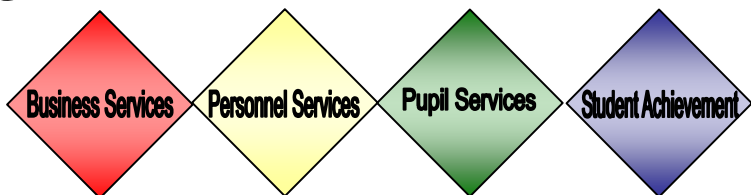




# School District of New London

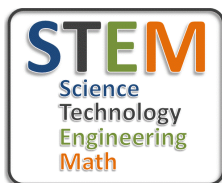


## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: November, 2011



### STEM Strengthens

Out of the energy of Project Lead the Way - Engineering, High School science teacher, Joe Connelly, has initiated a Robotics Team. Although this group was only organized at the start of this school year, they have already realized great success in competition.

In October, the Robotics team took 6th place in the 2D simulation round for Zero Robotics (out of 149 entrants). At the end of this competition, the top 27 will have their programs tested aboard the international space station.

The top 9 programs from the 2D competition (including New London Robotics) were tested on real satellites on the ground at MIT. The results will be used by all teams to adapt their programs from simulation to real world application. Check in with Mr. Connelly for additional details.

### Special Guest Speaker

Lori Menning, high school bilingual teacher, received a fellowship this past summer which allowed her to participate in the summer seminar on Holocaust Education in New York. During this time, she learned of the Adopt a Survivor Program which her students are now participating by writing the biography of Mr. Henry Golde, a Holocaust survivor.

Mr. Golde recently joined Ms. Menning's classroom to share his story and to meet with students for the first in a series of meetings that will take place throughout the school year. His visit has inspired students to write in a way that they never have before.

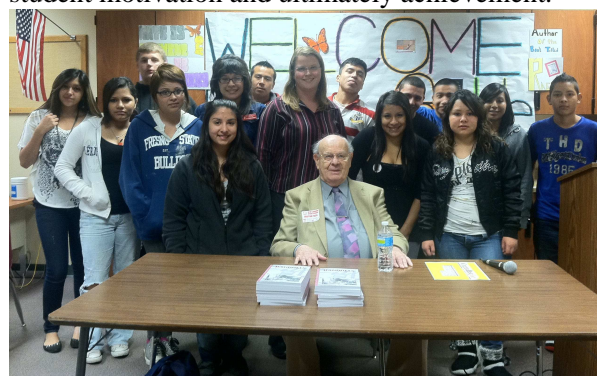
As we work to improve social studies curriculums we will look to experiences such as this which allow relevance and rigor to topics which positively impact student motivation and ultimately achievement.



### Opportunities in STEAM

A team of six high school students along with advisor, Jeff Meske, represented the high school's

STEAM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Math) as they traveled to Indianapolis for the 84<sup>th</sup> annual National FFA Convention. This journey allowed the group to tour businesses and industries such as Sprechers, Ozark Fisheries, and more. Participants showcased Wisconsin products in the *Waupaca County Booth* where they handed out 300 pounds of cheese and 50 pounds of raisins in an effort to highlight Wisconsin agriculture.



### Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 are completing the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam. We will be prepared to send assessments in for scoring prior to the November 25 deadline. Attention to detail and awareness of test security before, during, and after testing has helped to ensure that all students have had the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skill.