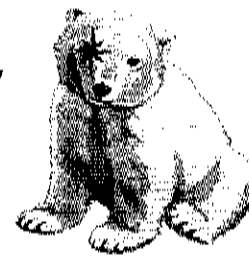




North Star Academy

Polar Express - March 2015



Enrollments for 2015-2016

Greetings! We would like to remind all parents and guardians that the re-enrollment forms for the **2015-2016** should be turned into either of the offices at your earliest convenience. It is the only way to ensure your child's spot for next year before the open enrollment begins. Spots are filling fast! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at 906.226.0156.

Student Success

Our NMU Curriculum Consultant submitted the following report on NSA students' NWEA Math and Reading test scores, comparing their Fall, 2014 and January, 2015 scores:

- ✓ Students in grades K through 12 showed **growth in math and reading** scores!
- ✓ Grades K and 1 scored **above national norms** in math!
- ✓ Grades K, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11 scored **above national norms in reading!**

Congratulations and thanks to students, staff and families for all of your tremendous support.

Library News

Thank you to everyone who shopped at the Scholastic book fair, during conferences or online! We brought in \$2,061.89 during February's fair, which means the library earned \$1,030.93 in Scholastic Dollars for future book purchases.

- Jessica Holman

Montessori

The Montessori class will be studying the names of the seven continents, and associating the landmasses with animals who live there. We will learn about each of the animals and write about them. The students have also been learning about physical science using many hands on experiments. They will attend the Children's Museum to look for examples of force, friction, gravity, and types of motion. Montessori students are gearing up to work with plants for the hoop house. We will be learning about the parts of the plant and there functions.

- Kim Pettit

Developmental Kindergarten

This month in D.K. we have been having fun celebrating being 100 days smarter! And boy are we a smart bunch! We have been counting to 100 loud, quiet, frontward and backwards! Counting to 100 by tens is so much fun and we can all do it! I am so impressed at how far we have all come in D.K. I can not wait to share all of our reading success! Wow!

- Ms.Cissell

5th Grade

I can't believe it is already March! We have been busy learn tons of new things in 5th grade. The students are almost finished with the novel, *The Great Gilly Hopkins*. We are enjoying learning how to decipher new vocabulary and how to use it appropriately. The students have also started their

informational books. Each student was able to pick a topic and gather information about it and turn it into a book. I am excited to bring something different to Young Authors this year. The students enjoy going onto the computer and research and learning about a topic they have chosen. In science we are wrapping up our unit on how animals survive. We have created family trees using traits that have been passed on by each family member. We will next start exploring body systems and why they are all important. I am looking forward to the next few months to see how much they have learned throughout this year. Thank you to all the wonderful parents that have supported these kids, they are amazing!!

- Casie Hill

Mr. Erickson' 8th Grade

The students have been learning about United States history. Students worked on an Industrial Revolution project that allowed them to learn about the inventions that shaped our country. After the project, we took some time to learn about how the Native Americans were affected by westward expansion. Students seemed to like the story of the great warrior Tecumseh. Andrew Jackson was also debated in our class. The students developed some strong opinions about this famous leader.

In Algebra the class has been working hard on graphing systems of equations and finding the slope of a line. Students say that they like graphing lines.

Between cold days the class had the opportunity to go to the bowling alley to celebrate their achievements from the previous term. Honor level students enjoyed bowling, playing games, and eating food at Superior Lanes.

- Luke Erickson



H.S. Senior Exploratory

North Star Academy's senior exploratory education group is organizing a book drive in cooperation with national reading month during March. There is currently a donation box outside of the elementary office. Any donations of spare books, preferably children's/young adults would be greatly appreciated. Collected books will be donated to The UP Children's Museum and Adult Learning Systems. Thank you for your help, every little bit counts!

- Dave Gilbert

JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates!)

North Star Academy's JAG class partnered with Gwinn High School's JAG class for a field trip on January 23rd. The students went to visit NMU's Jacobetti Center to see all the programs they have to offer including Welding, Automotive Technology, Aviation Maintenance, Hospitality and Cosmetology. Several students mentioned they appreciated the opportunity. Michael Brown said, "I never really thought about it (a career in Construction) but once I checked into it, I realized how important it is and that it ties to many of my interests."

We talked with Admissions Counselor, Jon Teichman about the admissions process, asked questions about courses, and learned more about going to NMU. We also had a chance to speak with Megan DelBello, Academic Advisor and Coordinator of Student Services at Jacobetti. She talked about daily life at NMU and ways that NMU supports students to be successful.

We ate lunch at Chez Nous, a fancy fine dining restaurant at NMU. The lunch was prepared by the Culinary Block high school students and it was delicious. Our lunch consisted of Bistro French Onion Soup, Chicken Parmigiana with Tomato Basil Sauce, Fresh Asparagus Wrapped in Prosciutto, Saffron Risotto, and for dessert, Tropical Carrot Cake. In between courses, Chef Kibit talked with us about table manners and shared the history of etiquette styles across time and cultures. One of our classmates, Hannah Coburn, who participates in the Culinary Block, also shared her experience with dual enrollment and what to expect from a CTE (Career Technical Education) Block class. The information was really useful for anyone considering a CTE course and dual enrollment. Sabrina Hernandez said, "The food was definitely my favorite part!" I was really impressed by the culinary part of the day also and found this field trip very helpful because I plan to attend NMU Fall 2015 for Hospitality and feel like I have a better understanding of what to expect.

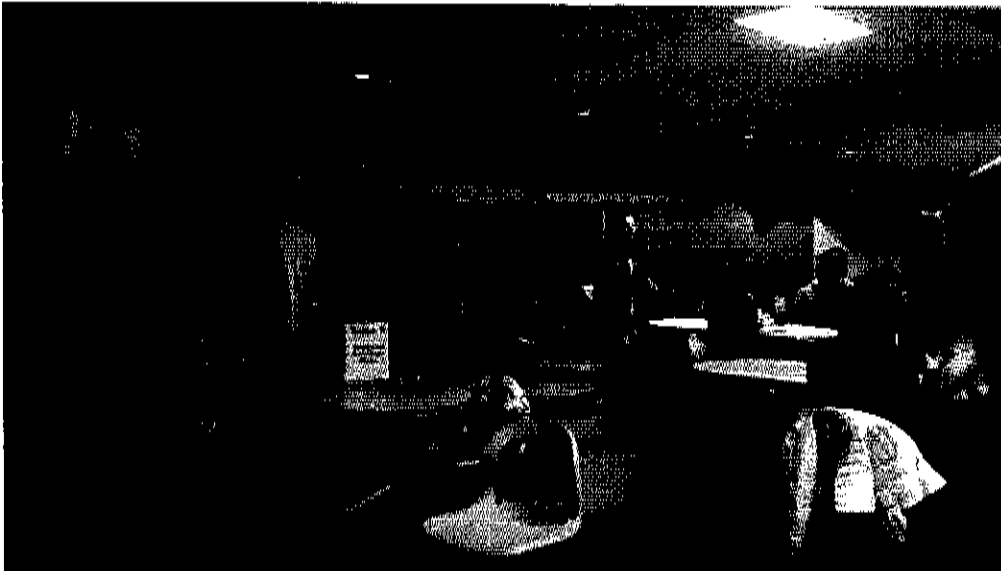
- Erin Livermore, 12th Grade

(Photo: Chef Kibit shares information about NMU's Hospitality and Food Service Management programs)

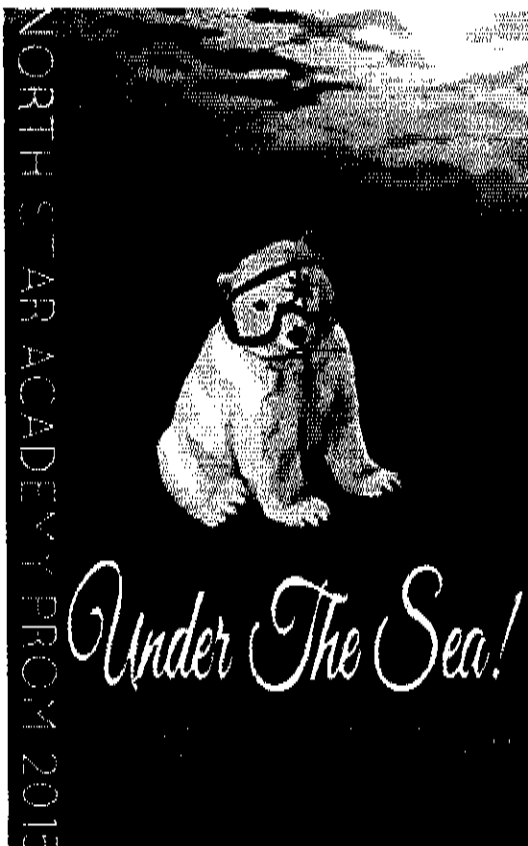


During Quarter 3, JAG Members have been focusing on Career Exploration and Employability Skills. Students have worked diligently to complete resumes, cover letters, and references that document their individual and collective achievements through JAG and other classes/extracurricular. Up

next...the interviewing process and mock interviews to round out our Employability Unit. This is all perfectly timed because many opportunities are presenting themselves: interesting job postings with several students seeking employment, NMU/MARESA requires a completed application for students interested in a CTE course (such as Culinary Block or Welding) at NMU during their senior year, MRS/MARESA have a leadership/mentoring opportunity which requires an application, and 5 students have the opportunity to compete in the Employability Skills competition at Jobs for Michigan's Graduates 6th Annual Career Development Conference in Lansing, MI on April 15, 2015. JAG Members will absolutely have the best looking application materials and be comfortable tackling these challenges and opportunities.



North Star students during a H.S. Honor Level outing – Bowling at Superior Lanes!



The prom committee is, once again, hard at work to create the best prom ever! Like always, our goal is to keep costs down without sacrificing any details- and we can only accomplish that with help from everyone! Please see opportunities to help below.

This year's prom will, again, be held at the Marquette Township Hall (about a half mile from the school at 1000 Commerce Drive). Prom runs from 7:30pm to 10:30pm on Saturday, May 2nd and is open to all 9th-12th grade students! This year's theme will be Underwater/Under The Sea, and we're already planning for a ton of awesome decorations. Tickets cost \$8 and cover hall rental, a professional DJ, and a delicious spread of appetizers.

A second goal of prom is to ensure all students can attend. The PTO will host a "Pretty for Prom" event on Tuesday, April 14th from 8:00am-9:10am. Formal attire will be on display and students will be able to choose clothing for Prom at no cost. In order to make this happen, we are looking for donations of dresses, male dress clothing, shoes, and jewelry.

On May 2nd, from 2pm-4pm, we will also host an event at NSA so students can get hair, nails and makeup done. We are looking for volunteers to help with these tasks.

If you can help us out, please contact Sarah Johnson at 280.1685 or sjohnson@nsacd.com. See you at prom!

- Noah Roberts and Sarah Johnson, Prom Advisor

NSA Luge

Thanks to the support of administration, PTO, parents, and long time Upper Peninsula Luge Club member, Jessica Straczowski, we were able to establish an after school luge program. Ten students took advantage and twice a week we had a bus run the athletes out to Lucy Hill Luge Track. This program is fairly cheap compared to other sports, it is safe, and the program provides all equipment needed.

Our students worked and trained hard (if your grades slide, you don't) and were able to participate in the North American Championship during the last weekend of February. We are very proud to announce that three NSA athletes placed in this prestige race:

In the Junior Men's Division:

First Place:

Jairus Vancheck, 7th grade

Third Place:

Michael Brown, 11th grade

Fifth Place:

Torrey Cookman, 5th grade
(First time ever starting from junior gate!)

Congratulations to all athletes! Because of these accomplishments we have now a sponsor for one of our athletes and hope that others will come forward to support our program.

