

# Panther

# Spotlight

PITTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECOND QUARTER

2022-2023

## From the Desk of the District Administrator



Dear PSD Families,

**Strategic Plan for Community and Economic Development, 2023-2025.** The Pittsville Area School District is a great place to call home and our unique community assets help us to maintain our strong quality of life. These assets also help us to learn about new opportunities the community may want to pursue. As we look to the future of Pittsville Area School District and the community of Pittsville, it is important that we engage in thoughtful, community-led planning to move us forward.

In August 2022, Pittsville Area School District applied to and was selected for the Community Economic Analysis for Rural Wisconsin Communities (CEA-RWC) Initiative. This pilot program is in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). The Pittsville Area School District was one of just five rural communities selected state-wide.

A community leadership team of Pittsville Area School District stakeholders has been working with Extension since November and has met three times thus far. These sessions have centered on economic development and entrepreneurship, housing, community building, civic leadership development, marketing and communications, and outdoor recreation infrastructure. In the next session, the community leadership team will continue to narrow these focus areas, creating actionable strategies for each priority that will positively impact Pittsville Area School District and the community. The outcome of this process will result in a community economic development strategic plan.

**SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT.** Earlier this year, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS), announced the launch of the SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT Resource Center (SUSO). SUSO is a comprehensive, one-stop place to turn to with concerns regarding school safety. One component of the resource that we are particularly excited to share is the threat reporting system.

The SUSO threat reporting system is available 24/7 and is free to all. Through this system, students, families, school staff, and community members can submit a school safety concern SUSO app (Android and iOS), visiting [speakup.wisconsin.gov](https://speakup.wisconsin.gov) or by calling 1-800-MY-SUSO-1. Resource Center staff work around-the-clock to respond to reports and to deploy a response locally by communicating directly with school administrators, law enforcement and counselors. Middle school and high school students were presented this information in November and I strongly encourage you to review the informational materials included with this communication. We all share responsibility for keeping our schools safe!

**School Report Card.** As an educational institution, we continually look for ways to better serve our students and families. The school report card is one resource that can allow us to reflect upon our strengths and areas for improvement. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute (Wis. Stat. 115.385) to generate school and district report cards for every publicly funded school and district in the state. These reports are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate success and identify areas for improvement.

These report cards include data on multiple indicators for multiple years across four priority areas (Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-track to Graduation). Based on its score, a school or district receives a rating from Fails to Meet Expectations to Significantly Exceeds Expectations.

The School District of Pittsville received a rating from the state of Meets Expectations based on last year's data. District Staff will analyze this data in order to identify and be responsive to areas for growth. I want to share these results with you because they help illuminate some of our successes and help pinpoint areas of focus in our district. I would stress that these report cards are just one source of information about our school.

Copies of the District, PES, and PHS reports are available on the district website. If you would like to learn more about how to interpret the Pittsville School District reports, please use the following link. <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/resources>

*As we near the midway point of the school year, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude for entrusting us with the care of your children. We truly appreciate being partners in your child's development. In the PSD, all of our staff strive to provide a safe, welcoming, fun, and challenging environment for our students on a daily basis. Thank you for sharing your children with us.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Knott".

Jason Knott, District Administrator



### Pittsville Elementary Schools Knowledge Quest Fundraiser

Knowledge Quest is a fun-curriculum based PTO fundraiser. Children will be bringing home a study guide with grade specific questions on it and will be given a Knowledge Quest test during the last week of February. The students are being asked to collect pledges for the Knowledge Quest. Students can collect pledges per each correct question answered or a flat rate donation. What a great way to support student's learning and a great fundraiser too! There will be more information coming home with students soon...so stay tuned! If you are interested in donating to our fundraiser, please let us know or drop off a donation in the Elementary School office.

There will be a prize for the classroom with the most money raised in grades 4K-8. There will also be an individual prize for the student who raises the most money.

#### Wisconsin's Adult School

#### Crossing Guard

Recognition Week, January 9-13

# THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS!

**George Duerr**

**Amy Wilke**

**Nancy Zieher**

We appreciate all you do to keep our students, families, and community safe!

#WEAREPittsville



### Equal Educational Opportunities

It is the policy of the Pittsville School District, pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations, that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular (which would include all Career and Technical Education opportunities), extra-curricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, homelessness status, any physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or any other legally-protected status or classification as required by S. 118.13, Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The District encourages informal resolutions of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Pittsville School District.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: Matthew Sherwood, Director of Student Services, School District of Pittsville, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2, Pittsville, Wisconsin 54466, 715-884-2517 Ext 255.

### National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

January 9

## WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR OUR SRO, CHIEF DUERR!

Looking for events? Visit  
our website at  
[www.pittsville.k12.wi.us](http://www.pittsville.k12.wi.us)

### Board of Education

**Mandy Hoogesteger, President**

**Nathan Bowden, Vice-President**

**MaryAnn Lippert, Treasurer**

**Julie Strenn, Clerk**

**Chris Zawislan, Member-at-Large**

**Student Representatives:**

**Samuel Bowden**

**Madeline Hensel**

# Nutrition Nuggets

## News from Our Food & Nutrition Service Department

### Upcoming Meal Events

Our school nutrition team would like to announce that we have a few food events coming up. The first would be at our elementary/middle school for Reading Across America week that ties in with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our food service team will have our lunch program that day feature all items served that represent one of Dr. Seuss' books such as Grinch Jell-o and pink ink lemonade to name but a few. Also, our school and community will be serving our empty bowls event on Tuesday, March 7. Please mark your calendars. Beach day, Star Wars Day, National Pie day are just a few others that are coming up in the next few months.

### Free and Reduced Applications

Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals. To apply, complete a Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application. Use one application for all students in your household. Be sure to fill out all required information and return the application to Matt Andres, Food Service Director, 5459 Elementary Ave, Pittsville, WI 54466. The free or reduced lunch program not only benefits families but it also helps your school. Your application is completely confidential. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, the applications are available online at [www.pittsville.k12.wi.us](http://www.pittsville.k12.wi.us) and in your school offices.

### Offer Versus Serve: What Does This Mean?

Each student has the right to decline certain food items at Breakfast and Lunch. Every student may select a full meal of all four components at Breakfast or all five components at Lunch. A food item is a specific food offered. A food component is one of the required food groups (fruit, vegetable, grains, meat/meat alternate and milk). The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act requires that students must select at least 1/2 cup of fruit or vegetable at Breakfast in addition to other items or components.

### Low Lunch Balances

Accounts below \$25.00 will be notified weekly through the Pittsville School District's [SchoolMessenger](#) alert system. The notice explains that your family food service funds are running low and money should be added as soon as possible. If a family account gets below zero, a notice will be sent out stating if the amount due is not paid in three working days, your children will no longer be able to participate in the breakfast and/or lunch program. If no money is received, a note will go home explaining the account is closed and Pittsville Schools will no longer be providing breakfast, lunch, or milk.

It is then the parent's responsibility to provide their child with a lunch from home. Once money is added, your children may again participate in the school's food service programs. Here are a few tips to insure your family food service account is up-to-date and in good standing.

- Check with your voicemail and email to see if your family received an alert message concerning a low lunch balance.
- If you received a notice, please send payment as soon as possible.
- When sending in a payment, please include your family name, students' first and last name, and amount sent.

### Online Payments are Easy and Convenient

Parents can make online payments from home or work, 24/7. If their child's food service balance is low, it only takes a few minutes to add money to it using their VISA or MasterCard credit or debit card (NOTE: your credit card will be charged \$2.50 for the convenience of making an online payment). Payments are made through the student's Skyward Family Access account.

- Visit our district website [www.pittsville.k12.wi.us](http://www.pittsville.k12.wi.us)
- From the left side menu click on Skyward > Family and Student Access
- Log in to Skyward Family Access (you will need your Login and Password)
- Select "Food Service" from "General Information" menu on the left
- View Balance and select "Make Online Payment"
- Enter payment amount and select "Pay with RevTrak"
- Verify payment amount and select "Go to Checkout"
- If a new customer, select "I am a new customer" and enter your email address. If a returning customer select "I am a returning customer."



Mr. Matt Andres  
District Food Service Director  
[andremat@pittsville.k12.wi.us](mailto:andremat@pittsville.k12.wi.us)



2022-2023 Meal Prices		
<b>PCCC</b>	Breakfast	\$ .50
	Lunch	\$1.65
	Snack	\$ .50
	Milk	\$ .40
<b>School-Age</b>	Breakfast (4K-Gr 12)	\$1.00
	Lunch (4K-Gr 3)	\$2.45
	Lunch (Gr 4-8)	\$2.85
	Lunch (Gr 9-12)	\$3.30
	Milk	\$ .40
	After School Snack	\$ .50
	Reduced Lunch (4K-Gr 12)	\$ .40
After School Snack for Free/Reduced	FREE	
Adult Lunch	\$4.00	

### Breakfast Encourages Students to Thrive!

Breakfast is served daily at school! School breakfast will give your child a healthy start to the day and is affordable, too. If you qualify for free or reduced price school lunch, you also qualify for the breakfast program with no additional paperwork.

#### Five Reasons to Eat School Breakfast:

1. Fuels the brain to get focused for learning.
2. Convenient and easier than making breakfast on your own, or stopping somewhere on the way to school.
3. Packs a nutritional punch and guaranteed to have whole grains, fruit, and milk.
4. Good breakfast = good mood!!!!

## High School Principal's Message



Hello Pittsville Community! Hard to believe we're halfway through the school year already! It is amazing how fast it goes by. As we cherish the short time we have together, it is an appropriate time to take stock of how we are doing as a school. I'll devote some time here for that.

PHS "Meets Expectations" on the state report card. That means that we, like the vast majority of high schools in the state, have adequate scores on the ACT (juniors) and ASPIRE (the similar tests freshmen and sophomores have taken the past few years). This will be the Pre-ACT starting this year. The state also factors in attendance rates and graduation rates into its "On Track to Graduate" number. Finally, the state creates a system which determines how much weight to give each category: 1) Achievement, 2) Growth, 3) Target Growth Outcomes, and 4) On Track to Graduation. The scores average to a 65.2, which is in the high end of "Meets Expectations" and one of the best scores PHS has earned in the past few years. While promising, it is not good enough.

The numbers reveal some strengths and weaknesses in our school, at least as determined by the standardized tests we give our students each spring. Our achievement scores show that we are not achieving at the same level as our peers across the state in math or English Language Arts. Our average score in math was 49% proficient, as compared to 53.6% for the state, and our ELA score was 56.2% proficiency, compared to 59.8% for the state. We are close to our peers, but we have work to do. Our growth scores in ELA are not yet good enough either, as we posted a 52.7 score compared to a 66 for the state. However, our math growth score of 86.9 is very impressive, particularly as compared to the 66 score for the state. The state report card shows we have some work to do in both math and ELA, but we're clearly doing some great things with helping our math students to improve!

Looking at the School Report Card (SRC) to determine how our school is doing is similar to looking into the mail slot of a house to see what kind of home lies inside. It gives a very limited view. For instance, even as a report of how we do on our standardized tests, it is severely limited. Given that our school has the highest average ACT score in the Central Wisconsin Conference (this year's seniors averaged a 20.4; no other school averaged over a 20), you might expect a higher school score. Part of the explanation of this is that our science scores are so strong as compared to national averages (40% college ready, compared to 32% for the nation) and science is not reported on the SRC (neither is writing). Other subject areas not reported on the SRC are social studies, in which PHS leads the conference in averages on the Forward test sophomores take in the spring, physical education, electives, or Career and Technical Education (these numbers appear on the SRC, but do not factor into our rating). Some of the very best work we do at PHS is in those areas, but you would not know it by reading the SRC. For instance, a business outreach representative recently stated that our CTE department, particularly our Senior Capstone Program is the best such program in the state!

We take our numbers from the SRC seriously, but we do not stop there. We recognize that our achievement numbers are not strong enough, so we use our Early Release time and subsequent collaborative conversations to focus on improving our practice daily. We also work on our intervention program, for struggling students, and enrichment program, for high-achieving students, so we can positively affect Achievement, Growth, and Targeted Group Outcomes (our special education department helps a lot in this area, as well). However, we know that some of our best work will never be reflected on this report as it is constructed. We will not sacrifice these hard-earned programs in order to satisfy this report. We know that our students don't love our school and benefit from their experience here because of its rating on the SRC. They want a school that prepares them for future life while taking care of them in the present. That is what we endeavor to do at PHS!

You can check out the PHS School Report Card on the DPI website (Google 'DPI School Report Card'). If you want to discuss these numbers in more detail, please reach out to me. I'd love to hear your thoughts. In the meantime, please know that we are using these numbers to celebrate our accomplishments, focus on our areas of need, and as a reminder that the best things we do at PHS aren't on the report at all!

*Dr. Watson*

# Elementary School Principal's Message

Winter Greetings from the Elementary School!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are looking forward to what 2023 brings!

While it seems so long ago, we are excited to share that we were able to host our Veterans Day program on campus this year. Everyone was very excited to host this event in person. Every grade level chose their own way to recognize the Veterans. The students made posters, cards, and much more. The Student Council sponsored lunch for all the Veterans and their families and members of the Student Council served everyone coffee. It was very special to have everyone together again.

This holiday season, one of our students participated in an amazing opportunity. A big shout out to Officer Chris Zawislan for choosing Pittsville Elementary School as one of the schools to participate in *Shop with a Cop* this December. Officer Zawislan spent the day with one of our 5th graders.

"Officer Zawislan let me use the thing that records people's speed and I got to use the handcuffs to handcuff him. In the car, we listened to music and he showed me the map on his computer. I got to honk the horn. We went shopping at Walmart. I got my brothers a bunch of dinosaurs and some Legos and I got my sisters some makeup and dinosaurs too. I got a kid's handcuff and a dinosaur egg. We had pizza for lunch at the police station and I had Mountain Dew. Officer Zawislan is a good guy and I really thank him for taking me. I had a lot of fun." - Josh Bearfield, 5th Grader.

Congratulations to Mr. Klein, our Dean of Students. He was selected as the elementary school's Crystal Apple Teacher of Distinction. There is an awards banquet on Thursday, May 4th to honor and recognize his accomplishments. We are grateful for everything Mr. Klein does for our students.

A special thank you to Mrs. Frericks and Mr. Wiegert for all the successful winter and holiday concerts. It is a lot of work for both the students and teachers. Everyone really appreciated how music spread holiday cheer.

Thank you to the PTO, who will be sponsoring our upcoming assembly focusing on Igniting Your Potential on February 2nd. 4K - 4th grade will attend the 9:00 a.m. assembly and the 5th - 8th graders will attend the 10:30 a.m. assembly. We are grateful for the work of the PTO. Mark your calendars for Friday, April 28th. The PTO will be hosting a spring carnival! How exciting.

We are also excited to announce we are planning our annual Empty Bowls event for Tuesday, March 7th from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30. More information will be coming soon! This is a *save the date* message.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at 715.884.5219 or [fridahea@pittsville.k12.wi.us](mailto:fridahea@pittsville.k12.wi.us).

Mrs. Friday



## 4K Cookie Fun



The 4K students had a great experience baking and decorating cookies for their 4K Winter Program and Activity Day in December. They were helped by the Pittsville High School FCCLA members under the direction of Mrs. Anderson. The 4K students were able to roll out and cut out cookies for themselves, and then they helped decorate lots of other cookies that were already baked and cooled by the High School students. It was exciting for the 4K students to get to see the new CTE building and use the awesome kitchen facilities that the new building has. Thank you Mrs. Anderson and the FCCLA members!!!



## Kindergarten Connection

Throughout the week before Christmas, the Kindergarten children focused on the text of The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. The children were able to watch the Polar Express Movie together for our holiday party. The students also participated in “around the room” activities for initial sounds of words, as well as, snap words.

As this semester ends, the children are showing us the growth they have made in literacy, writing, and math skills. The children have been/will be assessed with the PALS screening test this week and next. The children also worked on some benchmark assessments with their teacher.

We are projecting the 100th Day of School to be on February 6th. The kindergartners will be celebrating this special event and are hoping to receive 100 pieces of mail in our classrooms. A note along with letters was sent home 1/2/23 explaining this. If you would like to be a part of this, we would love to hear from you.

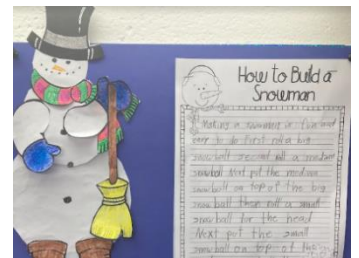
## First Graders Know How To...

First Graders got to enjoy the hot cocoa bar hosted by the Student Council and Mrs. Friday. After going through the steps of how to make it on our own, we spent time during Writing Workshop making a how-to story. We retold the steps of how to make hot cocoa and recorded it on paper to make a book. We included a title that tells what the book is about, a list of things you need, numbered steps, pictures that teach, important parts in bold or capital letters, and of course, lots of tips, suggestions, and warnings! Our favorite part was the very last step where we added all of the fun toppings like mini marshmallows, chocolate chips, mint chips, and whipped cream! Thanks to the Student Council and Mrs. Friday for giving us the inspiration to write a story!



## Second Grade News

Second graders were busy before the holidays arrived. They learned about economics. They learned what a budget is and how to use a budget to make decisions when purchasing items they need or want. In Math, they worked on subtracting with and without regrouping. They also learned about how to write a paragraph. They included a topic sentence, supporting detail sentences, and a closing sentence in a paragraph where they taught others about building a snowman.



## Third Grade News

Mrs. Niehaus' and Mrs. Mueller's third grade students were detectives and helped solve the mystery of the missing candy canes. This activity was done as a celebration for the end of the Mystery Unit in reader's workshop. Each day students received clues from an elf and they had to find letters that spelled a Christmas word. Then the students did word work activities each day with the words. After several days of clues, the mischievous elves decided to drop the candy canes off in our classroom for the students to find. The students had a great time being detectives and solving the mystery!

During the mystery unit in reader's workshop students learned about being detectives and they learned different strategies while reading mystery books. They learned about figuring out what the mystery is and who the crime solvers are in the book. They also learned how to make suspect lists with possible motives and clues. Students made predictions while reading and learned how timelines of events are helpful when the mystery gets tricky. The mystery unit was a super fun unit for the students!

## 4th Grade News

4th grade has adjusted nicely to middle school. They are comfortable changing classes and carrying materials with them.

In Math, the 4th graders were very busy learning how to begin doing long division. They are very excited to be able to use their new skill. Ask them to show you how to solve a problem!

In English Language Arts, the students were busy learning about reading nonfiction and improving their researching skills. As a group, they selected a type of weather to research more about and create a presentation on.

In Social Studies, they were learning about Native American traditions and stories that are passed down from one generation to the next, specifically in the Ojibwe tribe. They also had the opportunity to share a tradition that is part of their family.

In Science, students spent much of their time working on an animal adaptation project. They were able to create an imaginary animal and discuss how they would use adaptations to succeed in their specially created environment. There were many creative animals!

## 6th Grade Science: Atoms - They Make up Everything

This quarter, 6th graders learned the importance of having accurate models in science and created their own models of an atom belonging to a specific element on the periodic table, electrons, protons, neutrons, and all. The class became familiar with the characteristics of the different element groups on the periodic table, demonstrating the information you can glean from its 100 plus boxes. Diving into the periodic table and atomic structure, the students are understanding fundamentally how and why atoms bond together or break apart, how chemical reactions occur, and that matter is indeed neither created nor destroyed.

## 7th Grade News

Students in 7th grade have been working hard as they continue progressing through the curriculum. During 2nd quarter, students wrapped up Unit 3: Measuring Circles and also Unit 4: Proportional Relationships and Percentages. Much time in the classroom was spent calculating the area and circumference of circles as well as a variety of percentage concepts such as sales tax, tax and tip, measurement error, percent error, and error intervals. After the holiday break, students switched gears and started learning about Rational Numbers and how to accurately calculate with them. To end the quarter, students were given another opportunity to demonstrate their learning via AIMSweb testing. We look forward to analyzing this test data and also to what is to come the second half of the school year!

## Changes in 8th Grade Social Studies

For many years, eighth grade social studies has been focused on Civics and the government systems in our country. This is very important for all citizens to know. The school board decided to move this class to their junior year of high school. This makes it more relevant to students and hopefully better prepares our students for life.

So where does that leave eighth grader social studies you may wonder? We are now focused on the start of our great nation. We are wrapping up learning about the European discovery of the Americas, the natives who were here first, the colonization of this land which led to revolution. This is a very interesting and important time in our history.

The second half of our studies involves the Constitution. We will be learning how the founding fathers set up this nation, and why they put these things in place. We will learn what the intent was behind much of what was in there. They should have a good understanding of how this great document affects us today. Let the adventures of learning continue.

## Social Studies Competition News

This year grades 5-8 sent teams to Wild Rose to compete in a social studies competition on December 6, 2022. The first round of competition was an individual one where students competed against others in their same grade. The second part of this competition was a team based. Each grade team competed against other teams in their grade.

Here is a list of this year's teams by grade level.

**5th grade:** Blake Hoogesteger, Ely Kundinger, Baelyn Queen, Celia Rademan, and Zoey Rademan

**6th grade:** Madison Bartlett, Macie Cummings, Sophie Lila, Drew Luther, and Esdon Serch

**7th grade:** Madalyn Jacobson, Ava Ortner, Carson Reader-Klug, Izabella Redmond, and Delayna Zvolena

**8th grade:** Jasmine Andres, Jackson Duerr, Ryker Fox, Madilyn Gudel, and Grace Hensel

We competed against teams from Adams-Friendship, Fall River, Mauston, Montello, Nekoosa, Portage, Poynette, Princeton, Tri County, Waupaca, Wautoma, and Wisconsin Dells.

Our team winners are:

**2nd place - 7th grade**

**1st place - 5th and 8th grades**

Our individual winners are:

**5th place - Carson Reader-Klug and Blake Hoogesteger**

**3rd place - Ely Kundinger**

**1st place - Celia Rademan**

It was an incredibly fun and successful day!



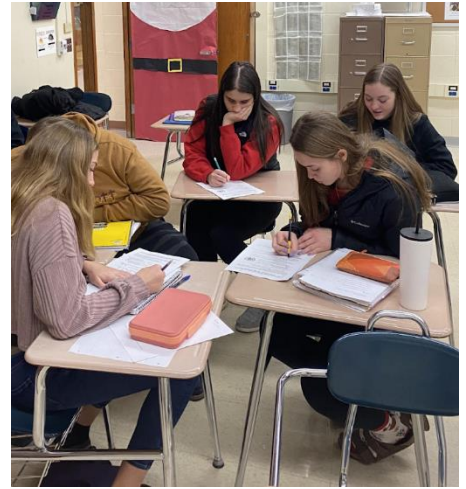
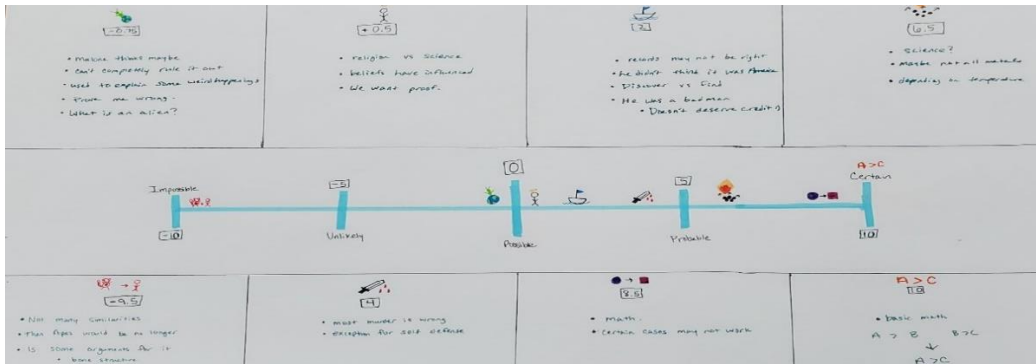
## Social Studies Department

The Pittsville High School social studies department introduced two new courses to our curriculum as well as two new social studies teachers to the high school staff. The two new courses are economics and civics and the two new teachers are Mr. Bellanti and Mr. Menzer.

These new courses along with the required courses of United States and World History make up the main share of our offerings during the academic year. In addition to required courses, the department offers other electives such as History of Rock and Roll, Ancient Greece and Rome, Mythology, Geography, and Contemporary American Problems. The senior students in Contemporary American Problems have been concentrating on media literacy and perspective while studying the current events affecting our nation and our world.

Students have been hard at work in each of these classes, with a heavy focus on reading and interpreting primary and secondary sources. Mr. Bellanti and Mr. Menzer have been collaborating to create common assessments with a goal of students exhibiting both knowledge of the subject and their non fiction reading comprehension.

*Belief-Knowledge Continuum created by senior students in Contemporary American Problems.*



*U.S. History students analyzing sources on the Second Red Scare*

## 8th Grade

### Entrepreneurship Class

This year's 8th grade entrepreneurship class created a business called Table Savers. In the class the students decide on a product and then get to choose to work in one of the following departments for the business: accounting, marketing, packaging, manufacturing, or design. We would like to say thank you to everyone who purchased products from their business. The Table Savers business sold over \$2400. They sold coasters (cork or wood), coaster holders, and serving trays. They appreciate your support, and your sales help them learn valuable skills about working in a business environment.



## 5th Graders Make Gingerbread Houses

On December 23rd, Mrs. Denniston's and Mr. Schultz's fifth grade students created our annual gingerbread houses. Students brought a variety of sweet treats from home to help decorate their creations. This annual activity showcases each individual student's creativity. The classes enjoyed social time while they created their structures. This activity encourages structural engineering and exterior design skill. By the end of the morning, the classes created a variety of tasty structures.





## Counselor's Corner

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

A new year brings about the topic of change. Resolutions and commitments are made to help better oneself. This being said, natural change takes place as well. Semester one has come to a close, and semester two has begun! Let's take a look at the following changes.

The school year is half over, which means there are new classes beginning. Semester two is loaded with great courses, such as Probability & Statistics, AP US History, and Physics, and Competitive Games. Feel free to check out the [master schedule](#), which shows every course taught during each term or semester. PHS offers so many great courses despite its size.

With a half of a year completed this also means that our senior class is in their graduation year. Many seniors have made commitments to their next chapters in life from youth apprenticeship to technical college to universities. It truly is amazing to see how plans come together from the work that has been put in over thirteen years. To document these changes, the class of 2023 recently made their mark on the PHS with their senior paw prints (photo)

The old is gone and the new has come; we will soon welcome the class of 2027 to the building in the fall of 2023. In order to make way, the soon to be freshmen class can add February 27, 2023 to their calendar. During this evening session from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., parents/guardians and 8th grade students will learn about graduation, make a schedule, and meet their advisors. This is always a great night to help with the transition to high school so please make plans to attend!



## Solving Problems Peacefully: Tips for Elementary Students ~ Ms. Raygo

The kindergarten through 5th grade students have been learning about conflict resolution in Classroom Counseling. As elementary students, it is natural to encounter conflicts and problems in their daily lives. Whether it is a disagreement with a friend or a misunderstanding with a teacher, it is important to have the skills to solve these problems peacefully.

Here are some tips for solving problems peacefully:

1. Take a deep breath and calm down. It is hard to think clearly when we are upset or angry. By taking a moment to calm down, we can better approach the problem with a clear mind.
2. Listen to the other person's perspective. It is important to try to understand where the other person is coming from and what they are trying to say. This can help us find a solution that works for everyone.
3. Use "I" statements to express your feelings and needs. Instead of saying "You did this wrong," try saying "I feel frustrated when I see this because I need help with my work." This helps the other person understand your perspective without blaming them.
4. Try to find a solution that works for everyone. It is important to consider everyone's needs and feelings when trying to solve a problem. By finding a solution that works for everyone, we can move past the conflict and strengthen our relationships.
5. Seek help if needed. If the problem is too difficult to solve on your own, it is okay to ask for help from an adult or a trusted friend.

By practicing these skills, students can solve problems peacefully and build stronger, more positive relationships with those around them.

## Musical Notes...

We were so proud of the choir and band students for their performances at the concerts! With the delightful Holiday Concerts behind us, we are preparing the Middle and High School musicians and singers for the Dorian Festivals, Honor's Choir in Eau Claire, Middle School Honors Band in Eau Claire, the Solo & Ensemble and Large Group Festivals. The musicians will have the opportunity to hone and polish their musical skills and receive feedback from skilled directors. In fact, Delaney Klamrowski, just returned from the Dorian Vocal Festival and had an opportunity to sing with about 900 juniors and seniors from IA, WI, IL and MN!

- **Thursday, January 19th: MS Honor Choir at Eau Claire, concert at 6 pm**
- **Friday, January 27th: MS Honors Band at UW-Eau Claire, concert at 6:30 pm.**
- **Friday, March 24th: Solo & Ensemble for MS and HS 8am-4pm at Stratford HS**
- **Thursday, April 20th: Large Group Festival at Auburndale 2:30 – 9 pm**



## Art Department

We are halfway through the school year and that means that the art show is coming up! Our students have been working really hard to create beautiful works of art.

**Kindergarteners** have been working on self-portraits relating to zones of regulation. They are learning about emotions and how art can show different emotions in different ways. They have also been working on their tracing, cutting, gluing, and painting skills. The students have created a fish collage and pig paintings.

**1st graders** are learning about elements of art and how each element can be found in artwork. Students created robots using collage techniques, model magic sculptures, symmetrical name monsters, and line paintings.

**2nd graders** are working on portraits and learning about different types of artwork. They created self-portraits, color wheel paintings, and model magic sculptures.

**3rd graders** are focusing on art from around the world. They have learned about India, China, Australia, and Italy. They have worked with many different mediums.

**4th grade** has been busy working on perspective artwork. They have learned about perspective and also created clay pinch pot monsters.

**5th grade** students are busy making clay cups. They have learned about the 12 colors of the color wheel. They also learned how to create their names using everyday objects.

**6th grade** students worked really hard to create grid drawings. They also worked on hand sculptures using plaster and scratch art.

**8th graders** will be creating a mural in the varsity gym/primary hallway intersection.

**High school** students have been busy creating pottery and ceramic artwork. They are excited to showcase their work in the art show!



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Empty Bowls and Art Show**

Tuesday, March 7th 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Elementary School Cafeteria / Art Room

## Reading Tips for Parents

1. **Read to preschool children at least 20-30 minutes a day. Have older children read to you.** Reading is the most basic of the basic skills. Make reading a natural part of your child's daily routine.
2. **Keep good books, magazines and newspapers in the house.** Get a library card and use it. Make it easy, both for adults and children, to find something interesting to read.
3. **Add to your children's enjoyment of reading by discussing each book they read.** It helps them learn to express themselves. You'll enjoy the conversations, too.
4. **Make sure your children see you read for at least 20-30 minutes a day.** Remember, you're their primary role model.
5. **If you have difficulty reading, tell your children stories.** Hearing about your family history and your experiences will help your children develop an appreciation of language, storytelling and the past.
6. **Limit TV viewing and monitor what your child watches.** Studies show that excessive television viewing is directly linked to poor school performance. Inappropriate television programming can also adversely affect your child's behavior.
7. **Meet with your child's teacher to find out what your child should learn and how you can help. Know** what kind of homework is expected from your child and make sure he or she completes it.
8. **Provide your children with a regular, quiet place where they can do homework.** Make it easy for them to find a place to work. Set up a place with few distractions, but close enough so they can ask you questions.
9. **Expect every child, not just those considered bright, to take tough academic courses.** Advanced Math, Science, English, History, Arts and Foreign Language courses provide the kind of knowledge and skills they need.
10. **Demonstrate your own commitment to high standards.** Don't ask teachers to give your children unearned grades and promotions. The goal is a good education, not a good report card.
11. **Support school efforts to develop and maintain rules for student discipline.** Children thrive in an environment where they know what is expected of them.
12. **Familiarize yourself with academic standards in your state.** Find out whether your state has academic standards and make sure they are rigorous enough. Learn what schools are doing to achieve these standards.
13. **Find out whether your school has high standards and clear expectations for its students.** Ask what children should know and be able to do by the fourth grade in math and reading...by the eighth grade...and by graduation. What about history? English? Science? Make sure your children are acquiring the skills and knowledge they need in all subjects.
14. **Ask for REAL data and information about student performance and progress.** Ask how your school ranks compared to other schools. Find out if advanced courses are offered, and whether students have additional learning opportunities before and after school and during summers.
15. **Challenge the notion that your school is one of the "better" ones. Chances are its standards are still not as high as those in many other industrialized nations or the best schools in your state.** Support teachers, principals and superintendents who want to make improvements.
16. **Give time to your school.** Put your time into meetings, tutoring, research, discussions - whatever it takes to improve your school. Join or build a partnership with local businesses, colleges, teachers and parents to improve teaching and learning.
17. **Find out about after-school and summer programs in your community.** Help interest your child in learning outside of the school day. Give your child the opportunity to explore new skills and participate in art and music programs.
18. **Join or develop partnerships to support students who want or need more learning time beyond the regular school day. If they exist, help make them better. If they don't, help start them.** There may not be enough hours in the average school day to support excellence. Set up additional time for learning to give students more opportunities to master tough subjects. Help ensure that ALL students are able to meet high standards.
19. **Follow the advice of many experts.** Students should not work at a part-time job more than 15-20 hours a week during the school year. Recognize that study time and homework will result in far greater earning power over the long-term than a part-time job. If children need to work, make sure their work is an experience from which they can learn important academic or workplace skills.

