#### December

# Colt Connection 2018

#### **Richland #44 School District & Community Newsletter**



# Creating a Lasting Lega for the students of Richland #4



Darrel Hendrickson, formerly of Colfax, passed away in February 2016. Darrell found community an important part of his life. That love for his community is now being shared through a generous gift he bequeathed to the school district to provide scholarships to Richland #44 graduates.

The proceeds from this very sizable donation will be able to financially help Richland #44 graduates attend college for years to come.

This gift, in excess of \$4,500,000, will be used to award

scholarships to our graduates for many, many years. The Richland #44 School Board is currently in the process of formulating a plan to create a foundation in to which these funds will be placed. Details on scholarship qualifications and the application process are being discussed in detail with hopes to release information to the students this spring.

Scholarships will be given in the name and loving memory of Lauritz and Marie Hendrickson, Betty Hendrickson, and Darrel Hendrickson.

While the right words are hard to come up with for a gift of this magnitude, the Richland #44 School District, along with the school board, want to express how grateful we are for this overwhelmingly, generous gift that will help many students in their education endeavors. Darrel's kind heart and love for children and education are very evident in this lasting legacy.

# Superintendent's Corner>>>

As I am writing this article, the Thanksgiving holiday has passed. I do hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and were able to spend some quality time with family, friends, and loved ones.

We are well into our second quarter of the year now and I would like to say I am so proud of our students and staff for the great work they are doing. Most importantly, I would like to thank all of them for being good people. We have placed a focus this year on building and rebuilding positive relationships, building trust, working together, and being kind, courteous, and respectful. I believe our students and staff are doing very well in this critical area of having a positive school culture. It is this type of culture in a school system and in society that helps to promote a positive learning and living environment.

Friday, November 16 was a great day in the history of the Richland #44 School District as we had the National Blue Ribbon Ceremony at our Elementary School in the morning. I must say it was one of the nicest programs I have observed in my entire educational career. I have to thank everyone who was involved in putting that together, in particular our staff and our PTO. Our students did a wonderful job in singing a few songs, under the great direction of Mrs. Viland. Listening to the children sing the National Anthem brought tears to my eyes, it was so moving! They are so good and sing every single word with such clarity that I believe they could sing the National Anthem at any major sporting event!

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ms. Kirsten Baesler, was able to attend plus she took the time to visit our Jr/Sr High School in the afternoon and observe our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class and Senior Class working in the Circle Process, which is the teaching model we are using to help build those good, positive relationships. Ms. Baesler mentioned so many nice, positive comments about our students, staff, PTO, and school district, which was nice to hear and is something I felt I should share with you.

I have stated on numerous occasions the Richland #44 School District is a great place to work as superintendent of schools. I come to work everyday looking forward to working with some of the best students and staff in the state of North Dakota. I have also found our parents, patrons, and school board members to be very good people to work with as I feel they all have the best interests of our students in mind. When all of us are putting the best interests of our students as a #1 priority on our lists, positive things will happen in their lives.

With the Christmas and New Year holidays around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of



you a very happy and enjoyable holiday season. I sincerely hope you are able to spend some quality time with family and friends and I wish you the very best in 2019! "It's Definitely a Great Day to be a Richland Colt!"

Mr. Dean Koppelman Superintendent Richland #44 School District



#### Winter Weather Clothing >>>

Please remember as the weather has suddenly turned to cold and wet, students are required to have the appropriate winter clothing with them.

Students riding the bus will need to make sure they have a hat, gloves, warm coat, and boots (warm shoes). This is also encouraged for students who are driving to school. Winter weather can be harsh and busses and vehicles are at risk for stalling or even going into the ditch. Warm clothing is required incase something like this happens.

Elementary students are required to have boots and snow pants along with hat, gloves, and warm coats.





#### From the Desk of the Jr/Sr High Principal>>>

Greetings Richland Community,

We have had a busy but productive month at the junior senior high school! Our winter sports are gearing up with junior high girls basketball already well into their season, varsity girls starting to play, and the boys starting to practice. FFA will head to Crookston on December 7 to compete – it looks to be a busy and fun winter!

On Friday, November 18, we had a visit from State Superintendent Baesler after she attended the elementary Blue Ribbon Ceremony. She spoke to our students at lunch and also sat in on some student circles. It was so powerful to hear some of our students speak about what makes our community a wonderful place and what they would like others to know about



Richland. What resonated with me was the recurring theme of, "We are a family... and we wish others knew we are a family." Ms. Baesler was also touched by the students' words, and it was a wonderful reminder about the fantastic kids we work with every day.

#### **1st Quarter Honor Roll**

#### Grade 12

Bailey Adams - A Dain Anderson - A Blaine Brewer - A Trenton Dunfer - A Kennedy Flaa - A Frank Holzhey - A Casey Koenig - A Hunter Lentz - A Blake Loomis - A Kariann Sahl - A Samantha Walter - A

#### Grade 11

Ava Aigner - A Tegan Amundson - A Carson Anderson - A Katlyn Erickson - A Colten Evanson - A Breet Hegseth - A Hanna Johnson - A Carter Lingen - A Cole Myers - A Annamae Niemi - A Gavin Reiland - A Zachariah Ringdahl - A Jacob Sahl - A Dona Sepeda - A Tessa Smith - A Kaitlyn Wagner - A Zachary Wulfekuhle - A Jett Foley - B Paige Hasbargen - B Brock Hegseth - B Gary Johnson - B

#### Grade 10

Kiersten Boehm - A Rylee Hendrickson - A Samantha Hendrickson - A McKenzie Johnson - A Gunnar Miller - A Thomas Zander - A Sawyer Brown - B Gwen Hopping - B Holly Knutson - B

#### Grade 9

Drew Gunness - A Emma Heyen - A Megan Lingen - A Hannah Malaterre - A Colten Mickelson - A Keagan Neppl – A Trinity Ringdahl - A Ethan Schnellbach - A Nick Thompson - A Dacey Willprecht - A Noah Pfeiff - B

#### Grade 8

Shandi Callenius - A Kaden Carlson - A Addie Christensen - A Teddy Flaa - A Blake Miller - A Carlie Niemi - A Logan Stebelton - A Morgan Sundstrom - A Megan Taszarek - A Kennedi Wagner - A Hans Weinmann - A Tanner Zander - A Tiana Schroeder - B Adam Skoog - B Mason Storbakken - B

#### Grade 7

Patrick Boyle - A Ashlyn Brown - A Wade Gorder - A Alison Heyen - A Ally Hollow - A Popi Miranowski - A Nick Mjoness - A Eric Moen - A Levi Ulven - A Isabel Viele - A Brooks von Ruden - A Ella Weinmann - A Nick Wulfekuhle - A Jewel Harland - B Michael Hopping - B Cody Thompson - B

I want to thank the parents who took our survey about parent teacher conferences. We will use the very helpful feedback when planning for next year. Congratulations to the students who made the first quarter honor roll – way to go! We hope to see even more names on the list for  $2^{nd}$  quarter.

Finally, we love to know how to further support our students. If anything happens in your child's life that you would like us to be aware of or you think we should know, please do not hesitate to communicate that with us. And also, just a reminder that we have our text-a-tip line (701-403-5070) and blue drop boxes around the school for students or parents to give us information. This helps keep us informed and aware of ways to support and help our students.

Have a wonderful holiday season, everyone! Mrs. Gandhi



#### From the Elementary Principal's Desk>>>

I can't even believe that we are into the second nine weeks of the school year. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who connected with teachers for parent-teacher conferences in November. Thanks to the elementary staff for their commitment to sharing information with parents. Communication between school and home is one of the greatest indicators of a child's success during his/her educational years. Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher any time you have a question or concern.

#### Teacher Leadership Academy

I am pleased to tell you we have three elementary teachers participating in the first rural multidistrict

Teacher Leadership Academy through NDSU and funded partially by the Burgum Foundation. This academy is made up of teachers from Richland, Wyndmere and Milnor school districts. It is the first of its kind and a model for future professional development. After 5 semesters and an enormous amount of work, Faith Rieger, Krista Readel and Tiffany Carlson will have their masters in education. During the program each participant is required to do 120 hours of practicum work. This is such a benefit to our school. Prior to the start of school these 3 teachers updated the teachers' lounge with a coat of paint and a new decor to create a space that the whole staff appreciates. They have undertaken the enormous job of gathering and organizing student data that will be a huge help to our teachers and give a very clear picture of our students - their strengths and needs. Mrs. Rieger, Miss Readel and Mrs. Carlson also plan to proof and work to update our current student and staff handbook. I am so pleased to get to be a part of the TLA and watch these professionals become leaders.

#### The Houses of Richland

During the 2017-18 school year, after we had seen some awesome things happening at the Ron Clark Academy, a committee of staff members met to determine how we could build relationships between our buildings and from that came the house system. The house system has all students PK-12 and staff divided into four houses: Concentrer, Bouwen, Rendement, and Virtroue, each with a crest and mission. While still in it's infancy, we are working to make the house system a beneficial experience for all students. We are striving to cultivate a spirit of camaraderie, develop student leaders, create a sense of family and belonging, provide the students with an embedded support system, assimilate new students, encourage positive behavior, and provide positive competition.

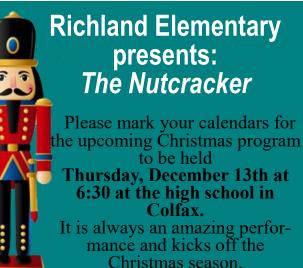
Our first event for the 2018-19 school year was held October 24th. Preschool students along with new students and staff were assigned a house. After that, the students in preschool through grade 2 went into the east high school gym to play a variety of games and the students in grades 3-12 worked



as teams in their designated houses to win a variety of game and races. Cookies were served and the event ended in the west gym will all students in their house sharing their house cheer. Congratulations to Virtroue for being voted best "cheer team" by a group of impartial judges.

We are once again holding the annual candy drive to assist Ms. Bengtson with the JOY project. Students can donate candy which is weighted and points are awarded to the House that collects the most. Small gifts and gift cards are also being collected.

Cindy Erbes, Elementary Principal



# Thank you, Keith>>>

A big thanks to Keith Kinneberg for his years of service to our school. He was custodian and bus driver for the past 15 years. Those two positions are critical to the day-to-day operations of a school and we were glad to have him at Richland. His greatest strength was his kind and patient demeanor with the students. He was always so good to the kids and that's the most important charicteristic of a school employee. We wish Keith all the best in his future endeavors.









# Richland Elementary named a Blue Ribbon School>>>



Thanks to all who attended the Blue Ribbon Celebration on Friday, November 16th. It was great to have so many people in the audience as we celebrated this honor. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kirsten Baesler, spoke along with Alaura Williams, a representative from Senator John Hoeven's office. A really big thank you to the staff, students, and PTO members for all they did to help plan and prepare for our big celebration.



#### Veteran's Day Program>>>



Another amazing performance by our students under the direction of Mrs. Viland and Mr. Aamold, was presented at the 2018 Veterans Day program There were over 150 guests in attendance. We are proud to honor our area veterans with this annual program. It is a wonderful learning experience for our students.



#### Job Shadow Experience >>>

Students are given the opportunity to attend a job shadow experience during their senior year. It allows students to see first hand what they might encounter in the career they are thinking of entering.





Nikita recently had the opportunity to shadow radio hosts Amy Ihler and JJ at KFGO-AM Radio

KFGO

### A Message from our Guidance Counselor>>>>

As many you may already know, the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) is at epidemic levels in schools around the country. North Dakota is no exception. "Juuling", a slang term for ingesting vaporized, flavored nicotine "juice" in a Juul or other type of electronic cigarette, is among the most popular vaping behaviors for youth, . These devices are available on-line, at local tobacco and vape shops, and convenience stores. Many of the vaping devices resemble USB flash drives and are easily hidden in plain sight. Through my contacts in several North Dakota and Minnesota school districts, I have learned it's common practice for students to covertly vape during school hours in restrooms and even classrooms.



Possession and use of vaping devices to ingest nicotine is unlawful for anyone under 18 years old, just like any other tobacco product. It is a violation of school policy for anyone, regardless of age, to possess or use a vaping device or nicotine juice on school property or at school sponsored events. Participants in extracurricular school activities will lose eligibility if they violate NDHSAA rules for substance use, regardless of age. This includes products containing nicotine.

Please discuss this at home with your child. We believe there is a lack of awareness among students that vaping is equivalent to any other form of tobacco possession and/or use. Richland Jr/Sr High School faculty will be discussing the issue with students in the near future to ensure they are informed. Vaping devices and products are not approved as safe by the FDA, and the long-term health risks to young people is not yet known. What we do know is that nicotine is a highly addictive drug, and any use by youth should be discouraged. Vaping juice can contain high concentrations of nicotine and may even be hazardous through mere skin contact.

More information on vaping and e-cigarettes can be found at the following links: <u>https://health.nd.gov/media/2204/2018-11-19-increase-in-youth-vaping-raises-concerns.pdf</u> <u>http://download.fargond.gov/0/e-cigarettes-usb-flash-508.pdf</u>

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Mr. Chris Potter School Counselor

This past month, the seniors attend the \$MRTZ Financial Literacy Seminar at the Fargo Dome. They learned about saving for large purchases, credit, investing, fraud and scams, interest rates, earning power, living within a budget, and college financial aid. They also enjoyed visiting the NDSU Bison Football Championship Trophy Room!





Drake McGiboney (pictured with Staff Sergeant Jared Sundby) enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard in October. He will attend Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri this coming summer.

# BIO Girls is coming to Richland #44 and surrounding communities!>>>>

BIO Girls is a program started by Missy Heilman in Fargo over 5 years ago. It is a program for girls in grades 2-6 that builds self-confidence and life skills through positive mentoring, physical fitness, and Christian-based curriculum. The first program in our area was in Wahpeton this past summer. Under the direction of Anna Marohl and Janelle Berseth, along with 7 other women mentors, 29 girls were involved in the program from the communities of Colfax, Abercrombie, Wyndmere, Breckenridge, Wahpeton, and Campbell. The overwhelming feedback was positive, thereby increasing demand for the program. As a result, we are thrilled to announce that in 2019 we will be adding 2 additional BIO Girls sites to our area, bringing the opportunity to over 100 girls in Wahpeton, Breckenridge, Abercrombie and the surrounding area.



Our program meets weekly over the course of 12 weeks. Each week an age appropriate theme is introduced focusing on topics covering self-image and empowerment, health and wellness, servant leadership, healthy relationships, and kindness and compassion. The girls meet in a large group for an overview and then break into small groups with their mentor to discuss the topic or complete an associated activity. We will have between 10-12 volunteer mentors who help lead our small groups and the large group lessons. The mentors serve as a positive role model, cheerleader, confidant, and work to challenge the girls to gain confidence where necessary.

BIO Girls uses physical fitness, primarily non-competitive running, as a tool to build self-confidence. Children gain confidence by experiencing a series of successes. We provide the girls an opportunity to be successful each week with the workouts which are geared towards helping them accomplish their end goal of a 5K race.



We are currently in our fundraising stage for the 2019 season and have a fundraising goal of \$3500 each year the site is in operation. These funds are used to provide the curriculum and materials that we follow (new curriculum and materials are provided each year), purchase mentor and participant t-shirts, pay for marketing materials, as well as pay race fees for the 5K and help with any additional expenses the site has.

Registration for the program will open April 2-8 and our season begins May 6.

If you are interested in more information or would like to donate to the program, please email Anna Marohl at <u>abercrombie.nd@biogirls.org</u>

Superintendent Baesler sent this message after visiting our School District for the National Blue Ribbon Ceremony.

To Richland #44 School District:

You REALLY do have an amazing School District. I wish I could have spent another day with your students and staff. I have been reflecting all week on the experience I had at Richland #44 Schools. Words just cannot describe the feeling and sense of community and support that exists. You simply have to see it and feel it - it is certainly evident!



Kírsten Baesler

#### 1st Grade News>>>

The first graders were busy this fall learning about Pilgrims, Native Americans and The First Thanksgiving.



They were even able to go visit a teepee and then have a Thanksgiving Feast in our classroom.



# Elks Hoop Shoot>>>>

The Elks Hoop Shoot was held December 1st at Wahpeton Middle School. Six students represented Richland #44.

To qualify at the school level, students who were interested took part in a competition during regular PE classes. The Elks Hoop Shoot is a free throw shooting contest for children ages 8 - 13. One winner from each division advances to the district shoot.

Congratulations to Aleda Krenzel (Girls 8-9), Conner Klein (Boys 8-9), Brezlyn Callenius (Girls 10-11), Carson Klein (Boys 10-11), Kennedi Wagner (Girls 12-13), and Nicky Mjoness (Boys 12-13).



#### Student Award of Excellence>>>



The Southeast Region Career/ Tech. Center recently named Kiersten Boehm November recipient of the Student Award of Excellence. This student award process was established to recog-

nize students who demonstrate academic excellence, outstanding service, a positive work ethic, and achievements above and beyond the call of duty.

Congratulations, Kiersten!

# Junior High Girls Basketball>>>

The junior high girls' basketball team is off to a great start with wins against Tri-State, Wyndmere-Lidgerwood and Lisbon. This year's team motto is "They Play Unselfish, They Play Together and They Play Hard".

Members of the team include M. Taszarek, B. Miller, S. Callenius, M. Sundstrom, A. Heyen, I. Viele and A. Hollow. They are coached by Janelle Berseth.

Home games this year are held in Colfax. Four home games remain: Dec 7 vs Northern Cass; Dec 10 vs Maple Valley; Dec 17 vs Kindred; and Dec 18 vs Hillsboro.



#### Richland #44 Dollars for Scholars>>>



2016

2015

2018

2017

Richland #44
Dollars for
<b>SCHOLARS</b> <sup>®</sup>
A Program of Scholarship America®

Thank you to everyone who donated to our fourth annual PENNY WAR competition sponsored by Richland #44 Dollars for Scholars. Students brought in coins over a two week period in hopes that their class would come out on top with the most points. Pennies and bills were worth positive points while silver coins were negative points. With this set up, having the most money did not necessarily mean the most points.

The great thing about this competition is that the money raised by each class will stay with that class until they graduate and it will then be used for scholarships. As we make this an annual event, class totals will accumulate over the years.

It was fun to see kids notice which class had the most pennies and then know they needed to add silver coins to cancel out the points generated by the pennies. This friendly competition ended with congratulations going out to the preschool class with points totaling 3,702.

#### \$ \$ 0.85 \$ 0.35 Class of 2019 \_ 1.20 \$ \$ 0.40 \$ 0.21 Class of 2020 Ś 0.61 Class of 2021 \$ 33.56 \$ 1.04 \$ \_ 245.93 \$ 162.11 \$ 32.16 \$ 50.60 \$ Class of 2022 1.06 Ś Class of 2023 \$ 117.10 \$ 50.64 \$ 0.50 \$ 0.22 168.46 Ś 77.67 \$ 31.50 \$ Class of 2024 \$ 81.81 \$ 6.29 Ś 197.27 86.59 \$ 162.05 \$ 34.64 \$ 30.02 Ś Class of 2025 \$ 313.30 75.35 \$ 98.11 \$ 110.98 \$ Class of 2026 \$ 25.87 \$ 310.31 16.02 \$ Class of 2027 Ś 58.56 \$ 97.08 \$ 10.37 \$ 182.03 186.84 Class of 2028 \$ 76.15 \$ 69.66 \$ 10.83 \$ 30.20 Ś Class of 2029 52.19 \$ 133.75 \$ 32.26 \$ 41.21 259.41 Ś Ś Class of 2030 \$ 129.84 \$ 107.25 \$ 60.63 297.72 Ś \$ Class of 2031 \$ 6.57 18.81 \$ 25.38 Class of 2032 \$ 81.52 Ś 81.52 709.86 \$ 884.52 \$ 403.44 \$ 306.76 \$ 2,304.58 TOTAL Ś

#### New Richland #44 clothing Has arrived!

Be sure to stop by and check out our new Richland #44 clothing items! We have many items on hand that would make the perfect gift for the Colt fan on your list!!



The staff at Richland Jr/Sr High School were greeted with a very nice note to each staff member on wall titled "Mr. K & Mrs. G are thankful for our staff". This was a fun message left for each staff member and we want to be sure Mr. K & Mrs. G also know how thankful we are to have each of them. So THANK YOU, to our administrators, for a great start to the year!

Mr. K & Mrs. G are thankful for our staff



Richland Students took the one act play "Our Place" to the regional competition this past November. They came home with great scores and comments from the judges. In addition, Popi Miranowski came home with an honorable mention for her character



portrayal and Logan Kummer came home with a superior actor award. The group also performed for the student body and community. It was a great group of actors that brought this story to life.



Have you signed up for online payments yet? If not, we highly encourage you to take advantage of this useful tool.

You can pay for fees, lunch, fundraisers, school store items, and much more all with the a couple clicks of the mouse.

Find the link to "online payments" on the Richland #44 website homepage.

# Greetings from The Joy Project!

We are getting ready for our 6th annual Joy Project! What is the Joy Project? The Joy Project is a community effort to ensure that everybody in Fargo-Moorhead has a delicious Christmas Eve meal and a gift to open. How do we do it? By recruiting volunteers and donations to help us share Christmas Eve JOY with over 250 people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness!

On Christmas Eve, we set up large family style meals at the Gladys Ray Shelter, Dorothy Day House, Project HART (housing for veterans who are homeless), Stepping Stones Resource Center (agency providing support for youth who are homeless or at risk for being homeless) and both Grand Inn hotels. We also cook a meal for families staying at Ronald McDonald House who have a child in the hospital at Christmas time. These meals are delicious! - ham, potatoes, dinner rolls, stuffing, and a ton of Christmas goodies. We also try and have a gift for every person we serve. Especially the guests of the shelters.

I started the Joy Project in 2013 after seeing a school bus dropping children off at the Grand Inn in Moorhead. I quickly realized that the hotel was "home" for those children and that there were many more families living there too! Being so close to Christmas I knew I needed to do something to help them out and that's how the Joy Project was born.

We are a group of caring friends, citizens, and businesses who are working together to reach this goal! Besides donations, we don't have any type of funding. That is why I am so grateful to our community here at Richland #44, for the support!

For the drive we are collecting:

- Bags of candy (used to stuff stockings and gifts)
- \$10 gift cards (McDonalds, Subway, Holiday, Casey's—any place that is easily accessible to people who are homeless)
- Stocking stuffers (crayons, coloring books, small toys, etc)

If you are interested in helping The Joy Project financially, just give me a call or visit me at the elementary school! Thank you so much! Marisa Bengtson-Loerzel





# **Community Opportunities**



Child Evangelism Fellowship presents a

# Birthday Party For Jesus

#### Saturday, December 8 10:15-11:45am Eagle Valley Free Church

17515 County Road 2, Christine ND

Kids ages 4-12 are invited to come for games, Christmas songs, a snack, and a Bible lesson; "Light Of Life." is is a free event, and parents are welcome to stay.

Santa Days in COLFAX

Sunday - December 9<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm at the

Community Hall in Colfax.

Come see Santa, visit with friends, and win door prizes! Santa - 2-3pm Door Prizes - 3-4pm



Be sure to check out our next Issue coming January 2019

Check us out on Facebook
RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #44



# Girl Scout Troop 30813>>>>

The Girl Scout Troop 30813 of Colfax is a blended troop that con-

GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be: Friendly & Helpful CONSIDE THE & CATING CONSIDE THE & CATING COURAGEOUS & STRONG responsible for what I say and do I espect myseli and others RESPECT AUTHORITY Se resources wisely make the world a better place & be a sister to every Sirl Scout. sists of girls in kindergarten through third grade. All the girls



work together toward goals to earn various badges.

Some of the activities of the troop include trips, crafts, fund raisers, and singing songs. The troop is motivated to do activities that will help the community and help young girls develop their values.

# GO, COLTS!

Choose the custom Richland #44 Colts debit card – and support your favorite team!

It's FREE – plus, Bell Bank will give \$5 to the Richland #44 School District for each card ordered.

Bell 🏟 Bank

