

The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

www.k12.ginet.org

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

Emergency Closings Due to Weather Conditions

As a matter of policy, schools will remain open whenever possible. However, when school must be closed because of weather conditions, or other situations endangering the health or safety of our students, announcements will be made over local media stations.

We always strive to make this decision in a timely manner so that our families can make alternate arrangements, if needed. The following is a list of the local media stations contacted by the school district office. Please consult your local stations for information regarding school closings.

Additionally, the District will send out a recorded message on the Rapid Response Call System. If you have not received a call from this system during a school closing, it may be that we do not have current contact information.



Please review the information provided to the school on a regular basis and send in a signed note with any changes, corrections, or additions.

WBEN - 930 AM	WGR - 550 AM
WNED - 970 AM	WHLN - 1270 AM
WLVL - 1340 AM	WECK - 1230 AM
WUFO - 1080 AM	WBLK - 93.7 FM
WJYE - 96.1 FM	WYRK - 106.5 FM
KISS - 98.5 FM	WBUF - 92.9 FM
WHTT - 104 FM	WNSA - 107.7 FM
WGRZ - Ch 2	WIVB - Ch 4
WKBW - Ch 7	YNN

If no announcement is made between 6 and 9 a.m., it is assumed that school will be open as usual.

Eco Island Ecology Reserve

A unique place to learn about nature

Eco Island is home to native wildlife and vegetation. Devoted to learning, the nature center welcomes Grand Island students to its indoor and outdoor classrooms throughout the school year. "We are fortunate to have such a unique facility, unlike any other in Western New York," states Dianne Tiede, coordinator of Eco Island. "The nature center is exclusive to Grand Island students. Last school year 1843 students and 82 field trips visited Eco Island."

Eco Island, originally a military base, was donated to the school district in the early 1970's. Tiede, a retired Grand Island teacher, has been running Eco Island since 1990. What began as a bare room and empty grounds situated on Staley Road, has transformed into a one-of-a-kind, hands-on learning environment - a result of various grants, Eagle Scout projects and generous donations provided by the Grand Island community. The 49 acres consist of a pond, pavilion, butterfly garden and an indoor facility divided into various settings including the Reptile Room, Pond Room, Invertebrate Room, Mammals Room, Geology & Trees Room, as well as the Main Room. The murals and works of art adorning the walls were created by former Grand Island graduates, teachers and community members. Many of the displays throughout the grounds and classrooms were also built by the talented Grand Island Central School District Building and Grounds Department.



Dianne Tiede assists a student with a project during a lesson on animal tracks.



Students participate in an interactive presentation about Island reptiles.

Teachers can schedule class time at Eco Island but first must be trained before using the facility. Teaching kits designed to meet the curriculum needs of particular grade levels are available for teachers to use during their visit. Whether they choose to bring students on their own, or if they schedule a class with participation from Tiede, teachers use class time at Eco Island to enrich what students are learning in their own classroom.

Packed with interactive displays, there is a lesson to be learned around every corner and under every rock (literally) at Eco Island - truly a unique place to learn about nature.

Trustee Appointed

The Grand Island Board of Education recently appointed Susan J. Marston to fill the vacant seat until the May 2014 election. Please consider attending the next BOE meeting on January 13 to welcome Sue.



Teachers Collaborate to Build a Strong Foundation

"The teachers of Grand Island Central School District have been working diligently to ensure that our curriculum and program help our students build a strong foundation of skills and abilities. We are collaborating across the district with grade levels and departments to embed the Common Core Learning Standards within our curriculum."

Karen Cuddy-Miller
Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum and Instruction



Message From Your BOE President

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope that everyone enjoyed a great holiday season. As we begin the new year, we look forward to building on the success of our school district.

Our school district is thankful for the many things that enhance our community.

The capital project is well underway with the visible addition of the Technology wing at the front of the Grand Island High School. This, along with many other improvements, is running on schedule and according to plan. Major work to the athletic complex is also underway and work in the auditorium will begin soon. Our students should be commended for taking the construction in stride, as our construction is progressing with minimal impact to daily operations.

Our district is also the recipient of many volunteers and an active PTA. These groups help to support and enhance student life and speak volumes towards the community involvement in shaping our future residents.

The faculty and staff continue to perform with exceptional professionalism and care. We welcome back Dan Quartley, our High School principal, who has made a remarkable recovery over the past few months.

The students of our district continue to demonstrate high academic standards, but also value the importance of being well rounded citizens and leaders. Their participation in music, arts, sports and clubs continues to grow and elevates Grand Island schools as a leader in the WNY area. It is clear that our student volunteerism promises to graduate future leaders that will be positive contributors to their communities.

Finally, the Grand Island District family lost a treasured member with the passing of Ms. Joan Droit. Most recently, Ms. Droit served as a Board of Education Trustee; however, her years of service spanned several decades. Her contributions are voluminous as she served in numerous roles throughout her academic, administrative and Board roles. Ms. Droit will be remembered as a consummate advocate for the children. Ms. Droit was also joined by other long time members of the Grand Island Central School District family who have passed recently, and they will all be dearly missed.

I encourage everyone to attend a Board meeting, or otherwise become an engaged member of the Grand Island Central School District community.

Sincerely,

Tak Nobumoto
President, Grand Island Board of Education



Art Students Display Work At NYSSBA

Grand Island art students Angelica Garcia, Jennalise Olson and Dakota Wolf were selected to have their artworks displayed at the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) sponsored art exhibit held at the New York State School Boards Association conference in Rochester this past October. The exhibit shares the work of exemplary student artists from across New York State with members of local school boards at their annual conference.

Representing the Grand Island Central School District at the event were expressive pencil drawings created by the student artists. All three students created their self-portraits while eighth-grade students last spring in their Studio In Art class at Veronica E. Connor Middle School. Using the visual arts as a vehicle for communication, each piece clearly communicates a sense of identity and self. Their realistic portraits simultaneously depict what they look like and convey aspects of each student's individual personality. While creating their beautiful portraits, students met several New York State Standards for the Visual Arts as well as Common Core Learning Standards.

A reception for artists and their families was held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 in the Empire Lounge in the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.



Jennalise Olson stands beside her self-portrait on display.



Message From Your Superintendent



This first half of the year has had everyone involved in the progressive educational reform effort Race to the Top (RTTT). For every student, the learning is more rigorous and the expectation on performance is greater than ever before.

Working together,

teachers, instructional coaches and administrators remain committed to the process of aligning our curriculum to the Common Core Learning Standards and the ongoing analysis of student performance results to inform instructional practices. Our goal is to prepare the best college, career and citizenship ready Grand Island graduates possible.

Having safe and up-to-date school facilities is an important part of our overall educational program. As a follow up to the district-wide emergency call conducted in October, a second test of our emergency call system will take place in each school this spring. We will notify parents/guardians through a direct mailing and in our e-news announcements. If you are interested in receiving emergency notifications via text

message, please send an email to karenfisher@k12.ginet.org with your child/childrens' names, the school they attend, your name, and cell phone number(s) to which you would like the text messages sent. Please note that text messaging rates will apply.

If you have driven down Ransom Road you can see our capital project is well underway. New learning spaces in support of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are under construction and updates to our shared auditorium and sports complex will be underway in the spring. Phase II of the capital project that involves renovations and improvements to our elementary schools begin as early as February 2014.

At this time, our administrative team and Board of Education are actively engaged in the development of the budget for the 2014/15 school year. The budget development process is driven by the Board's desire to offer the highest quality program while being fiscally responsible to the community. You are encouraged to attend the three public budget input sessions scheduled for January 27, February 24 and March 24. The Board will officially adopt the 2014/15 school budget at their April 22 meeting and the public vote will occur on May 20, 2014.

By the time this newsletter goes to print I will have celebrated the six-month mark as your Superintendent of Schools. This is a community that values education and cares about developing well rounded citizens. It remains an honor to work with the faculty and staff in support of realizing this mission.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call or email me directly. You can also follow me @drtlawrence on Twitter for information on our schools and educational initiatives.

On behalf of the Board of Education, administration, and staff, my best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

PTA Council

Hello Grand Island Parents, Caregivers, Students and Community. My name is Lisa Fabiano and I am the current president of the PTA Council. What is PTA Council you ask?

As you know, Grand Island Central School District has five schools and each school has its own independent PTA Board. In order to help maintain continuity within the District, each PTA Board has up to two members that serve as "PTA Council representatives." Therefore, the PTA Council consists of up to 10 PTA representatives from across the entire school district, plus the PTA presidents, the building principals and the district superintendent. Our role is to meet several times throughout the year and discuss issues that apply to each school (example: sharing information about fundraisers, sportswear sales, etc). PTA Council is a great way to keep all our GI schools up-to-date on what is happening in other schools and with sharing information.

Our goal for this year is "better communication" between PTA and you! We will begin here with this small article. Consider this, my son was awarded a "Character" award in school last week and he forgot to tell me about it. Luckily I was at the PTA meeting that week where his name was announced! I would have never known if I didn't go to the meeting. You will find out about programs, speakers, demonstrations and assemblies that your children are experiencing in school, as well as events that are happening during or after school. Meetings last about 1-1 1/2 hours but I promise you, by attending, you will learn something new and feel more connected to your child's educational experience.

You will find a link to each Island school PTA on the Grand Island School District website. Go to your individual school and look down the left side of the screen for "PTA." You will find the meeting dates - check it out and write the next one down on your calendar now! We really hope to see you there!

Please feel free to contact me ANY time if you have questions or concerns. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fabiano, PTA Council President
lisafabs@roadrunner.com

Get Involved - Join Your PTA!

PTA Council Officers:

President

Lisa Fabiano (lisafabs@roadrunner.com)
Veronica E. Connor Middle School

Vice President

Nancy Major (nlmajor@roadrunner.com)
Grand Island High School

Treasurer

Christie Lesser (nhristielesser@yahoo.com)
Sidway Elementary School

Recording Secretary

Sandy Cohen (sandy.r.cohen@gmail.com)
Huth Road Elementary School

Corresponding Secretary

Kathy Chadwick
(katherinechadwick@k12.ginet.org)
Kaegebein Elementary School

Additional School Representatives:

TBD

Sidway Elementary School

Betsy Cali (bcali75@gmail.com)

Kaegebein Elementary School

Mary Minton (meminton13@yahoo.com)

Huth Road Elementary School

Tracey Schaefer (traceyschaefer77@yahoo.com)

Huth Road Elementary School

Kim Yung (kkernin@yahoo.com)

Veronica E. Connor Middle School

Maura Rustowicz (macorust@roadrunner.com)

Veronica E. Connor Middle School

Ann Bobeck (agbobeck@aol.com)

Grand Island High School

Theresa Winder (theresa@1stflash.com)

Grand Island High School

New Elementary Report Cards

With the 2010 adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) for Pre-Kindergarten through commencement, the Grand Island Central School District has been engaging in a comprehensive revision of our programming and reporting documents. Our goal is two-fold: To best ensure the preparedness of our students for the rigorous expectations; and, that our communications between and among school professionals, parents, and New York State are aligned with these standards. One of our more recent endeavors was the review of the Grand Island Elementary Report Card.

Some of the changes include:

- A common report card format for the Pre-K through Grade 5 levels
- A transition to a standards-based reporting system
- A move to quarterly report cards (four times per year) rather than trimester reports
- Use of achievement expectations aligned with NYS expectations of "approaching/meeting" CCLS Standards
- The inclusion of Indications of Successful Learner Characteristics

In recognition that the intention of the District's report card is to convey to parents and guardians how well our students are meeting the learning standards as established by New York State, our report card has moved to thoughtfully reflect this change. This means change, and it is important to understand what some of these changes mean.

The most significant of these changes is to realize that a "level 3 – Meeting the Standards" is a GREAT accomplishment for our students. The transition to the Common Core Learning Standards has been a movement toward increased rigor and significant demands of literacy (reading and writing) across all content areas. For most of our students, the foundation of their education was built upon the 2005 NYS Learning Standards. Bridging the learning and application, old to new, means many of our students have to first acquire to the foundations skills that the CCLS requires all students have mastered, and then BUILD upon them.

Likewise, we understand that many of our students may struggle to meet the current grade level standards. It is important to recognize that if a student's performance level indicates a level 1 or level 2, that this is a measure of his/her progress against the CCL

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Vikings For Vets 5K

The 2nd Annual Vikings for Vets 5K race was held on November 9 at Veterans Park. The Grand Island High School Student Advisory Council and Student Council worked together to hold this fundraiser for WNY Heroes, a Veterans organization that provides services to local veterans' families.

It was a chilly morning yet over 200 runners participated in the race through Veterans Park and the adjoining Bike Path. In less than 17 minutes the first runners were closing in on the finish line with Sean Squire leading the pack. The first woman to cross the finish line was Allison Carr. In the high school division, the 1st place boy was Kevin Minton with Emma MacIntyre winning the girls division.

Day of Caring

In August 2013, employees from the Grand Island Central School District joined the Western New York community during the United Way's annual Day of Caring. This year, GICSD employees helped with mulching, weeding, power washing and washing windows at Heritage Christian Services located on Stony Point Road.



Employees who volunteered for the Day of Caring from left to right are Daneen Gallagher, Mary Jane Fonte, Suzanne Pfleger, Lynn Ziehm, Carley Antonelli, and Jude Kuehne.

Heir of the King

Mary Howard, a sixth-grade ELA and social studies teacher at Veronica E. Connor Middle School participated in a professional development session about virtual environments. During this hands-on training session in October, Andrew Wheelock, a professional developer with Technology Services at Erie 1 BOCES, discusses the virtual world's features.

The virtual world project, titled Heir of the King, is funded by the NYSED Technology and Learning Grant. It is designed to enhance the learning of students in grades 6-10. The project is interdisciplinary and integrates the ELA Common Core Standards as well as digital web 2.0 tools into the virtual learning experience. Using this virtual world, students will work to solve a Medieval mystery and journal their immersive experiences. While the project utilizes historical elements, the main focus is to encourage problem solving, writing, digital storytelling and collaboration.





Students Complete Online Assessments Using STAR



This past September, Grand Island Central School District students in grades Kindergarten through 5 moved to a new Response to Intervention (RtI) screening tool. This tool, commonly referred to as STAR Assessments, replaces our previous use of AIMSWeb Assessments.

We are excited that the use of the STAR Assessments can offer much to our students and teachers. In addition to giving our teachers current data related to each student's academic progress, this assessment venue offers the unique benefit of being a computer-adaptive test (CAT). Computer-adaptive tests continually

adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. CATs save testing time and spare students the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.

While STAR has many uses and benefits for our students, it is also paving the way for our District as we prepare for new online state assessments that will soon be required by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). These STAR assessments give students time to build both comfort and familiarity with this type of activity.

New Elementary Report Cards continued...

standards. This does not represent "failure." Additionally, for our students who also have concurrent Individualized Education Plans, (students identified with special education needs), the IEP Progress Reports provide direct indication of how a student with an IEP is achieving against goals specifically written to meet his/her needs. Our teachers are mandated to teach grade level specific CCLS. In doing so, a solid student who is being presented with and assessed on the grade level standards, and ONLY the grade level standards, will demonstrate an achievement at a level 3. An important shift to understand is that a student who does well numerically (percentage grades of high 90's or frequent 100's) is demonstrating that they are fully working at grade level, they are not necessarily working beyond the grade level.

It is also important that we recognize that if a GICSD student report card performance indicates that they are consistently achieving at a "level 4 – exceeding the standards," we would expect this child to achieve at these same levels on the New York State English language arts or mathematics assessments. While we did not build the report cards around the NYS assessments, we did build these around the Common Core Learning Standards. The assessments help to provide us feedback on the accuracy of our curriculum and reporting of achievement levels.

Additionally, we recognize that the expectation for achievement grows as we move through the school year. The expectations of a second-grader in September are very different from that same second-grader in January, March, or June. As our children grow and develop, so do our expectations of them. This reflects our partnership and commitment to helping our students grow.

Welcome to GI!



Robin Kwiatek (left) will be serving as Director of Instructional Technology for Grand Island Central School District. Robin has previously served as a teacher, technology integrator, program coordinator, chief information officer and IT director. Needless to say, Robin comes with great technical competencies, systems knowledge, training experience and a macro level perspective.

Anne Rich (right) will now be serving as the District's School Lunch Manager. Anne is a graduate from Niagara University and previously managed cafeterias in the Buffalo schools for the past 22 years. Please welcome Robin and Anne to our schools!

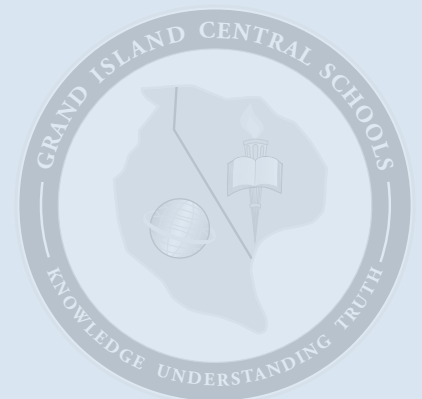


Chinese Teachers Tour GI Schools

Four Chinese English language arts (ELA) teachers toured the Western New York region for several months as part of an exchange program. The teachers visited Grand Island in November to spend time in each of the schools. They were interested in learning about our U.S. school system through first-hand observations and by meeting with teachers, counselors, school psychologists, building administrators and district office administration. The teachers spoke to some classrooms about China's history, education system, and culture and they held mini lessons for the younger students that included counting, singing, and character drawings.



The Chinese teachers and representatives from Grand Island Central School District's administration gathered at a luncheon to compare and contrast the educational systems in China and the United States.





Winter 2013-14 Athletic Schedule

2013 Fall Viking Highlights

Team Highlights

Boys Soccer: (13-1 league) (15-4 Overall) 1st place in NFL

NFL Championship

Football: (4-1) (7-2) 2nd place in Class A North

Girls Soccer: (10-1-3 league) (14-3-2) 2nd place in NFL

Boys Volleyball: (10-2 league) (12-6) 2nd place in NFL

Boys Cross Country: (5-2) (11-3 league) 2nd place in NFL

Girls Volleyball (6-8 league) 5th place in NFL

Girls Cross Country (6-8 league) 5th place in NFL

Girls Tennis ((7-7) league) 5th place in NFL

Golf (9-12 league) 4th place in NFL

Football was #2 in the Federation

Girls Swim (5-9 league) 6th place in NFL

All 10 Teams qualified for NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award!

GIRLS BASKETBALL

12/02	Maryvale (JV only)	5:00 pm
12/03	@ Daeman (Sacred Hrt)	8:00 pm
12/05	@ Wilson	5:00 pm
12/10	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
12/13	Lockport	5:00 pm
12/17	@ LewPort	5:30 pm
12/19	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/03	Starpoint (NL)	5:00 pm
01/07	@ KenEast	5:30 pm
01/10	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/14	@ N. Tonawanda	5:30 pm
01/17	KenWest	5:00 pm
01/21	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
01/24	LewPort	5:00 pm
01/29	Tonawanda (NL)	5:00 pm
01/31	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
02/04	KenEast	5:00 pm
02/07	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
02/12	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm

BOYS BASKETBALL

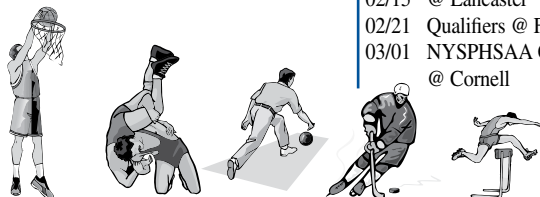
12/03	Starpoint (NL)	5:00 pm
02/07	@ NF Invite (vs NC)	4:30 pm
12/10	KenWest	5:00 pm
12/13	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
12/17	LewPort	5:00 pm
12/20	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/07	KenEast	5:00 pm
01/10	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/14	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
01/17	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
01/21	Lockport	5:00 pm
01/24	@ LewPort	5:30 pm
01/27	Tapestry (NL)	5:00 pm
01/28	Burgard (NL)	5:00 pm
01/31	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
02/04	@ KenEast	5:30 pm
02/07	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
02/10	Maritime Charter (JV)	5:00 pm
02/12	@ N. Tonawanda	5:30 pm

BOYS SWIMMING

11/27	KenWest	5:00 pm
11/30	@ LewPort	5:00 pm
12/04	Niagara Wheatfield	5:00 pm
12/07	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
12/11	KenEast	5:00 pm
12/14	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
12/18	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
12/21	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
01/04	LewPort	5:00 pm
01/08	@ Niagara Wheatfield	5:00 pm
01/11	Lockport	5:00 pm
01/15	@ KenEast	5:00 pm
01/18	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/25	@ N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
01/31	JV Meet @ Lockport	TBA
02/1-2	NFL Meet @ GI	TBA
02/8-9	Class Tourn @ Maryvale	TBA
02/22	Sectional Diving @ Maryvale	TBA
02/23	Sectionals @ Clarence	TBA

WRESTLING

11/22	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
11/26	LewPort	5:00 pm
12/03	@ Niagara Wheatfield	5:00 pm
12/06	Lockport	5:00 pm
12/10	@ KenEast	5:00 pm
12/13	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
12/17	@ N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
12/20	KenWest	5:00 pm
01/07	@ LewPort	5:00 pm
01/10	Niagara Wheatfield	5:00 pm
01/14	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
01/16	KenEast	5:00 pm
01/21	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/24	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
01/30	JV Meet @ Niagara Falls	TBA
01/31-2/1	NFL Meet @ Lockport	TBA



BOWLING

11/26	NFL KickOff (Island Ln)	4:00 pm
12/02	@ Maryvale (Airport Ln)	3:30 pm
12/03	KenWest	4:00 pm
12/05	@ Niag. Falls (BowlODrome)	4:00 pm
12/10	@ N.Ton (Ton Bowl Center)	4:00 pm
12/12	KenEast	4:00 pm
12/17	Lockport	4:00 pm
12/19	@ LewPort (Rapids)	4:00 pm
12/30	Festival of Lights Tourn	9:30 am
01/07	Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
01/09	@ KenWest (Manor Ln)	4:00 pm
01/14	Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
01/16	N. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
01/21	@ KenEast (Ton Bowl Center)	4:00 pm
01/23	@ Lockport (Brad Angelo Ln)	4:00 pm
01/30	NFL Indi. (Brad Angelo Ln)	1:00 pm
02/01	Roy Sommer Tourn (Thruway Ln)	9:00 am
02/04	LewPort	4:00 pm
02/06	@ Niagara Wheat (Rapids)	4:00 pm
02/13	Boys Sect. (Thruway Ln)	9:00 am
02/14	Girls Secti. (Thruway Ln)	9:00 am

ICE HOCKEY

11/22-24	Salmon River Tourn	TBA
12/05	@ Will South (N. towns OR)	7:00 pm
12/08	Hamburg (Buff State)	2:30 pm
12/14	@ KenEast (N. towns OR)	3:00 pm
12/16	Sweet Home (Hyde Park)	8:45 pm
12/20	@ W Seneca E. (W. Seneca)	9:00 pm
12/23	@ W Seneca W. (Hyde Park)	6:45 pm
12/27	Niagara Falls (Hyde Park)	9:30 pm
12/28	Hilton (Hyde Park)	1:00 pm
12/30	Will East (Hyde Park)	6:45 pm
01/02	W Seneca E. (Hyde Park)	5:00 pm
01/04	Lockport (Niagara Main)	9:00 pm
01/06	@ KenWest (Hyde Park)	6:45 pm
01/09	@ Will East (N. towns OR)	9:00 pm
01/11	@ Hamburg (Riverside)	2:30 pm
01/18	@ Sweet Home (N. towns FR)	3:00 pm
01/20	Will South (N. towns #2)	8:30 pm
01/23	KenEast (Hyde Park)	5:00 pm
02/08	W Seneca W (N. towns FR)	3:00 pm

INDOOR TRACK

12/07	@ Lancaster	8:00 am
12/14	@ Lancaster	8:00 am
12/21	@ Fredonia	9:00 am
12/28	@ Fredonia (WNY Relays)	9:00 am
01/04	@ Fredonia	2:00 pm
01/10	@ Buff State	4:30 pm
01/11	@ Fredonia (9/10 Champ)	9:00 am
01/17	@ Lancaster	5:00 pm
01/20	@ Fredonia	9:00 am
01/24	@ Lancaster	5:00 pm
02/08	Sec VI Champ @ Fredonia	9:00 am
02/15	@ Lancaster	9:00 am
02/21	Qualifiers @ Fredonia	9:00 am
03/01	NYSPHSAA Champ @ Cornell	TBA

GIRLS MODIFIED BASKETBALL

01/07	LaSalle	4:30 pm
01/09	Hoover	4:30 pm
01/14	@ CSAT	4:30 pm
01/16	Franklin	4:30 pm
01/21	@ N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
01/23	N. Park	4:30 pm
01/28	@ Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
01/30	@ Gaskill	4:30 pm
02/03	LewPort	4:30 pm
02/05	@ LaSalle	4:30 pm
02/07	@ Hoover	4:30 pm
02/11	CSAT	4:30 pm
02/13	@ Franklin	4:30 pm

BOYS MODIFIED BASKETBALL

01/07	@ LaSalle	4:30 pm
01/09	@ Hoover	4:30 pm
01/14	CSAT	4:30 pm
01/16	@ Franklin	4:30 pm
01/21	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
01/23	@ N. Park	4:30 pm
01/28	Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
01/30	Gaskill	4:30 pm
02/03	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
02/05	LaSalle	4:30 pm
02/07	Hoover	4:30 pm
02/11	@ CSAT	4:30 pm
02/13	Franklin	4:00 pm

MODIFIED WRESTLING

12/03	LP, KMS, Franklin @ GI	5:00 pm
12/05	GI, Lock @ Franklin	5:00 pm
12/09	GI, KMS, NT @ NF	5:00 pm
12/12	Hoover, NT, Lock @ GI	5:00 pm
12/16	NF, Lock, GI @ LP	5:00 pm
12/19	LP, Franklin, GI @ NT	5:00 pm

Individual Awards

Niagara Gazette Player of the Year:

Madisyn Pezzino
Grade 9, Girls Soccer
Ryan Ross
Grade 12, Boys Soccer
Brock Tetreault
Grade 12, Boys Volleyball
Kevin Borowicz
Grade 12, Golf

2013 Section VI Fall Senior Scholar Athlete:

Emma MacIntyre
Girls Cross Country
Jenna Paternostro
Girls Swimming

Honorable Mention:

Quinn Corrao, Football
Julianne Lavallo, Girls Swimming
Stephanie Voyzey, Girls Swimming

Nate-ure Nook



Family and friends gathered in the Sidway Elementary School Library on October 16 to dedicate a section of the school's library as the "Nate-ure Nook." The "Nate-ure Nook" was created in memory of Principal Denise Dunbar and husband Mark's son Nathan Lee Dunbar who tragically lost his life in April 2010. Nathan was an avid outdoors man who loved to fish, canoe, camp, and enjoy nature. The beautiful tree that sits in the "Nate-ure Nook" was made by Keith Dodge, a member of the Grand Island Central School District's Buildings and Grounds Department. The entrance was created by Sidway Art teacher Matt Doherty. Parent Jackie Carpenter created the

tree-stump stools and paintings were created by Nicole Dunbar. Many other decorations were created and donated by Sidway faculty, staff, parents, community members and friends of the family. More than one hundred books were donated for the library in Nathan's memory. The "Nate-ure Nook" will be a place for students to sit under a tree and enjoy books about nature for many years to come! The Dunbar family extends a heartfelt thank you to the Grand Island Central School District faculty, staff, parents, students, the community and family for making the "Nate-ure Nook" possible.

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 - an evening designed with parents in mind. Teachers from Sidway 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 prepare for coming to school.

May 20, 2014 - Kindergarten Orientation - an event for both you and your child. The afternoon begins when the doors open at 1:15 p.m. with presentations for parents and activities for children in the classrooms. 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.

May 27 - June 6, 2014 - Kindergarten 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!

The Giving Tree

Students at Sidway Elementary School collected for the Neighbor's Foundation during the month of December. Sidway families were invited to donate food items and/or purchase a star for the Giving Tree. Over 300 food items and over \$300 were collected by Sidway families and donations received stay right here in the Grand Island community. Thank you to all who donated!

Front row: Carson Hinkle, Alayna Boyle, Kieran Meisel, Jacob Oppedisano and Sierra Potenza. Back row: Audrey Stockinger, Brady Shearer, Nicholas Lindsay, Harini Selvakumar, Emma Daigle and Jasmine Rokicki.



Just for Kids Fall 2013 Happenings

The children at Just for Kids have been busy all semester! Here's a sampling of their efforts:

Delivering Smiles!

Each JFK site made marbled pumpkins to help share fall spirit with Meals on Wheels recipients. A handmade pumpkin was delivered along with each meal!



Helping Others

During the month of November, we made cards for veterans in the local VA hospital. For Meals On Wheels recipients we made Thanksgiving placements. A first-grader at Sidway told Mrs. Jennifer, "I like helping people - it makes my belly warm."

Annual Canned Good Drive



Our annual Just for Kids canned good drive ended in October and we reached our goal of over 1000 cans of food to help those in need. A HUGE thank you to all the kids and their families who helped make this a success!

Kids College

Mrs. Slater from the Grand Island Library was our Kids College presenter at Huth Road Elementary School. She shared stories with the students and helped teach us about getting our own library card!



I Want My Mummy!

Sidway students enjoyed mummy relay races during their Halloween Party.

Black Magic

Students at Kaegebein Elementary School enjoying a "Black Magic" art enrichment activity.



Crazy Concoctions

Students at Huth enjoyed making flubber during our "Crazy Concoctions" week.



Huth Readers Are Leaders

Huth Road Elementary students are wonderful readers! To support healthy reading habits, teachers and parents work together to motivate our children to read. Teachers expect every student at Huth to read 25 books throughout the school year. Principal Kerri Nowak periodically visits each classroom to check on the kids' progress and give a little prize to those students who are on track.

Also the PTA set up a display of beautiful books and every child in the school was invited down to select a brand new book! A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Trish Eichel for setting up this wonderful opportunity for our children.



Red Ribbon Week

Students at Huth Road Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week - an alcohol, tobacco, drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October.



Students from Mrs. Kwarciak's third-grade class wore red to school to demonstrate their support of Red Ribbon Week and to show they don't do drugs!

Kaegebein PTA's Reflections Winners

The Kaegebein Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Reflections program. Reflections, a national PTA sponsored event, is a creative arts competition established to promote the arts. The works of art are blindly judged by professionals in the respective arts areas, and selected works advance to the Niagara Region PTA. From that point, selected works will advance to the state or national levels for judging. This year the theme is "Believe, Dream, Inspire." Winners from Kaegebein Elementary include:

Visual Arts: Kaylee Boyle and Wynonna Roberts

Literature: Riley Joseph

Dance Choreography: Morgan Proctor

Music Composition: Raven Khreis

Film Production: Jessica Kam

Kaegebein winners will now advance to the regional level competition - good luck!

Pirates Take iPads on a Treasure Hunt



Third-grade students in Mrs. Ahne's class applied their mapping skills to find a hidden treasure at Kaegebein Elementary School. With the help of Kaegebein media specialist, Mrs. Pritchard, students used the iPads to successfully follow a pirate map and navigate their way to the treasure. This was the culminating activity that followed a unit on mapping.





Off to See the Wizard!

Production of The Wizard of Oz, Young Performers Edition Draws a Full House

This fall, the students of Veronica E Connor Middle School took Grand Island over the rainbow and back with their three-day performance of *The Wizard of Oz, Young Performers Edition*.

Despite having just five weeks from auditions to opening night, the cast and crew worked extremely hard to memorize their lines, learn their music and choreography, build their sets, and put the finishing touches on what turned out to be a great show.

The short time frame was a big challenge to the students, both for the leads, who rarely had a chance to leave the stage for more than a scene change, but also for the chorus, who played not only the Munchkins of Munchkinland, but also Jitterbugs, Citizens of Oz, and the Wicked Witch's Winkie Guards. The costume and set changes flew by rapidly, but when it was all over, the audience left each night with a smile on their faces.

Directed by Sarah Russo and Andrew Boron, and with special choreography help from Lora Randles, the production involved over 70 students from sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade on the stage. With so little time to spare, auditions were held on the third day of school, a cast list was posted by the first weekend of the school year, and the performances took place from October 17-19 in front of a full house each night. In addition to a great cast, students also comprised the stage crew and spotlight operators, and were involved in all aspects of the show including sound, lights, and makeup.

It all came together in a trio of excellent performances that featured a number of impressive individual performances. The leads captured the heart, humor, and magic of the MGM classic film, while the large chorus brought a fun energy to each of their four numbers. Overall, it was an excellent production, and the students, cast and crew have much to be proud of!



The Parent Portal

a Practical Picture of Your Child's Progress

If you haven't discovered the Parent Portal yet, please consider visiting VCMS to sign up for this beneficial resource! The Parent Portal allows parents/guardians to view information about their children's academic progress 24 hours per day, anywhere there is internet access. This valuable tool promotes educational excellence and enhances communication with parents.

With increased access to grades comes increased concern over student progress. While teachers update the portal as frequently as possible, it does not reflect day to day progress. Please consider the portal as an overall view of your child's progress throughout the marking period and recognize that although updates occur regularly, they may not occur daily.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

Students Learn Interview Skills

Nothing prepares a student better for the world of interviews than a Human Resources Consultant! Recently, Whitney Bower of Employer Services Corporation, Amherst, NY met with eighty of our eighth-graders at Veronica E. Connor Middle School to help them become more career and college ready. Prior to this guest speaker, the students had participated in a round of peer interviews as a part of their Entrepreneurship Unit in Family and Consumer Science class. Later, Fall Interview Day was held where these middle school students conversed with junior and senior DECA and business students from Grand Island High School. Doing research prior to an interview, polishing your appearance and demeanor, and following up in written form after an interview were three key points that students took home.



DECA co-president, Ray Tafelski extends gratitude to Mrs. Bower for her eagerness to hone the professionalism of tomorrow's leaders.

JV DECA Mini-Regionals



Gabe D'Addario, Andrew Thompson, and Brian Milton, along with Judge Lauren Fonte, take part in the DECA Mini-Regionals.

Twenty eight-graders from Veronica E. Connor Middle School competed in the first ever Junior Varsity DECA Mini-Regionals held at Grand Island High School on November 16. These competitors were recommended for membership in DECA by their former teachers based on their leadership ability and positive character traits. Teams of 2-3 students were given 20 minutes to prepare a presentation addressing a marketing problem for a hypothetical business and were then asked to present their solutions to the judges. Mary Cooke, Town of Grand Island Supervisor and Lauren Fonte, 2009 New York State DECA First Place Winner in Job Interview were on hand to evaluate the teams. Rosie Boyko, Gianna

Novelli, Brian Minton, Josh Schaeffer and Conner Hutton were chosen to advance to the DECA Regional Competition on January 12 at Lockport High School.

VCMS Recognizes Positive Behavior

For many years now, Veronica E. Connor Middle School has operated a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program encouraging students to be respectful, responsible and safe in all aspects of their lives. Recently, the PBIS committee met and evaluated initiatives for the year. Among those initiatives is the use of data analysis to target interventions, providing Thumbs Up cards for students, surveying bus drivers for recognition of appropriate bus behaviors, behavior tickets, and raffles rewarding students that routinely demonstrate positive behaviors and the Character Connection program that is aligned with *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Kids*. Positive behaviors can be seen almost anywhere and the PBIS committee is proud to support and recognize these behaviors.



LYNC Students Help Those in Need

The Leadership Youth of Niagara helped needy families at Community Missions this Christmas. The six "LYNC" students from Grand Island High School adopted families, with their teams from the program, and provided the families with everything they asked for during the holiday season. They also donated nonperishable food items to the Community Missions to assist these families.



LYNC students featured from left to right are Sara Colon, Brian Wynne, Adam Dryfhout, Lexi Miller, and Tiffany Melendez.



GISBA Sponsors

Casey's Corner - GIHS Bookstore
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Grand Island Central School District Office Staff
Grand Island High School PTSA
Grand Island School Related Professionals
Grand Island Teachers Association
M&T Bank
Niagara Frontier Publications: Island Dispatch, Grand Island PennySaver, Lewiston-Porter Sentinel, and Niagara-Wheatfield Tribune
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Town of Grand Island Elected Officials

Thank you for your continued support!

DECA Installs New Members

The members of the Grand Island Chapter of DECA, a business and marketing club, were inducted into the state and national level of DECA at Salvatore's on October 22. The Grand Island chapter is now the largest in Western New York with 140 members, which include a large middle school chapter led by MaryJane Fonte at Veronica E. Connor Middle School. There are over 200,000 members worldwide and 750 members in WNY.

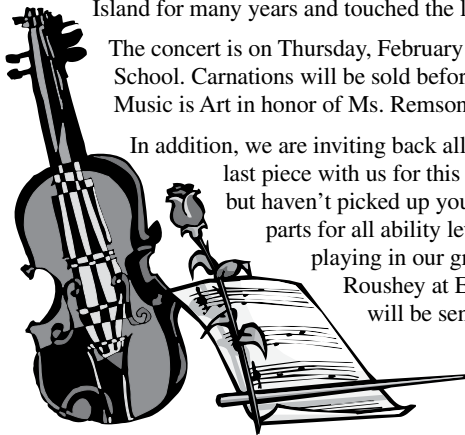
Grand Island High School advisor, Cheryl Chamberlain attributes the growth of the club to a large interest in business classes and future careers in related fields. "DECA is a great way to help students be successful in so many areas, such as communications, problem solving, and leadership. People always tell me that our DECA students are the most prepared on job interviews and it is due to this outstanding professional program." Currently, students are busy preparing for the DECA regional competition in January where they may qualify for the state conference in March.



New DECA members from left to right are MaryKate Petz, Emily Phinney and Jessica Foote, with veteran members Molly Smith and Grace Giambra.

Remson Memorial Concert

This year, our annual "Kaleidoscope String" concert will be a memorial concert in honor of Debra Remson who passed away in early November. Ms. Remson was the string teacher in Grand Island for many years and touched the lives of many students.



The concert is on Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Grand Island Senior High School. Carnations will be sold before the concert and all proceeds will be donated to Music is Art in honor of Ms. Remson.

In addition, we are inviting back all alumni who would like to come and perform our last piece with us for this special concert. If you feel you would like to play but haven't picked up your instrument in a while – it's no problem. There are parts for all ability levels! If you, or someone you know, are interested in playing in our grand finale to honor Ms. Remson, please e-mail Eve Roushey at EveRoushey@k12.ginet.org and a copy of the music will be sent to you. We will also be having a special rehearsal for the concert on Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. If you are unable to play, but would like to help out in any capacity, please contact Eve Roushey at EveRoushey@K12.ginet.org for more information.

GI Students Win Drug Free Art & Poetry Contest

Grand Island High School students were chosen as winners in the 2014 Drug Free New Year Art & Poetry Contest. David Pachla was awarded first place for his poem in the 9th – 12th grade category and Mary Elisabeth Rustowicz was chosen as the second place winner in the same category. Kianna Norman also submitted a poem that was selected as an Honorable Mention in this category. The students were honored at a press conference held on December 6, 2013 at the Hamburg Fairgrounds.



Important Dates from the Counseling Department

Financial Aid Night - Tuesday, January 7th at 6:30 pm

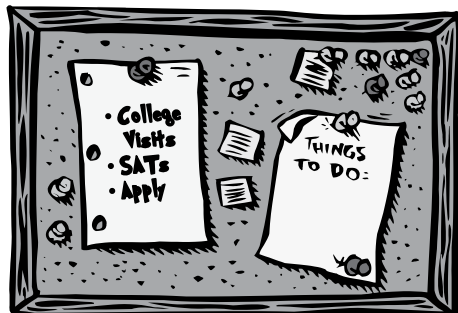
This valuable event is targeted for current college-bound juniors, seniors and their parents. Sean Hudson from Canisius College will present the ins and outs of the college financial aid process. He will review everything you need to know about applying for financial aid, understanding the jargon, applying for scholarships, financing your college education and more.

College Information Night - Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 pm

Students in grades 8-11 (and their parents) are strongly encouraged to attend this event which will provide a thorough overview of the world of higher education. The high school counseling staff and college admission representatives from the area will lead workshops on a variety of topics related to college admissions. Some of the topics include:

- College 101
- Benefits of a Community College
- Selective College Admissions
- Essay Writing
- College Visits
- Early College Planning

****Junior Year is a critical year for most students and families because it is when many college activities start going into full sprint. Here are some suggestions for juniors on what they should be doing to make the most of their year and start preparing for college.**

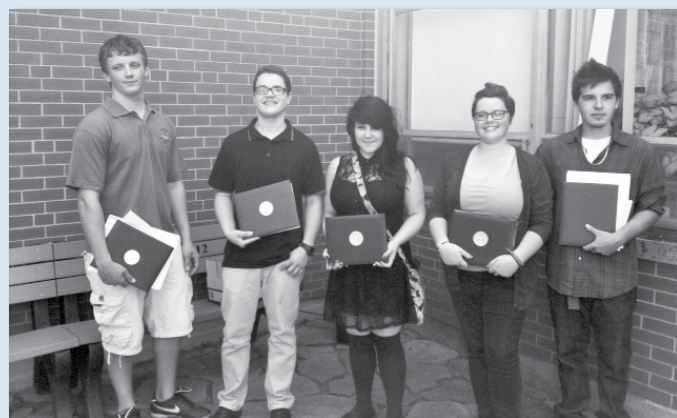


Winter:

- Go over PSAT results with your child once they get their score report (reports will be returned to students in mid-December). Go onto collegeboard.com to get a free SAT study plan to start preparing for college admission tests.
- Help your child stay organized. Work with your 11th-grader to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges.
- Start to discuss your child's schedule for senior year. Make sure your child has a challenging year ahead of them, college admissions officers like to see that.

Spring:

- Start the college search process together. Get an idea of qualities your child is looking for in a college and put these criteria into a college search tool (such as our Naviance/Family Connection site or collegeboard.com) to start creating a list of colleges to research.
- Attend the National College Fair on April 8th & 9th at Buffalo Convention Center.
- Sign up for SAT (www.collegeboard.com) and ACT tests (www.act.org). *Watch for registration deadlines so you don't have to pay a late fee!*
- Start to make summer plans to explore interests, learn new skills, find a job or an internship.
- Visit colleges together so when senior year starts your child will be all set to apply to colleges.
- As seniors you will be encouraged to apply by mid-November.



From left to right: Tyler Yockey, Greg DeNormand, Alyssa Pizzuti, Rachel DeNormand and James Myslewiec.

GIHS Summer Graduates

Congratulations to the following students who received their diploma this past summer. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

GI Distinguished Alumni Nominations

The Distinguished Alumni Committee is seeking nominations for this year's Grand Island Distinguished Alumni Award. Criteria include:

- Graduated from Grand Island High School in 2003 or before.
- Outstanding in his or her profession.
- Excellence in his or her chosen field.
- Outstanding service to community, profession, or cause.

The award assembly will take place in Spring 2014. If you know of a person you would like to nominate, please complete the form below and send it to the address at the bottom of the form, or e-mail it to: macorust@roadrunner.com. Please attach a written explanation describing why this person should receive this recognition. All applications will remain on file for one year.

Nominee's Name: _____

Maiden Name (if applicable): _____

Years of Attendance at Grand Island High School: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

Phone of Nominee: _____

Email of Nominee: _____

Your Name (person making nation): _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____

Send completed form to:
Grand Island Foundation, Distinguished Alumni Committee,
P.O. Box 1183, Grand Island, New York, 14072.



1100 Ransom Road • Grand Island, NY 14072
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K-12 “Artist of the Month” Awards

September Artist



Madeleine HusVar has been named the first “Artist of the Month” for the 2013-2014 school year. Madeleine is a 13 year-old accelerated art student enrolled in the eighth-grade at Veronica E. Connor Middle School. Her art teacher describes her as a

meticulous student with an eye for detail; always seeking to improve her ability and produce work that reflects her high skill level and artistic voice. Maddy is an enthusiastic, eager and creative young lady. Multi-talented, she counts visual arts, music and theatre among her many artistic pursuits. Madeleine favors drawing, painting and other two-dimensional media.

Madeleine has been interested in art and involved artistically from a very young age. She counts her mom as her biggest inspiration saying, “my mom is just amazing!” She particularly notes the way she works with her, always offering encouragement and advice. Madeleine keeps various sketchbooks, has taken classes outside of school and is always ready to try new things. She is a creative and hard-working young lady, whose abilities and artistic potential mark her as extraordinary.

October Artist



Kai Ellsworth is a senior currently in the advanced placement art class at Grand Island High School working on his college portfolio. Kai participated in the Montserrat College of Art program in Boston this past summer and did very well. Kai has always

been interested in art since his early childhood which has been supported and nurtured by his family. Kai stated that he loves the ability to be able to make something out of nothing. His heroes are Edvard Munch and Vincent Van Gogh. Kai plans to attend college and to have a successful career in the arts. Best of luck to Kai in his pursuit of a career in the arts!

November Artist



Juliana Faso is the recipient of the K-12 Artist of the Month Award for November. Juliana is a fourth-grade student at Kaegbein Elementary School. She enjoys art because she gets to use her imagination, and to learn about other cultures

and periods in time. Her favorite artist is Claude Monet; her favorite materials are paint and clay. Juliana feels, “art takes her places.” The art department wishes Juliana continued success in all her artistic endeavors.

December Artist



Yifan Shen is a fifth-grader at Huth Road Elementary who exemplifies determination. In 2010, Yifan moved from China to Grand Island, speaking no English. Not only is she now fluent in English, she also has shown that she is a very

talented artist. Yifan is very creative and pays attention to detail and craftsmanship. She has been interested in art since she was about 4 years old. She gives her mother and grandfather credit for her talent and inspiration and says she has a lot of encouragement at home. Yifan is also a member of the Huth Road Art Club. Her logo design was chosen to be printed on this year’s Art Club t-shirts. Yifan says that “Art is important because you get to be creative on anything you are working on.” Keep up the great work Yifan!