



# Medieval Times

Volume 7 Issue 5

December 2011

## From the SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Ken Halverson

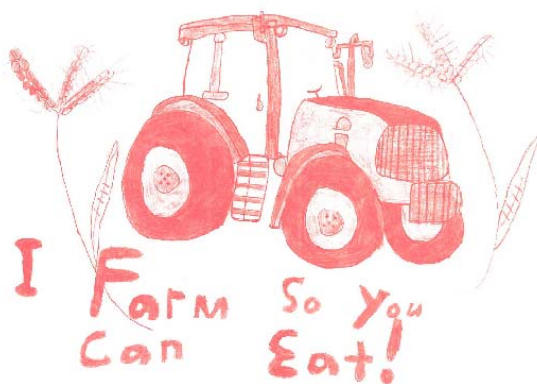
The first days in December are lining up to be a very time here at school! The annual Junior High Basketball Tourney will be held in Gildford through Saturday, December 3rd. Check out the tournament brackets elsewhere in this addition and make plans to attend as much of this always entertaining event. There is usually a stand-out or two on these teams that will remind you of a star player of years gone by!

Winter is just around the corner, and therefore I would remind our parents with children in attendance that now is the time to get your radios tuned to KOJM/KPQX for early morning announcements about school closures. Due to weather conditions that are often unpredictable, a decision regarding school closure may not be forthcoming until the early morning hours of a school day. As always, I would ask that families not call the school to inquire about school operation on any given day. Our phone lines need to remain open in order to stay in touch with department of transportation personnel or other schools who may be headed our way due to extra-curricular events.

The next School Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in Gildford beginning at 5:00 PM. Items on this month's agenda include planning/preparing for visits to other districts currently operating on a 4-Day Week. Patrons interested in visiting a school district employing a 4-Day Week are invited to contact me at 355-4481 should you desire to be included on one of our information gathering teams!

Our school Christmas concerts are scheduled as follows: The Junior High & High School Program will be held in Rudyard on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 PM. Our Elementary Program will follow in Gildford on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM. As always, we expect a special someone to appear just as the concert concludes, so bring those younger children as well for a memorable night for the whole family! Both concerts are under the direction of Ms. Kerra Collins who is understandably nervous about her first "Big Events" as our youngest teacher here at North Star. I know many of you will join me in wishing her well on her initial Christmas programs in this first year as a music educator.

### THE ART OF FARMING 2012



DYLAN MILLER • FIFTH GRADE • GILDFORD, MONTANA

**Honor Band and Choir**

Congratulations to the following music students who were selected to participate in the Honor Band & Choir festival on Nov. 28 & 29 in Shelby: Kristyn Lavery on flute; choir members: Kassidy Hansen, Karston Donoven, Quinn Spinler and Bettie Carlon.

### Wife Calendar

Dylan Miller's drawing (pictured at left) was chosen for the front of the 2012 WIFE calendar! He is in the sixth grade and is the son of David and Julie Miller of Gildford.

## Squire of the Month



Megan is an excellent role model to her peers. She has set and maintains high standards for herself and is very respectful. I have always found Megan to be responsible, dependable, and dedicated to academics. I have especially enjoyed seeing her reserved, yet fun personality emerge this year. Keep up the top-notch work, Megan; you are a very deserving recipient of this award! Megan is the daughter of Lee and Karen Kurtz of Gildford. By: Mrs. Karleen Wolery

## Knight of the Month



Shelby Lipp has been a driving force for the Class of 2012 for the last few years. She has lead by example, demonstrating what it takes to be a leader. She is not afraid to shoulder the burden, no matter what the occasion. From the planning and implementation of the Junior Prom last Spring, to governing the student body this academic year, to assisting with the Divisional Volleyball Tournaments, Shelby has energy enough to take it on and see it through to the end. I also appreciate her attitude in the classroom and on the court. The other students and her teammates look to her for guidance, and she does not let them down. Good job, Shelby, you deserve it. Shelby is the daughter of Mike and Joan Lipp of Hingham. By: Mrs. Pam Renaker

## Volleyball & 6-Man Football Honors

Congratulations to Shelby Lipp, Lisa Carlon and Bettie Carlon who were named to the volleyball All-Conference 6C East team.

Congratulations to Jordy Donovan who was selected to the All-Conference and All-State team & was invited to play in the 6-man All-Star game.

Congratulations also to Karston Donovan who made Honorable Mention for All-Conference and is the 1st alternate for the 6-man All-Star game.

## Kindergarten Update

By: Mrs. Joanie Lipp

The kindergarten class of 2024 has been busy. Some of their recent activities include blending three sounds into words and they have all successfully read their first book, Hot, Hot, Hot! We are practicing the whole alphabet every day but have drilled into 8 letters that make lots of words. Our word worm is growing longer all the time. Along with the words we can blend, we are also learning "outlaws", words that break the rules and cannot be sounded out. Ask a kindergartener you know how to spell "the", "you", or "is" and you may be serenaded with a song they have learned to help them remember.

Along with Phonics and Math, the kindergarten kids enjoy stations. These are 5-7 different activities set up around the room. Groups of 2-3 students rotate thru these activities practicing skills at the same time. Some of the favorite stations are pattern blocks, magnetic rods and balls, free play in the kitchen center, and puzzles.

All 15 kids are very excited about the upcoming holidays and hope you will come and listen to them sing at the elementary Christmas concert coming up, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.



Kindergarten students pose at pilgrims: Back row L to R: Devon Valdillez, Carter Campbell, Gavin Clawson, Michael Berg, Christopher Burkhartsmeier and Tristan Swick. Front row L to R: Maren Ness, Kira King, Jessica Troup, Kayli Fleming, and Amber Harding. Not pictured: Kaydence Bates, Skyla Gilead, Colter Matkin, and Alexander Parks.

# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

December 2011

North Star School District  
Ken Halverson, Superintendent



## SHORT NOTES

### The world is a stage

Acting out stories builds reading skills and creativity. Encourage your youngsters to put on plays for you based on their favorite books. Each child can play a different character, or one could be the narrator. Suggest that they design scenery on poster board, find props around the house, and dig up old clothes for costumes.

### School clothes

Do you and your child disagree about what he wears to school? Try putting away clothes that aren't appropriate for the weather so he'll always know what his choices are. If he picks out an outfit that doesn't match, consider letting it go as long as it fits him and follows the school dress code.

### Active apologies

When your youngster accidentally bumps into a classmate, she probably knows to say, "I'm sorry." Encourage her to take the apology a step further by offering her help. For instance, she might pick up books that the other student dropped.

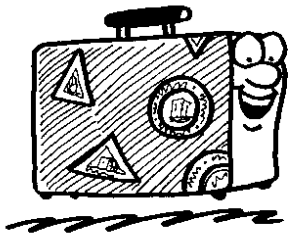
### Worth quoting

"The beginning is always today."  
*Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** I'm full when I'm gone, and I'm empty when I'm here. What am I?

**A:** A suitcase.



## Discover the past

Your child can learn a lot by exploring the way people lived long ago. It will help him get excited about studying history and give him a fresh perspective on how we live today. Here are some ways he can look into the past.

### Famous figures

Did someone in your youngster's history book capture his imagination? Perhaps he liked reading about Benjamin Franklin's inventions or Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership. Encourage him to learn more by checking out a biography at the library. Often, just one person can spark interest in other famous people from history.

### Field trips

Visit historic sites in your area, such as battlefields, homes of famous people, and monuments. For ideas, stop by your town's visitors' center or search online (try [www.waymarking.com](http://www.waymarking.com)). Your child might even find a "living history" museum or park where people play the part of historical figures or re-create daily



life by churning butter or using a washboard. Have your youngster compare these activities to his own life.

### Local flavor

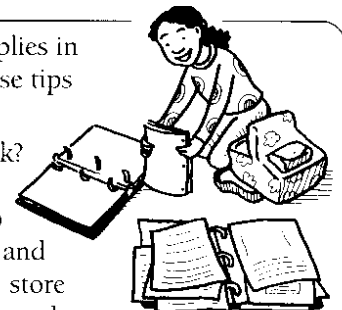
Old newspapers, photographs, and letters offer clues about what your town was like long ago. Stop by your public library's local-history section, and look through items like these with your child. Use what you see to imagine the lives of your town's early residents. You may discover clues about where they came from, how they earned a living, and what they did for fun. ♥

## Clearing out clutter

Winter break is a good time to get papers and supplies in order for the second half of the school year. Share these tips with your child:

- Are papers spilling out of your youngster's backpack? It will be easier for her to find materials if she carries only what she needs each day. Suggest that she dump everything out and make three piles: "today," "later," and "never." She can put the "today" pile back in the bag, store what she wants to save, and recycle what she doesn't need.

- Help your child restock homework supplies like pencils and writing paper, and have her throw away dried-out markers and glue sticks. Let her choose a drawer or cubby (or give her a container and lid) to keep everything in one place. ♥



# I wish... I will!

What will your child accomplish in 2012? Perhaps she would like to improve her grades or play basketball. No matter what she sets her sights on, here is how she can work to make it happen:

1. Talk about wishes and goals. A wish is something she would like ("I wish I could get a perfect report card"), while a goal is something that's more specific and doable ("I will get a better grade in math").
2. Ask her to choose a goal (raising her math grade) and draw a picture of it in the center of a paper plate. For example, she



might draw herself circling a math grade she's proud of.

3. Help her name the steps involved in reaching her goal (make and use flash cards, find a study buddy). Have her write them around the edge of the plate.

4. As she completes a step, let her use a single-hole punch to poke a hole through its place on the plate. When every step is completed, talk about how close she is to her goal.

*Tip:* Encourage your youngster to celebrate progress toward goals and not to be discouraged by a step backward. This will help her move forward.♥

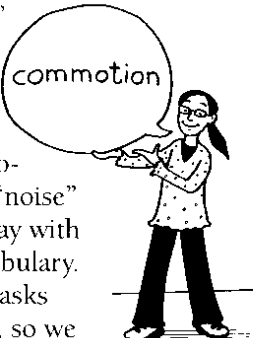
## PARENT TO PARENT



### Using a rich vocabulary

Teachers often comment that my daughter Reena has a strong vocabulary. I think it's because my husband and I have always used "big" words around her. When she was a toddler, my father-in-law suggested that we just talk to her normally. He would simply say "engineer" instead of something like "choo-choo driver," for example.

Over the years, I've kept his advice in mind. During dinner conversations, I might say "commotion" rather than "noise" or report on my day with my real work vocabulary. Reena sometimes asks what words mean, so we keep a dictionary handy.



I think our daughter's vocabulary has been a big part of why she does well in school. It also allows her to participate in family discussions and understand more of what she reads.♥

**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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## Q & A Drugs: An ongoing conversation

**Q:** When should I talk to my son about drugs?

**A:** Now—and later! You can start talking about drugs, including alcohol and cigarettes, when your child is young, and keep talking about them as he gets older.

You might bring it up by explaining that sometimes kids offer other kids beer, cigarettes, or even marijuana, and you're wondering if anything like that has ever happened to him. Let him know that if it does, it's important to say "no" and then tell a trusted adult right away. Assure him that this is not considered tattling, because it's a serious situation that he doesn't have to handle on his own.

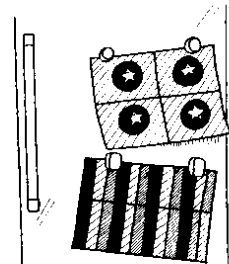
Be sure to tell him why he shouldn't try drugs. They are unhealthy for his mind and body, and they can be addictive—once a person starts, it's hard to stop. That's why the best choice is to say "no" the very first time, and every time, someone offers him any kind of drug.♥



## ACTIVITY CORNER What's different?

With this game, players have to look closely to find the part that doesn't match. You and your child will have fun trying to outsmart each other—and he will build observation skills that are important for science and other subjects.

Draw lines to divide a sheet of paper into four equal squares. While your youngster isn't looking, make an identical design in three squares. For instance, color a tiny green star in

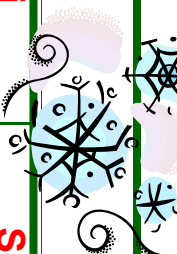
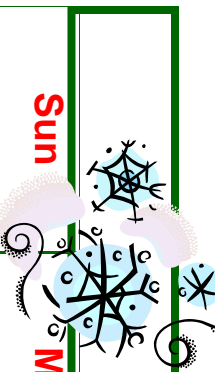



a red circle on a blue background, and put a black dot in the top point of the stars.

Then, in the fourth square, make one small change. You might put the dot in one of the star's bottom points, for example. How quickly can your child spot the difference? Then, turn the paper over, and let him make designs for you so you can try to find the unique one.



Play several times, and make the drawings increasingly complicated. You might make a pattern of blue, yellow, and red stripes, but in one of the squares, have a blue and a yellow stripe trade places.♥

# December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 JH Boys BB Tournament in Gildford	2 Mid-Quarter JH BB Tournament in Gildford	3 JH BB Tournament in Gildford
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
				Grade 7-12 Music Concert 7:00 PM Rudyard	Big Sandy BB Tournament	Big Sandy BB Tournament	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
		Booster Club Mtg 4:00 PM; School Board Mtg, 5:00 PM; Gildford; Elementary Music Concert, 6:30 PM		BB vs. Chinook in Gildford, 3:00/4:30/ 6:00/7:30	JV BB vs. Rocky Boy in Rudyard 5:00/6:30	BBB in Turner 6:00 PM	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
		Geography Bee 9:00 AM in Gildford, BB in Box Elder 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30		BB vs. HLP in Rudyard Noon/1:30/3:00/4:30 — No School, Christmas Break —	— No School, Christmas Break —	Christmas Eve	
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	— No School, Christmas Break —	— No School, Christmas Break —	— No School, Christmas Break —	— No School, Christmas Break —	— No School, Christmas Break —	New Year's Eve	
Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	
	No School	BB vs. CJI in Rudyard 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30 BPA Conference—GF			BB in Sunburst 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	GBB vs. Winifred in Gildford, 4:30/6:00	

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1	 2 No School	3 BB vs. CJI in Ruddyard 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30 BPA in Great Falls	4	5	6 BB in Sunburst 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	7 GBB vs. Winifred in Gildford 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
8	9 School Board Meeting in Ruddyard, 7:00 PM	10 JV BB in Rocky Boy 5:00/6:30 PM Booster Club Mtg 4:00 PM Foundation Mtg 5:00 PM	11	12 BB in Chinook 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	13 End of 2nd Qtr/1st Sem, BB vs. Denton in Gildford3:00/4:30/6:00 /7:30	14 BB vs. Big Sandy in Gildford 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 BBB vs. Turner in Gildford 6:00
22	23	24 BB vs. Box Elder in Ruddyard 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	25 No School Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00 to 7:00 PM	26	27 State Speech & Drama	28 State Speech & Drama BB at HLP in Hays 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30
29	30 Missoula Children's Theater T'youts in Gildford	31 BB at CJI 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	<i>Feb 1</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>	<i>Feb 3</i> BB vs. Sunburst in Ruddyard 3:00/4:30/6:00/7:30	<i>Feb 4</i> MCT performances 3:00 & 7:00 PM, GBB in Winifred 4:30/6:00



## FCCLA District 3 Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

North Star's twenty-nine FCCLA members recently attended the District 3 meeting in Havre. They spent the day learning about the importance of healthy bodies including diet, exercise and habits. Make-A-Wish is our state-wide outreach project this year and we learned more about the foundation that supports the wishes of terminally ill children. To support the fund-raising efforts of this group, North Star FCCLA will be conducting **"Swishes for Wishes"** at the upcoming basketball games. Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to help raise enough money to fund at least 3 wishes this year.

At our meeting, Kassidy Hansen was elected the new District 3 President and Quinn Spinler the new Secretary/Treasurer. Kassidy will go on to become a new State FCCLA Officer at our State meeting in March.

## Fall Show "Rumors" was a Hit! \_\_\_\_\_

The North Star drama club presented Neil Simon's *Rumors* on November 17-18 to wonderful audiences on both nights.

A fun time was had by the cast of ten and countless backstage technical help. Audiences, both nights, were quick with laughter and applause. It's so important to have "live" audiences when performing a comedy; if they are not receptive and audibly appreciative of the jokes, the actor's job is significantly harder. A big thank you goes out to all who came and enjoyed our fall production! We could not do it without you and we will see you on the main stage in the spring!

Photo below right: Sarah Human, Thatcher Smith, Rian Shanklin, Whitney Wendland, Delainey Spicher, Taylor Warren, Jordan Holt, Caleb Vaughn, Quinn Spinler, Samuel Ulmen, Shelby Sizemore, Sarah Massar, Brandi Crittenden, Melissa Pester, Mrs. Schnittgen, McKenna Holt & Christopher Lavery.

"Rumors" actors & actresses, below: McKenna Holt & Christopher Lavery; right Sarah Massar, Delainey Spicher & Brandi Crittenden; bottom right: Shelby Sizemore, Jordan Holt, Caleb Vaughn & Quinn Spinler.



**Activity Passes** for the 2011-2012 school year are now on sale. Prices: Family \$200.00, Adult \$100.00, Student \$50.00. This price covers all North Star Athletic REGULAR season competitions. It EXCLUDES but is not limited to the following: Volleyball Showcases Tournament, All Tournament Games- High School and Jr. High and all Football Playoff Games. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the school office.

A **Next Quest** email list is being developed. It will be used to send out the Next Quest, schedule changes, etc. If you are interested in receiving those types of emails, send an email to [bcampbell@northstar.k12.mt](mailto:bcampbell@northstar.k12.mt).

**Booster Club Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 13  
4:00 PM in Gildford**

Everyone welcome



A huge **THANK YOU**.....to all who voted for our *Credit Cleaners* video. We did not win, but were proud of our video and thankful to live in a community that supports the efforts of our students. The learning that took place in the writing and filming of our video was incredible. Again, Thank You!! Your support meant more than we can say. Shelby, Marielle, Katelyn, Brandi and Mrs. Chinadle



FCCLA members, standing L to R: Jaxon Simonson, Melissa Pester, Kieffer Morley, Bettie Carlon, Thatcher Smith, Kassidy Hanson, Jordy Donovan, Lisa Carlon, Haylee Anderson, Quinn Spinler, Taylor Warren, Cooper Spicher, Calvin Vaughn, Shelby Sizemore, Brandi Crittenden, Christopher Lavery, Shelby Lipp, Kimberly Luttrell, McKenna Holt. Kneeling L to R: Johnny Meister, Christian Pena, Delainey Spicher, Mackenzie Hanson, Tylynn Rettig, Marielle Simonson, Alissa Borlaug, Whitney Wendland and Chenoa Lenhardt.



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