



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

### ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

*"Preparing them for the future"*

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JANUARY 2020

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## Supt's. Update



Supt. Reggie Engebretson, Ed.D.

We are preparing students for jobs that do not even exist yet. It's kind of hard to get your head around that statement, isn't it? Although, if I think about it, you could have said the same thing when I was an elementary and high school student. I can remember people having party lines where several people shared the same phone line. If you needed to use the phone, you had to check if others were on the phone talking before you started dialing on your rotary phone. I never imagined a world like we have today where most people have their own cell phone that fits in their pocket and has more knowledge than many of us will ever use.

I recently attended a workshop about computer science. Computer science is the study of computers and the processes and principles used to make them do useful things for society. There was time for discussion and future planning in the workshop which helped me to understand the importance of working towards ensuring our students are exposed to computer science. By exposing our students to computer science we will help them be prepared for future jobs and careers. Knowledge of computers is fundamental to future careers.

Understanding computers and technology is important for all of our students. Computers and technology help us solve problems big and small. These

*(Continued on page 2)*

***Happy New Year  
to Everyone  
from all of us at  
ISD 2142!***

## Grab and Go backpack program provides schools with safety tools

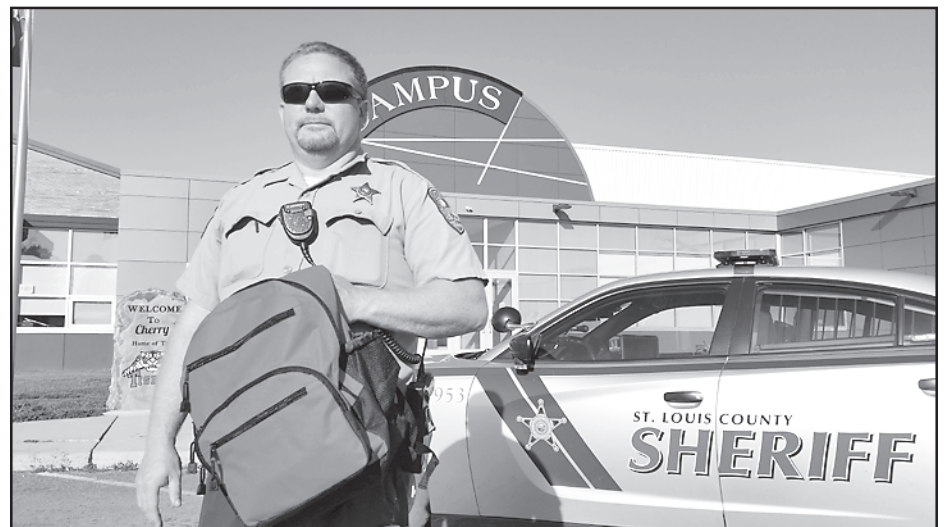
District's school resource officers create first-year pilot program

BY LEE BLOOMQUIST

A new pilot program at ISD 2142 schools is providing staff and students with a variety of new safety options in case of an emergency. The "Grab and Go," backpack program equips every ISD 2142 teacher and administrator with a backpack full of health and safety items for use within schools or at school-sponsored activities.

"It's designed for the teachers to have another tool in the tool box," said St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Deputy Brock Kick, a school resource officer (SRO) at Cherry, Northeast Range, and Tower campuses. "It's a tool kit that we can utilize in the classroom. It's something that can be used for a fire, a fire drill, a tornado drill, for an intruder in a building, for medical events, or for field trips. It has items in it that the teachers may need."

Deputy Kick came up with the idea for the backpack program with support from the district's other two resource officers, Pat Olson and John Barrett. Kick led the initiative, securing sponsors



St. Louis County Sheriff's Office Deputy Brock Kick, an ISD 2142 school resource officer, displays a "Grab and Go" backpack at the Cherry Campus.

along with assembly and distribution of the backpacks.

About 200 of the backpacks were packed in August 2019 at United Way of Northeastern Minnesota offices in Chisholm by a group of about 20 ISD 2142 teachers, administrators and school resource officers. The backpacks were

implemented on day one of the 2019 school year at all district schools.

"To me, giving teachers this backpack of essential items gives them another tool to use in the event we have an emergency situation," said Reggie Engebretson, ISD 2142 superintendent. "Because we are

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Winter Fun

Join us for an evening of Winter Fun in January!

**We want to get you on our list for Kindergarten!**

**Who:** Children entering Kindergarten in the fall 2020 & Parents or Guardians

**Information will be:**

Cherry: Thursday, January 9 4:30-6:00

South Ridge: Wednesday, January 15 4:30-6:00

Northeast Range: Tuesday, January 21 4:30-6:00

North Woods: Thursday, Jan 23 3:15-4:45

Tower-Soudan: Tuesday, January 28 3:15-5:00

**We don't want to miss you!**

If you are not receiving information from the school by mail, please contact your school to get on the list!





# Grab and Go backpack program

(Continued from front page)

trained in A.L.I.C.E. (alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate), which empowers teachers and students in their classroom to make decisions during a lockdown situation, this backpack gives them additional resources whether they choose to stay in the classroom or escape.”

Within the backpacks are items that can be used for multiple emergency situations, said Kick.

Included in each backpack are a basic medical kit, tape, rope, scissors, writing utensils, notebooks, a clipboard, and other items. Backpacks uniquely designed for nurses’ offices and shop classrooms are equipped with additional items like tourniquets.

“A conversation was happening at one of the schools and it was brought up to be able to put things like this into the classrooms,” said Kick. “The idea of putting it in a backpack to make it portable was brought up, so we started running with it.”

With help from the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, a grant from Essentia Health and donations from Target in Virginia, Menards in Virginia, Virginia Fire and EMS, and Tower Ambulance Service, the program was launched.

After the backpacks were assembled, school resource officers held a training session with district teachers.

“It’s been positive feedback,” said Kick. “The teachers have been very supportive and very on board with it.”

Teachers are wearing the backpacks during fire drills and other school activities, said Kick. The kits are set up in convenient spots within classrooms, giving teachers and students a mobile first aid kit and a new emergency option to utilize,” said Kick.

School resource officers, the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, ISD 2142 St. Louis County School Board, and St. Louis County Board, are all supportive

of the program, said Kick.

“We always say to kids, ‘Have a fun, safe, successful school year,’ said Kick. This backpack program is part of that philosophy.”

The backpack program is just one example of how school resource officers are each day committed to helping in a positive way within ISD 2142 schools, said Kick. ISD 2142 school resource officers continually look for ways to create safer schools, build relationships with students, staff, administration, and contribute to the success of students, he said.

“We’re not here just for security,” said Kick. “There’s so many things we do to help with the kids, help the staff and help the administration We’re here to help.”

SRO work is gratifying, said Kick. Within each school, SROs serve as informal counselors, as mentors to students, as guest speakers in classrooms, and as needed as law enforcement, he said.

“We enjoy working with kids and enjoy helping the youth,” said Kick. “It’s a very rewarding job. It’s fun. I enjoy coming to work and working with staff and youth. This project was just one that was thought of. We decided it would benefit the buildings and it was a great project to work on. As SROs, we’re always going to be looking at what can we do to make the buildings safer, what can we do to educate the youth, and what can we do to help the environment keep going in a positive direction.”

Superintendent Engebritson says she is thankful to all those who worked to develop the backpacks.

“I’m very appreciative of all the work Deputy Kick did to make this vision a reality and for all the support of the businesses in the community and the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota,” said Engebritson. “This was truly a team effort and I am so grateful!”

# Dr. Reggie Engebritson ... (Continued from front page)

problems and solutions shape the world around us. Our students’ different backgrounds, perspectives, and abilities have value in the work they will do in the future. By exposing ALL of our students to computer science we are teaching them how to solve problems that affect us, right where we live.

When you are reading this, we will be planning classes and the schedules for the 2020-2021 school year. We are working to provide more classes in the trades so that more students have exposure to skills that can allow them to get good-paying jobs right out of high school. We are also evaluating the rigorous classes needed for those students going on to four-year colleges. We need to prepare students for any college experience they will have and also prepare those students who will go right into a trade without any college. By incorporating computer science into many of our classes, we expose more students to the skills of prob-

lem solving, creating and building. These are the skills that are needed now and into the future.

It’s an exciting and challenging time to be an educator. Teachers are no longer the keepers of all knowledge who share that knowledge with their students. We have students who are understanding computer science faster and better than some of our teachers. We have students building robots while we have adults still learning how to use their cell phones. Teachers need to be willing to learn alongside their students and to explore with them. I am continually encouraging our teachers to think outside the box and to try new ways to reach our students. Our teachers are responding and we are seeing some amazing things happening in our classrooms. They know that we need to be creative and work together to prepare our students. We are all learners here.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERING TWO BUS TRIPS

### The Music Man– Saturday, April 25, 2020

- Cost \$140/person includes deluxe motor coach (restroom on bus) fare, lunch at Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, and show ticket.
- Limited to 30 people.
- Pick up (6:15 – 7:30am) and drop off (7:30 – 8:45pm) at 3 locations: Cherry School, Village Inn Restaurant (Virginia), South Ridge School. Additional pick-up/drop-off locations are possible upon prior request. Brief stop at Tobies in Hinckley on the way down and on the way back.
- **Reservations and payment due by 5pm Wednesday, March 25, 2020.**

### University of MN Arboretum– Saturday, May 16, 2020

- Cost \$98/person includes deluxe motor coach (restroom on bus) fare to Chaska, flower pot lunch (box lunch, served in a flower pot with seeds that can be taken home), self-guided tour, 1-hour guided tram tour (3-mile, open-air tram ride through the gardens), and 10% discount in gift store.
- Limited to 30 people.
- Pick up (6:15 – 7:30am) and drop off (7:30 – 8:45pm) at 3 locations: Cherry School, Village Inn Restaurant (Virginia), South Ridge School. Additional pick-up/drop-off locations are possible upon prior request. Brief stop at Tobies in Hinckley on the way down and on the way back.
- **Reservations and payment due by 5pm Friday, May 1, 2020.**

Please contact your local Community Ed Coordinator for an itinerary, more information, or to register for either trip. Contact information for the coordinators can be found below in the article titled “Community Ed Seeks Your Ideas, Knowledge, and Talent.” Students 17 and under must be accompanied by a responsible adult. No children under age 5 allowed in Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.

## Community Ed Seeks Your Ideas, Knowledge, and Talent

If you have knowledge about a topic or a talent for something fun, please consider sharing it with your community. Community Education would welcome you as an instructor. You may volunteer your time, or use the opportunity to make a little extra cash. Ideas for class offerings are also welcome. Please contact your local coordinator:

**Cherry**– Carol Andrews  
candrews@isd2142.k12.mn.us  
218-744-5392

**Northeast Range**– Joe Kaufenberg  
jpkaufenberg@isd2142.k12.mn.us  
218-827-3101 ext 4419

**North Woods**– Denise Parson  
or Connie Harju  
dparson@isd2142.k12.mn.us  
218-666-5221 ext 5110  
charju@isd2142.k12.mn.us  
218-666-5221 ext 5311

**South Ridge**– Lenny Johnson  
srce@isd2142.k12.mn.us  
218-345-6720

**Tower-Soudan** – Amy Banks  
abanks@isd2142.k12.mn.us  
218-753-4040 ext 8444

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS 2020-2021

*It will be here before you know it!*

Will your child be attending the Preschool in 2020-2021? If so make sure we have your contact information. Please call or email DaNeil at 218-749-8130 or dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us or contact ECFE staff at each school to get on our mailing list – you can leave us a message! Please include: parent and child’s name, child’s birthday, address, phone number and email.

This program is for children the year before they go to kindergarten. Children must be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2020. Children must participate in Early Childhood Screening. Immunizations must be current. Priority is given to residents of the St. Louis County School District.











The Northeast Range Lego League full team.

## NER Lego League Team

Northeast Range School sent its very first Lego League Team to an all-day tournament at the Hermantown Middle School on Saturday, Dec. 7. The NER team was among 32 teams who competed. The team had to design a robot which could complete "missions" on a table based on solving problems found in the world. They were judged on their design and programming, as well as how well they could accomplish these missions during a 2.5 minute competition. They were also judged on a presentation of their own identified

problem and how they would solve it, along with their definition of Core Values that consisted of teamwork, impact, discovery, integration, fun, and inclusion.

This program integrates STEM and is a precursor to the Robotics program that has been very successful at NER. Coaches for this team were Mrs. Peitso, Mrs. Klatt, Mrs. Mackai, and student mentor Ethan Zaitz. Although the team did not place in the top 10 to compete in sectionals, they proved to be a good contender for future meets.



Lego practice table.

**VISIT OUR  
PARENTING RESOURCE  
PAGE AT:**

<http://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Early Childhood Screening is provided by the school district **free** of charge and is **required for entrance in kindergarten and is required for participation in preschool**. Screening offers a snapshot of your child's health and development and it is recommended that children be screened around age 3-1/2.

Please contact us to have your name placed on the list so that you receive all information related to screening. We will need the child's name and birthday, parent name, address, phone number and an email. You can call 1-218-749-8130 ex 1116 to leave your information on the voice mail for DaNeil or you can email the information to [dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us)

As always, if you have concerns about your child's behavior or development, please contact DaNeil or any of the Early Childhood teachers at your local school. We are here to help!



Early Childhood families at Cherry School celebrated the holiday season. They enjoyed several fun activities such as creating ornaments, playing games, playing with Play-doh and in the sensory table, decorating a cookie for a snack, making reindeer food, and, of course, visiting with Santa.





# GET CONNECTED. GET HELP.

COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL | FREE | ACCESSIBLE 24/7

Contact 211 today for expert, caring help with food, health care, housing and utilities payment assistance, employment services, veterans' services, childcare, crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, and more.

2-1-1

United Way of  
Northeastern MN

United  
Way

Call 211 for immediate assistance or visit [211.org](http://211.org) for more info.



# Money Raised for Local Family Results in Teachers Being Pied



In one week's time, North Woods High School raised \$535.32 for a local family who recently lost their home in a fire. In addition to the main goal of helping the family, students were incented with the opportunity to pie their advisors if their class raised the most money. The senior class was declared the winner, having collected \$245.64. On December 13, class advisors Ms. Hinrichs, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Olson, and Mrs. Lamwers were "pied" by the senior class officers in front of the high school student body. Thank you to the North Woods Student Council, LEOs, and NHS for coordinating this fundraiser and to everyone who participated!

## North Woods NHS Welcomes New Members

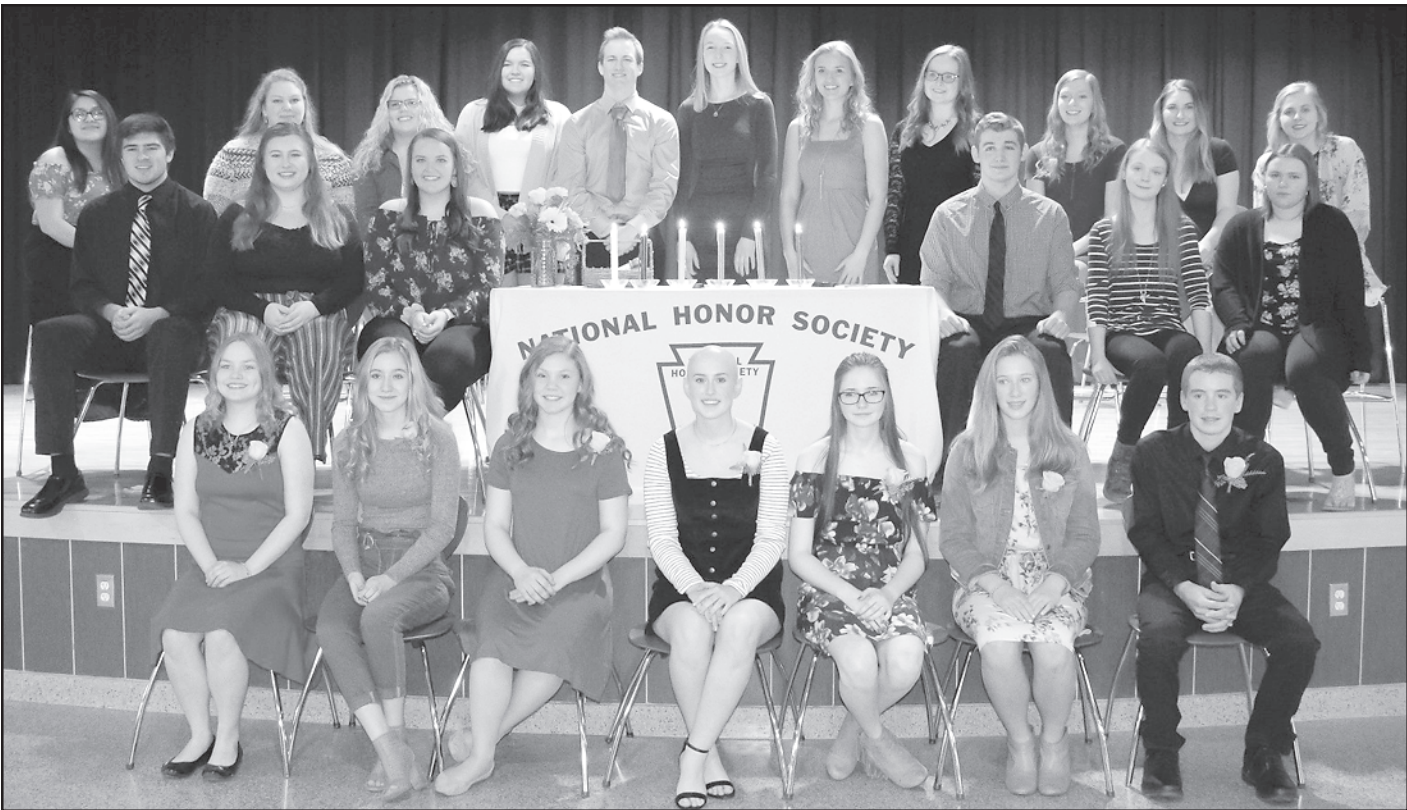


On December 4, 2019, the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held at North Woods School for the following new members: Brielle Anderson, Morgan Burnett, Alex Hartway, Abby Koch, Michaela Luecken, Olivia Udovich, and Brandie Walker. The ceremony was hosted by the seniors of NHS, with the help of the juniors. After the induction ceremony, members enjoyed cake and punch with their families. Congrats to the new members!

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARDS



Jaylen Strong from Bois Forte Heritage Museum recently visited the Tower-Soudan School to present the awards for Student of the Month. Mr. Strong explained the importance of Native American Heritage Month. Students and staff at Tower-Soudan Elementary wish to thank Mr. Strong for sharing his time and his knowledge with them, and for presenting these awards.



Pictured above are all members of the 2019 National Honor Society at North Woods School.

### Help us build our Early Childhood Mailing List!

Do you have a child under the age of 5? If so, we would like to add you to our Early Childhood mailing list. Please call or email DaNeil at 218-749-8130 or [dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us)

Or you can contact your school Early Childhood team and ask them to add you to the Early Childhood mailing list. We need: Parent and child's name, child's birthday, address, phone number and if you have an email we would like that too!



# TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF THE CHERRY TIGERS MARCHING BAND



After an 11-year break, the Cherry Tigers Marching Band program has returned! The 90-member band of rookies took to the streets to learn how to march. At first, the students were hesitant to try such a new thing, but they grew to love and appreciate marching. The Marching Tigers performed in the Bayfield Apple Festival Parade in October and in the Virginia Twilight Holiday Parade in November. The community was ecstatic to see the marching band return and reminisce about the glory days under director Wiegert's leadership. We look forward to re-establishing the marching band as a lasting tradition at Cherry School.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION!

Kindergarten Registration will be handled through our Preschool Programs. If your child is not attending our preschool program, please make sure we have your contact information so we can make sure you receive paperwork and information to register your child for Kindergarten. Please call or email DaNeil at 218-749-8130 or [dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us](mailto:dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us) or contact your school to get on your school's Early Childhood census list. We need: Parent and child's name, child's birthday, address, phone number and if you have an email we would like that too!

**REMEMBER: KINDERGARTEN IS ALL DAY,  
EVERY DAY  
AND THERE ARE NO FEES TO ATTEND!**



Students in Mrs. Chopp's and Ms. Thompson's Learning Readiness classes at North Woods School enjoy an afternoon with their families. Students invite family members to "Cards & Cookies," their classroom holiday party. This is a fabulous event for families to join in some fun with their child while decorating cookies and making cards together.



## LETTERS TO STATES



Mrs. Mackai's second-grade class at Northeast Range School broadened their horizons this past fall by sending letters to tourism departments and chambers of commerce from different states asking for information about their specific states. This enhanced their social studies unit in studying maps and the boundaries of the United States. They also learned how to properly fold a business letter, seal an envelope, and apply postage for the mail. The class received and shared information from every state that was contacted. Pictured is the class ready with their letters to be sent in the mail.

## Parent's Corner

*Check out the Parent's Corner on Facebook!*

This is a new site for parents!  
We are in the process of building the page to include more resources and information for parents.  
At this time we invite you to join our group!  
Look for us on Facebook at Parent's Corner,  
St. Louis County Schools ISD #2142

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# Cherry Preschool Class Studies Trees



Students from Ms. Deb's Cherry School preschool class studied trees this past fall. They went to the Clinton Town Hall to explore the woods through a scavenger hunt. Students looked for trees they could hug and those they could not, trees that were taller than they were and those that were smaller, trees with leaves and those with pine needles and, finally, they looked for things that were red, orange, or brown. Along the way, they looked for other things in nature they found interesting. They collected those items of interest and brought them back to their classroom for further investigation and learning.



Cherry School preschool students enjoyed studying about trees this fall.

# NEW GUITAR COURSE OFFERED AT CHERRY



Thanks to generous grants provided by Lake County Power and Walmart, the Cherry School now offers an introductory guitar course. The grants were used to purchase guitars, cases, tuners, and footrests. There has been a lot of interest in the class, which includes some students who are enrolled in band and many who are completely new to music. The students have visited elementary classrooms many times to share their music. The new class is a great opportunity for more students to get involved in music, as the school hopes to continue expanding musical opportunities for students.



The ALI Industrial Maintenance class at Cherry School recently completed this cool project using steel which was donated to the shop program by L & M Radiator. Students learned CNC plasma cutting skills, welding, grinding, and planning skills. They were proud of the end result and hope to work on more projects like this one. Without donations, however, students would not have opportunities like this, so thank you, again, L & M Radiator.

**"Small Schools With Big Opportunities -- Where Everybody is Somebody!"**



# VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



Cherry preschoolers stand by their art work showing thanks to our Veterans. The students' flags were displayed around a sign that read, "Red White Blue, We Thank You!!!"

# ‘How the Penguins Saved Christmas’



Students at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School rehearsing for their program “How the Penguins Saved Christmas.” The kids helped each other memorize their lines and the words to the songs. Pictured are Nico playing the role of Santa who has lost his memory due to an accident with his sleigh, and Kellin the “Emperor Penguin” who is using his power to help Santa regain his memory. The program was a great experience in teamwork!



.....  
• VISIT OUR PARENTING RESOURCE PAGE AT  
• <http://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>  
• .....

# NER COMMUNITY THEATRE

The Fall 2019 theatre season at North-east Range School started off with the contemporary Christmas carol "Humbug High" by Lindsay Price with Theatrefolk Publishing. The holiday themed show marked the 19th production for NER Community Theatre, directed by Joseph Kaufenberg (Mr. Joe). Students as young as second grade shared the stage with

high school students and local community members. "This show gave us an opportunity to try some different technical theatre techniques with lighting and sound," said Kaufenberg. "The students really did a wonderful job. They brought the characters to life and surprised the audience with a little holiday spirit."



Cast of “Humbug High” with Director Mr. Joe. Performances were December 6 and 7, 2019.



Students participate in the limbo during the performances of “Humbug High.”



## BUILD A CHILD A LIBRARY BY AGE 5!

Donations to United Way of Northeastern Minnesota support our local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program!

To sign up a child you know for this FREE program, contact 218-254-3329 or [info@uwnemn.org](mailto:info@uwnemn.org)



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