



# NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement  
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

## Winter 2015-16



### NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

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

Issued December 15, 2015 - Volume 6: Published four times a year by

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



Nicolet students and faculty have been working hard to start the school year off strong, and we are excited to once again share some of the highlights from the past four months with you.

With the New Year upon us, the Nicolet School Board is evaluating several financial scenarios for the 2016-17 school year and beyond. In 2011, residents of the Nicolet High School District passed a \$2.15 million operational referendum used to maintain current programs and services.

The referendum is set to expire at the end of the current school year and without a replacement referendum, the District will face a budget shortfall averaging \$2.9 million per year (15% of the annual budget) over each of the next six years.

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts by completing the community survey. Your feedback is valuable as we make decisions on how best to move forward. Survey results were not available in time for the printing of this newsletter, but the results will be shared at the School Board meeting on December 21. Following the meeting, they will be available on the district website, [www.nicolet.us](http://www.nicolet.us).

In January the School Board will continue referendum discussions and make a decision on how to proceed for the April election. As always, the public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. The district website will also continue to be a resource for information throughout this process.

I welcome your questions and thoughts, especially as we make these important decisions about the future of our district and maintaining excellence at Nicolet. I can be contacted at [robert.kobylski@nicolet.us](mailto:robert.kobylski@nicolet.us) and 414-351-7525.

This holiday season and throughout the year, we are grateful for the support of the greater Nicolet Community. Thank you and best wishes for a joyful Winter Holiday season! I look forward to seeing you in 2016!

Yours in education,  
Robert Kobylski, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 7: Special School Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

January 14: School Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

January 25: School Board Workshop Meeting  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

TBD: February School Board Workshop Meeting  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

February 22: School Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

February 24: Nicolet Parent 101-Transition: The Nicolet Way  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

February 27: Nicolet Science and Engineering Fair  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Nicolet High School

TBD: March School Board Workshop Meeting  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

March 21: School Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

March 23: Nicolet Parent 101-The Informed Parent  
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

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

## NICOLET ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with us on Twitter and Facebook for timely events and happenings at Nicolet High School.



**@NicoletKnights**



**/NicoletHighSchool**



## A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

Greetings Nicolet families,

It has been another exciting fall at Nicolet! I have been impressed by our students' support for each other over the past four months. Whether attending a competition, performance or an athletic event, students are generating school spirit that is contagious!

We also had outstanding participation at the annual Nicolet High School Community Open House held in October. Community members who attended were treated to the musical talents of our choir, band and orchestra, and the department presentations provided a great firsthand look at the learning experiences offered at Nicolet. We appreciate the community's attendance and support.

I would also like to commend our students for their efforts in the community. This newsletter highlights a number of ways Nicolet is giving back while taking advantage of learning opportunities at the same time.

We have a lot to be proud of at Nicolet and I am looking forward to everything 2016 has in store!

- Principal Greg Kabara

## PTSO COCOA AND CRAM

**What:** Cocoa & Cram for Exams

**When:** Saturday, January 16 (10 a.m. - Noon)

**Where:** Nicolet High School - Knightskeller (B111) / Cafeteria (Knights Hall) / Teachers Lounge (B113/112)

Nicolet students are invited to a study session to help kick off 1st semester exam week. Bagels and cocoa will be provided to fuel their energy. Teachers, tutors, paraprofessionals and laptops will be available to help facilitate studying.

This successful annual event is supported by our PTSO. Parent volunteers are needed to help set up, serve and clean up. If you are interested in helping out, please call the high school office at (414) 351-7522.



## NICOLET FOUNDATION UPDATE

As we near the year's end, we want to take this opportunity to thank those who supported the Foundation throughout the year. Through your financial gifts, we are able to support teacher requests that offer our students the academic excellence for which Nicolet is known.

Here are just a couple examples of how your financial gifts are put to use: Last year, the money raised during the Foundation's annual appeal was used to purchase document cameras for 27 classrooms. Document cameras capture images, video and audio, creating exciting multimedia materials and 3D lesson content. Complex lessons and abstract concepts can be transformed into a hands-on learning experience. From music to science to English, virtually all subject areas are benefiting from the use of the cameras in the classroom.

"The document camera has been invaluable in enhancing literacy growth in my classroom. I use it – or better yet, have students model – annotating a text, commenting on it as we read it in the group." - *Nicole Mueller, English Teacher*

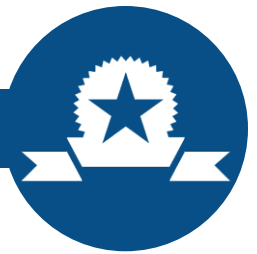
On December 4, Nigerian writer Chigozie Obioma visited Nicolet literature classrooms through a cultural literacy grant. Obioma has been called in a *New York Times* book review, "The heir to Chinua Achebe." This fall, Obioma was named to the shortlist for the Man Booker Prize for his novel *The Fisherman*. Nicolet students were able to discuss his book and writing process with him.

The Foundation looks forward to continue fulfilling grants for teachers to implement exciting and impactful projects such as these. We are currently in the midst of our annual appeal. We hope you will join us in making a difference in the classroom and the future success of our students by visiting <http://www.nicolet.us/families/foundation.cfm> and clicking the DONATE button.



*Nigerian writer Chigozie Obioma visited Nicolet in December.*

# STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



## STAFF

**Amy Melik**, ELL instructor, was recently awarded one of 20 national seats on the Advisory Board for Teaching Tolerance, an educational organization that is dedicated to equity and social justice in schools.

**Angela Young**, Attendance Officer, received the Award for Technical Merit for her stone lithograph, *Self-Perception*, at the 2015 Atlanta Print Biennial. Young's lithograph was part of an Artist Residency series at Anchor Graphics in Chicago. Young was one of just four winners among the 958 entries. Young received her Masters in Fine Art in Printmaking from Arizona State University.

**Kristin Susedik**, Special Education Teacher, recently earned her National Board Certification as an Exceptional Needs Specialist. This rigorous certification process involved four portfolio entries and six exams. Currently, less than 1% of America's teachers hold this designation.

## ALUMNI

**Emma Roller** (Nicolet '06) is now a staff writer for the *New York Times*. Roller continued to pursue her journalistic aspirations in Washington, DC after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison before accepting a position at the *New York Times*.



Emma Roller ('06)

Former Nicolet volleyball standout **Melissa Morello** (Nicolet '12), a senior at the College of Charleston, was named first-team all Colonial Athletic Association. In the regular season she led the league in kills (478) and was second in kills per set (4.12). She finished her career in the school's top 10 for kills and digs.



Melissa Morello ('12)

## STUDENTS

**Accounting students** from Mr. Kania's accounting class visited Lambeau Field in early November through a partnership between Nicolet and the Green Bay Packers that has existed since 2012. Students toured the facilities and met with the Packers Financial Department for a question and answer session about business operations and accounting concepts.

Nicolet students hosted 20 **French students** from October 7th to October 21st as part of an exchange program with a high school in Isle sur la Sorgue, France. The French students attended three days of classes and extra curricular activities with their host brothers and sisters. The exchange students also participated in Homecoming festivities and attended the dance with their hosts to experience high school traditions in American culture.

Nicolet's newest student organization is the **STEM Club** focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The STEM Club was created to support the STEM Learning Community and provide students with the opportunity to learn more about innovations, problem solving techniques and STEM careers. Congratulations to the newly elected STEM Leadership Team: **John Campbell, August Eurich, Julian Nazareth, Patrick O'Hare, Lydia Pagan, and Alexis Terry**. There are nearly 40 active members of the club and students with an interest in the world of STEM are always encouraged and welcome to join!

Nicolet Senior **Lieschen du Plessis** was named as a National Honorable Mention winner (2nd Place) for her visual art portfolio. Plessis' work was selected from a record breaking number of applications from emerging artists across the country for the National Young Arts Foundation. She is the only winner from Wisconsin in the Visual Arts Category among the finalists and honorable mentions.



Painting by Lieschen du Plessis, 2015.

## NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL RUMMAGE SALE

The annual Nicolet Rummage Sale, benefiting the Swim Team and Orchestra, will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the high school. Community members can drop off items in the cafeteria between 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. on the evening of Friday, March 11, and arrangements can be made to pick up larger items. We will take almost anything that is in good condition and still usable (though we cannot take tube televisions, CRT computer monitors and printers due to recycling costs). Any unsold items are donated to the Habitat for Humanity Restore stores.



## NICOLET LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN PARTNERSHIP

Building relationships and inspiring the young minds of Mr. Jeff Houck's anatomy class at Nicolet throughout the years has helped Nicolet High School and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) establish an official mentorship program through the Partnership for Urban Medical Education and Advancement (PUMA).

Countless MCW students have benefited from mentors that made an impression on them in their formative years and made them believe they could achieve great careers. PUMA's aim is to organize medical students that wish to serve as mentors and give back with the goal to cultivate an interest in careers in the sciences, provide positive role models for high school students and educate students on personal health and medicine.

This new, substantive mentorship program will include dissections, presentations and other activities among Nicolet students and their MCW mentors. MCW students will volunteer during fetal pig dissections held in Nicolet's anatomy class. They will help the high school students dissect, as well as discuss college and careers in medicine with the students. MCW mentors will also organize supplementary dissections by expanding on the Nicolet anatomy curriculum through a focus on major organs.

Finally, MCW mentors will organize and lead class sessions covering medicine and other topics relating to Nicolet High School's anatomy curriculum. Students will have a broad exposure to unique situations in the medical field, such as working through mock clinical scenarios and learning physical exam maneuvers.

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### LAW EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION

Students taking Law & Government and AP Government & Politics classes participated in a panel discussion with law experts on November 13. The panel was part of a pilot program, CourtEye, which was developed by the K-12 Subcommittee of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Public Education Committee to provide high school teachers with tools to teach students about the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the general legal system by analyzing and discussing a specific case. Nicolet students studied *State v. Tate*, which focused on whether law enforcement's use of cell site information and a "stingray" constituted an illegal search.



*The panel from left to right: Byron Lichstein, counsel for the Defendant Bobby Tate and previously University of Wisconsin Law School Clinical Associate Professor of Law and Deputy Director of the Frank J. Remington Center; Judge Dennis Cimpl, Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge; Jeffrey Kassel, Assistant Attorney General; and Larry Dupuis, Legal Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin Foundation.*

### NICOLET'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks 60 years of educational excellence at Nicolet High School. In celebration of this milestone, we are asking proud alumni, parents, grandparents and past teachers to submit stories about the impact Nicolet has had on their lives. Please send names, graduation years, and contact information (e-mail and address) along with a brief description to [public.relations@nicolet.us](mailto:public.relations@nicolet.us) and we will feature stories in upcoming communications to celebrate Nicolet's 60th birthday.



## NICOLET THEATRE UPDATES



The Nicolet Theatre program recently wrapped their fall play, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Set in 1935, this play illustrates the social issues of this time period as the people of the community struggle with equality. In preparation for the performance, Vice Principal Nasif Rogers engaged cast members in a meaningful conversation, and used the topics and events of the story as a learning opportunity. Nicolet students worked tirelessly to recreate this touching classic tale as a meaningful work of art.

### CHILDREN'S PLAY

This year's children's play will be *James and the Giant Peach*! It will be performed **January 30** at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and **January 31** at 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are free and may be picked up at the Nicolet Welcome Desk during school hours.



### UPCOMING MUSIC PERFORMANCES

*January 31: Orchestra Concert*  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room & Studio Theatre (F106)

*February 17: Pops Concert*  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Centre (Auditorium)

*March 8: Choir Singer/Songwriter Night*  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Community Room & Studio Theatre (F106)



### RESPECT RETREAT

On October 10, Nicolet freshmen participated in the second annual Respect Retreat presented by Youth Frontiers. Youth Frontiers, a non-profit organization based in Minneapolis, works with students and school staff to build communities where students thrive socially, emotionally and academically.

The Respect Retreat focused the entire day on empowering students to respect themselves and others, as well as to stand up for the value of respect in their school. The goal was to engage students in fun social activities and group work in order to discuss their interpretations of respect with one another in a positive, monitored school environment.





## NICOLET GIVES BACK

On October 10, 23 students from the Nicolet German Honor Society and Nicolet German Club organized a service day at the Hunger Task Force Farm. Each student brought food donations for the Hunger Task Force and helped harvest peppers and apples to be distributed to food pantries across Wisconsin. Students also discussed the ideas of eating locally, sustainably and seasonally.



The Spanish 4 Honors Class challenged the Nicolet community to participate in the Nicolet Thanksgiving Food Drive. Together with our partner schools, more than \$4,000 was raised and 20,430 cans of food were donated to Centro Hispano. On Saturday, November 21, 50 students braved the snow to pack 670 boxes that included fresh fruit, vegetables and a voucher to buy a turkey for families in need.



The National Business Honor Society (NBHS) will host its inaugural Annual Teddy Bear Drive in support of St. Francis Children's Center. The drive takes place in December before the holiday break and all proceeds will benefit the children's center. Visit the Signature Events page for more information: [www.NicoletNBHS.com](http://www.NicoletNBHS.com).

### IT CAN WAIT® DON'T TEXT & DRIVE ASSEMBLY

On October 15, nearly 600 Nicolet students learned about the dangers of smartphone activities while driving and were encouraged to take the pledge to keep their eyes on the road and not on their phones. Nicolet High School teamed up with AT&T, AAA and the Wisconsin State Patrol as part of the It Can Wait® campaign to remind students that smartphone activity can – and should – wait until after driving.

The event featured AAA's distracted driving simulator, which allowed students to experience the dangers of smartphone activities behind the wheel. Students also watched a new AT&T video that shows how one young man's dreams of playing college football ended instantly when another driver hit his vehicle after glancing at a phone. December marks the 5-year anniversary of Wisconsin's ban on texting while driving.



## NICOLET ATHLETIC UPDATES



**Girls Tennis:** The team won the NSC Championship and the WIAA Sectional Championship. Doubles teammates Elise Gerard and Annabelle Crowley, and singles player Alice Pascuzzi earned 1st team All-State honors. Gerard and Crowley will be inducted into the Nicolet Tennis Hall of Fame. Nicole Beidacki earned 2nd team All-State. Amy Drame, Marli Stellhorn and Emma Koppa also participated in the state tournament.

**Girls and Boys Cross Country:** Five individuals were placed on the All-Conference team. Max Selbach, Katie Novak and Nora McGuire all earned 2nd team All-Conference. Ciara Jones and Elizabeth Mowers earned Honorable Mention. Mowers advanced to the WIAA State Tournament.

**Girls Volleyball:** The team went on to win the WIAA Regional Championship. The girls lost senior Maddie Kohnke early on due to injury but still managed to finish 3rd in the conference and advance to the WIAA Sectionals. Erin Heidenrich and Kara Conley both earned 1st team All-Conference honors. Mackenzie Eford earned 2nd team and Cori Meyers Honorable Mention All-Conference.

**Boys Soccer:** The team won the WIAA Regional Championship and placed six players on the All-Conference team. Jake Kelderman earned 1st team, Noah Hernandez earned 2nd team, and Scott Arenzon, Tom Driscoll, Andrew Muenster and Billy Manger earned Honorable Mention.

**Boys Volleyball:** The team finished 2nd in the North Shore Conference and won the WIAA Regional Championship. Teammates Alec Dixon, Matt Aussem and Ben Spector earned 1st team All-Conference honors. Max Walker earned Honorable Mention All-Conference. Dixon also earned 2nd team All-State honors, while Spector and Aussem earned Honorable Mention All-State.

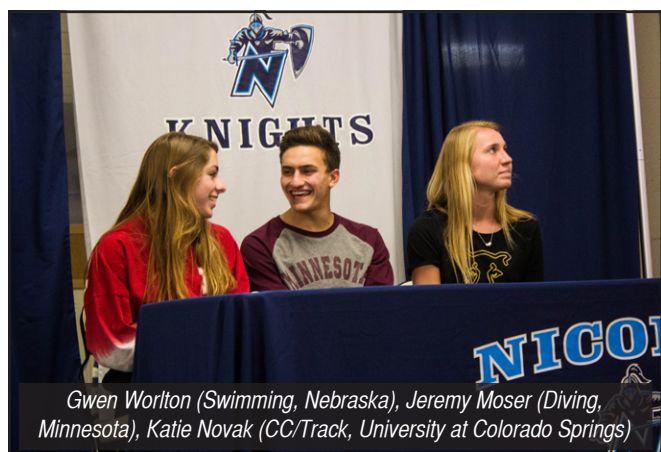
**Girls Golf:** Alysse Elko earned 2nd team All-Conference honors and advanced to the WIAA Sectionals.

**Boys Football:** Several players earned All-Conference honors, led by Dakari Williams, who earned 2nd team All-Conference at running back. Linebacker Jaron Williams, and offensive guards Chris Azcueta and John Quam earned Honorable Mention All-Conference. Charlie Rossman also earned Honorable Mention for safety, punter and kicker.

**Girls Swimming:** The team sent five individuals to the WIAA State Tournament. Taylor Hall, Gwen Worlton, Ana Eurich and Jamie Kloehn earned 1st team All-Conference honors. Lauryn Wagner, Anna Christenson and Aviva Silverman earned All-Conference Honorable Mention honors. Hall, Worlton, Eurich, Kloehn and Silverman all qualified for State.

## NICOLET ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Nicolet hosted a Letter of Intent Signing Day for six senior athletes who are committing to participate in collegiate athletics next year. The signing took place at two separate events on November 12. **Adam Plotkin, Jake Kelderman, Aaron Trattner, Jeremy Moser, Katie Novak and Gwen Worlton** were recognized for their athletic achievements and commitment to their respective sports and colleges after graduation.



Gwen Worlton (Swimming, Nebraska), Jeremy Moser (Diving, Minnesota), Katie Novak (CC/Track, University at Colorado Springs)



Adam Plotkin (Wrestling, Cornell College in Iowa) and Aaron Trattner (Baseball, Benedictine University)



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Nicolet School Board  
Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman, President  
Ellen Redeker, Vice President  
Joseph Kasle, Treasurer  
Marilyn Franklin, Clerk  
Morton Grodsky, Member

## SMILE, NICOLET!



*Students from Mr. Kania's accounting class had the opportunity to tour Lambeau Field in November.*



*Students in Nicolet's Multicultural Club attended the 16th annual ACLU's Youth Social Justice Forum, held at UWM.*



*Students had a blast at the 2015 Homecoming dance in October.*



*Nicolet students spent an afternoon at Discovery World as part of the Kohl's Cares grant awarded last spring.*