



# NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement  
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

## Winter 2014 -15

### NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

*A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District*

Issued December 18, 2014 - Volume 2: Published four times a year by  
The Nicolet Union High School District, 6701 North Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217



It's hard to believe that we are already four months into our school year and I'm happy to report that we are off to a great start.

Nicolet High School achieved an overall accountability score and rating in the "exceeds expectations" rankings on the annual School Report Card released by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Additionally, Nicolet was named to *Newsweek's* list of the top 500 high schools in America.

Our winter newsletter highlights the achievements of our students and staff, as well as activities that have taken place inside and outside the classroom over the past few months. Nicolet's daily constructive learning experiences reflect our students' and staff's focused effort and unwavering expectations.

I am proud of the Nicolet learning community for continuing our tradition of excellence and I look forward to building on that success as our academic school year continues.

The Winter Holidays tend to enhance the air of benevolence, as well as the enchanting time of learning within our school. Our students have worked diligently with our teachers to provide care for others within the broader Nicolet community. The many charitable student fundraising activities will help make this a season of kindness and peaceful giving. I share with you my gratitude for each student and for the spirit of caring that is truly Nicolet High School.

I would like to extend my best wishes for a joyful Winter Holiday season. May you and your family remain safe, create new memories, and find time to celebrate personal accomplishments. Please remember to give thanks as I thank you, your family, and the community for the peaceful fortitude that you bring to Nicolet High School.

Best Wishes to All! I look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Yours in education,

Robert Kobylski, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 14: Nicolet Parent 201
- January 20-23: Exams
- January 28: Nicolet Parent 101
- February 11: Coffee with the Superintendent
- February 13-15, 20-21: Hairspray the Musical
- March 3-4: ACT Testing (Juniors)
- March 5: Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 7: UW-Madison Band Performance
- March 11: Nicolet Parent 101
- April 15: Nicolet Parent 101
- April 21: Coffee with the Superintendent
- May 13: Nicolet Parent 101

*More dates are available at [www.nicolet.us](http://www.nicolet.us)*



*Continuing the back-to-school tradition, administrators and teachers lined the red carpet to greet students before the bell rang to kick off the 2014-15 school year in September.*



## NICOLET ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

### STUDENTS

Senior **Andrew McKee** was invited to attend the annual Honors Student Reception sponsored by the 100 Black Men Chicago Chapter. Andrew joined other seniors from the Milwaukee area on Friday, October 10 in Chicago to interface with representatives from over 40 colleges and universities from around the country to explore admissions and scholarship opportunities.

**Soreh Milchtein**, junior, was recently awarded the Bright Futures Award. Soreh received her award at the Evening to Promote Racial Justice event on December 2 at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's Event Center.

Nicolet junior **Billy Manger** earned his Eagle Scout rank after he organized a 20-person volunteer effort to improve the homes of people living in extreme poverty in Hazard, Kentucky. Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in scouting.



*Billy Manger, Nicolet '16*

### FACULTY

Nicolet's **World Language Department** was awarded the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT) 2014 Donna Clementi Award. The award recognizes a school's dedication to quality world language programs.



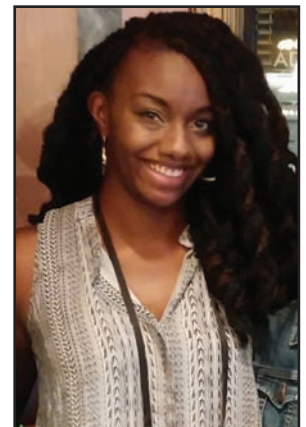
Nicolet's **Diane Tess** was one of five teachers honored by the Wisconsin chapter of the Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese as Teacher of the Year for her commitment and the participation of her students in the pronunciation contests and National Spanish Exam, as well as activities with the Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society.

### ALUMNI

**Laron Taylor's** (Nicolet '86) cookie business, Lai Lida Cookies, was recently featured by OnMilwaukee.com.

**Alex Cohen** (Nicolet '11) is playing her senior season of basketball at Northwestern University and Fox6 recently highlighted her efforts to raise awareness for autism.

**Alexis Wilkinson** (Nicolet '11) was recently named the first black female president of the Harvard Lampoon, the world's oldest continually published humor magazine. She is a senior undergraduate student at Harvard University studying economics and psychology. Alexis' writing has been published in *Boston Magazine*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Cosmopolitan* and *TIME*. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in screenwriting.



*Alexis Wilkinson, Nicolet '11*



## MICROSOFT CERTIFICATION

In 2013 Nicolet's Business and Technology Department began offering students the opportunity to receive certification via Microsoft. Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) and Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) certifications help validate proficiency using Microsoft Applications and meet the demand for the most up-to-date skills on the latest Microsoft Technologies. The certificate gives students the opportunity to earn college credit at over 1,000 schools nationwide. Additionally, students are creating a competitive advantage for themselves by putting Microsoft on their resumes. With the help of teacher Mike Kania, students have earned over 50 certifications in the past year. The most recent students to receive certification include:

Aaron Broadnax	John Ish-Shalom
Alison Reikher	Johnesha Ragsdale
Amanda Mehl	Jonathan Currie ('14)
Amir Rassuli	Jonathan IZard
Andrew Dorsey	Kareem Benson
Arielle Minor	Marco Dessalvi
Asia Allen ('14)	Marlon Jones
Dmitriy Kravtsov	Mary Placek
Ellexus Welch ('14)	Meagan Gauss
Gabe Swisher	Morgan Johnstone
Julie Xiong	Mumal Tunio
Jacob Becker ('14)	Samantha Koltun
Jaida Drame	Stelle Kleynerman
Jake Kelderman	Tatyana Pearson
Jaylie Smith('14)	Taylor Hansen
Joe Azbel	Victoria Borum

## BLUE STAR SCHOOL

Nicolet High School has been recognized by WISE (Working in Support of Education) as a Blue Star School for Nicolet students' performance on the Financial Literacy Certification Exam. Ten students took the exam as part of Nicolet's Personal Finance course. All of them passed making Nicolet one of a handful of schools nationwide where 100% of the students that took the exam passed. Business and Technology Teacher Mike Kania was also awarded a Gold Star Teacher Award for his work with the students.



## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Congratulations to Nicolet's eight National Merit Semifinalists: Matthew Fox, Raphael Hallerman, Madeleine Haworth, Sharlotte Irwin, Filip Josifovski, Hilary Merline, Katherine Quam, Thomas Schneider. Additionally, Eli Cohen, Rebecca Lubar, Michelle Margolies and Jordan Perry were named Commended Students in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Of the approximately 16,000 semifinalists nationwide, 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level. The final scholarship winners will be selected later next year based on their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received.



*National Merit Semifinalists*



*National Merit Commended Students*



## NICOLET ATHLETIC UPDATES

**Football:** Junior Varsity set a NHS record with 10 wins for the season. Seniors Jamalle Williams and Isaah Radix played Varsity football for the SWCHA Saints and appeared in the Independent Football Division Championship game.

**Boys Soccer:** Freshman Andrew Muenster earned Honorable Mention All-Conference, Sophomore Joel Kaswan earned Honorable Mention All-Conference and Junior Jake Kelderman earned 2nd team All-Conference.

**Girls Tennis:** 133 teams started the 2014 tennis season. The Lady Knights made it to the final 4 before falling to number 1 ranked Arrowhead in the semifinals of the team state tournament. The Knights beat Green Bay Notre Dame 6-1 in the quarter-finals. It was a great season for the girls.

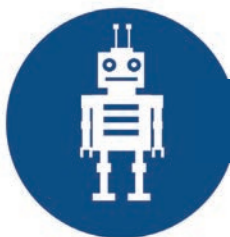
#1 singles: Nina Gerard  
#2 singles: Jojo Docalavich  
#3 singles: Elise Gerard  
#4 singles: Angela Sendik

#1 doubles: Michelle Margolies and Erin Wathen  
#2 doubles: Marli Stellhorn and Jaida Drame  
#3 doubles: Morgan Markenson and Ellie Berman  
#4 doubles: Maddie Wallace and Jane Moede



**Girls Swim:** Girls Swim Team placed 5th at the Cedarburg WIAA Sectional Championship Meet. Gwen Worlton set two school records, one in the 200 Individual Medley and reset her school record in the 100 breaststroke with an automatic All-American qualifying time. Gwen, along with Jamie Kloehn, Libby Geboy, and Sarah Zelazoski qualified for the state meet in the 200 medley relay. Jamie Kloehn recorded the 5th fastest time in Nicolet history in the 50 freestyle.

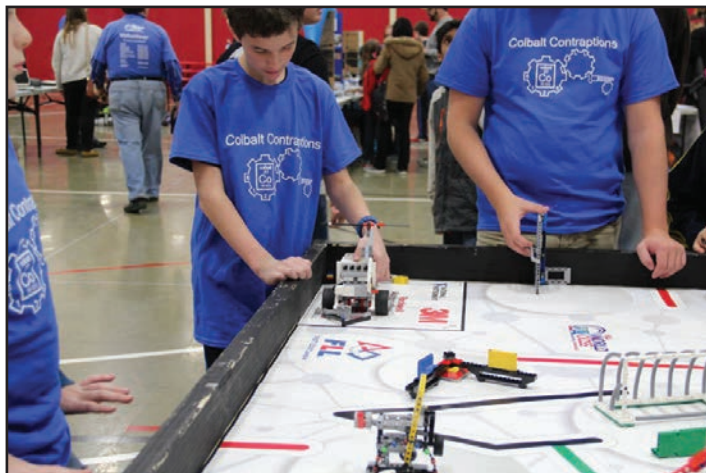
**Cross Country:** Aaron Zetley finished 2nd Team All-Conference and Michelle Pigg & Silas Nelson earned Honorable Mention All-Conference.



## F.E.A.R. CONTINUES TO THRIVE AT NICOLET

The First LEGO League (FLL) program will be held at Nicolet as an outlet of the high school robotics team, Nicolet FEAR. There are two partner schools invested with teacher mentors and financial support, and there are 6th, 7th and 8th grade students on the team from all three partner middle schools (Maple Dale, Bayside and Glen Hills). The combined four FLL teams competed in November at the Wisconsin FLL Regional held at Waukesha South High School. The theme of this year's program was "World Class," about the methods and styles of learning around the world.

The teams competed in 3 areas: a Team Project Presentation (students chose a topic based on the theme, researched it and created a presentation--similar to a "science fair" project), a Team Building Challenge (a two-minute challenge to see how well students work as a team unit), and the Robot Game (students designed, created and programmed a LEGO robot to maneuver on a game field and complete "missions" by interacting with LEGO structures).



*Students from Nicolet's partner middle schools are participating in the First LEGO League.*

## NICOLET THEATRE PROGRAM UPDATES



Nicolet High School Theatre presented “*Nevermore!* Edgar Allan Poe – The Final Mystery” by Julian Wiles this past fall.

*Nevermore!* is a fictional play about the end of Edgar Allan Poe’s life. In October 1849, Edgar Allan Poe is reported to have boarded a steamer in Baltimore Harbor for an overnight voyage to New York City. He never arrived. What transpired over those five missing days has remained forever a mystery...until now. The imaginative play, utilizing the macabre stories and poems of one of America’s most celebrated writers, ponders what might have happened to him on the dreary nightmare voyage at the end of his life. Filled with masterful illusions and disappearances, *Nevermore!* kept audiences on the edge of their seats from the first curtain to the final denouement.

*Nevermore!* was Nicolet Theatre’s first show of the year, and Director Laura Anderle’s debut production with Nicolet. Over 60 students participated in the production.



*The 2014 Fall Play was “Nevermore.”*

UP NEXT...  
**hairspray**  
BROADWAY'S BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT!  
[www.hairspragthemusical.com](http://www.hairspragthemusical.com)  
February 13 - 15, 20 - 21

## UW-MADISON MARCHING BAND TO VISIT IN 2015



**Date of concert: March 7, 2015**



The Nicolet High School Foundation and the three partner K-8 District Foundations (Glendale-River Hills, Maple Dale-Indian Hill and Fox Point-Bayside) are coming together to host the UW Varsity Marching Band in concert at Nicolet. The concert is scheduled for 2 p.m. on March 7, 2015.

The UW-Madison Marching Band has performed its famous “Fifth Quarter” to appreciative audiences all over the country, including the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. In addition to refreshments, available for purchase, the event will feature a silent auction and other surprises.

Ticket information is available by calling (414) 351-7561.



## FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

The 2014-15 academic year is off to a great start and a number of our annual events continue to be huge successes within the school and our community. We are very proud of the outstanding homecoming week organized by Student Council, the artisan fair, school triathlon and the community food drive just to name a few.

Planning for the 2015-16 school year is underway. If you're a parent of a new student, please see information to the right regarding our Parent 101 Series.

We wish you all a safe and happy end to 2014 and a happy new year.

-Principal Greg Kabara

### Upcoming Nicolet Parents 101: For NEW Parents to Nicolet High School

<b>Session 1: January 28, 2015 (Theatre)</b> Academic Planning for High School Scheduling Student and Parent Resources Graduation Requirements Junior Knights Day	<b>Session 3: April 15, 2015 (Library)</b> The Informed Parent Skyward Access Parent Organizations Go To List
<b>Session 2: March 11, 2015 (Library)</b> Transition: The Nicolet Way School Culture Daily Schedule Skyward Access	<b>Session 4: May 13, 2015 (Library)</b> The Involved Student/Parent Activities/Co-Curriculars Athletics Positive Coaching Alliance

## NICOLET GIVES BACK

A record 75 Nicolet students helped sort and pack boxes completing a successful Nicolet Thanksgiving Food Drive. Mayor Tom Barrett stopped by to thank the students for thinking beyond their lives to help those in need. Congratulations to these students for being wonderful ambassadors of a caring Nicolet community:

Adam Afifi, Carrie Allen, Joe Azbel, Maya Bhadkamkar, Arielle Bordow, Sydney Calmes, John Campbell, Sophia Carlton, Mikey Carruth, Sami Castle, Katie Cianciola, Benji Cohn, Alanna Conley, David Cranberg, Teahya Crego, Michael Dunst, Zachary Ellner, Zahra Farahbakhsh, Daryan Fisher, Christopher Flick, Maddie Folstein, Shante Fossie, Ilana Friedman, Sam Gorman, Kailey Gullickson, Tamar Halmann, Zach Hampel, Kiki Harris, Ben Hayes, Maddie Haworth, Carlie Herda, Jubilee Hou, Taka Ishikuri, Claire Jennings, Emma Juettner, Olivia Kirk, Stella Kleynerman, Claire Konnor, Morgan Kramer, Ellen Liang, Jordan Levy, Maya Magaña, Hannah McBride, Molly McBride, Cassie Meyers, Essence McCovery, Adam Mitchell, Jeremy Moeser, Maggie Navarre, Sofia Nicolet, Sarah Nocton, Nina Nguyen, Thomas Nguyen, Helene O'Connell, Joelle Osterwind, Diana Palencia, Micaela Penn, Annie Ricigliano, Greta Ricigliano, Emily Roesner, Samantha Schnoll, Carli Shapiro, Danielle Smith, Danielle Steinberger, Jake Streeck, Shelby Swan, Lizzie Tong, Aaron Trattner, Joe Vuchetich, Erin Wathen, Brynn Weiss, Whitney Werthheimer, Laura Whitney, Rachel Verkhovykh

Nicolet's Community Service Club, to date, has had students volunteer/help at the following places/events:

- Dragon Dash
- AIDS Walk Wisconsin
- Susan Komen Race for a Cure
- Our Next Generation Literacy program
- St. Ben's Meal program
- Milwaukee Rescue Mission donation drive
- Schlitz Audobon
- Hunger Task Force Farm
- Kletzsch Park Fall clean up
- MACC Fund Candy Cane Lane set up
- Milwaukee African Woman's Association Ebola Relief Efforts

Members include: Tagash Belete, Jack Berroug, Sidney Capati, Eli Cohen, Jacob Cohen, Olivia Forshee, Libby Geboy, Billy Han, Stella Kleynerman, Hannah McBride, Michelle Margolies, Katie Novak, Diana Palencia, Rebecca Perl, George Wilson and Sarah Zelazoski



## SPECIAL TRIATHLON MEMORIALIZES NICOLET STUDENT



It was an emotional scene at Nicolet High School on Friday, Oct. 24, when 16 students in the adaptive physical education program overcame their physical and developmental limitations to run, cycle and swim their way to glory in the school's second annual Life Skills Triathlon.

The triathlon was developed last year as a way to teach goal-setting and lifestyle fitness to students in the school's adaptive physical education class. Students from traditional physical education classes helped the triathletes train for the competition. Just like any other athlete would train for a triathlon, the students in the adaptive physical education classes trained for six weeks riding stationary bikes, running around the track and swimming laps in the pool.

"They worked really hard, and they were very proud of themselves," said adaptive physical education teacher Laura Mildebrandt.

During the triathlon, students and teachers cheered on the triathletes with words of encouragement and high fives. The support of the school community brought smiles to the faces of the triathletes as they pedaled, ran and swam their way through the competition.

"These students are usually the biggest cheerleaders for traditional WIAA sports, so it's very special for them to have their classmates and the rest of the school cheer for them," Mildebrandt said.

The triathlon has sparked some friendships between students in the adaptive physical education classes and the traditional gym classes. In addition to helping them train, the traditional gym class students played games with the adaptive students. The week before the triathlon, they did the dance from Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

"They eat lunch with each other, say 'Hi' to each other, and make the adaptive students feel included in their social activities," Mildebrandt said.

This year's triathlon was held in memory of former triathlon participant Lydia Sahin, who lost her battle with cancer in August. In Lydia's honor, the triathletes, students and teachers wore pink shirts — Lydia's favorite color — that said, "We TRI for Lydia."

Lydia's parents were at the triathlon to show their support for their daughter's former classmates. Lydia's mother, Jennifer Sahin, said her daughter benefitted from the Life Skills program at Nicolet, which prepares special needs students for post-high school life by teaching independent living skills such as cooking, cleaning and money management at an off-campus apartment.

Sahin said her daughter made great friends through Special Olympics, the Life Skills program and the Life Skills Triathlon.

"Lydia would have absolutely loved this," Sahin said of the triathlon. "It's so positive for the school and the community. Good things have happened in Lydia's memory."

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Nicolet School Board

**Marilyn Franklin**, President

**Morton Grodsky**, Vice President

**Joseph Kasle**, Clerk

**Ellen Redeker**, Treasurer

**Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman**, Member

## SMILE, NICOLET!



*Nicolet students celebrate at the 2014 Homecoming Dance. The theme was "Roaring 20's."*



*A group of the Nicolet students recently received their Microsoft Certification. Certified students have the opportunity to earn college credit. Great job, students!*



*For the last three years, medical students from the Medical College of Wisconsin have been working with the Anatomy and Physiology students at Nicolet. Each semester first and second year medical students work with Nicolet students during the beginning of their fetal pig dissections. In addition to mentoring Nicolet students on dissection techniques and anatomy, the medical students are also available to answer questions about different careers in the health sciences and the educational paths needed to pursue different occupations.*