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Local Schools Benefit from Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (22i)

Local school districts within the Copper Country Intermediate School District, as well as school districts across the state, will benefit as a result of a major technology grant designed to develop or improve a district's technology infrastructure. The state wide grant initiative, formally known as the Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (22i), is a collection of pilot projects designed to provide technology readiness for online testing, which is scheduled to begin in the 2014-15 school year. The Copper Country ISD is leading one of these pilot projects, which is for device purchasing (Activity 4 of Category 3 of the overall grant).

According to Mike Richardson, REMC Director and Project Coordinator, the Michigan Legislature has allocated \$50 million dollars for section 22i in the 2012-13 state fiscal year, of which nearly \$16 million has gone directly to local districts to assist them with technology readiness, which could include device purchases (such as laptop, desktop and tablet computers) at a substantially reduced cost. The remaining funds will be distributed to support the following major goals of the grant initiative: a state wide interconnected network to support reliable unencumbered access to online assessments, establish a collective purchasing contract to leverage volume buying in order to realize reduce costs, and build capacity to assist educators in planning and implementing the best practices and technology required to support the next generation of assessment, teaching and learning.

Richardson further concluded that the pilot

grant initiative comes at a good time for our local schools. School districts have been in a major budget cutting mode for the last five or more years, which has restricted the amount of available resources to improve technology infrastructure within our schools. It is anticipated that school districts within the Copper Country Intermediate School District will purchase in excess of 800 devices at an average cost of \$400 per device, including desktop computers, Chromebooks, laptop computers and iPads at an average 26% cost reduction. Richardson said, from a dollar standpoint, the overall savings to local schools could approach \$85,000. He also mentioned that, on a state wide basis, the numbers get much larger. It is estimated that 72,000 devices will be purchased at an anticipated savings of \$9.8 million dollars.



Mike Richardson, Director, REMC #1

Mr. Richardson also noted that the vendors are including \$675,000 in professional development training for school personnel as a value add to the purchased devices. The grant is providing \$5 million in incentive payments toward these devices, in addition to the \$9.8 million in volume purchase savings. The combined savings and incentives will help offset some of the cost associated with purchasing the computers for schools. He further indicated that the Legislature has already approved an additional \$45 million for the upcoming 2013-14 year to continue and expand the TRIG activities state wide.

Visit <http://22itrig.org> for more information.

Article by Dennis Harbour, CCISD Superintendent

2012-13 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 24th.

CCISD award recipients were as follows: Natalie Larson, Health Careers student from Chassell, received the Student Leadership Award; the Houghton Rotary Choices and Dictionary programs received the School Service Award; and Joshua Hiner, Senior System Engineer, received the Outstanding Education Employee Award.

The evening culminated in the presentation of the Copper Country Education Leadership Award to Albert Koskela, former member of the CCISD and Lake Linden-Hubbell school boards.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients!

Article by Peggy Myllyoja, CCISD Executive Secretary to the Superintendent



CCASB Board President Gale Eilola (left); Education Leadership Award Recipient Albert Koskela (right)

Copper Country HOSA Update



“Build A Better You.” That is the theme for HOSA 2012-13. And that’s exactly what the CCISD’s 80 Certified Nursing Assistant and Health Career students did. HOSA, Future Health Care Professionals, is embedded in both Career Tech programs’ curricula. Participation in Copper Country HOSA would not have been possible, though, without the support of a \$5,000 Keweenaw Community Foundation grant from the Portage Health Community Health Fund.

How does HOSA impact our students? HOSA develops leadership, fosters compassion, and promotes professionalism beginning with a local Fall Leadership Conference in early October at Finlandia University. Our students gather with HOSA students from the L’Anse/Baraga area and the Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD to engage in leadership building activities and learn more about HOSA. It’s here where goals are set and put into motion, where the work begins toward “Building a Better You.”

An important part of HOSA is the opportunity to compete at the Regional, State and Leadership Conferences. Students select one of the 56 different individual or team competitive events. Examples of some of the competitive events our students participated in this year include public service announcement, nursing as-

sisting skills, dental terminology, medical photography, prepared speaking, career health display, and health education, to name a few

But HOSA isn’t just about competition. It’s also about building relationships in our community. In addition to preparing for regional competition, our juniors and seniors were digging trenches at Maasto Hiitto recreational trails, delivering holiday packages and visit-



ing the elderly with Little Brothers, visiting seniors at Houghton County Medical Care, and creating memories with residents at the Bluffs during monthly activities there.

The foundation was set, but the work had just begun. Preparation for Regionals included additional studying, extra skill practice, delivering speeches, developing and teaching

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Copper Country HOSA Update, *continued from page 2*

health lessons and fundraising. Sixty students loaded the buses early on a dark and cold February morning, determined to be called on stage at the Regional Leadership Conference at Bay College to secure a spot and advance to the State Leadership Conference in April. Thirty of those sixty advanced to the State Leadership Conference where they would compete with over 1,600 of their peers from across Michigan.



The State competition was tight and tense. The energy and excitement were palpable. For some students the goal was simply to compete in and experience States, but for others, their dream was the Nationals. Ten Copper Country students were called on stage, recognized as being in the Top eight in their event: Natalie Larson, Maddie Stimac, Hailey Holmes, Allison Sten, Annalee Schultz, Laura Ruohonen, Lena Erickson, Brooke Wilder-Corrigan, Molly Simula and Jenna Ollanketo. In fact, Molly, Maddie, Brooke and Natalie all medaled, receiving an invitation to compete at Nationals in late

June.

Copper Country HOSA students congratulate their classmates for this achievement.

In September our allied health students were challenged to "Build a Better You," and in doing that, they grew as individuals, to become leaders in their classes, clinicals, schools and communities. Congratulations to all our allied health students for building a better you!

Article by Teresa Shoup,
CCISD Health Careers Instructor

Pasties Paving the Way to HOSA Nationals

What do the following numbers and states have in common? 211, 11,276, 4,557, 2,848, 36 and 11,267, California, Florida, and Tennessee. The answer is.....the Kangas Café.

The Kangas family—Dolores, Chris and their son Kevin, have helped 211 Copper Country HOSA students since 2010 raise \$11,267 toward regional, state and national HOSA Leadership Conferences through pasty sales; baking 4,557 pasties, and peeling 2,484 pounds of potatoes. The Kangas' make the pasties fresh, which means the ovens are running between 24-36 hours straight to complete each order.

This year's Copper Country HOSA National qualifiers will travel to Nashville, Tennessee; last year's competed in Orlando, Florida; and the 2011 qualifiers flew across the country to compete in Los Angeles, California. When

asked why they do it, Dolores smiled and without hesitation stated, "We believe in helping our community. That's who we are."

Article by Teresa Shoup,
CCISD Health Careers Instructor



Left to right: Natalie Larson, Dolores Kangas and Brooke Wilder-Corrigan after a recent Pasty Sale. Both Natalie and Brooke qualified for HOSA Nationals, June 26-30, in Nashville, TN. (Missing: Maddie Stimac and Molly Simula)

PAC Spring Awards Reception

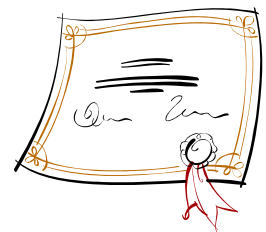
The 11th annual Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Awards Dinner was held on May 7th at the CCISD with 65 people in attendance.

PAC awards recognize people who have made outstanding contributions in the area of special education during the current school year. Awards were given in a number of categories, including general education teachers, special education teachers, ancillary staff, support staff and students.

CCISD staff who were recognized included Teri Braun, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher and Early On Service Coordinator/Provider; Lois Weber, Transition Coordinator and Early On Service Provider; and Teresa Shoup, School Nurse and Health Careers Instructor. A special recognition was given to Jean Pyykkonen, CCISD Teacher Consultant for the Hearing Impaired, who officially retired at the end of the 2012-13 school year.

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 2013

The 2013 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)
5/7-10	L'Anse (56)
5/14-17	Lake Linden & Dollar Bay (67)
5/20-22	Adams, Stanton & Chassell (50)
5/22-24	Hancock (50)
5/28-31	Baraga (28)
6/10-14	CCISD Cognitive Impairments Summer Camp (27)
9/16-20	Ontonagon, Ewen-Trout Creek, Watersmeet & White Pine (TBD)
9/25-27	Houghton-Portage (TBD)
9/30-10/4	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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Career Tech Non-Traditional Career Day

Thirty young men from our area high schools participated in the Career and Technical Education first annual Non-Traditional Career Day on Wednesday April 24. They had the opportunity to explore some of the many shadowing and training possibilities available in the allied health careers when they met with a variety of health care professionals at the ISD.

Health care professionals from Aspirus Keweenaw, Portage Health, Northland Vet Clinic, and a current health career student met with the sophomore and junior men in small groups to present career information, answer questions, and in some cases, put the students to work.

Ryan Bessolo, BSN, RN, himself an alumnus of the Career Tech Allied Health program, explained what it takes to be an Aspirus Keweenaw Emergency Room nurse. He brought with him tools that he uses as an ER nurse, including a defibrillator and a Bone Injector Gun that is used for interosseous fluid resuscitation in critical situations. Jeff Baril, DPT, also from Aspirus Keweenaw, put the students to work using physical therapy tools such as the body blade and therap-bands. Karen Hernandez, office manager at Northland Veterinary Clinic brought unusual specimens and photos with her: worms, ticks,

huge bladder crystals - just part of the day in veterinary medicine. Derrick Verran, PACS Administrator from the Radiology Department at Portage, challenged the students with various interesting and unusual radiological images. Gerry Massie, Certified Nursing Assistant at Portage Pointe, shared his long and unusual journey into health care and what he finds rewarding about elder care. The final presenter was Brooke Wilder-Corrigan, a senior from Lake Linden Hubbell, a current health careers student and HOSA Nationals qualifier, who fielded questions about the program, her clinical experience with Dr. Sally Orr, DDS, and about HOSA.

Also as part of the non-traditional career day, 35 young ladies had the opportunity to explore Automotive Technologies with Ken Wilcox in the Auto-Tech lab at the Career Tech Center, to learn what it takes to be successful in the automotive industry.

Article by Teresa Shoup,
CCISD Health Careers Instructor



Michigan Law Governs School Calendar

Each year many questions surface about school calendars and how the calendar is determined. Beginning in July of 2008, intermediate school districts, in cooperation with their constituent districts, were required by law to adopt a five year common calendar, which in part must be adhered to by the local school districts within the ISD.

The Michigan Department of Education Pupil Accounting Manual specifies that school cannot start until after Labor Day. The law also indicates that the ISD will identify the dates for each school year when school will not be in session for winter holiday break and spring break for the current year and the suc-

ceeding four years. If a local district would like to deviate from the ISD common calendar, the district must obtain approval from the ISD and then must request a waiver from the Michigan Department of Education.

The Copper Country Intermediate School District Board of Education recently adopted a five year common calendar for its constituent districts in Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. If you are interested in viewing the common calendar please go to the "about us" section of the CCISD web site at: <http://www.copperisd.org>.

Article by Dennis Harbour,
CCISD Superintendent