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**School Aid Budget Set for 2012-13
 Good News/Bad News Scenario**

Again this year, local school Superintendents and school board members see some good news and some bad news with respect to the State School Aid Budget. The good news is that the Legislature and the Governor kept their promise and completed the budget in a timely manner, allowing school officials ample time to develop their budget for board approval in June. The bad news is that per pupil funding remains under \$7,000 per student, which was the funding level for schools in 2007.

Local school districts within the Copper Country Intermediate School District will realize a \$120 per student increase, which brings the funding level to \$6,966 per pupil. In addition to the per pupil funding increase, school districts could receive approximately \$52 per student if they comply with "best practice" initiatives as follows:

- Participate in schools of choice program, which all districts are already involved in.
- Measure student growth at least twice annually and report results to parents.
- Provide dual enrollment and other opportunities for postsecondary coursework. Dual enrollment allows students to enroll in college courses at the school district's expense. Most local schools participate in this program already.
- Provide online learning opportunities, which are currently available to students locally.

- Act as policyholder for health care services benefits for employees.
- Provide a dashboard to parents and members of the community.
- Obtain competitive bids for non-instructional services during 2012-13.
- Provide physical and health education consistent with State Board of Education policy.



Copper Country Intermediate School Superintendent, Dennis Harbour, predicted that most local schools will be able to comply with the above mentioned best practice requirements and secure the additional incentive funds.

In other related news important to local schools, the House Education Committee began discussions on a package of bills that would change the requirements that both schools and students have to meet. These bills were generated by U.P. Legislators. Most significant is House Bill 5451, which amends the graduation requirement to allow districts to waive courses such as Algebra 2 and foreign language in favor of career and technical education programs. Bill sponsors, Senator Casperson and Representative McBroom, argue that current requirements force students into a college preparatory path and leave no room for career and technical education classes.

Article by Dennis Harbour,
 CCISD Superintendent

2011-12 CCASB Awards

Students, school employees and community members were recognized at the Copper Country Association of School Boards annual awards dinner at Michigan Tech on April 25th.

CCISD award recipients were as follows: Kevin Bresky and Jason Wakeham received the Student Leadership Award for setting excellent examples of independent living for students with disabilities. Ray Saatio, Superintendent of the Houghton County Road Commission, received the School Service Award for his efforts assisting area schools with inclement weather closures and delays. Kathy Penegor, Physical Therapist, received the Outstanding Education Employee Award for collaborating with staff at Portage Health to form the Equipment Loan for Kids (E.L.K.), a durable medical equipment loan pool for children with delays and disabilities.

The evening culminated in the presentation of the Copper Country Education Leadership Award to MEEMIC Insurance Company for their extensive sponsorship and support of school related activities in the area.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients!

Article by Peggy Myllyoja,
CCISD Executive Secretary
to the Superintendent

CCISD Instructor Receives State Public Health Award

Michigan Public Health Week was celebrated during the week of April 23-27, 2012, with the theme, "A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement." As part of this annual celebration, the Michigan Public Health Week Partnership presents the Hometown Health Hero award, which recognizes individuals and organizations across the state who are working tirelessly to maintain and improve the health of their local communities. CCISD Community Transition Program Instructor Karyn Juntunen was one of thirteen recipients of this award for 2012, and the only one from the U.P. The award was presented by Olga Dazza, Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health,



Karyn Juntunen (left) receives Hometown Health Hero Award from MDCH Director Olga Dazza.

at the Capitol Rotunda in Lansing on April 25th. She was nominated for the award by CCISD School Nurse Teresa Shoup.

Karyn has always worked to provide a variety of indoor and outdoor activities that promote good physical and social health for individuals with disabilities. She recently collaborated with multiple local agencies and volunteers to implement a skiing and snowshoeing program for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

Congratulations to Karyn for this well deserved recognition!

Article by Teresa Shoup,
CCISD School Nurse & Health
Careers Instructor;
& Peggy Myllyoja, CCISD Executive
Secretary to the Superintendent

Copper Country Great Start 4th Annual Bridge Walk

Over 100 Copper Country children, parents, grandparents and concerned citizens walked across the Portage Lake Lift Bridge on Wednesday, May 16th, to show their support for early childhood services. This was the fourth year the Copper Country Great Start Bridge Walk has been held and it coincided with other Statewide Star Power events. These events are designed to send a message



to legislators in support of state investment in early childhood services. Those registering for the Bridge Walk were able to sign petitions to show legislators that they support early childhood programs and services.

The walk began at the Ramada Inn in Hancock, continued across the bridge, and ended at Kestner Pavilion in the Chutes and Ladders Park in Houghton. Upon arrival in the park, participants were treated to free ice cream courtesy of 5th and Elm Coffee Shop and Pat's Foods and Festival Foods, as well as orange drink provided by McDonald's. Fun activities were available for the children, and walkers also received free trolley rides back to the Ramada Inn, compliments of Red Jacket Trolley.

Continued on page 3, right

Copper Country Great Start 4th Annual Bridge Walk, Continued

This annual, family-friendly event is sponsored by the Great Start Collaborative and wouldn't be possible without support from volunteers and community partners who donate goods and services, as well as time, to make the Bridge Walk a success. We appreciate everyone who helped with the Bridge Walk including individuals from the Copper Country ISD, BHK Child Development, Little Huskies Child Development Center, Great Start to Quality Resource Center, Superior



AmeriCorps, Great Start Parent Coalition, Copper Country Mental Health Institute, the City of Houghton, and Portage Health. Heather Poll, Parent Liaison with the Great Start Collaborative, served as coordinator for the event.

Article by Shelly Smith,
CC Great Start Collaborative Director

PSSD News

The Program for Students with Severe Disabilities (PSSD) classroom at the Learning Center has been very busy during the second semester. We have been Mall Walking weekly at the Copper Country Mall with the Community Transition Program (CTP) class. We enjoy our time together with our peers and socially in the community. We walk every Wednesday for one mile or more; it keeps us physically fit!

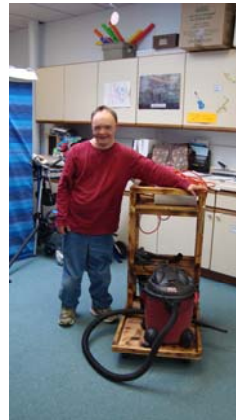
The students also enjoy music class weekly with Amanda Plummer at the Learning Center. Mrs. Plummer teaches the class every Monday for the Social Skills Teaching Program, PSSD and CTP classes, and we love her! She sings with us, lets us play instru-



PSSD Students Enjoying Music Class

ments like the ukulele and tambourine, and engages all of us through music therapy. When we play our instruments collectively, we make beautiful music together.

Also, our PSSD student, Adam Figures, has started his own interior car cleaning and detailing business. So far, Adam has cleaned a number of staff cars and he has his own business appointment cards to schedule "dirty cars," as he says, for the future. He does a great job. He also has an equipment cart made for him by our own special maintenance person Ed Semmens. We are very proud of all of our accomplishments for the 2011 - 2012 school year and look forward to many more opportunities in the future.



Adam with his equipment cart.

Article by Lisa Sporbert,
CCISD PSSD Teacher, Students and Staff

PAC Spring Awards Reception

The 10th annual Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Awards Dinner was held on May 8th at the CCISD with attendance at an all time high of over 90 persons. Parents on the PAC established this event in order to celebrate individuals who have made a significant contribution to the education of students in special education in our area. Cindy Figures, Chairperson of our local PAC, presented awards to General and Special Education students, ancillary staff, general and special education teachers, support staff and administrators. CCISD staff who were recognized included Sarah Freitag, Speech and Language Therapist; and bus drivers Tom Stimac, Ed Semmens, Bob Mattfolk and Scott Wetton. There was a special recognition of Toni Waara, School Social Worker, who is retiring this year. A highlight was one of the "Make a Difference" awards that went to five boys from Hancock High School who have gone out of their way to befriend a student in the High School Mild Cognitive Impairment Program without adult prompting or external rewards. According to the student's parents, the friendship of these boys has made him feel a part of the school community. As always, the PAC Awards Dinner was a very heartwarming and positive event enjoyed by all that attended.

Article by Christine Salo,
CCISD Director of Special Education

Camp Nesbit 2012

The 2012 Camp Nesbit school season is almost completed. Sixth graders in the Western U.P. and cognitively impaired students from throughout the U.P. camp there annually. Participating schools:

DATES	SCHOOLS (# Campers)
4/30-5/4:	Ontonagon, Ewen-Trout Creek, Watersmeet & White Pine (65)
5/8-11:	L'Anse (56)
5/15-18:	Lake Linden & Dollar Bay (68)
5/21-23	Adams, Stanton & Chassell (49)
5/23-25	Hancock (56)
5/29-6/1	Baraga (38)
6/11-15	CCISD Cognitive Impairments Summer Camp (24)
9/26-28	Houghton-Portage (TBD)
10/1-5	Calumet (TBD)

For more information, call Ken Maki at (906)482-4250, ext. 187, or 1-800-562-7618.

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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BRIDGE School's Future Discussed

Local School Superintendents have been meeting lately to decide the fate of the BRIDGE Alternative School. Rising costs, declining enrollment, reduced state funding and local school budget constraints have put the Alternative School's future in jeopardy.

BRIDGE School was opened in 1996 as an alternative high school program for those students who could not cope with the rigor and structure of a regular high school program. Approximately 45 students from Adams, Chassell, Hancock, Houghton-Portage, Dollar Bay and Lake Linden were enrolled in the school on an annual basis. According to Intermediate School Superintendent Dennis Harbour, the alternative program was a nice fit for many students who wanted to complete their high school requirements, but had a difficult time with a traditional high school program. BRIDGE School largely catered to non-traditional students who had dropped out of school, had behavioral problems or had experienced a history of academic failures. Harbour speculated that approximately 12 students per year graduated and received their high school diploma each year since the inception of the program.

Harbour further indicated that a variety of funding initiatives have been tried to stabilize the program financially, including having one of the local school districts operate the pro-

gram. The Copper Country Intermediate School District has functioned as the fiscal agent for the majority of the years the program has been in existence, but Harbour maintained that, without a cooperative agreement between local schools and the ISD, it would be difficult to continue to operate the program.

At a recent Copper Country Intermediate School Board meeting, the Board agreed to assume responsibility for the program as fiscal agent, providing an agreement could be reached with the local schools where local schools would pay the ISD the per student cost associated with running the program. Under the new arrangement, students wanting to attend the BRIDGE School would first enroll at a local school, so the resident district could claim the student for State revenue purposes.

A final decision regarding the future of the program will be made in July.

Article by Dennis Harbour,
CCISD Superintendent



Criminal History Records Audit Training Conducted

The Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center provided a four hour training for local school officials on May 8th to help schools prepare for up-coming informational audits which will take place through the end of 2013. The audits are being conducted to assure that schools are following the proper procedures for processing, storing and sharing of documents related to criminal history records obtained for school district employees and contractors. Although there are no penalties associated with errors identified with the informational audits, actual compliance audits may be scheduled in the future.

Representatives from several districts were in attendance. They were informed that all districts need to designate an official LASO (Local Agency Security Officer) to oversee operations to assure proper procedures are followed. Districts are also required to have an agreement with MSP-CJIC for sharing fingerprint results. A new LiveScan Fingerprint Request Form was distributed, and districts were updated concerning proper handling, storage, release and disposal of files.

Article by Peggy Myllyoja,
CCISD Executive Secretary
to the Superintendent