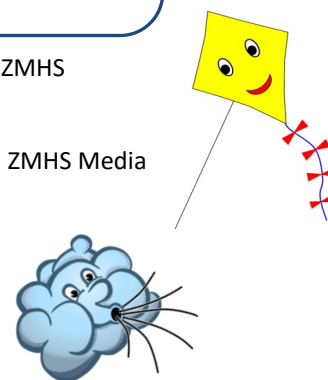


WHAT'S COMING UP?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4/5—Grade 2 Ordway Trip | 4/22—Kindergarten Concert, 2:00 pm, ZMHS Auditorium |
| 4/11—School Board Work Session, 7:00 pm, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota | 4/25—School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota |
| 4/12—ZMHS Band Concert, 7:30 pm, ZMHS Auditorium | Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings Summer Registration Begins |
| 4/13—Early Release. Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings Open | 4/29—Kindergarten Roundup |
| 4/14—Dental Day | 4/30—Prom |
| 4/19—ACT Test | |



It is time once again for the annual **Track and Field Fundraiser!**

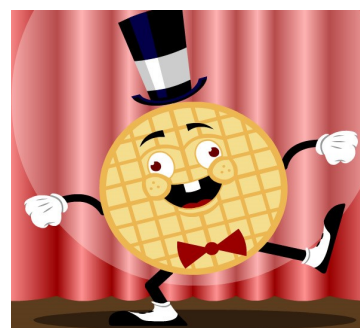
Mark your calendar and enjoy a delicious breakfast or lunch of Belgium waffles, topped with your favorite accompaniments!

Your support helps fund the ZM Boys/Girls Track and Field program.

Saturday, April 2 from 8:00 am until noon

NOTE: This year's waffles will be served at the ZMHS Cafeteria in Zumbrota.

Cost is \$7 if purchased from track athlete, \$8 at the door.



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 newsletter is offered in color online at www.zmschools.us. If you no longer need a mailed copy, please call 507-732-1400. Reading online will save paper and postage!!

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



ZM MESSENGER

MARCH 2016



Zumbrota's Covered Bridge

ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



Mazeppa's Walking Bridge

THE PLAYGROUND IS COMING

ZM Schools wants to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the elementary playground fund. What was just a dream earlier in the school year has now become a reality through the generous donations of members of the Mazeppa and Zumbrota communities.

In addition, many businesses and civic organizations have stepped up the efforts to raise the amount needed to replace the outdated, out of compliance playground equipment. ZM Schools is especially grateful to the Mazeppa Lions, the Bank of Zumbrota, Neptune's, Mazeppa Fire Department, Mazeppa Senior Citizens, and the ZM Education Foundation. Without the support of our two communities and the businesses and organizations within, this playground update would not have been possible.

A friendship bench, to honor long-time elementary secretary, Sharon Ross, will also be added to the new playground. Sharon was tragically killed in a car accident last fall and donations were received in her honor through the ZM Education Foundation. This bench will be placed in a special area on the playground in her memory.



EARLY RELEASE APRIL 13 (buses leave Mazeppa 12:30 pm and Zumbrota 12:45 pm)

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CONSTRUCTION CLASS OPEN HOUSE

ZM VOCATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CLASS WILL HOST AN

OPEN HOUSE

FOR THEIR 2015-16 PROJECT HOME ON

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

619 GOLFVIEW AVENUE

ZUMBROTA, MN

Bid booklets are available in the District Office or online at www.zmschools.us.

Bids will be accepted until **Monday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m.** at which time bids will be opened.

Interested parties should submit a sealed bid, along with proof of financing, to the Superintendent's office, 343 Third Avenue NE, Mazeppa, MN 55956.

The winning bid will be approved at the May 23, 2016 school board meeting.

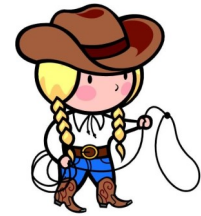
Questions? Contact Kevin Nelson, class instructor, at 507-251-9649 or call the District Office in Mazeppa at 507-732-1400.



KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Kindergarten is a special time for students and ZM is already preparing for our youngest students in the 2016-17 school year. The ZM District is committed to student excellence and will continue to provide all day, every day kindergarten in the next school year.

Kindergarten Round Up has been scheduled for April 29th. At 1:00 pm, children will be introduced to a kindergarten experience. At 1:15, parents will attend an informational meeting in the high school auditorium. At this meeting we will discuss what to expect as your child enters kindergarten, the health room policy and procedures, information from the food service company, Sugar Loaf Bus Service, and Cougar Care Childcare.



Forms will be mailed to incoming kindergarten students and these forms should be turned in on April 29th. The state of Minnesota also requires a copy of your child's birth certificate for their school records (photo copy is fine—does not need to be an original).

We look forward to meeting you and your kindergartener on April 29th!!



BLOOD DRIVE HELD

The ZM Chapter of the National Honor Society hosted a blood drive March 18. ZM had around 83 people try with 60 units of blood collected. This drive saved 180 lives!!



Congratulations to the ZM Symphonic Band for receiving a rating of Superior at the ensemble Large Group Contest on March 1. Also Congratulations to the ZM 9th Grade Band for receiving a Superior Rating.

The ZM Symphonic Band had the highest scores of any group from all of the judges at the ensemble contest. The 9th grade band had the 2nd highest scores.

TV PRODUCTIONS CLASS

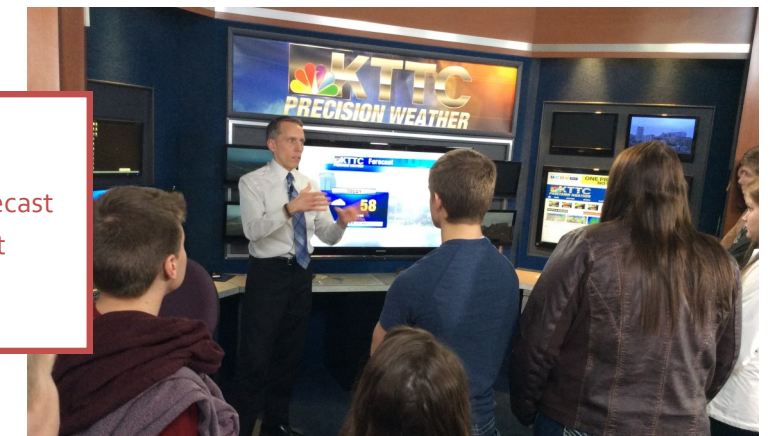
The TV Productions class had a field trip to Rochester, where they toured both the KAAL and KTTC TV stations. Students were able to interact with the staff behind the scenes and in front of the cameras. They found it interesting to see how real newsrooms work and even had the chance to watch the noon news at KTTC being filmed live.



You can disappear if you wear the wrong color in front of the camera!



Students with KAAL news staff



Live weather forecast with Ted Schmidt



TWENTY TEETH CLINIC

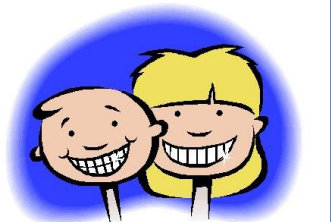


The **Spring Twenty Teeth Dental Health Clinic** will be held

Thursday, April 21 at ZM Elementary School

If you are interested in having your child attend, contact your school office for forms and requirements. Please return the forms as soon as possible so planning can proceed. Thank you for your cooperation!!

KEEP THOSE HEALTHY SMILES!!



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART 2016: ZM'S HEART HERO STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Between January 19 and February 19, 2016, our K-2 students were busy jumping rope in Physical Education class to increase their heart health and strength as well as asking family, friends and neighbors for donations to help other kids and adults with heart disease. They participated in our very first Jump Rope for Heart event, sponsored by the American Heart Association. Our students did an outstanding job raising heart health awareness, honoring their loved ones who have passed away from heart disease and helping others who are living with heart disease. Our kids collected a whopping \$7,917 in donations in our first year! Our district goal was \$4,000 and as always, our kids went above and beyond. The American Heart Association uses over half of their donations towards public health education and lifesaving research.

With their incredible community service, dedication and hard work, our kiddos even helped our own Primary Physical Education Department earn a \$400 gift certificate to purchase new equipment. They will be receiving thank-you prizes near April. The top donor in all of K-2 will get to throw a pie at our fantastic Mr. Anger; the 2nd top donor will get to silly string our very cool principal Mr. Rasmussen and the top donor in each grade will each get to throw pies at their PE teacher, Ms. Bangert!

On behalf of everyone at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Primary and the American Heart Association, thank you again for your donations and support. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity. We did our part to save a heart!

NHS FOOD DRIVE

The ZM Chapter of the National Honor Society held a food drive during the month of March. Pictured are members bringing the food to the Zumbrota Food Shelf. Donations to the Zumbrota site totaled over 200 pounds of food, along with \$75 in cash.

Members also plan to bring donations to the Mazeppa Food Shelf in the upcoming weeks.



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Mr. Anger explained a Memorandum of Understanding regarding language for the internal bidding process for teacher positions. To support the process of filling teaching vacancies with highly qualified teachers, the following adjustment would be made to Section 12 of the Teacher Master Agreement:

- Original internal postings, not stemming from prior internal moves, will require a five day window, following the posting of the opening, in which time the district will accept bids.
- The internal bidding window for openings resulting from prior internal moves will require a three day window, following the posting of the opening, in which the district will accept bids.

This Memorandum of Understanding was approved and is in effect for school years 2015-16. If a decision is made not to continue with this model, the internal bidding process timeline would revert back to the language of Section 12.

Mr. Anger noted to the board that two food service bids were received; one from Taher and one from Lunchtime Solutions.

The bids will be reviewed in the next few days with approval scheduled for the April meeting.

There were no additional board comments. Mr. Wendt reported for the Goodhue County Education District, Mr. Grudem for the Southeast Service Cooperative, and Ms. Roth for the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative.

Pertinent Dates:

April 11 – School Board Work Session, ZMHS Media Center, 7 pm

April 12 – ZMHS Band Concert, ZMHS Auditorium, 7:30 pm

April 13 – Early Release

April 22 – Kindergarten Musical, ZMHS Auditorium, 2:00 pm

April 24 – Construction House Open House, 619 Golfview Avenue, Zumbrota, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

April 25 – School Board Meeting, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota, 7:00 pm

April 30 – Prom

There were no future agenda items and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

FACILITIES UPDATE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGER

As the first year Superintendent of the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools, I have spent a great amount of time asking questions to gain good information before making decisions. I've learned a great deal about our schools from our staff and students, but also from our community members. While asking questions this year it has become apparent that we lack answers and a clear direction when it comes to the condition and future of our facilities in the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools.

Rather than make my own assumptions of what repairs and upgrades needed to be done to our facilities, the School Board and I decided to bring an outside auditing group (at no cost) to provide us information about our facilities in the ZM Schools. The audit we received provides us with some very useful information, some good news and some bad news, which will enable us to "Build a Bridge to the Future" with our facilities.

The audit told us that our facilities are old, over 44 years old on average. Our facilities are among the oldest for a school district in Minnesota. However, for their age, our buildings are in pretty good shape. Our staff and communities have done a fantastic job of taking care of our buildings. We learned that overall, we are in decent shape as far as having enough area within our buildings to instruct our students. We may need to move some walls, upgrade some spaces, make an addition or two or move things around in our buildings, but we should be ok for actual space for a while. We also learned that by retrofitting some areas of operations (such as replacing lightbulbs with LED bulbs, switching out sinks and faucets, sealing up doors, etc.) and utilizing alternative forms of energy, we can actually save some money on an annual basis. Unfortunately we learned that we have some areas that are no longer up to code and need to be fixed right away. Examples include the playground in Mazeppa, the gym in the Primary School which has asbestos tile under it, several bathrooms which are not disability accessible, our entryways which may not meet safety standards, Special Education areas, etc..

Rather than just begin throwing funds at the improvements we need made, we will be utilizing a strategic approach to our facilities as we upgrade them. We recently had a large group of staff members, community members, School Board members and I participate in a meeting in which we prioritized improvements, considered which projects could be funded by outside sources and started to plan ways to best serve our students in our facilities. This is truly a collaborative process in which we will consider not only the needs of our students and staff, but take a responsible view from a taxpayer's standpoint.

I want to be clear that an important part of this process is making sure I am doing my job in being a good steward for the taxpayers of the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Community. I will do everything I can with our team to minimize tax impact on you. We will strive to fund as many of these projects as possible with private funds, partnerships, donations, foundations and grants. However, we do have to make these improvements to provide our students, staff and community members with the best school facilities we can.

I invite any community members who would like to see or talk about our Facilities Audit to stop by my office, call or e-mail any time. I can also share more specifics about projects we will be engaging in. These projects will also always appear in the School Board Minutes for approval. Lastly, this column is not intended to set the table for any Building Bond Election this fall because, as I mentioned, we do have enough space, we just need to make improvements to our aging facilities. We will have an Operating Referendum coming up in future years to consider for renewal, but those funds are intended to be used to support instruction, rather than the items identified in the Facilities Audit. We may need to come to our voters in future years, but there will be no bond or referendum this fall.

"Building a Bridge to the Future" is what we are all about in the ZM Schools and our communities. I am confident that by working together we can ensure safe and productive learning spaces for our students and that we can do this in a cost-effective way. Thanks for all you do to support our schools, families and students.

Respectfully,

Gary Anger

CHANHASSEN THEATER

High School choir students and their chaperones had the opportunity to attend "Beauty and the Beast" at the Chanhasseen Theater recently.

They enjoyed a delicious meal while watching the performance!



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The regular Board of Education meeting was held on Mon., March 28 in the ZMES Media Center. Usual business, including payment of bills, was completed.

Recognition was given to the following for their donations:

- Zumbrota-Mazeppa Education Foundation \$10,000 for elementary playground
- Covered Bridge Family Resources \$300 for elementary playground
- Mazeppa Senior Citizens \$100 for elementary playground
- Bank of Zumbrota \$5,000 for elementary playground
- Mazeppa Business Park (Tom & Cindy Wright) \$1,000 SADD
- Doris French estate \$1,200 for 2nd grade library expansion
- Viking Coca-Cola \$1,036.17 for weight room/athletic trainer services

A winter activities report was submitted by Tim McAthie.

Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. He informed the board of potential changes in the middle school Power Hour next year as well as the addition of a College in Schools Communication class through Southwest State University for next year. The ACT test was administered on March 15 with excellent participation.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the primary/elementary school. Conferences were well attended and the 5th grade trip to Eagle Bluff was a success. The fourth data day was held March 8 and 10.

Mr. Anger reported that enrollment for March was 1,151. The treasurer's report to the board was available for review. He informed the board that a teacher development team will discuss Q Comp and that selected teachers will be taking a field trip to area schools to learn about their co-teaching programs.

There was no patron input.

Mr. Anger discussed the facilities committee recommendations for school updates. He recommended that the budget neutral projects be approved at this meeting so he could inform UNESCO. These projects include:

- Engage in a solar project (rooftop or solar garden)
- Energy management and DDC (improvements on Johnson Controls project)
- Pneumatic electric controls recommissioning-recalibrate settings at elementary
- Electric equipment power management-install controls on refrigerator units
- LED retrofit-switch lights to LEF
- Water fixture efficiency improvements-change out sinks to water saving units
- Building seals-minimize air leakage at door and window seals

The board approved the budget neutral items listed.

It was noted that the construction house open house will be held April 24th with bids accepted until Monday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office in Mazeppa. Approval is scheduled for the May board meeting.

The following retirements were approved, with many thanks for their years of service:

- Mary Graves, 6th grade teacher, effective at the end of the 2015-16 school year,
- Kim Huneke, SPED teacher, effective at the end of the 2015-16 school year,
- Elizabeth Quast, 2nd grade teacher, effective December 23, 2016
- Rozanne Born, special education assistant, effective May 31, 2016

The following resignations were approved:

- Jennifer Stumm, Varsity Head Dance Team coach
- Jon Wicks, 9th Grade Boys' Basketball coach
- Hannah Raasch Ivchenkov, Cougar Care Program High School/College Assistant, effective 8/18/15
- Blake Lerum, Cougar Care Program High School/College Assistant, effective 9/9/15
- Erin Idler, Cougar Care Program High School/College Assistant, effective 3/11/16

The following new hires were approved:

- Abigail Roberts, long-term sub for 1st grade teacher, Megan Ferguson, during her childcare leave beginning in April
- Andrea Clement, Agri-science teacher, beginning in the 2016-17 school year
- Molly Grover, Special Education teacher, beginning in the 2016-17 school year
- Khendra Johnson, Head Varsity Dance Team coach

A resolution relating to the termination and nonrenewal of the teaching contract of probationary teacher, Kristin Thum, was approved.

Policy #910 Parental Requests for Classroom Teachers was revised and approved. The 2016-18 Paraprofessional Master Agreement was approved as negotiated. The recommendation from Superintendent Anger to sever the partnership with the Rochester Area Math Science Partnership was approved.

The Achievement and Integration Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 was approved for a total revenue of \$29,872.00. Mr. Hinrichs proposed that the softball fields be named for Kevin Nelson, who has coached for many years at ZM. He also proposed that the tennis courts be named for Ken Quiring, a former high school teacher at Zumbrota and Zumbrota-Mazeppa. These recommendations were approved by the board.

Diane Matthees was authorized to sign for stop payment and authorization revoked documents for the school district.

Continued on page 6

GRADE 7 SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS



Seventh grade science students used Wisconsin Fast Plants to quickly imitate Mendel's studies of how garden peas passed traits.

Only time will tell what will dominate—purple or green stems!



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE SCHOOLS

Ms. Miller's 7th grade band students had a chance to work with clinician, Pete Guenther, from Owatonna High School, during the Lake City Junior Band Invitational on February 24th. The students played very well and were great representatives for ZM! They also learned a great deal from working with Mr. Guenther.



Everyone loves to dress up! Especially when you can dress as your favorite book character. These first graders are decked out as a storybook figure during February's "I Love to Read" month.



Third graders presented their musical in March—*Let's Jam! It's Our Band!* The students sang and danced to a variety of popular musical styles including blues, reggae, surf (a la Beach Boys), country, and the music of Motown.