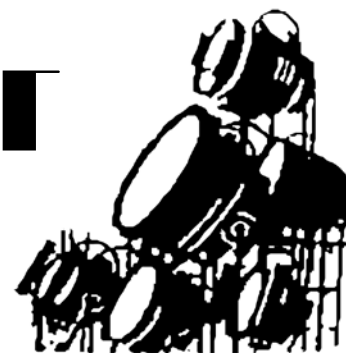




# SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

DR. TIM HALL

### Notes from the Superintendent's Office . . .

I'd like to begin this issue of the Spotlight by thanking the staff, students, and members of the community for welcoming me back to the district to serve as the superintendent. It certainly is a great honor and privilege for me to be the superintendent for Sault Schools. I am proud of our district; the students, the staff, and the many wonderful things that take place in the district each day. I have been in each of the buildings on several occasions this year, and I'm continually impressed with what our students are doing in school, and how eager they are to learn. As parents and community members, you can be proud of our students.

As this issue of the Spotlight is being completed, students in our district and across the state are working hard on the MEAP tests. Over the years, our students have performed well on these exams and we expect they will do so again this year, although that may not be directly reflected in our scores. The State Department of Education has raised the cut scores – the scores a student must achieve to be considered proficient in a subject area – and we expect that will result in fewer students demonstrating proficiency on the exams. However, our teachers and administration will monitor this closely and will make necessary adjustments to help our students continue to grow academically. And we are confident that our students will rise to the challenge.

Many studies have shown that parental involvement is a significant component of academic success for students. While it is often difficult for some parents

to be actively involved at school, please know that our teachers (and students) welcome and appreciate any time that parents can give to the class or the school. Please contact your child's teacher or the building administrator to learn more about opportunities for volunteering in school. Educating a child takes a team approach – the school, the family, and the student each have a role to play. I encourage parents to speak with teachers and administrators about any aspect of their children's education. Stop in your child's school, or call or email his/her teacher or building administrator to ask questions or discuss any concerns.

The Michigan Legislature has been very aggressive in pursuing school reforms over the past several months. The district will of course be very aggressive in adhering to new guidelines and expectations. One area of concern for most districts in the state is funding. There is discussion in Lansing about the possibility of eliminating the Personal Property Tax, which could directly affect the funds provided to schools. Early estimates are that there could be \$300 million less for public schools. There are approximately 1.5 million students in the state which means there is a potential for a reduction of \$200 per student. For our district, this would mean a reduction of approximately \$500,000. There will be more news on this issue in the future.

*See "Notes" continued on page 2*

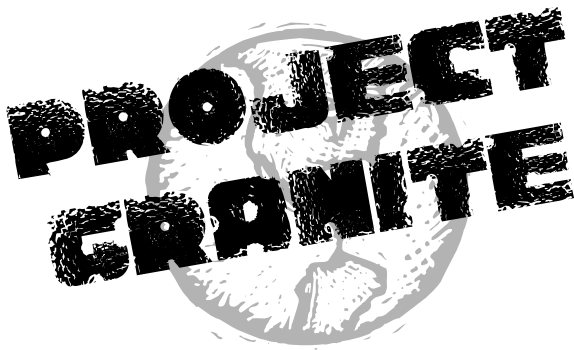
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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Notes continued**

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone of our school district's mission which is to provide all students, in partnership with parents, students, and the community, opportunities to attain a high quality education in a safe, positive environment, and to maximize their intellectual, physical, emotional, and social skills, preparing them to be productive, responsible citizens. This mission drives what we do in our district and I believe our students have access to a great educational opportunity in Sault Schools.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about the district. 👍



This past summer, eleven local area high school students participated in Project Granite: Geological Reasoning and Natives Investigating the Earth. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation.

High school students from Sault Ste. Marie, Brimley, Rudyard, and Whitefish Township went on an educational trip across the western United States.

Under the leadership of Professor Paul Kelso (LSSU-Geology) and with assistance of Brimley Science teacher Chris Whealy, and Sault Middle School Earth Science teacher Sam Frush, the group embarked on a two week road trip. The trip focused on sites that had geological (Earth Science) and Native American significance. Stops included the Badlands National Park, Devils Tower National Monument, Pipestone National Monument, the Mississippi River, Mount Rushmore National Monument, the Black Hills, and many other significant sites.

The teachers used the opportunity to teach and reinforce Michigan Earth Science curriculum standards. An abstract has been written and a formal presentation of the trip is scheduled to be presented at an upcoming science education conference. 👍

## *Bleacher Project Completed*

Students United took on the job of refreshing the Sault High bleachers at Van Citter's Field this past summer. Two years ago, the group painted all of the benches but this year the task was far more extensive. The harsh Upper Peninsula climate had left the bleachers in such a condition that they needed to be scraped and cleaned before the ominous tasks of painting could even be considered.

Pressure washing helped speed the job but from start to finish but the task still took five long weeks to complete. The group hustled at the conclusion of August to get the job completed before the first home junior varsity game. "After working around some stormy days, we battled some of the hottest days the Sault has ever seen! But the students still showed up every day and did a great job!", commented advisor Tracy Menard.

Students United would like to begin a campaign through sponsorships to replace the old wood benches with aluminum seating that would not only look better but require no maintenance. 👍



Student Jessica Marble not only lent a hand painting but also helped organize other volunteers for this project.



2011 U.P. Service Award Winner Riece Ward.

# 2011 U.P. Service Award

Riece Ward was recently honored with the 2011 U.P. Service Award for appreciation of hard work and commitment in making the U.P. stronger through volunteering. This award was presented by the U.P. Volunteer Network at the 3rd annual U.P. Service Awards program held in Marquette, Michigan on October 7th. The award goes to those who have served a minimum of 300 hours of volunteer time with various institutions in need over the course of one year. At fourteen years old, Riece was active in and volunteered with Working On Wellness, Walk For Life, Hearthside Assisted Living, Tendercare, Chippewa County Fair, and Community Action Head Start. He's helped raise \$500 to help defer heating costs during winter months with "Smash for Cash" at the I-500, and with his long days of volunteering at the "Basketball for Books" event helped raise \$4,000 to buy books for children. His favorite event was the spaghetti dinner for baby Zeke and says that, "Volunteering is the most rewarding thing for me." 👍





# SPOTLIGHT

## on New Staff



***Jennifer Nowicki***

Jennifer teaches music at Lincoln, Soo Township and Washington Schools. She is a Gaylord High School graduate who earned her Master's degree from Central Michigan University. Jennifer's interests and hobbies include spending time with her family, playing piano, teaching music to children and attending concerts.



***Lori Smith***

Lori is the school nurse for the Sault Area Public Schools. She is a L'Anse High School graduate. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Michigan University. She is married to Bill; they have three children together. Lori's interests and hobbies include spending time with her family, travel and working as an independent consultant.



***Sally Mitchell***

Sally is a food server/cashier at Washington School. She is a Sault High graduate. She is married to Harold. They have two sons, and two grandchildren. Sally's interests and hobbies include biking, ice skating, going to the beach and spending time with her family.



***Nichole M. Causley***

Nichole is a cashier/cook at Sault Area High School. She is a Sault Area High School graduate. She has four children. Nichole's hobbies and interests include reading, writing, cooking, Native American gatherings and pow wows, and raising her children.



***Amanda Grusecki***

Amanda teaches Spanish and English at Sault Area High School. She is a Tawas Area High School graduate and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and English from Central Michigan University. She earned her teaching certificate from Saginaw Valley State University. Amanda's interests and hobbies include spending time with her family and friends, shopping and watching football.





## *Gary Herschell*

Gary teaches Machine Tool Technology, Woods and Middle School Industrial Arts. He is a graduate of Sault Area High School and Career Center. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northern Michigan University. Gary and his fiancée, Sandra, will wed this December. Gary enjoys working in his workshop at home, restoring old vehicles with his father, and spending time with his family and friends.



## *Jennifer Blair*

Jennifer is the new Native American advisory at Sault Area High School. She is a Sault High graduate who has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Lake Superior State University. She is married to Brad. They have one child, Kaden. Jennifer's interests and hobbies include spending time with her family and friends, reading, watching movies and travelling.



# Walk to School Day 2011



A successful Walk To School Day - September 28, 2011

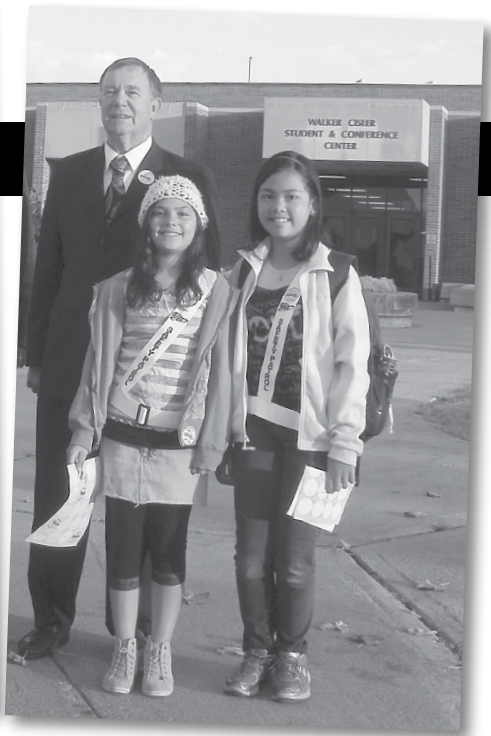
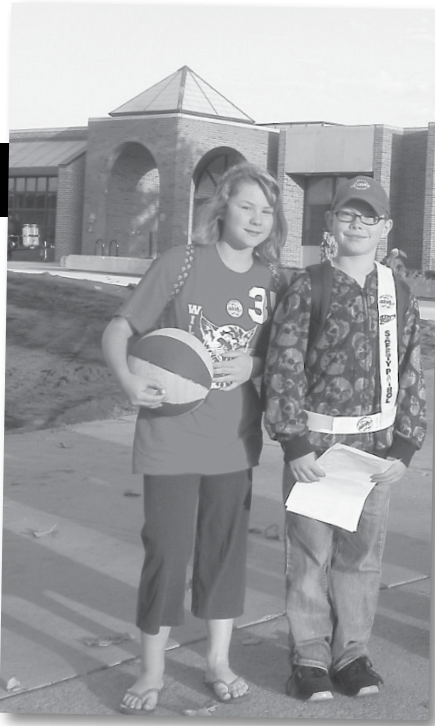
On Wednesday, October 5th schools across the country celebrated Walk to School Day. Walk to School Day is part of a national initiative to fight childhood obesity through healthier lifestyles. Walk to School Day activities also feature a focus on student safety.

On this date, Washington School families and Sault Schools buses dropped their children off at the Cisler Center on the campus of Lake Superior State University (L.S.S.U.). There, they met with Washington School staff and together they walked to Washington School. The event was also attended by Sault Schools' superintendent Dr. Tim Hall and L.S.S.U. president Dr. Tony McLain. 👍

## 7TH GRADE COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS HAVE BEEN *"Moodleized"*

The students in Marcia Detloff's class are learning how to take an online course. At their stage of online learning, this is called, "Blended Instruction", because the teacher is with them daily. Students have edited their profile, uploaded assignments, instant messaged with in the Moodle program, chatted in discussion areas with students in the same hour, and followed links for Web 2.0 Tools and Movies. Overall, Mrs. Detloff reports that the students are doing a "superb" job learning the "ins and outs" of an online course. 👍





From left to right: Alexis Badger, Devin Rice, Sault Schools Superintendent Dr. Tim Hall, Jack Bunker, Washington School Principal Ed Chevillot, L.S.S.U. President Dr. Tony McLain, Kayla Wilhelms, Jerica Paglianawan.

## - - CONCUSSION TESTING - -



Student Health Center nurse Terri Kowalski looks on as student athlete Zachary Phillips takes his test.

This fall, the Sault Area High School Athletic Department implemented a Concussion Testing program for its student athletes. The testing is conducted with the assistance of the Student Health Center. The testing provides the athletic department baseline data to use in the event that a student sustains a concussion. The athletic department now has the ability to have the athlete re-take the test and require that s/he pass it at a level acceptable to be able to compete again. This is a great step towards protecting the health of Sault High student athletes. 👍





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# STUDENTS RECEIVE DICTIONARIES



In foreground: Soo Township School fourth grade students. In background, left to right: Neebish Island Women's Group members Lory Tyner, Courtney Tyner, Lisa McCreedy, Dorla Parr, Helen Zelnick, Dorothy Tyner and Soo Township School principal Diane Chevillot.

Fourth grade students at Soo Township Elementary School were recently the beneficiaries of new dictionaries, courtesy of the Neebish Island Women's Group. Each year, the Group sews quilts and sells them in the community. Funds raised are used on projects like this one. 👍

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## NOTICE

Sault Area Public Schools policy prohibits discrimination because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any activity should immediately contact Mr. Steve Gordon, Director of Human Resources & Operations, Sault Ste. Marie Area Public Schools, 876 Marquette St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, Telephone 906/635-3839 Ext. 5011, who is designated the School District's Coordinator and Chief Compliance Officer.

## NOTICE

Under the No Child Left Behind Legislation governing federally funded education programs, parents may contact the Human Resources office for information on the education and certifications of teachers and para-professionals who work with their children. The office is located at 876 Marquette St., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783, Telephone 906-635-3839 Ext. 5011.

## Sault Area Public Schools

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