



## Alan D. Piwinski

May 7, 1947 - November 3, 2018

Alan David Piwinski passed away at home surrounded by his family on November 3, 2018 at the age of 71. Al was born on May 7, 1947 in Detroit Michigan, son of Phyllis and Leonard Piwinski. Al met Cynthia Santora in Kalamazoo, Michigan where he attended Western Michigan University. They married in 1972 and moved to North Branch, Michigan where they raised two beautiful daughters, made life-long friends, and where he began his 42-year career as a dedicated public educator and administrator. Teaching children, bargaining on behalf of school teachers, and advocating for the highest quality learning environments were among his greatest accomplishments.

A strongly devoted husband, father and papa, he loved his family above all else and they were his greatest source of pride. If you ever spent time talking with Al, you most certainly know a great deal about the lives and achievements of his wife, children and grandchildren.

When he wasn't in his office you could find him either on the golf course or at the helm of his boat sailing with his wife and family. In retirement he spent his summers on the shores of Lake Huron at home in Port Sanilac and winters on the Gulf of Mexico.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years Cynthia Piwinski; his daughters Leah Clark and Sarah Piwinski, their spouses Chris Clark and Arthur Mortensen; his four grandchildren Ben Clark, Abby Clark, Alexis Mortensen, and Saddle Mortensen, his brother Leonard Piwinski (Scottie Piwinski) and sister Nancy Molski (Jon Molski). He was preceded in death by his parents Phyllis and

Leonard Piwinski.

A celebration of his life will be held at North Branch Elementary School, 4055 Elm Creek Rd, North Branch, MI 48461 on Sunday, November 18th at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to United Hospice Service of Marlette Regional Hospital and the American Cancer Society.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

NOV 18 (ET)

North branch elementary school  
4055 Elm Creek Rd  
North Branch, MI 48461

# Tribute Wall

PE

“ I have known Mr Piwinski a very long time. When I was 8 my parents moved back to NB after living up north for a couple of years. We moved into my aunt's rental and he and his wife lived upstairs (the old Barnes Lake store). I never had him as a teacher but he never forgot you once he knew you. Many years later he was the principal of Sweet School when mu kids went there. I will never forget him calling me one afternoon, the day before the last day of school...the first words out of his mouth were...now Penny, I don't think it's broken...but it was. My eldest, DJ, has fallen off the monkey bars at school...it was a long summer. After that, whenever he said ...now Penny...I just said...its probably broken. He will never be forgotten.

Penny - May 24, 2020 at 02:01 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alan D. Piwinski.



November 14, 2018 at 06:02 PM

TF

“ The Wiggers Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Alan D. Piwinski.



The Wiggers Family - November 14, 2018 at 08:22 AM

DH

“ Al made North Branch Elementary a comfortable, caring and safe place for students and teachers. His smile went right up to his eyes! I hope it is comforting for his family to know how much he was respected and loved.

*Dianne Herpolsheimer*

Dianne Herpolsheimer - November 11, 2018 at 03:07 PM



“ What a loss. Al was a terrific and inspiring superintendent and colleague.

Wayne Haney - November 10, 2018 at 08:26 AM

PB

“ Pam And Chris Bowers lit a candle in memory of Alan D. Piwinski



Pam and Chris Bowers - November 10, 2018 at 05:17 AM

JA

“ I never understood the "scary" principal/teacher character in so many of the movies I had watched growing up- I just assumed they were all as great as Mr. Piwinski! He made us all feel so safe and cared for while we were in his building. I am so grateful to him and the entire staff at NB for providing such a wonderful learning environment. He truly leaves behind a beautiful legacy.

Janell - November 08, 2018 at 04:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Alan D. Piwinski.*



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November 07, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ *Al was a special friend. He was my neighbor, my golf partner and like a brother to me. I can only express a loss that can't be filled. I will truly miss him.*  
*Ron*

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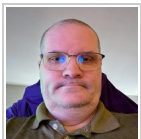
**Ron Loosvelt** - November 07, 2018 at 10:55 AM



“ *Al was a very positive part of my career at NB. He was very supportive of the arts. He will be in my heart forever and will surely be missed by many. His smile has a permanent on my ❤️!*

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**Marianna Fiedor** - November 06, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ *What a grate man he was when i was in elementry.*

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**Jason Peterman** - November 06, 2018 at 02:16 PM

KS

“ I am so saddened to hear of Al's passing. He was one of the teachers, and then administrators, who impacted me greatly as a new teacher. His love of children will always remain with me. I can still hear his laugh as he talked with students and was tickled by their innocent explanation of a situation. He truly cared about people and lived out that caring. My prayers are with Cindy and the family at this time.

*Kathy Stratton*

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**Kathy Stratton** - November 06, 2018 at 08:45 AM

 Robert  
Collins

“ I remember Al Piwinski when he was first hired as a special education teacher in North Branch in the mid 70's. I was still in high school in North Branch. I was floored to see him in the administration building some 35+ years after I graduated in 1977! Truly a nice man and a positive influence to both the school and the North Branch community for many years.  
A job well done and a life well lived.  
RIP Al Piwinski  
...And until we meet again, may GOD hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Robert Collins - NBHS Class of 1977*

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**Robert Collins** - November 06, 2018 at 02:37 AM

LD

“ Mr. Piwinski was one of my 6th grade teachers, and one of my all time favorites. Even though it's been a lot of years since 6th grade, I still have some very fond and funny memories pf being in his class. Some years after graduating, I ran into him at a football game, and we had a really nice conversation. He was truly interested in how I was doing in life and still had a few words of wisdom for me. Always a teacher at heart. I'll miss you Mr. P.. <3

Lee Dziduch - November 05, 2018 at 09:36 PM

LC

Lee, I remember that year well. 6th grade was still in the old Jefferson Street building and I was in Mrs. Orr's kindergarten class. My dad would send one you down to collect me and walk me to his classroom at the end of the day :) He always recalled that year and your graduating class fondly. That was his last year teaching before becoming the K-3 principal. Thank you all for your kind words and stories!


Leah Clark - November 07, 2018 at 08:06 AM

GC

“ Prayers and sympathy to the family. Al was a heads up guy. Always made you feel like you were the most important person in the room. Always gave you his time. Well liked by parents, staff and students. RIP Al. 🙏🙏



Grace Conard - November 05, 2018 at 09:24 PM

 Amanda Schlip

“ I grew up five house down from the elementary. I remember being in kindergarten and thinking I was old enough to walk myself to school. Mr Piwinski would come out to the front of the school and watch me walk to school every day. He was a wonderful man.

Amanda Schlip - November 05, 2018 at 09:22 PM

JA

“ NB has been blessed with many great individuals. Al stood out in that group. Incredible Guy that will always be remembered for making a difference.

Jeff Adkins - November 05, 2018 at 08:58 PM

BR

“ Cindy, so sorry for your loss. We remember the fun time we had at Burts with you and Al in 2008 when we came to Pine Island. Praying you'll be comforted by your family and memories...especially the laughter and fun times on the boat. Brenda Teaford



Brenda - November 05, 2018 at 08:29 PM

DS

“ He was a good guy I remember him renting ice and playing hockey he loved doing that with us even if it was late at night sorry for your losses

Darrin Smith - November 05, 2018 at 08:02 PM

LC

He absolutely loved when you guys asked him to play hockey! He would come home sore and exhausted from playing with the young guys, but so so giddy :)

Leah Clark - November 07, 2018 at 09:08 AM



“ In elementary I got my hand caught in a play cash register, and none other the the principal came in to save me. What a hero! What a man! You will be missed. Prays for the family and friends.

Sarah Blake - November 05, 2018 at 08:01 PM

GB

“ So sorry to hear this. Al was a great guy. Prayers to his family. RIP Al.

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**Galland Burnham** - November 05, 2018 at 07:27 PM

KH

“ Mr Piwinski was a wonderful man.

*When my son and husband were killed I wanted to give back to the school some how. I set up a Library fund in memory of my son. I raised or should I say people gave almost \$5,000.00 to purchase books for the fund.*


*Every book has my son's name in it and one time there was a plaque on the wall. I went to the school the night they were all on display. Al came in the gave me the list of what was purchased and to thank me for setting it up for the kids.*

*He was a wonderful man and I know my son Grant adored him. My sincere sympathies for your loss of a wonderful husband father and grandfather.*

*Kelly Wheeler Hunt*

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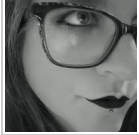
**kelly wheeler hunt** - November 05, 2018 at 06:18 PM

 Allison Baker

“ What a sincere and loving principal he was! We were all blessed to have had him in our lives and young children!!

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**Allison Baker** - November 05, 2018 at 04:52 PM



“ *He was a great principle to have growing up.  
He will be truly missed.* ”



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**Selena Cripps** - November 05, 2018 at 04:33 PM



“ *He was an amazing man. So sorry for your loss prayers sent to the family in this time of grief* ”

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**Jennifer Barron** - November 05, 2018 at 03:45 PM



“ *Always a smile and a friendly hello walking into school. You made sure we all felt special. Thank you for your kindness.* ”



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**Brenda Johnson** - November 05, 2018 at 01:35 PM



“ *So sad to hear this news....I always respected Al's passion for students and their education. He will be missed! Prayers of comfort for the family.* ”

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**Tim Zeeman** - November 05, 2018 at 01:28 PM



“ *He was such a good principle when I was in elementary school. Prayers and hugs sent to family and friends. Jennifer petretis(wood)* ”

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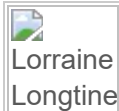
**Jennifer petretis(wood)** - November 05, 2018 at 12:27 PM

MG

“ My favorite principal ever. You will ve missed deeply. Thanks for all your smiles and encouragement during my years in elementary. Thoughts and prayers to the family.



Michelle Gordon - November 05, 2018 at 11:41 AM



Lorraine Longtine

Deepest sympathy to his family. I remember him as a teacher. I never had the chance to have him as a teacher, but he sure seemed nice. May he rest in peace. ❤️

Lorraine Longtine-Bryan - November 05, 2018 at 01:14 PM



“ When I was in elementary school I was playing out on the playground and the telephone pole somehow had tar on it. Well I managed to get the sticky tar all over m leg and I was so scared because it hurt when I tried to get it off and I was crying so hard. Then when I was in the office Mr Piwinski calmed me down and patiently talked to me the whole time he got the tar off my leg. I have not nor will I ever forget that day because he was so kind when I was so scared. May God comfort you now as you comforted me.

Lori Gomez-Moreno - November 05, 2018 at 11:24 AM

NB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time. Al was just a great guy! North Branch was very fortunate to have had some of the very best educators and Administrators in the State. Al was one of the very best! I will remember his dedication, compassion and vibrant enthusiasm for education. His passing is a tremendous loss to all who knew and worked with him.

Nancy Barrios - November 05, 2018 at 10:23 AM

JC

*Leah, I only met your father once and it was at your wedding to Chris. The love, pride and joy he had in his eyes and heart for you that day really touched me. I know he will always be with you and that love for one another is everlasting. Aunt Joan*

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**joan clark** - November 05, 2018 at 01:22 PM

JS

*A good man. He will be missed by many here on earth but welcomed by more in Heaven!*

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**Jerry Schlaud** - November 05, 2018 at 02:43 PM