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## **2015 VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN ANNOUNCED**

Everyone is invited to attend the forty first (41st) commencement exercises in the Westwood High School gymnasium on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 8pm. Brian Parkkonen, Westwood High School Alumnus, will deliver the commencement address to the 70 seniors. Courtney Beauchamp, Samantha Beauchamp, Emily Carlson, and Ivan Wiljanen have earned the distinction of being named the Co-Valedictorians of the class of 2015. They have all earned a GPA of 4.0. The Salutatorian for the class of 2015 is Faith LeRoy.

Courtney is the daughter of Jennifer and Keith Laurila and Jason and Kelley Beauchamp. Throughout her high school career, she has been involved in many school activities. She has been a member of High School Bowl, Business Professionals of America, Tennis and Basketball. In music, Courtney participated in Band, Jazz Band, Chorus, and Voices in Motion. In her spare time, she enjoys watching movies and hanging out with friends. After high school, Courtney plans to attend college to major in Business management.

Samantha is the daughter of Jennifer and Keith Laurila and Jason and Kelley Beauchamp. For four years, Samantha has been a member of Forensics, ACTION Troupe, and Jazz Band. She has been a member of Cheerleading, Softball, and Volleyball. In her spare time she enjoys reading, listening to music, and spending time with friends. After high school, Samantha plans to attend the University of Michigan to study Computer Engineering.

Emily Carlson is the daughter of Jacki and John Carlson. Throughout her high school career, she has been involved in many high school activities. She has been a three-sport athlete for four years, having been involved in Basketball, Tennis, and Track. Emily has also been a member of Band, Jazz Band, and has served this year as our Student Council President. In her spare time she enjoys hanging out with friends and family. After high school, Emily plans to attend the University of Michigan.

Ivan is the son of Jodi and David Wurth and Bryan and Dana Wiljanen. For three years, Ivan has been a member of the Key Club, serving as the President this year. He has also been a member of Business Professionals of America and the National Honor Society. In his spare time, Ivan enjoys outdoor activities and spending time at camp. After high school, Ivan plans to attend Northern Michigan University and study Pre-Medicine.

Faith is the daughter of Shana and Jay LeRoy. Her grade point average is 3.98. Faith has also been involved in many school activities. For four years, she has been a member of Student Council and WHS Dance Team. She was also a member of National Honor Society, ACTION Troupe, Business Professionals of America, and High School Bowl. Faith is also serving as the Senior Class President. In her spare time she enjoys playing sports, yoga, and coaching dance. After high school, Faith plans to attend Northern Michigan University to study Nursing.



**Courtney Beauchamp**

**Samantha Beauchamp**



**Emily Carlson**

**Ivan Wiljanen**



**Faith LeRoy**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Hello Students, Families, and Staff,

It's hard to believe another school year is drawing to a close. On behalf of our district, I'd like to thank all of our students, parents, guardians, families, faculty, staff, administrators and board members for another great year. We are truly lucky to have such an outstanding school district and school family.

Students, please enjoy your summer break. Fall will be here before you know it with the start of another school year. Graduating seniors, good luck in your future endeavors. I know you will continue to make your families and our school proud. Staff, I'll see you around campus as we continue to prepare for the upcoming school year. Thank you for your hard work over this past year.

Have a great summer,

*Bryan DeAugustine*

Bryan DeAugustine  
Superintendent

## **MESSAGE FROM ASPEN RIDGE SCHOOL:**

Once again, we are at the end of another school year. Students, thank you for all of your hard work throughout this past school year. You should be proud of all of your accomplishments. Fifth graders will soon join the ranks of middle school and the best of luck to those heading over to the high school in the fall. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who have a tremendous positive impact on all that goes on here at Aspen Ridge. Over 8,000 hours have been logged this year alone, which brings the grand total to over 100,000 hours logged since the opening of the building in 1997. We are grateful for your support. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you back in the fall. Go Patriots!

Chris Marana and Jon Beckman  
Aspen Ridge School Principals

## **MESSAGE TO PARENTS & FAMILIES OF 2015 GRADUATES**

Graduation is a joyous time for students and their families. We join in congratulating the class of 2015 for their many achievements and, along with you, hope that their future is filled with success and happiness. Please join us as we reinforce the importance that graduates, and indeed all young people in our community, avoid behaviors that could overshadow their hard work and accomplishments. Specifically, we ask that everyone in our community partners to discourage underage drinking or other behaviors that could have long-lasting negative effects. Let's work together to make graduation a safe and memorable occasion.

Principal, David Boase  
Westwood High School

## **IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN**

NICE, a 21st Century school district, offers a variety of programs for young children, including Preschool, Young Fives and Kindergarten. Call 906-485-3175 for more information about Young Fives and Kindergarten, and 906-485-1021 for information about the NICE Start preschool pro-

# NICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETICS UPDATE:

## Summer camp information:

**Football Camps:** Coach Buck's lineman camp will be on June 8,9,10<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm at Gwinn High School. This camp is for football players entering grades 9-12.

The Westwood Football camp will be on July 20, 21, 22nd with sessions from 8:30-10:00 and 11:00-12:30 on the WHS practice field. Forms are available in the WHS office. This is for students entering grades 9-12.

The Junior Patriots football camp will be on July 20, 21, 22nd from 2:00-4:00 on the WHS practice field. This camp is for students entering grades 7-8. Forms are available in the Aspen office or the WHS Office.

For any football camp questions please contact coach John Jessen at [jessenj@nice.k12.mi.us](mailto:jessenj@nice.k12.mi.us) or call 485-1023.

**Girls' Basketball camp:** This camp is for girls entering grades 3-12. The camp will be held June 22nd through the 25th, with grades 3-4 from 9am to 10:30am, grades 5-6 from 10:30am to 12noon, grades 7-8 from 12noon to 1:30, varsity from 1:30pm to 3:00pm, and frosh and JV from 3:00pm to 4:30pm. Questions please contact Coach Corcoran at [corcorank@nice.k12.mi.us](mailto:corcorank@nice.k12.mi.us) or call 485-1023.

**Boys' Basketball camp:** This camp is for boys entering grades 1-8. The camp will be held June 22nd through the 25th with grades 1-3 from 12noon to 1:30pm, grades 4-6 1:30pm to 3:00pm, grades 7-8 3:00pm to 4:30pm. Questions please contact Coach Hewitt at 362-1740.

**Girls Tennis camp:** This camp is for girls entering grades 1-12. The camp will be held June 8th through the 11th with grades 1-3 from 9am-10am, grades 4-6 from 10am-11am, grades 7-9 from 11am-12noon and grades 10-12 from 12noon -1pm. Questions please contact Coach Jackson at [jacksonc@nice.k12.mi.us](mailto:jacksonc@nice.k12.mi.us) or call 485-1023.

**Boys Tennis camp:** This camp is for boys entering grades 1-12. The camp will be held June 15th through the 18th with grades 1-3 from 9am-10am, grades 4-6 from 10am-11am, grades 7-9 from 11am-12noon and grades 10-12 from 12noon -1pm. Questions please contact Coach Jackson at [jacksonc@nice.k12.mi.us](mailto:jacksonc@nice.k12.mi.us) or call 485-1023.

## Dates to remember:

### **Fall Sports start dates:**

Football: August 10<sup>th</sup>

Cross Country, Girls' Tennis, Volleyball: August 12<sup>th</sup>

Middle School football: August 17<sup>th</sup> (tentative)

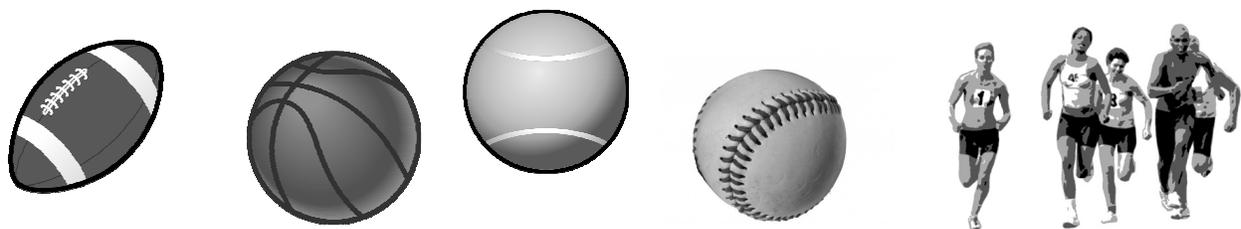


**Summer Dead Period:** June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>

**Coach Pohlman's running club:** Tuesdays and Thursdays starting June 16th, meet at Westwood High School. This will run through July 30th. There will be no running club during the down week.

**Sports Physicals/PPE Clinic offered:** August 6th at 6:00 p.m. at Westwood High School with Holly Boburka, Erik Korpi and Andrea Korpi. This is for students entering **Grades 7-12** in the fall.

Please stay tuned to the NICE Community Schools Facebook page for updates and upcoming events.



## **WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Make plans to attend the Westwood Alumni Softball Tournament this year. The tournament is scheduled from July 1-5, 2015 at the Sunnyside and Clarksburg fields. The brackets may be found on Facebook (search for Westwood Alumni Softball Tournament) or on the Web at <http://westwoodalumnisoftball.weebly.com>.

# STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

The following WHS music students participated and received ratings at the WSMA State Solo and Ensemble festival. The festival was held on Saturday April 25th on the campus of UW-Oshkosh in Oshkosh, WI. Students who participated qualified for State Festival by receiving a superior rating at District Festival. They then perform a prepared piece for an adjudicator, receive comments and are rated on a scale of 1 to 4. Performers receiving a "1" receive the highest possible rating. Soloists may also be nominated for "Exemplary Soloist" designation, with only certain students being selected.

## STUDENT/ENSEMBLE

## RATING

Hanna Numinen, *Musical Theatre Solo*

1-N (*Exemplary Soloist*)

Allison Hytinen, *Vocal Solo*  
*Musical Theatre Solo*

1  
1-N (*Nominated performer*)

Sarah Conery, *Vocal Solo*

2

Courtney Beauchamp, *Vocal Solo*

2

Mary Wilson-Carlson, *Vocal Solo*  
*Musical Theatre Solo*

2  
2

Abby Pepin, *Musical Theatre Solo*

2

Voices In Motion Honors Ensemble

1

Jacob Kierzek, *Xylophone Solo*

2

Emily Carlson, Drew Heinonen,  
*Alto Saxophone Duet*

1

Amanda Matznick, *Piano Solo*

2

WHS "Velocity" Jazz , *Jazz Improv Combo*

2

Paul Racine, Drew Heinonen, Peter Carlson,  
*Snare Drum Trio*

1



## **Top Senior Students Awarded Scholarships**

Four Westwood High School students were selected among the top 5% of high school seniors in Marquette and Alger counties to be honored in April at Excellence in Education Week. The Great Lakes Center for Youth Development (GLCYD) will issue each student with a \$1,500 check for education beyond high school. The top students and their most influential teachers are:

Courtney Beauchamp—Mr. Bradley  
Samantha Beauchamp—Mrs. Taavola  
Emily Carlson—Mr. Annala  
Ivan Wiljanen—Mr. Annelin

## WESTWOOD BPA STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AWARDS

Ten Westwood High School business students advanced through regional and state level competitions this year to qualify for the National Leadership Conference of Business Professionals of America in Anaheim, CA, May 5-12, 2015. The conference, with the theme "Imagine, Believe, Become," featured more than 5,500 students from across the country. Westwood BPA members earned the right to attend this conference by placing at or near the top of their events at the state level competitions held in March. In addition to competing, students were able to visit Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood, were taken on a tour of the L.A./Hollywood area, attended an Anaheim Angels baseball game, and spent a day at Newport Beach. They were accompanied by advisors Ronalyn Arseneau and Sabina Casperson.

The following Westwood students earned top awards at the National Leadership Conference: **Rachel Anderson**, 1st Place, Advanced Office Systems & Procedures; **Courtney Beauchamp**, 2nd Place, Financial Math & Analysis, 3rd Place, Administrative Support Concepts, 5th Place, Legal Office Procedures; **Ivan Wiljanen**, BPA National Merit Scholar Award; **Hannah Wisuri**, 6th Place, Fundamental Word Processing.

BPA students and advisors would like to thank all of the businesses, organizations, and individuals for donating to our NLC fund, assisting these students in their fundraising efforts for their trip to Anaheim. In addition, thank you to all who purchased Money Saver cards, candy, cookie dough, or participated in any other BPA fundraiser throughout the course of this school year.



*Back row, left to right: Hannah Salmi, Rylee Perry, Connor Mason, and Annie Bjork. Front row, left to right: Luke Wiljanen, RaeAnne Hinkens, Rachel Anderson, Courtney Beauchamp, Hanna Wisuri, and Ivan Wiljanen.*



*Rachel Anderson (center) after presentation of her 1st place national award*

## SCI PROGRAM HAT-DAY FUNDRAISER

This year, the SCI Class at Aspen Ridge School held a Hat Day fundraiser. The SCI teacher and staff members were so overwhelmed by the student participation. Together the elementary students raised over \$550.00 to help fund SCI expenses and field trips. The money raised will allow the SCI students to participate in outside activities that they might not get to do otherwise. Becca DeVerney, SCI teacher, said, "I am always so humbled by the love and support the NICE district families show towards my class. Thank you for providing my students with opportunities to interact and grow!"

## SPECIAL EDUCATION & 504 PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all of the families who participated in the "Special Education and 504" parent survey. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, and the suggestions provided will help us to continue providing exceptional services for our students with special needs.

## ONLINE LEARNING AT NICE

The Patriot Online Academy is a State of Michigan, accredited online public school that is FREE to students K-12 within MARESA school districts. We provide the opportunity for students to enroll as a part-time or full-time student with the NICE Community School district. This year, 31 students in grades K-12 enrolled in more than 60 core and elective courses. All of the courses are aligned with Michigan standards and are teacher-led by our own local highly qualified instructors. Our local mentor, Ryan Reichel, who is also a certified educator, is available to help students and monitor their progress.



The NICE Community School District is one of a handful of districts in Michigan to offer students the flexibility to work towards a high school diploma anywhere and anytime. By allowing families to choose a learning environment that fosters their student's ability to focus and excel, Patriot Online Academy offers students a personalized path to success.

For more information, contact Kurt Corcoran, Patriot Online Academy Coordinator, by email at [corcoran@nice.k12.mi.us](mailto:corcoran@nice.k12.mi.us) or by phone at 485-1023. Information can be found on the web at

<http://www.nice.k12.mi.us/PatriotOnlineAcademy/Home.aspx>.

## WESTWOOD SHAKESPEARE COMPANY TO PRESENT *As You Like It*

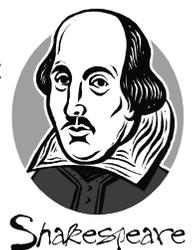
They've distinguished themselves with drama, now the members of the Westwood Shakespeare Company Community Theatre are back to make you laugh and sing!

"We're very excited about this production," said Artistic and Production Director B.G. Bradley. "Coming off a successful run with *King Lear* last summer, we're anxious to show the community what this company can do with comedy. Bradley added that *As You Like It* is also a "proto-musical" and said further that a wonderful score and some original additions to Shakespeare's timeless lyrics is in the works from the talented local husband and wife team of Denise and Brent Clark.

Returning to the company this year are prominent local actors including, Jeff Spencer, John Sarkela, Red Bays, Monica Nordeen, Shannon Miller, Taggart Bradley, B.G. Bradley, Timmy Gramms, Christopher Leith, among others. Back in the area and in the company this year as well are old favorites Patrick Bradley, Ben Filipowicz, and Ella Bartlett- Filipowicz. "The company is just loaded with talent, said Bradley.

As with last year's production, according to Bradley, there will be numerous free, open rehearsals, with members of the public more than welcome. This is designed, according to Bradley, to give audiences a look at the process. These rehearsals are taking place on Sunday afternoons between March and July 21 in Ishpeming. The remaining open rehearsals are scheduled for May 10 and 24, and June 8 and 21, two to three times monthly. Beginning July 21, rehearsals will be held Monday through Thursday until the show dates, which are August 12-14 at Westwood Auditorium in Ishpeming, and August 18-21 at the Frazier Boathouse Theater in Marquette as part of the Lake Superior Theater season. All show times are 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and \$5 per seat for groups of 5 or more at Westwood. See the Lake Superior Theater website for ticket information at the boathouse

For further information contact Bradley at (906) 485-1023 or (906) 458-1824 or by email at [bradleybg@nice.k12.mi.us](mailto:bradleybg@nice.k12.mi.us). The company is also on Facebook.



## ART ON DISPLAY AT DEVOS ART MUSEUM

Over 100 Aspen Ridge Elementary School students will have artwork on display at Northern Michigan University's DeVos Art Museum for the Annual Marquette Children's Exhibition. The exhibition will be open to the public during museum hours from May 4-24. Admission is free and all are invited to attend during the month of May to support our young and talented artists!



## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Congratulations to the 2014-15 Voice of Democracy VFW Post 4573 Winners. Alyssa Usimaki took 1st place while Britney Pelkola took 2nd place and Jarl Peters took 3rd place. Alyssa went on to compete at the district level, and she will receive further recognition from VFW District 14 and a scholarship award in May.



*Pictured above from left to right: Jarl Peters, Britney Pelkola and Alyssa Usimaki*

## ANNUAL A.C.E.S. WALK

On Wednesday, May 13, the student body and staff at Aspen Ridge School participated in the annual A.C.E.S. (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) Walk. A special thanks to the Ishpeming Township Fire Department for assisting, Econo Foods and Fox Motors for donating fruit and water as a healthy snack after the walk, and Q107/ESPN radio for doing a live broadcast at the event. New this year was the "Pedal Cruiser" and the students who were selected to pedal were based on a random drawing of top reading students from Aspen Ridge Middle School.



*2015 A.C.E.S. Walk*



*Students enjoy the "Pedal Cruiser"*

## TENTATIVE DATES FOR 2015-2016

September 8, 2015 – First Day of School  
November 26-27, 2015 – Thanksgiving Break  
December 21, 2015 – January 1, 2016 – Winter Break  
(Return from Winter Break on January 4, 2016)  
March 25—April 1, 2016 – Spring Break  
(Return from Spring Break on April 4, 2016)  
June 8, 2016—Last Day of School

## **UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

The NICE Board of Education appreciates your interest in the school district. Public participation and open lines of communication are vital to maintaining a successful educational program for students. All regular and special board meetings are open, and the public is encouraged to attend. Board meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the third Monday of the month in the Westwood High School Media Center. Dates and times for upcoming Board meetings are located on the district website at [www.nice.k12.mi.us](http://www.nice.k12.mi.us).

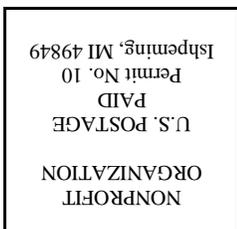
## **GRADUATION DATES**

Wednesday, May 20, 2015 7:00 PM, INN Community Schools Graduation, Negaunee HS Auditorium

Thursday, May 28, 2015 8:00 PM, Westwood High School Graduation, WHS Gymnasium

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 7:00 PM, Aspen Ridge Middle School 8th Grade Graduation, AR Gymnasium

***BOXHOLDER  
RURAL ROUTE***



NICE Community School District  
300 Westwood Drive  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49848