

WHAT'S COMING UP?



- 3/2—WILD DAY for State Wrestling**
- 3/5—Construction Class Open House,** 10-1 pm, 615 Golf View Ave, Zumbrota
- 3/6—K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences** 4-8 pm
- 3/8—Early Release.** Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings Open.
- 3/8-10—Eagle Bluff Trip,** Grade 5
- 3/13—Gr 7/8 Ensemble Concert,** 7 pm
- 3/14—Gr 3-6 Parent/Teacher Conferences** 4-8 pm
- 3/15-19—Choir Trip to Tennessee**

- 3/17—Red Cross Bloodmobile** 9-2 pm. House bids due Supt Office 10 am
- 3/20—Speech All Conference Championship**
- 3/22—Dental Clinic,** ZMES
- 3/23—Gr 3 Concert,** ZMES 7 pm
- 3/24—End Third Quarter**
- 3/27—No School/Teacher Workshop.** Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings Open.
- School Board Meeting,** 7 pm, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa
- 3/30—Small Group Contest @ ZM Auditorium,** 1 pm. Early Release for Students. Cougar Care Open.

• OPEN HOUSE

Construction Class Open House Sun., March 5 from 10:00 am—1:00 pm. 615 Golf View Ave, Zumbrota. Bid booklets available in District Office or online at www.zmschools.us and at the open house.

Bids accepted until **Fri., March 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** Interested parties should submit a sealed bid, along with proof of financing, to the Superintendent's Office, 343 Third Ave NE, Mazeppa, MN 55956. The winning bid will be approved at the March 27 school board meeting in Mazeppa.

Questions? Contact Kevin Nelson, instructor, at 507-251-9649 or call District Office at 507-732-1400.

• K-12 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Mon., March 6 & Tues. March 14
4:00—8:00 p.m.

• BLOODMOBILE

Fri., March 17
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Call 507-732-7395 or email amym@zmsch.k12.mn.us for an appointment
Give blood and save a life!!

• BOOK FAIR

Online shopping begins March 6 and runs through March 14. Stock up on good books for the rest of winter by visiting the Book Fair during Parent-Teacher Conferences or by ordering online at these sites:
Elementary—<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/zumbrotamazepamidschool>
Primary—<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/zumbrotamazepaelemschool1>



If you no longer need a paper copy of this newsletter, please call 507-732-1400 to have your name removed from the mailing list. You will still be able to access this newsletter in color online at www.zmschools.us

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



ZM MESSENGER

February 2017



Zumbrota's Covered Bridge

ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



Mazeppa's Walking Bridge

SUPERINTENDENT ZuMmary— Questions about our Future and Facilities

At a recent School Board Retreat here in the ZM Schools, we met to talk about where we are as a district regarding a wide array of issues including teaching and learning; supporting positive student behavior; technology usage; differentiated learning; communication; funding and our facilities. We came to man positive conclusions bout where we are and where we strive to go as a school district. We are extremely leased with the state of our schools, especially the performance of our students and staff, alongside the strong support of our communities. However, we know we need to continue improving and finding ways we can do things even better.

One of the many areas we have genuinely tried to improve since I became superintendent is increasing our revenues while examining our expenditures. We have engaged in rigorously writing grants and finding more ways to bring revenue into our district. We are arguably experiencing a time in which the ZM Schools have received more grants than ever, including two more successful grants from the Minnesota Department of Education that we have received in the last few weeks. We have also made significant physical changes throughout our district in order to save money. We have recently completed projects such as upgrading our building seals and changing out our light-bulbs (the change is quite noticeable) which will produce significant savings over time. Our rooftop solar projects that will soon be installed will also save us a projected 2 million dollars over

the life of the projects. All of the changes are intended to make the most out of every tax dollar spent by our local taxpayers towards our schools.

However, we are nearing the end of an **Operating Levy** that ZM taxpayers approved several years ago that is used to keep class sizes small and to appropriately staff our schools. We will be bringing that levy or a similar levy to you as voters in the fall for a vote. The good news is that with either a renewal or a slight increase in the levy, the tax impact will be nonexistent or minimal because the levy is already on your property tax-

es and has been for a number of years. To be completely frank, if this levy passes we will be able to continue to do the things we are currently doing; but if it does not pass, we will be making significant staffing reductions, including looking at things like increasing class sizes. I do not write this to be threatening, but rather to be honest and transparent on this issue.



Our school facilities are another very important issue facing us in the ZM school community. We all know that we have an aging facilities infrastructure and that we have had to expend significant resources due to events such as the high school gym floor flooding, roof leaks, and a broken broiler/heating system. These are but a few of the facilities issues we have put band aids on this year when we have probably needed major surgery. However, additions, upgrades and such are not the decision of a superintendent; these decisions are to be made by the communities. Major facilities changes are usually funded through what is called a **Facilities Bond**, which also must be approved through an election. Bonds are different than levies, as bonds are for buildings while levies are for operations, such as staff. If we were to vote on a bond in the future, it would be a different ballot question than the referendum question.

I will be planning a series of community meetings before the end of the school year to receive your thoughts on our facilities. I am also asking that if you are part of any kind of local organization, please invite me and/or any of our ZM School Board members to a meeting in the near future so we can have a dialogue about our facilities. I am willing to come to a meeting at any time and on any day or night. Following these meetings, we will gather even more information from you through surveys or questionnaires. We promise not to bother you with phone calls. Our goal is to find out what is important to you in regards to our school facilities in order to help us set the direction for "Building a Bridge to the Future." If we run a bond question, it will include facilities ideas that come from all of you—our district residents.

As always, please call me at 507-732-1400 or email me at garya@zmsch.k12.mn.us with questions or feedback you have on this column or other things going on in our amazing schools.

My sincere thanks to all of you as always,
Gary Anger, Superintendent of ZM Schools

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JANUARY JAMBOREE

Through the long, cold days of January, students kept busy each day through fun, interesting learning. Pictured to the right are 4th grade students figuring out how to make simple circuits in science class.

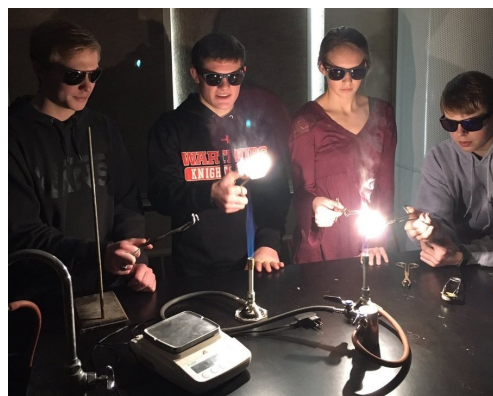
Below are 2nd grade students working with the Amity teacher—they are playing *Go Fish* while learning the Spanish words for the days and months of the year.



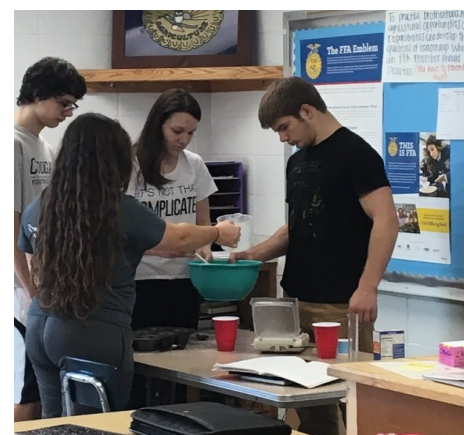
The Dance Team danced their way to awards in jazz and high kick!! Even went to state!



Dash & Dot the Robot helped teach 2nd graders how to light up and move by using their coding skills. ZM had the Best Informed Greenhand team and placed first at the region contest!



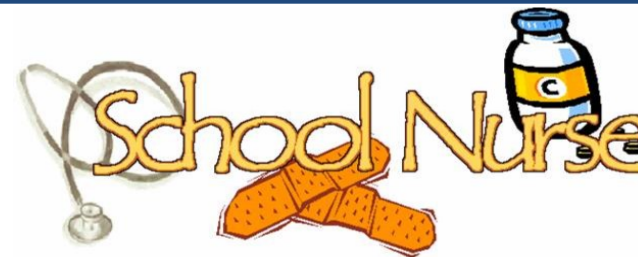
Chemistry students above are testing with magnesium and food chemistry students to the right are testing various leavening agents.



Great artists in the primary school



A large crowd attended the Early Childhood Family Expo 2/4/17



Eagle Bluff 5th Grade Field Trip:

If your child needs to take medication on this trip, please complete a Medication Authorization Form (under Health Office at www.zmschools.us).

Please return completed form to the office with the medication by 2/27/2017. If you are a chaperone, you may administer medication to your own child.

Please do not bring in medication the morning of the trip. Thank you for your cooperation!



- Health offices: We are seeing an average of 850 students per month through the health offices for injuries, illnesses, medication administration and health conditions. Please be sure to have current emergency contact information in the Parent Portal. We are still seeing symptoms of influenza (fever and cough), strep throat and the stomach bug.
- Health Information Forms: Thanks to everyone who has completed the forms that came home with 1st – 12th grade students in January. If you have not yet completed this health update form please fill it out and return it to the health office.
- Immunizations: Please check the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus to see if your child is current with school immunizations. Letters were sent home with 6th grade students reminding them of immunizations are needed before 7th grade.
- Guidelines for children returning to school: A student should not come to school if they have had the following:
 - a fever of 100 degrees F or more in the past 24 hours
 - vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours
 - has an undiagnosed skin rash

SEA PROGRAM BEGINS

Zumbrota- Mazeppa Schools has joined with the Goodhue County Education District for their Students Education Adventures (SEA) Program. ZM just began the five week course which includes outdoor education and experiential learning, as well as areas of team building, cooperation, leadership, and service to others. Students are expected to develop and maintain individual goals while cooperating and meeting group expectations. Those involved have the opportunity to receive a half credit upon completion of the course. The final session of the course is an overnight camping trip in which the students will use the skills and techniques that they have learned throughout the course.



By completing the course, students will have learned the skills they need to survive outdoors in the winter, as well as many different ways to enjoy our Minnesota winters (snow shoeing, hiking, ice fishing, fire building, fire cooking, building stick shelters and quinzhee's).



Setting up camp

Students are transported by their individual schools to and from the course and are expected to communicate with their teachers on the days of the course to determine the day's assignments and what is expected of them upon their return to school the following day.



Ice fishing catch!

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” - Benjamin Franklin

POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Over 62 junior and seniors had an opportunity to “take the plunge” for Special Olympics on February 10 in Rochester. Students were sponsored with pledges, with Over \$5,000 in donations going to support the Special Olympics.

It was a sunny, cold day, but that didn’t stop the plungers!! This event was held as part of Snow Week activities.



Football players also took the plunge!

WASH THAT WINTER GRIME AWAY!!

The ZMHS marching band students in grades 8-11 are once again selling Kwik Trip car wash cards as part of their band fundraising activities. All proceeds from the car wash card sales go directly into the student’s individual accounts.

Each card is good for **5 ULTIMATE** washes (the Ultimate wash is one level below the top wash offered at Kwik Trip stores). The cards are good at any Kwik Trip, no matter the location. They can also be used at any Kwik Trip store as well. You are able to buy the same card as the students are selling at the store for \$36, or you can buy them from one of the band students for the same price—\$36!

THE BAND STUDENTS WILL MAKE A PROFIT OF \$16 ON EVERY CARD THEY SELL.

If you were to pay for five washes of the same quality one at a time without the card, the cost would be \$45. Purchasing this card is like getting one wash free. The cards are good for two years after the first use. If you wait ten years to use it, it will still work and expire two years later.

This card fundraiser will be held on conjunction with the frozen cookie dough sale, which is scheduled to begin on February 27 and run through March 10. Items purchased will be delivered on March 28.

These car wash cards make great gifts and the cookies are convenient, easy, and delicious! For purchases, check with a high school band member!



FORMER OLYMPIAN SPEAKS AT HIGH SCHOOL

Former Olympian, Carrie Tollefson, was in the high school February 7 to give a motivational speech on dreams, setting goals, and striving to be the best you can be with her “Get After It” topic.



Ms. Tollefson competed in the 2004 Olympic Summer Games in Greece, making it to the semi-finals in the 1500 meters. She is a Minnesota native from

Dawson, Minnesota, and, in addition to being a motivational speaker, she conducts training camps and is a media commentator for running events, such as marathons.



BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

February 22 was Bus Driver Appreciation Day and ZM Schools is proud to partner with Sugar Loaf Bus Service for all our transportation needs - they do a terrific job of keeping our students safe and on time!

Thank you Sugar Loaf for your exemplary work!



DENTAL CLINIC MARCH 22

Children’s Dental Health Services will once again this spring offer a clinic for students who do not currently have access to dental care. Applications need to be completed and returned to Mrs. Kennedy/Mrs. Langley by March 12. We need to have 25 participants enrolled in order to qualify for the portable clinic to come to our school. Those students requiring further work will be given a referral. Visit www.twentyteeth.org for more information or call your child’s school and ask for the social work/counselor. Katie Kennedy, 732-7848, ext. 1124 or Pam Langley, 732-1420, ext. 1117 for information/forms.

WHAT: Dental Health Services, Cleaning, Sealant, Fluoride
WHO: Students ages 5-14 who are on free/reduced lunch, services with no dental coverage, or Medical Assistant, Doral-U-Care, Blue Plus, or South Country
WHEN: Wed., March 22, 2017 (20-30 minutes appointments)
WHERE: ZM Elementary School, Mazeppa (Zumbrota students will be transported)



School Board Meeting Minutes, continued from page 4

The following personnel items were approved: New Hires: Susan Evans, paraprofessional, beginning Feb. 13, 2017 and Derek Hatten, 9th grade baseball coach, beginning in the 2017 season. Retirement: Jeanette Richardson, 1st grade teacher, at end of the school year and Cindy Wendroth, kindergarten teacher. Last day will be Sept. 21, 2017. Resignation: Kaitlin Buck, high school/college program assistant, as of Aug. 31, 2016.

The following grants and plans were approved for submission: The MN Dept of Education Innovation Pilot Grant, written in cooperation with Pine Island Schools; Safe Routes to School Planning Grant; Achievement and Integration Plan.

The board approved using the Southeast Service Cooperative’s guidelines for the insurance bidding process (HITA-health insurance transparency act) for insurance effective Sept. 1, 2017. The board approved the 403b plan as presented. The board preamble was approved as revised at the February work session.

Mr. Niles requested that the board become an advocate for equity in funding, especially the agricultural tax credits. He requested that Mr. Anger contact St. Charles Schools to see what they are doing as a school to promote information. This will be a retreat item, along with referendum and bond discussions, and a discussion of WILD days.

The board was informed that the EMZM has given notice that they wish to commence negotiations with the school district for the 2017-19 teacher agreement.

Also approved was a call for bids for the 2016-17 vocational construction house. Bidding deadline was set for March 17, 2017 and the minimum bid accepted has to be at least \$299,917.

Pertinent Dates:

- Mar 2 – WILD Day (Wrestling Team at State)
- Mar 5 – Construction Class Open House, 10am- 1pm, 615 Golf View Avenue, Zumbrota
- Mar 6, 14 – K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- Mar 8 – Early Release
- Mar 8, 9, 10 – Eagle Bluff Trip, Grade 5
- Mar 13 – Grade 7/8 Ensemble Concert, ZMHS Auditorium, 7 p.m. School Board Work Session, 7:00 p.m., ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa
- Mar 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 – Choir Trip to Tennessee
- Mar 17 – Red Cross Bloodmobile, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Mar 22 – Children’s Dental Clinic at ZMES
- March 23 – Grade 3 Concert, ZMES Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
- March 24 – End of 3rd Quarter
- March 27 – No School/Teacher Workshop. Regular School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa
- March 30 – Small Group Contest, ZMHS Auditorium, 1:00 p.m. Early Release Day at Noon for Students

There were no future agenda items and the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

The February school board meeting was held Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center in Zumbrota. The usual business, including payment of bills, was conducted.

Recognition: The following groups were recognized for their service and accomplishments:

- ZM School Board for their service throughout the year. School Board Recognition Week was February 20 – 24.
- Sugar Loaf Bus Company for their exemplary service to ZM. February 22 was set aside as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.
- ZM Dance Team members were in attendance and recognized for their state dance performance in jazz and kick. Three seniors will be attending the All-State Dance on March 11.
- The Symphonic Band was commended on their performance at the Minnesota Music Educators Association on Feb. 16
- Miles Klotz was recognized for his All State Band/Orchestra Hall performance, Dalton Ludington for the All State Choir, and Brynn Karstens for Grade 9-10 American Choral Directors Association performance. These students were not able to attend as they were participating in Pep Band at the time of the meeting.

Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. Registration for 2017-18 has been completed for grades 6-11. Mr. Anderson explained the college courses that will be offered in the next school year as well as the student grades from the current courses offered through Southwest State. He congratulated the sym-

phonic band and Mr. Cory on their performance at the MN Music Educators Association and the dance and wrestling teams and coaches on their state placings.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the primary and elementary schools, noting it has been a busy month for activities – I Love to Read Month, Black History Month, etc. The NAEP tests were given to selected fourth grade students in math and reading. Grades 1-4 staff has also completed training in Schoology and have their curriculum and assessments set up.

Mr. Anger reported that enrollment was 1,179 for February. The treasurer's report to the board was available for review. Mr. Anger informed the board that ZM received a Pathway II Fund Scholarship award in the amount of \$45,000 over two years to help fund preschool scholarships. SHIP grants have been submitted to Wabasha and Goodhue counties for assistance with creating safe routes to school, healthy living campaigns, which includes walking and riding bikes to school, and "Rethink Your Drink" training through phy ed and health classes. Mr. Anger also informed the board that there is a bill currently in the legislature that would promote e-learning days, such as ZM's WILD Days. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Heitmann will testify at a hearing on March 2. The Equalizing ZM Families was thanked for their donation towards unpaid lunch balances for families in need.

Reports were also available from the Southeast Service Coop, Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative, and the Goodhue County Education District.

Continued on Page 3

RECOGNIZING THE SCHOOL BOARD

Minnesota School Boards Association set February 20-24 as Minnesota School Board Recognition Week in Minnesota as a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our society. Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools is joining all public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to Zumbrota and Mazeppa and its children.

It takes strong schools to build a strong community, and these men and women devote countless hours to making sure our schools are helping every child learn at a higher level. They make the tough decisions every month and spend many hours studying education issues and regulations in order to provide the kind of accountability our citizens expect. The key work of school boards is to raise student achievement by: 1) Creating a vision for what the community wants the school district to be and for making student achievement the top priority; 2) Establishing standards for what students will be expected to learn and be able to do; 3) Ensuring progress is measured to be sure the district's goals are achieved and students are learning at expected levels; 4) Being accountable for their decisions and actions by continually tracking and reporting results; 5) Creating a safe, orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach; 6) Forming partnerships with others in the community to solve common problems; and 7) Focusing attention on the need for continuous improvement by questioning, refining and revising issues related to student achievement.



School board members give the citizens of ZM a voice in education decision making. Even though we make a special effort to show our appreciation in February, their contribution is a year-round commitment. The members serving our district and their years of service are as follows: James Wendt, 18 years; Becky Hinchley, 2 years; Jean Roth, 2 years; and new board members, Jason Lohmann, Angie Bredehoft, and Dirk Niles. ZM Board members were recognized at the February 27 school board meeting.

FFA HAS BUSY JANUARY

Over the past few weeks, the ZM FFA Chapter has sent members to different camps and conferences to help develop their leadership skills. These camps are a great way for members to meet new people and to keep up with past friends.

On January 8-10, Kyra Nichols and Casey Dykes attended the Ag Policy Experience. Through this camp, members from all over the state of Minnesota have the opportunity for an inside look at how agriculture works in the government. FFA members were part of a mock committee, met with legislators, and learned more about agricultural issues. Prior to camp starting, the members were required to submit bills which would later be discussed in the mock committee. Casey's bill focused on lowering property taxes on agricultural land and Kyra's bill was about improving soil quality on Minnesota farms.

Members learned how to be positive leaders who use their voices to help others. They discussed current influencers and how they aren't all good models of behavior. They also learned about what the camp was going to entail, while brushing up on their etiquette skills.

Members attended workshops in preparation for speaking with the legislators. They went to the Department of Agriculture and had a question/answer panel with representatives from large agriculture companies. Later in the day, a reception was held with legislative members and Casey and Kyra were able to meet their representative, Steve Drazkowski.

FFA members toured the Minnesota capitol and spoke with Governor Mark Dayton. They also sat in on a meeting of the Agriculture Finance Committee and went to the Farmers Union to learn about that organization. The members participated in their mock committee and discussed some of the bills that the FFA members submitted. Casey and Kyra both had an incredible experience.

On January 14, chapter members attended the Region Leadership Conference. This conference was put on by the Region VIII Officer team as a lock in at the Pine Island High School.

Members attended short workshops about stereotypes in FFA, stepping out of their comfort zone, online image, and many more. There was also time for fun with a dodgeball tournament, basketball, card games, and pizza. A dance was held at 1:00 a.m. followed by a reflection time about stereotypes in FFA.

All of these activities encourage members to step out of their shell and to develop personal relationships with other people across the southeast corner of Minnesota. They have a large impact on the members, and are always a fun, positive experience.



SYMPHONIC BAND PERFORMS

The ZM High School Symphonic Band had the honor of performing for the 2017 Minnesota Music Educator's Association on Thursday, February 16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This was a distinct honor for the band and showcased their talent for a statewide audience.

The band performed five pieces for the convention: "Overture for Winds", "Cajun Folksongs II", "October", "A Walk in the Morning Sun", and "Pentland Hills".

The Symphonic Band, under the direction of Scott Cory, received a standing ovation after performing - what an honor and what a performance!



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.