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The *Grand Island Central School District* **BRIDGE**

www.grandislandschools.org

The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!



Photos Courtesy of Mark Gorton

July 2014

Out & About with the Super!

Superintendent Dr. Lawrence shares some of her experiences that she encounters daily throughout the District.



Catching an elementary bus run on bus 58!



Getting a healthy start to the day with friends at Sidway!



Kaegebein Elementary students Zander Inman and Ashley Beck, give presentations on personal connections to books or people and how they can relate to overcoming obstacles. – Most inspiring!

Message From Your Superintendent

It is hard to believe we have closed out the 2013-14 academic school year!

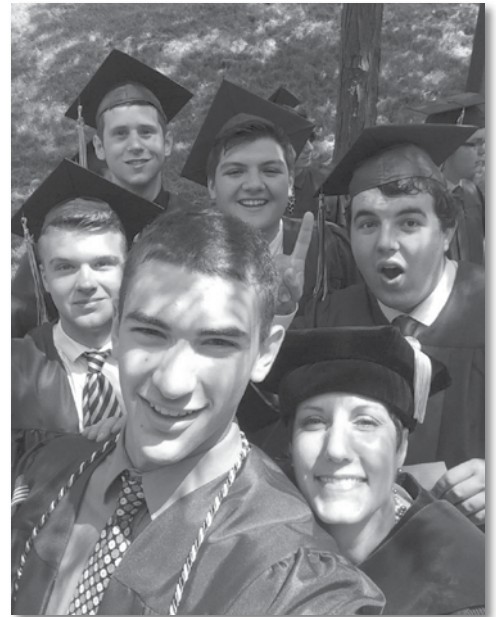
One focus this year was to make better use of available technology to increase communication between the school community and the community at large. Below are some advances that were made this year:

For easier recognition, we changed our email and web address to end in “grandislandschools.org”. For the time being, all emails using the old address will be forwarded and links on our website will be redirected.

The GICSD app was created and is available for free download off our website or at Google Play for Android devices and iTunes for Apple phones. Rather than scrolling on our website, this app gives you easy access to the most commonly sought information.

The middle school transitioned from sending home paper report cards to posting grades and report cards in the “Parent Portal”. This up-to-date record lets students and parents stay current with assignments and grades. Next year, we plan on moving this up to include the high school.

We recognized that our school community and the community at large are closely interconnected. To assist with supporting our local community, a web page has been dedicated to posting fliers about Island events that have previously been sent home with our students. This initiative also helps us do our part in “going green”. These fliers can be found under “Community Information” on our website.



2014 Graduation

Wouldn't it be great to get faster notification of emergency days? Folks in our IT department are working out the kinks to allow us to send text message notifications in addition to our robo calls. More information will follow as we make progress.

On July 1st we said good-bye and thank you to outgoing Board members Tak Nobumoto and Emily Ciraiolo for their service and leadership and welcomed Susan Marston and Karen Carroll to the Board.

I wish to extend a special thanks and farewell to the class of 2014 - my first full graduating class as a school superintendent. You are a driven, passionate and life-loving group of young adults. I am confident the world is in good hands.

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

I wish you a restful summer recess and look forward to seeing our students on Thursday, September 4, 2014.

Respectfully,

Teresa Lawrence, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

I wish to extend a special thanks and farewell to the class of 2014 - my first full graduating class as a school superintendent. You are a driven, passionate and life-loving group of young adults. I am confident the world is in good hands.



Message From Your Board of Education President

The Grand Island Central School District has completed another successful academic year of delivering a high quality education, making available a large selection of extracurricular activities, keeping our children safe and significantly improving our infrastructure and building for future generations. The community has continued its support of our schools and is sure to witness the fruits of that labor as the next generation of Grand Islanders to move onto higher education, the workforce or the Armed Forces. The Board of Education is grateful to the faculty and staff for their hard work and dedication which is evident in all aspects of the operations of our schools. The students are sure to take time over the summer to rest and relax, but also prepare for their next steps towards becoming educated adults that will make us all proud. A special thanks to the volunteers who contribute countless hours that augment what the district can offer and make this a truly special school district. Have a great summer break.

Sincerely,

Tak Nobumoto

President, Grand Island Board of Education



Board of Education Meeting Schedule 2014-2015

Meetings with Building Admin. begins at 6:00pm

Anticipated Executive Sessions begin at 6:30pm

Board Meetings begin at 7:30PM

July 7, 2014 – Reorganizational Meeting/Regular BOE Meeting

August 4, 2014 – Regular BOE Meeting

August 27, 2014 – BOE Retreat (6-9pm)

September 8, 2014 – Regular BOE Meeting

September 29, 2014 – Joint Town/School Board Meeting

October 6, 2014 – Meeting w/Sidway Building Admin/Regular BOE Meeting

October 26-28, 2014 NYSSBA Annual Convention (NYC)

November 10, 2014 – Meeting w/Kaegebein Building Admin/Regular BOE Meeting

December 8, 2014 – Meeting w/Huth Road Building Admin/Regular BOE Meeting

January 10, 2015 – BOE Winter Retreat

January 12, 2015 – Meeting w/Middle School Building Admin/Regular BOE Meeting

January 26, 2015 – HS/MS Tour/First Budget Input Session (NO BOE MEETING) (6:30pm)

February 9, 2015 – Meeting w/High School Admin/Regular BOE Meeting

February 23, 2015 – Kaegebein Tour/Second Budget Input Session (NO BOE MEETING) (6:30pm)

March 9, 2015 – Regular BOE Meeting

March 23, 2015 – Huth Road Tour/Third Budget Input Session (NO BOE MEETING) (6:30pm)

March 30, 2015 – Joint Town/School Board Meeting

April 13, 2015 – Sidway Tour/Fourth Budget Input Session (NO BOE MEETING) (6:30pm)

*April 21, 2015 – Regular BOE Meeting/Budget Adoption/E1B Budget Vote & Election

May 11, 2015 – Regular BOE Meeting/Budget Hearing

May 18, 2015 – Student Recognition – 5-7pm (NO BOE MEETING)

May 19, 2015 – Annual Budget Vote & BOE Election

June 8, 2015 – Tenure & Retiree Reception/Regular BOE Meeting

*Note, this is a Tuesday

Congratulations Retirees

Thank you for your dedication and years of service!

Tracy Beatty

Deborah Billica

Beth Boron

Barbara Backlund

Barbara Cushing

Hank Cushing

Maryann D'Avoli

Carolyn Fabiano

Barbara Fontana

Barbara Goldman

Clyde Hickock

Carol Kaufman

Michael Keleher

Nancy Keller

Carolyn Lokken

Faith Mantione

Sue Nardozzi

William Rosman

Michael Roth

Pamela Suszczynski



Tenure Granted

Congratulations to the following individuals who were appointed tenure during the 2013-2014 school year:

Carley Antonelli

Crystal Barnes

Andrew Boron

Anthony Giambrone

Angela Gorecki

Stephanie Hall

Daniel Hager

Robert Hennessy

Karen Koslowski

Aliscia Krecisz

Cheryl O'Connor

Tracy Poole

Stephanie Powers

Zachary Wood

Bell Choir Performances

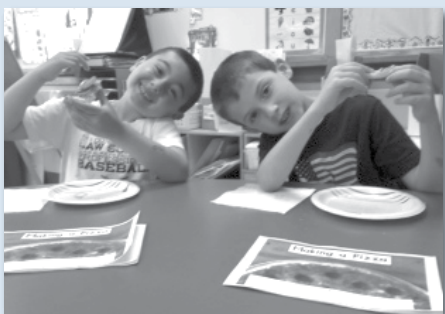
Barb Goldman's kindergarten bell choir performance was held in June. Students performed several songs for parents by playing the bells.

Ms. Goldman conducts the students as they "read" the music.



How to Make Pizza

Sidway's Kindergarten Reading Lab students had fun reading and writing about making pizza as a culminating experience to their time in "K-Lab". First students read a book entitled, Making a Pizza. Next, the children wrote their own version of an informational book about how to make pizza. Then, the students read the book that they authored to the group. Last, the "K-Labbers" made pizza with their favorite ingredients and shared their homemade creations together.



Kindergarten Picnic and First-Grade Field Days

Kindergarten students enjoyed a day at Beaver Island State Park on Friday, June 20 as an end of the year celebration. A variety of games and activities were all part of the fun enjoyed by students with their parents and teachers. First grade students stayed at Sidway and participated in a day full of organized games. It was a fun day for all! Thank you to our wonderful PTA for making this day possible!



Students enjoy some summer time fun at First-Grade Field Day.



Students enjoy relay races at First-Grade Field Day.



Students enjoy the beach at Beaver Island on Kindergarten Picnic Day.

Sidway's Patriotic Show

The first-grade students wore red, white and blue as they performed at Sidway's Annual Patriotic Show, under the direction of Mrs. Christine Clendening, on June 11 - 13. Kudos to all our first-graders and to Mrs. Clendening for producing three fabulous patriotic performances!



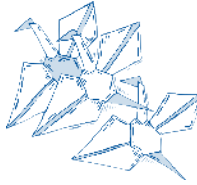
First-grade students and the Niagara Falls Air Force Honor Guard performed the flag folding ceremony during Sidway's annual Patriotic Show.

Origami Workshops



On Tuesday, June 10, Kyoko Roszmann visited Huth Elementary to hold origami workshops for fifth-graders. Every student made a pop-up card or a small book and each class also made an additional project to display. Miss Marciszewski's students folded pieces that fit together in a circle to form a wreath. Mrs. Neville's class created hearts by folding paper and then shaping it like clay to make the round edges. Students in Mrs. Angelo's class put their petals together to make cherry blossoms. Fifth-graders in Mrs. Schauger's and Mrs. Gormley's classes fit their folded pieces together to form another flower.

Miss Kyoko talked about how origami provides a creative outlet. The kids saw that they could make useful things like books and cards. Students showed great teamwork as they put their individual pieces together to make a new creation. Since the classes learned to make different things, now they can teach their project to friends in other classes.



H-Pin Winners

The H-Pin is an award given annually to those students who, in the opinion of the faculty, evidence qualities worthy of recognition. It is not an award for a specific quality or aptitude; rather it is based on the student's overall character. Congratulations to all 2013-2014 award recipients:



Matthew Castellino	Nicholas Pachla
Emily Cohen	Yifan Shen
Haley Coombs	Joseph Seifert
Thomas Fabiano	Lucas Seifert
Sean McMann	Aaron Szczepankiewicz
Rose Meaney	Lucas Tahara

Presidential Award Winners

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded the 2013-2014 Presidential Award. Listed alphabetically:

Camille Burruano	Mara Ellsworth
Emily Cohen	Eddie Kanfoush
Haley Coombs	Eleah Leng
Zach Cramer	Rose Meaney
Brooke Eichel	Tori Oldman
	Ryan Pinzel
	Aaron Szczepankiewicz
	Lucas Tahara
	Alex Wright



Comptroller Award

The NYS Comptroller Award is given to students who have shown academic excellence and the potential for leadership, through involvement in activities that improve the community. Congratulations to Joseph & Lucas Seifert for being selected as this year's recipients of the 2013-2014 Comptroller's Award.



The Quiz Master Game Show

"Why do people bully?" "What can you do if you are bullied?" Those are the questions that Quizmaster Dennis George asked students during the anti-bullying assembly. After students shared their ideas, Dennis chose students to put on a skit and demonstrate how bystanders can help when someone is being bullied.

In the first assembly, second and third-graders watched as classmates tried to use a plastic fork to put toothpaste back in the tube – nobody could do it! Then, students held up signs that read: "Bullying is like toothpaste. You can't take (put) it back."

Fourth and fifth-graders learned acronyms for strategies to deal with bullying.

For the Victim: SMILE

- S Stay Cool
- M Make Eye Contact
- I Identify The Attack
- L Lead Positive Conversation
- E Erase The Attack

For The Bystander: HERO

- H Help Out
- E Empathize With The Victim
- R Report and Respond
- O Keep OPEN Communication

Once they reviewed the acronyms, they tested their memories in a Family Feud style game. Both assemblies ended with the grades competing in a fun general question round. A few teachers were recruited to lead their teams to victory. Second and fourth-graders left with bragging rights and everyone learned good tips to handling bullying.





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**Thank you for your
continued support!**

May Artist of the Month

The Art Department of the Grand Island Central School District is pleased to announce that Jacob Hanesworth is the recipient of the K-12 Artist of the Month Award. Jacob is a fourth-grade student at Kaegebein Elementary School. He enjoys art because it allows him to think and express his feelings. This year, Jacob's favorite project was a painting of lily pads in the impressionist style. His favorite style of art is Pop art. Jacob credits his father and family for giving him help and encouragement. When asked about past art projects, Jacob fondly remembered a Mother's Day plate that he made in kindergarten. The art department wishes Jacob continued success in all his artistic endeavors.



Surprise, Surprise!

Happy Birthday, Mrs. Haggerty! Students, faculty and staff came together to surprise Principal Haggerty on her birthday. The entire school quietly gathered in the gym after announcements. When Mrs. Haggerty arrived everyone sang Happy Birthday and presented her with student-made cards, flowers and a cake. It was an exciting morning and Mrs. Haggerty sure looked surprised!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



VCMS Students Support Typhoon Victims

After Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November of this school year, Mrs Hegarty's and Ms. Fantrazzo's eighth-grade students started a collection called Pennies for the Philippines. Through her connections as a former Peace Corps volunteer, Mrs. Hegarty was able to find a current Peace Corps volunteer who could assist in getting the money raised directly to the people in need. The classes raised close to \$100 which was used to buy school supplies for students in Tacloban City in the Philippines. Peace Corps volunteer M. Thomas Duggan coordinated the purchase and distribution of the school supplies.

The eighth-grade students enjoyed participating in this project and seeing their donations directly impact the students in the Philippines.



This photo from the Philippines was provided by Peace Corps volunteer, M. Thomas Duggan.

As a result of the Veronica E. Connor Middle School "Jar Wars" competition, VCMS raised over \$555 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Special thanks go to Carley Antonelli for spearheading this project.



Honors Earth Science Students Ace Exam

It was another great year for the VCMS Honors Earth Science students!

Of the 80 eighth-grade VCMS students taking the Earth Science Regents exam:

- 100% passed
- Almost 40% scored 95 or higher
- 95% scored 85 or higher
- The overall average score was 93.
- 83% scored 90 or higher

Congratulations to all!



Hats Off! To The Class of 2014!



Photo Courtesy of Lifetouch

Champion Readers

Students competed in the annual English 9 Honors Reading Contest. For this challenge, students kept track of the number of pages read from September through June. This year's winning readers are Mallory DelSignore (1st place), Caitlin Young (2nd Place), and Marianthi Vasiliadis (3rd place). Congratulations girls!



Chemistry Students Compete for Spot on U.S. Team

Students Joshua Barrett, Kristina Kasprzycki, and Emma MacIntyre recently participated in a competition to select the U.S. team for the International Chemistry Olympiad. These students were asked to complete a very difficult exam given by the WNY Chapter of the American Chemical Society.



Kasprzcki scored #2 in Western New York and qualified for the national exam. She will advance to the second step of the competition. All three Grand Island students were honored with certificates for their participation in this difficult competition.

July 4th Parade

Member of the bus garage including Jack Burns, Director of Transportation and School Superintendent Dr. Teresa Lawrence, march in the July 4th parade.



Annual District Art Show

Works by hundreds of student artists were on display in the Viking Mall at Grand Island High School as the art department presented their annual district-wide art show. Students in grades K-12 proudly displayed their many talents at the yearly event. The show began with a reception for artists and their families on the evening of May 19 and ran throughout the week.



Featured are eighth-grade artists Courtney Wendling (left) and Megan Urbaniak (right).

A Champion Athlete



Jess Dhaliwahl recently earned New York State Champion and Double Federation Champion titles for her success in both the shot and discus events. Congratulations, Jess!

Assistant Principal Andres Rafael Arroyo, Assistant Principal Michael Lauria, Jess Dhaliwahl, and Principal Dan Quartley celebrate Jess' victory.

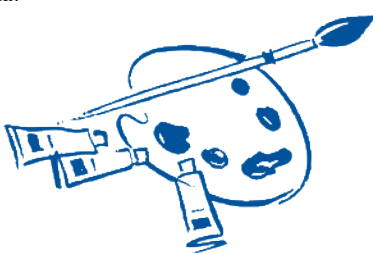


Seniors Honored with Art Awards

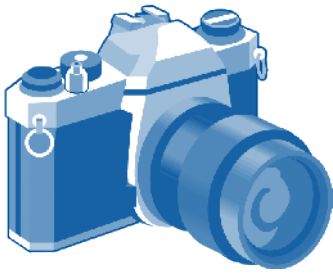
Thirty-five area high school seniors were honored with art awards from the Niagara Police Athletic League at the Fifth Annual Arts Award Gala, at the Castellani Art Museum in Niagara University. The students were recognized for their accomplishments in 2D visual arts, 3D visual arts, digital arts, theater, instrumental and vocal music, with an overall winner from each category announced at the Art Award Gala. The young artists each submitted artwork, or auditioned live for adjudication. Submissions were considered on their originality and excellence, and were on display or segments of his or her audition were aired at the Castellani Art Museum during the Gala.



Honored from Grand Island were, Addison Joslyn for Digital Art, Kai Ellsworth in 2D Fine Art, and Magdalyn Chauby for Vocal Music. Additionally, Kai and Maggie were both the overall winners in their respective categories.



Venture Yearbook Gives Back



The 2014 Venture Yearbook Staff and Editors continued their tradition of giving back to the school and the community. The group took part in a few community service projects and donated both time and funds to some deserving people and organizations.

Shannon Robillard and Thomas Corrao were named the 2014 Roberta Frisoni scholarship winners and were presented with a check for \$800 to be used for college expenses next fall. Since 2009 almost \$16,000 has been given away to editors who have dedicated their time and efforts to the Venture Yearbook.

In December, the group made cards and holiday ornaments as well as purchased clothes and other items for a few needy families in conjunction with the "12 Days of Christmas" organization. Students gift-wrapped and put their special touches on the items to be given to families in need during the 12 days leading up to Christmas. Students sold holiday chocolate and candy bars to make this donation happen.

In December, members of the Yearbook Staff also collected toys for children staying at Roswell Park Cancer Institute over the Christmas holiday. Toys were delivered on Christmas Eve to both children staying at the hospital and visiting their emergency department.

In June, the Yearbook students threw an end of the year celebration for the workers of the Yummy Tummy Cafe. Employees were treated to pizza, wings, chips, salad, pop, water, brownies and cupcakes. Award certificates were given out and each member of Mr. Albert's class was recognized individually.

Lastly, staff in the spring sold holiday chocolates and more candy bars to make a donation to a student in one of our elementary schools. The student wished for a trip to African Lion Safari with his family and the Venture team donated gift cards to help him on his way along with gift cards for the Boulevard Mall, Rainforest Cafe, De-Dee's Dairy, Tops, and Regal Cinemas.



Seniors Shannon Robillard (left) and Thomas Corrao (right) stand with yearbook adviser Mr. Christopher Simpson (center) after accepting the 2014 Roberta Frisoni Scholarship. The two will receive \$800 to use for books and other materials when they enter college next fall at D'Youville and Fredonia respectively.



Members of the Venture Yearbook take a picture with the employees of Yummy Tummy Cafe after their celebration luncheon.

IB Graduates



Stephanie Kowalak, Assistant Principal Andres Rafael Arroyo and Zoe Reda.

Congratulations to Stephanie Kowalak and Zoe Reda. Their hard work and dedication have earned them an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Great job, ladies!

U of R Grad Honors GI Teacher



Four University of Rochester graduating seniors honored a very special group of people, high school teachers, who had a profound impact on their education and growth as students and individuals. During the University's commencement weekend, Grand Island's own teacher, Robert Collard, was among those recognized with the 2014 Singer Family Prize for Excellence in Secondary Teaching. The annual award honors teachers for their significant influence on the University of Rochester's newest alumni.

The four award winners received a plaque and \$3,000, as well as \$2,500 for their school. This year's Singer Prize recipients were also invited to the University of Rochester's commencement ceremony.

University of Rochester's graduating senior and GIHS alumnus Jonathan E. LoTempio, Jr. nominated Robert Collard, Grand Island High School chemistry teacher as a recipient of the 2014 Singer Family Prize for Excellence in Secondary Teaching.

Engineering Tech Club Builds Paddle Board

Stand up paddle boarding is the fastest growing water sport in the world right now. It uses a long paddle and a board that you stand on in order to paddle. Mr. Carl Koppmann, High School Engineering Tech Teacher, has been stand up paddle boarding for over eight years and wanted to share the fun and connection to the water and the outdoors with his students. He thought building a stand up paddle board would make a great project for the students in his After School Engineering Tech Club, and after discussing it with the students, they agreed.

The students started fundraising in October and commenced with design in January. They met several times a week until June. They researched ideas and designed the board using SolidWorks 3-D design software. They then transferred the design to template material and used a ni-chrome hot-wire to cut the locally sourced foam block to the proper shape. After they had the “rocker” cut, they split the “blank” down the middle and glued in a stringer for support. Once that was complete, the blank was ready to be hand shaped by eye to feel just like the classic surfboard shapers of the 1950’s and 1960’s. When they were satisfied with the shape, they applied two layers of fiberglass and epoxy resin to each side of the board in order to make it rigid and watertight. A single fin box was added to the bottom and a deck pad on the top to stand on. Throughout the process the students were exposed to a variety of design challenges as well as new materials such as advance epoxy composites, aerospace cloths like fiberglass, and extruded polystyrene (EPS).

Once complete, the only thing left to do then was to paddle it. The students held several sessions at Beaver Island where they had the chance to test their design. Everything worked great and all their hard work paid off!



Students at Beaver Island with their finished 9’8” stand up paddle board are from left to right: Matt Wellence, Brandon York, Erik Carlson, Ben Freedman, Frank Derubes, Andrew Colautto, Leah Killian, Marah Killian, Austin Mahoney, and Adam Bahgat.

Mini-Baja Brings Engineering to Life

The Buffalo State College Mini Baja Team, headed by Anthony Bruno (GI class of 2010), brought their high performance Mini Baja vehicle to Grand Island High School. The Mini-Baja is a collegiate level event that allows teams from all over the country to design and build a vehicle to accomplish specific tasks (such as acceleration, rock crawling and endurance). The team presented on their trials and learning, and demonstrated the different components on the vehicle. This was a great opportunity for our Engineering Technology students to see how a team of designers come together to work on a project. The vehicle is a true testament to the dedication and passion of engineering students in our area.

Thank you Mr. Shelley, high school engineering tech, for setting up this great opportunity for our students!

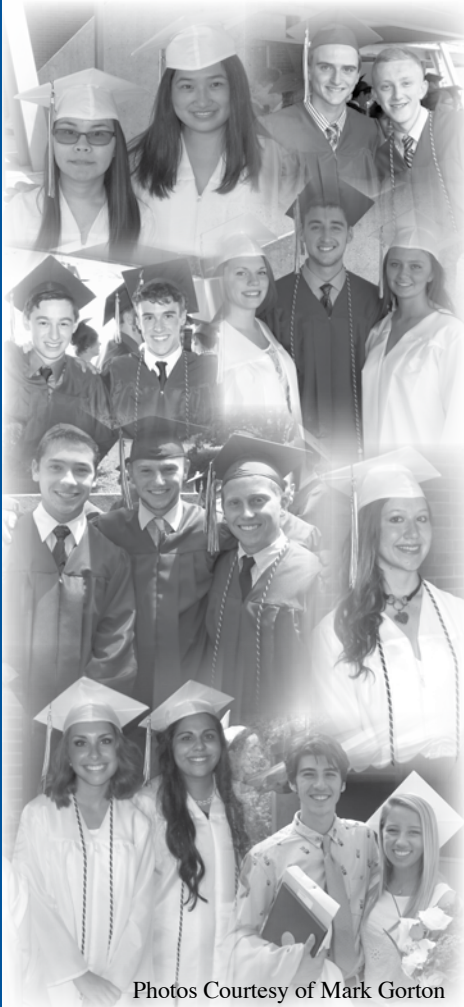


Students Travel Abroad

Twenty-four students embarked on a remarkable journey this April to Ireland and England. The group was led by teachers Jeannine Scibilia, Bob Simpson, and Tom Gorman. Students and faculty experienced some of the best sights Europe has to offer including: The Globe Theater, Trinity College, Oxford, Stonehenge, and Westminster Abbey. This unforgettable trip will surely provide memories that will last a lifetime - for both students and their teachers.



Congratulations to the Class of 2014!



Photos Courtesy of Mark Gorton

Senior Projects

Seniors Brandon York and Frank Derubes built 9' 2" long board surfboards as their senior project for Advanced Technology Design class. The students designed the boards and built them from scratch using locally sourced materials. It took over three months of hard work, and many late days after school, but the finished product speaks for itself. These two students are the definition of hard work and relentless commitment! They both learned an amazing amount about fiberglass composites, extruded polystyrene foams, and hydrodynamic hull design. These seniors can't wait to get out on the lake and catch some waves with them!





Grand Island

Central School District

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

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NOTICES

New Website Address

Please note, our website and email addresses have changed. You can now find us at www.grandislandschools.org. All district email addresses now end in grandislandschools.org. (Example: jdooe@grandislandschools.org)

Community Fliers - What's Happening in Our Community

We recognize that our school community and the community at large are closely interconnected. To assist with supporting our local community, a community information page on the District website is dedicated to posting fliers about Island events that have previously been sent home with our students. Information on how to submit your event information can be found at www.grandislandschools.org – District – Community Information.

Fall Community Education Classes

Look for the Fall Community Education Brochure in the Back to School Edition of the Bridge! Registration information and class details will also be posted mid-August on the website at www.grandislandschools.org - Departments & Services - Community Education.

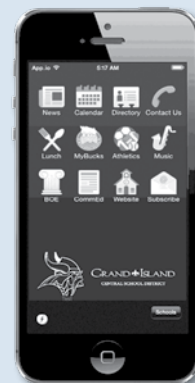
Sign Up For E-News

If you are a current e-news subscriber and you have a child/children moving up to a new building this September, please check the subscribed category selections you have chosen to be sure they meet your needs for the upcoming school year. You don't want to miss any news or announcements from your new principal! You're not an e-news subscriber? Sign up now for regular news and updates from the building principals and district administration. Just visit the district website at www.grandislandschools.org and click on the "sign up for e-news" button in the lower left corner.

There's an App for That!

The Grand Island Central School District has an app that will give parents and students a one-stop spot to access important information any time of day or night. Features include:

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



The easy-to-use mobile app is available for free download off our website or at Google Play for Android devices and iTunes for Apple phones.



Back to School Start Date

Please note, the 2014-2015 school year will start for students on Thursday, September 4. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!