



Medieval Times

Volume 7 Issue 6

January 2012

From the SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ken Halverson

Our month of December while busy as ever has produced a remarkably mild start to our winter here in North Central Montana, at least compared to the past few years. While this certainly serves to lessen the stress of school closure decision making, we have yet to see it reduce our number of students afflicted by bouts of colds or influenza. We ask therefore that parents support our ongoing plea that common sense apply regarding winter clothing. Long story short, we continue to see students arrive on our busses without proper outer garments, as well as shorts and footwear that are better suited to weather in southern climates! Consider what might happen if we ever had a bus break down while en route to/from school.

The next School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 16, 2012 in Rudyard beginning at 7:00 pm. The focus of this month's meeting will involve more specific preparation for visits to other districts currently operating on a 4-Day week. Those patrons who have expressed the desire to be on a visitation team will be contacted in early January to determine which visitation team you are placed on, as well as the projected travel itinerary for each team's visit. The Board has opted for three visitation groups, and once completed, there will be public meetings scheduled to continue the process of determining if this change would indeed be suitable for North Star Schools. Patrons with questions or concerns regarding a 4-Day Week are urged to attend such meetings or contact a Board member or me to make your feelings known.

There are two other events scheduled in January that I'd like to mention in this article as well. (1) Our second round of Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled to occur on Wednesday, January 25th for all grade levels. While the format of these meetings remains the same as in November, I believe that some of our parents may not have connected with a Junior High or High School teacher the first time due to the length of the waiting line for a particular teacher. If you were one of those parents you may also opt to contact our staff to arrange for a meeting on another day that might better work for both parties. Secondly, the Missoula Children's Theatre has been scheduled at the elementary with tryouts after school on January 30th. While student participation in this production is optional, it should be noted that a commitment to attend all the practices is expected. Children who miss daily practices place an added burden on the remainder of the troupe to prepare properly for the public performances at week's end.

Homework Resource

There is a new resource available from the State of Montana libraries called Homework MT. It offers free online tutoring, academic resources, writing assistance and preparatory testing materials 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 me, Mrs. Kay Jorgenson.

Geography Bee

Congratulations to the following students on winning their respective classroom Geography Bees:

8th Grade: Kolten Adams and Christopher Hammond; 7th Grade: Rian Gulick and Sheridan Pena; 6th Grade: Thomas Nerat and Dylan Miller; 5th Grade: Damean Parks and Trenton Sizemore; 4th Grade: Bailey Spicher and Caden Rettig. And, the winners are:

Bailey Spicher 1st,
Kolten Adams 2nd &
Caden Rettig 3rd!

Squire of the Month



Cade Chvilicek is an outstanding student, athlete, musician, while being a respectful young man. He is always prepared for anything that comes his way. Cade has a ton of heart and passion for all things he does, making sure he is at his best at all times. Cade is always willing to do extra, he helps fellow students

with anything he can do to make them better in all aspects of school life. Mr. Chvilicek may only be in 7th grade but is mature beyond his years, he strives to be the best he can be. Keep up the good work and always go after your goals! Cade is the son of Charlie and Laurie Chvilicek of Hingham. By: Mr. Steve Simonson

Knight of the Month



Anyone who says chivalry is dead has obviously never seen Caleb Vaughn in action. I often witness Mr. Vaughn committing random acts of kindness, whether it's helping a classmate with homework or holding doors open for school faculty. He sets a positive example for his peers by this stellar type of

behavior. In both English and drama class, Mr. Vaughn exhibits poise and maturity, two traits that will no doubt serve him well in the future. And the improvement on his attendance this year can only be described as exemplary! Congratulations, Caleb, for this recognition of your noteworthy actions and leadership qualities. It is truly well deserved! Caleb is the son of Chris Vaughn and Emily Vaughn of Havre. By: Mrs. Laura Schnittgen

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.

Speech & Drama

At the Choteau Invitational, the North Star Speech and Drama Team took 3rd in Drama and 4th in Speech overall. Individually, the Humorous Duo of Shelby Sizemore and Sarah Massar took 3rd while Samara Yanny placed 8th in Serious Solo. On the speech end of things, Sierra Yanny took 4th place in Serious Oral Interpretation (SOI).

The speech team made their way to Glasgow Dec. 17th and with only two North Star team members, managed to take 1st place in Class C Speech Sweeps. With 17 competing in HOI, Emma Massar made a good showing, while her sister Sarah placed 2nd in HOI. Good job, North Star.

Drama Receives Triangle Communications Grant

According to their website, Triangle Communications has a "strong tradition of supporting community projects [and] educational programs." Every month, their board reviews grant proposals dealing with technology-based projects. This November, Triangle Communications approved a \$1,000 movie editing project written by drama teacher Mrs. Schnittgen. With this grant, it is possible for the drama club to purchase an iPad, movie editing software and accessories needed for making student films.

"This is fantastic," replies Schnittgen. "The students have such an active interest in film direction and editing. With this grant, we're able to nurture that thirst for knowledge."

The drama club's first project with the new technology will include a theatrical trailer of their spring show, *Twelve Angry Jurors*. Upon completion, the video will be posted to the school's website and will be a great way to get a sneak peek of the play.

"Triangle Communications has been very good to our club," Schnittgen says. "A few years ago, they approved a grant for the lights we use every show. Now, with this latest grant, they've made it possible for us to explore a completely different avenue of theatre and film!"



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

January 2012

North Star School District
Ken Halverson, Superintendent

SHORT NOTES



Just because

Does your child love science experiments? Or did she enjoy a book her teacher read aloud? From time to time, send a note or an email to let the teacher know what your youngster likes about school. Teachers appreciate hearing good news from parents—and it helps them get to know students better.

Winter mornings

It's dark out, the alarm has gone off twice, and your youngster is still in bed. Sound familiar? Try turning on several lights and playing upbeat music or a funny audiobook. This will help your child feel more energetic and begin to get ready for school.

Be a good neighbor

This year, encourage your family to do at least one volunteer activity per season. During colder months, you might deliver food for Meals on Wheels or collect gloves and coats to donate to shelters. When it's warm, consider planting trees at schools or parks or participating in neighborhood cleanup days.

Worth quoting

"A library is infinity under a roof."
Gail Carson Levine

JUST FOR FUN

Student: "I was born in California."

Teacher: "Which part?"

Student: "All of me."



Friendship matters

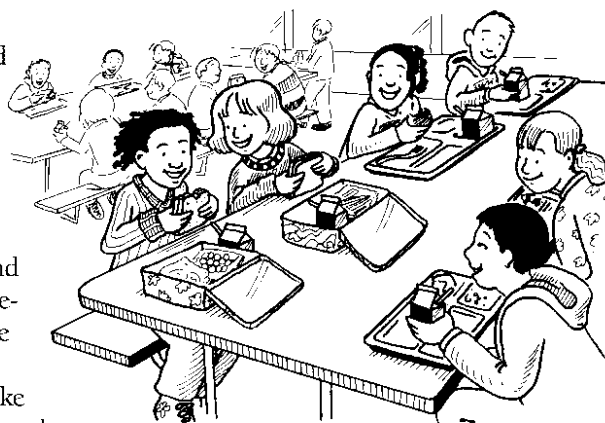
Children who have friends tend to do better in school and enjoy it more. Share these ideas to help your youngster make and keep friends.

Start with one

Just one strong friendship can give your child the skills and confidence to build others. Role-play reaching out to a classmate she'd like to know better. She might say, "Nice lunch box. I like fairy tales, too." Remind her to make eye contact, smile, and ask questions ("What's your favorite fairy tale?").

Share good times

Give your youngster opportunities to strengthen bonds with old friends and to find new ones. She could join after-school activities (computer club, chorus) and attend special events (spirit night, math fair). At neighborhood playgrounds and basketball courts, suggest that she be friendly and play with other children so she can make friends who live nearby.



Treat friends like treasures

Your child can be a good friend by remembering that each person is valuable. Ask her to tell you what she likes best about her friends (good sense of humor, fun to play games with). Also, encourage her to show friends that she cares by being supportive when things are going well ("Congrats on the home run!") and not so well ("Sorry you're sick—I'll bring over some magazines after school"). ♥

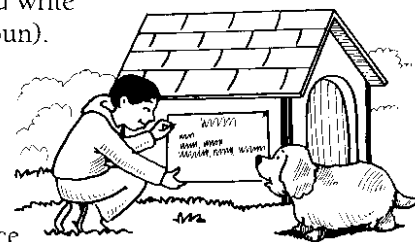
Nouns, verbs, and more

Knowing about parts of speech can make your child a better writer. Here are two fun ways to practice.

1-2-3 poem. Have your youngster write a noun (person, place, or thing) on a piece of paper. On the next line, he should write two adjectives (words that describe the noun). Below that he can add three verbs (action words) about the noun. *Example:*

Dog
Soft, furry
Sleeping, running, fetching.

Fill-in-the-blank story. Write a sentence with one or more missing words ("Once upon a time, there was a _____"). Underneath each blank, write the part of speech that should go there (adjective, noun). Your child fills in the blanks ("colorful rainbow") and adds his sentence. Take turns until you agree that your tale is finished. ♥



Real-life math

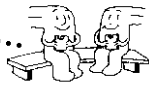
When your child closes his math book, the learning doesn't have to end. Try these suggestions for fitting math skills into everyday activities:

- Appoint your child scorekeeper for family games. He can practice doing math in his head by adding up points for Yahtzee, Scrabble, or Hearts.
- At the grocery store, ask your youngster to estimate 2 lb. of green beans or 3 lb. of potatoes. Then, let him check the weights on the produce scale.



- How much space does he need for a jigsaw puzzle? Have him look at the dimensions on the box (say, 18" x 24") and use a ruler or yardstick to find a spot that's at least 18" wide and 24" long.
- How long will it take to fold a load of laundry or drive to the bank? Suggest that he write down his estimate and then time the task on a cell phone or car clock.

- When you bake, put your youngster in charge of measuring ingredients (1 cup milk, ½ tsp. salt) and finding the right-sized pan (11" x 7", 13" x 9").♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Family Bill of Rights

When my son Jack studied the Bill of Rights, his teacher did something that I thought was clever. She used it to help the kids come up with classroom rules. They listed students' rights and made a rule to protect each one. For example, "Be quiet in class" goes with "the right to learn."

I decided that we would use the Bill of Rights to make household rules.

Just like the class, we started with our rights. Jack and his brother came up with "the right to share your opinion" and "the right to privacy." Then,

we added a rule to each one ("speak respectfully" and "knock before entering someone's room").

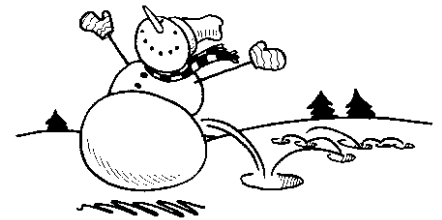
I think linking rights with rules is helping the boys understand why rules are important. And our household is running more smoothly lately!♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Snowy fun

Even when there's snow on the ground, your family can get outdoor exercise. Here are two games for everyone to play.



Snowman relay

Collect two sets of snowman accessories (hat, scarf, carrot, buttons), and place each set in a separate bucket at one end of the yard. Divide your family into teams, and have each team build a snowman at the other end of the yard. Then, team members run to the bucket one at a time, grab one accessory, and put it on the snowman. The first team to complete a snowman wins.

Snow-hop

Follow in each other's footprints with this snowy version of hopscotch. Let your child create a hopscotch course in the snow by hopping forward 10 times, landing each time on either one foot or two feet. Everyone else must hop the same way he did so they land in his footprints. Keep playing until each person gets a chance to be the leader.♥

Q & A

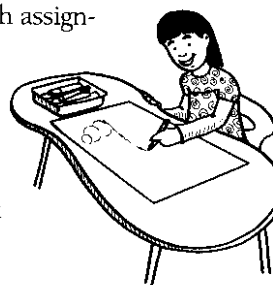
Dealing with perfectionism

Q: My daughter is a perfectionist. She'll erase handwriting that isn't perfect or throw away a drawing if she makes a mistake. How should we handle this?

A: It's great that your daughter sets high standards for herself. But as you've discovered, perfectionism has its down side. To help her get through assignments without becoming frustrated or sidetracked, suggest that she finish an entire page without erasing. Then, she can go back and decide what she can let go and fix what she really isn't happy with.

When she draws a picture, encourage her to think of it as a rough draft. She might relax if she knows her first attempt doesn't have to be perfect. Then, if she starts over, have her save her drafts so she can look back and see how much she's improving. This can help her be happy with progress rather than perfection.

Finally, treat imperfections as a normal part of life so she can learn to take pride in doing her best. For instance, if she brings home an almost-perfect test, say something like "Your studying really paid off" rather than "Wow! You got only one answer wrong!"♥



OUR PURPOSE


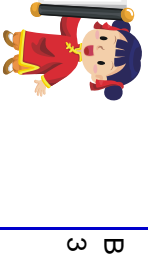
To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 No School 	3 BB vs. CJI in Rudyard 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	4	5	6 BB in Sunburst 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	7 GGB vs. Winifred in Gildford 4:30/6:00
8	9	10 JV BB in Rocky Boy 5:00/6:30 PM Booster Club Mtg 4:00 PM Foundation Mtg 5:00 PM	11	12	13 End of 2nd Qtr/1st Sem, BB vs. Denton in Gildford 3:00/4:30/6:00 /7:30	14 BB vs. Big Sandy in Gildford 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30 Fan & Parent Appreciation
15	16 BPA in GF School Board Meeting in Rudyard, 7:00 PM	17	18	19 BB in Chinook 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	20 JV Triangular. Boys in Gildford, Girls in Rudyard 4:30/6:00/7:30	21 BBB vs. Turner in Gildford 6:00
22	23	24 BB vs. Box Elder in Rudyard 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	25 No School Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00 to 7:00 PM	26	27 State Speech & Drama	28 State Speech & Drama BB at HLP in Hays 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
29	30 Missoula Children's Theater Tyouts in Gildford	31 BB at CJI 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	<i>Feb 1</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>	<i>Feb 3</i> BB vs. Sunburst in Rudyard 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	<i>Feb 4</i> MCT performances 3:00 & 7:00 PM, GGB in Winifred 4:30/6:00

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:00 PM College Goat 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	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 School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Rudyard	14 Happy Valentine's Day Booster Club Meeting 4:00 PM, Gildford	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			

College Goal Montana 2012: FAFSA Help Available Via Webinars

Thanks to technology, and the cooperation of our community partners, nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) has scheduled more than 50 College Goal Montana webinars across the state during the months of January and February.

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. Assistance will be provided by site hosts and subject matter experts via telephone.

Students and parents should arrive at College Goal Montana webinar locations prepared to complete and submit the FAFSA. No appointments necessary. Don't forget 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.

2012 will mark the eighth year that SAF has coordinated College Goal Montana, and it's the third year that SAF has offered webinar assistance. To date, more than 10,000 Montanans have been served through the College Goal Montana program.

College Goal Montana is affiliated with College Goal Sunday — a national program that was originally created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education.

For additional information, please feel free to contact Mrs. Rose Spinler at 355-4481 or e-mail rspinler@northstar.k12.mt.us.

Booster Club Meeting

**Tuesday, January 10
4:00 PM in Rudyard**

Everyone welcome



Soup Dinner

North Star Chapters of BPA, FCCLA & SkillsUSA

Will be serving soup, bread, bars and a beverage.

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Starting at 4:30 p.m.

In Rudyard during CJI basketball game

Price: \$5.00/person or \$25/family

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 close, but still missing the following annuals. We wanted to get the word out in case anyone runs across an extra copy they don't need.

We are missing Gildford High School 1956-1959. We believe that during these years the annual was only published every other year.

We are also in need of:

Kremlin High School-1953,

Rudyard High School 1960, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, and

Blue Sky 1991 and 1992.

Thank You, Kay Jorgenson

Pep Band

If you are interested in joining our North Star Pep Band, please contact Ms. Kerra Collins at 355-4481 ext. 244. We will start before each game at 5:30 and would love to have you!



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