

# White<sup>and</sup>Blue Review

FALL 2012 🐾 Education... That's the Point



## Dear Family and Friends of the Mineral Point School District,

Next to the quest for peace, our nation's most important goal is the development of a high-quality educational enterprise that will prepare all youngsters for life in a fast-changing and complex world.



With this thought in mind, the philosophy and the attitude of district officials become rather important. I was reminded of this during a recent visit to a thriving business establishment.

While waiting in line, I noticed an interesting philosophy posted on a wall. It was especially stimulating because the employees obviously subscribed to the message. I believe the philosophy is as appropriate to schools as it is to businesses, and I have chosen to substitute the word student for customer and school for business.

*A student is the most important person in any school.*

*A student is not an interruption of our work — he or she is the purpose of it.*

*A student is not just a statistic. He or she is a flesh-and-blood human being with feelings and emotions like ourselves.*

*A student is one who comes to us with needs and/or wants. It is our job to fill them.*

*A student is deserving of the most courteous and attentive treatment that we can provide.*

*A student is the lifeblood of this and every other school. Without him or her, we would have to close our doors.*

The focus of the future should be on service and excellence. We are pleased, as employees of the Mineral Point School District, to have the opportunity to serve and work with your children. The importance of teaching and learning

cannot be overstated. It is our privilege and our challenge as educators to strive continually to provide quality education in our classrooms. 🐾

Kindest Regards,

Luke Francois

Luke.Francois@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0740

*It is truly an honor to be Mineral Point's superintendent.*

### Phone Number Changes

In an effort to update our technology, the district has switched our phone system in an effort to be more efficient. Please note the new telephone numbers for the school district.

**District** 608.987.0740

**Middle School** 608.987.0720

**High School** 608.987.0730

**Elementary** 608.987.0710

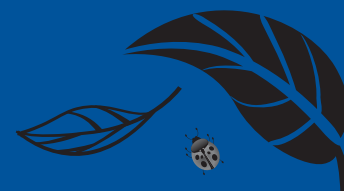
### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 ..... Message from Mitch Wainwright, From the Desk of Anne Palzkill and From the Pupil Services Desk
- 3 ..... Stadium Move to High School, Welcome New MP Staff, Technology Update
- 4 ..... Super Snacks for Super Kids, Nationally Known Speaker Visits MP Schools, Recipe For Success
- 5 ..... Buildings and Grounds Update, WIAA State Track and Field, HS Band Students Selected
- 6 ..... MP Summer Ag and FFA Program
- 7 ..... Staffing Changes, Events Calendar
- 11 ..... Coffee With Community Dates

**District Mission:** Our mission is to offer a high quality education that empowers all students with the knowledge and skills to become responsible citizens.

#### District Value Statements:

- Educational partnerships involving community members, families, students, and staff.
- Student achievement, personal growth, and lifelong learning.
- A safe, supportive, and accepting environment in which to learn.



# Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point Middle/High School

What a difference a year makes. It does not seem like we should be starting another school year but there is no stopping it now. After working through one school year we are making some changes to meet the needs of our students and the needs of the state. One of those areas deals with attendance. The State will be grading schools in several areas from test scores to attendance at school and everything in between. It is important that students attend school every day. As a result of the increased emphasis on student attendance Mineral Point High School will be putting together a committee to study our own attendance patterns. Staff and administration will be working together to gather information and look for patterns and causes that may help improve student attendance. If our students are in school, they can be better prepared for the future.

Another change will happen to our daily schedule. Students will be attending school for an additional five minutes dismissing at 3:14 p.m. on most days. With this change the school is adding an RtI (Response to Intervention) block of time. The period is a 28 minute block where students and teachers have access to each other. If students need extra help, a topic re-taught or a teacher needs to speak with a struggling student they have this time available to connect during the school day. This time will also be used for student enrichment activities. Staff can work with students to provide an opportunity to expand on strengths and talents. We want to provide every opportunity for our students to be successful.

Mineral Point Schools, a great place to be! 🐾

Mitch.Wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us  
987.0730

# From the desk of Anne Palzkill

Mineral Point Elementary Principal & Director of Pupil Services

The New Reading Series: After researching highly effective reading series, the staff decided that Houghton Mifflin’s “Journeys” would replace its 19-year-old predecessor. The boxes arrived this summer with much excitement. The new books were distributed, teachers participated in summer training, and summer curriculum work time was completed to roll-out our new reading series. Journeys’ blends instruction using whole group, guided reading, differentiation, and intervention. The series also includes a spelling and writing component. We are looking forward to our elementary building working together using a reading series that has aligned reading and language arts skills.

Daily ACCESS time: This year we have scheduled ACCESS time into each day. Grades K-5 will have a minimum of 30 minutes blocked to target specific student skills. The new STAR screener and our current assessments will help us to discern which strengths and weaknesses students need to work on in order to improve their overall success. PreK-12 ACCESS is our district’s daily Response to Intervention time. Mr. Wainwright, our MS/HS principal, said it well, “what a difference a year makes.”

Working hard to help all MP students achieve! 🐾

Anne Palzkill | Anne.Palzkill@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.0710

# From the Pupil Services Desk

This year students in kindergarten through grade 10 will be taking a STAR assessment. The STAR assessment is a computer-adaptive reading and math test. STAR will replace the annual MAPS assessment previously used in our district. The STAR screener has three components including: early literacy, reading, and math. Each of these components is aligned with the national Common Core Curriculum Standards which the state of Wisconsin has adopted.

STAR is a computer adaptive test that continually adjusts the difficulty of a child’s test by choosing each test question based on the child’s previous response. If a child answers a question correctly, the next question is more difficult. If incorrect, the difficulty is decreased. These are efficient screening tests and take about 15 minutes to administer. STAR assessment results will be used within our district to determine students’ math and reading achievement levels. These levels will help our teachers to determine appropriate instruction and to monitor student progress over time. We are looking forward to our first STAR screening in September and using the results to help all Mineral Point students achieve! 🐾

Claire Knoll | School Psychologist

Anne Palzkill | Elementary Principal/Pupil Services Director

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Luke Francois   District Administrator .....	987.0740
Mitch Wainwright   MS/HS Principal.....	987.0730
Vickie Dahl   Middle School Administrative Support .....	987.0720
Anne Palzkill   Elem. Principal/ Director of Special Education/Pupil Services .....	987.0710
Todd Schmitz   Student Transportation.....	987.3911
Andy Palzkill   7-12 Guidance Counselor .....	987.0733
Carla Rand   PK-6 Guidance Counselor .....	987.0710

## Approval to Fundraise for Stadium Move to High School

When the high school was built, a plan for a stadium adjacent was abandoned due to lack of funds. Fifteen years later, little to no efforts have been made to enhance the existing elementary stadium location nor move the location adjacent to the high school. A committee worked with the Rettler Corporation, a company that specializes in field renovations, to bring forward proposals to inform the board of possible options for future stadium enhancements at both locations. After reviewing proposals for upgrades at the elementary and high school sites, the board approved a fundraising effort to move the football stadium to the high school through the use of private donations. 🐾



## Technology Update

Dependable Solutions serves K-12 school districts and other businesses with technology solutions. As consultants their staff members help solve many of the common problems that plague school organizations. This summer the Dependable Solutions staff completed the following projects at Mineral Point Schools:

1. Upgraded the Internet Line – Worked with Wiscnet to upgrade internet to 100mb
2. Upgraded School WAN Connection Line – Worked with Charter Communications to reconfigure 800mb connection between the elementary school and the high school.
3. Migrated from Groupwise to Exchange – Upgraded Mineral Point Schools to a much better mail system that will give staff more functionality and work better
4. Migrated Novell to Windows – Upgraded all servers to Windows, reconfigured the entire network, worked on more than 400+ machines with upgrading, updating and reconfiguring
5. Helped phone vendor with switch upgrades
6. Helped phone vendor with the phone system upgrade
7. Coordinated and moved Skyward to offsite Hosting
8. Reconfigured the Lightspeed server to function correctly when filtering internet.
9. Upgraded Virtual Machine Servers (Memory)
10. Installed SAN(Disk Space) for higher redundancy

Together these large projects create a complete overhaul of Mineral Point School's technology so that it will function better for staff and students. Doing so provides tools to prepare our students for whatever their future may bring. With these changes in place, Mineral Point Schools has surpassed many schools in the area in technology. 🐾

## Welcome New MP Staff!



Front row from left to right: Dianna Rogers, High School Spanish; Therese Dalton, High School Special Education; Claire Knoll, School Psychologist.

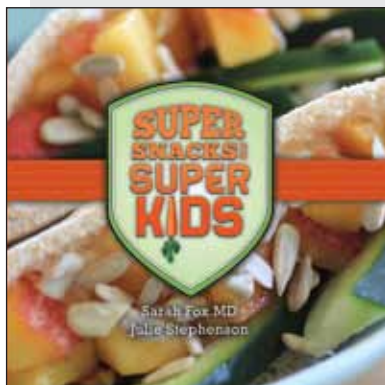
Back row from left to right: Diane Reichling, Assistant to the Bookkeeper; Matt Austin, High School Physics and Chemistry; Patti Wanta, HS/MS Interpreter; Julie Pompos, School Nurse; Carmen Demlow, Elementary Interpreter; Lynn Ross, Third Grade; Cindy Nothem, High School Mathematics.



## "Super Snacks for Super Kids" Supports MP Wellness Programs

By Julie Stephenson

"Super Snacks for Super Kids" is a cookbook filled with over sixty healthy snack recipes designed to give kids the nutrients they need to be their super selves all day long. The book was



written by 2 moms from Mineral Point: Sarah Fox, who is a family doctor, and Julie Stephenson, who is a nutrition educator and photographer. In addition to the recipes, the book has tips for healthy cooking

and shopping, along with lovely, full-color photographs of each recipe and of local schoolchildren enjoying the food.

This book is a resource for parents who are looking for healthy recipes that their kids will love. We try to instill in our own children healthy eating habits and a healthy relationship with food. We know that most parents want the same things for their children, but often are too busy or are overwhelmed by conflicting messages about which foods are healthy. We hope that *Super Snacks for Super Kids* will inspire families to spend time together preparing food. Kids love to help in the kitchen, and they are more likely to try new foods if they've helped in the preparation.

This project was started with the goal of raising money for the Mineral Point School District. We were very fortunate to have the cost of printing and publishing *Super Snacks for Super Kids* fully funded by donations through a kickstarter proposal, so we are able to donate 100% of the purchase price of each book to our local school district to fund wellness projects like a school garden, farm to school connections and family cooking classes.

The book can be purchased starting in October at area retail stores and will also be available for order at [www.superkidsbook.com](http://www.superkidsbook.com). 🐾

## Nationally Known Speaker Visits MP Schools

Mineral Point School District hosted a nationally known speaker, Anthony Muhammad. The Iowa Grant school district joined Mineral Point in his presentation on Professional Learning Communities.



Anthony Muhammad is one of the most sought after educational consultants in North America. As a practitioner of nearly twenty years, Dr. Muhammad has served as a middle school teacher, assistant principal, middle school principal, and high school principal. Dr. Muhammad's tenure as a practitioner has earned him several awards as both a teacher and a principal. His most notable accomplishment came as principal at Levey Middle School in Southfield, Michigan, a National School of Excellence, where student proficiency on state assessments was more than doubled in five years and he was named the Michigan Middle School Principal of the Year in 2005. Dr. Muhammad and the staff at Levey used the Professional Learning Communities at Work (PLC) model of school improvement, and they have been recognized in several videos and articles as a model, high-performing PLC. As a researcher, he has published articles in several publications in both the United States and Canada. Dr. Muhammad is the author of the book *Transforming School Culture: How to End Staff Division* (2009) and a contributing author to the book *The Collaborative Administrator: Working Together as a Professional Learning Community* (2008). 🐾

## Recipe for Success By Luke Francois

Mineral Point Elementary student Finwe Wiedenhoeft's recipe of barbecue Cheddar chickpea burger was selected as one of 54 winners out of 1,200 entries in the "Healthy Lunchtime Challenge."



As a winner, Finwe and her mother joined first lady Michelle Obama at the White House's first ever "kids state dinner." The event was part of Mrs. Obama's "Let's Move" campaign to combat childhood obesity.

Healthy lunches are a focus of Mineral Point School's as well. Recently federal

guidelines changed that forced lunches to become more healthy than in year's prior. Mineral Point was already positioned to meet and exceed the new federal regulations as a result of food service staff preparation prior to school's start. Food service has rolled out a new 20 day cycled menu with expanded options for healthy lunches. Lunches this year will see increased fruits and vegetables and reduced grains. The lunch menu can be found at: <http://www.mp.k12.wi.us/family/menus.cfm> 🐾

# Buildings & Grounds Update

Summer is a very busy time for our buildings and grounds crew. Custodians have less than three months to conclude a variety of different maintenance requests in time for the school's first opening day. Types of maintenance include:

1. **Normal and routine maintenance** which includes infrastructure and preventative maintenance that is performed by the District's Maintenance, Grounds and Custodial Staff.
2. **Non-Major Improvements/Remodeling** which includes Educational Maintenance that is funded as a part of the district operational budget or individual school budgets. Usually performed by District Maintenance staff or outside contractors.
3. **Capital Maintenance** which includes projects related to the replacement of the major building components such as roofs, parking lots, carpet, etc.
4. **Deferred Maintenance** projects are Capital Maintenance projects that have been delayed due to funding inadequacies.
5. **Cleaning Maintenance** is an activity performed by the Custodial Staff related to keeping the building clean and sanitary.

Capital maintenance projects are prioritized taking into account factors such as: age and condition of system/component, safety, criticalness of system/component, State/Federal requirements (such as ADA), necessity to accommodate program or enrollment, potential energy savings or operational cost avoidance, and available funding.

This summer Mineral Point Schools completed deferred maintenance on three sections of the elementary roof, replaced and upgraded the keyless entry system at the middle and high school, and made improvements in energy efficiency by installing variable speed devices in heating and ventilating equipment and light sensors in three high use lighting locations.

In non-major improvements, the District removed and replaced two classrooms that contained asbestos floor tile and replaced one classroom set of desks. With regular capital maintenance, the parking lot at the middle and high school was resealed and shredded rubber and edging was added to the playground structure at the elementary.

All of this was accomplished in addition to the regular cleaning and maintenance schedule. Roger Palzkill coordinated a rigorous summer of maintenance allowing for schools to open on time and in a safe manner. **Thank you** to Roger and staff for their time and efforts this summer. 🐾

## WIAA State Track and Field

By Vickie Dahl

On Friday June 1st and 2nd, the WIAA State Track and Field meet was held in LaCrosse. Mineral Point High School co-ops with Dodgeville High School. This past season the Dodge-Point boys and girls track teams were very successful. The co-op between the two schools has been very beneficial for both schools.

Mineral Point High School and the Athletic Department would like to congratulate the following athletes who participated in the state meet: **Anna Eisenzimmer** (So.) placed 4th in the 3200, **Hannah Owens** (Fr.) placed 5th in the 3200, **John Schmitz** (Jr.) and **Todd Tibbits** (Sr) were alternates on the 4x100 relay team which placed 2nd, **Alex Trollop** (Sr.) was an alternate on the 4x800 which placed 5th.



In the Division 2 team standings, the Dodge-Point Boys finished 2nd and the Dodge-Point Girls finished 3rd.

Congratulations Dodge-Point Track! 🐾

## HS Band Students Selected for WSMA State Honors Music Project!

By Matt Nevers

This past February, Carson Gilbert (trumpet) and Elizabeth Myers (French horn) nervously went to Middleton HS to audition for the Wisconsin State Music Associations State Honors Band. After waiting three months, Carson found out he was selected for the State Honors Band, and Elizabeth received a "High Alternate" letter meaning she would be one of the first called if a position was needed to be filled. To be chosen as a High Alternate for such a prestigious group is a huge compliment. Unfortunately, no french horn spots opened so Elizabeth was unable to perform, but we are still proud of her accomplishment!

As for Carson, this past June he travelled to UW-Green Bay for a 3-½ day camp where he got to meet everyone else in the band and spend the time rehearsing the music. On October 24th, he heads to Madison for final rehearsals and then a performance with the WSMA State Honors Band at the Overture Center on Thursday, October 25 at 4:30 p.m. as part of the Wisconsin State Music Conference.

The WSMA State Honors Music Project is nationally recognized as one of the finest opportunities for young people. Students get the opportunity to perform with all the top performers in the state as well as national and internationally known composers and conductors. If you see Carson or Elizabeth, give them a high five on a job well done! 🐾



# MP Summer Agricultural and FFA Program *By Mike Robinson*

The FFA is busy year-round including the summer months. We start off our summer with the State FFA Convention and finish with the County Fair. Between these events we are doing leadership training, community service and Supervised Agricultural Experience visits (SAE visits). The members are also busy putting the final touches on their state and county fair projects. I would like to highlight some of the events from throughout the summer.

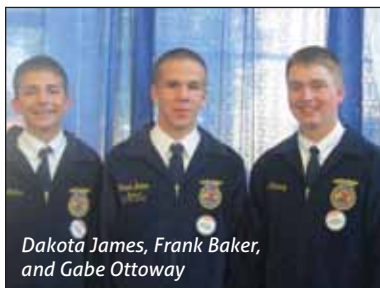
**83rd Wisconsin State FFA Convention:** Over 3000 FFA members from the state were in attendance, of which Mineral Point FFA had several members in attendance to receive awards, vote on important issues, and take part in leadership activities. Representing Mineral Point as official delegates for the convention were Paula Pittz and Halie Schmitz. Receiving their State FFA degree at the convention were Morgan Pittz, Brianna Berget, Jessica James and Katy Cleary. The State FFA degree is one of the highest honors the State FFA can award.



FFA Members helped clean-up the Iowa County Fairgrounds.



Dakota James, Frank Baker, and Gabe Ottoway



Dakota James, Frank Baker, and Gabe Ottoway

**State Convention Proficiency Awards:** Morgan Pittz placed 9th gold in Swine Production Proficiency. Bailey Berget placed 5th gold in Diversified Agriculture. Mark Kendall received a gold rating and placed 4th in Beef Production Placement. Brianna Berget received a gold rating and placed 5th in the state in Sheep Production. Jessica James received a gold rating and placed 9th in the state in Dairy Production.

**State Convention Speaking Contest Results:** Rachel McCoy was a state qualifier in the Job Interview Contest, but did not make the final round, placing her in the top ten in the state. Morgan Pittz made the finals and placed 3rd in the discussion meet competition. Paula Pittz made the finals and placed 4th in Prepared Speaking contest. Also in attendance were Dakota James, Gabe Ottoway and Frank Baker, Bailey Berget, Kayla Eggers, Alyssa Cody, Reid Suddeth and Savannah Wallace.

Abbie Baker finished her year-long term as the State FFA Vice President at the convention. She represented Mineral Point all across the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin FFA all across the Country. She had an exciting year meeting the President of the United States, the US Secretary of Agriculture and thousands of FFA members. Great job Abbie representing the FFA!

**Wisconsin State Fair:** Mineral Point had another very successful state fair with Brock May winning both the Grand and Reserve Steer overall, Malorie Johnson winning Reserve Grand overall lamb and Steven Blume winning reserve overall market hog.

**Iowa County Fair:** Mineral Point FFA members exhibited a wide variety of talents through the county fair exhibiting livestock, arts, farm displays, wood crafts, crops, gardening, photography and dairy. The youth put on an outstanding show.

Thank you for the continued support of the Mineral Point FFA. We look forward to another outstanding year. 🐾

## Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 28 • MP FFA Alumni Pork Sandwiches at the Homecoming Football Game
- Oct. 14 • MP FFA Donation Auction at the Fairgrounds 10 a.m.
- Oct. 14 • MP FFA Alumni Breakfast 7-11 a.m.
- Oct. 4-25 • MP FFA and Skills USA Fruitsale

Thank You,  
Mineral Point Ag. Dept. and FFA

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## Staffing Changes

The Mineral Point School District recently reduced staffing levels in the areas of music and transportation services.

A staff reduction was made in the music department following the resignation of Kimberly Chapman from her previously held middle school music position. Although the music department has less staff, the district was able to retain core musical offerings by removing study halls and lunch duties from the music teachers' schedules and by moving from fewer individual lessons to more small group lessons.

In addition, students will continue to have the opportunity to participate in the parades, concerts, solo ensembles, band competitions, band trips, choir trips and festivals as in years' past. If you have a music background and want to participate as a volunteer in Mineral Point's music department, please contact Jeffrey David, Luke Tredinnick or Matt Nevers. The administration and school board are committed to sustaining a strong music program and – with your help – we will be closely monitoring the program throughout the year.

The Mineral Point District also made a reduction in transportation services. Prior to this year, bus drivers were employed by one of two groups: the School District or First Student, a company that specializes in providing school transportation to over 6 million students in 1,500 school districts across North America. Through the consolidation of private and public school bus schedules, all Mineral Point school bus drivers are now employed only by First Student. This change found school bus driver's previously employed by the school district retaining their routes, the district reducing transportation costs, and eliminated a duplication of efforts in the areas of supervision, payroll, and management of employee absences.

Mineral Point Schools recognizes that transportation services is a vital part of our team's success. All employees of First Student place student's safety as their highest priority for which the School District is most appreciative of. 🐾

## Events 2012 Calendar

For more events and yearly school calendar info: [www.mp.k12.wi.us](http://www.mp.k12.wi.us)

### SEPTEMBER

- 20 Sixth grade field trip to National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium and Eagle Point Park in Dubuque, Iowa.
- 25 Sixth grade field trip to Iowa County Youth Conservation Field Days, Bloomfield Farm, Dodgeville, WI.
- 27 Homecoming Parade
- 28 Extreme Playground Make-Over
- 28 Seventh and eighth grade field trip to American Players Theatre to see the play "Twelfth Night," Spring Green, WI.
- 28 Homecoming

### OCTOBER

- 2 World Dairy Expo
- 3 Coffee with Community 8:00 a.m. at Gray Dog Deli
- 3 Wrestling Club Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the cafetorium
- 4 FFA Fruit Sale Begins
- 8 Regular School Board Meeting
- 9 UW-Platteville Choral Festival
- 12 Kindergarten to Bures Berry Patch
- 13 Alumni Volleyball Tournament all day – gym
- 14 FFA Donation Auction
- 18 MS/HS Parent-Teacher Conferences from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- 19 No School for students
- 19 MS/HS Parent-Teacher Conferences from 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- 23 MS/HS Fall Choir Festival
- 24 MS/HS Picture Retakes
- 24 – 27 National FFA Convention
- 26 Early Childhood Screening

### NOVEMBER

- 2 End of 1st Quarter – MS/HS
- 9 High School Musical at 7:00 p.m. at the Opera House
- 9 Skills USA Bowling Night
- 10 High School Musical at 7:00 p.m. at the Opera House
- 11 High School Musical at 2:00 p.m. at the Opera House
- 12 Veteran's Day Program
- 12 Regular School Board Meeting
- 14 Coffee with Community 8:00 a.m. at Gray Dog Deli
- 21 District Events – Staff CRT – Early Release
- 22 & 23 NO School – Thanksgiving Break
- 30 District Events – End of 1st Trimester, Elementary

### DECEMBER

- 10 Grades 6-12 Winter Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium
- 10 Regular School Board Meeting
- 12 Coffee with Community 8:00 a.m. at Gray Dog Deli
- 18 Elementary Holiday Concert in the HS gym
- 24 – Jan. 2, 2013 NO School

Mineral Point Unified  
School District  
705 Ross Street  
Mineral Point, WI 53565  
Phone: (608) 987.0740  
Fax: (608) 987.3766

*The White and Blue Review  
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or 608.987.0740.



## Coffee with Community Dates

Coffee with community is an opportunity for community members to meet with the superintendent to discuss questions, concerns, and hopes for the Mineral Point School District. This opportunity will not include board members as it is intended to be an informal opportunity to speak candidly about matters pertaining to the school district.

Please feel free to join me at Gray Dog Deli the following **Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.** for a cup of coffee. I look forward to meeting with you.

<b>October 3</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>April 10</b>
<b>November 14</b>	<b>February 6</b>	<b>May 8</b>
<b>December 12</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>June 12</b>

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