

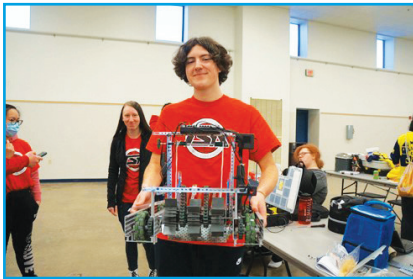


BULLDOG

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

bulletin

HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS COMPETES AT FOND DU LAC



MCGLIN HOLDS THE TUMBLE SWEEPER, WHICH HE HELPED BUILD AND PROGRAM



A. MCGLIN, M. KURSZEWSKI, A. TAMAYO, AND A MATCH TEAMMATE CELEBRATE A VICTORY



COMPETITORS STUDY THEIR OPPONENTS' ROBOTS WHILE WAITING FOR A MATCH TO BEGIN

On Saturday, February 5, New London TSA-Robotics competed at the 8th Annual Ishamon Harris Memorial VRC Tournament in Fond du Lac. The club consists of 18 students interested in various engineering and technology fields. Members work together to expand their knowledge by designing, building, and programming solutions to design challenges. This includes projects of personal interest and the VRC competition game released annually by the Robotics Education Foundation.

Club members spent the past school year and summer researching, designing, building and programming robots to compete in this year's game, called Tipping Point. The game consists of pringle shaped rings, ring buckets with ring posts, and balancing platforms inside a 12'x12' arena. Two robots work together inside the arena to score rings, steal ring buckets, and balance on their platform, all while an opposing team of two robots does the same. The teams try to balance as many ring buckets as possible with both robots by the end of the match.

The NLHS students brought their best robot, nicknamed "the Tumble Sweeper." The name is derived from the sweeper drum mounted on the front of the robot for picking up rings. This concept was

chosen because nearly all pre-existing designs researched focused on stealing ring buckets and ignoring the rings. This approach resulted in a unique and original design that complimented the capabilities of all the robots they were teamed with.

Despite this being New London's first competition, the team performed well in their 8 qualification matches and made the cut for eliminations. In the first elimination match, the Tumble Sweeper (1422A) and teammate 53171A of Shoreland Lutheran High School came out on top with a 122-61 point win. The second elimination match resulted in a 243-117 point defeat against the event champions. Overall the team did great, finishing the event 15th out of 23 teams, placing them 61st out of 79 teams in Wisconsin. The NLHS Robotics club hopes to use this experience as a launching point towards reaching the competitive level of surrounding schools. Attendees included Jenna Carpenter, Aiden Erickson, Austin Guthu, Matthew Kurszewski, Autumn Martin, Adam McGlin, Jonathan Peeters, Adrian Tamayo, Alex Wagner, Janet Weng, and high school advisor Mr. Lubinski.

School District of New London Continues to Increase Innovative Experiences for Students

Creating an Escape Room



Mrs. Kable's Exploring Computer Science class was using an "escape room" concept to help learn about algorithms and artificial intelligence. Students were responsible to collaboratively work in teams for solving problems using vocabulary, word searches, and puzzles. Students learned about terms like machine learning, image recognition, neural networks, and deep learning.

For each problem solved, the students earned a final clue for the final "escape puzzle". Students could keep track with the other groups by checking the screen for each group's progress. Winning teams got a certificate of completion and "escaped" the classroom. Next steps will be for students to make a machine learning app that will predict decisions based on data.



FLEXIBLE TEACHING SPACE ENHANCES INNOVATION

The Sugar Bush Elementary library remodel has been a huge success. Relocating shelving and updated furniture has transformed this space into a room of many uses. One of the new uses this year has been the addition of a weekly special called TechTime. The library space is used by students on Fridays to explore technology concepts from coding to learning how to be a digital citizen.

Mr. Tony Techlin is the instructor of this class which is also taught at the other elementary schools in the district. Creativity, problem solving and critical thinking skills are at the heart of learning in this class. Students are encouraged to work together to solve problems and tasks, building resilience and teamwork skills. Students engage not only on device centered activities, but hands-on activities and challenges as well. When something doesn't work, students are encouraged to test new plans and learn from their mistakes without feeling like they have failed. Perseverance is a great skill/quality for success and students get an extra opportunity every week to further develop this skill!

Students look forward to this class each week and staff and students utilize this flexible learning space all throughout the day.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS THROUGH INNOVATION

Innovative learning experiences at the Intermediate/Middle School allow students to grow and thrive. Examples include using the virtual reality goggles to venture into space, visit the North Pole and even look inside the human body.

In addition, our sixth grade students celebrated their Ancient Egypt unit by showcasing their work with a virtual museum tour using Screencastify recordings. All tours were shared with families, guardians, and community members including an opportunity for those interested to meet the curators of the museums during a Google Meet/Breakout Room. The adult participants asked many thought-provoking questions and opened the opportunity for each student to shine as experts.

If you are wondering what other unique, innovative lessons have sparked student curiosity, look no further than our seventh grade where



students listened to modern, popular music to deepen their understanding about everyday life in the South Pacific islands of Kiribati and Tuvalu. Each musical selection provided key insights into areas of employment, adaptations to weather and geography, and native animals.

Connecting learning in these inventive ways provides meaningful and memorable experiences for students at the ISMS.

STEM CLUB BEGINS AT PARKVIEW

A new club has started at Parkview for fourth grade students. Students in 4th grade are able to participate in STEM Club during their lunch recess on Mondays and Thursdays. STEM stands for science, technology, math, and engineering. In the month of January, fourth graders were encouraged to pop in to dabble with some of the experiences that will be available during STEM Club in the coming months. Students explored Code & Go Robot Mouse activity sets in January. In February, students explored coding on the iPad with Swift Playgrounds and constructing a Race Car using a kit.

This club is designed to give fourth grade students another opportunity to strengthen their critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork skills while learning how to fail

without giving up. This opportunity has given students the chance to use the previously mentioned skills in a different manner. Activities like these are not always able to fit into the daily curriculum at the elementary level which is why the idea of a STEM Club came about.

After attending a conference on technology and education, Erin Besaw and Jennifer Pelot consulted Jody Peterson, Principal, and Tony Techlin, Technology Instruction teacher, to create a club encouraging students to explore their talents and share their ways of thinking. Currently, the club is only open to students in fourth grade. There is hope that in the future it may be open to other grade level students as well.



New! TECH TIME

This school year, students encountered a new class, Tech Time. This dedicated, 45 minute per week class, has captivated our students across the district so far this school year with many novel, hands-on learning opportunities dealing with technology. This learning will help students navigate in our 24-7, technology-driven society going forward into the rest of their educational careers and beyond into adulthood.

Major themes of Tech Time include:

- Digital Citizenship-Learning how to ethically use technology
- Accessing Information-Learning where and how to access the information students will need in

their academics and adulthood from a multitude of sources

- Keyboarding-Learning how to efficiently use the keyboard
- Coding-Learning how to program technology to make it do what you want it to do
- Digital Creation-Learning how to use technology to design things
- Exploring Digital Formats-Learning how to use computers, chromebooks, i-Pads, etc.
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Projects-Learning problem-solving skills

Learning about this information at the elementary school level will help

students form ideas about possible careers in the field of technology and also help them understand how technology can help them personally and professionally as they get older. This class also helps our students to think critically and to problem solve, which are important life skills.

Tech Time is taught at the elementary level by Mr. Tony Techlin or Mr. Brian Hallman. Both gentlemen are well versed in technology, which allows them to share insight into this broad topic of learning with their students. As technology usage increases on a yearly basis in our schools, we know that this class will help keep our students learning and growing safely and efficiently in the digital world.



Alumni Gear Gets Another Go



The Readfield PTO has taken a creative turn this school year and is bringing back an oldie but goodie which is the Readfield School Graduate shirt. With fundraising opportunities often hard to come by, it is perfect timing!

Shirts are currently on sale at Readfield Elementary, Hunter's, and can be seen on display at New London High School. So far sales have been great as news has traveled quickly!

The history of the shirt is not quite certain, but sources share that the shirts were possibly first offered sometime around a celebration in Readfield in the 1990's where many who still live in Readfield proudly wear their shirts on festival days present time.

One such festival is the annual Caledonia Days celebration where this past fall the idea to bring back the shirts was born. Many festival goers pride themselves in wearing their original shirts and many alumni were eyeing up this vintage piece of clothing. The Readfield PTO, who is a strong supporter of Caledonia Days, was quick to make a plan. The rest is history and will continue to be history as students continue to graduate from Readfield Elementary School.

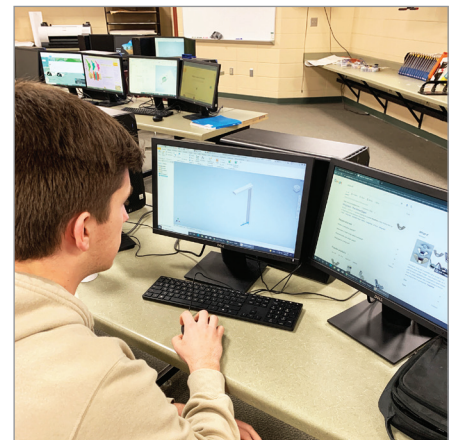
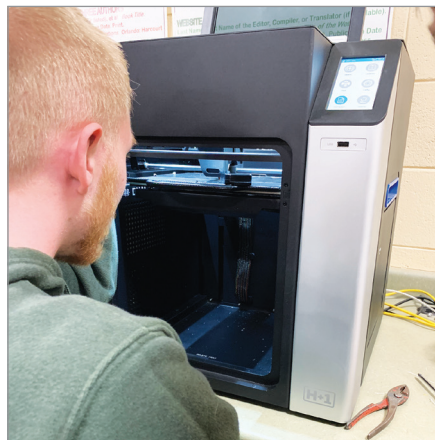
Bulldog CTE Students Problem Solve, Innovate, and Create to Help a Fellow Bulldog

New London High School students in Mr. Dusek's Invent to Learn class had the unique opportunity to problem solve, design, and create tools and adaptations to everyday items in order to help a fellow Bulldog at one of the elementary schools.

The student had broken both arms and was struggling with everyday activities like using utensils and brushing her hair and teeth without the assistance of a family member. Mr. Dusek took the problem to his students and they were willing and excited to try and help. The students are working through the design process to develop solutions to these problems. The students each created ideas and then worked

together to narrow down the ideas into one design idea. Some of the ideas included attachments that will be fastened to the casts, as well as modifications to utensils. Prototypes will be created in the inventor lab using the 3D printer and CNC equipment.

The Invent to Learn course is a Fox Valley Technical College Dual Credit Course that involves the study of the design process. Students learn how to solve various problems using the inventor lab. Students use computer solid modeling skills, Computer Numeric Control equipment and Computer Aided Manufacturing software to produce actual models of their designs.





A NEW WAY TO GET STUDENTS EXCITED ABOUT READING



Getting students to read and be excited about reading can be challenging sometimes. With an addition of a new machine at Parkview, the staff is hoping students will be inspired to want to read. After winter break, a Book Vending Machine was finally delivered to Parkview. The book vending machine was funded through an award that former teacher at Parkview, Gloria Peterson, received last year. Gloria Peterson was awarded the Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship Award last spring. Wanting to give back to the students she taught, Mrs. Peterson used the award money for the school on the vending machine.

Students can earn a free book in a number of different ways. They can earn a book by making positive choices throughout the month, by participating in the FANG reading program and by showing different Bulldog of Character Traits. Once students earn their free book, they come to the office to receive their special token and then they are able to choose a book to keep. Students are very excited to get to choose a book.

The books for the machine were donated through a Donor's Choose project. A local donor supplied the entire project listed in Donor's Choose in honor of their uncle who used to work at Parkview as a speech therapist. This project supplied books for all grade levels kindergarten through 4th grade and the books cover a wide range of genres.

This book vending machine has created quite a buzz at Parkview as students can't wait to receive their first book. It was amazing to see the community come together to make this opportunity a possibility for students.

MakerSpace Sparks Curiosity

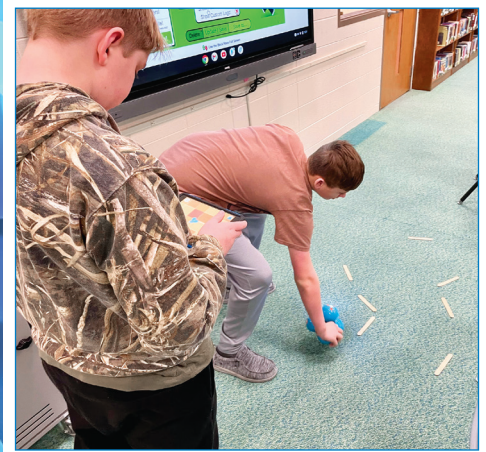
For the 2021-2022 school year, MakerSpace has been implemented during Bulldog time as an enrichment opportunity for students with passing grades and no missing work. Activities have included high tech stations such as coding with Dot and Dash robots, creating circuit projects and experiencing VR (virtual reality) simulations - including researching and searching for constellations in the night sky - during the middle of the day - so no sleep was lost! Additional low tech learning activities have included Lego building challenges, geometric shapes and buildings challenges and collaboratively solving brain teasers and puzzles! Whether high tech or low tech, students are enjoying the experience and often leave with additional questions for future investigation including the following:

"How does electricity work?"

"How does a circuit work?"

"How are robots programmed?"

"How many different constellations exist?"



HOSA Students Compete in Medical Innovation Event

Each year HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) students have an opportunity to compete in an event called Medical Innovation through the HOSA Regional State Leadership Conference. Two teams from New London High School competed in this event on Saturday, January 29. The event requires that students design a product that is a medical innovation that will improve the quality of life or serve a preventative purpose in a particular group of people. The students had to design a prototype of the product, create a tri-fold presentation board about the product and the science behind it, and prepare a seven minute speech about their product. They also had to be prepared to answer questions about their product by the judges that would be evaluating their board, speech and product.

Olivia Dreas, Paeton Kringle and Sadie Maus designed a product they called the Malignancy Monitor. The product's function has the ability to detect three types of skin cancer by scanning the surface of the skin to detect changes. The device then displays information on a screen that provides additional information about the changes detected. The students worked on this innovation due to knowing many people with skin cancer and felt it was valuable to learn more about the three types of skin cancer and how each one could



be detected at an earlier stage and without invasive procedures like skin biopsies. All three students plan on going into the medical field and gained valuable knowledge from their research and creation of their product.

Briley Bolen and Nadia Banaszynski designed a product called Baby Armour. The product's function is to prevent the accidental suffocation in babies by sensing carbon dioxide levels and if the baby has rolled onto his/her stomach. It will then alert the parent or caregiver of the baby via an app on their phone. The product was a baby sleeper with sensors sewn into the chest and shoulder areas of the sleeper. The catchy slogan they chose to "sell" their product was, "protection through detection!" Both students plan on going into the medical field and gained valuable knowledge and skills by completing their project.

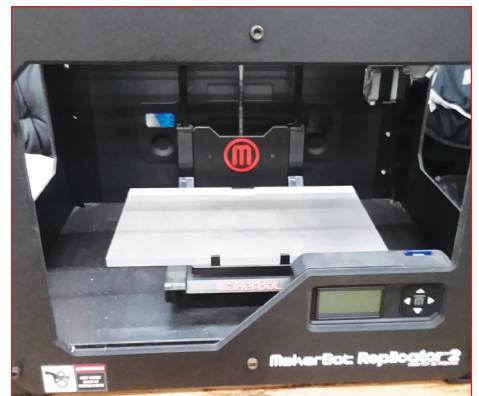


TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

The Intermediate/Middle School has added a number of new tools to support student learning in the areas of science, health and technology education. Thanks to a generous donation, the Intermediate/Middle School now has a Fork Farm grow station allowing students to learn about hydroponics and harvest fresh food.

In our second semester, we are expanding our Fork Farms by delivering additional grow stations across the district. Currently we have two stations working at the High School and will have two at the Middle School and one at both Lincoln and Parkview Elementary Schools in the coming weeks. These stations were a grant gift which allows students to apply learning in the content areas while giving back to the community with the harvest going to our local food pantry.

Additionally a new engraver, 3D printer, and snap electrical kits are enhancing the learning experiences of students in technology education and the new Design and Build course offered for eighth grade students.



Connecting Across the Grade Levels

Middle School students in seventh and eighth grades recently completed a service learning project with the kindergarten students at Readfield Elementary School. After studying shapes in math and learning to write complete thoughts, kindergarten students created snowman characters and wrote a story about a day in their snowman's life. These stories were shared with seventh grade students in Independent Living classes and due to the buzz around the Middle School, interested eighth grade students also found time to create lifelike replicas of the snowmen described.

As Mrs. Flannery said, "The looks on the student faces of her kindergarten class were priceless." Students were overjoyed and yelled, "WOW! They are so COOL!" and "Mine looks just like my drawing!"

What an innovative way to reach out and apply simple sewing techniques while giving back!



Fourth Grade Students Think Pink

The fourth grade students at Readfield began a lively discussion after reading an article in their classroom periodical Scholastic News this past January. The article focused on a cause at another elementary school and how the students went about promoting a change. The change being the addition of strawberry milk as an option for milk break. The fourth grade class had just wrapped up a persuasive writing unit, so supporting a thesis with reasons and evidence was fresh in their minds.

Charlotte Ehlke and her classmates were quick to jump on this movement and drafted a proposal for Mrs. Grable stating

many interesting points. Among the points were an increase in the attendance rate, "kids will want to come to school" and an increase in open enrollment applicants, "people will want to come to school at Readfield from other schools for strawberry milk." The well-versed proposal came complete with graphics, and a petition signed by all fourth grade students and even some second and third graders.

After conducting research on the nutritional benefits, cost comparison and access to strawberry milk with Travis Meyer, food service director, Mrs. Grable made the decision to offer a preliminary trial on none other than Valentine's Day!



Camp Invention Celebrates Ten Years



As families prepare for spring and summer so is the Camp Invention team which is excited to share this is year ten in our district!

Camp Invention came to New London when Kristin Grable, New London Camp Director, was looking for some options for her students at Sugar Bush Elementary during the summer months along with her son, Jack Grable who was a kindergartener at the time. Grable had a positive previous experience with Camp Invention as an instructor in 2000 with the Oshkosh Area School District.



“I called to inquire about how families might go about enrolling and when I found out there was no Camp Invention site in the area, I wanted to advocate for this STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) experience for my son, the students at Sugar Bush and also all students in the district.”

That next year, New London became a Camp Invention site with a convenient Camp location at Parkview Elementary. The decision to house the camp at Parkview allowed for students and staff to have ample green space and close proximity to the neighboring Camp Hatten for before and after care.

The first year was an exploratory year visiting established sites followed by full implementation the following year. Those first year campers are now seniors and many are still volunteering with Camp. Aside from one year skipped due to the COVID-19 shut down, Camp Invention has only grown in numbers thanks to the school district who now incorporates the experience through the summer school program offerings making it affordable for families and ensuring equity amongst all students.

With a combined total of campers, leadership interns, and leadership interns in training, Camp Invention provides a quality experience for over 180 students grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. Registration for Camp 2022 will be coming home to families along with summer school information soon!

SPRING BREAK

Our District school calendar provides for a week-long spring break this year, March 14-18. All buildings, including the District Administration Building, will be closed during this time. Please note that the March Regular Board of Education meeting will take place as scheduled on Monday, March 14, at 6:00 p.m at the District Administration Building.

Thank you to the following *Bulldog Bulletin* contributors:



- ▶ Erin Besaw
- ▶ Kirk Delwiche
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- ▶ Katie Kovalaske
- ▶ Kyle Lubinski

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- ▶ Brian Yerkey

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