White Blue Review

Greetings from new Superintendent, Luke Francois

Welcome to the first issue of the White and Blue Review, a newsletter about the school community for the whole **V** community. We will be sending the *White and Blue Review* out on a quarterly basis to keep the greater community informed of what is happening within the school systems. We hope to achieve open communication and encourage your involvement and participation.

About me...

T received my undergraduate from the University of Wisconsin **1**-Whitewater with a degree in secondary education of

mathematics. While serving as a mathematics teacher for nine years in two districts, Waterford Union High School and Middleton High School, I completed a Master of Education from National Louis University in 1998 and a Master in Educational Administration from the University of Wisconsin -Madison in 2002. I am currently a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Edgewood College.

Prior to arriving in Mineral Point, I served as associate principal and athletic director at Middleton High School for the past seven years following an interim principal position at Middleton's Alternative Senior High School. Last year I also completed certification as a virtual school administrator and completed the Wisconsin School Leadership Academy's workshop.

I married Tiffany Carl from Wausau in 1997 and now have four children, Kennedy (9), Lucas (7), Jacob (4), and Matthew (1). I am interested in outdoor pursuits including hiking, biking, skiing and camping. In my free time I like to read books for professional development and am a Packer, Badger, and Pointer fan.

My Thoughts on Education

√y motivation for going into education was that I really wanted to help youngsters who didn't have access to good values. By teaching math and coaching them in football and wrestling, I could be a role model to look up to. I enjoy quiding kids, especially those that may have had a tough background,

> I related well with these kids. Then I realized I might do a better job at leading then teaching. Once I received my first position in leadership I knew this role was a great fit for me and in turn it allowed me to assist an organization to be great.

> I was attracted to Mineral Point because of the people that make Mineral Point the special place that it is. I am continually impressed by the community support for schools and the 'can do' attitude by residents. Every person I have met since

I have started has been extremely welcoming and I look forward to serving this community to the best of my ability.

I am committed to every child being an effective learner, both to advance to the next grade level and in the world after high school. I want to make decisions with students' and parents' interests in mind and ahead of any administrative conveniences. I care about every aspect of the whole school district with little concern for where I hear about the problems. I firmly believe that problems should be solved at the lowest appropriate level of the organization and everyone in the school system has to be accountable and responsible for student learning. Lastly, striving for excellence should transcend across all facets of the school district.

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

Luke Francois

Luke.Francois@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.3924

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

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mitch Wainwright, and I am excited to be work-



ing as the principal at Mineral Point Middle/High School. I have been an administrator for the last eleven years and prior to that I taught for fifteen years.

My family and I have been Mineral Point residents for the past 21 years and we really enjoy everything that the community and schools have to offer. We feel very lucky because when we moved here, we found a place to call home. It is the families that make Mineral Point such a wonderful place to be.

I am originally from New Glarus, attended UW-Whitewater where I received my bachelor's degree in history and mathematics education. After teaching for many years, and having some influential people to work for, I decided to pursue an administration degree. I earned my masters degree from UW-Platteville and have enjoyed working as a principal ever since.

As your principal, I will work hard to maintain positive relationships with the families, students, staff, and the community here in Mineral Point. I will also work on providing a safe learning environment for everyone. It is my belief that the school district has outstanding educators working to provide a quality education for every student. If the students take advantage, they will be provided an education that will prepare them for the future.

It is my honor to be working here and will do my best to maintain and improve on the excellent educational experiences provided within the Mineral Point School District. Your children are our number one priority and I would like to thank you for trusting us to do the best for them.

Mitch Wainwright
Mitch.Wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.2321

From the desk of Anne Palzkill

Mineral Point Elementary Principal & Director of Pupil Services

Why did I leave a well-loved teaching job of 18 years to take on the responsibilities of school administration? As a teacher, I fostered academic growth by building on my students' strengths. Having worked with



the Mineral Point staff for many years, it is clear to me that their strengths shine as brightly as the students. I made the leap into administration because this role gives me the opportunity to support and motivate the best in our staff and our students.

For the past two years, I have served as the Director of Pupil Services (LEA) in both the Mineral Point and Iowa Grant School Districts. State and federal IDEA (Individuals

with Disabilities Act), law mandates that all school districts have an LEA (Local Education Agency), representative. This administrative role has been described as a district's federal law "fire wall." Federal and state governments mandate districts follow a 20 indicator, Local Performance Plan to meet annual legal requirements. These indicators must be met in order for Mineral Point School District to avoid litigation and potential loss of federal grant funds. The front line of the pupil service role involves: working with students with disabilities and their families; budgeting and allocating federal grants; attending student individual education plan meetings; staff hiring and training; Medicaid billing; government reporting; following procedural compliance measures; problem-solving; curricular guidance; mediation of student programming and goals; Response to Intervention facilitation; and most importantly, advocating for student success.

This year, I am 50 percent Director of Pupil Services and 50 percent elementary principal. My LEA duties carry over and new responsibilities are added. As elementary principal, I work to steward a positive, safe and orderly environment and to foster vision and goals focused on high levels of student and staff learning. The front line of the principal role involves: being an effective listener; facilitating problem-solving; establishing a plan to promote positive change; hiring personnel; supervising, evaluating, and honoring staff; budgeting; encouraging and facilitating parent and community involvement; and assessing student progress to share findings which are used to improve instruction. My goal is to develop a positive and motivating building norm of ongoing improvement and collaboration with high levels of success for all students.

I consider my administrative roles an honor and an exciting opportunity to serve the Mineral Point community, our school board, our staff, our families and our children.

Anne Palzkill | Anne.Palzkill@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.2024

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

An Exciting Future of **Wellness in Mineral Point Schools**

By Dr. Sarah Fox

 $oldsymbol{A}$ s a family physician and a parent, I have a strong desire to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to be healthy and strong. Because our kids spend so much time at school, changes in the school nutrition and activity environment can have a huge impact on their health. The Mineral Point School Wellness Committee has made some efforts over the last 2 years to improve the health of our kids. Our intent was to start with some small changes that would have a moderate impact.

First, we recommended that all of the buns served in the schools be changed to whole wheat buns. The students hardly seemed to notice that change, so it was a good place to start! The buns are slightly more expensive, but are worth it for the boost in protein and fiber.

We also, with the guidance of Anne Palzkill, got a grant to start a school garden at the elementary school. Over time, we hope to expand this garden and incorporate it into the curriculum, along with serving some of the produce in the schools for snacks and meals. Kids who are active in gardening are more likely to try new foods and to meet the daily recommendations for nutrients like Vitamin C and fiber.

We recommended that the elementary school schedule be changed to have children go out for recess before lunch. This simple change has been shown to decrease behavior problems, decrease food waste, and increase consumption of healthy nutrients like calcium and iron. Half of the students at the elementary school are now on this schedule, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The elementary school is planning to change all students over to the new schedule in the near future.

We also suggested that fresh fruits or vegetables be available every day to students who purchase a school lunch. This has been wildly successful at the elementary level (the high school has had fresh options for purchase daily).

Students are serving themselves broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, and even kohlrabi. There is very little waste with the purchase of those vegetables, as they are so popular with the kids!

During farm-to-school month in October, a local farm family brought in some fresh vegetables for sampling, and the students were quite interested in learning about new vegetables, and in tasting them. When children have a

> personal connection with the person who grows their food, they are much more likely to try new things.

Finally, we worked with the 4K classrooms to offer a fresh fruit or vegetable as the snack for the 50+ students in that grade level. There was a donation to cover the first six weeks of school while the logistics were being worked out, and then parents chipped in for the rest of the year. It has become a very successful project, with the

low cost of .25 cents per child per day to provide that nutritious snack. The kids love it, and are eating things that many adults are picky about!

While we have faced some obstacles so far in implementing changes, there are some very exciting opportunities coming in the new year. We are hoping to increase the number of meals made from scratch, shift toward frozen fruits and vegetables rather than canned when fresh is not an option, and ensure that snacks, a la carte and vending options meet federal and state standards for health. We are trying to make changes in a way that allows kids to have choices while emphasizing the importance of good nutrition and fitness. When our children are well-nourished and physically fit, they learn better, have fewer illnesses, and fewer behavior problems. One way we can strive to have a world-class education for our kids is to ensure that at school they are taught, whether it be in the classroom, in the cafeteria, or on the playground, how to lead a healthy lifestyle. I encourage all parents and educators to get involved in making our schools healthy places for learning!

What is this image? An image like this is called a "QR code." It represents the web address (URL) for http://www.mp.k12.wi.us/

Mobile bookmarking: A QR code enables you to bookmark a web page with your mobile phone quickly and easily. With a QR code there is no need to type the full URL into your phone, instead you simply scan the image. Your phone reads it, converts it back into the URL and stores it as a bookmark. Then you can use your phone to go online to that page.

What you need:

- · A mobile phone with a camera.
- A mobile phone with internet access if you want to go straight online.
- A QR code reader installed on the phone.

(There may not be a QR code reader for some models of mobile phones.)

New and Improved PEP By Julie Stephenson

ast month at our November →meeting, we announced changes that we think will make it easier for everyone to be a part of PEP. The mission at PEP remains the same: to create partnerships between parents, school staff and community members to work toward the common goal of providing the best possible educational experience for all Mineral Point students. PEP has been wildly successful. Money has been raised. Scholarships have been given. Supplies have been purchased. Parents, students and staff have all benefitted from the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, but we know we can do more!

The new and improved PEP focuses on working smarter, rather than working harder. We would like all parents, staff, and community members to be a part of PEP. We believe the new and improved PEP can make that happen!

The most exciting change is the formation of our new PEP Committees. How do the new committees make PEP easier for everyone? Simple. Now you can choose to work only on projects that interest you or fit best into your schedule. If the monthly evening meeting doesn't work into your busy schedule... that's fine. If volunteering during the summer is the only option for you... that's fine. Whatever your schedule, you can choose a PEP Committee that best suits your needs. Contact a committee representative below if you have any questions or if you wish to be added as a committee member. Thank you for helping to make the Mineral Point School District the very best it can be!

Community Connections Committee:

Julie Stephenson owenbgoin@frontier.com | 987.3690

Financial Committee:

Angela Drane algebrababy@gmail.com | 987.3869

Educational Outreach Committee:

Lisa Duwell

lisa.duwell@landsend.com | 987.2250

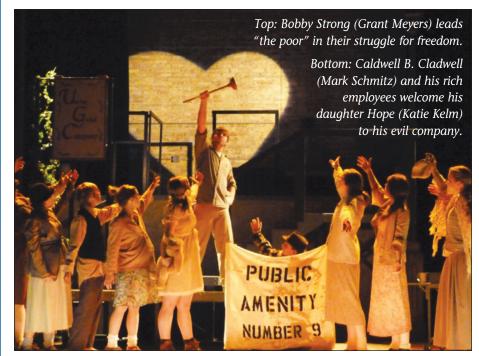
Social Committee:

Lynn Ross | lynnross4@gmail.com

Urinetown a Success!

By Luke Tredinnick

The Mineral Point High School Drama Department presented a production ▲ of the new musical comedy "Urinetown" at the Mineral Point Opera House in November. It was a very successful performance that made use of the very talented, artistic community that is Mineral Point. The show was directed by Luke Tredinnick, with stage design by William Duwell, light design by Coleman, and costume/makeup design by Lisa Duwell. In addition, there was a live orchestra consisting of Mr. Matt Nevers, Ms. Kim Chapman, Mrs. Jean VanMatre, and two musicians from the Dodgeville area. Alley Stage was kind enough to lend its sound system for the production. This was the first high school theatrical performance for many of the students involved, though if you were watching in the audience that would not have been very obvious. All members of the cast and crew, from the "lead roles" down to the "ensemble" members with no lines found a way to shine in their performance. Though it was a large endeavor, many of the students involved are already excited about the next show (as is the director!). We are currently discussing performing a high school play in the Spring. Hopefully there will be more information to come!





Mineral Point Agricultural Department By Mike Robinson

The Mineral Point Agricultural Department has about 200 📘 students that take part in the agriculture classes 8th–12th grade each year. Our facilities consist of a shop, classroom, greenhouse, computer lab, and animal lab. We have over 11 class offerings in the Aq. Dept. from Welding to Greenhouse and from Animal and Vet Science to Natural Resources. We have three classes that are offered for science credit and two that can receive transcript credit through Southwest Tech. One of the classes is solely dedicated to students being able to take their areas of interest to the next level, called Advanced Studies. They create their own curriculum, timeline, evaluation and rubric for their study area.

Several examples of Advanced Studies higher level learning:

- A student fabricated a line sprayer for the football field. A riding lawn mower was modified to save our maintenance staff time and labor as they prepare for football games.
- Two students created a promotional DVD for the Agriculture classes. They did interviews, took pictures, put the presentation on a computer and DVD and presented to each grade.
- One student created their own cooler for growing 50 Easter Lilies. He encountered a problem with the plants wanting to bloom too early. He was able to solve the problem by creating a cooler within the greenhouse by using corrugated plastic and an air conditioner.
- In 2009 a student organized a school outing to the school's Oak Savanna. He organized leaders from all the clubs in the school and they went to the oak savanna to clean out non-native species of plants.

In our Natural Resources class students take what they learn about conservation in the classroom and apply it to our Oak Savanna. They collect wild flower seeds to sow in other parts of the Savanna to reestablish flower populations. They also do selective cutting of unwanted tree species in the Savanna.

Our Animal and Vet Science class has animals at the school that students are responsible for feeding, cleaning pens, veterinary care, and marketing of the animals raised. They raise are calves, chickens, turkeys, goats, and farrow a sow. The piglets are then trained and fitted by the students for a showmanship competition among the students in the class.

Our Greenhouse and Landscape Management class raises over ten thousand bedding and vegetable plants each spring semester. Students do the work of selecting the seeds, planting, transplanting, creating hanging baskets, watering, and marketing the plants. The students have also done landscaping maintenance and renovation at the schools.

The Small Animal Science class incubates and hatches chickens, as well as visits a local Vet Clinic to watch small animal surgeries.

New this year is Dirt to Dessert class. This is a food science based class. Some of the class members took their healthy food to the elementary and did a presentation on apples in Wisconsin to the first grade class.

FFA Standouts at the 84th National FFA Convention

Members of the Mineral Point FFA Chapter in Wisconsin were one of 44 teams participating in the National FFA Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE). The team was awarded a Silver emblem placing 26 overall in the nation. Members also competed for individual awards with 166 other participants. Rachel McCoy received a Silver emblem, Reid Suddeth received a Gold emblem, Kolton Greenwood received a Silver emblem, and Jared Weier received a Silver emblem.



Abbie Baker was one of 43 participants in the National FFA Job Interview Career Development Event (CDE). Abbie was awarded a Silver emblem and placed 15th overall in the nation.



Paula Pittz was one of 49 participants in the National FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event (CDE). Paula was awarded a Silver emblem. 🗳

Music Boosters By Cynthia Myers

or those of you who attended the High School Christmas Concert last Monday evening, you most likely noticed that both the high school band and choir were sporting a new look. In an effort to give the high school music performers a more uniform and professional image, all of the boys were outfitted in tuxedos from the school's existing stock while floor-length black concert dresses were purchased to attire the girls. These garments replace the old, mismatched blue robes previously worn by all choir members and alleviates the necessity of girls in band having to provide their own concert outfits. Funds to purchase the dresses were provided by the high school band department's uniform usage fee and the Mineral Point Music Boosters. In addition to assisting with the funding, the Music Boosters were responsible for measuring, fitting and hemming all of the dresses in time for the concert. The Music Boosters were greatly assisted in their hemming duties by the Mineral Point Quilters Club and wish to express their gratitude to the members of that club for all their assistance. 🛣

Virtual Schools Added to Curriculum By Luke Francois

√ineral Point has partnered with the Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS) to offer online courses to middle and high school students. WVS removes complications with the process of adding virtual courses to a district's middle and high school curriculum, providing services to include: content, platform, Wisconsin-certified online teachers, technical support, training, server, online policy development assistance and much more. Mineral Point can offer online options to our students with minimal cost and time while maintaining key policy decisions and enrollment procedures.

Wisconsin Virtual School offers middle and high school credit recovery and advanced placement curriculum, using media rich, high-quality, Internet-based content. By partnering with WVS, Mineral Point has extended its curriculum, created more options for students, and custom fit programs to district needs.

Courses range from core curriculum such as English, science, mathematics, and social studies to success-enhancing courses such as life skills and career planning to electives such as foreign language, technology, physical education, and personal finance. These courses are designed specifically for Internet delivery at the individual learner's pace.

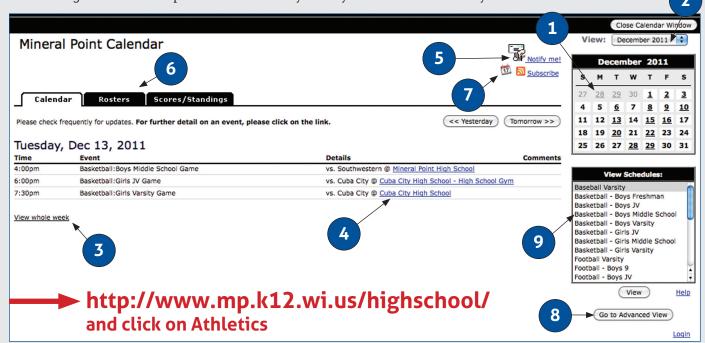
Mineral Point is proud of taking this step toward preparing students for 21st Century challenges in education, workforce, and a global economy. 🌣

Activity Scheduler User Guide - 2011

Me now use the rSchoolToday™ Activity Scheduler as our School Calendar as it provides significant advantages to our school community. Because it is web-based, we can provide you instant access to the most up-to-date information at all times. All changes are reflected as soon as they are made.

The Calendar will provide an instant view of all activity on today's date. Other features:

- 1. Click on any date within the month and see the activities for that day.
- 2. Jump to any month in one click.
- 3. One click here to view the whole week.
- 4. Locations can be links that open to printable maps and directions to that location.
- 5. Notify Me! You can set yourself up for automatic email reminders or text messages to your cell phone before any activity or with any changes to any schedules.
- 6. The latest rosters and scores can be available right from these calendar tabs.
- 7. You can subscribe to schedules using RSS. This lets you send every day's events to your smart phone or personal calendar.
- 8. You can get detailed reports by location, by gender, by level, etc. from the Advanced View.
- 9. You can get the latest complete schedules for any activity. Click on the schedule you want and then click View.



Possible Spring Referendum Information By Luke Francois

The Board of Education recently met with Scott Gralla of PMA Financial to discuss a budget forecast for the Mineral Point School District. Of great concern is the per pupil state funding decrease of over \$545 per student this year with only a \$50 increase per student scheduled for next year. The large drop in state aid is a result of Act 10. This drop in funding, coupled with the end of the non-recurring referendum of \$600,000 last year, leaves the school district with a \$1 million dollar structural deficit going forward each year.

Given this situation, the Board will be discussing need for a spring referendum for school operating costs. Despite these challenges, the Board continued to hold the mill rate at its current level. This decision will actually result in an overall school tax levy decrease from last year.

Events 2012 Calendar

HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:

January

Jan. 9 – Sun. Dorian Vocal Fest Jan. 10 - Mon. Dorian Vocal Fest TBD Jan. 15 – Sat. HS Honors Band at Boscobel Jan. 21 – Fri. End of Quarter - HS

February

Feb. 5 – Sat. FBLA Regionals National Honor Society Winter Dance Feb. 12 – Sat. Mock Trial Competition in Madison Feb. 18 – Fri. Tri-State Honors Band at UW-Platteville Feb. 19 – Sat. Tri-State Honors Band at UW-Platteville Feb. 21 – Mon. Sub-District Forensics at Dodgeville Forensic Sub-District Contest at Dodgeville Feb. 21 – 25th FFA Week

March

Mar. 4 – 6th District Key Club Convention @ Green Bay Mar. 8 – Tue FFA Alumni Judging Math Team Contest FFA Alumni Judging 7:45 a.m. - 3:10 p.m. Mar. 10 – Thu. FFA Sectional Speaking Contest @ Fennimore Mar. 12 - Sat. SWAL Middle School Solo Ensemble at MP Mar. 14 - Mon. SWAL Forensics Meet, 4:15 p.m. Start Mar. 20 - Sun. Redruth Exchange Program -Leave March 20th and Return March 31st Mar. 25 - Fri. End of Quarter - HS

Congratulations to the Dodge-**Point Girls Cross Country Team** on their State Championship!



MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS:

January

Jan. 21 - Fri. End of Quarter - MS

February

Feb. 8 – Tue Visiting Author at MS, 2:00 p.m. Feb. 13 – Sun. Middle School Musical 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. MS/HS Cafetorium

Feb. 17 – Thu. MS Book Club Field Trip to Madison

March

Mar. 25 - Fri. End of Quarter - MS

ELEMENTARY EVENTS:

January

Jan. 11 – Tue PreK to Pointer Cafe Jan. 17 - Mon. Diversity Assembly K-5

February

Feb. 7 – Mon. Elementary Yearbook Sale Begins Feb. 18 – Fri. Elementary Yearbook Sale Ends 4th Grade to Overture Center and Historical Museum Tom Mielke to Perform Science Experiments

to 5th Grade 11:45 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.

March

Mar. 1 – Tue Gary Kelm, Science Electricity Assembly,

5th Grade, 12-12:40 p.m.

Mar. 2 – Wed. End of 2nd Trimester – Elementary

Cat in the Hat, Elementary IMC

Early Childhood Screening @ Elementary Mar. 4 – Fri.

5th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation, 1:30 p.m.

Mar. 11 – Fri. 2nd Grade Leprechaun Trap Show

Mar. 17 - Thu. Pre-K Father's Day Recognition

Mar. 24 - Thu. 3rd Grade to Planetarium at Madison

Memorial HS, 11:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Pre-K Kiwanis Read-In

5th Grade to the Overture Center and China

Buffet, 8:30 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Mar. 25 - Fri. K-5 Kiwanis Read-In

For more event and yearly school calendar information: http://www.mp.k12.wi.us

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The White and Blue Review is published 4 times a year by the Mineral Point Schools. Available in alternative formats by request.

Interested in advertising in the White and Blue

Review? We welcome advertisers. For ad size and rate information please? contact **Luke Francois** at Luke.Francois@mp.k12.wi.us or 987.3924.

AlertNow – School to Parent Communication Service

I would like to introduce AlertNow, our school-to-parent communication service. With AlertNow, we will be able to deliver important information to you quickly and reliably. You will be receiving messages periodically to notify you about important events, such as parent-teacher conferences, PTA meetings, back-to-school nights, fundraisers, and report card reminders. With this service we will also be able to reach you promptly in the event of an urgent matter.

In closing, I want you to know that it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your child's superintendent and to be entrusted with your child's safety and education. There are many exciting initiatives underway here at Mineral Point Schools, and I look forward to keeping you involved through the AlertNow communication service. We will definitely stay in touch.

Luke Francois | Luke.Francois@mp.k12.wi.us | 987.3924

Wishing you safe and happy holidays!

School Delay and Cancellation Communications

 \mathbf{I} f school is canceled parents should listen to or watch one or more of the following which will be notified:

RADIO STATIONS:

WDMP-99.3 FM/8.10 AM (Dodgeville) WPVL-107.1 FM/1590 AM (Platteville)

TELEVISION STATIONS:

Channel 5 – WMTV-(NBC15) Channel 7 – WKOW-(ABC27) Channel 9 – WISC-(CBS 3)

School Board Filing Declarations of Candidacy:

Forms for such declarations and statements may be obtained on or after December 1, 2011, at the office of the District Administrator of said School District located in the School District Office in the High School/Middle School Building, 705 Ross Street in the City of Mineral Point, Iowa County, Wisconsin. The closing for filing is January 3, 2012 by 5:00 p.m. and said office will be open until that time.

Please show an interest in the School District and get involved.