

ISD578

NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Superintendent's Message

Greetings Families

It's hard to believe that it's April. It's safe to say that March came in like a lamb and out like a lion!!! Even though I had a lot of practice last year with snow days, I was relieved that the massive snowstorms came during spring break! Whew!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with the joys of spring! As we transition into this new spring season, I wanted to share some exciting updates from our district.

Spring activities:

Remember to check out our school activities. The calendar is filled with enriching activities and events planned for the remainder of the school year, including field day, academic awards, musical performances, and sporting events (www.isd578.org)

Referendum:

I feel truly blessed to have lived in this district for almost 30 years, and worked in the school for 20 years. In a few weeks, I'll have completed year 2 as the superintendent. My point - I have seen how hard our staff work to educate and care for our children and maintain the facilities. While we have made some significant (and I think pretty amazing) changes in the district, there is still a healthy to-do list. As you may have heard, the district is moving forward with an election in May. Find out more at www.isd578.org/referendum

I hope you can join us for tours & information sessions

- Elementary OPEN HOUSE & tours Friday, April 26th noon-4pm
- Sunday, April 28th at Noon - Community Meeting at the Pizza Pub
- Monday, April 29th at 6:30p - Public Hearing: Review and Comment at the Pine City Elementary MultiPurpose Room
- Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30p Informational meeting at the Pine City Elementary MultiPurpose Room

May 14th - Special Election at Pine City High School MultiPurpose Room

Take Care
Cindy

www.isd578.org



PCHS THEATER PRESENTS CHARLOTTE'S WEB

The spring play for Pine City High School features the children's classic story of "Charlotte's Web", created by E.B. White and written for the stage by Joseph Robinette. The students will perform the show for three public performances: April 12 - 14, 2024. The Friday and Saturday evening shows begin at 7:00 PM and the Sunday matinee begins at 2:00 PM.

The Children's Literature Association named this "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years," and Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling theatrical presentation.

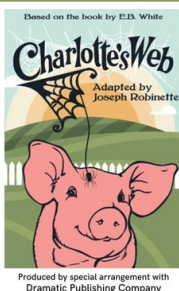
All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arables; and most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be "a true friend and a good writer." Determined to save Wilbur, Charlotte begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some pig." This is a beautiful, knowing play about friendship that audiences will adore.

All tickets are general admission seating and are available for advance purchase at the Pine City High School, or the Pine City Chamber Office. Adults are \$10 each and K-12 students outside of the Pine City School District are \$5. Pine City High school students can show their School ID or StudentVue login and receive free admission to any show. Pine City Elementary students can attend for free with a paid adult ticket.

**Friday
April 12
7:00 PM**

**Saturday
April 13
7:00 PM**

**Sunday
April 14
2:00 PM**



**Pine City
High School
Auditorium**

**General
Admission
Seating**

**Adults \$10
K-12 Students \$5**

PCHS Students are free
with their activity pass

PCES are free with
adult ticket purchase



Jordyn J, Claire B, Kaia R, Chase H, and Cheyenne S rehearse one of the many barnyard scenes for Charlotte's Web.



Cast member Emily W spent part of spring break helping paint the set.



Brooklyn S & Jordyn J give a thumbs up at the nearly completed barn for the show.



Photo by Traci LeBrun.



Photo by Traci LeBrun.

Learn more at: www.tinyurl.com/pchscharlottesweb

Community Education

Spring is in the air! Community Ed is currently taking registrations for several kids classes such as Youth Gardening, Open Media Center and Game Time with several spring/summer youth classes in the works! Watch your child's backpack for class flyers and check often at isd578.ce.eleyo.com for new class information!

Looking for adult classes? [Click here](#) to check out the 2024 Spring Community Ed flyer for information on yoga, Driver Improvement class options and a Let's Talk About Medicare class being offered.

Here are a couple other community events that may be of interest...

Firearms Safety Training classes begin at 6:00pm on Tuesday April 2 at the High School 7th Grade Commons Area. For more detailed class information, go to dnr.state.mn.us/safety.

The Pine Area Lions are hosting the Dad and Daughter Dance on Friday, May 10. [Click here](#) for more information.



Aloha!
The Pine Area Lions Invite You to join us for this special event!

Dad and Daughter Dance

FRIDAY, MAY 10
6:30 - 9:30 PM

Pine County Fairgrounds Event Center
Kindergarten - 6th Grade
\$30 per couple
\$5 each additional girl

Hosted by the Pine Area Lions
Advance Registration Requested by Wednesday, May 1st
<https://tinyurl.com/PALalohadance2024>



Thank you! Thank you! Thank You!
Let's Celebrate

Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE FOR THE KIDS!!!

Paraprofessionals at PCPS

On April 3, Pine City Public Schools celebrated Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, recognizing the crucial role these individuals play beyond classroom assistance. From building strong relationships with students to greeting them at the front door daily, paraprofessionals provide invaluable emotional support, assist with homework, and even share breakfast and lunch with students. Their dedication goes beyond academic aid, enriching the school community and fostering a nurturing environment for student growth and success.

MATH MANIA

FAMILY MATH NIGHT



THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024
@ 5:30-6:30 pm

Pine City Elementary School
Elementary Media Center
For all students/parents grades K-6

Join us for an exciting evening where students and parents can explore and learn mathematics together! By exploring mathematics through games, puzzles, art and computer science students and their families will discover that mathematics is about much more than just numbers!

Activities will include:

- Card Games & Board Games
- Visual Perception Puzzles
- Logic Puzzles
- Guessing Jars
- Math Read-Together Books
- Math Fact Games
- Coding
- Math Art
- Snack

Dress up for the occasion. Wear a number or a shape!
Contact Joanne Blake with questions jblake@isd578.org or 320-629-4244

Pine City Public Schools at Target Field

Looking for something fun to do over Memorial Weekend? How about kicking off the summer at a Minnesota Twins game?

The Saturday, May 25 Minnesota Twins vs Texas Rangers game has been designated as Pine City Schools Day at Target Field. The Minnesota Twins are offering a limited amount of discounted tickets and are giving back \$2 for each ticket to Pine City Schools!

Please [click here](#) to find out more information and to purchase tickets!!

PINE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT TARGET FIELD



Saturday, May 25th 1:10 pm vs. Texas Rangers

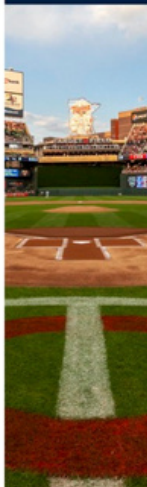
Tickets starting at **\$26** for upper-level tickets and **\$42** for lower-level tickets

\$2 from each ticket purchased through this promotion will go back to support education in the school district

Gate giveaway: Jhoan Duran bobblehead (first 10,000 fans)

To purchase tickets, please visit:
<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/PineCity0525>

Questions? Please reach out to Peter Farley at 612-659-3583 or PeterFarley@twins.com



TARGET@FIELD

Kindergarten Prep Fun!

Mr. Becken's kindergarten students were welcomed as special guest readers for the preschool students recently. After enjoying story time, the pre-K kids visited Mr. Becken's classroom and had a blast exploring the kindergarten classroom. It was a delightful way to introduce them to the world of being kindergarten students before the fall transition!



GARDEN-DISCO PROM 2024

GRAND MARCH WILL BE HELD AT PINE CITY HIGH SCHOOL AND BEGIN AT 5 PM, ATTENDEES ARRIVE AT 4:15 PM

DINNER WILL BE HELD AT THE PINE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS AT 7 PM

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY FROM 8-11

MAY | SAT 04 | 2024

TO ATTEND, TURN IN \$50 TO MR. CUKLA
REGISTRATION OPENS ON APRIL 1ST & CLOSSES APRIL 22ND

2024 REFERENDUM

FAQs

isd578.org/referendum



What is a bond referendum?

A bond referendum is a local property tax approved by voters to fund new construction, renovation and additions to existing school buildings and purchases of new equipment. The tax impact is paid by all property owners based on the assessed value of their property.

Why considering a bond referendum?

Our district is facing facility challenges that are impacting learning and the student experience. At the elementary school, failing structure, aging infrastructure and safety and security needs are putting pressure on our operating budget. At the high school, the Alternative Learning Center program lease is expiring at the Civic Center, safety and security needs and a lack of physical education space are putting pressure on the operating budget. Additional investments in our schools will allow our district to provide a safe, supportive and versatile learning environment and positive student experience – today and in the future.

Who can vote?

Anyone 18 and over, living in the Pine City School District. If unsure if you're eligible to vote, [click here to see the **District boundaries map**](#). You'll need to be registered which you can do the day of and you'll need an ID (License, ID Card or Passport) to vote.

If you own property but are NOT a permanent resident, you will not be able to vote but if passes, it will affect your property taxes.

What is included in this bond referendum?

- **Elementary School** - New secure entry, adding more security, removal of 1962 wing, and Pre-K Addition
- **High School** - Cafeteria expansion, relocating the Special Education, and adding more security
- **Area Learning Center** - Renovating the existing building for more hands on learning

How will this affect my taxes?

If the referendum is approved, the estimated tax impact on a \$100,000 valued home would be \$91.00, or \$8.00 a month. To determine the tax impact for your home, go to the [tax calculator](#).

Is the Elementary School losing the Multi-Purpose Room?

No. The Architect and Construction Managers went back to the drawing board and with some simple reconfiguring of space and moving storage spaces they were able to get the entirety of the new cafeteria/multi-purpose room in the new construction portion. There will be no columns or supports in the new multi-purpose room. It will still not have enough height for basketball competition (neither is the current multi), but it should be suitable for use the same way the current multi is used but includes a bit more space.

Is the Elementary School losing space with the demolition of the 1962 wing?

The amount of classrooms does not decrease it will stay the same amount of classrooms, but the classrooms will be larger.

Why do the schools need renovation?

While our district has worked hard to maintain our buildings, our schools lack maintenance updates to classroom space and programming space for our student population. In addition, our buildings have aging infrastructure and do not meet current standards for safety and security.

What happens if the referendum fails?

the school district will not be able to move forward with many of the proposed improvements. The district budget has a maintenance budget for some of these projects, but the improvements for safety, security and facility maintenance total more than is available.

What did the previous referendums go towards that are still in place?

Previous bonds were issued for the gym/media center addition at the elementary and the auditorium addition at the high school. They will drop off once they are paid for.

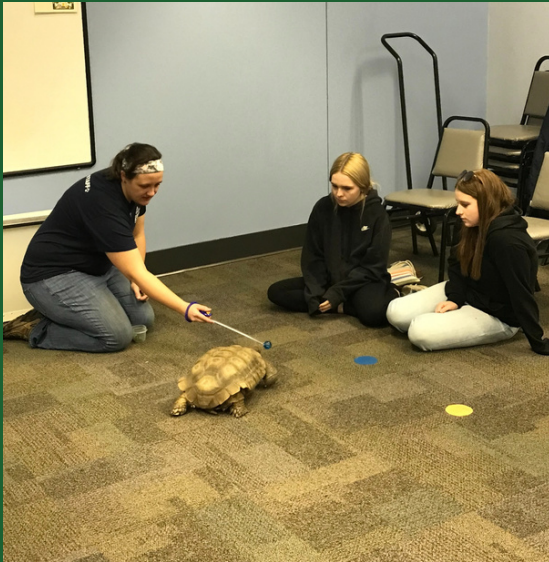
Didn't the schools receive significant new funding from the State legislature?

Yes, the school districts received a historic funding increase for the 2024-25 biennium, but it does not make up for 20 years of underfunding public schools previously. Projects of this magnitude rarely fit into annual maintenance budgets, so these improvements would occur at a much slower pace, or not at all, until a new bond request is approved.

Have there been other bids sought after as the amount seems extreme?

The project hasn't gone out for bid. The Architects and Construction Managers gone through an estimating process to determine this amount.

Students Explore Careers in Zoology at Lake Superior Zoo



Attention 10th to 12th graders! Are you curious about careers in zoology, veterinary science, or wildlife biology? Consider job shadowing as a vital part of your high school experience. Recently, 16 enthusiastic students delved into the world of animal care and conservation at the Lake Superior Zoo in Duluth.

Under the guidance of the zoo's education specialist, students explored diverse zoo careers and even had a hands-on experience making fruit kabobs for brown bears. Witnessing animal care firsthand, they learned about feeding routines and habitat maintenance.

A highlight of the day was interacting with a 43-year-old desert tortoise, discovering the intricacies of its care and enrichment programs. Concluding with free exploration of the zoo, this day provided invaluable insight into the world of zoology. Such experiences foster a passion for wildlife conservation and inspire future career paths.



Important Dates

- April 26 - No School
- May 27 - Memorial Day - No School
- May 30 - ALC Graduation
- May 31 - PCHS Graduation - 7:00 pm
- June 4 - Last Day of School
- June 5 - No School - Half Day for Teachers

Complete calendars available online at www.isd578.org

April 2024

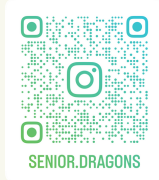
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM School Board Work Session	2 11:30AM HS – Military (Air National Guard) Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade) 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 4:00PM Early Childhood Screening 🧐 🌱 Call for Appt.	3 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking	4 End of Quarter 3 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking	5 No School – Staff Development	6
7 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM School Board Work Session	8 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 6:00PM Comm Ed: Yoga (Backup Space) 6:30PM Public Notice: School Board Meeting	9 2:45PM Community Ed: Game Night 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking	10 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking	11 2:45PM Community Ed: Open Media Center 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking	12 10:00AM Preschool Storytime 📖🎵 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 5:30PM Community Ed: Pickleball 7:00PM PCHS Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web 🕸	13 7:00PM PCHS Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web 🕸
14 2:00PM PCHS Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web 🕸	15 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 6:00PM Comm Ed: Yoga (Backup Space) 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM Public Notice: School Board Meeting	16 11:30AM HS – Military (Army) Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade) 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 6:00PM Comm Ed: Let's Talk About Medicare	17 11:30AM HS – Military (Army) Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade) 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 5:00PM Community Ed: Driver Improvement Class – Beginner	18 2:45PM Comm Ed: Youth Gardening Class 2:45PM Community Ed: Open Media Center 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 5:00PM Community Ed: Driver Improvement Class – Beginner 5:30PM EL Math Mania – Family Math Night	19 10:00AM Preschool Storytime 📖🎵 4:00PM Community Ed: Fitness Walking 5:30PM Community Ed: Pickleball	20
21 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga	22 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga	23 HS – ACT (Save the Date) 11:30AM HS – Military (Marines) Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade)	24 HS – Senior Class Field Trip	25 11:30AM HS – Military Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade) 2:45PM Community Ed: Open Media Center	26 No School 12:00PM 🗳Referendum 2024 – Elementary OPEN HOUSE & tours	27
28 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM HS – Night of Excellence – Academic Awards Ceremony 6:30PM Public Notice: Review & Comment	29	30	1	2 7:30PM JH Choir Pops Concert 🎵	3 10:00AM Preschool Storytime 📖🎵 5:30PM Community Ed: Pickleball	4 HS – Junior/Senior "Garden Disco" Prom 2024

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM HS – Night of Excellence – Academic Awards Ceremony 6:30PM Public Notice: Review & Comment	29	30	1	2 7:30PM JH Choir Pops Concert 🎵	3 10:00AM Preschool Storytime 📖🎵 5:30PM Community Ed: Pickleball	4 HS – Junior/Senior "Garden Disco" Prom 2024
5 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 7:30PM Band Pops Concert 🎵	6 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 7:30PM Band Pops Concert 🎵	7 7:00AM PTO Staff Appreciation Breakfast 🍽️ 11:30AM HS – Military (Air National Guard) Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade)	8	9 10:00AM HS – Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College On-Site Visit (10th–12th Grade) 2:45PM Comm Ed: Youth Gardening Class 6:30PM Elementary Band Spring Concert 🎵	10 10:00AM Preschool Storytime 📖🎵 5:30PM Community Ed: Pickleball	11
12 9:00AM Community Ed: Driver Improvement Class – Beginner 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM HS – Scholarship Awards Ceremony	13 9:00AM Community Ed: Driver Improvement Class – Beginner 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM HS – Scholarship Awards Ceremony	14 6:30PM Elementary Choir Spring Concert 🎵	15 11:30AM HS – Military (Army) Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade)	16 7:30PM SH Choir Pops Concert 🎵	17 PCES Field Day 🏃🏆 5:30PM Community Ed: Pickleball	18
19 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM Public Notice: School Board Meeting	20 6:00PM Community Ed: Yoga 6:30PM Public Notice: School Board Meeting	21 11:30AM HS – Military (Army) Visit During Lunch (9th–12th Grade)	22	23 2:45PM Comm Ed: Youth Gardening Class 7:00PM Elementary Musical 🎭🎵	24	25 1:10PM Pine City Schools at Target Field – TWINS Game
26 Memorial Day – No School or meetings today	27 Memorial Day – No School or meetings today	28	29	30 ALC Graduation Day 🎓	31 7:00PM PCHS Graduation 🎓	1

April 2024

Senior Spotlight



SENIORS...ARE YOU ON TRACK?

- ✓ Complete Class of 2024 Google Form
- ✓ Purchase High School Yearbook
- ✓ Submit Senior Photo
- ✓ Apply for Scholarships
 - Local Scholarships Now Open
 - Deadline is February 29, 2024
- ✓ Order Class T-Shirt
 - Deadline Feb 1: Google Form in email
- ✓ Complete PLP January
- ☐ Complete FAFSA
 - Required for Several Scholarships
- ☐ Complete Senior Information, April 2024 Google Form
- ☐ **GRADUATION** ~ May 31, 2024 at 7:00 pm

College Resources

Transcript Request

Want Help
with the FAFSA?

PTCC hosts FAFSA Fridays
Room 31 from 10:30am-12:30pm

Caps, Gowns, stoles and
Tassels - Distribution
Starts in Early May

SENIOR CLASS!
FIELD TRIP
Wednesday, April 24



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Scholarship
Awards
Night
May 13
7:00 pm

PCHS CTE Department



L-R Jared Eichten and Tim Schlichting

In the realm of Career and Technical Education (CTE), Pine City High School's Department stands as a fantastic example of experiential learning and skill development. With nearly 50 years of combined educational expertise, the team spearheads initiatives that empower students to personalize their education journey.

Jared Eichten, a UW Stout graduate, is known for his knack for fixing anything. He teaches the renowned Pine City wood duck project and recommends "Hatchet" and "The Car" to students. Hailing from St. Croix Falls WI, he enjoys fishing, hunting, and champions a hands-on approach in his teaching, blending traditional and modern tools.

Tim Schlichting, Bemidji State University alum, boasts military tank-driving skills. He teaches CNC Plasma cutting and 3D printing, fondly recalls high school hockey victories, and recommends technical manuals. Embracing both traditional and modern techniques, his team integrates hand tools with laser engraving and 3D printing for innovative projects.

CTE Tradition: Wood Ducks



Mr. Eichten's 7th grade CTE students have been working diligently on the traditional wood duck project. In 7th grade CTE classes, the students concentrate on traditional drafting and woodworking applications. They do not use computers for drafting, it is all done by hand drawing using traditional drafting tools. In the woodworking part of the course, the students do not use power tools either. The wood duck project is cut, filed, sanded, and varnished all by hand. The students will start using power tools and computers in 8th grade CTE courses. It is almost time to let this batch of ducks migrate to their new homes and start a new flock in the fourth quarter.

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Mr. Eichten's woodworking classes are crafting walleye hat racks, honing band saw skills. Students face challenges in cutting smooth curves, resorting to hand filing and sanding. Some opt for laser engraving details. Exciting projects ahead with key racks and clocks!