

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- Kyrsten S. and Thomas A. named Nevis Triple 'A' nominees
- Lydia B. & Michael W. chosen as Nevis ExCEL nominees
- Sarah B. wins local Spelling Bee
- Jade R. is overall Science Fair winner & Paisly D. wins Science Knowledge Bowl

**INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Classroom            | 3 |
| Driver's Ed          |   |
| E-Days               | 3 |
| Science Fair Results | 4 |
| Parent Teacher Conf  | 5 |

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# FEBRUARY NEWS

NEVIS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

## From My Position, Gregg Parks.....

### **Grit**

If you have been in the high school halls recently, you have seen the signs and posters about grit. Our Positive Behavior Intervention Systems Team (PBIS) has identified grit as their theme for the year and are working hard to ingrain the concept of grit into our teaching practices and classroom lessons.

Our district leadership team took the lead from the PBIS team and conducted a book study using Angela Duckworth's Book *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* to see how we can incorporate grit into our leadership practices. The author conducted a broad study of society trying to determine why some people and organizations are more successful than others. She was very curious if there was a way to predict which individuals would see something through to the end after setting a goal. She determined that grit was a central theme for success. She identifies that we all face limits. Some of our limits are in talent—I always wanted to be able to play basketball just like Michael Jordan but was not blessed with his touch, his vertical jumping ability and his speed. Some of our limits are in opportunity—I would like to learn a foreign language but it gets harder with every passing year. However, most of our limits are self-imposed—we try and are not successful so we change direction rather than persevering.

So what is grit? There are many definitions; but, I liked "To be gritty is to resist complacency. Do whatever it takes to continue to improve." Duckworth identifies that to be gritty you must keep putting one foot in front of the other. You must establish goals and stick to them. Finally, to be gritty, you must be willing to invest the time and effort with an attitude that says I won't give up.

One of the areas that intrigued our team was her research into the impact of extracurricular activities. Her research indicated students involved in at least two extracurricular activities (academic or athletic) for multiple years and advanced in some way were more likely to graduate from high school and college and be a contributor to their communities.

How do we use this to help our kids?

- Get them involved in school activities.
- Adopt a practice that does not allow them to quit an activity until a natural pause occurs such as the end of the season or a break in an activity.

**“Parent-Teacher  
Conferences**

**Scheduled for  
March 26 and 28”**

**“No School  
February 15 & 18—  
President’s Day.”**

## Superintendent Parks—

For example, most kids do not take piano lessons forever, there is a natural break at the end of a year to decide to stay or move on.

- Get them involved in a hobby or activity that is hard and requires engagement, practice, and patience.
- Finally, provide support, encouragement and structure that allows them to realize the benefits of sticking with something until the results are positive.

## Principal Michaelson—

January 22 marked the start of the third quarter, start of the second semester. Hard to believe we’ve reached the halfway point for this year. In the high school students have started their new schedules for the second semester and elementary are starting their mid-year assessments. Kindergarten through second graders have just finished their NWEA testing and teachers will assess the data.

As students progress through school and reach high school, it is important to ask them what they plan on doing after high school. Starting in ninth grade we can start an individual learning plan (ILP). This helps students map out the timeline of their education career and shows students what classes are needed in a desired learning plan. Whether they choose vocational, four year, or entering the workforce, students will have different pathways through school. It is important to plan and know what is expected for classes when scheduling semester to semester and year to year.

In closing, I want to thank our families for your diligence in having your students at school on time and well prepared for learning each day. Attendance is HUGE variable in success in school. The flu bug has been going around so make sure your child has adequate sleep and proper attire for going outside. Please continue to be mindful that our students’ academic day continues until dismissal each afternoon and it is very important that students are not dismissed early unless an unavoidable appointment or emergency is involved.

## Miscellaneous Stuff to Know

**ACT Test** – ACT registration deadline is March 8th for juniors and seniors interested in taking the ACT test on April 13. For additional information, contact Mrs. Sandmeyer.

**Awards** – **Triple ‘A’** – Kyrsten S. was selected as the Nevis School female nominee for the Triple ‘A’ Award. The focus of the Minnesota State High School League honor is to recognize and honor high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in the fine arts. Kyrsten is an honor roll student, a member of the National Honor Society, will graduate with honors in May, a member of Student Council, Yearbook, Knowledge Bowl and Math League. In the arts, she has participated in multiple plays, musicals and the One Acts.

## More Miscellaneous Stuff to Know

Kyrsten has been an art mentor to elementary students in addition to winning many awards in visual art competitions. In choir Kyrsten has earned multiple superior ratings in solo and ensemble contest.

Thomas A. was selected as the Nevis School male nominee for the Triple 'A' Award. Thomas is an honor roll student and member of the National Honor Society who will graduate with honors in May. Thomas is a mentor to 7th grade students, and a member of Knowledge Bowl, Math League and choir. He plays the trumpet in the concert band and jazz band and has participated in ensemble and solo contests earning excellent and superior ratings. Thomas is also a member of the Robotics team, winning multiple awards and participating in the World Competition.

Congratulations to Kyrsten and Thomas! They will be honored at a banquet for all Section 8 nominees on February 6 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen when the subsection winners and state finalists will also be announced.

**Academic Decathlon** – Nevis High School students have the opportunity to participate in Academic Decathlon. Academic Decathlon is a 10-event academic competition, in which teams of students take seven academic tests ( art, music, science, economics, social science, mathematics, and literature), give a prepared speech and an impromptu speech, write an impromptu essay, and answer interview questions from a panel about their activities and goals. There are 12 students currently competing. These kids are putting in hours of work studying, taking practice tests, and preparing for the oral portions of the competition.

The Academic Decathlon Team just completed the Regional competition, and placed 4<sup>th</sup> of 8 teams. There were four medal winners: AJ H., senior—silver, science; Gracie S., senior— bronze, economics; Wyatt R., junior—silver, mathematics; and Timothy R., junior—gold, science. The team will advance to the State Competition in Bloomington, MN, in late February. If the team does well at State, they could go on to Nationals, which are also in Minneapolis this year.

**Basketball** – Parent's Night for the JH/9th/JV/Varsity boys will be held on Monday, February 4 when they host Pine River-Backus. Parent's night for girls JH/JV/Varsity will be held on February 21 when the JV/Varsity teams host Verndale. Senior Night for the boys is scheduled for March 1 when they host Red Lake for their last home game of the regular season. Girls Senior Night will be February 22 when they host Hill City/Northland. being honored are: Andrea D., Ashley P., Michael L. and Ben S. A special thank you is extended to these athletes for a great season.

**Classroom Drivers Education** – The spring session of classroom drivers ed is scheduled to start Monday, March 4. Students who are 14 years of age or older may sign up. However, those students who are 14 years old must wait until turning 15 to take the permit test, but may take the class when 14. Schedules are available in the high school office. To register or if you have questions, contact Sadie Etters at Headwaters Driving School, 218-237-3399.

**E-Days** – The school has put into place our Electronic Learning Day (E-Day) plan allowing up to five days to be made up online in coordination with your child's teachers. Please see your teacher's website for E-Day lessons when school is not in session.

**Educational Benefit Applications for Free or Reduced Meals** – As winter is upon us, there may be some families who are experiencing an adjustment in family income due to reduced working hours. Therefore, we are sending out a reminder that Education Benefit Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. Just complete a new or updated form and return it to the District Office.

## Still More Miscellaneous Stuff to Know

If additional family members have been added to the household or a household member became a participant of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, your child may now be approved to receive free or reduced meals.

This year, students approved for reduced meals receive free meals through state funding. Taking just a few moments to submit the application can benefit your child, our school, and our community. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy at 218-652-1202 for further assistance. The application is available at [nevis.k12.mn.us](https://nevis.k12.mn.us)>Parents tab in the upper right corner of the home screen>School Meal Benefits and forms>Application for Educational Benefits.

**ExCEL** – Lydia B. was selected as the Nevis School female nominee for the ExCEL Award. The focus of the Minnesota State High School League honor is community service, in addition to involvement in athletics, academics, and the arts. Lydia is an honor roll student, member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and Knowledge Bowl. As an athlete, Lydia has acted as captain of the Cross Country team and has played Softball. In the arts she has participated in drama, and has received superior ratings for clarinet and choir.

Michael W. was selected as the Nevis School male nominee for the ExCEL Award. Michael is an A honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. Michael plays trumpet in the band and has participated in track. Michael is an instrumental member of the Robotics team and attended the World Competition.

**Influenza** – Symptoms of influenza are a fever of 100° or higher AND a sore throat or cough. If your child has a fever and one of the other symptoms, keep them home for at least 24 hours after his or her fever is gone without fever-reducing medicine. For many children this will be 5 to 7 days. If your child has been diagnosed by a doctor or clinic with a different disease, such as strep, follow your doctor's recommendation for when to return to school. Please contact the school and inform them if your child has influenza-like symptoms or has been diagnosed with a different disease.

**Mid-Quarter** for third term is Thursday, February 21.

**No School** – School will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of Presidents' Day.

**Read Across America** is scheduled for the week of February 25 through March 1. More information will be sent home with your Elementary student later in the month.

**Science Fair** – The Nevis School Science department held their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Fair & Science Knowledge Bowl on Wednesday, January 16 for students in grades 7 and 8. Judging and tabulation for the event was done by student volunteers under the guidance of Mrs. Jodi Sandmeyer. The student volunteer judges were Tom A., Tahya B., Gabrielle D., Megan G., Ivy H., Katie K., Madeline M., Faith M., Chase M., Nicole N., Wyatt R., Kyrsten S., Ben S., Jessica S., Cora U., Michael W., Sierra W., Autumn V.. In addition to the judging and interviews of each student project, time was set aside that afternoon for the general public to view the projects as well.

In addition to being awarded first place in the eighth grade category, Jade R. was also chosen as the overall Grand Champion for the Science Fair. Jade's topic was "Conserve" (Conserving water loss in organic soil using mulch). Other eighth grade honors went to: Second Place, Addison L. with her project "Duckweed" (Do duckweed pellets produce more energy than wood pellets?) and Third Place, Amy B. with the topic "GMO vs Organic" (Do GMO seeds create more biomass than organic?).

## Last of the Miscellaneous Stuff to Know

Honorable Mention recognition went to Sara F. "Earthquake" (Which type of soil amplifies earthquakes motion the most?); Natalie V. "Crystals" (What temperature do crystals grow the best in?); Emily F. "Detergent" (What detergent removes tomato paste the best?); Izzy B. "Soil" (Will green bean seeds germinate faster in more humus soils than those without?); Mallory K. "Aloe Vera" (Does aloe vera work as a disinfectant?); Paradise J. "Countertop" (What countertop grows less bacteria?); Joey B. "Phenology" (Will animals predict the weather?).

In the seventh grade, top honors were awarded to: First Place, Kiana B. "DNA" (How do different alcohols affect the collection of strawberry DNA?). Second Place went to Kayli B. with her project "Cold Packs" (Does the Amount of Ammonium Nitrate Change the Minimum Temperature Reached?) and Third Place, Nevaeh H. with the topic "Green Inks" (Does Acetone Increase Color Separation of Green Inks?) Honorable Mention recognition went to Joe H. "Oil Spills" (Will the salvinia plants absorb the oil?); Lealan N. "Water Filter" (How can a filter separate sediment from water?); Jake G. "Gases" (How gases help.); Jasmine W. "Corn" (Does gravity affect corn growth?); Shane D. "Craters" (Does mass of meteorite determine the size of the crater?)

Eight students, four from each of the participating grades, were chosen to compete in the annual Science Knowledge Bowl competition. Principal Brian Michaelson served as the Question Master for this event that challenges students to correctly answer a variety of science related questions. Rounds of questioning were held, with students removed from the competition by incorrect answers to their individual questions. First place went to Paisly D. and second place to Alyse M. Other participants in the Knowledge Bowl were: Sofia A., Kiana B., Lauryn E., Lealan N., David R., Jade R..

The Regional Science Fair will be held Friday, February 22 at Bemidji State University. All students who earned awards at the Nevis Science Fair are highly encouraged to participate in the regional fair, with those students earning purple ribbons advancing to the state competition held in Minneapolis in March. For questions, contact Mr. Dahlby or Mr. Franck.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences** will be held on Tuesday & Thursday, March 26 and 28 from 3:45-7:15 for students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Pre-school conferences are scheduled for March 26, 27 and 28th 3:45-7:15. Elementary and preschool conferences are scheduled by appointment. High school will be open conferences from 3:45-7:15 that evening and will be done on a walk-in basis. Contact Linda Hanson at 218-652-3500, press 2 to schedule an elementary and/or pre-school conference.

**Snow Days** were the week of January 7th-11th.

**Crowned — Princess Emily D. and Prince—Leo V.**

Royal Court: Nicole B., Lydia B., Katie K.

Theo E., Cooper H., Chase M.

9th Grade Attendants: Amber G. & Mathias W.

10th Grade Attendants: Hailey M. & Derek L.

**Special Olympics** — The Nevis and W-H-A Special Olympics teams will be attending the Winter Carnival at Camp Confidence in Nisswa on Thursday, February 14. Participants will have a fun day of outdoor activities that includes snowshoeing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, ice fishing and tubing.

**Spelling Bee** — Sarah B. (8th grade) earned the title of Champion Speller on Monday night, January 7, at the annual Nevis Spelling Bee after spelling the word "pennant" correctly. Kristine K. (6th grade) was runner up. Sarah will participate in the Regional Spelling Bee held in Thief River Falls on Wednesday, February 6.

# Newsis School

218-652-3500 ~ Office Hours 8 am to 4 pm

**If you will not be riding the bus, let us know!**

Bus Garage, 4:30 pm – 6:30 am ~ 218-652-3526, leave a message

News School, 6:30-8:00 am ~ 218-652-3500, option 1 (Lynne)

# FEBRUARY

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

|  |  |  |   |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| <b>January 27</b><br>Open Gym, 4-6:00 pm<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00                                  | <b>28</b><br>Math League—News<br>Hosts, 4:00<br>School Board Meeting,<br>7:00  |  | <b>30</b><br>Regional Spelling Bee<br>Triple A Banquet<br>CE Discovery Weds.,<br>3:30-6:00<br>CE Pickleball, 6:30-8:30<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00 | <b>31</b><br>JH BBB HOME Park Rapids,<br>5:00<br>JH GBB HOME Hill City/<br>Northland, 5:00<br>JV/V WRE AT W-H-A vs.<br>Lake Park Audubon, 6:00<br>V GYM AT Bemidji, 6:00 | <b>February 1</b><br>JV/V WRE AT W-H-A<br>Invite, TBA<br>JH GBB AT Blackduck,<br>5:00<br>JH/JV/V BBB AT Laporte,<br>5:00   | <b>2</b><br>NBA Girls BBB Tournament  |
| <b>3</b><br>Open Gym, 4-6:00 pm<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00   | <b>4</b><br>JH/JV BBB HOME<br>Pine River-Backus, 5:00,<br>JH GBB AT Kellher, 4:30<br>Knowledge Bowl Meet AT<br>Staples | <b>5</b><br>JV/V GBB & 9th/JV/V BBB<br>AT W-H-A, 5:00<br>CE Chess Club, 3:20-4:00<br>CE Qi Gong, 6:00-7:00   | <b>6</b><br>CE Discovery Weds.,<br>3:30-6:00<br>CE Pickleball, 6:30-8:30<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00   | <b>7</b><br>JV/V GBB AT Lake of the<br>Woods, 4:30   | <b>8</b><br>JV/V GBB & BBB AT<br>Blackduck, 6:00   | <b>9</b><br>JH BBB AT Pine River-<br>Backus Tournament<br>JH GBB HOME Conference<br>Tournament                |
| <b>10</b><br>Open Gym, 4-6:00 pm<br>CE Rhythm Pitching Camp,<br>4:00-6:00<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00 | <b>11</b><br>JH BBB AT Menahga, 4:30<br>Math League AT Bemidji,<br>4:00-5:30<br>CE Pickleball, 6:30-8:30               | <b>12</b><br>JH/9th/JV/V BBB HOME<br>Sebeka, 4:30<br>JH GBB HOME Pequot Lakes,<br>5:00<br>JV/V GBB AT Pine River-<br>Backus, 6:00<br>CE Chess Club, 3:20-4:00<br>CE Qi Gong, 6:00-7:00 | <b>13</b><br>CE Discovery Weds.,<br>3:30-6:00<br>CE Pickleball, 6:30-8:30<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00  | <b>14 Valentine's Day</b><br>JV/V GBB AT Lake of the<br>Woods, 4:30  | <b>15 NO SCHOOL</b><br>JH/9th/JV/V BBB AT<br>Northome, 5:00<br>JH/JV/V GBB AT Kellher,<br>6:00<br>V WRE Team Sections<br>AT Aitkin   | <b>16</b><br>Robotics Week "Zero"<br>Event<br>V GYM Sections AT<br>Perham<br>V WRE Team Sections AT<br>Aitkin |
| <b>17</b><br>Open Gym, 4-6:00 pm<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00  | <b>18 Presidents' Day</b><br><b>NO SCHOOL</b>  | <b>19</b><br>JH GBB / BBB AT Pine River-<br>Backus, 4:00<br>JV/V GBB AT Bertha-Hewitt,<br>6:00<br>JV/V BBB AT Clearbrook, 6:00<br>CE Chess Club, 3:20-4:00<br>CE Qi Gong, 6:00-7:00    | <b>20</b><br>CE Discovery Weds.,<br>3:30-6:00<br>CE Pickleball, 6:30-8:30<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00  | <b>21 Mid-Quarter 3</b><br>9th/JV/V BBB HOME Cass<br>Lake-Bena, 5:00<br>Parents' Night<br>JV/V GBB HOME<br>Verrdale, 6:00  | <b>22</b><br>9th/JV/V BBB AT Cromwell, 5:00<br>JV/V GBB HOME Northland<br>(Remley), 6:00, Parents' Night<br>& Senior Night<br>V WRE Individual Sections AT<br>Ogilvie<br>Regional Science Fair AT BSU<br>Knowledge Bowl AT Staples | <b>23</b><br>V WRE Individual Sections<br>AT Ogilvie<br>CE Pickleball, 8:30-10:30                             |
| <b>24</b><br>Open Gym, 4-6:00 pm<br>CE Rhythm Pitching Camp,<br>4:00-6:00<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00 | <b>25</b><br>School Board Meeting,<br>7:00<br>CE Pickleball, 6:30-8:30   | <b>26</b><br>CE Chess Club, 3:20-4:00<br>CE Qi Gong, 6:00-7:00   | <b>27 Ensemble Contest</b><br>CE Discovery Weds.,<br>3:30-6:00<br>CE Pickleball, 6:30-8:30<br>CE Men's BBB League,<br>6:00-8:00                             | <b>28</b>  | <b>March 1</b><br>9th/JV/V BBB HOME<br>Red Lake, 4:30<br>Senior Night BBB  | <b>2</b><br>CE Pickleball, 8:30-10:30   |

**Grab a Book! — IT'S READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK!**