



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Spring 2017



NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet Union High School District

Issued April 15 - Volume 9: Published twice a year by

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



Throughout this newsletter, you will see that Nicolet students are excelling in and out of the classroom. From five National Merit Scholarship Finalists and award-winning art and writing students to the cast of “Ragtime” receiving state award nominations for the first time in school history and the success of our athletic teams, it’s a great time to be a Nicolet Knight.

I commend our students for their hard work and also acknowledge our faculty and staff who provide support during class, after school and on weekends to help our students achieve success. The Nicolet learning community extends beyond our school walls. We are fortunate to have many dedicated parent groups that make these opportunities possible. I want to thank everyone for their contributions.

The spring election brought changes to the Nicolet School Board. I want to thank Mort Grodsky and Joe Kasle for their dedication to achieving excellence at Nicolet. I look forward to working with new board members, Theresa Seem and Leigh Wallace Tabak, as we continue to build on this strong tradition.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback on the updates in this newsletter. You can reach me at robert.kobylski@nicolet.us and 414-351-7525.

Our newsletters are just one way that we communicate with the community. To stay up to date on all the latest announcements and happenings at Nicolet I encourage you to visit our website regularly and follow us on social media.

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 12 & 13: American Cancer Society – Relay for Life
Nicolet Stadium (Main Field / Track)

May 18: Merit Award Ceremony
2:40 p.m. in the Nicolet High School Cafeteria

June 3: Cookies & Cram
10:00 a.m. – Noon in the Nicolet High School Cafeteria

June 4: Graduation
11:00 a.m. at the Milwaukee Theatre

June 19: Summer School begins
7:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us.



@NicoletKnights



/NicoletHighSchool



Nicolet alumna and jazz vocal artist Tierney Sutton is the 2017 Artist in Residence. Check out page 6 for more information →



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Nicolet families,

As we approach the end of the school year, there are a number of opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. You will see many of these noted throughout this newsletter.

Several of our honor societies and leadership organizations will hold induction ceremonies in the coming weeks. We appreciate the contributions these students have made to our school and the community. They set examples for their peers and these recognitions are well deserved.

We will end the school year by honoring the hard work and dedication of our seniors at graduation on June 4 at the Milwaukee Theatre.

There is more information about these events on the district website, and be sure to follow the district on social media to stay up to date on the latest news and see photos from these events.

- Principal Greg Kabara

STAFF ACCOLADES

Nicolet science teacher **Jennifer Bault** was selected to study polar ice cores with leading researchers in Antarctica as part of PolarTrec 2017. PolarTrec (Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating) is a program in which K-12 teachers spend 3-6 weeks participating in hands-on field research experiences in the polar regions. In February, Ms. Bault returned from a week of training, and will continue to prepare for the full expedition in Antarctica in November 2017.

Nicolet Counselor **Jeffrey Artero** received the Excellence in College Counseling Award from Nova Southeastern University. Mr. Artero was nominated by alumnus Theodore Uy ('16).

SPRING 2017 HONOR SOCIETY AND GROUP INDUCTIONS

This spring a number of academic and extracurricular groups will be inducting new members, including:

- National Honor Society (April 19)
- German Honor Society (May 5)
- National Business Honor Society (May 17)
- Hebrew Honor Society (May 24)
- Thespian Induction and Awards (June 1)

NICOLET FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Foundation at Work: Enriching Nicolet Students

Ongoing support from the Nicolet High School Foundation makes possible exemplary opportunities for students in areas of art, music, robotics, and science. Recent grant recipients include:

- **Nicolet FEAR:** The Foundation is the proud sponsor of new media equipment that the team used to capture an exclusive interview with the founder of the FIRST Robotics Competition, Dean Kamen.
- **Orchestra Program:** The Nicolet Orchestra was named "Best of the Festival" in Orlando last April, earning a trip to an international festival at Carnegie Hall this spring. The Foundation is helping to underwrite the cost of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Help Us Upgrade the Digital Media Lab

Nicolet's once state-of-the-art television studio needs to be transformed into a digital media lab. The Technology and Engineering program is growing and the existing equipment is obsolete. For information on how you can donate, and more information about the Foundation, visit www.nicolet.us/families/foundation.cfm.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Senior **Ananda Deacon** was selected as one of two students to represent the state of Wisconsin as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). Each year, two of the highest-achieving students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education system overseas are selected to participate in the USSYP. Ananda visited Washington, D.C. in March, where she met the President and several lawmakers.

Nicolet seniors **Zachary Asmann, Joseph Azbel, August Eurich, Dylan Hall** and **Riccardo Romersi** were announced as finalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program and will continue to compete for the Merit Scholar® title.

SCHOLASTIC WRITING

Nicolet students earned national recognition in the 2017 Scholastic Writing Awards:

SILVER KEY WINNERS

- **Zachary Ellner** (Senior): short story, "The Ocean"
- **Miles Guralnick** (Junior): critical essay, "Interpreting the Bias of the UNESCO Jerusalem Resolution"
- **Jacob Newman** (Senior): dramatic script, "Hands of Creation."

Kristina Webb (Senior) won an American Voices medal for her poem, "Mama Cuts My Hair." She has been invited to attend a national awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall on Thursday, June 8.

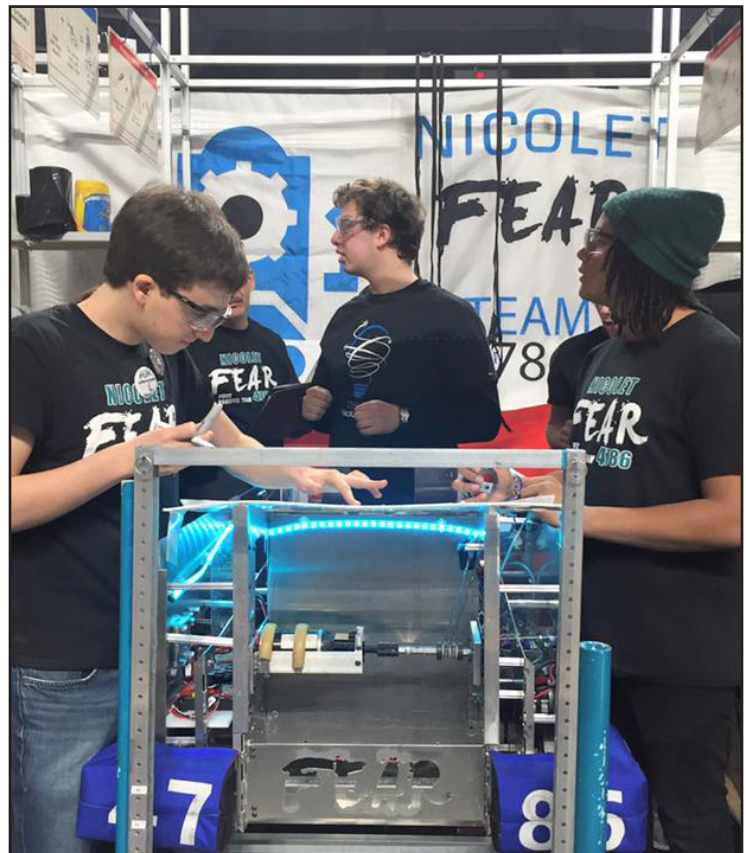
GERMAN CLUB & HONOR SOCIETY

Members of the German Club and Honor Society spent an evening at the Hunger Task Force processing donations and learning about efforts to improve nutrition for food pantry recipients. The students sorted and boxed over 18,000 pounds of food. They also learned that the organization is changing its policy so that in the future, it will only distribute healthy food to its clients.

NICOLET FEAR

Nicolet FEAR just completed an outstanding season! On March 4, Nicolet FEAR traveled to Duluth, Minnesota to compete at the Northern Lights Regional. The team was awarded the Jack Kamen Imagery Award recognizing their achievements in overall design aesthetic, from the robot, pit and brand standards of the team. While at the Northern Lights Regional competition, Nicolet FEAR also had the opportunity to interview Dean Kamen, the founder of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).

Nicolet FEAR also competed in the Wisconsin Regional at the UWM Panther arena on March 25 where the team had a historic finish. Nicolet FEAR finished qualifications in 12th place out of 54 teams with a record of 6-4 and the 3rd highest score of the tournament. The team rose to 8th place during the selection process, allowing them to play a lead role in the playoffs for the first time ever. While the team eventually lost in the quarterfinals, FEAR received the Jack Kamen Imagery Award for the second time this season.





Bryan Lynch ('73) was nominated for Best Latin Jazz Album at the 2017 Grammy Awards.

Justin Hurwitz ('03) won two Golden Globes for original score and best original song for "La La Land," as well as Academy Awards for best original song and best original score at the 2017 Oscars.



Justin Greenberger ('06) is a corporate manager at GE Digital splitting his time between New York and the San Francisco Bay Area and is a part of the GE / BuildOn collaboration. The collaboration works to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy through service learning programs. Justin has traveled to Nicaragua and Nepal to help build schools for children in underdeveloped countries.

Greg Horstmeier ('13), a senior at UW-Madison, returned to Nicolet to speak with chemistry, engineering and science students about his major, STEM careers and college life in general.

Judy Coran ('81), is the current Women's Campaign Chair for the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign.

Lauren Fox ('87) is a published author of several novels, including *Still Life with Husband*, *Friends Like Us* and *Days of Awe*.

Larry Waldman ('65) co-authored and published a book, *Overcoming Your NegotiaPhobia: Negotiating Your Way Through Life*.

Melissa Kahn ('77) was recognized for her work helping those affected by Alzheimer's disease.

Jonathan Manyo ('95) was featured in OnMilwaukee's "Chef Talk" for his experience opening a new restaurant, Morel, and what it means to break the rules and cook true Wisconsin farm-to-table food.

Ari Matusiak ('95) has spent the past few years working on the Affordable Care Act at the White House. He and his wife attended President Obama's farewell speech on Jan. 10, 2017.



To submit an update about Nicolet alumni please send the alumnus name, graduation year and relevant information to public.relations@nicolet.us

Submissions will be reviewed for publication in future newsletters and other district communications.

ATHLETIC UPDATE



The Nicolet Knights' fall and winter athletic sports seasons made school history. The **girls volleyball** team captured the North Shore Conference Championship for the fifth time since 2008, their most successful run of conference championships in school history. Three players - seniors **Mackenzie Eford** and **Kara Conley**, and junior **Cori Meyers** - joined a rare group of volleyball players in the program's history who have earned Conference Champions, Regional Champions, All-conference, All-Area and All-State honors.

The **wrestling** team won the school's first ever WIAA Wrestling Team Regional Championship and sent wrestler **Parker Keckeisen** into the finals of the WIAA State Wrestling Championships in Madison for the first time since 1962.

Both the **girls and boys tennis** teams captured WIAA Sectional Championships, sending 15 athletes to the state championships in Madison. The **gymnastics** team defeated WIAA State Champion Whitefish Bay during the regular season and qualified three gymnasts for the WIAA State Tournament in Wisconsin Rapids. The **girls swim team** broke several school records and sent five swimmers to the state tournament in Madison. The **boys and girls cross country** teams sent three runners to the State Tournament in Wisconsin Rapids. The **boys and girls ski** teams qualified six skiers for the state championships in La Crosse.

The **boys volleyball** team finished in second place in the North Shore Conference, won the regional championship and qualified for the WIAA Boys Volleyball Sectionals. The **girls hockey** team won their regional and made it all the way to the WIAA Sectional Championship. **Girls golf** qualified a golfer for the WIAA Sectionals. The **boys basketball** team put five players on the post-season All-Conference teams and finished in second place in the North Shore Conference, their highest finish since 2005.

The **boys soccer, boys hockey** and **girls basketball** teams had nine All-Conference athletes combined. The varsity **football team** won its first North Shore Conference game since 2012 and had four athletes sign letters of intent to play college football in fall 2017. Fall and winter Nicolet athletics saw nine teams and 33 individual athletes qualify for state tournaments. In total, 69 athletes were named All-Conference.



Dakari Williams, Cameron Cooper, TJ Miller and Jaron Williams signed letters of intent to play collegiate football in fall 2017.

ATHLETIC FACILITIES UPDATE

In June 2014 the Nicolet School Board approved a comprehensive athletic facilities plan. The plan was developed based on recommendations from a Master Site Planning Committee composed of citizens from the communities served by the district, as well as an extensive community outreach process to get feedback from citizens on several development options.

Taxpayers dollars will not be used to fund this project. Nor will any funds from the recently passed referendum be used on the project.

Part of the plan includes selling the upper fields property east of I-43 to help fund the development of the new facilities. In May of 2016, the District identified a developer, who after researching the property further and making considerable progress in the municipal approval process, recently determined to terminate the sale. This is a common occurrence in land sale transactions.

The District remains committed to the athletic facilities plan and continues to explore opportunities for the sale and development of the upper fields in order to move the entire project forward. Stay up to date on athletic facilities developments by visiting the Nicolet website: www.nicolet.us/activities/nicolet_athletic_facilities.cfm.



2017 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Each year, the Performing Arts Committee invites a Nicolet High School alumni with an artistic background to return to the school to mentor students, and provide hands on experience and guidance in pursuing their passion for the arts.

The program is funded by the Kenn Miller Chair for the Performing Arts, which was created in honor of Nicolet High School's former theatre director and teacher who led the program for 32 years. It underwrites workshops, master classes and residencies to give students opportunities to connect with and learn from professional musicians, composers, vocalists, actors and theatre practitioners.

This year, the Nicolet community is proud to welcome Grammy-nominated alumna Tierney Sutton to the performing arts department's Artist in Residence program April 24 – 26, 2017.

Sutton will serve as a mentor to the school's big band and vocal jazz ensemble throughout the week. Sutton's residency will end with a fundraiser concert featuring the singer's original music, along with the collaborative efforts between Sutton and the students on **April 26 at 7 p.m. in the Nicolet High School auditorium.**

For tickets and VIP information visit:
www.nicolet.us.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Children's Show – Alice in Wonderland
April 29 (10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.)
April 30 (1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.)

Band Concert
May 18 at 7:00 p.m.

An Evening of One Acts
May 19 & 20 (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Choir Concert
May 23 (7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)



An evening with **Grammy-nominated** jazz vocalist and Nicolet graduate:

TIERNEY SUTTON

April 26, 2017

Tickets: www.nicolet.us



CONGRATULATIONS NICOLET THEATRE

Nicolet's "Ragtime" has earned 21 Tommy Award nominations for the first time in school history! The Tommy Awards encourage, recognize and honor excellence in high school musical theater. Award winners will be notified in May, and the 2017 Tommy Awards Show will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wisconsin. View the list of award nominations online!



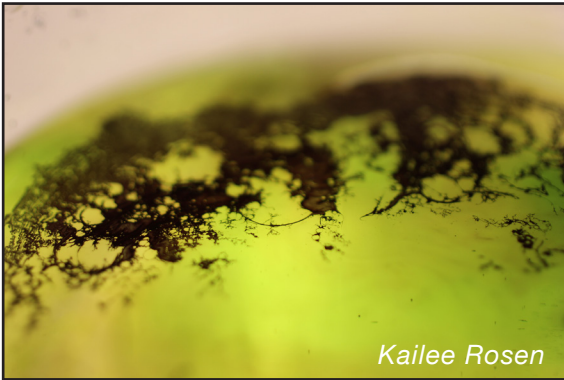
SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

Band, choir, and orchestra students performed at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival at Hamilton Sussex High School on Saturday, March 18. 100 of these students qualified for the Wisconsin School Music Association State festival to be held at Cardinal Stritch University on Saturday, May 6.

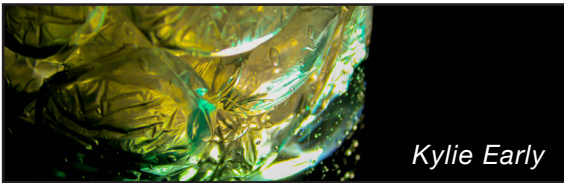
SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS



Congratulations to this year's Scholastic Art Exhibition winners! Out of 173 entries from Nicolet, students received 38 awards including 3 Gold Key, 8 Silver Key and 26 Honorable Mention. The Gold and Silver Key winners had their artwork on display at the Milwaukee Art Museum. The Scholastic Art Awards recognize creative students from across the country.



Kailee Rosen



Kylie Early



Jaida Drame



Maria Kravtsova



David Zetley

INDIVIDUAL GOLD KEY WINNERS

- Kylie Early (Senior)
- Maria Kravtsova (Senior)
- David Zetley (Junior)

INDIVIDUAL SILVER KEY WINNERS

- Jaida Drame (Senior)
- Kylie Early (Senior)
- Miles George (Junior)
- Emilie Haworth (Sophomore)
- Gabriella Morice (Junior)
- Kailee Rosen (Junior)
- Daniela Steinberg (Freshman)
- Eva Whitney (Freshman)

ART PORTFOLIO - HONORABLE MENTION

- Amanda Gullickson (Senior)
- Tayla Hart (Senior)

To see a full list of this year's winners visit the Nicolet website:
www.nicolet.us/nicolet_news.cfm#d502121



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Nicolet School Board

Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman
Ellen Redeker
Marilyn Franklin
Theresa Seem
Leigh Wallace Tabak

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Library (D110)

May 11 - Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
May 22 - Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
June 15 - Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
June 26 - Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Visit the district website for additional meeting dates.



SMILE, NICOLET!



Students and staff participated in the first ever Happy Feet 5K organized by Nicolet's Wellness Department.



The National Business Honor Society held their Annual Teddy Bear and Toy Drive in support of the St. Francis Children's Center with a total donation of over \$700 worth of new toys and stuffed animals.



Julia Bohlen, Zach Demko, Thomas Nguyen & Ben Vuchetich earned Best Research honors at a recent Model UN simulation.



Several Nicolet students received specialty and category awards at the State Science Fair on March 11.