



Educationally Speaking...

Vol 3.1 Fall 2017

AND, WE'RE BACK!

It's hard to believe that it's already "Back to School!" It was a short summer considering all that has transpired since June 2nd. We graduated one of our largest classes in the past 10 years: 44 Pecatonica graduates are now making their way through their post-secondary education years, most at tech schools and four year colleges.

June commenced with some extremely warm weather, just in time for summer school at the elementary building and the construction of the concession stand at the high school lower-level.

Registration: Register your students online! Many thanks to the HS Secretary, Mrs. Jorenby, for working on this! See our webpage for more information.

Summer School Recap

Summer School saw some exciting enrichment classes including Tae Kwan Do, Chess, Grandview, and a Theater/Variety Show performance.

Elementary Facilities

The Elementary School received a "face-lift" with new siding and masonry repairs, concrete work in the front, a new main entrance sign, and new lockers, seating, and carpeting throughout the building. The maintenance staff worked extremely hard and very diligently to ensure that the building was ready for the kids and staff this fall. It looks great!

Middle School/High School Facilities

The middle school/high school received new library furnishings, soft seating, and replaced out-dated computers in the business lab. The lower-level concession stand is a wonderful addition to our athletics and extra-curricular facility. The new roof will be placed early fall as the schedule was pushed back due to all the rain. The pole barn/storage building construction should wrap up before the end of August and the start of school.

Camp Pecatonica Recap

Camp Pecatonica staff was busy caring for the nearly 30 children, ages 4-11, that participated in camp this summer. The rain put a damper on some activities, but despite this, there were plenty of indoor arts-and-crafts, games, and field trips. Campers participated in DNR programs, Village Library programs, and parks programs when it wasn't raining. They have certainly enjoyed the time where they participated in summer school and then finished out the day at camp. Camp provided a great opportunity to employ various high school-aged students this summer.

Flood Damages to McKellar Park

The biggest news this summer was the flood damage in Blanchardville and Hollandale, but in particular, the damage to McKellar Park. The floodwaters completely covered the Village Pool and ruined the football field. Many thanks to the Village Maintenance and Pool staff for draining, cleaning and then refilling the pool so our communities could enjoy it the remainder of the summer. Many thanks to our school district and park maintenance crews for restoring the football field.



New lockers at the Elementary Building were just one of the updates in the 1950s part of the school.

Welcome to New Staff and a "Re-Welcome" to Those Changing Buildings:

Middle School/High School

- **Tim Ruhde, Mathematics** – previously worked in Lake Holcombe.
- **Joel Deremo, Guidance** comes to us via the Dane County Sheriff's Office and Parkview High School.
- **Jennifer Boldin, English** – moved here last year from Florida!
- **Kristin Rolland, Social Studies** – UW Platteville grad and Lancaster native.
- **Jennah Schliem, Middle School Aide**
- **Alexa Hardyman, High School Aide** – Darlington native

Elementary School

- **Heather Macaulay, 1st grade** – previously at UW-Platteville
- **Lori Brokopp, Guidance**
- **Michelle McNett, Food Service**
- **Melissa Fitzsimons, Extended Day aide**

District

- **Sara Hanson, Food Service**
- **Sheila Hendrickson, District Secretary**

Board of Education Dates, Annual Meeting Set

The Pecatonica Area School Board invites the public to observe the regular board meetings which are the third Monday of each month, starting at 7:00pm. Generally the meetings are held at the Pecatonica High School Library.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23rd at 7:00pm in the Pecatonica High School Library.

PTA Meetings and Upcoming Events

Join the PTA for \$5.00. The dues help sponsor many events in both schools. Sign up at the Elementary School at the "Back to School" Night on August 29th!



4K Parent Meeting, August 24th
Middle School/High School Open House and 6th grade Orientation: August 28th
Elementary Open House: August 29th
1st Day of School: September 5th

A BLAST FROM THE PAST: Spelling Bee Championship Held in Dodgeville, published in the Wisconsin State Journal, April 2, 1961



DESCRIPTION ▶

The last five spellers left in the Iowa county championship spelling bee all look a bit worried as they wait for the final rounds of the bee, held in the Dodgeville High School. They are, left to right, Jean Ann Halverson, Dodgeville; Irene Hegland, Hollandale; Sandra Larson, Dodgeville; Marlene Knutson, Highland; and Julie Matthews, Platteville.

Preparing for Life after High School *while in High School (Part 1)*

Part of the goal of the school district's Academic and Career Plan is to get students and their parents and their teachers talking *early* about plans after high school. Whether the student wants to go directly into the workforce, attend a two year college or four year college, the military or a combination of any of those options, it is important to start working toward this goal early. We get it, plans change. Sometimes along the way a student discovers they have a passion or talent for something that they never knew existed before.

The critical component in finding and pursuing your passion, interests, and talents is flexibility and exposure. We encourage all grade 6-12 parents to access their child's Career Cruising Account. Ask your child for this login information.

While in High School

- Select Courses Carefully. We are a small school but we have a lot of options in each subject area. If you're not sure something is offered by our school, ask. We have access to a lot of courses that are not physically taught at Pecatonica High School.
- Get the Info. It's not too early to start exploring colleges, admissions requirements, or touring a future place of employment. If there is a job that you think you'd like to do, see if there are any internships, part-time jobs, or volunteer opportunities. One way I found out I did not want to be a doctor was by volunteering at the local hospital.
- Plan to take the Tests. In February, the school district requires every junior to take the ACT. We even offer "ACT Prep" that students can start in the fall at no charge to the student. If you are interested in an apprenticeship or military, there are tests for those too. ACT.org also has a test "question of the day," and sample tests.
- Gather letters of recommendation. You may need letters of recommendation for scholarships, college applications, and job applications. Ask early, and ask those teachers who you have a good relationship with, or ask current employer.
- Make the Summers Count. We know you're busy. We get it. Employers and colleges and many scholarships want to see that you put your summers to good use. Start documenting your experiences: work, volunteering, committees, summer extended learning, athletic camps, and 4H are all great ways to reflect how motivated you are and also show how you are developing your passions or your interests.

Job Opportunities

(Inquire with the District Office)

Substitute Teachers

**Teacher Aide/Special Education Aide Substitutes
Custodial and Food Service Substitutes**

PECATONICA SCHOOL CALENDAR YEAR 2017-18

August-17					September-17					October-17				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4					1					
7	8	9	10	11	Holiday-Labor Day 4	1st Day of School 5	6	7	8	9	10	Early Release 11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	11	12	Early Release 13	14	15	16	17	18	MS/HS PT Conf 19	20
21	22	23	4K Parent Mtg 24	25	18	19	20	21	22	4K-5 P/T Conf 23	4K-5 MS/HS P/T Conf 24	25	End Qtr1 26	Prof Day 27
Prof Day 28	Prof Day 29	Prof Day 30	Work Day 31		25	26	Early Release 27	28	29	30	31			
November-17					December-17					January-18				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
		Early 1	2	3					1	Winter Break 1	Winter Break 2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	Early Release 10	11	12
13	14	Early Release 15	16	17	11	12	Early Release 13	14	15	15	16	17	End Qtr2 18	Work Day 19
20	21	22	Holiday-Thanksgiving 23	24	18	19	20	21	Winter Break 22	22	23	Early Release 24	25	26
27	28	Early Release 29	30		25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31		
February-18					March-18					April-18				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2				1	2	Spring Break 2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	Early Release 11	12	13
12	13	Early Release 14	15	16	4K-5 P/T Conf 12	4K-5 P/T Conf 13	Early Release 14	15	End Qtr3 16	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	Prof Day 23	MS/HS PT Conf 19	MS/HS PT Conf 20	21	22	23	23	24	Early Release 25	26	27
26	27	Early Release 28			26	27	28	29	30	30				
May-18					June-18					Summary				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	Face-to-Face Days 174				
									Last Day 1	Parent/Teacher Conf 2				
7	8	Early Release 9	10	11	Work Day 4	5	6	7	8	Work Days 3				
14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	Prof. Days 5				
21	22	Early Release 23	24	Graduation 25	18	19	20	21	22	Holidays 3				
Holiday-Memorial Day 28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29	Total 187				

*4K Parent Meeting: Thurs. 8/24/2017 7:00 p.m. Early Release Dismissal times: Elem 1:40 p.m./HS-MS 2:00 p.m.
 *Open House: Elem 8/29/17 4:00-6:30 MS/HS 8/28/17 4:00-6:30 Parent Teacher Conference Times: Elem: 4:00:7:15 MS/HS: 4:00-7:15

PECATONICA'S COMPUTER SCIENCE FACTS

There is a lot of press about how Wisconsin schools are now adopting computer science since the State of Wisconsin recently adopted learning standards.

- Did you know that...
- ❖ Pecatonica High School is among only 60 schools in Wisconsin (STATEWIDE!) that offers AP Computer Science. We are the only high school in the Southwestern part of the state that offers any computer science classes.
- ❖ Beginning in 2017-18, our middle school students, in addition to desktop publishing, also receive a robotics curriculum as part of business education and computer science. They also become beginning coders!
- ❖ Our elementary students are learning keyboarding as a part of the curriculum beginning in Kindergarten. The goal is that they will know how to type when they enter middle school and middle school can explore more opportunities in robotics, coding, 3D printing, and applications development.
- ❖ Each year our computer sciences program grows!

- **Why Sportsmanship Matters (From The Wiaawi.Org Website):**
- Why Sportsmanship Matters...
- **To Students...** who learn to appreciate the true meaning of sportsmanship can transfer that knowledge and experience to other facets of their lives, whether it is in building and maintaining relationships, being productive and happy in the workplace, or respecting differences in one's community, state and country.
- **To Fans ...** When unchecked, jeers or unsporting behaviors embarrass individuals or schools, or may initiate a counter response, which then may escalate to more disrespectful and offensive responses in return. These types of scenarios in an emotion-filled environment have potential to extend outside the venue and to other interactions or future events with adverse, even violent, results.
- **To Coaches...** Coaches are the teachers in the athletic classroom and can experience the rewards of seeing their student athletes embrace sportsmanship. In addition, other coaches and officials will be eager to schedule games with you when your teams demonstrate sportsmanship.
- **To Schools...** With budget restraints and referendums for renovations, repairs, expansions and even programming, it's imperative that school systems maintain strong community support. Sustaining a positive and safe venue for high school sports by ensuring that athletes and fans demonstrate sportsmanship helps you build admiration and goodwill within your community.
- **To Communities ...** The only impressions visitors may have of a community may be those formed when they travel to venues and events where school sports and other activities take place. When athletes and fans display sportsmanship at school-based activities, it creates a positive perception of one's community — and can impact family and employee decisions on where to live and enroll their children.

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.

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Elementary Garden Update

Have you seen the garden lately? The committee consists of elementary teachers Jim Meuth, Heidi McSherry, parent Michael McCarthy, and community member Meg Pokorny. If you are interested in volunteering for this very important club, contact Mr. Meuth.

The committee expanded the area outside the fence for the garden, where they planted apple trees and a pumpkin patch. The committee also expanded the raised beds and each class K-5 has an area in the raised beds that is specifically for their class where they planted tomatoes, green beans, lettuce, broccoli, and sweet corn. We are so very proud of this space and very grateful to the committee for the beautiful planning and lovely garden for the kids to enjoy and learn. Please visit to see for yourself!



Get Ready for Homecoming 2017

***Pecatonica Area Schools Homecoming is the weekend of
September 22-23rd***

Friday: Pep Rally is at 7:30pm in McKellar Park where the Fall Sports (Volleyball, Football, and Cross Country) are recognized and senior athletes are honored. Fireworks will follow at dusk, sponsored by the School District.

Saturday Afternoon: Parade is at 12:30pm and the Varsity Football game vs. Belmont is at 2:00pm at McKellar Park.

Saturday Evening: Pecatonica's Alumni Banquet is at 5:30pm in the HS Gymnasium, and the Homecoming Dance, for Pecatonica High School Students and their guests is from 8:00pm until 11:00pm.

Hollandale's Homecoming Date is Saturday, September 9th. See posters in local businesses for more details.