



BULLDOG

News and Views from the School District of New London

bulletin



Success for All Students - Early Learning

For many children four-year-old kindergarten (4K) is their first experience in a structured setting with teachers and groups of children. It is an opportunity to learn to share, follow directions, and begin the foundation for learning that will occur in elementary school. Over 98% of Wisconsin schools offer four-year-old kindergarten.

District 4K programs were implemented eight years ago with school-based programs at each of the four elementary schools and community approaches at the Daycare Center of New London and New London Head

Start. With wrap around care available at Day Care Center of New London and an extended session at Head Start, families have several options that fit the needs of their children.

A publication from the United States Department of Education (2015) states advances in neuroscience and

research have helped to demonstrate the benefits of quality early education for young children and that the early years provide the necessary foundation for more advanced skills. Children's pre-literacy skills are predictive of future successes. Studies cite children who attend high-quality

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Between the ages of 3 and 5, a child's vocabulary grows from approximately 900 to 2,500 words, and sentences become longer and more complex. Singing, talking about read-alouds, and retelling stories nurture this growth.



Early Learning, from page 1
 preschool programs are less likely to utilize special education services or be retained in their grade, are more likely to graduate from high school, pursue post secondary training, and succeed in their careers than those who have not attended high-quality programs.

We are proud of programming provided for our youngest learners, but what does the Class of 2031 have to say?

I like to do work. Show and tell is my favorite. - Kinley

I like to stretch the bands at the GeoBoard Center. - Wyatt

It is fun to go outside and play on the slide with my friends. - Mila

I like to play in the home living area with the kitties and puppies. - Hayden

Please contact Julie Haase, (920) 982-2011, if your child turns four on or before September 1, 2018, and you have not yet registered for next year's session.



Making a Difference



A total of four blood drives will take place at NLHS this year. Sponsored by the American Red Cross and the Community Blood Center, students are on track to reach their goal to exceed the collection of 100 pints of life-saving blood.

The Power of Positive Students (POPS) has offered three blood drives already. Twenty pints were collected during the first drive through the American Red Cross. The second included 55 participants who donated a total of 42 units of blood. Thirty-two first time donors participated in this session. The most recent drive allowed the collection of 24 pints of blood; holding the potential to save up to 72 lives. NLHS Student Council will work with the Community Blood Center in May for the fourth and final drive of the year in May.

These donations support life saving efforts in our community and throughout the nation. Special thanks goes to all donors as well as Piggly Wiggly, Festival Foods, and Little Caesars for their generous contribution to each of the blood drives.

BRING YOUR TRACTOR... TO SCHOOL!



Opportunities Opportunities Opportunities for All Opportunities



In an effort to ensure *Success for All Students*, the School District of New London offers variety in *where* students learn as well as *when* and *how* they complete coursework. The district's two charter schools support options to the traditional classroom setting.

Next Generation Academy opened in 2013, and is located within the High School. Personalized Learning Plans are developed and are unique to each child. Students are provided options of combined online, face-to-face, and project based learning. This group has access to traditional courses within NLHS. Students take ownership in

the activities completed while being coached by teachers supporting them in an environment built on trust and respect.

Catalyst Academy was fully implemented in the 2014-15 school year and is located off-site at 709 S. Shawano Street. Here students are provided options to fill credit deficiencies by taking face-to-face and online classes. Catalyst Academy is committed to a culture of self-directed learning and a personal commitment to responsibility and respect honoring all. Personalized Growth Plans clearly articulate student expectations and outcomes.



Students enjoyed a well-earned break from their traditional setting and took advantage of the snow while we still had some. Activities such as this highlight the importance of teamwork. Whether in the workplace, classroom, or snow hill ... teamwork offers students the ability to become more familiar with each other while understanding the value of working together.



Anne Ferge

How long have you been teaching at Next Generation Academy? This is my fifth year as an advisor for the Next Generation Academy.

What is your favorite part of working with students at Next Generation Academy?

I enjoy building relationships with students, which in turn, sets my students up for being successful. Once students feel a sense of community, ownership, and support, they can focus on academics and meet goals that may have previously seemed unattainable.



Anna Krueger

How long have you been teaching at Catalyst Academy? This is my first year at Catalyst, and I teach Vocational English, Creative Writing, Consumer Math, Why Try? (Character Education), as well as a co-taught Physical Education class.

What is your favorite part of working with students at Catalyst Academy?

Watching them succeed, grow as individuals, and collaborate to reach academic and personal goals.



Gary Henschel

How long have you been teaching at Catalyst Academy? This is my third year, and I teach World History, English, General Science, and Physical Education.

What is your favorite part of working with students at Catalyst Academy?

The morning meeting. It is a time that we greet students, give them news about the day or week, and see how their day is going.



Accolades and Applause

Mrs. Melissa Anderson recently completed *National Board Certification* and also celebrated her twenty-fifth year teaching second grade at Lincoln Elementary School.

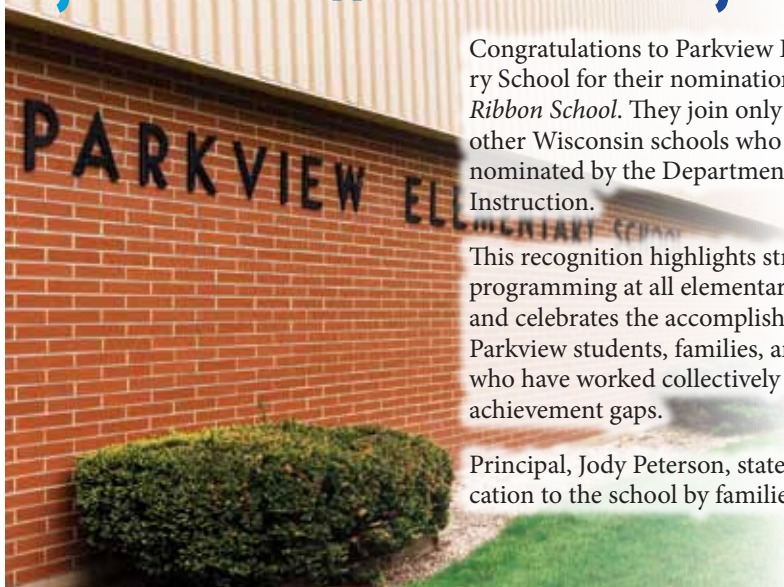
National Board Certification is a voluntary, advanced teaching credential. This program was designed to develop, retain, and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools across the nation. Application of *National Certification* principles has been shown to enhance student learning, improve teacher skills, and demonstrate a commitment to excellence. Congratulations, Mrs. Anderson!



Celebrating STEM

New London Middle School eighth graders recently traveled to the NWTC Green Bay Campus to participate in the Mind Trekkers festival. Mind Trekkers is a unique educational experience that allows students to uncover the mysteries of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), through fast-paced hands-on activities.

Parkview Honored with Prestigious Nomination



Congratulations to Parkview Elementary School for their nomination as a *Blue Ribbon School*. They join only seven other Wisconsin schools who were also nominated by the Department of Public Instruction.

This recognition highlights strong programming at all elementary schools and celebrates the accomplishments of Parkview students, families, and staff who have worked collectively to close achievement gaps.

Principal, Jody Peterson, states, "Dedication to the school by families and

community along with the cooperation on the end of students made this [nomination] possible. Time, effort, and commitment of staff led to this success. This nomination epitomizes our district's mission of ensuring *Success for All Students*."

Parkview is in the process of completing 'next steps' in this nomination. Their team is completing an application for this prestigious acknowledgement and will keep us posted on progress to their goal of being recognized for exemplary teaching and learning.

Student Insight Supports Sustainability Project



The district's strategic plan includes the goal of maximizing sustainable practices, and energy efficiency is a critical component. The School District of New London looks to cut costs wherever possible, and like many businesses, transitioning from less efficient lighting to highly efficient cost-saving LED looked to be an attractive alternative.

Director of Business Services, Joe Marquardt, initiated discussion on LED conversions at the high school just over a year ago, yet remained cognizant that although such conversion could produce long-term savings in terms of maintenance and energy expense, there would be upfront costs that must be absorbed. Discussions with four different companies took place, but Joe wasn't satisfied with options posed, so he worked with the maintenance team to retrofit two classrooms and a hallway with new LED panels. They felt they would be able to scale the project to positively impact other structures and ultimately the budget if they could find a cost-saving solution for the district's largest building.

At this same time, Ellie Madsen, NLHS senior, spoke with her teacher, Mrs. Porath, about interest in pursuing a sustainability project for DECA. Ellie was introduced to Mr. Marquardt who explained, "She jump started our research on LED solutions in a way that involved students and staff. We couldn't have accomplished what we did without her efforts."

Joe went on to explain that Ellie surveyed those impacted by the demo classrooms and presented data to him throughout the fall. She evaluated feedback, looking at lumens, Kelvin temperature, potential increase in student achievement, pros/cons related to new panels or retrofitting, and she also presented her findings to the Facilities Committee of the Board of Education.

After Ellie's January presentation, the Committee supported moving forward with the project. Additional work with BNH Lighting provided insight on a solution for each classroom, and not a blanket resolution for the building. Ellie assisted in this process and created a spreadsheet that verified current lighting in each room.

A presentation at the Special Board Meeting in February allowed the Facilities Committee and Maintenance Team to confidently seek Board approval for this project. Labor was bid out competitively to local contractors, and payback for the project will be less than three years in which the district will capture energy savings of approximately \$47,000 each year. We are grateful to Ellie, and all who helped to implement this project which will surely have a positive impact for years to come.

Congressman Gallagher Visits New London Students



Congressman Gallagher and Legislative Assistant, Pauline Meyer, recently visited bilingual students at New London Middle School. The Congressman shared information about his role and responsibilities, and students then had the opportunity to share their stories.

Middle schoolers detailed what it is like to be bilingual and responsibilities they have to interpret for their parents. Highlights included a Hmong student sharing how his family came from Laos as refugees, the story of a Spanish speaking student who arrived from Mexico only weeks ago, and an emotional account of sacrifice described by a young lady whose parents sent her to live with grandparents

so she could have a better education than previous generations.

Through the use of an online translator, a French-speaking student asked the Congressman if he gets tired from his job. Others asked questions about the Congressman's view on building a 'wall', his stance on immigration, and DACA. The group was intrigued with all that it takes to become a member of Congress. They displayed a mix of genuine interest in learning about the Federal government along with some anxiety about the future of immigrants in the state and nation.

HELP WANTED: BUS DRIVERS



We have several openings for qualified bus drivers, and we welcome your application. Here are a few answers to questions that are frequently asked:

We provide training and will pay for testing once the driver attains certification.

There is a written and driving test, as well as a Department of Transportation physical conducted through ThedaCare.

Drivers attain an 'S' and 'P' endorsement on their driver's license upon certification.

Training and testing can be completed as quickly as two to four weeks.

New drivers are paid \$18.75 per hour for driving routes while drivers who are experienced are compensated at \$21.75 per hour.

Please call Laurie Fischer at the bus garage (982-8543) to share your interest, ask questions, and set up a time to begin training. We hope you will consider joining our team!



School Community Partnership

The City of New London approved two student representatives to serve on the New London Economic Development Committee. Twelve students went through the interview process, and Myah Henderson and Travis Voight were recently appointed as student representatives.

The Economic Development Committee provides oversight of economic development activities that include business attraction and retention, marketing, tourism, industrial park development and maintenance, riverfront development, and downtown development. They will participate in all discussions and vote on matters that are not considered budgetary.

Thank you to the City of New London for providing this opportunity for our students, schools, and community.

VIRTUAL REALITY Informative and Engaging

Students are more actively engaged in learning when technology tools are a seamless part of the process. This has been the case with the use of virtual reality goggles. This resource was purchased last year with technology grant dollars available to classroom teachers for the purpose of implementing innovative projects.

With the implementation of virtual reality, students explore and experience topics as if they are actually present in that environment. It provides an effective way to engage in a variety of learning styles and certainly proves motivational to those who utilize this technology.



The use of virtual reality technology allows 5th graders to brave the elements of Mt. Everest and 7th grade students to experience undersea adventures.



Learning by Doing

New London High School students are provided opportunity to learn more about hands-on careers through Youth Apprenticeship experiences, dual enrollment courses, and by assisting with local school and community projects.

This was the case with a group that participated in Boldt Construction's workforce development initiative. The project included students in the design and construction of a project through Boldt's management and construction team. Northland Electrical Services added to the team of professionals who worked collectively to construct a building behind the home stands of Bulldog Stadium.

There was no cost to the general fund budget for this project thanks to the combined contributions of Boldt Construction, Northland Electrical Services, the Gridiron Club, High School activity accounts, and students from Mr. Fuhs' and Mr. Kurszewski's classes.

It is common to hear of the need for workers to fill jobs in highly skilled trades. Connecting kids to these types of hands-on opportunities allows them to explore interests related to careers in a way that proves informative and motivating.



Congratulations to the Middle School and High School Show Choirs as they begin to wrap up their competition season. These groups entertained countless audiences with dynamic performances.

Mark your calendars for their encore performance on Thursday, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. at the High School auditorium.



Thank you to the following *Bulldog Bulletin* contributors:

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- ▶ Gary Henschel
- ▶ April Kopitzke
- ▶ Katie Kovalaske
- ▶ Anna Krueger
- ▶ Dennis Krueger
- ▶ Joe Marquardt
- ▶ Lori Menning
- ▶ Jody Peterson
- ▶ Laurie Schmidt
- ▶ Danielle Sievert
- ▶ Bill Storck
- ▶ Jill Willner
- ▶ Brian Yerkey
- ▶ Cathy Zaddack

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