



NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

Winter 2016



NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

Issued December 15, 2016 - Volume 8: Published twice a year by

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



We are in the midst of another exciting school year at Nicolet. This newsletter highlights the accomplishments of students, staff and alumni, as well as provides updates on new initiatives and programming.

Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction recently released the annual school report card and Nicolet continues to "Exceed Expectations." Year after year Nicolet is recognized for excellence by a number of local, state and national entities. While we are proud of these accolades, we also acknowledge that many of these measures utilize data that is several months old. The most important measures of success are the results we are seeing in the classroom every day in real time.

Three years ago the district leadership team made strategic decisions to update curriculum and implement practices that best prepare our students for college and beyond. This year's senior class has benefited from these changes more than previous graduating classes and we are seeing the results.

We are committed to continuing on this path by setting high expectations for all students and developing personalized learning plans to help them achieve their goals.

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. I also encourage you to follow us on social media to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at Nicolet.

During this holiday season I am grateful for the students, faculty, staff and all of you who make Nicolet a wonderful learning community that continues to grow and thrive. Wishing you and yours all the best in 2017!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 20: Winter Concert (Band, Choir & Orchestra)
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

December 23 - January 2: Winter Break

January 6: Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner & Ceremony
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School
See page 6 for more details

January 14: Cocoa & Cram
10:00 a.m. – Noon in the Nicolet High School Cafeteria

January 19: REDgen Presents Resilience
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

January 25: Nicolet Parent 101 – Academic Planning for High School
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

February 22: Nicolet Parent 101 – Transition: The Nicolet Way
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Library (D110)

February 25: Nicolet Science & Engineering Fair
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

More dates are available at www.nicolet.us

Stay up-to-date on all the latest happenings and events at Nicolet by following us on social media.



@NicoletKnights



/NicoletHighSchool



A MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL GREG KABARA

Greetings Nicolet families,

The school year is well underway and I am proud to report that we've had a very successful start to the school year.

At Nicolet we are committed to ensuring that our students have every opportunity to prepare for their future. To that end, we have instituted a number of new initiatives to prepare Nicolet students for their college and career plans. You can read more about these offerings in this newsletter.

This holiday season, I would like to express my gratitude to the students, staff, parents and community for their passion and support of public education and Nicolet High School. It is a pleasure to work with a positive and supportive community that creates and maintains a high standard for our school.

- Principal Greg Kabara

CURRICULUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Nicolet is again collaborating with our partner primary districts to review curriculum. This year, a committee comprised of parents, teachers and school administrators has been selected to focus on the social studies curriculums. The committee will review the existing curricula (resources, standards, instructional strategies, etc.) and make recommendations for revisions.

Last year similar committees met to review the science curriculums and the human growth and development curriculums. As a result of this work the new science curriculum aligns with next generation science standards, which are more rigorous than state requirements.

In addition to implementing updates to the human growth and development curriculum, the committee developed a shared belief statement and published additional resources for parents on the district website, http://www.nicolet.us/academics/physical_health.cfm.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Nicolet coordinated a **College and Career Readiness Day** in October. Students in grades 9-11 took standardized assessments while seniors attended a series of college breakout workshops to provide recommendations on writing college letters, completing college applications and applying for scholarships.

For the first time, Nicolet is offering juniors the opportunity to participate in an **ACT® prep program** as part of the current school day. Our goal is to give Nicolet students a competitive advantage when taking the ACT® this spring. The district is partnering with nationally renowned ACT® tutor, Kreigh Knerr, a Wisconsin-based expert who has worked privately with many students at Nicolet, as well as students throughout the world to raise their test scores. Mr. Knerr is working in partnership with 14 Nicolet teachers who are providing tutoring in English, reading, math and science. Nicolet is one of very few Wisconsin high schools to offer an ACT® prep program as part of the regular school day.

With support from the Nicolet High School Foundation, sophomore English classes have incorporated a **Mindfulness Program** to support the College and Career Readiness unit, as well as a unit on *The Alchemist*. Once a week students are guided through simple practices and invited to learn tools that strengthen their ability to relate to emotions, thoughts, feelings and sensations more skillfully. The program facilitator is Minda Devorkin (MSW, E-RYT, RCYT), an experienced yoga and Mindfulness teacher, working with youth over the past 12 years.

This fall several Nicolet alumni visited with English 10 students as a part of the College and Career Unit. The speakers answered student questions and shared their experiences of navigating high school, college, and career paths.



Pictured from left: Barry Shafrin (Parent Engagement Manager at Success Academy Charter Schools-graduated from Harvard University), Lani Denny (Cardinal Stritch University), Cullen Billhartz (UW-Madison), Mrs. Michelle Walny (Nicolet English Teacher), Adriana Torres (WSAW Weekend Sports Anchor/Reporter-graduated from Arizona State University), Emily Poklar (Assistant Account Executive at Lindsay, Stone & Briggs-graduated from UW-Madison), and Maria Brondino (Columbia College). Additional guest speakers included Steven Long (DePaul University), Katherine Richter (Northwestern University), and Carly Cohen (UW Madison).



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION REACHES FUND-RAISING GOAL AT 2016 KNIGHT ON THE TOWN



The Nicolet High School Foundation rolled out the red carpet to welcome Hollywood luminary and Nicolet Alumnus Richard Lovett (Class of '78) and his family for the 2016 Nicolet Knight on the Town: Mission Possible.

Summerfest's Bob Babisch emceed the memorable evening which featured a live and silent auction, entertainment by Nicolet students, and a sit-down dinner and program. The goal of the event was to raise \$50,000 to support the Foundation's Mission, to enhance the academic experience for high school students, current and future.

The Foundation credits the event's volunteers, sponsors and the community with coming together to help reach the financial goal.

Honorary Co-Chair Ugo Nwagbaraocha (Class of '91) welcomed guests. Nicolet teachers Adam Thiel and Barbara Burns also had turns at the podium to give testimony to the help they received from the Foundation through enrichment grants.

Representing the Nicolet High School Foundation, Susie Falk (president) and Steven Arenzon presented Mr. Lovett with the Foundation's first Shining Knight Award. Mr. Lovett was recognized for his exemplary career in the entertainment industry, and also for his dedication to public education in Los Angeles.

The Nicolet High School Foundation is grateful to the event's sponsors:

Silver Level: Go Riteway, First Bank Financial Center, The Mandel Group

Bronze Level: Lisa Kohl, in honor of Richard Lovett

Table Sponsors: Associated Bank, Associated Benefits and Risk Consulting, Milwaukee Brewers, Mueller Communications, Performance Services, Incorporated, R & R Insurance, Todd Gaulke of DBA Snap On Tools, and Live Nation

A special thank you to broadcasting teacher Michael Dicks and Wyatt Chang (Nicolet '20) for their video work, photo teacher Tom Medved for photographing the evening, and Zach Ellner (Nicolet '17) for logo design and other graphic design work.



Richard Lovett (center) with Foundation President Susie Falk (left) and Superintendent Dr. Robert Kobylski (right).

COPING AND WELLNESS SURVEY

In the interest of supporting our students inside and outside of the classroom, Nicolet offered students the opportunity to take a Coping and Wellness Survey. The purpose of the survey is to assess school-related stress, coping skills and well-being among Nicolet students. By understanding the ways in which students cope with school-related stress, we can identify strengths that serve to keep students healthy and resilient to school-related stress. In addition, the results of this study will assist school personnel in better understanding school-related stress as experienced by students, and assist the High School in developing and/or expanding programming to meet the needs of all students.



QuHarrison Terry (Nicolet '13) is the co-founder and chief executive officer of Victory is Very Illuminating Inc. (23VIVI), a Madison start-up that is among the pioneers in creating a marketplace for protecting the originality and authenticity of digital art.



Lanoria Duhart (Nicolet '13) was selected to play on the USA Collegiate women's rugby team and played with the team last summer in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Melissa Kahn (Nicolet '77) was recently recognized by The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle for her work helping those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, including a trip to Israel for a project with Melabev, a 33-year-old non-profit based in Jerusalem.

Maggie Beck (Nicolet '14) was awarded the Gilbert J. Sullivan Scholarship at the University of Virginia, where she is currently completing her third year. The scholarship is awarded to students who have a demonstrated record of citizenship, leadership and academic achievement. She is one of six undergraduates admitted to the most highly selective "Political Honors" program. Additionally Maggie is the holder of the Robert Adams Bradford Scholarship. Bradford Scholars "demonstrate broad intellectual interests and the qualities of leadership and citizenship envisioned by the University's founder," Thomas Jefferson.

Yelena Moskovic (Nicolet '03) published her first novel, *The Natashas*, in Europe.

Jennifer Winston (Nicolet '10) appeared on episodes of Chicago Fire this fall.

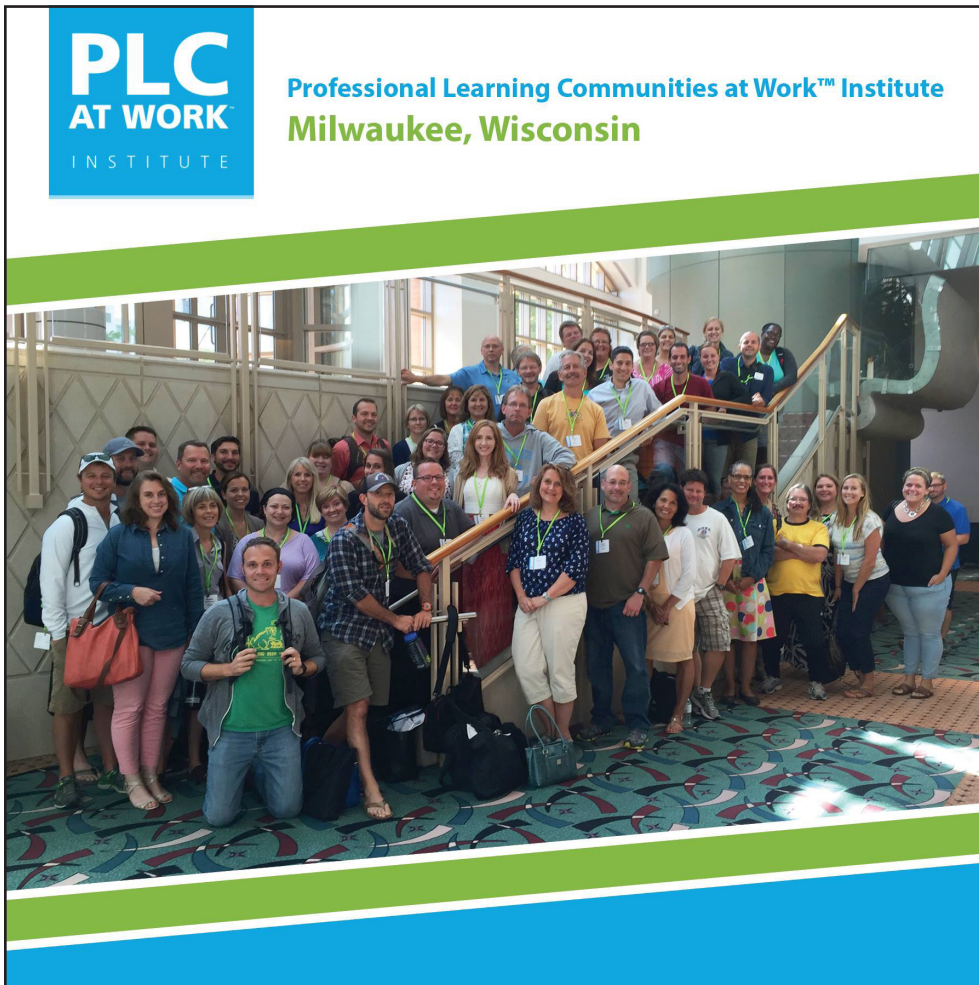
Maddy Folstein (Nicolet '16) is writing for the Arts and Entertainment section of the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Daily.

Emma Roller (Nicolet '07) is a contributing writer for *The New York Times*.

Ania Kotecki (Nicolet '16) received a scholarship from the North Shore United Educators Scholarship Fund and is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Teachers from Shorewood, Whitefish Bay, Glendale, Nicolet, Grafton and Cedarburg created the scholarship fund to support potential future teachers in their respective districts.

Robert McCracken (Nicolet '16) is currently spending a year studying in Germany, living with a host family and acting as an unofficial ambassador of the United States as part of the Congress Bundestag Scholar Program. He is the thirteenth Nicolet High School German student to be selected for this program since 2002.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Last summer Nicolet partnered with Solution Tree to host the Professional Learning Communities at Work Institute in Milwaukee for the first time. Professional learning communities focus on building collaborative relationships between teachers to leverage individual expertise to benefit the whole group and in turn impact student learning. Nicolet began implementing professional learning communities several years ago and staff is now sharing their experience with other schools throughout the North Shore. Following this institute, nearly all Nicolet staff have received training.

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.

Dr. Phyllis Santacroce, Nicolet Social Studies teacher, was among 23 teachers selected to be a **Behring Teacher Ambassador for National History Day®** during the 2016-2017 school year. She was chosen for her outstanding creativity, commitment and inspiration in developing students' interest in history education.

Nicolet English Teacher **Lisa Wathen** was named a **2016 Global Innovator by Turnitin.com**. The award recognizes outstanding practitioners worldwide who "demonstrate commitment to improving student writing, enhance student learning, promote academic integrity, and champion the use of Turnitin products at their institution."

At the Wisconsin Association For Language Teachers (WAFLT) convention, Nicolet's **Mark Wagner** (pictured on the left) was named the **2016 Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German Distinguished German Language Educator**.

Herr Wagner (below, left) is pictured with his former German professor, mentor and Past President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of German, Dr. John Pustejovsky.

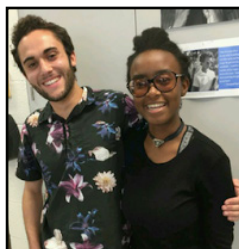




STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Five Nicolet High School seniors have been recognized as **Semifinalists in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program**. The students were chosen out of over 1.5 million high school juniors in more than 22,000 high schools who took the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). The test serves as an initial screen of program entrants.

The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2017 will be announced beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 315,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title including several Nicolet graduates.



2016 Youth Civil Libertarians of the Year:

**Jacob Newman
& Ananda Deacon**

Nicolet High School Multicultural Club

Nicolet seniors, **Ananda Deacon** and **Jacob Newman**, have been recognized by the **ACLU of Wisconsin** as **2016 Youth Civil Libertarians of the Year** for their work as student activists and change agents in our school. As leaders of Nicolet's Multicultural Club they have worked tirelessly to promote inclusiveness, justice, understanding and civil rights in conversations at Nicolet and in the broader community. Ananda and Jacob were honored at the 2016 Bill of Rights Celebration on Saturday, November 19th at the Italian Conference Center.

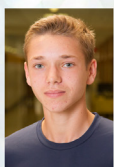
NICOLET SEMIFINALISTS 2017 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



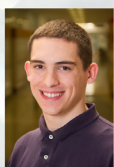
ZACHARY ASMANN



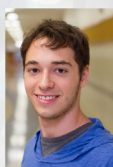
JOSEPH AZBEL



AUGUST EURICH



DYLAN HALL



RICCARDO ROMERSI

Congratulations!

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Nicolet Athletic Hall of Fame honors former student athletes, coaches and other individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Nicolet High School athletics. Nicolet High School is proud to announce that seven candidates have been selected to the Class of 2016 Nicolet High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

ATHLETES

James Allison ('63) - Football/Wrestling/Track

William Jenkins ('94) - Basketball/Baseball/Volleyball

Robert Jenkins ('94) - Basketball/Baseball/Football

Ashley Green ('11) - Basketball/Track/Cross Country

Felicia Townes Sutton ('83) - Basketball/Track

COACH

Dwight Davis (1985-2015): Boys & Girls Swim

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Mel Wade (1956-1990):

Recreation Director/Youth Coach/Administrator

The candidates who make up the Class of 2016 will be honored at halftime of the Nicolet Boys Varsity Basketball game on Friday, January 6. There will be a dinner in the Knights Hall at Nicolet High School beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by the induction ceremony and unveiling of the plaques in the "Wall of Fame."

Tickets for the dinner/ceremony are available by calling (414) 351-8145.



NICOLET THEATRE PRESENTS

RAGTIME
★ THE MUSICAL ★

February 23, 24, 25 & 26

NICOLET GIVES BACK



Junior Aidan Dow debuted his **Curly Top Tees** at the annual **Autumn Artisan's Fair**. When Aidan isn't learning life skills in Nicolet's special education department, he spends his free time drawing pictures of elephants, cows and other animals, and his mother recently decided to start printing his drawings onto t-shirts. The North Shore NOW and Today's TMJ4 both profiled Aidan's new venture. Learn more about this new company and see the t-shirt designs by visiting curlytoptees.com.



25 NHS students took time out from their homecoming celebration to take part in the **German Club Fall Service Day**. Students spent the morning at the Hunger Task Force Farm harvesting 5,000 pounds of cabbage for distribution to needy people in the Milwaukee area. Students also learned about sustainable agriculture and donated 75 boxes of cereal to the Hunger Task Force's Fall Cereal Drive.

The National Honor Society's fall fundraiser raised \$1,000 for Nicolet's "Care Closet!" NHS ran two activities to raise funds: a "pumpkinyata" sale (candy-filled pumpkin grams) that raised \$200, and a "Homelessness Challenge." In the Challenge, participants put money into an envelope any time they performed a task that would be difficult or impossible for a student experiencing homelessness. The tasks included washing clothes, eating hot meals, sleeping in a secure location, accessing technology, and finding health care - all things essential to our physical and mental well-being. Many students commented on how much this activity changed their awareness of their daily lives, how they had a better understanding of the issues facing some of their peers, and how grateful it had made them! In addition to having a life-changing experience, students generously raised \$800 through the Challenge.



During this year's annual food drive, the Spanish 4 Honors class collected 19,845 cans and \$5,404.58. Together with our partner schools in the Nicolet community we reached our goal with a total of 25,457 cans. This year's food boxes also had fresh vegetables and fruits through Springdale Farm, Trader Joe's and the Glendale Pick 'n Save. Fifty-five students sorted, boxed and delivered food baskets and grocery gift cards to Centro Hispano.



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Nicolet School Board

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Ellen Redeker, Vice President
Joseph Kasle, Treasurer
Marilyn Franklin, Clerk
Morton Grodsky, Member

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Library (D110)

January 12 – Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
January 23 – Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
February 16 – Board Workshop (4:00 p.m.)
February 27 – Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Visit the district website for additional meeting dates.

SMILE, NICOLET!



Adaptive Physical Education students competed in the annual Wellness Triathlon as the community cheered them on.



New Head Coach Al Moroder and the Nicolet Varsity football team earned an opening season home win against Waukesha South.



Students culminated an exciting spirit week with the Homecoming dance.



Nicolet Theatre's production of Moon Over Buffalo featured talented Nicolet students on stage and behind the scenes.