



January 2012  
Volume VII

## Looking Toward Our Future



### Bundle Up

As temperatures drop, please be sure that children are dressed in weather appropriate winter clothing. Be sure they have a warm coat, a hat, mittens and boots for the walk or ride to and from school. They will also be spending a part of their day outdoors at school so it is important that they have warm clothing to wear. Pay attention to wind chill, as frostbite can occur within minutes when bare skin is exposed at severe temperatures.

**Seymour  
Community School  
District**

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## Weather Related School Cancellations and Delays

Wisconsin winter weather is unpredictable. Since we must make a decision by 5:45 a.m. whether or not to cancel school, the progress of the snowstorm plays an important role in trying to arrive at the best decision for the children in the district. The decision, made by 5:45 a.m. is then given to television and radio stations, as listed, to give parents, bus drivers, and school personnel the notice of the cancellation as quickly as possible.



When it becomes necessary to cancel school during the school day, several additional factors must be considered. A majority of families have both parents/guardians working outside the home. It is necessary to give adequate parent/guardian notification prior to sending children home on the bus at a time when no one is expecting the children to be coming home.

This is especially important for young children. We urge you to review an emergency plan with your children. Make certain that you have told them where to go in case of an early school closing. Should the child go home? To a relative's or neighbor's house? Some other designated place? Have your child remind the teacher or report to the school office for help if they are confused about where to go.

**Please do not call the school and tie up the lines.** Listen to the stations listed below. Parents have the option of keeping their children home from school should they feel the weather conditions merit such action. According to School Board Policy, if parents choose to keep their children home due to weather conditions, the absence will be listed as "excused".

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO:** Listen to the following radio and television stations for school delays or cancellations: WLUK-TV, WBAY-TV, WFRV-TV, WGBA-TV, WOGB-TV, WAPL, WCHK, WCUB, WDUZ, WECB, WEMI, WHBY, WIXX, WKSZ, WLYD, WLTU, WNAM, WNCY, WNFL, WOGB, WOSH, WOZZ, WPKR, WROE, WSCO, WTAQ, WVOB, WWWX OR WZOR.

As in the past, everyone's complete cooperation is appreciated and helps to ensure that your children arrive home safely.

## DAR Award

Michael J. Flaherty, principal at Seymour Community High School announces that Maggie Blohm will receive the 2011-12 DAR Good Citizen Award. The award is presented annually by the Wisconsin Society Daughters of American Revolution to a senior girl or boy considered to be most deserving on the basis of four qualities: dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

The Appleton Chapter is sponsor for Seymour's representative. Seniors in accredited public high schools are eligible candidates. Maggie was selected by her fellow classmates and the high school scholarship committee.

She is the daughter of Steve and Lisa Blohm of Seymour, WI.



## Local Student Nominated To Compete In National Award Program

Erika Rettler, a Seymour High School senior has been nominated to compete in the national Principal's Leadership Award (PLA) scholarship program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Herff Jones, Inc. funds the PLA program.

Michael Flaherty, principal, Seymour Community High School, today announced the nomination, which places Erika in the national competition. One hundred national PLA winners will be chosen this spring to receive College scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$12,000.

Participating high school principals from across the country could nominate one senior high student to compete in this year's program. Winners were selected on the basis of their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, employment experience, and academic record. They also were required to write an essay.



In recognizing leadership in co-curricular activities as well as academic performance, the Principal Leadership Award Scholarship recognizes the importance of a well-rounded education. Co-curricular activities are an essential part of the school curriculum.

While at Seymour Community High School, Erika has been active in Student Senate, Go Green Club, National Honor Society, Diversity Council, and Student Leadership. Erika was a junior class officer – in charge of Prom, and is now a senior class officer. Erika was one of the chairs of the 2011-12 Homecoming celebration. She was part of a Global Volunteer Service Trip to Montana. Outside of school Erika is a Sunday school teacher and holds two part time jobs while maintaining a GPA of 3.75 or higher. Erika's future plans include studying either accounting or education. She is the daughter of Jamie & Crista Rettler, Black Creek.

## DRIVER EDUCATION PARENT/ GUARDIAN MEETING

The parent/guardian meeting for students taking Driver Education in spring/summer will be held on Monday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Any student who was born before February 1, 1997 is eligible.



## 2010-2011 School Performance Report

Information regarding the School Performance Report will be available to the public in May of 2012. If you would like a copy of this report, please call Lisa Daubert at 833-7199, ext. 310, or visit the Seymour Community School District website at: [www.seymour.k12.wi.us](http://www.seymour.k12.wi.us).



## Seymour Thunderzone

Dustin Muenster, General Manager of the Seymour High School Student Store, here bringing you the scoop on what's happening down at the Thunderzone. Boy o' Boy do we have some good looking new apparel getting sold here. Sales are smoking hot right now so you should stop by and get your own share of the wear.

Let's take a look see at this year's Student Managers shall we. Behind the reins at General Manager is myself, Dustin Muenster. At Merchandise Manager creating and developing our new gear is Paige Thompson. Taking care of the finances and doing a heck of a job is Melanie Wichman. Last but certainly not least, doing the dirty work, designing and maintaining our school store website, Sam Wendt.

So once again stop by and get your own part of the new hot deals that we got going on here. The store is open before school 7:30- 7:55 and during lunch 11:40- 1:05. You can also order online by checking out the Thunderzone website, [www.seymourthunderzone.com](http://www.seymourthunderzone.com)

*Seymour ThunderZone*

## Child Development Days

The Seymour Community School District provides evaluations and special services to those students identified as disabled in accordance with the state and federal guidelines. Each child between birth to 21 years of age is entitled to screening for, and evaluation of, suspected disabling conditions. These services are at no cost to the parents or student identified.

Child Development Days, a screening for children with special needs between three and five years of age, is held in October and April of each school year. If you have a child who will be at least 3 years, 3 months old by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, you and your child will be invited to participate in **Seymour**

## Community Schools Child Development Days.

This event is scheduled on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Black Creek School (3:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and at Rock Ledge Primary Center on both April 12<sup>th</sup> (3:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (8:15-11:00 a.m.) Please remember these times are approximate.

If you choose to participate in this event, your child will be involved in a small play group while you have the opportunity to meet other parents and talk with school personnel about normal growth and development. You can expect to spend about 40 minutes at school. Before you leave, a member of the screening staff will review her/his observations of your child's development with you as well as answer any questions you might have. Please call Lisa Daubert, school psychologist, if you need more information (833-7199, ext. 310).

## SMS Giving Tree

This year the Student Council (STARS) had a giving tree. All the items that are donated will be to help those in the community. Each



blue ornament on the tree indicates a need of someone and the hope is we can fulfill that need through your generous donation. The donated items were placed in boxes under the tree. All gifts were given to Community 2000 families in need this holiday season.

## SMS November Food Drive

Seymour Middle School's STARS group (Students Taking Action and Representing SMS) organized a food drive to support the local Seymour Food Pantry. Non-Perishable food was collected at the middle school throughout the month of November. In addition food was collected at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Students who brought 3 food items received free admission to the dance. A total of 6 large boxes of food was collected throughout the food drive. Thank you to all students and families for their generous donations to help those in need. Tiffany Vogel is the STARS advisor.



## **SMS Service Learners Take Action in the Community**

Seymour Middle School's STARS subcommittee of service learners created homemade Thanksgiving cards for the older adults at Meadow Wood Residential Apartments. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the service learners visited the residents and delivered the cards. Upon visiting students and residents engaged in games, conversation, and introductions with each other. The residents thoroughly enjoyed the service learners visiting and the students were very appreciative of this learning experience.

## **Thunder Talks**

Seymour Community School District provides every student the opportunity to meet three times throughout their school career with their parents and school counselor, separate from parent teacher conferences, in an effort to empower the student in their educational process and future plans. These student-directed conferences, known as Thunder Talks, are scheduled for Grade 5, 8, and 10 students.

Parent involvement in Thunder Talk is integral to the development of a child's personal and social growth, their educational and career development, and future transitioning. Although these meetings are not mandatory, we hope parents will take this opportunity to enhance the communication between themselves, their child, and their child's school counselor.

### **Thunder Talk conference**

#### **timelines for**

#### **2011-2012 school year:**

**Grade 8: December-January**

**Grade 10: January, February,  
April and May**

**Grade 5: March 25 – May 4**

Parents will be notified by their child's school counselor and given the opportunity to schedule their Thunder Talks. Please contact your child's School Counselor with any questions you may have about this process or to schedule your child's Thunder Talk.



## **Little Minds Academy**

LMA has been very busy with both a morning and afternoon session. The children are engaged throughout the day in large and small group activities. Games are played, songs are sung, art projects made, and playtime a must.

In September, over 75 Grandparents joined us for a morning of entertainment and refreshments. The highlight of the visit was making a keepsake picture frame with their grandchild/ren. Of course we took a picture of each child with their guests. It was a fun time for all!

Families were invited for a family night of storytelling, singing and interactive stories for the children giving parents the opportunity to visit. Art was on display as well as an opportunity to make a project to take home.

In December our classroom was a very busy place preparing for our annual Christmas program. Props were made, songs practiced and decorations made for the classroom. It was awesome to see and hear the children sing December 16. They had a great time entertaining family and friends.

Do we work when not celebrating? You bet we do! Working on our numbers, letters, manners, social skills, cutting and printing are all part of our daily schedule.

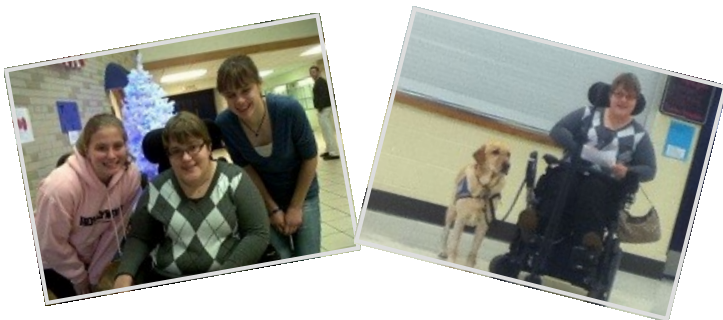
We have an open door policy and are blessed with having families visit, assist in the classroom and attend field trips with us.

Please visit Little Minds Academy at [www.littlemindsacademy.com](http://www.littlemindsacademy.com) or call at 920-419-8441.

## 4-K At Good Shepherd

Submitted by: Mary Greuel

We are well into our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the 4-K Community Collaboration with the Seymour School District. Each year, we are able to meet a new group of wonderful families and their children. We appreciate the active involvement of the parents, extended family and friends of family. Thus far, we've had a Family Feast, Donuts with Dads and field trips to a pumpkin patch and apple orchard. Thank you to Muehl Public Library Director, Elizabeth Timmins, and her staff for welcoming our families for a special night of learning about the library. Our friends from the Fire Dept. visited us and let us try on their turnout gear and showed us a fire truck. Miss Gina and her 4-k friends along with Flat Stanley have been visiting all over the United States and other countries. We all look forward to the mail arriving each day to see where the next post card or package may come from. After our holiday break, we will move forward with more fun and learning activities.



## Strength To Inspire

On Wednesday, December 21, 2011 the eighth grade class at Seymour Middle School had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker, Jessica Nell. Jessica is an incredibly positive 24 year old who is disabled due to Cerebral Palsy, or C.P. The main message of her speaking was having the strength to overcome adversity, finding the positives among negatives, and never giving up.

Jessica and her twin brother were born with Cerebral Palsy. Jessica received her first motorized

wheel chair at age 3 so she faced several challenges when she began to go to school since she was "different" and "not normal." The bullying at school unfortunately was not the only challenge she faced during her childhood years. Jessica's mother was physically abusive to both Jessica and her brother. When Jessica and her brother were 17 they moved out of their mother's house and Jessica's mother went to jail for child abuse. Jessica has been living on her own ever since. Jessica still managed to graduate high school on time and chose to continue her education at University of Wisconsin Green Bay.

Jessica proudly graduated from UWGB this past May and is now working towards a master's degree in social work. Jess would like to be a social worker so that she can help others in similar situations. She said that she loves volunteering by speaking publicly to break down the barriers of fear that she, as well as others with disabilities, are "not normal" or "contagious." Jess volunteers at nursing homes, works part time and is working on her master's degree.

Jessica has had more than 20 surgeries and plans on having another this June. She has also come very close to death several times and was actually born dead and then revived. She talks about how blessed she is instead of focusing on the negatives. Jessica was also one of only 40 people to be accepted into the social work master's program at UWGB. She plans on graduating within the next two years and continuing to speak to others about disabilities. Despite all of the challenges that Jess has faced, she refuses to give up or allow things that she cannot control to ruin her day. Her positive message ran strong with students who were amazed by her perseverance and strong character. Students seemed to have only positive comments about Jessica's message and hopefully during this holiday season everyone has learned to be a little more positive and thankful for the things they have.

## 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR NOTIFICATION

As a result of federal legislation Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act - AHERA, each primary and secondary school in the nation is required to complete a stringent new inspection for asbestos and to develop a plan of management for all asbestos-containing building materials - ACBM. Seymour Community School District's goal is to be in full compliance with this law and is following the spirit, as well as the letter, of the law. As a matter of policy, Seymour Community School District shall continue to maintain a safe and healthful environment for our community's youth and employees.

In keeping with this legislation, all buildings (including portables and support buildings) owned or leased by the school district were inspected by EPA accredited inspectors and samples were analyzed by an independent laboratory. Based on the inspection, the school prepared and the state approved a comprehensive management plan for handling the asbestos located within its buildings safely and responsibly.

Furthermore, Seymour Community School District has completed its three-year re-inspection requirement by AHERA. Seymour Community School District buildings, where asbestos-containing materials were found, are under repair, removal or being monitored and maintained.

This past year, Seymour Community School District conducted the following with respect to its asbestos containing building materials:

- 1) Removed, disposed and tested asbestos containing flooring and mastic in rooms 229 and 230 at Rock Ledge Intermediate Center.
- 2) Removed, disposed and tested asbestos containing flooring and mastic in room 144 at Black Creek Elementary/Middle School.

Federal law requires a periodic walk-through (called surveillance) every six months of each area containing asbestos. Also the law requires all buildings to be reinspected three years after a management plan is in effect. This will be accomplished under contract by MacNeil Environmental, Inc.

Short-term workers (outside contractors - i.e. telephone repair workers, electricians and exterminators) must be provided information regarding the location of asbestos in which they may come into contact. All short-term workers shall contact the lead maintenance person for asbestos information before commencing work.

Seymour Community School District has a list of location(s) and type(s) of asbestos-containing materials found in that school building and a description and timetable for their proper management. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available for review in the district office. Copies are available for 25 cents per page. Questions related to the plan should be directed to Jason Showen, designated Asbestos Program Manager under contract with MacNeil Environmental, Inc., Burnsville MN at 1-800-232-5209 Ext. 130.





Community Family Resource Centers, Inc. (CFRC) is a non-profit organization providing family-friendly, affordable entertainment and education for children birth to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Located in the Black Creek Elementary School and the Rock Ledge Primary Center, Seymour, CFRC is close and convenient for you and your family. Join us for parent networking, parenting tips, referrals to other agencies and more. All CFRC programs and events are open to *ALL* Seymour Community School District residents.

### **Refer New Families to PACE Playgroups & Win a Shopko Gift Card**

To help get the word out about PACE to more area families, an incentive program is being offered to families already attending PACE. An existing PACE family will win a \$10 Shopko gift card just by referring a brand new family to the program – it's that easy!

PACE is designed for families with children ages 0-5 to foster parent and child interaction in a fun, structured environment. PACE focuses on child social skills and learning, parent education and fun through activities including play time, circle-time activities, art projects, story time and snack. Join us for PACE playgroups during the day or in the evening – whatever works in your schedule! Cost per session is only \$20 for your first child, \$15 for your second child, and \$10 for each additional child, with a maximum of \$50 per family. That's less than \$1/week for each child! Scholarships are available.

#### **2011-2012 PACE SCHEDULE**

##### ***Black Creek Location:***

##### **Black Creek Elementary School**

Monday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Wednesday 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

##### ***Seymour Location:***

##### **Rock Ledge Primary Center**

Monday 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Thursday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

### **Me & My Family Snow Much Fun event at Rock Ledge Park, Seymour – Saturday, Feb. 4, 1-3 pm (Register by Feb. 2)**

Bring your family for Snow Much Fun – sledding and ice skating – at Rock Ledge Park, Seymour, on Saturday, February 4, from 1-3 pm. Then head into the Scout House to warm up with hot cocoa and other goodies. Register for this event by Thursday, February 2.

### **Create...Inspire...Celebrate...with an "Album of Hope" – Tuesday, Feb. 7, 5-7 pm (Register by Feb. 3)**

Creating something with photos and words is one of the greatest things you can do for the people in your life. We all want to feel the sense of belonging, the comfort of knowing that yes, we are loved. Learn how to create an "Album of Hope" for your child or another loved one by attending this event on Tuesday, February 7, from 5-7 pm. Location is yet to be determined. Register for this event by Friday, February 3. Watch for more details!

### **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Winterfest at Seymour Middle School – Saturday, February 25, 2012, 10:30 am-2 pm**

Join CFRC at the Seymour Middle School from 10:30 am to 2 pm for the festivities including Miller & Mike Comedy Show, carnival games and bouncers, basket raffles, food and fun for all ages. Watch for more details.

### **CFRC Joins Facebook**

CFRC now has a Facebook page. Make sure to "like" CFRC Black Creek/Seymour on Facebook to be notified of our upcoming events and programs.

**Watch for More Me & My Family Events And Family Education Programs  
coming in March, April and May!**

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To register for any of our events, contact us at [cfr@seymour.k12.wi.us](mailto:cfr@seymour.k12.wi.us) or (920) 833-5155 x703.

Visit our website at [www.seymour.k12.wi.us/cfrc.cfm](http://www.seymour.k12.wi.us/cfrc.cfm) for more information.

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## Ribbons Honor Veterans

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders presented 77 ribbons to the Veterans during the Veteran's Day Ceremony. The week prior to that, they were displayed at the Veteran's Memorial on the corner of Main and Depot Streets,

downtown Seymour. Each ribbon included the branch of military that they served and their name.



## Spring Break

Spring break will be early this year. March 5, 2012 through March 9, 2012 district schools will be closed. Classes will resume on Monday, March 12.

## Reading Partnership Program To Begin

The Seymour Board of Education has taken steps to implement a partnership program connecting kindergarten through 12th grade students who are struggling in reading with a community volunteer.

They are looking for volunteers to work with a child as he or she practices to become a stronger reader.

An informational meeting was held in January at the Seymour Middle School. If you missed the meeting but are interested in helping a student with his/her reading, please contact Betty Schmit at 920 833-7199 Extension 354 or email at [bschmit@seymour.k12.wi.us](mailto:bschmit@seymour.k12.wi.us).

### **Inside is published for residents of the Seymour Community School District**

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