



# BULLDOG

bulletin

News and Views from the School District of New London

## Taking a "STEP" in the Right Direction

Our senior citizens have "stepped" right in to assist teachers and students in the classroom. STEP - Senior Tax Exchange Program - was revitalized this year, and it has already impacted several classrooms throughout the district. The STEP program provides senior citizens (aged 62 and above) the opportunity to volunteer their time in exchange for a tax credit stipend toward their property taxes. Workers can volunteer at least 66 hours to earn a credit of about \$430.

Twenty-five STEP volunteers are currently involved in all district schools. Their various tasks have included:

- Reading with students of all ages
- Helping with hands-on activities in art class, tech ed, special ed
- Assisting teachers with various tasks
- Helping students with assigned work
- Sharing their technical/specialized knowledge
- Facilitating groups such as reading groups
- Mentoring students
- Supervising lunchrooms
- Assisting with Health Days, Book Fairs, etc.

The STEP program has become a vital partnership between teachers and volunteers. Some of the staff have shared positive reactions to having the volunteers available to them. According to Kristin Grable, principal at Sugar Bush and Readfield Schools, "The STEP Program came back just in time with the adoption of American Reading Company. Our youngest learners should have read 100s of books prior to



beginning their own reading journey, and Bridget is the perfect component to support this." Many of the STEP workers focused on reading support in all of our elementary schools, as well as the ISMS. In addition to reading with students, STEP workers helped with many other aspects of the classroom. Classroom teacher, Megan Hinde, said, "My STEP Worker has been invaluable in my second grade classroom! She has worked with students one-on-one or in small groups during our math time and has led station work during our Bulldog Time. The added assistance of my STEP worker has been a tremendous help with my class of 26 second grade students!" Teachers report that their STEP workers have offered to help above and beyond their original assignment.

STEP workers really enjoy the experience of being in the classroom and helping teachers and students. As a retired teacher, Pat Schoen sees the benefits that she can bring to a classroom. "The teachers I work with are very appreciative of what I do. Students like the one-on-one attention." STEP workers see their roles as multi-dimensional, and they



love watching the students experience success. Judy Priest works at Lincoln Elementary and has picked up time at the Middle School, working with fifth grade readers. "Working with the STEP program has allowed me to help young readers not only practice the skills of reading, but to share my enthusiasm for reading. An added benefit is being active in the school system so that I am more familiar with the challenges our dedicated teachers face." The students really enjoy the time they get with their STEP worker, and they look forward to those days. Mrs. Grable has been pleased with the positive reactions of her students. "At Readfield Elementary, Bridget Fitzpatrick is fondly called 'Mrs. Fitz.' She spends the majority of her Tuesday and Thursday mornings, reading to 4Kers."

Looking forward to the next school year, the possibilities are endless for the STEP program. The coordinator is Patty Grossman, a retired teacher from our community. Patty's goal is to continue to build and strengthen bonds between the schools and the community. The STEP program is a great vehicle to make these "strides."

# LITERACY ROUND-UP

The annual 4K Literacy Event took place on Friday, March 3, 2023, at the Washington Center in New London. This is a chance for families to meet their future 4K teacher and participate in play-based activities with the staff.

Activities that occur at this event include stations that offer literacy, numeracy and fine and gross motor activities. Children are able to receive a free book and take home all the projects that they made during the event.

This event is held every year at the Washington Center, typically in February or March. Percy, the school mascot, attends. A bus from the school district is also on site, so students can experience boarding a bus and sitting in the seats.

Generally over 100 children and parents attend this very popular event.



# Stuart Stotts

Stuart Stotts, children's entertainer, performed at the Washington Center for our 4K families for a community outreach event. Singing, dancing and children's entertainment accompanied this event which was attended by over 100 students and parents.





# Senior Awards



Annually, New London honors graduating seniors in a variety of manners on their Senior Awards Night. This evening promotes the accomplishments of our students in their final journey with us. Some highlights of this evening include presentation of Valedictorian and Salutatorian, 16 Department Awards (honoring students who are recognized by our instructors/departments based on their accomplishments), 22 Youth Apprenticeship recognitions, 12 Presidential Honor Awards, and WIAA Scholar Athlete recognitions. In addition, scholarships are awarded including two Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship and two Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarships, outside scholarships from colleges, universities, and other sources. A total of 146 scholarships were awarded to 86 different NLHS seniors.

Outside groups awarding scholarships include youth sports, New London Chamber, New London Education Association, local business, memorial scholarships donated by families, ThedaCare Medical Center, American Legion and many more. Eighty students were recipients of outside scholarships in a total amount of \$683,100.

Local scholarships awarded and coordinated by our NewLASS scholarship and Community Foundation also



played a large part of the night. NewLASS honors many of the same types of groups but is managed and maintained by the NewLASS Scholarship Committee. This year 65 NewLASS scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$101,000; including Thern Farm, Tyson, Associated Bank, Lincoln Alumni, over 15 memorial scholarships, and multiple significant awards given in honor of Stanley Cottrill. New LASS foundation recognizes between 10 and 15 students annually based on donations and applications beyond those directly represented.

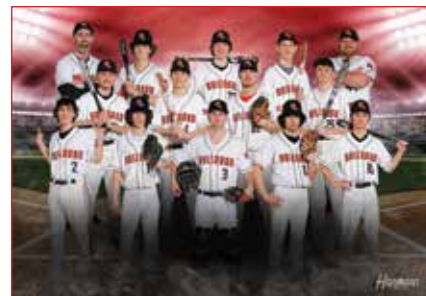
Beyond bulldog pride for individual accomplishments, is the sense of pride in our community on this night when philanthropy, industry and local leadership come together to celebrate this milestone for our graduates.

Community and families can make a difference with a one time donation or as a recurring scholarship. They can set criteria for specific scholarships or can simply contribute to the foundation to assure funding for future recipients continues. Further information on the NewLASS, Community Foundation, Legion and other scholarships can be found on our website at <https://www.newlondon.k12.wi.us/highschool/scholarships.cfm>. Sincere thanks to all who made this incredible celebration possible, and congratulations to all who were honored.





# 2022-23 VARSITY ATHLETICS



## NLHS OPPORTUNITIES

The School District of New London is proud to promote student engagement in clubs and activities for our high school students. From WIAA sports to academic competitions, as well as clubs and activities, New London continues to promote community involvement, student engagement and personal development. Students who participate in activities are more likely to have success in their academic and career goals. New London continues to grow these opportunities.



# NLHS STUDENTS ATTEND COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY



Since 1960, local American Legion posts and county employees have sponsored Waupaca County Youth Government Day. And, while there are other Youth Government Days, Waupaca County has organized and hosted its event longer than any other Wisconsin county. Seventy-five local high school students from four area high schools (New London, Weyauwega-Fremont, Waupaca, and Iola-Scandinavia) attended this year's program on April 28.

about their work in Waupaca and throughout the county; and Communications Center officers demonstrated some of the incredible technology in their new facility, where they respond to tens of thousands of 911 calls each year.

New London students who participated in this year's Waupaca County Youth Government Day were: Blayke Adamovich, Cale Adamovich, Cash Allen, Shaye Allen, Jacob Badtke, Quinn Baehman, Molly Batten, Gillian Bestul, Wyatt Bosquez, Johanna Farrington, Tyler Gonnering, Brice Guyette, Dan Hammers, Mackenna Jones, Treston Kaepernick, Djunie Langel, Alexandria Lutz, Brett Marquardt, Peyton McPherson, George Metko, Drew Peters, Ryan Peters, Nolan Roberts, Charles Sloma, Alex Stern, and Haley Thompson.



Twenty-six New London High School ninth graders were in attendance, learning about the important roles of state and local government, as well as interacting with many dedicated public servants. During their visit to the Waupaca County Courthouse and Law Enforcement Center, students met and learned from a number of individuals:

NLHS students had many positive things to say about the day, but Cash Allen perhaps summed it up best, saying, "County Youth Government Day was a great way to make learning about the government fun, and I am very glad I had the opportunity to be a part of it."

State Assemblyperson Kevin Petersen provided real-world implications of state DUI legislation;

Waupaca County Youth Government Day has benefitted young people in our local communities for the past 63 years, and it is possible only through the time and effort of many dedicated people. The members of local American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary posts sponsor the event; Legionnaire Arien Herminath and County Clerk Kristy Opperman organize the event each year; VFW Post 1037 provides their clubhouse as a gathering area for a wonderful lunch; and many Waupaca County employees and law enforcement officers volunteer their time and expertise. New London High School students thank everyone involved for making County Youth Government Day such an excellent experience.

Emergency Management Director Andrew Carlin and Deputy Director Eric Halverson described how the county prepares for and manages local emergencies and disasters, both natural and human made;

County Veterans Service Officer Jesse Cuff explained the county's role in connecting local veterans to the state and federal veterans services that they earned and deserve;

the Honorable Troy Nielsen welcomed students to his Branch I courtroom and directed students through an entertaining mock trial;

County officials (clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, medical examiner, clerk of court, district attorney, sheriff) hosted small group Q & A sessions with students;

Law enforcement officers directed tours of the county jail and sheriff's offices, answering many questions



# Retirement Announcements

**Karen Bennett** has completed 23 years as an educational assistant at the High School. She has worked with High School cross-categorical and EBD students for her entire career. She specializes in math and building great relationships with students. Karen also frequently works at our sporting events in the evenings as a supervisor, scorer, ticket taker, and ticket seller.



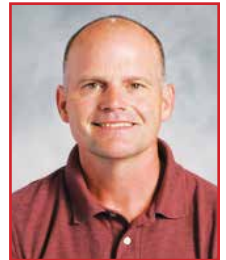
**Anne Ferge** has completed 28 years as an instructor for the School District of New London. Anne started her career as a teacher at Most Precious Blood School. She then began teaching 2nd grade at Lincoln Elementary School. She then taught at 5th grade at Lincoln Elementary, and later moved to the Intermediate/Middle School teaching 6th grade Language Arts. Most recently, she was instrumental in the planning and inception of New London High School Next Generation Academy.



**Brian Boushele** has completed 17 years as an instructor for the School District of New London. He began his career in the School District of Luxemburg before coming to New London. He then began teaching 5th grade at Sugar Bush Elementary School and also taught grades 3 and 4, later transitioning to the Intermediate/Middle School where he has taught at all grade levels 6-8. He has been involved in Student Council at both Sugar Bush Elementary and the Intermediate/Middle School.



**James Johnston** has completed 6 years as a Science/Physics instructor for the School District of New London. Jim worked in the public sector for several years in the Chemical Engineering field before teaching in the School District of New London. He came to the district desiring "to teach and make a difference in the lives of young men and women . . ." He has been involved in the Ski/Snowboard club, as well as coaching Middle School track.



**Joan Fenske** has completed 10 years of service as a custodian. Joan "Joni" began her career at New London High School and transferred to Readfield Elementary in 2014. Joni was not a stranger to Readfield as has lived in the community for many years. Joni takes much pride in the cleanliness of the school and keeping things orderly, however she is best known for her famous Popcorn Fridays and keeping Readfield happy with snacks, nacho bars and sugar. Joni is an instrumental part of making Readfield Elementary a fun place to learn and grow.



**Anthony Porath** has completed 31 years as a Phy Ed instructor for the School District of New London. He began his career as the Phy Ed Teacher at Lincoln and Sugar Bush Elementary Schools. He later transitioned to the Intermediate/Middle School teaching Phy Ed, Adaptive Phy Ed, and Health classes. He has coached 8 different teams (middle school football and high school football, middle school girls basketball and high school boys (JV/Varsity) and girls basketball, baseball, and tennis) and 68 seasons of various New London sports teams. He has been part of the varsity softball coaching staff since 1995 and has led his teams to 9 conference championships, 9 regional championships, 8 appearances at the WIAA state tournament, which garnered 2 runner-up awards (2005 & 2014) and a state championship (2013).





# Thank you for your service!

**Susan Resch** has completed 27 years as the School Nurse for the School District of New London. She began her career as a Staff Nurse at New London Family Medical Center, and then moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where she worked in nursing. After returning to the New London area, she worked in Homecare and Hospice prior to being hired as a School Nurse for the School District of New London. She is responsible for making the School District of New London an accredited HeartSaver District and maintaining the AEDs for 7 buildings. Each year she ensures that the entire staff participates in crisis training and provides the necessary medical training for direct services provided to students with chronic health issues, as well as daily medication administration. Mrs. Resch is also responsible for implementing the Seal-a-Smile Dental Program. Additionally, she instituted the anaphylaxis program in the district, which allows the district to stock epinephrine pens on-site for students and staff who have a severe allergic reaction that has been undiagnosed. Mrs. Resch coordinated free vision screening with the New London Lion's club for our 4K program and preschool/ Early Childhood students. Mrs. Resch has worked closely with our local public health agency to decrease communicable diseases in the school setting (COVID) and tracks the immunization status of all students in the district, which is required by State law. Sue has maintained the 100% compliance rating for the SDNL during her tenure.



**Gretchen Sasse** has completed 18 years as a School Counselor for the School District of New London. Gretchen started her career working at the Department of Corrections, and then came to the School District of New London as a Middle School Counselor. She has been involved in coaching tennis and Middle School track. Gretchen is also the advisor for Bulldogs of Character. Additionally, she is the advisor at the Middle School for the Sources of Strength Program.



**Sally Teasdale** has completed 42 years as an art teacher for the School District of New London. Sally began her career at the Washington Junior High teaching Art at grades 7, 8 and 9. She then taught Art at grades 6, 7 and 8 at the Intermediate/ Middle School. Most recently, she has been teaching Art at the four elementary schools. Sally participated in many, many school events throughout her career, often multiple similar events at each school. Displaying student art was a priority for Sally making for beautifully decorated hallways. Sally had an eye for recycling materials to create art; from egg cartons to wire to magazines. She worked hard to change projects from year to year so that students always experienced something new and different.



**Debra Stoeger** has completed 24 years as an educational assistant. Debra began as a Learner Aide at Readfield Elementary School. She has since worked as an Educational Assistant at the Middle and High Schools. She also worked the after-school program at Readfield for many years. Deb has been an instrumental part of the School District of New London in supporting special education programming for our students. Deb also frequently works at our sporting events in the evenings as a supervisor, scorer, ticket taker, and ticket seller.



# SUMMER STRATEGIES TO STAY CONNECTED TO LEARNING



## READ EVERY DAY

Research shows students who spend at least 15-20 minutes a day expand their vocabulary and have less “summer slide” when returning to school in the fall. Have an early reader? Practice finding letters or asking what sound a letter makes. Sitting and reading each day will be a great way to connect as a family and build early literacy skills. If you have students in Middle school, they should strive to read at least four to five chapter books during the summer which has been proven to have a positive impact on fall reading achievements.

## SEE MATH ALL AROUND YOU

Take time to do math problems, sort items, count, and find math in the everyday setting. Play a game of basketball and for each basket made, make it worth seven points; a simple multiplication problem just became a fun, active game! Taking the kids to the store? Have them estimate what they think the total bill will be. As they help shop, have them add up the grocery bill or work on rounding to the nearest dollar.



## WRITE ALL ABOUT IT!

Keep writing skills sharp by writing poems, short stories, or for the younger learner, drawing simple pictures about an event in order. Going on a possible trip or even walking to the park? Have your child write about how they felt, what they saw, what they heard, or the order of events. Writing a letter or postcard to a friend or relative is another great way to practice writing and also sending a friendly note.

## TAKE LEARNING BEYOND THE HOME

Visit the local library to check out new books or get involved in their Summer Library programs. The New London Parks & Rec Department or Mosquito Hill are other local options to get your child involved in community events. Want to explore more? Check out a farm market, tour a museum, or visit a local fair are all learning experiences.



## SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School registration is closed, but some courses still have available spots. Registered students will get updated schedules and reminders as dates approach. If you do have questions or concerns, please contact the coordinator for the programs.



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## SUMMER HOURS

Summer hours for the District Office will be 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Fridays. All other school buildings will have limited access during the summer.

### 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.