

The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

www.grandislandschools.org

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

Perilous Flow - A Gift of the River

Reuniting Bonds Between Friends, Grand Island High School and the Niagara Region

It began with the reunion of two former classmates. Years after graduating from Grand Island High School, Bill Whitford, Class of 1972, and Neil Tetkowsky, Class of 1973 were honored with the Grand Island High School Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005. Whitford recognized for his significant research in biotechnology and Tetkowsky for his world renowned artwork. Choosing differing paths in life, Whitford and Tetkowsky rekindled their friendship through their common love for the Island and fond memories of their formative years. Recently, while traveling for business, Whitford dropped by for a visit with Tetkowsky and was moved by his latest work - "The Niagara Gorge Project", a series of artwork created last summer on the rocks at the base of the gorge. While conferring about their experiences growing up on the Island, together they decided to donate a piece from the series to Grand Island High School in honor of life, their alma mater and the memories all Grand Island students share living in such a unique region.

"We are thrilled to accept the donation of Neil's artwork. It honors alumni who have shared the same experiences of growing up on the Island as the students who make their way through these halls today. It captures the beauty of this unique region in which we live, honors friendships formed through school and represents the Grand Island community's strong appreciation of art," says Teresa Lawrence, superintendent of Grand Island Central School District. At a reception held on Monday, March 30, 2015 the artwork titled, "Perilous Flow" was unveiled in its new home in the Grand Island High School Viking Mall.

"I have been following Neil's artwork for years now and was particularly inspired when I found out that his most recent project is a series of abstract paintings about the Niagara Gorge," states Whitford. "The piece



truly captures the essence of the great river that all Grand Islanders feel connected to." Whitford chose to dedicate the donation in honor of his brother, Bruce Whitford, who passed away in 2006.

Last summer, Tetkowsky ventured down the gorge to create his latest work. He brought along photographer Linda Gellman to document the entire experience. "I have a special affection for the Niagara River, the gorge and the falls and have always wanted to paint in the gorge," said Tetkowsky.

His creation, "Perilous Flow," is not the only connection the Tetkowsky family has to Grand Island High School. Neil's mother, Lenore Tetkowsky, currently lives on the Island and taught art to the students of Grand Island Schools from 1966 until she retired in 1985. "One of my favorite memories of art in high school is sitting in Mrs. Tetkowsky's class, watching slides that she had taken of different places around the world. Listening to her describe the processes that the artists in her photos were using to make beautiful works of art made it all seem so real to me. Knowing that I could learn the same processes, made the world

seem a bit smaller to me. She never stopped inspiring me," said Cindy Wynne, art teacher at Grand Island High School. "It is because of Lee Tetkowsky that I went to college for art. Her husband, Clem Tetkowsky, was my first professor at Buffalo State." During Lenore Tetkowsky's time at Grand Island High School she developed an extensive craft program, including ceramics, jewelry and fibers, as well as led a large craft club. She chaired the Citizens Committee for the Junior-Senior High School, to pass the bond issue for the "new" high school, 1959-1961. She also served on the committee to select Dr. Clyde Eidens, the first principal of Grand Island High School.

"Perilous Flow" represents the special bond students, both past and present, have for art and growing up on the Island. "I want Grand Island students to think of the river embracing them and Grand Island. I want them to think of it as their river," says Tetkowsky. "We should all respect the river. It is dangerous and fun, as well as a resource of life. We have to take care of it."

See page 2 for more information about Neil Tetkowsky and Bill Whitford.

Perilous Flow

continued from page 1

About Bill Whitford

Graduating GIHS in 1972, Bill Whitford went on to earn a master's degree in the Natural Sciences from the University of Buffalo and has devoted his career to biotechnology. He spent eight years with Grand Island's GIBCO Labs (now Thermo Fisher Scientific) and has taught genetics at The College of Santa Fe and Niagara University. Whitford is now with GE Healthcare in Logan, Utah with his wife Alain. He is a prolific author and has published many scientific articles, book chapters and patents. He also serves as an invited lecturer and scientific advisory board member for notable publications and conferences.

About Neil Tetkowski

Born in 1955, Neil Tetkowski spent his early years in Siena, Italy, where he attended grammar school. Both parents were in the arts and this provided an early foundation for what would become a lifetime passion for creativity, education, and a fascination with diverse cultures of the world. His material of choice comes directly from the Earth, and most often he uses clay, which he believes is the perfect medium to express his relationship to the natural environment. Since 1980 Tetkowski has exhibited his artwork in galleries and museums. He has a special interest in Asian culture and has had three solo exhibitions in Tokyo; most recently he had a major solo show in Beijing. Fifteen years ago, he built a sculpture at the United Nations using a blend of earth materials from every member nation. Tetkowski has received numerous awards, including a Ford Foundation grant. His artwork is widely published and is represented in the permanent collections of fifty museums, including the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Modern Art Kogaikan in Tokyo. Neil Tetkowski holds degrees from Alfred University and Illinois State University. He has been a professor at Denison University in Ohio, the State University College at Buffalo, and Parsons School of Design in New York City. He lives in Manhattan and is the Director of University Galleries at Kean University in Union, New Jersey.

Message From Your Superintendent

Spring is finally here!

As I type this, the District's governance team comprised of the School Board and myself, are working diligently to craft a budget that reflects community values, advances opportunities for children and is fiscally responsible. We are committed to a plan that lessens our reliance on our fund balance while growing a comprehensive K-12 program. Community members were invited to attend the budget input sessions and are encouraged to vote on the school budget on May 19 in the high school gymnasium located on Ransom Road. Information on the budget development process can be found on our website.

In December of 2013, Governor Cuomo signed into law an alternative tax exemption for Veterans. Three public presentations were held on February 9, March 9 and March 23 at which information was shared on all the possible levels of exemptions and the impact on school tax bills for both Grand Island non-veterans and veterans. On March 23, the Board of Education unanimously approved an exemption at Level A. At a public vote on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, Grand Island residents will have the opportunity to vote to determine whether the exemption will be enacted. If approved, the alternative tax exemption for veterans will take effect in the 2016-2017 school year. More information on the veteran tax exemption can be found on our website.

On March 30, the School Board and I graciously accepted an art donation titled "Perilous Flow" from Grand Island Distinguished Alumni Neil Tetkowski and Bill Whitford. Neil and Bill hold their high school experiences, friendship and love of the region in such high regard that they wanted to leave a legacy in our schools. "Perilous Flow" is on permanent display in the Viking Mall in the high school. I encourage the community to come and enjoy the artwork.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Support Our Schools Rally

The Grand Island Central School District superintendent, faculty, staff, Board of Education, parents, students and concerned residents held a school support rally on Monday, March 23, 2015 from 5:30 - 6:30 P.M. at Huth Road Elementary School. The purpose of the rally was to draw attention to Governor Cuomo's education policies that have threatened public education. "The Grand Island Teachers' Association joined District leaders and members of our community to speak with one voice. Governor Cuomo must restore our funding and abandon his proposed education agenda that will not benefit the students of Grand Island," stated Mike Murray, president of the Grand Island Teachers Association (GITA).

"Over the past five years, our District has experienced the withholding of \$16.8 million in funding through the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). The result has been an increased use of fund balance, a reduction in programming and a reduction in both support and instructional staff," says Teresa Lawrence, superintendent of Grand Island Central School District. "In recent news we have heard about teachers and communities standing up together against the attack on public education. The Governor is holding public education hostage by attempting to link school aid to the enactment of reforms. I am charged with overseeing the education of 3,000 students. Every week I am in our schools, our halls and our classrooms and Grand Island school

Message From Your BOE

Times flies when you are having FUN! Monday, February 23, was the official 100th day of school. So with that being said, we are more than half through the school year and warmer weather should be coming our way.

The Board of Education has finished their fourth budget input session, which was held at Sidway Elementary School. Mrs. Dunbar, the building principal, gave Dr. Lawrence and school board members a tour of the school before the meeting. This was an opportunity for all community members to come tour the building and be involved in the budget process.

There will be three Board of Education positions open. If you are interested in running, please stop by the District office to pick up a petition from Janet Schuster, district clerk. Each board position is a three-year term, beginning July 1, 2015. Petitions are available now and are due back on April 20. I personally welcome any interested person who may have questions about what the positions entail to email me directly at LisaPyc@grandislandschools.org.

In February, I attended a Sidway PTA meeting. The guest speaker was school psychologist, Lauren Stang. She has been with the District for 14 years. She presented on "Social-Emotional Skills for your Child." This entailed a curriculum that promotes social competence. She ended her presentation with the following quote, "That which we persist in doing becomes easier, not that the task itself has become easier, but that our ability to perform has improved." This spoke to me on many levels. As the president of the School Board, I have learned that one's age, gender, life and work experiences play a role in performance. What truly allows us to succeed is our ability to preserve the intertwining of our thoughts, feelings and behaviors to the tasks at hand.

As I apply this curriculum with my family and myself as a board member, I have found that tasks such as balancing the budget do not get easier with each budget season but that my ability to communicate effectively and efficiently, along with finding a balance that works for all the students, staff and community, has become stronger.

Lisa Pyc
School Board Trustee



Lisa Pyc
President of the
Board of Education

New and Improved Therapy Rooms

The occupational therapists and physical therapist would like to share our excitement about the new therapy rooms at Sidway Elementary School and Grand Island High School. When the computer conference room at the high school and the office at Sidway were relocated during Capital Project renovations, the old spaces were reconfigured to meet the needs of our OT/PT students. The progress of our students will be improved through all the special details in these new spaces such as extra wide shelving for our large equipment, a curtain to improve privacy and decrease distractions, a sink to work on self care and white boards placed where they can be easily accessed by the students.



Therapy Room at Grand Island High School.



Therapy Room at Sidway Elementary Room.

teachers are among the finest in Western New York. We are a community that embraces high standards and accountability. However, the Governor's suggested change to the APPR evaluation system to include that 50% of a grade three through eight teacher evaluation score would be based on a paper and pencil test and an additional 35% of a teacher's evaluation be based on an outside evaluator is ludicrous and insulting to the profession. There is no room for Governor Cuomo's politics in our schools."

"The Grand Island Board of Education, together with the Erie County Association of School Boards, supports fair funding. Our schools need funding reform immediately. The state needs to provide adequate resources, equitably distributed, to prevent our students from being forever shortchanged educationally. We need a transparent formula that recognizes a

community's realistic ability to contribute resources," said Lisa Pyc president of the Grand Island Board of Education.



Funded by tax dollars, schools educate children, employ neighbors, influence property values and help attract property owners to the Grand Island community. To advocate for an elimination of the GEA, residents are encouraged to write elected representatives for passage of bills A2271 and S2743 which call for the elimination of the GEA under subdivision 17, section 3602 of education law. Information about the GEA can be found at the Erie County Association of School Boards at www.ecasb.org.



Spring 2015 Athletic Schedule

GIRLS LACROSSE - VARSITY

03/20	Frontier (sc)	4:30 pm
03/25	@ Amherst	5:30 pm
03/30	Sweet Home @ GI	7:00 pm
03/31	Will South	4:45 pm
04/14	@ Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
04/16	Lockport	5:00 pm
04/20	@ No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
04/22	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
04/24	Eden	7:00 pm
04/29	Will East	4:45 pm
05/01	@ East Aurora	7:00 pm
05/04	Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/06	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
05/08	@ W Seneca West	4:30 pm
05/11	No. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
05/13	Niagara Falls	7:00 pm

GIRLS LACROSSE - JUNIOR VARSITY

03/25	Amherst	5:00 pm
04/14	Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
04/16	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
04/20	No. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
04/22	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
04/29	@ Will East (Maple E)	4:45 pm
05/04	@ Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/06	Lockport	5:00 pm
05/08	W Seneca West	5:00 pm
05/09	East Aurora	12:00 pm
05/11	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
05/13	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm

GIRLS LACROSSE - MODIFIED

04/23	Lockport	5:00 pm
04/27	@ Hamburg	4:30 pm
04/29	@ Will South (Mill MS)	5:00 pm
05/02	@ Will East (Maple E.)	10:00 am
05/05	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
05/07	Sweet Home	5:00 pm
05/14	Will North	4:45 pm
05/16	Hamburg	10:00 am
05/19	Will East	5:00 pm
05/21	@ Sweet Home	4:30 pm
05/26	Will South	5:00 pm
05/28	@ Will North (Heim MS)	4:45 pm

BOYS LACROSSE - VARSITY

03/30	@ Amherst	5:30 pm
03/31	W Seneca West @ GI	6:45 pm
04/02	W Seneca East	5:00 pm
04/14	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
04/16	Will North	7:15 pm
04/17	Lockport	5:00 pm
04/21	@ Hamburg	7:30 pm
04/23	@ Will South	5:00 pm
04/24	@ LewPort	7:30 pm
04/28	Lakeshore	5:00 pm
04/30	No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
05/06	@ Will East	5:00 pm
05/07	@ Iroquois	5:00 pm
05/11	LewPort	7:00 pm
05/12	@ Sweet Home	5:00 pm

BOYS LACROSSE - JUNIOR VARSITY

03/30	Amherst	5:00 pm
04/14	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
04/16	@ Will North	5:00 pm

04/17	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
04/21	Hamburg	5:00 pm
04/23	Will South	5:00 pm
04/24	@ LewPort	5:30 pm
04/28	@ Lakeshore	5:00 pm
04/30	@ No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
05/05	Will East	5:00 pm
05/07	Iroquois	5:00 pm
05/11	LewPort	5:00 pm
05/12	Sweet Home	5:00 pm
05/14	@ W Seneca East	5:00 pm

MODIFIED BOYS LACROSSE

04/15	Will South (sc)	5:00 pm
04/17	Sweet Home	5:00 pm
04/20	W Seneca East	5:00 pm
04/22	@ Hamburg	5:00 pm
04/24	@ Will East (Maple E.)	5:00 pm
04/27	@ W Seneca West	5:00 pm
04/29	@ Iroquois	5:00 pm
05/01	@ Will South (Mill MS)	5:00 pm
05/06	@ W Seneca Eastt	5:00 pm
05/08	Hamburg	5:00 pm
05/11	Will East	5:00 pm
05/13	W Seneca West	5:00 pm
05/18	@ Sweet Home	5:00 pm

SOFTBALL

04/02	Newfane (sc)	4:45 pm
04/07	@ Wilson (NL)	4:45 pm
04/10	@ Medina	4:30 pm
04/11	@ Depew (sc) (V only)	11:00 am
04/13	Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
04/14	@ Frontier (NL)	4:30 pm
04/15	@ No. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
04/16	Lockport	4:45 pm
04/20	@ LewPort	4:45 pm
04/21	City Honors (Var)	4:45 pm
04/22	@ KenWest	4:45 pm
04/23	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
04/25	JV Tour @ Maryvale	TBA
04/27	KenEast	4:45 pm
04/29	@ Niagara Wheat	4:45 am
04/30	No. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
05/04	@ Lockport	4:45 pm
05/05	Amherst	5:00 pm
05/06	LewPort	4:45 pm
05/07	KenWest	4:45 pm
05/08	Nichols (Var)	4:45 pm
05/11	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
05/13	@ KenEast	4:45 pm

MODIFIED SOFTBALL

04/28	North Park	4:30 pm
04/29	LewPort	4:30 pm
05/01	Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
05/05	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
05/08	@ CSAT	4:30 pm
05/11	@ North Park	4:30 pm
05/15	@Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
05/18	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
05/19	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
05/21	CSAT	4:30 pm
05/28	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
05/29	Niagara Falls	4:30 pm

BOYS TENNIS

04/13	@ KenWest	4:00 pm
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04/15	Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
04/17	@ No. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
04/20	Lockport	4:00 pm
04/22	@ Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
04/24	@ LewPort	4:00 pm
04/27	KenEast	4:00 pm
04/29	KenWest	4:00 pm
05/01	@ Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
05/04	No. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
05/06	@ Lockport	4:00 pm
05/08	Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
05/11	LewPort	4:00 pm
05/13	@ KenEast	4:00 pm

BASEBALL

4/1	Starpoint (NL)	4:30 pm
4/9	@ Will South (Var)(NL)	12:00 pm
4/9	Will South (JV) (NL)	12:00 pm
4/10	Sweet Home	11:00 am
4/13	@ Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
4/15	No. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
4/16	@ Lockport	4:45 pm
4/20	LewPort	4:45 pm
4/22	KenWest	4:45 pm
4/23	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
4/27	@ KenEast	4:45 pm
4/29	Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
4/30	@ No. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
5/4	Lockport	4:45 pm
5/6	@ LewPort	4:45 pm
5/7	@ KenWest	4:45 pm
5/11	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
5/13	KenEast	4:45 pm
5/15	Frontier (Var) (NL)	5:00 pm
5/15	@ Frontier (JV) (NL)	5:00 pm
5/18	Amherst (NL)	4:45 pm

MODIFIED BASEBALL

04/29	@ CSAT	4:30 pm
05/01	Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
05/05	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
05/11	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
05/12	@ CSAT (Expressway#1)	4:30 pm
05/15	No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
05/18	@ Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
05/20	LewPort	4:30 pm
05/27	Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
05/29	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
06/01	No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
06/03	CSAT	4:30 pm

TRACK & FIELD

04/16	@ Niagara Falls	4:30 pm
04/18	@ Alexander Invite	10:00 am
04/21	@ KenEast	4:30 pm
04/25	@ W.Seneca West Invite	TBA
04/28	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
05/02	@ Batavia Invite	2:00 pm
05/05	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
05/07	@ Niagara Wheat	4:30 pm
05/09	@ NW Falcon Invite	11:00 am
05/12	@ KenWest	4:30 pm
05/16	@ Kemore Invite	10:00 am
05/19	@ Lockport	4:30 pm
05/21	JV Meet @ Niag Wheat	TBA
05/27-28	NFL Meet @ KenEast	TBA
06/5-6	Sectionals @ Niag Wheat	TBA
06/12-13	State Meet @ Univ. of Albany	TBA



UPK Update

The Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Program within the Grand Island School District is completing another successful year. Each year, the Grand Island Central School District runs two UPK sites. In addition to our Sidway location, which runs a morning and afternoon session, we will be working with Kiddo's Korner Preschool for the 2015-2016 academic year. Kiddo's Korner Preschool will be providing an afternoon session as our community based provider.

Our education centers provide an excellent program for four-year old preschool children within our community. Together, they service 43 children on the New York State Education Department approved pre-kindergarten curriculum. The program requires attendance five days per week, two hours and thirty minutes per day, and follows the Grand Island school calendar for student attendance days.

As we move into spring, the District will be organizing the program for the 2015-2016 school year. The Grand Island School District has recently disseminated a letter to registered families with younger siblings, who are currently enrolled within our school district. The intent of this letter was to distribute preliminary information regarding our UPK Program. This same information has been posted on our website at www.grandislandschools.org. UPK is a grant funded program which is dependent on state aid. The amount of aid extended to our District will be the determining factor on the number of students served.

If you are a new family to the district, or have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the 2015-2016 school year, please contact the District Office at 773-8800 (ext. 0) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to set up an appointment for district registration. This will help to ensure your family will receive notices with regard to the UPK program.

UPK Lottery to be Held May 27, 2015

Grand Island Central School District will be holding a lottery to determine enrollment for the 2015-2016 Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program. An open meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Grand Island High School Professional Development Room (located at 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, New York) to announce the results of the UPK lottery. All interested parents are welcome to attend. Notification letters and phone calls will be made to parents in the weeks following the lottery to confirm the specific location and session assignments for the incoming UPK students.

To be eligible for the UPK program a child must be four years of age on or before December 1, 2015 and a Grand Island resident. Half day sessions, five days per week are offered at Charlotte Sidway Elementary School (morning and afternoon) and also at Kiddo's Korner Preschool (afternoon only).

UPK applications are now available online at www.grandislandschools.org or call Susan Carter at 773-8818 for information. Appointments must be made in advance to register your child. Please call 773-8800 extension "0" to schedule an appointment. The application deadline is Monday, May 18, 2015. The last appointment to register on this date will be 2:00 p.m.

GI Named Best Community for Music Education!

Grand Island's Music Education Program Receives National Recognition for the Fourth Time

The NAMM Foundation has recognized Grand Island for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) designation. This is the fourth year in a row Grand Island Central School District has received this esteemed national distinction.

Congratulations to our music students and teachers for working hard and receiving such a prestigious honor!



Attention Residents with Children Ages Newborn Through 5 Years of Age...

To effectively plan for the 2015-2016 school year, the Grand Island Central School District would like to know how many children reside on Grand Island who are eligible for kindergarten enrollment in September 2015. Any child who will reach their 5th birthday on or before December 1, 2015 is eligible to attend kindergarten next school year.

Please call the District Office at 773-8800 (ext. 0) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and give your name, your child's name, child's date of birth, address and telephone number. At the time of registration you will need to bring proof of residency, immunization records, an original birth certificate and custody papers if applicable.

We ask that you call even if you do not plan on sending your child to kindergarten next year or plan on sending your child to a private or parochial school. This information will assist our transportation department, as well as our state and federal funding.



Summer Quest 2015 Join WNY's Best Summer Day Camp!

Just for Kids (JFK) is offering a fun-filled themed day camp during summer break! New experiences and "hobby development" choices like Ooey Goey, Make-It Take-It, and Sports Spectacular are offered, and kids will enjoy swimming, field trips, beach parties, and special theme days to keep them busy!

The camp sessions are a perfect solution for busy working parents and kids can attend one or all days. Specialty programming includes partnerships with Junior Achievement, Prevention Focus, and numerous special enrichment guests, as well as JFK's own Ranger Leadership Program for our middle school campers.

With locations in Williamsville (Transit Middle) and Grand Island (Connor Middle), camp is open to any child ages 5-12. Rates are reasonable and offer a great value, all meals are included. Your child can even attend FREE with Independent Health Flex Fit or DSS Subsidy!

Call us at 639-8500 or send an e-mail to info@justforkidsonline.org for a registration form and additional details! www.justforkidsonline.org



One World, One Hope - 13th Annual Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Grand Island is gearing up for a promising 2015 season of fighting back against cancer. One World, One Hope: Imagine Our World with a Cure is the theme for the 13th-annual fundraiser to symbolize that cancer is not a disease that discriminates, and that the fight is a global struggle every day.

At this overnight walk, teams of participants walk continuously in honor of the tireless battle that cancer patients face when battling the terrible disease. Survivors are celebrated, patients that lost their battle are remembered, and the rising sun in the morning renews the hope for a world without cancer. Registration is free for the 4 p.m. event which begins Saturday, May 30 at Veteran's Park and runs until 6 a.m. on May 31.

Teams are already hard at work collecting donations, organizing drives, and preparing the phenomenal community get-together. Committee members have also been hard at work guaranteeing a night to remember. Pinot's Palette will be hosting Painting for a Cure at Relay from 10:30 p.m. to midnight. Three artists will lead forty-five painters to create custom Relay themed masterpieces to take home. The cost will be \$25 per person. An Ultimate Lip Sync Battle Royale is scheduled for 10:30 p.m. with music and instruments provided.



There will also be a "Beat Cancer Smash" for all participants complete with an arsenal of piñatas. Musical performances will include Steven Amuso and Off the Cuff, John Haumesser, Jessika Schreiber, Kevin McCarthy, Irish dancers, and appearances by various Disney characters and Survivor contestant Kelly Remington.

The Grand Island community has raised \$1.3 million in 12 years and is eager to spread their mission with even more participants, particularly even more survivors. "Survivors are amazingly strong individuals and often have an equally amazing caregiver. Anything we can do to brighten even just one day of their battle is worth doing," tri-chair Lynn Dingey says.

Registration for all participants and survivors is available online now, along with more information on your favorite teams and fundraisers at www.RelayForLife.org/GrandIslandNY.

Stay Connected While on the Go!

Download the Grand Island Schools Mobile App for Free

The Grand Island Schools mobile app gives parents and students a one-stop spot to access important information any time of day or night. By downloading the app to the device of your choice (iPhone, iPad, Android phone or tablet), information can be found in one, easy-to-use location making it simple to access the content they need while on the go.

Some features of the app include:

- Quickly add calendar items to your personal calendar;
- Add staff directory contacts to your personal contacts;
- Access the Parent Portal to review student academic info;
- View athletic schedules, lunch menus, and your mySchoolBucks account;
- View Board of Ed and PTA meeting dates and information;
- Contact the District or Schools;
- Custom feeds to calendar, news, staff directory and more.

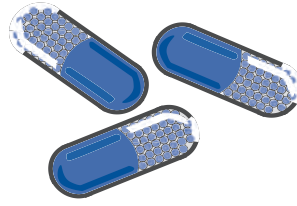
To download the mobile app to your device:

- Visit www.grandislandschools.org and click on the images in the bottom left corner.
- Get it on Google play.
- Available at the iTunes store.





GICSD Trains Staff to Become Overdose Responders



In August 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that 12 New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) addiction treatment centers in communities across the state will offer training sessions on opioid overdose awareness. The Grand Island Central School District chose to take advantage of this free training opportunity in their continued efforts to remain vigilant in the war against drugs.

“As a school district, the safety and welfare of our students and our community is always a top priority. We take various measures throughout the year to train our employees on many safety procedures such as Hands-Only CPR and emergency drills. Opioid overdose awareness training is a free opportunity to educate our staff to recognize and respond to an overdose - another proactive approach to keep everyone safe,” states Teresa Lawrence, superintendent of the Grand Island Central School District.

“Grand Island is the first school district in Western New York to take advantage of opioid overdose awareness training. As one of the state addiction treatment centers, the Stutzman Addiction Treatment Center has been asked to train providers and community members in opioid overdose awareness. It’s important that knowledge and information be transferred to school districts,” said Zena Hyman D.N.S., N.P., clinical director, Overdose Prevention Program at Stutzman. “In January we held two courses. During these sessions the District trained administrators, nurses, school counselors, social workers and psychologists on the skills needed to recognize and respond to an overdose,” said Karen Cuddy-Miller, assistant superintendent for curriculum & instruction at Grand Island Central School District. “We also invited participants from other area school districts. Representatives from Erie 1 BOCES, Kenmore- Town of Tonawanda, Maryvale and West Seneca school districts also attended.”

The program presents a theoretical and historical perspective of opioid overdose awareness. It covers the essentials from the New York State Department of Health 2014 curriculum on Opioid Overdose Awareness. “Our staff members learned how to recognize an overdose and what to do during an overdose. This includes how to provide rescue breathing and how to safely administer naloxone, a medication used to reverse the side effects of some narcotics,” says Cheryl Cardone, director of pupil personnel services for Grand Island Central School District. Participants that completed the program met the requirements to become a certified, trained overdose responder and may administer naloxone. “I attended the first training session and realized the best anyone can do when faced with a presumed overdose is to dial 911 and begin administering CPR. Naloxone kits were provided to attendees who completed the training if they chose to take one for personal reasons. District employees are not expected to utilize these kits nor will they be included as part of our emergency response kits in the schools. Having them is strictly at their discretion. The intention of this training was for our staff to gain knowledge and awareness to this potential risk,” said Lawrence.

The problem of heroin and opioid abuse continues to grow at alarming rates both in New York state and throughout the nation. The percentage of New York state high school students who reported using heroin has more than doubled in recent years (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2005 and 2011). Addiction of any kind is a chronic disease and can happen to anyone, to any family and at any time. “By no means should this training be viewed as a problem in our schools but rather a recommendation from the commissioner of education,” said Lawrence.

Students in need of help should contact a trusted adult such as a teacher, school nurse, guidance counselor, school psychologist, or physician. Additional resources can be found at the Combat Heroin website at oasas.ny.gov/accesshelp or by calling a 24 hour 7 day a week hotline at 877-846-7369.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1991-2013 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed on April 8, 2014.

News From the Food Services Department

Celebrating Seuss

On March 2 we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ Birthday in our elementary schools! This year we thought outside-the-box in Seuss-style and celebrated with “The Super Supper March” from “The Cat in the Hat Songbook.” Lunch included Goose-Moose Burgers with Pickles, Mish-Mash Potatoes, Flittered Plum Fruit, Pink Ink and a Happy Birthday cupcake (51% whole grain, of course!) A fun-tastic day for all!

Did you know?

- Bag lunches can be provided by your child’s school cafeteria for field trips. One week’s advance notice is appreciated. Bags include: deli or peanut butter sandwich, string cheese, fresh apple, baby carrots, snack bag and milk or juice.
- Pizza party lunches for special celebrations (like birthdays) can also be set up for your child’s class. Big daddy pizza, baby carrots, 100% juice slush cup and assorted milk.

Call the Food Service department for more details at 773-8885 or with any questions!

Scholarship Opportunity for Seniors

New York School Nutrition Association (NYSNA) offers a \$1000 scholarship every year to a graduating senior that is enrolled in college and plans to pursue a career in food service. For more details, or if interested in applying, visit the Food Services page on the District website and click the “Scholarship Opportunity” tab on the left for the application. Please call me, Anne Rich, at 773-8885 if you have any questions. I am an active member of NYSNA and will write a letter of recommendation for Grand Island student applicants. Good Luck!



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

If you have a child turning five years of age on or before December 1, you have probably received a call from the Grand Island Central School District asking you to register your child. If you have not received this call and have a child eligible for kindergarten, please call the District Office at 773-8800 so that your child can be registered. Sending your child to kindergarten is a big step, but an exciting time in your lives. Once your child is registered, the clock begins to tick and there are several dates which become important to you.

April 15, 2015 Getting Ready for Kindergarten Night (Parents Only)

This is an evening designed with parents in mind. Teachers from Sidway School will share helpful information about coming to school. The hour long presentation will begin at 6:30 pm. This is especially helpful if you have questions about what you can do at home to help your child feel prepared for coming to school.

May 19, 2015 Kindergarten Orientation (Parent and Kindergarten Child)

This event is for both you and your child. The afternoon begins when the doors open at 1:00 p.m. Presentations for parents in the large gym and activities for children in the classrooms will begin promptly at 2 p.m. The afternoon concludes with a short bus ride for you and your child. You will have an opportunity to meet several faculty and staff and have any questions you may have answered.

August 3 - 14, 2015 Kindergarten Screening (Parent and Kindergarten Child)

Screening is by appointment and may be scheduled once you have registered your child. Screening takes approximately an hour to complete. Your child will spend approximately 20 minutes with three different professionals. He/she will see one of our reading specialists for an assessment of his/her readiness skills. He/she will also meet with a speech therapist and a school nurse. It is important that you have record of your child's physical exam and immunizations by that time.

If you have any questions regarding your child coming to Kindergarten, please do not hesitate to call Sidway at 773 - 8870. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Sidway School!

Exotic Animals Visit Sidway

Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics visited Sidway students on January 14. Students met and learned about exotic animals such as a baby kangaroo, an African snake, a lynx, a tarantula and a rare owl.

Jeff from Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics taught the students about the animals' habitats, behaviors and diets. The program was sponsored by the PTA.



Jeff from Nickel City Reptile poses with his lynx.



Valentines for Veterans

Some students from Sidway Elementary School participated in making Valentines for Veterans. These personalized cards were delivered to our local veterans hospital.



Shown with their valentine creations from left to right: Colin Hurley, Brooke Warner, Natalie Payne, Adrianna Marinucci, Thomas Alberalla and Sydney Wilson.

Huth Road Elementary School Viking Values Awards



January 2015

Second-Grade: Cecelia Buxton, Sydney Hamilton, Andrew Karkut and Nico Macrides. *Third-Grade:* Andrew Buxton, Sam Castner, Kaitlyn Dudek, Ethan Hovey, Cayden Luciano and Casey Walowitz. *Fourth-Grade:* Julia Capage, Riley Decker, Matthew Rizzo and John Paul Szczublewski. *Fifth-Grade:* Jashanjit Dhillon, Seth Price, Jackson Scalise (absent from photo), Alicia Shivers and Jonathan Simpson.

February 2015

Second-Grade: Julianna Burgin, Brooke Christensen, Halley Green, Natalie Malush and Kaitlyn Wadman. *Third-Grade:* Julianna Dohring, Tyler Hooch, Kaleigh Lockett, Nate Mangusand and Luke Winarski. *Fourth-Grade:* Sophia Heffley, Phillip Lepine, Gavin Rice and Maelee Roach. *Fifth-Grade:* Brian Bielec, Thomas Dworak, Lana Gondek, Jacqueline Heyden and Madisyn Martino.

March 2015

Second-Grade: Jacob Hazel, Alyssa Pizur, Celine Rizek and Melina Valle. *Third-Grade:* Trysten Cardin-Galeza, Jacob Clark, Jenna Hecht and Gianna Karnath. *Fourth-Grade:* Joseph Cicero, Lauren Coombs, Reagan Fast, Patrick Lepine and Aidan Maroni. *Fifth-Grade:* Justin Horvath, Rebekah Jaenecke, Ella Koslowski, Zachary Leng and Hayley Pizur.

Regional Spelling Bee Champion Selvakumar!



All our Huth Road Elementary competitors did a terrific job representing our school at the PTA Regional Spelling Bee. Abishek Selvakumar and Lauren Price, a student from Tonawanda who won the fourth-grade Regional Bee last year, went toe-to-toe for so many rounds without missing a word. The bee finally ended after more than 80 rounds, and they were declared joint first place winners! Thanks go to all our contestants for their hard work, to their parents for their support, and to Mrs. Schmitt for leading the charge!

Team Huth Hits Record-Breaking Numbers for PARP!

The buzzer has sounded and there's no time left on the clock. At the end of the game, Team Huth scored a grand total of 104,104 reading minutes! Now let's review the final stats. Every grade level contributed over 20,000 minutes.

Grade 2 brought in 20,843 minutes. Player Gambino showed a strong push at the end of the game to lead Grade 2 with 6,488 minutes.

Grade 3 contributed 21,846 minutes with Player Corbett maintaining the lead at 7,197 minutes.

Player Steck broke 10,000 points, bringing in 10,401 minutes of the total 28,158 minutes for Grade 4.

With a high score of 33,257 minutes, the 2015 PARP Champions are Grade 5!

This year's PARP MVP award goes Player Pernick for leading the entire school with 14,632 minutes! Congratulations to Team Huth for your dedication and teamwork during PARP. Together you passed the 100,000-minute mark - that's 72 days or over seven weeks of reading!



Teachers Legacy Continues to Inspire Students

Loom Donation Presented by Friends of Marge Egan



Mary Ann Kull and Cathie Steffan pose with Alexann Incao, art teacher; Mary Haggerty, principal, and students, Isabella Munoz, Hunter Potts, Kimberley Swain, and Jonathan Meng with donated looms. Looms were given by the friends of the Weavers Guild of Buffalo and included a plaque honoring former Kaegebein music teacher, Marge Egan.

As a longtime member of the Weavers Guild of Buffalo, she spent many hours spinning and then knitting and weaving. She shared this talent with other members of the guild. Her radiant smile and gentle ways, especially with beginners, became legendary.

Egan demonstrated spinning and weaving throughout Western New York and beyond, including the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village (formerly Amherst Museum), Sheep to Shawl at the New York State Fair, Hull House Museum, University of Buffalo Sustainable Living Project, and in many other small venues. Her main passion was to reach the children through demonstrations and always used a “hands-on” approach to make the information relevant to the student. Egan would adjust her approach to meet the student’s needs. It is with this in mind, that the friends of Marge Egan are proud to present these looms and fibers for use by the children of Kaegebein School and the Grand Island School District so that her legacy will continue to inspire and educate students.



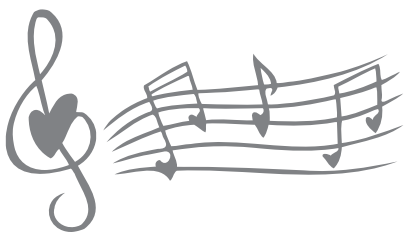
Marjorie “Marge” Egan, who passed away a year ago, was an inspiration to all those who knew her. Marge lived on Grand Island, and taught music in the Grand Island School District, retiring from Kaegebein Elementary

School. She loved teaching. After retirement she found a way to continue sharing her great love of teaching and her knowledge with others. She developed a passion for fiber arts, particularly spinning and weaving.

Kaegebein Students Perform at Kleinhans

Hundreds of fifth and sixth-graders from across Erie County performed at the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA) Elementary Music Festival at Kleinhans Music Hall on March 7.

2015 Erie County Chorus and Orchestra participants from Kaegebein included: Sophia Bobeck, Aurella Onesie, and Leah Dylag. Keira Seidel and Josh Henderson (not pictured) served as alternates.





VCMS Teacher Tours Military Facilities



Ms. Hayes attends Fort Drum Mission Brief luncheon.

Throughout the past year, Veronica E. Connor Middle School social studies teacher, Dawn Hayes, has been touring various New York military facilities to meet with members of our military to see and hear about the training and operation of what they do for our country.

Through a partnership of the Niagara Military Affairs Council (NIMAC) and Leadership Niagara, Hayes, along with a select group of leaders in business, government, and nonprofit organizations across the region, has participated in a series of five events. These events afford the opportunity to develop an intellectual and practical understanding and exchange of leadership perspectives, military leadership, organization development, national defense, briefings, as well as mission, customs and traditions of our military.

On her most recent visits to Fort Drum and Hancock Field, Hayes was able to gain a first-hand perspective of the role and effectiveness of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) from Colonel Greg Semmel, Commander of the 174th. In partnership with Fort Drum, the 174th Attack Wing provides training for aircrews and conducts MQ-9 Reaper flights from operations centers at Hancock Field and Fort Drum's Wheeler Sack Army Airfield. From these operations centers aircrews are able to pilot RPAs anywhere in the world, most recently in Afghanistan and to provide real-time information for firefighters in the western U.S.

Hayes' visit to Fort Drum culminated in a dinner in honor of F. Anthony Keating; Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. Mr. Keating detailed the importance of the base as a strategically capable training and rapid deployment facility in support of The Global War on Terrorism.

Schiffmacher Places in Top 10 in The Buffalo News Spelling Bee



Congratulations to Hannah Schiffmacher for advancing to the finals of the 2015 Buffalo News Spelling Bee. Hannah, a sixth-grader at Veronica E. Connor Middle School, wowed us with her phenomenal phonetic ability when she dominated her fellow peers in the first round of the bee. Hannah moved on to the second round where she became one of only twenty students to advance from our region.

The finals were held in the auditorium of The Buffalo History Museum on Sunday, March 8 at 1:30 p.m. Hannah finished in tenth place. She was the only sixth-grader who made the top 10! Congratulations, Hannah!



2015 Census - Please Read!

It is important for the Grand Island Central School District to conduct a District resident census to aid in the planning and projection of student enrollment. Therefore, it is extremely important that you help us by completing and returning the survey, even if you do not have children attending one of the District's schools. The census survey will be mailed to all Grand Island residents.

For your convenience, we have also provided an online option to complete the survey. Please visit www.grandislandschools.org/census2015 or scan the QR code below for the electronic version of the 2015 census form.

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated.



Meet Mrs. Hawkins



At their meeting on Monday, January 26, 2015, the Grand Island Central School District Board of Education unanimously appointed Danielle Wallenhorst

Hawkins as the assistant principal for Veronica E. Connor Middle School. Hawkins has been employed at the Charter School for Applied Technologies since 2008. She supported 36 new teachers as the coordinator of induction and retention and had previously served as a business teacher. In addition, she taught in the Buffalo Public Schools. Hawkins holds a master's degree in business and marketing education and also in educational leadership and policy from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. Hawkins began her service to the Grand Island Central School District on February 2, 2015.

My Day as a Sixth-Grader at VCMS

By Danielle Wallenhorst Hawkins, Assistant Principal at Veronica E. Connor Middle School

As you may know, I am fairly new to our school and the Grand Island community. I am still learning all of the details of our systems and procedures while trying my hardest to learn everyone's name as quickly as possible. Everyone has been incredibly welcoming and patient. I find myself wanting to better understand the culture of our District, especially from the student perspective. I recently read an article about another "new-to-her-district" educator who chose to shadow a student for a day in order to gain some insight into this valuable point of view. The idea of shadowing a student stuck with me as something I'd love to do and when I started at Connor Middle I felt it was the perfect time. After discussing it with our principal, John Fitzpatrick, he agreed it was a great idea. We decided to move forward and selected a day.



Meet Savanna - Selecting a student was a little harder. I knew a female student might be a better fit, so that I could fully participate in physical education classes. I also had a feeling a sixth-grader would be more likely to be enthusiastic

about the opportunity to spend the day with me. Savanna was one of the very first students I met at VCMS, working at our school store, Ellie's Essentials, for student council. She was petite but confident; involved in just about every extracurricular activity we offer students in her grade. I felt her level of involvement within our school would afford me a broad perspective with regards to student life. Luckily, Savanna was equally excited by the prospect. We decided to coordinate outfits - pink top with jeans and she filled me in on the details of her schedule.

Good Morning! - We started our day with two periods of English language arts. It was wonderful to have so much uninterrupted time devoted to reading and writing. Through historical accounts, we learned about the differences in gender roles in medieval times. Certainly, it was not the best time in history to be a lady. In science we spent time learning about genetics, even crafting our own Punnett Squares. I was struck by how advanced the work felt. I remember doing these in tenth-grade biology!

We were also treated to Mrs. Boyer's "Happy Teacher Dance," a dance that apparently only comes out when each and every student comes to class with his or her homework done. Lucky I didn't count against our stats and her choreography was a hit!

Do Re Mi - Savanna and I were lucky enough to have both chorus and general music in our schedules today - what wonderful additions to all this core-subject learning! We were out of our seats creating rhythmic eight counts with bodily percussion (clapping, stomping, etc.) and moving around so much, we hardly noticed we were also learning a ton about rhythm. Miss Dougherty made the concepts of eight and sixteenth notes easy to understand and demonstrate. We even ended the period with a dance party!



We're Hungry! - I'm embarrassed to admit that up until today I had not yet had the opportunity to sample a true student lunch. Was I ever missing out! Savanna and I selected the "pizza line" and enjoyed a great lunch of cheese pizza, mandarin oranges and carrot sticks. An extremely

generous tablemate of ours also treated us to cookies from the snack line - chocolate chip. Yum!

Ratios and Roman Life - Our last two core subjects were math and social studies. In math, Mrs. Ousler taught us how to convert various units of measurement two different ways. Though it was tricky, we used a mix of our brains, our calculators and our seat partners to solve the problems. Our measurement discussion led to a broader understanding of ratios and proportions and we all left feeling ready to take on our homework problems.

In social studies, we again learned about life and culture a long time ago - this time in ancient Rome. We had eight different stations to cycle through in order to gain information on various aspects of the Roman lifestyle. We learned about education, clothing, architecture, and even "sports" (if that's what you can call gladiator matches which often end in death!) Traveling to various stations in the room was a great way

to learn. Again, however, I felt pretty lucky to live in our current time period!



A Great Way to Wrap Up - Though I was a little nervous about participating in physical education, I'm glad I did! We had SO much fun learning various skills in badminton... We were really running around chasing those birdies and truly

worked up a sweat. If I do say so myself, I don't think I embarrassed myself too badly. With just a few minutes left in the period my shadow and I raced to the main office to do our PM announcements. We finished the day strong and got our students and staff ready to head out for the afternoon.

Reflecting on the Day - Overall, I'm thrilled I had the opportunity to devote an entire day to understanding what it is like to be a student at VCMS. My experience was profoundly rewarding and I ended the day with a much better understanding of the overall package we are providing our students. In sixth-grade my day felt so safe and structured. In each on-team class we entered to a list of tasks projected on the board for how to begin class. The first item was to copy down our homework into our agendas and the homework was listed in the same place in each room (the board in the back of the room). The consistency really helped even my most organizationally-challenged classmates to understand our teachers' expectations. This day was an amazing opportunity to build relationships with our students. Most students in my classes expressed genuine excitement to be joined for the day by their assistant principal. They really enjoyed seeing me do all of the coursework and activities asked of them. I expressly stated to my teachers for the day that I expected no special treatment. I sang, danced, participated in group work, and even took a test. The girls with whom I spent my day welcomed me into their social group and could not have been more friendly and open. At Connor Middle School, we are lucky to have such flexible, welcoming students and staff. I learned many things during my day as a sixth-grader, but this fact was not one of them - it has been apparent since my very first day.



K-12 Artist of the Month

Each year, the Grand Island Central School District art department recognizes many of its top artistic achievers with the “K-12 Artist of the Month” award. Presented to ten students annually, the award highlights the varied accomplishments and achievements of district students who excel artistically and who creatively solve problems by using a wide variety of media to express and find their own unique artistic voices.



December Artist of the Month

Alessandra Smith is a fifth-grader at Huth Road Elementary School. She is a member of the Art Club and has enjoyed art since she was very young. She works hard on her projects and has very neat craftsmanship. Alessandra enjoys drawing and painting pictures of horses. She likes to work in watercolor as her choice of medium and contributes her creativity to her grandmother. She helps her grandmother with card-making and scrapbooking. Best of luck to Alessandra in her future!



January Artist of the Month

Andrew Kozlowski is a first grader at Charlotte Sidway Elementary School. Not only is Andrew a terrific student but he is also very creative with every art medium he uses. Andrew loves to work with clay and says “he loves art because he gets to be crafty with his brain.” As Andrew’s art teacher, I am very proud of his hard work and his enthusiasm for the arts. On behalf of the Grand Island Art Department I would like to wish Andrew the best of luck on his journey through the arts.



February Artist of the Month

Veronica Connor Middle School eighth-grader, Camryn Fisher is pictured with one of her recent art works. Camryn is a creative art student who displays an exceptional eye for detail and is visually inspired by the world around her. She consistently displays an ability to think outside the box as she creates beautifully narrative art with her camera. Several of her pieces have been selected for the Youth In Art Month display at the Grand Island Public Library. Camryn’s primary artistic interest is in photography and in digital media. She finds inspiration in many places and her love of the ocean and all marine life is a recurring theme in her work.



March Artist of the Month

Rebekah Thompson is a fifth-grader at Huth Road Elementary School and is a member of the Art Club. Her logo design was chosen to be printed on this year’s Art Club t-shirts. She is very creative and pays attention to detail and craftsmanship to make her drawings look realistic. She enjoys drawing plants and outdoor scenes. Rebekah comes from a very artistic and musical family and she has a lot of encouragement at home. When she gets older, she would like to have a career in the arts; perhaps she will be an art teacher.

VCMS Students Create Youth In Art Month Show

A critical component of being a young artist is showing your work so that it may be viewed by others. In honor



of Youth In Art Month, eighth-grade student artists at Veronica Connor Middle School prepared a display at the Grand Island Memorial Library featuring works in a variety of media. The work was on display throughout the month of March.

The show visually illustrates both cognition and creation. Creative ideas, acquisition of new skill and facility within a variety of media, as well as depth of thought and idea is apparent in their work. VCMS students have reason to be proud, their work not only illustrates the ways in which they are meeting the rigorous New York State Standards for the Visual Arts, it more importantly demonstrates a degree of visual literacy attained by these students who are effectively learning to use visual media to synthesize ideas and give voice to their own unique artistic vision.



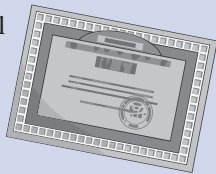
Ryan Wellence showcases his work at the Grand Island Memorial Library.

Kline Awarded National DECA/Otis Spunkmeyer Scholarship



Pictured are Khristian Cole Kline and advisor Cheryl Chamberlain.

Congratulations to senior Khristian Cole Kline as the recipient of the National DECA/Otis Spunkmeyer Scholarship. Kline is the chapter president of GI DECA and will accept his scholarship on stage at the International DECA Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in April. DECA offers scholarships to high school seniors who are highly involved with their chapter and Kline will compete at this year's conference in the area of Business Law and Ethics Team Decision Making. Kline will attend George Washington University in the fall to major in business economics and public policy.



21 GHS Students Among Area Youth Prepared to Lead in Their Communities



Pictured are LYNC members at a skate and graduation ceremony.

Leadership Niagara graduated 100 local students from its youth leadership development program, LYNC, on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County's Training Center in Lockport, NY.

Representing 13 Niagara County and Erie County high schools, Leadership Niagara student leaders have heard from industry experts and community leaders throughout the course of the eight-month program along with learning leadership development concepts and principles, characteristics and values, problem-solving, communication, diversity and inclusion, teamwork and collaboration. The LYNC students have also had executive-level coaches and mentors to guide them through each month's sessions and through their team projects. As part of the graduation, the students received their certificates.

Grand Island students that participated in the 2014-2015 LYNC class include: Adam Bevilacqua, Natalie Braun, Andrea Colan, Alexandra Colucci, Jacob Dollendorf, James Franz, Benjamin Freedman, Adam Frosolone, Olivia Johnson, Julie Klein, Sabrina Mistriner, Maria Ramsperger, MaryElisabeth Rustowicz, Cassidy Siebert, Jessica Surace, Sarah Swagler, Kaitlynn Tuohy, Olivia Turck, Marianthi Vasiliadis, Cameron Watt, and Dakota Wolf.

Ten Years of Excellence for GI DECA Club at States!



Laura Taylor and Alyssa Pelosi qualified for Nationals in the field of Hospitality Services Team Decision Making.

2015 marks the tenth year that qualifying students have attended the NYS DECA Conference in Rochester. This year was the largest contingents of GI DECA as 54 traveled to States where over 2000 were in attendance. Students competed in business simulations and were immersed in a professional environment over their stay. Grand Island took home numerous medals and trophies for their efforts. There were many "firsts" this year for GI DECA, including the attendance of four middle school students accompanied by advisor Mary Jane Fonte. In addition, Grand Island had nine high school students qualify to attend the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida which is the most ever in GI DECA to make it to Nationals! Local Grand Island business leader, Fahim Mojawalla and former GIHS DECA student Kaitlyn Czerwonka served as State judges and the students were happy to see them at the competition. DECA, an international business and marketing club, boasts over 200,000 members worldwide and seeks to prepare emerging leaders in the business field. For more information on how DECA can help your student in their career future contact Chamberlain or Fonte at 773-8820.

Keeping It Professional! GIHS Job Search 2015

A new venue at Four Points Sheraton, overlooking Grand Island, was the setting for this year's Job Search Seminar presented by the business department at Grand Island High School. The High School PTSA and the Grand Island School and Business Alliance (GISBA) were also promoters of this incredibly useful and authentic experience, in which over 80 high school students took part.



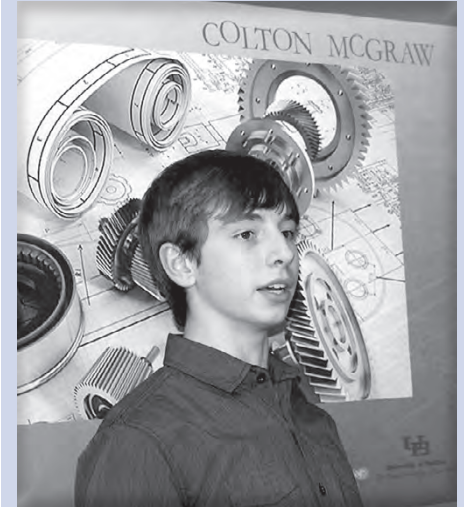
Resumes in hand, students interviewed with local business and school officials for experience and jobs! Lisa Dollendorf of Roy's Plumbing and Heating, exclaimed that she is so very honored to be a part of this program and after five years is more impressed every year by the pool of candidates. Students are instructed in their high school business classes and DECA events on how to prepare for an interview and then put their best foot forward at

Job Search. Breakout sessions provided by Illia Beecher, Mimi Cuddy-Mierzwa, and Jon Snider reinforced skills of the interview process. For more information on the Job Search and Shadow Day programs at Grand Island High School email cherylchamberlain@grandislandschools.org.

From L to R: High school students Carly Bernatovicz, Tiffany Melendez, Andrew Fred and Max Grenda get ready for interviews.



GIHS Intern Presents at Cannon Design



Colton McGraw presenting his work.

Imagine being a high school student and designing a building from start to finish! That is exactly what Grand Island High School senior Colton McGraw had the opportunity to accomplish when he enrolled in the internship course at Grand Island High School. Colton, an accomplished musician and AP student, wants to go to college for mechanical engineering and requested an internship at Cannon Design on Grand Island. At first, Colton thought he would be the coffee and office boy, but he soon learned differently as every department at Cannon took him on to create a masterpiece, unique to his interests. As the musician in Colton thrives, he thought about a performing arts building as his creation. The end result of his project was presented to all of Colton's Cannon Design mentors, internship teacher Cheryl Chamberlain and superintendent Teresa Lawrence. Colton's experience was extraordinary and the staff at Cannon were so proud of his dedication and hard work on his project. Internships are available to any high school junior or senior at Grand Island through the Career Exploration/Internship Program. For more information on a new summer school program this year, contact cherylchamberlain@grandislandschools.org.



17th Annual GISBA Corporate Bowl



Congratulations to this year's Corporate Bowl winners!

In 3rd Place, earning 400 scholarship dollars (\$100 each): The Warlocks: Jake Frosolone, Christian Hilts, Eric Riederer and Jordan Piershalski.

In 2nd Place, earning 800 scholarship dollars (\$200 each): 50 Shades of Grape: Ian Hardison, Jonathan Link, Colton McGraw and McLain Erhard.

In 1st Place, earning 1600 scholarship dollars (\$400 each) and the title "2015 GISBA Corporate Bowl Champions": Democratic Peoples Republic of GI: Pushpinder Singh, Andrew Colautto, Ryan Marlin and Devlin McMaster.



1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, NY 14072
www.grandislandschools.org

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Superintendent

Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.



Resident

Calendar of Events • visit www.grandislandschools.org for event details

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM
Grade 6: Chamber Concert 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

HS: Talent Show

Wednesday, April 22 - Friday, April 24, 2015

Grades 3 - 8: NYS Mathematics Assessment

Saturday, April 25 - Tuesday, April 28, 2015

HS: DECA International Conference

Monday, April 27, 2015

Superintendent's Day - No School PreK-8

Tuesday, April 28 - Friday, May 1, 2015

HU: Spring Band Concert 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

HS: Celebration of Inspiration 6:30 PM
KA: Spring Choral Concert 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 30, 2015

HS: Spotlighters Spring Play 7:00 PM

Friday, May 1, 2015

SI: Art Show/Ice Cream Social 6 - 8 PM
HS: Spotlighters Spring Play 7:00 PM
SI HU KA: Parent/Teacher Conf. - 1/2 Day

Saturday, May 2, 2015

HS: SAT Test 8:00 AM
HS: Spotlighters Spring Play 7:00 PM

Monday, May 4, 2015

HS: Rehearsal for NHS Induction 2:30 PM
No School PreK-12: Superintendent's Day

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

HU: 3rd Grade Instrument Demo 10:30 AM
Instrumental Boosters Meeting 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

HS: NHS Induction 7:00 PM
KA: PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
KA: 3rd Grade Instrument Demo 10:30 AM

Thursday, May 7, 2015

HU: Spring Choral Concert 7:00 PM
KA: PTA Healthy Heart Night 6:30 PM

Monday, May 11, 2015

Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM
HU: Author Visit

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

HS: One Island Meeting 4:00 PM
Beginning Instrumental Parent Night 7 PM

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

HU: PTA Meeting 6:00 PM
KA: Spring Band & String Concert 7:00 PM

Thursday, May 14, 2015

HS: PTSA Meeting 6:30 PM
MS: Spring Concert 7:00 PM

Friday, May 15, 2015

HU: Viking Values Lunch 11 AM - 1 PM
MS: Viking Olympics 6 - 9 PM

Saturday, May 16, 2015

HS: Junior Prom

Monday, May 18 - Thursday, May 21, 2015

District K-12 Art Show

Monday, May 18, 2015

Student Recognition Reception 5 - 7 PM
Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM
HS: PTA Scholarship Reading 6-8 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

2015-2016 Budget Vote
HS: Class of 2018 Krolicks Chicken BBQ
SI: K Orientation 11:15 AM - early dismissal
MS/HS: Orchestra Concert 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

MS: PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
HS: Donate Life Blood Drive
MS: Spring Concert 7:00 PM

Thursday, May 21, 2015

HS: Academic Awards

Friday, May 22 - Monday, May 25, 2015

No School: Memorial Weekend

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

PTA Council Meeting 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 28, 2015

MS: Bald for Bucks 2:25 PM - 4:00 PM

Thursday, May 28 - Friday, June 5, 2015

HU: Scholastic Book Fair
HS: Choral Concert 7:30 PM

Friday, May 29, 2015

HS: Senior Prom 6 - 10 PM

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

HS: Common Core Exams

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

HS: Spring Band Concert 7:30 PM

Friday, June 5, 2015

HS: Class Day
HU: 2nd Gr. Parent Orientation Lunch 12 PM

Monday, June 8, 2015

Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

HS: One Island Meeting 4:00 PM

Wednesday, June 10 - Friday, June 12, 2015

Patriotic Shows

Saturday, June 13, 2015

HS: ACT Test 8:00 AM

Tuesday, June 16 - 19, 22 - 24, 2015

Regents Exams

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

HS: PTSA Meeting 6:30 PM

Friday, June 19, 2015

KA: Kick Off to Summer Fundraiser 6 PM
SI: Field Days

Monday, June 22, 2015

Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM
HU: 5th Grade Moving Up Day
KA: Grade 5 MUD Ceremony 9:15 AM

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Last Student Day

Sunday, June 28, 2015

HS: Graduation 10:00 AM