

The E.T. Cyber Cafe is officially open! Representatives from the River City Chamber of Commerce had E.T. Members, Mrs. Harkness and Mr. Reyburn participate in an official ribbon cutting on Tuesday, December 13th at the Newaygo Middle School E.T. Cyber Cafe. After the ribbon cutting, E.T. members presented information about the Cyber Cafe to representatives from the NCRESA, Newaygo County Career Tech Center and Fremont Area Community Foundation. Students from the Newaygo County Career Tech Center Mega-



tronics, Welding, and Graphics program then presented a coffee cart/bar to the Cyber Cafe. The coffee cart/bar has been in the works since Spring 2016 after collaboration between the E.T. Members and students at NCCTC. The initial idea of having the NCCTC students create the coffee cart/bar came from Trevir Kral, NHS 9th grader. Trevir was also at the ribbon cutting. The E.T. Club wants to thank the River City Chamber of Commerce, NCRESA, Newaygo County Career Tech Center and Fremont Area Foundation for attending the event and continuous support of the Cyber Cafe. Additional thanks to the NCCTC students; Bodi Pratt, Brace Pratt, Jacob Hendrson, Camryn Emeland-er, Madison Bartlett, Sariena Maka and Gracie Shug for creating the coffee cart/bar! You are all very creative and hard working students!

**Thought about becoming a substitute teacher?**

**NPS needs you!**

**Please contact PESG for details.**

**866-SUBPASS or [www.subpass.com](http://www.subpass.com)**



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Newaygo Public Schools  
360 S. Mill Street, P.O. Box 820  
Newaygo, MI 49337

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Newaygo, MI  
NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

# Velma Matson Upper El. News.....



All aboard the Polar Express!

For our Christmas celebration, the 2nd grade classes enjoyed watching The Polar Express. The boys and girls were able to relax with a stuffed animal and a cozy blanket while watching the movie. There were also activities about the Polar Express that the students were able to do such as a word search, a making words activity, coloring pictures and a maze. When the students got thirsty, the boys and girls went into the cafeteria to enjoy homemade cookies, hot chocolate with different items that could be mixed in with it: such as marshmallows, crushed mints, toffee pieces, candy canes, caramel and then topped with whipped cream. The 2nd grade teachers would like to thank all the parents for the donations and help with our celebration! Also thank you to our kitchen ladies and janitors for helping clean up! We all enjoyed our celebration!







Velma Matson students collected 3 full grocery carts (Thank you Shopko for donating the carts) of canned goods and non-perishable food items. All of the donations were passed along to Love, Inc. The items were then distributed throughout the community in time for Thanksgiving. Thank you to all of the families that helped our community.



Classes from the Vera Wilsie and Velma Matson schools made decorations to hang on the Christmas Tree of Hope in downtown Newaygo as part of the Newaygo Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Walk. Families that attended the walk were able to enjoy music from the NHS Band. It was a perfect night to experience a horse drawn carriage ride. Children visited with Santa while nibbling cookies. The Family of God Community Church provided crafts, Christmas stories

and cookies for the children. Our local stores, restaurants and vendors did a nice job inviting everyone to browse and enjoy a good meal. Thank you to Newaygo Chamber of Commerce for organizing a wonderful community event. A big thank you to the teachers and the students for making the tree look so festive!

# Spelling Bee

- Once Again, the Fourth Grade Spelling Bee Impresses Many!
- The intensity in the room was so thick you could cut it with a knife!
- Twenty three fourth graders battled it out for the title of Fourth
- Grade Spelling Bee Champion. In the end it came down to the final
- two, Lane Nelson and Henry Wood.
- In the end Lane Nelson triumphed with the winning word “coronet”.
- When asked about his experience in the spelling bee Lane stated “my
- heart was racing”, and “I was proud when I won.” Lane also went on
- to say how he thought everyone who participated “did a great job.”
- Way to show your Lion Pride Lane, and be a great winner Lane!
- Congratulation to all that participated and represented your class
- in this year’s Fourth Grade Spelling Bee. We look forward to seeing
- you compete net year.



Henry Wood 2017 4th Grade  
Spelling Bee runner-up



Lane Nelson 2017 4th Grade  
Spelling Bee winner

For the month of December the students at the Velma Matson Upper Elementary collected cake mixes, containers of frosting, and candles for the birthday bag program at Love Inc. A total of over one hundred items was brought in! These items will be put together into individual birthday bags that families from Newaygo County can take home with them when someone is having a birthday so that no child is without a cake on their special day. Great job, Velma Matson students!





The Project Citizen 5th Grade students delivered a new book to each Kindergartner, 1st grade student and 2nd grade student just in time for Christmas! Each book was wrapped by the 5th graders in preparation for the event. The 5th graders were matched up with an elementary student in each class to present the gift, unwrap and read with them. The Project Citizen Book Giving has been successful for 9 years. We have given over 4,000 books to students at the Velma Matson and Vera Wilsie buildings over the course of these year thanks to the Fremont Area Community Foundation and most recently the Newaygo PTO. We want to extend our thanks to the Newaygo PTO for their generosity and allowing us to continue making sure that each kid receives a book for Christmas. Also thank you to Newaygo Department of Transportation for transporting the 5th graders back and forth for the event.



**NPS is always accepting applications for Substitute Bus Drivers and a Substitute Bus Aide.**  
**Interested?**  
**Contact Chris Cronk,**  
**Transportation Director**  
**231-652-1112**

Visit us at  
[www.newaygo.net](http://www.newaygo.net)  
to stay current with  
events!



The E.T. Cyber Cafe located in the Newaygo Middle School Library is OPEN!  
 Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-4:45 p.m.  
 Food and Drink Sales begin at 3:45 p.m.  
 Comfy Yoga Chairs, Couches and Tables are perfect after a long day of school! Quiet atmosphere for learning. Chromebooks, Kindles, Head Phones, Digital Camera, and Large Screen Monitor available for your use to complete school work, projects, read, play learning apps or study for assessments.



Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Juice, Water, Crackers, Fruit Snacks, Cookies, Donuts and Danishes available for purchase ranging between \$1.00 to \$2.00.

Ask about the Cyber Cafe Buy 10 get 11th Free Punch Card. Gift Certificates available for purchase at anytime!  
 Newaygo staff and parents are welcome to stop in to purchase a beverage or snack during cafe hours too!

All Cafe Proceeds are used to purchase supplies for the cafe and technology for students to use while in the cafe!

Members from the Newaygo Middle School E.T. Club presented information about their new business within Newaygo Middle School, The E.T. Cyber Cafe, to the River Country Chamber of Commerce of Newaygo County. The presentation took place at The Stream in downtown Newaygo. The E.T. members networked with local business owners and representatives, experienced collaboration and presentation skills while building a partnership with the chamber. The E.T. Club looks forward to helping the chamber with future events in our community including the Home and Garden Show in Newaygo this coming April. A special thanks to Scott Swinehart, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, for inviting us to present at the River Country Chamber of Commerce meeting.





First Picture (L to R): Mr. Brad Reyburn, Connelly Nordlund Hefferen, Sofia Briggs, Barbie Toth, Jacob Sekach, Matthew Hurrle, Grant Harkness, Mrs. Jaime Harkness, Ezra Foster, Samanth Toth, Hudson Harkness, Nick Ruehmeier, Glenn Toth



#### National Jr. Honor Society Inductees 7th Grade

Dakota Bazzett, Jillian Braman, Riane Faas, Emmerson Goodin, Matthew Hurrle, Jayden Joseph, Ryder Kirk, Stevie Kleibusch, Sidney Lay, Ty Miedema, Josselyn Newfer, Clara Riddering, Carsyn Scarlavai, Jacob Sekach, Lily Swinehart

#### 8th Grade

Audree Adams, Brianna Grugett, Ryan Hether, Jennafer Lavette

#### 8th Grade 2nd Year Members

Matthew Richardson, Oliver Geroux, Ashton Stephens, Wyatt

Mortensen, Jaylee Long, Anna Brummel, Lilly Neff, Makenna Young, Kendall Mathis, Hudson Harkness, Olivia Lacy, Lily Ruehmeier, Rachel Karrip, Emma Reyburn, Haleigh Schmitt, Alexis Feutz

The National Jr. Honor Society collected 193 Toys for the WZZM13 Toys for Tots Spirit Challenge! The 8th grade NJHS members and Mrs. Harkness, NJHS Advisor delivered the toys to True North Community Service prior to Christmas. Thank you to the middle school students, staff and families whom donated toys! Thank you to Mrs. Reyburn and Mrs. Grugett for chaperoning the trip to True North. Also, a big thanks to WZZM13 for including our picture on the morning news during the Toys for Tots Spirit Challenge.









# Newaygo Girls' Basketball Winter Skills Camp

Every Saturday morning in January, the Varsity Basketball team with 28 3rd-6th graders have come up to the high school to continue building up their basketball skills. The Varsity girls helped demonstrate and show the younger girls how to improve their basketball skills. Both the young girls and the players had a great time.



9th Graders Bowling Incentive



41 Freshmen earned the PBIS Bowling Incentive by missing 2 or less days of school and having 2 or less tardies.



10th Graders Bowling Incentive



32 Sophomores earned the PBIS Bowling Incentive by missing 2 or less days of school and having 2 or less

Newaygo Public Schools  
2016-2017 School Calendar

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| February 6       | Late Start  |
| February 13      | Late Start  |
| February 16      | Half-Day of School – Begin Winter Break                           |
| February 17-20   | No School – Winter Break  |
| February 27      | Late Start  |
| March 6          | Late Start  |
| March 13         | Late Start  |
| March 13         | Lion Pride Night – Grades K-4; 5:00-8:00p                         |
| March 14         | Lion Pride Night – Grades 5-12; 5:00-8:00p                        |
| March 20         | Late Start  |
| March 24         | End of Third Marking Period                                       |
| March 27         | Late Start  |
| March 31-April 7 | No School – Spring Break  |
| April 10         | Late Start  |
| April 14         | No School – Good Friday   |
| April 17         | Late Start  |
| April 24         | Late Start  |
| May 29           | No School – Memorial Day  |
| June 8           | Half-Day of School – Teacher Records in p.m.                      |
| June 9           | Half-Day of School – Teacher Records in p.m. – Last Day of School |

Late Start = School will begin one hour later than normal and morning bus routes will run one hour later in the morning on these days.

Alternate Days of Instruction. If additional days of instruction are needed to comply with State Requirements of minimal number of hours of instruction (1,098) they will be added at Winter Break (Feb. 20) and/or the end of the school year.



January was School Board Member Recognition Month.

If you see one of our board members in the community, please remember to thank them for all they do for NPS!

Go Lions!

(L to R, Top Row) Mr. Reid Sherwood - Trustee, Mr. Jim Badgero - Treasurer, Mr. Bret Brummel - President, Mr. Vince Grodus - Vice-President.  
(Bottom Row) Mrs. Melissa Swinehart - Trustee, Mrs. Jann Holman - Trustee, Ms. Jackie Malsom - Secretary.



Regular Meeting  
Monday, November 21, 2016.  
The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, November 21, 2016.  
Mrs. Holly Bowman, High School teacher, presented proposed 2018, 8 day trip with students to Belize.  
TowerPinkster Achitects & Engineers and The Christman Company presented to the board the overall site building plan.  
The Board of Education hired: Alesha Havens – Tier II Kindergarten Interventionist, Maxine Hilbrand – Bus Driver, Lois Schug –Bus Driver.  
Letters of resignation were received from Tim Polasek – Middle School Wrestling Coach, Joseph Barrette - Assistant Varsity Football Coach, and Jackie Knight – High School Principal (effective 6/30/2017).  
There were no actions regarding Old Business items.  
The Board was updated on the finances of the district by Business Manager Mrs. Cindy Blamer.  
Achievement Data – NEWA-MAP Data, Reading  
The board was updated with results and statistics by Superintendent Dr. Mathis.  
There were no Major General Fund Expenditures.  
The Board of Education considered the following New Business items:  
-Student Trip to Belize.  
Discussions:

Board discussed current board policy for Superintendent Evaluations.  
Principals updated the Board on their build-ings.

Regular Meeting  
Monday, December 19, 2016.  
The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education held a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 19, 2016.  
A letter of appreciation was presented to the board by Dr. Mathis on behalf of Thomas Horling, thanking the board for the memorial book in memory of his passing Grandmother.  
The Board of Education hired Guy Redinger – Middle School Wrestling Coach.  
The Board of Education took the following actions regarding Old Business items:  
-Approved the High School student trip to Belize in 2018;  
-Approved a change in the timeline to do the Superintendent’s evaluation in the fall f 2017 for the 2016-17 school year;  
-Officially declared support for the allocation of NCASB Funds by adopting the Resolution for Allocation for NCASB Funds;  
-Approved the Resolution to confirm Renew-als of Tax Collection Agreements with City & Townships for Summer Tax Collection.

Regular Meeting  
Monday, January 16, 2017.  
The Newaygo Public Schools Board of Edu-cation held their Organizational and Regular Meeting on Monday, January 16, 2017.

The Board held their Organizational Meeting and took the following actions:  
-Elected 2016-17 Officers as follows:  
President – Mr. Bret Brummel, Vice-Pres-ident – Mr. Vince Grodus, Secretary – Ms. Jackie Malsom, Treasurer – Mr. Jim Badgero.  
Discussion:  
Principals updated the Board on their buidlings.  
During the Regular Meeting the Board was given formal recognition – January is Board Member Appreciation Month.  
The Board hired:  
-Kari Boverhof – Cook, Velma Matson Up-per Elementary School;  
-Amy Muir – Aide, Vera Wilsie Elementary School;  
-Kristin Melvin – 8th grade Volleyball Coach.  
The Board of Education took the following actions regarding Old Business items:  
-Approved the Amended 2016-2017 Budget.  
The Board was updated on the finances of the district.  
Superintendent Mathis presented to the Board information on Certified Staff – Stu-dent Growth Data.  
Mr. Adam DeShano gave information to the Board regarding Special Education – Contin-uous Improvement and Monitoring Systems (CIMS) Cross Indicator Analyst Report.

Board of Education Meetings  
The Board of Education meets on the third Monday of every month. Meetings are held in the Library of the Newaygo High School, 200 East St., Newaygo, MI 49337. Meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting Minutes are available on the district website. [www.newaygo.net](http://www.newaygo.net)  
Anyone with questions regarding any meeting of the Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education is invited to contact any member of the Board of Education or Superintendent Peggy Mathis at (231) 652-6984. Minutes of any meeting of the Newaygo Public Schools Board of Education are available for review in the school district’s administration office, 360 S. Mill Street, Newaygo, MI 49337.

The Newaygo Public Schools Newsletter is published by the Newaygo Board of Education and Administration. All news for this publication should be sent to the Administration Office, 360 S. Mill St., P.O. Box 820, Newaygo, MI 49337. All submissions should be sent to the attention of Jessie Borkowski, Editor. Newaygo Public Schools is committed to the policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, religion, sex, age, national origin and handicap in all of its programs.

Board of Education  
Bret Brummel, President  
Vince Grodus, Vice-President  
Jim Badgero, Treasurer  
Jackie Malsom, Secretary  
Reid Sherwood, Trustee  
Jann Holeman, Trustee  
Melissa Swinehart, Trustee

Newaygo Middle School  
Cyber Cafe

# Gift Certificates



Available Now!

Just in time for Valentine's Day!

Great teacher and student gift!



- ★ Gift Certificates can be purchased at the Cyber Cafe located in the NMS Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:30-4:45 p.m. Food sales begin at 3:45 p.m.
- ★ Certificates can be purchased in \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 increments.
- ★ Gift Certificates may be used on Cyber Cafe items such as beverages and food.

Questions? Contact Jaime Harkness,  
jharkness@newaygo.net

| 2016-17 Administration                          |          |
|---|----------|
| Peggy Mathis, Superintendent .....              | 652-6984 |
| Cindy Blamer, Business Manager .....            | 652-6984 |
| Jackie Knight, H.S.Principal .....              | 652-1646 |
| Sarah Rodriguez, Assistant H.S. Principal ..... | 652-1646 |
| Brad Reyburn, M.S. Principal .....              | 652-1285 |
| Steve Bush, Assistant M.S. Principal .....      | 652-1285 |
| Adam DeShano, Velma Matson Upper Elem ....      | 652-2100 |
| Candy Wells, Vera Wilsie Elem. Principal .....  | 652-6371 |
| Bud Gould, Dir. Building & Grounds .....        | 652-9313 |
| Chris Cronk, Dir. Transportation .....          | 652-1112 |
| Mary Anne Charette, Dir. Food Service .....     | 652-9286 |
| Kristin Miedema, Dir. 9-12 Athletics .....      | 652-1646 |
| Walter Aslakson, Technology Director .....      | 652-1646 |

Lunch Prices for 2016-17 School Year

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Velma Matson/Vera Wilsie Elementary | \$1.75 |
| High School/Middle School           | \$2.00 |
| Adult Meals                         | \$3.00 |
| Reduced Meals                       | \$.40  |

Monthly Lunch Menus can be found on the NPS website.  
[www.newaygo.net](http://www.newaygo.net)

\*Menu subject to changes due to conditions beyond our control. The National School Lunch Program prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.


Mary Anne Charette, Food Service Director  
(231) 652-9286

**NPS is always accepting applications for Substitute Cooks.**

**Interested candidates should contact Mary Anne Charette, Food Service Director at 231 652-9286.**

**Thought about becoming a substitute teacher?**  
**NPS needs you!**

**Please contact PESG for details.**  
**866-SUBPASS or [www.subpass.com](http://www.subpass.com)**





**NPS is always accepting applications for Substitute Bus Drivers and a Substitute Bus Aide.**

**Interested?**

**Contact Chris Cronk,**  
**Transportation Director**  
**231-652-1112**

Mark Your Calendars!

The NMS Entrepreneurship & Technology Club will be hosting a

Mother Son Dance on Saturday, May 6th

at Newaygo Middle School from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Details will be sent home with all boys K-8th grade prior to Spring Break.



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