Do you know how fish can help plants grow? Do you know if it is possible for plants to grow without any soil? The answers to these, and many other questions, can be discovered in the new Yellow Medicine East Greenhouse. The idea of the greenhouse began as a wish, an idea and a dream; but thanks to a grant from the Bush Foundation, and donations from many other local and area businesses, it has become an awesome reality for the students of YME. After five years of meetings, careful planning, construction and much anticipation, a state-of-the-art agricultural and environmental science research facility is up and fully operational.

“The House” will be a multi-functional building that will provide a host of diverse learning opportunities for our students and community. Students will have the chances to advance their education in a hands on setting in areas such as aquaponics, hydroponics, soil testing, water testing, food plot development and propagation practices. Students will be learning and applying their education in such areas as softwood cuttings, transplanting, and gardening practices.

Plans are also in place for providing our school lunch program with a variety of school grown produce which can be used on campus. Look for continuing discussion of activities that occur in “The House” in each publication of the newspaper.

6th Grade PopSocket Fundraiser

Grip it! Prop it! Pop it! No, we’re not talking about the 1998 toy Bop It. We’re talking PopSockets. A simple plastic disc that attaches to your phone case that “pops” open to create a grip or stand. Created in 2012 out in Boulder, Colorado by David Barnett as a way to deal with the hassle of cords, the PopSocket has taken off in 2017. The handy phone accessory is a great way to keep a grip on your phone, prop it to watch a video, or even wrap your cables.

The sixth graders at Yellow Medicine East are using this popularity to their advantage. The students shared with Mrs. Hinz that they felt their classrooms were...
How do you feel about the changes to the lunch room?

Staff Spotlight: Amy Engesser
School Psychologist

This edition’s STAFF SPOTLIGHT is all about Amy Engesser. Amy was hired this year by the Minnesota Valley Cooperative Center. She is a school psychologist working in both YME and RCW. Amy’s hometown is Silver Bay, Minnesota, where she graduated from high school in 1977 – Go MARINERS! Following high school she earned her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology. She worked at a residential treatment center for four years before going back to earn her Master’s and Ed. Specialist Degree, both from the University of Wisconsin-Superior, who are the Yellowjackets. Coincidentally, their mascot looks a lot like our very own Sting mascot. Her daughter, Amber, and her 8-month old grandson, Colt, live in Cottonwood. They are the reason why Amy and her 2 dachshunds, Dicee Mae and Charlie Ann moved to this area.

Amy has been a lead singer in several bands and continues to solo at her church. She also loves to travel, read and spend time with family and friends. She has worked in 17 school districts in three states including Wisconsin, Minnesota and Florida. Pensacola Beach remains her happy place. While there, she volunteered with the USO for 4 years. She loves the North Shore, especially in the fall. Her footwear of choice is flip-flops – at least until the snow flies!

Amy has been a school psychologist for 28 years. School psychologists support other school staff and parents in meeting the unique needs of all students. Some of her responsibilities include: assisting teachers develop intervention plans for students with academic, behavioral or emotional challenges; working with teams to evaluate interventions and suggest different ones, if needed; supporting school-wide behavior programs by being involved with PBIS; helping parents find resources to help their children in and out of school; counseling students and assessing students to develop individual plans to meet their academic needs.

She loves that the job is different every day and that she gets a chance to use her wide variety of developed skills. She loves seeing students succeed and develop into AWESOME adults. She feels fortunate to have several former students become friends as adults. She also feels blessed that she has chosen a career that has made it easy for her to move any place she wants. Because she wears so many hats, her days are very full. She is constantly switching gears so finding time to get everything done is a challenge. Just a side note. School psychologists are in high demand because they are in short supply. If any students are looking for a career that offers variety and a great sense of self satisfaction, this is the career for you!

Welcome to YME, Ms. Engesser!

Student Polls & Surveys

Study Habits
If one movie title could describe your study habits, which one would you choose? (103 responses)
1. Rush Hour – 27 (26.2%)
2. Bring It On – 21 (20.4%)
3. Trainwreck – 21 (20.4%)
4. The A Team – 18 (17.5%)
5. Mission Impossible – 16 (15.5%)

New Lunch Options
Which of the new items on the lunch menu do you like the best? (103 responses)
1. Walking Taco – 31 (30.1%)
2. Haven’t tried the new food – 23 (22.9%)
3. Chicken Drumstick – 16 (15.5%)
4. Mac & Cheese – 12 (11.7%)
5. Boneless Chicken Wings – 8 (7.8%)
6. Cheese or Meat Calzone – 5 (4.9%)
7. Country Fried Steak – 4 (3.9%)
8. Cheese Omelet & Bagel – 4 (3.9%)

Building Bridges

We’re back! After a short delay at the beginning of the school year we have returned. Building Bridges is open to any middle-school students looking to have some fun after school. Since we started the programming the beginning of October some of our activities have included making homemade ice cream, attended YME volleyball games, string art, scavenger hunts and swimming at the KCC. Upcoming activities have included making fleece tie blankets, 3D-Doodler projects or attend activities. We start in October some of our program we will again be offering the after school snack program similar to last year. If you are in a school sponsored and adult supervised after school activity, you will be eligible to receive a snack from 2:57 to 3:15 in the school cafeteria. Talk to your individual Coach about participation in the snack program.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to join, stop in and talk to Mr. Reszel or Mr. Luft.

Photo Credit: Al Reszel
Kayli Vavricka holding one of her completed string art projects.
PopSockets cont.

lacking comic books and graphic novels. They also wanted a better foot-
ball and soccer ball for the ball bag.

“I told the kids we should do a fund-
raiser,” stated Mrs. Hinz. So, they de-
cided to use the popularity of PopSockets
to help them raise money for the novels and
sports equipment. The students and
Mrs. Hinz contacted popsocket.com.
Through the website, they were able
to get a deal to help them raise money.
The students did all of the ordering and
selling. A table was set up in the main
lobby outside of the high school office where

they sold PopSockets for $10.00 a piece.
As of writing this article, the students
have sold $300.00 worth of PopSockets.

The students will also be in charge of
Selecting the new comics and novels for
Mrs. Hinz’s classroom. It is her hope
they learn something about working for
something you want and putting in the
time to get it. It is important for her that
the kids get the opportunity to have a
say in what they have in their classroom.

If you would like to know more or help
out with the fundraiser, contact Mrs. Hinz.

Whitney Tennis: We have won more this
year than the last two years combined.
Almost all of us placed in conference this
year. I am very proud of all the girls. I’ll
miss the four seniors who are graduating.

Chelsey Niemeyer: We are not the
inexperienced team that we once were.
Many of our matches went into third sets
and tiebreakers. It’s a turning point year
for the team.

Cross Country
Season highlight: Personal records
beaten by 2-3 minutes on average.

Maddie Jeseritz: As a team, we have
improved greatly. Our home meet &
Benson saw a lot of PRs. I’m excited for
everyone next year!

Chandler Rillo: We did okay as a team. I
hope more younger kids come out and try
cross country.

Hear our thunder! School song after the Lakeview win.

Rory Shackelford Runs
in State Finals

Thursday, October
26, 2017 was one of the
coldest cross country
section tournaments in
recent memory. The meet
in Madison was to qualify
for the state competition
that following week. 144
runners braved the
windy conditions for
their chance. The top
13 runners would go
on. Rory Shackelford
finished the race with a
time of 17:42, 9 seconds shy of beating his
personal best. He would finish in 7th place.

Rory would run again on Saturday,
November 4th in Northfield, Minnesota
on the campus of St. Olaf College. Him
and 176 of the best Class A runners
from around the state competed to see
who was the fastest. Rory finished 86th

with a time of 17:29.8, a new personal
best. Coach Ford was very proud of how
Rory ran. “It was a great experience for
Rory. He is only a junior and competing
with runners at his level will definitely
help him for next year,” said Ford.

Congratulations, Rory!

YME Sting News
Fall 2017

Football
Regular Season Record: 1-7
Bryce Schmidt (156): The season did not
go the way we wanted, but we have made
improvements & never given up in any
game. Beating Lakeview was big.

Volleyball
Regular Season Record: 9-8

Saraya Burgeson: This team is
something to be proud of and off the
court. The way we carried ourselves
through wins and losses shows who we are.

Kaitlyn Mortenson: I feel our intensity
& grit have tripled since the preseason. I
have had so much fun with the girls this
season!

Anna McCosh: Our biggest asset as
a team was our character on and off the
court. We had fun growing as volleyball
players, as friends, and learning life
lessons.

Girl’s Tennis
Season record: 8-11

As of writing this article, the students
have sold $300.00 worth of PopSockets.
As of writing this article, the students
have sold $300.00 worth of PopSockets.
As of writing this article, the students
have sold $300.00 worth of PopSockets.

Congratulations, Rory!

FFA Forestry State
Bound

FFA Regionals took place on October
11th at New London Spicer. YME had
two groups, forestry and horse judging,
competing for a chance to go to the state
competition later in the school year.
Horse judging was unable to secure a
spot, but the forestry team qualified for
the State FFA Forestry Contest.

Horse judging teams evaluate different
classes of horses. These can include
halter classes or performance classes.

Members must give their reasoning to
judges as to why they placed that class.

Forestry teams must use their
knowledge on a written exam. They can
be quizzed on basic forestry principles,
tree and equipment identification, and
demonstration of practical forestry
skills. These skills can include
forest disorders, forest management,
inventory, and approved practices.

Photocredit: Jim Ford

Fall Sports Wrap Up

FFA Forestry State
Bound

FFA Regionals took place on October
11th at New London Spicer. YME had
two groups, forestry and horse judging,
competing for a chance to go to the state
competition later in the school year.
Horse judging was unable to secure a
spot, but the forestry team qualified for
the State FFA Forestry Contest.

Horse judging teams evaluate different
classes of horses. These can include
halter classes or performance classes.

Members must give their reasoning to
judges as to why they placed that class.

Forestry teams must use their
knowledge on a written exam. They can
be quizzed on basic forestry principles,
tree and equipment identification, and
demonstration of practical forestry
skills. These skills can include
forest disorders, forest management,
inventory, and approved practices.

Credit to: Brynn Cherveny

Science Club’s president, Brynn
Cherveny, shared that Science Club’s
main goal is to help the school better
use its resources. They have helped
start recycling projects, the greenhouse,
community gardens, hydration stations,
and this year are looking to help the
student parking lot’s draining issues.
Science Club is dedicated to trying
to make a difference in the school.

They also take many trips throughout
the school year. In the past, they have
gone ice fishing, raked leaves for
the elderly, gone to youth summits,
and they even saw Bill Nye the
Science Guy. They plan on taking
similar trips this school year as well.

Anyone can be a member by just
showing up to one meeting. They meet
Wednesday during senior high lunch.
The club is open to anyone with an
interest in science or making the school
a better place. If you would like to know
more, please talk to Brynn or Mr. Petrich.

Credit to: Brynn Cherveny

Science Club’s president, Brynn
Cherveny, shared that Science Club’s
main goal is to help the school better
use its resources. They have helped
start recycling projects, the greenhouse,
community gardens, hydration stations,
and this year are looking to help the
student parking lot’s draining issues.
Science Club is dedicated to trying
to make a difference in the school.

They also take many trips throughout
the school year. In the past, they have
gone ice fishing, raked leaves for
the elderly, gone to youth summits,
and they even saw Bill Nye the
Science Guy. They plan on taking
similar trips this school year as well.

Anyone can be a member by just
showing up to one meeting. They meet
Wednesday during senior high lunch.
The club is open to anyone with an
interest in science or making the school
a better place. If you would like to know
more, please talk to Brynn or Mr. Petrich.

Credit to: Brynn Cherveny

Science Club’s president, Brynn
Cherveny, shared that Science Club’s
main goal is to help the school better
use its resources. They have helped
start recycling projects, the greenhouse,
community gardens, hydration stations,
and this year are looking to help the
student parking lot’s draining issues.
Science Club is dedicated to trying
to make a difference in the school.

They also take many trips throughout
the school year. In the past, they have
gone ice fishing, raked leaves for
the elderly, gone to youth summits,
and they even saw Bill Nye the
Science Guy. They plan on taking
similar trips this school year as well.

Anyone can be a member by just
showing up to one meeting. They meet
Wednesday during senior high lunch.
The club is open to anyone with an
interest in science or making the school
a better place. If you would like to know
more, please talk to Brynn or Mr. Petrich.

Credit to: Brynn Cherveny

Science Club’s president, Brynn
Cherveny, shared that Science Club’s
main goal is to help the school better
use its resources. They have helped
start recycling projects, the greenhouse,
community gardens, hydration stations,
and this year are looking to help the
student parking lot’s draining issues.
Science Club is dedicated to trying
to make a difference in the school.

They also take many trips throughout
the school year. In the past, they have
gone ice fishing, raked leaves for
the elderly, gone to youth summits,
and they even saw Bill Nye the
Science Guy. They plan on taking
similar trips this school year as well.

Anyone can be a member by just
showing up to one meeting. They meet
Wednesday during senior high lunch.
The club is open to anyone with an
interest in science or making the school
a better place. If you would like to know
more, please talk to Brynn or Mr. Petrich.

Credit to: Brynn Cherveny

Science Club’s president, Brynn
Cherveny, shared that Science Club’s
main goal is to help the school better
use its resources. They have helped
start recycling projects, the greenhouse,
community gardens, hydration stations,
and this year are looking to help the
student parking lot’s draining issues.
Science Club is dedicated to trying
to make a difference in the school.

They also take many trips throughout
the school year. In the past, they have
gone ice fishing, raked leaves for
the elderly, gone to youth summits,
and they even saw Bill Nye the
Science Guy. They plan on taking
similar trips this school year as well.

Anyone can be a member by just
showing up to one meeting. They meet
Wednesday during senior high lunch.
The club is open to anyone with an
interest in science or making the school
a better place. If you would like to know
more, please talk to Brynn or Mr. Petrich.
The art department has been busy creating new pieces to decorate the halls of Yellow Medicine East. One of the most notable pieces is the mosaic tile project at the base of the stairs next to the vending machines. The three pieces represent an abstract water scene from a photo reference. It was created last year in ceramics I by Kaelyn Grimes and Kailee Peters.

Mrs. Isfeld described the process as long and tedious. It involved making tiles out of clay, adding texture and glaze, and firing them in a kiln. From there, it was like a puzzle. “There were times that they ripped out whole sections and had to redo them,” she stated. This was no easy task, as they were glued down and had to be chiseled off by hand. The final step was to grout the entire thing. The grouting process was a lot like grouting your floor, but with high and low points that need to be cleaned out. The project has received positive feedback from staff and students alike.

Other notable projects are mosaic works for Officer Mike, one for Berta’s room, and they are still in the process of creating a topical map for the fireplace room.

This year, students are even helping downtown with the murals going along the flood wall. They have had a hand in making the designs that are being put on the walls by the river. Independent art students, like Jedd Blue, have been applying and painting pieces during their class. Mrs. Isfeld says this is just the start of several murals downtown.

They did the Monster Mash!

Above: Winning decorated pumpkins from left to right - Pratt (1st), Coulter (2nd), Castiglione (3rd)

Below: Dress up winners Tyler Syring (Left), Angel & Isaac Jimenez (Right), & not pictured Tianna Rupp

Above: Group photo from of everyone who dressed up on Halloween

Left: Mrs. Hinz & the sixth graders haunt the halls