

Educationally Speaking...

Vol 2.2 Late Fall 2016

Camp Pecatonica Selected for a "Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin Schools, Libraries and Communities Award"

On November 9, 2016, Paul Saether (of the Blanchardville-Hollandale Area Fund and the Blanchardville Community Pride Incorporated (BCPI) and New Hope Lutheran Church; Debra Severson of the Woodford State Bank and BCPI; and Dr. Jill Underly for the Pecatonica Area School District accepted the "Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin Schools, Libraries and Communities Award for the school district's summer-daycare Camp Pecatonica initiative.

The ceremony was hosted by the Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Schools, Dr. Tony Evers, and held during a general session of the Wisconsin Rural Schools Association conference (WiRSA) in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Camp Pecatonica was awarded the honor because of the collaboration between many community groups: The school, the Village of Blanchardville, BCPI, New Hope Lutheran Church, and local businesses such as Emberson's Market and Circle M Farms in Blanchardville. The purpose of awards like this is to recognize programs that make a positive contribution to rural lifestyles and promote community and public school, library, and community collaboration. Camp Pecatonica was started in part because many elementary-age students lacked good summer supervision or enrichment activities available to their counterparts in more suburban or urban areas of Wisconsin. Camp "P" was organized to structure the day for many Blanchardville and Hollandale-area children and provides opportunities for healthy play, healthy snacks, and enriching field trips and experiences. While only completing its first year, Camp Pecatonica looks to grow in the next summer, offering more opportunities to field trips in the area, but also in Madison, as well as host other guest speakers and artisans who are interested in sharing their learning experiences with school-age children. Stay tuned for more information and registration for Camp Pecatonica for summer 2017.

The **Pecatonica Area School District** was awarded a plaque and statewide recognition for the program.



Pictured above: Former Pecatonica High School Principal and current School Board member David McSherry, instructs Pecatonica Students Kole Kent and Josie Penniston, Argyle, (Seniors) on the reality of child-care costs at the Argyle Reality Store Experience, October 13 at Argyle High School.

"Reality Store" by Dea Vatter, Pecatonica High School Senior

On Thursday, October 13, the senior class went to the reality store in Argyle. Sometimes called a "Reality Check", the Reality Store, hosted by Argyle High School, offers students a realistic look at what life after high school may look like. Seniors from both Pecatonica and Argyle rolled the dice to determine whether or not they would have a partner to help with bills, if they would go on to college, and how many children they would need to provide for. At the end of the month, they had to balance their account and make some tough choices as to whether they needed to find a used car without car payments, switch daycare providers, or cut that expensive cell phone bill down.

The students had a blast being in an interactive simulation, learning what it would be like to live for a month with the paycheck of their ideal job. Some took the college route and spent two to four years at college and then paying off their debt with a fee each month. Others went right into the workforce and took off from there. At random 6 students from each personal finance class were chosen to have "kids." Those students were also randomly chosen to either receive or pay child support. The number of children they had to support was also noted. This also drove up the prices of many things they had to buy like groceries and daycare. Along with the real life fees of the month, there was also an actual cop from Argyle walking around the commons area. This "officer" would hand out speeding or parking tickets at random and demand payment on the spot. If any of the seniors were irresponsible with their money and lost it all before they went through all of the stations they had to go back and get a second job to cover their expenses. Many seniors ended the day on a good note and had a lot of fun learning how to live in the "real

Curriculum Changes coming to 2017-18

This year we added Food Science and Botany/Horticulture through Life our Sciences/Biology instructor, Mr. Jacob Roberts. Additionally we added computer programming in middle school with Ms. Mandi Peterson, and computer programming and AP Computer Science through Mr. Pibal at the high school. In October, the School Board voted to start Spanish in 6th grade. This way, when a student enters their freshman year of High School at Pecatonica they will be able to start with Spanish 2. This will quarantee that those students who want to attend a four year college will be prepared to test into second year of Spanish (or higher) and earn "retroactive credits" for their Spanish studies in high school. Spanish is a language that benefits everyone, from the future traveler, to those who attend college (as a foreign language is often a requirement), and to those who work in every industry in every walk of life. Studies show that students have better capacity for learning and understanding a foreign language are likely to become more fluent in that second language the earlier they learn it.

In 17-18 we can expect a change to our physical education and health education curriculum, with additional health instruction in the sophomore year. Students previously received health education in 8th grade. They will get an extra "dose" now in 10th grade opposite their physical education class.

In 17-18 we can expect an expansion to both food science and botany, and an increased collaboration between special education courses and science and agriculture through exploration of entrepreneurship and food preparation. Mr. Roberts, Ms. Peterson, and Mrs. Leonard-Flannery are exploring ways to incorporate niche farming practices and business models into our current course topics, including bee-keeping, aquaponics, and other sustainable agricultural practices more commonly found in the Driftless Region of Southwestern Wisconsin.

Additionally we are revising our course descriptions and lessons for our Agriculture classes. Some changes that can be expected include better sequencing of topics throughout the offerings, a more of a survey or broader scope of topics in the middle school level, and an increased focus on internships in both agriculture and the trades as students approach their junior and senior years.





Winter Sports Schedules Wrestling and Boys and Girls Basketball

(for full schedule, please see our website)

Wrestling

Date	Time	Location				
November 29, 2016	7:00 PM	River Ridge High School				
December 3, 2016	9:00 AM	Black Hawk High School				
January 7, 2017	9:00 AM	Sauk Prairie High School				
January 28, 2017	9:00 AM	Lancaster High School				
March 12, 2017	TBA	Blanchardville (Youth)				

Boys Basketball

D.	m
Date	Team
Tuesday, December 6	Black Hawk
Thursday, December 15	Monticello
Tuesday, December 20	Argyle
Friday, January 6	@ Albany
Thursday, January 12	@ Barneveld
Tuesday, January 17	Juda
Friday, January 20	@ Black Hawk
Tuesday, January 31	@ Monticello
Friday, February 3	TBA
Thursday, February 9	@ Argyle
Tuesday, February 14	Albany
Friday, February 17	Barneveld
Thursday, February 23	@ Juda
Tuesday, February 28	Playoffs

Girls Basketball

Date	Opponent
Dec 8, 2016	@ Barneveld
Dec 13, 2016	Argyle
Dec 16, 2016	Juda
Jan 5, 2017	Black Hawk
Jan 13, 2017	@Albany
Jan 19, 2017	Barneveld
Jan 21, 2017	River Ridge
Jan 24, 2017	@Argyle
Jan 27, 2017	@Juda
Jan 31, 2017	@Highland
Feb 7, 2017	@Black Hawk
Feb 13, 2017	@Parkview
Feb 16, 2017	Albany



Throwback from the past, Homecoming 1993: when the girls won the State Championship in Basketball. Photo courtesy of Blanchardville historical society

Homecoming information for 2017:

Pecatonica Homecoming is Saturday, September 23rd. The football game will be vs. Belmont this year.

Hollandale's Homecoming will be on Saturday, September 9th.



Pecatonica Area School District Honors Local Veterans

In two different ceremonies on Friday, November 11, the school district honored local veterans at the Elementary School and Middle-High School. The elementary program started at 9am with a breakfast for the veterans prior (at 8:15am). The music department and school took the lead with students serenading guests with patriotic songs and skits, ending with "Taps" performed by 8^{th} grade student Noah Krahenbuhl.



(Above) – the cast of Guys and Dolls (February 2017 performances) and the HS Choir sing "America the Beautiful."

Grant News!

Pecatonica High School and the BOOST Consortium was the recent recipient of a **\$190,000** Rural Utilities Services Grant from the US Department of Agriculture. This will go toward distance education technology.

Pecatonica High School and its CESA 3 Consortium also just received \$20,000 from the Department of Public Instruction toward co-teaching implementation.

New School District "Report Cards" for 2016-17

The Pecatonica Area School District earned three stars on state report cards from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, issued for the 2015-16 school year. Based on the star rating, The Pecatonica Area School District meets expectations for educating students.

Pecatonica High School shows above-state-average student achievement in mathematics, and solid student growth above state average in mathematics also. Our graduation rate is well above the state average and our overall "On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness" is at 91.8% (meaning that nearly 92% of our students, by the time they graduate, are prepared for post-secondary college opportunities or career opportunities).

Pecatonica Elementary School also shows exceedingly good growth in mathematics achievement.

A link to view the actual report card for each building and the school district is located on the Pecatonica Area School District website.



Leadership & Personal Fitness Class with Coach Bukowski

On December 7, 2016, five high school students were selected to attend the WIAA (Wisconsin Association of Athletics) Leadership-Sportsmanship-Citizenship Summit. Attending the summit are **Evan Prust, Taetum Pagel, Carter Ruegsegger, Natalie Brokish, and Valerie Carr**. The purpose of the Summit is to assist membership schools in addressing citizenship and sportsmanship issues with students, student-athletes, adult fans, advisors, parents and booster clubs; developing plans to improve or maintain good sportsmanship; and setting sportsmanship expectations as a means to educate.

The two sections of Personal Fitness-Leadership Class are raising money to purchase items for the weight room. They are doing this through t-shirt sales that each class designed themselves. In addition to that, the classes will be serving a "Staff Appreciation Breakfast" the day before Thanksgiving Break starts (Tuesday, November 22, 2016). The classes decided that this would be a nice way to recognize the teachers and all of the hard work they put in on a daily basis.

The <u>Elementary Art Room</u> is looking for some good "junk" for sculpture art! If you have any of the following items or ANY other SMALL pieces you could donate, please bring them to the elementary office or drop them right off at the art room. Thank you! - Mrs. Schaller, Elementary Art

Old CD's or records Nuts, bolts, washers (any size) Old jewelry Computer key board keys Plastic gems, sequins Puzzle pieces Beads Plastic or metal lids (no sharp edges please) **Buttons** Clothes pins Small game pieces Pop tabs Watch parts, gears Rivets, brads, metal things... Tiny plastic toys, miniatures Seashells

Miscellaneous small parts of anything

Mental Health Resources for Southwestern Wisconsin

Wisconsin First Step's Shared Resource For Behavioral Health/Mental Health Services for Children & Youth

To see a "Snapshot" of mental health resources for children and youth in your county, please click on the county on the man. Services on the list include mental health crisis services, information and support for families, psychiatric services, and general mental health information.

This "Snapshot" list does not display all available mental health resources. For a full set of resources for childen and youtly with special people. (click here)



The Shared Resource project is a collaboration of many organizations across the State of Wisconsin who servi

The snapshot above was taken from a new database of mental health resources available in the counties throughout Wisconsin. If you click on the county where you reside, a list of resources is available for you to contact. These resources are available for all children and adults, regardless of income. Examples of resources available are programs for Birth-to-Three, mental health counseling, homelessness resources, and suicide and crisis intervention services. Please see the webpage link for more information: http://referweb.net/mchh/resourcelist.as

Job Opportunities

Substitute Bus Drivers: Contact Barb Putz, First
Student – they will pay for your CDL!

Substitute Teachers: Do you have an undergraduate
degree? Contact either building; application also
online for substitutes as well as:
Food Service – Substitutes

Custodial/Maintenance – 12-mo. Elementary
Custodian, & Substitutes (either building)



In the last collection cycle, Pecatonica Elementary turned in over \$3000 worth of boxtops. That's approximately 60,000 (that's sixty thousand!) boxtops collected since May last school year. Thank you to all who submit the Boxtops and to our coordinator, Tiffany Anderson.

Pecatonica Elementary "Launches" into Project Lead the Way in 2017-18

Project Lead the Way is a program that originated in high school many years ago to bring more awareness and experiential learning to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Curricula. Over the past few years, PLTW has expanded into middle school and elementary school. "Launch" is the elementary curriculum that the School District will implement in science classes for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade in the 2017-18 School Year.

The new science curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. This curriculum provides elementary students with hands-on science activities in sciences such as biomedical science and engineering and physics. It will provide a strong foundation for more rigorous science instruction in middle school and high school. Each PLTW Launch module engages students in cross-disciplinary activities that spark a lifelong love of learning and build knowledge and skills in areas including computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. In addition, each module empowers students to develop essential skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance.

Professional Standards Council for Computer Science

On Wednesday, September 28th, Pecatonica District Administrator **Dr. Jill Underly, Math & Computer Sciences Teacher Mr. Doug Pibal, and 10th grade student Cade Bush**, of Blanchardville, testified before the State

Superintendent's committee on Professional Standards Co mmittee. The PSC is a committee of parents, educators, and legislators (Sen. Luther Olsen - R - Ripon, Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R - Fond du Lac), who convene quarterly each year to discuss the content standards of various educational programming in public and private schools. They were meeting to discuss whether or not the State of Wisconsin should adopt content standards for computer science. Content standards provide a framework for coursework and curriculum in public and private schools in Wisconsin, as well as guide college and university educator and licensing programs for teachers in that content area. Dr. Underly, Mr. Pibal, and Mr. Bush described the computer science programming that is currently implemented at Pecatonica Middle and High School, and discussed how they expose Kindergarten through Fifth Grade students to computer science principles such as coding, engineering, robotics, and game design. Information technology principles such as hardware, software, and networking are also a part of the Pecatonica curriculum that is taught by Ms. Mandi Peterson at the middle school level. Pecatonica was chosen in part because of their initiative in this program area, but also because presently a "true" computer science curriculum is rarely found in schools throughout Wisconsin.



Winter Weather Advisor, Winter Storm Warnings, Wind Chill Warnings? When will we know if school or activities are canceled or closed?

Making the call to cancel school is a big-impact decision: it impacts parents and their jobs, students who drive, bus routes, day care providers, and commuting school district employees. We want to make sure that we make the right call because we are aware of the impact that it has on everyone in our school district. We are a large school district in area — and the weather in lowa County may be different than the weather in Lafayette County.

- Listen to the radio, watch for Skylert messages and voicemails or texts to cell phones.
- Make sure your information is updated in Skyward so that you will receive the announcements.
- In general, if there is an "advisory" it means the conditions are happening or are very likely to happen in the immediate future. Travel may be difficult.
- If it's a "watch" there is a good chance the weather will happen – but we're still unsure, because it's 12 hours or more out.
- If it's a "warning" it means that there is hazardous weather imminent: including large amounts of snow, sleet or ice accumulation in less than 24 hours.
- ➤ The same indicators are used for **wind chills**. If wind chills will be sustained at negative-30 degrees or below, it is very likely that we will either have a delayed start so that children waiting on bus-stops have the opportunity to do so in daylight when the wind chills warnings expire, or we may cancel school because skin exposed for even short amounts of time are at high risk for frost-bite or other damage.

Our advice is to not only pay attention to whether or not we have to make these calls, but also to pay attention to the weather in general for your own and your child's safety. We don't want people on the roads if they are snow covered, and we want to make sure that students have the appropriate winter attire (hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, boots, snow-pants and warm coat) particularly if waiting outside for transportation. We also want families to be prepared for travel and or daycare needs.

If you need any assistance with any clothing items, please contact the school. We have many people who donate gently used and new items for this purpose.

Elementary Garden Notes,

Jim Meuth, Elementary Band and General Music Teacher

The Pecatonica Viking Victory garden committee has the garden all set for the fall! On Saturday, October 23 rd the committee cleaned the garden to get it ready for winter. All of the raspberries and blackberries are now trimmed back. All of the debris from the raised beds has been removed, and the beds have been turned and ready for spring planting.

Our committee is very excited as we look to update the garden plan for next season. The initial plan is to connect the existing raised beds, making more room for other plants. We also have removed the tires that were used for pumpkin planting and have opened up that area. The plan is to decide how best to use that section of the garden, either with additional raised beds, or with traditional ground tilling.

We are in real need of additional members on our committee.

Our present committee consists of only three people: Michael McCarthy (parent), Meg Porkony (community member and Blanchardville Women's Club Member), and Jim Meuth (teacher, garden chair). We would like to add additional community and staff members, and then come up with a plan to add representatives from each grade at the elementary school.

Our upcoming meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, November 2nd at 3:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 7th at 3:30 p.m. We usually meet in the music room at the elementary school, but sometimes change the meeting place and time. Please call or email Jim Meuth (jmeuth@pecatonica.k12.wi.us) at the elementary school if you would like to join us for these meetings!

November and December meeting agenda

- 1. Decide how to involve students and community in the garden.
- 2. Plan a visit to the New Glarus school garden.
- 3. Devise a garden plan utilizing the space available.
- 4. Have the students decide what they would like to see and grow in their garden.
- 5. Write a grant for materials, mulch, and topsoil to add new raised beds and to rework the garden pathways.
- 6. Begin keeping a logbook for student reference for plant rotation, and include scientific names and plant care for each vegetable grown in the garden.

If you would like to be a part of the process, please call or email Jim Meuth at the elementary school. You can also stop by at one of our meetings! Please email or call first before coming to a meeting in case we change the date, time, or place.

Best regards, and keep growing!

Dates to Keep in Mind

November 23-24-25 - Thanksgiving Break

December 14, 2016 - Early Release

December 16, 2016 - Elementary Holiday Concert

December 12, 2016 - MS/HS Holiday Concert/Art Show

December 23, 2016 – Winter Break Commences January 3rd, 2017 – School Resumes

January 11 & 25, 2017 - Early Release

January 13, 2017 – end of 1st semester/ 2nd quarter January 16, 2017 – No School, Teachers Report



The Trades are Still "Alive and Well" at Pecatonica

Just this week high school students in two Agriculture Mechanics classes were learning while working with their hands and applying concepts that they have learned in the classroom. The Advanced Agricultural Mechanics class spent time fixing a snow-blower that would not run, as well as constructed a feed bunk for heifers. Meanwhile the Agricultural Power class worked on trouble-shooting common wiring scenarios seen in a home (pictured above).

Pecatonica Booster Club's Dodging Cancer a Success!

The 4th Annual Dodging for Cancer Dodgeball Tournament was a success! We had a total of 31 teams from grades 1st thru 8th grade from Pecatonica, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Mt. Horeb and Barneveld Schools. The teams looked fabulous in their costumes. The event raised over \$2500 to be given to a family who is battling cancer. Both kids and parents had an enjoyable time. Thank you to Mr. Bukowski's Leadership class who volunteered to be referees and the Yearbook Class for taking pictures at the photo booth. This yearly event is sponsored by the Pecatonica Booster Club. Thank you to all the members who donated items for the concession stand and volunteered their time organizing and working the event. We are already planning for next year.... Are you Ready?! Dodgeball!!



BHAF Grant at Work: Intra-School Communications

Blanchardville Hollandale Area Fund (BHAF) grant and Student Council fund-raising helped to pay for two flat-screen television to run our middle-school and high school announcements every day. Additionally, the television located in the commons can link to satellite or cable television if we ever needed to watch something *live* as a school, such as a Presidential address, breaking news, or high school athletic contest. This is one small way we would like to keep all students informed of the events and meetings happening in our school on a daily basis. Thank you to the BHAF for awarding the grant to Pecatonica High School, and to the PHS Student Council for matching the grant. Thank you to Jorenby Electric for working with the school district to install the televisions and the network wiring to ensure we can effortlessly communicate our messages.

For more information on how you can contribute to the BHAF grant-giving programs, please see the webpage csfw.org - community funds. You may also support many of the fundraising opportunities sprinkled throughout the year! The BHAF will be presenting at the Regular November BOE meeting, November 21st.

Middle School Girls Basketball Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	8th	7th
Thursday, October 13th	vs. Juda (Hollandale)	W	W
Monday, October 17th	@ Monticello	L	W
Tuesday, October 18th	@ Black Hawk	L	W
Thursday, October 20th	vs. Albany (location TBD)	L	L
Monday, October 24th	@ Argyle	L	L
Tuesday, October 25th	@ Belleville	L	L
Monday, October 31st	vs. Barneveld (Blanchardville)	L	w

8th grade girls



6th & 7th grade girls



Newsletter Notes - Music

The elementary school is gearing up to thank our Veterans at the annual Veterans Day Program at Pecatonica Elementary School on November 11.. The day begins with a breakfast at 8:15 a.m. for the veterans sponsored by the 5.. grade class. The program in the gym follows immediately at 9 a.m. The program begins with the presentation of colors by the veterans, and follows with presentations and music by the elementary grades. Eighth grade student Noah Krahenbuhl will perform TAPS to end the ceremony.

The veterans are then invited to go to the high school and middle school for a program there prior to being invited to join the middle and high school students for lunch.

5 Grade Music Field Trip

Pecatonica fifth grade students will be traveling to the Overture Center on Tuesday, November 15th to attend the Madison Symphony Orchestra Concert for kids beginning at 11:15 a.m. This concert features the music of Gustav Holst and student award winners who will be performing with the orchestra. The featured composition is the masterpiece "The Planets" by Gustav Holst. Conductor John DeMain will demonstrate with the orchestra how different themes are integrated in the music to represent the different planets of the solar system.

Middle School Music Festivals

The middle school choir will be joining other choir members from the Six Rivers Conference as they come together to perform at the Conference Choir Festival. The festival is on Monday, November 7. Look for more information from Mr. Jonas regarding times.

8 Grade Band Festival

Pecatonica 8 grade band members will be traveling to **Juda** on Thursday, November 17 to participate in the annual **Six Rivers 8** Grade Band Festival. This festival includes all of the conference 8 grade students performing as one group. This year we are proud to have **Mr. Monte Mueller** as our guest conductor. The students will rehearse during the day, and then present a concert at 5:30 p.m. at Juda Schools.

Upcoming Concerts

The annual music and art show concerts are scheduled for December. The middle/high school art show and music concert is set for Monday evening, December 12. The art show begins at 6 p.m. followed immediately by the music concert at 7 p.m. The elementary school will ring in the season the following Friday with their music program and art show at 1:30 p.m.

Both of these programs feature the wonderful art and music of the Pecatonica students in grades K-12.

Pecatonica Area School District 704 Cross Street Blanchardville, WI 53516

Return Service Requested

www.pecatonica.k12.wi.us

Educationally Speaking is a Publication of the Pecatonica Area School District

Costa Rica 2018 UPDATE and INFORMATION

Taking advantage of opportunities that come our way is an important life lesson that many of us have heard before. In June of 2018, twenty three students, community members, and teachers will exercise that advice as they travel to Costa Rica for nine days. This educational trip focuses heavily on scientific discovery and language immersion. Students will visit Tortuguero National Park which is accessible only by boat and offers one of the few protected breeding grounds for green sea turtles. Howler monkey, toucans, and caimans are also residents of this tropical environment. While exotic animals are always impressive, plant life can be equally exciting. Part of the adventure includes a rainforest canopy tour where students will immerse themselves in an unfamiliar plant world. Throughout the trip our Spanish language skills will be put to practice as we interact with local villagers and our tour guide. An invigorating dip in a natural hot spring on the side of a **volcano** will help give us the energy to complete the very active days in store. Kayaking, snorkeling in the ocean, and daily hiking trips will test our physical limits as we try to pack as much learning and excitement into this great opportunity as possible.

Over the next twenty months, we will be working hard to raise funds to support the financial side of the educational and life experience investment that our students are making in taking part in this great opportunity. We are seeking monetary donations and donations for raffles such as event tickets or other items of interest. If you would be interested in supporting these students or have any questions regarding fundraising, please contact Mr. Jacob Roberts at iroberts@pecatonica.k12.wi.us

It is also not too late to sign up. If you would like to participate, please contact Mr. Roberts for more information.



Ah, the people on the bus go up and down, Up and down!

Now the kids riding the bus have another option to singing their hearts out: They can READ their little hearts out while riding two and from school.

The Books on the Bus program was made possible in part due to donations from the Blanchardville-Hollandale Area Fund and individual donations from the community. If you have books you'd like to donate to the project, please bring them to either building to the attention of Cindy Terrill, Reading Specialist, or Jane Parkinson, Middle School Reading Teacher.

Books on the Bus was recently recognized at the Wisconsin Rural School Association annual conference as a program that is easily scaled up and it has a strong academic impact on students, leading to increased reading among kids, and also better safety on the school bus as students are more engaged while riding.