

**North Star Academy  
Polar Express  
Issue #9, June 2014**



**FROM THE NSA OFFICES**

If you haven't already reserved your child's spot at North Star for 2014-2015 school year, please call the office to do so! Re-enrollment forms have been mailed home and sent home with students over the last month. You can reach us at the office by calling [906.226.0156](tel:906.226.0156).

**LIBRARY**

Please don't forget to return all library books! All books still out after the school year have been billed. I prefer getting the books back rather than money. Be sure to sign up for Summer Reading Programs at your local library! All public libraries offer a program for children, and many also offer teen and adult programs. These programs offer incentives to keep people reading over the summer. A child that reads while on summer break retains more knowledge and has less catching up to do in September.



Have a safe, happy, book-filled summer!  
Jessica Holman, Librarian



**COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

**International Culture Exchange Services (ICES)**

This organization is looking for families interested in hosting an exchange student for the 2014-15 school year. ICES students have their own spending money, cover their own expenses, and have full health insurance. Volunteer host families are asked to provide the student with meals and room and board during his or her stay in the U.S. Students are ages 15-17 and from several different countries. If you have any questions, please contact the Upper Peninsula ICES representative Jennifer Cass at [jennicass@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jennicass@sbcglobal.net) or at 1-815-690-4422. You can check out ICES website at [www.icesuse.org](http://www.icesuse.org).

**Important Upcoming Dates**

8/26 - Professional Development **pm** -Staff Only

8/27-Professional Development **all day**-Staff Only

8/28-Professional Development **all day**-Staff Only

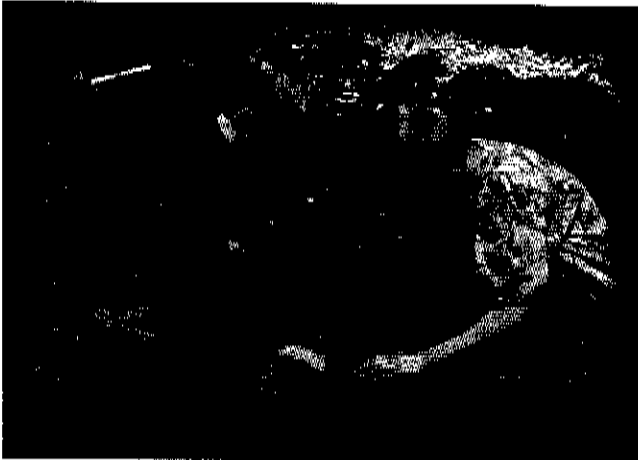
8/28-Open House – 4:00-7:00 **pm** all are welcome

**9/2- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!!!!**

## **SERVICE LEARNING COORDINATOR**

### **Pollinators Garden Planting**

Elementary students are creating a pollinators garden at Moosewood Nature Center in Marquette. Here are NSA volunteers and community volunteers helping to get the 30' x 30' garden dug out and prepped for the plants.



## **JAG NEWS**

### **Empty Bowls 2014**

North Star Academy's Empty Bowls Lunch Raises over \$1700. May 16, 2014 marked the 8th year that North Star Academy invited the community to participate in the Empty Bowls fundraiser. Approximately, 120 people attended the luncheon and raised over \$1700, with all proceeds donated to Voices For Youth and NMU Student Organization- Marquette Ending Hunger. Empty Bowls is a national, grassroots movement with the goal of raising awareness and funds for those suffering from hunger and poverty. Students served a meal of soups, breads and desserts. Participants chose a hand-crafted bowl to take home as a reminder that too many bowls sit empty across the world. At North Star Academy, there is a strong educational component with students learning about hunger and poverty issues. Students created bowls, requested donations, created a Power Point, banners and placemats, served at the event, spoke with media and wrote thank you notes.



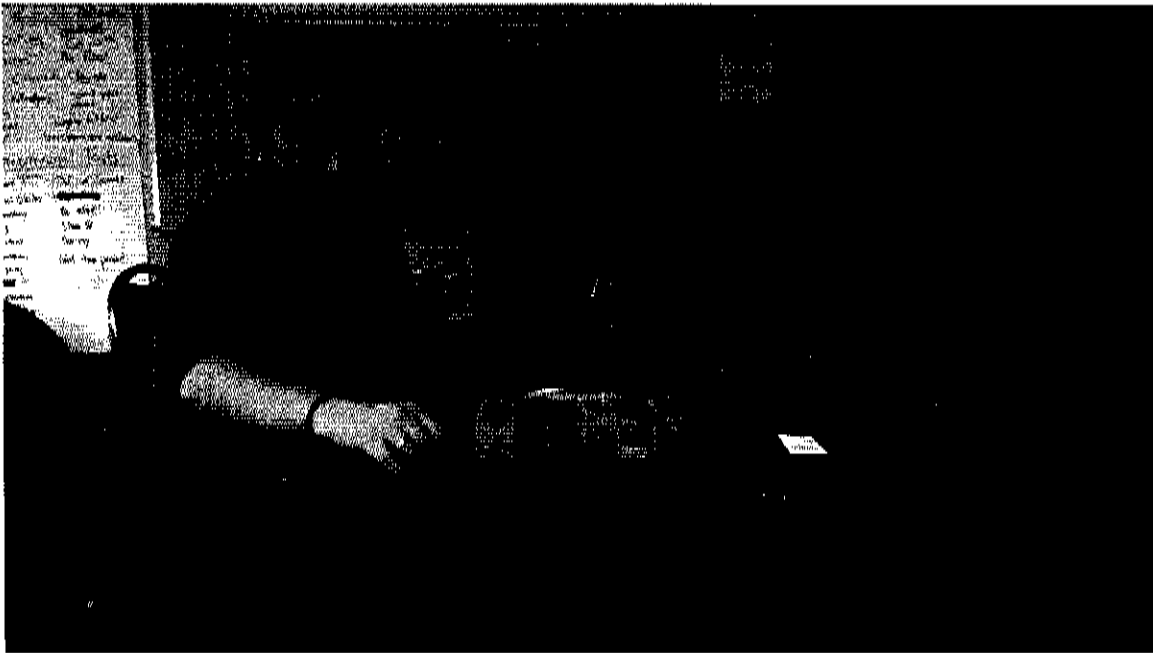
Thank you to our donors: Brownstone Inn, Coco's, Cookie Jar, Dead River Coffee, Donckers, Econo Foods, HOTPlate, Huron Mountain Baking, Marquette Baking Company, Michigan Works!, Mark Mitchell, NMU Chez Nous, Perkins, Rice

Paddy, Saykly's, Super One, Target, Third Street Bagel, and Walmart and KOHLS Cares volunteers. And, thanks to all who attended the event. -----Sarah Johnson, JAG Specialist

### **A Special Thank You**

Thank you North Star Academy for hosting JAG, Michigan Works! and for funding JAG, and to the students who participated in JAG. It has been a fantastic year and we accomplished so much! Members of JAG gained employability skills and have gorgeous portfolios. They are experts in job searching with several gaining employment this school year. Students also gained valuable leadership skills through activities such as the TV6 Canathon, Empty Bowls, Room at the Inn, and Prom Committee. During Q4, our focus was Entrepreneurship and students created business plans with 2 of the 3 groups executing their businesses: Zombified is a zombie-themed t-shirt and sticker business; Lucid is a jewelry and recycled scarf business. JAG members applied for a booth at Blueberry Fest, so they can sell their goods. We hope to see you downtown Marquette on July 25th from 10am-7pm. Finally, congratulations graduates! Through career exploration activities during College Application Week, field trips to NMU and Bay College, guest speakers, interest inventories, and all your academics, you are ready. I am confident that you will do well and I am proud to know each of you.

Photo: Jenna Shelafae and Sabrina Hernandez creating jewelry for their business, Lucid



## **HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Letter from the MS/HS Principal**

Dear NSA Community,

As I sit in my office, the halls are much quieter and there aren't nearly as many faces as there normally are. I can hardly believe another school year is over. As always at NSA, the school year ended in grand fashion. I want to thank all the teachers for their hard work and dedication during project term, as well as our volunteers. Students finished the school year in a variety of groups, in which they learned a number of skills and content, too. The activities included: cooking with NMU's professional chefs, flying actual airplanes from KI Sawyer to Munising, mountain biking, photography, building, and sports. On the last day, middle and high school students were recognized for their academic achievements during term four. Congratulations to all the award winners, you worked hard to earn YOUR achievements. Of course, a very special congratulations to all of this year's graduates. The staff and I had a hard time watching these amazing, young people go. I wish everyone a safe and fun summer. I hope to see everyone at open house on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> and I am looking forward to an exciting 2014-2015 school year.

Sincerely, Stephanie Abata, 7th-12<sup>th</sup> Principal

### **Prom on a Shoestring Budget**

Students, on the Prom 2014 Committee, planned all aspects of prom including finding a location, reviewing contracts, working with a budget, planning a menu and decorations, shopping for items, setting up and breaking down the event. On May 3rd, 52 students attended the world's coolest prom. One of the main goals was to ensure all students could attend so tickets only cost \$8. The ticket price included a professional DJ, photos, and a great spread of food. Jasmine Herron and Vizma Loos, NSA Alumni and cosmetology students donated time and expertise to do hair and makeup for many of the students. Tickets to the prom, dresses, shoes and suits were provided for students who could not have participated otherwise. The entire prom was executed for less than \$500.

A huge thank you to: Casey L'Huillier, Samara Berger, Miranda Norton, Ben Berger, Hannah Coburn, Noah Roberts and Justin Davis, for contributing time and energy, to create a fabulous experience for their classmates. Additional thanks go to the students who participated in Haunted Hayride and allocated \$300 to seed prom. Chad Coller, DJ, for providing music that kept the group dancing, Jackie Johnson, Vizma Loos and Jasmine Herron for nail, hair and makeup expertise, and Staci Zanetti for taking, editing, and printing photos, so each student could have a moment.  
--Sarah Johnson, Prom Advisor and the 2014 Prom Committee

### **Senior Exploratory-PS I Love You**

The Senior Exploratory Group, Teen Suicide (Kaylee Aldrich, Ben Berger, Ginger Coburn, Emily Field, John-Henry-Kibit and Miranda Norton) hosted an event May 14, 2014 called, P.S. I Love You Day. It is an event that was started by a girl who lost her father to suicide. The goal of the event was to teach suicide prevention skills and to remind everyone that they are important. Positive notes with encouraging comments were taped to every high school student's lockers. Also, many students wore purple to show support of the cause. In addition, all high school students participated in QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Training with MSHS Guidance Counselor, Patti Karwoski. QPR Training teaches people how to recognize and address signs of suicide and depression. Additionally, this service project helped our group gain leadership skills and taught us how to work as an efficient team. By Miranda Norton, PS I Love You Team Member



## Congratulations Graduates and Their Families

On June 11, 2014 eleven students graduated from North Star Academy. Although we were sad to see them leave, we are so proud of them and know we will miss them when school begins in the fall. We wish them well as they start their new endeavors. Below are our graduates and their future plans:



- **Andrew Auston** – He will be attending Northern Michigan University majoring in music.
- **Benjamin Berger** – He will be attending Michigan Northwest College, majoring in aviation. He plans on becoming a commercial pilot.
- **Ginger Coburn** – She will be attending Northern Michigan University, majoring in nursing.
- **Dallas Kecker** – He will be attending Northern Michigan University, majoring in social work.
- **Rachel Kurian**- She will be attending Northern Michigan University, majoring in criminal justice.
- **Casey L'Huillier** – He will be a second year student in the welding program (participated in year one during his senior year at NSA) at Northern Michigan University.
- **Jamie Luokkala**– He will be attending the welding program at Northern Michigan University.
- **Miranda Norton** – She will be attending Northern Michigan University, majoring in photography and minoring in political science
- **Klaye Olson** – He will be a student in the auto mechanics program at Northern Michigan University.
- **Philip Turausky** – He will be attending Northern Michigan University, majoring in accounting and minoring in electronic maintenance.
- **Madison Warras** – She will be entering the world of work, saving money to enroll in Northern Michigan University's cosmetology program.



## Congratulations Kaufman Scholarship Award Winners

Thanks to the generosity of the Kaufman Foundation, each year four deserving graduating seniors earn \$600 scholarships. The following criteria to earn a scholarship, is taken into consideration: at least a 2.5 GPA, attendance, extra-curriculars, service learning experiences, citizenship and years at NSA. Congratulations to: Dallas Kecker, Casey L'Huillier, Miranda Norton, and Philip Turausky. In addition, the Kaufman Foundation also provides ten \$250 scholarships to NSA eighth grade students. The criteria is the same, with the exception that a student must have attended NSA for at least two years. Congratulations to the following award winners (29 students were eligible): Loegun B, Trinity B, Aidan C, Margo F, Bill G, Vauda G, Miiya H, Justin H, Brandon M and Jacob S. Those meeting the criteria are voted on by the full-time teaching staff and administration.

## Middle / High School Schedules

Middle and high school student schedules will be mailed home, during the month of July. Please be aware that parents/students will not be able to view schedules on PowerSchool, until August. This is due to the fact that we are running a summer school program and we cannot turn the system over to next year, until summer school is done.

## Middle /High School Fall Enrollment

North Star Academy is now accepting 7th-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, for the 2014-2015 school year. There is no tuition and class sizes are twenty or less students per class. If you know of anyone interested in learning about North Star Academy, please have them contact Stephanie Abata at 226-0156 or [sabata@nsacd.com](mailto:sabata@nsacd.com).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### 8th GRADE CEEP



North Star Academy Students assist with spring planting at NMU. Spring is in bloom and North Star Academy students are learning all about it. Eighth graders from the Community Environmental Education Program (CEEP) headed over to the Native Plants Study Area at Northern Michigan University today to help clean up the grounds and get ready for planting. North Star Academy students learned a lot from the event as they begin to embark on a water garden of their own.

## Elementary School News

### Highlights

- The week of May 5<sup>th</sup>, elementary students traveled to NMU for the Young Author's Conference. The children reported that this year's author was quite funny!
- NWEA testing was completed for the elementary the week of May 19.
- Wednesday, May 14 through Friday, May 16, the sixth grade attended Young Wildcat Camp at NMU. Even though it was cold, the students had a great time.
- The Elementary Spring Concert was Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Marta and the students did a fantastic job!



### Developmental Kindergarten

Ms. Francisco's Developmental Kindergarten has been working hard tending to their plants for Moosewood. The class transplanted over 150 sunflowers and moved all the plants to the greenhouse.

### Kindergarten

Ms. Heltunen's Kindergarten has been journaling a few times a week and their writing skills have taken off! They are doing a FANTASTIC job sounding out and spelling words independently. They, also, have been learning lots of geography skills like North, South, East, and West. Mrs. Heltunen is so proud of them!



Parker smiles as he poses by his art at the Elementary Art Show at the NMU DeVos Art Gallery!



### 1st GRADE

Mr. Neumann's first grade took a field trip to the DeVos Art Museum. The students were excited to see their art work on display.

### 2nd GRADE



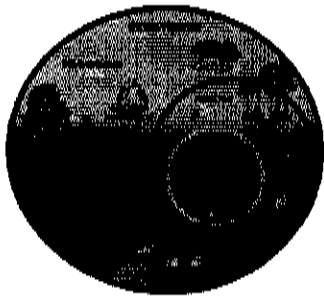
Ms. Ingram's second grade has been very motivated these last days of school. The ceiling was full of balloons as a count-down to project term. One student per day is popping a balloon that is filled with a fun activity to participate in. The students have to finish assignments, stay on task, and make positive choices to earn the reward. So far, they have earned extra recess, a game of kickball, reading with the kindergarten students, and a sit where you want day! They come in ready to pop a balloon and participate in our day.

### 3rd GRADE



Ms. O'Brien's third grade has been actively learning about producers, consumers, and market economy, while, being actively engaged in a hands-on class project of creating, marketing and selling their products (art work, hand-made jewelry, rock magnets, cookies, etc.) or services (nail painting/washable tattoos) from their classroom business. Students are using their classroom reward dollars to purchase items from their classmates business.

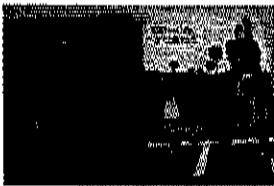
### 4th GRADE



The 4th grade class was invited to participate in the Moosewood Shipboard Education trip on Tuesday, May 28th. The trip centered around three main activities. First, the students learned about invasive species in the Great Lakes. They were able to see and touch a live sea lamprey and take a close look at zebra mussels. Discussion involved how they get into the Great Lakes and what effect they have on the ecosystem. Second, the class observed how water quality sampling is taken and also sediment sampling. They were able to learn about the bugs and insects that live in our water and see what they look like. Last, the class learned about the Piping Plover, its habitat, and why it is endangered. They learned how to spot a nest and what to do when they find an area that the Piping Plover is nesting in. During these activities, the ship sailed around

Marquette Harbor and highlighted some of our local areas like the Carp River, the Ore dock, Marquette Lighthouse and the Marquette break-wall. It was an amazing opportunity and a great way for us to wrap up our school year!

### 5th GRADE



Ms. Hill's fifth grade has been working on a 5th Grade Memory book. Students are writing stories, creating poems, and drawings. Each student was interviewed by another student based on questions we came up with as a class. All students are going to receive a book at the end of the year.



## 6th GRADE

Ms. Pettit's sixth grade is studying chemistry and completing chemistry labs. Students are reading and studying the ancient Romans and mythology. Also, they are taking sunflowers to Moosewood gardens. They will grow 12 feet tall!



## North Star Academy –Last Day of School Picnic

The staff at NSA Elementary would like to thank **everyone** who helped out with this years picnic, whether it was with time or snacks, the Marquette Township Fire Department, and Super One Foods and Econo Foods, who donated all of the ice cream. The picnic was a huge success and everyone had a blast!

