

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

- 12/3**—ZMHS Choir Concert, 7:30 pm, ZMHS Auditorium
- 12/9**—Early Release. Cougar Care/Bright Beginnings Open
- 12/10**—ZMHS Band Concert, 7:30 pm, ZMHS Auditorium
- 12/12**—Dance Team Invitational, ZMHS
- 12/13**—ZM Construction Class Open House, 10:00 am—1:00 pm, 619 Golfview Avenue, Zumbrota
- 12/14**—School Board Work Session. Includes World's Best Workforce and Integration Hearings, 6:00 pm, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota

- 12/21**—School Board Tax/Adoption Hearing, School Board Meeting follows. 6:30 pm, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota
- 12/23-1/1**—Holiday Break
- 1/4**—School Resumes. School Board Organizational Meeting. 7:00 pm, ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa.



## HOLIDAY MEAL



The annual Holiday Meal at ZM Primary and Elementary School was held, giving students the opportunity to invite a loved one to a holiday meal at school. Approximately 275 parents/grandparents/or other friends shared a meal with their special student. Another holiday meal will be held December 17—watch for flyers to RSVP.

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.

**ZM VOCATIONAL CONSTRUCTION HOUSE**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13  
 10:00 AM—1:00 PM  
 619 GOLFVIEW AVENUE, ZUMBROTA

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

## ZM MESSENGER

November 2015



Zumbrota's Covered Bridge

### ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA PUBLIC SCHOOLS A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



Mazeppa's Walking Bridge

## ZM SCHOOLS LOSES A FRIEND

ZM Schools and the communities of Mazeppa and Zumbrota lost a friend and co-worker in November. Long-time secretary and MARSS Coordinator, Sharon Ross, was involved in a fatal car crash on November 11. Sharon had worked at the school since 1980, beginning as the building secretary and most recently as the elementary secretary and MARSS coordinator. Sharon will be deeply missed by the staff and students at ZM—she had a ready smile that students and staff needed each day. The care and understanding she exhibited to parents, staff, and students will not be forgotten. Sharon loved our two communities and her life reflected that love in her enthusiasm and giving heart. ZM Schools extends their deepest sympathy to Sharon's family.



To honor Sharon's dedication to the ZM students, staff and community we will be purchasing "Sharon's Bench" for the elementary school playground area. This will be a friendship bench where students can sit when they need a friend to play with or talk to. Donations for the bench and/or playground can be sent to the ZM Education Foundation, 343 Third Avenue NE, Mazeppa, MN 55956.

ZM has launched a new website—same address, new look. Check it out!  
[www.zmschools.us](http://www.zmschools.us)

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## GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SOFTWARE

Did you know that everyone with a ZM email account gets Microsoft Office at home for free?

It includes Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and One Note, and it normally costs \$200, but for ZM students and staff, it's FREE!! You can download and install on up to 3 home computers, and you get free use and upgrades as long as your ZM office 365 account is still active (grades 6-12 students and all employees with ZM email accounts).

To install it, open your office 365 account (email) from the computer you want to install it on. In the upper left of that web page click on Word Office 365 and it will take you to a download page. Install from there. Take advantage of this GREAT DEAL!



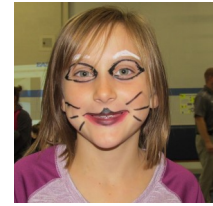
**EARLY RELEASE DECEMBER 9—  
 BUSES LEAVE MAZEPPA 12:30,  
 ZUMBROTA 12:45**

**HOLIDAY BREAK  
 DECEMBER 23—JANUARY 1**



### LITERACY NIGHT HELD AT ZM

A special evening for literacy was held October 29th for Title 1, ADSIS and Reading Corp students and their families. A large group of attendees enjoyed playing various games, including face painting and other age appropriate activities. There were also treats!! Parents were given the opportunity to learn the strategies required, as well as being given



the tools needed, to help their child succeed in reading. It was a fun evening for all!



### MIX IT UP DAY

October 27<sup>th</sup> was "Mix It Up At Lunch" day for all of our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders at ZMES. For the past 14 years, schools from around the country have "Mixed It Up at Lunch" through the initiative started by Teaching Tolerance. Thousands of school children participated at schools throughout the nation that day with the purpose of the activity to help our students build relationships, strengthen community and practice the idea of "Everyone Matters".



After going through the line and getting their food, students were randomly assigned to tables (mixed up) rather than sitting in their typical places. As they ate, they went through some simple questions/activities with others at their table. They had a chance to step out of their comfort zones and take the initiative at helping all students feel included--and, hopefully, got to know some people a bit better.



Everyone enjoyed the experience and even asked to do the mix-up again!

### MOVING IN PHY ED

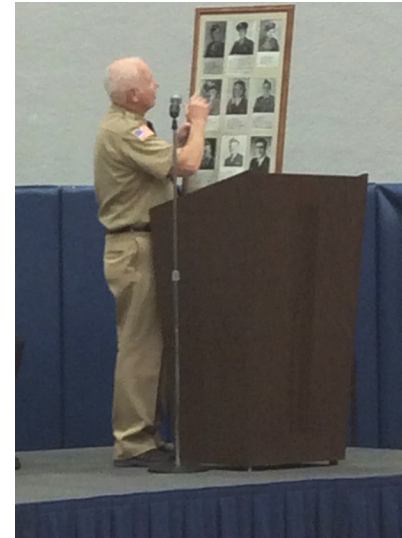
Members of the high school New Moves gym class had the opportunity to workout at the Ah-sirt Fitness Studio where Trisha Miller put students through a HIIT workout.

It was great fun and an excellent workout using state of the art exercise machines and other workout tools.




### VETERANS DAY OBSERVED AT ZM

ZM students and staff observed Veterans Day on November 11, paying tribute in music and song to the veterans who have



served and are currently serving the United States. Musical selections were performed by the junior high and high school choirs and high school band. Each branch of the service was recognized and veterans in attendance were asked to stand as their unit was named. Viet Nam veteran, Byron Boraas, delivered the keynote speech and student, Sophia Holm, gave the student address. Taps was performed by Ryan Borgstrom. Members of the Zumbrota VFW, Zumbrota American Legion, Mazeppa American Legion, and the Mazeppa Honor Guard participated as honored guests. Karen Warneke gave a history of flag folding and what each fold symbolizes as servicemen demonstrated. At the end of the program, the winners of the 5th grade "Why We Say the Pledge of Allegiance" contest were announced by Mrs. Warneke. Students receiving awards were Olivia Amsbaugh, Torey Stencel, Allison Westin, and Haley Moore. Haley's essay will move on to regional competition.

Parents and other drivers in the Primary School area are reminded that when the crossing guards are on duty, **YOU MUST WAIT FOR THE GUARD TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR YOUR CAR TO PASS.**

If your vehicle **does not** come to a complete stop to allow children to cross, your license number will be noted and tickets will be issued by the city of Zumbrota.

## KINDNESS RETREAT HELD

ZM's sixth graders had the opportunity to attend the annual "Kindness Retreat" on November 17. This year's Kindness Retreat marked the 26<sup>th</sup> year that ZM students have followed a



tradition of taking time away to come together as a class to contemplate, discuss and create strategies for being their best selves at school and in their relationships with one another.



School counselor, Pam Potter Langley, plans the experience with the collaboration of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and staff from the nonprofit organization, YouthFrontiers, Inc. based in Minneapolis.

High school students from grades 10 and 11 are nominated and invited to serve as student leaders for the event. Some of these students will also serve as mentors next year when the class transitions to 7th grade in Zumbrota. It was a rewarding day for students and staff that attended.



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



Members of ZM's National Honor Society traveled to the Twin Cities recently to volunteer their time and donate dollars to the "Feed My Starving Children" organization. Students helped prepare meals for distribution during their allotted volunteer time.

What a great way to start the holiday season!

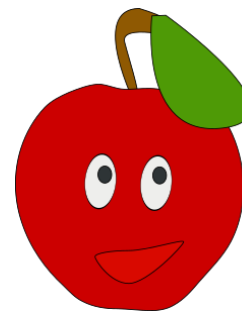


### ZM Mission Statement:

*"Building a bridge to the future where all individuals have the opportunity to reach their full potential in a safe, challenging learning environment."*



## 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 regular monthly meeting of the ZM Board of Education was held Monday, November 23 in the elementary media center in Mazeppa. The usual business was conducted, including payment of bills.

A moment of silence was observed for remembrance of Sharon Ross and her 35 years of service to our school.

Recognition: Members of the HVL Honor Choir and their director, Susan Peterson, were in attendance to recognize their achievement.

Reports: Activities Director, Tim McAthie, submitted his fall activities report. Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. He thanked Mr. Rasmussen for the excellent Veterans Day program. He noted that \$1000 was given by the IBM STEM Program for the volunteer services of their employee, Mark Budensiek. Mr. Rasmussen reported for the primary/elementary school. He thanked Linda Lemmerman for her help in the office after the loss of Sharon Ross. Parent-teacher conferences were the best attended of record – 99.4% attendance.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Anger informed the board that donations would be taken through the Education Foundation for a friendship bench in remembrance of Sharon Ross. He also thanked and complimented the school crisis team for their work and support during this difficult time for students and staff.

The November enrollment was 1,153. The treasurer's report to the board was available for review. He noted that last year's school house still has not sold. It was suggested that the realtor in charge of the 2014-15 house might have an open house on December 13, which is the same date as this year's vocational class open house. American Education Week was observed November 16-20. Recognition was given to the IBM STEM Program for Brenda Thompson's volunteer efforts. A donation of \$1000 was given to the middle school. The MSBA Winter Leadership Conference is January 13-15. Board members are registered, but if they wish to attend Early Bird workshops, they should let Brenda know by December 1. February retreat items should be turned in as soon as possible also.

Mr. Anger said a public hearing is required for the World's Best Workforce and the Integration Plan. These hearings are scheduled for the December work session. The World's Best Workforce document has been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education and Mr. Anger will finish the Integration Plan this week.

Committees from both sites have met to discuss and approve "WILD" or Weather Impacted Learning Days". Students and staff are allowed one snow day, but any additional weather-related days will incorporate online learning. This is scheduled to begin in January. Approval of this online learning option will be on the December school board agenda.

Old Business: The drone policy, first reviewed in October, was approved. The 2014-15 school audit was finalized this past month and was approved at the meeting.

New Business: The resignation of Stacy Liebenow, head volleyball coach, was approved as well as the resignation of One-Act play director, Heidi Hanson. The following new hires were approved: Kathryn Hodgman, High School/College Assistant, as of October 26, 2015; Tom Erslund, One-Act play director beginning in the 2015-16 school year; Lisa Nelson, Head Volleyball coach, beginning in the 2016-17 school year; and Angela Heitmann was reassigned from 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball to assistant volleyball coach beginning in the 2016-17 school year. Childcare leave was approved for Tracy Agrimson beginning March 9, 2016 through May 27, 2016 (dates are subject to change). Kristina Marler was hired as the long-term substitute teacher during Tracy Agrimson's childcare leave.

The teacher and non-certified seniority lists were approved as presented. Mr. Anderson reviewed the recommended changes to the 7-12 registration guide and handbook. Language was added for dropping/adding a course and the credit load requirement. He also reviewed the curriculum committee's recommendations for changing from quarters to semesters for grades 7-8. These recommendations would be in

## PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Sixth graders participated in the International Lions Peace Poster contest in November. The students designed a poster that represented what peace meant to them. Winners of the contest were Serena Walker, 1<sup>st</sup>; Kaitlyn Finstuen, 2<sup>nd</sup>; and Esmee Solberg, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Honorable mention went to Isabelle Flicek, Alexis Knott, and Tessa Poncelet. Also



pictured is art teacher, Pat Steffes, and Lions representatives, Dick Whitaker and Mike Schultz.

They presented monetary prizes to the winners. Serena's poster will go on to regional competition on December 6. Nice work students!!



## GRADE 5 TALKS TURKEY

Students in Mrs. Quam and Mrs. Johnson's classes made turkey magnets and cookies for the Mazeppa community members—a great way to get in the giving spirit of the upcoming holiday season.



## THIRD GRADE ATTENDS ORCHESTRA HALL

Over 90 third graders and their chaperones attended a concert at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis on October 29<sup>th</sup>. This was a very interactive experience for the students.

First, students listened to the orchestra. Next, they were instructed to break apart the different instrumental groups (woodwind, strings, etc.) Orchestra members performed in quartets where they had three people from one group and one from a different group. The students had to decide which instrument did not belong and then tell which group it was from. For example, there were three people playing from the woodwind group and one from the strings group. The students had to differentiate that the string did not belong. All in all, it was a lesson about the different types of instruments and a fun learning experience!



## Board of Education Minutes, continued from page 3

effect starting in the 2016-17 school year. The board approved these recommendations.

The board adopted the revised 2015-17 childcare salary schedule as presented. The following master agreements were also approved: Teacher Master Agreement, Coordinator of Fiscal Services (formerly Head Bookkeeper), Community Education and Early Childhood Director (formerly Community Ed Director), Program Lead Teachers, Program Teaching Assistants, and Program High School/College Assistants.

The 2016-17 and 2017-18 school calendars were approved as presented. It was noted that there was one extra teacher day. It was stated that the August flex day will most likely be eliminated after the teacher union discusses the option. The 2015-16 enrollment options report was available for board review.

Board Comments and Reports: Mr. Hinrichs noted that a closed session will be held for the superintendent review after the organizational meeting in January. He will send the evaluation form to each board member prior to this meeting.

Ms. Roth reported on the meet and confer meeting held prior to the board meeting.

Mr. Grudem reported for the Southeast Service Cooperative, Mr. Wendt for the Goodhue County Education District, and Ms. Roth and Ms. Hinchley for the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative.

### Pertinent Dates:

- December 3 – ZMHS Choir Concert, 7:30 pm, ZMHS Auditorium
- December 10– ZMHS Band Concert, 7:30 pm, ZMHS Auditorium
- Sunday, December 13, Construction Class Open House, 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Located at 619 Golfview Avenue, Zumbrota. Suggested to have the realtor hold open house for 2014-15 house at same time.
- Monday, December 14 –Public Hearing for World's Best Workforce and the Integration and Learning Plan, 6:00 p.m., School Board Work Session follows, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota.
- Monday, December 21 Tax Hearing, 6:30 p.m., ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota
- Monday, December 21, Tax Adoption Meeting, following Tax Hearing, ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota
- Monday, December 21, Regular School Board Meeting (after Tax Adoption Meeting), ZMHS Media Center, Zumbrota
- December 23-January 3 – Holiday Break
- Monday, January 4, 2016, Board Organization Meeting, 7:00 p.m., ZMES Media Center, Mazeppa. A closed session will be held after the regular meeting.
- January 13-15, 2016 - MSBA Winter Conference in Minneapolis

Future agenda items include possible approval of the weather impacted learning day. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.