



Copper Country

Connections

Fall-Winter 2014-15

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Career Tech Corner</i>	2
<i>Industrial Trades Career Day: Jobs, Jobs, Jobs—Unfilled</i>	2
<i>Copper Country Schools Score High on CAP Report Card</i>	3
<i>CCGSC Welcomes New Parent Coordinator</i>	3

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*Serving Baraga, Houghton
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Who and What We Represent

As I began my first year as the Superintendent of the Copper Country ISD, I wanted a constant reminder of who and what we represent. It is our responsibility to serve the thirteen local school districts in the Copper Country. That needs to always be the primary focus. As you can see in the picture below, we have created a visual that hangs in my office and will be used throughout the ISD.

On the first day with staff back in August, I had a chance to address the entire staff for the first time. I shared my vision with them, focusing on three key words. The first word was LISTEN. It is our responsibility to listen to our local schools. We need to understand what they need and how we can support them. The second word was LEARN. If we are listening to our locals, we can learn what they need, what is working, and what needs to improve. The last word was LEAD. It is only when we listen to our locals and learn what is needed that we can lead.

In my short time as head of the Copper Country ISD, I have already learned that we have a hard working dedicated staff. I have also

realized that, like myself before I began this job, many people in our local communities may not be fully aware of how many individuals work at the ISD and what a broad range of services the ISD provides. There are approximately 90 employees at the ISD providing services that include Special Education, teacher professional development, Internet and technical support, business services and Career and Technical Education. I am confident that we have

the right staff to lead and support our local schools, and as we move forward, we will continually listen to our constituents and keep them informed about the wide variety of services that are available to them.

Please know that I hold myself to those three words—listen, learn and lead. My door is always open. Please feel free to stop by and let me know how we are doing. I will always listen, I still love to learn, and with the help of my staff, we will lead efforts to support all students.

Article by George G. Stockero, Jr.,
CCISD Superintendent



Mission Statement

The Copper Country Intermediate School District is committed to serve the educational needs of all citizens through leadership, cooperation and quality support services to the community, including private and public agencies in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect.

Career Tech Corner

It's been an exciting first semester for the CCISD's Certified Nursing Assisting and Health Careers students experiencing and exploring health careers. Our students have had the opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills in a variety of ways. The accompanying photos illustrate some of our student experiences.

The year kicked off with two events; first, helping the Omega House with their Hike for the House event in support and recognition of our local hospice. The Omega House hopes to encourage young adults with an interest in health care to engage with them in various activities and we were excited to begin that relationship. Our next event was a trip to MTU's Fall Career Fair, where students got to use their communication skills as they interacted with professionals from Smuckers to Boston Scientific about their career journeys.



Starting the year off at the MTU Career Fair (here at the Smucker's table)

(Continued on page 4)

Industrial Trades Career Day: Jobs, Jobs, Jobs — Unfilled

Increased awareness continues to build locally and across the state for a greater emphasis on vocational education. Today locally, state-wide and nationally there is a shortage of skilled workers. Tens of thousands of jobs are not being filled due to a lack of qualified candidates. Recently, Governor Rick Snyder said emphasizing the importance of university degrees in science and math was important, but Michigan needs to give equal attention to addressing the importance of skilled trades and career and technical education programs. According to the Construction Labor Research Council's latest report, the construction industry is in need of nearly 200,000 skilled new workers annually over the next ten years.

Locally, one outstanding example of increasing awareness among students of career opportunities in the skilled trades was the Industrial Trades Career Day held on Thursday, October 2, 2014, at the Houghton County Fairgrounds. The Industrial Trades Career Day, the first ever held in our area, was a cooperative effort among the Upper Peninsula Construction Council, Copper Country ISD, Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD, Western Upper Peninsula Michigan Works, Upper Peninsula trade unions and support from area schools. Approximately 600 juniors and seniors from local high schools, along with students from the Gogebic, Ontonagon and West Iron County area schools, participated in the event.

The highlight of an Industrial Trades Career Day is that the focus is on participating rather than observing. The fair is strictly designed to provide the students with hands-on experi-



ences. Tony Retaskie, Executive Director of the Upper Peninsula Construction Council, noticed that students were not getting information about internship programs being offered in the trades. Retaskie said "We thought this was a great opportunity to start hosting hands-on career fairs."

As an example, students attending the Industrial Trades Career Fair had an opportunity to mix mortar, weld, drive a grader, operate a back-hoe, smash concrete with a jack hammer, bend sheet metal and ride in a high lift



bucket, just to name a few. WLUC-TV6's Rebecca Himmelstein interviewed Houghton High School senior Julia Huuki about the experience. "Today schools put a lot of emphasis on college and that you have to go to college," said Huuki. "I think it (college) is not for everyone."

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ISD, Superintendent George Stockero made a brief presentation on the success of the event. Stockero indicated that the event will hopefully take place again in Houghton in three years. The Board expressed its strong support for the concept of

(Continued on page 2)

Industrial Trades Career Day, *Continued from page 2*

the Industrial Trades Career Day and encouraged organizers to seek alternative means to schedule the event in our area on a more frequent rotation. It was suggested that perhaps a scaled down version of the event with employers and industrial trade union members from our local area would be a workable solution.

Today's employers have high expectations for skills training as a prerequisite for employment, with on-the-job training less prevalent than in the past. Traditional educators are not always well equipped to provide this type of training, so employers need to play an active role. An Industrial Trades Career



Fair provides the perfect venue for employers to actively showcase the skills needed to work in an industrial trade occupation.

Article by Joe Galetto,
CCISD Career Prep Coordinator

Copper Country Schools Score High on CAP Report Card

Starting in 2012, Bridge Magazine began an effort to rate all high schools in Michigan by analyzing school testing and other factors. The Context and Performance Score (CAP) is a method produced by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to measure high school performance for each of the 659 high schools in Michigan. The CAP method gauges academic performance by measuring average test scores from the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 Michigan Merit Examination. But what makes this method different from other academic reports is that it takes into account students' socioeconomic background, which research has shown has a large impact on student achievement. It also uses a four-year average score, which provides a more complete profile of a school's performance.

High schools are assigned both a number and letter grade. Schools with a number over 100 perform better than predicted relative to other schools, and schools with a number below 100 perform worse than predicted. High schools are assigned a letter grade based on a bell curve. The top ten percent in the State receive an A, and the next twenty percent receive a B.

When comparing all Upper Peninsula high schools, the results for Copper Country schools are impressive:

U.P. Rank	High School	Score	Grade
1	Calumet High School	109.35	A
2	Houghton Central High School	108.35	A
3	Dollar Bay High School	107.45	B
4	Gwinn High School	106.86	B
5	Chassell K-12 School	105.42	B
6	Jeffers High School	105.14	B
7	Hancock Central High School	104.41	B
8	A.D. Johnston Jr/Sr High School	103.83	B
9	Carney-Nadeau School	103.68	B
10	Lake Linden-Hubbell High School	103.49	B

Out of the 40 high schools in the Upper Peninsula, the top three are from the Copper Country. And of the top ten, seven are from the Copper Country. These top ten schools all scored better than predicted, giving them a grade of A or B and a score over 100. Congratulations to the Copper Country high schools for their achievement!

Article by Christina Wilmers,
CCISD Career Tech Secretary & Accounting Assistant

CCGSC Welcomes New Parent Coordinator



The Copper Country Great Start Collaborative would like to welcome Kelly DeWahl as the new Parent Engagement Coordinator. Kelly's role with the GSC is to act as a liaison between early child programs, collaborative partners, and parents, as well as provide parents with information, education and resources on raising young children. Kelly will lead the Copper Country Great Start Parent Coalition and be an integral part of the local Great Start strategic planning process. Kelly lives in Calumet, is married and is the mother of 12 week old Caleb. She can be reached at 906-482-9365.

The Great Start Collaboratives throughout Michigan work in local communities to ensure that the entire state is making significant progress toward the four early childhood outcomes identified by Governor Snyder. These outcomes are:

- Children are born healthy.
- Children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.

(Continued on page 4)

CCGSC Welcomes New Parent Coordinator, *Continued from page 3*

- Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry.
- Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

The Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPC), through their membership, work together with the Great Start Collaboratives (GSC) to bring about the changes necessary at the community, county and state level to achieve these outcomes for all children living in Michigan.

Article by Cathy Benda, Director, Copper Country Great Start Collaborative

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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Career Tech Corner, *Continued from page 2*



Preparing to visit and deliver Christmas packages for Little Brothers



Working at Little Brothers' wood lot in the fall



Visiting Dr. Peter Loubert at MTU's new Physical Therapy Department

Little Brothers has always held a special place for our students, and this year was no different. Over 50 Christmas boxes were delivered to local elderly along with a visit and some holiday cheer. The Health Careers class and their parents also spent some cool (ok, cold), wet October Saturday mornings at Little Brothers' Wood lot, stacking and splitting wood for their Winter Heating Program.

The CNA program continued their long tradition of developing relationships with the residents at Houghton County Medical Care. October saw students in Halloween costumes and carving pumpkins, November was a time to visit with and honor Veterans, and Christmas was a time to celebrate with carols and a party.

Our Health Careers students had a unique opportunity to volunteer and see firsthand what it takes to coordinate and volunteer at a national event when they volunteered for the US Senior Nationals Cross Country Ski Championships. It was a great way to reinforce class content—it's one thing to learn

about hypothermia and another to experience how to prevent and treat it.

The first semester is ending on a high note at our HOSA Regional Leadership Conference. Over 300 students from across the UP, including over 60 from the Copper Country, converged at Marquette Senior High School to compete in events ranging from Sports Medicine, CPR- First Aid to Extemporaneous Writing and Public Service Announcement. It was a long but successful day, since many of our students qualified for HOSA States in April (official results pending).

Our students would not have had the opportunity to compete at Regionals without support from a \$3,000 grant awarded by the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) as part of the Keweenaw Community Foundation. YAC believed in the potential of our students and their support made it possible for our students to develop, participate, and succeed at HOSA Regional Leadership.

Article by Teresa Shoup, CCISD Health Careers Instructor



HOSA Regionals

