



Learning in the Garden

Mr. Plude's Personal Management Class farms vegetables for the High School cafeteria

by Taylor Ackerman

The sun is shining at 8:20 on a Monday morning with a slight chill in the air as 10 boys from Charlevoix High School's Personal Management class make their way over to a small acre of land behind the school. Today they are building a fence around the garden to keep deer out. They work together to dig holes, get posts into the ground, and to make sure the posts are aligned. Eventually, they plan to farm and produce enough vegetables for the school's cafeteria while hopefully making some profit for themselves in the future.

When most people think of school they think of sitting in a class listening to lectures, and memorizing vocabulary and equations. However about a dozen lucky students have taken the opportunity to have a learning experience that extends far past the four walls of a typical classroom. The skills they are acquiring are practical and useful.

"I've learned a lot about gardening, and it helps me because my Grandpa is making a garden," said freshman Brandon Eubanks.

The students are not only learning farming skills, but lifelong lessons that could help them in any situation in the future. The main focus of the class is to help students obtain life skills that they might not

have had in the past.

One of these lessons is the importance of community service.

"The school spends a lot of money on produce, so Mr. Plude decided to have our class try to farm the vegetables for the cafeteria ourselves," sophomore Nolan Ager said.

In the personal management class students don't just take care of the garden, they do other community service projects as well. They've traveled throughout the community to offer their helping hands.

Students learn to set goals and make plans to achieve them.

"We know what we want to get done now, and we know what we want in the future," said freshman Devon Drain. "In a couple years we're hopefully going to have a real farm with animals."

The student's motivation to succeed on the farm also comes from the opportunity to make some profit, although it could take some extra effort and time.

Students also get the extra time and skills they need to succeed in other classes. On occasion, they use the period to get homework done and to develop good study skills.

"We'd probably all be failing if it wasn't for this class," Drain said to sum it up, "It has really helped us out."



Having an "aha" moment, freshman Jamal Kelley gets directions from Mr. Ken Plude. "The class is to make us better students, but most of all better people!" Kelley said, "I've learned to work to my full potential, and to do better in everything I do."



Driving a tractor sophomore Jesse Drost heads over to the garden. "At first I wasn't sure about the idea because most people didn't know how to farm, but now I really like the class." One of the most important skills students learn is working together.

To the Charlevoix Public School District Residents:



Chet Janik
Superintendent

This year marks my 30th year in education, and it seems like I feel this way every spring, but it is hard to believe that another school year has ended. It has been a year of challenges due to the state economy, but the fact remains that the Charlevoix Public Schools are committed to academic excellence, and we are very proud of the quality education that is being provided to our students at all levels and that commitment will continue in the years to come. During the last week of school, I had an opportunity to witness the graduation ceremonies of the fourth graders at the elementary, the eighth graders at the middle school and the seniors at the high school. Those special events reminded me of the original reason that I, and virtually everyone else in the education field chose this profession—to truly make a positive impact on the lives of our young people.

As you probably know from all of the media reports, the State of Michigan revised the retirement system and offered an incentive program for veteran educators to motivate them to retire. This incentive program has had a major impact on our staff and many long-time educators have made the difficult choice to retire. This has made this spring truly bittersweet, as many outstand-

ing educators will not be with us when the new school year starts this September.

It has been an honor for me to work with these individuals for the past three years as they had a positive influence on the lives of many students. The teachers who are retiring are: Paul Gelderbloom (11 years), Brian Rockafellow (11 years), Ken Plude (25 years), Dennis VanGuilder (34 years), elementary secretary Sue Gengle (21 years), Principals Keith Haske (13 years) and Dick

“Virtually everyone in the education field chose this profession to truly make a positive impact on the lives of young people.”

Swenor (25 years).

These people represent almost 200 years of experience. As I pondered these people departing our school district, I reflect once again on one of my favorite passages which seems appropriate this time of graduations and transitions that states: “There is an appointed time for everything. A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to mourn and a time to dance.” While I will miss working with these outstanding educators, we all should celebrate the fact that they are starting

new chapters in their lives.

Another individual who is starting a new chapter in his life is Mr. Doug Drenth who will be departing from the high school to take on the duties of being the new elementary principal.

Mr. Drenth has been an outstanding teacher for the past 20 years, as well as having experience as an athletic director, coach and assistant principal. He has the perfect blend of professional skills, a strong yet gentle leadership style and outstanding personal traits to be an elementary principal, and I’m truly looking forward to working with him in his new capacity.

We are also in the beginning phases of selecting a new middle school principal to replace Mr. Haske, and the goal is to complete that process in a timely manner so that individual will have time to be fully prepared for the upcoming academic year.

As the 2009-10 school year comes to a close, I want to sincerely wish everyone a restful, relaxing and peaceful summer. Please take the opportunity to spend time with your family and friends. Always feel free to contact me directly at 547-8101 or email to: cjanik@rayder.net if I can be of assistance or answer any of your questions about the Charlevoix Public Schools.

Go Rayders !!!

Chet Janik
Superintendent

Charlevoix Schools Upcoming Events

Please check rayder.net for current events.

Stay updated on all the changes at Charlevoix schools by checking out the website: www.rayder.net

rayder.net tip

We're proud of our students



1. Blue Lake Fine Art scholarship winners, Anna Voci and Cora Taylor, receive a full-ride scholarship from the Enduring Arts fundraiser. **2. Middle School** students Erin Hybl, Alison Jarema, Isabel Hess, and Courtney Smith were the epic winners of the D.A.R.E competition. **3. Winners of** the Kiwanis Club essay contest, Abigail Tansey, Makenna Ebert, Courtney Smith, and Luke Telgenhof, stand with leader Gayle Gennett **4. Principal Keith** Haske was honored to award the middle school Future Problem Solvers, Mal-lory Murray, Shelby Robinson, Lexie Barnes, and Emily Roloff, their medals for winning second place at the state competition in Lansing. **5. Eighth grade** spelling bee winners, Nicolas Snabes and Maggie Hamilton, head off to the regional competition in Harbor Springs **7. Lilly Prevo** shows off her short story award from McLean and Eakin. She was the winner of a short story contest.



Into the Classroom

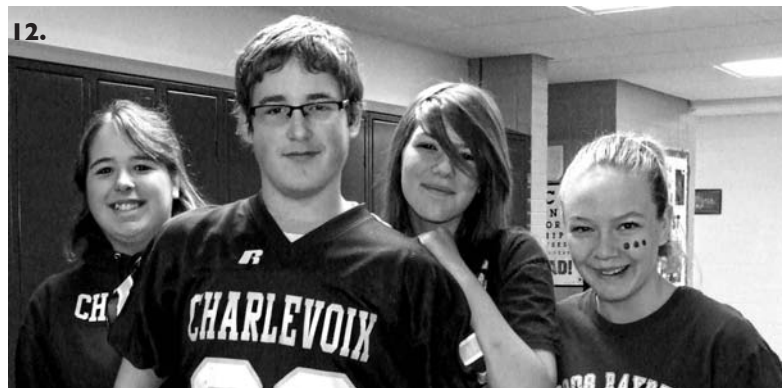
By Allison Hankins



1. With big smiles on their faces, middle school students enjoy a day at Mt. McSauba skiing, snowboarding, sledding, snowshoeing and having fun. Every year, students have the pleasure of dedicating an entire day to enjoying the snow with their friends. **2. April Fools!** Someone pulled a prank on Mrs. Pott by hanging 100 inflatable corn dogs from her classroom ceiling! **3. Happily displaying** their projects, 5th graders smile and hope for sales during their Colonial Market. Students put on a market to trade their goods while studying colonial times in class. **4. Elementary school** kids gathered in the gym on May 7 to enjoy an afternoon of experimenting with different tools. Volunteers from all over Charlevoix helped out with the event. **5. Pouring delicious** soy sauce onto her home made crab rangoon, senior Nikki Speigl dresses in traditional Chinese attire and serves Chinese food to High School students. The High School government class split into groups and were each responsible for representing a different foreign culture and that culture's traditional food. **6. Standing proudly** next to a check, 8th grader Lily Matchett shows off her new hair cut in front of her peers. Along with their help, Matchett raised around \$500 for Hospice of Little Traverse Bay by shaving her head bald. **7. Rocking out** on the high school Auditorium stage, (left) junior Michael Patrick and (right) senior Michael Lamoreaux show off their musical skills in the Charlevoix's Got Talent show.



8. Elementary school Principal Mr. Dick Swenor took a trip with Mrs. Nicole Sterrett's 2nd grade class to the Sleeping Bear Dunes. The class spent the afternoon in the sand having a blast with their principal. **9. Within the** confines of a room that smelled of sheep eye, 5th grade students got to dissect a sheep eye of their own and learned about the functions of the eye as well. **10. Middle school** students put on a 13 Colonies play to help with their studies. **11. Explaining all** the aspects of dental care, senior Taylor Storm goes through a presentation that she put together for the elementary school students. Storm will be attending Michigan State University in the fall and will be pursuing a degree in dental care. **12. These four** middle school students show their support for their school by dressing up in Rayder gear for spirit week. **13. Mr. Ken Plude's** class has recently been working on a garden that they created outside of the school. Here, sophomore Justin Thomas digs holes for the fence posts. **14. Mrs. Diane Priess's** kindergarten class put on a Peter Rabbit play for parents and friends to come and watch. The Peter Rabbit play is a tradition for Priess's class.



From ballet to books - Helen Donahue a teacher for all

by Hilary Way

Why do you love being a teacher?

H.D: The best part of teaching is when you see by a student's expression that they get it. It is when the light bulb comes on. You can tell they really get it when they start making connections to other parts of their life or other work they are doing. Smiles are always an added plus.

Why did you chose to be a teacher?

H.D: I have knew I wanted to be a teacher when I was really young. I used to help my brother with his work when he had problems. Before I had my degree, I taught gymnastics and ballet to kids. I also taught adult exercise classes for a number of years. So, I have been teaching for a quite a while.

How do you think you influence kids?

H.D: I think most teachers are inspired by someone who they had as a teacher. Mine was a teacher we all called "coach." He taught me the importance of trying and that, "if at first you don't succeed, try, try, again." Sometimes that is the biggest obstacle, believing you can achieve. Everyone can try! I would hope that my students understand that making mistakes is part of the learning process also. Understanding the mistakes you make helps to prevent making them again.

What are some things you like to do outside of school?

H.D: Some things I like to do outside of school are: yoga, travel, bike, run, swim, garden, visit with family, and make up silly songs and stories for my grandkids.

What is one thing you dislike about being a teacher?

H.D: The one thing I dislike about teaching is getting up so early, but clearly that is still somewhat of a personal choice. I normally get up at 4:30 in the morning, since I like to be at school by 6:00 a.m. to get papers corrected and/or to prepare for the day. I still also need time at the end of the day to tidy up and stay organized. Then it is time to replenish the body and soul with exercise and food.



For more pictures and events at Charlevoix Public Schools, visit www.rayder.net

Tools, Tools, and More Tools.

Tool School shows kids neat stuff at K4

by Alexandra Ballentine

The lights dim. The students know that's the signal to move to the next station. The presenter wraps up his topic, the students thank him and move on to the next table. Every year the school holds an event called Tool School for the third graders. A volunteer from each "career pathway" comes in to demonstrate the tools used in that field of work.

The schools incur no costs for this. The presenters that come in are volunteers from the city and schools. Learn and Serve grants pay for things like water bottles for the presenters.

This year, Mr. Mike Schmidt came in and showed the tools used for autobody repair. Schmidt has been doing this demonstration for about nine years.

Students from Charlevoix High School robotics, construction and health occupations classes also went in to demonstrate the tools used in their fields of work. An officer, a mechanic, and a librarian were also among the volunteers there.

Tool School is designed for the third graders. The grade is split into nine groups of students. A grid is created stating where each group will be at what time and each

group is color coded to keep them more organized. Each group goes to a station and listens to the presenter for about ten minutes. At the end of the ten minutes, the teacher flips a light switch so the students know to move stations.

The presenters bring items from their pathway to demonstrate the things they do.

"I love working with the kids. I had a blast. It let's us see how good of construction workers they'll be," senior Hunter Johnstone said.

Johnstone was there with the high school construction class. The construction students brought a hammer, a drill and a saw for the kids. Not only did they tell the students about the class, they allowed the students to use the tools.

"I like the robots the best because it had R2D2 in it. I also liked where you could send electricity up your fingers," said third grader Owen Pop.

Though Tool School is only for third graders, each grade has a similar activity. The first grade has Wheel Deal, the second grade has Learn to Earn and the fourth grade has Power Hour. Each activity goes along with what the grade is learning.



Helping third grader William Sheets, senior Bill Ivan works the saw like a pro. Sheets liked using the saw. He learned there are many different ways to cut wood, some easier than others.



Waiting for the instructor's help, third grader Jaden Pearsall watches as another student plays with a different tool. Pearsall liked drilling through the wood. "I drill at home with my dad too," Pearsall said.

Can we count on you to support Rayder Athletics?

With budget cuts, the Boosters are now the PRIMARY source of funding of High School and Middle School Athletics. The school's only funding is coming from ticket sales - We need your help! Here's what the Boosters have recently supported:

- Frames for Rayder Wall Of Fame
- Soccer equipment
- Senior Sports Banquet
- Tennis indoor court time
- Athletic Dept. funding due to budget cuts
- Varsity basketball uniforms
- Permanent signs over trophy cases
- Track uniforms
- Weight room Trainer
- Baseball uniforms
- Inclement weather gear for golf
- Sports Trainer
- Ice machine
- Cheer Team Uniforms
- Wrestling mat cage
- Power runner
- Varsity football jerseys
- Girl's tennis
- Outdoor practice batting cage
- Middle School boy's and girl's basketball jerseys
- Volleyball uniforms
- Parkas for ski team
- Girl's soccer uniforms

We are able to provide these items through fundraising activities and sponsorship donations. By mailing your tax-deductible donation, your name will be recognized as a sponsor of the Sports Boosters in future sports programs throughout the 2010-2011 school year.

Thank you for joining us in providing funds to support our student athletes.

Questions? Call any member of the Board. The board meetings are open to the public. They are normally held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in the teacher's lounge of the high school.

DONATIONS PAYABLE TO: CHARLEVOIX HIGH SCHOOL SPORT'S BOOSTERS

Mail to: P.O. Box 83, Charlevoix MI 49720

(Return as so possible for name to appear in future Sports Programs)

Name(s) as to appear on sponsorship list:

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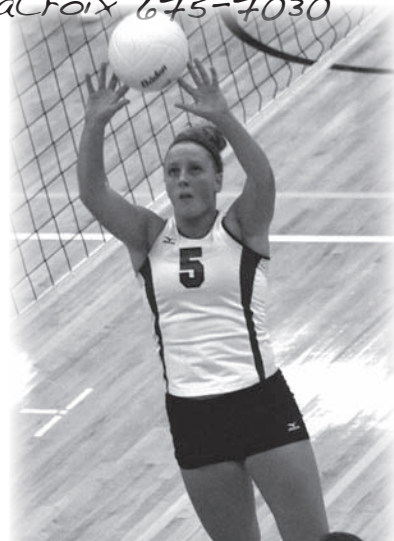
Donation amount: \$ _____

THANK YOU!

Charlevoix Sports Boosters Board Members: Christian LaCroix-President; Terry Largent,-Vice President; Shelly Stevens-Treasure; Chris Michaud-Secretary; Jill Erskine-Member; Stacey Stewart-Member; Dominique Havens-Member; Amy Russell-Member; Kari Gauthier-Member

Can't donate? How about volunteering? We need volunteers to help!

Contact: Chris LaCroix 675-7030



Go Rayders!