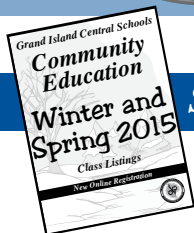


The Grand Island Central School District BRIDGE

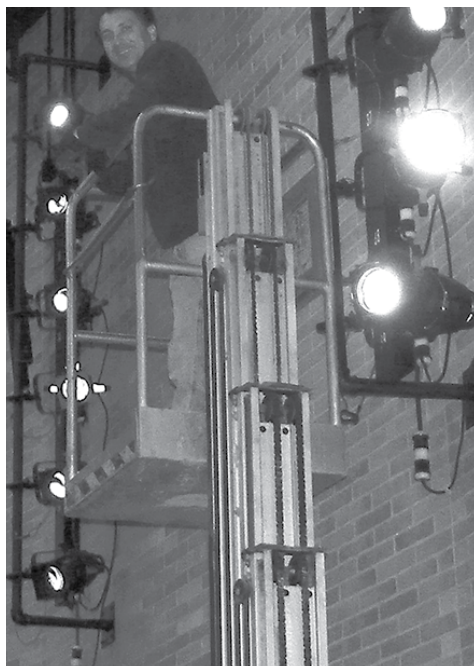
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The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District



See Inside for the Winter & Spring 2015 Community Ed Brochure

Curtain Up for Grand Viking Theater



Mark Gorton, audio/visual technician, puts the finishing touches on the lights before Opening Night.

The Grand Island High School auditorium was closed in mid-March 2014 for renovations. During this time, the District ad hoc Naming Committee recommended to the Board the "aud" be formally known as the Grand Viking Theater. After a nine month process, the new and improved Grand Viking Theater was unveiled. "Our new, state-of-the-art auditorium opened December 2nd, to a full house at Huth's holiday concert. We are pleased with the results of the facility and encourage everyone to mark their calendars for the production of "Shrek, the Musical," states Teresa Lawrence, superintendent of the Grand Island Central School District. There will be three performances: Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 6, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Some of the improvements made to the Grand Viking Theater include:

- Installed ADA seating for ten
- Stage floor was refurbished
- New flooring in the orchestra pit
- New seating
- New lighting
- New sound system
- New carpeting
- New doors with safety features
- New theater signage
- Installed aisle lighting to illuminate walkways
- New ceiling
- New HVAC ventilation system - air conditioning
- New staging and rigging
- New projector and rear projection screen
- New light fixtures on side walls
- New LED house lights
- Acoustic panels throughout ceiling and back wall
- New sound system including speakers and audio mixer

continued on page 5



"Super" Snapshots

Throughout the school year I want to share with you some of the amazing things I see happening in our schools and the community.



With my friend Ian Joseph - on his first day of UPK!



With senior Robert Ellegate - Harkness Student of the Month.



With David H. Meyers - Providing historical perspectives.



With high school students - Heading off to KenTon Career & Technical Center.

Message From Your Superintendent

Three topics have received attention recently so it only made sense for me to share the conversation with a wider audience.

At their August meeting, the School Board adopted an updated policy manual. A district's policy manual serves as the governing document and provides direction and policies for the overall operation and regulation of the District. Our policy manual covers everything from the nomination and election process of Board members to bus rules to the use of service animals in schools. Needless to say, it is quite comprehensive and frequently referenced. The Board will conduct an ongoing review of policies to be sure we are compliant with any changing laws and current with necessary practices. This entire manual can be found online for your review or reference.

We have officially transitioned into the winter season and safety is our main concern. Numerous factors influence the decisions to cancel or delay school and we are mindful of giving families as much time as possible to make alternative arrangements. Ultimately, when unfavorable weather conditions strike, we encourage parents to make the best decision about their child's attendance in school. See the article in this issue outlining school closings procedures due to weather conditions. Our current notification system includes the rapid response call system and announcements on traditional media outlets. We plan to add text messaging notifications by the end of the school year. With the majority of WNY schools closed due to "Snowvember," we were well staffed with over 89% of our employees present.

The Board welcomes and encourages community groups to use school facilities when they are not being used for school programs. Please read the article outlining the protocol we follow to accommodate the numerous requests received.

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 773-8801 or email me at teresalawrence@grandislandschools.org.

I wish you a joyful time with family and friends this holiday season.

Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



*Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools*

Excellence in Education...Bridge to Excellence



With VCMS sixth-graders - Hallway Social Studies.



With Town Supervisor Mary Cooke - Lawn mower races to raise money for the Kaegebein playground.



Message From Your BOE

As the seasons are changing, so are our students. Whether in the schools or our community, the Viking Values clearly transition from the hallways to the community streets. As the first marking period comes to an end, it is remarkable to see how much has been accomplished. A smile comes to my face as I see the continuous academic and social growth in so many students, as well as my three children.

I am honored to hold the position of Board of Education president, and as I grow in this role, I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve our students and for the support of the board, district and community.

While over the past few months we have had the difficult task of saying good-bye to some employees, I have learned that there is a promising side to any good-bye. I reflect and recognize that in the field of education, our mission is to create opportunities that allow for and encourage learning growth and successful transition for both our students and employees. As we move through these changes, the Board of Education would like to give a warm welcome to the newest member of our district, Mr. John Fitzpatrick. As middle school principal, it is already evident that his energy is infectious. We also want to take a moment to thank Mr. Joseph Giarizzo for his service to the district. As our former Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Office, we wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors with the Niagara Falls School District.

As the overlap of school and community relationships continue to grow, the Board of Education looks forward to building and growing those relationships. The Board of Education will begin working on the annual budget. The entire Board welcomes your input and encourages you to attend the public budget sessions on January 26, February 9, March 23, and April 13 (see our website for time and location).

We would also like to extend our continued gratitude for everyone's patience as our progress on the Capital Improvement Project moves forward. Our building personnel have been both patient and creative while our learning, teaching, and support service spaces have been temporarily misplaced. Progress continues to be made with the completion of the Kaegebein main office, library and auditorium, in addition to the high school auditorium. In the new year we will start work on the new bus garage and continue working on the remainder of the Capital Project.

Finally, we all know too well that the upcoming holidays will quickly come and go. My hope for each of us is that we can remember that compassion has no limit and kindness has no enemies. With that sentiment, I wish all of you and your families a healthy, prosperous and safe New Year.

Graciously,

Lisa Pyc
President of the Board of Education



Lisa Pyc
President of the
Board of Education

Fall 2014 Athletic Highlights

- **Girls Soccer Wins NFL Championship**
- **5 Teams Ranked in WNY Top 10**
 - Girls Soccer ranked #4
 - Boys Soccer ranked #9
 - Girls Volleyball ranked #9
 - Boys Volleyball ranked #10
 - Girls Cross Country ranked #8
- **NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award**
 - Girls Swimming & Diving
 - Golf
 - Football
 - Boys Cross Country
 - Girls Cross Country
 - Boys Soccer
 - Girls Soccer
 - Girls Tennis
 - Girls Volleyball
 - Boys Volleyball
- **Niagara Gazette Player of the Year**
 - Girls Soccer - Madisyn Pezzino
 - Girls Volleyball - Lindsay Proctor
 - Boys Volleyball - Mike Podgorny
- **2014 Fall 1st Team All Stars**

GIRLS SOCCER

Madisyn Pezzino	grade 10
Marci Barberic	grade 10
Carly Bernatovicz	grade 12
Julia Lawley	grade 11
Meaghan O'Leary	grade 12

BOYS SOCCER

Justin Figler	grade 12
Joe Kulikowski	grade 11
Joe Farrell	grade 12
Troy Brady	grade 11
Ben Shaw	grade 12

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Lindsay Proctor	grade 10
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BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Mike Podgorny	grade 12
Kyle Burns	grade 11

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Emily Fred	grade 9
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FOOTBALL

Nick Paolini	grade 12
TJ Morgan	grade 12
Scott Holmes	grade 12
Anthony Mosher	grade 12

Thank You For Your Service

The Board of Education was recognized for their service and commitment to our schools at the November 10, 2014 meeting. Thank you, Board members, for all that you do!



L to R: Karen Carroll,
Matt Green, Sue Marston,
Donna Tomkins,
Superintendent
Teresa Lawrence,
Glenn Bobeck, Paul Krull
and Lisa Pyc.



Winter 2014-15 Athletic Schedule

GIRLS BASKETBALL

12/2,2/4	@ W. Seneca Tourn (Depew)	5:00 pm
12/09	Maryvale (NL)	5:00 pm
12/11	Niagara Catholic (V)	6:00 pm
12/16	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
12/19	LewPort	5:00 pm
01/06	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/09	KenWest	5:00 pm
01/13	@ KenEast	5:30 pm
01/16	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/20	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
01/23	Lockport	5:00 pm
01/28	@ LewPort	5:30 pm
02/03	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
02/06	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
02/10	KenEast	5:00 pm
02/13	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
02/18	@ N. Tonawanda	5:30 pm
02/20	@ Starpoint (NL)	5:30 pm

BOYS BASKETBALL

12/03	Wilson (NL) (V)	6:30 pm
12/09	@ Starpoint (NL)	5:30 pm
12/12	Global Charter (NL)	5:00 pm
12/16	Lockport	5:00 pm
12/19	@ LewPort	5:30 pm
01/06	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/09	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
01/13	KenEast	5:00 pm
01/16	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/20	@ N. Tonawanda	5:30 pm
01/23	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
01/27	Burgard (NL)	5:00 pm
01/28	@ Tapestry (NL)	4:30 pm
01/30	LewPort	5:00 pm
02/03	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
02/06	KenWest	5:00 pm
02/10	@ KenEast	5:30 pm
02/13	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
02/18	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm

BOYS SWIMMING

11/25	LewPort	5:00 pm
12/02	@ KenWest	5:00 pm
12/05	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
12/06	@ Lockport Invite	11:00 am
12/09	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
12/12	KenEast	5:00 pm
12/16	@ N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
12/19	Lockport	5:00 pm
01/06	@ LewPort	5:00 pm
01/09	KenWest	5:00 pm
01/13	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/16	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/20	@ KenEast	5:00 pm
01/23	N. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
01/27	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
01/29	JV Meet @ NW	TBA
01/30	NFL Diving @ NF	TBA
01/31	NFL Meet @ NF	TBA

WRESTLING

11/29	Iroquois JV Dual	TBA
12/03	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
12/5-6	St.Francis Duals	TBA
12/10	KenWest	5:30 pm
12/13	Orchard Park Tourn	TBA
12/17	LewPort	5:30 pm
12/27	Maryvale JV Tourn (@ Cheektowaga)	TBA
12/29-30	Dunkirk Tourn	TBA
01/07	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/10	Will North Invite	TBA
01/14	Niagara Wheat	5:30 pm
01/17	@ Ripley Tourn	TBA

INDOOR TRACK

12/06	@ Buff State	8:30 am
12/13	@ Fredonia	8:30 am
12/20	@ Fredonia	8:30 am
12/27	@ Fredonia (WNY Relays)	9:00 am
01/03	@ Fredonia	1:30 pm
01/10	@ Houghton College (V#1)	10:00 am
01/17	@ Fredonia (V#2)	9:00 am
01/19	@ Fredonia	9:00 am
01/24	@ Lancaster	9:00 am
01/31	@ Fredonia (9/10 Champ)	9:00 am
02/07	Team Champ@ Houghton	10:00 am
02/14	@ Fredonia (V#3)	8:30 am
02/20	Qualifier @ Houghton	10:00 am

BOWLING

11/25	NFL KickOff (Island Lanes)	4:00 pm
12/01	@ Maryvale (Airport Lanes)	3:30 pm
12/02	@ KenEast (Ton Bowling Center)	4:00 pm
12/04	@ Lockport (Brad Angelo Lanes)	4:00 pm
12/09	Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
12/11	KenWest	4:00 pm
12/16	@ N. Ton (Ton Bowling Center)	4:00 pm
12/18	LewPort	4:00 pm
12/30	Festival of Lights Tourn (@ Thruway Lanes)	9:00 am
01/06	@ Nia. Falls (Bowl O Dome)	4:00 pm
01/08	KenEast	4:00 pm
01/13	Lockport	4:00 pm
01/15	@ Nia. Wheat. (Rapids)	4:00 pm
01/20	@ KenWest (Manor)	4:00 pm
01/22	No. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
01/29	NFL Individ (Rapids)	1:00 pm
02/01	RoySommer (Thruway Lanes)	9:00 am
02/03	@ LewPort	4:00 pm
02/05	Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
02/12	Girls Sect.@ThruwayLanes	9:00 am
02/13	Boys Sect.@ThruwayLanes	9:00 am

ICE HOCKEY

11/21-23	Salmon River Tourn	TBA
12/08	Will South (Hyde Park)	6:45 pm
12/12	Hamburg (Niagara)	8:20 pm
12/14	@ KenWest (Harborcenter #2)	6:00 pm
12/19	@ KenEast (Harborcenter #1)	6:00 pm
12/21	@ W Seneca East (Buff State)	3:00 pm
12/26	LewPort @ GI (Niagara)	6:30 pm
12/27	TBA (Niagara)	TBA
01/08	@ Sweet Home (Northtown OR)	9:00 pm
01/10	@ Will East (Northtown OR)	5:30 pm

01/15	@ Will South (Northtown OR)	9:00 pm
01/18	@ W Seneca West (Buff State)	3:00 pm
01/25	@ Hamburg (Buff State)	3:00 pm
01/26	KenEast (Hyde Park)	6:45 pm
01/30	Lockport (Lockport)	7:30 pm
02/08	W Seneca East (Harborcenter#2)	8:00 pm
02/09	KenWest (Hyde Park)	6:45 pm
02/15	Will East (Harborcenter #2)	8:00 pm
02/16	W Seneca West (Hyde Park)	8:45 pm

GIRLS MODIFIED BASKETBALL

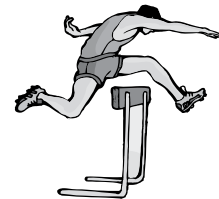
01/06	@ LaSalle	4:30 pm
01/08	@ Hoover	4:30 pm
01/13	CSAT	4:30 pm
01/15	@ Franklin	4:30 pm
01/20	No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
01/22	@ North Park	4:30 pm
01/27	Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
01/29	Gaskill	4:30 pm
02/03	@ LewPort	4:30 pm
02/04	LaSalle	4:30 pm
02/06	Hoover	4:30 pm
02/09	@ CSAT	4:30 pm
02/11	Franklin	4:30 pm
02/13	@ No. Tonawanda	4:30 pm

BOYS MODIFIED BASKETBALL

01/06	LaSalle	4:30 pm
01/08	Hoover	4:30 pm
01/13	@ CSAT	4:30 pm
01/15	Franklin	4:30 pm
01/20	@ N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm
01/22	North Park	4:30 pm
01/27	@ Kenmore Middle	4:30 pm
01/29	@ Gaskill	4:30 pm
02/02	LewPort	4:30 pm
02/04	@ LaSalle	4:30 pm
02/06	@ Hoover	4:30 pm
02/09	CSAT	4:30 pm
02/11	@ Franklin	4:30 pm
02/13	N. Tonawanda	4:30 pm

MODIFIED WRESTLING

11/25	LP, NT, GI @ Lock	5:00 pm
12/02	Lock,LP,KMS,NT HMS/FMS @GI	4:30 pm
12/09	NT,Lock,LP,GI,KMS @ HMS/FMS	4:30 pm
12/11	GI,NT,Lock,LP HMS/ FMS @ KMS	5:00 pm
12/16	GI,Lock,KMS,NT,HMS/ FMS @ LP	5:00 pm
12/18	Lock,GI,LP,KMS,HMS/ FMS @ NT	5:00 pm





Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014

Exciting news for schools across New York State! In January 2014, Governor Cuomo proposed the \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014 during his State of the State address and submitted for voter approval during the recent elections. Voters across New York State overwhelmingly approved the bond act on November 4.

As a result of this approval, each district will receive additional budgetary allocations, based on the respective Statewide School Aid formulas. This approved bond will now have a positive impact on school districts across New York State, including the Grand Island Central School District.

Currently, the State Education Department is working closely with BOCES (Board of Cooperative Education Services) across the state to disseminate information about the parameters of application and mandates for this additional funding. As we learn more, the Grand Island Central School District will be working collaboratively to plan the most effective, strategic use and application of this new fiscal source.

As per the new bond act legislation, proceeds will need to be spent in a manner "to improve learning and opportunity for public and nonpublic school students by funding capital projects" via four possible venues. These opportunities include:

1. Acquiring learning technology equipment of facilities (such as interactive whiteboards, computer servers, desktops, laptops, and tablet computers)
2. Install high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools and communities
3. Construct, enhance and modernize educational facilities to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs and provide instructional space to replace transportable classroom units.
4. Install high-tech security features in school buildings and on school campuses

We are excited that the NYS voters have now given us an expanded opportunity to grow our technology integration and access for our students and bring more opportunity for successful 21st Century learning opportunities to our classrooms. As we reflect on the allowable frameworks for spending and measure these against the GICSD investments being made under the current capital improvement project, we recognize that we are in good standing and can truly leverage this bond funding to enhance our PreK through 12 educational program(s).

It continues to be an honor to work on behalf of the students and community of the Grand Island Central School District. I look forward to collaboratively embracing this new opportunity for our students.

-Submitted by Karen Cuddy-Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Family Support Services Now Available

Grand Island Family Support Services (FSS) are now available to Grand Island Central School District students and their families. Services include information and referral to outside agencies and resources in order to meet the needs of students and their families. Needs may include, but are not limited to, behavioral concerns, mental health issues, parenting, marital issues, and alcohol and/or substance abuse.

These services will be coordinated by school social workers Heather LaPier, LMSW at the secondary level, and Heather Maras, LMSW at the elementary level. Parents can contact the school social worker directly to set up an appointment to assess the strengths and needs of the student and family and determine appropriate resources available to meet their needs. Follow-up will be provided to ensure that students and families are able to access the necessary services and that the services are a good fit for their family. The referral form for Family Support Services is available online at www.grandislandschools.org- Pupil Personnel Services - Social Work/Family Support Services and can be downloaded to complete before coming in for your appointment.

It is our hope that Family Support Services will expand and provide easier accessibility to essential support services for both our students and their families in an effort to further promote healthy families and academic success.

Heather LaPier, LMSW (716) 773-8839
High School/Middle School

Heather Maras, LMSW (716) 404-1703
Huth, Kaegebein, Sidway

One Island, One Team Meeting

The third One Island, One Team Town Hall meeting will be held on February 10, 2015 at the Grand Island Town Hall Court Room. It will begin with a light dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m followed by the program that will run until 7:30 p.m. The emcee for the evening will be Luke Moretti and Keynote Speaker is Dr. Dan Webb. Results of the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) survey, which every student in grades 6 - 12 took in April 2014, will be reviewed.

Curtain Up for Grand Viking Theater

continued from page 1

With Capital Project renovations still in full swing, Tom Rachow, director of facilities expects Summer 2015 to be a busy time as the District wraps up a majority of the work in Phase 1 and 2. Some major items still on the "To Do" list include the pool, gymnasiums, ceilings, installation of cameras and security systems.



Our Grand Island Viking still stands proud!

Fuel Good - Feel Good!

What's New in GI Food Service

The USDA published practical, science-based nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to children on the school campus during the school day. These standards required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (effective July 1, 2014), make healthier snack foods available to children, while limiting junk food. The new Smart Snack standards build on the healthy advancements of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, ensuring that kids are only offered tasty and nutritious foods during the school day.

We've restructured our lunch lines in the high school cafeteria. Check out our fresh, new options:

Salads and More: Create your own salad or sandwich. Every day choices include: turkey breast, ham or tuna; cheese; and choice of veggies. This line offers a daily special such as Greek Chicken, Chicken Caesar, Antipasto, Taco Salad and more. Wrap it up! Choose from plain, pesto, or jalapeno cheese 10" wraps to make any salad a wrap.

Main Munchies: This line features our entrée-of-the-day. Favorites include the Chicken Finger Sub and new selections such as boneless Chicken Bytes and the Chick-Filet.

Tacos Locos and Pizz-A-Bilities: This line features favorites like stuffed crust pizza and nachos while also offering daily specials.

In addition to the entrée from any line, all meals come with fruit, vegetables and milk if you choose!

Breakfast Served Daily: Mornings can be crazy—we know that. That's why we offer a healthy, convenient, and economical breakfast to all students. Studies show that kids who eat breakfast have higher attention spans, improved behavior, and perform better on tests and in the classroom. Families qualifying for free or reduced price lunch also qualify for breakfast. Elementary students tell their bus driver they are having breakfast at school and they are allowed off the bus early to eat. We offer a Grab and Go Breakfast Cart at VCMS for hungry students coming into school. High school students can grab a bite from the breakfast line at 7:20-7:50 or 8:30-8:45 a.m.

School Meals are Healthy & Affordable

This year school meals are even healthier than before! Here are some reasons why:

- New menu changes include offering more fruits and veggies, cutting sodium and adding more whole grains.
- All school meals and snacks must comply with the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which is based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- School lunches provide one-third of a child's daily requirements for calories, protein, vitamins and minerals; school breakfast provides one-quarter the daily requirements.
- Nutritionally balanced menus offer students variety and popular food choices.
- School lunches increase the availability and access for students to make healthy choices.

Compared to children with a school lunch, children with a lunch brought from home were significantly less likely to have fruits (75.9% vs. 45.3%), vegetables (29.1% vs. 13.2%), and dairy (70.0% vs. 41.8%).

Children with a lunch from home were more likely to have snacks high in sugar and/or fat (17.5% vs. 60.0%) and non 100% fruit juice/fruit drink (0.3% vs. 47.2%) than children with a school lunch.

**Results from study conducted by USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine*

School Lunches Include 5 Healthy Choices

1. Meat (lean beef, chicken, pork) / Meat Alternatives (peanut butter, low-fat cheeses & yogurts)
2. All Whole Grain Rich Products - breads, rolls, wraps, pasta, rice
3. Vegetables - variety of fresh and prepared
4. Fruits - assortment of fresh and light canned fruits
5. Milk - 1/2 pt. 1% or skim milk or fat-free flavored milk

Save Time and Money!

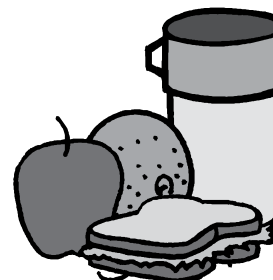
- Preparing a lunch at home: 10 minutes/day x 180 school days/year = 30 hours a year!
- Choose a school lunch and ease morning chaos: \$2.25-\$3.00.
- Spending more time with your family and knowing your child will have a nutritious meal - Priceless!



**As costs keep rising all around us,
one thing remains a great value -
School Lunch!**

Average retail cost of a bag lunch from your local super market:

Whole grain bread, 2 slices -	\$0.30
Sliced turkey (3oz)	\$1.43
Carrots	\$0.22
Fresh Apple	\$0.45
100% juice box	\$0.45
Cheese stick / snack	\$0.30
*Total:	\$3.15





K-12 Artist of the Month

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



September Artist of the Month

Kristine Schlifke is an accelerated eighth-grade art student currently enrolled in the middle school Studio In Art class. Kristine is an extremely talented young artist who applies herself fully to each assignment. While gifted in a variety of media, Kristine is particularly fluent with two-dimensional media. She is a thoughtful and creative student who is capable of using art as an expressive language. She adeptly manipulates artistic media to express her unique and individual artistic voice. Kristine’s art teacher cites her talent, positive attitude and work ethic as additional reasons that this student was selected as a recipient of this award. The art department congratulates Kristine and wishes her much success in all of her future endeavors.



October Artist of the Month

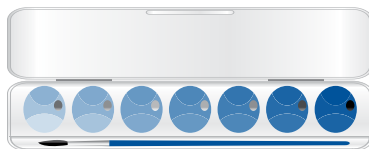
“Art is not what you see, but what you make others see” -Edgar Degas

My name is Anthony Ormsby, I am a junior at Grand Island High school. I started taking interest in art in middle school because I was naturally drawn to it. Art is one of my favorite things in the whole world, and I plan to go to college and make a career in the art world.



November Artist of the Month

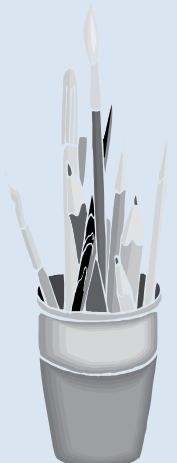
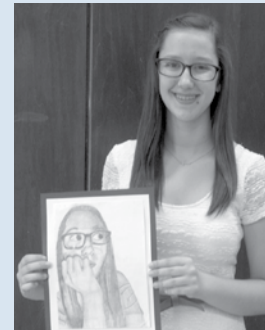
Francesca DePalma is the November recipient of the K-12 “Artist of the Month Award.” Francesca is new to Grand Island and is a fifth-grader at Kaegebein Elementary School. She enjoys working with watercolor and tempera paints. Francesca is encouraged by her mother who displays all her work. The art department applauds Francesca’s hard work and dedication to the arts and wishes her continued success.



Students Display Work At NYSSBA Conference

Grand Island art students Tori Appoloney and Claire Brandon were selected to have their artworks displayed at the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) sponsored art exhibit at the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) conference held in New York City 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. Both 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 artwork 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.



Pictured with their self-portraits are Tori Appoloney and Claire Brandon.

Sidway Gives Back

Sidway faculty and staff met recently during a staff meeting to assemble Blankets of Love. Fleece was measured, cut and assembled into blankets for cancer patients undergoing treatments. Blankets of Love is coordinated by school psychologist Lauren Stang and provides blankets to many patients, of all ages in the Buffalo area. All materials are donated and the work is a labor of love!



Riding in Style

Congratulations to these students who won a special trip to school on a Grand Island fire truck!



Sidway students Mason Miller, Chase Mango, Cooper Pyc, Alex Beck, Nicholas Sortino, Wesley Barnes, Emily Goss and Abby Wilkins with Grand Island fire fighters.

Eco Island Says "Thank You" a Dozen Times

Matt Doherty, Sidway Elementary School's art teacher, has been painting chairs for Eco Island since 2011. He has painted a total of 12 chairs for the nature center! The chairs all have a nature theme and are used while teaching lessons on the animal groups. The students are excited when the chairs are used for lessons because they know the artist. Even though there are no more chairs for Mr. Doherty to paint, he has offered to continue painting when Eco Island moves to a different building.



The Giving Tree

Sidway students are learning the true meaning of the holidays by giving to our community. Each year, the "Giving Tree" is set up after Thanksgiving for Sidway students to decorate with stars. Students bring in \$1 to purchase a star. Once their name is on the star, they can hang it on the tree. Non-perishable food items are also collected under the tree. All proceeds benefit the Neighbors Foundation right here on Grand Island.

Pictured around the Giving Tree with collected items are from left to right, Back Row: Abigail Wilkins, Katie Hoyt and Lucas Bonafede. Front Row: Nathan Piotrowski, Emily Westburg, Ryan Whalen, Nicholas Jayme and Ella Gordon.



Destination Discovery during February Break Camp

Just for Kids is offering a fun-filled themed Day Camp during February Break! New experiences and hobby choices like Ooey Gooley, Make-It, Take-It, and Sports Spectacular are offered. Kids will enjoy a Mardi Gras carnival, beach party, and an arctic adventure to keep them busy!

The week-long session is a perfect solution for working parents, and kids can attend one or all days.

Located at Sidway Elementary, February 17-20, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

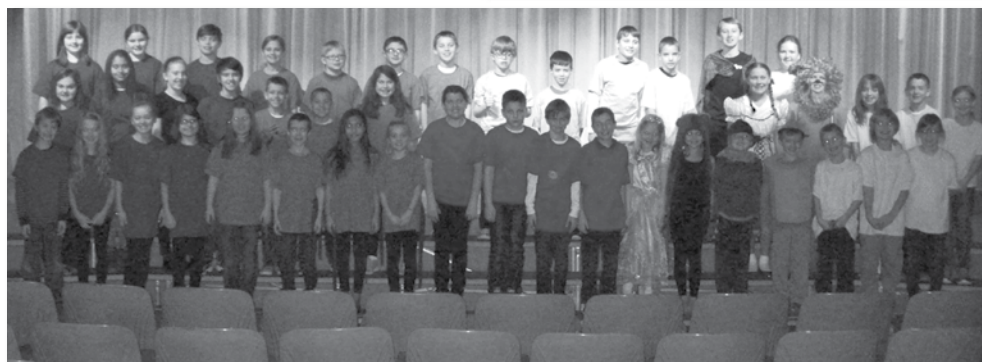
Enrollment open through February 6; Early bird discount deadline is January 9th!

Email info@justforkidsonline.org for a registration form, or call 639-8500.



Munchkin Mediation

The students in Mrs. Percival and Mrs. Pernick's third-grade classes recently performed a play titled, "Munchkin Mediation: Conflict Resolution in Oz." You see, it is one year later and all the Oz characters are having trouble and need help solving their problems. The munchkins helped them see that to solve conflicts you must try a strategy. Several conflict resolution strategies were presented in this funny production, including "breathe and walk away," "listen to each other," and "write your feelings in a journal," just to name a few.



Pajama Drive

Scholastic Book Clubs has run a national pajama drive for the past five years. Students at Huth have participated for the last four drives by collecting pajamas in any size and packing them up for distribution to local families in need. Huth Road Elementary reports to Scholastic Book Clubs the number of pairs collected and they send a free book for every pair of pajamas.

Huth students Julianna Dohring and Mavis Riley showcase the pjs collected and books received for their efforts.



GI Sings For Hope

Huth Road Elementary School will be presenting a special night of inspirational singing in a GI Sings for Hope Concert to be held Wednesday, April 1, 2015 in the Grand Island High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. There will be several choral school and community groups singing in the concert. There will also be a Pink Boutique held in the Viking Mall before the concert where there will be lots of items for purchase including baked goods, photo booth pictures, artisan cards, and a basket raffle. All proceeds of this concert will be split between Huth Road's Relay for Life Team and Make a Wish Foundation. If you are interested in singing in the Pink Chorus, donating a basket for the basket raffle or simply making a donation, please contact Carol Horrigan at 773-8850 or email CarolHorrigan@grandislandschools.org.



UNICEF Drive 2014

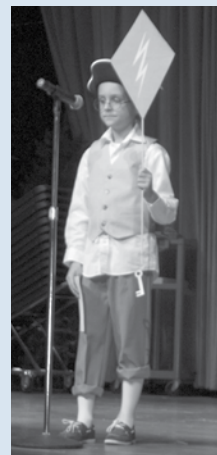
Huth Road students participated in the annual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Drive. UNICEF works in more than 190 countries and territories to save and improve the lives of children by providing immunizations, clean water, sanitation, education and help in emergencies such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis. The U.S. Fund for the UNICEF program supports work through fundraisers such as this Trick-or-Treat event, as well as advocacy and education in the United States.



From L-R are third-graders Jenna Gorton, Kendyl Ode, Christopher Sadkowski, Samuel Castner and Mavis Riley.

Celebrating Halloween through Research Project

Mrs. Cassata and Mrs. Brown's fourth-grade classes at Huth Road Elementary worked very hard on their first research projects of the year. On Halloween, students dressed up as the person they researched and gave oral presentations on stage to their classmates and parents. It was great having the parents there to support the students on this special day. A celebration was held in the afternoon for a job well done!



Understanding the Common Core Standards

The Common Core Standards are much more complex and demanding of our children than the standards under which most of us learned. This January, parents are invited to come to Huth Road Elementary School to learn more about the NYS assessments. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 7, at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. Thank you to PTA president, Mrs. Walowitz, for coordinating this event.

The Grand Island Foundation Keeps on Giving

The goal of the Grand Island Foundation, a non-profit foundation for education, is to obtain and administer private funds in order to enhance the educational programs in our school district, as well as to help ensure that students reach the highest educational level possible. Additionally, it has promoted the establishment of the Distinguished Alumni program. Board members serve as volunteers and include the superintendent of schools, building administrators, teachers and community members.

Over the past 14 years alumni, district staff and residents have made it possible for the Grand Island Foundation (for education) to fund thousands of dollars in grants that provide equipment and enrichment materials for students at all five schools. Grants have been awarded to teachers of English, math, science, social studies, as well as music, physical education and art have benefited from the Grand Island Foundation's assistance. Funds are only used to finance the purchase of supplies and equipment that provide benefits directly to students.

The Foundation is currently receiving grant applications from teachers across the school district and will award as many grants as funding will allow.

For more information or to make a contribution to the Foundation, contact:

The Grand Island Foundation,
P.O. Box 1183, Grand Island, NY 14072

Viking Values Award Winners



OCTOBER WINNERS: Angelo Aiello, Bethany Andrews, Ashley Battaglia, Isabella Boyle, Marcus Celano, Jordan Dohring, Caitlin Fay, Jackson Frey, Giovanni Granelli, Elijah Linenfelser, Cameron Miano, Olivia Nucci, Alexandra Oats, Evan Pickering, Lorelei Popp, Megan Reynolds, Torin Roth, Melaina Taylor and Emma Wheeler.



NOVEMBER WINNERS: Anthony Amato, Giana Casullo, Reagan Fast, Alexandra Jensen, Kailey Korkuc, Noelle Linenfelser, Kyto Magee, Joseph Martino, Hannah Moore, Jacob Ode, Liam O'Kell, Aleksander Pyc, Jack Sharp, Shauna Stevens, Alyssa Stockinger, Morgan Szathmary, Riley Weber, Zoe Wesolak, and Patrick Whalen.



Kaegebein Receives Macy's Grant to Perform "Yes, Virginia the Musical"

This holiday season, Kaegebein Elementary School staged a performance of "Yes, Virginia The Musical," an original production based on a true story of 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon, who wrote a letter to the New York Sun newspaper in 1897, inquiring about the existence of Santa Claus. The school musical program debuted in 2012 as part of Macy's holiday "Believe" campaign and has been performed by elementary and middle schools nationwide. Kaegebein received a \$1,000 grant from Macy's to assist with production costs, and welcomed the holiday season with a special performance of "Yes, Virginia The Musical" on December 18 & 19, 2014.



During a time of financial setbacks for many educational arts programs, Macy's has made the script and score for "Yes, Virginia The Musical" available royalty free to all schools and has created a free, digital toolkit on www.yesvirginiamusical.com. Macy's has also offered \$1,000 grants to 100 schools each year since the program's introduction to support their local productions. Grant recipient schools put their funds to use to purchase everything from costumes and set materials to sound and lighting equipment.

"The magical performances from 'Yes, Virginia The Musical' have been a highlight the last two holiday seasons," said Martine Reardon, Macy's chief marketing officer. "Each year, we are inspired by the enthusiastic response from schools across the country and the creative young talent who bring the story of Virginia O'Hanlon to life. Macy's is proud to offer 'Yes, Virginia The Musical' again, and we look forward to another season of magical performances."

"Yes, Virginia The Musical" is part of Macy's beloved "Believe" campaign, which supports Make-A-Wish®. The "Believe" program encourages children of all ages to drop their stamped letter to Santa at the red Santa Mail letterbox at their local Macy's or to visit macys.com/believe to create and send a letter. For every letter received, Macy's will donate \$1, up to \$1 million, to Make-A-Wish, helping to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.



Community Use of School Facilities

The Grand Island Central School District Board of Education welcomes and encourages community groups to use school facilities when they are not being used for school programs. If your organization would like to use any school facility, such as a classroom, cafeteria, auditorium, pool, gymnasium or outside athletic field, please call the District receptionist at 773-8800 who will connect you to the appropriate office. Groups will be asked to complete appropriate permits and insurance forms before consideration can be made for scheduling a facility. Usage fees may be applied.

In order to accommodate the numerous requests received, the District follows the following order when prioritizing use of space to outside groups:

- District sanctioned school events,
- District sports,
- community education,
- town recreation,
- and all other outside agencies.

During athletic seasons, the high school gymnasiums are reserved for District teams and not available for use.

We have a responsibility to maintain the community's investment in our schools. Our priority every evening is to insure that buildings are clean, safe and ready to greet students. We recognize the demand for use of school facility space is at a premium. Your cooperation in complying is appreciated and every effort will be made to accommodate your group's facility request.

Remember to Vote for Kaegebein!



Enter the Healthy Playground Makeover Sweepstakes today, and every day, for a chance to win one of two grand prizes, including a \$30,000 grant and a new playground for Kaegebein. One of the grand prize winners will be chosen from among all eligible entries. A second grand prize winner will be chosen from a special drawing for Title I Schools.



Chutes and Ladders

As I complete almost two full months as Principal at Veronica E. Connor Middle School, I am reminded of the many reasons why our middle school is a great place to learn. Those reasons are our students and our teachers. As we approach the school year's midpoint we reflect on our progress and help our students to do the same. I often think about the game that is played by little children called "Chutes and Ladders." The object of the game is to get to the top before your opponents do. If you are fortunate you are able to climb ladders, all different heights, and get to the top in less time. However, there are many chutes in the game that take you back down, and sometimes to the start line again. "Chutes and Ladders" has many similarities and connections to our students' school life especially at the midpoint of the school year. We have all heard the old saying "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Many times throughout the school year, our students continue to climb ladders to learning and success. Many of the "ladders" students climb involve working harder to stretch their learning abilities and create new connections to what they learned in the past. For some students the climb is quick and for others the climb can seem a little longer. Then there are times when our students are working hard and they face setbacks or "chutes" as in the children's game.



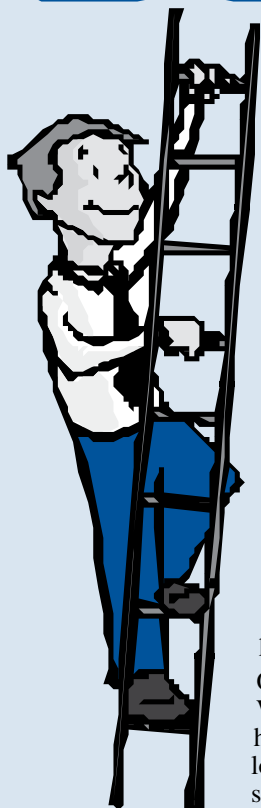
John Fitzpatrick
Principal

Setbacks can happen and there are many reasons for their occurrence. We must remember that the purpose of learning is not about "getting to the top" quicker

and faster. It is about the process. The process that includes "ladders" that raise our students to increased understanding and "chutes" that help us reflect on where we have been, where we are going, and what we need to do to get there. At midpoint, let's keep perspective on what we are trying to accomplish at Veronica E. Connor Middle School. Helping students find their path through positive, meaningful, challenging, and engaging learning experiences. Let's continue to "coach" our students to continue the climb when the "ladders" can seem long and unending. Continue to "coach" our students through the setbacks reminding them of the process, the journey, and what can be learned through honest reflection and perseverance.

Our students are the best students in Western New York. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to educate them and look forward to a productive and fantastic second half of the school year.

SUCCESS



NFL Play 60 and Fuel Up to Play 60

VCMS students are on the road to wellness with NFL Play 60 and Fuel Up to Play 60, sponsored by the Buffalo Bills and the American Dairy Association. Seventh-grade health students in Carley Antonelli's class have been working in collaboration with Anne Rich, food service director, to create and market the new Healthy Start Cart. Students can purchase healthy foods such as yogurt, milk or granola bars, a-la-carte or as a breakfast combo for only \$1.25. Fresh fruit can be selected and saved to enjoy during healthy snacking mods 3 and 10. The Healthy Start Cart is one of the "Nutrition Plays" students chose from the Fuel Up to Play 60 "Play Book."



VCMS students enjoy breakfast from the Healthy Start Cart.



Seventh-grader Eric Banks is awarded an autographed football from C.J. Spiller. As an NFL Play 60 Ambassador, Eric earned more points than any other student on the Play 60 online dashboard. Students earn points by completing mini-lessons, tracking daily nutrition and physical activity habits, and completing acts of leadership within their school.

Middle school students also advocated for "Physical Activity Plays" they wanted to bring to VCMS, dance and flag football were decisively popular. In October, the middle school physical education department received a mini-grant for NFL Play 60 flags, footballs and a PE curriculum. Over 30 students now participate in flag football intramurals on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with Mr. Johnston and Mr. Carney.

Dance opportunities kicked off at Connor Family Fun Night on November 14 with dancing led by Mrs. Antonelli and Mrs. Barnes. Students and their families were invited to participate.

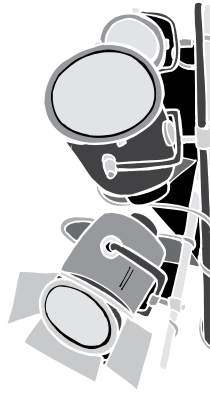


Front Row: Nick Keller.
Back row: Emily Reynolds,
Eric Banks, Dominic Justus,
Maria Buscaglia, Kenny Carter,
Sean Christian Rustowicz and
Joe Cali.

Spotlighters Perform “6 Tales for Tots”

Two eras collided for many high school drama students, who performed on their former stage for their former teachers at Sidway Elementary. The Spotlighters drama club put together a silly, fun and interactive show including six children’s stories for the very young. Students performed for 10 classes of kindergarteners and first-graders, who were the most enthusiastic audience the teenagers have ever had. The little ones especially loved “Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day,” the Big Bad Wolf in “The 3 Little Pigs,” and “Tacky the Penguin,” a story of a spunky little penguin who saves her friends from hunters. The Spotlighters also had five sing-alongs in the performance, including the smash hit “Baby Shark.” After two performances at Sidway, the group performed for the community and the families of Grand Island teachers on November 14 and 15. This was such a moving and fun experience for the Spotlighters, that advisors Anthony Giambrone, Amelia Scinta, and Maggie Kennedy have decided to make it a bi-annual tradition! Thank you so much to the faculty at Sidway, the audience at GIHS, and the students who sent fan mail.

Students who performed in “6 Tales for Tots” are: Jessica Ackendorf, Jill Anderson, Yaling Chen, Savannah Cramer, Sarina Buscaglia, Abigail Fay, Lenin Harper, Mick Hughes, Erika Jaegers, Julie Klein, Chris Lewis, Anna Martinez, Devlin McMaster, Nolan Miles, Kelsey Percival, Cassandra Shores, Rohan Smith, Jessica Zoldowski, Taylor Zoldowski, Corey Wilkinson, Katie Wolski and Beth Wynne.



#GivingTuesday

Students from the Grand Island Leadership Niagara Chapter (LYNC) spent the day giving back at the Community Mission in Niagara Falls on December 2; also known as #GivingTuesday all across America. Grand Island’s chapter of LYNC is 21 members strong and is split into two teams; giving back on two different days as part of their Servant Leadership portion of the program. The day is spent with mentors from Leadership Niagara who help to educate the high school members on the importance of serving their community. For more information on how you can help the Community Missions of Niagara, contact (716) 285-3403.



Pictured are members of GI LYNC: Adam Bevilacqua, James Franz, and Jacob Dollendorf



DECA Installation Dinner

The Grand Island DECA chapter held its official installation of members with 12 other schools in Western New York at Salvatore’s Italian Gardens on Wednesday, November 5. This year, GIHS DECA member Ashley Franz was voted in as the Region 12 DECA president and presided over the installation program this evening. DECA members, new and old, enjoyed a lavish meal while listening to inspiring words by guest speaker Ashley Kohorst, former DECA member who now coordinates music events in Nashville for artists like Blake Shelton and Tim McGraw. The benefits of belonging to the DECA business and marketing club are vast and everyone should take advantage of the networking, communications and management experience DECA has to offer. For more information on DECA, at the middle and high school levels, contact advisors MaryJane Fonte at VCMS or Cheryl Chamberlain at GIHS.



Grand Island High School Graduate Survey

As a recent graduate of the Grand Island Central School District (GICSD), we are interested in your feedback regarding your perceptions of preparedness AFTER graduation, as it relates to the program we have offered. We request that you respond to this quick survey below and return it to the Grand Island Central School District office by February 1, 2015. Thank you for taking this survey. Please know the results will be used to review our program.

1. What year did you graduate?
 - ☐ 2014 ☐ 2013 ☐ 2012 ☐ 2011
 - ☐ 2010 ☐ Other, please specify _____
2. What grades did you attend at GICSD Schools?
 - ☐ Grades K-2 ☐ Grades 3-5 ☐ Grades 6-8
 - ☐ Grades 9-12 ☐ Other, please specify _____
- 3a. What are you doing now?
 - ☐ Full-time employment, and attending school
 - ☐ Full-time employment, not attending school
 - ☐ Part-time employment, and attending school
 - ☐ Part-time employment, not attending school
 - ☐ Not employed, but attending school
 - ☐ Not employed, not attending school
- 3b. If you are employed full-time, please enter the type of job you hold. (If not employed full-time, skip this question).

- 3c. If you are employed full-time, how well did GICSD instruction prepare you for the skills needed in this job? (If not employed full-time, skip this question).

4. As you reflect on your high school preparedness for post-graduation, please respond to the following:
 - a. Do you feel as if you have the strong language skills needed (reading, writing, listening and speaking) to prepare you for your goals?
 - ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Somewhat
 - b. Do you feel as if you have the mathematic skills needed to prepare you for your goals?
 - ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Somewhat
 - c. Do you feel as if you have the computer/technology skills needed to prepare you for your goals?
 - ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Somewhat
 - d. Do you feel you have strong social and cultural skills to prepare you for your goals?
 - ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Somewhat
5. What educational opportunities have you participated in since high school graduation?
 - ☐ Technical training
 - ☐ Community College for an Associate's Degree (2 years)
 - ☐ College or University (4 years or more)
 - ☐ Military
 - ☐ None
6. Which of the following life skills could GICSD have better prepared you? (Check all that apply)
 - ☐ Time management ☐ Goal setting
 - ☐ Personal finance ☐ Study skills
 - ☐ Career planning ☐ Employment skills
 - ☐ College planning ☐ Job search
 - ☐ None
7. What recommendations, if any, do you feel we should consider adding to our program?

8. What recommendations, if any, do you feel we should consider eliminating from our program?

9. Have your original post high school plans changed since graduating?
 - ☐ Yes, my college or university plans changed.
If yes, please explain: _____
 - ☐ Yes, I had a job, but have since changed jobs.
If yes, please explain: _____
 - ☐ No, I am still enrolled in the same school or job.
10. What has been the most difficult aspect of participating in your post high school plans?
 - ☐ Academic load
 - ☐ Social life
 - ☐ Financial obligations
11. Do you feel more or less prepared than your fellow students, coworkers or servicemen/women who attended a different high school?
 - ☐ More
 - ☐ Less
 - ☐ Other, please specify _____
12. Other thoughts you would like to share?

Visit our website to take this survey online.
www.grandislandschools.org



Eight Selected for Conference All State Honors

This year, eight of Grand Island High School's finest student musicians were selected for Conference All State Honors, the highest musical honor a student can receive in New York State. The students traveled to Rochester, NY on Thursday December 4 - 6 for rehearsals with their fellow all state musicians. The weekend culminated with the All State concerts on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Congratulations to the following students for this great honor:

Ryan Allen
Jill Anderson
Carly Bernatovicz
Carly Hand
Emily Nobumoto
Andrew Riederer
Eric Riederer
Max VeRost



McDow to Serve as Assistant Superintendent for School Business and Finance



At their meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014, the Grand Island Central School District Board of Education unanimously appointed Robert McDow as the assistant superintendent for school business and finance. "The Board of Education had the opportunity to meet Mr. McDow before we voted to appoint him as the new Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance. We look forward to working with him," states Lisa Pyc, president of the Grand Island

Central School District Board of Education.

Most recently, McDow has served the past seven years as director of finance and plant services for Sweet Home Central School District. Prior to that, he served as project administrator for four years for the Buffalo Board of Education. "Mr. McDow comes to us with a proven track record for working collaboratively, evidence of having the required skills for the position and for being a strategic thinker. Rob has in depth experience in school business and finance, long range strategic financial planning and oversight of capital projects. We are confident that Rob can hit the ground running and be an immediate asset to the District," states Teresa Lawrence, superintendent of Grand Island Central School District.

McDow holds a master's degree in school business administration, budget administration; a master's degree in business administration in professional accounting; and a master's degree in business administration from Canisius College. His certifications include school business leader and school business administrator.

McDow says, "I am honored and look forward to helping the Superintendent and the Board of Education realize their vision and goal of making Grand Island Central School District the best district in Western New York."

He will begin his service to the Grand Island Central School District on January 5, 2015.

Teacher Honored for Outstanding Use of Technology in Education

New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE) has awarded Mary Howard, a teacher at Veronica E. Connor Middle School, the 2014 Lee Bryant Outstanding Teacher Award. The award recognizes teachers who have implemented or demonstrated the use of technology to improve education in an outstanding manner. Howard was honored at the NYSCATE annual conference in November.



"Mary is a dedicated teacher who uses technology to empower and enhance her students learning." She routinely shares ideas and inspiration with colleagues. Her passion for technology integration is reflected in her blog - yoursmarticles.blogspot.com. She possesses the ability to seamlessly employ technology in her class for powerful learning experiences for student learning. She has presented at local and state events and has been published in the NYSMSA Journal.

Shrek The Musical

Production Dates

There are three scheduled performances of Shrek
Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 6, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015 at 7:30 pm



