



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Spring 2015

NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

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The Nicolet Union High School District, 6701 North Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217



As we approach the home stretch of the academic year, we are once again excited to share news about the recent successes of our students and staff.

In this newsletter, we are also sharing information about the proposed state budget. Planning ahead for the 2015-16 school year, Nicolet will face fiscal challenges similar to other districts in the area if the proposed budget is approved.

We remain committed to ensuring that our students receive a top-notch education

while maintaining our responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. That is why we are talking to our legislators to educate them on how the proposed revenue reductions would impact Nicolet in hopes that there may be changes before the budget is finalized.

When facing budget reductions in the past, the district has made difficult decisions to reduce operating expenses in order to maintain a balanced budget. Budget holes have also been filled thanks to \$2.15 million per year in revenues generated from the operational referendum that was approved in 2011. We are mindful that the 2015-16 budget is the final year for these funds.

The district will again look for cost saving measures and innovative solutions, and I want to assure you that we will work through these fiscal challenges together in order to provide a quality education that will continue to accelerate achievement at Nicolet.

After reviewing the details of the proposed state budget, I invite you to ask me questions and share your thoughts on how the district can best address these challenges. I can be reached at robert.kobylski@nicolet.us and at 414.351.7525.

Yours in education,

Robert Kobylski, Ed.D.
Superintendent



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 15: Parent Education Series (Nicolet Parent 101) "The Informed Parent"

April 20: REDgen Series

April 21: Coffee with the Superintendent

April 23: Parent Education Series (Nicolet Parent 101) "Empowering your child to succeed in College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM)"

April 24-26: Nicolet Children's Show: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

April 25: Prom

May 6: Varsity Track & Field North Shore Conference Relays (held at Nicolet)

May 7-10: Spring Play: *Don't Drink the Water*

May 8-9: Nicolet Varsity Boys Tennis Invitational

May 13: Parent Education Series (Nicolet Parent 101) "The Involved Student/Parent"

May 16: Nicolet Varsity Softball Tournament

May 19: Band Concert

May 21: Merit Award Ceremony

May 27: Senior Awards & Athletic Scholarship Night

May 28: Orchestra Concert

May 29-30: Relay for Life

June 2: Choir Concert

June 3: Thespian Inductions

June 6: Cocoa & Cram

June 8-11: Exams

June 14: Graduation

June 27: Nicolet Varsity Baseball Tournament

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us!



New Course Options for 2015-16

3D Modeling: This STEM course has many activities and exercises that enable students to put design concepts into practice. This course gives students the opportunity to explore and become nationally certified in Solidworks (3-D Modeling).

Design for Manufacturing: In this year-long course, all design is focused on creating objects with real functions that will be manufactured by students. SolidWorks skills will be reinforced and new skills will be developed. The course combines the integration of higher level problem solving with STEM principles.

Principles of Engineering and Technology: This is a foundation course in the STEM program for students interested in learning more about careers in engineering, physics, and technology. The course covers basic skills required for these fields of study.

Technical Theatre 2: This is a “hands on” course that extends the backstage skills necessary for the production of a play. Students will take a more active role in the management of the theater as well as outside productions produced at school. Students will apply their knowledge of backstage tasks by doing independent projects that will allow the stage to function efficiently.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

On March 11 Nicolet High School students hosted a forum for the three candidates running for the Nicolet School Board. Nicolet Senior Sydney O’Hare organized the forum as part of her senior year internship.

LuAnn Bird, a volunteer from the League of Women Voters moderated the forum. Incumbent school board members Marilyn Franklin and Libby Gutterman as well as newcomer Michael Steele are running in the general election to fill two open positions on the board.

Election Day is Tuesday, April 7.

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

In February, Governor Walker presented his proposed budget for the next two-year budget cycle, starting in July 2015 and going through June 2017. The Joint Finance Committee is currently debating the proposal and will suggest revisions for the full legislature’s approval in June. The overall impact of the proposed state budget on Nicolet would be a reduction of nearly half a million dollars.

This is the first budget in several years that does not include a per pupil increase. The past two fiscal years, this adjustment has provided a \$75 per pupil increase that generated an additional \$80,000 per year for the district. The annual increase has provided a stable and predictable amount of funds in budgetary planning. The impact of this change is even more significant because the proposed budget reduces state aid by \$150 per student. This proposed reduction equates to \$161,850 for the 2015-16 school year.

Additionally, the governor’s budget proposal calls for the elimination of the Chapter 220 integration program. This change would allow current 9th, 10th and 11th graders to complete high school at Nicolet, but as currently proposed students in our K8 partner districts would be ineligible to attend Nicolet. This means Nicolet would no longer receive additional funding for participating in the program. For the 2015-16 school year, aid would be reduced by \$113,022 based upon the graduation of this year’s seniors. Traditionally new students starting their freshmen year would offset that loss. The district would continue to lose aid each year as students graduate, which could result in increased property taxes to maintain state mandated funding.

The district will continue to monitor the budget as it moves through the approval process so that we can plan accordingly. For more information on the state budget, you can visit:

www.doa.state.wi.us/Documents/DEBF/Budget/Biennial%20Budget/2015-17%20Executive%20Budget/bib1517.pdf



Grad Grams for Nicolet Seniors

Grad Grams are a Nicolet tradition. They offer a special way to congratulate our graduating seniors and staff retirees in a permanent keepsake. Grad grams can be sent by anyone: parents, relatives, teachers, friends, neighbors, classmates, employers, coaches, teammates, church members, doctors, or former students.



Grad Grams help support Nicolet PTSO events for students, parents and staff. Order forms including graduates and retirees will be available online at <http://www.nicolet.us/families/ptso.cfm> and in the school offices beginning April 10th through May 15th.

A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

Greetings, Nicolet families and community members!

We are heading into our final quarter of the 2014-15 academic year and looking forward to a number of exciting end of year events, including prom on April 25th and graduation on June 14th. We have celebrated many student achievements this year in academics, athletics and in the arts. The all student awards night will be held on May 27th to recognize many of these great accomplishments. Scheduling for the 2015-16 school year is well underway. Course placements will be sent later this spring. We have already begun the 8th grade transition process by hosting the Junior Knights days and our first Parent 101 session.

Thank you for supporting Nicolet High School.

Greg Kabara
Principal of Nicolet High School

UPCOMING REDgen SERIES

Heroin in the North Shore – *What Every Parent Needs to Know*

The upcoming REDgen Series will feature a panel of experts presenting on the signs of drug use, the dangers and effects of Heroin on teens and families, as well as prevention advice and treatment options.

When: Monday, April 20 (6 p.m. – 8 p.m.)

Where: Nicolet Fine Arts Center

For more information visit: www.nicolet.us/families/redgen.cfm

NICOLET SCHOLASTIC WRITING WINNERS

In the Regional Scholastic competition, out of almost 200 entries, silver keys were awarded to the following Nicolet students:

John Campbell
Craig Carey
Serena Dow
Maddy Folstein
Riley Grossman

Morgan Johnstone
Hilary Merline
Katherine Quam
Ale Tejada
Joe Vuchetich

A special congratulations to **Jessica Plotkin**, whose writing won both a silver key and one of the region's three gold keys! Jessica was recently awarded an American Voices Award for her personal essay, "Sight in Darkness." She is one of two American Voices winners in the state.



National Scholastic Writing Winners



NICOLET FACULTY & ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

FACULTY

Nicolet Math teacher **Eliot Scheuer** has been selected as a Herb Kohl Fellowship recipient for his skill as a leader and his ability to inspire the love of learning in his students. Scheuer will be recognized at a luncheon on April 11. Both Scheuer and Nicolet High School will receive a \$3,000 grant.

Nicolet's Director of Technology, **John Reiels** (Nicolet '81), was honored as a Leader in Excellence by the Skyward Company. Reiels has led the development of key technology initiatives that promote student and educator success at Nicolet. Only three people in the country received this award.

Nicolet Business and Technology teacher **Mike Kania** was among 17 individuals, business and organizations from around the state to receive 2014 Wisconsin Financial Literacy Award, as selected by the Governor's Council on Financial Literacy. The recipients were honored in a ceremony at the Capitol on January 28.

Kania was featured in the North Shore NOW on February 12 and said, "I always tell students that the most important course they should take is financial literacy, because it gets students comfortable with money management," Kania said. "We cover a complete range of financial topics, from things they need to know in high school and college and beyond."



Mike Kania and his wife, Kristin, with Governor Scott Walker

ALUMNI

Ashley Greene (Nicolet '11) finished her collegiate basketball career for UW-Milwaukee on March 11. She set a school record with her fifth 30-point game of the season on Senior Day at the Klotsche Center. Ashley scored 1,599 points during her career at UW-Milwaukee, putting her in fourth place on the school's all-time scoring list.

A McDonald's commercial that aired during Super Bowl XLIX was directed by **Sam Macon** (Nicolet '98) and produced by **Jonah Mueller** (Nicolet '98).

Rajiv Vinnakota (Nicolet '89) is a founder of the SEED Foundation, which operates public boarding schools for underserved children in Maryland, South Florida and Washington, D.C.

Drew Melchert (Nicolet '13) is a sophomore at the University of Chicago. He was recently published in Physical Letters journal as the second author of an article that examines the nature of superconductivity.

STUDENTS RECEIVE VISUAL ART AWARDS



Congratulations to Nicolet students who have won state, national and international awards in the visual arts. A record number of 24 students earned a total of 63 Regional Scholastic Art Awards.



Photograph by Westen Groh. Westen is a finalist in the NIKON International Photography Competition. Westen currently belongs to a professional photographer's guild where he is the only student member. He hopes to become a photographer for National Geographic some day.

Scholastic Regional Art Competition

Portfolio Awards

Robert Dietz - Silver Key
Robert Dietz - Gold Key
Westen Groh - Silver Key
Yaryna Kucheras - Gold Key

Young Arts: Honorable Mention

Robert Dietz

Nikon International Photography Competition Finalists

Robert Dietz
Westen Groh

Individual Entry Awards

Sarah Baker - Silver Key
Carley Binder - Gold Key
Emma Bird - Gold Key
Arielle Bordow - Gold Key, 2 Honorable Mentions
Mikayla DeMaio - Gold Key
Robert Dietz - 4 Gold Keys, 1 Silver Key, 5 Honorable Mentions
William Dietz - Gold Key, Silver Key, Honorable Mention
Lieschen du Plessis - Gold Key, Silver Key, 2 Honorable Mentions
Maddie Falk - Gold Key, Honorable Mention
Westen Groh - 7 Honorable Mentions
Katherine Harris - Gold Key
Yaryna Kucheras - Silver Key



Photograph by Robert Dietz. Robert is also a finalist in the NIKON International Photography Competition. Robert has earned a scholarship to attend Cooper Union, a top ranked, highly selective school of architecture, art and engineering in New York City.

Sofia Nicolet - 4 Honorable Mentions
Katie Novak - Silver Key
Jordan Perry - 2 Honorable Mentions
Brandon Poll - 4 Honorable Mentions
Sarah Schoenfeldt - 2 Honorable Mentions
Maryam Tunio - Silver Key, Honorable Mention
Aaron Zetley - Silver Key

**To see a group photo of the award winners, visit
www.nicolet.us/nicolet-news.cmf#d378513**



NICOLET ATHLETIC UPDATES

Gymnastics: The girls hosted the NSC Conference meet this year and finished 3rd out of 9 teams. Varsity gymnasts included: Ellen Liang, Cailin Mahoney, Hayley Raj, Lauryn Wagner, Allie Marcus and Jenna Koshakow. The team then finished runner-up in the WIAA Sectionals which qualified them for the WIAA State Tournament where they finished 4th out of 10 teams. In the individual state competition, Cailin Mahoney finished 4th on the vault, Hayley Raj placed 6th on the balance beam and Ellen Liang finished 7th on the uneven bars.

Boys Basketball: The team was led by top scorers: Jezzriah Burton, Raylonzo Woods and Isaiah Glidden.

Ski Team: Both the boys and girls teams qualified for the State Tournament. Team members included: Sam Shields, Charlie Rosmann, Charlie Dickson, Harry Rosmann, Jake Tarnowski, Mikey Carruth, Sam Wieggers, Cassie Meyers, Elizabeth Jaekels, Sydney Smith, Justine Spore, Maddie Wallace, Shelby Hammond and Grace Reckmeyer. Elizabeth Jaekels was named First Team All-Conference.

Girls Hockey: The team finished the regular season with a 22-2 record and won the conference championship. They went on to win the **WIAA State Championship**. The team was led by 1st Team All-Conference sophomore Nicole Unsworth who scored the winning goal in the state championship game, a 2-1 victory over Hayward.

Boys Hockey: Nicolet had 10 players play varsity hockey in the WFB co-op this year: Zach Asmann, Kyle Asmann, Kyle Brahm, George Sullivan, Nico Aguilar, Avi Paley, Ethan Long, Milo Hines III, Christopher Dedert and Connor Aguilar.

Wrestling: The team advanced 6 wrestlers to the WIAA Sectional Tournament: Chris Azcueta, Savion Dean, Teague Worlton, Adam Plotkin, Jaren Yoder and Deinote Reynolds.

Boys Swim: Nine Nicolet Swimmers and Divers qualified for the WIAA State Tournament.

Swimmers: Dylan Hall, Collin Siverhus, Ben Cook, Taylor Hanson, Michael Mills and Riccardo Romersi. **Divers:** Jeremy Moser, Wesley Washington and Matthew Fox. The Nicolet Boys Swim team finished 2nd in the Sectional meet and 4th out of 32 teams at the WIAA State Meet.

Girls Basketball: The team was led by twin sisters: Brandelyn and Brookelyn Robertson who finished as the team's top scorers. Samantha Peltz led the team in both rebounding and assists. Brandelyn Robertson and Lizzy Benson were named Honorable Mention All-Conference.



NICOLET'S MOCK TRIAL TEAMS

Congratulations to the **Nicolet Mock Trial teams** for their outstanding performance at regional competition on February 14. Two Nicolet teams placed among the top three.

Taking 2nd place overall:

- Maya Schwarz
- Ben Hayes
- Joe Vuchetich
- Tatyana Pearson
- Elias Baldino
- Amanda Deacon
- Elizabeth Saggio
- Emily Chester

Taking 3rd place overall:

- Justin Smith
- James Dean Vallincourt
- Deana Abdul-Hameed
- Michael Hartman
- Ben Vuchetich
- Kailee Rosen
- Yogev Ben-Yitschak
- Ilanna Friedman
- Jack Berrou



Nicolet Mock Trial Teams



The Nicolet spring theatre production will be **Don't Drink the Water** by Woody Allen. The show is a cascade of comedy that takes place inside an American embassy behind the Iron Curtain. An American tourist, a caterer by trade, and his wife and daughter rush into the embassy two steps ahead of the police who suspect them of spying and picture taking. It's not much of a refuge, for the ambassador is absent and his son, now in charge, has been expelled from a dozen countries and the continent of Africa. Nevertheless, they carefully and frantically plot their escape, and the ambassador's son and the caterer's daughter even have time to fall in love.

Show dates: May 7, 8, and 9 at 7:30 p.m. and May 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Save the date for the Nicolet High School Children's Show
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

April 25th at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. and April 26th at 1:30 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.
Tickets are free and can be picked up at the high school.

NICOLET GIVES BACK

The **Pennies for Patients** fundraiser raised money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The fundraiser ran during the month of February. The 6th hour class that collected the most money during the fundraising period won a free pasta dinner from Olive Garden. Congratulations to Ms. Lund's Personal Wellness class, the winning 6th hour room!

Relay for Life will be held May 29-30. The Relay For Life planning team is looking for people to serve as Team Captains or Relay Team members for this year. If you are interested please email Michelle Walny at michelle.walny@nicolet.us. Let's show our support and fight against cancer as a Nicolet community.

The **Asian Pacific Islanders Club** of Nicolet held their service project at the Ronald McDonald House. Students cooked an evening meal- chicken fried rice, chicken stir fry, noodles, fresh fruit and frosted sheet cake- for children and their families. Students prepped food, cooked, served meals and cleaned at the Ronald McDonald house from 2- 8 p.m. on January 11. The students loved the experience so much they've decided to make this their annual service project.



BACK ROW: Martin Muenster, Billy Han & Jubilee Ho
FRONT ROW: Jaesung Jung, Mumal Tunio, Hannah McBride, Alexis Terry & Maya Bhadkamkar



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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!



NHS Model UN team competed with almost 900 students from Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Pictured above are award winners: Jacob Cohen, Maya Schwarz, Martha Herrenbruck, and Ellen Liang. Maddy Folstein and Joe Vuchetich won both Best Research and the Peace Prize for their work in the Historic Security Council.



Band Together was held at Nicolet on March 7. More than 400 people came to the school gymnasium to listen to the University of Wisconsin's marching band.



*The entire cast of **Hairspray**, Nicolet's 2015 Spring Musical*