

PITTSVILLE

School District

2011-12 Third Quarter Newsletter



From the Desk of District Administrator Terry Reynolds

At several points in every school year, it is good to reflect upon all the many positive educational activities happening here in the Pittsville School District. Our newsletters attempt to provide everyone a brief glimpse of many of the exciting student activities taking place. The Pittsville teaching staff attempts to provide all students with outstanding learning activities each and every day, however from time to time there are a few activities that seem to stand out from the others.

One such activity which I am very excited about is occurring in the Technology Education Department at the High School this Spring. Stephen Hadfield, Pittsville's Technology Education instructor, is in the process of teaching his students to build a Timber Frame constructed educational shelter which will be set up in our School Forest next Fall. Mr. Hadfield and his students will be building the timber frame here at school, using timbers logged from our School Forest site. This hands on/authentic learning activity is an opportunity for our Pittsville students to use the skills learned in all their classes to create a structure which will last a lifetime. The project is being primarily funded through a grant which the School Forest Committee wrote last year. Mr. Hadfield will be providing additional information in the coming months through this newsletter and the Pittsville Record, and I encourage all residents to learn more about this valuable classroom project.

In the second quarter newsletter, I discussed the 2012-13 School Budget outlook and an anticipated \$200,000 deficit. The School Board and administration has continued to work diligently towards balancing the budget and ensuring that top quality programming continues to be the norm here in Pittsville. The District is still waiting on key pieces of information in order to determine what alternatives to take in lowering District expenditures. One major unknown area is the cost of Health Insurance for employees. The District is currently waiting to hear from Security Health Plan (the District's current health insurance provider) on what the District's renewable rates will be for the 2012-13. In the meantime, the School Board is also investigating other health insurance provider pricing as well. Once these rates are determined, the School Board will be able to move forward with additional planning and decisions in regards to balancing the budget.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS (SECTION 120.06 (8)(c), WIS. STATS.)

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the Pittsville School District that on Tuesday, April 3, 2012, election of School Board Members will be held.

Candidates for the School Board are as follows:

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE

Julie M. Strenn

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

Connie Potter, District Clerk

At this time, no teaching staff cuts are being considered. In February, the Legislature passed a new law which allows for additional time for teacher contract renewal decisions. The District no longer needs to provide final non-renewal notification by March 15, as this date has been pushed back to May 15. This additional time provides the District two extra months to determine more precisely what the staffing and funding needs are for 2012-13 and also eliminate some of the unnecessary stress upon its employees. The preliminary budget for 2012-13 will be approved by the School Board in June.

If you have any questions about the budget or school programming, please contact the District office (715-884-6694). We will be happy to try and answer any questions you may have.

OPEN ENROLLMENT IN WI PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The open enrollment application period for 2012-13 school year is from **February 6-April 30, 2012**. The application period closes at 4:00 pm on April 30, 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>
- Paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction or any school district and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district during the application period.



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.

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



Peter Ostroushko
Saturday, April 7, 2012



Peter is one of the most accomplished mandolin and fiddle players and gifted composers of his generation. He has spent 25 years as a frequent performer on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion", and for a few seasons did a stint as Music Director of the popular radio show. You may have caught Peter on TV, too. He has appeared on Austin City Limits, Late Night with David Letterman and even Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. Visit him at www.peterostroushko.com

Sponsored in part by: Pittsville Therapy Services Inc., Pittsville Family Dental, Buchanan Funeral Home, Pittsville Homes, Pittsville Vision Center

Show time: 2:00 pm

Tickets: Adult \$10, Senior \$8, Student \$5

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).

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



Spirit Wear

on sale March 22
thru April 5. Order
forms are available
in the ES or HS
offices. Call Pam if
you have questions
at 715-884-6412.



SPORTS SCHEDULES

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

PITTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



We have a great opportunity being offered to our students through the SCING Distance Learning Network. For \$20.78, our students can participate in a three session course designed to help prepare them for the ACT. The three sessions are April 10, 11, and 12 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The timing of this course coincides with the April 14 ACT test date. The sign up deadline is March 22. Mrs. Backaus has placed a note in the Pittsville Record. Mr. Olig has asked the various core subject teachers to speak to the juniors and seniors about the ACT preparation course. The course is open to sophomores, but the juniors and seniors who are planning to take the ACT prior to the 2012-2013 school year are especially encouraged to participate in this ACT preparation course.

The next topic is the block schedule. We have set an informational meeting about the block schedule for March 21 at 6:00. By that meeting, Mrs. Backaus and I expect to have a schedule completed which will allow block scheduling to be implemented at Pittsville High School. We are literally working to ensure that the block schedule will effectively allow our students to be in their selected classes. Everyone needs to realize that no schedule is perfect. There will be conflicts in the block schedule just like there is in an 8 period schedule. The advantage of block schedule is that students will have the opportunity to take more classes because each student will be taking 8 classes each semester instead of seven classes. Eight students and five staff members visited Elk Mound High School on February 17, and on March 1, four staff members visited Amherst High School. On both occasions, the staff and students noticed a less stressful school environment a result of students needing to focus on only four classes and three classes for teachers. Since students only focus on four classes, they are generally more successful. These are common strengths of the block schedule. This is aligned with Response to Intervention (RTI) because being enrolled in fewer classes the students are able to focus on those classes. When the students returned from their visit to from Elk Mound, their comments were extremely supportive of the block schedule. The Elk Mound experience left a very favorable impression on our students. One student stated after visiting Elk Mound that the benefits of the block schedule outweighed the disadvantages.

After the Elk Mound visit, an article pertaining to the block schedule was placed on the high school webpage. A paper copy of the article was available for parents who attended the parent teacher conferences on February 22. A copy was placed in the folders of the parents who attended the 8th grade and/or sophomore meetings. The article has been sent to the Pittsville Record. The article outlines the benefits of block scheduling and invites parents to the informational meeting pertaining to the block schedule on March 21 at 6:00 PM.

In the process of building the block schedule, Mrs. Backaus and I found a number of benefits which were not available in the 8 period day. First, a traditional year long course is completed in a semester with the block schedule. If a student fails a class such as English 9 or Algebra 1, that student can be scheduled to take that class during the second semester. This option was not available in the 8 period schedule. The second benefit involves the student who has a strong interest a content area, such as math. A freshman could take Algebra 1 first semester and, if numbers permit, could take Geometry as a freshman second semester. Again, this option was not available to students in the eight period schedule. Next year, we will have students taking Pre-Algebra first semester. These students could then take Algebra 1 second semester and take Geometry as a sophomore. This allows students, to for lack of a better term, "to catch up". Previously, for a student who begins with the Pre- Algebra, it was almost impossible to take Pre-Calculus, Calculus, or College Math as a senior. The block schedule will allow a student who begins in Pre-Algebra to have access to these higher level courses.

It is hard to believe that the winter sports season is nearing completion. The girls' basketball team began regional play on Tuesday, March 6, at Onalaska Luther. Track season began on Monday, March 12. Softball and baseball can begin practicing on March 19. If weather permits, the first softball and baseball games are set for Thursday, March 29, at Neillsville. The third quarter ends on Friday, March 23. The grade check for athletic eligibility will occur for spring sports on Monday, March 26.

FBLA Regionals were held on February 5th at Stevens Point. A total of 42 PHS students competed in events with 8 students placing high enough to qualify for the State Leadership Conference to be held in La Crosse on April 2-3. Students who have qualified for state are: Nathan Amundson (3rd) Impromptu Speaking, Abi DeWilde (1st) Client Service, Nikki Dietz (4th) Sports Management, Thomas Hughes (2nd) Healthcare Administration, Breanna Kumm (3rd) Intro to Business, Stephanie Schuster (1st) Business Law, Sam Solatycki (1st) Hospitality Management, and Rachael Totzke (2nd) Intro to Business Communication. If these competitors place in the top two at State, they will then earn the right to represent Wisconsin at the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Junior, Sam Solatycki, not only entered the Regional Leadership Conference as a competitor but also as a candidate for Regional Vice President. Sam was elected to this office by students from the 23 different schools in attendance. Sam will be sworn into his office at the State Leadership Conference and will begin serving his term as a state officer.



PHS students pose for a picture with "host" students prior to leaving after an informative and enjoyable day at Elk Mound High School. Parents, students, and community members are again invited to join PHS staff on Wednesday, March 21st at 6:00 PM in the HS Library for an information session regarding implementation of the block schedule at PHS.

Pittsville FBLA Competes at Regionals

The Pittsville Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America began its competitive season on Saturday, February 4, at Ben Franklin Middle School in Stevens Point. Pittsville had 42 students enter as competitors in business related events, ranging in everything from Accounting to Digital Video Production to Public Speaking. PHS students had their most successful Regional Leadership Conference as 8 students advanced on to state which takes place in April in La Crosse. Students who have qualified for state and will be representing Pittsville at State include Nathan Amundson (3rd place) Impromptu Speaking, Abi DeWilde (1st place) Client Service, Nikki Dietz (4th place) Sports Management, Thomas Hughes (2nd place) Healthcare Administration, Breanna Kumm (3rd place) Intro to Business, Stephanie Schuster (1st place) Business Law, Sam Solatycki (1st place) Hospitality Management, and Rachael Totzke (2nd place) Intro to Business Communication. If these competitors place in the top two at State, they will then earn the right to represent Wisconsin at the National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Besides being busy focusing on their competitive events, Pittsville students were also busy campaigning for one of their members to be elected to state office. Junior Sam Solatycki not only entered RLC as a competitor, but also as a candidate for Regional Vice President. Sam was elected to this office by students from the 23 different schools in attendance. Sam will be sworn into his office at the State Leadership Conference and will begin serving his term as a state officer. Good luck to all the competitors as they get ready for state and thanks for a great RLC to all FBLA members.

PHS Forensics Team to State on April 21st

On Saturday, March 10, the PHS Forensic Team competed at the WHSFA District at East Junior High in Wisconsin Rapids. Students speak/perform in three rounds, and participants need two scores of 20 to advance to State. A perfect score is 25. The PHS team had five perfect scores with the entire team qualifying for further competition. The team was accompanied by their coaches Ms. Sarah Freedlund and Mr. Stephen Hadfield.

Names of the competitors and their scores are as follows: "Beauty and the Beastly Children" Jenna Sanken, Audrey Meis, Morgan Frost 23/23/23, Farrago: Sophia Schwanebeck "Immigration Literature" 21/22/23; Group Interpretation: "Homework" Shelby Clark, Mariah John, Marissa Ortner, Jen Quinnell 21/25/22; "Gingerbread Girl" Savanna Buchli, Anna Johnson, Janessa Masanz, Brittany Schwanebeck 21/23/20; Oratory: Nathan Amundson "Small Business Regulations" 22/20/21; Poetry: Calvin Amundson "Reading" 23/23/23; Rachael Totzke "The Chaos" 19/20/21; Prose: Shelby Freedlund "What Would Jesus Do" 23/23/25; Megan Piotrowski "Boy" 20/25/23; Rachel Neve "Oh, Romeo" 25/21/25; Anna Schwanebeck "Prozac Nation" 21/24/21; Play Acting: "Homeland Insecurity" Jamiee Arnold, Hailey Metcalf, Harley Metcalf, Kollette Morrison 21/16/21; and Radio: Taylor Pralle 24/20/20.

Skyping? Spanish?

With the help of Terry Reynolds the Spanish classes in Pittsville, we have the opportunity to skype with English classes in Argentina taught at a private school by Marisel Gallardo. Skyping is basically a video phone conversation. Currently they are on summer break. We haven't skyped since before Christmas Break but as their break ends soon. We expect to resume skyping by April. We have skyped in the Spanish 3/4 class as well as the 2nd year classes.

Usually one of classes chooses a topic to ask about and the other class answers. If it's us it is in Spanish; if it's them it is in English. A few times there have been issues with the internet but we adjust. Some of our topics have been pastimes, favorite food and activities; we talked about what we used to do and different rules for our culture such as driving ages and jobs.

Our students feel that they have learned so much more about another culture, and it's better than reading a book. They have greatly enjoy this activity and many relationships have been formed with the students in Argentina through Facebook or email. The world grows smaller every day. These are great relationships to see develop.

Advanced Chemistry Class Produces Biodiesel

During the third quarter in advanced chemistry students are required to choose and design an individual laboratory research project. For her project Hannah Marti chose to produce biodiesel from various forms of oil, including canola, olive, and vegetable oil. After producing the biodiesel she compared moisture content, soap content, and purity of the fuels. At this point in her project she decided to expand its scope to determine the viability of extracting oil from soybeans grown on her family's farm and producing biodiesel from the extracted soybean oil.

Classmates Jennifer Quinnell, Steph Schuster, Nikki Dietz, and Tory Palmer, who had finished their own projects, willingly assisted Hannah in the preparation of the soybeans and extraction of the oil. The project was a great opportunity for the students to apply practical problem-solving and engineering skills.





Pittsville Elementary School News

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome Spring! The beautiful weather means the end of another successful year is nearly here. However, we have much to do yet. As I write this, we are looking forward with anticipation to our second annual Learning Fair. When you read this, the Learning Fair will be in the history books. However, I bring it up here because this event is just one of the many great examples of the opportunities our students have to take charge of their learning. Students choose a topic of their interests, research it, and then prepare a way to communicate what they have learned with others. As we prepare our children for successful adulthood, we need to provide them with experiences to communicate their learning. There are some that believe technology is the only way to do this. I agree it is a tool to do so and foster that usage. However, actual listening to the students and sensing their excitement over what they learned is---how does the commercial go---"priceless".

Another opportunity coming up that will offer an opportunity for students to explore their interests is summer school. Classes focus on enrichment offerings. We are still working on our courses and look to get the brochure and registrations out by mid-April.

Last year, we began a school garden. The district looks to continue that initiative. If you would like to volunteer your help in this endeavor, please call the elementary school.

Coming up---block scheduling in the junior high. The Strategic Planning Committee has highly encouraged our adoption of this initiative based upon positive academic results across the country. We are excited to research this initiative to determine how best it can be implemented with our older students.

So as you can see, Pittsville Elementary is always moving forward. I'm hoping we will all get aboard for the great ride!

Hoping the blessings of spring--warm breezes, gentle rains, spring flowers, new tree buds, earthworms, and planting--fill your days of spring.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sondelski, Elementary Principal

Golden Awards

January Winners

Golden Pencil Award: Mrs. Moore's 7th hour class

Golden Spoon: Looping Classroom

Golden Dustpan/Broom: NONE

Golden Book Award: Mrs. Neve's 3rd grade

Golden Present Award: Mrs. Neve's 3rd grade

Golden Slipper Award: Mrs. Heinzen's Kindergarten

Golden Table Award: Mrs. Niehaus' Kindergarten

Golden Slide Award: Mr. Sanken's Kindergarten

Panther Diner winner is.... Mrs. Neve's Third Grade

February Winners

Golden Slide Award: Mrs. Kuehn's First Grade

Golden Slipper Award: Mrs. Kuehn's First Grade

Golden Dustpan and Broom Award: Mrs. Niemman's Class

Golden Table Award: Mrs. Brux's Third Grade

Golden Book Award: Mrs. Neve's Third Grade

Golden Pencil Award: Mrs. Niemman's 1st Hour Math Class

Golden Spoon Award: Mrs. Denniston's Second Grade

Golden Present Award: Mr. Schultz's Homeroom

Panther Diner winner is....Mrs. Hautala's First Grade

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.

JUNIOR HIGH FORENSICS FINISHES SEASON

The Junior High Forensics season has come to an end. This year over 60 of the 87 junior high students started the year by preparing forensics pieces. By the time of the first competition, 53 students traveled to Arcadia to compete. For Level 1 forensics, students give their speeches three times to three different judges during the course of the evening. Students must earn two "A"s to advance to Level 2. Forty-nine of the 53 earned the right to compete at DeLong Middle School in Eau Claire on February 23. The Pittsville Junior High Forensics team was just a small portion of the 900 students at this state-level competition. At DeLong, 40 of the 49 students earned blue ribbons, the highest award for junior high forensics in the state. Congratulations to all speakers. To wrap up the forensics season, students will travel to Madison on May 3 to watch the touring Broadway-production of *The Adams Family*.

3rd Grade Investigates Weather and Space



The 3rd graders had the opportunity to learn about weather and space from some experts. Meteorologist Justin Loew and Mr. Science (Bob Wolff), presented a wealth of weather information to our students using technology and an assortment of weather experiments. These presentations helped the children better understand the function of the weather tools that are used and how the different atmospheric factors affect our weather.

Our students also traveled to the UW-Stevens Point Planetarium to visually explore the night sky, constellations, and the solar system. Prior to our trip to the planetarium, the students investigated the different planets that make up our solar system. Each student developed a technology based presentation to share information about a specific planet.

These were the culminating activities for our Weather and Space Units. All presentations engaged, enlightened, and entertained our students!

PTO News...

Spring picture day was held February 15 and 16. The PTO decided to use a local photographer this year, Becker Photography in Milladore. The pictures were great!

We held our 100th day of school item challenge having classrooms bring in at least 100 items including Box Tops for Education, Campbell's soup labels, milk caps and Coke points in order to earn an extra recess. Thank you to everyone who collected - keep it up!!

A very special thank you goes out to all our volunteers who trimmed, counted and turned in each of these items whether you made sure the items were trimmed before you brought them to school or helped with the items once they arrived at school. We truly appreciate your efforts and we couldn't do it without you!

BOGO Bookfair

Pittsville Public Schools Conference Room

Tuesday, May 8 from 8 am to 11 am

Wednesday, May 9 from 12:30 pm to 3 pm

Thursday, May 10 from 8 am to 11 am

Friday, May 11 from 12:30 pm to 6 pm



*Bike Rodeo
Immediately
Afterschool*

We were able to serve Little Caesar's pizzas at the teacher meal held in conjunction with parent-teacher conferences. These pizzas were earned through the fall fundraiser allowing us to provide the meal at no cost to the PTO. Thank you again to everyone who participated in our fundraiser.

The Time For Kids post card program that we just finished was run to help teachers get current events to their classrooms. This is a great tool but subscription rates have increased while classroom budgets have decreased. Thank you to everyone who participated by filling out post cards.

Cookbooks have arrived and are for sale at \$10 each. You may pick them up at Baum's Mercantile, Pittsville Community Library or the Elementary School office. They make great Easter and Mother's Day gifts.

Don't forget Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-11!

Pittsville PTO sincerely thanks each and every one of our community members that support us through your donation of time and/or financial donations. You help us help our staff and students in the classroom.

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

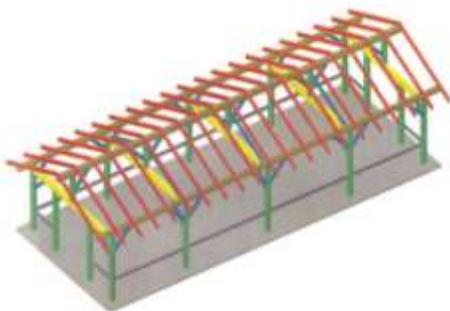
Pittsville Outdoor Classroom Begins

Work has begun on Pittsville's outdoor classroom. In the Fall, Pittsville's School Forest Committee met and decided on a building design. After analyzing several designs, the committee decided to move forward with a timber framed outdoor structure. Timber framing, an age-old elegant building system consisting of large wood posts and beams with interlocking joinery, allows the school to use red and white oak timbers directly cut from the school's 140-acre forest. The trees were felled this winter by Wilke Landscaping and are currently being milled by Kuehn Sawmill & Forest Products.

While the logging and milling process is underway, the Pittsville Building and Construction class has been working diligently to prepare for the arrival of the timbers. The class has built a 1/8 inch scale model of the building to assist in the actual layout and construction of the timber frame.



Timbers will be arriving soon and the class will begin cutting actual joinery. The building is scheduled to be raised early next Fall. If you are interested in getting involved or would like more information, please contact Stephen Hadfield, Technology Education Instructor, at (715) 884-6412 ext. 310. A special thank you to Jodie Wilke and Troy and Dennis Kuehn for their assistance on this project.



Students and Community Help Save Lives

The Pittsville High School Student Council helped sponsor a spring blood drive. The BloodCenter of Wisconsin arrived on the morning of February 17 and accepted donations throughout the school day.

Overall results of the day were good as 46 people registered to donate whole blood and 40 units were collected. There were also 2 people who donated platelets and 2 who donated double red cells at this drive.

Members of the BloodCenter staff notified our school and made mention that they enjoyed and appreciated the congeniality of the donors and volunteer workers. In other words, Pittsville students and community members made a very positive impact on the BloodCenter workers – while still helping to save lives at the local hospital!

Please consider donating throughout the summer months until the Fall 2012 blood drive at the high school. The Pittsville Student Council hopes to see you there!

PHS DRAMA CLUB PERFORMS "JUST ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL PLAY"

The Pittsville High School Drama Club performed Bryan Starchman's comedy "Just Another High School Play" on February 10-12. There were over 20 students involved as actors, crew, costumes, hair, and make-up. Mr. Stephen Hadfield's Building Construction class helped out tremendously by building and 'striking' the set once the show's run was complete.

The play's premise is what happens when student actors show up unprepared on opening night for their play. In a small town like Pittsville, students are spread thin as they try to be involved in as many activities as possible. What will the actors do when the stage manager and assistant director do not even know the name of the play, and their director has skipped town? The drama club must improvise.

Improvise they do...acting out scenes from several great, and not so great, plays from the history of theater. The cast even had to recruit from the audience to round out the actors needed in a scene from "Little Men". We had four wonderful volunteers: Troy Zickert, Tyler Hiles, Preston Fuller, and our own Mr. Shane Lilly!

The play was directed by Ms. Sarah Freedlund and Miss Amanda Lewin.



Math Students Make Contribution to FREERICE - Join with Us

Many of the high school math classes have been introduced to Freerice.com. This website offers a variety of different multiple choice questions including vocabulary, Spanish, famous art, chemistry, math and other foreign language. We are working with the pre-algebra. Students have been challenged to answer one thousand questions correctly by the end of the third quarter. Many students exceeded that goal within the first four weeks and become competitive in being at the top of their class. The cool part is, for every question they answer correctly, the advertisers supply ten grains of dry rice to a starving country. While gaining efficiency in their math skills, students are also helping to care for starving people.

At mid-term, we did a bit of an investigation about what our rice would look like and cost. Students took small samples of rice, counted and massed them, created a graph which they could then use to write an equation for and determine their mass, their class's mass, and the schools mass. From this information, they then used the consumer information on the rice bag to determine the amount of fresh water needed to make their rice and the cost to advertisers for of our 3rd quarter goal school wide.

Unfortunately, it takes a lot more than 1,300,000 grains of rice to make a LOT of rice. Students would like to encourage our community, parents and fellow students to join in this challenge and see what we can all do for a good cause. Please join in the fun, education and donation.

Log on to freerice.com, sign up, create a login and password, search and join the 'PHScommunity' group and then play from there. In order to show the students what you are doing and challenge them with some competition, it is necessary to be playing as part of this group. Your success will be visible to all who have joined the group. Let's create some March Madness of our own and work for those that are hungry.

Questions ????? Please ask a high school math student, email Marlis Downs at downsmar@pittsville.k12.wi.us, or call the high school, 715-884-2594. Join the fun!!!

SOPHOMORES BUSY WITH LITERATURE THEME WIKIS

The sophomore English class has been busy creating wikis, websites developed collaboratively by the class, allowing members to add and edit content. These wikis are created to showcase one of the major themes of literature. The wikis center on various fiction and nonfiction works of literature that the students have chosen. As the students find interesting quotes about characters, setting and theme, the quotes are recorded on the wiki that they have created.

Students can embed various widgets into their wikis to make them more appealing to the views, such as Vokis, Voicethreads, Animoto videos, and Prezis. All of these Web 2.0 tools give students choices on how they want to present their information and allow students to develop their creativity. When the students have finished reading three books based on the same theme, they will create videos to teach younger students about these theme.

If you would like to check out the some of the student wikis, use the QR code below and then follow the link to "student wikis."



FFA NEWS...

2012 PITTSVILLE FFA BANQUET A SUCCESS!!

The Pittsville FFA held its annual banquet on March 20. It was a great success with over one hundred people in attendance.

The Pittsville FFA, which is the most active organization in the high school, handed out several awards to the following people: Matt Lippert received the Honorary Chapter Farmer Award for his continued support of our community's FFA program and help with the Splash of Red Cranberry Tours. While Jessie Robus received the Star Chapter Farmer Award for her participation and leadership in agriculture and outgoing President Hannah Marti received the Gold and Blue Award for excellence in the FFA program the past four years. Julia Peaslee was recognized for being 2012 high fruit salesman. Pittsville High School Principal John Olig gave the opening comments about the importance of agriculture and FFA programs in all the smaller communities.

After the meal, FFA Alumni President Josh Calaway gave comments and discussed the important role that the Pittsville FFA alumni plays in our member's development. He then handed out scholarships to deserving members. Each year, the FFA Alumni has given up to \$2000 in scholarships to FFA members. FFA member Calvin Amundson recited the FFA Creed. Connor Coyle presented her prepared speech she gave at the District Contest, while the office team each reflected on the past years successes, which included Food For America Program, State and National FFA Conventions, Washington Leadership Conference, Central Wisconsin Fair (Pittsville FFA had the most exhibits this past year), Meat and Labor Auction, Cranberry Tours, State FFA Degrees and Choir members, FFA Week and Ag Olympics. State FFA Officer Alyssa Molychzk from Stratford gave an inspirational speech about how the FFA Organization has helped her grow. FFA President Hannah Marti gave her retiring address.

We would like to thank all the area business everyone for their donations to helping us make the banquet a success for our members.

Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted.

~David Bly

PITTSVILLE FFA GREENHOUSE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Beginning May 1, once again the Pittsville FFA Greenhouse is selling high quality and low cost plants. All the proceeds from the sale support the Pittsville FFA members in its many activities. You can purchase the plants at Associated Bank, Baum's Mercantile, Harmony Co-op, or stop by the greenhouse. You may also stop by the FFA Alumni Greenhouse between the hours 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM and someone will help you with your selections.

The FFA has hanging baskets of geraniums, begonias, fuchsias, bocopa, and million dollar babies. Hanging basket prices are the same as they have been for the past 14 years (\$10 for a 10" hanging basket & \$12 for 12 inch hanging basket). We have all kinds of plants for your planting and highlighting. We have pansies, geraniums, Sweet Williams, alyssum, wave petunias, sun flowers and much, much, much more.

Please continue to support the FFA members and their efforts.



FFA Alumni Treasurer Jenna Okonek presents Pittsville Superintendent Terry Reynolds a check from the Pittsville FFA Alumni.

For the next five years the Pittsville FFA Alumni has pledged 20% of their profit from their various fundraisers in support of the new greenhouse built this past summer. The Pittsville FFA Alumni believes in the importance of agriculture education and the Pittsville FFA in students lives. This past year, the Alumni organized the June Dairy Breakfast at Mitch & Kelly Perkl's Farm and the community-wide annual Meat & Labor Auction in October. This past year the FFA Alumni has helped sponsor FFA members to the Washington DC Leadership Conference, State FFA Convention in Madsion, the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana and sponsored \$2000 worth of scholarships for FFA members wishing to continue their education.



District Excited About Growing Farm to School Program

Pittsville's Farm to School program took a couple of giant steps forward in January and February. Food Service Director Joe Dostal kicked things off at the end of January when he attended the first Annual Wisconsin Farm to School Summit in Delevan, WI. At the summit, Dostal had the opportunity to learn about how districts across the state are incorporating local, farm fresh foods into school lunch menus. He also presented on Pittsville's Farm to School program accomplishments as part of an expert panel of statewide Wisconsin food service directors currently participating in Farm to School programs.

Dostal headed back to Pittsville loaded with new ideas to incorporate into the district's Get Active Farm to School monthly Harvest of the Month program. For February's Harvest of the Month students sampled locally sourced raw sweet potato sticks, and will try dried cranberries in March. Elementary school students will also go home with Harvest of the Month newsletters with fun facts, recipes and more about the monthly farm fresh products.

In addition, Pittsville agriculture classes will soon begin planting lettuce and other greens in their greenhouses. Those greens will eventually find their way into the school cafeterias so that student's can enjoy their local harvest beginning near the end of March or early April. Find out more about Farm to School in Wood County school districts at getactivewoodcounty.org.

Michelle Goetsch, Media/Communication Specialist
Get Active Wood County Farm to School Program



Students munch on their locally sourced baked potatoes during January's Harvest of the Month taste test.

Get Active Farm to School Americorps members prepare the locally sourced baked potatoes for January's Harvest of the Month taste test.



Health Career Connections

The Health Career Connections program is a unique program for students interested in pursuing a career in the Health Care field. Our current sophomores are applying to the program. They are required to fill out an application, get two recommendations from teachers, and one recommendation from a community member. Students will then be selected to be part of an interview process where 24 students from the consortium, that includes Marshfield, Spencer and Pittsville schools, will be allowed to be in the program.

Six juniors are working to meet the academic requirements for the Health Career Program. These students are applying to a Nursing Assistant program at MSTC, they are taking Medical Terminology and Advanced Biology. These students are excited for the opportunity to gain hands on experience in the Health care field next year.

The senior students that are finishing the health program have gained valuable experiences that they are willing to share. When asked what her favorite part of the program was, Nikki Dietz replied "My favorite part of the HCC was the week I spent in the Peds unit. I love working with children. I am looking forward to being in the Birth Center next rotation." Jen Quinell said "Heath Career Connections is a great opportunity to explore all the departments in the medical field. This program narrowed down my options and helped me to pursue a career in pharmacy."

We are very proud of this program and the education is provides to our students at Pittsville. Questions about the program can be directed to Rae Ann Leonhardt.

Counselor's Corner

Important Reminders for Seniors:

1. **Local Scholarship Due Dates:** Please remember to check the due dates for scholarships on the Scholarship Website; most local scholarships are due Friday, April 13th, but some are due sooner.
2. **Complete your FAFSA ASAP:** If you have not already done so, please complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible so you are eligible for more aid. Your 2011 taxes should be completed before you apply for the most accurate information. Applications are available online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> (There is also a link off the HS Counseling website.)
3. **UW Placement Tests Registration:** Seniors attending a UW next fall are asked to take placement tests to determine what classes they should be placed in. Placement tests are administered March-July at numerous UW locations; students can register online at <http://testing.wisc.edu/centerpages/regionaltesting.html>. (There is also a link off the HS Counseling website under the "University of Wisconsin Information" tab.)
4. **Important Dates:**
 - a. Awards Day—Friday, May 25th at 8:00 AM PHS Gymnasium
 - b. Graduation—Saturday, May 26th at 10:00 AM PHS Gymnasium

Important Reminders for Juniors:

1. **Summer/Early Fall ACT Dates and Registration Deadlines:** Students can register online at www.actstudent.org (There is also a link off the HS Counseling website under the "Testing" tab.)
 - a. Test Date: June 9th, 2012—Registration Deadline: May 4th, 2012
 - b. Test Date: September 8th, 2012—Registration Deadline: Aug. 17th, 2012
2. **Apply to MSTC:** 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 and applying early decreases the chance of being put on a wait list. Students need to take the Accuplacer or the ACT as part of the admissions process; the Accuplacer can be taken at PHS, the ACT needs to be taken at an official ACT testing site.

Spring Field Trips:

A special thank you to the Pittsville PTO for helping off-set the transportation costs for many of the junior high field trips that will take place this spring! ☺

Spring Campus Preview Field Trips: Sophomores and juniors are eligible to attend the following campus preview days; information was given out in English classes on 3/2/2012, permission slips and \$ are due back to Mrs. Backaus by Friday, March 23rd.

- a. UW-Stevens Point: Monday, April 9th, 2012—Cost \$5 (bus) plus lunch money
- b. UW-Oshkosh/FABTech/Fox Valley Tech College: Thursday April 12th, 2012—Cost \$10 (bus) plus lunch money
- c. UW-La Crosse/Western Tech: Friday, April 27th, 2012—Cost \$10 (bus) plus lunch money (There is no school on this date; trip will be held if we have a sufficient number of students planning to attend.)

Reality Store: 8th Graders will take a field trip to participate in the "Reality Store" (real life budgeting simulation) event hosted at Marshfield Middle School on Thursday, April 12th, 2012. Information about this trip was given out during 8th grade "guidance" on Tuesday, March 6th and Thursday, March 8th. Permission slips are due back to homeroom teachers by Friday, March 23rd.

Career Expo: Sophomores will take a field trip to participate in the Career Expo hosted by the Portage County PIE in Stevens Point on Tuesday, April 10th, 2012. Students will have the opportunity to speak with representatives from different occupations as well as participate in a mock interview experience. Students will be given information about this trip the week of March 19th in their 10th grade English class.

MSTC/UW-Marshfield Discovery Day: 8th Graders will take a field trip to Mid-State Technical College and UW-Marshfield on Tuesday, May 1st to participate in their Discovery Day Program. This field trip is meant to get students thinking about post-secondary options early as well and introduce them to certain careers they might be interested in. Information about this field trip will be given out after spring break.

LEAP-Ropes Course: 7th Graders and 9th Graders will take a field trip to the National Guard Ropes Course at Volk Field on Thursday, May 31st (7th Graders) and Friday, June 1st (9th Graders.) This field trip is meant to build leadership and teambuilding skills in students through participating in the various obstacle course events. Information about this field trip will be given out in the beginning of May.

Sophomore and Freshman Spring Meetings

All sophomores and freshmen are asked to meet with Mrs. Backaus to discuss current high school goals and future plans. During these meetings, students are also *encouraged to look for ways to volunteer* in their free time and over the summer to begin building a strong scholarship résumé. Students are reminded to continue their career and post-secondary exploration and planning by *using their WISCareers account and participating in a job shadow experience*. Sophomore meetings are held during the month of March with freshmen meetings following in April.

Can I earn college credit in high school? YES!

With the cost of college increasing each year, many students and parents find themselves looking for alternative ways to earn college credits. PHS students have numerous ways to obtain college credits while still in high school; two main options are 1) through examination (AP and CLEP testing programs) and 2) through transcripted and advanced standing credit agreements. Students can also apply to take college/university courses (not similar to courses offered at PHS) through the Youth Options program. For more information about any of the programs mentioned, students and parents are encouraged to visit the **NEW "Earn College Credits in HS" tab** located on the HS Counseling website. Please feel free to contact Julia Backaus, 7-12 School Counselor, with any further questions you may have.

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

Music Department Happenings

“Animal Crackers” Unit – High School Choir. The High School Choir was assigned a big unit study project, similar to last year’s High School Band’s Nutcracker Unit Study, related to one of their choir pieces: “Animal Crackers” by Eric Whitacre. The piece includes 3 short songs featuring humorous poems by Ogden Nash. Make sure to check out our Spring Concert on Monday, April 30th to see the song in action! Also, check out our website to see some of the products of the project.



WSMA District Solo/Ensemble. High School and Junior High Band and Choir students are on their way to District Solo/Ensemble at Spencer on March 23rd! Good Luck to all students. Stay tuned to see the results of that day!

Kids from Wisconsin to perform again in Pittsville. Mark your Calendars for Friday, July 27th at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 and proceeds benefit the Music Program. Check out KidsFromWisconsin.org for more information about the group!

Music Boosters Track Meets - Help Wanted. The Pittsville Music Boosters have very few fundraising events throughout the year. Track Meets are a huge part of how we survive! The Music Boosters will be operating the concession stand at three track meets this spring. We will need at least four or five parents for each two-hour shift (3:30, 5:30, 7:30). Younger children are not allowed in the stand during your shift, so please make other arrangements. If you are able to work any of these shifts, please contact Virginia Federwitz with any questions: 715-884-3262 or momfedz@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, April 10th

Friday, April 20th

Thursday, May 10th

The High School Band is doing amazing things these days. They’re sight reading new music several times a weeks, learning how to improvise music, and rehearsing their concert music, all while preparing for Solo/Ensemble. I’m so impressed with their work in the two years I’ve been here.

The 6th Grade and JH Bands are working on some music literacy skills right now. They’ve been working on worksheets to learn some skills that need to be applied to their music in rehearsals. They’re also both working on the theme song from the hit TV Show: *The Big Bang Theory*.

The Junior High Choir is working hard getting ready for their Large Group Festival performance on April 19th in Stratford. They are performing many songs for that event, including “Die Forelle” (The Trout), a very famous German piece about fishing. And yes, they’re doing it in German!

6th Grade Choir has started a Piano Unit! If all goes according to plan, these students will be able to learn their own song parts someday instead of relying mainly on rote!

Upcoming Music Dept Events

March 23rd District Solo&Ensemble –Spencer
 April 10th TRACK MEET (help wanted)
 April 19th Choir Large Group Festival (Stratford)
 April 20th TRACK MEET (help wanted)
 April 30th High School Spring Concert 8pm
 May 5th State Solo&Ensemble UWSP all day
 May 10th TRACK MEET (help wanted)
 May 15th Junior High Spring Concerts 1:45 & 6pm
 May 26th Commencement (Graduation)
 May 28th Memorial Day Services
 June 2nd Marshfield Dairyfest
 July 4th Pittsville 4th of July Parade
 July 27th Kids from Wisconsin in Pittsville



Choir & Band T-shirts are still for Sale \$10.00!



As always, be sure to check out the Pittsville Music Department Website: <http://www.pittsville.k12.wi.us/faculty/lewinama/>

News from the Library Media Centers

INVENTORIES

A big project was just completed in the High School library. All of the books were reorganized to make it easier for students to find what they want to read. Outdated and damaged books were removed from the shelves and the whole collection was inventoried. The result is an attractive space that highlights new and current non-fiction books and popular fiction titles. This was a huge project well done. Thanks to Mrs. Ashbeck and her volunteer helpers for moving all the books to their new locations. The inventory could not have been completed so quickly without the enthusiastic work of Stephanie Adrian, our new student library aide. Thanks to Stephanie, too.

Stephanie also inventoried the Elementary School collection, scanning every barcode on the books, DVDs, and professional collection. The inventory process revealed the books that are missing and found some errors in our online catalog. We can now see the topics need to be updated, and which titles should be replaced. Spring cleaning has been done in the libraries a little early!

GOLDEN ARCHER AWARD VOTES

Elementary school students recently voted for their favorite of the books that were nominated for the Golden Archer Award from last year. The nominees were:

PRIMARY (Students in kindergarten and early grades)

- *Art and Max* by David Wiesner (2010)
- *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Phillip C. Stead, Erin E. Stead (2010)
- *Here Comes the Big Mean Dust Bunny* by Jan Thomas (2009)
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein (2010)
- *Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion* by Mo Willems (2010)

INTERMEDIATE (Students in middle elementary grades)

- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth* by Jeff Kinney (2010)
- *Framed* by Gordon Korman (2010)
- *The Last Olympian* by Rick Riordan (2010)
- *Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine (2011)
- *No Talking* by Andrew Clements (2009)

MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH (Students in upper grades, middle school, or junior high)

- *Angel* (Maximum Ride Series #7) by James Patterson (2011)
- *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins (2009)
- *The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan (2010)
- *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins (2010)
- *The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan (2010)

The winners in Pittsville were

Art and Max, Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth, and Catching Fire

Our votes have been sent in to the organizers and the state winners will be announced at the WEMTA conference on March 29th.

Nominations for next year will be due in to WEMTA on May 1st. Students, be thinking of the best book you read this year—books that have: 1. *Characters you never forget.* 2. *Plot that is so exciting it keeps you reading to the very end.* 3. *Place described so beautifully that you feel as if you are there.* 4. *Theme so important that it makes you live the book as you read.* 5. *Style: a story told so well that the book sings on in your mind.*

Nominated books must also be recognized as noteworthy and of special interest to students. They also need to be in print and readily available. (published within the last 5 years.) Only Wisconsin students can nominate and vote for the Golden Archer each year. (Teachers and librarians cannot vote!)



Accelerated Reader Tests

The Pittsville PTO again generously donated toward the purchase of AR tests for our school. Over and above the original donation, students were given the opportunity to select the titles they wanted by paying \$1.00 toward the purchase of the test.

The PTO agreed to pay the balance of the cost. (Each AR test costs us \$2.40.) An order for 172 tests was sent and the tests are now available for students, thanks to the PTO and students who paid for the right to select tests. (Just after the tests were ordered a parent came in with another very generous donation for AR tests, so more tests will be ordered very soon!)

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