

Principal's Report - Niverville High School Parent Advisory Council

Date: December 15, 2025

Presented by: Paul Grosskopf

1. Reflections and School Climate

As we move into December, this season invites reflection, gratitude, and connection. At Niverville High School, we have much to be thankful for — our students, our staff, and our families who continue to partner with us in meaningful and supportive ways.

Our guiding stars of **Culture and Community** remain clearly visible in our day-to-day work. Across classrooms, hallways, extracurriculars, and community events, we continue to see respect, empathy, belonging, and shared purpose lived out in authentic ways. These values are not just words — they are actions that shape how students experience school every day.

2. Community, Belonging, and Student Well-Being

The past month has been a powerful reminder that strong schools are built through relationships.

- Staff have consistently stepped up for one another during times of challenge, supporting colleagues and students with professionalism and compassion.
- Our school community has held space for families and staff experiencing loss, reinforcing that NHS is a place where people are cared for as whole individuals.
- Partnerships such as the renewed collaboration with the Nighthawks Hockey Team and LSR students, as well as community outreach projects like Grade 10 visits to the personal care home, highlight the value we place on inclusion and real-world connection.

Events such as Parent-Teacher Conferences also strengthened our home-school partnership. Participation increased compared to last year, reflecting growing trust and engagement between families and the school. These conversations are foundational to student success.

3. Teaching, Learning, and Staff Leadership

Our staff continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to professional growth and student learning.

Recent highlights include:

- Ongoing conversations around **anti-racism education**, reinforcing our responsibility to create safe, inclusive spaces for all students.

- Increased focus on **career development**, helping students see pathways beyond high school and connect learning to future opportunities.
- Strong collaboration within teams, particularly in learning support, combined humanities, and flex programming, ensuring students continue to receive consistent support even during high-demand periods.

Much of this work happens quietly — through late afternoons, careful planning, thoughtful conversations, and daily consistency — but it is the foundation of a thriving school.

4. Student Engagement, Leadership, and Celebration

December has been rich with opportunities to celebrate student talent, leadership, and generosity.

- The **Christmas Concert** showcased not only musical excellence, but teamwork, dedication, and pride.
- Student Leadership organized meaningful initiatives such as community hampers and the pancake breakfast, modeling generosity and service.
- Athletic programs continue to foster teamwork, resilience, and school spirit through tournaments and competition.
- Events such as Winter Solstice and student-led community moments reminded us that schools are spaces for reflection, joy, and belonging — not just academics.

These experiences matter deeply. They build confidence, connection, and a sense of identity for our students.

5. Academic Focus and Assessment Days

As we approach the end of Semester 1, academic focus remains a priority.

Students are beginning to prepare for **January provincial exams and assessment days (January 26–30)**. These days are a critical component of learning and assessment and provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate cumulative understanding.

We continue to emphasize that:

- Assessment days are an **expectation**, not an option
- Consistent attendance supports fairness, equity, and academic continuity
- These experiences help prepare students for post-secondary and workplace expectations

We appreciate the continued support of families in reinforcing the importance of attendance and routine during this period.

6. Upcoming Dates

December

- December 8 – Christmas Concert (7:00–8:30 p.m.) - already occurred
- December 12–13 – John Kipe Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament - already occurred
- December 19 – Last day of classes before break
- December 22 – January 2 – Christmas Break

January

- January 6–9 – Grade 12 Provincial ELA Exam
- January 20–22 – Grade 12 Provincial Math Exams
- January 23 – Last day of Semester 1 classes
- January 26–30 – Assessment Days / Final Exams
- January 29 – Art Show (6:00–8:00 p.m.)

Looking Ahead

- February 2 – PD Day
- February 3 – Semester 2 begins
- February 6 – Report cards issued
- February 12 – Winter Activity Day

7. Closing Thoughts

As we close out 2025, I want to express sincere gratitude to our students, staff, and families. Your care, encouragement, and partnership make Niverville High School a place where students feel supported, challenged, and connected.

On behalf of the entire NHS staff, I wish you a restful holiday season filled with warmth, connection, and joy. We look forward to welcoming students back in January and continuing our work together in the new year.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

With appreciation,

Paul Grosskopf

Principal

Niverville High School