

WHAT'S COMING UP?

12/23-1/2— No School/Holiday

1/3—School Resumes. School Board Organization Meeting, 6:00 pm, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa

1/11—Early Release

1/20—End 1st Semester

1/23—No School/Teacher Workday. School Board Mtg, ZMES Media Center, 7:00 p.m., Mazeppa

1/24—Start of 2nd Semester



FFA TOY SHOW

Don't miss the 27th Annual Zumbrota-Mazeppa FFA Toy Show!

Sunday, January 8, 2017

9:00 am—3:00 pm

**ZM High School Cafeteria
705 Mill Street, Zumbrota**

There will be parking in the back lot. **Adults \$3, under 12 FREE.** There will also be a silent auction and raffles. Over 14 exhibitors will be in attendance. Food Shelf can donations are welcome at the front entrance.

For questions, contact FFA Advisor, Andrea Clement, at 507-732-7395, ext. 1169.



Notice of Non-Discrimination: Zumbrota-Mazeppa ISD 2805 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Superintendent Gary Anger, 343 Third Ave NE, Mazeppa, MN 55956. Telephone: 507-732-1400.



Zumbrota-Mazeppa ISD 2805
343 Third Ave
Mazeppa, MN 55956
Home of the Cougars



ZM MESSENGER



December 2016



Zumbrota's Covered Bridge

ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



Mazeppa's Walking Bridge

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND RETIRING TEACHER ARE RECOGNIZED

ZM Schools recognized and thanked outgoing school board members, Peter Hinrichs, Brian Grudem, and Mark Krier at their December 19 meeting. Mr. Hinrichs and Mr. Grudem have served the ZM District for eight years and Mr. Krier for four. Being a school board member entails working closely with parents, administrators, district residents, and education professionals in order to help the ZM School District strive to meet the educational goals of our students while maintaining the financial interests of the school district.

Board members spend hundreds of hours contributing to the leadership of our district and they are to be commended for their



dedication and service. Three new board members, Angie Bredehoft, Jason Lohmann, and Dirk Niles, will take their oath of office on January 3, 2017.



Recognition was also given to long-time ZM teacher, Liz Quast, at the board meeting. Ms. Quast will retire this week after 34 years of teaching district students. She was given a plaque and bell by the board in honor of her years of service and thanked for her genuine concern and dedication to each student she has taught throughout these many years.

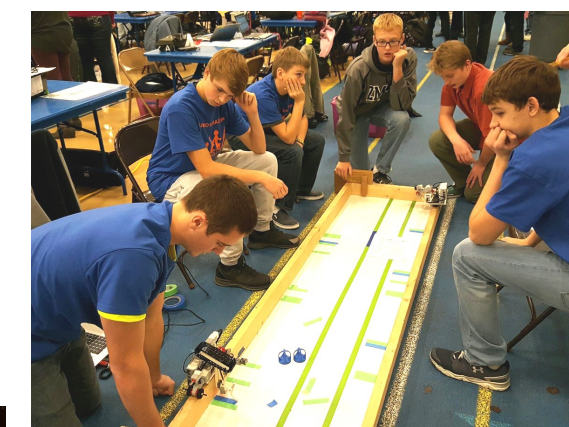
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LEGOS ROBOTIC COMPETITION

Zumbrota-Mazeppa took 33 students to RCTC on Tuesday, December 6 to compete in the annual Lego Robotics competition. This year there were over 150 teams and 450 students competing.

ZM had ten teams that competed in both a long term project and a short term project. The students have worked closely the past few months with three IBM volunteers; Mark Budensiek, Brenda Thompson and Dennis Schroeder, in engineering and programming their robots for this competition.



ZM walked away with **FIVE** teams placing in the top three of their division - two in second place and three in third place. Congratulations to all students involved in this fun and learning experience.

2ND ANNUAL STABILIZE FAMILIES CHILI COOK-OFF

Great news for ZM chili lovers! Because last year was such a huge success, we are asking you to help support Zumbrotta-Mazeppa Stabilize Families, a local organization which focuses on helping families and individuals in need. This organization also sponsors two dental clinics for youth 14 years old and younger.

We need YOU to help judge the chili! Or, come be a taste-tester and enjoy the different varieties. If you are interested in entering a chili, please contact Katie Kennedy, at 507-732-7848 ext. 1124 or katiek-sw@zmsch.k12.mn.us. Tickets will be sold at the door. Take home containers will also be available for an additional charge.

Come enjoy this family friendly event!!!

When: Sunday, February 26th, 2017

Location: ZM High School Cafeteria

Time: 11:30—1:00 PM

Cost: \$5; Children 5 and under are Free



KUDOS TO THE SOFTBALL TEAM

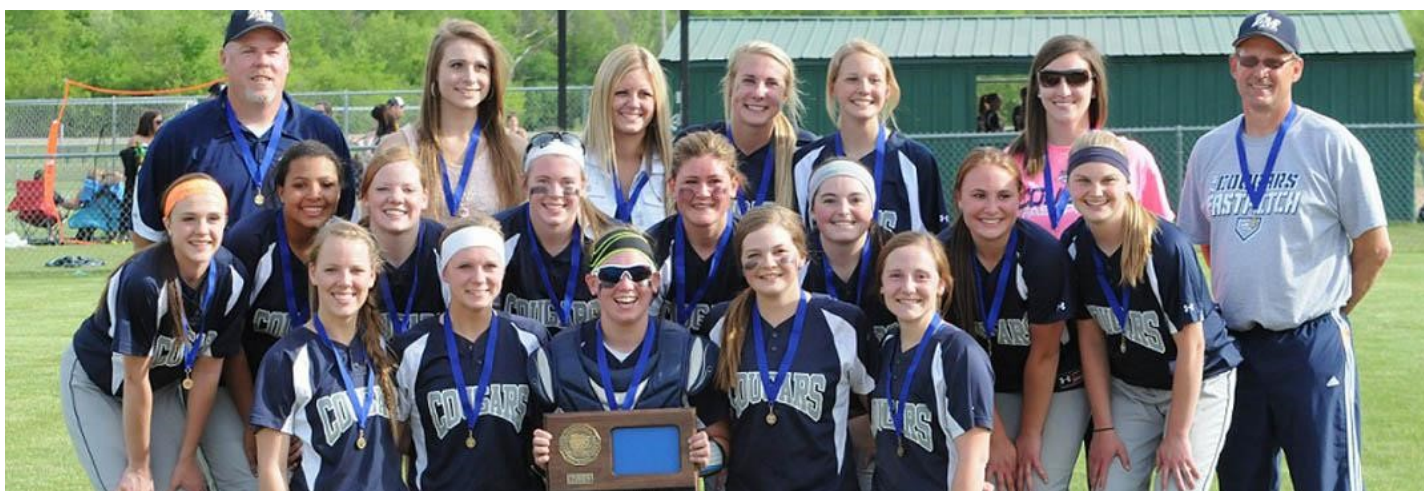
Congratulations are extended to Coach Kevin Nelson and the 2016 ZM Softball Team! The Rochester Amateur Sports Commission has announced their nominations for the 12th year and ZM has three nominations up for an award this year:

Team of the Year: ZM Softball Team

Coach of the Year: Kevin Nelson

Player of the Year: Morgan Olson

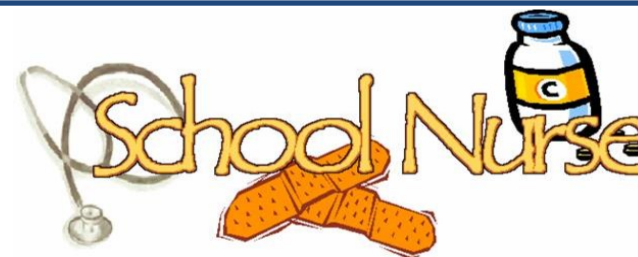
The banquet will be held on Monday, January 30 in Rochester; tickets are available at the Rochester Amateur Sports website. ZM is very proud of these nominations and the hard work it



Looking for a part time job?



Sugar Loaf Bus Service has a great opportunity for you driving school bus for the students of our district. Drivers are needed now for this school year. If you are interested, please contact Sugar Loaf Bus Service at 507-732-7670 and speak with Barb or Scott. They will even help you with the training!



It is influenza season! It is not too late to get the flu vaccine!!

What are the symptoms of influenza?

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher with a cough and/or sore throat
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Body aches

Check out the influenza screening tool for parents at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/school/parentscreens.pdf>

The health offices continue to be quite busy with 2,600 visits so far this year. Please check Infinite Campus to make sure emergency contact information is up to date.

When to keep your child home:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more—stay home until 24 hours after the temperature has returned to normal (without the use of a fever-reducing medication)
 - Diarrhea or vomiting—stay home until symptom free for twenty-four hours
- If you are keeping your child home because they are ill, please call the school office to report specific symptoms and/or diagnosis.

MATURATION CLASSES

The school nurse will be working with the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers to complete the maturation classes. The school website has been updated with information on the classes and links to the videos.

For those interested, the school nurse will hold a parent night to give parents the opportunity to view the materials as well.

If you DO NOT want your child to attend the class, please send a note to the office stating so. The classes will be in February, with the parent night in January.



Watch the school website for dates.



A large crowd attended the elementary holiday meal December 15—over 500 parents and students were served!!



There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly.

- Buckminster Fuller

OH, THE HOLIDAYS!!!

Excitement always runs high in the schools during the holiday season—students are busy with community service projects, gifts for special people, and classroom fun and games. Pictured below are some snapshots of ZM’s students in action!



One of many blankets made by sixth graders for Christmas giving.



First graders make elves of themselves



Making Gingerbread Houses in Community Ed



Santa's Workshop in Kindergarten—Students are busy writing to Santa, wrapping/delivering presents, and building toys.

RONALD MCDONALD VISITS PRIMARY

Primary students had the opportunity to learn about the “Step to Respect” program when Ronald McDonald visited the school on December 7. They even got to try on his shoes!!

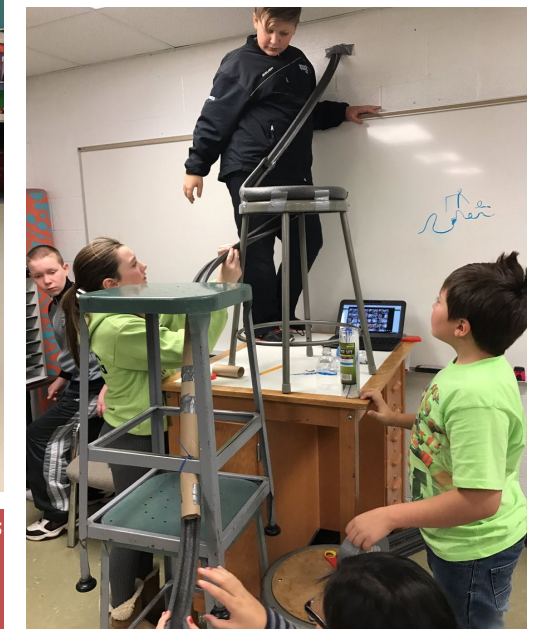


MORE GOINGS ON AT ZM



Mrs. Richardson's 1st grade class shows the results from all the first graders for "A Good Night's Sleep" pajama drive. They collected 44 books, 75 toothbrushes, 37 tubes of toothpaste, and \$105.00.

Grade 6 students needed to use their engineering skills to build a working roller coaster in science. Imagination and creativity abounded!



Board Minutes, Continued from page 4

- a. December 23 – January 2 – Holiday Break
 - b. January 3 – School Resumes
 - c. January 3 – Board Organization Meeting, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa, **6:00 p.m.**
 - d. January 11 – Early Release
 - e. January 11, 12, 13 – MSBA Winter Leadership Conference
 - f. January 20 – End 1st Semester
 - g. January 23 – No School – Teacher Workday
 - h. January 23 – Regular School Board Meeting, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa, 7:00 p.m.
 - i. February 1 – School Board Retreat, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota, 6:00 p.m.
- The regular meeting recessed to a closed session. When the regular meeting was reconvened, the board approved a \$300 reimbursement to a Teachers On Call employee for work done in September.

TAX HEARING/ADOPTION AND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The annual Truth in Taxation Hearing and Adoption meeting was held Monday, December 19, 2016. Because of heating issues at the Zumbrota site, the meeting location was moved to Mazeppa.

Mr. Anger presented a PowerPoint presentation which explained the budget projections, audited balance, and fund balance projection. He also reviewed the levy comparison. A time for questions and answers was given. The board approved the resolution to adopt the 2016 Pay 2017 tax levy in the amount of \$3,190,686.64. Following the tax hearing, the regular board meeting was held at the Mazeppa site also.

The usual business was conducted, including payment of the bills. There were no communications noted and no patron input.

Recognition was given to Liz Quast for her 34 years of teaching at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools. She was given a plaque and a bell by the board and thanked for her service to the district.

Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. He discussed situational lockdowns and how to improve safety for students and staff. Schoology will open the gradebook for 7th graders during the second semester. The 7th – 12th grade Lego Robotics team competed December 6. The 7-12 curriculum committee met on November 30 to finalize course proposals for the 2017-18 school year. Teacher observations are continuing.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the primary/elementary schools. He thanked the administration and board for their flexibility and support during his recent surgery and especially thanked Ms. Ahern for stepping in for him during his time off. The holiday activity is being held this year in the primary again.

Mr. Anger reported that December's enrollment was 1,186. The treasurer's report to the board was available for review. The board retreat is scheduled for February 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the ZMHS Media Center. Agenda items should be sent to Mr. Anger by January 3, 2017.

Mr. Anger also advised the board on his policy for closing school. He explained that he follows the National Weather Forecast Service closely and feels between that and Scott and Barb Kennedy's advice, he can make the correct decision. He does not like to call early releases unless absolutely necessary because of the hardship to parents and the difficulty in making sure younger students have someone at home when they get off the bus.

The Zumbrota site did not have heat on Monday, December 19 so an early release was called. UNESCO will be working with the custodial staff to set alarms that will go to custodial phones to notify them if there are issues with the heating, water, etc.

Mr. Grudem reported for the Southeast Service Cooperative and Mr. Wendt for the Goodhue County Education District. There were no minutes from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative.

Old Business: The K-12 absentee wording proposal was approved as presented. The revised immunization requirements policy was also approved as presented. The solar contract with Innovative Power was approved contingent upon review of the school's attorney, Ken Schueler.

The board approved the 2017 revised budget as follows:

	Revenue	Expenditures
General Fund	\$12,677,643	\$12,966,094
Food Service	\$ 569,858	\$ 563,562
Community Service	\$ 964,940	\$ 944,910
Debt Service	\$ 1,059,755	\$ 1,004,410

New Business: The following personnel items were approved:

New Hires

1. Haley Kalina-Aakre, program high school/college assistant beginning 11/14/16
2. Ana Helget, ECFE paraprofessional beginning 12/6/16

Reassignment

1. Jenny Berkner to an elementary resource plus special education assistant from an early childhood family education/SPED paraprofessional beginning 12/5/16
2. Anna Stahosky to a lead teacher position from a program teaching assistant in Cougar Care beginning 12/1/16

Resignation

1. Lisa Nelson, Amity advisor, at the end of the 2016-17 school year
2. Karen O'Connor, program teaching assistant in special education, effective 8/28/15

Childcare Leave

1. Kelsey Bradley beginning 4/1/17 through the end of the 2016-17 school year. Dates are subject to change.

The proposed curriculum course proposals were approved as presented. They will begin in the 2017-18 school year.

There was discussion on the 2016-17 vocational construction house bidding procedures. The board felt the bidding process could be moved up to accommodate potential buyers in regard to special upgrades and features to be added to the house. The board directed Mr. Nelson and Mr. Anger to decide on the timelines and to make sure the contract covers all the bidding guidelines bases.

A revised Kindergarten Early Entrance policy was presented to the board for review and possible adoption in January.

Board Comments: Chair Hinrichs thanked the administration and staff for their help and cooperation throughout the years of his tenure; Mr. Grudem and Mr. Krier also thanked everyone. Mr. Hinrichs noted that Ms. Bredehoft will be taking his place on the Section 1 committee in January.

Pertinent Dates: It was decided that the Jan. 9, 2017 work session would be cancelled. If there are items to discuss, the board will add to the end of the organization meeting on January 3.

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EXCEL WINNERS

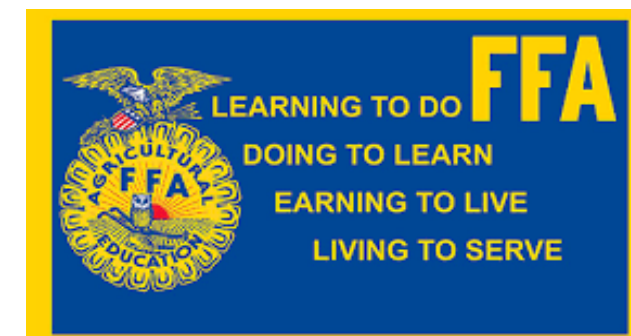
EXCEL - Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership – is a unique recognition program designed exclusively for Minnesota high school juniors who are active in school activities, who show leadership qualities, and who work voluntarily in their community.

This year's local winners from Zumbrota-Mazeppa are Hayden Voxland and Lauren Miller—Congratulations!!



KUDOS TO THE FFA

FFA Advisor, Andrea Clement, is excited to announce that the Ag Department has been awarded a grant to support a 2017 summer agriculture program. Ms. Clement plans to use the grant dollars to offer supervised agricultural experience visits with students to help them learn more about Ag jobs, tour Ag industries with students, and develop student-led community service projects in the summer. She plans to hold an officer retreat in the summer months and to help students with their state degree applications and proficiency awards. Ms. Clement and the FFA members also plan to spend a great deal of time at the county and state fairs.



7th & 8th GRADE STUDENTS LEARN LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUES



Learning to save a life is valuable at any age and some of ZM's 7th and 8th graders took the initiative to become Red Cross certified. Great job students!!



A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.

Chinese Proverb