



# BULLDOG

News and Views from the School District of New London

# bulletin

## *Congratulations 2021 Graduates!*



Graduation this year was extra special for students, staff, families, and New London Community. After a year and a half of uncertainty, masks, social distancing, and digital only events it was an amazing feeling to hold a normal in-person graduation. 159 graduates were recognized by the board of education and school administration for meeting all state and local graduation requirements. These individuals have successfully gained the skills, knowledge, and disposition required to be college and career ready and responsible contributing citizens. The graduating class of 2021 demonstrated the perseverance, determination, flexibility, creativity, and drive to not only survive but thrive during what has been anything but a normal high school experience.

The New London High School staff would like to thank the graduating class of 2021 for sharing their talents, demonstrating a growth mindset, and making NLHS a great place to work and go to school. We would also like to thank the parents, guardians, and families who have invested countless hours of time, support, love, and attention in assisting these graduates in achieving this milestone event.



# Eighth Graders Clear Invasive Plants to Improve Hatten Park

8th graders had the opportunity to work with their class, Park Ranger Adam Brandt from Mosquito Hill, and the New London Park and Recreation Department to make Hatten Park a better place on Friday, April 30 during their science and social studies blocks.

They worked hard to pull out as many of the invasive HoneySuckle and Buckthorn plants as possible using ropes to tug the plants out of the ground. This is important because invasive plants invade the terrain and make it difficult for many native plants to grow. It left the students with an immense sense of pride in their hard work.

After the event, Brandt said, "What a great event and great experience for the students. Everyone seemed to at least try and help a little and there was amazing team work and cheering going on. I can't remember the last time I saw a group of middle schoolers being that positive and supportive of each other, it was so great and refreshing to see."

## ELEMENTARY MAPES RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OF VIRTUAL DELIVERY

This year has presented so many challenges in instructional delivery. One of these challenges that needed to be addressed early in the school year was, "How does elementary school continue to teach all of the specials for the students?" It was quickly decided that all of the "MAPE" teachers (Music, Art, Phy Ed, Guidance, and Technology) would develop virtual lessons that could be administered by facilitators at each of the four elementary schools by grade level.

The students' level of education did not waver thanks to the innovation and dedication of these teachers. Art consisted of many amazing history and guided drawing lessons. PhyEd focused on body awareness and flexibility through yoga and various movement activities. Guidance never missed a beat with interactive lessons on social and executive functioning skills. Technology centered on digital citizenship and coding over all grade levels. Music put together a winter concert virtually and taught the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders an entire cup drumming unit! In addition, all of the students learned parts for an Opera for the Young program which they interacted with at the beginning of May.

The students witnessed an incredible level of perseverance and professionalism from their teachers during this trying year. It will be great to return the previous scheduling model, but nothing can replace the problem solving and professional development that each teacher took away from this year. These teachers will enter next year with a new appreciation for face-to-face education, while also approaching their teaching technique with a fresh perspective.



## Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship Award Winners

The School District of New London is proud to announce that Parkview Elementary teacher **Gloria Peterson** and High School teacher **Amber Yerkey** have been awarded a 2021 Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship Award. Educators are chosen for their ability to inspire a love of learning in their students and ability to motivate others, and for their leadership and service within and outside the classroom.

*Congratulations, Gloria and Amber!*



Amber Yerkey



Gloria Peterson

# AMERICANISM IN THE WORDS OF NEW LONDON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Founded in 1919 after the end of World War I, the American Legion Auxiliary now boasts nearly 1 million members in 10,500 local units throughout the United States. Originally organized to assist The American Legion, the Auxiliary today volunteers tens of thousands of hours to its communities and to veterans. Additionally, the Auxiliary raises millions of dollars to support its programs and countless other charities.

The American Legion began its partnership with public schools in 1921, presenting school awards to students who were evaluated on five points: honor, courage, scholarship, leadership and service. Today, exactly 100 years later, the American Legion Auxiliary continues this tradition through its annual Americanism Essay Contest. "Americanism" can be defined as "promoting an understanding and appreciation of American government, the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, and activity in the American way of life." Through the Auxiliary's essay contest, high school students are asked to write a 450-500 word essay that exemplifies these ideals. This year's essay prompt was: "How can we address the health and well-being of our veterans, military, and their families?"

Eleven New London High School ninth graders were recently recognized as this year's top Americanism essay writers at New London High School -- (in alphabetical order) Elsie Abba, Wyatt Adamovich, Hanna Gorman, Jack Keding, Levi Lathrop, Julia Ludick, Autumn Magolski, Macy Reybrock, Brittany Schoenrock, Rianna Schultz, and Isabella Sloma. Members of New London's local American Legion Auxiliary read the student submissions and selected the top four -- Julia Ludick (4th place), Autumn Magolski (3rd place), Wyatt Adamovich (2nd place), and Macy Reybrock (1st place). The Auxiliary awarded \$20, \$15, and \$10 to the top three writers, and Reybrock's essay was entered in the Auxiliary's statewide contest. New London students have done extremely well against their peers across the state. In 2018, New London student Charlie Metko won the statewide contest, and last year student Olive Stein finished second.

New London's freshmen essay writers provided many excellent and inspiring ideas to further help our nation's veterans. Ludick wrote, "One step in giving veterans, military, and their families the support they deserve is by using the right to vote and electing officials that want to do something about this issue." Magolski proposed donating to organizations such as the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and volunteering one's time to aid veterans. And Adamovich stressed the need to address veteran homelessness, providing statistics to detail the extent of the problem and offering possible solutions.



Eleven New London High School ninth graders recently participated in the American Legion Auxiliary's 2021 Americanism Essay Contest. Pictured are (front row, L to R) Macy Reybrock (1st place) and Wyatt Adamovich (2nd place); (second row, L to R) Rianna Schultz, Hanna Gorman, Brittany Schoenrock; (standing, L to R) Elsie Abba, Levi Lathrop, Jack Keding, Isabella Sloma. Not pictured: Autumn Magolski (3rd place) and Julia Ludick (4th place). SUBMITTED PHOTO

Macy Reybrock's essay intertwined veterans issues, our current pandemic, and new technologies. In her own words, "One thing I have experienced during this pandemic is that you are lonely when you don't get to connect with friends. However, people have found some very creative ways to adapt. Why, then, can't we connect our military families with virtual reality headsets?"

Reybrock expounds, "The VR headsets would have three components that focus on activities for families, mental health programs, and physical activities. Activities for families might include drawing together, playing games against one another, sharing pictures and videos, and giving virtual hugs. For the mental program we could include relaxation, counseling, prayers, meditation, and pet therapy. Finally, under physical activities, exercises such as yoga, tai chi, sports, boxing, or any variety of fitness can be included."

The New London High School Freshmen Academy congratulates Macy and all the top essay writers. The Academy also thanks all local American Legion Auxiliary members for their leadership and involvement in this worthwhile project, as well as all veterans who have served our nation and defended our freedoms. New London High School staff and students say "Thank You."



# CAREER EXPLORATION TAKES CENTER STAGE AT NEW LONDON HIGH SCHOOL

There were multiple events taking place at New London High School on Friday, April 16. All of the events had a focus on career exploration and college and career readiness.

A job fair was held in the gymnasium where students had the opportunity to meet and explore 45 local businesses and industries. Employers answered questions, handed out applications, provided materials, and even interviewed and hired students during the event. When students were not

attending the job fair, the focus in all classes was career exploration. Teachers had guest speakers, career exploration activities, and reviewed the importance of academic and career planning.

Senior Exit Interviews were held in the library. Fourteen local community leaders interviewed each graduating senior. The interviews help ensure all graduating seniors have reached the mission of college and career readiness and responsible contributing citizenship. The interviews provided

an opportunity for seniors to reflect on their educational experience, practice with interviewing, and helped build partnerships with local community partners.

The staff and students at New London High School would like to thank everyone who attended the job fair, the guest speakers who shared valuable experiences with students, and the community members who assisted with senior exit interviews. The collaborative partnerships made for a great day.

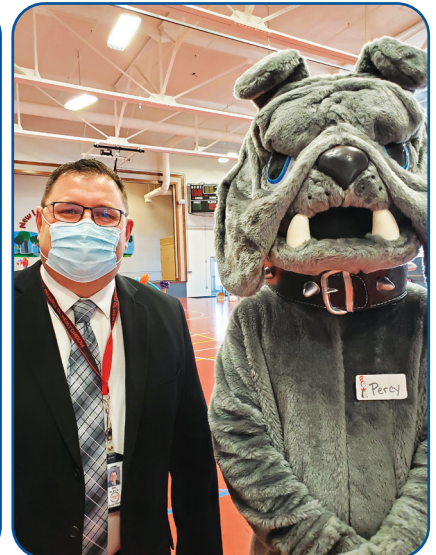
## Dr. Seuss on the Loose

The annual Dr. Seuss on the Loose event took place on Friday, February 26, 2021, at the Washington Center in New London. This was a chance for families to meet their future 4K teacher and also a chance for families to complete the 4K registration process.



Play based activities took place during the event. Students had a chance to engage in activities with their future 4K teacher.

Over 60 people participated in the 2 hour event.





## Spanish Class Students Compete in Worldwide March Madness Bracket

Students in 7th and 8th grade in Exploratory Spanish competed in a March Madness challenge with students from 1017 schools from 12 different countries! Students connected with the culture and language of Spanish speaking countries while voting for their favorite songs to advance to the next rounds. Students filled out brackets with 16 Spanish songs trying to guess which would be voted the winner. Congratulations to the students with the most points on their brackets, Grant Prinsen, Emily Tayek, Brooke Christman, and Britton Janke. They each won a Jarritos de piña soda.



# VISITATION DAY FOR FUTURE 4K/5K STUDENTS

On Friday, May 7 our littlest bulldogs were able to attend a visitation day at all four of our elementary schools: Sugar Bush, Readfield, Lincoln and Parkview. The event also took place at the Day Care Center of New London.

Future students who are entering 4 and 5-year-old kindergarten were invited to tour their future classrooms and meet their teachers for next year. Students and parents met with staff members who were able to answer their questions and give them a tour of the facilities. Students were also given the opportunity to sit on a school bus and meet a school bus driver.

Additionally, students received a bulldog t-shirt during their visit, to encourage them to show their school spirit.

Nearly 100 students and families participated in this event across the district. Welcome to our incoming graduating classes of 2034 and 2035!





## Governor Evers Discusses Mental Health with New London High School Students

Governor Evers visited Mrs. Vantassel's Oral and Interpersonal Communications class on Wednesday, April 7. He had a discussion with students about mental health issues and how the pandemic has impacted their well being in the last year. Students shared with the Governor how school programs such as *Sources of Strength* and other support systems have helped them meet the challenges they have faced. They also gave suggestions to improve mental health awareness in our school and beyond. Governor Evers encouraged students to be leaders in promoting mental health in the future and emphasized that their generation was the one that could make a lasting impact.



## HEALTHY HEARTS GIVE GENEROUSLY FOR FINN'S MISSION

New London elementary schools have had the opportunity to be a part of a special program. The American Heart Association's goal is to inform kids about healthy living and as well get the students active along the way. During February 8-26, the students had the opportunity to donate money and as well complete heart healthy missions along the way for Finn's Mission. American Heart really made a big impact on the New London elementary students. Students gained knowledge on heart disease, and as well, techniques and ways to maintain healthy living. With the donations that have been made from all the elementary schools, they were able to raise \$5,150.44 for Finn's Mission!

Mr. Mueller and Ms. Hardy, physical education teachers for the School District of New London, want to thank the families and students for their participation and donations for Finn's Mission. It was amazing for all the New London elementary schools to come together and be a part of the American Heart Association! The foundation greatly appreciated the donation. There are so many people in need of care, and this donation will go a long way to help them recover! Initially, the target goal was a thousand dollars, which was surpassed with a little more than a week into the event! Way to go New London families and students! Go Bulldogs!



# Students Make the Trek for Bike to School Day

On May 12, the New London Intermediate Middle School participated in National Bike to School Day, which is sponsored by East Central Wisconsin Safe Routes to School Program. Safe Routes to School is committed to empowering communities to make walking and bicycling to school a safe, appealing, preferred choice for families. According to the website <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org>, “The first National

Walk to School Day was held in 1997 and the first-ever National Bike to School Day was celebrated in 2012 across the USA.”

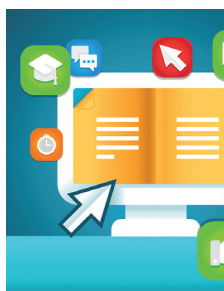
Students were met at the bike rack by members of the Fuel Up to Play 60 team and given reflectors and spoke beads. Students could also enter to win prizes such as new helmets, bike bell or light, subway gift cards, and a Bozeman speaker. About 40 students participated.

## SUCCESS FOR NEW LONDON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: STUDENTS WIN IN WISCONSIN DAIRYLAND PROGRAMMING COMPETITION

New London High School was well represented at the Wisconsin Dairyland Competition that was held virtually by Marquette University on April 15, 2021. All teams solved complex computer problems and were ranked by successfully completing and testing their programs. One of the Scratch teams, “Aw Snap!” (Adrian T., Jacob H., and Trevor H.), won 2nd place in the Gold Division. Each student won a \$75 gift card to a place of their choice.

### New London Math League Finished in Top of Division for the 5th year

During the 2020-2021 school year, the New London Math League competed virtually for the three meets hosted by the Central Wisconsin Mathematics League. New London again is in the top three schools for Division II. Honors will be awarded to Alexander Ozminkowski, Terry Schoultz, and Glavin Lubinski. High scores were also earned this year by Owen Schlueter, Bo Gossen, Jack Keding, Autumn Martin, and Carson Gregory. Final top three rankings will be announced when UW-Stevens Point awards the prizes.



# Warmest Wishes to our Retirees



**Todd Koeller** was hired by the School District of New London for the 1986-87 school year. Before coming to New London, Todd taught one year at Thorp High School. Todd has taught mathematics and computer science during his time in New London. Todd had a passion for Statistics, Computer Programming, and making short stories long. Todd coached Middle School football and continues to do statistics for the Bulldog Football Team. The staff and students at New London High School wish Mr. Koeller a happy retirement.



**Carolyn Steinert** was hired by the School District of New London in the 1985-86 school year and has spent her entire career here. She began teaching as a Learning Disabilities teacher and has also taught at multiple elementary grade levels, including split classes and reading intervention. Carol has her reading certification and loves to help students on their journey to become fluent readers. She has also loved seeing students learn and grow in their understanding of math and science. Carol's future plans include traveling and visiting her daughters in Colorado and Virginia and also assisting the planning of her son's upcoming wedding. Readfield Elementary looks forward to seeing Mrs. Steinert as a volunteer, visitor and substitute teacher!



**Diane Vantassel** joined the School District of New London teaching staff in the 1990-91 school year and has spent her entire career with the district. Diane began as a 7th/8th Grade Language Arts teacher at the Washington Junior High. She eventually moved to the High School teaching 9th and 10th Grade English. She currently serves as an adjunct instructor for Fox Valley Technical

College with dual credit courses in Communications. The students and staff at New London High School wish Diane a happy retirement.



**Marsha Brant** was hired by the School District of New London in 2004-05 school year. Marsha was hired as a paraeducator at Parkview Elementary and has served Parkview Elementary her entire career. Marsha's dedication to the students and staff at Parkview made her a valuable asset to the success of the building. Her calm and patient demeanor when working with students helped them grow both academically and socially. Parkview School was blessed to have Marsha as part of the school community. Happy Retirement, Marsha!



**Sandy Flease** was hired by the School District of New London in the 1995-96 school year. Sandy was hired as an elementary Reading Assistant and transitioned into a Special Education Aide. Sandy understands her students and works well with them in creating success for them. Her kind and calm nature help her reach the students she works with, and in turn, those students know they can trust her. Sandy is a great colleague as well, having many strong relationships with staff. Lincoln School wishes Sandy a happy retirement. We will miss her!



**Pam Kloehn** was hired by the School District of New London in the 1989-90 school year as an elementary library media aide and has worked as such through her entire career at the district. Her passion for reading and for seeing young children learn to love reading is evident when you speak to her or a student who has just been introduced to a new book or genre. Her kind heart and big smile helped to make the library a warm

inviting place for children to want to read. Parkview School was blessed to have Pam as part of the school community. Happy Retirement, Pam!



**Marcia Oberstadt** was hired by the School District of New London in the 1994-95 school year. Marcia has started her career as a Title I Aide and has continued in that position her entire career. Marcia has helped hundreds of students learn to read and become stronger readers during that time. Her kind and caring nature helps her students feel comfortable and able to learn with her and also endears her to her colleagues. Lincoln School wishes Marcia a happy retirement. We will miss her!



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

- ▶ Diane Vantassel
- ▶ Brian Yerkey
- ▶ Brian Mathu
- ▶ Kandi Martin
- ▶ Amy Hirst
- ▶ Kate Hurst
- ▶ Jody Peterson
- ▶ Bailee Hardy
- ▶ Gretchen Sasse
- ▶ Samantha Kable
- ▶ Brian Hallman

### **PUPIL NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of the School District of New London that no person may be denied admission to any public school or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, color, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.