

White and Blue Review

Spring 2015  Education... That's the Point

POINTER PHOTO ROUNDUP



Skylar Martin competed at the sectional spelling bee in Barneveld, representing Mineral Point Middle School. Other MPMS top spellers from the school bee this year included: Gage Garcia, Ian Keyes, Grant Lee, Nick DuBois, Laney Finkelmeyer, Flo Torres, Morgan Vondra, Simone Fitzsimons, Miranda Oellerich, Karen Wilbanks, and Katie Wilson.



The Mineral Point Kiwanis Club held its second annual Pi Day at the middle and high school. Homemade pies were served and there was a pi memorization contest. Skylar Horn set a new school record by reciting 203 digits of pi. Mitchell Schaaf was the middle school winner. All proceeds of the pies will benefit the Kiwanis scholarship fund. Lucille May was the pie queen, making nine pies. Skylar enjoyed explaining his method to lifelong learner Don Hawkins and a former math teacher, superintendent and Kiwanis president Luke Francois.



The 4/5 grade chorus had a blast presenting its annual musical to family and friends in early April. "Harmony High" told the story of a few high school students on their first day at a new school. Congrats to all on a successful performance!



Check out our future chefs! School nurse Julie Pompos started the Mineral Point Kitchen Project, which will meet every Wednesday after school for the months of February-April.



The Pre K classes visited the Mineral Point Fire Department to learn about fire safety and prevention procedures and were amazed with equipment presentations.



Hall of Fame wrestling coach Al Bauman presents Ross Siegenthaler with his runner-up state medal at the Kohl Center.



The birthday of Dr. Seuss is celebrated in March and elementary students were treated to a reading by the Cat in the Hat.



4th graders hosted Family Heritage Night in early April. The evening started with a potluck with ethnic dishes and included presentations and skits about the history of immigration, cultural songs, and the night was highlighted with a polka.



Staff members at both buildings can be seen wearing READ t-shirts in a rainbow of assorted colors. It is hoped the shirts serve to students as a reminder of the importance of literacy.

Superintendent's Corner

Luke Francois, Mineral Point District Administrator

I would like to share a story about a young boy. This boy's father and mother were separated at a very young age. Alcoholism played a role in the father's departure and the boy and his baby sister were raised by a babysitter while his single mother worked a full time job to pay the bills and put food on the table. The food on the table varied between a single box of store bought chicken pot pie or a TV dinner. The only learning that took place in the house prior to kindergarten was what was available through the PBS channel and mostly Sesame Street. Clothes were rotated to get through the week so as to not wear the same thing twice. The father didn't pay child support. On days with paternal custody the boy on the front porch often found himself waiting very patiently for a dad that was not coming. This young boy was born into a broken home and raised in poverty, and this is my story.



Too often this story does not end well for children born in poverty as "those poor for half their childhoods are nearly 90 percent more likely to enter their 20s without completing high school and are four times more likely to have a teen premarital birth. Dropping out of high school and having a child as an unmarried teen are indicators of future hardship. . . . Those without high school diplomas by age 20 are 50 percent more likely to have patchy employment and seven times more likely to be persistently poor as young adults (age 25 to 30) than those who complete high school." (Caroline Ratcliffe and Signe-Mary McKernan)

A good education can change a story line. Teachers with rigorous curriculum and high expectations, regardless of what clothes I wore, inspired me to learn. Coaches, both hard nosed disciplinarians and father-like figures, molded and taught me traits such as character, integrity, and how to set goals. My mother remarried a man that I have always known as "dad" who in turn taught me about discipline and modeled a work ethic that I applied to academics and athletics. Many hands assisted me with growing up and becoming the first person from either side of my parents' family to graduate from college. I was not born with the proverbial golden spoon and everything I achieved was a result of hard work and sacrifice.

Every child, regardless of income level, should have endless opportunities to reach their full potential as well upon stepping through the doors of Mineral Point Schools. If students are willing to work hard to achieve their goals then anything is truly possible. Remembering where I came from, along with my experiences in education, helps me to ensure that our schools "get it right" as quickly as possible. This drive, coupled with my competitive spirit, continuously propels me forward and we are establishing great schools in Mineral Point. 🐾

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Message from Mitch Wainwright

Principal, Mineral Point High School
& District Assessment Coordinator



Opportunities are all around and it is up to us to take advantage of them when we can. Something new that the Mineral Point School District has been working on will hopefully BOOST not only our students but also our community. BOOST stands for Building

Opportunities and Occupations for Students Together. We are part of a five school district consortium in the southwest part of the state agreeing to share courses with each other. Highland, Kickapoo, Mineral Point, Pecatonica and Riverdale have all agreed to offer courses to students in other locations if space allows. A student in Mineral Point may be interested in a course we currently do not offer such as Sociology. If Riverdale offers the course and has room available, our students could take the course without leaving the building. We have equipment called telepresence that would allow them to sit here in our building and take the course as if they were sitting in the room in Riverdale. This consortium also has developed partnerships with Southwest Technical College and UW-Platteville. One example of the new potential for learning will allow high school students interested in nursing to take courses through SWTC here at Mineral Point and earn credit in the college nursing program. The plan is to expand on opportunities such as this to offer programs to community members so they could pick up additional training and possibly advance their careers. Because of our participation in this consortium, we have been awarded grant money to purchase the equipment and train staff members. We look forward to the possibilities.

Each year brings about changes and for several staff members there are new opportunities. Some of the news is good news. One example is that McKenzie Brown will be moving to a new position as a sixth grade regular education teacher. We are excited to have McKenzie in our district and know that she will be able to help even more children grow and develop in the years to come. Other news is not as good. Jeanette Galle is retiring. There have been so many lives that Jeanette has touched during her time in education and so many families that have benefitted from all of her talents. We wish her all the best, and hope that she has many wonderful years of retirement.

Thank you for another great year in Mineral Point Schools. 🐾

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From the Desk of Brad Brogley

Mineral Point Elementary Principal,
Curriculum and Instruction



The school year is moving along and I can't believe how quickly time flies, especially when you are having fun! Our students and teachers in grades 3, 4 and 5 are working hard

on completing the Badger Exam. Even though there were some delays to the start date, once the testing window opened up everything has gone really well. I am very proud of how hard the students are working and the teachers have once again stepped up so our students will be successful.

As we work hard to finish up this school year, I would like to pass along a couple of announcements for the 2015-16 school year. Our students in grades K-5 will be receiving math instruction from a new textbook series entitled, Math Expressions. Our teachers in grades 3-5 piloted Math Expressions during the 2014-15 school year and really liked this resource. Armed with this information, Mineral Point Elementary will be implementing this Math Expressions throughout grades K-5 in 2015-16.

As our teams of teachers continue to review assessment data, it was determined we will utilize the Journeys reading series for all students in grades 4 and 5. In the past, some students in these grade levels were provided instruction using the Read 180 program. With the implementation of WIN (What I Need) time for all students, we plan to support all students by reviewing data from one resource. We will use the PLC (Professional Learning Community) time on Wednesday afternoons (2:00 to 3:30) during the next school year to review this data and create plans to support all students.

In closing I want to again express how thankful I am for the opportunity to be the building principal at Mineral Point Elementary School. My wife recently remarked to me how happy I am every morning when I leave for work. I am so appreciative of being right where I am at Mineral Point Elementary! 🐾

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Our Winter Sports Teams Had a Memorable Season!

BOYS BASKETBALL: The team took the entire community along for the ride to the Kohl Center—winning the SWAL conference title, regional and sectional championships, and advancing to the state tournament for the first time since 1974, bringing home the silver ball.

Tarek Oellerich, Turner Poad, Alec Schmitz, and Sy Staver earned first team SWAL honors with Staver being named the Player of the Year and Dan Bureson Coach of the Year. Joey Gorgen was named to the honorable mention team.

Staver earned all-state recognition as well—first team honors from the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association and honorable mention from the Associated Press.

Oellerich and Staver have been selected to the WBCA senior all-star game to be held June 20 in Wisconsin Dells. Bureson was named president of the WBCA this winter as well. (Staver was also named to participate in the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association senior all-star game July 18 in Oshkosh.)

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Our girls squad took second place in the SWAL behind state champion Cuba City.

Clara Chambers, Jessica Schultz, and Sydney Staver all earned first team SWAL all-conference honors with Destinee Kruser being named honorable mention.

Mitch Wainwright has been selected as an assistant coach for the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association senior all-star game June 19 in Wisconsin Dells.

GYMNASTICS: Lauren May etched her name into the school history books, becoming the first gymnast to compete in the all-around at the state meet in Wisconsin Rapids. She also qualified on balance beam, uneven bars, and floor exercise.

May earned first team SWC all-conference honors with Winndie Darrow being named honorable mention.

WRESTLING: The team shared the SWAL dual meet conference championship with Fennimore and advanced three wrestlers to the state meet at the Kohl Center.

All reached the awards podium with Scott Pittz and Ross Siegenthaler each taking second, and Frank Baker 6th.

Baker, Pittz, Siegenthaler, Nate Cody, Brandon Forseth, and Boone Schmitz were all named to the SWAL first team all-conference with Marcus Shannon and Joey Dolphin earning honorable mention honors. 🐾

FFA Happenings

The Mineral Point FFA has been very busy over the last few months.

The annual banquet March 18 drew nearly 300 members and guests to the cafetorium to celebrate the many accomplishments of the group over the past year. Officers Scott Pittz, president; Elizabeth Moellers, vice president; Hannah Parkinson, secretary; Tommie Loken, treasurer; Morgan Fitzsimmons, reporter; and Steven Blume, sentinel led the evening's events.



FFA Week is always a fun time for the entire student body, whether they are a member of the FFA or not. The week's activities culminate with an afternoon full of fun games in the gym where students can show off their plunger racing and air guitar talents, just to name a few.



Two members qualified for the state speaking competition to be held June 15-18 in Madison. Katie Fitzsimmons will compete in the creed contest and Scott Pittz qualified in extemporaneous. Other sectional speaking contest participants included: McKenna Reichling, Caden Carey, Kyle Vondra, Logan Schmitz, Danny Pittz, Abby Shannon, Cade Steffes, Garrett Wendhausen, Brady Palzkill, Tommie Loken, Elizabeth Moellers.

The Mineral Point FFA has received a \$2,500 donation from Iowa County farmer Matthew Potterton and America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The donation will help the organization cover the cost of putting a concrete floor in its greenhouse. 🐾



FBLA Members Compete

Mineral Point High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members participated in the regional leadership competition at Hillsboro.

This event helps prepare students for successful careers by providing opportunities to apply classroom concepts in a workforce simulated competition. Members compete to demonstrate career competencies, business knowledge, job skills, expand leadership skills, display competitive spirit and receive recognition for achievements.

Mineral Point had three events qualify for the state meet including Matt Baker, who placed 3rd in Business Law; McKenzie Schmitz, who placed 3rd in Business Procedures; and the Marketing team of Trevor Ross, Leon Gehlen, and Heather Bennett, who placed 3rd as well. The state conference was held in La Crosse on April 13-14.

Other competitors at the regional conference included: Tyra Leonard, Alex Delaney, Jena Pilling, Zach Cummings, Sydney Staver, Sierra Evans, Abi Callaway, Jordyn Abbott, Carlie Qualley, Karissa White, Sy Staver, Dylan MacGilvra, and Hunter Paradis. 🐾

Top Scholars Announced

Mineral Point High School formally announced its top scholars for the graduating Class of 2015--Valedictorian Richard Haase and Salutatorian Joshua Berg.



Richard is the son of Richard and Tamara Haase and has two sisters, Mariah and Ariana. He has participated in soccer, mock trial, science club, youth group, and band.

After graduating, he plans on attending Edgewood College and pursuing a major in either Computer Science or General Music.

Joshua is the son of Paul and Sarah Berg and has two siblings, Megan and Matthew. He has participated in Skills USA, band, cross country, soccer, National Honor Society, Ice Wolves hockey, Badger Boys State, and youth group.

After high school, he plans on attending UW-Madison and majoring in Biology. 🐾

Kindergartners Learn About Culture and Diversity

Family culture and diversity is taking center stage in Jill McGuire's kindergarten classroom.

"Your children have the advantage of growing up in an exciting time when acceptance of others and working together to form a world without stereotypes is of utmost importance," said McGuire in a recent letter to parents. "Every family contributes to molding their children into fine, upstanding citizens through their family culture."

Monday, February 16, Leah Houtakker, mother of Lilly, visited to share her family's Polish traditions.

Leah's great-great grandma came to America from Poland.

The students gathered to listen to some short stories that have been passed down through the generations in Lilly's family.

Her mom then had the students taste kluski, or dumplings, made with flour, egg, and seasonings. Leah stated they are a family favorite, often requested for special occasions like birthdays.

Shortly after, Adaliz Ortega's parents, Efrain and Jenny, came to class to share their Mexican heritage.

Students had been coloring pictures based on Spanish words prior to the parents' arrival. They learned about how both of Adaliz's parents came from Mexico and some of her grandparents still live there.

The strong Mexican tradition of having family members of multiple generations live together, or close by, was emphasized.

The students learned Spanish words for some of their favorite objects, many of which were similar to English.

The Ortegas shared gorditas with the students, made with corn flour, beans, cheese, and homemade salsa.

The students, somewhat hesitant to try the new foods, gave both the gorditas and the kluski two thumbs up.

McGuire is hopeful that more families will visit soon to share their traditions as well. 🐾



Dahl Named District 5 Athletic Director of the Year

Mineral Point Athletic Director Vickie Dahl has been named the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association's (WADA) District 5 Athletic Director of the Year.

She is now in the running for State Athletic Director of the Year, which will be announced at a banquet in November.

Dahl is a Certified Athletic Administrator, member of WADA, National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), and Association of Wisconsin School Administrators.

Her service as the WADA District 5 Gender Representative, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Sports Advisory Committee, WADA State Liaison to the NIAAA, and WIAA Scholar/Athlete Committee adds to her distinguished repertoire as well.

She has been athletic director for 26 years and was the head Pointer varsity volleyball coach for 17 seasons.

"I have been fortunate to work for the best school district in southwest Wisconsin and to live and be a part of this wonderful community," said Dahl. "The state tournament appearances we have been a part of over the last 26 years are accomplishments I am very proud of, but there is much more that goes in to our success at MPHS. The opportunity to work with truly great people and seeing our athletes succeed, both on and off the court, is really the highlight of my career." 🐾

Cornwall Exchange Program

The latest installment of the Mineral Point/Redruth, Cornwall exchange program happened mid-March.

Students Nettie Potter, Caitlyn Goodweiler, Caleb Mitchell, Winnie Darrow, Grant Rose, Josh Berg, Natalie Chubb, and Bobby King, along with chaperones Matt Nevers and Kristin Mitchell, ventured across the pond for a two week adventure.

Some favorite sites of the group included the biodomes of the Eden Project, Poldark Mine, man made amphitheatre Gwennap Pit, castle St. Michael's Mount, Minack Theatre, beaches, St. Ives, Land's End, Stonehenge, Tower of London, London Eye, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace.

The students also spent time at the local Redruth School.

Other highlights included the local Lions Club welcoming the group to a pasty dinner and a fish and chips dinner with the Redruth mayor as he unveiled a Mineral Point/Redruth twinning plaque.

Many students commented on how similar the architecture between Mineral Point and Redruth appeared.

By all accounts, everyone had a wonderful time and felt most welcomed by their host families and plan on keeping in touch. Some are even planning return visits and look forward to when the Redruth students visit Mineral Point this fall. 🐾



Agriculture Students Help 3rd Graders Plant Seeds

Mineral Point 3rd graders visited the high school agriculture students to plant native prairie seeds that will germinate and grow and then be transplanted into the oak savanna come spring. As a special treat, a film crew from Wisconsin Public Television was on hand to take footage for their program called Wisconsin Life, which celebrates the people and places of Wisconsin. They will come back again to film later in the spring, and stay tuned for an air date! 🐾



Odyssey of the Mind

Saturday, March 21 at Madison College was a very exciting day for the elementary students involved with Odyssey of the Mind. They have been meeting since January, sharpening their divergent (thinking out of the box) skills.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving competition where teams choose a long term problem, create a solution, and are given eight minutes to set up and present.

They are also given what is called a spontaneous problem that is presented to them with no specific preparation for it. Spontaneous problems often involve building bridges or towers out of odd combinations of materials (marshmallows, straws, toothpicks) that need to hold a weight, or verbal tasks such as naming alternative uses for a coffee filter. They are given the exercise and scoring criteria just a few minutes before attempting the task. Group dynamics, as well as results, are evaluated.

In spite of setbacks, this young team did extremely well. They placed 2nd out of 11 teams in their problem and division. If the first place team opts out of participation at Worlds, these Pointers would be the alternates.

Scoring combines long term, style, and spontaneous problem scores. The Pointer solution scored highest for the long



term problem. The team placed 5th in style and spontaneous portions.

The groups solution to the Silent Movie problem involved a poor scientist inventing a mute-ation virus which he feeds to a monkey on beans.

This years team consisted of Drew Hottenstein (5th grade), Hope Wilson (5th), Abel Logueflower (4th), Derek Hottenstein (3rd), and Ella Wilson (1st).

For a team of this size to succeed, members had to double up on parts and work very well as a team. Valuable ideas and the energy to make them work led to amazing results.



Key Club Happenings

The MPHS Key Club was a huge help at the Kiwanis/Care Center Easter Egg Hunt hiding eggs, doing face painting, and posing for photos with the bunny.

The Key Club also attended the 59th annual District Leadership Conference in Green Bay March 13-15. This year's motto was "Service Beyond Measure is Man's Greatest Treasure" with a Harry Potter theme.

The students engaged in workshops, guest speakers, caucuses, elections, dances, and an awards banquet.

The Key Club is the high school organization sponsored by its parent, the Kiwanis Club. Both center around community service.

Attending were Austin Gough, David Kelm, Mariah Sprain, Tammi Williams, Leon Gehlen, Trevor Ross, Hannah Owens, Tori Palzkill, Trevor King, Kyla Sprain, Amanda Torres, Melany Brieno, Evelynn Hendrick. 🐾



The strength OF TEAMWORK, the reputation FOR RESULTS!

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eMPathy

Mineral Point Middle School students have been learning about eMPathy and implementing it into their daily lives.

“Empathy and kindness are things we are focusing on to reduce the bullying and feelings of disrespect from classmates that the students are reporting on their learner surveys,” said guidance counselor Carla Rand.

Recently the middle school gathered in the gym to take an all-school photo wearing their neon orange eMPathy shirts. In addition, Kyle Carey’s high school video students filmed the students and will be making an eMPathy video.

“Developmentally, it is a hard concept for very young children to understand, but by school age we should be able to recognize and anticipate the feelings of others,” added Rand.

There were also “other’s shoes” taped on the hallway floors asking how students would feel for many different scenarios. Additionally, there is an eMPathy wall full of quotes regarding kindness and empathy.

A “Mix It Up” lunch was held where students were randomly assigned a table to sit at with the goal being to break down barriers between groups of students and have them interact with others outside of their friend and comfort zones.

Wrinkled and torn hearts were on the cafeteria walls and, during the lunch, students filled out band aids with kind words to put on the broken hearts. Classroom teachers also played a short YouTube video that emphasized kindness or empathy.

Rand is planning to continue with the eMPathy days and involve students in Random Acts of Kindness and Pay it Forward initiatives. 🐾

Students of the Month

March: Frank Baker and Bryce Fitzsimons

April: Kyla Sprain and Tammi Williams

May: Reo Bossert and Tucker Cabezas

What’s Happening in Mineral Point’s Additional Service Programs?

By Dixie Dempsey, Director of Pupil Services



Special Education Program: The special education staff continues to be devoted to providing supportive services for students identified as needing special education. A large majority of the staff has been trained on Non-violent Crisis Intervention which focuses on strategies

for safely defusing anxious, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage. The district is also adopting a more inclusive model of service delivery to support special education students within the regular education classroom. The focus is to expose all students to the same academic standards by utilizing accommodations and modification to even the playing field and help students learn to their potential.

Gifted and Talented (GT) Program: This year a more systematic approach to identify students as gifted and talented students has been applied. This approach has expanded the information that was previously used to develop service plans based on the individual student’s strengths. GT students at the elementary school have received additional instruction focusing on technology through support from Kari Kabat, Elem Library/Media Specialist. High school GT students have worked with Andy Palzkill, Guidance Counselor, to access online courses geared towards higher level skills in the student’s area of strength. Laurie Heimsoth, GT facilitator, has done a great job strengthening this program and meeting GT students’ needs.

Title 1 Program: This program continues to be a strong program headed by Rachael Schroeder, the District’s Reading Specialist. These additional services focus on helping struggling readers to develop basic and fundamental reading skills at the Kindergarten through 3rd grade levels. The Title 1 team has seen successful with helping students progress their reading skills, develop confidence and enjoy learning to read in a personal and supportive environment tailored to the student’s individual needs.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Program: This program is to identify and support students who are English Language Learners (ELL) as well as foster home and school collaborations with ELL students’ families. The program is continuing to be developed as our population of ELL students increases. A special thanks to Dianna Rogers, who has helped with providing interpretation services at parent/teacher conferences, as well as provide assistance with translating written correspondences. 🐾

Delta Kappa Gamma Literary Competition

Eleven MPES students in grades 3-5 took advantage of an enrichment opportunity to become authors and illustrators for the Delta Kappa Gamma Literary Competition. Student books were judged on story element, creativity, originality, and mechanics. All books were original fictional pieces.

Fifth grade student Bryce Acherman won first place in the Mu Chapter for his book *Maximus' New Friend*. Third grade student Libby Dunn won first place for her book called *Ninja Cats Book 1*.

Other elementary students participating included: Kelsie Toay, Ella James, Charlie DaVee, Ellery Massey, Morgan Lee, Halie Kearns, Brianna Wesley, Ella Fox, and Hope Wilson.

Middle school student Rita Wilson received awards for her story "Emily and the Frozen City" in the Delta Kappa Gamma literary contest. Her story won the chapter award for literary and illustration. It was then forwarded to state and won for mixed media illustration. 🐾



Top: Lifka Bennett, Bryce Acherman, and Laurie Heimsoth; Middle: Susan Niehaus, Libby Dunn, Lifka Bennett; Bottom: Rita Wilson



Read-In

The Mineral Point Kiwanis held its annual elementary read-in March 20. Each year the Kiwanis coordinates with classroom teachers and purchases books the teachers recommend. Then, the club members volunteer to read parts of the books to the students and then donate the book to the classroom teacher. Those that read this year included: Sue Gevelinger, Lisa Hay, Nancy Graber, Andy Palzkill, Ashley Tibbits, Joelle Doye, Berty Miller, Jenny Dochnahl, Lucille May, Tom Schraeder, Brad Brogley, Don Hay, Dick Josh, Bob Hector, Key Club member Ethan Dickler, and Circle K member Jessica James. 🐾



Math Team Contest

The Mineral Point Middle and High School math teams had a very successful day at the SWAL Math Contest held at UW-Platteville.

For the middle school, gold medals were awarded to the top 20 place winners.

All ten of the participants from Mineral Point earned a gold medal.

Middle school contest by the numbers:

- 10 - Number of participants per team
- 78 - Total participants
- 64 - Points possible
- 64 - (perfect score) #1 (tie) overall — Abigayle Shannon
- 59 - 6th place tie — Brady Palzkill and Lily Wong
- 58 - 8th place tie — Nicholas Dubois, Madisen Faull, and Mitchell Schaaf
- 56 - 14th place — Sarah Toay
- 55 - 15th place tie — Morgan Vondra
- 54 - 19th place tie — Matthew Berg and Owen Stephenson

On the high school side:

- Caden Jackson — Bronze Medal in Division I
- Jacob Moellers — Gold Medal in Division II
- Skyler Horn — Bronze Medal in Division II
- Haakon Schriefer — Bronze Medal in Division II
- Tess Oberhauser — Silver Medal in Division III



Congratulations, Pointer Nation!

By Vickie Dahl, Athletic Director

Mineral Point was chosen as the sportsmanship award winner for the 2015 WIAA Boys Basketball Tournament. The award is sponsored by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance.

The WIAA/Rural Mutual Insurance sportsmanship award is presented to one school and community in each of the State team tournaments. The following criteria is used to determine this award: 1) Sportsmanship displayed by athletes, coaches, cheer and support groups, mascots, bands and spectators. 2) The effort of the school administrators and chaperones to

ensure support for their teams is positive and that the highest ideals of sportsmanship are upheld.

Award winners receive a plaque and banner in recognition of the honor.

Contest officials, tournament management, police and security personnel, crowd control and ushers, WIAA staff members, area hotels and restaurants contribute to the selection process.

Mineral Point High School would like to thank Rural Mutual Insurance for sponsoring this award for over 40 years and also for promoting sportsmanship at education-based athletic events.

Baseball

By Turner Poad, Senior

Even though the baseball season has officially started, we have had a tough time getting going with this weather. It also seems like our whole team is having a tough time getting a rhythm going as a team as well, so there have not been a whole lot of highlights yet. Starting off slow seems to be the way that we do things anyway, so we are hoping for many highlights in the near future. I can say that it is always a good time playing with my fellow seniors and the underclassmen are good guys to play with, too. One highlight that does come to mind was during the Wisconsin Heights game. Alec Schmitz plays in left field while I am at center. He was whistling, trying to communicate with a bird that was chirping in the tree. He wasn't very good at it, but it was a highlight!

At this point in the season, it is hard to say who is going to win the conference this year. Everybody seems to be about even and there doesn't look to be a clear cut winner. Fennimore, Cuba City, and Riverdale are always tough competition. Hopefully, we will have a run at it once we start firing on all cylinders.

We have six seniors returning this year and the juniors are not new to the game either. All of the seniors bring something different and special to the team. We have played all of these sports together for so many years that we pretty much know what the other is going to do or is capable of doing. We just need to mesh with the others as a team.

We always hope to have a successful season with the end goal of winning the conference title. That would mean back to back titles. We will keep pushing on, try to get better with every game, and pray for better baseball weather! 🐾



Softball

By Jena Pilling, Senior

Our season started off just like every other year—indoor practice. After about three weeks of practicing inside and many game cancellations, we finally got to play a game.

We only had two outdoor practices to get ready for our first game against Southwestern. We started off a little rusty, but then finally got into our groove and started playing like we usually do. We came out on top and our season has been nonstop ever since.

That weekend we took our annual trip to Orangeville, IL for our first tournament. We faced some very tough teams and managed to come out in fourth place. Our game schedule has been pretty hectic with two or three games every week. We have had a few bumps in the road with a 3-3 conference record. Though our season is not going exactly as we had planned, we have fought hard until the last inning of every game and I am so proud to be a part of this amazing team.

This year we have faced Iowa-Grant and Cuba City who have given us a run for our money. They are two very strong teams and we fell short in both of those games. This season we have many returning players. At first base we have Carlie Qualley, who has been a key player in our defense and offense. We have Clara Chambers at shortstop, who has proven to everyone that hard work and dedication can pay off. She moved from third base to shortstop this season and has been a force to be reckoned with. Savannah Lawinger stepped up as pitcher and has been phenomenal. Our outfield is returning two players—Destinee Kruser and McKenzie Schmitz. They are great and they are only getting better.

Our team has become very close this year and this is why we can play so well together. For the remainder of the season, we are going to keep playing hard and play like we know we can make anything happen. Our team has the potential to be great. We are going to continue to work hard in every practice and game. I am so lucky that I have the opportunity to spend my last season with such an amazing group of girls. Thank you for everything! 🐾



Mineral Point also won the sportsmanship award for team wrestling in 2011.

As athletic director this is a great honor for our boy's basketball team, coaching staff, school district and community. The tournament run was a very exciting time for all of us and I am proud of everyone involved!

I also want to share with you the importance of extracurricular activities for teens. The following is taken from a recent article published on the website I Have a Plan Iowa. This article was also shared in the March 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Parents Make A Difference. A well-rounded education is said to include (outside of academics) extracurricular activities, such as sports, drama, choir and youth leadership organizations.

"Studies show that students in extracurricular activities have higher academic scores. They learn to manage their time, relieve stress and learn to strive for excellence in more than one thing," says Kenny Smith, a school counselor in Thatcher, Arizona. "Students who are involved in team sports learn to work in groups. Their written and oral communication skills improve. These things cross over into 'real life.' The students who participate in extracurricular activities are held to a higher plane. There are no team breaks. The privilege to play on a team must meet specific requirements."

Congratulations to all of our students who participate in school activities. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication, time and effort! 🐾

Track and Field

By Micah Sprain, Senior

Though the track and field season is still young, I feel the whole team had a great start. The women's team has won every outdoor meet that we had so far. The men's team has won every outdoor meet except for one. The meet we took second and only lost by a couple points.



Some highlights so far are that the boys and girls 4x400 meter relay teams are undefeated. The boys 4x100 meter relay team is also undefeated. I have no doubt that the Dodge-Point guys and girls teams are going to win the conference title this year. Some teams that will give us some competition are going to be Platteville and River Valley.

There are lots of stars that contribute so much to our track team. Some of the rookies we have are senior Tony Rill and freshman Josh Shepler. They are both very impressive sprinters for being their first year in high school track. With their contributions to the team, the relays they have been in have earned gold medals at every invite we had so far and helped get the team's 4x100 relay team on the state honor roll. Some veterans we have on the spring crew are seniors Cris Francia and Jimmy McGuire. With the experience they have from past years, they know how to get the job done at meets. Cris has also contributed to putting the 4x100 relay on the honor roll. Jimmy is one of the best hurdlers on the team. Ever since we started this season, Jimmy has placed first in every 300 meter hurdle race with me trailing right behind him. Some distance runners are junior Jack Schickel and senior Hannah Owens. Jack has been a part of relays this year and helped his team get first in every outdoor meet for the 4x400 meter relay. Hannah is one of the best distance runners in the state. She has gone to state since her freshman year and has no sign of ever slowing down.

Some goals the team has this season are to keep getting better and keep winning all the meets we are going to participate in the rest of the season, which we are capable of doing. 🐾

Golf

By Taylor Ryman, Senior

The season is off to a good start for the 2015 Mineral Point Golf Team. We started the year with the Dodge Point Invitational at home on Saturday, April 18th. The course was in great shape, but the weather conditions were super as we ended up shooting a 336 and tying the defending state champs, Lancaster, whom we beat in a playoff. We had some great individual scores in the tourney with Taylor Ryman tying for 2nd with a 75, Tyler Hoke coming in strong with an 86, Jordan Kittleson with an 87, and Dane Pfaff rounding out our top four scores with an 88. Tyler Hoke also birdied the playoff hole to help carry us to the team victory. We also had our first mini-meet in Cuba City, which we won by six strokes shooting an 181 and starting off the year as conference leaders. Tyler Hoke was the medalist shooting 42 in harsh weather and course conditions. Also rounding out scores, and all placing in the top ten to start the conference season, were Dane shooting 46, Taylor shooting 46, and Jordan with a 47. We do perceive ourselves as a very good team and have some very high goals this year. A conference title, regional title, sectional title, and ultimately a state title are the goals we set. We are focusing on one goal at a time. The team does have some stars as well. Tyler Hoke definitely is a player to watch. A junior, he has improved his game during the last summer and offseason and is off to a great start this year already. A new star, Dane Pfaff, has emerged onto the scene and is giving the team a boost. He is playing very well in his start for the year, contributing significantly, and working hard especially in the offseason and the start of this year. Two hardworking freshmen will also be very tough coming down the road. Through their continuous hard work, Riley Workman, who has played as our five man in our first two events, and Madison Bowers, have both improved every day. Our team looks to be very successful in our quest for the state title. Our team and Coach Cory Sokol have put a lot of time and effort into achieving this goal. 🐾



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*Elise Powers starred
as Annie in the recent
high school musical
production at the
Opera House. The
performance was the
debut for Kevin Cooley
and was celebrated
with large crowds and
rave reviews.*



In December, as part of a service learning project, our 4th graders made 35 fleece blankets to give to kids in area hospitals. Approximately 25 of them were donated to the American Family Children's Hospital in Madison over the holidays. The remaining blankets were donated to Upland Hills Health recently. 4th grade families donated all of the fleece materials to make these blankets. Additionally, community volunteers helped the students with making the blankets.



Mineral Point Elementary surpassed its \$5,000 fundraising goal for Jump Rope for Heart by earning \$6,700 for the American Heart Association. The students were rewarded with an all-school assembly that saw the top fundraiser in each class get to help dye Principal Brad Brogley's hair red.