



## Building a Bridge to the Future



# ZM MESSENGER

### VETERANS DAY OBSERVED

ZM students and staff were honored to recognize our area veterans on November 11 with three programs; one at each school site so students of each age can understand and respect what Veterans Day means.

Members of the Mazeppa Honor Guard and the Zumbrota and Mazeppa American Legions and VFW were the honored guests. The choir at both the elementary and middle/high school per-



formed, along with the high school and sixth grade “bucket” band, providing patriotic music. Mr. Wes Voeltz presented the keynote address and Sarah Mensink performed “Taps”.

ZM is honored to present this program each year to salute the veterans who gave all.

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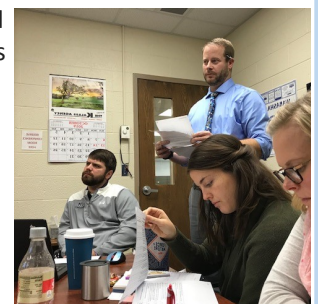
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### WHAT’S COMING UP?

- 12/5 - ZMHS Choir Concert, 7:00 pm, ZMMS/HS Auditorium
- 12/12 - School Board Work Session, 6:00 p.m., ZMMS/HS Media Center, Zumbrota
- 12/12 - ZMHS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., ZMMS/HS Auditorium
- 12/16 - Tax Hearing & Adoption, 6:30 p.m., ZMMS/HS Media Center, Zumbrota with Regular Meeting to Follow
- 12/23- 1/1- Holiday Break
- 1/2 - School Resumes

### AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

American Education Week, recognized across the nation each November, was celebrated this year during November 18-22. This designated week gave ZM Schools an opportunity to celebrate our public education and to thank all the individuals who make our school one of the best around! This week is set aside each year to recognize each



aspect of our school—from our teachers and paras to our substitutes, office staff, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, and parents - it takes everyone to make a successful school. Thanks for reaching, educating, and inspiring!

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Members of the ZM National Honor Society have spent their fall donating and serving. Over \$500 was raised for the Feed My Starving Children organization. Students also participated in filling the food bags that go to the children in need. In addition, NHS students donated Thanksgiving supplies to the Mazeppa and Zumbrota Food Shelves. Great community service by this organization and these students.



## P.I.E.—YOUR SLICE IS WAITING

P.I.E. is a group of K-6 parents that work together to support ZM staff and provide opportunities or classroom needs for ZM students. You are invited to join the group and be part of this very valuable organization. The next meeting will be held **Wed., Jan. 29 at 6:00 pm in the primary school media center.**

Here are some of the projects P.I.E. has sponsored in the past:

- \* Parents Night Out
- \* Winter Carnival
- \* School Walk-a-thon
- \* Halloween Dance
- \* Snack Cart Scholarships and Help with Lunch Balances
- \* Packing for the Weekend Program
- \* Providing Money for Classroom Libraries & Headphones
- \* Purchasing Rugs for Story & Group Time



## DID YOU KNOW...



This box is full! Check it often to find what has been lost.

Contact Katie Kennedy in the Primary (732-7848) or Pam Langley at the Elementary (732-1420) if you need assistance. The Weekend Food Backpack program is up and running and there are two community cupboards around the Zumbrota area, located by the library and Our Saviors Church, along with the food shelves in Mazeppa and Zumbrota.



Inclement weather is bound to come. Be sure your Infinite Campus parent portal is up to date with the correct phone number/email. You will be alerted through Campus Messenger in the event of school closing or delays by phone call, email, or text-whatever you have selected. Select TV and radio stations will be used (WCCO, KTTC,

KSMP, KAAL, and KARE 11) but the primary method is through Campus and the school website ([www.zmschools.us](http://www.zmschools.us)).

WILD (Weather Impacted Learning Days) will be in effect beginning with the second day of school closing due to weather. First day is a freebie for students. Teachers have prepared links and/or documents for student learning on these days. School website has individual teacher pages for WILD. WILD is basically a school day in your home!

## American Choral Director's Association of Minnesota

Zumbrota Mazeppa 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Mateyah Helget, recently participated in the American Choral Director's Association of Minnesota State 7-8 SSA Honor Choir. The treble-voiced choir was composed of 150 singers from across the state. Hundreds of singers were screened through a blind audition process in early October, and participants were announced in mid-October. Honor choir participants worked on their own and with their respective middle school choir directors to prepare and memorize five songs for an all-day festival and concert on November 16<sup>th</sup>, which culminated with a performance at St. Andrew's church in Mahtomedi, MN. The choir this year was conducted by Melanie Kjellberg, high school choir director from Andover High School in Andover, MN.



## FFA ENJOYS A BUSY FALL

8<sup>th</sup> Grade FFA members attended the PEM Ag Challenge November 7, competing against more than 250 middle school students. Four of our FFA members placed in the top 20 – Jack Boraas, Cole Lohmann, Melanie Raasch, and Anna Cylkowski. After the competition, ZM partnered with Goodhue FFA members and toured SEMA in Wanamingo where students saw the facilities, heard from members in various departments, learned about careers at SEMA, and their employees emphasized the importance of employability skills.

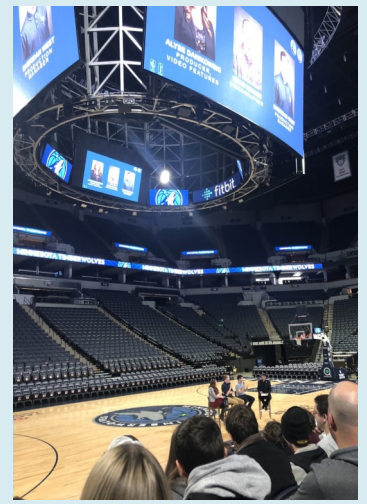
ZM FFA students attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis last month. Our members attended the opening general session where they heard from national officers and keynote speaker Bob Goff, explored the career expo, went to the Blue Room and met with ag industry professionals, toured a reindeer farm, Fastenal, and Lincoln Tech School; went to the Old Dominion concert, did a radio interview, and went to the rodeo. It was an interesting, informative week for our members.



## Small Business Entrepreneurship and Marketing Classes

On Tuesday, November 12 the High School Small Business Entrepreneurship and the Marketing classes took students up to the Target Center for Business Day.

The students spent the day listening to various speakers talk to them about the various business careers in professional sports and what they could do now to pursue them. They were able to tour the Target Center and at the end, they were given a free ticket to a Timberwolves game.



"Too much credit is given to the end result. The true lesson is in the struggle that takes place between the dream and reality. That struggle is a thing called life" - Garth Brooks

# SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The school board canvassed the results of the November 5 election on Nov. 12 in the District Office Conference Room.

The returns from the November 5 referendum and school board election were reviewed. The precinct summary statements and the Abstract and Return of Votes Cast were available for review. The abstract showed 1,593 votes for Stephanie Miller and 296 write-in votes.

Question 1 showed 1,203 yes and 1,065 no votes. Question 2 showed 1,097 yes and 1,149 no. Question 3 showed 975 yes and 1,270 no votes. The board adopted the results and the monthly work session followed.

Items for Discussion included:

1. House Lots for Purchase. The school will need additional lots for building if the vocational construction program continues. Mr. Harvey will research lots for sale and will bring more information to an upcoming meeting.
2. SRO. The board and administration will have to decide on whether or not to continue with a school resource officer or use the grant dollars for additional mental health workers. There is still a year and a half left on the current school resource officer contract, but the city of Zumbrota is looking for direction from the school.
3. Referendum and Facilities. A meeting is scheduled for November 14 to begin discussion on the facilities improvements and the direction the planning will go.
4. Staff and Student Surveys. School Perceptions will be doing a staff survey later in the school year and possibly a student survey in the future. Ms. Peters wondered about surveying recent graduates and if the information would be helpful.
5. School Linked Mental Health Grant Status. As of this meeting, GCED has not been able to fill the position. They are working with Fernbrook to see if they are able to find someone.
6. Approval of Replacement Prom Fundraiser. The committee would like to use an alternate fundraiser this year, possibly with Casey's, since they were unable to work at the fair. The board approved this request.
7. The retirement of Diane Matthees, Coordinator of Fiscal Services, was accepted with thanks effective 1/31/20.
8. The Dec. 9 work session was moved to Dec. 12.
9. A resolution providing for the sale of general obligation school building bonds, Series 2019A; and covenanting and obligating the district to be bound by and to use the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 to guarantee the payment of the principal and interest on these bonds was approved.

The work session ended at 8:23 p.m.

The regular monthly board meeting was held Mon., Nov. 25 in the Elementary Media Center in Mazeppa. The usual business was conducted, including payment of bills.

Recognition was given to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 588 for their monetary donation to the elementary library in honor of American Education Week.

The fall sports report was available for review. There were 330 of 549 students participating in a fall sport.

Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. The robotics team has received three grants for their program - \$2,000 from IBM, \$3,000 from Monsanto, and \$4,500 from Bayer (via FIRST). ACT prep will begin in January and 7-12 teachers are preparing for 2020-21 registration.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the primary/elementary school, noting conference attendance was at a near 100%. Lunchtime Solutions put on the elementary holiday meal and will do the primary school in December. The K-6 staff will be reexamining the reading curriculum and revising in the near future.

Ms. Ahern reported on special education staffing and target services.

Mr. Harvey reported that enrollment was 1,316. The treasurer's report was available for review. American Education Week was celebrated November 18-22 and the MSBA Winter Leadership Conference is January 15, 16, and 17. Mr. Harvey gave an update on the facilities construction. Teams will begin meeting soon to discuss the timelines, design, etc.

The consent agenda was approved as follows: New hires: Dinah Toups, 1-Act Play Director, Kami Sim, Ass't 1-Act Play Director, Kim Huneke, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, effective 11/11/19, Anna Lowrie, Cougar Care, beginning 11/7/19, Madelyne O'Reilly, Cougar Care, beginning 11/19/19, and Joy Post, Paraprofessional, beginning 12/3/19.

Resignations: Diane Frisch, Long-Term Substitute Teacher, effective 10/31/19 and Melissa Fitzgerald, SPED Para, effective 11/22/19.

Approval of fundraisers: HS Student Government raised \$564 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society under Pennies for Patients.

Approval of donation from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit. No. 588 for the elementary library donation in honor of American Education Week.

The 2019-20 enrollment options report was available for review. A resolution was adopted establishing the combined polling places for the school as follows: Mazeppa Community Center for Wabasha/Olmsted County residents and Zumbrota City Hall for Goodhue County residents.

The use of a therapy dog in the elementary school special education room was approved. Minutes were available from GCED and SSC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

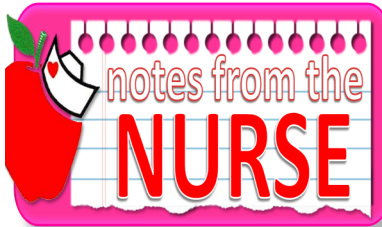
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## CROSS COUNTRY

The section girls cross country team made up of Natasha Sortland, Siddha Hunt, Alexis Berkner, Sierra Belcher, Bobbie Rae Benson, Hailey Grudem, and Madelyn Hofschulte earned "silver" academic honors from the Minnesota State Cross Country Coaches Association. This means that the team had a collective GPA averaging between 3.5 and 3.75.

Natasha Sortland competed in the state cross country meet on November 2, competing against 175 of the best runners in the state.



**Health Offices:** The month of October recorded 1100+ visits to the health offices. This includes illnesses, injuries, medication administration and issues related to health conditions. Please keep your children home if they are not feeling well so they aren't exposing other students/staff to potential illnesses.

**Influenza season is upon us:** The Influenza clinics in October were a huge success. We vaccinated 220 students, 49 staff members and 87 community members.

It is not too late to get the Influenza vaccine!

Influenza is a contagious respiratory infection that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Symptoms can vary by age, but can include: fever/chills, sore throat, cough, muscle aches, headache, fatigue, runny or stuffy nose. Flu can also lead to pneumonia and worsen other medical conditions.

Please report the following symptoms to the office to help us monitor influenza-like-illness: Fever of 100 degrees or higher with a sore throat and/or cough. Students may also have fatigue, headache and body aches.

**Scoliosis Screenings:** ZM Schools has resumed scoliosis screenings. This screening is done to help us identify female students who may have an abnormal curve of the spine (scoliosis). Idiopathic scoliosis is more likely to occur in females. Studies estimate that 2-5 of every 100 children develop scoliosis, and some require treatment. Early detection and treatment helps prevent or minimize the development of severe scoliosis problems. We screened 5th grade girls this fall and will be screening 6th grade girls in the spring. Please contact the health office if you have a concern about your child and would like them screened. Feel free to contact Tiffany Boraas, Licensed School Nurse at any health office with question or concerns.

**Meningococcal Immunization Information:** Students are due for a booster at age 16 to provide protection when they are at the highest risk. By fall of 2020 all Minnesota schools will be required to report to the state how many high school seniors have their second Meningococcal immunizations.

**What is meningococcal disease?** Meningococcal disease is a rare, serious illness caused by a bacteria (*Neisseria meningitidis*). It can cause meningitis, which is an infection of the brain and spinal cord, and it can also cause blood infections.

**How does meningococcal disease spread?** Meningococcal disease is spread by contact with secretions (saliva or spit) from the nose and throat.

- It can be spread through kissing, sharing silverware, drinking directly from the same container, sharing a cigarette or lipstick, and having close social contact (living in the same household).
- It is not spread through casual contact, such as being in the same room or touching the same object.

### Check the Health Services tab on the school website:

School medication policies are on the website. For the safety of our students, they ARE NOT to self-carry any medication at school, other than inhalers and epi-pens. If students are self-carrying inhalers or epi-pens we require an order from their MD. They also need to be assessed by the licensed school nurse for to ensure they can safely self-carry rescue medication. Information is available to see when students should stay home from school due to illness and links are available for what illnesses need to be reported to the health office.

**Who is at risk?** In general, the risk of becoming infected with meningococcal disease is low, but anyone can get it. However, some people are at increased risk, such as:

- First year college students who live in residential housing.
- People who have an immune disorder called complement component deficiency or who take Solaris (eculizumab).
- People with a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed.

**When should my child be vaccinated?** All 11 to 12 year-olds should be vaccinated (since Sept. 1, 2014, changes to Minnesota's Immunization Law required this immunization for all students entering 7th grade). Older teens need a second shot when they are 16 years old so they stay protected when their risk is the highest. Teens who got meningococcal vaccine for the first time when were 13, 14, or 15 years old should still get the booster shot when they are 16 years old. If your older teen didn't get the meningococcal shot at all, you should talk to their doctor about getting it as soon as possible.



## IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE...



Kindergarten students in Mrs. Duden's class are catching some of the first snowflakes of the season!



These 3 students finished their Xtramath program when they finished all facts in 1.5 seconds or less!



Elementary students enjoyed KUBB in explorations class.



ZM Faculty participated in Hwy 60 cleanup between Mazepa & Zumbrota



Members chosen for HVL Honor Choir



Working hard in grade 2



**NOTICE OF CONCERT CHANGES:** Due to MCA testing, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band/music concert will be held Tues., April 21 and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band/music concert will be held Tues., May 5. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out!