



# BULLDOG bulletin

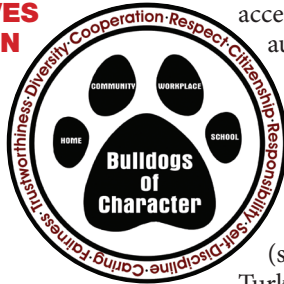
News and Views from the School District of New London



## Bulldogs of Character Assemblies are back!

### SUGAR BUSH RECEIVES AN EXTRA LESSON ON DIVERSITY

The character pillar of the month may have been caring, but Sugar Bush Elementary was particularly excited to also receive a lesson about diversity. Seniors of the football team, Owen Schlueter, Jack Grable and Meric Karslioglu, foreign exchange student, all joined Sugar Bush at the character assembly where Meric quickly stole the show! Students and staff were excited to learn about Meric's journey to the United States from Turkey and were huge fans of his



accent. Meric explained to the audience why he chose to be a foreign exchange student sharing that the time in the U.S. will help him perfect his English and to play a sport he had never played before, football American (soccer is called football in Turkey). Meric's host family, the Bruettes, are a former Sugar Bush family and grandparents of a student.

Prior to the assembly, the seniors visited Mrs. Schlueter's 3rd grade classroom where Meric showed the students exactly where Turkey is. Students were astounded that Meric traveled 8,000 miles to get here.

The football players shared how they demonstrate caring in the sport, by looking after each other and rallying together through a tough season of injuries. The gentlemen also shared how they demonstrate caring at school and at home by helping out their classmates and families.

### CHARACTER ASSEMBLIES ARE BACK AT PARKVIEW

On Thursday, September 23, Parkview students enjoyed their first Bulldog of Character assembly for the 2021-2022 academic year. Kindergarten, 1st, and 3rd grade students attended a short 15 minute assembly led by Mrs. Peterson,



Mrs. Pagel, and leaders from the high school. Families were able to attend to watch their child(ren) get recognized for outstanding character. A second 15 minute assembly followed for 2nd and 4th grade students.

On Friday, September 24, Parkview students were able to view another portion of the assembly in which Nya the Therapy Dog recognized classes of character, as well as golden award class recipients. Each special teacher (art, music, physical education, technology, and guidance) selected one class to receive an award that was delivered to that class by Nya the following Monday. Parkview's favorite news anchors, Newt and London, of PV-TV also provided information about character pillars for the months of September and October.



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# FAMILY Engagement Night

On August 9, students and families were invited to participate in the annual New London Intermediate/Middle School Family Engagement Night activity sponsored by the school counselors, Gretchen Sasse and Theresa Reynoso. Various members of the community set up booths and events for the students/families to participate in as a fun-filled way to gear up for back-to-school and also a great way for students to get acquainted with the building and interact with the staff members. Activities included: painting, making slushies, spinning the wheel for prizes, and other various crafts. A special appearance was made by Percy the Bulldog who was distributing popsicles to all attendees on behalf of the Bulldogs of Character Group.



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A special thank you to Mr. Techlin and all contributing staff members for all of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into these assemblies.

## **LINCOLN BULLDOGS OF CHARACTER**



At the beginning of every month, special recognition is given to students that receive Bulldogs of Character slips the previous month at Lincoln! Shown are the September recipients of the Bulldogs of Character Award. These students exhibited one or more of the Bulldogs of Character Pillars over the course of the month. Those pillars include Self-Discipline, Caring, Cooperation, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Trustworthiness and Citizenship. These awards are not easy to get and require going above and beyond normal expectations for all of the listed characteristics. Besides recognition at monthly character assemblies, students get a necklace with a token representing the character pillar they were nominated for and a slip that goes home to their parents noting their exemplary display of character. Additionally, students are encouraged to collect tokens for all nine pillars of character, and display them prominently each day at Lincoln!

## **READFIELD ALUM RETURN TO SCHOOL**

Bulldogs of Character Assemblies were surely missed over the past two school years and a highlight for these assemblies is when elementary school alumni return to lead the assemblies with a positive message focusing on the character pillar of the month.

This past October, Jane Johnston and Macy Reybrock, both former Readfield students, joined the assembly and reminisced about their attendance at their elementary school. Evan Kedinger also joined the girls as Percy.

Readfield is so excited to have the character assemblies back face to face to allow our students the opportunity to share their accomplishments and join Percy and the high school students to celebrate the character pillar of the month!





# NEW LONDON HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Many schools throughout Wisconsin have witnessed an increase in students needing mental health assistance. In an effort to remain proactive and supportive of their students, New London High School has focused its efforts on reducing the stigma of seeking help for mental health related issues. The high school has scheduled multiple events geared toward helping students and staff identify early signs of mental health, assisting students connect with trusted adults, and creating a sense of belonging at school.

This year, the high school added Social/Emotional Learning standards to their classes. Staff and students talk about life skills and how they handle everything from goal setting and decision making to stress management and relationship skills.

New London High School also continues to work closely with Samaritan Counseling Center to provide Wellness Screening for incoming freshmen. Each fall, these ninth grade students take a survey which asks questions about social/emotional health, sleep, and wellness. The



Samaritan team also connects students and families to mental health resources.

The Sources of Strength program held their annual training with 50+ New London High School students. Sources of Strength is a mental health awareness program that utilizes the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture. The mission of Sources of Strength is to provide evidence-based prevention for suicide, violence, bullying, and substance abuse by training, supporting, and empowering both student leaders and caring adults. Together, lives are improved through the

power of connection, hope, help, and strength.

Additionally, 12 Sources of Strength students attended the Creating Hope Leadership Summit hosted by the Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Motivational speaker, Jeff Yalden, shared his life story and powerful message of teen-suicide prevention. The students discussed the importance of having a support network and a trusted adult that they can go to during struggling times.

The next mental health awareness campaign will be a joint effort between the Sources of Strength Program and the high school football team. The event, which was originally scheduled in October, is set for November 30. It will host local organizations that provide assistance to youth, families, and community members struggling with mental health related issues. The high school teams hope to reduce the stigma of mental health both at school and in the New London Community.

## SOURCES OF STRENGTH

This year New London Intermediate/Middle School added the Sources of Strength program. New London High School has already been participating in this program for several years. In early September members of the New London Intermediate/Middle School staff and approximately 80 students participated in peer leader training offered by the National Program.

Sources of Strength is a best-practice youth suicide prevention project designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture, ultimately preventing suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. The mission of Sources of Strength is to increase help-seeking behaviors and promote connections between peers and caring adults.

This program that launched this year at the New London Intermediate/Middle School will be in place on an annual basis moving forward and will host multiple activities throughout the school year.





# ROCK THE BLOCK



Alex Rambo and members of the high school band participated in the Rock the Block event which took place all over the city of New London for three consecutive days. The high school band was on-site to open the ceremonies each morning and get the participants energized for their day of work ahead. Various members of the school community also contributed to assisting with building projects around the city to assist homeowners with their property needs.

Rock the Block is hundreds of community members, volunteers, business owners, and organizations coming together to assist low-income residents by increasing neighborhood pride through exterior home repairs, park clean-ups, landscaping, painting, and more!

Beyond the Rock the Block program, residents participating in the program will also be given access to Habitat's Home Repair program which provides critical home repairs, weatherization, and larger-scale home preservation work.

# Child Development Day

Every school year, the School District of New London, as part of Wisconsin's Child Find initiative, conducts two screening opportunities for children ages two to four and a half to identify and refer, as early as possible, all young children with disabilities. Those identified children are then able to be a part of the district's Early Childhood program once formally assessed and qualified. This whole process begins at Child Development Days, which this school year, are scheduled for October 12, 2021, and January 25, 2022, both at Lincoln Elementary School. During these days, parents can sign up for a screening opportunity for their child by calling the district's Pupil Services Office at 920-982-8447. Screenings consist of a broad spectrum of observations by trained staff designed



to catch developmental delays in these young children in order to get them the services they need early enough for them to catch up on those deficits. If you have questions or know of parents who have children ages two to four and a half, please call or encourage a call to the district's Pupil Services Office at 920-982-8447.

# Olympic Readers and Writers



Ever wonder what an Olympic athlete and successful reader have in common? Simple. They both set goals and work diligently to achieve their goals. Additionally they also challenge themselves to keep moving forward. In launching the 2021-2022 school year, Intermediate/Middle School students were challenged to share their love of reading with their peers by writing reviews for their favorite books. All book reviews were then posted in the district's online library catalog known as Destiny. For some competitive fun, students submitting book reviews were entered into bronze, silver, and gold medal categories for prizes. Together our students added over 120 book reviews for our learning community. Thank you to all students who participated and enjoy your reading!



# ALUMNI NIGHT

On Friday, September 10, members of the current and former School District of New London staff were invited to participate in a special alumni night program. The New London Bulldogs battled the Waupaca Comets. The evening was a free event and every spectator was able to attend the game without paying admission fees. The district also sponsored a ticket program which allowed former and current staff to receive a complimentary meal from the concession stand. All proceeds went to the Gridiron Club of the New London Football team. The event was a huge success and drew a large crowd who participated in the special evening.



# Girls on the Run

Community member, Kerri Tennie, brought a new program to Parkview this year!

Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based positive youth development program that inspires 3rd and 4th grade girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running.



Girls on the Run honors its core values. They strive to:

- Recognize their power and responsibility to be intentional in their decision making.
- Embrace their differences and find strength in their connectedness.
- Express joy, optimism, and gratitude through their words, thoughts and actions.
- Lead with an open heart and assume positive intent
- Stand up for themselves and others

Over the next few months the girls and their leaders will inspire program participants to be strong, confident and connected, and by the conclusion of the program, the girls will be physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebration 5k run with their teammates. The finish line is just the beginning, however, as the ultimate goal is to provide the girls with tools and resources that develop their ability to think critically – a skill that will serve them well for a lifetime.



## LINCOLN FIRST GRADE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

On Monday, October 11, police officers from the New London Police Department came to Lincoln Elementary to talk to the first grade students about being Community Partners. They highlighted how they work to help people who need it. They also showed students some of the equipment they use every day. The highlight of the experience was seeing a police car. Students were able to ask many questions about the job of being a police officer. Many of the first graders now want to be police officers as a result. Learning about Community Partners is part of the first grade social studies curriculum in the School District of New London.



# School District of New London and National Nonprofit DonorsChoose Announce New Partnership

School District of New London announced today a new partnership with the national nonprofit DonorsChoose to help teachers tap into a network of 4 million donors to support classroom projects and more seamlessly align with district strategy and operations.

Teachers in New London have completed over 80 projects on DonorsChoose. These projects vary from books to laptops and other tools to enhance the learning environment and support student success.

“The School District of New London is excited to announce a partnership with DonorsChoose” said District Administrator Scott Bleck. “Our district’s incredible teachers know their students’ unique needs better than anyone. Through DonorsChoose, they can use that knowledge to help fund projects that bolster their vision for high-quality instruction in the classroom. We’re grateful for this partnership and for the caring donors helping our school communities become stronger, so that our New London students can thrive.”

As one of the 200+ members of the DonorsChoose District Partnership Program, New London will be able to support teachers in the use of the platform, ensure safety and security,

and align efforts with the district’s strategic priorities. New London will be able to monitor all donated materials, principals will be notified each time a project is funded, and receive early notification when there are new “match” funding opportunities.

“We’re excited to have the School District of New London as a new member of the DonorsChoose District Partnership Program,” said Charles Best, founder and CEO of DonorsChoose. “School District of New London teachers and administrators continue to work hard to make sure students succeed. We can’t wait to see how the DonorsChoose community can support these educators even more through our partnership.”

For more information please visit:  
[www.donorschoose.org/newlondonwi](http://www.donorschoose.org/newlondonwi)

## About DonorsChoose

*DonorsChoose is the leading way to give to public schools. Since 2000, more than 4 million people and partners have contributed \$1 billion to support 1.5 million teacher requests for learning resources and experiences. As the most trusted crowdfunding platform for teachers, donors, and district administrators alike, DonorsChoose vets each request, ships the funded resources directly to the classroom, and provides thank yous and reporting to donors and school leaders. Charity Navigator and GuideStar have awarded DonorsChoose, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, their highest ratings for transparency and accountability. For more information, visit [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org).*

# READFIELD WALKING TRAIL PARTNERSHIP



The pleasant weather has kept the Town of Caledonia trail busy with students, staff and community members enjoying the colors and crispness of the fall air. This trail started as a vision and became a reality in July of 2020, but not for lack of hard work and the community coming together to create a wonderful asset to the Town of Caledonia.

The School District of New London was an early partner in the process as the Town of Caledonia and Readfield Elementary School share property borders. When the township asked to partner up with the ability to increase the trail size and to have part of the trail on school district property, it was an easy decision. The trail is approximately 1/2 mile that is easily navigable by everyone.

The trail was made possible by DNR and Waupaca County grants and multiple fundraising events including the popular Friends of Readfield Park Food Truck Rallies in the summer. Tamela McCartney, member of the organization stated, “The trail is beautiful and really adds to the functionality of the park. It’s a great place to safely walk in our town, where there are no sidewalks. It really makes a difference!

The entire community is enjoying the Friends of Readfield Park Trail.





# Bilingual Program Night



On October 4, the district wide bilingual staff presented a literacy program to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. This event was open to all members of our school community. We had a very large turn out from families who have students that participate in our bilingual program. A dinner was served to students and families, and games, books and prizes were available throughout the event. Congratulations to the bilingual staff on a well-organized event.



# SUGAR BUSH LIBRARY GETS A MAKEOVER



Students were excited to return to school with a new look to our library media center! Once a kindergarten classroom, the Sugar Bush library is the hub for learning and it was time to update this very important room to assist with the advancements in technology and also create a more open space for whole group learning.

Mrs. Roloff, library aide, has been hard at work managing some furniture shortages due to COVID-19, but making sure students are enjoying the space! Students are loving the comfy furniture for reading after check out as well as the display screen that projects all sorts of great information about what's new in the library!

Staff is in the process of putting the finishing touches to this space to include a digital learning lab where students will be learning from our district technology teacher, Mr. Tony Techlin. Tech Time is a highlight for our students as they enjoy the lessons Mr. Techlin prepares for them every Friday.

# Families Participate in an Open House Scavenger Hunt

Parkview welcomed new and familiar faces to our school community at the annual open house on August 30. Families were greeted at the door by Principal Jody Peterson and encouraged to embark on a scavenger hunt as they worked their way around the building. This provided families a wonderful opportunity to see the new multi purpose room addition as well as the remodeled classrooms, bathrooms, and hallways which were not accessible to families last year due to COVID restrictions.

The hunt took families to the classrooms to drop off school supplies and greet the teachers. Families could locate the gym, library, art, music, and lunch rooms as well as the zones room and stop for a quick picture at a photo booth. Information on various after school programs such as Boy &



Girl Scouts and the new Girls On the Run program were made available. Students could also stop to pick up a bookmark and enter a raffle to win a Bulldog bag filled with books. On the way out students were treated to a frozen surprise from Principal Peterson. Overall, it was a very successful event and it was great to see everyone back in the building.

# THE CRUNCH HEARD 'ROUND READFIELD



The Great Apple Crunch on Thursday, October 21, was a huge success thanks to Chef Travis Mayer from Chartwells, the district's lunch and breakfast provider. Chef Mayer reported that over 700 apples were ordered and crunched into across our district elementary schools. Across the midwest, over 1 million students participated in the crunch.

Chef Mayer began the day cooking breakfast for families and stuck around to "crunch" with staff and students leading the Crunch Down.

There were many opportunities for classes to tap into lessons and experiences leading up to the Crunch. Students with dental inconveniences were also accommodated with their apples chopped up by Chef Mayer!

## Thank you to the following Bulldog Bulletin contributors:



- ▶ Ann Pinch
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- ▶ Tamela McCartney
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## 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.

# TRUNK OR TREAT RETURNS TO THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Trunk or Treat at Readfield and Sugar Bush Elementary returned this year on Saturday, October 23, with amazing turnouts! The annual Trunk or Treats have been a tradition for over 15 years and are something students look forward to each year in the country schools as the traditional trick or treating is somewhat difficult given logistics. Trunk or Treating provides a safe way for families to "trick or treat" in close quarters going vehicle to vehicle. Students and families were encouraged to decorate their trunk/vehicle with a prize going for best trunk.



Students in older grade levels were pleasantly surprised to see a Trunk or Treat article in their October weekly periodical, "Scholastic News"! Their reaction was, "We do that!"

The annual Pumpkin Run was added a few years back to off-set the treats! Families participate together taking a run around the school at Sugar Bush and our new walking trail at Readfield. Runners are awarded with a pumpkin toe token for their Bulldogs of Character necklaces.