

# Voyageurs News

Volume 2

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## VEHS

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## Hex 2 Happenings

Time is flying by quickly. Next week is Turkey day and then in a few weeks we close down for the holidays and then welcome in a new calendar year. It amazes me how quickly time is moving.

We are now halfway through the 2nd six week grading period. Hex 2 ends on December 2nd so final grades for the hex will be posted on Friday, December 9th. Voyageurs recently purchased a subscription to an online program called Jupiter Grades. This program will allow you to monitor your child's progress in their seminar classes. Enclosed you will find a log in sheet for both yourself as a parent and for your student. As always, you are welcome to e-mail or call a staff member if you

have concerns about your son or daughters progress in a seminar.

Also enclosed you will find a document detailing travel opportunities for our students. In May 2012, we have tentatively planned several travel opportunities. Please review the information and visit with your son/daughter about what travel opportunities they wish to do.

We encourage ALL students to participate in one of the activities. I know that for some students being away from home is scary and causes some anxiety, but it is our sincere hope that there is something available that will appeal to them and help them overcome some of their fears.

## Upcoming Events

November 29th BSU Campus Speaker at VEHS —any interested students may attend

December 1 \* 2: Twin Cities Overnight: Guthrie Theater; Science Museum and College Tours—room for 12 students

Friday, December 2nd opportunities: (day trips)

Curling & Bowling—room for 12 students

Deep Portage in Hackensack—room for 12 students

One Act Play and attendance at a local play—room for 12 students



## German Seminar

Contributed by Angie Haasch

On Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, German students made *Gummibären* (gummy bears) to learn more about culture. The gummy bear originated in Germany in 1920 with the establishment of the Haribo company. The students really enjoyed the process and had fun experimenting with the recipe. Once the gummy bears were set, they had fun sharing with students and staff! Guten Appetit!

Friday, December 16th—All school trip: We will travel to Grand Rapids to hear a motivational speaker and musician: Eric Samuel Timm

"Eric's ability to connect with college students is like none other. His humor is disarming, his art is engaging and his message is life-changing."

## Experience Fridays

contributed by Cindy Nelson

The buzzing of saws and whirring of drills filled the sunny, brisk, autumn day at Rail River Folk School as students and teachers built a birdhouse. English instructor Cindy Nelson and Ruth Webb along with Ilsa Thoof, Maddie Thoof, Emily Bohlman, and Jered Conkle spent Friday, October 28th at the Rail River Folk School with Saul, Rocky, and Jessica. Safety procedures were explained and demonstrated as we drank delicious coffee, then we were set loose with our instructions and

safety goggles. Thankfully, all three were on staff that day to help us because it was an intense but exhilarating day. After a quick lunch break, we were all determined to get our birdhouses finished before the city bus arrived to pick us up. Poor Maddie--she had to hold her freshly-painted birdhouse ever so gingerly all the way back to school. It was as near a perfect day as can be imagined--fabulous weather, terrific teachers from RRFS, respectful and creative students and new colorful homes for birds! It was a spotlight day for VEHS students and staff.



## International Wolf Center Overnight Trip

November 3 and 4

Contributed by Becky Reinarz

Twelve students spent the night at the Wolf Center in Ely, Mn. They learned about wolf biology and evolution. They also learned to track a collared wolf and how these animals are used in research.



## Technical Reading Seminar

contributed by Cindy Nelson

What do students at VEHS do with lost treasure, frozen bodies, and haunted houses? Why read all about them, of course! In our Technical Reading Classes, we have been using a variety of resources for understanding and applying various reading strategies. Students have gone apartment hunting on Craigslist and explored the fascinating world of ciphers, cryonics, and specters (codes, frozen humans, and ghosts). We use technical reading skills every day when make educated guesses about how our best freind feels, or when we predict what will happen if we miss the bus, or apply cause and effect if we forget to let the dog out! The beautiful part is that we just learn the names of these specific skills and use them to increase our understanding and enjoyment in reading. Our classes have had lively discussions about all that we have learned, and many students have pursued these topics in Project-based Learning time for independent projects!

