

# BULLDOG

News and Views from the School District of New London

## bulletin



## BULLDOGS OF CHARACTER PROVIDE A PATCH OF PUMPKINS!



Festival Foods and Cuff's Berry Farm generously donated pumpkins to our Bulldogs of Character program in the district. The Bulldogs of Character program distributed pumpkins to students via the food pick-up sites in town during school shut down in October. Elementary students in grades 3 and 4 through middle school were asked to decorate their pumpkins and send in a picture to be shared. As you can see by the photos, this event was well received, promoted family fun and creativity.



## SUPERHEROES ASSEMBLE! 5th Graders Learn Perspective Drawing

Fifth grade students have been working on 1 point perspective drawing. To celebrate these superhero-style letters, students in Ms. Evers' afternoon classes were encouraged to dress up as superheroes, either traditional (such as Iron Man) or their own creative superhero (Mrs. Pumpkin Head). Perspective drawing is a skill practiced throughout middle school visual arts curriculum. Learning how to draw and understand perspective is a crucial skill for students to gain. Depth perception is important to understand and it can even save your life. Be your own superhero!





# Adventure Program Celebrates 40 Years of Pioneering Outdoor Education

This fall, the New London High School Adventure program, a class within the Physical Education Department celebrates 40 years of Outdoor Adventure.

In 1980, Jorene Ziebell began a new unit in her classes to provide students the opportunity to gain skills and experience in outdoor lifetime activities. In 1981 Ziebell wrote, applied and was awarded a State title IV-C grant entitled, "Project Adventure" which laid out the core foundation to implement Adventure into the curriculum. What began as a three week wilderness survival unit, has grown over the years into a thriving class and program that supports 3 levels of Adventure curriculum, as well as a Varsity Rock Climbing Team.

Throughout her time in the district Ms. Ziebell offered her students a range of opportunities to experience outdoor lifetime activities. In its earliest years, students who participated in the program experienced such units as camping, rock climbing, cross country-skiing, biking and canoeing. Many of her former students will fondly remember the spring and fall field trips to Devil's Lake State Park and Pop's Cave for two days of rock climbing, rappelling, caving and camping. Others may better remember the trips to Ledgeview Nature Center in Chilton for adventure caving. And still others may just remember the experience of working with their peers in a true team atmosphere that fostered leadership, self-confidence, respect and trust.

The New London Adventure program is and has been a pioneer in the outdoor education world. With the funding from the original Title IV-C grant, New London Senior High (now the middle school), built Wisconsin's first high ropes challenge course out of telephone poles. Later on, the program would expand its offerings with monies from an additional PEP grant. These grants along with other outside sources allowed the generation of the program as it is now.

Another pioneering aspect of the program was the development of a teacher's assistant position. This student position gave credit to students to assist with certain

teaching aspects within the Adventure program. Students who work in the teacher's assistant position need to show competency and expertise in all aspects of the class for which they are assisting. Some examples of responsibilities are teaching harnesses and knots, and supervising zipline transfers. Throughout the years the popularity of this position grew and other departments within the school now have their own adaptations of the position as well.

While Ms. Ziebell retired in 2009, the program is still going strong providing many of the same older opportunities while also branching out into some new ones. Most recently, the program added an Adventure 3 class to its other 2 levels of curriculum. This newest class offers students the opportunity to learn about selecting and maintaining outdoor equipment and vital wilderness first aid skills needed to remain safe in the outdoors.

After 40 years, New London High School remains devoted and excited to offer students the opportunity to experience life through the lens of adventure. When asked to reflect upon the last 40 years, Jorene Ziebell had this to say:

"I am forever grateful as Mrs. Schulz continues to enrich and expand the opportunities for our family of "Adventure" students to embrace the benefits of this multi - disciplinary sensory enriched curriculum.

I applaud the District's continued dedication to maintain the Adventure Program over these 40 years! Wow! To think someone thought it was a mere "circus act!" We have and shall continue to touch the lives and hearts of our youth via the utilization of the out of doors as a classroom along with a "hands on approach to learning." These experiences open a portal to self-discovery, reflection, transformation and a bettering of oneself. Thanks for the memories!"

As a final note, both Ms. Ziebell and Mrs. Schulz would like to thank the many volunteers and the Wisconsin National Guard who throughout the years helped to make sure our activities could happen, and to former students who keep in touch and fill our lives with joyful memories of the program. "On belay?, Belay is on!"





# LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS



This fall students at Sugar Bush Elementary utilized their beautiful outdoor classroom to do all types of learning! Students in second through fourth grades were taught a reading mini-lesson in the classroom and after, headed to the outdoor classroom to independently read and confer about their reading with their teachers. Students looked forward to finding a tree to lean on, some grass to lay on, or just to soak up some sun and fresh air all while working on their reading skills!

Students in kindergarten and third grade at Sugar Bush also took their Science learning outdoors as they released their class butterflies! This is an extra exciting day for students as they enjoy learning about the life cycle of a monarch butterfly and its migration in the classroom, and then get to release their classroom pet into the great outdoors!



# STUDENTS DRESS THE PART FOR RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness campaign. Red Ribbon Week started after the death of Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who in 1985 was brutally murdered by drug traffickers he was investigating in Mexico. After his death, people wanted to honor his sacrifice. Local celebrations began in California – where Camarena grew up – in 1985, and in 1988 the National Family Partnership started the first National Red Ribbon Week.

As a tribute to Camarena during the initial local celebrations, high school friend Henry Lozano and Congressman Duncan Hunter created "Camarena Clubs" and the wearing of a red ribbon to show their opposition to drugs.



At the elementary schools in the School District of New London, Red Ribbon Week focused on healthy living such as exercise, hygiene, diet and sleep. Students had daily announcements and dress-up days as a way to learn about these healthy living habits. Students dressed up in exercise clothes to help remind them to get up and move. They also dressed in blue to remind them to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. One of the favorite dress up days for both staff and students was to wear your favorite pajamas to school as a reminder of how important it is for elementary aged students to get 9 to 12 hours of sleep a night. As always the schools end their Red Ribbon Week by celebrating their Bulldog Pride by wearing Bulldog colors to school which celebrates having a healthy heart and a healthy mind.



# New London Connect - “A School Within a School”

For parents with school-age kids, the coronavirus has made this back-to-school season anything but routine. After a parent survey was completed, it was evident that the School District of New London needed to offer more than a traditional school day to families for fall. After district leaders met, they made necessary adjustments to the instructional delivery and created a “school within a school,” called New London Connect (NLC). This is a virtual option, grades Kindergarten-8th grade, where each child is assigned a teacher and works from home to complete the same core curriculum offered to all students. Students meet “virtually” for some part of the day and the rest of the day, complete lessons provided on a schedule that best meets their needs.

A typical school day provides education and opportunities for children to grow academically, socially and emotionally. These modes of learning were all

taken into consideration in developing the district’s virtual school for students in grade Kindergarten through 8th grade. To begin, each child was provided a Chromebook, a HotSpot, weekly learning materials and teacher support to ensure academic success for all students. Each classroom has carefully built a “Classroom Family” atmosphere where they work on building relationships and supporting kids emotionally through these different times.



## DECA DECA DECA DECA DECA DECA



# DECA Calls an Audible Changes the Play for Trick or Can Drive

The DECA students at New London High School look forward to the annual DECA Trick or Can event each year. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The Trick or Can event usually involves the students dressing up for Halloween and collecting non-perishable food items from the New London community. The collected food is then donated to our local food pantry.

With school being in a different situation this year, DECA students were not able to participate in the traditional Trick or Can event. Normally the DECA students would participate in this event during trick or treating hours but

they have done a great job revamping the event because of the COVID-19 situation. Instead this year, the DECA students kept the Trick or Can event alive by having the different school buildings compete against each other. Each school building in the School District of New London was given a box where school employees could donate a non-perishable food item. The competition was held during the week of October. All the proceeds collected went to help out the New London School District Caring Closet or New London Food Pantry. Even though it was not the traditional Trick or Can event, it was still a great success to help out the New London community.





# American Legion Auxiliary and NLHS Join Forces

The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is “to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.” The mission of New London High School is “to ensure all students become responsible, contributing citizens who are college and career ready.”

Recently, these two missions overlapped. Each year, New London’s American Legion Auxiliary and the New London High School Freshmen Academy join forces to promote the Auxiliary’s annual Americanism essay contest. This past school year, the Auxiliary asked students (and all of us) a question worth answering: “How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?” Each New London ninth grader brainstormed ideas, wrote a rough draft in his or her American & Global Studies class, and submitted a final, 450-500 word essay. Ten were chosen as the top essay writers: Renna Amaral, Katie Behling, Brooklyn Fuerst, Kelsie Hamel, Trevor Harris, Evan Keding, Autumn Martin, Andrew Nehring, Jack Roland, and Olive Stein. Members of the local Auxiliary read through the submissions and selected the top three -- Jack Roland (3rd place), Brooklyn Fuerst (2nd place), and Olive Stein (1st place). The Auxiliary awarded \$20, \$15, and \$10 to the top three. In addition, Stein’s essay was entered in the statewide contest, and she was awarded second place in the State of Wisconsin.

In her essay, Stein proposes two ideas that could help improve the mental health and well-being of veterans and their families. First, she recommends that veterans suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder should be provided with service dogs or other companion pets if possible. “It has been reported that less than 40% of military members suffering from PTSD seek treatment,” writes Stein. “Dogs could break the stigma preventing them from asking for help.” She adds that trained dogs can cost thousands of dollars, but fortunately many private charities have stepped in when the government has not. “Expanding these programs, perhaps making them part



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**OLIVE STEIN** was selected as the New London High School Freshmen Academy’s top American Legion Auxiliary Americanism essay writer for 2020. Her essay on the topic “How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?” was awarded second place in the statewide contest. Olive is the daughter of Nicolas and Heidi Stein. [photo provided by the Stein family]

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of Veteran Affairs, would give all that want a canine companion the ability to have one.”

Stein’s second recommendation is that more mental health professionals should be hired to assist U.S. servicemen and servicewomen during and after their service. Stein notes the prevalence of military sexual trauma (MST). It has been estimated that 20% to 43% of female service members experience such trauma, while studies outside of the military have reported rates that range as high as 71%. Stein accurately notes, “It’s important to have counselors where they live because their provided counselor could literally save lives.”

When asked about her essay and her focus on canine companionship and female mental health, Stein describes a source of her motivation. “I have an aunt and uncle who fought in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and I respect them for their hard work and sacrifice. The both attended West Point, became officers, and commanded other young Americans willing to serve our country. I feel that our society owes all of them once they finish their service.”

The New London High School Freshmen Academy thanks all local American Legion Auxiliary members for their leadership and involvement in this worthwhile project; teachers Brian Mathu, Kris Dalen-Bard, Rachel Gard, and Karen Bennett for their work; and all ninth grade students for their ideas and contributions.



# IS THAT APP SAFE?

## INTERNET SAFETY INFO FROM NLPD

With so many unknowns this school year, one thing we can count on is our children will spend an increased amount of time on electronic devices. With that in mind, the New London Police Department wants to remind everyone of the risks involved when using electronic devices such as Chromebooks, cell phones, tablets or any device which connects to the internet.

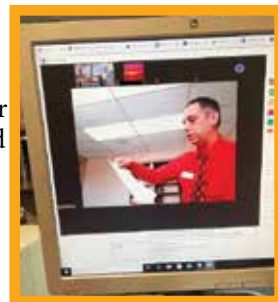
As a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the most common question asked is what is the most dangerous app my child will have on their phone. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer. There are roughly 2.2 million apps available on the Apple Store, and 2.8 million on the Google Play Store. Even an App such as Pinterest has dangers associated with it. There are copycat apps, or apps developed in China for example which duplicate what SnapChat does. Anytime a photo is posted on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter control of the photo is lost, and it is permanently online. Some of the dangers of messaging apps such as SnapChat, Whisper, and Kik to name a few of the popular ones are known by many people. The apps perhaps parents are most unaware of are the photo hiding apps, more popularly known as vault apps. These apps are disguised as flashlights or calculator apps, and operate as such unless a password is entered. Apps are created to get around firewalls, allowing free access to the internet, when the wireless network attempts to block certain websites.

Families do not let their children drive a car without knowing where they are going, who they are with, and how long they will be gone. An electronic device should be no different. Parents should know who their children are talking to, what pictures they are taking, sending and receiving, and what apps they are using.

There are a ton of resources available on the internet about apps, even the Apple Store, and Google Store provide information on the applications they provide. Feel free to contact Staff Sergeant Josh Wilson (920-982-8505, [jwilson@newlondon.k12.wi.us](mailto:jwilson@newlondon.k12.wi.us)) as he is the point of contact with the New London Police Department for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

# CLASS GETS FINANCIALLY SAVVY VIA ZOOM

Personal Finance, which fulfills the financial literacy graduation requirement at NLHS, has many opportunities to prepare students for their financial future. Topics covered in this class include taxes, checking, saving, paying for college, credit, investing, insurance and budgeting. Each semester during the checking and saving unit Bill Bishop from Associated Bank visits the class as a guest speaker to share his knowledge of the banking industry with the class.



As the fall 2020 semester has changed so has his presentation method; Bill met with Personal Finance students through a Zoom meeting to share information about types of checking and saving accounts, how fees work and getting a loan. He shared that past students have come into the bank to open an account or ask questions and one of the biggest questions they often have is how to start building credit. Students were able to ask questions through Zoom's chat feature. It was a great opportunity for students. Personal Finance will continue to provide opportunities for students to take what they learned and apply it to their individual financial situations as they begin to build their financial future.

## Elementary Students Serve up Safety at Home for Fire Safety Week



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) commemorates the Great Chicago Fire and raises awareness to fire safety by holding Fire Prevention Week (FPW) each year during the week of October. This year's FPW was held from October 4th-10th with the campaign slogan, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" To promote FPW and raise awareness to fire safety, Mrs. Peterson's Class took part in Fire Safety Week Virtually! This included: a virtual field trip to a fire department where students were taught what a fireman looks like and how they will help us when we are in danger. They learned how to make a family escape plan and to check fire alarms. Finally, they discovered how to cook safely in the kitchen (with a grown-up of course). Students were encouraged to send the class a picture of themselves making safe choices in the kitchen and took turns being the "teacher".



# Grab Your SHOVEL!

## 6TH GRADERS “DIG” FOR FAMILY ARTIFACTS

Sometimes the greatest lessons learned in class are those that were unplanned and unexpected. In one of the 6th grade Social Studies classes, during the Early Man Unit, the class reviewed primary and secondary sources and their importance, learning about how archaeologists excavated and analyzed items to help historians determine a rationale for how human beings first began to survive with the use of Paleolithic Era tools.



Halle Peterson, a 6th grade student, surprised the class with many artifacts that were found by her great, great, great, grandmother, Thera Butts Peterson, which were found on their farm in North Dakota. Halle’s virtual ‘show and tell’ of these primary resources was a great highlight of artifacts and primary resources, peaking the interest of classmates. In fact, this encouraged many students to ask their parents/guardians for artifacts that were saved within their family history and some shared after that. Halle’s family heirloom of Neolithic tools created a great amount of inquiry with the students and this initiated their own desire to learn more. Additionally, this helped connect students to vocabulary that was discussed throughout that unit, and will continue to use throughout the study of Ancient Cultures during the school year. This was an awesome unexpected learning experience for all!

## Students Draw Positive Vibes with Sidewalk Art

Lincoln Elementary students created sidewalk art as part of their Positive Behavior Incentive covering the first three weeks of school. Starting back to school this year looked much different than in years past. Students had to learn many new expectations and routines as a way to keep everyone safe and healthy while at school.



As a way to celebrate the students’ hard work with learning these new routines, students from Lincoln Elementary drew and wrote slogans on the front sidewalk of the school. This also provided everyone the opportunity to get outside, enjoy the beautiful weather, show some creativity, and demonstrate how much they love school. After drawing, students were able to read a book in the warm sunshine. Each class at Lincoln was able to enjoy this 45 minute activity.

## HIGH SCHOOL TECH ED DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GENEROUS GRANT FROM AMERICAN’S FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES

The New London High School Tech Education Department received a \$2,500 grant from the American’s Farmers Grow Communities sponsored by the Bayer Fund in which farmers can direct support to a non-profit of their choice. This organization funds programs from food banks to fire stations in rural communities in hopes of making a positive impact. April Heideman is a local farmer from New London who chose to direct this donation on her behalf to the School District of New London.

The funds were deposited in the New London High School activity account designated toward the Tech Ed Department. Mr. Gruentzel received the check and is planning to appropriately use the funds. They are looking to replace the old lathe in the shop that is not in working order with a new wood lathe for woodshop. The School District is working with Bay Verte Machinery out of Green Bay to figure out the right fit for the High School.

The wood lathe will allow students to explore the world of wood turning and make things like a wooden bowl, wood turned pens, and turned table legs: along with many other projects.







# ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS GET A MAKEOVER THIS SUMMER

Students and staff at Parkview and Readfield came back this fall to much bigger and updated elementary schools! It was a great way to start the year with some additional excitement after being out of the buildings for a while due to the pandemic.

At Parkview, a new classroom for special education and a spacious multipurpose room was added onto the southeast side. This multipurpose room has moveable furniture and large windows with shutters. It is a great area for meetings and houses the after-school program. This new wing is complete with restrooms and a water fountain. The main school entrance has an alcove area with a large monitor that informs students on daily information.

Two water fountains and bottle fillers were added to the hallways. A new restroom was built in the third-fourth grade wing, while the old one in the first/second grade wing was remodeled to fit the design of the new one. Both carpet and flooring was installed in the classrooms and in the hallway. Lighting, fresh paint and the heating and cooling system was upgraded. New desks and chairs were added to some classrooms. Long tables that fold up are stored in the wall in the gym and sound boards were added to the top upper level which will help with the noise level in the gym. The playground was resurfaced. A beautiful bulldog sign and the school's name were added to the southside of the school. All the improvements that have been made to Parkview Elementary allow the teachers to give the best learning environment to the students, and the students are able to achieve their learning goals in a new and improved version of Parkview Elementary School.

Readfield Elementary School was also remodeled over the summer. The school upgraded their heating and cooling system and as well as the school received new lighting, paint and windows. New flooring in the classrooms and hallways along with casework in some classrooms were also added. As you walk by the main entrance, a large monitor was installed to project school announcements and reminders. A handicap accessible restroom was added. With the remodel that was done to Readfield, the teachers and students are able to grow and learn in a new and improved school environment.



## Thank you to the following *Bulldog Bulletin* contributors:

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