

The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

www.k12.ginet.org

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

Students Keep the Beat

All Grand Island High School students were trained in bystander CPR using the American Heart Association's Hands-Only™ CPR during the week of March 4, 2014. Rural Metro, an American Heart Association training center, donated manikins, AED training equipment and the time of instructors during the week-long program. The result was approximately 1,000 trained students who are now prepared to respond in a cardiac emergency.

The American Heart Association is urging passage of a state law that would require all high school students know CPR before graduation. The legislation is sponsored by Senator Mark Grisanti. The instruction at Grand Island High School demonstrated how easy this life-saving skill can be taught, with no cost to the school.

"The safety of our students and staff is top priority. Earlier this year our district experienced first-hand the life saving benefits that knowing CPR can have," said Dr. Teresa Lawrence, superintendent of Grand Island Central School District. "Through the help of the American Heart Association, we were afforded the opportunity to train nearly every Grand Island High School student with CPR skills. While we hope students never have to put the skills into practice, providing these skills is a valuable opportunity we were not going to pass up."

Hands-Only CPR can be taught in 30 minutes or less, so it fits easily into a school day. CPR can double or triple a sudden cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival.

Since 300,000 people suffer out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest every year, the need to know CPR is crucial. According to the American Heart Association, Hands-Only CPR performed by a bystander has been shown to be as effective as conventional CPR with mouth-to-mouth breaths in the first few minutes of a sudden cardiac arrest in an adult. That's enough time for first responders to arrive.

"Any chance we have to provide Grand Island students with opportunities to gain skills that better prepare them for what lies ahead, we want to embrace," said Tak Nobumoto, president of the Board of Education for the Grand Island Central School District.

"Bystander CPR training is one of those opportunities. We appreciate the training the American Heart Association provides to our staff and students."

Grand Island administrators were also trained over the winter break in CPR and AED use.

Now trained, the physical education teachers have the skills to maintain and implement the Hands-Only CPR training into the curriculum year after year. The American Heart Association has created a website to help advocate for the CPR in Schools legislation, visit www.supportcprinsschools.org to help.



How Are We Doing? *Parents, we want to hear from you!*

Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions about your child's school(s). Starting April 15, a parent survey can be found on the website at www.k12.ginet.org. Click on the News headline "Parent Surveys" and follow the proper link for your child's building. If you would rather complete your survey on paper, please stop by our District Office to obtain one. We look forward to your feedback!



PTA Council Update

It's hard to believe we are more than half-way through the school year. We know you are busy and the demands on your time are great. However, please consider attending a PTA meeting to learn what PTA is all about. We are a no-nonsense group who meet for a quick hour about once a month to "get 'er done"! We organize events for your children such as book fairs, fundraisers, author visits, assemblies, and more. We would love your ideas, help or suggestions. If you can't give your time to an event, consider attending a meeting to hear an update from your school principal on what is happening in your child's school. When you attend a PTA meeting, you play a role in your child's education experience.

Please join us for the Island-Wide PTA meeting- the one evening when ALL the Grand Island Schools PTAs meet in one location at staggered times. If you have children in more than one school, this is a great way to catch both PTA meetings in one night.

What: All GI Schools PTA Meeting

When: Wednesday, April 23

Sidway & High School PTA meeting
6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Huth & Kaegebein School PTA meeting
7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Middle School & Council PTA meeting
7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Board of Education Budget question and answer session - all welcome to attend.
8:00 p.m. - TBA

Where: Sidway Dining Room

Why: To save time by attending more than one PTA meeting in ONE night rather than several throughout the month. Refreshments will be served. Free childcare is available!

We hope to see many new faces on April 23.

BOE Meetings

Board of Education Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Professional Development Room. (Executive session begins at 6:30 p.m.)

April

*22 - Regular BOE Meeting
**Note, this is a Tuesday.*



May
12 - Regular BOE Meeting/Budget Hearing
19 - Student Recognition: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
(no BOE Meeting)
20 - Annual Budget Vote & BOE

June

9 - Tenure & Retiree Reception/ Regular BOE Meeting

Message From Your Superintendent

We've officially transitioned into spring and to daylight savings time – here is to hoping Mother Nature joins in and transitions to warmer weather.

Spring season means NYS testing season in our elementary and middle schools. Students in grades 3 - 8 are currently participating in the New York State Assessment Program. Results from these assessments are used, along with a multitude of other data points, to assist us in making informed decisions about our program, staff development and resource needs as well as to determine every child's progress toward graduation readiness.

The school board is approaching the final stages of the 2014-15 school budget development process. Together, we recognize the responsibility to provide the highest quality educational program at the most cost efficient expense to our community. The Board is scheduled to adopt the 2014-15 school budget at their April 22nd meeting. You are encouraged to attend the meeting as well as to review all related materials on our website. On May 20th, our community will vote on the school budget and elect three members to the Board of Education. Voting takes place in our high school gym from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

We are both on time and on budget with our capital project. As we approach the final months of the school year you will begin to see that all our schools will be impacted. Information on timelines are found on our website and in each building. Monthly progress updates are provided at each Board meeting.

Lastly, if you have been trying to make it to a PTA meeting this year but have found getting to your children's schools a challenge, the Island-Wide PTA meeting is scheduled for April 23 starting at 6:30 p.m. at Sidway. On this evening, all of our Island schools hold their PTA meetings in one location, on one night, at staggered starting times followed by a Q&A about the adopted school budget. Hopefully we'll see you there.

As always, I am available to meet and discuss our school program with parents and members of our Grand Island business, organizations and community. Please feel free to reach me by phone (716) 773-8801 or email teresalawrence@k12.ginet.org.

Respectfully,

Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Message From Your Board of Education President

The school Board is diligent and dedicated to working with the superintendent to craft a budget that maintains excellence in programs and provides opportunities for students. We encourage your attendance at budget sessions as well as board meetings in general. Your opinion matters to us.

On March 31, 2014 the School Board met with the Town Board in one of their regularly scheduled joint working sessions. The purpose of our joint meetings is to allow both boards to discuss topics of interest. Many ideas were shared and projects for collaboration were discussed.

The 2014-2015 school calendar has been adopted and is posted on our website. If I can be of any assistance to you as your board president, please contact me at taknobumoto@k12.ginet.org.

Sincerely,

Tak Nobumoto
President, Grand Island Board of Education





Superintendent Teresa Lawrence, proudly wearing senior colors, poses with students during lunch on Class Color Day.

Clash of the Vikings

Clash of the Vikings is a week-long event that began last year in order to encourage school spirit, and in service to our community as students came together to raise money for a middle school student who was battling cancer. The generosity and eagerness of the students to participate was moving, to say the least, as together they donated over \$2,000 from the coin drive alone. In continuation of this effort, students rallied again this year to raise money for the “For Our Girls Foundation.”

The 2nd Annual Clash of the Vikings Spirit Week was held the week of March 24-28 at Grand Island High School. The freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes competed against each other at various contests and events organized and coordinated by the school’s Student Council and Student Advisory Council. Throughout the week, students worked hard to earn points for their class through participating in Spirit Day themes, a coin drive, and lunch events which included activities such as a quiz bowl, pie eating contests, and a dance competition.

The week came to a close on Friday night with “Clash Night.” The events of this evening included an array of games and contests including, but not limited to, a mattress relay, basketball relay, a chicken wing eating contest, and a t-shirt decorating contest. As a thank you for their participation in this fundraiser, Student Council awarded each class with a monetary prize depending on how they placed.

This year, the students were able to donate approximately 2,000 items to the Salvation Army, and over \$2,000 to the “For Our Girls Foundation.” “It’s wonderful to see our students come together to proudly represent their class, their school, and to give back to their community. It is a tradition we hope will continue for years to come,” says Christina Podlucky, Student Council co-advisor.

GI Recognized National for Music Education Efforts

The NAMM Foundation recognizes Grand Island Central School District for its outstanding commitment to music education with a Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) designation. Grand Island joins 376 districts across the country to receive the prestigious distinction in 2014.

In its 15th year, Best Communities for Music Education affirms school districts that have demonstrated exceptional efforts toward maintaining music education as part of the schools’ core curriculum.

The BCME survey requires districts to answer detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of

Lawrence, Kansas, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

“Music is a vital part of a complete educational program,” said Teresa Lawrence, Superintendent of Schools. “This acknowledgement underscores the dedication our teachers and students have and evidences how much our community values music education.”

As Grand Island finalizes its 2014–2015 budget, the announcement of this year’s Best Communities for Music Education designation brings attention to the importance of keeping music education part of school’s core education and music’s vital role in student success in school.

The Best Communities for Music Education program plays an important part of the NAMM Foundation’s efforts to make music education part of the core curriculum assuring that the

benefits of music making are available to every child. Numerous studies have demonstrated that learning to play music can boost academic and social skills, lower disciplinary action and keep kids in schools.



“Music is a vital part of a complete educational program.”
-Teresa Lawrence



Spring 2014 Athletic Schedule

GIRLS LACROSSE - VARSITY

03/28	W. Seneca West	4:45 pm
03/29	Mt. St. Mary Academy	10:00 am
04/01	@ Will East	4:45 pm
04/07	Eden	5:00 pm
04/09	@ East Aurora	4:45 pm
04/10	Springville-Griffith	4:45 pm
04/23	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
04/25	N. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
04/30	@ Niagara Wheatfield	4:45 pm
05/02	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
05/05	Lockport	5:00 pm
05/07	@ N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
05/09	@ Will South	4:45 pm
05/12	Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/14	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm

GIRLS LACROSSE - JV

04/01	Will East	4:45 pm
04/07	@ Eden	5:00 pm
04/09	East Aurora	4:45 pm
04/23	Lockport	5:00 pm
04/25	@ N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
04/30	Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/02	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
05/05	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
05/07	N. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
05/09	Will South	4:45 pm
05/12	@ Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/14	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm

MODIFIED GIRLS LACROSSE

04/24	Lockport	4:45 pm
05/01	@ Amherst	5:00 pm
05/03	@ Eden	10:00 pm
05/06	Iroquois	5:00 pm
05/08	Springville	5:00 pm
05/10	@ Lakeshore	10:00 am
05/13	Amherst	5:00 pm
05/15	Eden	5:00 pm
05/17	@ Iroquois	10:00 am
05/19	@ Springville	4:45 pm
05/22	Lakeshore	5:00 pm
05/28	@ Lockport	4:45 pm

BOYS LACROSSE - VARSITY

03/22	@ Amherst	1:00 pm
03/26	Will East	5:00 pm
03/28	@ Wilson	5:00 pm
03/31	@ Lakeshore	7:00 pm
04/02	Iroquois	5:00 pm
04/07	@ LewPort	7:00 pm
04/09	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
04/23	@ W. Seneca East	7:00 pm
04/25	Will South	5:00 pm
04/30	Hamburg	5:00 pm
05/02	Sweet Home	5:00 pm
05/05	Iroquois	5:00 pm
05/12	Will South	5:00 pm
05/15	Sweet Home	5:00 pm
05/16	@ Iroquois	5:00 pm
05/19	W. Seneca East	5:00 pm
05/21	Hamburg	5:00 pm
05/23	@ Will East	5:00 pm

2014 Winter Viking Highlights

Grand Island Ranks # 8:

2013 Business First Ranking of WNY Sports Programs

Grand Island Ranks # 2:

2012-2013 NFL Supremacy Rankings

The Boys Swim Team finishes 2nd place
in the NFL with a record of 11-3.

Tom Corrao is named Player of the Month - Federation Hockey

Jess Dhaliwall qualified for States - Indoor Track

Jess Dhaliwall & Ben Goc are awarded the Hewitt Scholar Athlete Award

Jess Dhaliwall & Ryan Ross are awarded the Niagara P.A.L. Award

BASEBALL

04/07	@ KenWest	4:45 pm
04/08	Amherst (Var)	4:30 pm
04/08	@ Amherst (JV)	4:30 pm
04/09	Lockport	4:45 am
04/10	Starpoint	4:30 pm
04/15	Sweet Home	11:00 am
04/18	@ Maryvale Tourn(Var)	TBA
04/19	@ Maryvale Tourn(Var)	TBA
04/21	@ LewPort	4:45 pm
04/23	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
04/24	@ N. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
04/28	KenEast	4:45 pm
04/30	@ Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/01	KenWest	4:45 pm
05/05	@ Lockport	4:45 pm
05/07	LewPort	4:45 pm

BOYS LACROSSE - JV

03/22	@ Amherst	10:00 am
03/26	@ Will East	5:00 pm
03/31	Lakeshore	5:00 pm
04/02	@ Iroquois	5:00 pm
04/07	@ LewPort	5:00 pm
04/09	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
04/23	Will South	11:00 am
04/25	@ Will North	5:00 pm
04/30	@ Hamburg	7:00 pm
05/02	@ Sweet Home	5:00 pm
05/07	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
05/12	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
05/14	Will North	5:00 pm

SOFTBALL

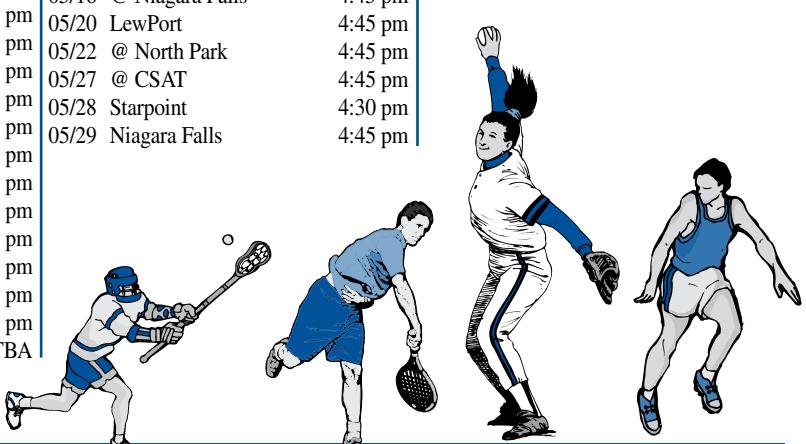
03/27	@ Medina	TBA
04/07	KenWest	4:45 am
04/09	@ Lockport	4:45 pm
04/10	@ Orchard Park	4:45 pm
04/16	Wilson	11:00 am
04/23	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
04/24	N. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
04/25	LewPort	4:45 pm
04/26-27	@ Maryvale JV Tourn	TBA
04/28	@ KenEast	4:45 pm
04/30	Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/05	Lockport	4:45 pm
05/07	@ LewPort	4:45 pm
05/08	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
05/09	Nichols (Var only)	4:45 pm
05/12	@ N. Tonawanda	4:45 pm
05/13	@ KenWest	4:45 pm
05/14	KenEast	4:45 pm
05/15	@ Niagara Wheat	4:45 pm
05/19	@ Sweet Home	4:45 pm

MODIFIED SOFTBALL

04/28	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
04/30	@ CSAT	4:45 pm
05/02	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
05/05	@ Starpoint	4:30 pm
05/06	@ LewPort	4:45 pm
05/08	North Park	4:45 pm
05/12	@ N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
05/14	CSAT	4:45 pm
05/16	@ Niagara Falls	4:45 pm
05/20	LewPort	4:45 pm
05/22	@ North Park	4:45 pm
05/27	@ CSAT	4:45 pm
05/28	Starpoint	4:30 pm
05/29	Niagara Falls	4:45 pm

TRACK & FIELD

04/9	@ N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
04/22	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
04/29	@ KenEast	4:30 pm
05/06	@ Lockport	4:30 pm
05/13	@ KenWest	4:30 pm
05/19	JV Meet @ KW	3:00 pm
05/20	Steeplechase @ NW	4:00 pm
05/21-22	NFL Meet @ KenEast	3:00 pm
05/30-31	Qualifiers @ TBA	12:00 pm
06/6-7	State Meet @	TBA





Food Services Update

Hello Grand Island! My name is Anne Rich, and I have recently joined the Grand Island Central School District (GICSD) as the Food Service Director. I would like to share some information with you regarding our school meal programs. Please visit our updated page on the District website for more food service news including menus and prices. School meals are a great value and a major convenience for busy families!

Did you know that every school offers breakfast to all students? Breakfast includes low fat/fat-free milk, 100% juice or fruit, cereal and a wide variety of whole grain breakfast items to choose from. Students can come in for Breakfast Club and start their day in a fun way! Studies show that children who eat breakfast are more focused in class and have improved memory. Breakfast really is the most important meal of the day for all of us!

Nutritious lunches are also offered daily to all students. The main lunch is listed on the menu, but students may have an alternate entrée, choosing from many choices. All lunches include an entree consisting of protein and whole grains, the vegetable of the day or fresh baby carrots, assorted fruits, assorted low fat milks and side dishes as listed on the menu.

Students registered in the Distict have a lunch account in our NutraKids point-of-sale system. Pre-payment is encouraged as students are only allowed to charge up to two lunches. Special arrangements have to be made to extend further credit. Options for pre-payment include sending in money or a check in a sealed envelope with your child/ren's name(s) on it or you can go to myschoolbucks.com to set up accounts using your credit card. This feature lets you monitor purchases and balances from any Internet connected device. You may also stop in or mail a payment to our office at 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072. Special notes/restrictions can be added to your child's account, just call our office at 773-8885 or 773-8847.

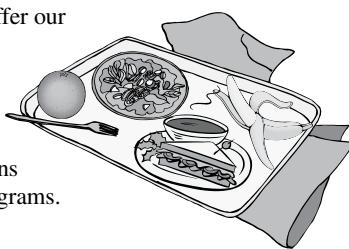
A new application for the school meals program is due each year by September 30th. Starting October 1st, if an approved application or letter of direct certification is not on file for free or reduced price meals, students will be charged full price for breakfast and lunch. After the review process in September, the results of the applications are tallied and also used to determine funding for other student programs. For this reason, filling out an application every September is important for all students in the district, regardless of eligibility. Applications are kept in the strictest of confidence and you may apply for free or reduced price lunches at any time during the school year. The current application can be found on the Food Service page of the District website or give us a call and we'll get one to you.

As you can see on our menu, our meals consist of a wide variety of different fruits, vegetables, proteins and whole grains. We are always working to offer our students a healthy and nutritious school lunch choice. Encouraging your child to choose a well-balanced school breakfast and lunch will teach them to make smart food choices and maintain a healthy lifestyle!

Please feel free to call or stop by our office if you have any questions or if we can assist you in any way regarding our child nutrition programs.

Thank you!

Anne Rich
Director of Food Services
(716) 773-8885



Spring Recess Now April 15 – 21

On Wednesday, March 12, the decision was made to close schools due to blizzard conditions. As a result, the school district is now one day short of the required student attendance days according to New York State Education Department regulations.

In planning for this potential scenario, the Board of Education approved 2013-14 calendar scheduled for days to be taken in reverse order from first the February recess and then the April Recess. As a result of the March 12, closing, it is necessary to adjust the school calendar and make Monday, April 14, a regular student attendance day.

Please adjust your calendar accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation. Let's hope that this is the end of what has been a very long winter season!

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 9, 2014 - Getting Ready for Kindergarten Night: 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 p.m. 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 20, 2014 - Kindergarten Orientation: This event is for both you and your child. The afternoon begins when the doors open at 1:30 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 11-21, 2014 - Kindergarten Screening: Screening is by appointment and may be scheduled once you have registered your child. Screening takes approximately one hour to complete. Your child will spend approximately 20 minutes with three different professionals: a reading specialist for an assessment of his/her readiness skills, 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!





Sidway Spottings

So what have Sidway students been busy doing this winter?



John and Kelly Coram enjoy the Winter Wonderland photo booth at Family Fun Day.



Miss Hall's kindergarten class conducted research in the library on the Sochi Winter Games. They researched the wide variety of winter sports focusing on the techniques, special equipment and the defending Olympic champions for the various sporting contests.



Students in Miss Hall's class had a closing ceremony party on the last day of the Olympics as a culmination to their Olympic research project. Students made their own gold medals and enjoyed an Olympic cake to celebrate.



At Family Fun Day, Mrs. Ivancie and Mrs. Clendening read "The Jacket I Wear in the Snow." Every student received a copy of the book.



Mrs. White's pre-kindergarten morning class enjoys the snow during Winter Snow Day!



Students in Mrs. White's afternoon class held a Fairytale Ball, dressing up as their favorite characters after finishing a fairytale unit.



Lucas Canavan and his parents work on sequencing and retelling the story, "The Jacket I Wear in the Snow" at Kindergarten Reading is Fun Night.



Students tasted fruits and vegetables from every color of the rainbow at the 2nd annual Taste the Rainbow. This program was funded by a Healthy Kids grant and by the Sidway PTA.



Students from Mrs. Fuch's class pose with their Valentines for Veterans. Students from four classes participated in the program this year.



Writing Workshop

Dr. Lawrence had the pleasure of visiting Mrs. Boron's kindergarten class to share in the writing process. The students were engaged in Writing Workshop. On this particular day, the kinder-kids were learning how to put spaces between their words to make their writing easier to read. After modeling this, Mrs. Boron gave each child a new tool to help with this task, a small wooden figure called "Spaceman" to place on their paper to help put spaces between the words. Once the students wrote, they shared their writing with the class and with a partner. It was evident that these kinder-kids see themselves as writers, and love to write!

Teaming Up to Read



Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) is a statewide program designed to encourage a love of reading in children. The program encourages parents to spend at least fifteen minutes each day reading with their child. This year, the two week program started March 3 and continued until March 14, 2014.

Huth Road was excited to host an author visit during PARP. Award winning author and storyteller, James Bruchac, visited Huth Road on March 11. He has written several books with his father, Joseph Bruchac. Their traditional Native American tales use animals and nature to teach valuable life lessons. James Bruchac also teaches wilderness survival classes and wrote several animal tracking guides. His work accompanies our theme: "Track down a book and read!"

PARP celebrates the importance of reading in our everyday lives. Our children are never too old to have a book read to them. PARP gives us a chance to do that. So track down a book and take turns reading to each other. You'll learn what books your child likes and rediscover the fun of reading together.

Skateboard Science

On Tuesday, January 14, the Huth Road Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Enrichment Committee sponsored Skateboard Science. The whole school participated in this fun, high energy science program. The presenters, Shane and Evan, explained the science behind safety equipment. Students first learned about the center of mass and its importance in balancing, and then Evan demonstrated how these ideas come together by performing skateboarding tricks for the students. The Skateboard Science team made physics concepts, like inertia, easy to see and understand. Students especially liked the final trick where Evan used a ramp to jump over Shane and Principal Kerri Nowak.



Huth Road Well Represented at All-County Festival

On Saturday, January 11, selected students from the Huth Road Elementary School band and orchestra participated in the Erie County Music Educator's Associations Elementary All County Festival.

Over 1200 students from across Erie County in grades four through six played a solo for an adjudicator and were given a score reflecting the student's ability. Students with the highest scores on their instrument are then invited to participate in an honor's ensemble comprised of the 'best of the best' from across Erie County. This ensemble will rehearse and perform a concert at the prestigious Kleinhahn's Music Hall.

Huth Road will be represented by seven students in the All County Band (an all-time high number of selected students). These fifth-grade students and their instruments are:

Haley Coombs - flute
Mark Ramsperger - clarinet
Joseph Seifert - trumpet
Ryan Pinzel - trumpet
Aaron Szczepankiewicz - trumpet
Lucas Seifert - baritone
Brook Eichel - percussion

Congratulations to these fine young musicians!





Author Visit

Kaegebein had the privilege of hosting James Bruchac for our 2014 author visit on March 10. Bruchac is an award winning author who has collaborated with his father, Joseph Bruchac, to write several traditional tales for children. He enjoys incorporating nature and his Native American heritage into his stories which make his storytelling come to life. Bruchac shared with the students his lifelong love of nature and wildlife. Students loved hearing several of his stories performed live, including "How Chipmunk Got His Stripes" and "When the Chenoo Howls." Bruchac also shared stories of his own expeditions through nature.



James Bruchac shared with the students his lifelong love of nature and wildlife.

Chorus Performs at Relay for Life Kick Off Meeting

On February 26, the Kaegebein Third Grade Chorus performed, "The Star Spangled Banner" and "I Wish" during the flag ceremony and opening of the Grand Island Relay for Life kick off meeting. Grand Island is gearing up for their 12th annual Relay for Life campaign. As the American Cancer Society's largest fundraising campaign, Relay for Life raises money for cancer research, prevention and awareness. Adopting a Rock-Out Cancer theme this year, organizers of this high-energy community event are gearing up for what they hope to be a superb year. On May 31, Relay for Life of Grand Island will again be held at Veterans Park with a new starting time of 2 p.m., running until 2 a.m. June 1.



Unlock the Magic

On Friday, February 28th, Mrs. Ackendorf's third-grade class and Mrs. McDonald's fourth-grade class reinforced how to build good character by performing an original play written by Tricia McDonald. The play entitled, "Unlock the Magic" showed students that by using the magic words, following The Golden Rule, and working together, anything can be accomplished.



Healthy Heart Night

In March, the Kaegebein PTA hosted Healthy Heart Night. The yearly event promotes an active and healthy lifestyle by showing students that eating healthy and exercising can be fun. Zumba and Musical Veggies were among the many activities that got the kids active while breakfast bingo and a coloring station provided a good learning experience about healthy foods. Heart healthy snacks such as trail mix and milk were distributed to students attending the event. This was a fun night for the whole family.





March is Youth Art Month



The work of 39 Veronica E. Connor Middle School eighth-grade students was on display throughout the month of March at the Grand Island Public Library. The show featured the talents of middle school students; highlighting the learning taking place through the visual arts at the school. Work in a wide variety of visual media illustrated the ways in which students use art as a language, reacting and engaging with the world around them. Pastel paintings, pen and ink, graphite and watercolor paintings were among those pieces featured.

The display is an annual undertaking for students at VCMS, in honor of Youth Art Month. The annual observance began nationwide in 1961 as a collaborative effort between the Art and Craft Materials Institute, the National Art Education Association and the Council for Art Education in order to emphasize and make known the value of art education for all students and to support quality art programs within the nation's schools. Students at VCMS joined thousands of other students across the U.S. in participating in activities to mark the occasion. Among its many goals,

Youth Art Month seeks to direct attention to the value of art education as an important component of the total student experience and educational curricula within schools. Recognizing that art education fosters understanding which helps develop citizens of a global society, Youth Art Month seeks to make communities aware of the divergent and critical thinking skills inherent in art-based learning.

Artist of the Month

Cameron Blair, Veronica Connor Middle School eighth-grader, has been selected as the K-12 Artist of the Month for February 2014. Cameron is pictured with two of his most recent works of art. He is a strong and meticulous art student who displays an exceptional eye for detail and is very creative. Cameron thoughtfully engages each project and displays an ability to think outside the box. He is always eager to experiment with new techniques and media and displays success in all he attempts. One of his pieces has been selected for the Youth Art Month display at the Grand Island Public Library.

Cameron's interest in design extends beyond the art room. He displays an interest in technology and would one day like to combine his art and technology interests by pursuing a career that allows him to draw and create new concept cars. He is a well-rounded student who excels academically as well.

The art department of the Grand Island Schools is proud to recognize this student's exceptional artistic achievements and unique creative voice by honoring him with this special designation.



Sign Up for the Parent Portal

In an effort to be more timely and cost effective, VCMS will no longer mail home paper copies of students' report card grades beginning with the 35-week Supplemental Report (mid fourth quarter). Instead, parents can access their child's academic progress via our Parent Portal. If you are not signed up for the Parent Portal, please do so ASAP using the following website: www.k12.ginet.org/departments.cfm?subpage=14884 or you can stop by the VCMS Student Services office to get your account.

The Parent Portal gives you 24 hour access to your child's grades and attendance anywhere you can connect to the internet. For those families that do not have a computer or internet access, we will print a report card upon request.

Kids Escaping Drugs Summit



Veronica E. Connor Middle School students and faculty attended the Kids Escaping Drugs Summit on March 4. This event is designed to bring members of the school community together to share proactive ideas on dealing with adolescent substance abuse. Speakers from law enforcement and the medical field shared current trends and concerns. Students and school administration worked together to come up with ways to promote positive behavior within the school community.



Two High School Students Receive High Honors

Two Grand Island High School seniors have been chosen for Business First's 2014 All-Western New York Academic Team. Emma MacIntyre was named to the Second Team and Kristina Kasprzycki received a Special Mention.



The Academic Team program is designed to spotlight students who pursue excellence both in and out of the classroom. The eight member selection committee chose this year's winners based on their records of academic achievement, school leadership and community involvement. Those named to the list often are valedictorians or salutatorians, have taken advanced classes, scored highly on regents exams and are considered leaders.



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Thank you for your continued support!

You're Hired!

Students from Grand Island High School came out to Byblos Niagara on February 13 with resumes in hand waiting to hear those very words: "You're Hired!"

Over 30 educators, business, and community members were there to help make it a reality. The business department, in conjunction with GISBA, sponsor the Job Search Seminar every year to assist students with the interview process. This year, parents of Grand Island students and local business members, Fahim Mojawalla, Ilia Beecher, and Whitney Bower were on hand to present seminars on job interview techniques.

Mrs. Cheryl Chamberlain, business teacher and coordinator of the event was delighted to see her former students serve as interviewers. Former students included Erin McKenna Durante from KeyBank/Junior Achievement, Savanna Kustra from Victorinox, Joe Menter from the Town Recreation Department and Anthony Massaro, owner of RigaTony's. "It is wonderful to see these former Grand Island graduates doing well and helping current students improve their career skills," said Chamberlain. Job Search provides students with authentic interview experience and some businesses attend with the intent to hire students. For more information on Job Search and other business-oriented events, contact 773-8820.



Anthony Massaro and Julia Kelly participated in this year's Job Search.

16th Annual GISBA Corporate Bowl

Congratulations to this year's Corporate Bowl winners!

In 4th place with 15 points, earning Movie passes, and Swag Bags from Casey's Corner is Dud Dynasty - Sara Cichon, Eric Dudley, Alex Garey, and Kurt Laschinger.

In 3rd place with 50 points, earning 400 scholarship dollars (that's \$100 a piece) is The BrickLayers - Nick Young, Ben Goc, Michael Paternostro, and Brentyn Mendel.

In 2nd Place with 70 points, earning 800 scholarship dollars (\$200 a piece) is Kobayashi Maru - Pushpinder Singh, Devlin McMaster, Ryan Marlin, and Andrew Colautto.

In 1st Place with a whopping 225 points, earning 16-hundred scholarship dollars (\$400 a piece), and taking the title of 2014 GISBA Corporate Bowl Champions are The Gortonators - Shamus Johnson, Maggi Chauby, Kristina Kasprzycki, and Kamra Phillips.



DECA Club Succeeds at States

The Grand Island High School DECA Club sent 47 qualifiers to the New York State Conference in Rochester on March 5 - 7. DECA, an association of marketing and management students, is growing all over NYS and America with over 200,000 members. The importance of being college and career ready is what this club is all about and our students learned this first hand in Rochester where they competed with 2,000 other DECA students from across New York State.



Competition areas included marketing, accounting, business law, radio broadcasting, and job interview. Students were given case studies and a short period of time to brainstorm ideas before presenting to a judge from that area of business. Judges then rated students based on their answers to those questions with a rubric of specific performance indicators. Many students took tests on-line in the areas of management, marketing, and finance and were awarded medals for their efforts.

Grand Island students also competed in state only events. Jacob Athoe, Natalie Baldassarre, Katherine Fonte, Sabrina Mistriner and Catie Merletti took home trophies while others medaled in the top ten in the state events. Christopher Swagler, Nancy Dahlquist, and Ashley Franz qualified to compete in the national events that will take place in Atlanta, Georgia with students from all over the world. Countless other medals were awarded to students in many different events and Grand Island took top honors for increasing membership over 15% again this year with 140 members currently at VCMS and GIHS.

Cheryl Chamberlain, advisor and co-president of Region 12 DECA in WNY was proud of the students and could not have made this possible without the help of Christopher Simpson, MaryJane Fonte, and Eric Cohoon who also attended this worthwhile trip. This is Chamberlain's tenth year attending the NY DECA State Conference where over 300 Grand Island students have benefited from their attendance since 2005.

Musical Mastery

Carly Beth Hand, a junior at Grand Island High School, was selected as one of two winners of the 2013 Denton, Cottier & Daniels-Buffalo Music Hall of Fame Essay Contest. In October, she attended the formal presentation of the scholarship award at the 31st Annual Buffalo Music Hall of Fame Induction Gala that was held at the Tralf Hall of Music in Buffalo. Carly has been composing her own original contemporary piano music, and applied the \$750 award toward completing a CD she is making called, Taking Flight. The CD is expected to be released some time in 2014.



The Apple Doesn't Fall Far



The familiar saying, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" is true for Grand Island High School's Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teacher, Kari Nowak.

On January 14, Fran Nowak, mother of Kari Nowak and retired FACS teacher at Pembroke Jr./Sr. High School, was a guest presenter in her daughter's food & nutrition classes. She demonstrated how to cut up a whole chicken into

eight pieces, and talked about price comparison if you were to purchase these pieces separately from the butcher. She then demonstrated how to debone and skin the chicken to be used as part of the filling for homemade mini chicken pot pies. The students were able to sample the recipe at the conclusion of the lesson and were excited to try this recipe at home.

U.S. Border Patrol Agents Speak on Illegal Immigration



On February 3, agents Eduardo Payan and Matt Densmore gave students of Mr. Winger's Niagara University Spanish 103 class the opportunity to get first-hand information about the nation's struggle to deal with a myriad of issues regarding illegal immigration. Both officers have extensive experience working along the U.S./Mexico border. The Q & A format gave students invaluable insights and will enable them to amplify their debates and position papers on the issue. For all students, the need to learn Spanish well was clear and interest was raised in the many career-related positions in this field.

Grand Island is grateful to officers Payan and Densmore for both their service to this nation's border security and for their generosity in spending time with our students!



Grand Island

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Rock-Out Cancer: 12th Annual Relay for Life

With spring right around the corner, Grand Island is gearing up for the 12th annual Relay for Life campaign. As the American Cancer Society's largest fundraising campaign, Relay for Life raises money for cancer research, prevention and awareness. Adopting a Rock-Out Cancer theme this year, organizers of this high-energy community event are gearing up for what they hope to be a superb year.

On May 31, Relay for Life of Grand Island will again be held at Veterans Park with a new starting time of 2 p.m., running until 2 a.m. June 1. Participants will spend the evening and overnight walking a designated loop to wipe out cancer, a disease that never sleeps. Teams will take turns having a teammate walking the track, so one member is walking on the track throughout the day and night. There are many games, competitions, music and food with a festive atmosphere to celebrate the battle survivors have overcome to defeat cancer. It is also a time for remembrance for those that lost their battle.

This year's Honorary Survivor is excited and eager to make a difference. At three-years-old, Island native Casey Dahlstrom began his battle with leukemia. He fought for years and won! Rather than run from his experience, he embraces his battle.

Now 25-years-old, Dahlstrom wants to inspire the people around him with his story and rid the world of cancer. "I've never asked for sympathy. What I'm seeking is an understanding of what it's like to battle through cancer," says Dahlstrom. "It's a battle that will take years to get back to normal. Cancer doesn't just affect you, the patient. It affects your family, your friends, your co-workers and your whole community."

Since Relay for Life began on Grand Island 12 years ago, the support from the community has grown tremendously. More and more teams raise more and more money, and businesses contribute what they can to ensure that Grand Island won't let cancer win.

Individuals and teams have already begun planning their fundraisers but it is NOT too late to join in the effort. We need your help today. You can sign up at www.relayforlife.org/grandislandny to register for the walk, make a donation, or find out more information. Everyone from all walks of life that are determined to rid this world of this disease, are encouraged to support this giant drive so that nobody ever has to hear the terrifying words "you have cancer." Together, we can Rock-Out Cancer once and for all!



What's Happening in the Community?

Check out our new webpage!

Grand Island Central School District recognizes that our school community and the community at large are closely interconnected. To assist with communicating local events, a webpage has been dedicated to posting promotional fliers that may have previously been sent home with our students. This webpage can be found by visiting www.k12.ginet.org – District – Community Information.

If you are interested in posting your community event information, please visit the webpage above and follow the directions provided.

Summer Community Education Notice

The Grand Island Community Education Program is pleased to be able to offer the Summer Enrichment Program for the summer of 2014. A complete schedule of the classes will be distributed in the beginning of May and will include summer sports camp, archery, strength and conditioning, SAT prep classes, and many more. Given the extensive nature of the Capital Project, adjustments may need to be made with scheduling and facilities. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience or disruption this may cause and thank you for your understanding during this construction project.