



Medieval Times

Volume 7 Issue 7

February 2012

From the SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ken Halverson

North Star School has been facing a dilemma very similar to schools across the country, which is how to effectively manage student use of cell phones. While the Montana School Boards Association has offered model policy for districts to consider adopting, I would be the first to admit that no district I know of has found an ideal solution. I would convey to all our North Star families that the issue regarding student use of cell phones during school time has continued to increase. Of course, the main culprit is the ability to text someone without calling attention to oneself. We know it is happening, but our young people have become quite skilled at texting, and can do so quite handily without removing it from his/her clothing or backpack. With this in mind, I would offer this plea. If any of you are recipients of a text message during school hours, please notify the school immediately. It is one way we can discourage the urge to connect with someone when school is in session.

The next School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2012 in Rudyard beginning at 7:00 pm. I have scheduled a video conference that evening beginning at 6:30 pm with our foreign language instructor who is currently working in a 4 Day Week school system. She and her school-age children have volunteered to share their views on the pros and cons of a 4 Day schedule. The session will be held in our ITV room adjacent to our conference room. **Students and parents wishing to learn more about a 4 Day schedule are welcome to attend!** Other items on this month's agenda include a report from Athletic Director Brian Campbell regarding recent changes in MHSAA regulations, and second reading of new board policy that addresses many of the issues schools are facing regarding social networking.

There are several noteworthy events scheduled in the weeks ahead: (1) The Missoula Children's Theatre performances have been scheduled at the elementary on Saturday, February 4th at 3:00pm and 7:00pm. (2) This year's District Basketball Tournament will be held at Havre High School beginning Wednesday, February 15th. Patrons who wish to purchase all session tickets may do so beginning Monday, February 6th. Notices with ticket prices for this year's event are posted in all four Post Offices. For those of you who are basketball junkies, the Northern Divisional Tourney will be held at Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls on February 22-25, 2012. (3) North Star's annual Ski Trip to Showdown for students in grades 5-12 will be on Friday, March 2nd. Information regarding costs and parent permission forms will be forthcoming to students in those grade levels. (4) Our annual Junior High Choir Festival will be held on Monday, March 5th. (5) The District Science Fair for students in grades 7-9 is scheduled on Wednesday, March 7th in Havre. Parents with students involved in any of these activities are encouraged to make a note at home for planning purposes.



For BPA story and results,
see page 4

Left: Quinn Spinler
Right: Karston Donovan
& Brandi Crittenden



Squire of the Month



Kiera is a very focused and driven individual. She strives for excellence and expects others to do the same. In U.S History, she is a valuable asset to class discussions and always turns in excellent work.

In addition to her schoolwork, Kiera is currently filling a key position as the Girl's Basketball video technician and plans to audition for North Star's MCT production. She also just completed a terrific last year as a participant in Saturday Morning Basketball. (Plan on coaching next year, Kiera!)

A rising star at North Star, Kiera Miller is a student to watch as she continues to represent our school and community. Keep up the good work, Kiera!
By Mrs. Campbell

Knight of the Month



Sarah Masser has not been with us long, but she has sure made a hit with both teachers and students here at North Star. She always has a smile on her face, and a willing hand to whomever needs help. As a student, you couldn't ask for someone who works harder.

She always goes above and beyond the ordinary both on her homework and on her exams. She writes very well, and is good at getting her ideas across. As an athlete, she is an extraordinary team player. She has a dedication that is seldom matched. Case in point, she is already conditioning for the track season, even though it is only January. She wants to be the best at what she does, in whatever she does. I feel that she deserves this honor. Congratulations, Sarah.

By: Pam Renaker

A **Next Quest** email list is being developed. It will be used to send out the Next Quest, schedule changes, etc. If you are interested in receiving those types of emails, send an email to bcampbell@northstar.k12.mt.

6th Grade News

By: Mr. Bill Mulvaney

The sixth grade class has been busy with various activities during the first semester of school.

Class officers elected for the first and second quarters were: President: Devon Miller - 1st Dylan Miller-2nd; Vice-President: Dane Miller- 1st Jon Sonju, -2nd; Secretary: Payton King - 1st, Dane Miller - 2nd.

Students prepared power point presentations on their studies of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Thomas Nerat represented the sixth grade in the all school Geography Bee.

The class designed ornaments which were sent to Helena and displayed on the holiday tree at the capitol building. This year's theme was Montana's Home Grown.

Students are looking forward to participating in activities planned in February such as the Missoula Children Theater (King Arthur's Quest) and I Love to Read month.







Sixth graders, back row L to R - Dylan Miller, Thomas Nerat, Phoenix Nivens, Devon Miller and Peyton King. Front row L to R - Jon Sonju, Jewel Wicks, Katelin Harvey, Hali Kapperud and Dane Miller.

WANTED

Old T-shirts or sweatshirts from the Ruyard Panthers, Hingham Rangers, Gildford Broncs, Kremlin Foxes, Blue Sky Eagles, or KG Kougars. I have a project that I want to incorporate these into. Call Alice Hauge at 372-3235.


February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:00 PM College Goal MT in ITV room	3 BB vs. Sunburst in Rudyard 3:00/4:30/ 6:00/7:30, Senior Knight	4 GBB in Winifred 3:30/5:00
5	6	7 Math Contest, Havre Gr 7-12	8	9	10 BB in Denton, 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	11 BB in Big Sandy 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
12 Lincoln's Birthday 	13 Booster Club Mtg 4 PM, Rudyard School Board Mtg, 7:00 PM Rudyard	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15 	16 District 9C Tourney	17 Mid-Quarter District 9C Tourney	18 District 9C Tourney
19	20 President's Day No School 	21	22 Washington's Birthday Ash Wednesday	23 Northern Division BB Tourney, GF	24 Northern Division BB Tourney, GF	25 Northern Division BB Tourney, GF
26	27	28	29 Life Touch pictures			



March 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Showdown Ski Trip	2 3
4	5 JH Choir Festival	6	7 District Science Fair, Havre, Gr 7-9	8 Spring Play	9 Spring Play	10
11 State BPA Daylight Saving Time Begins, turn clocks ahead one hour	12 State BPA Track Practice Begins School Board Mtg 7PM	13 State BPA Booster Club Mtg	14 CR Testing Gr 7, 8, 10	15 CR Testing Gr 7, 8, 10	16 CR Testing Gr 7, 8, 10	17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY 
18	19	20	21	22	23 End of 3rd Qtr	24
25 State FCCLA	26 State FCCLA	27 State FCCLA	28	29	30	31 Prom

Home & School

CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

February 2012

North Star School District
Ken Halverson, Superintendent



SHORT NOTES

Party helper

Attending or helping with class parties is a fun way for parents to be involved at school. You might offer to take a snack, organize a game, or supervise a craft project. Your youngster will enjoy having you in his classroom, and his teacher will welcome your participation.

Learn, use, and remember

Your youngster is more likely to remember information if she uses it right away. When she meets someone, encourage her to say the name ("Nice to meet you, Kate"). If she's memorizing state capitals, she might look each one up to see what it's known for and then tell someone the fact ("The U.S. Naval Academy is in Annapolis, the capital of Maryland").

Being brave

Courage can help your youngster read aloud in class, learn to swim, or even stand up to a bully. When he needs to feel brave, share ways you personally show courage (giving a presentation at work). He'll realize that everyone gets nervous sometimes. Then, ask him to remember times he has been brave (taking the training wheels off his bike).

Worth quoting

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves." J. M. Barrie

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What does Wednesday have that no other day of the week has?

A: The letter W.



Homework solutions

Like an actor rehearsing his lines or a batter working on his swing, your child does homework to practice what he learns in school. And if he's like most youngsters, homework brings occasional challenges. Here are solutions to common problems he might face.

Getting started

When your child gets home from school or after-school care, he might want to relax for a little while, or he may want to jump right in and work. Have him try each method for one week and keep track of how it goes. He could write notes in each day's calendar square. ("Went great!" or "Hard time getting started.") After two weeks, he can review the notes to see which routine worked best.

Staying motivated

Does your youngster ever feel restless when he's doing homework? Suggest that he get up and move to a new spot. For example, he might finish his vocabulary



assignment at the kitchen table and read his science chapter on the porch. A planned break (say, to have a snack or take a walk) can also give him a second wind.

Solving problems

Help your child make a list of strategies he can use when he gets stuck. For a math assignment, he might try tools like a number line or find sample problems in his book. When he's reading, he could look up words in a dictionary or reread a paragraph. *Tip:* If he's still stumped, he might call a friend or write down his question to ask his teacher the next day.♥

Let's pretend!

No matter how old your child is, pretending can boost her creativity and teach her to think abstractly. Try these activities:

- Ask your youngster to close her eyes and imagine she's a person she has studied (explorer, inventor) or that she's visiting a place she has learned about (White House, rain forest). Encourage her to describe what she sees, hears, and smells. In the rain forest, for example, she might see colorful birds, hear monkeys howling, and smell damp leaves.

- Pick a random object (sponge). Have each family member list creative uses for it (pincushion, hamster tumbling mat, ice pack). After three minutes, compare your lists. The person with the most ideas gets to pick the next item.♥



Handling family conflicts

Throughout life, your child will run into conflicts—at least some of the time. Here are ideas that can teach her conflict-resolution skills and help her get along with others at school and at home.

Plan ahead. Every family has situations that cause conflict. And these issues are easier to deal with when everyone is calm. Hold regular family meetings, and use part of each meeting to discuss problems. *Example:* “We get short-tempered when we’re running late in the mornings. Let’s get up earlier.”



Use “I” messages.

Explaining how others’ actions make you feel can be an effective way to resolve conflicts. Try posting this sentence on the refrigerator: “I feel _____ when _____.” If a family member has a concern, she can say it aloud, filling in the blanks. You might tell your child, “I feel frustrated when I trip over toys” instead of, “Your room is a mess.”

Make compromises. When a disagreement crops up (“You always shower first!”), have each person write her ideal solution on a slip of paper. Place the slips at opposite ends of the table. Then, they should write down several compromises, lay them between the two extremes, and choose the one that best suits both sides. For instance, the person who rides the earliest bus showers first on weekdays and last on weekends. Suggest that they hang the schedule outside the bathroom where everyone can see it.♥

PARENT TO PARENT

The importance of downtime

My daughter Lucy plays soccer and takes ballet lessons. Last fall, she started cheerleading, too. She was enjoying it, but about halfway through the school year, she started complaining that she was tired all the time. One day, she said she didn’t like any of her activities anymore.

I was confused—soccer had been Lucy’s favorite sport since she was little. I talked to my friend Pam, who told me the same thing happened to her daughter. Pam said her daughter was involved in so many activities that she “burned out” and became tired and stressed. As we talked, I realized that Lucy needs free time—to dig in the dirt, play hide-and-seek, and do absolutely nothing—more than she needs another structured activity.

I told Lucy she could stick with two activities and she could pick which two. She chose to continue with soccer and ballet and to drop cheerleading. Now she seems to have more energy for her favorite activities, and it’s nice to see her just being a kid. ♥



Q & A

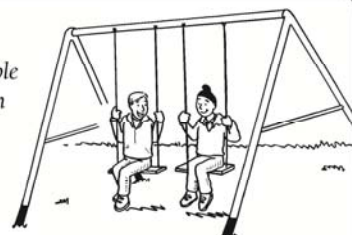
Respect differences

Q: We recently moved to an area where people speak many different languages, and our son has a lot of questions. How should we answer him?

A: It’s great that your son is being exposed to a variety of cultures. You can use his curiosity to help him learn about respecting differences.

Explain that in many parts of the United States, people speak different languages, eat different foods, and wear different clothing than your family does. At the same time, they do many of the same things (play at the park, watch movies).

To help him understand, ask him to name one classmate who speaks English and one who speaks another language. Have him tell you something he has in common with each child (skateboarding, wearing sneakers) and one thing that they don’t share (number of siblings, language spoken at home). He’ll discover that language is just one of the many things that makes a person similar to or different from him.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Be a storybook character

With this guessing game, your child will learn to ask questions and pay attention to details in books.

Materials: sticky notes, colored pencils

First, have each family member secretly think of a well-known story character (Clifford, Horton). He should write his character’s name and draw a small picture of him on a sticky note.

Then, each player puts his sticky note on another

person’s back. The object of the game is to figure out which character is on your own back by asking questions that can be answered “yes” or “no.” *Examples:* “Am I an animal?” “Do I have fur?” “Am I a pet?” When you think you know who you are, ask, “Am I Clifford?”

Play as many rounds as you like. When you’re finished, choose a book that features one of the characters, and read it aloud together.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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College Goal Montana 2012 _____

The College Goal Montana webinar will take place at North Star High School on Thursday, February 2, at 6:00 PM in the ITV room.

Participants in these free webinars will listen to a 30-minute presentation about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), log on to fafsa.gov and complete the form.

Remember to bring:

- FAFSA PIN number — to get your pin, log on to www.pin.ed.gov
- Social Security numbers (students and parents)
- 2011 federal tax returns (or 2010 tax returns if 2011 are not complete)
- W-2s, tribal income, other aid information (TANF, child support, other benefits)

Additional asset information (money market funds, stocks, other investments)

In addition, Webinar participants who complete event evaluations will be entered to win a \$500 scholarship.

For more information, contact Mrs. Rose Spinler at 355-4481 or e-mail rspinler@northstar.k12.mt.us.

South Dakota School of Mines _____

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, in Rapid City, South Dakota, offers a variety of summer camps for youth.

Camps are available to students in grades 6-12 and include the following: Space Adventures Camp, Super Science Honors Institute, Socket to Me Computer Camp, Youth Geology Field Camp, Chemical and Biological Engineering Institute, Forensic and Materials Engineering Institute, Mining and Explosives Engineering Institute and STEPS Engineering Camp (Science and Technology Engineering Preview Summer Camp.)

Camp costs, dates, and grade levels vary for each camp. Scholarships may also be available. Find out more by visiting: www.sdmst.edu/learn or see Mrs. Spinler for a brochure.

Information for Montana summer youth programs/camps will be provided as soon as dates and locations are announced.

Mark Your Calendar

5th Annual Men who Cook for Women who Wine Fundraiser is set for Saturday March 24, 2012. Hingham Community Center. Watch for more in-

Booster Club Meeting

Monday, February 13

4:00 PM in Ruyard

Everyone welcome

Academic All Team Award _____

The MHS/Army National Guard Academic All Team Award is given to the top five teams that exhibit outstanding academic achievement during the school year's first quarter of play for that activity.

Congratulations to North Star athletes in 6 player football for placing first with a cumulative average GPA of 3.619! Stanford-Geyser was second with an average GPA of 3.46.

Congratulations to North Star athletes in Class C JV volleyball for placing first with a cumulative average GPA of 3.849! Congrats also to the varsity team for placing second with an average GPA of 3.812. Circle placed first with a GPA of 3.866.

Keep up the good work on academics North Star athletes.

Speech & Drama _____

Malta Meet—Shelby and Sarah placed 4th in Hum Duo and Sierra Yanny placed 5th in SOI

Divisionals/Cut Bank—Shelby and Sarah placed 3rd in Hum Duo and Sierra took 2nd in SOI...overall North Star Team took 3rd place trophy in Speech. The top 6 in each event go on to State in Billings this weekend so all three placers made it to State.

Yearbooks Needed _____

We are still working on trying to acquire a complete set of annuals from all four towns as well as Blue Sky and KG. We are in need of:

Gildford High School 1956-1959

Kremlin High School-1953,

Ruyard High School 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974

Blue Sky 1991 and 1992.

Thank You, Kay Jorgenson

North Star Business Professionals of America (BPA) Regional Competition Results

On Monday, January 16, 2012, Business Professionals of America (BPA) members along with their advisor, Mrs. Karleen Wolery, attended their Regional Competition in Great Falls. Approximately 350 BPA members attend this conference, many events having dozens of participants. The many awards that were received by North Star BPA members (listed below), helps each contestant recognize the benefit of their hard work and preparation prior to the competition. BPA members will compete at the state competition in Billings, March 11th -13th. Excellent job, North Star Business Professionals!!!

Brandi Crittenden—5th Basic Office & Procedures

Karston Donovan—3rd Advanced Word Processing, 4th Basic Office & Procedures

Kassidy Hansen—1st Advanced Office Systems & Procedures, 10th Integrated Office Procedures

Kristyn Lavery—2nd Economic Research Project—Individual, 2nd Fundamental Spreadsheet, 4th Economic Research Project--Team

Cooper Spicher—1st Fundamental Word Processing, 2nd Integrated Office Procedures, 4th Management Marketing Human Resource Management, 6th Advanced Office Systems & Procedures

Delainey Spicher—5th Keyboarding, 10th Administrative Support

Quinn Spinler—4th Human Resource Management, 6th Advanced Spreadsheet, 7th Management Marketing Human Resource Management

Mackenzie Hansen—8th Keyboarding

McKenna Holt—10th Basic Office & Procedures

Tylynn Rettig—7th Basic Office & Procedures

Jaxon Simonson—3rd Administrative Support Project, 5th Legal Office Procedures

Thatcher Smith—6th Fundamental Spreadsheet



See next page for more pictures

Congratulations Linda Lett

Voted Northern Division Speech Coach of the Year—Class C.



WANTED:

Old home movie projector screens and metal movie reels.

Willing to pay for screens, also willing to buy reels or borrow and return. These are wanted for the Class of 2012 Graduation.

Contact Dana Donovan at 376-3183 (work) or 372-3161 (home) Thank you!!

Junior Class Heritage Trip Fundraiser

The Junior class is selling North Star decals. Good on cars, lockers and mirrors. Comes in three sizes— large, medium and small. They won't hurt car paint or other surfaces. Prices are \$5 for large, \$3 for medium and \$2 for small. Ask any Junior class member or call Donovan Ulmen 372-3235 to get your Decal.

Wanted: Town History

The North Star High School Library has been trying to put together information on local history of the four towns. We have some things from the 100th Anniversaries, including the books and some pictures, but we would like to accumulate more. If you have any news articles, information about the history of these towns, or pictures that you would let us copy, we would love to add them to our collection.

Thanks, Kay Jorgenson

Sophomore Class Fundraiser

Water Bottles \$10.00

Mugs \$15.00



Please contact a sophomore or Mrs. Wolery to purchase.

Thank You

Homework Resource

FREE online tutoring, academic resources, writing assistance and preparatory testing materials are available from Tutor.com for all Montana residents. Get help in math, science, social studies or English from a live tutor as part of this statewide service. The service can be accessed from a Montana public, school, academic or special library or from your home computer. Tutors are available Sunday through Thursday 2:00 PM to 11:00 PM. The SkillsCenter is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The web address is <http://homeworkmt.org/> I have added this link to the library page on the North Star Schools website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Kay Jorgenson.

Need Help With Computers

There has been some inquiries as to the possibility of a computer class. We are checking to see if there is enough interest to make this feasible for a small fee. If you are interested please e-mail kjorgenson@northstar.k12.mt.us or jlipp@northstar.k12.mt.us or call us at our homes. Please indicate if there is a specific area of computers you are interested in.

BPA
Contestants



Left: Cooper Spicher
Above: Cassidy Hansen
Top Right: McKenna Holt & Kristyn Lavery
Right: Jaxson Simonson

Trustee Candidates May File For Election _____

Nomination petition and Oath of Candidacy must be filed with election administrator for the upcoming Trustee Election to be held on Tuesday May 8, 2012. No person signing a petition may sign more nomination petitions than there are trustee positions open. **NO CANDIDATE MAY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT UNLESS HE OR SHE MEETS THIS DEADLINE.** (13-10-201(6), 13-37-201, 20-3-305 and 20-3-344, 13-10-325, MCA). (no earlier than 135 days, or no later than 40 days before election).

One Trustee Position open for a 2 year term

One Trustee Position open for a 3 year term

Nomination petitions may be picked up from Kathy Preeshl, (election administrator) at the High School Business Office located in Rudyard.

Any candidate that had already filed for election, but wishes to withdraw their name, may do so not less than 38 days before the school election by sending a statement of withdrawal to the election administrator.

Nomination petitions must be picked up and returned by March 29, 2012.

Ag in MT Schools Contest _____

Who: Grade 7-11 students

What: Write an essay or teach a class to win a three day stay on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman in June. Learn about careers in agri-science and related fields. Hands-on opportunities, field trips and interaction with students from across the state.

Why: Because agriculture is important to Montana, our nation and the world and there are many career choices related to this industry, not just farming and ranching (but including those).

How: The choice is yours! The student can write a 200-500 word essay OR the student may choose to teach a short (10-15 minutes) lesson to an elementary class on the designated topic and write a short synopsis of what they did.

Topic: Wild Horses

Due: February 25, 2012

Rules: Contact Mrs. Rose Spinler



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