



# SOLON SPRINGS

LEGACY – MONTESSORI – EAGLES ACADEMY – VIRTUAL – EAGLES' NEST

SOLON SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

EAGLE FLYER – APRIL/MAY 2023 NO. 2

## School District of Solon Springs Names the Next Superintendent for the 2023-2024 School Year!

March 2023

Dear Solon Springs:

It is with great enthusiasm that the School District of Solon Springs Board of Education announces the selection of Peter Hopke as the next Superintendent to lead the Solon Springs School District. Mr. Hopke embodies the energy, integrity and genuine passion for serving students that the Board identified as essential qualities for its next leader.



The Board unanimously approved the hiring of Mr. Hopke after a rigorous search, and wishes to thank the staff, parents, and community members for their participation in this process. The next district administrator has big shoes to fill after long-standing superintendent Mr. Frank Helquist announced his retirement. Mr. Hopke currently serves as the Director of Pupil Services and Special Education for the Spooner Area School District, and comes highly recommended by his colleagues. He has been in the position since 2021. Prior to his director role, Peter served as the principal for the Spooner Elementary School, where he began working in 2018. Peter has been in K-12 education for 22 years. Peter also serves as the Battalion Commander (rank-Lieutenant Colonel), for the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

*"I am truly honored to be named the next District Administrator for the School District of Solon Springs. This district has a commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom, which I have watched grow into being one of the best districts, not only in the area, but in the state. The district has a commitment to provide the best individualized learning experience for every student, which is impressive. Very few districts provide such an opportunity. Being a native of Washburn County, I am very familiar with all of the towns and villages that make up the School District of Solon Springs. My goal is to be a visible leader in the district and throughout our communities, interacting with students, staff, and community members. I am looking forward to leading our district and ensuring that each and every one of our students finds success now and in the future!"*

Although Peter will not be joining Solon Springs officially until July 1, prior to that time, he will spend time getting acquainted with the Board, staff and community. His vision, passion and energy for the success of every child makes this transition a bright, new and exciting time. We know you will join us in welcoming Peter to the Solon Springs School District. Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

*The Solon Springs School District Board of Education*

Congratulations to the Girls and Boys Basketball Teams for a successful year and to those players who made the All Conference Teams:

1st Team:

Claire Holmstrom  
Isaiah Kastern  
Dylan Taggart

2nd Team:

Kyra Latvala  
Owen Smith

3rd Team:

Bailey Monson

Honorable Mention:

Kaden Corlett  
Carson Kaunonen

Coach of the Year:

Marcus Besonen



Photos by Jenny Taggart



**Mark Your Calendar: SUMMER SCHOOL DATES!!!**

Session 1: June 12-23

Session 3: July 24 – August 4

Session 2: July 3-14

Session 4: August 14-18

Summer School brochures will be coming home with third quarter report cards. They are also available on the school website!

Solon Springs School District proudly offers a variety of educational choices to our students and families. We truly are... **STRONGER TOGETHER!**

OPEN ENROLLMENT WINDOW FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR:

**CLOSES: April 28, 2023**

CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE!



### LEGACY

A cornerstone educational opportunity in the District with a well defined scope and sequence and highly instructed methods of learning.

Serving students in grades PK-12



**LEGACY**  
SOLO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### MONTESSORI

This time-tested educational opportunity provides a hands-on, flexible, follow the child approach to learning where all students are valued and is responsive to individuals and families.

Serving students in Children's House- E2 (PK-6)



### VIRTUAL

Virtual school serves self-directed learners who are seeking flexible, rigorous learning opportunities that are not bound by schedules or location.

Serving students in grades K- 12



**VIRTUAL**  
SOLO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### EAGLES ACADEMY

At Eagles Academy, students learn through interdisciplinary projects, rooted in our community.

Serving students in middle and high school



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOLO SPRINGS

The mission of Solon Springs School District is to nurture and empower all learners.



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## Superintendent's Column

### *Welcome Peter Hopke!*

Welcoming Peter Hopke who will be Solon Spring's Superintendent is a fitting first item in my column. I am excited to be working with Peter (Pete) who will be transitioning from his position in Spooner to Solon Springs on July 1.



*Frank Helquist  
Superintendent*

The School Board was very pleased with the pool of applicants that applied to be our next Superintendent. The top candidates had varied backgrounds, each with their unique qualifications. All of the top candidates were from this area, which helps in understanding the unique needs of northern Wisconsin schools.

Between now and July 1, we will be working together to have a successful transition. In fact, Pete attended the March meeting of the Facility Committee and School Board. He would like to learn as much as he can about the Solon Springs Community and School. Over the next several weeks, he will be spending time in Solon Springs so that he can meet students and staff. You will find that he is a very personable individual who will work to continue to improve the school. Pete also plans to be very visible in the Community!

### *Foundation Fish Fry and Wall of Honor Inductions*

Mark your calendar and get tickets ahead of time! This wonderful opportunity for community members to have some wonderful fish, help raise some Foundation funds, and hear a 1999 Solon Springs Grad – Dr. Noah Lottig, a very well recognized Limnologist at UW-Madison. Noah is yet another example of a Solon Springs graduate going on to make remarkable contributions in one's chosen field.



A special part of the evening will be the recognition of this year's Wall of Honor Inductees:

❖ Stephanie Ann Klinzing Zaczkowski ❖ Janet Lietha ❖ Jim & Barb Pettit ❖ Sandy "Spin" Slade ❖ Chris Willis ❖

This year, the Wall of Honor Selection Committee received a large number of excellent nominations, but only five can be chosen each year. At this event, you will learn about the Foundation's activities. This includes using donations and other leveraged funds totaling over \$21,000 to be used for 20 projects for teacher requested projects. THANK YOU, Foundation and donors!

### *Roof Snow Load Update*

Like many property owners, the School also dealt with too much snow. A unique situation occurred when a mass of snow and ice from the slanted gym roof, slid down onto a lower section of roof. This 15 x 120 foot section of roof by the cafeteria and office hallway experienced extra stress on trusses.

Thanks to the quick work of Maintenance Director Mark Dahlberg, we promptly obtained help from an engineering firm and Paul's Sheet Metal and Roofing in Rice Lake. Sufficient snow was removed and the Engineer deemed the affected trusses to be safe, so school could be re-opened. In the future, some cosmetic repairs will be provided by a general contractor, Vonasek & Schieffer from Rice Lake, WI.

We appreciate the quick work of many staff to get virtual learning activities taking place so quickly. We also appreciate the cooperation and understanding of parents. Besides the building being safe, the other good news is that the two missed days of school will not have to be made up because our current calendar meets the State Standards for Hours of Instruction!





Ashtyn Love



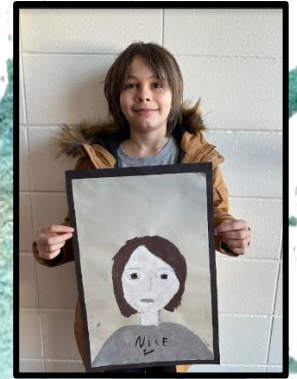
Blake Nalipinski



Owen Fox



Tristan Essen



Michael Priem



Madilynn Zdyb



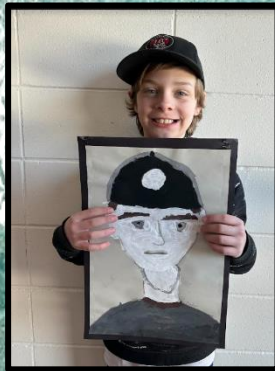
Melody Schneider



Max Birchmeier

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Self Portraits

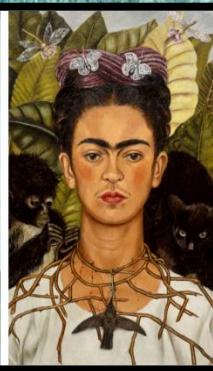
Mrs. Dahlberg's 5th grade class shares their self-portraits that they made in Mrs. Semborski's art class! The fifth grade students were learning about neutral colors and were asked to create a self-portrait using only neutral colors: black, white, brown and gray. They also learned what a self-portrait is and how to draw their face. They did an excellent job and they really captured their personalities in these portraits!



Carter Okonek



Van Gogh



Frida



Rockwell



Nate Rivord



### GRADES 1-3 VISIT THE DULUTH AQUARIUM!

Grades 1-3 enjoyed a class where they learned about seahorses - what they eat and how they move. Mrs. Hebert and Mrs. Hoag's classes also explored the aquarium where they were able to touch sturgeons and jellyfish. Students saw saltwater sharks, stingray, learned about local animals and the H2O watersheds.

SOLON SPRINGS  
CLASS OF 2023

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

We featured our seniors in this edition of the Eagle Flyer and also in the last, February/March publication.



Gloriana Allen is looking forward to traveling, living, or working in Ireland. She is passionate about drawing and design. Her favorite class is Mr. Rajala's senior social studies class.



Heath Hoyt is an artist that enjoys drawing characters and scenes from his favorite video games and animations. His favorite class is Industrial Arts. Heath is still deciding his plays for after graduation.



Brendon Clark enjoys fishing in his free time and working outside of school. His favorite classes are shop with Mr. Hendrickson or Mr. Rajala's class. Brendon will be joining the Boilermakers as a welder.



Loreena Trump enjoys painting, organizing, and singing and her favorite class is English. A favorite school memory is when Mr. Rajala took her picture with the Trump Tower in the background while in NYC. Loreena plans to become an RN and spend quality time with her son, Jaylen.



Isabel Molina enjoys spending time with friends, boating, swimming, and sports. Her favorite class is gym and her favorite memory is travelling to Disney and filming videos for a class project. Isabel plans on studying exercise science at UW - Superior.



Carson Kaunonen likes to hunt, fish, and go snowboarding and his favorite class is History. His favorite school memory is snowboarding at Spirit Mountain. Carson will be moving to Alaska to work on fiber optics for telecommunications.

Additional Graduates: Kendall Stegmann, Ava Dailey, and Marissa Windsor

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**  
GRADUATION 2023  
MAY 27, 2023  
11:00 AM IN THE  
SANDY SPIN SLADE GYMNASIUM

The SSYBA 6th and 7th grade girls travel BB team just wrapped up their season after attending the Wisconsin State Invitational Championship Tournament on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The team had an overall record of 22-4. They finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the state and are one of the few division 5 teams that received an invitation to be a part of the statewide tournament. This is the second year they have been invited. The team dominated Aquinas (private school ranked #1 in the state for high school this year) and Mishicot (ranked #4 in high school this year). The team gave Laconia, Luther, Whitehall, and Shullsburg their best, but came up short. These southern state teams have top-notch basketball programs. Our Solon 6/7 team are a force to be reckoned with and can hang with the best. The young lady eagles are a team you will want to follow into high school. They are intense, never give up, and comeback queens. They play a fast paced offense, are aggressive, play an in-your-face defense, and are sure to create frustration for opposing teams and coaches. As their coaches, we are always trying to get pickup games against equal or better competitors including any boys' teams willing to play us. We also participated in 8th grade tournaments in Minnesota. They need consistent challenges and we see their best basketball when they play against better teams. Overall, the Solon Springs Eagles basketball program has a lot to look forward to and celebrate! Go Eagles!



Juniors  
visit



**OPEN ENROLLMENT WINDOW FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR:**

**CLOSES: April 28, 2023**

**CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE!**

SOLON SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

HELPING OUR EAGLES SOAR

**PTO**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

April 4  
May 6  
June 2

The PTO meets at  
4:00 pm at the school.

Hello Families! We are beginning to plan our 2023 Color Run Fundraiser. The Color Run is on Friday, May 12th, 2023. Please join us at our monthly meetings on April 4th or May 2nd to volunteer. We will meet at 4:00 pm in the cafeteria at Solon Springs School. If you cannot make a meeting, message us at our Facebook page, "Solon Springs PTO", and let us know how you can help.

If you have a business or know a business that would like to donate and support our Elementary students, please see the school website. The PTO is located under the family tab.





GO EAGLES!

## Solon Springs School District

### JOB POSTING!

- ✓ **Bus Driver Subs**
- ✓ **Paraprofessional Subs**
- ✓ **Teacher Subs**
- ✓ **Janitor Subs**  
Openings *immediately!*  
Please contact the school office.



Visit our website for more information: [www.solonk12.net](http://www.solonk12.net)  
 Questions? Contact Holly Jones, Principal at: [hjones@solonk12.net](mailto:hjones@solonk12.net)

[WWW.SOLONK12.NET](http://WWW.SOLONK12.NET)

INTRODUCING OUR  
NEW WEBSITE AND  
MOBILE PHONE APP!



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ON NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Info right at  
your  
fingertips!



INTERACTIVE  
RESOURCES  
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!


FOR THE MOBILE PHONE APP, VISIT YOUR  
APP OR PLAY STORE TODAY!

Northwood-Solon Springs

# YOUTH LEAGUE REGISTRATION

T-Ball/Rookies (PreK-K/1st-2nd) - \$40 per child  
 Minors, Majors & Babe Ruth (3rd-8th) - \$60 per child  
 Softball 3/4, 5/6, 7/8 - \$60 per child  
 Cap of \$120 per family

**February 20th-April 20th**



\*Late registrations will have an additional \$15 fee.

[www.leaguelineup.com/northwoodsolonyouth](http://www.leaguelineup.com/northwoodsolonyouth)

VISIT  
WEBSITE TO  
REGISTER

Want to join the Board?

We're always looking for people to help out the teams, with concessions and bring new ideas to the process.

UMPS  
NEEDED

**COACHES  
NEEDED**

# Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>



# Fish Fry

## Solon Springs School

**4:30 – Community Fish Fry**

Dinner music provided by Solon Springs Music Department

**5:00 – 2023 Wall of Honor recipients**

Stephanie Ann (Klinzing) Zaczkowaski, Jan Leitha,  
Jim & Barb Pettit, Sandy Slade, Chris Willis

**5:15 Keynote:**

**Dr. Noah Lottig, Limnologist (Alumnus)**

Tickets available at the School Office or at the door:  
 Adults \$10, Students \$5, Kids under 5 are free  
 \$30 - Family of 4 or more

Sponsored by



Landon Brown and Ellianne Tyson represented Solon Springs Schools at the State Spelling Bee held in Madison on March 11<sup>th</sup>!



**DIANA  
RAUNIO**

Ms. Cason (Student Support Specialist) and Mrs. Raunio (School Counselor) can be found in the Counselor's Corner in the two offices across from the high school gym. They provide non-clinical mental health services and emotional support to student as needed. They also can provide referrals for higher levels of care, if the need arises. Both are passionate about the overall mental, physical, and emotional well-being of students in the Solon Springs School District!



**DANI  
CASON**



### WELLNESS DAY 2023 – April 18<sup>th</sup>

Solon Springs School will have their annual Wellness Day on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Elementary students will participate in a variety of activities including art, fitness obstacle course, mindfulness activities, and an assembly from our guest speaker, David Woods Bartley. He travels the country speaking to military groups, schools, and other organizations.

For our elementary students, Mr. Bartley will share stories about the animals in his sanctuary and how they relate to emotions. He talks about happiness and sadness and how to share difficult emotions with adults, reminding students that it feels good when we get that stuff out. In the end, he reminds us that we all have the right to feel how we feel.

For our middle and high school students, Mr. Bartley will dive deeper into feelings and emotions and share his own mental health journey and how caring individuals helped him through his darkest moments. We all have the ability to lift up those around us. Don't miss out on a chance to share kindness and compassion to someone in need!

The 10 am session is open to our parents and community (adults only, please). We invite adults to join in the opportunity to learn about mental health and how to navigate through challenging times. If you are an adult that would like to join us, please arrive to school by 9:45 am and get a visitor badge in the office.

Mr. Bartley sent the following message:

*"Please know that my goal with your precious and priceless children is to underscore that we all have emotions and feelings and leave them knowing one of the great truths; happiness is our right, not a privilege."*



Use the QR Code to see Mr. Bartley's TED Talk: "How Connections Saved My Life"



**DAVID WOODS BARTLEY**  
Mental Health Advocate

Shining light on the issue of mental illness, and opening doors to the possibility of mental health.

Coming to Solon Springs Schools on April 18<sup>th</sup>! Public welcome to the 10 am session!





Courtesy of the Wisconsin Association of School Boards...

## The School Levy Tax Credit

Part of the state's commitment to fund education comes in the form of the school levy tax credit. What makes this aspect of funding confusing is that, while the state considers these dollars a part of its commitment to education, this credit is not paid directly to schools. Instead they function to offset individual school property tax bills. In effect, through these credits, the state "buy down" a portion of each taxpayer's property tax bill. In November, when a school district sets its property tax levy, it sets a gross levy amount. In December, when property tax bills are issued, the bills show a net levy amount. The difference is paid by the state through these credits. The amounts allotted through [the levy credit] are based on a formula that generally provides more funds to municipalities that have higher property taxes for schools.

Courtesy of the Wisconsin Department of Revenue...

## How is the school levy tax credit calculated?

Formula for calculating the school levy tax credit:  
Municipality's 3-Year Average School Levies Statewide

**3-Year Average School Levies x Total Funding = Municipality's Credit**

- Is the school levy tax credit paid to the school district? No. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) distributes this credit to counties and municipalities. DOR makes the payments directly to the county where the municipality is located and then the county distributes the payment to the municipality.
- When are town, villages and cities notified of the school levy tax credit amount? DOR must inform municipalities of their school levy tax credit payments on or before November 20 of each year.
- How is the school levy tax credit reported on individual property tax bills? On property tax bill, the school levies are reported after subtracting the school levy tax credits. The amount of the school levy tax credit for the current year is listed in a separate box on each property tax bill.
- How does a property owner qualify for the school levy tax credit? The school levy tax credit is applied to every taxable property. The credit amount is based on the property's assessed value as a percent of the municipality's total assessed value.

## Meet our School Board Members:



**KEITH NORDSKOG, PRESIDENT**  
KNORDSKOG@SOLONK12.NET



**BRAD HUNTER, VICE-PRESIDENT**  
BHUNTER@SOLONK12.NET



**JASON CLIFTON, CLERK**  
JCLIFTON@SOLONK12.NET

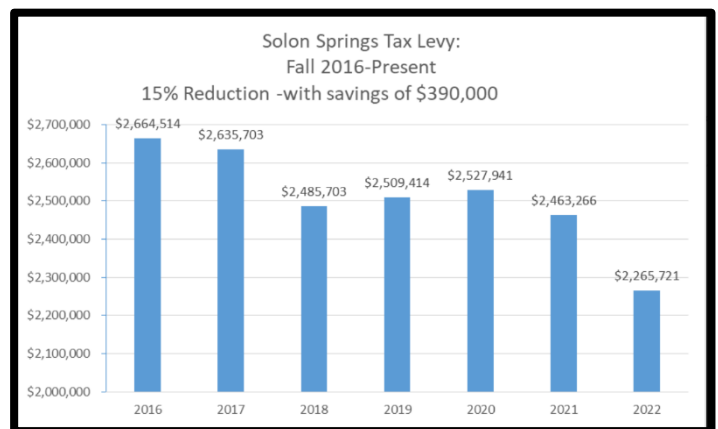


**BEN KIDDER, TREASURER**  
BKIDDER@SOLONK12.NET



**JOHN SWANBERG, MEMBER**  
JSWANBERG@SOLONK12.NET

QR code for our upcoming events:



*Tax Levy History Update - The above chart shows the amount of school taxes that have been levied since 2016. Since 2016, the amount of local taxes for Solon Springs School declined by 15% - that means a reduction of about \$390,000. Why did this occur? The main reason is that Solon Springs is attracting more students. This increases State Aid.*

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOLON SPRINGS

Regular Monthly School Board Meeting  
MINUTES

DATE: Monday, February 27, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: IMC



- I. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER, AND ROLL CALL** – Nordskog called the meeting to order. Members present – Keith Nordskog, Brad Hunter, Jason Clifton, Ben Kidder, and John Swanberg via Zoom. Others present – LeeAnn Garay, Holly Jones, Zoey Smith, Brittany Hager, Ida Sampson, Frank Helquist. Attending via Zoom – Nathan Ahlberg and Maria Lockwood.
- II. **REPORT ON HOW THE PUBLIC WAS NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING** – Agenda was in published the Superior Telegram, posted on High School Door, Bennett Town Hall, & Solon Springs Post Office.
- III. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, March 20, 2023.
- IV. **AGENDA** – Motion by Hunter and second by Kidder to approve the Agenda. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
- V. **MINUTES** – Motion by Hunter and second by Clifton to approve Minutes for January 16 Regular and January 26 Special Meetings. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
- VI. **EXPENDITURES** – Motion by Hunter and second by Clifton to approve Expenditures Report. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
- VII. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Kidder presented Treasurer's Report that will be filed for the Auditor.
- VIII. **ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION** – Helquist updated Board on monthly balances.
- IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
- X. **REPORTS (Discussion & Action)**
  - A. Board President – Nordskog updated public on Superintendent search process that has resulted in three finalists.
  - B. Student Council - None
  - C. Athletic Director – Ahlberg provided Athletic Department update including basketball tournament sports. Girls had most wins in school history and Boys have a number 1 seeding. After discussion on Head Softball coaching posting, Motion by Hunter and second by Kidder to approve hiring of Kaylea Davis as Head Softball Coach. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
  - D. Principal Report – Jones updated Board on enrollments and activities. Senior Zoey Smith discussed a proposal to a show a special movie in a Social Studies class. Parents will be informed.
  - E. Superintendent Report:
    - 1) WASB – Hunter, Swanberg and Helquist attended the January WASB Convention. Each reported the Convention was worthwhile attending with many ideas received.
    - 2) GED Boot Camp –Northwood Tech HSED Boot Camp in Solon Springs is underway for two weeks.
    - 3) Charter School – Governance Board chairperson Ida Sampson reported on February meeting and updated Board on March 28 Governance Board retreat. Brittany Hager reported on Eagles' Wings students visiting the Hayward Library on Thursday.
    - 4) Wall of Honor – Selection Committee is meeting on March 8. School Board will review nominations in Closed Session.
    - 5) Foundation & ESSER Proposals– Helquist shared a listing of staff proposals for use of ESSER related and Foundation Funds.
    - 6) Health Insurance Update - M3 consultants John Preuss and Kristin Schmitz provided Zoom update on health insurance program thru the Northern Trust.
    - 7) Facilities Committee – This group is updating Long Range Maintenance Plan, with its next meeting being on March 20 at 4:30 pm.
    - 8) Health Related Matters – There are no health-related matters affecting school and COVID Clinic testing ends on April 30
    - 9) Get Kids Ahead – District is receiving a new allocation of Supplemental Funding for mental health activities.
    - 10) CESA 12 Property Purchase – The Resolution to purchase a new property to house the CESA 12 offices was approved by the required number of School Boards.
    - 11) Policy – This groups needs to begin meeting.
    - 12) Others as Appropriate
- XI. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. Audit – After review of key Audit results, Motion by Kidder and second by Hunter to approve the 2021-22 Annual Audit. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
  - B. School Forest Timber Sale Proceeds Designation – After discussion of Bell Timber downpayment, Motion by Hunter and second by Clifton that the \$8,862.66 be used for the erosion control project. Board will decide future use of Timber Sale funds based upon plan for usage. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
- XII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. Employment – Motion by Hunter and second by Kidder to approve the hiring of James Perkins as full-time Janitor. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
  - B. Physical Therapy – Motion by Hunter and second by Clifton to approve Physical Therapy services contract with Spooner Physical Therapy and Wellness. Motion carried on roll call vote 4-1 with Kidder voting No.
- XIII. **CLOSED SESSION** - Motion by Hunter and second by Clifton at 8:30 pm to enter into Closed Session pursuant to s. 19.85 (1) (c) for the purpose of discussing Wall of Honor Nominees, personnel affected ESSER Funds, 2023-24 staffing, compensation discussion, and employment contracts. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
- XIV. **REGULAR SESSION** – Motion by Clifton and second by Kidder at 10:18 pm to return to Regular Session for the purpose of taking action on Closed Session discussions and/or for Adjournment. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0. Motion by Hunter and second by Kidder to approve use of ESSER related funds as discussed. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.
- XV. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING** – Motion by Hunter and second by Swanberg to Adjourn at 10:20 pm. Motion carried on roll call vote 5-0.



SECOND HARVEST  
NORTHERN LAKES

**FOOD  
BANK**

**SECOND HARVEST**  
**MOBILE FOOD**  
**PANTRY**

The Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry comes to Solon Springs on the last Wednesday of the month. Second Harvest works to provide a solution to hunger or where access is limited.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy, baked goods, and shelf stable items arrive on a refrigerated truck where volunteers help give out the resources to anyone who may need it.

If you would like to volunteer, donate, or use these services, please visit [northernlakesfoodbank.org](http://northernlakesfoodbank.org).

The mobile food pantry visits:

**LAST WEDNESDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH**

**Time:** Starts at 10:00 am

**Location:** Community Center



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOLON SPRINGS

Regular Monthly School Board Meeting  
MINUTES

DATE: Monday, March 20, 2023

6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: IMC



- I. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Hunter called meeting to order. Members Present – Brad Hunter, Jason Clifton, Ben Kidder, and John Swanberg. Absent – Keith Nordskog. Also Present – Holly Jones, Brittany Hager, Nathan Ahlberg, Peter Hopke, and Frank Helquist.
- II. **REPORT ON HOW THE PUBLIC WAS NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING** - Published in the Superior Telegram, posted it on High School Door, Bennett Town Hall, & Solon Springs Post Office.
- III. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Next meeting is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, April 24, 2023.
- IV. **AGENDA** – Motion by Clifton and second by Kidder to approve the Agenda. Motion carried 4-0.
- V. **MINUTES** – Motion by Clifton and second by Swanberg to approve Minutes for February 9, 16 and 20 Special Meetings, February 27 Regular Meeting and Revised January 16 Minutes. Motion carried 4-0.
- VI. **EXPENDITURES** – Motion by Kidder and second by Clifton to approve the Expenditures Report. Motion carried 4-0.
- VII. **TREASURER’S REPORT** – Kidder presented the Treasurer’s Report. It will be filed for the Auditor.
- VIII. **ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION** – Helquist reviewed fund balance history and State Aid calculations.
- IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- X. **REPORTS (Discussion & Action)**
  - A. Board President - Nordskog was absent
  - B. Student Council - None
  - C. Athletic Director – Ahlberg reported on basketball tournaments and All Conference selections. Girls finished with best record in their history. Boys won Indianhead Conference and Sectional Championships, missing State by one game. Springs sports are underway.
  - D. Principal Report – In addition to updates on enrollments, and current events, Jones reviewed two Calendar options for 2023-24. Motion by Clifton and second by Kidder to approve the 2023-24 Calendar. Motion carried 4-0.
  - E. Superintendent Report:
    - 1) Charter School – Brittany Hager reported on upcoming Governance Board retreat, Eagles’ Academy Open House, and Project Showcase dates. A mailer is being sent out, with Board input, to include all Solon Springs Schools.
    - 2) Timber Sale – Work continues on Outdoor Education plan connected to Timber Sale.
    - 3) Wall of Honor – This year’s inductees include Stephanie Ann Klinzing Zaczkowski, Janet Lietha, Jim & Barb Pettit, Sandy “Spin” Slade, and Chris Willis. Induction ceremony is part of April 21 Foundation Fish Fry.
    - 4) Foundation & ESSER Proposals– Twenty of 21 staff proposals were approved by use of Foundation and other funds such as ESSER.
    - 5) GED Boot Camp – Northwood Tech HSED Boot Camp in Solon Springs was a success with three Solon Springs individuals earning diplomas.
    - 6) Facilities Committee – Committee met prior to this Board meeting to continue working on Maintenance Plan.
    - 7) Health Related Matters – Nothing is occurring except Covid Clinic Testing Site closes April 30.
    - 8) Policy – Next date is being established.
    - 9) Others as Appropriate - None
- XI. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
- XII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. CESA Resolution – Motion by Kidder and second by Swanberg to approve the Resolution to Authorize CESA 12 to dispose of Real Property. Motion carried 4-0.
  - B. CESA12 ACP E4E Plan – Motion by Kidder and second by Clifton to approve Academic and Career Planning (ACP) as part of Wisconsin’s Education for Employment (E4E) program plan. Motion carried 4-0.
  - C. Charter School Audit – After review of Charter Schools required audit, Motion by Kidder and second by Clifton to approve the Charter Schools 2021-22 Audit. Motion carried 4-0.
  - D. Personnel – Motion by Clifton and second by Swanberg to approve resignation of Shawna Newton as PK-K teacher. Motion carried 4-0.
  - E. Start Collage Now – Motion by Swanberg and second by Clifton to approve student applications for classes. Motion carried 3-0, with Kidder abstaining due to Conflict of Interest.
  - F. Angler R3 Grant Application – After review of Julie Fromm grant application, Motion by Clifton and second by Kidder to approve DNR grant application for Angler R (Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation) grant program. Motion carried 4-0.
- XIII. **CLOSED SESSION** – Motion by Clifton and second by Kidder at 8:02 pm pursuant to s. 19.85 (1) (c) and (f) for the purpose of discussing extension of teacher contracts, an employee request, and Superintendent Screening follow-up. Motion carried 4-0.
- XIV. **REGULAR SESSION** – Motion by Clifton and second by Kidder at 10:05 pm to return to Regular Session for the purpose of taking action on Closed Session discussions and/or for Adjournment. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Clifton and second by Swanberg to approve renewal of individual teacher contracts as discussed. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by Clifton and second by Kidder to approve transition days as discussed. Motion carried 4-0.
- XV. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING** - Motion by Kidder and second by Swanberg at 10:06 pm to Adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.



## BIRKIE 2023

Montessori students in E1, E2, and Eagles' Academy middle schoolers participated in the Barnebirkie again this year!

The Barnebirkie is a non-competitive ski tour for youth ages 3 to 13 years old. This is where Birkie Dreams begin! Imagine nearly 1000 kids skiing on Main Street to the iconic finish line of the legendary American Birkebeiner! Kids can choose to ski either a 1/2 km, 1 km, or 3 km course. Due to Solon Schools having a snow day during the actual Birkie date, they had to host the Birkie at the Brule Forrest. It was a perfect day for the event, with well-groomed snow trails, excited students, and a lot of great spectators. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers that made this a great event for skiers!



## MS Volleyball

From Coach Simenson... "I am very proud of this group of MSVB athletes this year. With only 6 out of the 19 players being returning players, we had a lot of work to do to become a team. These players showed up to practice and worked hard from the beginning to end. There were a ton of successes and achievements over the season with each athlete. I can't wait to see what they can achieve next year! Thank you players for a great season!"



### END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATIONS:

Montessori Crossover:  
June 2nd @ 10-noon

PK/K Graduation:  
June 2nd @ 1:00 pm

5th Grade Graduation:  
June 2nd @ 1:00 pm

### VISIT THE FABLAB!

Hours: 4-8 pm  
Location: Mr. Zosel's Room  
When: Every other Thursday - check the school calendar on the website!

All ages welcome. Students below grade 8 need an adult with them.

The Fab Lab was added in 2018 and has equipment such as 3D printers, laser engravers, and vinyl cutters.

The Fab Lab is open to community members and students - every other Thursday from 4-8 pm. This is a great time to learn how to use the equipment and to work on projects.

## OPEN HOUSE

Monday, April 17, 2023  
5:00-6:00 pm

Join us to learn about Eagles Academy, what it's like to be a student there, ask questions, take a tour, learn how to apply, and more!

A formal presentation will begin at 5:00, with a time for questions and answers to follow.

Always an adventure at

 **EAGLES ACADEMY**  
SOLON SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT



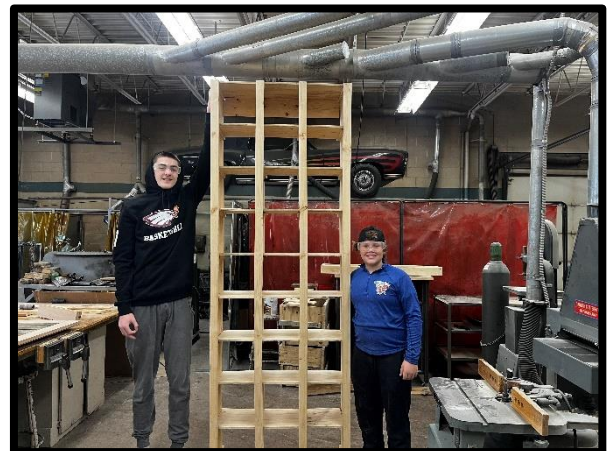
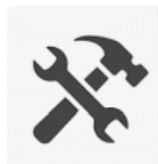
## SKI TRIP TO SPIRIT MOUNTAIN

It is called the World's Greatest Field Trip (WGFT) and many students said it was, indeed! On Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, Solon Springs middle & high school students were invited to Spirit Mountain in Duluth, MN to learn downhill skiing. For many it was their first time attempting the sport, and others made progress on their skills from last year's trip. Some of the more experienced downhill skiers enjoyed the day carving up the slopes with their friends. Spirit Mountain's WGFT included ski/helmet rental, ski instruction, a lift ticket, and a beautiful view of the Twin Ports from on top of the mountain. The weather was perfect - warm and sunny. Everyone graduated from the bunny hill by the afternoon. Time went by quickly, and all too soon, we took our "last run" of the day. Thank you to all staff who volunteered to go and support the students and to the bus drivers for taking us!



## INDUSTRIAL ARTS:

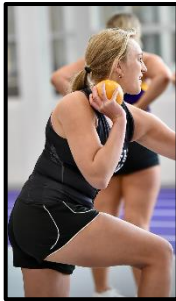
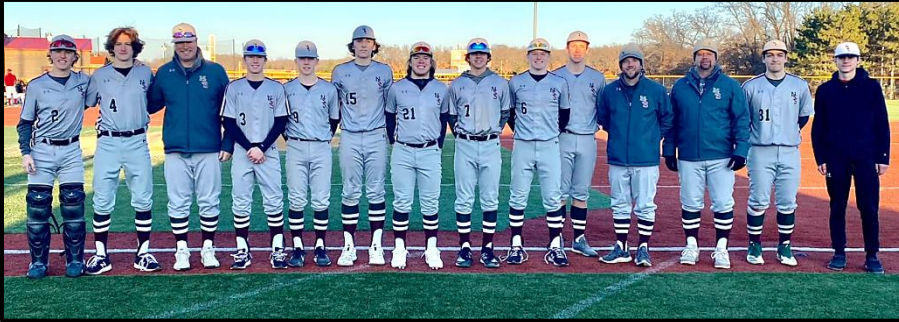
Ezra is finishing a cube shelving unit for the Eagles Academy classroom. It has taken some time to finish, but he has done the majority of the work. This is Ezra's design and he completed the layout while performing all of the cutting, gluing, nailing and finishing work with some help from Jaxson.



Landon and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade made birdhouses by following a plan used to supply birdhouses to the Bird Sanctuary. After that assignment, Landon made his own version of a birdhouse made from his own birdhouse design. The skills he incorporated into this project include planning, measuring, cutting, drilling, nailing! It takes patience to do a good job, and he did it!

# SPRING SPORTS ARE HERE!

Despite navigating the lingering winter weather, our high school students have been working hard! The Solon Springs-Northwood Co-op teams in Softball, Baseball, and Track are practicing and preparing for competitions. Several indoor and southern games have allowed some competing, while we are waiting for warmer, drier weather here!



**EAGLES' NEST**  
SOLO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE:

Our rooms are blooming with springtime in our mist and we are excited for summer. We serve ages 6 weeks through 6 years of age, drop in care, and before and after school care.

### Availability:

Infant room: full with waiting list  
Toddler room: full with waiting list  
Preschool room: 3 seats open

If you would like to get on the waiting list, please contact the Daycare.

We have a new Assistant teacher, Becca Wiclund. She lives in Solon and her child attends Solon Elementary. She is so excited to join the team!



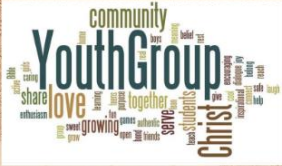
For more info, please contact Angela (Director) at (715)718-6141  
[amaclellan@solonk12.net](mailto:amaclellan@solonk12.net)



Do you have community news, information, or ideas that could be shared in our newsletter?  
If so, please contact Christine Nordness: [cnordness@solonk12.net](mailto:cnordness@solonk12.net)

COMMUNITY  
**YOUTH GROUP**  
GATHERING TIMES:

FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes): You don't have to be an athlete – any student is welcome to join in grades 6-12. This student led group meets Wednesdays at 7:30 am in Mr. Ahlberg's room. This group is always looking for breakfast treats. Need more info? Contact: Katie Ahlberg at kahlberg@solonk12.net



**RIVER CHURCH**

Youth Group  
Wednesday Night Activities:

Grades: 5 through 12  
5:15 pm - 7:00 pm  
Meal provided every week

Youth Group will end: May 17th

Easter Service: April 9th  
10:00 am at the Community Center

8979 County Rd A,  
Solon Springs, WI 54873

Contact:  
Pastor Emma Guerra at  
emma@thinkriver.net

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Wednesday Night Activities:

PreK-5th grade  
4:00 - 5:00 pm

5 pm Community Meal -  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

MS/HS Youth  
5:00 - 8:00 pm

You do not need to be a member of the congregation to enjoy in the fun, fellowship, and learning! All are truly welcome and everyone from the community is welcome to the community meal at 5 pm.

Easter Services:  
Maundy Thursday  
April 6 @ 5:30 pm

Stations of the Cross  
April 7 @ 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday:  
Sunrise Service 6:30 am  
Service 10:00 am

**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Holy Week : All are welcome!  
Maundy Thursday, April 6th @ 6:00 pm  
Good Friday, April 7th @ 3:00 pm  
Easter Sunday, April 9th @ 10:30 -

Every Sunday Mass 8:30

Montessori/Youth Group  
Sunday's 9:30-11:00  
April 2, 16, 30 and May 14

Homeschool Family Group  
Tuesday's 1:30-3:30 pm  
April 4, 18; May 2, 9, 23

Other Community events:  
Library Craft/Lego Club  
Mondays @ 4:30 pm  
April 10, 26 and May 8, 22

Little Flowers & Blue Knights Club  
4-12 yr on Wednesday  
April 19 and May 17 - 3:30-5:00 pm

Bennett Fire Dept Dinner  
Saturday, April 15

**MISSION COVENANT**

Jr. High Youth Group -  
Elevate-  
Wednesdays 3:30-5:00  
September through May  
for Grades 6-8

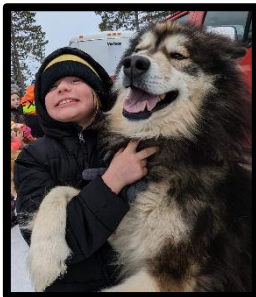
Sr. High Youth Group -  
Vertical-  
Wednesdays 6:15-8:15  
September through May  
for Grades 6-8

April 9 - Mission Café  
April 19 - Volleyball  
Tournament  
May 7 - Senior Honor  
Banquet  
May 21 - Dry Dock  
Fundraiser  
May 31 - End of Year Party

Good Friday Service:  
April 7 @ 7 pm

Easter Sunday Services:  
8:30 am, 9:45 am,  
and 11:00 am

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the forecast called for rain, but that did not put a damper on Ice Fishing Day! Volunteers (high school students and community members) showed up to drill holes, put up tents, bait fishing lines, and share their fishing knowledge with almost 200 1st through 8th grade students and teachers. Everyone was looking forward to this event after COVID caused a two year hiatus. New to the event was local dog sledder, Chris Kivi from CD Kennels along with DD Academy. Chris and his friends shared great information about the sport, their dogs/sleds. Two of our local game wardens and our wildlife manager were on site to talk to kids, as well. Lots of smiles and memories were made. A BIG thank you to EVERYONE who came out to help and share in this special event!



UPCOMING  
BLOOD DRIVE:

**Monday,  
May 22th  
Noon - 5 pm**

Location:  
Solon Springs School

For those wanting to donate  
blood, please visit:

Memorial Blood Center at:  
[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)



**CONGRATS to the Solo and Ensemble Participants!**

On March 25th, twenty-five students representing the Solon Springs Middle School Band and Middle and High School Choirs participated in the District Solo and Ensemble Festival at Northwestern High School. It was an exciting and successful day of music performances! Mrs. Molina and Mrs. Sanborn are so proud of each and every one of these students. They put in a lot of time and hard work and it really showed. Scores were excellent all around! Those students who are advancing to the State Festival, by scoring a 1\* on a Class A difficulty-level piece, will go to UW-Eau Claire on May 6th. We have 13 pieces advancing to State Solo and Ensemble this year! This is a tremendous achievement for these students and a great honor for our school.

**Upcoming Music Dates:**

April 19th - Middle and High School Choir Evening Field Trip to UMD Theatre  
 April 25th - Middle/High School Band & Choir Spring Concert 6:30pm  
 April 27th - First Year Band Field Trip to Shell Lake Arts Center  
 May 3rd - High School Music Field Trip to Chanhassen Dinner Theatres  
 May 19th - Elementary Spring Concert  
 May 20th - Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival - Barbershop Quartet Contest in Stevens Point

**Band Results:**

- Valencia Burfield: Class C Trumpet Solo - Rating: 1
- Sabrina Glassmaker: Class C Trumpet Solo - Rating: 1
- Isabella Ackerson: Class C Clarinet Solo - Rating: 1
- Madison Jacobs: Class C Clarinet Solo - Rating: 1
- Zoey Harden and Ellianne Tyson: Class C Oboe and Clarinet Duet-Rating: 2
- Isabella Ackerson/Penelope Burfield: Class C Clarinet/Flute Duet-Rating: 1

**Choir Results:**

- Sol Botner, Landon Brown, Carlos Molina, and Zaiaden Smith: Class C, 2-pt. Vocal Ensemble - Rating: 1
- Sabrina Glassmaker, Allette Guttormson, Taylor Hankins, Harper Martineau, Makenzie Nordness, and Ellianne Tyson: Class C, 2-pt. Vocal Ensemble - Rating: 1
- Penelope Burfield, Valencia Burfield, Jade Gobin, and Zoey Harden: Class C, 2-pt. Vocal Ensemble - Rating: 1
- Trey Carter: Class A Musical Theatre Solo - Rating 1\*, Class A Tenor Solo-Rating 2
- Brandt Larson: Class A Musical Theatre Solo - Rating 1\*, Class A Baritone Solo - Rating 1\*
- Bailey Monson: Class A Musical Theatre Solo - Rating 1\*, Class A Alto Solo - Rating 1\*
- Marianne Lear: Class A Musical Theatre Solo - Rating 1\*, Class A Soprano Solo - Rating 1\*
- Carlos Molina and Isabel Molina: Class A Soprano/Alto Duet-Rating 1\*
- Trey Carter and Brandt Larson: Class A Tenor/Bass Duet - Rating 1\*
- Marianne Lear and Bailey Monson: Class A Sop./Alto Duet-Rating 1\*
- Marianne Lear/Isabel Molina/Bailey Monson: Class A, SSA Trio - Rating 1\*
- Marianne Lear, Isabel Molina, Bailey Monson, Audrey Swanson: Class A, Treble Barbershop Quartet-Rating 1\*
- Kaya Evans, Miles Hoyt, Marianne Lear, Isabel Molina, Bailey Monson, Zoe Smith, Audrey Swanson: Class A, SSA Vocal Ensemble - Rating 1\*



On Feb. 9th, Dr. Steven Siegel, Trumpet Professor and Director of Bands at UW-Superior, visited our middle school band class. We had a great time learning fun exercises for practicing our breathing technique and competing for the distinction of 'Holding the Longest Note.' Dr. Siegel also performed an exciting solo trumpet piece for our students. The following week, a group of students attended a concert at UW Superior's Thorpe Langley Auditorium, where Dr. Siegel performed with violinist Sarah Off and pianist Alex Sandor. Students were thrilled to experience a high caliber performance of contemporary composers, some of whom were in the audience themselves!



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