



Educationally Speaking...

Vol 1.3 Spring 2016

Reflections on the Past Year

Jill Underly, Pecatonica Area School District Superintendent

Many people have asked about my first impressions as I conclude the first year in my new role. How's it going? To start, I need to share that this first year has been a whirlwind of activities and meetings, as well as getting to know students and staff in the middle school/high school building. Upon reflection, however, my first impression of the school district has held up throughout the course of the school year: I am continually impressed by the depth and the breadth of our student population and the talents and gifts of our staff. By all accounts, it is not a large student group. We have a smaller number of kids to "work with" so to speak, which means that ultimately our kids are pulled in many different directions. They are taught to multi-task and be on multiple teams, whether that team is a science class, athletic team, or extracurricular group like forensics, pep band, FFA, or Future Problem Solvers.

When people consider a school district to send their kids to, I know that they will often look at whether or not we have the most options. Yet, I would argue that our opportunities are not limited here. There are advantages to attending a small school like ours. When you look into the student population a bit closer you see that the vast majority of our students participate in many activities and athletics. In a small school you are required to exercise your many talents and you are expected to work with everyone. I have taught in larger schools and I attended a school where I was one of 240 in my graduating class. In contrast, attending a school the size of Pecatonica means that you are an active participant in class, in athletics, or in music or art or FFA whether you want to be or not. You have no choice but to engage your teachers or your classmates. You are expected to participate, collaborate, and you definitely cannot hide in the back of the class. This active participation is seen throughout our school and in the outcomes that our students experience before they graduate. Simply look at how many of our students participate in multiple sports and extra-curricular activities. All the while, our students maintain good grade point averages. In fact, this last semester, 86% of our seniors are on the honor or high-honor roles.

Opportunities abound at Pecatonica. We are very fortunate to have the environment afforded only to private schools. Our students graduate on-time and ready to engage the world. A small school like ours not only gives the children in our community opportunities to engage that they would not receive in a large school, but enables them to thrive in their jobs or college choices because they are so well-rounded.

Elementary Summer School and Summer Camp Pecatonica Registration

This summer we will have several opportunities for students to participate in activities sponsored by the school district.

Summer School at Pecatonica Elementary

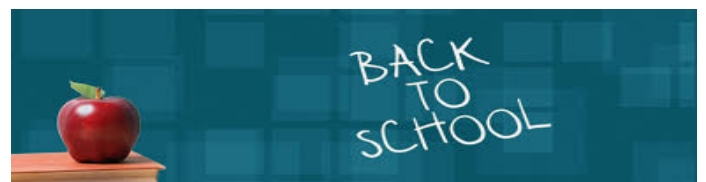
Session I: June 20-23 and June 27-30, 2016

Session II: August 1-4 and August 8-11, 2016

Please visit our website for registration information and additional details.

Camp Pecatonica is for kids who will be 4 years old on September 1, 2016 through age 11. This will be held from June 13th through August 31st, Monday through Friday from 7:30am until 5:30pm. Camp Pecatonica will be located at New Hope Lutheran's Trinity Campus in Blanchardville. This is a day camp option for parents who desire a hands-on, social, and educational experience for their children during the day. A few scholarships are available.

Please visit our website for registration information and additional details.



Get Ready, Get Set! 2016-17 Registration and Information to Know!

- Update your child's and your family's information in Skyward so that you will continue to receive our email updates about registration, forms, and important information and dates.
- Inform the Elementary or MS/High School Office of any changes in your status (moving, transferring schools).
- Encourage new students to contact our school early so that they can get all information in advance of the new school year.
- Forms can be brought to the district office at any time or to the elementary office during summer school sessions.

Elementary Good News Phone Calls

Starting with the 2015-16 School Year, Elementary Principal, Mr. Kyle Walsh, brought a new tradition to Pecatonica: The Good News Phone Call.

Often parents and guardians hear personally from the school principal when their student has “done something wrong.” Mr. Walsh set out to change that. We often get caught up in what kids are doing wrong and not what they are doing right, or when they are making good choices. Parents should know when their child has done something extraordinarily good.

This year, so far, Mr. Walsh has made 35 good news phone calls based on a recommendation from a teacher or staff member at the Elementary School. When the call is first made, parents are a bit apprehensive, wondering why the Principal of the school has called them about their child. But when they hear the “good news” they are immediately proud and happy to have the conversation with Mr. Walsh. They are encouraged to share the news of the phone call with their child, completing the circle of reinforcing the good choice, the helpful behavior, and the immense pride that goes along with being recognized for doing something good for their fellow student or school community.

4th Graders Doin’ Good!

The 4th grade celebrated 100th Day at school by collecting over 100 cans and boxes of non-perishable items for the school’s food closet.

Mrs. Kim Helgeson’s 4th grade class



Mr. Steven Cary's 4th grade class



Parents Who Host Campaign Update

Please know who your children hang out with, where they are at night, and talk to them about driving while drunk. Prom and Graduation Season are upon us, and unfortunately, this is the time of the year when the weather gets nicer, parties are hosted, and adults, young and old, make bad decisions about impaired driving.

Know that if you host underage drinking parties, you are liable under Wisconsin law for lawsuits and damages. It is against the law.

Job Opportunities

Elementary and Secondary Substitute Teachers

Fall Cross-Country

9-12 Physical Sciences

Summer Camp Counselors

Please look online for job descriptions and applications!

School Census

An annual school census is required by Wisconsin State Statute 120.18. If they were to contact you in person, school census takers carry identification from the Pecatonica Area School District. The school district conducts an annual census in May-August. At that time you will be asked for information regarding the children living with you (newborn through 20 years old – public or parochial). An annual “School Census Information Request” will also be included in the district newsletter in the spring and available on the District website: www.pecatonica.k12.wi.us

Third Grade American Family Children’s Hospital Gift Bags

Over the month of December, as a class project, the third graders collected items like art supplies, board games, trinkets and books to make gift bags for the Christmas holiday for children who were staying at the UW/American Family Children’s Hospital over the holidays. (They had a pajama day at school in case you were wondering...)





Are you doing some spring cleaning and have some toys or games in great shape that you are looking to donate?

Camp Pecatonica is very interested in gently used games, indoor and outdoor toys (baseball gloves, balls, etc.) and will be accepting donations at New Hope Lutheran's Trinity Campus on these dates:

April 17, (Sunday) 1:00pm to 3:00pm
May 1, (Sunday) 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Thanks for thinking of the Camp program!

Camp Pecatonica FAQ

What is Camp Pecatonica? Camp Pecatonica is a day long and summer long camp for children ages 4 through 11, or for children entering 4K in the Fall of 2016 through entering 6th grade.

When is it? Camp runs from 7:30am until 5:30pm, Monday through Friday, starting Monday June 13th, and concluding Wednesday, August 31st. There will be no camp on Monday, July 4th.

Where is it? Blanchardville at New Hope Lutheran Trinity Campus

Do my kids have to go to Pec? No, your children don't have to attend Pecatonica Schools to attend the Day Camp.

What kinds of things will they do? All types of activities are planned! Children will engage in games, athletics, teamwork activities, arts and crafts, nature, field trips, healthy eating and lifestyle, and social well-being activities.

How do I sign my kids up? Please review the sign up information on the School District's website

(www.pecatonica.k12.wi.us)

Do they have to come every day or for the full day? No, although if they sign up for weeks at a time there is a better deal/rate available because it helps us plan staffing in advance. We will have half-day rates available.

How much will it cost? The costs will vary based on half-day/full-day and the numbers of days, but we promise it will be very reasonable for the quality of programming provided. Anticipate cost to be \$15 per day per child for a full day.

What is included or not included? Activities and supplies, as well as two snacks per day are provided. Children will need to bring a cold lunch with them every day.

Above Design by Ashley Shilling, Senior

Forensics News

Our Forensics Team is headed to the State Competition on April 15th.

At the Saturday, March 19th meet/WHSFA (Wisconsin High School State Forensics Association) District Festival at UW-Platteville, twenty-one students (seventeen entries) qualified for the WHSFA State Festival.

State qualifiers:

Kevin Demler (Radio Speaking)
Elisa Sullivan (Poetry)
Owen Thronson (Demonstration)
Rachel Brokish (Poetry)
Autumn Olson (Poetry)
Caleb Carr (Demonstration)
Carly Rindy & Devin Erickson (Play Acting)
Lauren Becker (Farrago)
MacKenzie O'Connell, Rose Schmit, Owen Aerts, & Logan Swearingen (Group Interpretation)
Montana Wojtkunski (Farrago)
Ashley Shilling (Farrago)
Ben Thronson (Moments in History)
Brianna Van Matre (Special Occasion)
Connor Huffman (Storytelling)
Ellie Hjelle (Prose)
Jesse Puckett (Prose)
Sarah Saether (Special Occasion)

Pecatonica had a very successful forensics season:

DeForest HS Invitational: 10th Place
 WHSFA Sub-District at Mt. Horeb:
 All members qualified for the district festival
 Lodi HS Invitational:
 2nd place in small teams division
 James Madison Memorial/Madison Invitational:
 2nd place in small teams division
 Six Rivers Conference Invitation at Pecatonica:
 Championship Trophy

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.



Summer Science Camp at UW-Madison

In mid-July, high school life sciences instructor Mr. Jacob Roberts and five junior students will attend an advanced biology camp at UW Madison. This experience includes lectures and lab activities from leading researchers in the interdisciplinary field of regenerative biology. The four-day camp includes overnight stays in the dormitories of UW-Madison and evening activities. Thanks to the generosity of the Madison Community Foundation, the Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation, Melita Grunow, and Fritz Fischer, we are pleased to offer this camp at no cost to participants.

This camp allows high school students in rural Wisconsin communities to experience the academic excellence and cultural richness of UW-Madison. The Morgridge Institute for Research hopes this unique experience will excite rural high school students like ours at Pecatonica, to consider higher education and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).



Professional Learning Communities

(Or, What School Teachers Do With Early Release Time)

Throughout the course of the 2016-17 School Year, the calendar shows that students will be released early on Wednesdays twice a month for teachers to meet together for professional learning. We thought it would be helpful to share what early release time is used for by the professional staff.

During the 2015-16 school years teachers and administrators meet to learn new strategies for teaching and learning, technology learning, or classroom management. Many of our sessions together this past year focused on improving student writing, high impact strategies (such as timely feedback), and finishing our work on “Educator Effectiveness” and teaching observations.

In 2016-17 the twice monthly meetings will implement “Professional Learning Communities” (PLCs) or a strategy of small-group discussion and teams of teachers who will share students in common or a common subject area. In the PLCs, teachers and administrators use the small group setting to set learning goals for individual students and entire grades or subject areas. They learn from one another about instructional methods, or they problem-solve on how to teach a topic or lesson better. In the end, this time together is proven to make teaching and learning stronger within the schools and the district.

Imagine, Invent, Inspire: Introducing the 2016 PTA Arts and Sciences Fair

The elementary school fair will be held on **Friday, April 22nd**, from 5:30-8pm at the school. This event is FREE. All students 4K thru 5th grade are invited and encouraged to participate. Students may use a project that they have done for school, 4-H (or other), or they may create a new, original project for the fair.

Field Trips and Career Exploration at the Middle and High School

Spanish 4 Field Trip to Mount Horeb Early Learning Center: Spanish 4 students read Dr. Seuss books in Spanish to students, taught them how to sing “Happy Birthday” in Spanish and worked on crafts with the younger students. They then visited Aztalan Mexican Restaurant to practice their Spanish and enjoy an authentic lunch.

The Anatomy and Physiology Class went with their instructor, Mr. Jacob Roberts, to UW Platteville’s cadaver lab to study a dissection conducted by UW Platteville students.

Pecatonica Middle School also visited UW Platteville in April to visit the “EMS Expo.” While at the expo, the students conducted a scavenger hunt and attended an open house hosted by college students with the intention of learning more about science and engineering and STEM activities and careers. Meanwhile, additional 8th graders joined Mrs. Davis and Mr. Manriquez at the “Club Scrub,” a job-shadowing activity at the Lafayette County Hospital, for students interested in medical careers.

Ms. Mandi Peterson’s middle school computer science students wrote radio ads about careers. Some of the students had a knack for legal disclaimers and speaking rather swiftly to get their message into the ad in under 30 seconds. You can have a listen on Ms. Peterson’s webpage located within our School District website!

The Upham Woods Team Building for 5th Grade

The Upham Woods overnight fieldtrip has been a traditional annual offering at Pecatonica to the oldest class leaving the Elementary building. This year the trip is scheduled for May 31st to June 1st. Upham Woods offers many activities that are both curriculum and team building based. The typical experience includes:

- Interpretive geology and history hikes on Blackhawk Island
- Living history with a French Voyageur
- Water ecology exploration utilizing stereoscopes
- Raptor programs with a red-tailed hawk and barred owl
- Team building challenge course and group initiatives
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Live amphibian and reptile programs
- Campfires

Thank you to the many families and donations that make this trip possible for our 5th graders.

Math Meets and Lit Wars

The Regional Math Meets will be held at the Legion Hall in Blanchardville. On April 7th, we will be hosting the 5/6th grade teams from Pecatonica, Albany, Black Hawk, Fall River, Juda, and St. Francis Xavier from Cross Plains. On April 12th, the 7/8th grade teams will compete. Students will be competing in four individual events (problem solving without calculator, problem solving with a calculator, mathematical reasoning, and mental math). The last event will be team problem solving. The top two teams from each day will advance to the State Meet in Madison.

At the CESA 3 Literature or "Lit" Wars, Pecatonica Elementary was again well-represented. 4th grade had an individual 1st place winner: Kyle Theorin; 5th grade came in 3rd place as a team.



Good luck to all teams!!!

Students and Parents Prepare to Depart for Italy on June 25!

Excitement is building as students and adult travelers prepare for the trip and educational experience of a lifetime. **While on the 10 day tour, travelers will visit Florence, Venice, the Island of Capri, Sorrento and Pompeii, Rome and the Vatican City.** They will have a tour guide with them the entire time. Students on the trip will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for their learning experiences by completing an independent study project, culminating with information they learn while abroad.

Many, many thanks to all the community groups and private donors who supported the various fundraisers (coffee, brat stand, car washes, bake sales, and Pec Alumni items) over the past 18 months, as students were able to raise at least half of the cost of their trip. One student raised more than 2/3rds of the funds from fundraising alone. [Visit the PEC Viking Global Education on Facebook to follow them abroad!](#)

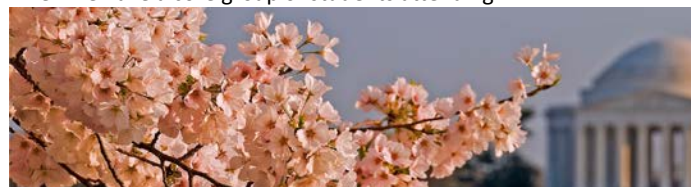
Washington DC and Gettysburg 2017

Pecatonica Middle and High School have an optional extra-curricular opportunity to visit Washington DC and Gettysburg, PA approximately March 25-29, 2017.

Who is encouraged to attend? We would highly encourage students in grades 6-12 to consider this trip, as well as parents and guardians or those living in our communities. There is no limit to the number of individuals that can go on the trip.

What will we see while there? Smithsonian Museums, tours of Washington DC monuments, Gettysburg National Military Park, Arlington National Cemetery, Marine Corp War Memorial, the White House, Mount Vernon, Capitol Hill (and a meeting with our US Senator or Representative), The Supreme Court, Library of Congress, National Archives, and the Newseum (and more!)

How to sign up: Please visit Pecatonica's website to view the information on signing up for the trip. All is done online through a tour website. Once signed up, there are different options for payment (monthly payment plans, etc.) We will start fundraising when we have a core group of students attending.



Music and Art Events and Future Dates

Our solo and ensemble festival was February 20th in Juda. The kids were very excited and prepared to perform!

Students who qualified for the State Solo and Ensemble Competition on April 30th:

Trinity Fitzgerald on Flute, Jesse Puckett on Bass Clarinet, Adriana Johnson on Alto Sax, Rose Schmit and Jesse Puckett on their vocal duet and Rose Schmit on both her vocal solos; musical theater and classical.

This competition was a great experience for all kids, and another milestone on their journey to becoming outstanding musicians.

The Spring Festival Concert is on Monday, April 4th. We follow that with large group festival on Saturday, April 23rd, and then state solo/ensemble festival is Saturday, April 30th.

Music winds down the year with our awards concert on May 12th. The high school band performs at graduation on Friday, May 27th, and the middle school band will march for the Memorial Day Parades in Hollandale and Blanchardville on Monday, May 30th.

Our drama club/choir presented "Little Shop of Horrors" this past December. It was a smash hit! They will be heading to the Overture Center to see "The Lion King" on Thursday, June 2nd. We have front row center tickets for the show, and are looking forward to it!

The MS/HS Art Show is on May 12th.

4K Screening and Child Development Day

On Monday, March 7th, Pecatonica Elementary School early childhood teachers and special education staff, along with vision and hearing specialists, screened 25 children.

What is Child Development Day?

Students participated in a play-based screening where our staff used observations, discussion, and parent-completed Ages and Stages questionnaires to determine if any students required additional support services right now or in the fall before they start 4K. Staff looked at fine motor, speech and language development, vision and hearing, and general development. Staff answered any parent questions and introduced students and parents to the 4K classroom.

Next Year's Date: Monday, March 6, 2017. Children who are going to be 4 years old before September 1, 2017 would be eligible. Spread the word!

Freshmen visit the UW Madison Campus!

(Submitted by Freshmen students)

Pecatonica freshmen had the opportunity to explore the University of Wisconsin February 18. Teachers Bobby Rose and Mary Barr escorted students through their tour of the geology museum, Discover Center, Union South, and campus. While visiting the geology museum, students got to connect the exhibits and installations to science lessons they explored this year.

Students were in awe of the massive globe that rotated, the room with glow-in-the-dark rocks and minerals, and the fossils (many of which were found in Wisconsin!) Wylie Richardson was fascinated by a sample of the oldest known piece of earth, Jenna Disch was impressed by the glowing rocks that demonstrated "the energy was still in them making them glow!", and Detrick Zimmerman enjoyed seeing the T-Rex, Triceratops, and the pterodactyl.

While visiting the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery Center, a building created to foster scientific curiosity and collaboration. The upper and lower levels house labs and offices, but the main level was open to the public. Colton Schraepfer found the Fibonacci chimes that sounded when you stepped on them fascinating, and thought it was very interesting how the windows opened automatically to let in air. Tyler Frye was excited to learn the conference room projected "HOLOGRAMS!" Everyone was surprised to find trees growing inside the building and University students studying at tables everywhere.

After lunch the students broke up into two groups and participated walking tours given by tour guides who were also UW students. Jeff Saether's favorite part of the tour was learning about the good luck ritual that college students have of rubbing Abe Lincoln's statue on Bascom Hill. Ryan Kleppe noted that there were more people on the walking paths of UW Madison than the entire population of Blanchardville. Like many of her peers, Krin Broshous enjoyed the campus tour the most; she found it very cool and she learned a lot about student life at the UW.

Keep up the curiosity and hard-work, freshmen! You'll have many more opportunities to explore college life while at PEC.



Alumni Updates and Community Project

Pecatonica is lucky to have a very active and engaged alumni group. Throughout the year, Pecatonica alumni participate in gatherings and fundraisers, usually culminating with Homecoming weekend and the alumni banquet, expertly organized by Ms. Joslyn Gant.

Pecatonica High School would like to harness and embrace the energy and expertise of its alumni and all community members. We will have a directory of alumni on our website that is information voluntarily provided to our school so that future graduates or current students can make connections, explore careers, and/or keep up-to-date with many of the fantastic accomplishments that our alumni achieve both personally and professionally. We will do the same for community members who want to volunteer this information for guest speaking opportunities in classrooms and demonstrations or talks about their profession.

For more information on this, please see the feature on our school district website. If you know of Alumni or Community Members who do not receive this newsletter, please inform them of this project!

New State Initiatives for 2016-2017

Students will notice a few new things as they are now required by the State of Wisconsin:

The United States Civics Exam is required for all students to graduate from a public high school in Wisconsin. The test is the exact test that those who hope to become US Citizens have to take. We will begin administration of this next school year.

Academic and Career Planning Initiative: see the story on page 9 to learn how Pecatonica will implement this initiative in the next years.

Forward Exam: The new statewide assessment started March 2016 and will continue as the replacement to the WKCE (Wisconsin Concept and Knowledge Exam). Students in grades 3-10 are tested in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. In addition, all Juniors are required to take the ACT.

New Staff and Transitions– Spring 2016

In January, **Angie Jorenby** made the transition from special education aide/assistant in the Middle School to the front desk as middle school and high school secretary.

Ike Campbell returned to Pecatonica Middle School as a special education aide. He is currently working on his special education teacher licensure. Welcome back, Mr. Campbell!

After 33 years of teaching, all in the Pecatonica Area School District, **Sandy Woodruff** will retire and spend more time with her family, particularly her grandson. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement, Mrs. Woodruff, and thank you for all of the years that you've taught students at Pecatonica High School. You will be missed by all.

PECATONICA SCHOOL CALENDAR YEAR 2016-17																														
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*4K Parent Meeting: Thurs. 8/25/2016 7:00 p.m. Early Release Dismissal times: Elem 1:40 p.m./HS-MS 2:00 p.m. Parent Teacher Elem: 4:00-7:15
 Open House: Elem 8/30/16 4:00-6:30 MS/HS 8/29/16 4:00-6:30 Conference Times: MS/HS: 4:00-7:15

School Finances, by Jill Underly, Superintendent

It is very important to have information about your public school's finances so that when you hear information in the media or through state government outlets, you have an accurate picture of how changes in State public school funding may affect your local school district. The basics that you need to know:

- ❖ **In Wisconsin, school enrollment drives funding.** The more students we have in our school, the more funding we receive. Rural schools struggle with this because of our small populations.
 - **Smaller schools have less flexibility to accommodate changing populations.** If we reach capacity in one grade level, we have to hire more staff to accommodate additional students. One more student can mean \$6800 in increased state funding, but on the other hand, we have less room for larger class sizes without acquiring more personnel. For example, a large school with four 5th grade classrooms of 19 students each could easily accommodate 3 more students by adding one student to each of three classrooms without any classrooms having more than 20 students. The same change of 3 new students in a small school with one 5th grade classroom of 19 students would require an additional classroom (and staff) to ensure that no classes had more than 20 students. Both schools, however, would get the same increase of state aid.
 - **Class sizes can vary year to year.** A large graduating class may not always be replaced by a large incoming Kindergarten.
 - **School districts with declining enrollment have a "hold-harmless" clause that gradually decreases funding.** A "hold-harmless" clause in the state budget system allows schools with declining enrollment to receive funding based on the school population from the previous three years to prevent steep and sudden declines in funding. However, if enrollment declines for years and then enrollment increases even by one student, rural schools lose the hold-harmless state. In the end, it can actually harm declining enrollment districts to increase enrollment in some years. The transition from hold-harmless to gradual increases was rough on our budgets for a few years before 2015. (Pec's enrollment has been going up by 3-5 students the past few years).
- ❖ **There is one "fund" of money that the state legislature and biennial budget allocates for schools.** There is more competition now for this money.
 - In recent years, the Wisconsin State Legislature authorized more

straws to pull from the public school funding well. In addition to public schools, there are voucher students attending private schools and various profit and non-profit charter schools competing for the same total pool of public funds.

- The more competition, the less that is allocated per public school student. In the end, public tax dollars are funding private and religious organizations.
 - ❖ **We have to increasingly do more with less money.**
 - Oddly, the school district must spend the entire tax levy that we receive in a given year or it loses the ability to levy that amount the following year. We cannot save for a planned improvement. If we don't use the levied amount, it goes into a fund balance, and then we must levy less the next year. For example, if a roofing repair is needed down the road, or if we would like to add student programs, we must make that spending work in the current allocated budget.
 - As you can imagine, when transportation, moderate or major maintenance, utilities, and other costs (including program mandates from the State) increase on an annual basis, it is difficult to budget for expenses, let alone the unexpected. Instead, repairs and building upgrades are, by necessity, saved for referendums when the District could ask the taxpayers to authorize additional spending.
 - ❖ **Pecatonica, by design of the current State funding system for Public Education, must ask the taxpayers to exceed the revenue limits for public school funding approximately every 5 years.**
 - What we do when we ask for a recurring referendum is that the additional funding is provided to maintain the current programming we have, keep up with inflationary costs, and safeguard the investments in our buildings.
 - We've been great stewards of tax payer dollars over the years. Our district does not spend tax dollars extravagantly. We use money to meet our operational costs and make needed improvements.
 - The school board is in its beginning stages of exploring an operational referendum for Spring 2017 in order to meet operational costs and maintenance costs for the 2017-2018 school year and the five years following.
 - ❖ **What can you do to help school funding and public education in Wisconsin?**
 - **Stay informed.** The communities of Hollandale and Blanchardville depend on the public schools and the school depends on the community. My recommendation is that you stay informed about public school funding in our state, and please engage in the conversation about how public schools are funded both nationally and throughout the state.
- Continue to support your local public schools!** We can't thank you enough for all the good that you do for our schools. Thank you to each of you who promote our public school and support our programs!

Planning Ahead? Homecoming 2016 Heads Up!

Start planning your weekend festivities for Pecatonica Alumni and Homecoming weekend, September 17-18th vs. the Cassville Comets.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday afternoon

High School field day and class competitions at McKellar Park

Friday evening

High school fall sports pep rally at McKellar Park, fireworks

Saturday afternoon

Homecoming Parade and Football Game vs. Cassville

Saturday evening

Alumni Banquet, Homecoming Dance

Hollandale School (1917 to 1971) has their homecoming on Saturday, September 11th. There is traditionally a parade and alumni luncheon at the fire department beforehand.

Found in the *Journal of the [Wisconsin State]Senate, May 20, 1971:*

Senator Roseleip introduced a group of 47 students from the 5th and 6th grades with teachers Mrs. Christle Carter and Mrs. Florence Gempler and 6 mothers from the Hollandale area schools, Hollandale, Wisconsin.

Were you there? Were you one of the 47 students or one of the six mothers? Let us know through our Alumni Connection (see page 6). What do you remember about that experience?

Dr. Seuss's Birthday Celebrated throughout Pecatonica Area Schools

The Elementary School celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2nd school-wide:

Eating Green Eggs & Ham for lunch

Decorating the hallways and library with Dr. Seuss-inspired art

Inviting guest-readers into their classroom to read Dr. Seuss's books

High School students celebrated by visiting the elementary building and reading to students in the lower elementary grades, while the high school Spanish 4 class visited Senora Gordon's sister's primary class in Mount Horeb and taught a lesson. (Pictured are seniors Sarah Saether and Ashley Shilling)



School Data Corner: Spotlight on Enrollment. Since 2014, Pecatonica Area School District has gained students, helping with our overall state aid and revenues.



The chart to the left shows changes in our district enrollment from 2012 to 2017. The other issue to be aware of is that while our enrollment has increased we have also seen an increase in the number of students in poverty. This reflects the state trend for all children ages 5-17.

The cast of "Twinderella", Middle School musical performances held on April 1st & 2nd.



From top to bottom, left to right: Valerie Carr, Hannah Ryser, Chevy Hughes, Abby Foster, Jordan Peterson, Larkin Froesch, Carissa Swenson, Emma Stietz, Kade Prust, Jaden Goninen, Alex Bredeson, Macy Emberson, Alexis Peterson, Siri Thronson, Abigail Carr, Connor Mayhew, Mikayla Sigman, Maggie Chrostowski, Devin Doran, and Nivaeh Gross. **Well done, actors and singers!**



Accolades and Accomplishments

Congratulations to Mrs. Cynthia Terrill, Pecatonica's Reading Specialist and Title I reading teacher on receiving the 2016 Wisconsin Title I Association's **Outstanding Service Award!**

**Support the Blanchardville Hollandale Fund Dinner
April 20th at the Viking Café**

BHF Grants support local initiatives including projects at both of our schools! In the past we've funded professional development for teachers, take home books for elementary students, and a new middle school/juvenile literature fiction library.

On March 11, the Biology classes and high school science department received a Russian tortoise for the live animal lab. Many thanks for the generous donations from several donors, including Cummins in Mineral Point, and the Steve & Grace Knutson Family of Blanchardville. Their generosity made the purchase of the tortoises and the habitat possible. As you can imagine, all of our students will benefit from studying and caring for the tortoises for many years to come! They join turtles and tarantulas (oh my!). [The tortoises say,] "Terrific and Thanks!



The Academic and Career Planning Initiative at PECATONICA

Looking back, how many adults knew exactly what they wanted to do after high school graduation? How many started exploring those options or those questions by the time you were in 6th grade?

As luck would have it, for years now, Pecatonica students start exploring college and careers by the time they leave elementary school. Throughout middle school they are researching and writing about careers and deciding which classes they need *before* they enter 9th grade and start their high school courses.

Once in high school, students continue to explore careers and tailor their high school classes to fit their needs for graduation and their interests post-graduation. Many teachers work with students outside of the traditional classroom on further career exploration by offering independent study courses, enrichment coursework, and options through our BOOST consortium: all in the name of college and career readiness.

Wisconsin's PI-26

Primary changes to PI 26 (2015) included the following:

- ❖ Added ACP services to students in grades 6-12 beginning in Fall 2017
- ❖ Development of a long-range plan with school district staff and community stakeholders
- ❖ Publishing the plan on the school district's website
- ❖ Reviewing the plan yearly

The Pecatonica Academic and Career Plan (ACP)

Pecatonica will address all the above changes to PI-26 plus continue to implement the following as a part of the long-range plan:

- ❖ Implement "Career Locker" software in grades 6-12 that allows students to develop interest inventories, track their careers of interest and align those interests to post-secondary coursework.
- ❖ Students in grades 8-12 will develop their 4-year plans online that will show the courses they've taken, the grades they've received, and the courses they would like to take in future years. They can share this information with their parents/guardians, and their teachers.
- ❖ Establish outreach to community members and parents and Pecatonica alumni to connect students to mentoring and job-shadowing, as well as connecting adults to opportunities for volunteering for guest speaking and workshop/demonstration opportunities in our classroom.

Open Enrollment....

What if you get this newsletter and your kids or grandkids don't attend Pecatonica?

The 2016-17 open enrollment application season is February 1 - April 29, 2016

Top 10 Reasons to CHOOSE PECATONICA for your child's public school:

10. **Our small size** promotes opportunities for all kids in instruction, athletics, and activities!

9. **Our park-like elementary campus** in Hollandale promotes a love and appreciation for the outdoors with its green-space, outdoor classroom, and school garden.

8. **Our Faculty and Staff are top-tier!** Our faculty and staff are long-term employees with deep roots and connections to our communities. Most hold master's degrees and live in the community or surrounding communities.

7. **Our food service staff** offers and promotes a WI Dept of Public Instruction-celebrated school lunch program!

6. **Global Education** right here in Rural Wisconsin! We focus curriculum on both place-based environmental education *and* the interrelations between our community and our place in the world.

5. We live and breathe **our district mission** every day: our schools are a focal point of learning for the community and we offer personalized education opportunities to students and residents.

4. **Our athletic and academic teams** routinely experience success in both sectional and regional competitions. The smallness of our school allows students to compete and participate on a level they would not have at larger schools.

3. **Our Curriculum Choices:** we have a well-known fine arts programs, agricultural education programs, Spanish language instruction, and we teach computer sciences. That's right: our kids know how to farm, create art and code!

2. **Our Small Class Sizes:** in the elementary school our class size ranges from 11 to 18 students per class, while at the middle and high school the average class size is 14 students in a subject-area.

... and the number 1 reason? **OUR STUDENTS!**

Think we're describing a private school with all of the above options and personalization? Think again!

In fact, we are a Wisconsin **Public School** in a private school setting! Our students are the testament to the successes we experience on a daily basis. Almost every student is involved in at least one varsity level sport three of the four years of their high school career. We have a very high participation rate in activities such as Band, Music and Musicals, Drama, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Art Club, Forensics, Student Council, and Future Problem Solvers. As for academics, we have a 100% graduation rate, and 92% of our students attend four-year or two-year colleges and universities. We offer most Advanced Placement Courses and have access to distance education courses through our BOOST Consortium!

If you would like to enroll your child to attend Pecatonica, don't delay! Open enrollment application links are on our district website

Tornado and Severe Weather Safety Week April 11 -- 15, 2016

The Pecatonica Area School District participates in the Statewide Tornado and Severe Weather Safety Week, annually in mid-April. For the first time, there will be a mock tornado drill in the evening so families can practice at home, kids can practice at athletic practices, or adults can practice at work if they choose.

Details:

Two statewide tornado drills are planned for Thursday, April 14th. The mock tornado watch will begin at 1pm, and then the NWS will issue a mock tornado warning at 1:45pm (sirens and all). If there is a real threat of severe weather the drill will be on Friday, the 15th.

For the first time, an evening drill is scheduled for April 14th, with a mock warning at 6:55pm. Remember that a warning indicates that a tornado has been sighted and that everyone should seek shelter immediately.



Staff Years of Service Milestones

Congratulate and thank the following staff members when you see them out-and-about this summer. They are *making a difference* at Pec!

Pecatonica Elementary School, Hollandale:

- 30 years Mary Sutter, 5th grade
- 25 years Bob Hittesdorf, Maintenance
Murt Gruenenfelder, 4K and pre-school assistant
- 20 years Cynthia Terrill, Title I reading/Reading Specialist
- 15 years Elizabeth Cary, Special Education
- 5 years Sheila Hendrickson, Secretary/After School Program and Preschool Administrator

Pecatonica Middle/High School and District Office, Blanchardville:

- 36 years Chuck Meyer, Social Studies; Jane Parkinson, reading
- 20 years Neva Gruenenfelder, Business Office/Accountant
Doug Schriber, Maintenance
- 5 years Matt Bakkum, Social Studies
Angela Davis, Guidance

Calendar of District Events

April 11 (Monday)	Early Release; dismissal at 1:10 for Elementary; 1:30 for MS/HS
April 16 (Saturday)	Forensics State Prom
April 19 (Tuesday)	4K Music Program 6:30pm
April 22 nd (Friday)	Arts & Sciences Fair (Elementary)
May 9 (Monday)	Early Release
May 20 (Friday)	Elem. Spring Concert 1:30pm
May 27 (Friday)	Graduation - Class of 2016 , 7:00pm in the High School Gymnasium
May 30 (Monday)	No School
June 8 (Wednesday)	Last Day of School; ½ day. Dismissal at Noon.
June 20-30 (M-Th)	Summer Session 1 8:15am - 11:30am
Aug. 1-11 (M-Th)	Summer Session 2 8:15am - 11:30am

Please look online at our District Events Calendar for athletic contest times and contest locations for baseball, softball, and track & field. Thank you for supporting all of our programs!

SOUTHWEST TECH GENERAL EDUCATION ONLINE COURSE OFFERINGS:

General Education courses being offered online through SWTC are highlighted in blue. If you are interested, we have agreed with SWTC that you could take the course online and use our classroom with distance education technology. Individuals would still need to register for the course through SWTC.

- **Medical Terminology** - 3 credits (Course # 10-501-101) over ITV on Wednesdays from 5 – 8 PM
- **Nursing Assistant (FALL & SPRING)** - 3 credits (Course # 30-543-300)
- **Intro to Diversity** - 3 credits (Course # 10-809-17) Tuesdays; 2:30 - 4:20 PM (3rd hour is blended)
- **Developmental Psych** - 3 credits (Course # 10-809-188) Wednesdays; 5:00 - 7:50 PM (3rd hour is blended)
- **Intro to Psych** - 3 credits (Course # 10-809-198) Wednesdays; 2:30 - 4:20 PM (3rd hour is blended)

If you are interested in the above classes for continued learning or to advance your profession, register with Southwest Tech and inform them that you would take the class at Pecatonica High School in Blanchardville. Our school would work out the remaining details with SWTC.



Elementary Student Council News

At both musical concerts, the Student Council greets and hands out programs. The Student Council helps Mrs. Aschebrook in folding the programs also.

Our fund-raising has helped the local food pantries- The Pecatonica Valley Food Pantry in Blanchardville and the one currently housed for students in our elementary school.

The Student Council baked treats for teachers and then later, for the PTA Family Night.

Reaching out to our two towns and other communities-

Making blankets for the surrounding area Rescue Squads/EMT, our child-size fleece blankets went out to the following villages: Hollandale, Blanchardville, New Glarus, and Mineral Point



Above, 5th grader Trinity Gruenenfelder (Moscow Township/Blanchardville) presents child-sized blankets to the Blanchardville Emergency Management Services and Fire Department.



Teacher Appreciation Week is the week of May 1st, 2016. Don't forget to thank the special teachers, aides, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, food service and administrative professionals in your life! They make every day special for each of our kids! XOXOXOXO

Pecatonica Area School District
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**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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FFA Career Development Event at UW Platteville: Pecatonica [again] is well represented!

Competitors and Placements

Ag Mechanics - Jacob Anderson, Gavin Burdick, Jarrett Carlson, Dakota Conwell

Agronomy - Trevor Gilson, Will Pence, Connor Huffman*

Junior Dairy - Hayden Schmit, Ryan Kleppe, Marc Timm, Abby Timm

Senior Dairy - Kelsey Chrostowski, Dylan McGowan, Cory Linder

Livestock - Sami Holmstrom, Austin Wojtkunski, Griffin Gordon, Valerie Carr

Poultry - Devin Erickson, Montana Wojtkunski, Caleb Carr, and Jacob Tollakson

Floriculture - Melody Burnett, Tyler Wyttenbach, Derek Thompson

Veterinary Science - Skye Hoffman, Cheyenne Sigman, Jenna Disch, Hallie Scace

Wildlife - Lane Busser, Riley Nechkash-Gould, Alex Ryser, Gunnyr Disch

***Connor Huffman is a "State Star" in Agri-Science and
1st Place WINNER in the Statewide FFA**



Building Opportunities & Occupations for Students Together

Pecatonica Area School District is a proud member of the five-school BOOST (Building Opportunities and Occupations for Students Together) Consortium. As a member, Pecatonica High School has a distance-education technology classroom that interacts with the other five member schools for AP courses and other advanced courses that we might not offer in this particular school year. Our teachers also offer hard-to-find courses to other schools through the consortium.

Our classroom is also connected to Southwest Tech and we are currently engaging with the University of Wisconsin – Madison School of Education to offer professional development opportunities for our teachers through this technology. As a rural school district, expanding opportunities for our students, teachers, *and* community members through technology is a #1 priority!