



# PARDEEVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

#PardeevilleProud

WWW.PASDWI.ORG

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER  
VOL. 31 No. 3

## Elementary Veterans Breakfast recognizes hometown heros

Pardeeville alum Brodie Mecum serves as  
guest speaker for annual event

The Pardeeville Elementary School gymnasium was filled with pride, gratitude, and community spirit on Friday, Nov. 22, as students, staff, and families gathered for the school’s annual Veterans Breakfast. This heartfelt event paid tribute to local veterans with moving performances, reflections, and a delicious breakfast.

This year’s program featured guest speaker Mr. Brodie Mecum, a 2016 Pardeeville High School graduate and United States Army veteran. Mecum, the son of Pardeeville Area School District Administrative Assistant Mrs. Jennifer Mecum, shared personal stories from his time in service.

Musical performances were a highlight of the morning. Members of the high school choir opened the program with a stirring rendition of the national anthem, followed by educational aide Carmel Willett’s heartfelt performance of “God Bless America.” The kindergarten through 2nd grade students brought smiles with their spirited rendition

See **VETERANS**, page 2



Brodie Mecum, a 2016 Pardeeville High School graduate, finishes speaking at the Pardeeville Elementary School Veterans Breakfast, held at the school on Friday, Nov. 22.

## NHS inducts 20 new members

Group recognizes top  
student leaders at  
Pardeeville High School

*Page 5*



## Bringing light to Pardeeville

Over 40 high School students  
volunteer their time to help  
set up holiday lights  
at Chandler Park

*Page 6*

# VETERANS

FROM PAGE 1

of “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” while the 3rd and 4th graders sang the reflective “On Veterans Day.”

The program also included impactful presentations by the 3rd and 4th grade classes. Third graders read the iconic poem “In Flanders Field” and presented poppy pins to veterans and their guests as a symbol of remembrance. Fourth graders explained the symbolism of the POW/MIA Table and shared essays reflecting on the sacrifices of those who serve.

A moving moment came as the “Armed Forces Medley” played, with veterans standing to be recognized as the song for their branch of service was performed. Pardeeville High School sophomore Cody Gentz concluded the event with a solemn and beautiful performance of TAPS on the trumpet.

Before the program, guests enjoyed a delicious waffle breakfast prepared by Taher Inc., the district’s food-service partner. The breakfast was served by enthusiastic members of the Student Council, adding a personal touch to the morning.

The success of the Veterans Breakfast was made possible through the efforts of many dedicated staff members and generous community supporters. The school extends its gratitude to Alsum Produce, Kwik Trip, Johnson Controls, the Pardeeville American Legion Auxiliary, Pardeeville Girls Club, the O’Brion Agency, and Mitzi Manthey for their contributions. A special thanks also goes to the teachers and staff who coordinated the event, ensuring a memorable experience for all.



ABOVE: Pardeeville Elementary School student Logan Breger reads a card that explains the POW/MIA Table that was set up at the Pardeeville Elementary Veterans Breakfast program on Nov. 22.



RIGHT: Pardeeville Elementary School teacher Angie Noyons speaks during the Veterans Breakfast held at Pardeeville Elementary School on Friday, Nov. 22.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:**  
Becky Lezow, President  
Justin Nickel, Vice President  
Karla Walker, Treasurer  
Chad Bellis, Clerk  
Bret Achterberg, Director  
Paul Hees, Director  
Autumn Pease, Director  
**DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:**  
Ben Heninger  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**  
Travis Houslet

• • • • •  
• This newsletter is an official bi-  
• monthly publication of the Pardeeville  
• School District designed primarily to  
• inform parents and other district resi-  
• dents interested in their public school  
• system. It is designed to supplement  
• the fine coverage and reporting of  
• our local news media, other school  
• publications and general or more  
• personalized communications.  
• We are striving to develop a more  
• comprehensive school/community  
• system of communications.  
• • • • •

**HELP US BY  
BEING WELL  
INFORMED**

**Mission Statement**  
The Pardeeville Area School District, a caring, community-based learning organization, will provide all students an education that is a lifelong asset through active participation with family, business and community in a positive and challenging environment.

# There is plenty to be excited about here in Pardeeville

Looking back on the first few months as your new district administrator, I am filled with a palpable sense of belonging, gratitude, and purpose. It has become abundantly clear in just the short time that I have been in Pardeeville that this community cares DEEPLY about the quality of education that we provide our students. Your strategic investments in many areas of the school district have led to opportunities which inspire a lifelong love of learning in your students.

Moving forward into the winter months filled with holidays, family gatherings, and (hopefully) a reasonable amount of snowfall for those fellow outdoor sports enthusiasts, I am excited over the possibilities and promises that await in the year 2025. The past year has been full of transitions, and I continue to feel a sense of hope over what lies ahead for the Pardeeville Area School District.

## Referendum Update

On Monday, Nov. 18, representatives from School Perceptions and Findorff Construction Company met with our school board and members of the community to present the results from the referendum survey. In aggregate, there were nearly 550 respondents for a 16 percent response rate. These numbers indicate a typical survey size that corresponds with a response that offers a strong predictor of results if a referendum vote would be held now. Weighted numbers from key demographic segments indicate that nearly 6 in 10 district residents would support a non-recurring operational referendum in the amount of \$800,000 over three years. Additional funding would allow the District to maintain programs and services to meet student needs, attract and retain staff, and complete basic maintenance projects. If passed, this question is projected to have less than a \$1 (\$0.94) tax impact on the local mill rate. Similarly, just over 50 percent of respondents would support the base plan (\$22 million) to make strategic capital improvements on our physical learning spaces. If passed, this component is projected to have a \$1.90 tax impact on the local mill rate.

Assuming that these projections remain consistent with existing property tax values, the typical home/property owner within the Pardeeville Area School District would experience a total tax increase of \$284 per \$100,000 of property value upon successful passage of both the capital and operational referendum questions. We are continuing to look for the most cost-effective solutions that will have the greatest amount of impact for students and staff. At the end of the day, this additional funding will continue to ensure that our community is able to provide educational opportunities that inspire a lifelong love of learning in all students, as well as set them up for future success.



Pardeeville District Administrator Ben Heninger speaks during the Mark Bortz jersey retirement ceremony at Pardeeville High School back on Aug. 23.

## State Report Cards

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released its annual school and district report cards on Tuesday, Nov. 19, and the Pardeeville Area School District earned an overall rating of *Meets Expectations* (69.8). Most notably, priority areas scores in achievement and growth have risen since the 2022-23 report card. The Elementary (80.2) and High School (74.4) received *Exceeds Expectations* ratings and the Middle School *Meets Expectations* (63.6).

The Wisconsin school report cards measure academic achievement relative to student scores on standardized tests. Additionally, the report cards attempt to measure target group outcomes, growth, and students who are on-track to graduate. Wisconsin Statute 115.385 directs the Department of Public Instruction to generate report cards for every public school and district in the state. The most recent report card is based upon assessments completed during the 2023-24 school year.

The state report cards are just one measure of our overall student achievement and success in the Pardeeville Area School District. Grade-level assessments, extracurricular activities, and servant leadership opportunities continue to augment our vision of helping all students to *Learn, Innovate, Lead!*

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Heninger".

Benjamin Heninger  
District Administrator

# Program pays tribute to those who served in U.S. Armed Forces

## Pardeeville High School and Middle School combine to hold annual ceremony

On Monday, Nov. 11, students, staff, and community members gathered at Pardeeville High School for the annual Veterans Day Program, a tribute to the courage and sacrifices of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The event brought together individuals from across the community to show their appreciation for veterans and instill a sense of respect and gratitude in students.

The program featured guest speaker Major Jason Doro, who shared compelling stories and reflections from his time in the military. Pardeeville Middle School students Ronin Holly and Chesney Wickersham added to the ceremony with heartfelt speeches that highlighted the history and significance of Veterans Day. Their words underscored the bravery of veterans and the importance of remembering their contributions.

A solemn moment came when Pardeeville High School National Honor Society officers Taylor Luedtke and Catie Kopfhamer spoke about the POW/MIA Table, a symbol of remembrance for those who were prisoners of war or missing in action.

Musical performances played a key role in creating a reflective and respectful atmosphere. The Pardeeville High School Choir performed The Star Spangled Banner and United We Stand, capturing the spirit of unity and patriotism. The High School Band performed the Armed Forces Medley, prompting veterans in attendance to stand as their branch's theme played, providing a powerful reminder of the dedication within the veteran community.

To conclude the event, the solemn notes of Taps echoed through the gymnasium, played by trumpet players Cody Gentz and Chloe Kessenich, followed by a traditional gun salute.

After the program, veterans were invited to a turkey dinner prepared by the school's food-service partner, Taher Inc. Members of the National Honor Society served the meal, ensuring that veterans felt recognized and appreciated.

The Veterans Day Program at Pardeeville High School not only honored those who served but also reinforced the importance of community, gratitude, and remembrance among students and attendees. It was a reminder of the sacrifices made by service members and the value of paying tribute to those who protect the freedoms enjoyed by all.



ABOVE: Major Jason Doro was the guest speaker at the Pardeeville High School and Middle School Veterans Day Program held on Nov. 11.



LEFT: Veterans stood and were recognized during the playing of the Armed Forces Medley during the Veterans Day Program held at Pardeeville High School on Monday, Nov. 11.



BELOW: Ronin Holly reads an essay he wrote during the Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11.



The Pardeeville Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 20 new members during a special ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 3. Those inductees were, in front, from left; Abigail Jacobson, Taylor Luedtke, Bailey Grissom, Josephine Bue, Isabel Bue, Briar Otwas-ka, Catherine Kopfhamer, Madilynn Holland and Paige Mick. Back row; Jamison Wickersham, Kingston Galetka, Joe Dosemagen, Ava Wagner, Sophia Jerome, RaelLyn Holtan, Bronte Hulberg, Kiana Cook, Miranda Crary, Isaac Buchholz and Elijah Achterberg.

## Pardeeville’s National Honor Society inducts 20 new members

### Special ceremony inside the Lenz Auditorium recognizes students

On the evening of Thursday, Oct. 3, the Pardeeville High School Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) held its annual induction ceremony in the Lenz Auditorium, celebrating the achievements of 20 new members who embody the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The ceremony featured speeches from NHS advisor Mr. Chad Hineman, along with Pardeeville High School Principal Mr. David Bell. Leading the evening’s proceedings were NHS officers Lauren Schaller (president), Kayla Buzzell (vice president), Macy Cross (secretary), and Alexis Bryan (treasurer), each of whom highlighted the core values of the organization.

Throughout the evening, the new inductees were recognized for their academic excellence, commitment to

service, and dedication to leadership. Each of the 20 students stepped on stage to recite the NHS pledge, symbolizing their commitment to uphold the four pillars. Following the pledge, the students signed the official Pardeeville NHS registry and were presented with their membership pins and certificates.

This year’s inductees included Elijah Achterberg, Isaac Buchholz, Isabel Bue, Josephine Bue, Kiana Cook, Miranda Crary, Joe Dosemagen, Kingston Galetka, Bailey Grissom, Madilynn Holland, RaelLyn Holtan, Bronte Hulberg, Abigail Jacobson, Sophia Jerome, Catherine Kopfhamer, Taylor Luedtke, Paige Mick, Briar Otwas-ka, Ava Wagner, and Jamison Wickersham. They join current NHS members Alex Bryan, Olivia Bue, Kayla Buzzell, Macy Cross, Alexander Gabsch, Caleb Gard, Emma Gentz, Preston Jenkins, Chloe Kessenich, Cameron Koepp, Lauren Schaller, Elizabeth Staupe, and Erika Wickus in demonstrating the highest standards of character and service to their school and community.

During the ceremony, each speaker emphasized the importance of the four pillars:

Scholarship, which recognizes a student’s commitment to academic excellence;

Leadership, which reflects the ability to take initiative and inspire others;

Service, which represents the ongoing effort to contribute positively to the community; and

Character, which underscores the importance of integrity and ethical behavior.

The Pardeeville National Honor Society continues to play a vital role in fostering the development of these values in young leaders, encouraging them to be role models who will carry forward the ideals of NHS well beyond their high school years.

The Pardeeville NHS chapter, established to promote a culture of achievement and service, looks forward to seeing how this new group of members will continue to contribute to both the school and the broader community.

## Students provide huge help lighting up Chandler Park

Pardeeville High School students proved the power of teamwork on Saturday, Nov. 9, as more than 40 volunteers helped transform Chandler Park into a holiday wonderland.

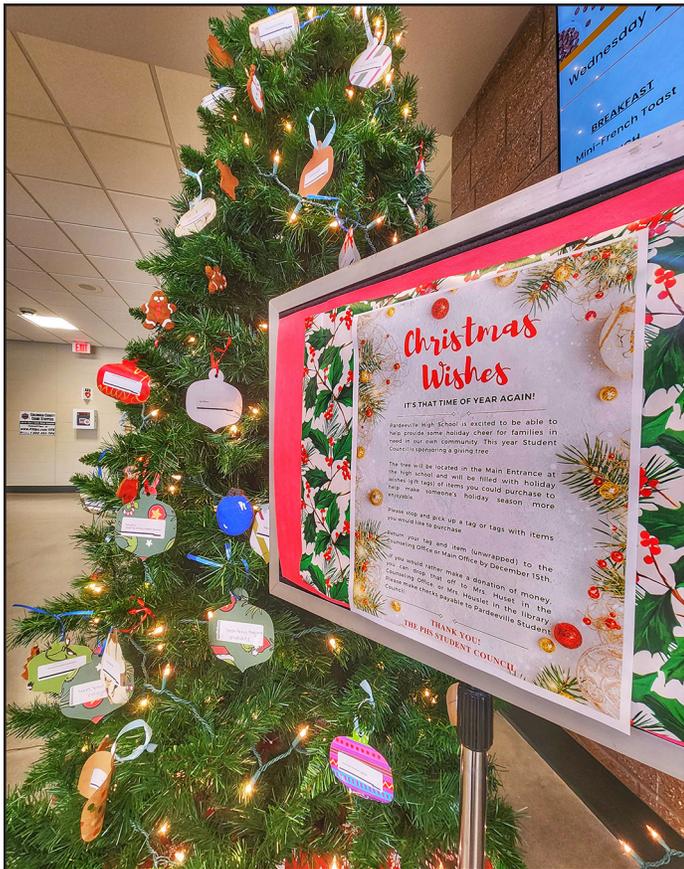
The students spent their morning wrapping trees, decorating shelters, and hanging lights around the baseball field. Their efforts turned what is typically a multi-day task into a three-hour sprint of festive creativity and community spirit.

The holiday light display, a cherished tradition in the community, is now ready to shine bright for visitors to enjoy throughout the season. Thanks to these hardworking students, and many other community members, Chandler Park is sure to be a magical destination for families and friends.



ABOVE: A group of Pardeeville High School students wrap trees with lights in Chandler Park on Saturday, Nov. 9. Over 40 students volunteered their time to set up lights.

BELOW: Pardeeville sophomore Sydney Sween helps put up a string of lights in Chandler Park.



The Pardeeville High School Student Council's Giving Tree is up inside the school atrium.

## Giving Tree looking for help to add holiday cheer to area families

As the holiday season approaches, the Pardeeville High School Student Council is once again hosting its annual Giving Tree Program, aiming to help make the holidays a little brighter for families in need within the Pardeeville Area School District.

Community members are invited to visit the Giving Tree located in the high school atrium. The tree is adorned with gift tags, each representing an item on a family's holiday wish list. Those who wish to participate can select a tag and purchase the listed item to make the season more special for someone in the community.

To obtain a gift tag, individuals can stop by the high school counseling office, call Mrs. Huset at 608-429-2153 ext. 367, or email her at [husecr@pasdwi.org](mailto:husecr@pasdwi.org). For those who may not be able to shop for items but still wish to contribute, the program is also accepting monetary donations. Funds collected will go toward purchasing items that aren't donated and providing families with a hearty holiday meal.

The Student Council requests that all purchased gifts and donations be dropped off at the high school by Dec. 17. By supporting the Giving Tree Program, community members can make a lasting difference for local families this holiday season.

# Planning starts for Bulldog Stomp

Preparations for the 17th Annual Bulldog Stomp have begun, with the upcoming event set to take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

The Bulldog Stomp committee members are welcoming participants to CandyLand, and are hoping you will join them to help reach their goal of raising \$45,000 for the UW-Carbene Cancer Research Center. The event will include the annual run/walk through Pardeeville, as well silent auctions and basket raffles.



## Message from Reggie

The students at Pardeeville High School and Pardeeville Middle School got an inspiring, uplifting and full-of-energy presentation from motivational speaker Reggie Dabbs in October. With humor, heart, and a few soulful saxophone tunes, Reggie reminded us all that, "You can never change your past, but you can change your future."



ABOVE: Captain Hook, played by Oswald Sanchez, and Smee, played by Jason Kopfhamer, enter the stage on a rowboat during the Pardeeville Drama Club's production of "Peter/Wendy."

BELOW: Elizabeth Staupe played the role of Peter Pan in the show.

## Drama Club delivers entertaining show

The Pardeeville Drama Club brought the timeless tale of Peter/Wendy to life during three performances at the Lenz Auditorium the weekend of Nov. 15-17. The production, based on Jeremy Bloom's reimagining of Peter Pan, enchanted audiences with its mix of fantasy, emotion, and creative storytelling.

Directed by Drama Club advisors Katlyn Dugenske and Seth Reilly, the show featured an outstanding cast led by Elizabeth Staupe as Peter Pan and Acacia Netzel as Wendy. Oswald Sanchez delivered a dual performance as the menacing Captain Hook and the stern Mr. Darling, while Jason Kopfhamer charmed as the comedic Smee. Leeza Keeling brought grace and spirit to Tiger Lily, Ella Rohrbeck sparkled as Tink, and Lorelei Hepler gave a heartfelt portrayal of Mrs. Darling. Rounding out the cast were Erika Wickus as a mermaid and the shadow, with Lydia Kleist and Makayla Smith embodying the adventurous Lost Boys.

The technical brilliance of the production was brought to life by a dedicated crew. Adam McKinney and Nathan Russell handled lighting and sound. Hayden Moulis, Lily-



anna Camren, Nadya Schellpfeffer, and Robin Sadlon provided essential backstage support, ensuring seamless transitions and set changes.

Audience members were transported to a world of imagination and adventure, applauding the effort and talent of the students, directors, and crew who made the production a resounding success.

As the curtains closed on Peter/Wendy, the Pardeeville Drama Club is already preparing for its next act. Stay tuned for updates on the spring musical, which promises to be another unforgettable performance.

# Elementary students celebrate Fire Safety Week in October

Pardeeville Elementary School students had an unforgettable experience during Fire Safety Week on Thursday, Oct. 10, with special presentations and hands-on activities that emphasized the importance of fire prevention and emergency readiness.

Brooke Hushagen from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources joined forces with Don Johnson and Hayden Guenther from the Pardeeville Fire Department to educate students on fire safety basics. They shared practical tips on preventing fires at home and in the outdoors. The presentations covered what to do if a fire emergency arises,

including how to “Stop, Drop, and Roll” and the importance of having an evacuation plan.

Excitement grew as students were introduced to a surprise guest – Smokey Bear himself! The children took the Smokey Bear Pledge, promising to help prevent wildfires and spread awareness about fire safety. After pledging, students headed outdoors for an up-close look at a fire truck, where they learned about its equipment and the critical role firefighters play in their community.

The event was a highlight of Fire Safety Week, instilling safety knowledge in students in a fun, memorable way.



Smokey Bear visited Pardeeville Elementary School to help teach about fire safety.

## Elementary School’s Family Night draws another large crowd

On Thursday, Nov. 14, Pardeeville Elementary School hosted its highly anticipated Family Night, drawing an incredible turnout of 262 family members. The event provided a lively and engaging atmosphere where families connected and participated in a variety of fun activities.

From hands-on crafts and interactive games to educational activities, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The evening showcased the strong sense of community that defines Pardeeville Elementary School, as parents, students, and siblings came together to celebrate learning and family.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the families who attended and made the evening so special. The success of the event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the teachers, staff, and volunteers who organized and facilitated the night.



Pardeeville’s Family Night on Nov. 14 included a variety of fun activities for all family members.



Darrel Kuhl and Tim Smith of Smith Bus Service were on hand to talk to Pardeeville Elementary School students about bus safety in October.

## Smith Bus Service provides important bus-safety lessons

October’s Bus Safety Week brought essential lessons to Pardeeville Elementary School, where students learned firsthand how to stay safe on and around school buses. Through a hands-on approach, young students practiced safe boarding, understood emergency procedures and gained valuable tips for safe behavior near buses.

Guiding these lessons were Nicky Oetzman, Darrel Kuhl, and Tim Smith from Smith Bus Service, whose commitment to student safety shone throughout the program. The instructors covered crucial topics like the importance of waiting for a signal before boarding, how to use emergency exits, and maintaining safe distances around the bus.



## Achterberg receives honor

Pardeeville Area School District Board of Education member Bret Achterberg is shown with board president Becky Lezwo along with the Level Two Achievement Award that Bret was honored with at the Wisconsin School Board Association fall meeting held on Oct. 24 at Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells. This distinction highlights Bret's dedication to ongoing learning and growth as a board member, allowing him to better serve our school district and community. We are proud of Bret's hard work and commitment to education. Thank you, Bret, for all you do.



## Alice in Pardeeville

In October, the 4th grade students at Pardeeville Elementary had a special visit from Halei Heinzel, Wisconsin's 77th Alice in Dairyland! Hailing from Oconomowoc, Halei shared some amazing insights into Wisconsin's rich agricultural heritage and how it impacts our everyday lives. We thank Halei for helping teach our students about our great state of Wisconsin.

## Pease joins Board of Education

The Pardeeville Board of Education welcomed Autumn Pease as its newest member. Pease was chosen from a pool of five candidates interviewed by the board during its Oct. 7 meeting and officially sworn in on Monday, Oct. 21.



Pease

The Pardeeville Area School District expressed enthusiasm for Pease's leadership and fresh perspective as she steps into her new role. Her appointment fills a recent vacancy, and the district is excited for her contributions to support the success of students and strengthen ties within the community.



Pardeeville alum Jesse Kath shows students how to make soft pretzels while visiting Mrs. Seichter's Pastry and Baking Class at Pardeeville High School on Nov. 13.

## Ben's Pretzels gives Pastry and Baking students tasty lesson

Pardeeville High School alum Jesse Kath, a familiar face in the Pardeeville Area School District as a regular substitute teacher, brought his culinary skills back to campus on Wednesday, Nov. 13. Kath, who owns a Ben's Soft Pretzels franchise, spent the day with Mrs. Seichter's Pastry and Baking Class, teaching students the fine art of crafting the perfect soft pretzel.

Kath guided the students through each step of the process, demonstrating how to roll, flip, and twist the dough into the iconic pretzel shape. After the hands-on lesson, the pretzels were baked to perfection, giving students the chance to savor their delicious creations.

The visit not only highlighted a fun culinary activity, but also provided a unique learning opportunity from a successful local entrepreneur. Students left the class with newfound skills, tasty snacks, and inspiration from a hometown role model.

# Art students learn barrel firing process to make ceramic pots

Students in Mr. Lynch's 3D and Advanced 3D Art classes at Pardeeville High School recently took their ceramic creations beyond the classroom, experimenting with a unique barrel firing process that transformed their pottery into art reflecting both tradition and creativity.

The students began with traditional coil construction to shape each pot by hand, building and burnishing the clay with "terra sigillata" to achieve a smooth, glossy finish. Once dried, the pottery was ready for firing. Taking the project outdoors near the baseball field, students filled two burning barrels with their pots, layering them with sawdust, wood, leaves, and other

organic materials. The firing process then got underway, with students adding minerals like salt and baking soda to produce striking color variations on the pottery's surface as it burned.

This unique barrel firing created unpredictable patterns, but it also led to cracking and breakage in some pieces. Instead of discarding these imperfect pots, students embraced the Japanese art of Kintsugi, an ancient technique that mends broken pottery with lacquer dusted in powdered gold. Through Kintsugi, students transformed cracks and fractures into decorative lines of shimmering gold, each one honoring the pottery's journey and adding a unique story to every piece.



Pardeeville High School senior Gabbi Hees shows off the pot she made using the barrel firing process.

---

---

## Pardeeville's video series receives Spectrum Award from WSPRA

The Pardeeville Area School District was recently honored by the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) with a Spectrum Award of Merit for its work in school communications.

WSPRA presented the Spectrum Awards at its annual conference held November 13-15 in Wisconsin Dells. The Pardeeville Area School District earned an Award of Merit in the Video Series Category for its Focus on Facilities project. Travis Houslet, Communications Specialist for the Pardeeville Area School District, accepted the award on behalf of the district.

The Focus on Facilities series, comprising eight videos, was created during the 2023-2024 school year to inform the public about the challenges faced by district staff due to the current state of the district's facilities. The videos highlighted real-life examples and shared insights from staff members to foster community understanding and engagement regarding the district's needs.

Spectrum Awards recognize high-quality school communication and engagement efforts by or on behalf of Wisconsin school districts. This year,



**On behalf of the Pardeeville Area School District, Travis Houslet, Communications Specialist for the district, accepted the Spectrum Award of Merit in the Video Series Category for its Focus on Facilities project from the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association during the group's fall conference in Wisconsin Dells.**

this statewide competition honored over 80 school districts and CESAs with awards.

"The dedication and creativity in these projects are shining examples

of the exceptional work happening in school public relations," Emily DeBaker, Wisconsin School Public Relations Association President said. "Recognizing and celebrating this amazing work not only honors district achievements but also inspires others to continue telling the powerful stories of our schools and communities. We thank these hard working school PR pros for setting the standard and reminding us all of the impact great communication can have."

WSPRA's Spectrum Awards were judged by members of other school public relations associations in 20 different states, from New York to California.

The Wisconsin School Public Relations Association is a professional association representing schools, school districts, educational associations, consulting agencies and organizations.

WSPRA is a state affiliate of the National School Public Relations Association. The mission of WSPRA is to expand the capacity of its members to provide effective communication management for the purpose of strengthening educational opportunities for all students.

# Pardeeville FFA snags multiple honors during National Convention

## Marketing Plan Team's Bronze National Ranking highlight of trip to Indianapolis

Members of the Pardeeville FFA had a memorable experience at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October, where they celebrated achievements, showcased their skills and made valuable connections.

A highlight for the Pardeeville Bulldogs was the Marketing Plan Team of Celia Kopfhamer, Catie Kopfhamer, and Ava Wagner, who earned a National Bronze Ranking, placing them among the top 30 teams in the nation. The team's hard work paid off as they presented a comprehensive marketing plan for the Crooked Branch Coffeehouse. In addition to crafting a detailed written plan, they impressed judges with their knowledge about the business and their confidence in answering questions on the spot.

Pardeeville FFA also received a prestigious 2-Star National Chapter award, recognizing the chapter's dedication to community involvement, leadership and agricultural advocacy. Kiera Westbury and Madi Holland represented Pardeeville FFA, accepting the chapter's award on stage.

Pardeeville alum Mya Noyons joined the celebration, walking across the stage to receive her American FFA



Pardeeville FFA members who attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October are, from left; Angel Alves, Braden Breneman, Addison Block, Kiera Westbury, Celia Kopfhamer, Ava Wagner, Catie Kopfhamer, Avery VonRuden, Madi Holland and Taylor Luedtke.

Degree, the highest honor an FFA member can achieve. This degree is awarded to individuals who have shown exceptional dedication to the organization, and Mya's accomplishment serves as an inspiration to the entire chapter.

The convention was filled with enriching experiences for Pardeeville FFA members. They had the opportunity to hear Dr. Temple Grandin speak on the importance of diverse educational paths and the need for hands-on learning. The students also explored the

Expo Center, where over 1,000 businesses and colleges provided insights into various career paths and educational opportunities.

Outside of the convention, the students bonded over a dinner at Buca di Beppo and an exciting visit to the Three Hills Rodeo. The trip was both educational and rewarding, and the achievements of the students reflected their commitment to excellence and their passion for agriculture.



## Didion helping Pardeeville grow

Pardeeville Middle School and High School Agri-Science teachers Meagan Vujnovich and Amanda Seichter accepted a \$25,000 donation from Riley Didion and the Didion Foundation during the month of October. The donation will help the district reach its goal of building a new greenhouse for its Agriculture and Food Science program. Our current greenhouse at Pardeeville High School is in need of repair and can no longer meet the growing demand for agriculture education.



Members of the Pardeeville High School football team poses along with members of the cheer team and Spanish Club in a photo to promote the pink-out football game against Deerfield that was played on Oct. 18.

# Pink-out events help raise money in fight against breast cancer

The Pardeeville Area School District united in the fight against breast cancer this October, hosting two highly successful Pink-Out events that brought together athletes, students, staff, and community members for a meaningful cause.

The first event, a volleyball match against Fall River, took place on Tuesday, Oct. 15. The second event, a football game against Deerfield, followed on Friday, Oct. 18, drawing a spirited crowd under the lights. Fans wore pink to show their support and participated in activities aimed at raising funds for the Breast Health and Wig Programs at Prairie Ridge Health in Columbus.

The Pardeeville volleyball and football programs teamed up with the Pardeeville Spanish Club to organize basket raffles, shirt sales and 50/50 raffles. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of attendees, these events raised an impressive \$5,723.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to community member Jen Kessenich, whose dedication played a key role in the events' success.

The funds raised will directly support breast cancer patients through the programs at Prairie Ridge Health, providing much-needed resources and assistance to those navigating their journey.



The Pardeeville High School volleyball program hosted a pink-out game against Fall River on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

**Don't forget to check out the Pardeeville Area School District on social media!**



**View this newsletter in color on our website at [www.pasdwi.org](http://www.pasdwi.org)**

## Health Care Career students get many hands-on experiences

Students in Mrs. Sheeks' Health Care Career Class at Pardeeville High School concluded a busy and educational trimester with hands-on learning experiences and field trips to various health care facilities.

One highlight was a visit to the Columbia County Health Care Center in Wycocena, where students explored the rehabilitation department and learned about patient care techniques. Another memorable trip was to Madison College, where students toured multiple departments, including respiratory therapy, surgical labs, ophthalmology, dental, and the simulation labs.

In the respiratory therapy department, students gained insights into treatments and intubation procedures for patients of all ages. During their time in the surgical lab, they handled instruments and even tried their hands at simulated abdominal surgeries.

These opportunities provided students with valuable exposure to different health care careers and hands-on experiences that will help them as they consider future paths in the medical field.



The Pardeeville High School students in Mrs. Sheeks' Health Care Career Class visited Madison College.

---

### FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

## Take proper precautions to avoid illness over holiday season

**A**nother virus that has come back around is *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. Respiratory infections caused by the bacteria *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* have increased in the United States, especially in young children. *M. pneumoniae* bacteria are spread by inhaling respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Other people can get infected if they breathe in those droplets. The incubation period is one to four weeks after being exposed to this virus. Good hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and disinfecting surfaces help prevent these bacteria from spreading.

- These infections are generally mild but sometimes can be severe, with a fever of 102.0 to 104.0, cough, body aches and shortness of breath. There are many more possible symptoms.
- Most will recover without medicine, but some people need antibiotics to get better.
- Call a healthcare provider about difficulty breathing or symptoms that concern you.

People with pneumonia caused by *M. pneumoniae* can seem better than expected for someone with a lung infection. With mild symptoms, people may not stay home or in bed, thus, the phrase "walking pneumonia" was coined.

With the colder weather, we have a tendency to spend more time inside. Therefore, we may have a better chance to catch one of many viruses going around this year. How-



**JANETTE SHEEKS**  
School Nurse

ever, to protect ourselves, we can stay away from people who are ill and wash our hands often – especially before we eat or touch our face. We can also eat a well balanced diet, with the more holistic foods, like fruits, vegetables and grains. We can also exercise and get plenty of sleep.

Remember, if students are not feeling well, they should stay home. This will let them get healthy and keep others from catching a virus. Illnesses and injuries documented with a doctor's note will be considered a medical excuse rather than parent excused absence.

A doctor's excuse is required after three days of consecutive absences.

Medical appointments are excused, but need to be verified with a note. This is especially important for our student-athletes who may not participate if they are not present in school for a full day on the day of the event.

Stay safe and stay healthy,  
Janette Sheeks RN

## Dual County Community Band offering free holiday concert

The Lenz Auditorium at Pardeeville High School has already had some great shows as part of its 2024-2025 Concert Season, including the Kingsmen Quartet, who played here in September, and Steve Leslie Sings James Taylor, who thrilled the Pardeeville crowd in November, but there are still plenty of shows on the schedule for this season.

### DUAL COUNTY COMMUNITY BAND

The Dual County Community Band will once again be offering its holiday concert, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7. The Dual County Community Band is a non-profit instrumental band of more than 50 dedicated musicians from the area. This is a free concert that is guaranteed to get you into the holiday spirit.

### COMEDYSPORTZ

ComedySportz is an awesomely exciting comedy show played as a sports match. This unique show is coming to the Lenz Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 1.

If you come to see ComedySportz, you will see one referee and two teams of players, one red and one blue, competing against each other in improv games based on the suggestions of the fans watching the match. There are seven to 10 games per match, with the occasional willing volunteer joining us up on the field to help the hilarity ensue.

This show begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors (age 65 and up).

### RING OF KERRY

On Saturday, March 8, Ring of Kerry will be visiting Pardeeville. Ring of Kerry is a bursting-with-energy Irish music group that captures the hearts of listeners. The group takes its name from a beautiful craggy drive in southwestern County Kerry, Ireland. Its Celtic music, however, is played with a heart much closer to its American home.



ComedySportz is bringing its exciting comedy show to Pardeeville's Lenz Auditorium on Feb. 1.

This show begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors (age 65 and up).

### PURCHASES TICKETS ONLINE

Tickets for individual shows can be purchased online, or via phone at 608-285-2717 (Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or at the door, subject to availability.

Online ticket sales end 24 hours prior to the performance. If the show is sold out, it will be posted on the Lenz Auditorium's website, Instagram and Facebook page. Ticket sales are non-refundable, except in the case of a canceled performance. Refunds can take the form of a gift certificate, which can go towards a future ticket purchase, or a donation to the Lenz Auditorium's general operating fund.

If you have any questions or are having troubles ordering, contact Adam at 608-285-2717.



Pardeeville High School students traveled to the Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139 Training Center in Coloma.

## Lesson on in-demand careers offered by Wisconsin Operating Engineers

Pardeeville High School students recently attended Externship Day at the Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139 Training Center in Coloma, where they learned about the in-demand career path of operating engineers.

The event offered students a hands-on opportunity to step out of the classroom and into a real-world setting. They met industry professionals and explored topics such as career opportunities, the apprenticeship process, job shadowing, and contractor employment requirements.

The Operating Engineers Local 139 hosts events like this to introduce students to the high-tech, high-skill, and high-demand world of operating engineering. By engaging with equipment, professionals, and training facilities, students gained valuable insights into the skills and training required to succeed in the field.

This externship day is part of the Wisconsin Operating Engineers' effort to inspire the next generation of skilled workers, highlighting the career potential in an essential industry.

# Pardeeville students sing with Trailways South Honors Choir

Pardeeville High School students joined the top vocalists in the Trailways South Conference for an unforgettable evening of music at the Trailways South Honors Choir Concert on Monday, Nov. 18. The concert, held at the Lenz Auditorium in Pardeeville, showcased the talent and dedication of the region's most accomplished choir students.

The day-long event brought together students from across the conference for rehearsals under the direction of guest conductor Anthony Cao, a distinguished music educator from Madison West High School. The collaboration culminated in a performance at 6 p.m., attended by an audience of family, friends and community members.

The Pardeeville students who participated in the honors choir included:

**Sopranos:** Bailey Grissom, Addyson Neary, Nevaeh Rizer, Ella Rohrbeck, Erika Wickus

**Altos:** Morgan Blader, Molly Hardwick, Lorelei Hepler, Acacia Netzel, Elizabeth Staupe

**Basses:** Alex Gabsch, Owen Sadlon, Oswald Sanchez

The concert highlighted the singers' versatility. Conductor Cao praised the group for their hard work and enthusiasm.

The event served as both a celebration of musical achievement and an opportunity for students to grow through collaboration and mentorship. The Trailways South Honors Choir concert underscored the strength of music education in the region.



ABOVE: Elizabeth Staupe and Acacia Netzel were two of the Pardeeville students to sing with the Trailways South Honors Choir.



LEFT: Pardeeville freshman Nevaeh Rizer sings with the Trailways South Honors Choir in the Lenz Auditorium on Nov. 18.

## SAVE THE DATES

### Pardeeville Area School District Winter Concerts

Dec. 12: High School Band & Choir Concert, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 17: Middle School Concert, Band at 6 p.m., Choir at 7 p.m.

Dec. 20: Elementary Grades K-2 Concert, 9 a.m.

Dec. 20: Elementary Grades 3-4 Concert, 1:30 p.m.

All shows are in the Lenz Auditorium



PARDEEVILLE AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



#PardeevilleProud



**GAIL SCHNEIDER PHOTO**

The 2024 Pardeeville varsity football team went 8-2 on the season, which was the most wins for the program since the Bulldogs went 8-3 in 2010.

## Pardeeville football goes 8-2, has most wins since 2010

The Pardeeville varsity football team had a season to remember, finishing 8-2 overall and securing second place in the Eastern Suburban Conference with a 6-1 record. This strong performance marked the most wins for the Bulldogs since 2010, when Pardeeville ended up at 8-3. It also saw Pardeeville make a return to the playoffs for the first time since 2021.

The Bulldogs faced Howards Grove in the opening round of the playoffs, where their run came to an end with a 26-15 loss. Despite the early exit, the team's season was filled with memorable moments and impressive accomplishments, including 10 players earning postseason recognition in the Eastern Suburban Conference.

Senior quarterback Logan Young led the charge, earning him a spot on the First Team as an Offensive Flex. Offensive linemen Joe Dosemagen and Landon Wolff both earned First Team honors, with Dosemagen named to the offensive line and Wolff recognized on the defensive line. Joining Wolff on defense were First Team selections James Morgan (Defensive End), Ashton Whitehorse (Inside Linebacker), Caleb Mackey (Outside Linebacker), and Jamison Wickersham (Defensive Back), while Caleb Gard took First Team Defensive Flex. Wickersham and Whitehorse also earned Second



The Pardeeville varsity football team had 10 players earn All-Eastern Suburban Conference honors following the season.

Team honors, with Wickersham as a receiver and Whitehorse as a running back, rounding out a well-rounded season for both players. Nick Sween and Kingston Galetka also received Second Team recognition for Defensive Back and Special Teams, respectively.

Offensively, Young was a standout, leading the team with 1,126 rushing yards and 17 touchdowns on 131 carries. Senior running back Ashton Whitehorse added 536 yards and 4 touchdowns, and Wickersham led the receiving corps with 40 receptions

for 521 yards and eight touchdowns, showcasing his dual impact on offense and defense.

The defense proved to be a formidable force as well. Senior linebacker Caleb Mackey led with 66 tackles, anchoring the team's defensive efforts. Defensive back Nick Sween recorded a team-high five interceptions, while Wickersham added three interceptions, returning two for touchdowns. Senior defensive tackle Landon Wolff made his presence felt with a team-high three sacks.

# Pardeeville boys advance to state meet, finish 4th

The Pardeeville boys cross country team capped off a stellar season with a fourth-place finish at the WIAA State Cross Country Championships in Wisconsin Rapids on November 3, marking the highest state finish for the program in its recent three-year streak of state qualifications. Competing among 16 top teams in the state, the Bulldogs delivered their best performance since winning the state title in 2002.

The Bulldogs' impressive run at state was led by freshman Trenton Hendrickson, who set the pace with a time of 17:15.6, placing 33rd overall and 15th among runners in the team competition. Senior captains Will Becker and Brody Motsenbocker crossed the finish line in quick succession, placing 46th and 47th with nearly identical times of 17:26.5 and 17:26.7. Rounding out the team effort were Nicholai Undraitis (18:12.7), Tristen Homan (18:32.6), Sawyer Berg (18:53.0), and Bodie Johansen (20:03.2).

Pardeeville earned its spot at the state championships by placing second at the Division 3 Poynette Sectional on Oct. 26. Hendrickson led the Bulldogs again



The Pardeeville High School boys cross country team poses for a photo after finishing second at the Division 3 Poynette Sectional. They are, from left; coach Wes Babcock, Bodie Johansen, Sawyer Berg, Tristen Homan, Nicholai Undraitis, Brody Motsenbocker, William Becker and Trenton Hendrickson.

at sectionals, finishing seventh overall and securing a team ticket to state for the sixth time in program history, all under the guidance of head coach Wes Babcock.

The Bulldogs demonstrated strength throughout the season, finishing second

at the Trailways Conference Meet on Oct. 17 in Janesville. Seniors Becker and Motsenbocker earned All-Trailways Conference first-team honors, while Hendrickson was named to the second team, and Undraitis received honorable mention.

---

## Motsenbocker gives Pardeeville girls their first state runner since 2013

The Pardeeville girls cross country team celebrated a season filled with individual achievements and steady improvement, led by sophomore Bree Mtsenbocker, who represented the Bulldogs at the WIAA State Cross Country Championships in Wisconsin Rapids. Competing in the Division 3 race, Mtsenbocker finished in 61st place out of 147 runners, clocking in at 21 minutes, 10.1 seconds, a proud achievement in a highly competitive field.

Mtsenbocker was the first Pardeeville girls runner to qualify for the WIAA State Cross Country Championships since Leah Johnson qualified her senior year in 2013.

Mtsenbocker earned her place at state by finishing 8th overall at the Division 3

Poynette Sectional on October 26, where she completed the course in 20:58.29. Her strong finish helped the Pardeeville team place 11th out of 14 teams at the sectional.

Senior Natalie Peissig wrapped up her cross country career with an admirable performance at sectionals, finishing 43rd with a time of 23:21. Peissig's contributions throughout her high school career were evident this season, and her leadership helped push the team to a fifth-place finish at the Trailways Conference Meet on October 17 in Janesville. At the conference meet, Mtsenbocker's sixth-place finish earned her First Team All-Trailways honors, while Peissig's 14th-place finish secured her a spot on the second team.



Pardeeville sophomore Bree Mtsenbocker qualified for the WIAA State Cross Country Championships by finishing in 8th place at the Poynette Sectional.



**GALLEY STUDIOS PHOTO**

Members of the 2024 Pardeeville varsity volleyball team are, from left; Sophia Jerome, Kayla Buzzell, Chloe Lukowski, Chloe Kes-senich, Alexis Bryan, Bronte Hulberg, Ava Wagner, head coach Heather Thomas, Anna Trahms, Kiana Cook, Brook Schomburg, Lauren Schaller, Macy Cross, Lexi Hughes and Brianne Neuhauser.

## Pardeeville shows resilience, gets first postseason win since 2016

The Pardeeville High School volleyball team wrapped up its season with determination and resilience, finishing 10-16 overall and capping off with strong performances in both the Trailways Conference Tournament and the playoffs.

The Bulldogs hit their stride late in the season, picking up three victories over Wayland Academy, Madison Country Day, and Cambria-Friesland at the Trailways Conference Tournament on Oct. 12. Building on that momentum,

Pardeeville swept Westfield in the opening round of the playoffs on Oct. 22 with scores of 25-11, 25-19, and 25-18. It was the program's first postseason victory since 2016. The team's playoff run ultimately came to a close in the regional semifinals against top-seeded Nekoosa.

Pardeeville's season was highlighted by key contributions from standout juniors Lexi Hughes and Bronte Hulberg, both of whom earned All-Trailways West Conference Honorable Mentions for their efforts. Hulberg led the Bull-

dogs in kills with 65 and dominated at the net with a team-high 33 blocks. Hughes, serving as the team's primary setter, racked up a team-best 291 assists and excelled at the service line, leading with 38 service aces.

Junior Ava Wagner's commitment to sportsmanship also earned her a spot on the conference's All-Sportsmanship Team, highlighting her positive impact on and off the court.

## Cheer team hands out awards following successful fall season

The Pardeeville High School fall cheer team celebrated the completion of its season with an end-of-the season banquet on Oct. 22.

At the banquet, the team handed out awards to three individuals. Congratulations to this year's award winners: Best All-Around Cheerleader: Josephine Bue, Most Cheerful: Merissa San Emeterio and Best Cheer Teammate: Jade Koepp.

Team members on this year's squad were; Isabel Bue, Cleo Meier, Olivia Bue, Josephine Bue, Jade Koepp, Catherine Wendt, RaeLyn Holtan,

Makensy Miller, Constance Fallon, and Merissa San Emeterio, all led by the incredible coaching duo of Carmela Garcia and Margaret Waldinger.

Pardeeville's Cheer Competition Team is also gearing up for the winter season, and recently took part in a cheer competition clinic that was held. The team worked with clinician Lindsay Simonson and learned the choreography for their Game Day Competition program. The team is planning on opening its competition season on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Under the Big Top event in Baraboo.



Pardeeville cheer team members to win awards at the end-of-the-season banquet were, from left; Josephine Bue (Best All-Around Cheerleader), Merissa San Emeterio (Most Cheerful) and Jade Koepp (Best Cheer Teammate).

# Trap co-op shows growth, much improvement during fall season

The Rio/Pardeeville trap-shooting team celebrated another successful season this fall, showcasing growth and talent as it took to the shooting range. With the addition of eight new shooters, the team expanded to a roster of 45 members, up from 38 last spring.

This season, the team earned nine varsity letters, highlighting the dedication and skill of its members. Several shooters were recognized for their outstanding performances with end-of-season awards. Pardeeville's Owen Vanden Hoven and Simon Deich received Most-Improved Awards for their significant progress throughout the season.

Top Shot Awards were given to the team's top performers based on their averages:

- Isaac Buchholz: Top Shot, 22.7 average
- William Becker: 1st Place, 21.6 average
- Eli Achterberg: 2nd Place, 21.1 average

Xander Sosa: 3rd Place, 20.5 average

Head coach Chad Volkmann praised the team for their efforts, emphasizing the



Members of the Rio/Pardeeville trap-shooting team gather for a photo at the team's awards-banquet.

role of teamwork and personal growth in their success.

"To our repeat shooters, I want to thank you for taking opportunities to be role models for the new members through leadership, experience, and guidance," Volkmann said. "To the new shooters, I am proud of how you consistently pushed

yourselves each week to remain positive and try to hit at least one more bird than the last week."

The season not only demonstrated the team's competitive edge but also underscored its commitment to fostering sportsmanship and personal improvement among all members.



## Treats for Troops

Pardeeville Middle School Student Council members Lilley Hanko, Makenzie Schmidtke and Madelynn Soppe proudly show off the impressive haul from this year's Treats for Troops candy drive. Pardeeville Middle School Students generously donated some of their Halloween candy to be sent to service members, spreading joy and gratitude to those serving far from home. A big shout-out to the 6th grade for leading the way by collecting the most candy and winning the class competition!

## Chef Garavito visits Pardeeville

During the month of October, Pardeeville High School had the honor of welcoming Chef Camilo Garavito, a regional chef with our food service partner, Taher Professional Food Service Management.

Chef Camilo joined Mrs. Seichter's Meat and Vegetable Science classes to give students a hands-on demonstration of Brazilian cuisine by making Pao de Queijo, a delicious baked cheese

roll commonly enjoyed as a breakfast treat in Brazil. Chef Camilo also answered questions from the students about his cooking background and different experiences working as a chef.

The following day, Chef Camilo returned to the kitchen to serve up a mouthwatering Brazilian Cerrado-style chicken with rice, black beans, and kale farofa for students and staff to enjoy during lunch.



Chef Camilo Garavito worked with the students in Mrs. Seichter's Meat and Vegetable Science classes while visiting Pardeeville High School in October.

## Go Wild students learn art of scoring whitetail deer antlers

Pardeeville Middle School's 7th grade students in Mr. Landsverk's Go Wild Explore Class got a hands-on wildlife lesson on Thursday, Nov. 21, as they delved into the science and skill of measuring whitetail deer antlers. The activity, which introduced students to the Boone and Crockett Club's Online Scoring Calculator, blended real-world math with wildlife conservation education.

Working in small teams, the students carefully measured and scored a variety of antler sets provided at their tables. Each group followed the scoring process step-by-step, calculating measurements such as beam length, tine length, and antler spread. These numbers were then inputted into the scoring calculator, which generated a total score based on Boone and Crockett's criteria for evaluating trophy-class antlers.

The hands-on activity exemplifies Mr. Landsverk's approach in Go Wild Explore, a class designed to immerse students in outdoor education and encourage an appreciation for nature.



The 7th grade students in Mr. Landsverk's Go Wild Explore class work in teams as they learn how to score whitetail deer antlers in class on Thursday, Nov. 22.



Pardeeville High School senior Mallory Baures works during a lab led by representatives from Promega Corporation at the high school on Nov. 5.

## Promega Corporation works with Pardeeville students

The students in Mrs. Seichter's Advanced Biology class and Mrs. Holmes' Anatomy and Physiology class at Pardeeville High School had a unique opportunity to experience the complexities of a real-world laboratory setting during the school day on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Representatives from Promega Corporation, a biotechnology company based in Madison, guided students through advanced lab techniques, offering a glimpse into the intricate world of scientific research.

The workshop allowed students to use cutting-edge tools and procedures to separate proteins from egg yolks, simulating tests for E. coli and Salmonella exposure. Under the guidance of Promega experts, students handled professional-grade micropipettes, centrifuges, and agitators while working with chemical reactants. They learned the critical steps involved in identifying antibodies associated with these common bacteria, deepening their understanding of laboratory diagnostics.

The testing methods mirrored those used in medical diagnostics, including rapid strep tests, at-home COVID-19 tests, and pregnancy tests, which rely on detecting specific antibodies or proteins. By directly engaging in these techniques, students connected classroom theory to real-world applications, further sparking their interest in biology and healthcare careers.

The collaboration with Promega Corporation exemplifies Pardeeville High School's commitment to providing students with authentic learning opportunities. By equipping them with hands-on experiences, the school continues to prepare students for future success in STEAM fields.



## A lesson in patience

Pardeeville Elementary School 5K teacher Rebecca Chapman holds a shovel and helps her students plant spring bulbs outside the school during the school day on Friday, Nov. 1. Chapman, along with her fellow 5K teachers, Rachel Kaufman and Penny Whyte, guided the young gardeners through discussions on patience, growth, and anticipation, reminding them that these bulbs will take time to sprout – but their hard work will bring beautiful flowers in the spring.



## Bulldogs showing teamwork

Pardeeville High School juniors Brennen Carlson and Jazzmyn Ferguson work as part of a team on a team-building activity that was led by Brian Kenney from Team Extreme. During the month of October, Brian led students through a series of challenging and exciting activities designed to enhance their leadership skills and build strong teamwork. From problem-solving tasks to trust-building exercises, Pardeeville's juniors stepped up to the challenge and showed determination and collaboration.

## Students take aim at archery poker

Pardeeville High School students in Mr. Hammerschmidt's Outdoor Adventures class enjoyed a hands-on lesson in archery on a crisp autumn day, combining skill development with creativity and teamwork. The class practiced their aim by turning the lesson into an exciting game of archery poker, a unique activity designed to make learning fun and engaging.

The game began as students divided into teams and aimed their arrows at a deck of playing cards spread across the targets. Each time a student hit a card, their team collected it with the goal of forming the best possible poker hand.

The game also highlighted the importance of safe and responsible handling of archery equipment, a key component of the Outdoor Adventures curriculum. Students took care to follow safety protocols, making the event both enjoyable and educational.



ABOVE: Pardeeville High School Outdoors Adventures teacher Mr. Alex Hammerschmidt works with student Brody Motsenbocker during their archery unit.

BELOW: Students took aim at playing cards while playing archery poker.



# 2024-2025 Pardeeville High School and Middle School Winter Sports Schedules

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dec. 2	at Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 5	Fall River, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 13	Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 17	at Poynette, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	at Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 2	at Hustisford, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 3	at Horicon, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 7	Waterloo, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Prin/GL, at Princeton, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 13	Westfield, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 17 or 18	Trailways Crossover at CWC
Jan. 21	at Wisconsin Heights, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	at Markesan, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Lodi, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 31	at Fall River, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 3	Berlin, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 6	Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 14	Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 20	Princeton/Green Lake, 7:15 p.m.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Dec. 2	at Waterloo, 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	at Markesan, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 6	Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 10	Wisconsin Dells, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Fall River, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 20	Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 7	at Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 9	at St. Ambrose Academy, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 14	Belleville, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 16	Princeton/Green Lake, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 21	Westfield, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 23	Poynette, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 24 or 25	Trailways Crossover at Horicon
Jan. 27	at Madison Abundant Life
Jan. 30	Markesan, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 7	Fall River, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Horicon, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 13	at Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 18	Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 21	at Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 24	Watertown Luther Prep, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 27	at Prin/GL, at Green Lake, 7:15 p.m.

## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Dec. 7	at Black River Falls Invite, 10 a.m.
Dec. 12	Pardeeville Quad, 5 p.m.
Dec. 14	at Waunakee Invite, 9:15 a.m.
Dec. 19	Pardeeville Quad, 5 p.m.
Dec. 20	at Waterloo Tournament, 3 p.m.
Dec. 27 & 28	at UW-Whitewater Invite, 9:30 a.m.
Dec. 30	at Ripon Invite, 9 a.m.
Jan. 9	Pardeeville Quad, 5 p.m.
Jan. 11	at Sauk Prairie Invite, 9 a.m.
Jan. 16	at Horicon Quad, 5 p.m.
Jan. 18	at DeForest Invite, 9 a.m.

Jan. 23	at Rio Quad, 5 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Watertown Luther Prep, 7 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Princeton Quad, 5 p.m.
Feb. 1	at Wisconsin Dells Invite, 9:30 a.m.
Feb. 8	Trailways Meet at Dodgeland, 8 a.m.
Feb. 15	at Cedar Grove-Belgium Regional
Feb. 22	at Dodgeland Sectional
Feb. 27-Mar 1	Individual State at Madison

## BOYS CURLING

Dec. 3	Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 10	Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 17	at Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 7	Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 9	Monona Grove, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 14	Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 17-18	Tietge Bonspiel in Wausau
Jan. 21	at Lodi
Jan. 28	at Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 4	Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 6	at Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 14-15	State Championships, at Wausau

## GIRLS CURLING

Dec. 3	at Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 17	Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 7	at Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 14	at Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 17-18	Tietge Bonspiel in Wausau
Jan. 21	Lodi
Jan. 28	Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 6	Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 14-15	State Championships, at Wausau

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Jan. 14	at Cambria-Friesland, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	Fall River, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 21	at Dodgeland, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	Markesan, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	at Horicon, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	Princeton/Green Lake, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Montello, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 4	at Randolph, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Rio, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	at Waupun CWC, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 18	Dodgeland, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	Waupun CWC, 4:30 p.m.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Dec. 3	at Horicon, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 5	at Fall River, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	at Dodgeland, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Randolph, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Fall River, 4:30 p.m.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

Dec. 3	Pardeeville Quad, 4:15 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Waunakee Triangular, 4:15 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Monroe Quad, 4:15 p.m.

*-Dates and times subject to change. Check online athletic calendar for up-to-date info.*



Pardeeville High School student Chayse Pulvermacher visits with the kangaroo that lives at the Inspire Early Childhood Learning Center and Zoo in Waunakee.

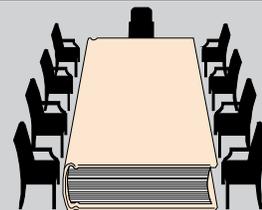
## Educators Rising group visits Inspire Early Childhood Learning Center

Pardeeville High School's Educators Rising members recently embarked on an field trip to the Inspire Early Childhood Learning Center and Zoo in Waunakee, immersing themselves in a hands-on learning experience.

This visit offered aspiring educators a firsthand glimpse into early childhood education, allowing them to gain valuable insights into teaching young learners. Adding to the adventure, students also had the chance to interact with some of the fascinating animals housed at the Learning Center's on-site zoo.

The trip was a part of Educators Rising, a national movement dedicated to fostering the next generation of teachers. By offering students practical experiences and pathways to explore their passion for teaching, Educators Rising empowers members to make a positive impact on their communities and shape the future of education.

# Pardeeville Board of Education



## MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING Nov. 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Ms. Becky Levzow, Board President. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Mr. Bret Achterberg, Mr. Chad Bellis, Mr. Paul Hees, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Autumn Pease, Ms. Karla Walker, Ms. Becky Levzow. Also present were Dr. Benjamin Heninger, Mr. David Bell, Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Ms. Jen Mecum, Mr. Chris Lynch, Ms. Annette Lavia, Ms. Zoe Soleimani, Ms. London Peetz, Ms. Audra Stark, Mr. Brody Motsenbocker, Mr. William Becker, Mr. Nicholai, Undraitis, Mr. Sawyer Berg, Mr. Trenton Hendrickson, Mr. Tristen Homan, Ms. Bree Motsenbocker, Mr. Wes Babcock, Ms. Melanie Voges, Mr. Jacob Kasten, Mr. Dane Overland, Mr. Bodie Johansen, Ms. Angie Noyons and Ms. Amanda Seichter.

### Motion to Approve Agenda

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

### Board Elections of Officers

Election for the open Vice President position was asked for nominations. Mr. Bellis nominated Mr. Hees, and Ms. Levzow nominated Mr. Nickel. A ballot vote was conducted, and Mr. Nickel was elected as vice president with a 4-3 ballot count done by Dr. Heninger. This opened the Clerk position up, which Mr. Hees nominated Mr. Bellis and was seconded by Mr. Achterberg. Motion passed 7-0.

### Student Spotlight-Ceramic Art Class

Mr. Lynch had students Ms. Zoe Soleimani, Ms. London Peetz and Audra Stark introduce themselves and they talked about the process that was started last year known as barrel burning pottery in their ceramic class. The students talked about their experience with this class. Board members asked questions regarding the process, and the students and Mr. Lynch were able to answer. Ms. Levzow asked the students what they were doing after high school, which they did answer.

### Recognition of State Boys/Girls Cross Country Participants

Mr. Babcock had the cross country participants identify themselves. Present were William Becker, Trenton Hendrickson, Tristen Homan, Brody Motsenbocker, Nicholai Undraitis, Sawyer Berg, Bree Motsenbocker, Dane Overland and Bodie Johansen. Mr. Babcock talked about the experience, stating that the boy's team was expected to finish 11th place, but ended up finishing in 4th place. Ms. Motsenbocker did an excellent job finishing

in 61st place out of 147 runners. Mr. Babcock stated that this was a huge accomplishment for Ms. Motsenbocker for her first time making it to State. Mr. Babcock stated although they have several seniors this year, but still have a lot of depth in their current participants and middle schoolers coming up. The board congratulated the participants on their accomplishments.

### Special Education Update from Director Annette Lavia

Ms. Lavia talked about her fall conference and the least restrictive environment model. She talked about all of the levels of this model and how we use all of the parts of it throughout the district for our students.

### Comments from Attendees on WASB Fall Regional Meeting

Board members talked about the meeting that was held at Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells. Mr. Bellis stated that since he has been going, he thought it had the best content. Content that was discussed during the regional meeting was regarding finances, referendums, budget surplus and talked about the teacher shortage and how longevity is a struggle with teachers only staying on an average for 5 years. WASB did state that they do provide services for free to board members and superintendents. Mr. Achterberg achieved a level 2 award from WASB which signifies his dedication in learning and attending conferences and meetings through WASB.

### Board Members Attending the State Education Convention (January 22-23, 2025)

Ms. Mecum reaffirmed with the board they are attending the State Education Convention to get them registered.

### Board Comments & Questions

Ms. Walker talked about the PTO dance and how the students had a lot of fun. Ms. Levzow attended the Steve Leslie concert and stated it was really good. Ms. Levzow also stated that she had people asking about the survey. Will be getting the survey results on 11/18/24 at the board meeting.

### Approval of Minutes Dated 10/21/2024

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve minutes dated 10/21/24. Motion passed 6-0-1.

### Approval of Minutes Dated 10/29/2024

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve minutes dated 10/29/24. Motion passed 6-0-1.

### Approval of Overnight Field Trip for FFA to Stevens Point on 11/15/24-11/16/24

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Achterberg approved the overnight field trip for FFA to Stevens Point on 11/15/24-11/16/24. Ms. Seichter did talk about this

field trip and that they have gone in the past 6 out of 8 years. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Resignation of Support Staff

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the retirement of Kim Sommers. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Support Staff/Custodian

There was no one to approve at this time; being tabled.

### Approval of Additional Winter Sports Volunteers/Coaches

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve Amber Hoffman as Middle School girls basketball coach. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Resignation of Middle School Softball Coach

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the resignation of Middle School softball coach Tammy Haugen. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Donations

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the donations of a clarinet to the band department donated by Barry & Margo Pufahl, a telescope donated to the high school science department from Vic Vargo, a donation from the Pardeeville Bulldog Support Foundation to pay for the live streaming of the High School football playoff game of \$187.50, a donation of \$20 to the auditorium from David Keppert, Indian Trails Campground donated eight 3 gallon tubs of ice cream to the Elementary School. \$12 from the Rocky Run Snowmobile Club, Johnson's Control donated items for the 11/22/24 veterans breakfast at the Elementary School and a \$3,000 donation from Bedrock Church members to pay for the Youth Alive assembly for the Middle and High School students. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of First Reading of Neola Policies

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the first reading of NEOLA policies as listed on the agenda. Mr. Nickel did go over briefly of notable updates to graduation requirements and academic honesty policies. Motion passed 7-0.

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

FFA presentation on their National Convention trip, Facility Planning progress and survey results, 2nd reading of Neola policies.

### Closed Session

A closed session will be held under 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to discuss Superintendent Goals and Expectations.

### Return to Open Session

### Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the adjournment. Motion

passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

---

Chad Bellis, Board Clerk

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Oct. 29, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Ms. Becky Lezow, Board President. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Mr. Chad Bellis, Mr. Paul Hees, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Autumn Pease, Ms. Karla Walker and Ms. Becky Lezow. Also present were Dr. Benjamin Heninger, Ms. Jen Mecum.

Motion to Approve Agenda

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of 2024-2025 Budget

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the updated 2024-2025 budget. Mr. Hees did ask Dr. Heninger questions related to the budget, to which Dr. Heninger responded. Ms. Lezow asked questions about how we lowered the deficit to which Dr. Heninger answered. Mr. Bellis did comment about the equalized value rates. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bellis- Yes, Mr. Hees- Yes, Ms. Lezow- Yes, Mr. Nickel- Yes, Ms. Pease- Yes, Ms. Walker-Yes. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of 2024-2025 Tax Levy

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the 2024-2025 tax levy. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Hees- Yes, Ms. Lezow- Yes, Mr. Nickel- Yes, Ms. Pease- Yes, Ms. Walker- Yes, Mr. Bellis- Yes. Motion passed 6-0.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve the adjournment. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

---

Justin Nickel, Board Clerk

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
Oct. 21, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ms. Becky Lezow, Board President. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Mr. Bret Achterberg, Mr. Chad Bellis, Mr. Paul Hees, Ms. Karla Walker, Ms. Becky Lezow, and Student Representatives Bronte Hulbert and Ava Wagner. Also present were Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Alex Hammerschmidt, Mr. Jim Housner, Ms. Jen Mecum, Ms. Angie Noyons, Mr. Dennis Kinworthy and Mr. Don Andringa. Dr. Benjamin Heninger was via telephone and Mr. Bell arrived at 7:52 pm.

Motion to Approve Agenda

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

Swearing in of New Board Member

Ms. Autumn Pease read the official oath and was sworn in.

Open Forum

No one signed up.

Student Representative Report

Student representatives went over their report. Ms. Lezow stated that the high school seemed to have successful pink out nights for both volleyball and football games. Ms. Lezow also did wish the FFA marketing team going to nationals good luck.

Administrative Team Reports

Elementary School-Ms. Lezow asked about parent teacher conferences going well Mr. Kohn elaborated. Ms. Walker asked about a fundraiser status. Ms. Lezow stated that the safety day they had was a good opportunity for the students.

Middle School-Ms. Denure went over the change to the 6th grade math curriculum and wanting to go back to the previous Envision curriculum as the students are struggling with their current CPM curriculum.

High School-Ms. Lezow was happy to see all that were inducted into the National Honor Society. Parent teacher conferences were also discussed knowing that they get less of a turnout than the lower grades.

Activities-Ms. Lezow spoke about the opportunity for our staff to get a La Vita membership. Building and Grounds-150 work tickets this past month making them busy. Ms. Lezow asked about staffing and Mr. Housner stated that they are still one short and would like to post for the position.

Technology-Ms. Lezow appreciated that Mr. Walker is trying to help the budget and using the Erates program to offset some costs.

Library Report-Ms. Lezow reminded the board of the newsletter that Ms. Houslet sends out to families and staff and appreciated her going to workshops to keep learning.

Committee Reports

Curriculum-Ms. Lezow went over the request for the 6th grade math curriculum change, also indicated they talked about Act 20 updates and discussed the Forward Exam and scores. Homeschooling credits was also discussed, but more information is needed before making any decisions.

Building & Grounds-They are looking to get bids to clear land behind the Balliet building as well as needing a survey done in that area. Also they are getting a bid in regards to the prairie fill.

Personnel-Mr. Bellis stated that they discussed staff concerns, PEA concerns, as well as wrestling coaching staff.

Presentation of Technology Department Updates

Mr. Walker gave a report on what the technology department did over the summer. Mr. Hees asked about what rostering meant in Mr. Walker's presentation, which was elaborated on. Ms. Lezow asked what grade starts getting chromebooks, which was confirmed in kindergarten. Ms. Walker stated that Mr. Walker and his team did a good job. Mr. Bellis stated Mr. Walker did a good job on the recycling of old equipment and getting money back out of it for the district.

Presentation of Summer Projects and Work Done by Building & Grounds

Mr. Housner did a presentation of their summer projects. Ms. Lezow talked about the moving crew over the summer and a benefit it is to have them. Mr. Hees asked how Mr. Housner prioritized the projects, and Mr. Housner stated he prioritizes it due to safety and health of students and staff, along if it will fit in the budget. Projects will be recommended to the building and grounds committee and then to the board for approval if bigger projects. Mr. Hees asked if he needed help with anything, and getting more staff was only mentioned.

Discussion of Softball Pitching Mound Project

Mr. Hammerschmidt explained the softball pitching mound project for the board. Some temporary ones had been put in place, but are deteriorating quickly and need to be replaced. Donations of \$2,000 came in for this project to cover the cost of the material, and most of the labor will be donated as well. Mr. Andringa also gave some information regarding the mounds and where they will be placed. Mr. Housner asked some questions as well and will connect with Mr. Andringa. Mr. Hees stated that the softball community asked for donations and they got them quickly. Mr. Achterberg asked to ensure there was no Title IX violation, and there would not be as baseball already has pitching mounds so they are giving the softball field that equivalent. Mr. Achterberg then asked how the baseball pitching mound was doing, and Mr. Hammerschmidt stated that they were in good shape and will need minor maintenance.

Finalizing WASB Fall Regional Meeting

Confirmed meeting time for meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2024 in Wisconsin Dells at Trappers Turn. No school vans available, so will carpool.

Board Comments & Questions

Ms. Lezow stated that she was asked to attend the CAPP class and talk about being on the school board. The students had great questions. Ms. Lezow stated it was a great experience. Ms. Lezow and Mr. Hees talked about the PABA meeting that was earlier in the day. Ms. Lezow stated that there was a good attendance and she was able to talk to them about the survey that came out and encouraged them all to complete it. Mr. Hees stated that they did talk about costs, and there did not seem to be any resistance so hopeful. Mr. Hees also wanted to say thank you to Mr. Hammerschmidt for taking time to fill the new trophy case in the atrium to showcase the school's accomplishments.

Approval of Minutes Dated 10/7/24/2024

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve minutes dated 10/7/24. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Receipts/Expenditures

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the receipts and expenditures. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Softball Pitching Mound

## Project

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the softball pitching mound project. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Snow Plow Bid

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the snow plow bid from Kenevan Contractors LLC. Mr. Housner went over the comparison of the three bids received from Sullivan Family Lawn Care, Terry Kohn Excavating LLC and Kenevan Contractors LLC. Mr. Housner answered any questions that the board had. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Additional Winter Coaches

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the additional winter coaches of Jesse Huset and Judd Becker as Middle School wrestling coaches and Dakota Hodgson as the Middle School curling coach. Mr. Hammerschmidt went over the list and answered questions from Mr. Bellis. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Resignation of Middle School Softball Coach

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve resignation of Middle School softball coach Josh Neary. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Early College Credit/Start College Now Applications

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the early college credit and start college now applications. Dr. Heninger gave a brief overview. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Overnight Field Trip for Wrestling in Whitewater 12/27/24-12/28/24

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the overnight field trip for wrestling in Whitewater on 12/27/24-12/28/24. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Donations

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the donations listed as follows: \$2,000 anonymous donation towards the softball pitching mound maintenance project, \$200 donation from Harold & Justina McElroy towards the new greenhouse, a saxophone was donated to the high school band department from Barry & Margo Pufahl, a \$5,000 anonymous donation towards the fitness center, Culver's donated 36 meal tokens for the middle school student of the week program and Jim Wagner donated \$25 towards the girls basketball program. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of 2nd Reading of NEOLA Policies 1-13

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the second reading of NEOLA policies 1-13 as presented. Mr. Hees talked about the Wisconsin Academic Scholarship policy being updated and clarified the GPA process. Motion passed 6-0.

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

First reading of NEOLA policies, approval of an overnight field trip for FFA, confirmation of who is attending January WASB State Convention for registering, closed session. Reminder there is a special meeting on Tues-

day, October 29, 2024 at 7 pm to approve updated budget and tax levy information.

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the adjournment. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

---

Becky Levwow, Board President

## **MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING Oct. 7, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ms. Becky Levwow, Board President. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Mr. Bret Achterberg, Mr. Chad Bellis, Mr. Paul Hees, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Karla Walker and Ms. Becky Levwow. Also present were Dr. Benjamin Heninger, Mr. David Bell, Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Jim Housner, Ms. Jennifer Bussan, Ms. Angie Noyons, Ms. Amanda Seichter, Ms. Meagan Vujnovich, Ms. Ashley Dodge, Mr. Dennis Kinworthy, Mr. Chris Lindert, Ms. Linda Lindert, Ms. Autumn Pease and Mr. Jonathan Peetz.

### Motion to Approve Agenda

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

### Interviewing of Board Member Candidates

Interviewed the following candidates in this order: Ashley Dodge, Autumn Pease, Dennis Kinworthy, Jennifer Bussan and Jonathan Peetz. Candidates were scheduled at specific times, but due to going quicker than expected, Mr. Peetz was not yet at the meeting, therefore the board moved on with the agenda and resumed interviewing Mr. Peetz when he came for his scheduled interview time.

### Recognition of School Board Appreciation Week

Dr. Heninger read the proclamation for the school board appreciation week.

### Report on Third Friday Count

Dr. Heninger provided commentary on the pupil count that was taken on 9/20/24. The pupil count is stable.

### Board Comments & Questions

Nothing was discussed.

### Approval of Minutes Dated 9/16/2024

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve minutes dated 9/16/24. Clarification in the District Community Survey section to add additional property taxes would be \$1,000. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of High School Awards Night on Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve the High School awards night to be on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Resignation of Coaches

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the resignation of coaches Micah Neef for Middle School curling, Crystal Huset for Middle School volleyball and Carmela Garcia for cheer. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Winter Coaches/Volunteers

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the list of winter coaches and volunteers as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Donations

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the donations of the following: Stephen Woxland donated \$20 to the auditorium department, the Lenz Charitable Trust Grant donated \$50,000 to the ag department towards their new greenhouse, Everbrite donated 40-50 2x4 boards for the tech ed classes and an anonymous donor donated \$1,500 towards the athletic record boards for track and cross country. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of First Reading of Neola Policies 1-13

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the first reading of Neola policies 1-13 as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Second reading of Neola policies, B&G and Tech will do their presentations, will be going over and approving snow plow bids, also discussing a softball pitching mound project.

A break was had to wait for the last board member candidate interviewee to arrive and finish the interview process.

### Closed Session

A closed session will be held under 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to approve closed session minutes dated 9/30/2024, and under 19.85(1)(f) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to consider personal histories of candidates for school board, which may have a substantial adverse effect on the reputation of the person if discussed in public.

### Return to Open Session

### Approve Closed Session Minutes Dated 9/30/2024

Motion by Ms. Walker /seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the closed session minutes dated 9/30/24. Motion passed 6-0.

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the adjournment. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm.

---

Justin Nickel, Board Clerk

## **MINUTES CLOSED SESSION Sept. 30, 2024**

### Closed Session

A closed session was held under 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to discuss the superintendent transition process. The meeting began at 6:40 pm. Those present included: Mr. Chad Bellis, Mr. Paul Hees, Ms. Becky Levwow, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Karla Walker, and Dr. Benjamin Heninger, Ms. Kelly Thompson and Mr. Randy Guttenberg. Mr. Bret Achterberg arrived at 6:48 pm Motion by Ms. Walker /seconded by Mr. Bellis

to go into a closed session. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bellis - yes, Mr. Hees - yes, Ms. Levzow - yes, Mr. Nickel - yes, Ms. Walker - yes. Motion passed 5-0.

#### Discussions

WASB representatives Ms. Thompson and Mr. Gutenberg went over the superintendent transportation process.

#### Return to Open Session

Motion by Ms. Walker /seconded by Mr. Achterberg to go back into open session. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Achterberg - yes, Mr. Bellis - yes, Mr. Hees - yes/, Ms. Levzow - yes, Mr. Nickel - yes, Ms. Walker - yes. Motion passed 6-0. The Board returned to open session at 8:48 pm.

#### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Bellis /seconded by Mr. Hees to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Achterberg - yes, Mr. Bellis - yes, Mr. Hees - yes, Ms. Levzow - yes, Mr. Nickel - yes, Ms. Walker - yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

---

Becky Levzow, Board President

### **MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING Sept. 16, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ms. Becky Levzow, Board President. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Mr. Bret Achterberg, Mr. Chad Bellis, Mr. Paul Hees, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Karla Walker, Ms. Becky Levzow, and Student Representative Ava Wagner / Bronte Hulberg. Also present were Dr. Benjamin Heninger, Mr. David Bell, Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Alex Hammerschmidt, Mr. Jim Housner, Ms. Jen Mecum, Ms. Carol Wirth, Ms. Amanda Seichter, Ms. Angie Noyons, Ms. Jennifer Bussan, Ms. Laura Bell and Ms. Jessie Cross.

#### Motion to Approve Agenda

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Open Forum

Ms. Bell and Ms. Cross spoke to the board in regards to the Girls Club and their use of the facilities and the fees associated with that usage. They advised they were told of upcoming facility fees and they just wanted to give information about their finances as a club organization. Ms. Bell and Ms. Cross advised that they keep their costs for the tournaments as well as registration for students low in order to make it affordable for the community and the other schools coming. They also do give scholarships to families to assist with registration fees. They advised that their basketball budget is set for this year so if they were to start getting charged facility fees they would not be able to afford the additional costs. They have not set their softball budget yet so could potentially do those fees at that time. Ms. Bell and Ms. Cross did bring examples of other local school facility fee schedules and policies to show what other districts are offering non-profit groups. They

are asking since there was no time to prepare for the upcoming fees, they are asking for a consideration to waive those fees. Ms. Levzow did briefly ask them about how many tournaments they do in a school year, and Ms. Bell was able to answer that.

#### Welcome Student Representatives

Ms. Levzow welcomed Ms. Wagner and Ms. Hulberg to the board as student representatives. Ms. Wagner and Ms. Hulberg introduced themselves, and then the board members introduced themselves.

#### Administrative Team Reports

Elementary School-Ms. Levzow saw that Goodies for Grands was a great success. Mr. Kohn stated they had over 400 grandparents there. Ms. Walker stated she loved the event, but asked for next year not to run out of the donuts for the kids. Mr. Bellis asked about the Sheriff's Office trainings in the buildings and Mr. Kohn and Mr. Bell answered that question.

Middle School-Ms. Walker stated that the open house was well attended.

High School-Ms. Levzow stated that homecoming seemed to go well with a large crowd and she had a lot of positive reports. She also stated that the class reunion tours are becoming more of a trend. Mr. Bell stated that he gave tours to a few different classes in the past weeks.

Athletics-Ms. Levzow stated that the fall participation numbers look very good. She also stated that the display cases look nice.

Building and Grounds-Ms. Levzow stated that they continue to stay busy with projects.

Technology Department-Ms. Levzow stated that the school continues to be busy with the start of the school year. Ms. Walker stated it was nice to see the return amount on the recycled items.

#### Student Representative Report

Ms. Hulberg stated that there has been a lot going on with the start of school. They stated that students were asked to help volunteer to set up for Watermelon fest, and the football team did a bulk of the work on that. Ms. Wagner talked about the Bulldog games that occurred during homecoming. Ms. Hulberg also talked about the Educator Effectiveness events coming up, and Ms. Wagner talked about FFA having their first meeting of the school year on Wednesday.

#### Annual Report of Seclusion and Restraint

Mr. Heninger went over the report that was received by Ms. Annette Lavia, our Special Education Director.

#### Presentation of Temporary Borrowing Rates and Budget Information for 2024-2025

Ms. Carol Wirth went over the proposals for the \$2.2 million temporary borrowing request to cover operating costs until revenue funds come in later in the school year. BOK Financial Securities Inc. out of Milwaukee Wisconsin came in with the lowest interest rate of 3.83% with a total of \$78,916.44 interest costs. Mr. Nickel stated we have work to do too and thanked Ms. Wirth for her presentation. Ms. Levzow stated that there is a process to come up with the numbers and thanked Ms. Wirth for her work. Ms. Levzow appreci-

ated the fact that Ms. Wirth's team did reach out to our local banks to get bids for these loans.

#### District Community Survey Update

Mr. Heninger introduced Mr. Scott Girard who joined the meeting virtually. They advised of the additional changes that were made to the survey to be easier to read and understand. Mr. Girard went over the updates of the survey. Ms. Levzow went over the reasoning for some of the changes. Mr. Nickel liked the tier approach, but wanted to make sure that all of the options listed were not going to be overwhelming for people to go over. Mr. Hees stated that we need to make sure that food service is still on top of the list for changes. Mr. Bellis did double check that food service was not included in the base cost of the referendum amount, and it was conveyed it is part of the optional funds on the survey. Mr. Hees estimated if we were to go out for an approximate \$40 million referendum that a house value of \$250,000 would go up approximately \$1,000 in property taxes. Mr. Nickel stated that it is a non-binding, but a process we need to take to move forward. Ms. Levzow stated we are using every tool we can to see what the community is willing to do. Mr. Girard brought up the timeline of when the survey will go out. The survey will be put into the Columbia County Shopper, on our website, on social media, and mailed out. They are looking at other means to get the survey out there by possibly putting flyers in Piggly Wiggly shopping bags, etc.

#### Board Comments & Questions

Mr. Hees asked Mr. Heninger about any budget items or concerns that he may need assistance with. Mr. Hees asked if we can be cognizant of how fees affect the budget. Mr. Heninger relayed a response to Mr. Hees. Mr. Hees relayed that the board committees can help with some of these issues. Mr. Bellis talked about youth football using our facilities on Saturdays, and stated that the grounds are a mess after a Friday night game. Mr. Nickel stated some past practices were for the players and cheerleaders to help pick up the complex before they left. Mr. Hees stated that Coach Harry has bestowed some ownership to the players on the facilities, and hopefully he can bring back that past practice. Mr. Hees stated that Coach Harry has had the team clean up homecoming messes last year that their players may not have done, but he had the whole team out there cleaning up.

#### Approval of Minutes Dated 9/3/2024

Motion by Mr. Hees / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve minutes dated 9/3/24. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Receipts/Expenditures

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the receipts and expenditures. Ms. Walker wanted to make sure that the payment to Dells Creek was the last payment for the trophy case. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Overnight Field Trip for FFA Nationals

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the overnight field trip for

FFA Nationals. Ms. Seichter did go over the itinerary for the overnight trip to nationals. She did advise that they were being awarded the 2-star chapter award. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Middle School Sports Uniform Rotation Plan

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the middle school sports uniform rotation plan. Ms. Denure talked about getting previous questions answered by Mr. Bell and Mr. Hammerschmidt after the last board meeting. She stated that helmets for the middle school team do get reconditioned and are on a rotating schedule with the high school helmets. Mr. Hammerschmidt did advise that one of our vendors does come in and evaluates the helmets every year to determine if they need to be reconditioned or to order new. Helmets have a lifespan of 10 years. Mr. Hammerschmidt stated that the middle school uniforms will be on a 5 year rotation like the high school uniforms. Mr. Hammerschmidt talked about sport fee scales that he had received from other Trailways school districts. We do have a safe guard in place for students who can't pay for those fees (i.e. free and reduced applications) Mr. Hammerschmidt stated that they are still trying to work on how to pay for these uniforms with the budget, and are looking for grants to offset those costs, otherwise looking at the potential of having those athletic fees per student. Mr. Hees asked Mr. Heninger about free and reduced reporting and that information was clarified. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Advisor Positions and Co-Curricular Advisors, Trainers and Mentors for 2024-2025

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the list presented for the co-curricular advisors, trainers and mentors for 2024-2025. Mr. Bell did include one last addition of Seth Reilly to the fall play advisor role. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing in an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,200,000.00 Pursuant to Section 67.12(8)(a)1, Wis. Stats.

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing in an Amount Not to Exceed \$2,200,000.00 Pursuant to Section 67.12(8)(a)1, Wis. Stats. Mr. Nickel reiterated his past comments in regards to the amount of temporary borrowing increasing the past several years. A roll call was taken: Mr. Bellis - yes, Mr. Hees - yes, Ms. Levzow - yes, Mr. Nickel - yes, Ms. Walker - yes, Mr. Achterberg - yes. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Donations

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the donations of \$10 to the auditorium fund from Becky Levzow and the novel Treasure in a Field from J. Ellis Blaise. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Third Friday Pupil Count numbers, Building and Grounds is doing a recap presentation of summer projects, IT is possibly doing a presentation as well. There is a potential for a 1st reading of updated policies.

#### Closed Session

A closed session will be held under 19.85(1)(c)(f) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to discuss board reorganization and the process (and possible candidates) for filling a school board vacancy.

#### Return to Open Session

#### Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Hees to approve the adjournment. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Justin Nickel, Board Clerk

## Pardeeville Spanish Club attends International Folk Fair in West Allis

On Friday, Nov. 22, members of the Pardeeville High School Spanish Club attended the International Folk Fair at the Exposition Center at the State Fair Grounds in West Allis. The event offered students an immersive cultural experience, featuring an array of foods, dance demonstrations, shopping, and displays showcasing traditions from around the globe.

Students explored the diverse offerings, sampled unique dishes and witnessed captivating dance performances that highlighted the rich heritage of various countries. The experience provided a deeper appreciation for global cultures, enriching their language studies and broadening their worldviews.

The Spanish Club also extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported its



Pardeeville High School students Chloe Kessenich and Ceci Killoran enjoy some of the food offered at the International Folk Fair.

concession stands during fall sporting events. The club is especially grateful for donations from the Luedtke Family and Piggly Wiggly, as well as the parents who volunteered their time. Proceeds from these efforts will help students fund their 2025 trip to Guatemala and Belize.

---

---

## Pardeeville Schools looking for qualified individuals to join their team

The Pardeeville Area School District is actively seeking qualified candidates to join its team in two key areas: custodial services and spring sports coaching. These roles provide an excellent opportunity for individuals passionate about supporting students and contributing to the district's success.



The district is hiring a full-time custodian to ensure clean, safe, and well-maintained facilities. This position involves evening shifts during the school year and daytime hours during the summer months.

For those with a passion for mentoring young athletes, several coaching positions are open for the upcoming spring sports season, including:

- Two Middle School Softball Coaches
- High School Softball Coaches
- High School Track and Field Assistant Coach

Coaches will work directly with student-athletes to foster skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship while representing the Pardeeville Bulldogs.

For more information about these job openings, including how to apply, scan the QR code shown above.

# Pardeeville Area School District

Pardeeville, Wisconsin 53954

PERMIT NO. 25  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
PARDEEVILLE, WI  
53954

## LOCAL BOXHOLDER ECRWSS \*\*\* OR CURRENT RESIDENT

### Upcoming Events

- Dec. 2 ..... Board of Education Meeting, HS LMC, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 7 ..... Dual County Community Band Holiday Concert, Lenz Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 12 ..... High School Winter Concert, Lenz Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 ..... Board of Education Meeting, HS LMC, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 ..... Middle School Winter Concert, Lenz Auditorium, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 20 ..... Elementary Winter Concert for grades K-2, Lenz Auditorium, 9 a.m.
- Dec. 20 ..... Elementary Winter Concert for grades 3-4, Lenz Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 23-Jan. 1 ..... No School, Winter Break
- Jan. 6 ..... Board of Education Meeting, HS LMC, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 20 ..... Board of Education Meeting, HS LMC, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 23 ..... Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary Only), 4-8 p.m.
- Jan. 24 ..... No school for elementary students
- Jan. 30 ..... Parent-Teacher Conferences (District-Wide), 4-8 p.m.
- Jan. 31 ..... No School
- Feb. 1 ..... ComedySportz, Lenz Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.