



A FREE publication brought to you by:



**RHINELANDER PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**  
ADVOCATES FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
rhinelanderpic.com

# Hodag PRIDE

Business, education and community working together.



## Remodeled Lakeside Center focuses on students

Beautiful panoramic views of the Nicolet campus and Lake Julia compliment the newly remodeled Lakeside Center. With a student-centered focus, the Lakeside Center offers inviting study and recreation areas, access to resources like the IT Help Desk and Bookstore, and the new Nicolet Theatre and Library. Bytes Snack + Shop completes the trendy new space with daily food specials, fresh coffee and Nicolet College apparel.

*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

## What's Inside...

- 2 Hodag Coffee Shoppe at JWMS
- 2 Cash for NATH
- 3 New Crescent principal sets goals, continues traditions
- 3 President's Report
- 4 Encouraging cultural experiences
- 5 Learning to read
- 5 Santa Letters
- 5 American Education Week
- 6 Heroes in the halls
- 7 School District of Rhinelander staff support United Way
- 7 School District of Rhinelander report
- 8 Having fun with science, technology, engineering and math

## Education through food

Taher's Chef Council brings flavors of the world to students

*BY PAT KARABA*  
**FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR**

Taher, Inc. is the food management company that has been working with the Rhinelander School District's Food Service Department since the 2012-13 school year. Bruce Taher, CEO and owner, takes great pride in his well-established Chef Council. The

See **FOOD** page 8



Chef Chris works the serving line at Rhinelander High School. On this day, students were treated to chicken shakshuka with Israeli hummus and flatbread.

*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

## Artist of the Month

*BY KIMBERLY MARTINY*  
**SDR ART EDUCATOR**

Central Intermediate and Northwood's Community Elementary School (NCES) have had an exciting year within the art room and the new Artist of the Month program. Central School was the pilot of the program, starting it up last February. Since then, the program proved so successful and was met with such fantastic feedback that I decided to not only continue the program with Central, but to expand it to NCES for the following 2016-17 school year as well.

The idea for Artist of the Month program began October, 2016 during the Wisconsin Art Educator Conference held in Appleton. My fellow art educator colleagues and I were the fortunate recipients of a generous Hodag Schools Foundation grant which allowed us to travel and attend the conference as a department. While at the conference, I attended a special session that focused on ways other districts promote their art program within the community,



Central School artists of the month for October were, in front, Lexi Bishop, Alea Vozka, Helena Wisner, Sarai Aguilar Hernandez, Trinity Tanner and Owen Mansavage. In back, Lillian Badgley, Payton Hall, Morgan Snyder, Tori Riopel, Abishea Winnicki and Coleton Kalata. Not pictured is Truman Lamers.

*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

thereby building support and connections to advocate for the importance of the fine arts within the school setting. I was encouraged by the ideas and was inspired to give it a try.

See **ARTIST** page 3

# Hodag Coffee Shoppe at JWMS

*BY RYAN BUSS*  
**JAMES WILLIAMS  
 MIDDLE SCHOOL  
 SPECIAL EDUCATION  
 TEACHER**

Students within the special education program at James Williams Middle School (JWMS) are off and running again with their coffee business. The business mission is, “Brewing Independence” for the 2016-17 school year. During home-room each morning, students prepare and deliver different types of coffee, either regular or flavored, to staff throughout the middle school. Each student has his or her own duty, and takes pride in what they are doing.

“I have fun doing this,” said student worker Hannah Umland. “My favorite part is pouring the coffee and giving it to the teachers.”

These work skills will help prepare students for the future, when they will be placed at job sites when transitioning to the high school.

It is also convenient for staff, as many don’t have time to make coffee before heading to school.

“It is a delight to see the students smiling faces every morning,” said Crystal Jankovic, one of the Shoppe’s regular customers. “It is a great way to start out the day, with my



- ❶ Paige Appling delivers coffee to Mrs. Clark first thing in the morning.
- ❷ Max Everhart and Paige Appling push the Shoppe’s coffee cart on their morning route.
- ❸ Student workers Hannah Umland and Paige Appling prepare coffee for delivery.

*SUBMITTED PHOTOS*

coffee being delivered to me as soon as I arrive to school!”

This is also a great way for students to talk to staff they normally don’t get to see.

The Coffee Shoppe process begins on Friday, when an order form

goes out to the staff. Staff can then choose which type of coffee they want, which days, and where they want it delivered, for a charge of \$1 per cup. Last year students made a profit of \$230. The money profited will be given to support PBIS activi-

ties that will be held throughout the year. A huge thank you goes out to Rhinelander Partners in Education, which donated a Keurig machine to help the business get off and running.

## Cash for NATH

During the month of November, the School District of Rhinelander joined with Northwoods Alliance for Temporary Housing (NATH) to recognize National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. To recognize this important topic, during the week of Nov. 14-20, all clubs from Rhinelander High School (RHS) came together to help NATH raise funds for the local shelter, Frederick Place, as part of the Everybody Deserves a Shelter Campaign.

In an effort to increase awareness, announcements were made during the week that featured data and in-

formation about homeless youth in Wisconsin and our district. There was a one-minute fundraiser, CASH for NATH, held during homeroom one day.

Through the generosity of students and staff, \$572 was collected. Of the 43 homerooms within RHS, Ms. Fryar’s homeroom collected the most money and won a pizza and cupcake party. Tammy Modic, Director of Frederick Place, was able to join the winning homeroom for the celebration. Thank you to Papa Murphy’s for donating the pizzas and HOSA for preparing the cupcakes.



Representatives from Key Club, Project Unity, Diversity, FCCLA, FBLA and DECA presented a check to Tammy Modic. Not pictured are representatives from HOSA and Student Council.

*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

# New Crescent principal sets goals, continues traditions

Crescent Elementary School welcomed a new principal Dec. 1. Northwoods native Gayle Daniel accepted the leadership position because of her love for educating young children. Daniel has 25 years of experience in the education field. She has been a middle and high school volleyball coach, worked with deaf and hard-of-hearing students, taught grades two through high school, been an elementary principal and a Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Her past employment includes Northcentral Technical College, School District of Fort Atkinson, Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk School District, Lakeland Union High School and most recently, Northland Pines School District, where she was the curriculum director.



Gayle Daniel is the principal at Crescent Elementary School. She began her duties Dec. 1.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Some of the goals for the second semester that Daniel would like to accomplish include improving student at-

tendance, growing overall reading scores and making a positive school culture for all a priority.

"Partnering with parents and having students love school is very important to me," Daniel said. She plans to continue making Crescent Elementary a school of which the Rhinelander community can be proud.

Daniel is from St. Germain where she has lived with her husband for over 20 years. Together they have two grown children. As a Northwoods native, Mrs. Daniel is familiar with the Vilas and Oneida areas and the cold, snowy winters. Having grown up in Land O' Lakes, she enjoys the outdoors, gardening and cheering for the Packers.

## ARTIST from page 1

As a supporter of our schools and of the arts, Nicolet National Bank and the Northwoods YMCA graciously agreed to partner with Central Intermediate and NCES art departments to publicly display student work within their lobbies. Together, we built a display for student artwork using refinished frames in a gallery-like style. My job is to deliver student artwork to the businesses with every new project to display the work; in turn, the businesses also give each recognized student artist a certificate of achievement.

Students are chosen as Artist of the Month for their innovative thinking skills, creative applications, showcasing of exemplar learning through the project expectations, and of course, by positively demonstrating the 4B's. This program has quickly evolved to not only be a great incentive for academic, behavioral and personal achievements, but has also built confidence, pride and drive within our students. The best part of the program is when I hear that parents and guardians have taken their students in to see their work on display and take pictures. That alone shows this program is working on more than one level.

Anyone is invited to visit and celebrate our students' accomplishments within the two locations. Nicolet National Bank houses Central Intermediate School's artwork, while



October artists of the month at NCES were, in front, Kendall Vanev and Olivia Ruetz. In back, Luciana Grage, Noah Bell and Oceana Patulski. Not pictured is Hailey Massignan.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

the YMCA of the Northwoods displays NCES's artwork. Displays change as new projects become complete, so please be sure to stop in frequently to see the latest projects!

## President's Report

# Are you able to volunteer?

BY SIDNEY RING

PRESIDENT, RHINELANDER PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

The new calendar year marks the beginning of many things. For Rhinelander Partners in Education (PIE) the New Year marks the midpoint of our year. I can say that we've accomplished some big things so far and have even better ideas and projects in mind for the next couple of months.



SIDNEY RING

PIE is planning for another successful Mad Money event in to take place Tuesday, Feb. 28. Mad Money is a simulation that we hold for the seniors at RHS & NCSS. The students are given a salary that is based on the career they choose. They are randomly given families, student loan debt and even credit card debt. The simulation is designed to give them an opportunity to make choices on their spending and saving for one month and learn what it is like to budget for a month. Plus, there are always those unexpected events that happen like a flat tire or a broken water pipe...

We are also once again planning to host mock interviews in the afternoon after the Mad Money simulation. The support and volunteerism this community provides is amazing! Last year PIE was fortunate to have more than fifty people from community businesses volunteer throughout the day. PIE is still in need of volunteers to help with mock interviews. If you or someone you know would be able to help interview students in the afternoon of Feb. 28 please reach out to me at [sidneyr@parkcitycu.org](mailto:sidneyr@parkcitycu.org) or Ben Meyer at [ben.meyer.wi@gmail.com](mailto:ben.meyer.wi@gmail.com). PIE will provide sample interview questions and things to look for in the interview.

Rhinelander PIE is always looking for people who are passionate about offering opportunities to help our students be successful with 21st Century skills. We have opportunities for you to fill a board position, join a committee or even volunteer for a specific request. If this is of interest to you, I encourage you to contact me or any one of our board members for more information on how you can be involved in Rhinelander Partners in Education.

# Encouraging cultural experiences

## A new RHS program opens overseas travel to all students

*BY LINDA GOLDSWORTHY*

**RHS SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER**

Rhineland High School has just initiated a New Cultural Experiences Program or NCEP (pronounced en-cep) for current freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Approved for one-half credit during the December 2017 school board meeting, the 2018 NCEP trip will mark the first trip in Rhineland's history open to all students, not just those in a foreign language, band or specific set of social studies classes.

The idea for this program originated at my alma mater, Carroll College (now Carroll University). In May, 1989, I signed up to participate in one of over six NCEPs offered during 1991 J-term. My NCEP program was sponsored by Dr. Jack Dukes of the history department.

Dukes, who specialized in Eastern European and Soviet studies, planned a trip that would expose participants to a myriad of culture, complete with home stays. Stops on our itinerary included Berlin Germany; Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Irkutsk (think Siberia), Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, Alma Ata and Kokchetav, Kazakhstan; Ulan Batar, Mongolia; and Beijing, China.

I'd never traveled on an airplane, nor a train prior to our Dec. 26, 1990 departure date. That was soon to change as our trip included four flights and three different train rides, including a three-day trek on the Trans-Siberian railroad.

Carroll's NCEP program exposed me to everything from an evening at the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow to the inner workings of a fur factory deep in Siberia. We climbed the Great Wall of China and walked upon the monument in Tiananmen Square that had been the site of massive student demonstrations and bloodshed in the spring of 1989.

I learned a lot about the world on that trip. Russians not only like vodka; they also have a penchant for cognac. The Kazakh national dish looks just like ravioli in a chicken broth. The filling was horsemeat. Bread is dark brown and black in other parts of the world. Caviar is very salty. At Russian and Kazakh theater events, clapping in unison is typical.

Dr. Dukes nearly had a heart attack when traveling from West Berlin to East Berlin for the first time ever without stopping at Checkpoint Charlie. He also told us to be careful when talking



The Underground City of Beijing was an eye opener for RHS social studies teacher Linda Goldsworthy and classmates Mike Cho and Alex Scribner, who learned that a Cold War-era bomb shelter consisting of over 33 square miles of rooms and tunnels existed below the massive city. Goldsworthy's 1990-91 trip to Germany, the USSR and China was the impetus behind starting NCEP at RHS.

*SUBMITTED PHOTO*

with our Chinese tour guide as discussing things such as democracy would get the young man in a lot of trouble.

A museum tour in Kazakhstan completely omitted the rule of Joseph Stalin from Soviet history. It was as if he never existed. When I asked my tri-lingual host sister about Stalin, her reply was, "Who is Stalin?"

Needless to say, when I returned in 1991, I was not the same person who had left. A whole new world existed for this 21-year-old from a small farming town in central Wisconsin. I had seen the Reichstag where Hitler's boy soldiers had fought hardened Soviet troops room by room. I glimpsed the glory of the Romanov dynasty while strolling through the Hermitage in St. Petersburg.

I shared an airplane with a cage of chickens. My worldview had changed. I understood what it meant to live in a democracy. I also perceived how other people viewed Americans.

This was the impetus behind bringing foreign travel to all students at Rhineland High School. The Social Studies Department started in 2013 with a trip to Italy that focused on Renaissance and Greek and Roman History. Our 2015 trip included London, the Loire Valley, D-Day Beaches and Paris, and our 2016 trip found us once again trekking the streets and alleyways of Italy from Venice to Pompeii.

Our 2018 to Ireland and Scotland trip is modeled on the Carroll College NCEP as it is filled with not only small group exploration time, but also unique experiences that would be cost prohibitive for an individual or family.

### Highlights include:

- Participating in a Highland Games competition, complete with hurling, Gaelic handball and rounders.
- Taking Irish dance lessons from a local expert
- Becoming Irish for a day including a bog visit, tour of a working farm, sheep dog demonstrations, bodhran drum lessons, sugan rope making, turf cutting and baking loaves of Irish brown bread.
- Taking bagpipe lessons

These cultural experiences go beyond touring castles and museums, visiting the Giant's Causeway and Trinity College, touring museums, and taking walking tours of Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

In preparation for our upcoming trip, students will be completing a series of readings and workshops to familiarize themselves with the areas we are visiting. Dr. Dukes had us do the same in 1990, and several of those books still grace my bookshelf as found reminders of my travel experience as a young adult.

I'm hopeful that NCEP 2018 will be as much of a learning experience for my students as the NCEP to Germany, the USSR and China was for me in 1990-91.

Spots for the 2018 NCEP to Ireland and Scotland are still available. If your student is interested, please have them contact me at RHS in room 246. Workshops are scheduled to begin in late January.

# Learning to read

BY DR. EUNICE CORUJO-INCHA  
MINISTRY MEDICAL GROUP

Learning to read is critical to a child's well being. Unfortunately, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development estimate that 20 percent of children will have some degree of reading disability.

Learning to read is a lengthy process that requires instruction and the acquisition of phonemic awareness (a basic understanding that the words we hear are composed of small units of sound).

The beginning reader must also learn how to translate printed letter to speech sounds. Finally, the beginning reader must focus on the information that is being conveyed in the written word. Sadly, of children who are reading disabled in third grade, more than 70 percent remain disabled at the end of high school.

What are the risk factors or early signs of a reading disorder?

\*Children at risk for reading failure often enter school with limited exposure to English or little prior opportunity to develop sensitivity to language sounds, letters, the purpose of reading, or other verbal skills such as vocabulary.

\*Children who have difficulty learning letter names and letter sounds and rhyming patterns are more likely to have difficulty learning to read.

\*Other risk factors for reading difficulty include limited vocabularies, limited exposure to background information, lack of exposure to written word, correct grammar, different writing tools (such as humor, dialogue), the ability to remember verbal or auditory information, and a family history of reading difficulty.

How can I most help my child learn to read?

\*Model reading as a fun and rewarding activity at home. Show your child that reading recipes, books, newspapers, signs, greeting cards, and other written items is an everyday occurrence.

\*Make a massive effort to provide oral language and literacy experiences every day. Read to your child from the day your child is



ALAN CONDRA

born. Notice written information in the world. Explain why reading and writing are important. Demonstrate written communication and its usefulness. \*Engage your child in playing with language – use reading games, rhyming books, nursery rhymes, and story telling. Have fun when reading.

\*Television viewing is not the best way to learn language and reading skills unless the program is very interactive. Sometime pairing a book with a show helps children become engaged in books.

\*Support your teacher's efforts to provide systematic instruction to your child. If you see warning signs, use tutoring, summer programs, library programs, and your teacher as resources. Seek evaluation through the school district for additional information about your child's progress.

\*Seek evaluation by a psychologist who can assess your child's strengths and weaknesses and help with recommendations to encourage progress.

\*Talk with your pediatrician to consider your child's overall wellness, hearing, vision, growth, etc.

For more information, contact your child's pediatrician.

*Dr. Eunice Corujo-Incha is a Pediatrician with Ministry Medical Group, part of Ascension in Rhinelander.*



## Santa Letters

Students from Rhinelander High School's FBLA/DECA chapter got into the Christmas spirit by participating in Santa Letters, an annual service project in which members from the club visit elementary schools in the district to help the younger students write letters to Santa. Students visited Crescent and Pelican Elementary Schools Dec. 8-14, each day taking on several classrooms per group. The members worked with several students each in grades kindergarten through second grade, helping them with not only writing to Santa but also drawing pictures and decorating their letters. When the letters were completed, the FBLA/DECA members read to the kids or helped them with their school work. Club members Valerie Dalka, Andy Padgett, Ellen Padgett and Jonas Sabani pose for a photograph with some of the Crescent Elementary School students they helped.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABIGAIL KRUEGER

## American Education Week

BY JANE JOHNS

PARK CITY CREDIT UNION

I had the privilege of visiting Crescent School for American Education Week. My sons attended Crescent School many years ago so it was very exciting for me to return. I was greeted by a very happy group of third grade students. I came prepared with my "Starting Life Butterfly" book by Claire Llewellyn and Simon Mendes. As I read about the tiny egg turning into a beautiful black, white and yellow caterpillar the group listened carefully. As the page turned and they learned the importance of milkweed to the monarch caterpillars many of the students shared that they have milkweed near their homes.

They saw how the beautiful

green chrysalis with its golden thread turns completely see through just before breaking open to reveal the stunning wings of the monarch butterfly...truly a miracle. They could all identify the difference between a female and a male monarch by some special markings. The last pages told of the 3,000 mile migration of the monarch. Several hands went up and such fantastic questions were asked. We discussed the fact that monarchs are facing extinction and we must take good care of their fragile habitat. They assured me that they had seen milkweed near Crescent School and I smiled thinking that maybe my sons may have planted those seeds many years ago.

I hope I receive an invitation to share another story next year.

# Heroes in the halls

*BY SHIRLEY HEISE*  
**NATIVITY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

“Heroes don’t just get capes, they help people! That’s why our school started the Sainly Superhero program. This program helps people become superheroes by helping each other. This year more people have been helping each other. I’ve been here three years and have never seen people help each other so much. I LOVE our Sainly Superhero program.” – Kenzie, fifth grade student.

“It’s fun to nominate people and it makes you feel proud when you nominate a person who wins! The prizes were amazing and we got to share them with family and friends.”

– **Anna and Madeline,**  
**SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS**

When we think of superheroes, we would most likely conjure up images of Superman, Batman, or Captain America. Seldom would we look at our students to be those fighters for justice and advocates of good for the benefit of others. But that is just what we are striving for at Nativity Catholic with our recently implemented Sainly Superheroes program.

At the beginning of the year, teachers Meg Macdonald and Paula Schneider began work on a new approach to catching kids being good and reinforcing positive behaviors and kindness in our school. While our students are daily taught the importance of exhibiting those behaviors, embracing good values, and treating others as they want to be treated, there is always room for improvement. The lessons of respecting self and others can never be emphasized too much, so finding a way to recognize those who go above and beyond became the focus of the new initiative.

The word “Sainly” comes from our school mascot, the Saint. However, the core of the program is based on how our students are recognized when they are witnessed doing super things for others without hesitation, without expectation, without being asked. This program was not just to recognize and reward students for being kind, but to help them understand that kindness matters all of the time. The student



James Heck is recognized as a “Sainly Superhero.”

*SUBMITTED PHOTOS*

“If I am nominated I will be super excited because you never know what you’re going to get. I love surprises, but most importantly you get to help someone.”

– **Austin,**  
**THIRD GRADE STUDENT**

who willingly holds the door open for an elderly person, the child that offers to take an extra duty without being asked, the person who reaches out to someone in need when no one else does... those are the true superheroes. For students, the best part about being nominated and chosen as a superhero is that the recognition comes from their peers, helping the students to understand the impact of their good choices.

When a student witnesses another student showing a kindness that is unexpected, the witness submits a nomination to a teacher. That teacher reviews the situation and turns the nomination into the office. We have drawings for Sainly Superhero winners, twice per month. The randomly selected Superhero receives a prize, has a photo taken, and is announced to

“It’s fun to see all the good deeds that people are doing, and it’s really fun to know that you’re doing something that makes a difference! Prizes are really cool, and they are fun to share with other people, too!”

– **Annalyse,**  
**SIXTH GRADE STUDENT**

the school. The students also learn who nominated them and the reason for the nomination. Thus far, we have celebrated the selection of 16 superheroes, and we look forward to celebrating many more.

Ultimately, the goal of the Sainly Superhero program is to help our students become better people at school, at home, and in the community. In communicating the program with others outside of our school, we were fortunate to have nearly 20 business and individual donors support our efforts by providing gifts and prizes for the winning students. We are extremely grateful to those people as they too, recognize the importance of teaching students that kindness matters, not just for a moment and not for a day, but for always.



Grace Cornelius was recently named a Sainly Superhero at Nativity Catholic School for demonstrating positive behavior.



Nancy Sattler, representing Northwoods United Way and School District of Rhinelander employee Mike Cheslock celebrate the district's donation.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## School District of Rhinelander staff support United Way

The Northwoods United Way recently became \$1,576 closer to its fundraising goal, thanks to a contribution from the School District of Rhinelander (SDR) employees.

"The SDR employees have a history of supporting the Northwoods United Way and the agencies we partner with," said Nancy Sattler, Executive Director, Northwoods United Way. "This check will help us achieve our 2016 Fundraising Goal."

The SDR staff held their annual campaign for the Northwoods United Way from Oct. 10–Nov. 18. The fundraising goal was \$1,500.

"We are proud to announce that this goal was exceeded," said Mike Cheslock, SDR Community Education Coordinator. "A special thank you goes out to all staff who

contributed to this year's campaign. The District is proud to support United Way's efforts to offer programming that helps families and children in the Northwoods."

The Northwoods United Way works to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a quality life, which are health, income and education. It serves community members in Vilas, Oneida and Forest Counties. Currently, the Northwoods United Way provides funding to 26 agencies throughout the three counties.

If you would like more information about the Northwoods United Way, or the agencies they support, please contact Sattler at [nwuway@newnorth.net](mailto:nwuway@newnorth.net). Donations can also be sent to PO Box 177, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

## School District of Rhinelander report

*KELLI JACOBI*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The students in the School District of Rhinelander (SDR) are busy finishing up the first semester of the school year. They are also involved in many sports and activities. Check out the activities calendar on the District's website for dates and times of upcoming competitions. We are very proactive in our approach to good sportsmanship by athletes and spectators alike. We encourage our fans to cheer and encourage the athletes, but always in a positive, respectful manner. You don't need to have children participating in the competitions to attend. All are welcome!



Another activity that all community members are invited to be a part of is skiing and snow shoeing at CAVOC (Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom). The trails are groomed for skiing and maps of the trails are on the District's website at [www.rhinelander.k12.wi.us/cavoc/](http://www.rhinelander.k12.wi.us/cavoc/). This is a great family activity!

The Wisconsin State Education Convention will be taking place in Milwaukee this month. This is a great opportunity for Board members to participate in professional development workshops and legislative and legal updates. Our school board president Ron Counter will be receiving an award at the convention for 20 years of service as a board member for the School District of Rhinelander. Linda Goldsworthy, a high school social studies teacher will also be receiving an award. She is receiving the Global Educator of the Year award which is sponsored by the Statewide International Education Council. Please congratulate Mr. Counter and Ms. Goldsworthy when you see them.

As we move deeper into winter, I want to let all our students' families know that when we are experiencing hazardous weather, including extreme cold, if the schools are going to be closed or delayed, I make that call by 5:30 a.m. and an automated call will go out to all families. Parents will be notified as soon as possible in the event of an early school dismissal. Bad weather is one reason why it is so important to keep your contact information current with the schools. School closing announcements will be shared with media and will be posted on the District's website. If the weather is bad but schools aren't closed, parents can make the decision to keep children home or pick them up early. If parents choose to keep their children home or pick them up early, the absence will be excused. Please contact the schools as soon as possible and let them know the reason for the absence so it can be recorded accurately.

Happy New Year to all of our students, families, and community members!



Hodag Pride is published for the Rhinelander educational community by:

Eileen Persike, Editor  
[epersike@mmlocal.com](mailto:epersike@mmlocal.com)



The kids in the STEM Scouts lab are working on the "Bridging the Gap" module where the Scouts are introduced to the basics of different bridge construction styles, and get to explore engineering, design, and building of bridges. They are working on building the bridge that can hold the most weight. From left are students Olin Slette, Tony Barnett and Evelyn Simonsen.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Hanna Mueller, Anden Brooks and Caleb Delgado work together on their bridge project.

## Having fun with science, technology, engineering and math

By *AMANDA FLANNERY*  
STEM EXECUTIVE,  
SAMOSET COUNCIL

STEM Scouts® is a national pilot program focused on fun ways for girls and boys to learn more about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Building on the natural curiosity and enthusiasm that young people have for learning, STEM Scouts uses hands-on activities and interaction with STEM professionals to make learning fun, fast-paced and creative.

Educational content, developed and vetted by STEM educators, is designed to be immersive and to inspire teamwork, problem solving and independent thinking. Girls and boys in third through twelfth grades develop leadership and communications skills while learning about opportunities in careers that are important to our future economy.

While the program focuses on future careers in STEM, it is ultimately designed to be challenging, thought-provoking and especially, fun. It's a new kind of scouting, with less emphasis on the outdoors and more emphasis on STEM knowledge.

### FOOD from page 1

Council consists of 12 members representing all divisions of the company, including school lunch programs, business dining cafeterias, senior dining, etc. Every year Bruce and the Council travel to a specific country to sample their cuisine and learn about the culture. The Chef Council has traveled as a group to every continent except Antarctica to experience the vast array of food and culture across the world. Most recently they went to Singapore and Jakarta, Indonesia to stay on the cutting edge of innovative menu items in the culinary field.

Throughout the school year, Chef Council member chef Chris Murray visits the District to showcase a number of recipes and meals for students so they are able to experience the same food as our chefs did in their travels. One of the goals of the Council is to educate the students of the district through food. Not only do they get to taste something they may never have a chance to experience, but, also to learn about the represented country.

Chef Chris was at James Williams Middle School (JWMS) so students and staff were able to experience the

Moroccan Chicken Tagine. This meal was savory chicken, minted couscous, and roasted root vegetables. Everyone enjoyed the meal and were also entertained as chef Chris talked about the people and cities they visited.

At Rhinelander High School, chef Chris featured a Taste of Israel. The students and staff were treated to Chicken Shakshuka with Israeli hummus and flatbread. The students and staff here were impressed and very happy with the exotic choice for lunch.

In February, Chef Chris will be working with the Pro-Start students and a class of JWMS students. They will be prepping a meal to be served at the middle school February 14. This meal will consist of Chana Marsala w/curried chicken, saffron jasmine rice and fresh naan bread.

Education isn't limited to just a classroom anymore. We feel that education can also come from within our kitchens and cafeterias within the District. A meal from one of our chefs is just an additional piece to help educate the district's students.

Chef Chris is always proud to feature one of the Chef Council Flavors of the World when he visits the Rhinelander School District!



A part of chef Chris Murray's day includes interviews with local media.

SUBMITTED PHOTO