Volume 13, March, 2025

# Unity Elementary



# Where Little Learners Expect Great Things!





## Read Across America Week!

Thank you to our UWRF Reading Cohort teachers! They designed a very special week of reading engagement as a project for their class in honor of Read Across America.

Students could choose to participate in a reading BINGO activity, they had fun dress up days - (We loved the dream of what you will be when you grow up- check out the race car driver, math teacher, princess and cowgirl!). Teachers also recorded themselves reading to the classes, and planned a surprise activity on Friday.



### Battle of the Books

Mrs. Lechman has found her second calling as she has long termed for us in the Library this trimester.

We all appreciate the energy she continued to bring to the library in Mrs. Schock-Clarkson's absence, and she helped continue so many special activities. This month, she is hosting a battle of the books!

Students get to vote on a bracket to see which book will win. March Madness, anyone?? Book Style!



Thank you for all you do for us Mrs. Lechman!

## Unity Elementary's "Showcase of Learning"

In April, for our third Parent/Teacher Conference evening this year, Unity Elementary staff and students are beginning to plan a "Showcase of Learning" for our community.

The opportunity to connect and extra time with families this year we feel we be even more valuable by teaching our students how to present and share their learning. Each grade level will be working on different projects to showcase, as well helping students prepare to share them with parents and also share how their learning is progressing as the year end nears.

We will have some exciting things in our specialist spaces as well - stay tuned for more information!

### **School Updates**

- Enrollment is now at 389.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences and 4K Roundup were a success! Thank you staff, students and families for supporting all of the children!
- Valentine's Day was fabulous - love was in the air - for our friends and for the candy brought home!
- Thursday, March 20th -2PM. 2nd Grade Musical at the PAC! Parents and Invites only.
- PoWWow on March 7, and the Band-o-rama rehearsal on March 14th are going to be very special events for our students to participate in!

# Middle School Board Report March 2025

### STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Middle School student council put together a fun week of dress-up days leading up to a long weekend in February. Dress-up days included a variety of fun themes; including dressing like you were on vacation, a board game character and dressing like your teacher!

Additionally, students raised money through a Coin War; the funds raised will help fund the replacement of the Easter Eggs for the Milltown Community Center which were lost in a fire. The winning homeroom will receive a Hot Cocoa party!



### FORENSICS WRAP UP

The Middle School Forensics team wrapped up another successful season with a final competition in Osceola. All students, who competed, received a High Performance! Congratulations to all of the students for the hard work that was put into each of the events!

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK** 



#### 5TH 6TH 8TH 7TH GRADE GRADE GRADE GRADE TEAM Nevaeh Reber Sadie Loughlin FEB. Mason Koch 5 Noah Duxbury Phoenix Bruss Eleanor Olson Chance Maetzig FEB. Ezra Crowe 12 Matahia Swanson Kennedy Nelson Bentley Gross Lyzel Eichman FEB. Lucy Christensen 19 Bailey Hoffman Adalyn Jones Rayna Edwards FEB. Tirzah Hikel Braxton Robertson 26 Sammi Davenport Clara Shalander

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

3/17/25: Band-O-Rama; 7pm - PAC
3/24/25: Spring Break Begins
3/28/25: Spring Break Ends
3/31/25: Begin FORWARD testing
04/03/25: MS Musical for Community
04/06/25: State Science Olympiad @ UW - Stout
04/06/25: MS Musical for Community

### MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

For a second consecutive year, students in grades 7 & 8 were able to get dressed up and enjoy a few hours of dancing! Student Council hosted the "Neon Themed" event and the dance was well attended. It was a fun time for all of the students and we are excited to host

again in the future!



### **ANNUAL SPELLING BEE**

The top spelling performers, at each grade level, took to the stage on February 5th for the Annual Middle School Spelling Bee. The top winners at

> each grade level were: Grade 5: Rayna Edwards Grade 6: Chloe Williams Grade 7: Amelia Heisi <u>Grade 8: Gabe Mag</u>nuson

Chloe Williams was the overall winner and traveled to CESA 11 on February 19th to represent Unity Middle School. She did an excellent job and made it into the 5th round!





### **GO EAGLES!**

NIC BEEN, PRINCIPAL MARCH 2025



# Expect Great Things UNITY HIGH SCHOOL



### DR. JILL UNDERLY VISIT

Unity was presented in such an incredible manner on Feb. 14th. State Superintendent Dr. Underly toured our CTE classrooms, greenhouse, maker space, and other areas. She could not say enough about our terrific students, staff, and all that we offer for learning experiences and what has been accomplished. What a powerful experience of pride and demonstrating how our fantastic people do great things at UHS!

### ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Science Olympiad: UHS took 6th at regionals recently. FBLA: 14 members are heading to state in Green Bay after a great day of competition on Feb. 1st at SCC. SkillsUSA: Regionals at UW-Stout went well a few weeks ago, now 11 students are moving on to state. FFA: A \$1000 grant earned by Hunter Carlson, and three students placing 1st or 2nd in leadership development are moving on to sectionals. Forensics: We have 6 HS students qualified to move on to the District Competition in Menomonie.

### ATHLETICS UPDATE (NEXT PAGE)

### LOOKING AHEAD:

<u>March</u>: Spring Sports Begin <u>March 3:</u> ChoralFest <u>March 7:</u> End of Trimester II; Pow Wow Event <u>March 10</u>: In-Service, No School for Students <u>March 11:</u> 11th Grade ACT, UW-Stout Trip <u>March 17:</u> Bandorama <u>March 18:</u> Host a local Concert Festival <u>March 24-28</u>: Spring Break <u>April 7:</u> Virtual Learning Day due to hosting a large northwest area Solo & Ensemble competition

# HAPPENINGS AT UHS

DRAMA CLUB: SHERLOCK HOLMES Performances: March 14 - 7:00pm, March 15 - 7:00pm, and March 16 - 2:00. Middle School and High School student performances will occur as well.

**Unity School District** 

# **CTE MONTH ACTIVITIES**



February was CTE month. SkillsUSA, FBLA, & FFA each had a week to recognize accomplishments, showcase success, and raise awareness. Students collected donations for a local woman's shelter. The picture of Mr. Lee shows the wonderful work of a student during a competition. The gradelevel that collected the most donations got to pie Mr. Been in the face during an assembly!



## **Students of the Week**







Persayiss Tucker Oliver Gariepy Andrea Erickson Jacob Johnson





### **ATHLETICS UPDATE:**

**Powerlifting:** We have about 10 HS students compete on our Powerlifting team all season. The team has gone to 4 weekend tournaments and have 3 state qualifiers. Guyson Quagon, Khloe Jensen and Sabrina Aune! The state powerlifting meet is March 7th - March 9th in Appleton.

**Ice Fishing:** We have restarted our High School Ice Fishing Team this season and there are 14 high school kids on the team. There are 2 new volunteer supervisors leading the team: Jeff Skarda and Daniel Hasselquist. The team has attended a few ice fishing tournaments, as well as the State Ice Fishing Tournament in LaCrosse. The team fished all weekend and registered many fish.

**Boys Hockey:** Senior Taylor Gariepy is playing on our boys hockey co-op team in Amery. Hockey has had a very successful season and won the conference championship! they are the #1 seed in the WIAA D2 playoffs. They won the regional & sectional championship. They played at the state tournament in Middleton on Thursday (& maybe Saturday).

**Girls Hockey:** We have one HS girl playing on the Western Wisconsin Stars girls hockey team. Since we have been unable to join their co-op, Maya Korf can only play JV.

Girls Wrestling: In the first season ever for Unity Eagles Girls Wrestling, our girls team won the Lakeland Conference Championship and the dual meet championship! At the conference wrestling tournament, the following girls were the conference champions: Alyssa Chance, Isabelle Holden, Jennifer Wallner and Evelyn Fugate. The following girls took 2nd place: Christine Bertsch, Auvianna Berg, Kaeylyn Turgeson and Natasha Tait. The following girls took 3rd place: Persayiss Tucker, Kendra Bantz, Lorelei Haaf and Liberty Freer. At regionals, the following girls qualified for the sectional tournament: Evelyn Fugate (2nd place), Christine Bertsch (3rd place), Natasha Tait (3rd place), Alyssa Chance (4th place), Isabelle Holden (4th place), Lorelei Haaf (4th place) and Liberty Freer (4th place). Evelyn Fugate took 2nd place at Sectionals and qualified for the state tournament in Madison, where she gave it her best shot despite being pinned in her two matches. What a season for the 20+ Unity girls that took on the challenge!

**Boys Basketball:** Record 11-9 The team is made up of the highest participation numbers we have ever had (37 athletes). Although the team's record isn't quite where we have been in the past few seasons, the boys are growing and gaining experience. We lost all 5 starters from last season and once this team gains the experience, they will return to the top notch form people expect from them. They began WIAA tournament series play on March 7 by beating Glenwood City in overtime! They played Cumberland last Friday.

<u>Girls Basketball:</u> Record 6-16 The team has 14 HS girls on it. We knew coming into the season that our participation numbers would be lower than we are used to, but the girls have worked very hard on the basics and fundamentals to see some success. There is a new coaching staff and the coaches have worked hard to educate themselves about coaching females and utilizing the skills and techniques to make their athletes successful. The girls unfortunately ended their season in regional play at Regis during the WIAA tournament.

Boys Wrestling: The boys wrestling program has had 16-18 athletes all season. Our participation numbers are very good and the coaches have done a great job at keeping the athletes healthy and ready for each match. We had 3 conference champion wrestlers this season: Easton Baxter, Adrien Olson and Alex Holden. Adrien Olson also recorded his 100th win at the Lakeland Conference Tournament and he was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the conference tournament! At regionals, we had 7 wrestlers qualify to move onto sectionals - Carlos Pouliot (1st place), Adrien Olson (2nd place), Guyson Quagon (2nd place), Easton Baxter (2nd place), Alex Holden (3rd place), Tanner Freer (3rd place), and Dominic Fox (4th place).

# MARCH 2025 UNITY SPECIAL EDUCATION BOARD REPORT

### **Empowering Futures: Transition Skills Class**

As the second trimester wraps up, the high school's Transition Skills Class is making great strides in preparing special education students for life after graduation. Meeting weekly, this class focuses on essential skills to help students navigate their futures confidently and independently.

Students participate in hands-on activities throughout the trimester to enhance their life skills. They learn about personal finance, including budgeting and banking, cooking and food safety, managing chores and personal hygiene. Key topics also included chemical safety and utilizing community resources, such as the post office, bank, grocery store, and library.

Community involvement further enriches the program. Students engage in field trips to learn and gain confidence in public settings. A trip to Royal Credit Union is planned in the coming weeks. They also learn self-advocacy to express their needs during the transition to adulthood.

Job readiness is another crucial component. Students develop skills in writing resumes and cover letters, participate in mock job interviews, and explore college readiness through visits and guest speakers. Students see growth in collaboration and problem-solving skills, which are essential for independence and future employment.

The Transition Skills Class prepares students for life after high school and fosters a sense of belonging and community. As we look forward to the next trimester, the teachers are excited to build on this foundation, equipping special education students with the necessary skills to succeed in every aspect of their lives. Together, students are not just preparing for graduation; but building brighter futures.



High School Teachers, Jaime Weness, Janey Emery, and Elli Garvey teach Transition Skills classes.



School Nurse, Kalli Bittner,



Your goals are the roadmaps that guide you and show you what is possible for your life



### **WELCOME NEW SCHOOL NURSE - KALLI BITTNER**

We are thrilled to introduce Kalli Bittner as the new school nurse for Unity School District! Kalli brings experience and a deep passion for nursing, having previously worked at North Memorial Hospital for two and a half years.

Originally from St. Croix Falls, Kalli truly values the close-knit community that the Unity School District provides. She has quickly embraced the small-town atmosphere, enjoying getting to know students by name and fostering relationships with students and staff. Kalli expressed her gratitude for her warm welcome during her first few weeks at Unity.

Kalli's vision for the health program is straightforward. She aims to maintain the strong foundation previously built while introducing new initiatives that empower students to advocate for their own health. "Advocating for your health is a lifelong skill," Kalli explains. She is dedicated to helping students communicate effectively about their health needs and encouraging them to voice requests regarding their care.

In addition to this advocacy, Kalli is committed to ensuring that all individualized care plans for students are organized and kept up to date, eliminating confusion and providing optimal support for each student's unique needs. Kalli has expressed her excitement about working alongside the Unity School District staff. She is eager to contribute to a safe and supportive environment for all students, allowing them to focus on their education.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Kalli as she embarks on this important journey with us at Unity School District!