

# Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal  
November 2021

## *Pittsville School District's Vision and Mission:*

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

## **Student and Staff Notable Learning**

### *Honey Queen Program Visits Pittsville*

The American Honey Queen is a spokeswoman for the American Beekeeping Federation and she made a visit to our school on November 2nd. She presented information to our 4th and 5th graders in the cafeteria. Students learned about honeybees and pollination, the role of the honeybee in the hive, and also learned about careers in beekeeping.

## **Innovation and Recognition**

### *Outdoor Classroom*

Mrs. Knutson and Mr. Schiltz's seventh grade Inspire class is a student-led class where students see a need and choose whether or not to take on that project. Inspired by Covid / Safety precautions in place, students were motivated to create outdoor learning spaces to be utilized by the students in the school district. Students researched plans for outdoor classrooms, made designs, contacted contractors and researched prices for their outdoor classrooms. Students also made commercials to advertise their outdoor classrooms.

Students prepared and practiced talking before approaching local business owners to explain what their plans were and to ask if they could hang an informational poster and place a donation bucket. The students were really appreciative of the local businesses who supported their project. These businesses supported their project: Pittsville Family Dental, Pittsville Vision Center, Baum's Mercantile, G-dogg's Resale Shop, Wisconsin Farm, Business, Event City Design, Pittsville Meats, Apothecary, Pittsville Cafe, Subway, Pittsville Farm and Home

Center, Cenex, The Chasteen Agency, Horsin' Around (students did not go inside). They raised approximately \$1000 from donations. All contact to business owners, contractors and grant contacts were made by students, not teachers.

Jenna Schiller and Bailey Smazal applied for a grant from Marshfield Area Community Foundation and received \$2000! The students also chose to do a Scentsy Fundraiser which raised approximately \$1500. A small group of students will be working with me to apply for a grant through the Character Playbook Community Impact Project to try to receive more funding for this innovative project.

## **Looking Ahead**

### ***Sources of Strength***

Staff and students (Grades 8 - 12) training will take place on Tuesday, November 9th. Sources of Strength is a best practice youth suicide prevention project. The district initiative is led by Mrs. Krystowiak and Mrs. Petersen, School Counselors. The program focuses on teaching youth help-seeking behaviors and it utilizes the positive connections / strengths in students' lives to prevent suicide. Family, positive friends, mentors, healthy activities, generosity, spirituality, physical health, and mental health are the eight sources of strength this program focuses on.

Among many positive aspects of the program, building relationships between adults and youth, developing student leaders, and helping youth see the positive in seeking help from adults are a few.

The ES currently has eight 8th graders signed up. Mrs. Petersen and I will participate in the adult training session and then work with the students who will participate in the training.

### ***Support for New Teachers***

On November 30th, the new ES teachers will travel to CESA 5 to see the facility and participate in a New Teachers Meeting. This is a great opportunity for them to network and learn all the ways CESA 5 supports the district.