



Educationally Speaking...

Vol 1.2 Winter 2015-16



Electronic Theater Controls in Middleton, WI, welcomed the Pecatonica High School Drama club on an after-school field trip in Late October. ETC is a nationally known company that manufacture lighting control systems for theaters, television studios, and architectural spaces. Pictured from left to right are: Jim Meuth, Music and Drama Director, Autumn Olson, Christian Stansfield, Shyann Danz, Ellie Hjelle, Lauren Becker, Sarah Saether, Abby Loomis, Skye Hoffman, Cher Schliem, Dakota Hoffman, Connor Huffman, Mackenzie O'Connell, Michelle Winder, and Rose Schmit.

Pecatonica Pride

We have a lot to be proud of in our students this fall semester. Since September, the kids have impressed us with their academics in school and in their clubs and activities after school.

Gifted & Talented Events at CESA 3

Selected 5th and 6th, and 7th and 8th grade students will compete in spring math competitions hosted by Pecatonica Middle School this year. Last year we had a strong showing in both events with our 5th/6th grade placing 2nd among six schools in the Curie Regional.

In October a small group of 6th graders went "Geo-Caching" with other area schools and GT advisor Mrs. Schaller. They did really well and held their own against area high school students. In December, a small group of middle school science students, with their teacher, Mrs. Skiborski, will learn how to build wind turbines.

Six Pecatonica high school students attended the annual University of Wisconsin – Platteville's Women in Engineering Day on Monday, October 26.

Kara Craig, Rose Schmit, Mackenzie O'Connell, Rachel Brokish, Elisa Sullivan, and Krin Broshous, along with science teacher Mary Barr explored the many areas of engineering and other STEM fields offered at UW-Platteville. Female scientists and inventors discussed their paths into STEM careers from high school through college. At lunch there were career talks by Platteville professors and local female engineers. Pecatonica students built electrical circuits, created computer animations, experimented with the stored energy in a rubber band, and built windmills.

STEM Competitions

Congratulations to the Pecatonica Math Team for a strong showing at a regional math contest, November 4, in Platteville. Kevin Demler gained special recognition by placing among the top math students in the region in the individual event.

Late Summer FFA Results

Wisconsin State Fair

Over Labor Day weekend, FFA students were busy showing poultry and goats, among other projects. Samantha Holmstrom received Reserve Champion junior doe (goat), while Jacob Tollakson won Best in Show for his Australorp cockerel (poultry).



Marcel Timm's "Farm Display" received a first place (above)

Fifth Grade Happenings at Pecatonica Elementary School in Hollandale

One of the instructional methods that Pecatonica Elementary has been focusing on is differentiating the curriculum so that students who excel in one or a few areas have continued opportunity to grow and be challenged beyond the regular curriculum. Last school year, the district focused on revising and clarifying the Gifted and Talented policy for students in grades 3 and above. An example of this in process:

During the first quarter, 5th grade has students reading and prepping for the Battle of the Books, a gifted and talented event hosted by CESA 3 in Fennimore. Mrs. Gronski offers a weekly "Mini-maker" stations in her classroom that extend the learning. For example, students were given three stories which shared a common theme. All were stories of people from other cultures and how they bonded together to solve a problem. The extension offered was an "illustrators study." The artwork in each book was completed by the same illustrator and it used reclaimed materials. Students experimented with this art and then completed a project that was displayed in the classroom and in the library.

Fifth grade was also the recipient of a 3D Printer, donated to the Elementary School by Chris and Jennifer Wetteland. Jennifer is a former Pecatonica Area School District Board Member. 3D printers incorporate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by having students "write programs" or code the printer into creating anything they can imagine. 3D printers are used to create prosthetics, building materials like bolts or screws, sculptures or figurines from plastic. You can essentially build anything you want. All you need are the raw materials and the imagination and you can create it with a 3D printer.

Veterans Day Celebrations at the Elementary School and Middle/High School

One of the highlights of the fall semester for many in both the Elementary Building in Hollandale and the Middle School-High School in Blanchardville, is the annual Veteran's Day Celebrations. Putting together a celebration of this caliber is a group effort. At the elementary school, various grades make decorations, hand-write invitations to the event (including breakfast) to Veterans and their spouses, as well as prepare songs and dances for the program. Led by the music director, Melissa Ashebrook and 5th grade teacher, Mary Sutter, the program always delivers on its promise to be one that many Veterans, spouses, and community members look forward to each year.

The high school event is led by the coordinated efforts of Mr. Jim Meuth, HS Music Director, and Ms. Irene Middlemas, retired librarian and Future Problem Solvers and Forensics coach. The middle school choir also performs, under the direction of Melissa Ashebrook. This year the FPS students led the program with the band and provided numerous prose and poetry commemorating Veteran's Day.

Christian Stansfield, senior, performed "Taps" in both buildings at the conclusion of the event preceding the departure of the American Legion's Color Guard.

Thank you to all students and staff who participated in the planning and the events, as well as (of course) to our numerous Veterans in both the Hollandale and Blanchardville communities!



Job Opportunities

Pecatonica School District is still taking applications for substitute teachers. Must have a BA/BS Degree. Inquire within the District Office if interested.

Know your Teachers and Coaches: Welcome to Bobby Rose and Linda Hendrickson, Varsity and Junior Varsity Girls Basketball

Coach Linda Hendrickson currently works for the Department of Workforce Development, State of Wisconsin, in Downtown Madison as a manager. She has been with the Department for 18 years. Linda has always enjoyed coaching and watching sports. She's been married 19 years to Steve "Eli" Hendrickson, lives in the Pecatonica School District, and together have 3 wonderful children: AJ (16); Bo (13); and Diana (8). All three are active in Pecatonica Sports and activities.

Linda played basketball in Barneveld for the legendary Jim Myers. She started working with youth basketball shortly after she graduated from high school, first coaching her niece's basketball team. She stopped coaching for a few years once she married Eli, and then began coaching when her oldest son, AJ, started playing. According to Linda, she "caught the bug again" to get involved. For the last several years, she has been the youth basketball program coordinator for Pecatonica, and coaching both a girls and boys youth team. Previously, Linda coached volleyball, softball, and baseball. She is a certified WIAA Referee in Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, and Baseball.

According to Linda, the best thing that she loves about coaching is watching the kids grow into young men and ladies. Additionally, she's takes her role very seriously, especially when it means being a positive influence in kids' lives, instilling in the kids a love for the game, and to watching their talent and dedication grow into something that we all can be proud.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading a good book, quilting, and spending time with her friends. She is an active member of the Pecatonica Booster Club and involved with the Religious Education Classes at St. Patrick's in Hollandale. Someday, she says, she would love to travel and go to Ireland with her sisters.

Coach Robert (Bobby) Rose is a Highland, WI native (his parents still live there) and has taught at Pecatonica High School for three years. Basketball is his favorite game and one of his greatest passions. Last year he was one of the Assistant Girls Basketball Coaches under Aaron Lancaster. Coach Rose is a History and English teacher for 9th and 10th graders at Pecatonica High School. He's coached for six years: three at Highland Middle School (boys), one at Oregon High School (boys), and two at Pecatonica (girls). According to Coach Rose, the best things about coaching is working with young people and watching them grow, not only as athletes but as people.

A bit more about Coach Rose: He would love to learn about the rain forests of the Amazon basin firsthand on a research trip of some sort. He has two siblings: Brady, who graduated from UW-Madison last year and is going to veterinary school, and a sister, Bailee, a senior at Highland High School. His favorite basketball memory is when he was a junior in high school and Highland beat Barneveld in a regional semifinal. Barneveld was #3 in the state, #1 in our regional, and the gym was so full and loud they had to use hand signals to get our plays. "Highland led throughout the game."

One lifelong goal is to play golf at St. Andrews in Scotland.

Elementary Art Program & Grandview Art at the Elementary School, by Sally Schaller

Autumn is quite an inspirational time in the elementary art room, with such exciting ways to incorporate the beauty of nature and the fun of the holidays into art forms. We've been painting swirly trees, cutting pumpkin faces, mixing colors, sculpting clay, and expressing our ideas just like Van Gogh, Matisse, Delaunay-and all the current artists whose work we can enjoy right now via YouTube.

Our Grandview After School Art program has begun with a wonderful turn out of kids ages K-5. A few Thursday afternoons throughout the winter and spring, Grandview Art Academy coordinator Marilyn Rolfsmeyer lines up a local artist to teach something special to the kids. It's a wonderful enrichment opportunity for kids who love art as much as we do!

Soon we'll be making holiday gifts for loved ones, and hanging our annual art show in the lunch room hallway. A reminder to parents: on the day of our Christmas concert, please enjoy the art on display, and don't forget to take your present home. Enjoy the season and hug your artist today!

Holiday Giving Pecatonica Style

The Woodford State Bank, Farmers Savings Bank of Hollandale, and the Pecatonica Valley Food Pantry located at New Hope Lutheran Church are combining efforts this holiday season to provide gifts and baskets of food to local families. Each bank lobby has a "Holiday Giving Tree" with ornaments of wish lists from local school children. The schools identified children in need and provided anonymous wish lists. Bank customers and other local community members interested may take an ornament, fulfill the wish list, and wrap the presents to leave under the tree at the Bank.

Prior to the school's winter break, district employees will then deliver the gifts with the food baskets.

Thank you to all who make this season Merry & Bright to the dozens of families who need the extra cheer.

... and a special THANK YOU to York Memorial Lutheran Church which donated half of their proceeds from their gift basket raffle to children in need within the school district.

The Pecatonica Area School District does not discriminate against anyone: student, employee, community member, or employment candidate on the basis of race, gender, socio-economic status, marital status, religion, or disability. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and for any complaints on this matter, please contact the School District Administrator.



It's against the law.

Pecatonica High School has partnered with the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery (Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services) in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to spread awareness of underage drinking. We all know that underage drinking is illegal. In addition to the long-term health consequences, it is one of the leading causes of death among teenagers.

The *Parents Who Host* campaign promotes safe prom and graduation events by discouraging underage drinking parties hosted by parents, family, and friends. Pecatonica High School will promote the following activities as a part of the PWH campaign:

- Provide information about PWH;
- Our guidance department and principal's office will provide outreach to the media including press releases and presentations to local groups;
- Work with local law enforcement, including targeted operations to prevent teenage drinking parties;

There are several local ordinances and even State Law that addresses underage drinking. If adults willingly or unknowingly "host" underage drinkers they can be sued for liability. If there is an accident or fatality as a result of this hosting, they can be held for criminal charges. There are so many "ifs" in these situations. The best way to keep yourself and teenagers safe is to not host parties and to report parties where underage drinking is occurring to the authorities.



Remember to continue to save the "Box Tops for Education" coupons on marked boxes and submit them to the elementary school. The money is used for special events at the school and various supplies that fall outside of the school budget, such as incentives for positive behavior within the building or on the busses and playground.

A Review of the Pecatonica Area School District Attendance Policies

The attendance policy for the elementary building and the secondary building (grades 6-12) are essentially the same as in years past: Students are allowed 10 excused absence over the 180 days that school is in session. Excused absences include:

Doctor/ dentist or medical visits

"Family reasons"

Funeral leave

Personal illness

Inclement weather or impassible roads

School-imposed absences (such as suspension)

Once a student reaches the 10-day threshold, absences no longer are excused unless they are for medical reasons and are accompanied by a doctor's note stating that the student is under medical care. Students are always expected to make up the work they miss, and if the absence is expected (such as for a family reason) they must fill out a "planned absence form" for the secondary building to collect future assignments.

"Unexcused absences" are those that fall outside the parameters above. The school administration works directly with the student on a case-by-case basis. However, a student would become habitually truant if they are absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part of all of five or more days on which school is held during a school semester.

Parents receive notification of attendance after five and ten absences and the notice does include these guidelines. However the school district may refer a student for "habitual truancy" for excessive unexcused absences. Habitual truants are referred to the juvenile courts within the county of residence in accordance with state law and the provisions of the school district's truancy plan. This policy is in accordance with the Wisconsin State Statutes on compulsory attendance for public school students.

For any questions on this policy, please contact the building principal.

Just a reminder that the schools will be closed December 23rd, 2015 through January 3rd, 2016.

School resumes on Monday, January 4th. While the students are out there may be limited staffing in the building offices over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Please have a safe, happy, and healthy 2016 – and thank you for all of your support this past year.

Sincerely, the Pecatonica Area School District Administration and Staff

The Elementary Holiday Concert and Art Show will be on Friday December 18th at 1:30 p.m. in the Elementary Gymnasium.

There will be lots of singing and acting from the kindergarten all the way up to the 5th Grade band. Come enjoy traditional Holiday Carols and silly twists like; Ugly Sweater, Peppermint Candy Canes, and I Love Snow. The third grade will even be singing in French. Please join us at 1:30 p.m. for the concert but stay afterwards to enjoy our halls that will be filled with art and also don't forget to visit the book fair for those last minute gifts. Happy Holidays!



Surveys: We want your feedback

[Parent Teacher Conferences](#)

Summer Programming - Day Care/Summer Care

School District International Travel

Please go to the Pecatonica Area School District to click on the links to the feedback surveys:

www.pecatonica.k12.wi.us

Surveys are a great way for us to get quick feedback and to plan for future programming and needs in the district. Thank you for taking the time to complete these surveys.

Fundraising and Holiday Gifts

Think local for your holiday gift-giving! Various Pecatonica sports and activities have "Viking" items for sale for your favorite student, parent, or alumnus. Please review the options on our school district website and support great causes!

Pecatonica High School's Music Department Upcoming Items of Interest, by James Meuth, Director

Eight Grade Band

On November 19th, Monticello Middle School hosted the Six Rivers East Conference 8th Grade Band Festival. Every year the 8th grade band students from the conference come together to practice and present a concert. They rehearse together during the day, and perform a concert at the end of the day. This year the band is under the direction of retired Monticello band director Michael Korth. Mr. Korth taught in the Monticello School District for 33 years as band director before retiring at the end of the 2013 school year.

Drama Club News

The Pecatonica Drama Club is proud to present the satirical musical "Little Shop of Horrors" by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. "Little Shop of Horrors" is the musical story of what happens to a down-and-out flower shop in Skid Row who discovers an alien plant that attracts customers to the shop, making the shopkeeper and the owner famous! The only problem is that the plant eats a lot. What does it like to eat? IT MUST BE BLOOD!

The music is upbeat, wonderful and a lot of fun! As a cast, we have been thoroughly enjoying the rehearsals and can't wait for you to see this show! The cast includes Sarah Saether, Rose Schmit, and Mackenzie O'Connell as Ronnet, Chiffon, and Crystal, the singing trio that tells the story. Starring with the trio are Devin Erickson as Seymour, Connor Huffman as Mr. Muschnik, Lauren Becker as Audrey, Dakota Hoffman as Orin, the sadistic dentist, and Jesse Puckett as the voice of Audrey II. Other cast members include Abby Loomis, Autumn Olson, Skye Hoffman, Ellie Hjelle, Shyann Danz, Christian Stansfield, and Caleb Carr. The properties manager is Ashley Shilling. Helping with the music in the pit are Kevin Demler and band alumnus Laurel Meuth.

The show times are on December 11th and 12th at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, December 13th at 1 p.m. All shows are in the music room at the high school. Seating is limited.

The Pecatonica winter concert and art show is slated for Tuesday, December 15th. The art show begins at 6 p.m. with the music concert at 7 p.m. The show and concert includes all of the art and music students at the middle and high school.

Solo/Ensemble Festival - This year the festival is on Saturday, February 20th. Juda School District will host the event. The festival runs from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Winter Sports Athletes and Schedules

Wrestling Schedule – Pec-Argyle

Date	Opponent	Location
12/3/2015	River Ridge	@ Argyle
12/5/2015	Various	Black Hawk
12/12/2015	Various	De Soto
12/19/2015	Various	Beloit-Turner
12/22/2015	Dodgeville	Home
12/29/2015	Various	UW-Whitewater
12/30/2015	Various	UW-Whitewater
01/09/2016	Various	Sauk Prairie
01/16/2016	Various	Weston-Ithaca
01/30/2016	Various	Lancaster
02/06/2016	Various	Cashton (Conference)
02/13/2016	Various	Regional



2016 Pec-Argyle Wrestlers: Top Row: Head Coach Mike Pittz, Andrew Schild, Grayson Scholl, Casey Phillips, Assistant Coach Lucas McKeon. Bottom Row: Lucas Gilbertson, Prestan Rosenstiel, Aubri Armendarez, Trevor Gilson, Cameron Treuthardt

Girls Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location
11/12/2015	River Valley	River Valley
12/1/2015	Riverdale	Home
12/4/2015	Weston	Home
12/7/2015	Belleville	Home
12/10/2015	Blackhawk	Home
12/12/2015	Cassville	Home
12/22/2015	Albany	Albany
12/29/2015	Wisconsin Heights	Wisconsin Heights
01/05/2016	Potosi	Potosi
01/07/2016	Barneveld	Home
01/12/2016	Argyle	Argyle
01/15/2016	Juda	Juda or UW-Platteville
01/18/2016	Highland	Home
01/23/2016	Parkview	Home
01/26/2016	Black Hawk	Blackhawk
02/01/2016	Darlington	Darlington
02/04/2016	Albany	Home
02/09/2016	Barneveld	Barneveld
02/12/2016	Argyle	Home
02/15/2016	Mineral Point	Mineral Point
02/18/2016	Juda	Home

Girls Basketball Roster - Varsity

Name	Grade	Number
Alexis Phillips	Junior	3
Grace Keast	Sophomore	4
Adriana Johnson	Junior	10
Melody Burnett	Sophomore	12
Taetum Pagel	Sophomore	14
Jessica Erickson	Junior	20
Samantha Erickson	Senior	21
Elizabeth Tisch	Junior	23
Sarah Swenson	Junior	32
Samantha Mabin	Senior	34
Alexis Phillips	Junior	3

Girls Basketball Roster – Junior Varsity

Name	Grade	Number
Autumn Olson	Junior	12
Alexia Knutson	Freshman	14
Melody Burnett	Sophomore	20
Michela Kastner	Junior	22
Grace Keast	Sophomore	24
Abby Timm	Freshman	30
Trinity Fitzgerald	Freshman	32
Joselyn White	Freshman	34
Krin Broshous	Freshman	42
Abby Loomis	Freshman	44

Boys Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location
11/24/15	Belmont	Home
11/28/2015	Cuba City	Home
12/5/2015	Mineral Point	Home
12/8/2015	Monticello	Home
12/11/2015	Highland	Highland
12/14/2015	New Glarus	New Glarus
12/18/2015	Argyle	UW Platteville
12/29/2015	Darlington	Home
1/5/2016	Albany	Albany
1/8/2016	Barneveld	Barneveld
1/11/2016	Fennimore	Home
1/14/2016	Juda	Home
1/19/2016	Black Hawk	South Wayne
1/22/2016	River Ridge	Bloomington
1/28/2016	Monticello	Monticello
2/2/2016	Argyle	Argyle
2/11/2016	Albany	Home
2/16/2016	Barneveld	Home
2/19/2016	Juda	Juda
2/25/2016	Black Hawk	Home
3/1/2016	Regional	TBD
3/4/2016	Regional	TBD
3/5/2016	Regional	TBD
3/10/2016	Sectional	TBD
3/12/2016	Sectional	TBD



Varsity Boys Basketball 2016: Top Row: Head Coach Matt Fink, James Knutson, Tyler Wahl, Dalton James, Kole Kent, AJ Hendrickson, Cory Linder, Logan Green, Dylan McGowan, Assistant Coaches Eli Fitzsimmons & Larry Schliem. Middle Row: Kyle Pierson, Riley Gould, Brooks Chandler, Colton Schraepfer, Jake Dearth, Joey Boland, Kyle Kleppe. Bottom Row: Managers: Chevy Hughes, Zander Bruncker, Griffin Gordon, Elijah Knutson

Boys Varsity Roster		
#	Name	Grade
1	Colton Schraepfer	9
2	Brooks Chandler	12
3	Riley Gould	12
5	Jake Dearth	11
10	Dylan McGowan	12
12	Tyler Wahl	12
15	Kyle Pierson	11
23	Kole Kent	11
24	Kyle Kleppe	12
30	Anthony Hendrickson	11
32	Logan Green	11
34	Cory Linder	11
42	James Knutson	11
44	Dalton James	12



Varsity Girls Basketball 2016: Top Row: Assistant Coach Linda Hendrickson, Sam Erickson, Jessica Erickson, Sam Mabin, Head Coach Bobby Rose. Middle Row: Sarah Swenson, Melody Burnett, grace Keast, Adriana Johnson, Taetum Pagel. Bottom Row: Manager Lexi McSherry, Lexie Phillips, Liz Tisch, and Manager Kelly Peterson.

Boys Junior Varsity Roster		
#	Name	Grade
2	Evan Prust	10
4	Cory Swenson	10
10	Hunter Vogel	9
12	Joe Tisch	9
14	Evan Stansfield	10
20	Zack Eaton	9
22	Liam Knutson	10
24	Jaden Hendrickson	9
30	Carter Ruegsegger	9
34	Jevin Mabin	9
40	Jeff Saether	9
44	Everett Johnson	9

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AP Courses and Boost Consortium and Curriculum at Pecatonica High School

Pecatonica High School has taken a good look at its curriculum offerings for the next few years and is excited to offer new opportunities for its students.

The High School is revamping their Advanced Placement (AP) Course Offerings for the 2016-17 school year. Instead of offering AP Statistics next year, the district will offer AP Calculus. The school also has an addition of a "new" computer science department with Doug Pibal and Mandi Peterson in the lead roles. Ms. Peterson will teach middle school and intro high school computer courses, while Mr. Pibal will teach introductory coding and advanced computer sciences and coding to high school students.

Along with five other area school districts, Pecatonica participates in the "Boost" Consortium for distance education. The school districts involved each teach a distance learning course – usually an AP course – and students in other districts sign up for it and participate in the course in a distance learning classroom on their home campus.

The BOOST Consortium schools are exploring ways in which they can incorporate courses from Southwest Tech another post-secondary options to potentially offer curriculum tracks such as a certified nursing assistant (CNA), medical terminology, and other tech-related courses. Stay tuned as we develop more opportunities for Pecatonica high school students in this area.

Elementary Garden News

The garden was cleaned up for the winter season over the last two weekends in October. Several volunteers including staff Jim Meuth, Mary Sutter, and parents John Underly, Bob Becker, and Michael McCarthy, cleaned up vines and cleared away annuals. Volunteers also planted about 50 new plants that included asparagus, blackberry bushes, and blueberry bushes.

The funds for the plants came from a grant from the Wisconsin Medical Society. The volunteers were able to plant efficiently with garden tools generously donated to the school from the Fiskars Foundation. Pecatonica Elementary School is very grateful or the support of these two organizations. Janice Shervan recently accepted the charge to be the lead garden committee chair and will organize planting, fundraisers, and events for the upcoming school year. We look forward to having more children and families participate in this wonderful community garden and farm-to-table experience at the elementary school.

We are excited to welcome Janice for the 2016 year, and many thanks to Kath Kramer for her service over the past few years.