

# The MOSINEE LINK

Volume 31, Number 5  
March, 2016

*A link between the district and its citizens.*

## Attend an Informational Meeting - Join the Facilities Conversation

by **Dr. Ann Schultz, Superintendent of Schools**



Please take a look at the upcoming dates of our Community Informational Meetings and Tours. You have the opportunity to come into our facilities and see first hand what our needs are. Our schools are owned by you, the taxpayers of our community. We have spent a year and a half studying our facilities with a team of engineers and our community members. We have thoughtfully and conscientiously, put together a comprehensive plan that solves our critical short and long-term needs. We have opened our discussion up and have invited the entire community to be a part of developing a solution. We are all on one team, a team that is sincerely dedicated to providing an excellent education for our children. By taking the time to review every inch of every building, we have determined together, how we can move our district forward and provide our community a well-designed comprehensive solution. Being good stewards of facilities that ranges in age from 1922-2007 is a greater challenge than you can imagine. On an annual basis, our facility and equipment needs simply far exceed our budget. We have applied for and received thousands of dollars from Focus on Energy grants which have allowed us to upgrade to LED lights and increase the efficiency of our pool pumps. However, the costs to upgrade our 1960 heating units and to replace the plumbing and floors that run throughout our facilities in the 1922, 1939, and 1960 sections, is well beyond our budget. Wrapped in asbestos our floors and piping cannot simply be replaced by our staff. Once asbestos is disturbed it must be removed by specialists. Each time we run into a plumbing issue, our costs rise due to removal of the hazardous materials found in our facilities.

Several months ago, I received a call that sewage was coming up in our science classrooms. From student text messages,

to staff phone calls, I was appalled that our students and staff would have to endure such problems in the classroom. We have not had the opportunity to develop a comprehensive solution, instead we apply fixes that will only be temporary due to the high costs of asbestos removal and a complete piping replacement. Our science classroom sinks, faucets, and cabinets are beyond repair and need to be gutted and completely renovated. When a toilet fell completely off the wall in the boys' bathroom, I was not surprised to see the rotting and aged pipes that have given way and will no longer hold our fixtures to the wall. What you and I cannot see is that behind our walls and under our floors is infrastructure that needs to be completely renovated. When we recently analyzed our paper towel costs and wanted to change over to hand blowers, we quickly determined that we could not support the electricity necessary to convert to energy efficient blowers. As we brought in additional tools for our high school tech ed. classes, we again faced electrical issues that need a long-term solution. Our 1960 exterior brick is in need of professional repairs due to cracking and will need a solution to prevent further deterioration. Our high school gymnasium bleachers are a serious safety concern and are beyond the life expectancy. Our sky lights in the 1965 section are beyond salvaging. We have boilers that need to be replaced. This past month, we were forced to pick-up space heaters to keep our classrooms warm. I ask you to please, come to a Community Informational Meeting and Tour to see for yourself the challenges we face. Or take the time to look through the CESA 10 Facility Audit that was completed on our facilities and is located on our website. We have welcomed your input, appreciated your thoughts and ideas, and have listened to your voice in developing a solution for our community. As we get closer to our April referendum, I ask you again to be a part of the conversation and help us define the future for our schools. ❖

### Have questions or need more information about the Mosinee School District Referendum?

**Check out our website:**

[www.MOSINEEMATTERS.org](http://www.MOSINEEMATTERS.org)

**Contact Dr. Ann Schultz, Superintendent:**

Email: [aschultz@mosineeschools.org](mailto:aschultz@mosineeschools.org)

Phone: 715-693-2530

**Attend an Informational Meeting and Tour:**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

6:00-8:00 pm Mosinee High School Cafeteria

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

8:30-10:00 am Creske Center Lobby

**Thursday, March 10, 2016**

6:00-8:00 pm Mosinee High School Cafeteria

**Wednesday, March 23, 2016**

6:00-8:00 pm Mosinee High School Cafeteria

**Monday, April 4, 2016**

6:00-8:00 pm Mosinee High School Cafeteria

#MOSINEEMATTERS  VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

# Teachers and Support Staff of the Year Selected

The Mosinee School District is proud to announce the 2015-16 Teachers and Support Staff of the Year:



**Lori Hodgson** is the Mosinee Elementary School selection for Teacher of the Year. She is a dedicated, hardworking, and positive third grade teacher who always goes above and beyond her daily responsibilities. She is the district's School Forest Coordinator and provides meaningful activities for students to learn about animals, the forest, and life-long outdoor activities. She is involved in the PTO, District Wellness Committee, and a variety of community organizations such as the Girl Scouts. Lori is an outstanding educator and puts in countless hours to make learning fun and meaningful for kids.



**Hiedi Omernik** has touched the lives of the entire elementary school family. She has a positive attitude that is contagious. She is involved in a multitude of school and community activities as well as many behind-the-scene activities that benefit some of our neediest students. Hiedi has demonstrated that she can go from housekeeper to secretary to teacher assistant in an instant without missing a beat, which makes her one of the most-valued employees at MES.



**Julie Soczka** has been chosen Teacher of the Year by Mosinee Middle School. She is one of the few people in the building who teaches all grade levels. She makes it a point to know every student and builds a personal relationship with each. Julie teaches fourth grade music, fifth grade music, sixth grade choir, seventh grade choir, eighth grade choir and General Music. And that is just during the school day. In addition, she provides vocal lessons to the many students who wish to participate in Solo and Ensemble or the Variety Show, and spends countless Saturdays at school making recordings of songs to help her students learn the music they are working on. She is an active adjudicator for the Wisconsin State Music Association and takes classes every summer to help her become a better teacher for her students.



In addition to her regular duties of supervising study halls and working in the main office of Mosinee Middle School, **Cindy Jirgl** has taken on the added responsibility of secretary to the school counselor and has become an integral part of the scheduling process. She is an amazing ambassador for MMS as she greets students and parents each morning in her role as crossing guard. She comes to work every day with a smile

on her face and a "can do" attitude which is why Mosinee Middle School selected her Support Staff of the Year.



**Kelly Zywicki** is Teacher of the Year for Mosinee High School. She is a huge asset to the district not only in her classroom where she teaches Foods 1, Foods 2, Fashion Analysis, Interior Design, and Design Principles, but also through her desire to provide more opportunities for students. She has restructured four classes, updated curriculum, and partnered with Madison Area Technical College and Fox Valley Technical College to provide dual credit for students. She wrote numerous grants for equipment, spearheaded food drives, staff breakfasts, sewed football uniforms, and repaired student clothing emergencies. In addition to her teaching duties, Kelly initiated a Mosinee High School chapter of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). The group has made it their mission to give back to the Mosinee community. The Helping Hands Mitten Project has provided more than 200 pairs of mittens to middle and high school students and made a donation of more than \$2,000 worth of winter apparel to Mosinee Elementary School for student use. This past year the organization hosted "A Day with the Easter Bunny" and held drives for school supplies, cans, winter coats, and food all donated to various charities within Marathon County. Kelly has also lead her FCCLA students in competitive events at the state and national level bringing home 40 gold and silver medals. The success of these students is a reflection of the dedication and commitment Kelly has provided to both the school district and the community.



**Kerri Leszczynski** has been an integral part of the Mosinee School District since 1995. She has subbed in all three buildings, worked as an assistant in the middle school special education program, and for the last eight years has worked to transform the high school IMC into an environment where students want to come and access its resources to the fullest. She manages and schedules the use of four large laptop carts and two chromebook carts for use by the high school and middle school staffs. This year, in addition to her "regular" job she helped coordinate room times, student codes, and teacher access for all standardized testing. Not only is Kerri the face of the IMC, she is also advisor to the Library Club, coordinates Battle of the Books, and is continually finding exciting, innovative, and stimulating ways to pull students toward books and technology. She encourages students to share their enjoyment of books in many creative ways -- including an annual "Peeps Contest" in which students create dioramas using marshmallow peeps. She also organizes an Art Contest sponsored by the Library Club. MHS is very fortunate to have Kerri on their team. ❖

# District Shorts . . .

## Mosinee Board of Education Notes

At the **February 16, 2016** regular Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the following:

- minutes from the January 18, 2016 regular Board of Education meeting, and the January 22, 2016 special Board of Education meeting
- monthly voucher list and treasurer's report
- second reading of newly revised School Board Policy 241 - Technology Director, first readings of newly revised School Board Policies 133 - Unexpired Term Fulfillment, and 236.5 - Associate Elementary School Principal
- elimination of School Board Policy 133-R - Procedures for Appointing Board Members
- three field trips: HS accounting students to Chicago, IL and Milwaukee; HS DECA students to Nashville, TN; eighth grade band students to Minneapolis, MN
- new high school courses: 21st Century Innovation and Chromebook Repair
- preliminary cost estimates for possible summer construction projects
- Technology Director and sixth grade Communications teacher hires
- changing an ES health assistant position from temporary to permanent

In other business, the Board:

- accepted a check for \$16,800 from the Mosinee PTO for student enrichment in all three schools
- accepted an ES specials teacher's retirement letter
- heard updates on the MCAA sports complex, the referendum, teacher compensation meeting, and IT Specialist hire
- heard reports on board meeting postings, WASB, CESA 9
- in closed session, the Board approved a 1.5% increase in compensation for salaried, support, and administrative staff

The next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 7:00 pm** in the **District Educational Service Center**. The public is invited to attend. ❖

## Third Grade Presents Concert - March 4

Mosinee Elementary School third grade students invite you to attend the concert "Americans All" on Friday, March 4, 2016 at 1:30 pm in the Creske Center auditorium. The concert celebrates America's multicultural heritage. Students worked on a family heritage project in art class and created a homemade instrument both of which will be on display at the concert. ❖

## MES Receives Meemic Foundation Grants

Mosinee Elementary School teachers, **Tina Buchberger, Chris Olson, Allison McCarty, Donna Nelson, and Amber Garbe** were each awarded a \$100 grant from the Meemic Foundation to purchase books for student use through Scholastic Books. To receive the grant, teachers were asked to describe what the books would be used for, what types of books would be purchased, and how students would benefit from the grant. ❖

## PTO Corner

At its February meeting the PTO:

- approved a donation of \$16,800 to the district from the proceeds of the Fall Fundraiser
- announced that Bill Peterson of Clubs Choice will attend the March PTO meeting to answer fundraiser questions
- drew the February winners of the Support the Classroom program: **Molly Newville, David Ley, Michelle Wirth, and Lori Hodgson**

The next PTO meeting is **Monday, March 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm, in Room C124 of the elementary school.** ❖

## 4K Students Automatically Enrolled at MES

Beginning this fall, students currently attending 4K in the Mosinee School District will automatically be enrolled in five-year-old kindergarten at Mosinee Elementary School for the 2016-17 school year. This is a change from what has been done in the past and means parents/guardians no longer need to come in to register their 4K student for five-year-old kindergarten.

If you know your child **will not** be attending Mosinee Elementary School for the upcoming 2016-17 school year, please call 715-693-2810 as soon as possible. ❖

## Open Enrollment Dates - Feb. 1 - Apr. 29

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has announced the dates for public school Open Enrollment for the 2016-17 school year. If you would like your child to attend a different public school next year, you must apply to the school district of choice between **February 1 and April 29, 2016.**

**Late applications will not be accepted.** Parents may apply in one of two ways: online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oe> or directly to the nonresident school district. For more information please contact: DPI, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841; toll free at 888-245-2732; email at: [openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov); or visit their website at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/oe>. ❖

## MES Family Literacy Night - March 3

Mosinee Elementary School invites the families of 4K through third grade students to participate in an evening of literacy and art on Thursday, March 3, 2016. A Polito's pizza dinner will be offered from 5:30-7:00 pm for \$3.00. The evening's events kick off at 6:00 pm with art by MES students. There will be guest readers sharing some of their favorite stories and stop by the gym for the Bucket of Books raffle. ❖

## Students Develop Decision-making Skills

Integrated English 11 students worked on deliberative decision-making skills with **John Greenwood**, a retired Merrill school counselor, now working with the Wisconsin Institute of Public Policy and Service at UWMC. Based off themes presented in "The Crucible," students identified an issue they wanted to address -- 'treating and responding to others with respect.' Using Mr. Greenwood's method, they worked in small groups to determine possible appropriate responses and actions. ❖

## Community Outreach Classes

For more info contact Michelle Pozorski at 693-2550 Ext. 3696.

Class	Begins	Day	Sess.	Time	Loc.
Growing with Seeds	3-8	Tu	1	6:00-8:00	MHS
Value in Your Closet	3-8	Tu	1	6:00-7:00	MHS
Basic Tortes	3-19	Sa	1	10:00-2:00	MHS
Your Family History	3-22	Tu	1	6:30-7:30	MHS
Skin Care Models	3-29	Tu	2-4	by appt.	Oasis Spa

## MHS Receives Accounting Grant

For the second year in a row, MHS accounting students will benefit from a \$2,000 WIPCA Accounting Career Awareness grant secured by their instructor, **Leah Bruess**. The goal of the grant is to provide students an opportunity to explore financial careers in government, public trading, public accounting, and sports. This year, 28 accounting students will travel to Chicago to tour the Willis Tower, the Chicago Board of Trade building, and the Money Museum. They will visit with accountants and financial advisors from one of the Power Four accounting firms, Price-waterhouse Coopers, LLP. They will then travel to Milwaukee to meet with the Bucks corporate staff and learn about business operations, basketball operations, sponsorships, and corporate sales. They will also enjoy a Milwaukee Bucks game. ❖

## Griesmer Shares Experiences/Book



*MHS alum, Russell Griesmer, spent a day with graphic arts classes sharing his educational and professional journey to become an art director for Capstone in Minneapolis. He also shared his book, "My Hometown," which references landmarks of Mosinee and the surrounding area.*

## Mosinee Empty Bowls Event - March 12

The Community Center of Hope is hosting the second annual Mosinee Empty Bowls event on Saturday, March 12, 2016 in the MHS cafeteria. The event, featuring bowls created by MHS and MMS students for a donation of \$10, will start at 11:00 am and end at 1:00 pm. There will also be a can sculpture contest for any organization or club that would like to participate. ❖



## March Calendar of Events

- MOSINEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
 3 Family Literacy Night - 5:30-7:00  
 4 Third Grade Concert - Audit. 1:30  
 14 PTO Meeting - ES Room C124 - 6:00  
 24 End of Qtr. 3 - Early Release 12:40  
**25-1 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**  
 26 Day w/Easter Bunny 10:00-1:00
- MOSINEE MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
 4 Spring Picture Day  
 9 Grade 8 Band Trip to Minneapolis  
 18 Grade 5 Art Show/Concert Creske 1:30  
 24 End of Qtr. 3 - Early Release 12:49  
**25-1 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**
- MOSINEE HIGH SCHOOL**  
 1 Boys Basketball - Regionals TBA 7:30  
 3 Girls Basketball - Sectionals TBA 7:30  
 4 Boys Basketball - Regionals TBA 7:30  
 5 Boys Basketball - Regionals TBA 7:30  
 10 Boys Basketball - Sect. (A) Wau. East 7:30  
 14 HS Band Concert - Audit. 7:00  
 15 HS Parent/Teacher Conf. 4:00-8:00

**SPRING BREAK**  
**March 25 - April 1, 2016**

"The Mosinee Link" is published monthly to promote communication and cooperation between district residents and the schools.

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 591 W. State Highway 153  
 Mosinee, WI 54455  
 715-693-2530

## A Day with the Easter Bunny - March 26

Mosinee High School Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and the Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce (MCAA) are partnering to present a Spring Craft Show and Day with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at Mosinee Elementary School. The craft show runs from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Crafters interested in participating in the show should contact the Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce at 715-693-4330 for more information. A Day with the Easter Bunny begins with an egg hunt at 10:00 am followed by face painting, cookie decorating, games, lunch, and pictures with the Easter Bunny until 1:00 pm. ❖

## Volley for DeBroux Fundraiser - March 10

Mosinee students involved in the fishing pole project for Jim DeBroux last year will be hosting a Volley for DeBroux fundraiser on Thursday, March 10 at 6:00 pm in the MHS gym. The public is invited to come cheer on the teams and help raise money for a battery for Jim's fishing pole to extend his time on the water. You can help by purchasing concessions or making a donation. Hope to see you there! ❖

**HS PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2106 • 4:00-8:00 pm**

The Mosinee School District shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, handicap or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law in the educational programs or activities which it operates or in employment practices. All inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination under Title II, Title IX, Section 504 or other state or federal law shall be directed to Richard Lind, Director of Instructional Programs, Mosinee School District, 591 West Highway 153, Mosinee, WI 54455 at 715-693-2530.

**Mosinee School District**  
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