars Program Full Tuition Scholarship. This scholarship program goes through an extremely rigorous application process which begins with an essay writing competition. In speaking with one of the scholarship committee members, it was stated **over 900 students** (both in and out of state) submitted applications and essays. Hannah was *one of approximately ten out-of-state students* who made the first cut and was invited to campus to compete in the interview portion.



From those ten students, Hannah was once again chosen to be *one of three* to receive a scholarship for full tuition. This scholarship is renewable for four years and is currently valued at **\$25,800/year for a total of \$103,200!** When asked to elaborate more on the process, the scholarship committee member could only say, "These students are the best of the best. Hannah wowed our committee and is most deserving of this award." *Hannah, congratulations again on a job well done and thank you for your example of scholastic excellence and dedication for others to follow.*

\$800 Mini Grant Awarded to PHS SODA POPS

For the third year in a row, PHS SODA POPS officers have filled out the CESA 5 AODA Mini Grant application and been awarded funds accordingly. This year, the group plans to once again use the funds to encourage students to choose healthier activities over underage alcohol and/or drug use. Spring activities include a student body competition in making Valentine's Day Cards for the residents at Bethel, our 2nd Annual Decades Dance, a HS basketball bracket competition in conjunction with cleaning out closets for Good Will, money for students/parents hosting alcohol-free, post-prom parties, our 3rd Annual Charity Charge to benefit Jeremiah's Crossing, and our 2nd Annual Senior Breakfast to honor our graduates. **We will still continue to give out FREE WINTER SPORTING EVENT PASSES through FEBRUARY to students who bring in items for the Hannah House in Marshfield or canned/non-perishable food items for the local food pantry.**

National Honor Society Applications to be sent out early February

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors not currently in NHS who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at the end of the fall semester will receive letters inviting them to apply for NHS. In addition to maintaining a strong GPA, the NHS faculty committee looks to induct new members who have shown leadership, service, and school/community involvement. Students selected for membership will be inducted to NHS through a formal ceremony later this spring.

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developing Innovative Students, strengthened
through Partnerships with parents and the
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Newsletter

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