



88 MUSTANG MINUTES FALL 2014 ISSUE



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Superintendent's Corner
- Boo at the School 2014
- Lunch Program News
- After School Program
- Basketball Schedules
- ...much more!

Dates to Remember

- Monday, October 13
— No School in observance of Columbus Day
- Thursday, October 16 — Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm—School Improvement
- Friday, October 24
— No School for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Friday, October 31
— 1st Quarter Awards Assembly 8:30 am

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SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

The 2014-2015 is already nearly a quarter of the way over, and our District has more and more exciting news to share with our communities!

As most everyone knows, our District Board of Education voted to sell \$330,000 in Alternate Revenue Bonds in order to finance a (much-needed) HVAC improvement. After spending about \$15,000 in repairs last winter, the Board wished to repair and also obtain quotes for air conditioning options.

These bonds were immediately purchased by New Holland Bank at 0.5% lower than anticipated. These bonds are in no way impacted or paid for by levies on district property owners! This is **completely paid for by the Logan County Facilities Sales Tax**. Just one more reason to SHOP LOGAN COUNTY!!

This, with other improvements, may have the average taxpayer thinking, "Has NH-M won the lottery?" The answer is no, but through careful budgeting (we have underspent by \$90,000 each of the past

two years) and pursuing grants nearing \$250,000 in three years, the students of NH-M are getting the very best education possible. NH-M's Financial Profile is again estimated to be the perfect 4.0, Financial Recognition. Fund balances are continuing to stay in the black each year, and at the same time, we are able to increase the quality of education. Truly we are in a very unique position today, considering the state of Illinois finances.

As I've been saying and will continue to say, it's a GREAT day to be a MUSTANG! Welcome to another year of **#makingadifference**

Have a fantastic autumn!

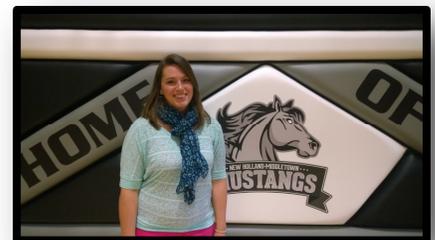
Respectfully yours,

Todd Dugan

Todd Dugan
Superintendent

MEET THE MUSTANGS

Each issue, we will spotlight a member of the NH-M faculty/staff in this column. This month, we will meet **Mrs. Lindsey Leischner**. Mrs. Leischner is in her first year of full-time teaching this year, and is teaching the Kindergarten class of NH-M. She may look familiar to some, since she also filled two maternity leaves at NH-M last year. Lindsey graduated from Illinois College in Jacksonville in 2013. She is married to her husband, Brett, who teaches at Porta High School in Porta District 202. They currently live in nearby Petersburg with their puppy Raylan. Mrs. Leischner is very excited to join the NH-M family, and will be sponsoring the Beta Club this year!



BOO AT THE SCHOOL 2014

Once again, NH-M is hosting “Boo at the School” for community families. This annual event will be in its 3rd year of existence, but has quickly become a community tradition! This year, it will be held on **Friday, October 31st (Halloween Night) from 5:00 pm—7:00 pm**. As in years past, this event is FREE and open to the public...there will be fun and games and inflatables, costume contest and Halloween fun and treats for the entire family! If you are interested in setting up a booth at this event, please contact Minde Moore at mmoore@nhm88.com or at 445-2421.



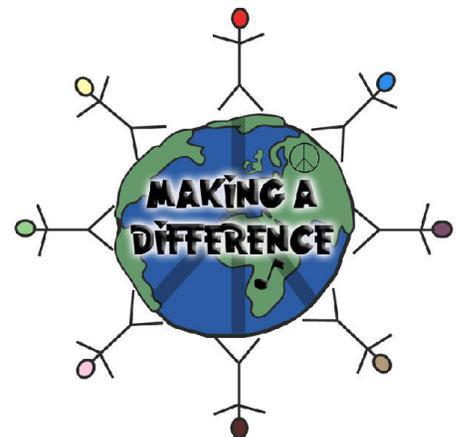
21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

NH-M is very proud to announce the “kick-off” of its Federally-funded after school program beginning later this month! Known as 21st Century Schools, this program will run twice per week (**Tuesdays and Thursdays**). We are very excited to bring this program to NH-M, courtesy of the Tazewell County Health Department! These 90-minute study sessions are funded by Title I and will assist students with 1) homework completion with a healthy snack, followed by 2) completion of a positive choice curriculum, and 3) finished with 30 minutes of physical exercise. As of now, the first 10-12 slots will be selected by students meeting the exact criteria, but after that, we will be happy to accept requests! This program will run from mid-October until the end of April, 2015. In other schools, it has been proven to raise student achievement by as much as 30%, and we can't wait to see some of those same benefits for our kids!



#MAKINGADIFFERENCE DAY 2014

NH-M will hold its first ever #makingadifference Day on Thursday, November 20, 2014. This is a unique day teaching students the importance of service to their communities. Every willing student in grades 5-8 will spend the morning “making a difference” in both New Holland and Middletown, under the supervision of NH-M staff. Examples of things we would like to accomplish are: helping the elderly, raking leaves for the disabled, sprucing up a littered yard/park, doing various tasks benefitting the communities, etc. We are now accepting jobs to line up for this date...so if you know of anything that needs done, please call the school to line up some volunteers. This is an exciting chance for us to give back, so please do not hesitate to call with small service jobs! Just another way that NH-M is *#makingadifference!*



VISION & HEARING SCREENING

This year, the **Logan County Health Department** will be visiting NH-M to conduct annual vision and hearing screenings. Every student in K-3 grades, 8th grade, speech, special education students, and teacher referrals will be screened. These screenings are mandatory by law as a result of the School Health Code, Article 27, Section 8-1. All information is kept confidential, and parents will be notified of any concerns by the Vision and Hearing Technician of the LCHD. As always, please call the school with any questions.

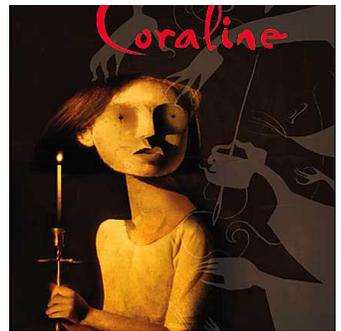


NH-M BOOK & FILM CLUB

To further explore the power of story (a theme of Mrs. Caitlin Lore's Reading classes this year,) the Junior High students have started a Book & Film Club. The plan of the club is to collectively vote on a book and film adaptation combo for the month, utilize the Kindle collection so each student can read the book at their own pace. Students can then meet over lunch periods to talk about the book, watch the movie and discuss the power of story.

For October, the Book & Film Club has chosen *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman—a perfectly spooky tale to read for the season! The synopsis from Goodreads says, "Coraline's often wondered what's behind the locked door in the drawing room. It reveals only a brick wall when she finally opens it, but when she tries again later, a passageway mysteriously appears. Coraline is surprised to find a flat decorated exactly like her own, but strangely different. And when she finds her "other" parents in this alternate world, they are much more interesting despite their creepy black button eyes. When they make it clear, however, that they want to make her theirs forever, Coraline begins a nightmarish game to rescue her real parents and three children imprisoned in a mirror. With only a bored-through stone and an aloof cat to help, Coraline confronts this harrowing task of escaping these monstrous creatures.

Students began reading the book on September 30 and will meet during lunch periods. Feel free to read *Coraline* along with us this month!



COMMUNITY ELGIBILITY PROVISION

As most of you have probably heard, **all students are now eligible to eat free breakfast and free lunch!** Any parents that have paid any lunch or breakfast money this year will receive a refund immediately following the October 15 regular Board of Education meeting. Milk will still cost 30 cents (either as special or extra milk,) but NH-M is hopeful that as many families as possible will take advantage of the school's hot meal program! Not only is this essential to student health, but it also greatly contributes to student learning! This program will be in effect for the next four years, thanks to a grant from the US Department of Education.



LCHS HOMECOMING PARADE

The Lincoln Community High School Homecoming Parade will be held on **Friday, October 10th, 2014**. As has been the tradition, the NH-M Kindergarten class will have its own float. *Any student* that wishes to attend this parade may leave school early if parents notify the school in the form of a note or a phone call.

Go Railers!



REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

This year, NH-M has been selected by the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) to be the host school for the following Junior High Athletics Regional Tournaments:

- 7th Girls' Basketball — November 22, 24-26, 2014
- 7th Boys' Basketball — January 24, 26-29, 2015
- 8th Boys' Basketball — January 31, Feb. 2, 3, 5, 2015

Many parents expressed interest in volunteering to host these events at Open House— thank you!



BUILDING RENOVATIONS & UPGRADES

NH-M has begun the task of upgrading its heating (1980s steam boiler converted to hot water) and cooling (non-existent) systems this year. This is being pursued with GRP Mechanical under a "Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract" that will hopefully be completed by the end of 2014. The large boiler has been drained and dismantled and is being replaced by two smaller boilers operating in redundancy. The energy efficiency in the heating along will see an *increase from approximately 60% to a 97%-efficient system!!* Not only is this an example of NH-M being good stewards of tax dollars, but it is also our district being good stewards of the environment for generations of future **Mustangs!**



TECH & LEARNING 2014

Every year, leaders from the nation's leading 50-60 school districts in the area of technology and innovative instruction participate in a 2-day School CIO Summit. This year, the Summit is taking place in San Francisco, CA and **New Holland-Middletown was asked to be represented!!** This puts us in great company... Wheaton #200 is the only other Illinois school district invited to attend! Be sure to stay tuned...what an honor! Be proud, NH-M!



NH-M #88
Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

**BOXHOLDER
MIDDLETOWN, IL 62666**

