



# VOYAGEURS NEWS

## Greetings from our Director:

Another amazing year at Voyageurs is coming to a close. I would like to thank our graduating Seniors for their leadership and dedication to our staff/students. Each day presents us with new opportunities and infinite possibilities. The contribution our Seniors made will make a difference for those that follow.

Our last day of school will be June 2nd followed by graduation that evening over at BSU, Hagg-Sauer room 100.

I hope you all have a restful summer filled with adventures with friends and family.

Respectfully,  
Scott Anderson

## Exciting Energy Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability Changes at VES

Last spring VES applied for a CERTs(Clean Energy Resource Teams) grant and this winter we were approved. CERTs award grants to community groups for energy efficiency and clean energy projects across Minnesota. VES used the grant money to install motion sensitive light switches in five rooms in the building. The grant also paid to have the mechanical room lights switched to LEDs. The work was completed in April. We will be tracking our electric bills to determine the effectiveness of these changes.

This fall VES applied for a Neilsen Foundation grant to fund the installation of two water bottle filling stations. They were installed in April. In the first two weeks, we have saved 497 plastic bottles. We are encouraging students to drink more water and use refillable bottles. VES raised enough money through a GoFundMe site and the grant to purchase water bottles for all students and staff at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

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## Blessed Are Those

By Eliza Beaulieu.

Who knew, that a million years from now, what used to be earth is now just a empty void,  
floating in the infinite outer space that surrounds it, so peacefully.  
But how could this be? How could something filled with precious, fragile life before, ever  
become this dark, lonely, place?  
I could tell you, I can tell how this all came to be. If only you'd be so patient to sit and listen...

...  
“Don't get me wrong...  
I'm not as innocent as you think I am.  
Innocence may linger all over my  
Appearance, but innocence is nothing I am,  
I am cruel, painful.  
For I am death itself.”

The cold autumn breezes stings my ears, my fingertips feel cold and as if they would fall  
off easily with one touch. But I'm used to the cold. I've always been cold - cold is the only thing I  
ever knew. So I'm used to it.

My stiff hand drops the black pen into the journal layed out on my lap, stopping the  
words from spilling from my mind onto the once blank paper under my paper pale hand. I look  
out in the horizon, that is now a mixture of yellows and oranges. The soft clouds dance across the  
sky slowly and soon cover it whole.  
Loud sirens echo throughout the now grey sky, that's when I know, i've been sitting still  
for too long. Holding my journal tightly to my chest, I dart toward the trees. My shaky legs  
taking me toward the direction of the only place I know they wouldn't dare to go, nor could they  
ever find it, my home. The trees seem to whip by me at the unreal speed I was running.

“Stop!” I hear a voice call out to me, which seems to appear to be coming from behind  
me. Unexpectedly I slow down and turn to face the voice.

“What you did back there was traumatizing, inhuman. We created you so there could be a  
chance for a better future, but clearly you've let us down. So many people lost their loved ones,  
their homes, towns and major cities were destroyed, and it's all because of you.” the man in the  
black suit spoke in a fearful voice, his eyes were bloodshot, colored like a rose.

Every step he took closer, my shaky legs felt more and more glued to the ground below me. Once he got close to me I  
could see all the fear and hurt in the iris of his sky blue eyes. With a few shaky breaths he pointed a finger toward the  
mountains and spoke in a low voice that turned to yelling.

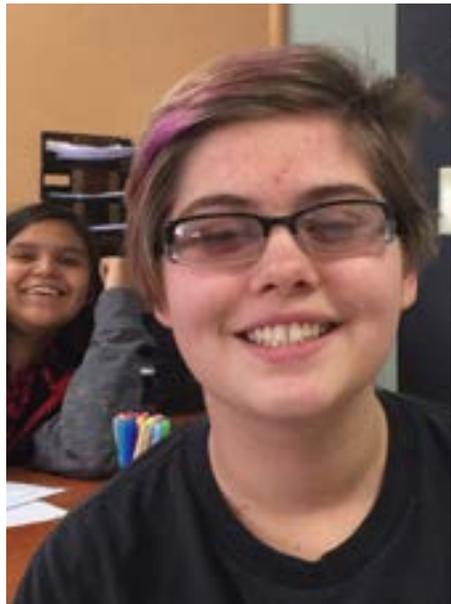
“Run. Hide! Never come back!, my legs unfroze from the grip of the devil and darted me to the dark mountains ahead of  
me.

“The man with the lantern  
And two dark circles for eyes,  
Pointing into the mountain.  
Blessed are those who know,  
God is never coming back.  
He's already let you go.”  
Braden Barrie

I place my journal beside me and look out to the piles of dark ash that cover the lonely land throughout miles. I've  
killed everything. Everyone. I am not what they created. I am human, I am death.

# School Trips!





## Excerpt From Emily Risberg's Senior Paper: My 4-H Service Learning Experience

4-H has let me do a lot of service learning with rabbits. As I started in the rabbit program, an older 4-Her, named Kathryn, worked with me. She took time to show me how to care for a rabbit. When I had some experience with rabbits I began doing the same teaching with younger kids. I taught them tricks like how to use a small flashlight to see through a dark nail and how to safely turn a rabbit over when you have small hands and short arms. Seven years ago we purchased the rabbit tattooing equipment used by breeders to identify animals and make them eligible to show in ARBA and 4-H. I quickly learned how to use the equipment and started tattooing my rabbits and rabbits in the area that other kids had. Around this time I also started helping my mom teach "rabbit spa days," an evening where all area youth were invited to come in and learn the basics of a health check, how to trim nails, check and touch up tattoos, and what to expect in a 4-H rabbit show. Every Monday night in July, families come out to the fairgrounds to help set up the barns for county fair; one of my main jobs is to make sure if kids have questions, I am the first person they ask. At county fair time I spend hours in the barn working with kids trimming nails and practicing what to do on the show table. Four years ago I started to help teach Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E), a certification class required by the state 4-H guidelines to be able to show livestock in 4-H. LQA&E deals with all types of livestock and different subjects. I have taught reading feed labels, mixing feeds, housing for livestock, and ethics in raising livestock. There is one really rewarding thing I have been able to do since I started breeding my own rabbits. I have been able to make sure kids have showable rabbits. I have given rabbits to kids that are starting out and don't have a rabbit that is eligible to be on the show table. That first rabbit I had, Rodeo, was not a good show rabbit and I learned that the hard way on a show table with a judge. A family that lived in Deer River helped me out. They taught me what to look for and got me my first showable rabbit for a great price and then the female for the breeding was given to me by them. I have decided to use a "pay it forward" method by doing the same thing for others. A good rabbit can cost \$75 or more, I haven't ever charged more than \$20 to a 4-Her, and many times I have gifted the animal to make the child more engaged and feel successful. One 4-Her from Anoka county tracked me down 4 years after I helped her with a new rabbit; she let me know how well she had been doing with the rabbit and was still thankful for the gift. It is odd to write about this part of what I do. Usually, I just do what I do and slip away without looking for the recognition.

Have a great summer!