



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

“Preparing them for the future”

Visit our Web Site at: www.isd2142.net

JANUARY 2022

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Cook, MN
PERMIT NO. 7

Postal Customer

IND. SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142
1701 NORTH 9TH AVENUE
VIRGINIA, MN 55792

Superintendent's Update



Supt. Reggie Engebritson, Ed.D.

Kids don't get a do-over. I believe I've said this before when I've written these articles and the principals have certainly heard me say it many times. What do I mean by this? What I mean is that if a kid misses out on learning in the second grade, for example, we don't call a time out and have that kid do second grade over. Or if a kid misses out on participating in an activity, we typically don't get to go back and re-live that opportunity.

Since March 2020, kids have missed out on a lot of things. And we will never get to go back to March 2020 and redo

all of this time over again. There will never really be a "pre-pandemic" time. We have no idea how long this pandemic is going to last and kids are growing up and education is changing and staff are coming and going and life is going on and moving forward. It is what it is.

I am certain that people will write about this time we are living in and what education looked like during the pandemic. People will do studies about how the pandemic affected the education of many children and what the negative and positive consequences were for children and teachers. And parents. And our communities. We have all been affected.

As we continue to live in a world of change and uncertainty, there is one thing I know for sure. Relationships matter. Relationships have always mattered, but because of the isolation that the pandemic brought us and the ability to provide distance learning and countless meetings via Zoom, we have missed out on having people in the room with us, on shaking hands when greeting and giving hugs or pats on the

(Continued on page 2)

Check and Connect Program re-engages students in school and community

By Lee Bloomquist

A new program designed to help students improve academics, attendance and behaviors, is already showing promise. The Check and Connect Program is a three-year, federally-funded program that focuses on re-engaging students in their education.

"I'm hearing some promising things happening with the kids in the schools," said Paula Stocke, St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services deputy director. "There are relationships that are forming."

Over the past two school years, students across the nation faced a variety of challenges as distance learning, social disengagement, and a lack of activities such as arts and sports resulted in some students falling behind in school. Even with most schools back to in-person learning, some continue to struggle with re-adjusting to school. Within all of St. Louis County, \$5.4 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding has been allocated to help students cope with those challenges through the Check and Connect Program.

ISD 2142 took the lead in implementing the program at its Cherry, Northeast Range, North Woods, and South Ridge campuses. It also helped develop the program at other schools within St. Louis County.

"They (ISD 2142) actually ended up being the host for the other schools in the north," Stocke said. "They did a lot of hiring for other districts and being the host for the mentors. I think Reggie (ISD 2142

Superintendent Reggie Engebritson) is a real trail blazer in a lot of respects."

Engebritson said the program provides another resource to help reach more students. "The research is clear that building relationships with students is the key to helping them be successful in school," Engebritson said. "We have many students with needs and by adding another resource to our current systems of support, it will allow us

(Continued on page 2)

Congratulations, Jezlyn!



South Ridge School staff, as well as the School Board, Administration, and everyone at ISD 2142, congratulate Jezlyn Abramowski! Jezlyn has received a full-ride scholarship to Brown University and will be the first South Ridge student to attend an Ivy League college. Congratulations, Jezlyn, on this huge accomplishment! We wish you the best and know you will continue to do great things!

PRESCHOOL 2022-2023 REGISTRATION



Preschool registration information will be mailed out in February to all families on our Early Childhood census. If you want to be added to the census, please call and leave DaNeil the following information: Child's legal name, birthday, parent name, address, phone number and email. Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2022, to register.



***Wishing Everyone a
Safe, Healthy and
Happy 2022***

from all of us at ISD 2142

CHECK AND CONNECT PROGRAM

(Continued from front page)

to reach more students to help them stay on track toward graduation.”

Under the program, a Check and Connect mentor at each school builds relationships with 25 to 40 students, working one-on-one with each student to set goals in areas such as academics, attendance or behaviors. Lisa Perkovich, Check and Connect coordinator within the northern portion of the county, said the program originated about 20 years ago at the University of Minnesota as an intervention program. Check and Connect mentors, coupled with the district’s student and family advocates and other staff, are providing the support to help each student reach a goal of graduation, Perkovich said.

“The mentor helps the student set a focus goal for the next month such as attendance, grades or behavior,” Perkovich said. “They help the student pick a goal that is manageable and then meet with the student and parents to reach that goal.”

Perkovich works with mentors in 11 school districts at 26 different school buildings across northern St. Louis County.

“I would say it’s more of an opportunity than anything,” Perkovich said of the program. “It’s an opportunity for a school to

partner a mentor with a student to re-engage in the school and community.”

Tower-Soudan Elementary utilizes a student and family advocate and its Indian Education advocate rather than a Check and Connect mentor, Principal John Jirik said. “We do the same thing as Check and Connect,” Jirik said. “We just don’t have the mentor.” Although the program is only in its first of three years, it’s already showing success, he said. “I’ve seen a huge benefit from what we’re doing,” Jirik said. “It’s been very helpful.”

A more detailed evaluation of the program’s success will become evident in year two and three of the program, Stocke said. But she’s hopeful that even after the program ends, schools will find value in keeping it in place.

Engebritson said she’s pleased to have the program in ISD 2142 schools through the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

“I am excited to have this program in our schools and to have the opportunity to have it for three years gives us the time to do the work and collect the data to show the impact it will have on our students,” Engebritson said.

Tower-Soudan Students Thank Veterans



In November, students at Tower-Soudan Elementary School were busy writing thank you notes to veterans in the community. The special notes, along with a few other treats, were made into goodie bags and delivered to the veterans on their special day by staff members. Thank you to all veterans for your service! Pictured: Jack and Audriana are ready to take home a "Thank You" bag to their family members who are veterans!

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

back when leaving. We’ve missed out on just sitting near someone and quietly talking or listening.

While I’m grateful that we have been able to have in-person learning for the majority of the time since September 2020, we still have kids who chose distance learning for most of last year or who missed school for days and weeks, due to the virus. Some kids continued to learn and even excel in their learning and move forward towards graduation. Many kids did not do so well with distance learning or missed out on weeks of school due to the virus and are now behind. Teachers may feel that they need to catch kids up to where kids were at in December of 2019 or January of 2020 – pre-pandemic.

Trying to catch kids up too quickly causes angst for everyone. What we are doing is meeting kids where they are at, wherever they are at, and move them forward. Building relationships is key. While we may have worked with kids over the computer, having them in front of us is different and the relationships need to continue to develop and grow. The research is clear that kids won’t learn if there is not a relationship with their teacher. We all remember a favorite teacher we had in school and the reason they were our favorite is probably because they showed us that they cared and they made us feel important

and special. That’s the work we are doing every day.

As we continue to move forward in this school year, I can’t predict how the virus will affect us. I’m hopeful that we can stay with in-person learning and continue to stay the course that we have been on since the start of this school year. Each day is a new day with opportunities for continued growth in both academics and non-academics, for trying new things, and for mastering things we have learned. Each day is an opportunity to build our resiliency skills while we live through a pandemic. We will get to the other side of this pandemic. I don’t know when, but we will. My hope is that when we do, and the articles and books are being written about education during a pandemic, we can say that we gave our kids every opportunity possible, given the circumstances. That no matter how much learning they missed or didn’t grasp, we met them where they were at with their learning, built a relationship with them, and moved them forward as we prepared them for their future. Because kids don’t get a do-over, we are working hard, every day, to make the most of the time we have with them. We are in partnership with you – parents, guardians, community members — to help our children become the best they can be as they head into a future we can only imagine.

Online Ticketing

Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, all Minnesota State High School League State Tournament Tickets will be sold online. The website to purchase tickets is: www.mshsl.org/tickets. Tickets will be added to the page as they become available for each tournament.

Student = Grades K-12

Non-school-age children are admitted free at general admission events only. (Boys Class AA Hockey, and Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving are reserved seating events; therefore, everyone must have a ticket except children who have not yet had their second birthday.) No Senior Citizen Discounts

MSHSL
State Tournament Tickets
Online

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE


All tickets must be purchased online
www.mshsl.org/tickets

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

Tower-Soudan Halloween Party



Tower-Soudan School kids were excited to participate in the annual after-school Halloween party in October. The afternoon was filled with creative costumes, snacks, games, and fun! Thank you to the Tower Soudan Fireman's Relief Association and area businesses for sponsoring a great time for kids!



October VIPP Party at South Ridge (Very Important Panther Person)



Pictured are South Ridge School Very Important Panther Paw winners who recently had lunch "on stage" with special guests ... two members of the Alborn Fire Department. Panther Paws are given to students who demonstrate the 3Rs ... be Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn. Pictured above are K-Ready, Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade students. Pictured below are 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th Grade students.



Cherry School's 'Reading Wall of Fame'

The following students became members of the Cherry School "Reading Wall of Fame" by the end of November: Declan Clark (K), Niko Asuma (K), Andrew Peterson (1), Deegan Pittman (1), Jed Asuma (1), Michael Perpruner (1), Preston Pew (1), Zoey Biles (1), Natalie Kempainen (1), Levi Lind (1), Boden Boyer (1), Charlie

Peterson (1), Grace McNickle (3), Hank Peterson (3), Isaac Wiita (4), Radlee Cooper (4), Eden Besemann (4), Hayden Lehman (5), Quinn Fischer (5), Brooklyn Alesch (5), Josie McNickle (6), and Natalie Halley (6). Students had to read books and take AR quizzes to earn 40 points. Their pictures are posted in the main hall at the school. Cherry School is so proud of its Reading Tigers!



‘AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM’

Northeast Range elementary students are learning more about food using a new integrated curriculum encompassing “Agriculture in the Classroom.” One Wednesday each month, students rotate throughout five different classrooms learning about foods. Each month features a theme food. Students have studied apples, pumpkins, and soybeans and learned from activities that fall into the categories of literacy, science, math, STEM, and art. They are learning how each food item is grown, harvested, and available to eat from the farm to their plate. December’s theme food was cranberries and included in the day was a special visit from a Wisconsin cranberry farmer.



Students work on a craft project that highlights the life cycle stages of an apple.

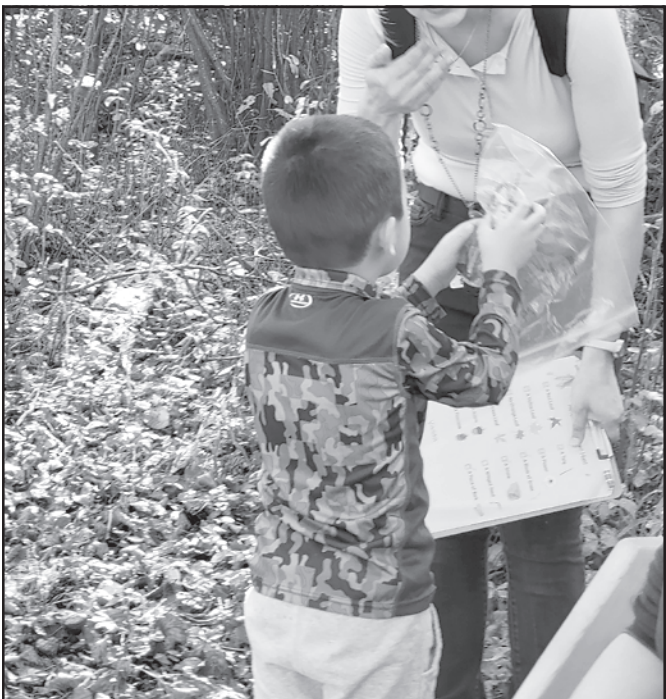


Students look for soy products in foods.

Cherry Preschoolers show Tiger Pride!



Pictured, Cherry preschoolers and parents enjoy a warm day exploring the school forest, looking for signs of Fall and items on a scavenger list. After enjoying the outdoors, they returned to their classroom to enjoy ice cream sandwiches from the PTSO for being one of two winning grades in the Homecoming poster contest and showing Tiger Pride! The preschoolers and parents then enjoyed reading books together.



Cherry Preschoolers Visit Local Animal Shelter



Cherry preschoolers recently studied and learned a lot about pets. Their study included a field trip to the Range Regional Animal Rescue Shelter. Students learned how to care for a pet, how to approach an animal, and what the workers at the shelter do. Students also completed a "civic duty" assignment by collecting donations of items from the shelter's wish list. Preschoolers and their families donated over 136 pounds of puppy/dog food, over 15 pounds of dog treats, 20 pounds of kitten/cat food, a ream of paper, laundry soap, hand soap, cleaning products, cat litter, and \$115 in cash.

NER Students Tour Virginia Companies



Industrial Tech students from Northeast Range School toured Komatsu and RMS Tritech in Virginia. Students learned about safety, different positions in local industry, and how each facility plays a role in our economy. Thank you to both companies for taking time out of the workday to invest in the next generation!



‘Aladdin and His Magic Lamp’ performed at Cherry School

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre and Cherry Community Education presented "Aladdin and His Magic Lamp" on Friday, November 5, in the Cherry School gym. The roles of the Genie of the Lamp and the Evil Magician were played by the PFCT traveling directors, Jeremy Day and Sam Bolar. Other leading roles were played by students Lucas Schiele, Aladdin; Jacelynne Stachovich, Princess Serena; Emma Incontro, Zanda; Heidi Nelson, Harmonia; Dannie Filipovich, Sultan; and Samantha Melhus, Vizier. A total of 40 students participated in the production. Students did an amazing job learning their lines, the music, and dance steps, all in just five days of intense practice. Prairie Fire Children's Theatre provided all of the charming sets, props, and costumes for the production.



Aladdin played by Lucas Schiele.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING



Early Childhood Screening is provided by the school district **free** of charge and is required for entrance into 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.

If you are not on our Early Childhood mailing list, please contact us so we can add you and your child to the list so that you receive all information related to screening. We will need the child’s legal 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 dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us or you can contact the ECFE or preschool teaching staff at your school.

As always, if you have concerns about your child’s behavior or development, please contact us! We are here to help!

North Woods Art Club takes Field Trip to Minneapolis



The North Woods School art club took a field trip to the Van Gogh Immersive Experience in Minneapolis. This experience provided the opportunity for students to learn about Vincent Van Gogh and the style of expressionism, inspiring ideas to bring more colorful murals and projects to their school/ community.

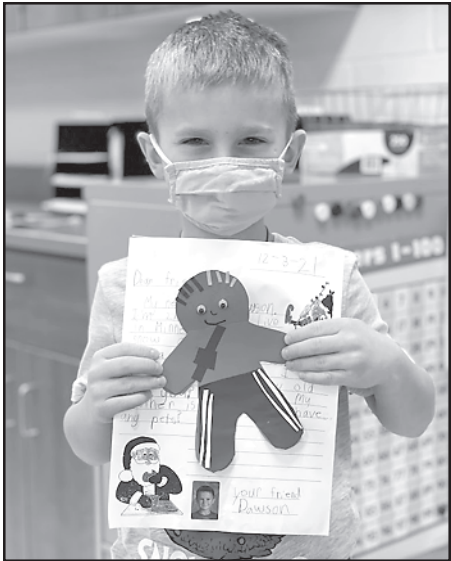
Northeast Range Community Theatre



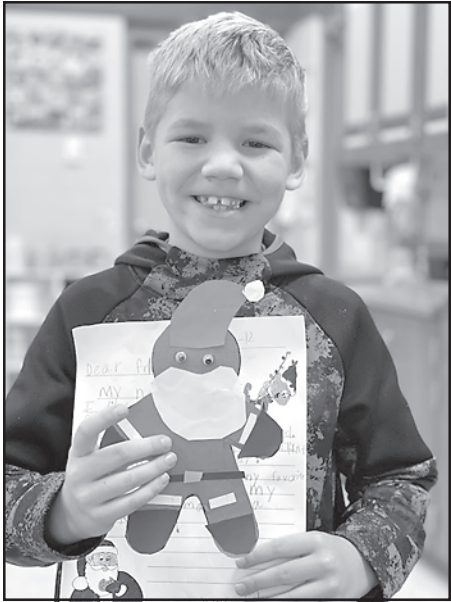
December was a great month for the Northeast Range Community Theatre program. The troupe put on an amazingly entertaining show for the local communities. The talented cast performed "Meet The Creeps" by Tim Kelly at the Northeast Range School auditorium. Spectators of all ages enjoyed the show immensely. Said Mr. Joe, as he is affectionately called, "It was a privilege to see these young people grow and mature as actors throughout the many weeks of rehearsal. I am super proud of all their hard work and dedication to this craft. Bravo! See everyone in the Spring."



South Ridge students write to pen pals



Second-grade students at South Ridge School were recently busy writing letters to their new pen pals from the second-grade classes at Hillpoint Elementary School in Suffolk, Virginia. The students excitedly wrote facts about Minnesota and about their plans for the holidays. They also asked their new pen pals lots of interesting questions. Each student designed and decorated a gingerbread man which they sent with their letter. Students are anxiously awaiting a return letter from their new pen pals.



SOUTH RIDGE HOSTS COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR



South Ridge School recently hosted a College and Career Fair for all students grades 7-12. In addition, juniors and seniors from Cherry School were invited. More than 30 colleges and career representatives participated, making the event very successful.



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

Tower-Soudan Music Program



Pictured are Tower-Soudan students, ready for their December 16 music performance for family and friends in the school gym. Students learned fun and festive songs, dance moves, and musical instruments.



KINDERGARTEN 2022-2023



Kindergarten registration information will be mailed out in February to all families on our Early Childhood census who are not attending preschool. If you want to be added to the census, please call and leave DaNeil the following information: Child’s legal name, birthday, parent name, address, phone number and email.





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.

Call 211 for immediate assistance or visit 211.org for more info.

2-1-1

United Way of
Northeastern MN

United Way

TOWER-SOUDAN ‘BRAIN BREAK’

Tower-Soudan elementary students enjoy a "brain break" with a trip outside on a beautiful winter morning!!

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

‘Turkey Hunt’ at NER

The CNC and Manufacturing class at Northeast Range School set up a "turkey" hunt for Thanksgiving. Kindergarten students successfully used clues to track down the bones around the school and assemble the "turkey." Some of them figured out it was likely a T-rex, but the debate continues. (See pictures below)



ECFE – Early Childhood Family Education

Classes are offered at all of our schools for children and their parents before the child goes to kindergarten. Some classes will be in person for parents and children, and other classes will be held virtually for parents and children together, and also parent only virtual classes.

If you have questions about ECFE, please contact the ECFE staff at your school! We are here to support you as a parent! Please reach out!



School	Staff	email
Cherry	Lori Udovich, Parent Educator Jocelyn Jerkovich, Child Educator	ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us jajerkovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us
North Woods	Becky Chopp, Child Educator Lori Udovich, Parent Educator	bchopp@isd2142.k12.mn.us ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us
Northeast Range	Gena Flank, Child Educator Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator	gflank@isd2142.k12.mn.us shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us
South Ridge	Christina Nelson, Child Educator Sara Lorbiecki-Brown, Parent Educator	chrisnelson@isd2142.k12.mn.us slorbieckibrown@isd2142.k12.mn.us
Tower-Soudan	Mary Larson, Child Educator Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator	mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us



Pictured are members of the CNC and Manufacturing class at Northeast Range School who set up a "turkey" hunt for Thanksgiving.

Parents — We are here for you!

Check out the Parenting Resources section on our website at <https://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>

Four newsletters that are changed monthly along with a parent involvement library full of short brochures on a variety of topics parents are interested in

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 and leave a message for DaNeil at 218-749-8130 ex 1116 or email her at dsirjor@isd2142.k12.mn.us

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