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 Learning Center: (906)482-7260
 Western U.P. Math/Science Center:
 (906)482-0331
 ISD Toll Free: 1(800)562-7618
 REMC Toll Free: 1(800)562-7613

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 HANCOCK, MI 49930
 Career & Technical Education
 Center: (906)482-4250

DISTRICT WEBSITE:
<http://www.copperisd.org>

Serving Baraga, Houghton & Keweenaw Counties

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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- Robert L. Roy, Treasurer
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- Karen M. Johnson, Trustee
- Albert A. Koskela, Trustee
- Lisa A. Tarvainen, Trustee

ADMINISTRATION

- Dennis P. Harbour, Superintendent
- Christine Salo, Director, Special Education
- Katrina Carlson, Supervisor, Special Education & Early Childhood Services/Early On Coordinator
- Mike Richardson, Director, REMC Region 1
- Shawn Oppliger, Director, Western U.P. Math/Science Center
- Ken Maki, Business Manager

Wind Chill a Factor This Winter

Copper Country schools have been faced with an unusually difficult month of January as it relates to school cancellations because of weather. Schools have been cancelled and/or delayed more during the month of January than the total days lost in the previous school year because of weather.

One contributing factor to making this winter unusual has been the occasional severe wind chill. Below is the wind chill chart that is used by the local school Superintendents when determining if wind chill is a factor in cancelling school. Typically, if the local wind chills reaches minus 20 degrees, careful consideration is given to whether or not school will be cancelled. The final determining factor is the forecast, which predicts the sustainability of the wind chill.

the wind chill and be certain children are dressed appropriately during this cold season. Keep in mind that wind chill is not the actual temperature, but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. A wind chill of -20 degrees Fahrenheit (F) will cause frostbite in just 30 minutes.

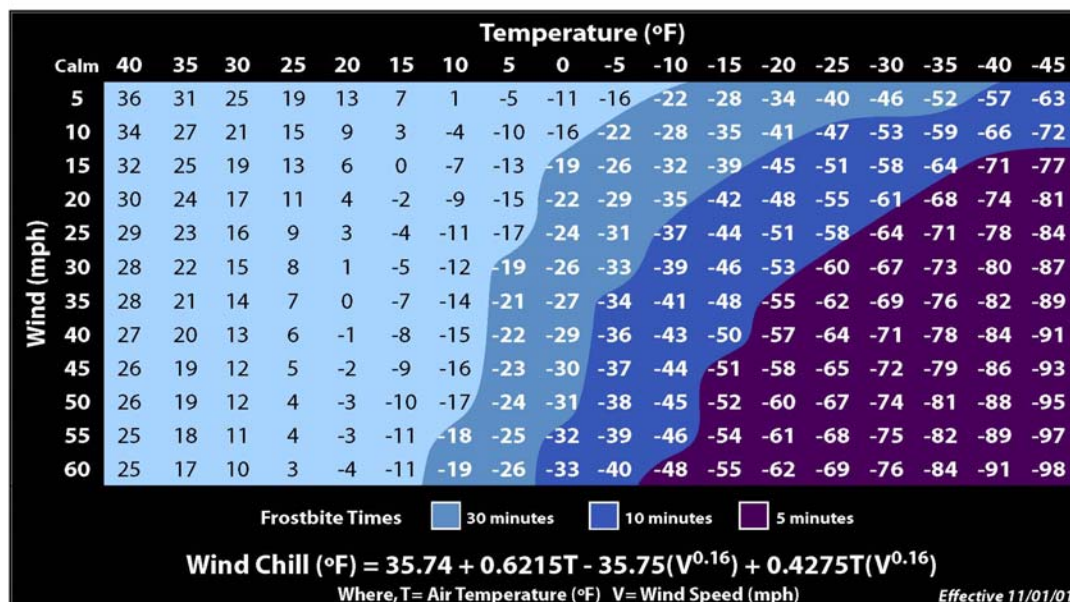
School closings and delays are posted on the TV 6 website and announced on all local radio stations as early as 5:30 a.m. School districts are now also using social media, like Facebook and Twitter, to connect with students and parents regarding weather conditions.

Article by Dennis Harbour, CCISD Superintendent

Parents are encouraged to carefully monitor



Wind Chill Chart



CCISD Announces New Great Start Collaborative Staff

Cathy Benda has recently been appointed the new Director of the Copper Country Great Start Collaborative, and Lisa Schmierer has taken the job of Parent Liaison.

Cathy and Lisa, along with the Great Start Collaborative Board, will be implementing the Scope of Work Plan for 2012-2013. Highlights of this plan will include increasing parent access to the online version of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, coordinating training opportunities with the Great Start to Quality Regional Resource Center, addressing pediatric dental health needs, distributing Brain Game books to new parents in the Copper Country and increasing access to and coordination of high quality childhood programs. There will also be a special focus on increasing parent involvement on the Parent Coalition and giving voice to parent concerns and issues facing young children and their families in the Copper Country.

For more information contact Cathy or Lisa at 482-9365.

Article by Cathy Benda, Director
Copper Country Great Start
Collaborative



CC Great Start Collaborative Receives Grant Award

The Copper Country Great Start Collaborative was recently awarded a grant through the Keweenaw **Community** Foundation Portage Community Health Fund to provide The Brain Game book to new parents in the Copper Country.



Research shows that parents can greatly enhance their child's brain development by engaging in specific, simple activities that include touching, talking, singing, and reading to their babies. The Brain Game translates scientific data about brain development into

a practical guide parents and caregivers can use to help children reach their full potential. The effects of these activities can be life changing. This project is supported by matching funds from Houghton Rotary.

Article by Cathy Benda, Director
Copper Country
Great Start Collaborative

CCISD Partners with BHK on Workforce Development Project

Recently the Copper Country Intermediate School District was selected as a contractor to provide Employment Services and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program through the Western U.P. Michigan Works! Michigan Works! Service Centers are located in the following counties: Houghton, Iron, Gogebic, Baraga, Ontonagon and Keweenaw.

The Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Child Development Board (BHK) will join the CCISD as a management partner in order to provide resources to meet all regional businesses' demand for qualified job candidates and value added human resource services.

CCISD Superintendent, Dennis Harbour, recently indicated that Intermediate School Districts are regional service providers, so the Western U.P. Michigan Works! Project is a very good fit for the CCISD, as well as BHK.

Harbour emphasized that, although providing Workforce Development services is a new direction for the ISD, he believes this project fits with the philosophy and mission of the district. He also commented that the ultimate operational responsibility is to build a qualified applicant pool with the knowledge, skills, and abilities that will meet and exceed business demand, and to help ensure worker and business retention.

Harbour said the challenge of building a qualified workforce in the local area starts by working with local businesses to determine the kind of skills necessary to meet present and future demands. Once we have assessed the employer needs, then we can institute appropriate training for the applicant pool.

Article by Dennis Harbour,
CCISD Superintendent

Local Schools Fare Well in Bridge Magazine's 2012 Value-Added Rankings

Bridge Magazine has released its 2012 "value added" rankings of Michigan K-12 school districts, using a formula devised by Public Sector Consultants. The goal of this analysis is to help schools compare their actual performance to what is predicted based on socioeconomic status.

Out of 560 districts in the state, 52 that finished in the top 10 of each category were named Academic State Champs, and by doing so were ranked in the top 2 percent of schools in the state. These schools are considered Michigan's best schools in this ranking process at raising student achievement above what is expected for local income level.

There were 8 categories of top 10 rankings: traditional public schools, charter schools, those that are affluent, low income, city, rural, and two categories based on 4th and 8th grade scores. In the rural schools category, the Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium and Keweenaw ranked #2, and the Chassell Township School District ranked #4. In the high school category, CLK came in at #6. In the 8th grade category, Chassell came in at #3.

Schools in wealthy communities often have the highest test scores; however, the "value added" rankings highlight schools that are succeeding in spite of socioeconomic standing. Test scores were adjusted for income levels in the districts using percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced lunches as a guideline. The percent of students at the 4th, 8th and 11th grade levels on state standardized tests who were deemed proficient, as posted on the Michigan Department of Education's MME database, were used in the formula. Scoring high on the Bridge Magazine rankings doesn't necessarily mean that a school district has a higher percentage of pupils who are proficient on the standardized tests. It does, however, mean that they are performing better than projected relative to socioeconomic status.

To see where your school district is in the value-added rankings, or to obtain more information on the formula used for scoring, go to the Bridge Magazine's website at <http://bridgemi.com/2013/01/presenting-bridge%e2%80%99s-academic-state-champs-2012/>

Article by Dennis Harbour,
CCISD Superintendent

School Board Members Receive Training

New school board members in the Copper Country received training at the Copper Country ISD from Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Executive Director Kathy Hayes and her staff at an evening workshop sponsored by the Copper Country Association of School Boards (CCASB) on January 23rd. The presentation, entitled, "How to Become an Effective School Board Member," was followed by a panel discussion with veteran school board members from the area.

The CCASB is in the process of planning a winter program for new and veteran members in late February or early March, which will include an MASB certified board mem-

ber (CBA) class. Information will be forwarded to members as it becomes available.

Both events are held annually, depending on interest level. In addition, the CCISD serves as a site for MASB videoconference CBA classes every year. There are four remaining classes in 2013: March 14—CBA 284 Focus on Bargaining; May 9—CBA 342 Data First, Foundations 2; September 12—CBA 351 Social Media; and November 14—CBA 380 Effective Committee Structure. Registration for the videoconference sessions is via MASB's website at <http://www.masb.org>.

Article by Peggy Myllyoja,
CCISD Executive Secretary to the Superintendent

NOAA Grant Awarded to the Western UP Center for Science, Mathematics & Environmental Education

The Western UP Center received a \$59,630 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration B-WET program to expand the work of the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative (LSSI). LSSI involves 15 school-community teams composed of 85 teachers, 50 community partners, and 2,500 students from Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw counties in environmental stewardship activities in the Lake Superior watershed. The major goal of LSSI is to prepare K-12 students to become knowledgeable citizens, concerned about the Great Lakes, and actively engaged in stewardship activities that will contribute to the health, conservation, and future protection of the Great Lakes and their watersheds.

The NOAA grant will provide mini-grant funding to 14 school-community teams to communicate the importance of their stewardship work through community outreach events in their school and local community and support professional learning communities of teachers

Continued on Page 4

NOAA Grant Awarded to the Western UP Center *Continued from Page 3*

within participating school-community teams. Michigan Tech is hosting the 10th biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium May 16-19, 2013, which will bring together more than 400 students, teachers, and community partners from Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario to learn about and celebrate the Lake Superior Watershed. (See announcement this page right.)

The funding period for this grant is July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

Article by Shawn Oppliger, Director,
Western U.P. Center for Science,
Mathematics &
Environmental Education

Copper Country Connections is published twice per year by the Copper Country Intermediate School District as a means of informing the educational community and the public of programs and services offered by the district. This publication is provided free of charge and is available for download in the "About Us" section of our website. To be added to our mailing list to receive printed copies of this newsletter, please contact:

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We're On The Web!
<http://www.copperisd.org>

10th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium

May 16-19, 2013 for Grades 8-12 Students & Teachers in MI, MN, WI, ON

At Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI



Michigan Tech You are invited to the
10th Biennial
Lake Superior Youth Symposium
May 16-19, 2013 in Houghton, MI



Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Dr.
Houghton, MI 49931

The symposium brings together students and teachers in grades 8-12 from around Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes to enhance their knowledge and stewardship skills and share model efforts.

The symposium will feature:

- Field trips
- Hands on activities
- Artistic expression
- History & culture
- Scientific research
- Great Lakes Quiz Bowl
- Team/Leadership-building skills
- Evening entertainment
- MTU's new Great Lakes Research Center (<http://greatlakes.mtu.edu/>)

Explore Superior: A Call to Action in the Great Lakes!

Cost: \$140 includes registration, 8 meals, 3 nights lodging, and all activities. Students and teachers will stay in Michigan Tech residence halls.

Plan Now to Attend!

Registration begins March 1, 2013

For more information and to join our list-serve visit the symposium website:

<http://www.lakesuperioryouth.org>

Did You Know?

In addition to information about school programs and services, the CCISD's website provides additional resources, such as: area-wide school job postings; links to directories for our local schools; sub teacher information,

applications and secure on-line sub list; special education and pupil accounting forms; and a professional development calendar. Check us out at <http://www.copperisd.org>.