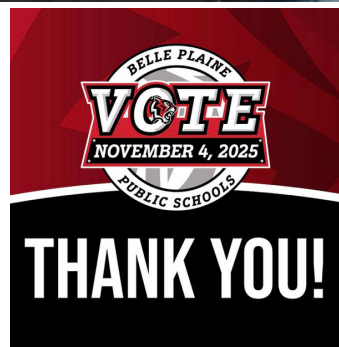


BELLE PLAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 716 UPDATE



REFERENDUM

On behalf of Belle Plaine Public Schools, sincere gratitude is extended to the community for its support of the recent school referendum: 1,491 YES – 668 NO. This vote reflects a shared commitment to the future of students, schools, and the broader Belle Plaine community.



This decision represents more than an investment in facilities; it is an investment in opportunity for students and their futures. Because of the community's support, the district will be able to create safer, more efficient, and more inspiring learning environments for generations of Belle Plaine students. The projects ahead will address key priorities: improving safety, providing a long-awaited auditorium, and greatly enhancing career and technical education spaces to better prepare students for careers in the trades.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to learn about the proposal, ask thoughtful questions, and participate in the democratic process. The engagement and trust shown by the community mean a great deal to everyone who serves in Belle Plaine Public Schools. As the district moves forward, it remains committed to being a good steward of this support and will continue to communicate updates and involve the community as planning and construction progress.



Together, the community is building a stronger future for students and families. A special thank-you is extended to all staff and community members who dedicated significant time and effort to ensure accurate information was shared with everyone.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Several senior students from Belle Plaine High School recently spent time interviewing residents at Kingsway as part of a project for their Global Literature class. The students have been reading *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and the project aims to help them understand where true fulfillment in life comes from by engaging with seniors who are willing to share their life lessons.



Under the guidance of their teacher, Amy Giles, the students asked thoughtful questions about personal culture and how it contrasts with the more superficial values often found in society. Amy plans to return to Kingsway with the completed project so residents can see the final product of their collaboration. The experience was meaningful for both students and residents, with many residents expressing how much they enjoyed sharing their stories and being part of the students' learning process.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Native American Heritage Month was recognized from October 29 through November 19. During this time, Fallynn Haynes had two tipis set up at the high school. They were delivered on October 29 and Native American students from the high school had the opportunity to help set them up that morning. Over the last few weeks, Fallynn planned five



different cultural and educational activities that teachers from any school in the district could sign their classrooms up to attend. These activities took place inside the tipi, offering students a unique and meaningful learning experience centered on Native American history, culture, and traditions.

SECONDARY ART

Maria Ricke stepped into the art teacher role at the secondary level this year and has been doing an outstanding job. Her positivity and patience have made a strong impression on both students and staff. The artwork her students are creating is beautiful and brings a sense of vibrancy and pride to the building. Many of the pieces have been displayed, adding color and life to the school environment.



WOLF RIDGE

The sixth graders, along with staff and parents, spent five days up north at Wolf Ridge, and it was another unforgettable experience. Students

were not only engaged but fully immersed in learning about nature, science, history, and themselves. The most meaningful growth came through the development of essential "soft skills" such as persistence, risk-taking, problem-solving, empathy, teamwork, and overcoming adversity. These lessons, learned through hands-on experiences, are the stories of growth that students bring home each year.

This opportunity would not be possible without the continued support of the school board and the community. The staff members who attended this year went above and beyond, dedicating more than 100 consecutive hours to supervise and support students. A special thanks goes to Jarod Werner, Sara Bungarden, Tony Hartmann, Elizabeth Hunsader, Don Fraser, Jeanine Kruschke, Chris Kehr, Nick Zwick, and Pat Schultz for their commitment and leadership.



The trip also impacts those back in Belle Plaine, as substitute teachers are in short supply across the district and everyone works together to make this experience possible. The teamwork and flexibility from all staff help ensure that this long-standing and deeply impactful learning tradition continues.

Ryan Laager
Superintendent

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