

WHAT'S COMING UP?

1/1—No School. Holiday Break. Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings Closed

1/15—No School. Teacher Workday. School Board Meeting, 7pm, Mazeppa

1/4—School Resume. School Board Organization Meeting, 6pm, Mazeppa

1/28—Grade 5/6 Band/Choir Concert, ZMES Gym, 7 pm

1/10—FFA Toy Show, Dorian Vocal Festival

1/11—School Board Work Session

1/13—Early Release. Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings Open

1/22—End 1st Semester



MAKING ORNAMENTS

Third graders look very serious about making their pine cone Christmas tree ornaments. They also decorated cookies, which was a tasty project!



Notice of Non-Discrimination: Zumbrota-Mazeppa ISD 2805 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Superintendent Gary Anger, 343 Third Ave NE, Mazeppa, MN 55956. Telephone: 507-732-1400.



This picture says it all!!! Happy Holidays!!!!

Zumbrota-Mazeppa ISD 2805
343 Third Ave
Mazeppa, MN 55956
Home of the Cougars

ZM MESSENGER

December 2015



Zumbrota's Covered Bridge

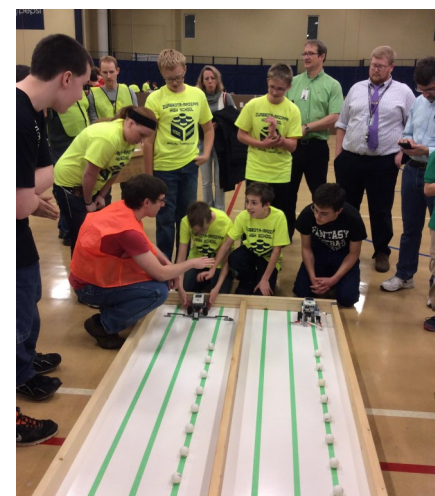
ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



Mazeppa's Walking Bridge

LEGOS ROBOTICS

Twenty-three ZM 7-12th grade students participated in the IBM/Lego Robotics competition on Thursday, December 9 at RCTC. There were over 400 students representing twenty-nine different schools at the competition or about 100 teams. ZM walked away with three teams that placed in the top three of the various categories. Good job students!!



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SHARING THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Kindergarten and preschool sang Christmas carols at the nursing home for the residents. They sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas", "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer", and "Jingle Bells". The kids had so much fun and the residents really enjoyed the show!

'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING

ZM students and staff are once again showing their spirit of giving this holiday season. Through the efforts of the FFA, area churches, and a business in Mazeppa, twenty-seven families in need have received assistance in the form of gifts, food, etc. for Christmas. What a wonderful outpouring of generosity through the communities, which will make a large impact for these families during Christmas this year.



Kindergarten gave of their time and entertainment skills by singing Christmas carols at the nursing home. Sometimes just a child's face is gift enough!

First graders collected pajamas, books, toothpaste and toothbrushes for families in the two school district counties. Each



class went to the food shelf with the items collected.

The area food shelves in Zumbrota and Mazeppa were the recipient of many items collected by students. Second graders took much needed paper supplies to the food shelves. Non-perishable food items were also donated.

The third graders collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, which they delivered themselves. This is a great fundraising opportunity for the Ronald McDonald House and all money raised goes to help families of sick children. ZM elementary students have been doing this for 15 years!!



Fourth graders continued their annual "Mitten Tree" where hats, mittens, and scarves were donated to the food shelves for those needing warm fingers and heads!

Fifth grade students are donating pajamas and books to students and families in need. Makes the cold winter nights a little cozier, especially when you feel someone is caring about you.

The sixth graders are again participating in their annual giving of fleece blankets, shawls, and scarves, all made by the students and their parents. This annual tradition teaches students to not only think of themselves during the holidays, but of someone who may not get a present this year. And, they are very useful gifts!



In addition, sixth graders are doing kindness acts all month: treats to staff members, letters to soldiers, money taped to the pop machine.....little random acts of kindness....and they do not expect to be thanked!!



Giving wasn't just limited to the primary and elementary schools. National Honor Society members donated items to the Christmas Anonymous organization in Rochester; plus, they made hot-dishes and baked goods for the Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester.

BRIDGE BUILDING ACTIVITY PROMOTES COLLABORATION

ZM staff recently spent an afternoon building replicas of the communities' bridges—the Mazeppa Walking Bridge and the Zumbrota Covered Bridge—out of only cardboard and duct tape. When completed, staff was able to walk over the bridges—

We are Building Bridges to the Future!



MORE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Fifth graders collected pajamas and books for those less fortunate this year—lots of children will be warmer this winter!!



WHAT ARE THOSE EARLY RELEASE DAYS ANYWAY?

Have you ever wondered why ZM has an early release day every month? Why do the teachers need that time anyway? It is all part of PLCs. PLC stands for Professional Learning Communities, which allow teachers the opportunity to collaborate on continuous improvement, analyze data as it relates to student learning, review curriculum, examine best teaching practices, engage in peer review and allow teachers to engage in collaborative professional learning to strengthen their practice and increase student results. PLCs work to achieve the



shared goals of their individual sites and the district as a whole. ZM PLCs meet monthly during early releases and each of ZM's 14 individual PLCs are led by ZM teachers trained the PLC facilitation role. Lead PLC facilitators for ZM are Jamie Quam and Aaron Schumacher.



2016 MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY

The Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools are asking students in the 5th, 8th, 9th and 11th grades to participate in the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey.

This survey is conducted in schools across our state every three years. The survey is given to get useful information from students about how things are going at school, with their peers and about health-related thoughts and behaviors. The information helps us develop and maintain effective programs and provide better services at school and through community groups. The statewide information assists in guiding our state programs. When we get the report, information from the students in our district will be shared with school staff, students, parents and the community.

Federal law requires our school district to notify parents of administering this survey. There are frank questions on the survey about many topics relating to young people's lives. These include the use of alcohol or other drugs, safety in and around the school, physical activity and nutrition, mental or emotional health (stress, feeling bad), illegal or anti-social behavior (theft, chemical use, fighting) and if religious beliefs affect personal decisions. Questions are asked only of 9th and 11th grade students regarding sexual behavior and attitudes. If students are not involved in an activity, they skip the related questions and go on to the next section. The survey also asks about how well school is going, future plans, how adolescents spend their time and about how the school, family and community support them.

The survey is anonymous and confidential. Students do not provide their names, student identification numbers or other personal information. No individuals or families can be identified. Students may decline to take any part of the survey or the whole survey and are informed of that option by staff. The results are reported on the school district's students as a whole. The privacy of all students is protected.

The survey is voluntary. While we feel that this is a valuable tool and appreciate participation, parents may choose to have your son or daughter **not** take the survey by completing and returning the form below.

The Minnesota Student Survey will be administered the week of January 18th for 5th grade and the week of February 8th for 8th, 9th and 11th grades.

If you have any questions about the survey or wish to review it, contact Pam Potter Langley, ZM School Counselor/District Assessment Coordinator, paml@zmsch.k12.mn.us, 507-732-1400 x1117.

If you want your child to take the survey, you need not do anything.

However, to have your son or daughter **NOT TAKE**/opt out of taking the survey, complete this note and return to Pam Potter Langley, ZM Schools, 343 Third Avenue NE, Mazeppa, MN 55956; or email: paml@zmsch.k12.mn.us by **January 6th, 2016**:

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

At my request is **not to participate** in the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey.

Name (print): _____ Relationship to the student: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to provide the best for all of our students!



FFA TOY SHOW

Don't miss this event on Sunday, January 10, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
ZM High School Cafeteria in Zumbrota

FOUNDATION MEETS AMAZON



Are you an Amazon shopper and would like to find a way to support our students and staff? We have just added an Amazon Smile link (see below) to the ZM Education Foundation page on the website. The link can be found under the parents tab, then within the Ed Foundation page. This is a great way to help support the Ed Foundation financially while you shop. The funds then come back to benefit students, staff and programming in the ZM Schools.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1975567>

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Education held their Truth and Taxation Hearing and Adoption meeting on December 21, beginning at 6:30 pm in the High School Media Center. A PowerPoint presentation was given by Superintendent Anger, which explained the budget projections, audited balance, and fund balance projection. He also reviewed the levy comparison. There was time for the public to ask questions of the superintendent and board. The levy was adopted in the amount of \$3,218,031.95. Following the hearing, the regular school board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The usual business was conducted, including payment of bills.

Reports: Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. The Targeted Service program for 7th and 8th graders is now up and running. Of the 48 students identified for participation, 24 students are attending twice a week for additional academic assistance. Officer Clemenson, Mr. McAthie, and Mr. Anderson attended a school safety seminar on December 17 which focused on drug use. Mr. Rasmussen reported for the primary and elementary schools. He commended the students and staff for their exceptional community services projects this year. He also thanked Linda Lemmerman for assisting in the elementary office until a new administrative assistant was hired. Mr. Anger reported that December's enrollment was 1,155. The treasurer's report to the board was available for review. The school board retreat is scheduled for February 3, 2016. Mr. Anger requested agenda items by the January 4 organizational meeting.

Mr. Grudem reported for the Southeast Service Cooperation. There were no minutes from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative. Mr. Wendt reported for the Goodhue County Education District.

Old Business: The WILD (Weather Impacted Learning Days) had been previously discussed at the board work session December 14. The board formally approved this snow days program which will allow for one free snow day and all others consisting of online learning.

New Business: Tammy Gruhlke was hired as the elementary secretary, beginning December 14, 2015. An anaphylaxis policy was submitted for board review and possible adoption at the January meeting. Mr. Anger discussed the food service contract and the need to rebid this year. He said the fixed price per meal currently in place is not working well for ZM; he would like to bid the contract as a cost-reimbursable per meal this time. The board approved calling for bids with a cost-reimbursable per meal contract. The following items were declared as surplus property and placed on website for dispersal: 24 drafting tables, 1 disc sander, 1 scroll saw, and 25 computer tables. The board voted in the Minnesota Rural Education Association's board of director balloting.

Board Comments and Reports:

Chair Hinrichs wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked the staff and administration for the good culture in the school system this year. He also reminded the board members to complete their superintendent review prior to the organization meeting January 4, 2016.

Pertinent Dates:

- December 23 – January 1 – Holiday Break
- January 4 – School Resumes. Board Organization Meeting, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa, **6:00 p.m.**
- January 11 – School Board Work Session, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa, 7:00 p.m.
- January 13 – Early Release
- January 13, 14, 15 – MSBA Winter Leadership Conference
- January 22 – End 1st Semester
- January 25 – No School – Teacher Workday. Regular School Board Meeting, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa, 7:00 p.m.
- January 28 – 5/6 Band & Choir Concert, ZMES Gym, Mazeppa, 7:00 p.m.
- February 3 – School Board Retreat, ZMHS Media Center, 6:00 p.m.

Future agenda items include the anaphylaxis policy. There will also be a closed session after the organization meeting January 4, 2016 to review the superintendent evaluations. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

FIRST GRADE STUDIES NATIVE AMERICANS

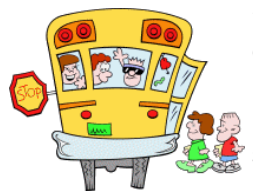
The first grade classrooms have been studying the Native Americans that lived in different regions of the United States. When students were finished learning about the various groups and areas, they presented what they had learned of that region to the other first grade classes.

Pictured are the students and the diorama of the Native Americans of one region studied.



BUS REMINDERS

Sugarloaf Bus Service has requested that a few reminders be sent to parents of students riding the buses. First, the route and shuttle buses are running at top capacity. Sugarloaf requests that no extra riders catch a ride on the buses. No additional riders for overnight parties or sleepovers will be allowed; buses are too full with regular riders. If there is an emergency and an additional child must ride, please call Sugarloaf prior to the child riding so accommodations can be made. The bus number for the Zumbrota Garage is 732-7670 and the Mazeppa Garage is 843-5291.



It is also requested that students are dressed appropriately for winter weather. Although not common, buses can slide on icy roads and students should have warm winter clothing with them. Students should also dress appropriately for winter field trips with hats, mittens, boots, and a warm coat. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students safe this school year!

ZM wishes to thank Sugarloaf Bus Service and all the drivers who daily keep our students safe and on time to school! Barb and Mike Kennedy, Scott Kennedy, Dick Weber, Duane Olson, Frank Aunan, Cecelia Flaaen, Esther Boettger, Arlis Archer, Roger Erickson, Leonard Schultz, John Quast, Wayne Friedrich, Skeeter Berg, Kevin Kastler, Mark Robinson, Jim Perrotti, and Steve Pahl. Substitute drivers Ron Gabrielson, Dennis Klindworth, Duane Holst, Aaron Meyer, Ken Meyer, Harold Porter, Larry Roberson, and Dave Stevenson.

I AM A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

from the MSBOA (MN School Bus Operator's Association)

I didn't become a school bus driver because I couldn't find another job, or was bored with my life, but rather because I chose this.

I work to get children to school safely every day. In fact, I am part of an industry that is safer than all other modes of transportation. I am the finder of lost back packs, homework, mittens, and phones—lots of phones! I often help with nose bleeds, bee stings, tummy aches, and bathroom emergencies! I wake up early and see the sun rise over my lovely community. Occasionally I have to steer my vehicle in snow, rain, fog, and other less than ideal traffic conditions.

I share in the joy of great report cards, wiggly baby teeth, and victories over rival schools. I share in the heartbreak of a child who has parents that are divorcing or not enough money for breakfast or winter coats.

I know that some children face difficult issues like addiction, learning disabilities, and bullies, so I do my best to be a positive influence so that they know they are important and have value. My students sometimes test limits, but I know that it is because they are still trying to learn to do better.

I chose this profession and love almost every minute of it. I help students get to school who would otherwise have no other way to become educated. I reduce traffic in the community and save parents time and money. I know that I have support and appreciate all of those that keep students safe—from the school administrator to the mechanics that keep my vehicle running well to the driving public who stop for my stop arm.

I am not "just" a bus driver. I am an essential part of my community and make a difference in children's lives.

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Dear ZM Families and Community Members,

For most of us, this time of year is cause for celebrations, joyous family times and happiness through our own eyes or the eyes of children. This has been apparent in the hallways and classrooms of our schools where I am greeted by smiling students every day. I've been blessed to be a part of so many celebrations of learning and continue to be amazed by the minor miracles occurring every day.

However, this can also be a very difficult time for some families for a variety of reasons. For families in poverty, the inability to celebrate as they wish, let alone being able to provide for basic family needs, can be incredibly depressing and stressful. Some other families have experienced family loss at this time of year and that lingering grief is very difficult to overcome. Families suffering physical illnesses, job loss, mental illness or any other number of issues may also find this time of year to be overwhelming.

However, one common theme has been prevailing for all of our students throughout this season which has helped people whether they are struggling right now or just need further reason to celebrate. This theme has been one of being a good citizen by giving to others through community service projects. The sheer amount of community service projects going on in ZM since the start of the school year has been astounding. From making blankets, raising funds to purchase gifts, selling items to obtain groceries, singing to senior citizens, making scarves, visiting sites like the Ronald McDonald House to make donations, creating wreaths to give away, the list goes on and on. Students in ZM have gone above and beyond to bring great joy to countless individuals and families!

I commend our staff for planning and guiding our students in these actions to serve others. I must also give even more credit to our students, who not only conduct the above actions with willingness and joy, but also plan out many of these service projects and see them through to their successful end. However I also want to thank all of you. You may find this strange, but perhaps the greatest lesson I have learned since joining this school community this summer is that in Zumbrota-Mazeppa we give to others and help them, no questions asked—it is just what we do and who we are. The song lyrics, "Peace on earth, good will to all" seem to ring out in our streets, fields and places of businesses through your attitudes and actions every day.

Last spring when I was chosen as the superintendent of the ZM Schools, my father was one of the first people I eagerly told. He immediately told me before he passed away this summer, that I was the recipient of a great gift in ZM. I wasn't completely sure what he meant at the time, but now I know what he was talking about. The students, staff and community of the ZM Schools have given me the gift of realizing what a true community is. You have taught me how to bring joy to others and the value of helping your neighbor with whatever they may need. You have taught me that the greatest gifts are the ones we give. Thank you all so much and a blessed season to all of you!

Sincerely,

Gary Anger
Superintendent Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools

FFA AND THIRD GRADE ANNUAL FRUIT DRIVE

The FFA conducted their annual fruit drive to help out those less fortunate during the holiday season in our own community.

This year the 3rd graders from Mr. Cordes' class won the contest. The third graders won by selling 62 cases of fruit to friends, neighbors and parents. The greatest incentive for the students was knowing that they are doing something great for those in need to make their Christmas a little brighter

Of course, the FFA chapter is also throwing the students a pizza party on the 15th of January!!

