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**FYI:**

Please check out the school website at:  
<http://www.mcclusky.k12.nd.us/>

The power school site at:  
<https://mcclusky.ps.state.nd.us/public>

**Have a safe and  
Happy Holiday  
Season.**

**See you back on  
January 3, 2018**

**THE MISSION...**

... Of the McClusky Public School and community is to empower all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to meet the challenges of our changing world.

Our vision is...  
**WE EXPECT  
SUCCESS**

# MSN

## McClusky School News

Dale Ekstrom-Superintendent  
Sarah Beck-Principal  
Andrea Lauer-Business Manager

### Reminders from Admin to Faculty, Staff, Students, and Parents:

- Parents - Please send your child (ren) with proper outer wear for the winter weather; send warm clothes to school for recess, outside time, and PE. Students should bring boots, scarves, gloves, mittens, ear muffs, and a warm coat for colder weather. Students riding to and from McClusky on a bus for sporting activities should also wear proper attire for outside weather.
- Parents – Remember to pay your child’s lunch account balance. If the account balance is not paid, your child will receive an alternative meal. An email/letter, text, and phone call is sent when lunch balances are in the negative.
- Parents - Please call before 2 PM or provide a written note for your child to ride a different bus in the afternoon, if going home with a family member not living in the home or with a friend. If a written note or phone call is not received, your child will ride his/her normal bus route. Thanks for your understanding.
- Parents – Call the bus driver and school if your child will be absent for the day. This is very helpful for teachers and staff especially for bus routes.
- Parents and Students – The end of quarter two and semester one is January 12. Work with teachers on grades and make sure you turn assignments in on time. All online classes must be complete before the end of the quarter.
- Faculty, Staff, Students, and Parents – There is no school for students January 15. Faculty and staff will be engaged in professional development January 15 from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

### McClusky FFA New Year’s Eve Event

This year the McClusky FFA chapter will be hosting the annual New Year’s Eve Event. The New Year’s Eve Event is a fun family event for all ages. The event will be held in the McClusky High School Gym **on December 31, 2017 from 8pm to 11pm**. Admission is \$2 or a canned or nonperishable food item, which will be given to the Sheridan County food pantry. The New Year’s Eve Event also has many games including bingo, blackjack, pinochle tournament, crockpot cook-off, and inflatables.

## Social Studies

By Mr. Senske

It's unbelievable how fast this fall has gone by; I can't believe it's already time for Christmas break! As always, things have been busy in the social studies room at McClusky High School. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are about to finish up taking a geographic look at the eastern United States. Projects they completed were weather reports which they presented in character to the rest of the class and brochures for a state of their choice. The sophomores have been taking a look at the worldly impacts of the discovery of the Americas 500 years ago. Juniors are busy finishing up a short chapter on the U.S. Constitution. They have learned the basic principles of the U.S. Constitution as well as their rights, duties, and responsibilities as United States citizens. The last few weeks have been focused on the Civics Exam for the seniors. They all successfully passed the exam last week. Psychology students are each preparing an experiment to conduct themselves. They will gather data on memory, identity, and the effects different stimuli have on our ability to function as humans. We are excited as a class to see their findings.

It has been a wonderful first half of the year and I'm looking forward to a refreshed start after the holiday break!

## Student Council

By Miss Potts

This year four Student Council members, along with adviser Miss Potts, attended this year's annual North Dakota Student Council Conference. It was held in the Ramkota in Bismarck on December 10-12<sup>th</sup>. Lucas Rath, Carson Houser, Megan Jerkovich, and Bryton Werth attended mini-sessions where they learned about financing college, becoming a better leader, and more. Several speakers spoke to the entire group and were excellent. One student said, "It was interesting and fun!"



**“Pep Talk”**

Submitted by Lauri Logsdon

It was fun to watch the ideas come to life for the holiday door decorating contest!! Congrats to Mr. Senske and the 9<sup>th</sup> graders (Kaleigh, Cole, Jaxston, and Ty) for winning at the high school with an awesome Christmas tree. The judges had several favorites at the elementary school so pep club decided to throw the whole grade school an ice cream party when we return to school in 2018!! It was awesome to see so many people getting into the Christmas spirit!! We will announce the winners of the ugly sweater contest after break.

Have a Merry Christmas!!

PS: There is a boys basketball tournament over Christmas break (December 27 – 29<sup>th</sup>) in Mandan if you get the chance to go.

Thank you for all the volunteers to drive for sports over break. It sure makes my job easier when so many people are willing to pitch in. I appreciated you all very much!!

**Lessons in Life in the English Room**

By Brenda Schaefer

English 7-12

HS Librarian

In early December (6<sup>th</sup>), the high school students participated in our Winter Survival Family event. I am always amazed at how our students actively participate when we try new activities. The teachers combined math, science, and engineering to get our students thinking. Students spent 45 minutes making a Winter Survival heater/stove as the basis of a winter survival kit for the car (or snowmobile) with Mr. M. Axt.

From there, they moved into the Home Ec room with Mr. Senske who had them analyze which kind of fuel works fastest, which is more economical, and which has the longest burn-time with the heater/stove they built using normal household items. He talked about the list of items that North Dakotans should consider keeping in our vehicles during winter storms. He also showed them that there are small “stoves” that can be purchased from sporting stores or off the internet. The purpose of the project was to remind our young drivers that being prepared for bad weather might save their lives.

After they finished heating water to make hot chocolate with Mr. Senske, students moved into the next part where they did some engineering and experimenting with insulation properties of a winter parka. But the same properties could be applied to the sleeping bags or blankets and clothing that should be kept in the car during travel.

Since McClusky School’s Vision is: We expect success... our teachers realize that success can be found on so many different levels. The students’ successes in the work field will be dependent on each student’s ability to exhibit problem solving, engineering, and critical thinking skills in both an individual and team setting. Can they research a problem sent to a particular company, go through the 8-step engineering design process: define the problem, research the problem, brainstorm possible solutions, choose the best solution, build a model or prototype, test the solution, communicate the solution, and redesign as needed.

These 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills have a technology focus, but the real successes are preparing students to use that technology to enhance their learning and increase their knowledge. It is also important to remind them that keeping a job may depend on their ability to follow the rules of most working establishments. In the English classroom, we talk a lot about using cell phones and Chromebooks and laptops as education tools. If they begin to distract us from our “jobs” to learn, then they become toys (entertainment) or weapons (to distract or draw attention away from the task at hand). I believe the best response to the afternoon’s activities would be having your child come home and finish putting together a winter survival kit for their cars. For me, that would be one of the biggest indicators of future success – application of what we learned.

It makes me appreciate teaching the students at McClusky High School! Welcome to our ELA Adventure!

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