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# PARDEEVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 32 No. 3

## Search begins for new District Administrator

The Pardeeville Area School District Board of Education has officially begun the search for a new district administrator, with the Board hiring the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) to assist them in the process. Interim Superintendent Gus Knitt is currently serving in the role while the search is underway.

During the end October and the beginning of November, WASB has been gathering information for the Board of Education about what characteristics the new district administrator should possess from the staff and the community. During this time, 144 people completed a survey to share their perspectives on the qualities and priorities they

See **SEARCH**, page 2



Jacob Coenen of the United States Air Force was the guest speaker at the Pardeeville Veterans Day Ceremony held on Nov. 11 at Pardeeville High School.

**Elementary School hosts  
Veterans Breakfast—page 4**

## Veterans Day program honors those who served

Pardeeville High School and Middle School students, staff, and community members gathered Tuesday, Nov. 11 in the high school gymnasium to honor those who have served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces during the annual Veterans Day Program.

The program began with the Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Pardeeville High School National Honor Society officers, followed by a moving performance of the Star-Spangled Banner by the Pardeeville High School Choir. After welcoming remarks from Pardeeville Middle School Principal Amber Denure, the choir performed "Let Freedom Ring."

National Honor Society members Bailey Grissom and Chayse Pulvermacher shared the meaning and symbolism of the POW/MIA Table, paying tribute to service members who are still

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## PRINCIPALS ON PATROL

Mobile desk carts keep Pardeeville leadership rolling - Page 6





## Honoring service with service

Pardeeville National Honor Society members, from left; Catherine Kopfhamer, Josephine Bue and Briar Otwaska help serve turkey dinners to veterans and their guests during Pardeeville's Veterans Day Ceremony at Pardeeville High School on Tuesday, Nov. 11. The dinners were prepared by Taher Inc, the District's food-service partner, and then served up by National Honor Society members.

## SEARCH

FROM PAGE 1

hope to see in the next district administrator. Of that group, 75 identified themselves as parents, 37 identified themselves as school district employees, and 32 identified themselves as community members.

Building on this feedback, a series of focus groups were held on Monday, Nov. 10. These focus groups saw 81 people, who were either staff, students or community members, participate in discussions facilitated by Randy Guttenberg, who is a consultant with WASB, to express the characteristics they desired in a new district administrator.

The findings of the survey and the focus groups were very similar. People want a district administrator who is approachable, personable and a problem solver. They would like a district administrator who has a leadership style of being collaborative, involved, and is a visionary. The district administrator should have strong communication skills and a willingness to engage with the community.

Applications for the district administrator position will be accepted until Dec. 12. The first round of interviews will be held Jan. 7 and 8, 2026. The final interviews are planned to be held on Feb. 2, 2026 with an announcement of the new district administrator tentatively scheduled for Feb. 9, 2026. The new district administrator's first day in Pardeeville would be July 1, 2026.

## 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.

## Contact us:

Phone: (608) 429-2153 Fax: (608) 429-2277  
Website: [www.pasdwi.org](http://www.pasdwi.org)



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## We are hiring!

The Pardeeville Area School District has some great opportunities for you or others to join the Bulldog team and help support all of our children in the Pardeeville area. For information and how to apply, go to <https://www.pasdwi.org/district/EmploymentOpportunities.cfm>

## Quick links:

Are you looking for something specific? Take a look at the links below for the District's most requested information. **Still need assistance? Contact us at (608) 429-2153.**

**District calendar:** [www.pasdwi.org/district/DistrictCalendar.cfm](http://www.pasdwi.org/district/DistrictCalendar.cfm)

**Activities calendar:** <https://www.trailwaysconference.org/public/genie/177/school/9/>

**Live streaming:** [fan.hudl.com/usa/wi/pardeeville/organization/12986/pardeeville-high-school](http://fan.hudl.com/usa/wi/pardeeville/organization/12986/pardeeville-high-school)

**Lunch and breakfast menus:** [www.pasdwi.org/district/lunchmenu.cfm#d133844](http://www.pasdwi.org/district/lunchmenu.cfm#d133844)

## Follow us:



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The Pardeeville High School Student Council Giving Tree is on display in the high school atrium. It includes gift tags for area families in need.

## Support Pardeeville's Giving Tree

### Community asked to purchase gifts for families in need

The holiday season is just around the corner, and the Pardeeville High School Student Council is once again spreading cheer through its annual Giving Tree Program. This long-standing tradition helps brighten the holidays 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 decorated with gift tags, each representing an item from a local family's holiday wish list. Anyone wishing to participate can choose a tag and purchase the listed gift, helping make the season a little more special for someone in the community.

Gift tags can be picked up in the high school counseling office, or by contacting Mrs. Huset at 608-429-2153 ext. 367 or [husecr@pasdwi.org](mailto:husecr@pasdwi.org).

For those who prefer to give in another way, monetary donations are also welcome. These contributions will be used to purchase unfilled wish list items and provide families with a holiday meal. Checks may be made payable to Pardeeville Student Council.

All purchased gifts (unwrapped and labeled with the corresponding tag) and donations should be dropped off at the high school by Friday, Dec. 12.

## VETERANS

### FROM PAGE 1

missing in action or held as prisoners of war.

The program's guest speaker, Mr. Jacob Coenen of the United States Air Force, spoke about his experiences serving the people of Wisconsin and the nation. Coenen, who is stationed in Madison, lives here in Pardeeville and is the father of two Pardeeville students, Carter and Alexis.

Two Pardeeville Middle School 8th graders, Brielle Schultz and Kenadie Fingerson, each read essays they wrote honoring veterans and expressing gratitude for their courage and sacrifice.

The Pardeeville High School Band then performed the Armed Forces Medley, during which veterans stood to be recognized when the anthem for their branch of service was played. The program concluded with closing remarks from Pardeeville High School Principal David Bell, the Retiring of Colors, a gun salute, and the playing of Taps by high school trumpet player Acacia Netzel.

Following the ceremony, veterans and their guests were invited to stay for a turkey dinner prepared by Taher, Inc., the district's food-service partner, and served by National Honor Society members.

The Pardeeville Area School District extends its heartfelt gratitude to all veterans for their service, sacrifice, and dedication to protecting our freedom.



ABOVE: Veterans stood to be recognized during the Veterans Day Program at Pardeeville High School on Nov. 11.



LEFT: Pardeeville Middle School student Kenadie Fingerson reads her essay honoring veterans during the program.



# Elementary School says 'thanks' with annual Veterans Breakfast

Musical performances, guest speaker highlight program

Pardeeville Elementary School welcomed local veterans and their families on Friday, Nov. 21, for its annual Veterans Breakfast Program, held inside the school's gymnasium. The heartfelt event brought together students, staff, and community members to honor and celebrate the men and women who have served our country.

This year's guest speaker was Major Jason Doro, who reflected on his 35½ years of military service. Doro spoke about the reasons he and others choose to serve, pointing to the young students in attendance as their inspiration. He shared that seeing future generations and wanting to protect the freedoms they enjoy is what motivates service members to continue answering the call. Doro lives in Portage with his wife Charlotte. Over the course of his career, he deployed to the Persian Gulf and South Asia in 2014, and to Ukraine in 2019, and was selected to stand up a new field artillery battery from the ground up — the first unit in Wisconsin to include women serving in combat arms roles — a unit that remains one of the premier field artillery units in the Wisconsin National Guard.

The program featured patriotic performances by students in 5K through 4th grade, who filled the gym with songs honoring America's veterans. Members of the Pardeeville High School choir performed a moving rendition of the National Anthem to open the ceremony. Breakfast for the veterans and their guests was prepared by Taher, Inc., the District's food service partner, and served with pride by members of the Elementary School Student Council.

Six 4th grade students read essays expressing what veterans mean to them, and Elementary School Educational Aide Carmel Willett performed "America the Beautiful." Third grade students also shared a reading of the poem Our Flag. As the Armed Forces Medley played, veterans stood to be recognized according to their branch of service, earning heartfelt applause from the entire gym. The program concluded with a solemn performance of TAPS by Pardeeville High School band member Acacia Netzel.

Pardeeville Elementary School extends its deepest gratitude to all who have served and continue to serve our great nation. Your bravery, sacrifice, and commitment to protecting our freedoms will never be forgotten.



ABOVE: Major Jason Doro was the guest speaker for the Veterans Breakfast at Pardeeville Elementary School.



LEFT: Pardeeville 4th grade student Grace Vandermoon serves breakfast to veterans.



BELOW: Pardeeville High School band member Acacia Netzel plays TAPS during the Veterans Breakfast.





## MESSAGE FROM INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT GUS KNITT

### Planning for the future: taxes and referendum

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I want to take a moment to update our community on two important topics that continue to shape the future of the Pardeeville Area School District: our 2025 property tax impacts and early planning for a potential capital referendum in November 2026. Communication remains a priority for our district, and I hope the information below provides clarity as we plan ahead together.

#### 2025 Property Taxes

The final 2025-26 budget passed by the Board of Education had an increase of taxes of 27.41 percent. Even with an increase in property value of 9.99 percent the mill rate went from \$5.95 to \$6.89 per \$1,000 of property value. This is a 15.84 percent increase. What does this mean for property tax payers in the Pardeeville Area School District?

If your property value in 2024 was \$250,000 the school tax was \$1,487.50. If the percentage increase in property value is used, that property in 2024 is now worth \$274,975 in 2025. The school tax on that property this year is \$1,894.58 or an average increase of \$407.07.

To make this even more complicated, the Pardeeville Area School District saw a shift in the overall property value per municipality. While the average increase in property value within the School District was 9.99 percent, the range of the increase went from 3.17 percent in the Village of Pardeeville to 16.17 percent in the Town of Wyocena. This means that the school tax increase will be greater in the Town of Wyocena than in the Village of Pardeeville. Every municipality in the Pardeeville Area School District received a higher school property tax bill in 2025 than they did in 2024, thus it is projected that every property tax payer in the School District will see a higher school tax bill in 2025 than what it was in 2024.

The two major contributors to the property tax increase were the residents of the School District passing an \$800,000 opera-

tional referendum in April, 2025 and the loss of approximately \$426,000 of state aid due to no additional money for state aid put into the State Budget.

#### Referendum November 2026

The Board of Education has decided that it will go for a capital referendum in November, 2026 after having the April, 2025 capital referendum defeated. While the planning for this referendum has begun, the Board of Education has taken no formal action on any projects that may or may not be part of the referendum question.

What the Board has requested of the administration is to come up with a plan for all the maintenance work that was included in the April, 2025 referendum to be removed from the November, 2026 referendum. The board would like the administration to come up with ideas on how to make sure that the November 2025 referendum is under \$20 million.

The administration is recommending to the Board of Education that approximately \$1 million of roofing projects that were in the April, 2025 referendum be done during the summer of 2026. The work that would be done would be replacing the roof over the Middle School, except over the Middle School gym, some roofing projects on the High School roof, especially over the High School gym, and make the Elementary School entrance even more secure. Bids for these projects will go out in early January, 2026 and the Board will approve moving forward with these projects by the end of January. These projects were all part of the April, 2025 referendum.

The administration is also looking to identify projects for the summer of 2027. Right now the administration is looking at parking lots and sidewalk work. Roofing projects may be considered as time goes on.

All projects that were discussed during the last referendum will be discussed again this time. The timeline for the Board to have serious discussion and come up with a final referendum project is March and April, 2026.

### Families encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced Meals

With recent shifts in the economy, changes to the SNAP program, and the holiday season approaching, the Pardeeville Area School District is encouraging families to apply for the Free & Reduced School Meal Program. District leaders emphasize that this program is one of the most meaningful supports available to students and has benefits that extend far beyond the cafeteria.

A key advantage of the program is ensuring that every student has access to nutritious, balanced meals each school day. When students are well-fed, they are better prepared to focus in class, participate in activities, and reach their full academic potential.

In addition to supporting individual students, the program also plays a significant role in district-wide funding. Many state and federal education resources are tied to the district's Free & Reduced Meal application numbers. Increased participation can help secure additional funding that benefits all students, programs, and classrooms across the district.

The application process is confidential and designed to be quick and easy for families. To apply, families should log in to their Infinite Campus Parent Portal, select "More," choose "Meal Benefits," and then complete the Meal Benefit Application by following the on-screen instructions.

Families who have questions or need assistance are encouraged to contact Debbie Holland at the high school office by calling 608-429-2153 ext. 210 or emailing [hollde@pasdwi.org](mailto:hollde@pasdwi.org).



# Mobile desk carts keep leadership rolling at Pardeeville Schools

## More time in the hallways have principals more accessible to students and staff members

Instead of staying tucked away in their offices, Pardeeville High School Principal David Bell and Pardeeville Middle School Principal Amber Denure have found a creative way to stay connected — by bringing their desks to the hallways.

Using mobile desk carts as their offices on wheels, both principals can often be seen rolling through the halls, greeting students, chatting with staff, and keeping a close eye on what's happening between and during class periods. It's an approach that has quickly become a hit with students and staff alike.

"One of the main benefits of the cart is that it makes me more accessible to students and staff," Denure said. "Generally, I think students like seeing me out in the hallway. Some were surprised when I was first out and about, but I think they're used to it. I even get a few smiles with my new sign: 'Pumpkin Spice, Be Nice.'"

Those fun and creative signs that hang from each cart are designed by High School Administrative Assistant Heidi Anderson and agri-science teacher Amanda Seichter, who come up with new designs to match the time of year or upcoming school events.

For Bell, the rolling cart has provided more than just mobility — it's changed how he interacts with students and staff.

"Through being out of the office more with the cart, I am feeling more connected to the happenings of the building," Bell said. "I am able to help students with questions quicker compared to walking down to the office, and more students have been able to approach me with their questions. Further, I have had students during ASP (6th period study hall) stop by and ask me math questions as they know I used to teach math. Additionally, I have been able to be in and out of classrooms more frequently observing teachers and helping with issues that arise."

Bell said the carts have also become a fun talking point among students.

"Students seem to have enjoyed seeing the cart out in the hallways as well," he said. "They know that I am out there often, and I have heard that it is almost a game for some to see where I pop up next. Students and staff both have been able to stop and talk about concerns and just the joys of their week more easily."

Whether it's helping a student, visiting a classroom, or simply brightening someone's day with a themed sign, both principals say being out in the halls keeps them more connected to the heart of the school — the students.



**ABOVE:** Pardeeville High School Principal David Bell works on his mobile desk cart in the hallways of the school. During Halloween Week, his cart included a sign that said, "No Bones about it, Get to class!"

**BELOW:** Pardeeville Middle School Principal Amber Denure, right, chats with Middle School math teacher Laura Bell, while working on her mobile desk cart.





# Students roll up their sleeves, help clear invasive buckthorn

## Week-long project took place around pond south of high school

The view along the outdoor walking trails just south of Pardeeville High School improved greatly during the week of Oct. 13–17, thanks to a group of hardworking Pardeeville High School students who spent the week clearing invasive plants from the area surrounding the school's pond.

Students in Mrs. Vujnovich's 2nd hour Wildlife and 3rd hour Forestry classes devoted their class periods each day to removing thick buckthorn and other invasive species that had taken over the habitat. The effort was led by Jeff Lang, owner of Fair Meadows Habitats LLC, who provided the vision and expertise to guide the project.

Lang, a former land manager for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, said he first noticed the issue while working on another project nearby.

"When I would glance over here on the school property and I would see these oak trees, and I could see what was going on in the understory, they needed some TLC, or maybe a better word, they needed some stewardship and care," Lang said. "I know, just from experience and knowledge about oaks, that they need room and they don't like shaded woodland floors in the understory. The exotic problem, like with the buckthorn, is pretty severe. There is nothing that's going to stop a buckthorn. The oaks can't do anything about it, but it's up to the people to take some management action, so that's what we did."

Lang and about 30 students took action over a four-day period. Before the work could begin, Lang reached out to Pardeeville agri-science teachers Meagan Vujnovich and Amanda Seichter to see if their students might be interested in participating.

"I didn't know Meagan (Vujnovich) or Amanda (Seichter). I didn't know them at all. So I reached out with a phone call and was like, 'what do you think?'" Lang said. "And they were like, 'yes, let's do it.' So it was en-



**ABOVE:** Jeff Lang talks to a group of high school student in Mrs. Vujnovich's Forestry Class about the buckthorn growing around the pond south of the high school.



**LEFT:** Pardeeville junior Easton Fischer hauls out some of the buckthorn that was growing south of the high school.

couraging right from the start, because both those teachers at Pardeeville High School are incredible, as far as their energy and enthusiasm, and their desire to do land-stewardship type things."

Each day, during their hour-long classes, students worked alongside Lang using hand saws and tree pruners to remove the dense buckthorn between the pond and the walking path. The brush was stacked into large piles that will be burned this winter. Lang also treated the stumps to prevent regrowth of the invasive plants, which crowd out native oaks and make it difficult for them to reproduce and thrive.

As they cleared the area, students discovered several young oak saplings beginning to take root. To protect them, they built and placed cages around the trees to keep deer from causing damage—helping ensure a new generation of oaks will grow around the pond.

On the final day of the project, Lang praised the students for their dedication and effort.

"I can see that in these kids' eyes, that they're the future," Lang said. "I can tell by the way they work, and they're just as nice and friendly. It's just a great thing working with these students."

The walking path above the pond is open to the public, and visitors are encouraged to check out the results of this hands-on, conservation-focused project. Previously, it was difficult to even catch a glimpse of the pond from the trail. Now, passersby might spot some of the many species of waterfowl that frequent the area.

While the students' work made a significant improvement, there is still more to be done. Many invasive species remain, particularly on the east end of the pond, offering future opportunities for continued restoration efforts.

"There are all kinds of opportunities to do more," Lang said. "Obviously there are time and dollar constraints, but there are opportunities for years to come."





## MESSAGE FROM HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DAVID BELL

### Schools taking steps to remove cell phones from classrooms

**A**cross the country, schools are taking stronger steps to address the growing impact of cell phones on student learning, safety, and well-being. A recent example from Illing Middle School in Manchester, Connecticut, shows just how powerful these changes can be. When the school implemented a full-day cellphone restriction, requiring students to lock their phones in secure pouches, the results were immediate and significant. Teachers reported improved focus, fewer classroom disruptions, and a return to meaningful face-to-face interaction. Students, after initial hesitation, began recognizing the benefits themselves, describing calmer days, more conversation, and greater engagement in learning.

Schools nationwide are reporting similar outcomes. Without phones available during the day, social-media-driven conflicts decrease, inappropriate digital sharing plummets, and students re-engage in the school community. Educators in Connecticut noted that issues such as coordinated vaping meet-ups, cyberbullying flare-ups, and hallway distractions virtually disappeared. Classrooms became more welcoming learning environments, with teachers spending less time policing devices and more time teaching. Students even began taking shorter bathroom breaks because those minutes were no longer opportunities to check their phones. The story from Connecticut mirrors what research and national experts have

been warning for years: constant digital access is affecting student attention, mental health, and social development.

These examples, along with consistent feedback from our own staff, students, and families, have fueled our high school's discussion on moving to a no-cell-phone school day beginning next school year. This approach is not about removing convenience—it is about restoring focus, building healthy relationships, and creating a school environment where students can be fully present. Our discussions have included the process to make clear procedures for parent communication and emergency access, ensuring safety while maintaining a learning-first environment. Just as in Connecticut, we anticipate that the transition may take time, but the long-term benefits for learning and well-being will be substantial.

This local decision also aligns with developments at the state level. The State of Wisconsin recently passed legislation limiting student cell phone use during the school day, recognizing the growing evidence that device dependency and social media exposure are impacting student mental health and academic engagement. Our district is preparing for these statewide expectations while prioritizing what is best for students. As seen in districts across the country, removing cell phones during the school day gives students space to learn, connect, and grow—without the constant pull of a screen.

### Educators Rising members explore opportunities during campus visits

Members of the Pardeeville High School Chapter of Educators Rising spent two days exploring college and career opportunities during visits to Winona State University and the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse on Nov. 12 and 13.

Throughout the trip, students toured both campuses, attended presentations highlighting academic offerings, and explored facilities connected to each school's education programs. They also had the chance to view residence halls, experience meals in the university dining centers, and enjoy some lighthearted fun with an appearance — and even a dance session — from one of the school mascots.

A special part of the visit included reconnecting with two Pardeeville graduates and former Educators Rising members, Lexi Bryan and Emma Gentz, who are now attending UW–La Crosse. Lexi and Emma met with the current students to share their first-year experiences and offer advice about transitioning from high school to college and pursuing a degree in education.



Pardeeville High School Educators Rising members, from left; Addyson Neary, Nadia Ballweg, Macey Young, Francesca Gaglio and Avery VonRuden, pose for a photo during a field trip to Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota.



# Pardeeville FFA members earn top degrees at National Convention

## Luedtke, Hineman recognized at annual event in Indianapolis

Two Pardeeville High School alumni and FFA members — Brooke Luedtke and Isabelle Hineman — were each presented with their American FFA Degree during the National FFA Convention & Expo held in Indianapolis, Indiana during the last week of October. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, and only one percent of FFA members nationwide earn this prestigious honor. It recognizes members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experiences, leadership, and community involvement.

In addition to celebrating the accomplishments of Luedtke and Hineman, several current Pardeeville FFA Chapter members traveled to Indianapolis to take part in the National Convention. The group departed Pardeeville early Wednesday morning and began their trip with a stop at RDM Shrimp, one of the first shrimp farms established in the United States. The farm produces approximately 500 pounds of shrimp each month, and members learned



**Pardeeville High School alums and Pardeeville FFA members Brooke Luedtke and Isabelle Hineman received their American FFA Degrees during the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.**

about aquaculture practices and the challenges of producing shrimp in a controlled environment.

The following day marked the opening of the convention, where members heard remarks from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, and motivational keynote speaker A'ric Jackson. Students also attended the Career Expo, where they explored agricultural career opportunities and connected with college representatives from across the country. During the second general session, Pardeeville FFA was recognized on the national stage for its

outstanding achievements, earning a 3-Star National Chapter Award — the highest possible rating in the nation.

Friday brought another full day of experiences, beginning with a general session featuring an inspiring retiring address from Luke Jennings, National FFA Secretary. Members then toured Southside Landfill, where they learned about waste management, recycling, and environmental protection practices. The tour also included a visit to a nearby golf course operated as a buffer zone around the landfill, showcasing the company's efforts to balance sustainability with community engagement.

In the afternoon, the group attended the Three Hills Rodeo, followed by an evening at the Indiana Pacers basketball game. After the game, students even had the chance to go onto the court and take a shot, creating a memorable ending to a busy and rewarding day.

The trip to the National FFA Convention provided members with countless opportunities to learn, grow, and be inspired by others who share a passion for agriculture and leadership. The Pardeeville FFA Chapter is proud to celebrate both the achievements of its alumni and the experiences of its current members, all of whom represented Pardeeville with pride, enthusiasm, and excellence.



**Pardeeville High School students Kenna Jenkins (left) and Hayden Ballweg (right) were two of many students to help set up holiday lights at Chandler Park on Saturday, Nov. 8.**

## Students volunteer, help light up Chandler Park

Pardeeville High School students showed the true meaning of teamwork and community spirit as they helped transform Chandler Park into a holiday wonderland. On Saturday, Nov. 8, and again on Saturday, Nov. 15, a large group of student volunteers spent their mornings wrapping trees, decorating shelters, and hanging lights around the baseball field.

Thanks to their hard work—and the efforts of many other community members—a project that typically takes several days was completed in record time. The result is a sparkling holiday display that will once again brighten Chandler Park and bring joy to families and visitors throughout the season.





During a ceremony held on Thursday, Oct. 9, there were 15 Pardeeville High School students inducted into the National Honor Society. They are, in front, from left; Hayden Ballweg, Nadia Ballweg, Caitlyn Bellis, Constance Fallon, Haley Gard, Cody Gentz, Tristen Homan and Elizabeth Keeling. In the back; Kaliegh Klein, Jade Koepp, Sydney Sween, Nathan Renz, Gibson Nelson, Dane Overland and Chayse Pulvermacher.

## Pardeeville celebrates its new National Honor Society inductees

Fifteen Pardeeville High School juniors and seniors were officially inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) during a special ceremony held Thursday, Oct. 9 in the Lenz Auditorium. The new members joined 17 current seniors who were inducted last year, continuing the school's strong tradition of academic excellence and community leadership.

The event was led by current NHS President Taylor Luedtke, along with members Josephine Bue, Bailey Grisom, and Joe Dosemagen, who each spoke about one of the organization's four pillars: Service, Scholarship,

Leadership, and Character. Together, they reflected on what it means to uphold the values of the NHS.

During the ceremony, each new inductee recited the official NHS pledge and signed the Pardeeville NHS registry, marking their formal entry into the organization. Mr. Chad Hineman, NHS Advisor, and Mr. David Bell, Pardeeville High School Principal, also shared remarks congratulating the students on their achievement and encouraging them to continue striving for excellence both in and out of the classroom.

The 2025 Pardeeville High School

National Honor Society inductees are: Hayden Ballweg, Nadia Ballweg, Caitlyn Bellis, Constance Fallon, Haley Gard, Cody Gentz, Tristen Homan, Elizabeth Keeling, Kaliegh Klein, Jade Koepp, Gibson Nelson, Dane Overland, Chayse Pulvermacher, Nathan Renz, and Sydney Sween.

Congratulations to all of our new inductees for their dedication to scholarship, leadership, service, and character. We are proud to celebrate your accomplishments and the positive impact you make on the Pardeeville community.

## Kind donation made in memory of Bonita Wheeler

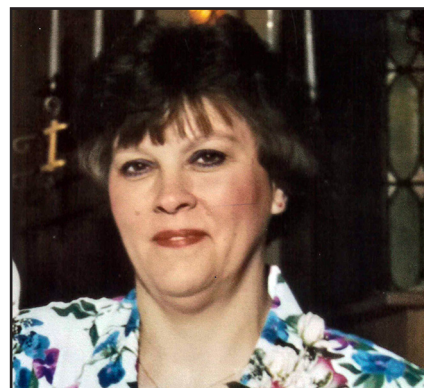
Pardeeville Elementary School recently received a generous donation of \$2,070 from the family of Bonita (Bonnie) Lou (Walker) Wheeler in her memory.

According to the family, the donation was the perfect way to honor Bonita.

"Bonita lived one block from the elementary school. Bonita graduated in 1968 from Pardeeville High. With the education she received at Pardeeville,

she became an avid reader, crafter and beautician. Bonita would be so proud that she could contribute to the school she enjoyed," the family said in a statement.

The Pardeeville Area School District sincerely thanks the family for their thoughtful donation, which will benefit current and future students while honoring Bonita's lasting connection to the Pardeeville community.



**Bonita Wheeler**



## Pardeeville Area School District wins pair of Spectrum Awards from WSPRA

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

WSPRA presented the Spectrum Awards at its annual conference held Nov. 12-14. The Pardeeville Area School District earned an Award of Merit in Excellence in Writing for its story "Peer Tutoring Class Plays Important Role Here in Pardeeville," which appeared in the April/May Pardeeville Area School District Newsletter. It also won an Award of Merit in Short-Form Video for its "Advice to Pardeeville Seniors," a video that had Pardeeville Elementary School 5K students giving advice to graduating members of the Class of 2025.

Spectrum Awards recognize high-quality school communication and engagement efforts by or on behalf of Wisconsin school districts. This year, this statewide competition honored nearly 100 school districts and CESAs with awards.

"Each year we are inspired by the thoughtful, strategic and heartfelt communication work happening across Wisconsin," said Emily De-



On behalf of the Pardeeville Area School District, Travis Houslet, Communications Specialist for the District, accepted two Spectrum Awards of Merit from the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association during the group's fall conference in Elkhart Lake.

Baker, current WSPRA President and Chief of Staff for the Racine Unified School District. "These award-winning projects reflect a deep commitment to transparency, connection and community pride. We are grateful for the school PR professionals who work

tirelessly to ensure families, staff and community members feel informed, supported and engaged."

"Strong communication strengthens strong schools," noted Debbie Brewster, WSPRA Executive Director. "This year's award recipients demonstrate what's possible when districts prioritize clarity, connection, and genuine community engagement. Their work makes a lasting difference in the lives of students and families."

WSPRA's Spectrum Awards were judged by over 50 members of other school public relations associations in many different states, from New York to California.

WSPRA 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 (NSPRA). 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.

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## Pardeeville homecoming royalty



Members of the 2025 Pardeeville High School Homecoming Court pose for a photo during the Homecoming Grand March on Saturday, Oct. 4. Homecoming court members are, from left; Lilley Hanko, Gavin Hughes, Hailey Jaedke, Ludovica Pesce, Taylor Luedtke, Will Edgar, Ava Wagner (queen), Joe Dosemagen (king), Lexi Hughes, Austin Dechert, Layla Buchholz, Bodie Johansen, Adalyn Schultz and Mason Muscanero.



## Elementary hosts successful Fall Family Night event

Pardeeville Elementary School was buzzing with excitement on Tuesday, Nov. 18, as 323 people filled the building for the much-anticipated “Who Let the Dogs Out?” Fall Family Night. The event was a tremendous success, bringing students, parents, and staff together for an evening of hands-on activities, learning, and fun.

One of the highlights of the night was the opportunity for students to “adopt” a stuffed puppy to take home. Each child also received a book to keep, emphasizing the school’s ongoing commitment to a love of reading.

Families took part in crafting dog toys, which could be brought home for their own pets or donated to the Columbia County Humane Society. Real therapy dogs were also on site, offering comfort, companionship, and plenty of wagging tails to everyone who stopped by for a visit.

Additional activities included creating dog-themed art projects and snapping photos with Barney the Bulldog, Pardeeville’s beloved school mascot. Thanks to the generosity of attending families, the event also resulted in the collection of many items to be donated to the Humane Society.

A special thank-you goes to Thee Upper Crust for providing delicious pizza for families to enjoy during the event. Pardeeville Elementary School extends its gratitude to the dedicated staff members who planned and hosted the evening, as well as to the many families who joined in making “Who Let the Dogs Out?” a joyful and memorable night for all.



**ABOVE:** The therapy dogs were a huge hit for everyone at the Fall Family Night at Pardeeville Elementary School.



**LEFT:** Many kids enjoyed visiting with Barney the Bulldog during the Fall Family Night held on Nov. 18 at Pardeeville Elementary School

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## Elementary students learn fire safety with help from local firefighters

Pardeeville Elementary School students celebrated Fire Safety Week on Thursday, Oct. 9, with special visits and activities led by members of the Pardeeville Fire Department — and a surprise appearance from Smokey Bear.

Firefighters Donn Johnson and Nathan Renz visited the school to share important lessons about fire prevention and safety. Students learned what to do in case of a fire and how to stay safe at home, before heading outside for an up-close look at the department’s firetrucks. Smokey Bear also stopped by to greet students and pose for photos, making the experience even more memorable.

Meanwhile, Pardeeville Elementary’s 4K students took a walking field trip to the Pardeeville Fire Department, where they explored the station, toured the firetrucks, and learned about the equipment firefighters use when responding to emergencies. Each student even got to take home a junior firefighter sticker and a Pardeeville Fire Department helmet.

A big thank you goes out to the Pardeeville Fire Department for helping our students learn how to stay safe — and for making Fire Safety Week such a fun and educational experience.



**Pardeeville Elementary School 4K students wear their helmets while visiting the Pardeeville Fire Station during a walking field trip on Thursday, Oct. 9.**



# Pardeeville musicians prepare festive concerts in December

The Pardeeville Area School District Music Departments are excited to present a festive series of concerts this December. Families and community members are invited to attend and celebrate the hard work and musical accomplishments of students at every grade level.

## High School Winter Concert

**Thursday, Dec. 11 • 6:30 p.m. • Lenz Auditorium**

The High School Band and Choir will take the stage for their Winter Concert on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The evening will open with the high school choir, followed by a brief intermission before the high school band performs. The concert will conclude with the traditional holiday sing-along.

No tickets or reservations are required.

## Middle School Winter Concert

**Tuesday, Dec. 16 • Lenz Auditorium**

Band Performances — 6 p.m.

Choir Performances — 7 p.m.

To ensure adequate seating, families will be asked to reserve seats for the band portion, choir portion, or both. Additional information on making reservations will be shared as the concert date approaches.

Families with students in both band and choir will need to reserve seats for each performance.

## Elementary Winter Concert & Art Show

**Thursday, Dec. 18 • Lenz Auditorium**

Grades K5-2 — 9 a.m.

Grades 3-4 — 1:30 p.m.

Elementary students will share seasonal selections during their winter concerts, accompanied by an art show featuring creative work from across the grade levels.

## Holiday Basket Raffle & Silent Auction

The Pardeeville High School Show Choir will host its



Pardeeville Schools will host four different winter concerts during the month of December in the Lenz Auditorium.

annual Holiday Basket Raffle and Silent Auction during the High School Winter Concert on Dec. 11. Items will be displayed in the school atrium before and during the performance.

Raffle tickets will be available for purchase, with winners announced at the conclusion of the concert. Proceeds support show choir members with costume expenses and participation fees.

## Pointsettia Fundraiser

The Pardeeville High School and Middle School music departments are again selling poinsettias from Link's Greenhouse in Portage. These plants will be used to decorate the stage during the winter concerts and may be taken home afterward. Students will deliver any remaining orders following the concerts.

High school orders will be available at the Dec. 11 concert. Middle school orders will be available at the Dec. 16 concert.



## Students featured in honors choir

Pardeeville High School had 17 choir students performing with the Trailways South Conference Honors Choir on Monday, Nov. 17, right here in Pardeeville. Representing Pardeeville in the Honors Choir were, in the front row, from left; Lauren Undraitis, Ella Rohrbeck, Kaleb Hains, Michaela Crittendon, Molly Hardwick, Elizabeth Keeling, and Acacia Netzel. In the back row; Bailey Gissom, Morgan Blader, Tristan Smith, Aiden Wantroba, Jason Kopfhamer, and Makayla Smith. Absent from photo were Addyson Neary, Addisyn Crawford, Oswald Sanchez, and Lily Camren.



## Bulldogs in the Honors Band

Eight talented Pardeeville Middle School Band students were selected to perform with the Trailways Conference Middle School Honors Band. These students joined musicians from across the conference for a full day of music-making that culminated in a free concert on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. in the Lenz Auditorium here in Pardeeville. Representing Pardeeville this year are (from left): Skyliie Jenkins, Layla Nickel, Nadia Overland, Bailey Amman, Ryker Hoffmann, Branton Peterson, and Micah Steinblock. Ellie Homan was also selected but is not pictured.



### Spice Girls in Pardeeville?

These Pardeeville Elementary teachers (not the '90s girls band) brought the heat as the Spice Girls — in literal spice form — during Halloween celebrations. They are, from left; 1st grade teachers Jennifer Nadolski, Taylor Jahnke, Madalyn Tierney, and Erica Sherrick.

## Pardeeville seeking junior for Badger State

Pardeeville High School, in partnership with the American Legion Auxiliary, is looking for an interested junior to attend the 2026 Badger Girls State Government and Leadership Conference, held June 21–26 at UW–Oshkosh.

Badger Girls State is a week-long, hands-on civics experience designed to help young women develop leadership skills, explore government, and build confidence. Attendees will become

citizens of a mythical 51st state, the “State of Badger,” where they campaign for office, pass legislation, run city and county governments, and work together within a structure modeled after Wisconsin state law.

Students who are interested in being considered for this experience should contact Pardeeville High School Guidance Counselor Crystal Huset at [husecr@pasdwi.org](mailto:husecr@pasdwi.org).

## Familiar face returns to work with Pardeeville students

Pardeeville High School and Middle School Agri-Science students enjoyed a special learning opportunity earlier this year when Brooke Luedtke, a 2023 Pardeeville High School graduate and the current Wisconsin FFA State Treasurer, returned to campus.

Luedtke led students through a series of interactive, escape-room-style puzzles and riddles aimed at strengthening teamwork and communication skills. The activities challenged students to think creatively, collaborate effectively, and rely on one another to solve problems — skills that are essential both in the classroom and in future careers.

The district extends its thanks to Brooke for sharing her leadership experience and passion for agriculture with the next generation of Pardeeville students.



Brooke Luedtke, a 2023 Pardeeville High School graduate, and current Wisconsin FFA State Treasurer, returned to Pardeeville to work with students from both the middle school and high school during the month of October.





A pair of Pardeeville Elementary School 4th grade students race across the gym floor with a plastic cup on a string. It was part of an activity led by Brian Kenney of Team Extreme.

## Kenney works with students on teamwork, communication skills

Brian Kenney of Team Extreme was a frequent visitor to Pardeeville Schools during the month of October. First, Kenney was at Pardeeville Elementary School working with the 4th graders in the gymnasium. Kenney had the students working in teams of four, using a piece of string, PVC pipe, and a hook to carefully lift and move plastic cups across the gym — all without touching the cups! Once across, they had to stack all six cups into a pyramid before passing the materials to their teammates.

After the game, students came together to talk about what made some teams more successful than others. They discovered that communication, teamwork, and adaptability were the keys to stacking those cups the fastest — and to finding success in life, too.

A few days later, Kenney was in Pardeeville Middle School working with the 8th grade students in Mr. Lindert's social studies class, where he had them working on a challenging — and fun — team-building activity.

Each student grabbed a string clipped to a wooden box covered with hooks, nails, and screws. Working together, the group had to maneuver the box to hook, lift, and stack wooden blocks on a desk — a task that required focus, patience, and, most importantly, teamwork.

One key takeaway from the activity was the reminder to “attack the problem, not people.” Students learned that the best results come when everyone works together and supports one another instead of assigning blame.

We thank Kenney for spending time with our students and helping them build valuable collaboration and leadership skills.

## Performing Arts Series offers up variety of shows for everyone

### Dual County Community Band Holiday Concert, Fun Pianos! Dueling Pianos return

The 2025–2026 Performing Arts Series is off to a fantastic start at the Lenz Auditorium, and there's still plenty more to enjoy. From music and comedy to magic and community celebrations, this year's lineup has something special for everyone. Take a look at the exciting shows still to come:

#### Dual County Community Band Holiday Concert

**Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.**

Free and open to the public

Celebrate the season with this free holiday concert featuring the talented musicians of the Dual County Community Band. Bring the whole family and enjoy a festive evening of holiday cheer—no tickets required!

#### Fun Pianos! Dueling Pianos!

**Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.**

Adults \$25 | Students/Seniors (65+) \$20 | Children under 4 FREE (lap seat)

Back by popular demand, Fun Pianos! returns with their interactive dueling pianos show. You pick the songs, they play them—with comedy, crowd interaction, and non-stop energy. This one-of-a-kind performance is sure to sell out fast!

#### Daryl Rogers Magic

**Friday, March 6, 2026 at 2 p.m.**

Adults \$15 | Students/Seniors (65+) \$10 | Children under 4 FREE (lap seat)

Enjoy an enchanting afternoon of wonder with Daryl Rogers, whose classic style and sleight-of-hand mastery will captivate audiences of all ages. This show is perfect for families and magic lovers alike.

#### Tickets

Tickets are available:

- Online at [pasdwi.org/community/events.cfm](https://pasdwi.org/community/events.cfm)
- By phone at (608) 285-2717.
- At the door, subject to availability

#### Ticket Sale Policy

Online ticket sales close 24 hours before each performance. If a show is sold out, a notice will be posted on the Lenz Auditorium website, Instagram and Facebook page.

All ticket sales are final. Refunds are only issued for canceled performances and may be provided as a gift certificate for future use or donated to our general operating fund.

Need help or have questions? Contact Adam at (608) 285-2717 (M–F, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.).





## MESSAGE FROM PASD SCHOOL NURSE JANETTE SHEEKS

### Wash hands, eat well to stay healthy and happy this holiday season

As the weather gets colder, we naturally spend more time indoors, increasing our chances of catching the many viruses circulating this season. At the same time, the extended warm weather has lengthened allergy season, making symptoms feel almost year-round for both people and pets.

We can reduce our risk by avoiding those who are ill, practicing frequent handwashing—particularly before eating or touching our face—maintaining a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and grains, exercising, and ensuring adequate sleep.

Viruses such as influenza and COVID continue to circulate, and we are also seeing cases of strep throat, Coxsackie virus (hand, foot, and mouth disease), bronchitis, and pneumonia, among others. While some students come to school hoping to be sent home so the absence is excused, we can only do so when they have a fever or meet the necessary criteria.

All students may fall ill or get injured from time to time and need to miss days of school. Here are a few reminders:

- Illnesses/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 3 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.

The holidays are upon us, and we are fortunate to be able to gather together. Please remember: if you're not feeling well, stay home. Doing so helps you recover and prevents others from getting sick. Wishing everyone a healthy and wonderful year ahead.

Mrs. Sheeks RN  
sheeja@pasdwi.org,  
608-429-2153 Ext. 258

### Intro to Healthcare Careers students dressed, ready for action

Students in Mrs. Sheeks' Intro to Healthcare Careers class recently got a hands-on look at what it takes to work in the medical field by trying on full personal protective equipment (PPE) during class. Donning gowns, gloves, and masks, students practiced proper safety procedures while learning how healthcare professionals protect themselves and their patients on the job.

The Intro to Healthcare Careers course introduces students to a wide range of medical professions; from nursing and lab technology to emergency services and therapeutic careers. In addition to exploring the daily responsibilities of these roles, students also study the skills, training pathways, and job outlook associated with health-related careers, including how to acquire and retain positions in a competitive and ever-evolving field.

As communities across the country face growing shortages in the health-



The students in the Intro to Healthcare Careers class at Pardeeville High School gather for a photo after trying on full personal protective equipment. The class is designed to teach students about the different medical professions.

care workforce, classes like this provide an important first step in preparing the next generation of medical professionals. By gaining early exposure

and hands-on experience, Pardeeville students are helping build a stronger pipeline of future healthcare workers ready to meet tomorrow's needs.



## Luedtke named Coke Scholars Semifinalist

Congratulations to Pardeeville High School senior Taylor Luedtke, who was recently named a Coke Scholars Semifinalist! Out of over 107,000 applicants from across the country, only 1,238 students earned this honor, including just 17 in Wisconsin.



Luedtke

Semifinalists are currently submitting their Phase 2 applications which include essays, a transcript, and a recommendation. These applications will be reviewed by an independent selection committee who will recommend 250 Regional Finalists in early January to take part in online interviews.

The Coke Scholars Program supports young leaders through \$20,000 college scholarships and a lifelong community making a difference.

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## Ballweg selected as Wisconsin Educators Rising Senate member

Pardeeville High School junior Nadia Ballweg has been selected to serve as the National Educators Rising Senate member from Wisconsin, an honor that places her among a small group of student leaders from across the country. In this role, Nadia will collaborate with state presidents and fellow National Senate representatives to help shape student programming, provide input on national initiatives, and strengthen the organization's mission of supporting future educators.



Ballweg

Educators Rising is a national career and technical student organization that aims to cultivate highly skilled educators from the ground up. Through hands-on teaching experiences, leadership opportunities, and professional learning, students explore what it takes to become effective teachers while gaining real-world classroom experience.

Ballweg's selection reflects both her passion for education and her commitment to serving others. As Wisconsin's National Senate member, she will represent the interests and ideas of aspiring educators across the state while working with peers nationwide to help guide the future of the teaching profession.



## Thank you, Taher team

The Pardeeville Area School District joined schools across the country in celebrating National School Lunch Week, held October 13–17. The week highlights the importance of healthy school meals and recognizes the dedicated food service professionals who help keep students fueled and ready to learn each day. Pardeeville's school nutrition program is managed by Taher, Inc. The District thanks the incredible Taher staff members who serve breakfast and lunch to students with a smile. Those recognized include, in front, from left; Lindsay Bishop, Michelle Anderson and Heidi Welsh. In back; Sam Hosig, Sara Zebell, Tabby Paul, Nicole Roberts and Olivia Van Genderen. Not pictured are Lisa Bardon, Tammie Slade and Sally Olson.



Pardeeville High School Spanish Club members enjoyed the International Folk Fair in West Allis on Friday, Nov. 18.

## Spanish Club explores cultures at Folk Fair

After school on Friday, Nov. 21, the Pardeeville High School Spanish Club sent 18 members, along with several parents, to the International Folk Fair in West Allis for an evening filled with learning and fun.

Students enjoyed a wide array of food, music, crafts, shopping, and dance as they explored the many booths and performances

representing cultures from around the world. The experience offered students a wonderful opportunity to broaden their cultural understanding while celebrating the diverse heritage found throughout Wisconsin. The Spanish Club returned home with full hearts, new experiences, and a deeper appreciation for the many cultures that enrich our community.



## Pardeeville 2nd graders explore new Kwik Trip

As part of their new reading curriculum, Pardeeville Elementary School's 2nd graders wrapped up a unit on community spaces with a walking field trip to the newly constructed Kwik Trip in Pardeeville.

Students were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the store, where they explored the freezers, cooking and prep areas, storage rooms, control room, and even the area behind the cash registers. Each class also conducted a research interview with Kwik Trip employees to learn more about how the business supports the local community. The visit was made even sweeter with complimentary Glazers provided by the Kwik Trip staff.

Back at school, students reflected on the experience and wrote about the important role local businesses like Kwik Trip play in the community.

Pardeeville Elementary extends a sincere thank you to the Kwik Trip team for hosting students and helping bring their learning to life.



Pardeeville 2nd grade teacher Jennifer Saloun teaches her students how to form contractions during an activity that had students cutting words apart and using Band-Aids to stitch them back together.

## Students have fun with lesson on contractions

It was anything but a typical day in Mrs. Saloun's 2nd grade classroom on a Tuesday in late October, as students suited up as surgeons for a hands-on lesson in contractions. Wearing masks and gloves, students "operated" on pairs of words by cutting them apart, removing letters, and using Band-Aids to stitch them back together—creating new contractions in the process.

The creative activity brought plenty of smiles while helping students understand how words like can't, won't, and didn't are formed. It was a memorable and engaging way to show that contractions aren't nearly as intimidating when you're the one performing the surgery.

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## Calculus students make a splash with hands-on projectile lesson



Pardeeville High School AP Calculus students Evan Miller and Joe Dosemagen prepare to launch a water balloon during a lesson on angles and trajectories. Students used a water-balloon launcher to see if they could hit a target by using their knowledge of distance, angles and launch velocity.

Students in Mr. Duffy's AP Calculus class at Pardeeville High School took their math skills to new heights — and distances — during an outdoor, water-balloon-powered experiment that was anything but dry.

With the help of PHS English teacher (and honorary engineer for the day) Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Duffy constructed a custom catapult to pair with a water-balloon launcher. The device gave students the chance to put their knowledge of angles and trajectories to the test, proving that sometimes the best way to learn calculus is to go outside and make a splash.

The lesson included two main challenges:

### **Objective 1: Find the Launch Velocity**

Students measured distance and angle to calculate launch velocity, quickly learning that the more they stretched the launcher, the more "splash-tacular" the results. The water balloons didn't just fly — they soared.

### **Objective 2: Hit the Target (aka "Weeble Kneivel")**

Using trigonometry, students aimed for a creatively named target, "Weeble Kneivel," and nailed it on their very first try. When Mr. Duffy moved the target farther back, it took a few angle tweaks (and some seriously sharp math) before students scored another direct hit on try number four.

By the end of the lesson, students walked away a little wiser, proving once again that when you mix math with momentum, learning really takes the plunge.



## Students pick up college credits in golf course design

Students in Pardeeville High School's Golf Course and Landscape Design class are getting hands-on experience in turning ideas into fully developed landscapes—while also earning three college credits from Southwest Technical College.

Taught by Agri-Science teacher Meagan Vujnovich, the course guides students through the fundamentals of landscape design, from drafting plans on paper to selecting plants and planning layouts. A major component of the class involves designing and constructing a 3D model of a 9-hole golf course, complete with a marketing plan to attract future golfers.

To prepare, students explored a variety of real golf courses and incorporated professional design elements into their own creations. Each model had to be built to scale and represent an ideal version of a golf course.

When the course is complete, students will walk away with a detailed design project, valuable hands-on experience, and three college credits from Southwest Technical College in Fennimore.



Pardeeville High School senior Molly Hardwick paints her 3D model of a 9-hole golf course in the Golf Course and Landscape Design class.

## Community group helps pay student lunch balances

The Pardeeville Area School District extends its heartfelt thanks to *Impact Pardeeville* for their generous donation to support students with outstanding lunch account balances.

Their contribution will make a meaningful difference for families across our district by ensuring that every student has access to the meals they need to learn and thrive.

We are grateful for community partners like Impact Pardeeville, whose kindness and commitment help strengthen our schools and support our students.

## Snow much fun at recess!

Pardeeville Elementary students had an absolute blast at the first snow recess of the school year on Monday, Dec. 1! After a weekend storm dumped plenty of fluffy fun across Pardeeville, the elementary school playground turned into a winter wonderland — perfect for snow angels, snowballs, and snow-big smiles!

The first snow recess is always a special day, and our students made the most of every frosty moment with their friends.

As we settle into the snowy season, a friendly reminder to send students with snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves so they can enjoy all the activities winter brings. We don't want anyone left out in the cold!





# 2025-2026 PARDEEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES



## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Dec. 8	at Westfield, 7 p.m.
Dec. 15	Markesan, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 19	Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 22	Horicon, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 29	Marshall Classic, TBD
Dec. 30	Marshall Classic, TBD
Jan. 5	at Wisconsin Dells, 7 p.m.
Jan. 6	Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Princeton/G.L. (at Green Lake), 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 23	Trailways Crossover at Oakfield, TBD
Jan. 26	Madison Abundant Life, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Poynette, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 29	Fall River, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Markesan, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 6	at Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 12	at Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 17	Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 20	Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Belleville, 7:15 p.m.

*-JV games start at 5:45 p.m.*

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dec. 9	at Markesan, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 12	Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 15	at Berlin, 7 p.m.
Dec. 16	Wisconsin Heights, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 18	at Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 29	at Adams-Friendship Tournament, TBD
Dec. 30	at Adams-Friendship Tournament, TBD
Jan. 5	Poynette, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 8	Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 13	Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 15	Oshkosh Lourdes, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 20	Lodi, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 22	Princeton/Green Lake, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Fall River, 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 30	Markesan, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Randolph, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 10	Rio, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 13	at Montello, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Madison Abundant Life, 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Cambria-Friesland, 7:15 p.m.

*-JV games start at 5:45 p.m.*

## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Dec. 6	at Black River Falls Invite, 10 a.m.
Dec. 9	Pardeeville Quad, 5 p.m.
Dec. 13	at Waunakee Invite, 9 a.m.
Dec. 19	at Deerfield Invite, 5 p.m.
Jan. 6	at Horicon Quad, 5 p.m.
Jan. 10	at Sauk Prairie Invite, 9 a.m.
Jan. 15	at Markesan Quad, 5 p.m.
Jan. 17	at DeForest Invite, 9 a.m.
Jan. 23	Pardeeville Quad, 4 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Johnson Creek Quad, 5 p.m.

Jan. 31	at Wisconsin Dells Invite, 9:30 a.m.
Feb. 7	Pardeeville hosts Conference Tournament, 8 a.m.
Feb. 21	at Waterloo Sectional
Feb. 26-28	Individual State Tournament at Madison

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CURLING

Dec. 9	Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 16	at Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 6	Monona Grove, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 13	at Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 16-17	Tietge Bonspiel at Wausau, TBD
Jan. 20	Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 22	Waukesha West, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 27	Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 5	Monona Grove, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 10	Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 17	at Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 27-28	State at Wausau, TBD

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CURLING

Dec. 9	at Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 16	Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 13	Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 16-17	Tietge Bonspiel at Wausau, TBD
Jan. 20	at Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 3	Portage, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Lodi, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 17	Poynette, 3:45 p.m.
Feb. 27-28	State at Wausau, TBD

## MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Dec. 9	at Horicon, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 15	Princeton/Green Lake, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 18	at Randolph/C-F (at Cambria), 4:30 p.m.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Jan. 13	Horicon, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 15	at Princeton/GL (at Princeton), 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	Randolph/C-F, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Rio, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Fall River, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 29	Markesan, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Waupun CWC, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 5	Montello, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	at Dodgeand, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 12	at Horicon, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Princeton/GL, 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Randolph/C-F (at Cambria), 4:30 p.m.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

Dec. 8	Pardeeville Triangular, 4 p.m.
Dec. 18	at Lodi Triangular, 4:30 p.m.

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

## Bulldog Stomp set to take place on May 2

Preparations for the 18th Annual Bulldog Stomp have begun, with the upcoming event set to take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026. The theme of this year's event is "A Night in Vegas—One Night, One Cause, One Stop Closer." The Bulldog Stomp committee members are hoping you will help them reach their fund-raising goal for the UW Carbone Cancer Research Center.

The event will include the annual 5K run and 2-mile walk through Pardeeville, as well silent auctions and basket raffles. Online registration is now open for the 5K run and 2-mile walk. You can register at [runsignup.com/Race/WI/Pardeeville/BulldogStomp](https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/Pardeeville/BulldogStomp).

## Pardeeville seeking middle school basketball officials

Many area school districts, including Pardeeville, are experiencing difficulties finding officials for middle school basketball games, and the need is growing as the winter season approaches.

If you have knowledge of the game and are willing to help, Pardeeville is looking for individuals to officiate middle school contests. An officials license is not required, just a solid understanding of basketball and the ability to manage a game. Most games begin at 4:30 p.m., making this a great opportunity for those with flexible afternoon schedules.

This is a paid position, and it offers a meaningful way to support youth sports while serving as a positive role model for student-athletes.

Those interested should contact Heidi Anderson at [andehe@pas-dwi.org](mailto:andehe@pas-dwi.org) or call 608-429-2153 ext. 211 for more information.



## Skupniewitz gives Pardeeville students Raku firing demonstration

In October, Pardeeville High School's 3D Art students had an unforgettable hands-on learning experience when local artist Thomas Skupniewitz visited class for a special Raku firing demonstration. Raku firing is a traditional Japanese pottery technique in which red-hot ceramic pieces are removed from the kiln and placed into combustible materials, such as sawdust or newspaper, to create dramatic, one-of-a-kind surface effects. The rapid heating and cooling, along with the smoky environment, produce striking colors, crackles, and textures that cannot be replicated through other firing methods.

During the visit, Skupniewitz brought his outdoor kiln to campus and guided students through each step of the process. Students watched as their glowing pottery pieces were transferred into metal cans filled with natural materials, sparking the chemical reactions that give Raku its signature look.

The district extends its gratitude to Mr. Skupniewitz for sharing his expertise and inspiring students. Examples of his work can be found at [clineartworks.com](http://clineartworks.com).



Local artist Thomas Skupniewitz transfers a student's ceramic pottery piece out of the kiln and into a metal can during a Raku firing demonstration outside Pardeeville High School in October.



### Cheer team winners

Pardeeville High School Cheer Team members, from left; Isabel Bue and Jade Koepp are shown with the awards they were given at the team's banquet held on Oct. 30. Bue won the team's CheerLEADER Award, while Koepp won the Best Cheer Teammate Award. At the banquet, the coaches highlighted the season's individual and team accomplishments, awarded letters and recognized the team's five seniors; Isabel Bue, Josephine Bue, RaeLyn Holtan, Makensey Miller and Merissa SanEmeterio.



### Huset places 3rd in Faciliton

Pardeeville High School freshman Brock Huset, far left, is shown after finishing in third place in Faciliton at the District 5 SkillsUSA Competition in Slinger on Wednesday, Nov. 19. Faciliton is a SkillsUSA competition designed to introduce high school and technical students to careers in facility management. Huset and five other Pardeeville High School students competed against over 300 students from surrounding schools in 25 different categories at the event. Pardeeville students joining Huset at the competition were Hoyt Kessenich, Miranda Crary, Onan Casteel, Ronin Holly and Hayden Ballweg. They competed in Welding, Medical Terminology, and Related Technical Math.



# Strong finish highlights tough season for Pardeeville football

The Pardeeville High School varsity football team battled through a challenging 2025 season filled with adversity and key injuries, finishing seventh in the Eastern Suburban Conference with a 1-6 record and 2-7 overall. Despite the setbacks, the Bulldogs showed heart and determination, ending the season on a high note with a convincing 34-14 victory at Deerfield.

That season-ending win capped off a strong finish to a year that included one of the most memorable performances in recent program history. In a 46-40 shoot-out loss to Markesan the previous week, junior quarterback Julian Wells and junior wide receiver Devin Jerome put up record-breaking numbers. Wells completed 23 of 44 passes for 451 yards and five touchdowns, while also rushing for 64 yards and another score, giving him 515 yards of total offense—marks believed to be single-game school records. Jerome was equally electric, catching 13 passes for 286 yards and three touchdowns, setting another school record for single-game receiving yards.

At the conclusion of the season, four Bulldogs earned All-Eastern Suburban Conference honors.

**Devin Jerome** was a unanimous first team selection at wide receiver, despite missing two games due to injury. He led the team with 34 receptions for 575 yards and six touchdowns.

Sophomore **Karrsen Bussan** earned



Pardeeville football players, from left; Julian Wells, Noah Black, Karrsen Bussan and Devin Jerome all earned all-conference recognition following the season.

first team honors on special teams and as a defensive flex player, along with second team recognition as an offensive flex player. Bussan was a standout on both sides of the ball—rushing for 644 yards and seven touchdowns, adding 15 receptions for 258 yards and three scores, and leading the defense with 74 tackles and three interceptions. On special teams, he averaged over 22 yards per return on kick and punt returns and scored on a kickoff return.

Sophomore **Noah Black** was named to the second team as an outside linebacker. He finished second on the team

with 68 tackles and scored a defensive touchdown on a fumble return.

**Julian Wells** earned honorable mention at quarterback after compiling an impressive stat line of 1,128 passing yards, 14 touchdowns, and just four interceptions, along with 502 rushing yards and six more scores.

While the season tested the Bulldogs' resilience, the team's late surge, record-setting performances, and young core provide plenty of optimism for the seasons ahead.

## Senior trio earns recognition for volleyball team this season

The Pardeeville High School varsity volleyball team showed plenty of determination and growth during the 2025 season, finishing sixth in the Trailways West Conference with a 2-5 league record and 9-15 overall.

Under the direction of first-year head coach Cherie Hughes, the Bulldogs came out strong, winning five of their first six matches with victories over Wayland Academy, Coulee Christian, Parkview, Poynette, and Westfield. Pardeeville kept the momentum rolling with an exciting five-set win over Cambria-Friesland on Sept. 16, improving to 8-2 on the season.

As the season progressed, the Bulldogs faced a challenging stretch of conference opponents and a tough regional matchup, ultimately seeing their season come to an end in a 16-25, 25-21, 25-22, 25-6 loss to Wautoma in the regional quarterfinal.



Hulberg



Hughes



Wagner

Despite the ups and downs, the Bulldogs had several standout performers earn recognition from the Trailways West Conference. Senior Bronte Hulberg earned Second Team All-Conference honors after finishing with 60 kills, ranking second-best on the team. Fellow seniors Lexi Hughes and Ava Wagner were both named Honorable Mention All-Conference. Hughes led the team in assists with 359, ranking sixth in the conference, and added 19 ace serves and 165 digs. Wagner led the Bulldogs in kills with 112 and was second on the team in blocks with 52, while also being named to the Trailways West All-Sportsmanship Team.



# Hendrickson's run at state meet highlight of cross country season

It was a memorable postseason for the Pardeeville High School boys and girls cross country teams, highlighted by sophomore Trenton Hendrickson's appearance at the WIAA State Cross Country Championships in Wisconsin Rapids on Nov. 1.

Running in the Division 3 boys race, Hendrickson finished 51st out of 151 runners with a time of 17 minutes, 45.1 seconds, closing out an impressive sophomore campaign. He qualified for the state meet by placing ninth at the Division 3 Sheboygan Lutheran Sectional on Oct. 25 with a time of 17:42.5.

Just missing out on joining Hendrickson at state was senior Mason Muscanero, who placed 12th at the sectional in 17:55.2, about 10 seconds behind the final individual state qualifier. As a team, the Pardeeville boys finished fourth overall out of 19 teams..

The Pardeeville girls team also competed hard at the sectional, finishing 13th out of 17 teams. They were led by sophomore Kenna Jenkins, who placed 23rd in 21:33.4.

Earlier, the Bulldogs shined at the Trailways Conference Meet held Oct. 16 in Neenah. The Pardeeville boys captured the Trailways North Conference Championship, edging out Oshkosh Valley Christian by just six points. Hendrickson (2nd place), Muscanero (3rd place), and Tristen Homan (6th place) all earned



GALLEY STUDIOS PHOTO

Members of the Pardeeville boys and girls cross country teams are, in front, from left; Kiana Berry, Kenna Jenkins, Alyvia Bell, Bree Motsenbocker, Aurora Homan, Francesca Gaglio, Kylie Buzzell and Mariah Bruflat. Middle row; Owen Krueger, Braylon Garrett, Chance Millard, Dane Overland, Lane Pease and coach Wes Babcock. Back row; Sawyer Salmon, Tristen Homan, Mason Muscanero, Dylan Berg, Bodie Johansen, Sawyer Berg and Trenton Hendrickson.

First Team All-Conference honors for their outstanding performances.

The Pardeeville girls team also had a strong showing, finishing second overall behind Oshkosh Lourdes. Earning Second Team All-Conference honors were Jenkins (10th place), Bree Motsenbocker (12th place), and Kiana Berry (13th place).

Both teams demonstrated exceptional effort, teamwork, and dedication throughout the season, continuing the tradition of excellence in the Bulldogs' cross country program. Special thanks to coaches Wes Babcock and Laura Bell for their hard work and guidance throughout the season.

## Babcock to join Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame

Pardeeville High School head cross country coach Wes Babcock has been selected for induction into the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class of 2026.

Coach Babcock recently completed his 46th season leading the Bulldogs' cross country program—a career marked by dedication, excellence, and lasting impact. During his tenure, Pardeeville teams have qualified for the WIAA State Championships 11 times (six by the boys and five by the girls), claimed 14 conference titles, and produced three individual state champions: Kara Hughes (1980), Amy Tye (1982), and Samantha Bluske (2007).

His 2002 boys team captured the program's first state championship, while his girls teams earned state runner-up finishes in 1980 and 1981. Before coming to Pardeeville, Babcock guided Loyal High School's boys team to a state runner-up finish in 1975.

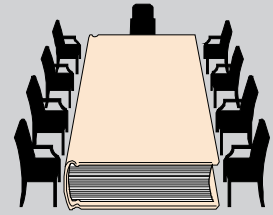
Already a member of the Wisconsin Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame (Class of 2017), Coach Babcock's upcoming induction recognizes his lifelong passion for running and his dedication to inspiring generations of student-athletes.



Pardeeville High School Cross Country Head Coach Wes Babcock will be inducted into the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



# Pardeeville Board of Education



## MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING September 15, 2025

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. Dennis Kinworthy, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Autumn Pease, Ms. Karla Walker, Ms. Becky Levzow, and Student Representative Bronte Hulberg and Ava Wagner. Also present were Mr. David Bell, Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Brent Richter, Mr. Jim Housner, Mr. Gus Knitt, Ms. Jen Mecum, Ms. Nina Grasse, Ms. Crystal Vinz, Ms. Rachel Kaufman, Mr. Gary Carpenter and Mr. Randy Gutenberg, Mr. Ben Nieuhaus attended virtually. Mr. Bret Achterberg arrived at 7:05 pm

### Motion to Approve Agenda

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

### Open Forum

No one signed up.

### WASB Discussion on Superintendent Search

Mr. Gutenberg from WASB was in person to present, and Mr. Nieuhaus was presenting virtually. They introduced themselves and the company. They went over the process, the projected timeline and talked about our last search that included the work guarantee that we were entitled for during this new process if we should use their firm. Ms. Levzow stated that we need to find the talent that will work for our district. Ms. Levzow asked to elaborate on the mentoring process, and they indicated that it was a separate service through WASDA. The board thanked the WASB representatives for their time.

### Administrative Team Reports

Elementary School-Ms. Levzow said that there was a busy start to the school year. She heard Goodies for Grand was well attended. Mr. Kohn said it was a great turn out. Ms. Levzow also mentioned it was nice to see that the crisis response team is keeping prepped so the district is prepared if needed.

Middle School-Ms. Levzow stated that the open house seemed to be well attended. Ms. Levzow also stated that it was important to have the teacher mentoring program still going on. Ms. Denure stated that we received a grant to keep this process going. Mr. Bellis stated that it was good to see the co-curricular activities in full swing. Ms. Levzow stated that it is great we have these opportunities for a smaller school district.

High School-Mr. Bell gave an update on the Infinite Campus program which is new to all students, staff and parents. He said it is going well, and they are addressing ques-

tions that come up daily. Mr. Bell stated that Ms. Anderson is doing a great job answering those questions and if fixes are needed, she works on those. Ms. Walker asked a question about a student not being able to input assignments in the program, and Mr. Bell was going to look into it a bit more. Mr. Bell talked about the academic Trailways banquet that was held in years past, and how the conference is stopping that process and making it more at the local school. The students will still get their awards, along with a slide show with all of the conference winners in it to share. They are looking at different ways to celebrate the students.

Building and Grounds-Ms. Levzow stated that there were 150 work tickets besides the daily duties. Mr. Kinworthy asked about the new cleaning process implemented and Mr. Housner went into more detail about that.

Technology-Ms. Levzow stated that there were a lot of things going on with school starting. Mr. Walker talked about Infinite Campus. Ms. Levzow asked about the Skyward financial program and Mr. Walker gave updates on that.

District Admin report-Mr. Knitt said there was one change in his report of his schedule for the upcoming week.

### Student Representative Report

Ms. Hulberg and Ms. Wagner presented their student report. They are excited to be back for their senior year. They talked about the first couple weeks of school, regarding getting into Infinite Campus and freshman orientation. They also talked about the upcoming homecoming festivities along with a glow run that is going to happen at a football game, along with FFA doing a sock donation event in October.

### Annual Report on Seclusion and Restraint

Ms. Denure went over the seclusion and restraint report. There was only 1 seclusion incident in the high school last school year, and 3 restraint events at an out-reach school we utilize for students.

### Referendum Update

No updates at this time. There is a Core meeting scheduled on Thursday, 9/25/25 and there should be information to present to the board after that meeting.

### Board Comments & Questions

Ms. Walker stated that she had talked to Mr. Kohn about getting events posted on the school calendar as the Goodies for Grands was not on there. Mr. Kohn stated that it will get on the calendar in the future and he will work with Mr. Houslet about getting the events on social media as well. Mr. Achterberg asked about volunteers and if the school district still utilizes them. He believes that people would be interested in volunteering their time. It was explained that at times

volunteers are still used, and they just have to contact the building admin teams, fill out the required paperwork and get the background check completed. The need is not high right now for volunteers, but sometimes they are for certain events. Mr. Bellis asked if the school calendar can be implemented into Infinite Campus as well. Mr. Walker was going to look into that.

### Approval of Minutes Dated 9/2/2025

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Ms. Pease to approve the minutes dated 9/2/25. Motion passed 6-0-1.

### Approval of Receipts/Expenditures

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the receipts and expenditures. Ms. Walker is looking for a better report, as the one provided didn't have enough details in it. Mr. Knitt said he would address that along with giving the board a budget comparison form that was used in the past. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of WASB Superintendent Search Contract

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the WASB Superintendent Search Contract. Ms. Levzow asked the board if they wanted to move forward with WASB, or to check with other companies. Mr. Achterberg stated that he was fine with this one as they are holding to the guarantee due to using their services last year. Mr. Knitt also talked more about the WASDA superintendent mentoring program that he has seen and used in the past and stated that it is a great program to utilize. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Advisor Positions and Co-Curricular Advisors, Trainers and Mentors for 2025-2026

Motion by Mr. Kinworthy / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the advisors, co-curricular advisors, trainers and mentors for 2025-2026. Mr. Nickel asked about the drama club and their plays, and what the game plan was for the year. He was looking to make sure the students would still be engaged throughout the school year. Mr. Bell stated that they are looking into different options right now with the advisor, Mr. Duffy. Motion passed 7-0.

### Approval of Hiring of Support Staff

None at this time.

### Approval of Donations

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the donation of \$1,310.54 from the Bulldog Fund Raiser Inc to go towards ice fishing and trap shooting needs. Motion passed 7-0.

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Possible first reading of NEOLA policies, approval of winter and spring coaches and volunteers, finalizing WASB fall regional meeting travels.



### Closed Session

A closed session will be held under 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to approve closed session minutes dated 9/10/25, to approve signature changes at Bank First and National Exchange and to review the interim superintendent contract.

### Return to Open Session

#### Approval of Interim Superintendent Contract

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the interim superintendent contract. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Approval to Update Banking Signature

Changes at Bank First and National Exchange Bank to Include Interim Superintendent, Earl "Gus" Knitt. Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve the updated banking signature changes at Bank First and National Exchange Bank to include Interim Superintendent, Earl "Gus" Knitt. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Approve Closed Session Minutes Dated 9/10/2025

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Ms. Pease to approve the closed session minutes dated 9/10/25. Motion passed 7-0.

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Kinworthy to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

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Chad Bellis, Board Clerk

## **MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING October 6, 2025**

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. Justin Nickel, Ms. Autumn Pease, Ms. Karla Walker via telephone and Ms. Becky Levzow. Also present were Mr. David Bell, Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Jim Housner, Mr. Knitt, Ms. Jen Mecum, Ms. Debra Torrison and Ms. Angie Noyons.

### Motion to Approve Agenda:

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

### Recognition of School Board Appreciation Week

Mr. Knitt went over the proclamation from the Governor of the State of Wisconsin. He thanked the board for their time and effort on doing what is best for the children of the school district.

### Review 2025-2026 Budget

Mr. Knitt presented a budget comparison sheet from 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years to the board and went over the items on it. Mr. Knitt explained the line entries to the board, to which they were appreciative of him going over the budget.

### Finalizing WASB Fall Regional Meeting

The board discussed transportation arrangements for the WASB fall regional meeting in Wisconsin Dells on 10/7/25.

### Report on Third Friday Count

Mr. Knitt went over the pupil count numbers and explained that we are down in the head count numbers. He also went over our open enrolled in and out student numbers. Mr. Nickel asked about the trend in the open enrollment in numbers and Mr. Knitt talked about possibilities of what may be happening.

### Referendum Update

Ms. Levzow stated that there was a core meeting on 9/25/25 and had Mr. Knitt go over the details. A staff and family survey went out on 10/6/25; which was a Google form. Mr. Knitt also talked about him having a meeting in Madison with Findorff and Groth and going over plans and costs. He advised them that he wants more detailed cost information. Mr. Knitt also stated that he wants the maintenance costs separate from the building referendum. There is additional research to be done on what can be put on the referendum and what will not be able to. Mr. Knitt is looking further into financial plans for both a building and maintenance referendum to try not to over burden the tax payers.

### Board Comments & Questions

Nothing was brought up.

### Approval of Minutes Dated 9/15/2025

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve minutes dated 9/15/25. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Donation of Real Estate to CESA 5

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve the donation of real estate to CESA 5. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bellis- Yes, Ms. Levzow- Yes, Mr. Nickel- Yes, Ms. Pease- Yes, Ms. Walker- Yes, Mr. Achterberg- Yes. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Fitness Center Hour Changes

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the changes of public hours to the fitness center. Mr. Bellis asked about the other hours during the week to get added, to which Ms. Levzow and Mr. Nickel talked about the decision made during the building and grounds committee meeting not to add additional hours during the week. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Hiring of Support Staff

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the hiring of custodian Jeffrey Johnson. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of Winter/Spring Sports Coaches/Volunteers

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the winter and spring coaches and volunteers are presented minus Amanda Seichter. Motion passed 6-0. Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve Amanda Seichter as curling varsity head coach. Motion passed 5-0-1.

### Approval of Donations

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the donations of 10 watermelons from Pease produce to the FFA leadership workshop. Motion passed 6-0.

### Approval of First Reading of NEOLA Policies 1-9

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the first reading of NEOLA policies 1-9 as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Student spotlight presentation from the Elementary School, reviewing snow plow bids for the 25-26 school year, approving early college credits and start college now applications for the spring semester and second reading of NEOLA policies.

### Closed Session

A closed session will be held under 19.85(1)(c) & 19.85(1)(f) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to Discuss the Activities Director Position Along with Salaries for Staff Covering the Position, and Summer Interim Superintendent Conversation.

### Return to Open Session

#### Approval of Activities Director Salary

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Ms. Pease to approve the activities director salaries as recommended by the district administrator for David Bell and Amber Denure. Motion passed 6-0.

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the adjournment. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

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Chad Bellis, Board Clerk

## **MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING October 20, 2025**

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. Dennis Kinworthy, Ms. Autumn Pease, Ms. Karla Walker, Ms. Becky Levzow, and Student Representative Bronte Hulberg. Also present were Mr. David Bell, Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Jim Housner, Mr. Knitt, Ms. Jen Mecum, Ms. Erica Sherrick, Ms. Jennifer Nadolski, Mr. Ryan Howe, Ms. Morgan Serstad, Ms. Crystal Vinz, Ms. Kendra Corning, Ms. Amber Hoffman, Ms. Skylar Isakson, Ms. Amy Nolden, Ms. Norah Serstad, Ms. Josie Smith, Ms. Laikyn Bishop, Mr. Easton Ahearn, Ms. Emberly Hickey, Ms. Angie Noyons and Mr. Matt Wade. Mr. Chad Bellis and Ms. Ava Wagner arrived at 7:01 pm and Mr. Bret Achterberg arrived at 7:09 pm.

### Motion to Approve Agenda

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

### Open Forum

Mr. Matt Wade from the Pardeeville Boys Club, a 501c organization, talked about the facilities and asked how to get on the agenda to discuss the availability of gym spaces on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, which currently are not open for any activities. Ms. Levzow did ask a question of what age their participants are, which Mr. Wade did not provide. Ms. Levzow stated that the board will discuss and will let him know later what may come of this.

### Student Spotlight: Elementary School Sources of Strength

Ms. Sherrick and Ms. Nadolski brought some 1st grade students from their Sources



of Strength group in to talk about the Source of Strength curriculum at the elementary school level. They advised that this program is helping to show students leadership skills and respect. The kids did play a game with the board to show some of the activities that they get to do within the group. Ms. Levzow asked the kids questions, to which they answered.

#### Administrative Team Reports

Elementary School-Ms. Levzow stated that Mr. Kohn had a nice conference that he was able to attend and it was very beneficial to go to. She also talked about how important the fire safety day and the bus safety talks are to the students. Ms. Levzow also talked about the book fair and how excited the students seem to be for it when it is happening. Ms. Walker asked how the PTO movie night went, and Mr. Kohn thought about 150 families participated in that.

Middle School-Ms. Levzow stated that a lot of field trips were happening already and that they were good opportunities for the students. Ms. Levzow also likes the student of the week program as it is a great way to showcase our students. Ms. Denure did talk about a letter that was sent out to the district families to let them know that hand, foot and mouth disease is confirmed within the district.

High School-Ms. Levzow stated that the staff are staying busy during inservice days. Ms. Levzow also stated that she attended the NHS induction night and that it was wonderful to see all of the students a part of that group. The pink out event that was on 10/10/25 was also talked about and stated that it is a great way for our students/families to help others.

Building and Grounds-Ms. Levzow stated that they were again very busy with work tickets and maintenance as needed.

Technology-Ms. Levzow stated that they were also very busy.

#### Student Representative Report

Ms. Hulberg and Ms. Wagner went over their report talking about homecoming week, as well as the pink out event, and also talked about some future events that were being planned with FFA going to nationals and their blow-up costume race.

#### Committee Reports

The committee report minutes for the building and grounds, finance and curriculum meetings were briefly recapped to the board. No questions were asked.

#### Recap of Board Member Interviews With Superintendent

Mr. Knitt thanked the board for taking the time to meet with him so he can get to know them better and get their perspective on the school district. Mr. Knitt's goals with these meetings were to assist with the superintendent search, which he feels there is information to assist with interview questions, along with asking the new superintendent what their goals will be with the district.

#### Presentation of Technology Department Updates

Mr. Walker gave the board an update on what the tech department did over the summer and what they are continuing to work on.

#### Presentation of Summer Projects and

#### Work Done by Building & Grounds

Mr. Housner went over their summer projects. Mr. Kinworthy asked questions about the kitchen hood fan, to which Mr. Housner was able to answer. The board asked about the new cleaning process, and they liked the initiative of Mr. Housner starting this to assist his staff, to which the staff seemed to be in better spirits with the new process.

#### Comments from Attendees on WASB Fall Regional Meeting

Ms. Pease stated that the meeting was nice, and not as intense as last year's meeting. She did like the breakout sessions to meet with different groups and listen to what they had to say. Mr. Bellis stated that it was a good event with good food. He stated that Mr. Nickel did a great job on a speech on behalf of the school district. Ms. Levzow congratulated Mr. Bellis and Mr. Nickel on their recognition at the regional meeting.

#### Board Members Attending the State Education Convention (January 21 & 22, 2026)

Discussed to the board that hotel reservations opened up on November 3, 2025 and checked if the attendance of the convention was going to be on that Wednesday and Thursday.

#### Discuss Referendum Update

Mr. Knitt talked about the last core meeting that happened. He stated that Findorff and Groth representatives will be here on 11/25/25 to give a presentation to the staff during their inservice times. Mr. Knitt will be looking more at the construction updates that are being presented, and then in March or April there will be heavier discussions on what projects will be put in the referendum. He stated in August, we will have to decide on referendum questions and get those approved so they can be posted and placed on ballots for the November 2026 election. Regarding maintenance projects, Mr. Knitt and Mr. Housner will meet to discuss those to see what can be done over the summer and what further avenues need to be addressed to get them done. In January the board will approve those maintenance needs so they can be done over the summer. Mr. Knitt will also be working with Carol Wirth to figure out finance options to help soften the impact of the referendum to tax payers. Mr. Knitt also stated that on 11/17/25, Findorff and Groth will be at the board meeting to discuss the survey results and give an update on the referendum schedule.

#### Board Comments & Questions

Ms. Levzow congratulated cross country on their season so far and wished them well at sectionals on Saturday.

#### Approval of Minutes Dated 10/6/2025

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve minutes dated 10/6/25. Motion passed 5-0-1.

#### Approval of Receipts/Expenditures

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the receipts and expenditures. Ms. Walker did have some questions on some entries, to which were answered by Mr. Housner, Mr. Knitt and Ms. Mecum. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Snow Plow Bids

Motion by Mr. Kinworthy / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the snow plow bid from Kenevan Contractors LLC. Mr. Housner did go over the three bids that had been submitted from Kenevan Contractors LLC, LNC Land Clearing & Tree Service and Simply Howe Landscaping and Grading LLC. The board did ask questions, to which Mr. Housner answered. Mr. Housner did recommend going with Kenevan Contractors LLC. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Additional Winter Coaches/Volunteers

Motion by Ms. Pease / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the additional winter coaches and volunteers as presented. Ms. Levzow did ask if the process used to fill the middle school wrestling coaches will be applied to curling if no one applied, and Mr. Bell stated that it would be. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Hall of Fame Contract

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the hall of fame contract through 2030. Mr. Knitt stated that the only change to the contract was to make it a 5-year contract instead of a 3-year contract. Mr. Achterberg stated he had been approached about having material presented on the monitor, to which it was discussed they would have to go through the hall of fame committee and it would have to abide by the contract requirements. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Motion by Mr. Kinworthy / seconded by Ms. Pease to approve early college credit and start college now applications for the Spring semester of 2026. Mr. Bell gave a recap of what was presented. Ms. Levzow talked about how this is a great opportunity for our students and how they can use it to their advantage. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Donations

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the donations of 200 non-perishable snack packs that were donated from the WCCU Credit Union in Portage, a music stand from the Bellis family to the music department and \$315 from the PTO to the elementary school fall family night event. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Approval of Second Reading of NEOLA Policies 1-9

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by Mr. Kinworthy to approve the second reading of NEOLA policies 1-9 as presented. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Reminder of the special board meeting on Wednesday, 10/22/25 at 6:30 pm.

#### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Mr. Kinworthy to approve the adjournment. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

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Chad Bellis, Board Clerk

### **MINUTES SPECIAL BOARD MEETING October 22, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32



pm by Ms. Becky Levzow, Board President. Roll call was taken with the following board members present: Mr. Chad Bellis, Mr. Dennis Kinworthy, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Autumn Pease, Ms. Karla Walker, Ms. Becky Levzow, and Mr. Knitt, Ms. Jen Mecum, Mr. Randy Guttenberg. Mr. Bret Achterberg arrived at 6:39 pm.

#### Motion to Approve Agenda

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

#### Closed Session

Motion by Mr. Nickel /seconded by Mr. Kinworthy to go into a closed session which was held under 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to discuss the Superintendent application process. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Bellis- Yes, Mr. Kinworthy- Yes, Ms. Levzow- Yes, Mr. Nickel- Yes, Ms. Pease- Yes, Ms. Walker- Yes. Motion passed 6-0.

#### Discussions

Mr. Guttenberg went over the WASB superintendent application process with the board.

#### Return to Open Session

Motion by Mr. Nickel /seconded by Ms. Walker to go back into open session. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Kinworthy- Yes, Ms. Levzow- Yes, Mr. Nickel- Yes, Ms. Pease- Yes, Ms. Walker- Yes, Mr. Bellis-Yes, Mr. Achterberg- Yes. Motion passed 7-0. The Board returned to open session at 8:50 pm.

#### Approval of the 2025-2026 Tax Levy

Motion by Mr. Nickel /seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the 2025-2026 tax levy of \$7,127,481. Mr. Knitt went over the updated budget numbers, along with explaining the purpose of a tax levy and what is all involved in determining those numbers. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Achterberg /seconded by Mr. Bellis to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

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Becky Levzow, Board President

### **MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING November 3, 2025**

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. Dennis Kinworthy, Mr. Justin Nickel, Ms. Autumn Pease, Ms. Karla Walker and Ms. Becky Levzow. Also present were Mr. David Bell, Ms. Amber Denure, Mr. Andrew Kohn, Mr. Philip Walker, Mr. Knitt, Ms. Jen Mecum, Mr. Wes Babcock, Mr. Trenton Hendrickson, Ms. Angie Noyons, Ms. Annette LaVia, Mr. Chris Sherrick, Ms. Crystal Vinz, Ms. Rachel Kaufman and Mr. Ross Kaufman.

#### Motion to Approve Agenda

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

#### Recognition of State Cross-Country Participant

Mr. Hendrickson talked about his cross-country state competition experience. He

stated that he just started cross country last year, so it is his second year being able to compete. Mr. Babcock stated that he gained lots of value running with the student athletes at the state competition, as there are 1,000 runners competing. Mr. Babcock stated that they had a lot of students go out for cross country this year, and that middle school grew substantially with 35 students. The board stated that Mr. Hendrickson made the school district proud, and they congratulated him on his success this year and look forward to seeing what he does next year.

#### Special Education Update from Director Annette LaVia

Ms. LaVia gave an update on the special education department enrollment history, including this year's numbers. She talked about the trends happening here and nationwide. Ms. LaVia also stated that so far this year, they have had an additional 16 referrals for students with possible needs. Ms. LaVia stated that they are looking at different ways in dealing with caseloads of staff, including adding an additional teacher last year and some more paraprofessionals. She also stated that there are students that do have to be serviced in other locations due to their needs and that we are not able to facilitate these needs within the district. Mr. Knitt stated that we will be looking at staffing needs and costs of other locations when we start getting ready to work on the 2026-2027 budget.

#### Update on Superintendent Search

Mr. Knitt stated that the district office is working on getting the focus group signups out to the community for participation.

#### Discuss Referendum Updates

Mr. Knitt and Mr. Housner met with Findorff and Groth on Wednesday, 10/29/25 to discuss the maintenance projects/costs. More discussions will occur at a later date. Mr. Knitt stated that Findorff and Groth will be at the 11/25/25 staff inservice day to present to the staff in the afternoon, to ensure we are transparent with the staff. It was discussed that if the referendum does pass in November 2026, that no construction work will happen until at least the spring of 2028, so that may help in regards to delaying the burden onto the tax payers. Mr. Knitt is looking more into this. Mr. Knitt stated that the core team will be meeting on Tuesday, and that he has another meeting on Wednesday with Findorff and Groth to go over what will be presented to the staff on 11/25/25. The board asked questions about small maintenance projects getting done before the referendum, and Mr. Knitt stated that him and Mr. Housner will be coming up with a schedule to start working on those smaller projects.

#### Board Comments & Questions

Ms. Walker stated that the concert was good and that the kids and staff did a great job. Ms. Levzow stated that it was a standing room only that night. Mr. Nickel inquired if the show can be broadcasted and Mr. Bell and Mr. Walker were going to look into that, but there may be network issues, or copyright issues of the program's materials.

#### Approval of Minutes Dated 10/20/2025

Motion by Mr. Bellis / seconded by

Mr. Kinworthy to approve minutes dated 10/20/25. Motion passed 6-0-1.

#### Approval of Special Meeting Minutes Dated 10/22/2025

Motion by Ms. Walker / seconded by Mr. Nickel to approve special meeting minutes dated 10/22/25. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Approval of 2025-2026 Budget

Motion by Mr. Achterberg / seconded by Ms. Walker to approve the general fund of \$14,222,165 for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Knitt did go over the DPI certification of 25-26 general aid, the DPI 25-26 revenue worksheet and the budget summary worksheet. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Approval of Additional Winter Sports Coaches/Volunteers

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Bellis to approve the additional winter sports volunteers and coaches as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Approval of Donations

Motion by Mr. Kinworthy / seconded by Ms. Pease to approve the donations of 12 pumpkins from Pease Produce to the Elementary School Art Club, \$12 from Rocky Riders Snowmobile Club to use school property to get to the snowmobile trails, \$20 from Peter and Lucille Gross towards the Elementary School Veteran's Day breakfast, \$200 from the American Legion Auxiliary #215 towards the Elementary School Veteran's Day breakfast, \$2,030 from the Bonnita (Bonnie) Lou (Walker) Wheeler memorial to go towards Elementary School student supplies, \$200 from the American Legion Auxiliary #215 towards the High School Veteran's Day program, \$300 from Russell and Laurie Breneman towards the unpaid lunch accounts and Indian Trails Campground donated ice cream treats to the Elementary School. Motion passed 7-0.

#### Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Student spotlight of the high school Spanish Club, Findorff & Groth will be here to present results on the survey they had conducted.

#### Closed Session

A closed session will be held Under 19.85(1)(c) & 19.85(1)(f) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to Discuss the Report Regarding the Email Security Incident.

#### Return to Open Session

#### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Nickel / seconded by Mr. Achterberg to approve the adjournment. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

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Chad Bellis, Board Clerk

# Pardeeville Area School District

Pardeeville, Wisconsin 53954

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

### Upcoming Events

- Dec. 6.....Dual County Community Band Holiday Concert, Lenz Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11.....High School Winter Concert, Lenz Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15.....Board of Education Meeting, HS LMC, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 16.....Middle School Winter Concert, Lenz Auditorium, Bands at 6 p.m., Choirs at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18.....Elementary Grades K-2 Winter Concert & Art Show, Lenz Auditorium, 9 a.m.
- Dec. 18.....Elementary Grades 3-4 Winter Concert & Art Show, Lenz Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20-Jan. 4 ....No School, Winter Break
- Jan. 5 .....Board of Education Meeting, HS LMC, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 19.....Board of Education Meeting, HS LMC, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 29.....Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Schools), 4-8 p.m.
- Jan. 30.....No School
- Feb. 5 .....Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Schools), 4-8 p.m.
- Feb. 6 .....Fun Pianos! Dueling Pianos, Lenz Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.