

SOMERSET SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS FROM YOUR SCHOOLS

Volume 27 , Issue 3 , Spring 2010

THE CLASS OF 2010



“Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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GRADUATION CEREMONY

Sunday, May 23, 2010

1:00 p.m.

High School Gymnasium



Somerset School District
PO Box 100
Somerset, WI 54025
(715) 247-3313
www.somerset.k12.wi.us



MACKENZIE DAVID OTT **Valedictorian – Class of 2010**

Mackenzie (Mack) David Ott has proven his commitment to achieving a quality education and has excelled in his academic pursuits during his years here at Somerset High School. Mack has undertaken numerous challenges in his school career and has proven himself as a superior scholar, earning the distinction of being named Somerset High School Valedictorian of the Class of 2010. He has also been chosen as recipient of the State of Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship. Mack holds the highest weighted grade point average (GPA) in the senior class at Somerset High School, which determined his status as valedictorian.

Mack is the son of David and Kelly Ott. His younger brother, Zachary, is a sophomore at Somerset High School.

After graduation Mack plans to attend college to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Mack has had an interest in the aerospace field since he was very young and has been encouraged by his family over the years to pursue an education in engineering. He has had a motivated and dedicated role model in his father, who has worked as an engineer for many years, and Mack will follow his father's footsteps into the field. Mack has not made a final decision as to the college he will attend after graduation, but he has narrowed it down to four choices. He has been accepted at Purdue University and Iowa State but is still considering attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts, or Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. His goal is to one day work in an upper level position in the area of research and development at Boeing or Lockheed.

Because of Mack's academic excellence and technical field interest, he has been fortunate to be able to take part in several summer university programs for youth over the years. He participated in the Duke Gifted and Talented Program, which allowed him to attend Vanderbilt University and Western Kentucky University during past summers. Last summer Mack attended the Cambridge College Programme for three weeks at Cambridge University in England. Areas of study included "Super Strings—The Theory of Everything", Computer Engineering, and British History & Culture.

Valedictorian continued on Pg 16



JOHANNA RENNIE SMITH **Salutatorian – Class of 2010**

Johanna Rennie Smith is a shining star and has proven herself in her educational pursuits and beyond at Somerset High School. She has undertaken many challenges and has proven herself a superior scholar and community member, earning the distinction of being named Somerset High School's Salutatorian of the Class of 2010.

Johanna is the daughter of Rennie and Debbie Smith. Her two older siblings, Jake Smith and Dayna Smith, both graduated from Somerset High School. Jake graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and is employed as a scientist for Monsanto Company in Middleton, Wisconsin. Johanna's sister, Dayna, is a junior at the Columbus College of Art & Design and is pursuing a double major in Illustration & Graphic Design and a minor in English.

After graduation, Johanna will attend Purdue University in LaFayette, Indiana, to pursue degrees in Chemical Engineering and Physics and will then continue her studies to earn a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Purdue. Johanna has been accepted into the Honors Program there and will join the Women in Engineering Club and will partner with the Purdue Co-op Program and work in her field of study while she is a student there. She is also enthusiastic about continuing with her volunteer community activities during her college years and looks forward to encouraging other girls to become involved in work in the math and science fields.

Johanna's scholastic performance during her years at Somerset High School has been exceptional. She has worked hard to successfully complete higher level college preparatory classes and has received several awards during the last four years, including academic excellence letters, medals, and certificates. Johanna has also been a member of National Honor Society (NHS) for the past two years. The group has been involved in varied activities during that time, including an auction for the local public library, blood drives, and character education activities. As a sophomore, Johanna attended the National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D. C., where she received a National Merit Scholar Medal and was keynote speaker at the event. During her junior year, Johanna also won a National Speech Writing Competition through

Salutatorian continued on Pg 22

CLASS OF 2010 PROFILE

“Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail,” Ralph Waldo Emerson, is the graduation motto for the Class of 2010. A total of 97 graduates selected their class flower to be the gardenia. The class chose red, black and silver to be the class colors. “Dream Big” by Ryan Shupe, will be the song that represents this outstanding class. These students have committed long hours to academics and extracurricular activities throughout their high school careers, and the following is just a brief snapshot of them.

Eighteen members of this senior class were members of National Honor Society. Members assisted in recruiting volunteers, setting up appointments, and working at three NHS sponsored blood drives during the school year. Four seniors participated in Sign Theater. They transcribed a song into ASL (American Sign Language) and helped teach the song to middle school and elementary school students.

The Dynamics show choir had a great group of seniors who performed throughout the school year. The seniors included Haley Ritter, Dana Carlson, Cylie Colbeth, Elizabeth Ottman, Natalie Strese, Johanna Smith, and Briana Crichton. This year's highlights for The Dynamics include performing at the WASB (Wisconsin Association of School Boards) Conference on January 22nd in Milwaukee. While they were there, they also performed for Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle. The Dynamics also achieved a 1-Star rating at the WSMA District Music Festival in Luck, Wisconsin, which qualified them to perform at the State level on Saturday, May 1st at UW-Eau Claire.

Somerset FBLA had 12 senior members, and 3 served as officers. The chapter president also served as Region 1 Vice President and organized the FBLA Regional Leadership Conference here in Somerset. Four seniors qualified to compete at the State Leadership Conference held in Wisconsin Dells in April. The FBLA Chapter made recruitment a priority in September, growing the membership to 37 students. Johanna Smith served as the president and, in a dual role, also served the State office by leading as the Region I Vice President. Somerset hosted the Regional conference in February. Eight members qualified to compete at the State Leadership Conference held at the Wisconsin Dells in April.

Three seniors gained a wealth of experience on this year's Mock Trial team. They were great leaders for the younger members.

Forensics had another great year at Somerset High School. Seniors Johanna Smith and Elizabeth Ottman were both in Forensics and qualified for State. They were great leaders in the group and set a good example for the younger members.

This year STAND (Students Taking Action in a New Direction) was lead by Casey Land. She helped to recruit new members and participated in the various activities the group was involved in, such as the Youth Leadership Conference in Turtle Lake and Parents Who Host Lose the Most. They also helped to write the Healthy Choices Day grant at CESA 11. This year 19 senior students took the opportunity through the Youth Options program to attend local colleges and technical schools. These students earned college credit while still participating in high school.

Yearbook is excited about another great year of fun photos and great memories. Yearbook had four seniors who were on staff and one who was the editor.

The Spartan Girls' Golf Team was lead by Senior Shanise McMahon. Shanise qualified for the sectional golf meet in Amery and represented Somerset very well.

This year was a very successful season for Girls' Volleyball. Their goal was to build team unity, show gratitude toward teammates, play with passion, celebrate each other's success, win the conference, and continue success in tournament play. All of these goals were reached at some level of satisfaction. Lauren Westerdahl earned All Conference Player and Most Valuable Player. Lauren was a very tough server for the Somerset Spartans. Her passion and work ethic was evident, and because of these qualities her teammates voted her as Most Valuable Player. Grace Hartman earned the All Conference Player and Spartan Award. Grace is a great competitor and shows great instinct for the game of volleyball. She was a strong middle hitter and a dominate force at the net with her blocking skills. Her great attitude, willingness to work hard, and promotion of team spirit is what earned her the Spartan Award.

The 2009-10 Spartan Cross-Country Team was lead by four senior girls. They had a fun season and worked hard to achieve their goals.

This year was yet again another successful season for Spartan football. Eight seniors participated on this year's team. Many individual awards were won. Three senior football players participated in the Team USA Football event in France in March. The seniors were Luke Buerkley, Rocky Larson, and Robert Wendt.

There were two seniors on this year's Boys' Basketball Team. The athletes were Rocky Larson and Brendan Weise. The team experienced many highs and lows this year. Rocky earned All Conference Honorable Mention.

The Somerset High School Girls' Basketball Team had three seniors—Alicia Potting, Lauren Westerdahl and Natalya Kandakova. All three players brought their own unique flavor to the team.

Senior Class Profile continued on Pg 12

CLASS OF 2010



Dylan Montgomery Asp
Son of Rick Asp and
Adeline Carroll
Future Plans: UW River
Falls & UW-Eau Claire
for Nursing



Joshua Paul Baillargeon
Son of Raymond &
Terry Baillargeon
Future Plans: College of
St. Scholastica for Business
Management



Emma Marie Louise Balfanz
Daughter of Michael &
Susan Balfanz
Future Plans: Work



Dillon Scott Barnes
Son of Melissa Hensley
Future Plans:
McNally Smith
College of Music



**Mariah Alexandria
Beaupre**
Daughter of Daniel &
Mindy Boettcher and
Andrea Beaupre
Future Plans: College for
International Business &
Hospitality and Tourism



Ashley Ann Bennett
Daughter of Steve &
Rose Bennett
Future Plans: Winona State
University – Major in Global
Studies – Asian Culture &
Minor in Mandarin Chinese



**Autumn Skye Johnson
Bibeau**
Daughter of Jim &
Kelly Bibeau
Future Plans: Century
College for
Dental Hygienist



Zachary Gary Brennan
Son of Bill &
Debbie Brennan
Future Plans:
Transition Program &
Work



Luke Christian Buerkley
Son of Warren &
Deb Buerkley
Future Plans:
UW-Stout or Winona



Dana Marie Carlson
Daughter of John &
Roberta Carlson
Future Plans: Private
College for Vocal
Performance &
Music Education



Clayton James Cloutier
Son of Wendy &
Ken Laughter and
Tim & Jeanne Cloutier
Future Plans:
UW-Milwaukee for
Civil Engineering



Cylie Marie Colbeth
Daughter of Rick &
Marie Colbeth
Future Plans: UW-Green
Bay – Major in Mass
Communications

CLASS OF 2010



Ariana Lynn Colombo

Daughter of Jeff &
Sheryle Colombo
Future Plans: University
of Phoenix – Bachelor's
Degree



Tamara Lea Cook

Granddaughter of Michael
& Izetta Tait and
Daughter of Geri Cook
Future Plans: Work &
College in Spring 2011



Briana Margaret Crichton

Daughter of Tenney &
Rebecca Crichton
Future Plans: Wisconsin Army
National Guard & Northwest-
ern College (St. Paul, MN) for
Accounting



Tasha Jo Daniels

Daughter of Tabatha & Lynn
Jacobs and Joe Daniels
Future Plans:
College of St. Benedict
for Pre-Law



Kalyn Leigh DeRosier

Daughter of Greg &
Barb DeRosier
Future Plans: Daytona
State College for Criminal
Justice & California State
University for Forensic
Science/ Reconstruction



Dj Murphy Devan

Son of Terry Murphy and
Douglas Devan
Future Plans: University of
MN or UW-Madison
for Physics & Engineering



Paige Breanna Diekman

Daughter of Debra Wahlin
and Joseph Diekman
Future Plans:
Century College
for Nursing



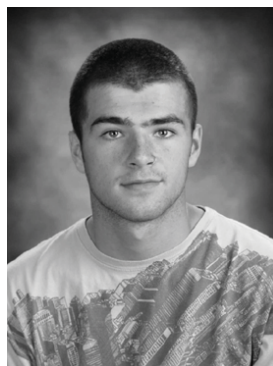
James Patrick Duggan

Son of Brian &
Monica Duggan
Future Plans:
UW-River Falls
for Accounting



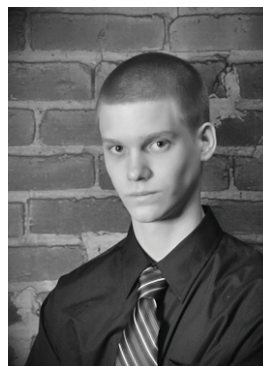
Alisha Eileen Dybedahl

Daughter of Mark & Chris
Dybedahl
Future Plans:
UW-River Falls



Isaac Samuel Fernandez

Son of Guillermo &
Mary Fernandez
Future Plans:
Century College &
University of
MN for
Nutrition



Weston Scott Florhaug

Son of Lorrie Rosset &
Jeff Florhaug
Future Plans:
Undecided



Kevin Thomas Gelle

Son of Scott & Kim Gelle
Future Plans:
WITC-
New Richmond

CLASS OF 2010



Alison Dorothy Germain
Daughter of Karen Germain
& The Late Chuck Germain
Future Plans:
WITC & UW-River Falls
for English



Benjamin Howard Germain
Son of Dale &
Janie Germain
Future Plans: Minneapolis
Business College for
Travel & Hospitality



Kayla Lucille Grahovac
Daughter of Jeff &
Ann Grahovac
Future Plans:
UW-River Falls
for Biology



Jenna Kaye Green
Daughter of Ron &
Sandy Green
Future Plans: Le Cordon
Bleu College of Culinary
Arts, Mendota Heights,
MN for Pastry Chef



Jordan Scott Hansen
Son of Monica &
Dan Bassett and
Scott Hansen
Future Plans:
Winona State University



Luke Eugene Harrison
Son of John &
Debra Harrison
Future Plans:
University of MN for
Computer Engineering



**Grace Lynne Evangeline
Hartman**
Daughter of Rebecca Olson
and Michael Hartman
Future Plans:
University of MN for
Nursing



Isaac LeRoy Haukom
Son of Martin &
Charlene Haukom
Future Plans:
UW – River Falls



**Nathaniel James
Hildebrand**
Son of Keith & Jacklyn
Hildebrand
Future Plans: UW-La
Crosse for Physics &
University of MN for
Aerospace Engineering



Mackenzie John Hosley
Son of John &
Sherrie Hosley
Future Plans:
Continue education &
get a good job



Patrick Ryan Irwin
Son of Debbie Koonce
Future Plans:
Undecided



Anna Kirsten Johnson
Daughter of André
Johnson &
Karen Doyle
Future Plans:
UW-Eau Claire
for Biology

CLASS OF 2010



Vincent Michael Johnson
Son of Michele Johnson &
The Late Shaun Johnson
Future Plans: Technical
School for Welding & Career
in Underwater Welding



Chantel Shelby Jonas
Daughter of Cheryl &
Rodney Iverson and
Jeff Jonas
Future Plans: UW-Stout
for Fashion Marketing



**Natalya Sergeevna
Kandakova**
Daughter of Svetlana
& Larry Coats
Future Plans: Mankato State
University for Athletic
Training (major) &
Business (minor)



**Benjamin David
Kieckhoefer**
Son of Dave & Pam
Kieckhoefer
Future Plans:
Winona State University
for Physical Therapy



Katelyn Mary Kippes
Daughter of Kym & David
Dunleap and Daniel Kippes
Future Plans: Northern
State University in
Aberdeen, SD for
International Business



Logan Brice Knefelkamp
Son of Brad &
Michelle Knefelkamp
Future Plans:
Work & U.S. Navy



Heather Ann Kralewski
Daughter of Melissa Carufel
and Troy Kralewski
Future Plans: WITC-NR for
CNA & College for
Veterinary Technician or
Nursing



Genna Marie Kristiansen
Daughter of Ginny &
David Siegert and Erik
Kristiansen
Future Plans:
Undecided



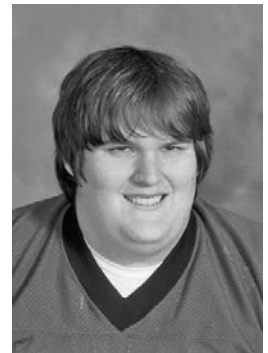
**Jessica Savannah
Lammers**
Daughter of Lizabeth Victor and
Jerry Lammers
Future Plans: Cornish College
of the Arts in Seattle, WA for
Classical Vocal Performance –
Career in Opera Performance



Casey Marie Land
Daughter of
Todd & Kathy Land
Future Plans:
Mankato State University
for Nursing



Rocky Gaylord Larson
Son of Bruce &
Kelly Larson
Future Plans: UW-River
Falls for Education
& Future Football Coach



Tyler James La Venture
Son of Gerald &
Jennifer La Venture
Future Plans:
UW-Whitewater

CLASS OF 2010



Stacey Charlene Lind
Daughter of Tammy Lind
and Stacey Charles Lind
Future Plans:
UW-River Falls



Holly Rose Lindsley
Daughter of
Orvilla McCluskey and
Henry Lindsley
Future Plans:
Undecided



Allana Rae Lippman
Daughter of Todd &
Cheryl Lippman
Future Plans: Modeling &
Acting with Image 1 Model
& Talent Agency and
John Robert Powers in
Bloomington, MN



Hayley Ann Lofquist
Daughter of Gordon &
Cary Lofquist
Future Plans:
Gustavus Adolphus
College for Business or
Pre-Medicine



Jenessa Michelle Loida
Daughter of Michelle
Monty and Steven Loida
Future Plans:
Minnesota School of
Cosmetology in
Woodbury, MN



Cassandra Jo Lueck
Daughter of Anthony &
Rebecca Lueck
Future Plans:
UW-Stout for Hotel
Management



Paul Lawrence Manship
Son of Dawn Phillips &
Dennis Offermann
Future Plans:
Minnesota Art Institute



Chelsea Noelle Martinez
Daughter of Steve &
Mary Jo Martinez
Future Plans:
Century College for
Radiology



**Megan Dorothea
McCune**
Daughter of Kevin &
Amy McCune
Future Plans: Winona
State University or Chip-
pewa Valley Technical
College for Nursing



**Shanise Lannea
McMahon**
Daughter of David McMa-
hon and Kelly McMahon
Future Plans: Purdue Uni-
versity, University of MN or
Michigan State University
for Pre-Medicine



Ashley Faye Monicken
Daughter of Mike
Lindquist & Elysia Smith
and Amy Monicken
Future Plans:
United States Army



Heather Marie Northey
Daughter of Paul &
Lisa Northey
Future Plans:
University of St. Thomas

CLASS OF 2010



Gina Marie O'Connor
Daughter of Larry &
Kristine O'Connor
Future Plans: University of
MN – Twin Cities
for Interior Design



Shaundra Lucil Olson
Daughter of Steven & Terry
Olson and Cynthia &
Bradley Peterson
Future Plans: WITC-New
Richmond & UW-River
Falls for Psychology



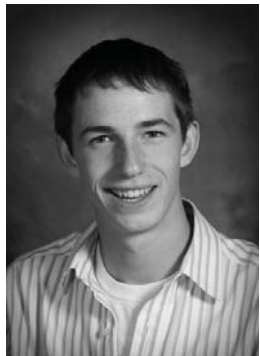
Mackenzie David Ott
Son of David & Kelly Ott
Future Plans: Rensselaer
Polytechnic Institute in
Troy, NY or Massachusetts
Institute of Technology in
Boston, MA



Elizabeth Rose Ottman
Daughter of Jeanne
Ottman and Michael
Ottman
Future Plans: UW-
Madison for Engineering



David Robert Passe
Son of Lori Passe & The
Late Ray Passe
Future Plans: Universal
Technical Institute (UTI) in
Avondale, AZ for
Automotive Technician



Chase Timothy Peterson
Son of Tim & Deb Peterson
Future Plans:
Brown College for
Graphic Design



Marysa Kathleen Peterson
Daughter of Anysa Wolff
and Mark Peterson
Future Plans:
College for
Graphic Design



Alicia Marie Potting
Daughter of Randy &
Colleen Potting
Future Plans:
UW-River Falls for
Primary Education



Samantha Rae Rand
Daughter of Mike &
Lisa Rand
Future Plans:
Empire School of
Cosmetology in
Green Bay, WI



**Coty Ray Reinhardt-
Thoemke**
Son of Jamie &
Tina Rossow
Future Plans:
UW-River Falls for Art



Haley Rose Ritter
Daughter of Terry &
Julie Ritter
Future Plans:
UW-Stout for
Psychology



Michael Andrew Rivard
Son of John &
Cathy Rivard
Future Plans: Winona
State University for
Education (major) &
Criminal Justice (minor)

CLASS OF 2010



Matthew Robert Sahnnow

Son of Robert &
Karen Sahnnow
Future Plans:
Brown University
for Networking



Carli Jean Sarafin

Daughter of Carol Sarafin
& Wayne Sarafin, Jr.
Future Plans:
Undecided



Joseph Lyndon Schiltgen

Son of Belinda Schiltgen
and Joseph Schiltgen
Future Plans: U. S. Army
or Army National Guard
for Police Officer or
Fitness Trainer



Matthew John Schmitt

Son of John &
Kate Schmitt
Future Plans:
UW-River Falls
for
Pre-Engineering



John Christopher Schottler

Son of Amy Quaderer and
Thomas Schottler
Future Plans:
Entrepreneur



Marquita Denise Sheffel

Daughter of Thomas Sheffel
Future Plans:
College for Social Work



Johanna Rennie Smith

Daughter of Rennie &
Debbie Smith
Future Plans:
Purdue University for
Chemical Engineering



Samantha Josephine Smith

Daughter of Brian &
Amy Smith
Future Plans:
UW-Stout for
Psychology



Danielle Marie Stone

Daughter of Doug &
Theresa Stone
Future Plans: Winona
State University for
Occupational Therapy



Natalie Rose Strese

Daughter of John &
Sue Strese
Future Plans:
UW-Eau Claire



Anne Rose Sullivan

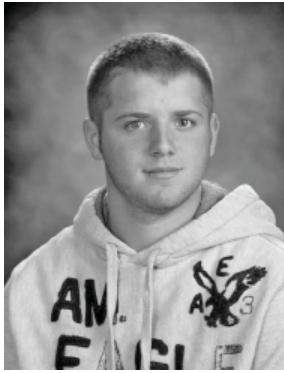
Daughter of Jerry &
Dawn Sullivan
Future Plans:
Utah Valley University
for Fine Arts &
Psychology



Taylor Anne Thell

Daughter of Scott &
Ann Thell
Future Plans: College of
St. Benedict –
St. John's University for
Education

CLASS OF 2010



Cody Michael Thompson
Son of Lisa Thompson and
Mark & Samantha
Thompson
Future Plans: Kirkwood
Community College in
Cedar Rapids, IA for Auto
Body Repair



Rebecca Elise Verdeja
Daughter of Leo &
Cammie Verdeja
Future Plans: Century
College or WITC-New
Richmond for
Computer Design



Zachary Craig Warren
Son of Michelle & Chris
Belisle and Steve Warren
Future Plans:
Winona State University
for Physical Therapy



Katlin Noel Waskosky
Daughter of Karl &
Penny Waskosky
Future Plans:
Century College



Michael Ryan Wedig
Son of Pam Bursch and
Steve Wedig
Future Plans: College for
Mechanical Engineering



Brendan Michael Weise
Son of Michael &
Sharon Weise
Future Plans: UW-River
Falls for Business
Management



Robert Bernard Wendt
Son of Bernie &
Jean Wendt
Future Plans: University
of St. Thomas for
Exercise Science



Lauren Elizabeth Westerdahl
Daughter of William
Westerdahl and Kelly
Westerdahl
Future Plans: Augustana
College in Sioux Falls, SD for
Biology, Sports Management
or Athletic Training



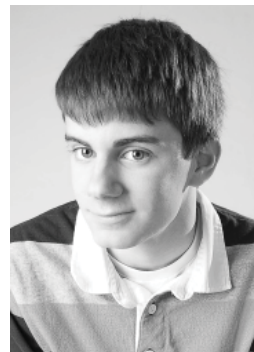
**MaryAnne Bernadette
Whall**
Daughter of Daniel
Whall & The Late
Kathleen Whall
Future Plans:
Century College for
Cosmetology



**Cassandra Lee
Whiteside**
Daughter of Tim & Shay
Whiteside and Michelle
& Mike Klintworth
Future Plans: Bethel
University in St. Paul,
MN for Nursing



**Desiree Alexandra
Wilson**
Daughter of Michelle
Lomnes and
Michael Wilson
Future Plans:
WITC-New Richmond



**Nicholas Mathew
Wishard**
Son of Brad &
Tamara Wishard
Future Plans:
Brown College



Alyssa Maree Wylie
Daughter of Laurie
& David Phillips and
Wayne Wylie
Future Plans:
College for Nursing
& Midwifery

4.0 MEDAL RECIPIENTS

The Academic Awards Ceremony that was held on March 25th honored several students at Somerset High School for achieving a grade point average of 4.0 for Terms One and/or Two of the 2009-2010 school year. The students received a medal and a certificate in recognition of their academic success. The guest speakers for the evening were Mackenzie Ott, the Valedictorian of the Class of 2010, and Johanna Smith, the Salutatorian of the Class of 2010. The awards were then presented to the students, followed by an ice cream social.

Those honored were as follows: Grade 12 – Dana Carlson, Clayton Cloutier, Cylie Colbeth, Briana Crichton, Dj Devan, Benjamin Germain, Grace Hartman, Katelyn Kippes, Heather Northey, Gina O'Connor, Mackenzie Ott, Elizabeth Ottman, Matthew Schmitt, John Schottler, Johanna Smith, Robert Wendt, and Lauren Westerdahl; Grade 11 – Kayla Berger, Krista Berger, Elizabeth Courtade, Lance Hildebrand, Ashley Jacobson, Jacob Lang, Ashley Martell, Tessa Marty, Jenna Newman, Emily Parent, Shelby Peterson, Alicia Siggins, Karli Solum, Devon Triebold, and Thomas Vanasse; Grade 10 – Ontario Belter, Stephanie Berg, Rachel Blair, Brooke Donohoe, Megan Duggan, Katlin Hastings, Aminah Henne, Anthony Howe, Amanda Kirk, Rhiannon Linke, Emily McCune, Zachary Ott, Kaylin Peterson, Peter Schmitt, Carley Seibel, Samantha Simma, Eleanor Vanasse, Elizabeth Vanasse, and Laura Wells; Grade 9 – Hanna Barritt, Grace Becher, Natalie Broome, Jeremy Bucklew, Mallory Conrad, Emmitt Foster, Alexander Hite, Tyler Kupczak, McKell Larson, Emilee Martell, Samantha Martell, Beige McConaughy, Natalie Moses, William Schmitt, Anna Siggins, Savanna Vang, Mackenzie Venhor, and Sean Victor. Congratulations to the students on their academic achievement!

NHS INDUCTION

On February 22, 2010, twenty-two new members were inducted into the Somerset Chapter of National Honor Society. The new members are: Brittney Anderson, Ashley Bennett, Kayla Berger, Krista Berger, Bailey Breault, Jacqueline Briggs, Elizabeth Courtade, Monica Emerson, Sherry Jorgenson, Rachael Lee, Hayley Lofquist, Ashley Martell, Tessa Marty, Shanise McMahon, Jenna Newman, Emily Parent, Shelby Peterson, Alicia Siggins, Karli Solum, Alexandra Swanson, Devon Triebold, and Thomas Vanasse.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was the society's advisor, Mrs. Kathryn Murphy. The current members asked her to speak, as this is her last year teaching and advising.

The ceremony began with a beautiful rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," sung by society members, Brianna Crichton, Dana Carlson, and Cylie Colbeth. As a special welcome to the new members, a PowerPoint presentation was given which highlighted numerous activities of the incoming inductees. The traditional candle lighting ceremony was presented, and parents again were invited to participate in the ceremony by "pinning" their son or daughter as the student was called forth for certificates and pins. A reception for the new members and their parents followed the ceremony.

Senior Class Profile continued from Pg 3...

Alicia was quiet, lead by example, and was chosen by her teammates as their best defensive player. She received honorable mention for All Conference. Lauren was more vocal, wore her emotions on her sleeve, and was a very intense player. They relied on Lauren to be their floor general and get the players to the right spots on the floor, offensively and defensively. Natalya embodied the attitude that every coach desires. If she noticed a teammate that was down, she would do her best to raise her spirit and was always encouraging.

Four seniors participated on this year's Spartan Hockey Team. The team had a good season and had a lot of fun together.

There were four seniors on the Cheerleading Squad this past year. Megan McCune—Football & Hockey Squads (Hockey Cheer Captain); Cylie Colbeth—Football & Wrestling Squads (Football & Wrestling Cheer Captain); Kayla Grahovac—Football & Wrestling Squads (Football & Wrestling Cheer Co-Captain); Johanna Smith—Football & Hockey Squads. All four of the girls performed a dance at the Homecoming football game.

The Spartan Girls' Soccer Team had three seniors who lead the team. The senior athletes were Gina O'Connor, Katlin Waskosky, and Katelyn Kippes.

This year's Spartan Softball Team has two seniors participating, Paige Diekman and Samantha Smith. Both players have contributed a lot to the team. Samantha Smith started all three years that she was on varsity.

This year's Spartan Boys' Track and Field Team had yet again another successful season. This year's team had 3 seniors.

The Spartan Girls' Track Team has five seniors participating this year. The seniors include Natalya Kandakova, Alicia Potting, Anne Sullivan, Lauren Westerdahl, and Jenna Green. Collectively they have set 5 track and field records over the last three seasons.

The Somerset Boys' Golf Team consisted of four seniors. Michael Wedig, Jordan Hansen, Isaac Haukom, and Brendan Weise; all did a fabulous job.

This year's Spartan Baseball Team worked hard and had a great season. The seniors were Rocky Larson, Joseph Schiltgen, Zachary Warren, Luke Buerkley, Benjamin Kieckhoefer, and Joshua Baillargeon. Rocky was a four year starter. The weather helped in getting lots of fans into the stands.

This year was a very successful year at Somerset High School. Many students of the Class of 2010 were involved in activities that highlighted such a great school year. These seniors left their mark on the history of Somerset High School. Good luck to this year's seniors in whatever paths they choose to take in life.

SOMERSET HONOR GRADUATES - CLASS of 2010

Dylan Montgomery Asp
 Joshua Paul Baillargeon
 Ashley Ann Bennett
 Luke Christian Buerkley
 Dana Marie Carlson
 Clayton James Cloutier
 Cylie Marie Colbeth
 Briana Margaret Crichton
 Tasha Jo Daniels
 Dj Murphy Devan
 James Patrick Duggan
 Alisha Eileen Dybedahl
 Alison Dorothy Germain
 Benjamin Howard Germain
 Kayla Lucille Grahovac
 Jenna Kaye Green
 Jordan Scott Hansen
 Luke Eugene Harrison

Grace Lynn Evangeline Hartman
 Isaac LeRoy Haukom
 Nathaniel James Hildebrand
 Anna Kirsten Johnson
 Chantel Shelby Jonas
 Natalya Sergeevna Kandakova
 Benjamin David Kieckhoefer
 Katelyn Mary Kippes
 Jessica Savannah Lammers
 Casey Marie Land
 Rocky Gaylord Larson
 Stacey Charlene Lind
 Hayley Ann Lofquist
 Chelsea Noelle Martinez
 Megan Dorothea McCune
 Shanise Lannea McMahon
 Heather Marie Northey
 Gina Marie O'Connor
 Shaundra Lucil Olson

Mackenzie David Ott
 Elizabeth Rose Ottman
 Alicia Marie Potting
 Coty Ray Reinhardt-Thoemke
 Haley Rose Ritter
 Matthew John Schmitt
 John Christopher Schottler
 Marquita Denise Sheffel
 Johanna Rennie Smith
 Samantha Josephine Smith
 Danielle Marie Stone
 Natalie Rose Strese
 Anne Rose Sullivan
 Taylor Anne Thell
 Zachary Craig Warren
 Michael Ryan Wedig
 Brendan Michael Weise
 Robert Bernard Wendt
 Lauren Elizabeth Westerdahl
 Cassandra Lee Whiteside



THOMAS VANASSE & BAILEY BREAUT CHOSEN FOR BADGER STATE



Exposing young people to the experience of participating in government is the goal of Badger Girls and Boys State. The program is sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, who pay the tuition for the delegates. Students must have an interest in government and citizenship.

This year's Somerset delegate to Girls State is Bailey Breault, daughter of Ben and Tracy Breault. Candidates for Girls State must be juniors who rank in the upper half of the class. She must also have outstanding qualities of leadership, good moral character, cooperativeness, dependability, and participate in extra curricular activities. Badger Girls State will be held during the week of June 20-25 on the UW-Oshkosh campus. Over 700 girls will learn by doing, as they function on city, county and state government levels. They will elect officials in the manner prescribed by regular election procedures and conduct business on those levels. These future stateswomen will become more informed citizens about how government functions.

The Somerset delegate to Boys State is Thomas Vanasse, son of Agnes Ring and Mark Vanasse. Candidates for Boys State must be juniors who rank in the upper third of the class, demonstrate outstanding qualities of leadership and participate in extra-curricular activities. Badger Boys State will be held during the week of June 12-19 on the campus of Ripon College. Approximately 850 young men from every part of Wisconsin will come together as citizens of a new state. They will carry out all the main functions of city, county and state government, using basic laws and fundamental procedures of the State of Wisconsin as their guide. These future leaders will develop a sense of individual obligation to their community, state and union.

Students participating in the Badger State programs bring back to their communities a better understanding of government and the value of citizenship. They also return with the friendships they have established while being involved in this weeklong experience.

SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY

On Friday, February 19, 2010, Somerset High School was “a buzz” with students exploring options for their future careers. Over 45 guest speakers from places as close as our local police department and as far away as an art gallery in London (via Skype) shared their work during 97 concurrent sessions. Individual schedules were developed for each student, based on results from a career inventory students took earlier in the year. All students attended a session on college planning, a session on financial planning, and four different career panel discussions. Guest speakers and teachers were able to network during a luncheon held in the Media Center.



Officer Mike Kappers & Canine Officer

Photo's courtesy of the New Richmond News



Alumnist Fred Trautmiller speaks to students about financial planning

Thank you to all the community volunteers who not only made SHS Career Day possible, but also made it a huge success! With positive feedback from our students, staff, and guest speakers, and the growing importance of career education, we hope to continue this activity in the future.

HEARTS FOR HAITI

Somerset High School students responded quickly to aid the people of Haiti. The “Hearts for Haiti” campaign was organized by a coalition of student groups at Somerset High School including Civics Club, National Honor Society, and homeroom representatives. Students sold Valentine’s and tee shirts with the logo “Hearts for Haiti”. These groups hope to continue the campaign in conjunction with the high school staff committees. The goal is to raise \$1,000 for the victims of the earthquake.



NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL ART ROOM

Advanced art and metal students Ben Germain, Jorden Hanson, Ben Kieckhoefer, Heather Northey, Gracie Hartman, and Jarod Bordynoski are working on the final stages of our Spartan sculpture which will find its final home at the front entrance of the high school. The 10’ tall cubistic steel sculpture has been an ongoing project involving many past and

present students as well as many community members.



MOCK TRIAL 2010

A man receiving therapy for drug abuse and violent behavior is discharged from a clinic. He proceeds to go home and murder his girlfriend before committing suicide. Now the girlfriend's mother is suing the clinic where the man received treatment. Is the clinic fully or partially liable for the death of the girlfriend?

This is the question put before students in the 2009-2010 Mock Trial case. Students began to investigate this case in October. Meeting sometimes three times per week during their lunch periods, ten brave students ranging from sophomores to seniors attempted to try this case before actual Wisconsin judges.

The students were Parker LeMire, Matthew Schmitt, Dakota Belter, Dana Carlson, Jonathon Voss, Brooke Donohoe, Stephanie Berg, Ashley Bennett, Anthony Howe, and Anne Plourde. Schmitt, Voss, and Howe were attorneys, while Belter, Carlson, Donohoe, Berg and Bennett acted the part of witnesses. Plourde was a court timer.

These students had several responsibilities. First, they had to learn proper court procedure. To that end, two real attorneys volunteered their time to teach students about how to call witnesses to the stand, how to present evidence, how to ask questions properly, how to investigate a case, and how to present a side of this case. The two attorneys were Christopher Anderson and Joel Schlitz. The second responsibility students had was to read the testimony of people involved in the case. Lawyers had to read testimonials in order to figure out what questions to ask each witness. Students who would act the part of witnesses had to memorize their lines so that they could "become" these people. Students also had to rehearse questions, answers, and arguments over and over again. Opening and closing statements were written, edited and re-edited.

On February 13, 2010, these ten students traveled to Eau Claire for the Regional Mock Trial tournament. Somerset competed against schools from Western Wisconsin. The format of Mock Trial requires that one school acts as the plaintiff, while the other school acts as the defendant. Over the course of the day, Somerset completed three versions of the same trial.

Since there is no verdict given at the end, some people might say that Mock Trial does not adequately mimic how an actual civil trial operates. And while it is true that no verdict is issued, the judges at these trials do grade schools on their performance. Somerset's regional was filled with some outstanding schools, and Somerset ended up placing in the top ten in the Regional. More importantly, students were able to get a feel for what it is like to be involved in the legal process.

Any student who is thinking about a career in law or criminal justice may want to consider taking part in Mock Trial next year. Those students who like to act or who enjoy debating may also want to consider this extra-curricular activity.



STATE FORENSICS 2010

Seven students qualified for the State Forensics competition this year. The State competition is held during the month of April in Madison each year and is sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensics Association.

Rachel Verdeja, a junior, qualified in the Farrago category. She combined three pieces of literature (a song, a play and a short story) on the central theme of "Imagination" and how it is important that we keep using our imaginations as we grow older. Freshman Emilee Martell qualified in the Solo Acting (Humorous) category. She performed a monologue entitled, "French Toast," which is about the trials and tribulations of a teenage matchmaker. Grace Becher, also a freshman, qualified in the Solo Acting (Serious) category. She took on the persona of a fetus in "Diary of an Unborn Child," which is one author's perspective on abortion. Seniors and long-time Forensic veterans, Johanna Smith and Elizabeth Ottman, qualified in the Group Interpretation category. They share Satirist Dave Barry's opinions on clothing, in "Hung by Your Threads." Finally, Freshmen Ontario Belter and Aminah Henne qualified in the Play Acting category, with "Blueberry Hill Accord." This piece is about two best friends trying to officially "break up."

Students attending the State Forensics competition are also recognized for their accomplishments at the May Somerset Board of Education meeting. For more information on the Somerset High School Forensics program, contact Advisor Jeanne Germain at the high school.



DYNAMICS PERFORMANCE – WASB CONVENTION

In June of 2009, Somerset High School Choral Director Rachel Erickson submitted an audition CD of the high school show choir, The Dynamics, to the Wisconsin State Music Association, in hopes of being selected as a featured performing group at the 2010 Wisconsin Association of School Board's 89th State Education Convention to be held in Milwaukee. In late August 2009, an acceptance letter was received, which not only invited the Dynamics to perform at the conference but invited the group to be the featured performer to open the final session of the conference on January 22nd. This session spotlighted Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and Keynote Speaker Richard Picciotto, au-

thor of "Last Man Down" and highest-ranking firefighter to survive the collapse of the North Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11.

The students received a standing ovation from the audience, which was filled with superintendents and school board members from across the state. Following their performance, the group was invited to hear Jim Doyle and Richard Picciotto speak. The governor referred to our Somerset student musicians during his opening comments and recognized them as being representative of students from across the state. Richard Picciotto was also a very engaging speaker. The students will not soon forget the personal account of 9/11 from a true hero and survivor of the historical tragedy.

The students who performed in Milwaukee include Brittney Anderson, Jeremy Bucklew, Dana Carlson, Cylie Colbeth, Briana Crichton, Riley Jackson, Jacob Lang, Cedric Mantovani, Elizabeth Ottman, Alicia Post, Amanda Prax, Haley Ritter, John Russell, Johanna Smith, Natalie Strese, Cody Waalen, and Emilee Wolf. The Dynamics would like to thank the School District of Somerset, the Somerset Board of Education, and the Somerset School District Administrators for the prestigious opportunity to represent Somerset in Milwaukee last January.

Valedictorian continued from Pg 2...

Mack was also selected by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter of the Society of Military Engineers during his junior year to attend an Engineering and Construction camp for one week in Santa Barbara, California.

Mack has earned several awards during the last four years, including certificates, medals, and academic excellence letters. Mack has been a member of National Honor Society for the last two years, assisting the group in organizing numerous blood drives, a public library auction, and daily readings for "Project Wisdom," the high school's character education program. The NHS members also worked with the Somerset High School Civics Club on the "Hearts for Haiti" project, raising funds for the Haiti earthquake victims. In addition, Mack attended the UW-Eau Claire Math Competition for high school students with five teammates in February 2009, where he was instrumental in helping the group finish in second place in the medium-sized school competition.

Mack has been a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for the last three years and attended both Regional and State FBLA conferences. He competed in Accounting 1, placing 4th as a sophomore at the Regional FBLA competition. As a junior, he competed in Business Calculations, placing 5th at the Regional contest. During his senior year, he placed 1st in Computer Problem Solving at Regional FBLA and will compete at the State FBLA competition in April.

Music has also been an area in which Mack has excelled over the years here at Somerset. Mack is one of the top trombone players at Somerset and has participated in Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, and Pep Band all four years of high school. In addition, Mack competed at Solo/Ensemble during his freshman year and at District Honors Band for Jazz Band during his sophomore, junior, and senior years. He has great ability and determination to keep up with difficult music, and his work ethic in band has been commendable. He was also a member of the Pit Band for the musical, "Once Upon a Mattress" during his sophomore year and worked in the Drama Club as a technician for lights and sound during senior year.

Mack was a member of the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and has been involved in boys' club soccer since his middle school years at Karns Middle School in Knoxville, Tennessee. Mack moved to the Somerset School District to start his freshman year and remained interested in continuing with soccer. He was active in assisting to initiate, promote, and participate in Somerset Boys' Club Soccer through the community education program. He rallied enough students to join the league in his junior year, which played a crucial role in the implementation of boys' soccer as a varsity sport at Somerset High School. In addition, Mack has put forth effort in community activities as well. He has worked with the children at the Before and After School Program at the Somerset Elementary School and volunteered to work with Special Education students at the elementary school.

Mack's positive efforts and hard work have allowed him to prepare well for his future. He is an enthusiastic learner and has a passion for learning, and doors of opportunity will continue to open for him as he progresses in his educational endeavors and meets the many new challenges that await him. We congratulate Mackenzie Ott on being named Somerset's Valedictorian of the Class of 2010.



High Schoolers at the FMSC Facility in Coon Rapids, MN

HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Somerset High School Community Involvement Committee assisted with various on-going service projects throughout the school year. The committee worked with several community partners and organizations within the high school. Some of the projects included three blood drives, organized by THE National Honor Society and the American Red Cross. In the fall there was a Mixed Blood Theater performance, which created awareness and education on the subject of Autism. Other activities included food shelf and winter clothing drives, Salvation Army bell ringing, and "Hearts for Haiti" relief fundraisers through the Somerset High School Civics Club.

The Civics Club and faculty, in partnership with Safeway Bus Company, also coordinated over 100 volunteers to pack meals for people in need, at the "Feed My Starving Children" organization. In addition, the Student Council raised money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society of Wisconsin, the March of Dimes, and the American Cancer Society.

The committee is planning the Somerset High School 4th Annual Community Day for the morning of May 14, 2010. The committee has established partnerships with the Somerset Fire Department, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Village of Somerset, Grace Place, Bridge Bible Church, Christ Lutheran Church, St. Anne's Catholic Church, the Salvation Army, Somerset Chamber of Commerce, LeMire Landscaping, Bristol Ridge Golf Course, Somerset Public Library, Somerset Township Hall, the Somerset Senior Citizen Group, and the owners of Countryside Apartments in Somerset. This is a day for Somerset students and faculty members to give back to the community. There are also many retired teachers and parent volunteers who come to help on these days. Please look for upcoming projects posted on our school district website. If you have any ideas for additional projects, or if you need assistance on Community Day, please call Mary Anne Crawford at the high school at (715) 247-3355 or contact her by email at mcrawford@somerset.k12.wi.us.



Staff from Somerset Safe-Way Bus Co. at FMSC in Coon Rapids, MN

DRAMA SENIORS



The high school's Multi-Purpose room was transformed into a world of pure imagination for the fall production of **WILLY WONKA**, a full-length musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Somerset High School set the stage for the story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir. We had a record number of seniors involved in the production, which performed three sold-out shows. Senior cast members included Jessica Lammers, Ashley Bennett, Johanna Smith, Elizabeth Ottman, Lindsey Bellamy, Haley Ritter, Cylie Colbeth, Tasha Daniels, Anne Sullivan, Casey Land, Taylor Thell, Coty Reinhardt, Dana Carlson, Briana Crichton, Mackenzie Ott, Kevin Gelle, Vincent Johnson, and Joseph Schiltgen. Kudos to a great bunch of students and their amazing creativity!

SPARTAN AWARDS FOR 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

ROBERT SEIBEL - Silver Ring Spartan Award



Bob Seibel was awarded the Silver Spartan Award this spring for 25 years of service to the Somerset School District. Mr. Seibel is one of the reasons Somerset students enjoy coming to school so much. His classes instruct students at their individual developmental levels and allow them to perform and feel successful. The variety of activities is fast paced and fun keeping the children fully engaged. They work hard for Mr. Seibel and love doing it.

Mr. Seibel teaches students more than just physical fitness. He also emphasizes sportsmanship, love of learning, and the importance of being a team player. Bob both gives and receives respect from his students.

Bob is a favorite with the staff as well. His work ethic and integrity are admired as is his sense of team work. Bob is always willing to help out wherever he can. His sense of humor and love of fun is appreciated by all. Along with his teaching and coaching assignments in the district, Bob annually directs Jump Rope for Heart and a spring Sports Day that involves dozens of volunteers and the entire elementary.

After 25 years, he has some very funny stories to recount and many grateful students who look up to him. We are pleased to recognize Bob Seibel as a Spartan Silver Ring recipient, and look forward to many more years of his expertise and leadership.



SUSAN OBERSTAR - Silver Ring Spartan Award

Somerset High School is pleased to announce Susan Oberstar as a new inductee into the Spartan Silver Ring. Mrs. Oberstar has passed her 25th year mark with the school district and has taught in the district since 1984. She began her teaching career with the Clayton School District, teaching English to 7th and 9th through 12th grade students as well as coaching drama and forensics for one year. She also taught at Prairie Farm High School for eight years, and continued to fine tune her forensics coaching skills at Prairie Farm where she also coached the junior high girls' basketball team.

Mrs. Oberstar currently teaches English and Reading at Somerset High School and has also taught Reading to 7th and 8th grade middle school students in past years. She has also led the Mock Trial team at Somerset High School for the past several years. She was also involved in the Cohort Learning Group, Mentoring Program, and National Honor Society Advisory Board, not to mention various other numerous committees.

In addition to her activities within the Somerset School District, Mrs. Oberstar has given presentations at conventions for the Northwest Educator's Association (NWEA) and the Wisconsin Reading Association (WSRA). She also taught a college course for the Somerset School District through the University of Wisconsin – River Falls on writing. She has functioned as well as administrative assistant for St. Mary's University Graduate Cohort Group in Forest Lake, Minnesota, and has been an active member of SCVRC, WSRA, IRA (International Reading Association), and NCTE (National Council Teacher's of English).

Her dedication to providing quality education to our Somerset students is commendable. The Somerset School District has been fortunate to have had such a professional educator as part of its team.

CHERYL EK - Silver Ring Spartan Award



Cheryl Ek has been a very busy teacher for the past 25 years, but she wouldn't have it any other way. She is a proud inductee to the Silver Ring Spartan Award; Cheryl has been with the district since 1984, and is the learning disabilities teacher at the elementary school. Cheryl chose special education after volunteering in special education programs while a high school student. Cheryl earned her Bachelor's degree in elementary education and learning disabilities and a Master's degree in learning disabilities from the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh. Cheryl also has certification in cognitive disabilities.

Cheryl is a highly organized and effective teacher, who always goes above and beyond her job requirements. One of her greatest strengths is her ability to assess a student's present level, set realistic goals and monitor progress on the path to reaching the goals. Outside of the classroom, Cheryl is seen as a leader and a "go to" person in the building. Cheryl serves on several committees, serves as a district mentor to new staff, and leads district staff in learning about new initiatives in the field of education and special education.

Cheryl is also this year's District Specialty Teacher of the Year, as well as a Compass Award recipient. She was chosen as a Kohl nominee because of her dedication, exemplary teaching skills, and passion for her profession. Cheryl was given the Compass Award at the beginning of the school year by her peers for providing guidance and leadership. Congratulations, Cheryl!

SOMERSET SCHOOL DISTRICT SAYS GOOD-BYE TO RETIRING STAFF

Middle School Retirements

At the end of the 2009-2010 school year, Somerset Middle School will be losing over 100 years of teaching experience. Pam Seekel, Ray Standke, and Roger Zolldan are moving to the next stage of their lives as they plan to retire at the end of this year. For the past 30+ years these three have impacted nearly 3000 students through their passion for teaching and learning. The lives of Somerset's students have been enriched as they became lifelong readers, scientists and musicians under the tutelage of all three educators. These three teachers have seen incredible advances in technology, resource availability and quality, as well as improved teaching techniques to reach all students. In addition they have watched Somerset grow from a one building district with two teachers at each grade level to a district of three buildings with 5 teachers on each team. Thank you, Pam, Ray, and Roger for all your years of dedication to the students of Somerset Schools, the Somerset community and to the teaching profession, you will be terribly missed!



ROGER ZOLLDAN -GENERAL MUSIC AND BAND

Over the years Somerset has grown, one constant in the music department has been Roger Zolldan. He has worked with at least 12 other band teachers and at least 11 other vocal teachers in the Somerset District during his employment. He began as a 1st-7th grade music teacher and 5th/6th grade band teacher, and now is responsible for 5th-7th general music and 5th/6th grade beginning band. Roger was a part of the middle school music addition, changing the format of the fine arts festival to an 'a la carte' approach and the addition of African drums and English hand bells to the music curriculum.

Roger has watched educational trends come and go and come around again, usually with a new name, the most recent being the peer assessment model Wisconsin teachers must use for re-licensure. Mr. Zolldan will definitely miss the students and staff at Somerset. He had a lot fun with the different classes, especially when they understood some of his jokes, and although at times students try his patience, having the fun days of learning are hard to beat. He will also miss seeing the students develop their skills - especially in beginning band. Somerset has a very special staff and they will be missed – the teachers, administrators, support staff, and volunteers. Early in his career Roger realized how fortunate he was to be included in a staff that has a caring and compassionate nature and also a great sense of humor. He believes it takes all of the people of a school working together to make a school, and the individuals in the school, successful. No one person can claim success because of individual accomplishments. The community support of the schools and the music programs are much appreciated.

RAY STANDKE - 7th & 8th GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER

When Ray arrived at Somerset and wanted to make copies, he had to hand crank a mimeograph machine, and to show videos it took the talent of threading a film strip projector. Today's technological advances have been the biggest change he has witnessed in his years of teaching science for the Somerset School District. Ray looks back on those days fondly, and some of his favorite memories are his years coaching track and the great relationships he's had with the students and parents of Somerset. Many former students today ask about Mr. Standke and if he is really retiring as they have looked back at their middle school science classes knowing what a great teacher Ray is! If you attend any high school reunion, you will most likely find Mr. Standke there as the students of Somerset are like family to him.

As Ray looks toward retirement he plans to do some substitute teaching in the district, bet on the horse races, and work around the house doing little chores that have never gotten done.





PAM SEEKEL - 5TH GRADE READING TEACHER

Pam Seekel has spent her entire teaching career in Somerset. Throughout her time in Somerset, her focus has been reading. This reading focus extends beyond not just the teaching of reading, but to getting students to become lifelong readers. One highlight for Mrs. Seekel over the years has been watching her students become readers. When they come into 5th grade and tell her that they don't like reading and then that light bulb goes off and they realize what a fun adventure reading is...she knows she has done her job! Pam's dedication to reading has been aided by the wealth of literature choices she has to use in her classroom as well as utilizing technology and the Accelerated Reading program to help her students to not only read, but to LOVE reading. The most important facet of Mrs. Seekel's instruction is giving students time to read on a daily basis (at

least 60 minutes!).

The greatest highlight for Mrs. Seekel is the two teams of teachers she have worked with during her career. The first team was Harry Rivard, Jeff Crisp, and Sandy Wells, and the second team and current team is Sara Eichten, Brenda Boucher, Andre Johnson, Lytha Lyons, and Jessica Linkletter. Pam feels these teachers not only taught her about teaching, but a lot about herself, too.

Pam's main retirement focus will be her family. She and her husband plan to take a trip in the fall with their grandson, daughter and son-in-law. In addition Mrs. Seekel hopes to do more walking, reading, knitting and volunteering at both her grandson's school and her family's church.

Pam would like to thank the district for the opportunities for professional and personal development that it has provided over the years. She couldn't have asked for a better district to teach in where she always felt supported, and where professionalism and respect for teachers abounds! She truly believes we do have the best staff, students, and parents here in Somerset!



SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL BIDS ENGLISH TEACHER

KATHRYN MURPHY A FOND FAREWELL

The Somerset School District students and staff have had the great privilege of working with Kathryn Murphy for the last 36 years. Mrs. Murphy has been a team member of one of the most outstanding English Departments thus far in the history of our school district, and is culminating her teaching career at the high school with her retirement at the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Murphy was hired by Robert Seibel, Sr. in 1974 to teach 7th and 8th grade English, while K-12 students were still attending classes at the Somerset School on Spring Street. She taught at the 7th and 8th grade level from 1974 to 1987 and then moved into the area of high school English, where she has taught since 1988.

Mrs. Murphy has worked with NHS students as activity advisor since 1995 and was instrumental in organizing the high school blood drives for the past six years. During two recent school years, Somerset High School staff members voted Mrs. Murphy as the peer they most seek out for guidance and direction. She was presented with the Compass Award in her honor during the teacher in-service at the start of the 2004-2005 school year, as well as at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

In addition Mrs. Murphy has directed Latvian teaching experiences under the sponsorship of WIESCO (Wisconsin International Educational Scientific Cultural Organization), where she coordinated the activities for other American teachers and supervised Somerset High School students who participated in the program each year. She has been teaching in the program each year since 2001 and has been the camp director since 2002. Mrs. Murphy plans to continue these teaching trips to Latvia during her retirement years.

Mrs. Murphy has also worked with the staff at Somerset High School to develop updated programs in team teaching in the areas of language arts, family and consumer education, and technology education. She team taught for 12 years on children's books with Pam Powers, the current Family & Consumer Education teacher. Mrs. Murphy also team-taught Language & Technology with Technology Education Teacher Mark Barron for 13 years, breaking down the artificial barriers between classroom education and practical application to enhance learning. In addition, she has given several professional presentations relating to her team-teaching experience over the years and has been sought as a speaker at the Minnesota State Literacy Convention, the Wisconsin State Reading Convention, the Wisconsin State English Convention, and the Wisconsin State Technology Convention.

Kathryn Murphy is truly an exemplary educator and has shown her professionalism well beyond the walls of the classroom. The Somerset School District has been fortunate to have had such a skilled educator and mentor as part of its team, and our staff and students wish Kathryn Murphy the best in her upcoming leisure years!



PAM POWERS MOVES FROM ONE SET OF CHILDREN TO ANOTHER

Somerset School District announces the retirement of Pam Powers, Somerset High School Family & Consumer Education (FACE) Teacher. She has been the FACE teacher at Somerset High School since the beginning of the 1994-1995 school year, and Somerset students have benefited from her knowledge and expertise for the last 16 years. Mrs. Powers taught middle and high school students in grades 7 – 12 for two years at what is now the Somerset Middle School building. She then moved to the newly constructed high school building when it opened at the beginning of the 1996-1997 school year, and has been teaching high school students in FACE since the move. She also continued to teach middle school students for several years, traveling between the two buildings each day.

Mrs. Powers began her teaching career in the fall of 1975 at Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, where she met and married Bill Powers, another veteran Somerset educator. Their two children, Katie and Dan, were born there, where she taught Food Occupations and Junior High Home Economics. They moved from Northern Minnesota to Rochester in the summer of 1987, where Mrs. Powers taught at Stewartville High School for one year and then went to work for Dayton's Department Stores, where she worked her way up from sales consultant to department manager. When Mr. Powers obtained his teaching position at Somerset, Mrs. Powers transferred to the Dayton's store in Rosedale, where she managed the Junior Department. She was then promoted to associate buyer at the Minneapolis Dayton's store and worked in that position until she was hired as FACE teacher at Somerset.

During her 16 years at Somerset, Mrs. Powers was involved in numerous school-related activities. She was a junior high volleyball coach for approximately six years and has officiated volleyball for at least 30 years at various locations. She put in many extra hours and much effort as Somerset High School's Yearbook Advisor, from the 1995-1996 school year through the 2004-2005 school year. In addition, Mrs. Powers was chosen as "Somerset Middle School Teacher of the Year" during the 1999-2000 school year. The Somerset Athletic Department has also had the good fortune of having Mrs. Powers as a volunteer with concession stand operations for over 20 years. She plans to stay on as a volunteer with the district in this capacity after her retirement.

While teaching with the Somerset School District, Mrs. Powers developed, promoted, and taught several new classes to the FACE curriculum, including Child Development & Parenting, Housing & Interior Design, Experimental Foods, and Meal Management. She has also participated in team-teaching efforts for 12 years with Kathryn Murphy, one of Somerset High School's top English teachers. Mrs. Powers plans on focusing much of her future time and effort with her granddaughter, Devin, and Devin's new baby brother and other family members, and she is looking forward to this extra family time in the coming years.

The past 16 years have been great from Mrs. Powers' point of view, and she will miss her students, fellow faculty members, support staff members, and administration team. She is "looking forward to a new chapter in [her] life and [hopes] it is as rewarding as the last chapters." Mrs. Powers' caring attitude and constant striving for what is best for students will be missed in the years to come at Somerset High School.

CHUCK ENNIS - ELEMENTARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Chuck Ennis will be retiring this spring after 15 years of serving as the health care provider at Somerset Elementary School. Known as Mr. Ennis, Chuck, or B.G. (the band-aid guy), students come to see him for doctor-prescribed medication, sore throats, upset stomachs, to have temperatures taken, for scrapes, bumps, and the occasionally needed change of clothes. Chuck conducts preliminary vision and hearing screenings and monitors the immunizations that students are required to have. The first ten years as a district employee, Chuck also drove bus--that was before the enrollment of the elementary grew past 700 students.

Prior to working full time at the elementary, Chuck was the assistant Somerset Fire Chief and one of the six fire fighters that started the Somerset Rescue.

Chuck has been involved with Boy Scouts for many years and has been the Cub Master for the past two years. As Cub Master and seeing a need for very young children, Chuck worked through the Northern Star Council to develop a pilot Lion Cub Program for kindergarten students. The first year of the pilot, 247 kindergarteners were signed up and the number swelled to 511 youngsters by the second year.

Chuck is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Gail, three children, ten grandchildren and the newest member of the family, a great-grandson!

We'd like to share some of Chuck's wisdom in his own words "I like being old, it has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it) and if Gail will let me!"

Chuck has had a tremendous impact on Somerset Elementary School. We will miss his wit, wisdom and presence. We wish him the very best in this next grand chapter of his life.



MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

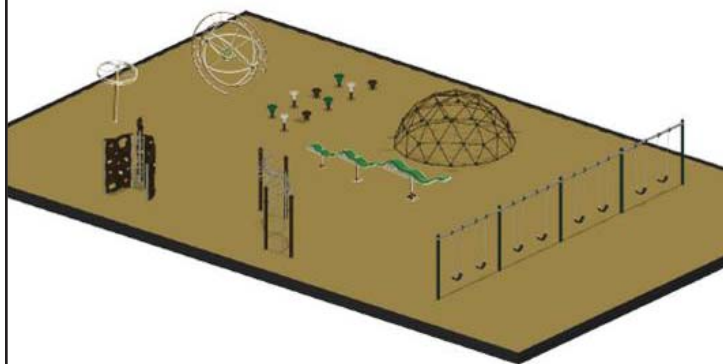
On May 8th excavation for the new middle school playground began. Installation of the playground equipment will occur on May 15! Thanks to the Somerset Fire Department, along with other volunteers participating in a community build, the original cost of the playground has been reduced by \$5,300. The cost of the playground is now at \$28,380. Belisle Excavating is generously donating the excavation work which is valued at \$5,000.00.

A kickoff fundraiser for the playground was held Friday, February 26th at the PIE February Family Dance. A "Party for the Playground" dance will be held on Saturday, May 15 from 5:00 – 8:30 PM at the middle school. Elementary teacher Bryan Mulrooney's band will perform and concessions will be sold. Raffle tickets for Adirondack chairs constructed by Mark Barron's high school tech ed class are currently being sold at the middle school. The drawing for the chair raffle will be the evening of May 15th. Look for more information about the dance to be sent home!

Red T-shirts with the slogan "Our School Rocks" are also being sold to help raise funds for the playground. They are for sale at both the elementary and middle schools.

The community support for this project has been wonderful and we would like to thank everyone for their generosity and effort!

If you are interested in donating to the Playground Fund, please contact the middle school office at 247-4400.



Salutatorian continued from Pg 2...

the Junior National Youth Leadership Conference and traveled to Washington, D. C. to give her speech to over 1,500 Junior Youth Leadership students. In addition, she received a Letter of Commendation in the National Merit Scholarship competition and competed at the UW-Eau Claire Mathematics Meet. Johanna won 4th place in the individual contest and 2nd place in the team contest.

Johanna has also flourished in the area of athletics during her high school years, making strides in the areas of basketball (9th & 10th), cross-country (9th – 11th), and track and field (9th – 12th). She was awarded All Conference Cross-Country (Individual) as a sophomore and All Conference Track & Field Team Champions as a sophomore and junior. Her athletic pursuits also include cheerleading.

Johanna has been chosen as Student of the Month during the last three years. During her junior and senior years, Johanna fine tuned her leadership skills as the Student Representative to the School Board, and led her class each year as Student Council Representative (9th -12th). She has also been a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for four years and represented Wisconsin FBLA members at the California National Competition during her junior year. She advanced to the State FBLA competition each year, with the following results: 8th place in Business Math (9th); 6th place in Business Math (10th); 2nd place in Digital Video (11th). She also placed 2nd at Regional FBLA in Global Business and will be attending the State FBLA competition in April 2010. Her FBLA leadership positions include the following: President (11th & 12th); Secretary & Treasurer (10th); Region 1 Vice-President of Western Wisconsin (11th & 12th). Other FBLA group activities have included a fundraiser dance for the March of Dimes; ringing bells for the Salvation Army; and food drives for the local food shelf. In addition, she has excelled in the area of Forensics, advancing to State Forensics and winning Silver (10th) and Gold (11th) awards. Johanna plans to be an active member of the Purdue Student Government and to continue to be a role model to other students who want to make a positive impact on society.

Johanna is also enthusiastic about music and has been involved in band and choir (9th – 12th), holding the position of section leader in both for the past two years. She has participated in Jazz Band, Regional Honors Band, State Solo/Ensemble (1st place 9th – 12th), Wisconsin Music Teachers Association State Qualifier (9th – 12th), Wisconsin Choir Directors Association (All State Honor Title 11th Grade), Youth in Harmony State Qualifier (9th & 10th), and National Association of Teachers Singing State Qualifier (9th & 10th). She also was chosen for a position with the Wisconsin State Music Association (8th – 11th). Her musical and acting ability has also been presented during the last four years in yearly musicals or plays. She plans to continue her musical pursuits at Purdue, as a member of the Purdue Brass Band and Purdue All American Band.

Volunteer activities have also played a large part in making Johanna who she is today. Two years ago, she started an organization called "Warm Hearts, Warm Toes" which is a support group for an orphanage in Osorno, Chile. Johanna has worked hard to raise money for the orphanage to repair a fence and has donated over 50 quilts for the children. She traveled to Osorno in 8th and 11th grades to work at the orphanage, helping with repair and maintenance activities and to teach sewing and embroidery classes to community members. She has hopes to find ways to continue supporting the community of Osorno and the orphanage while at Purdue. During her senior year, Johanna also collected sewing material and provided supplies for a community activity center in Zimbabwe, Africa.

Johanna has participated in local community volunteer activities as well. She has worked at "Pea Soup Days," and has also volunteered her time with "Toys for Tots." In addition, she assisted in packing food for relief of Haiti earthquake victims. Johanna's vocal music talents were a part of Christmas caroling for the last three years at an assisted living facility in Somerset. During the last two summers, she also donated time as a Girl Scout camp counselor to teach young girls about canoeing, kayaking, and archery. Johanna has received several awards for her Girl Scout activities over the years, including the President Bush Service Award (Gold Award) and a Bronze Award for Community Service. Other community efforts have also included volunteer activities at her local church, including Assistant Ministry and Sine Nomine Choir/Lead Singer & Minstrel (9th – 12th) and Assistant Sunday School Teacher (10th). Her outstanding volunteer efforts have garnered the Prudential Spirit of Community Award on two occasions (2008 & 2010) and the 2010 President Volunteer Service Award.

She has worked at AllPhase Companies, Inc. since 2007, assisting with a myriad of duties for the company. She was also employed as a babysitter for two children during the fall of 2008. Other employment activities have included vocal music work on a children's CD for the Augsburg Guild during 2008 and 2009. She was also hired to do embroidery work for the Somerset Golf Team and AllPhase Companies in 2008.

Johanna is looking forward to meeting the many new challenges that lie ahead of her. She has prepared well for her future, and we are confident that Johanna will continue on the path of success in all of her endeavors. Congratulations Johanna Smith, on attaining the honor of being named as Somerset High School's Salutatorian of the Class of 2010!

DESTINATION IMAGINATION 2010



Somerset Middle School entered five Destination Imagination teams for regional competition that was held at Chippewa High School on March 27th. Three teams competed at the state level, which was held at the UW-Stevens Point campus, on April 17th.

A fifth grade and an eighth grade structure team moved on to Destination Imagination State. This year's structure problem had a unique twist and the students had to build paper structures instead of balsa wood. The problem was called "Breaking News" and areas students used to solve their problem were structural engineering, materials science, international relations, research, innovation/design process, mathematics, theater arts and teamwork. Another change to the problem was that the students had to design a 30 inch by 24 inch by 48 inch container that held pieces of their backdrop, props and scenery holders. Part of the eight minute performance time included the set up of the pieces. Beyond a doubt, there were many

new challenges for this year's structure teams to solve plus crushing of the engineered paper and glue structure.

Fifth Grade Structure Team: Austin Beasley, Josh Kelly, Sam Linden, Nick Maitrejean, Tony Mussehl, Nathan Sandy, and Simon Schoenborn.

Eighth Grade Structure Team: Brian Dolezal, Frank Johnson, Aaron Joppru, Rhys Linke, and Ethan Pike.

Our fifth grade "Do or DI" Improv team spent the year researching threatened things in danger of extinction plus developed characters that were randomly drawn right before the five minute improv skit was to be presented before the judges. To make this even more difficult, the group is given an undisclosed Super Power during the skit that they had to immediately start including in their skit. Team work and practice is the key to success in this very challenging DI problem.

Fifth Grade Improv Team: Michaela Bender, Anna Branum, Savanna Nasgovitz and Gabbie Vogel.

Representing Somerset School District in finest fashion were two "You're Gonna Flip" teams that presented an original story dramatizing how a character experiences a Flip, or a change of point of view, about someone or something. Plus, the teams needed to design, construct and feature at least one puppet as a character in the story. The team then had to create a piece of Live Visual Art that had to be completed during the eight minute presentation. Students had to research forms of visual art and choose what type they would perfect and create within their presentation: Architecture, collage, sculpture, painting, fiber art/textile art, Origami or drawing. The team also earned points for their creative approach with which the Live Visual Art was created.

Sixth Grade Team A "Flip:" Kylie Anderson, Lydia Anez, Chelsey Gareis, Cally Meixner, Grace Von Holtum, Lucy Willingham and Kendra Wiswell.

Seventh Grade Team B "Flip:" Katriana Ryther, Cassie Mussehl, MacKenzie Monson, Alyssa Kelly and Becca Olin.

Mrs. Rosanne Erickson (GT Coordinator and DI coach/cord.) and Richard Thompson (SH Math Teacher and DI coach) have been guiding Somerset DI teams for over ten years. Watching Somerset students develop their talents from year to year is very exciting and beneficial for the student's problem solving abilities and team work strategies.

STATE FBLA 2010

The Somerset High School FBLA Chapter made recruitment a priority in September, growing the membership of the group to 37 students. Johanna Smith served as president of the Somerset FBLA Chapter and, in a dual role, also served the Wisconsin FBLA Organization by leading as the Region I Vice-President.

Somerset hosted the Regional Leadership Conference in February at Somerset High School. Eight chapter members qualified at the Regional event, advancing to the FBLA State Leadership Conference at Wisconsin Dells in April. Students competed in the following categories: Computer Problem Solving – Mackenzie Ott; Global Business – Elizabeth Ottman & Johanna Smith; Intro to Business Communications – Megan Duggan & Aminah Henne; Intro to Parliamentary Procedure – Zachary Helgeson; Sports Management – Tyler Lindquist; and Technology Concepts – Jacob Perkins.

Some of the State participants will be returning to lead and participate in our upcoming FBLA group for the 2010 school year in the following capacities: Jacob Perkins, President; Tyler Lindquist – Vice-President; Aminah Henne – Secretary; Megan Duggan – Reporter; and Anne Plourde – Historian. We are looking forward to another exciting round of FBLA activities in the upcoming new school year.

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

March has been officially designated by The National Association for Music Education for the observance of Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM®), the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation. MIOSM began as a single statewide celebration in 1973, and has grown over the decades to encompass a day, then a week, and then in 1985 to become a month long celebration of school music. The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community and to display the benefits school music brings to students of all ages.

Youth Art Month (YAM) is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Established in 1961, YAM provides a forum for acknowledging skills that are not possible in other subjects.

Our yearly Fine Arts Festival highlights the importance the Somerset School District places on both music and art in our schools. The art exhibit displayed examples of student work from finger paint to jewelry and from pencil sketches to pottery. There was abstract art and computer graphics, collages, two-point perspective, and clay pot throwing. The music portion of the evening included performances by all of the instrumental and vocal groups in grades five through twelve as well as a demonstration of hand bells by students. It is always so enjoyable to see the progression of skill, starting with the fifth grade and going on up through to the senior high concert performances. Thank you to art teachers, Becky Olson, Stephanie Magnuson, and Amy Stevens, and music directors, Roger Zolldan, Al Duerkop, Andrew Emerson and Rachel Erickson, for an outstanding festival, and your consistent and strong fine arts leadership in our schools!



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPELLING BEE

Makayla Reed represented Somerset Middle School in the 2010 CESA #11, Southern Regional Badger Spelling Bee on Wednesday, February 17th. She is an eighth grader who had to compete against 19 other students representing this region at Viking Middle School in Woodville, WI. Although doing well, she did not finish in the top three at this event. The first and second place, with third being an alternate, will advance on to the state level bee held in Madison, WI. Congratulations go to this brave young lady who gave it her best.



MIDDLE SCHOOL BAKERS

The students in Debbie Steven's Family and Consumer Science class recently voted to donate the proceeds of their bake sale to St. Croix Animal Friends. Way to go, baking students!





NEWS FROM PUPIL SERVICES

By Darren Kern, Pupil Services Director

The Somerset School District is a buzz with many spring activities in the Pupil Services areas. We will be hosting or assisting in planning several events for students and families this year. The School District of Somerset is hosting the annual Friendship Games on May 21, 2010. Students with special needs grades K through 8 are invited to participate in this track and field event. There will be a variety of activities, music and concessions for all to enjoy. This event is a great opportunity for students with special needs to compete in events, make friendships, and build skills. The Friendship Games is an annual event that rotates districts each year. This year, Somerset will be hosting students from over 10 districts and 30 different schools. We anticipate that over 400 students will be participating in this year's event. In order to make this event a great one, the school district will need between 75-100 volunteers to assist with running events, supervising other activities, check-in, lunch preparation, and many more areas. If you are interested and available to volunteer for this event, please contact Lynn Harstad at the school district 715-247-4400 ext. 571. All volunteers must be approved through the volunteer process. We would love for the community to be involved and benefit from this great event.

The school district recently hosted its annual English language Learner(ELL) family gathering which was held on April 29th. It was a great opportunity for families to come together for a night of gathering and learning. Families had an opportunity to network and participate in an evening of presentation from the ELL teacher. Many families with children in the ELL program attended the event.

March 27th highlighted the "Keys to Success Conference." This conference was for parents and educators to come together for a day of learning, and provided resources and information for parents, caregivers, educators and service providers of children with special needs, ages 3-21. Topics for this year's event included IEP basics and beyond, mental health, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and behavior support. Osceola Middle School hosted the event.



The Life Skills class has been working hard in the greenhouse this spring. Students have planted tomatoes, geraniums, petunias, marigolds, coleus and impatiens. The class just started transplanting flowers into wooden containers that were made by one of the students.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2010

After a long winter we are getting excited about the upcoming summer. We will once again hear the talking and laughter of children having a wonderful experience in Summer School. This year Summer School will begin on June 7th and run for six weeks until July 16th.

Summer School is truly a great way for kids to enjoy the summer. There are various outdoor activities, enrichment classes, and remedial classes for all ages. Some new classes and many old choices will again be offered this year.

At the high school level, classes will again be offered in the areas of remediation and Weight Training and Conditioning.

An offering we are looking forward to having again this year is a before and after school program at the Elementary School from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for the six-week period. An all day program will be available after summer school ends beginning July 19th. Look for this information in the summer school booklet.

Booklets were available the end of April, and registration will be held as in past years at the Middle School Commons on Monday, May 10th and Tuesday, May 11th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Once again it is on a first come, first serve basis so come early as some classes may fill.

Don't let your child miss the fun. Join the excitement and get involved in this summer's experience. Watch for the booklets and mark the dates on your calendar. See you there!!!

IT'S ELEMENTARY...



USE IT OR TRASH IT!

An all school assembly was held at the Elementary on Friday, March 26. Teachers and students role played a game show called "Use it or Trash it" where the contestants had to choose whether the choice given was one that they would use again or trash. This assembly was one of the many ongoing ways that the students and staff at Somerset Elementary work together to promote positive character education.

"LET'S PUT ON A SHOW!"

Each year the 3rd grade reads the story "The Talent Show", about a classroom full of students who put on a talent show. So this year they decided to bring the story to life by putting on their own talent show! On January 15th students displayed their wide variety of talents. Mr. Mulrooney said his students learn that the point of the story is to have fun with what they are doing.



ROUND UPS

On March 12, Somerset Elementary School held their Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2010-11 school year. We had 85 excited children participate in activities that day. Since then we have received additional paperwork for a total of 98 students enrolled for this fall.

On April 1st seven children participate in our Kindergarten Registration. With the addition of these children to our current junior kindergarten class, we are anticipating 120 students for kindergarten this fall.



IT'S ELEMENTARY...

SNOW SHOEING & WELLNESS

As part of a wellness program at the Elementary school the health care office began a snowshoeing program in 2007. The program is for 3rd and 4th grade and every child has the opportunity to participate. Students from the middle school sign-up to be volunteers and assist the 3rd graders by helping them put their snowshoes on and lead them on their snowshoeing adventure! The children really enjoy this program and get some great exercise in the process!



THIRD GRADE WAX MUSEUM

The third grade students recently studied the genre biography. Each student read, took notes, and produced a speech about an important person. The students then became that person. They memorized their speeches, put together costumes and "came alive" for an audience. Parents and students were impressed by the third graders' hard work and wonderful performance. Wax museum "figures" from left to right are Alicia Diethart as Amelia Earhart, Ben Wulfinf as Theodore Roosevelt, and Brit Buchanan as Betsy Ross



1st GRADERS MAKE CONNECTIONS

The first graders are studying the desert regions of the world. April 5th 2010, they all gathered in the LMC and connected through Skype with two people from the Namib Desert of South Africa. One of those people, Michele Fournier, is from the US and is working there at the Gobabeb Training and Research Center. The students prepared questions to ask beforehand. Pictured is 1st grader Christopher Weyer asking a question with Kristen Flater, Media Specialist, looking on.



HEALTH AWARENESS

The second graders have been busy learning all about the amazing human body. They have been taught the body systems and ways to keep our body healthy. On March 30, 2010 the children participated in the annual Second Grade Health Fair at the elementary school. Each second grader ended the day with a brand new helmet thanks to a donation from United Way of St. Croix County. In the afternoon the students participated in a variety of stations where they learned ways to stay healthy. The stations included; Dental Health, Be Tobacco Free!, Stranger Safety, Give Your Back a Break, Tasty Treats, Exercise, Jeopardy, Body Bingo, Keeping Healthy, and Somerset First Responders,

Thank you to all of the staff, community members, and parents who volunteered their time and expertise to make the 2010 Second Grade Health Fair a success again this year.



NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



SOMERSET VOLLEYBALL

Varsity volleyball ended their season record with a Match record 24-12 conference record 5-2, Game record 66-35.

This was a very successful season. The goal was to build team unity, show gratitude towards teammates, play with passion, celebrate each other's success, win the conference and continue success in tournament play. All of these goals were reached at some level of satisfaction.

All Conference Player and Most Valuable - Lauren Westerdahl/Senior: Lauren (at right) loves to compete. She was the setter and executed the offense with ease so the hitters were able to dominate at the net. Lauren was a very tough server for the Somerset Spartans. Lauren's



love for the sport showed on the court daily. Her passion and work ethic was evident and because of these qualities her teammates voted her as Most Valuable Player.

All Conference Player and Spartan Award-Gracie Hartman/Senior: Gracie (pictured at right) is a great competitor and shows great instincts for the game of volleyball. She was a strong middle hitter and a dominate force at the net with her blocking skills. Her great attitude, willingness to work hard, and promote team spirit is what earned her the Spartan Award.



Most Improved Player-Alicia Siggins/Junior. Alicia (pictured at left) showed how hard work and dedication to a sport helps you improve. Her accurate serving and strong defensive skills made her a valuable player to have on the court. Alicia always had a great attitude at practice and very positive during games. Look for Somerset Volleyball to continue their success in the 2010 season. Pictured at right are: Gracie Hartman, Lauren Westerdahl, and Alicia Siggins.



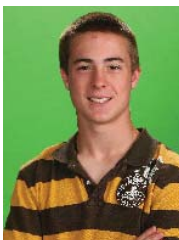
CROSS COUNTRY ALL-CONFERENCE

Two members from the Spartan cross country team achieved all-conference honors this past fall with Ontario Belter (at left) and Monica Emerson (at right). Emerson ran to a 6th place finish earning first team status, while Belter earned the individual champion award finishing in a personal best time of 15:55. Belter went on to placing 3rd at the sectional meet in Amery, earning her way to the state meet that was held Wisconsin Rapids.



WRESTLING ALL-CONFERENCE

Freshman Gabe Flandrick (at left) was a second team all conference selection wrestler, wrestling at 130 lbs for Somerset this year. He was also a regional champion and a sectional runner-up, and placed fourth at the WIAA State Wrestling tournament at 130lbs in Division 2. Haydon Dvorak (at right), a sophomore, was first team all conference at 160 lbs this year. He was also a regional champion and placed fourth in the WIAA Division 2 wrestling sectional.



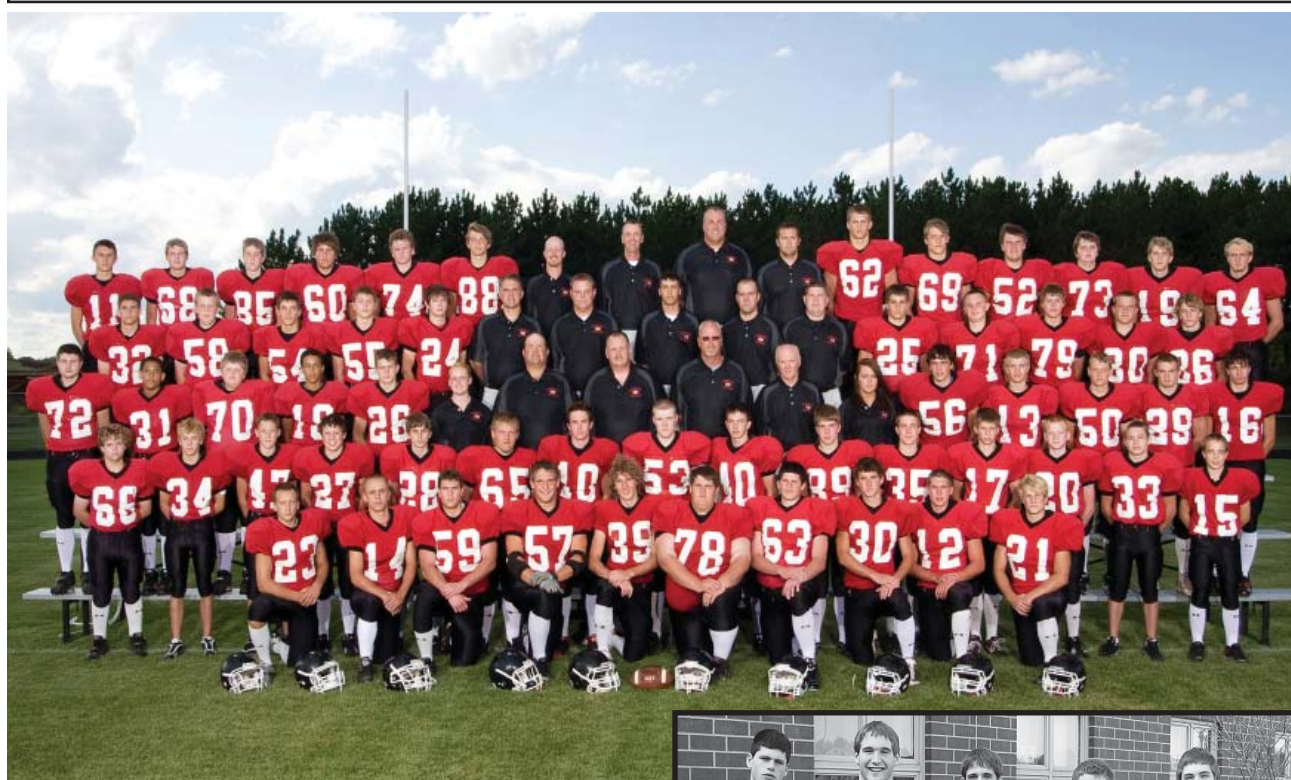
NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

GIRLS' BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE

Ashley Martell is a tremendous leader and player for the Somerset Spartans Girls' Basketball team. Ashley lead our team in scoring 19.06ppg, 1.5 assists, 3.0 rebounds, 2.0 steals per game. Ashley was in the top for scoring in the state of Wisconsin ended the season in the top 25. She has accomplished making All Conference in back to back seasons as a sophomore and this year as a junior and was chosen as MVP by her teammates. Ashley will be one of Somerset's captains for next season.



MIDDLE BORDER CONFERENCE CHAMPS - ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!



The highly state ranked Somerset football team completed another successful season last fall, winning the Middle Border Conference outright, and advanced deep into the playoffs before losing to Northwestern 21-14. Pictured at right are Somerset's all conference selections. *Front row, L - R:* Luke Buerkley, Rocky Larson, Ben Germain, Isaac Neumann, and Jeremy Kelly. *Back row, L-R:* Jordan Hansen, Rob Wendt, Parker LeMire, Eric Walczak, and Ben Kieckhoefer.





NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

By Randy Rosburg, District Administrator

District Goals Update

The Somerset School District has a five-year Strategic Plan, 2006-2011. This plan provides the district with our focus. Within each year of the plan we set annual district-wide goals. The accomplishment of our annual goals leads us to successful completion of our five-year Strategic Plan. The 2009-2010 district-wide goals were evaluated in April by teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education. Added to the goal document in April was the End of the Year Progress update for each action step listed on the goal documents. These goals are available for your review on the district web site at: www.somerset.k12.wi.us.

As we finalize the 2009-2010 goals, we begin the goal process for the 2010-2011 school year. The 2010-2011 goals were crafted in April by the Board of Education and administrative team. In May of each year our administrators and teachers finalize our goals by completing the action plan portion of the goal document. During the coming school year district employees implement the action plans in each of our schools. Come April of each year, the whole process cycles and continues on for the next school year.

Our district-wide goals move from the board room to the classroom. The aligned and common goal process has a focus on improving student achievement. The specific focus of our three goals was on teaching and learning, character education, and community involvement. The 2010-2011 district wide goals will be on our web site in June, 2010.

Facility Planning – Standalone Building

A building is being built on the Somerset Campus to provide district office, junior kindergarten, early childhood, virtual education, and alternative education classroom spaces. Moving these offices and program spaces out of the schools will free up space in the high school and elementary school for additional classrooms. The new building provides a short-term solution to our space needs. Future enrollment numbers will determine future space needs.

The building is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2010-2011 school year. The building will be paid for out of district funds, therefore, there is no need for a referendum or an increase in local taxes to cover the cost of this building. The building is 11,000 square feet in size and will cost approximately \$1.3 million. This building will be located between the high school and the elementary school and just south of the varsity soccer field. The new building project acts as a Somerset stimulus package, as it has created numerous jobs for Somerset residents.

RETIRING ADMINISTRATOR - RICK LANGE

When you look for a picture of a Spartan Mascot in the dictionary, an encyclopedia, or on the internet you will more than likely see a picture of our recently retired middle school principal, Rick Lange. He exemplifies what it means to be a Somerset Spartan. Rick is a quality guy, a great educational leader, and a supporter of anything Spartan; he will be missed by everyone.

Rick came to the Somerset community with a dictionary under one arm, a pocket protector, an abacus, and ball cap on his head. When he first arrived he was asked to help build the old Somerset School on Spring Street. Once the school was built, he was asked to go out and gather some beans for his teaching assignment (Rick was a math teacher). As the years went by, Rick continued to enlighten students with his mathematical wizardry.

In addition to being a wizard at teaching others, Rick was an amazing athlete. The key word is was, as he soon turned to coaching. He coached every sport during his stay in Somerset. To this day, he credits the successes of our current programs to the strong foundation he created many years ago. After accomplishing all that he could do in the classroom and on the athletic field, Rick took on another challenge--he became a school administrator, a principal. Some thought it was a mistake, others knew it was a mistake, and few thought it might just work. And it did; Rick was an outstanding principal. He never stopped teaching or coaching. His leadership worked, people followed him, and he accomplished great things for the students and community of Somerset. Rick will never be forgotten and is always welcome as the Spartan Mascot or himself on the Somerset campus. Thank you my friend, for your passion, wisdom, wit, and historical perspective.





RETIRING ADMINISTRATOR - RON BERG

Ron Berg is retiring from the Somerset School District on June 30th after many successful years as a teacher and director of curriculum and instruction. His career in Somerset started as our high school music director. He is a talented vocalist and pianist in his own right. He caused our high school music numbers to increase four-fold. After a few years as the director of music, he had the opportunity to take on a different director's role in Somerset.

Ron created our director of curriculum and instruction position. He has lead many positive professional development opportunities for our teachers and administrator. His has had a very positive impact on curriculum alignment, instruction, and assessment in our district and region. Ron has set us up well for 21st century programming and learning. Ron was also instrumental in establishing the school district's mentor/mentee program. The program pairs new teachers in the district to job shadow with teachers who have been with the district for several years. This program has been very successful and is now modeled by other districts throughout Western Wisconsin. Ron will be missed, and we wish him well in his retirement.

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM the HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Free Immunization Clinic

The Somerset School District -Health Services along with the St. Croix County Public Health Department will be offering a FREE school-based immunization clinic for students in 5th, 8th and 11th grade to receive the two vaccines that are required for them to start the 2010-2011 school year. Tdap(tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) and a 2nd dose of Varicella (chicken pox). 11th grade students can also receive the Menactra (meningitis) vaccine. This vaccine is optional.

Immunization information, questionnaire and consent forms were mailed out mid April and need to be returned to the health office by May 3, 2010. The clinic is scheduled for Wednesday May 12, 2010. ***No child will be immunized without a signed consent form.***

If you have any questions contact: Dawn Spafford at the middle school-247-4848 ext: 330, or Patty Schachtner at the high school-247-3355 ext: 230.



Help Somerset Schools While Shopping

The Somerset School District Health Service Department has the opportunity to earn FREE funding for the district "Health and Wellness" programs/equipment in each school through a program called S.O.S (Support Our Schools). Sponsored by Nash Finch Company.

By collecting cash register receipts from the following NashFinch stores, Econo Foods in Somerset, and Family Fresh in New Richmond and Hudson, the Health and Wellness program can earn \$1,000 for every \$150,000 receipts turned in.

We have been collecting receipts at each of the buildings since December 2009 and are at the \$45,000 level on our way to the \$150,000. We ask that you continue to save those receipts for us through the summer break and into the next school year. You can turn them in at any of the offices throughout the vacation period.

Thank you,
District Health Services



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT NEWS

From Ron Berg, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Strategic Plan

The Somerset district will enter into the last year of the current 2006-2011 Strategic Plan with the coming fall. A brief assessment as to how the plan has progressed to date is in order.

First, the plan is organized around four areas of concentration; (1) Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (2) Character Education (3) Career Education, and (4) Community Involvement. To meet the nine objectives under these four broad topics, 44 action steps have been in progress since the implementation of the plan in 2006.

By the actions of the 119 teachers and building administrators, over 90% of the 44 action steps have been met or are ongoing practices that teachers and students have infused into daily school life. Such actions as infusing Smartboard technology into classrooms, interacting with students in other nations via the internet, implementing groups of learners by their learning style or knowledge level, establishing thematic units whereby students utilized many subjects simultaneously, infusing character education into every student's life, implementing a clear career component into middle and high school lessons and through global and community activities like the Empty Bowls project, are all products of objectives laid out in the current Strategic Plan.

One significant element of the plan yet underway involves exposing all students to global or world languages. Rather than focus on one specific language for reading, writing and conversation fluency, the district is taking an approach that will expose students to a variety of world languages and the cultures of those languages. This approach, through a program titled Rosetta Stone, is in the beginning stage of being piloted by select teachers, with the possibility of being used by a large number of staff members.

As the current Strategic Plan comes to a close, the next iteration of the Somerset vision plan will come into being. Watch for information in next fall's district newsletter for this next step in the future of education in our community.

Testing

Standardized tests come in two 'flavors' in the Somerset district – state mandated exams and district-selected assessments.

The former, titled Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations, or WKCE, for short, are administered to students in the fall of each new school year. These tests are given to all students in only the 4th, 8th and 10th grades, in the five core subjects of reading, math, language arts, science and social studies. Students are measured against a 'bar' set by the state and deemed 'minimal', 'basic', 'proficient' or 'advanced' based on how they achieved against the 'bar.'

Those results from last November's WKCE exams have just been released and are being analyzed for publication by the district. The public release of state test data has been set for May. A district Assessment Report is available each July from the office of the curriculum director, or by calling 247-4400, ext. 515.

By contrast, MAP – or Measures of Academic Progress – are district-purchased tests that 'branch' to allow each student to demonstrate the level of knowledge that each one has individually. Given three times per year to 3rd through 10th graders, twice to high school juniors and once to seniors in four subjects, MAP tests are taken on computers, produce an immediate score for student and teacher use, and pinpoint specific strands of knowledge deficiencies. MAP tests are increasingly being used by all district teachers to 'take students' temperatures' frequently in terms of learning and apply remediation as warranted.

The district is currently in the midst of the third, or spring, test 'window' which will conclude in mid-May. MAP results are either sent home to parents or discussed with them through their student during spring and fall parent-teacher conferences.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT'S BUSINESS OFFICE

From Robert Avery, Director of Business Services & Operations



Budget

Presently, the district is in the process of preparing the 2010-2011 budget for the school board to review in May and adopt in June. At its simplest level, the budget has two elements: revenues (money coming in) and expenditures (money going out). It's a lot more complex than that, obviously, but we need to make sure that those two sides of the equation are balanced.

The challenge is that we don't know what our revenues will be. Ninety-five percent of the revenues for our operating budget come from state aids and property taxes. The total of those are set by the State through the revenue limit law and is based, in part, on how many students are going to be attending school on September 17th. Looking back at enrollment patterns, we can estimate this number, but we really won't know for sure until the fall. At this point, revenues for next year are projected to be just over \$18 million.

On the other side of the equation, expenditures, we have more data. For example, about 75% of our budget goes to personnel costs and we have negotiated settlements (one pending ratification) with the two organized employee groups in place for next year. We have identified non-personnel costs – for everything from paper and pencils, to computer equipment, to custodial services and our bus contract. In total, the estimated expenditures for 2010-2011 is about \$18.2 million.

Two big pieces of this budget are two initiatives to improve student learning. The first is funding for a new building on campus which will be the new home for Junior Kindergarten, Early Childhood, the Virtual Ed and Alternative Ed programs, as well as the district's administrative offices. This will free up space at the elementary school and at the high school so that we may decrease class sizes. This project is being completed without asking for additional tax revenues from the community. It will be paid for within the dollars that the district already receives.

The other initiative is a staffing plan that will increase the number of teachers by more than 5½ to lower teacher-pupil ratios. We will be adding staff in core academic areas at the high school and we are increasing the number of teachers for JK and Kindergarten. These will lead to smaller class sizes and allow teachers to provide more time and attention to all students. In addition, there will be more teaching time for music and physical education. We are also examining adding increasing art instruction as well.

There will be updated information on the budget in the next district newsletter in August.



Transportation

We are excited to be continuing our transportation contract with Safe-Way Bus Company. Earlier this year the school board approved a new contract with Safe-Way. We will be working with Safe-Way on routing over the summer. Look for information over the summer if you qualify for bus routes. Bus routes will be set in early August, so if you have special transportation needs (such as day care), please contact Mary W at the district office during the summer (715.247.3313, ext. 506).

Food Service

This summer, the school board will review food service operations and meal prices. Meal prices, whether they change or not, will be listed in the August newsletter.

There are a lot of great things happening in Somerset Schools. We hope you are as excited about the District as we are! Have a great summer!

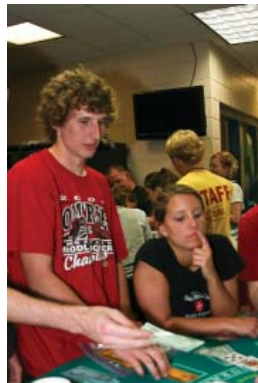
JUNIOR PROM 2010

The Somerset High School Multi-Purpose Room was transformed into Central Park, New York on April 24th as many students attended the Somerset Junior Prom. The weather may have been a bit chilly outside, but in Central Park the weather was beautiful and prom goers were colorful.

Congratulations to the Prom Court and King Austin Radinzel and Queen Rachel Verdeja!



*King Radinzel and
Queen Verdeja*





GOLDEN CLUB FREE!
Attention Senior Citizens!

Be our guest at home athletic events!
(Non-tournament games only)
Contact Mr. Brad Nemec or Ms. Meletta
Cran at 715-247-3355
for more information.

SPARTAN SPRING SPORTS EVENTS

BASEBALL VARSITY

04/08/2010	Durand	H	5:00 PM
04/10/2010	Plum City	A	10:00 AM
04/13/2010	Osceola	A	5:00 PM
04/16/2010	Prescott	H	5:00 PM
04/20/2010	Ellsworth	A	5:00 PM
04/23/2010	New Richmond	H	5:00 PM
04/26/2010	Amery	A	5:00 PM
04/27/2010	St. Croix Ctrl	H	5:00 PM
04/29/2010	BaldwinWoodville	A	5:00 PM
04/30/2010	Monona Grove	A	5:30 PM
05/03/2010	Durand	A	5:00 PM
05/04/2010	Osceola	H	5:00 PM
05/07/2010	Prescott	A	5:00 PM
05/08/2010	Grantsburg	A	10:00 AM
05/11/2010	Ellsworth	H	5:00 PM
05/14/2010	New Richmond	A	5:00 PM
05/15/2010	Glenwood City	A	10:00 AM
05/17/2010	Amery	H	5:00 PM
05/18/2010	St. Croix Falls	A	5:00 PM
05/20/2010	BaldwinWoodville	H	5:00 PM
05/21/2010	Unity	H	5:00 PM
05/24/2010	Spooner	H	5:00 PM

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER

04/01/2010	New Richmond	H	4:30 PM
04/08/2010	Osceola	A	4:30 PM
04/15/2010	Hayward	H	4:30 PM
04/16/2010	BaldwinWoodville	A	4:30 PM
04/17/2010	River Falls	A	10:00 AM
04/20/2010	Amery	H	4:30 PM
04/27/2010	Superior	A	4:30 PM
04/29/2010	Barron	H	4:30 PM
04/30/2010	Osceola	H	4:30 PM
05/06/2010	Spooner	A	4:30 PM
05/07/2010	New Richmond	A	4:30 PM
05/11/2010	Hayward	A	4:30 PM
05/13/2010	BaldwinWoodville	H	4:30 PM
05/14/2010	Eau Claire North	A	5:00 PM
05/18/2010	Amery	A	4:30 PM
05/20/2010	Superior	H	4:30 PM
05/22/2010	Amery, Ashland	H	9:30 AM
05/25/2010	Spooner	H	4:30 PM
05/27/2010	Barron	A	4:30 PM

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BOYS' VARSITY GOLF

04/08/2010	Mondovi	A	4:00 PM
04/15/2010	BaldwinWoodville	A	4:00 PM
04/16/2010	BaldwinWoodville	A	4:30 PM
04/20/2010	Amery, New Richmond	H	4:30 PM
04/23/2010	Amery, New Richmond	A	4:30 PM
04/28/2010	TBA	H	8:30 AM
05/03/2010	Amery, New Richmond	A	4:30 PM
05/11/2010	TBA	H	4:00 PM
05/12/2010	Siren	A	8:30 AM
05/14/2010	Amery, New Richmond	A	4:30 PM
05/17/2010	Glenwood City	A	4:30 PM
05/18/2010	Amery,BaldwinWoodville	A	8:30 AM
05/20/2010	TBA	H	2:00 PM
05/25/2010	Mondovi	A	8:30 AM
06/01/2010	TBA	H	8:30 AM
06/07/2010	WIAA Tournament	Madison	TBD
06/08/2010	WIAA Tournament	Madison	TBD

VARSITY SOFTBALL

04/06/2010	Boyceville	A	5:00 PM
04/08/2010	Durand	H	5:00 PM
04/13/2010	Osceola	A	5:00 PM
04/15/2010	Prescott	H	5:00 PM
04/16/2010	St. Croix Falls	A	5:00 PM
04/19/2010	Ellsworth	A	5:00 PM
04/22/2010	New Richmond	H	5:00 PM
04/26/2010	Amery	A	5:00 PM
04/27/2010	BaldwinWoodville	A	5:00 PM
04/29/2010	Durand	A	5:00 PM
05/01/2010	BaldwinWoodville	A	TBD
05/03/2010	Osceola	H	5:00 PM
05/04/2010	Prescott	A	5:00 PM
05/06/2010	Ellsworth	H	5:00 PM
05/10/2010	New Richmond	A	4:30 PM
05/13/2010	Amery	H	5:00 PM
05/15/2010	Siren	A	TBD
05/17/2010	BaldwinWoodville	H	5:00 PM

VARSITY TRACK

03/20/2010	Menomonie	UW-Stout	9:00 AM
03/27/2010	River Falls	UW-Riv Falls	10:00 AM
03/30/2010	New Richmond	UW-Riv Falls	4:00 PM
04/08/2010	St. Croix Cental	A	4:15 PM
04/13/2010	Osceola	A	4:15 PM
04/16/2010	Hudson	A	4:00 PM
04/20/2010	Osceola	A	4:15 PM
04/22/2010	Park Cottage Grove	A	TBD
04/30/2010	Boyceville, St. Croix Ctrl	H	4:00 PM
05/04/2010	Amery	A	4:00 PM
05/07/2010	New Richmond	A	3:30 PM
05/11/2010	Colfax	A	4:00 PM
05/18/2010	Amery, Baldwin Woodville	A	4:00 PM
05/24/2010	WIAA Tournament	H	3:30 PM