

# THE BRIDGE

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Grand Island Central School District

Winter 2008 **The Bridge** - The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District [www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org)

*See Inside for Community Ed Brochure*

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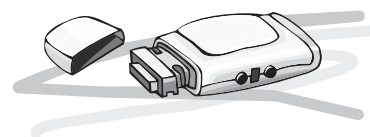
## Thank You, G.I. Foundation!



*Victoria Gruber from Mrs. Chauby's 4th-grade class holds a USB key.*

Thanks to a grant from the Grand Island Foundation, the Kaegebein Library Media Center (LMC) has 25 USB keys that students may borrow for overnight use when working on research projects. The keys will be equipped with bar codes and will be checked out of the LMC just as if they were books.

A student can take one home, work on the research project using resources provided by the Grand Island Central School District, and save her/his work. The next day, the information should be transferred to the student's home folder and deleted from the key, which should be promptly returned to the LMC so that it will be available for another student to use.



In addition to solving the problem of how to save work that students do at home, this program will, hopefully, make the community more aware of the wide array of resources that the district provides to students.

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# Message from your Superintendent

By Bob Christmann, School Superintendent



Superintendent  
Bob Christmann

Recently the voters of Erie County elected as its County Executive a person who, according to the polls, was believed could bring a business perspective to the running of a government organization. Those of us in education are always interested first in understanding and then in applying those business beliefs and practices that could help us do an even better job with our business of educating students.

One of the most important tenants of becoming a successful business is to treat your customers with respect. Without a customer service mindset, no business will last very long. School staff must likewise see themselves as actually having customers and then needing to provide quality service to them as we go about our daily responsibilities in each of our school buildings.

Who are those customers of schools? There are several different levels to that answer. The first level of customers must be our students. When any of them have needs whether they be academic, social and/or emotional, are we doing our

very best to respond to those needs? Do we listen to what they have to say? Do we try to go beyond the mask that students occasionally show to really get to know what they are feeling and trying to say? Is it important to us that we be able to provide important services to students? Are we doing all that we can to really get to know our customers? Are we willing to go the extra mile to assist our student customers in becoming better in both the classroom and as people? Are they learning as well as developing a good character?

Let me answer these questions by writing that as Grand Island Central School District, we are good right now and improving every day. I have seen first hand countless examples of when staff have bent over backwards to provide the type and quality of services our students need and are seeking from us. There's a special enthusiasm and responsibility that our school staff displays knowing that their efforts can affect someone for the rest of his/her life.

If you needed service on a dishwasher and the repair person came to your house, would you expect that person to tell you that it cannot be fixed and they are not coming back? Of course not. In the same way, you will never see our staff quit trying to provide services to a student in need. The secret to losing weight is not in knowing how to do it but in applying what we already know. In schools we know what our customers, our students, need and we demonstrate high levels of

adherence to our improvement plans to produce positive results. We do not give up on students no matter how much they may try pushing us away.

The second level of customers are the parents of our students. Are we listening to what they are telling us? Are we proactively communicating with them? As school staff, do we truly see parents as customers to whom service must be provided? Do we respect the opinions of parents on their own children and on the operations of our schools? The best way to get respect is to give it first. Are we giving respect as an entire school staff to our parents? Parents need to be treated with decency, with manners and with appreciation of the whole person. When speaking to parents do we smile, keep eye contact, greet them first, apologize if we are late or interrupt, converse instead of lecture, avoid sarcasm and maintain emotional control? Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us we miss what is really important. We trust we do not do that as school staff. In turn we have high expectations for how parents respond to us as school staff. We appreciate the challenges that come to parents in this day and age as we are certain parents understand and appreciate the work done by our school staff. Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstandings, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. As we as a staff continue to see parents as our customers, we are confident that our

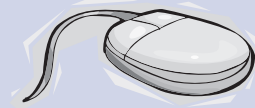
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business of education will get better and better. Even what seem to be small items such as answering our phones promptly and returning all calls are an indication to parents of our commitment to serve.

Finally, we ask you to let us know how we are doing. Successful companies seek feedback from their customers. Follow up phone calls are made. Post cards and letters are sent out to customers seeking their comments. You shouldn't hesitate to let us as a school staff know how important our level of service to you, our customers, has been. We want to provide truly outstanding service to students, parents and community members. We believe that our entire school staff, no matter what each of us does, desires to achieve a high level of performance and caring.

If you are pleased, let us know. If you have any suggestions on how we can do better, please let us know that as well. A successful company knows that service to customers is important. Schools know that as well.

## Meal Accounts Now Available Online



As of November 1st, the Grand Island Central School District's Food Service Department is pleased to provide families a convenient, easy and secure online prepayment service to deposit money into your child's school meal account. This service is made available through MyNutriKids.com.

MyNutriKids.com is a secure online prepayment service that makes life easier for everyone. Now available through the GICSD Web site, MyNutriKids.com provides families with a secure, fast and convenient method for adding money to your child's school meal accounts. Parents can access their child's current account balances and can review what their child has been purchasing for meals at school by reviewing their individual history report.

We are confident this new system will benefit you, your child and our school district. Prepaid accounts help students move through the lunch line faster allowing them more time to enjoy their meal while minimizing the need for our staff to handle cash. For parents, this new service means no more worries about whether or not there is money in your child's account or no more searching for lunch money every morning.

For complete details on how to register for MyNutriKids.com, please visit the GICSD Food Services Web page.



## School Security Cameras Go Cutting Edge

This fall the Grand Island Central School District began to replace our old analog surveillance system with a new digital video system that ties directly to the school's network. The new system provides a crisp, clear, color image and allows for easy access and monitoring by administrators.

A total of 20 cameras were installed in the Middle School and High School. The cost is approximately \$1,000 per camera depending on model and specifications. Funding for the project came from a grant secured by Assemblyman Hoyt and state aided hardware money.

Middle School Principal, Mr. Bruce Benson reports discipline referrals have decreased since the cameras have been installed.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on phasing in more security cameras across the district. Phase two of the project will include additional cameras in the academic wing of the Ransom Road complex. Exterior cameras will be a priority in future phases followed by elementary buildings and transportation.

Digital video surveillance is an important component for securing schools and maintaining a productive learning environment. Recent events in the world have caused every school to re-examine its security practices. Maintaining safe and secure schools in Grand Island is a priority.



## Huth Road Elementary Reinforces Viking Values



**A**t the beginning of the school year Huth Road Elementary School implemented a new program called Character Counts. Overall it would reinforce the current Viking Values that are “Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe”. Each month a character trait is concentrated on such as respect, citizenship, fairness, trustworthiness, just to name a few. These topics will be discussed in the classroom, on the bus, on the morning announcements and at the town meetings that are held each month in the auditorium. During this time, children will have the opportunity to learn more about the character trait by reading books, viewing a short video that models the trait and writing about the topic in the classroom. Each teacher then selects and writes about one student in their class that models the character trait the best. The 22 students get their picture taken and it is displayed on our Character Counts Wall of Honor. This program is off to a great start and the modeled positive behavior is catching on very fast throughout our school and home for all of the students that attend Huth Road Elementary school.

The following students have been nominated to receive an award for the respect character trait. Those students are: Jordan Anthony, Brad Boreali, Joseph Boyko, Jason Buchanan, Julia Buscaglia, Andrew Carlson, Gianni Ford, Leah Geis, Ian Hardison, Joshua Hoy, Kimberly Huffnagle, Zane Johnson, Taylor Latvala, Joshua Less, Arthur Meaney, Emily Nobumoto, Gianna Novelli, Jake Schmidt, Emma Smith, Lindsey Supparits, Jessica Surace, and Anna Ungaro.

## Junior Job Search



*Pictured are Makallie Banker and Maria Buyer during a “job interview”.*

**F**riday, November 9th was a very different day for over 120 8th-grade Veronica E. Connor Middle School Family and Consumer Science students. They spent their time attending job interviews during class and junior and senior high school students were the “employers” conducting the interviews!

This innovative program was instrumental due to three teachers working together between the schools; Mrs. Mary Jane Fonte and Mrs. Marcia McHenry at Veronica E. Connor Middle School and Mrs. Cheryl Chamberlain at the Grand Island High School.

Authentic job interview experience is a part of the high school’s Job Search Seminar in which students interview with local business leaders. Mrs. Chamberlain wanted to bring this same excitement to the middle school through her students and the interview process.

Mrs. Fonte coordinated all of the classes and times and the high school students were excited to participate. This program will continue into next semester when new middle school and high school students will participate in what is deemed as, “Junior Job Search.”



## Meet the AIS Team



**A**cademic Intervention Services (AIS) provides additional instruction and/or student support services which supplement instruction provided in the general curriculum and assist students in meeting the state learning standards. Academic Intervention Services are intended to assist students who are at risk of not achieving the state learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and/or science, or who are at risk of not gaining the knowledge and skills needed to meet or exceed designated performance levels on state assessments. All students are afforded appropriate and targeted opportunities for academic assistance and intervention. Identification of students who are at-risk for learning is based upon multiple measures.

This year, the AIS team collaborated to revise and refine the AIS plan for the Grand Island Central School District. This plan will be recommended for adoption to the Board of Education in June 2008.

The AIS team is comprised of 18 District employees led by Dr. Karen Karmazin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum. Team members include: Lisa Amsdill, AIS Math Teacher, Middle School; Deanna Cannavo, AIS Reading, Huth; Laurie Cordero, Guidance Counselor, Middle School; Denise Dunbar, Principal, Sidway Elementary; Janet Gorfien, AIS Reading, Kaegbein Elementary; Mary Haggerty, Principal, Huth Elementary; Carol Jones, Pupil Personnel Director; Lisa Justin, AIS Reading, Sidway Elementary; Marlaine Kaniecki, Middle School; Lynda Keipper, Speech, Huth Elementary; Amy Kessel, AIS Reading, High School; Carol Kimmerle, AIS Reading, Middle School; Randy Seiwel, AIS Reading, Sidway Elementary; Lauren Stang, Psychologist,

Sidway Elementary; Karen Surdyke, AIS Math, High School; Jackie Walters, Guidance, High School and John Wiertel, Principal, Kaegbein Elementary.

The team collaborated in an effort to achieve one goal - for all students to be successful in meeting the New York State Learning Standards.

## School-to-Work Job Search Program

**T**his year the Grand Island School-to-Work Program is pleased to announce a new Job Search Program for students in eleventh and twelfth grades on February 14, 2008. Students are encouraged to sign up in room 153 for the opportunity to interview with business people from all over Western New York for the day long seminar at the Grand Island Holiday Inn. In addition to authentic job interviews, the students will also attend break out sessions highlighting important career building tips. For more information please contact Mrs. Cheryl Chamberlain, School-to-Work Coordinator, at 773-8879.



# Educational Resources: The Gateway to Success

**E**ducational Resources is a section of Grand Island Central School District's Web site designed specifically for our students, parents and staff. With designated sections for each of these audiences, Educational Resources is the best place to ensure your time online is well spent. See below for a description of each part of Educational Resources.

**Teacher Resources** - This page is organized into sections: Professional, Instructional K-12 (then by subject area), Instructional K-5, Instructional 6-8, Instructional 9-12 and a section regarding the Grand Island/Tonawanda Teacher Center. These resources are intended to assist teachers with administrative tasks (i.e. requesting substitutes, logging professional development, utilizing data, etc.), developing lessons and activities, conducting research and integrating technology.

**Teacher Web Pages** - Search for Teacher Web Pages by location or name. You can even sort your search results by grade, subject or teacher. Grand Island teachers - there is also a link to the Teacher Pages login site to make updating even easier!

**Parent Resources** - The Parent Resources section is organized by topics of interest; these topics include Curriculum & Testing, Community/Local Links, Early Childhood Resources, Character Education, Internet Safety, and Universal PreKindergarten.

**Student Resources** - This page is organized by grade level (elementary, middle and high school) and provides links to age appropriate student resources. You'll find everything from games that practice math skills to help taking the SATs. These resources allow students to reach beyond the school walls to access information.



**Library Media Center** - Links to each of the libraries in the district. Our Library Media Centers offer a variety of electronic databases to students and staff for research and information. Databases are comprised of articles written by or approved by educators and are geared toward K-12 students. These electronic resources increase the topics students are able to research by providing a multitude of articles on a variety of subject matter. In addition, most of these resources are available to students from both home and school.

**Podcasting/Blogging Server** - This page provides a link to the district's podcasting and blogging server. Access to this server is only available inside the district.

**Eco Island Nature Center** - Explore Grand Island's one-of-a-kind, hands-on learning, nature center.

The best part of Educational Resources is that it's constantly growing. We continue to look at emerging resources and electronic databases that will best serve our students, staff and community.

## PBIS Showcase of Schools

On Friday, November 9, 2007 Erie 1 BOCES hosted the New York State Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Showcase of Schools. This event highlighted the creativity of



schools and celebrated the progress in implementing the program. Assistant Principal, Carl Guidotti and Mary Howard both from Veronica E. Connor Middle School served as representatives from Grand Island Central School District.

Grand Island Central School District is just one of the area schools that are achieving success with the implementation of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) initiative. PBIS is a school-wide system that supports staff to teach and promote positive behavior in all students.





# 2007-2008 Winter Athletic Schedule



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

**Coaches: Jenepher Banker (V)**  
**Julie Neville (JV)**

11/26	@ Starpoint (NL)	5:30 pm
11/28	@ Sweet Home Tourn	6/7:30 pm
11/30	@ Sweet Home Tourn	TBA
12/04	Holy Angels (NL)	5:00 pm
12/07	Bennett (NL)	5:00 pm
12/10	@ Tonawanda (NL)	5:30 pm
12/13	@ KenEast	5:30 pm
12/18	Lockport	5:00 pm
01/03	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/08	KenWest	5:00 pm
01/10	@ LewPort	5:30 pm
01/17	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/22	No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
01/25	KenEast	5:00 pm
01/29	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
02/01	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
02/05	@ KenWest	5:30 pm
02/08	LewPort	5:00 pm
02/12	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
02/14	@ No. Tonawanda	5:30 pm

## BOYS BASKETBALL

**Coaches: Greg Ross (V)**  
**Steve Asbach (JV)**

12/04	@ W. Seneca E. (NL)	6:00 pm
12/06	Emerson (NL)	4:30 pm
12/08	@ NF Tourn (vs. Franklinville)	11:00 am
12/11	RoyHart (NL)	5:00 pm
12/14	KenEast	5:00 pm
12/19	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
01/04	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/08	@ KenWest	5:30 pm
01/09	W. Seneca East (NL)	5:00 pm
01/11	LewPort	5:00 pm
01/15	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/18	@ No. Tonawanda	5:30 pm
01/25	@ KenEast	5:30 pm
01/29	Lockport	5:00 pm
02/01	@ Niagara Falls	5:30 pm
02/05	KenWest	5:00 pm
02/08	@ LewPort	5:30 pm
02/12	@ Niagara Wheat	5:30 pm
02/14	No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
02/15	Tonawanda (NL)	5:00 pm
02/20	Sectionals	TBA

## BOYS SWIMMING

**Coaches: Rob Collard (Head Coach)**  
**Phil Ciruolo (Assistant)**

12/04	@ No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
12/07	KenWest	5:00 pm
12/11	@ LewPort	5:00 pm
12/14	@ Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
12/18	Lockport	5:00 pm
01/02	@ KenEast	5:00 pm
01/04	Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/08	No. Tonawanda	5:00 pm
01/11	@ KenWest	5:00 pm

01/15	LewPort	5:00 pm
01/18	Niagara Falls	5:00 pm
01/25	@ Lockport	5:00 pm
01/29	KenEast	5:00 pm
02/01	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
02/06	NFL Meet @ GI	5:00 pm
02/13	Sec 6 Prelims @ ECC	5:00 pm
02/14	Sec 6 Finals @ ECC	5:00 pm

## WRESTLING

**Coaches: Jeff Johnston (Head Coach)**  
**Chris Ciechoski (Assistant)**

11/28	Fredonia (NL)	6:00 pm
11/30	Hamburg (NL)	5:30 pm
12/01	@ Orchard Park Tourn.	9:00 am
12/05	No. Tonawanda	5:30 pm
12/08	GI Duals	9:00 am
12/12	@ LewPort	5:00 pm
12/14-15	@ Jamestown Tourn.	TBA
12/19	BI/Wh Match (Mod/JV)	5:30 pm
01/ 4-5	@ NCCC Tourn	TBA
01/09	@ Niagara Wheat	5:00 pm
01/11-12	@ Lockport JV Tourn	5pm/9am
01/12	@ Will. North Tourn.	9:00 am
01/16	Lockport	5:30 pm
01/19	@ NF JV Tourn.	TBA
01/23	@ KenEast	5:30 pm
01/25	@ Lew-Port JV Tourn	TBA
01/26	@ Lew-Port Tourn.	TBA
01/30	Niagara Falls	5:30 pm
02/01	@ Barker	6:00 pm
02/06	@ KenWest	5:30 pm
02/15-16	AAA Tourn. (@Starpoint)	TBA
02/23	State Qual. (@Ken West)	TBA

## INDOOR TRACK

**Coach: Don Sauer**  
**Asst Coach: Jim Patterson**

02/07	@ Buff State (Bengal Invite)	4:30 pm
12/22	@ Buff State (Xmas Invite)	8:00 am
02/27	@ Lancaster (PV/WT Inv)	12:00 pm
12/28	@ Fredonia (Holiday Inv)	9:00 am
01/05	@ Cornell Univ (S.Tier Inv)	9:00 am
01/18	@ Buff State (Bengal II)	4:30 pm
01/18-19	@ Yale University	8:00 am
01/21	@ Fredonia (Frosh-Soph Inv)	9:00 am
01/26	@ Lancaster (Var Select)	12:00 pm
02/02	@ RIT (RIT/Penfield Inv)	9:00 am
02/09	@ Fredonia (WNY Relays)	9:00 am
02/16	@ Fredonia (League Champion)	9:00 am
02/24	@ Fredonia (Var Select)	9:00 am
03/01	@ Fredonia (Sectionals)	9:00 am
03/08	@ Cornell Univ (States)	8:00 am

## BOWLING

**Coach: Craig Davis**

12/03	Maryvale Tourn	3:00 pm
	(@ Airport Lanes)	
12/04	KenWest	4:00 pm
12/06	@ Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
12/11	No. Tonawanda	4:00 pm

12/13	Lockport	4:00 pm
12/18	@ Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
12/20	KenEast	4:00 pm
12/27	Festival of Lights Tourn	9:00 am
	(@ Thruway Lanes)	
01/03	@ LewPort	4:00 pm
01/08	Niagara Wheat	4:00 pm
01/10	@ KenWest	4:00 pm
01/15	@ Lockport	4:00 pm
01/17	@ No. Tonawanda	4:00 pm
01/25	NFL Individ @ Lockport	2:00 pm
01/29	@ KenEast	4:00 pm
02/02	Roy Sommer Tourn	8:30 am
	(@ Thruway Lanes)	
02/05	LewPort	4:00 pm
02/07	Niagara Falls	4:00 pm
02/14	Boys Sectionals	TBA
02/15	Girls Sectionals	TBA
03/01	States	TBA

## GIRLS MODIFIED BASKETBALL

**Coach: Art Meaney**

01/04	@ Starpoint	5:15 pm
01/07	St. Stephen's	4:30 pm
01/08	LaSalle MS	4:30 pm
01/10	@ Kenmore MS	4:30 pm
01/15	Niagara Wheat MS	4:30 pm
01/16	@ LewPort MS	4:30 pm
01/22	No. Tonawanda MS	4:30 pm
01/24	@ North Park MS	4:30 pm
01/29	Franklin MS	4:30 pm
01/31	@ Emmet Belknap MS	4:30 pm
02/05	Starpoint	4:30 pm
02/07	@ Gaskill MS	4:30 pm
02/12	Hoover MS	4:30 pm

## BOYS MODIFIED BASKETBALL

**Coach: Dan Sweeney**

01/04	Starpoint	4:30 pm
01/08	@ LaSalle MS	4:30 pm
01/10	Kenmore MS	4:30 pm
01/15	@ Niagara Wheat MS	4:30 pm
01/17	LewPort MS	4:30 pm
01/22	@ No. Tonawanda MS	4:30 pm
01/24	North Park MS	4:30 pm
01/29	@ Franklin MS	4:30 pm
01/31	Emmet Belknap MS	4:30 pm
02/05	@ Starpoint	5:15 pm
02/07	Gaskill MS	4:30 pm
02/12	@ Hoover MS	4:30 pm

## MODIFIED WRESTLING

**Coach: Henry Carney**

11/29	Belknap, Hoover @ GI	5:00 pm
12/03	GI, LewPort @ NW	5:00 pm
12/06	NW, GI @ Franklin	5:00 pm
12/10	Kenmore, NP @ GI	5:00 pm
12/13	Franklin, LewPort @ GI	5:00 pm
12/14	@ Wilson	5:00 pm
12/17	Hoover, Kenmore @ GI	5:00 pm
12/19	BI/Wh Match (Mod/JV)	5:30 pm
12/20	GI, Niag. Falls @ NW	5:00 pm

## Reading Recovery Works at Sidway Elementary



**L to R:** Reading Recovery welcomes teachers Lisa Blake, Antoinette DiBellonia and Lisa Justin who joined the Sidway School faculty this fall.

**T**his year marks the first year of the Grand Island Central School District's commitment to Reading Recovery. Reading Recovery is a highly effective short-term intervention of one-to-one tutoring specifically for first-grade students. The intervention is most effective when it is available to all students who need it and is used as a supplement to good classroom teaching. It is used in many school districts within the country and around the world. Students who qualify for the intervention program work with a Reading Recovery teacher every day. The goal of Reading Recovery is to provide short term early intervention to reduce the need for additional support in reading and writing.

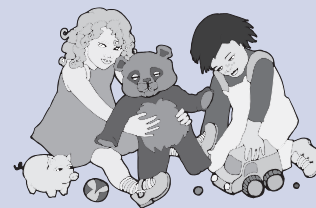
## We're Still Waiting to Hear From You...

**Attention Residents of Grand Island with Children Ages Newborn – 5 Years of Age:**

**T**o effectively plan for the 2008-2009 school year, we would like to know how many children reside on Grand Island who are eligible for Kindergarten enrollment in September 2008. Any child who will reach their fifth birthday on or before December 1, 2008 is eligible to attend Kindergarten next school year. Please call the District Office at 773-8819 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and give your name, your child's name, child's date of birth, address and telephone number.

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

We would also appreciate calls from parents/guardians of children ages newborn to 4 years of age residing on Grand Island for future enrollment projections.



## Students Send Holiday Greetings to U.S. Troops

Students at Sidway Elementary School created holiday greeting cards for troops overseas. United States Army recruiters Sergeant First Class Smith, Sergeant First Class Dombrowski and Staff Sergeant Mateo visited Sidway School on November 30th to collect over 400 cards to be sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The soldiers spoke to the students about how thankful the soldiers overseas are to receive their messages, especially at this time of year. The students expressed their appreciation for everything the troops do for us through their written messages and drawings.



**Back Row:** Sergeant First Class Smith, Sergeant First Class Dombrowski, Staff Sergeant Mateo **Students L-R:** Forrest Carr, Kayla Caldwell, Simone Smith, William Person, Kaitlyn Holleder, Liam Hart, Gabriella Sciortino, Eric Scalise



# Kaegebein Spirit Week Celebrates Viking Values

**Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Safe**



Our students have been practicing the meaning of these character traits and classroom teachers center their instruction based on the values being promoted at our school. Spirit Week gives students the chance to demonstrate their excitement for the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) program. The Kaegebein team implemented a Spirit Week to increase student morals in a fun and positive way. A significant component of PBIS is to celebrate our accomplishments. The students need to feel like they contribute to the school's success as much as

possible in order to get that sense of accomplishment. Spirit Week promotes the success of school unity through the contributions of all students.

## Wee Deliver Literacy Program at Kaegebein



**Team A Front Row L-R:** Sara Colon, Caitlin Conlon.  
**Back Row L-R:** Keegan Hirtreiter, Brian Brennan, Nancy Dahlquist, Natalie Braun, Rebecca Hennessy, Gabrielle Robinson.



**Team B Front Row L-R:** Katie Gentz, Haylee Heitman, Gracianna Giambra, Haley Melisz.  
**Back Row L-R:** Spencer-Jon Zukic, Mike Podlucky, Andy Dyet, Jillian Wohlfahrt.

Kaegebein Elementary is a participant in the "Wee Deliver Literacy Program" sponsored by the United States Postal Service. The objective behind this program is to encourage students to improve their language arts skills. Utilizing skills they learned in and out of the classroom, students can accomplish this objective through involvement in activities offered by the Kaegebein Post Office.

The Kaegebein Post Office is set up to represent the real postal system. Students have to submit an application for employment, pass an examination, and participate in an interview. Many facets make up the selection process before the student becomes an employee. Students are introduced to a mini version of the post office setting and are selected for specific positions. Our post office has postmasters, face/cancellers, postal clerks and letter carriers.

Postal employees learn to work as a team, to be organized and to be responsible. Faculty, staff and students write cards and letters, drop them in to the post office mailbox and the postal employees handle the mail like they would in the regular post office.

Mrs. Carol Pizur and Mrs. Carol Hamlin monitor this program and have been instrumental in running the "Wee Deliver Literacy Program" for the past two years. The time and effort required to create the activities and projects for students to participate in at the post office shows the dedication these two ladies possess. The goal is to encourage students to enhance their reading and writing skills while having fun doing it. Through many activities such as writing short stories and poems, designing stamps and postcards, and coloring contests to name a few, students have a variety of ways they can share their work with their peers. The success of the "Wee Deliver Literacy Program" at Kaegebein is achieved by the hard work and determination set forth by the faculty, staff and mostly the students.

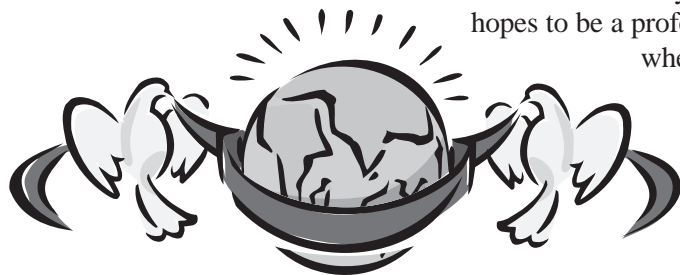
## Middle School Artist Wins Annual Peace Poster Competition



*Pictured is Marshall with his first place peace poster entry.*

Veronica E. Connor Middle School is pleased to announce that eighth-grade student Marshall Cancilla is the first place winner of the annual Lions Club Peace Poster contest. This is the second year in a row that an entry from Marshall has earned this honor. After winning at district-level competition Marshall's entry will now move on to state-level adjudication.

Marshall is a talented art student who credits his parents with encouraging his artistic and creative ambitions. He has previously been honored for his accomplishments by being selected as the VCMS Art Department "Master of the Month" during the month of October and as a Triple C recipient for displaying the positive attribute of creativity. Marshall hopes to be a professional artist when he grows up.



## Creativity Blossoms



It may be cold and snowy gray outdoors this time of year, but talent blossoms brightly within the art rooms of Veronica E. Connor Middle School. After studying American artist Georgia O'Keeffe in art class, students proudly display their vibrant pastel emulations for all to see. Pictured with their masterpieces are 8th-graders Sydney Dudish and Maggie DeMarco.



## All Middle School Students are Invited to the Career & Technical Career Fair

Veronica E. Connor Middle School students are invited to attend the Career and Technical Career Fair on Thursday, February 28th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus in West Seneca.

The Career & Technical Career Fair is a unique career exploration opportunity for middle school students and their parents. The fair will have representatives from over 16 career clusters representing over 200 occupations.

Participants will learn about careers through hands-on learning activities with the guidance of experienced technicians. Professionals will be available to answer questions regarding education requirements, career opportunities in Western New York, and salary ranges. Registration is not needed. For more details contact the NFIEC office at 821-7379.

*The Career and Technical Career Fair is sponsored by Buffalo State Gear-Up Program and the Niagara Frontier Industry Education Council.*

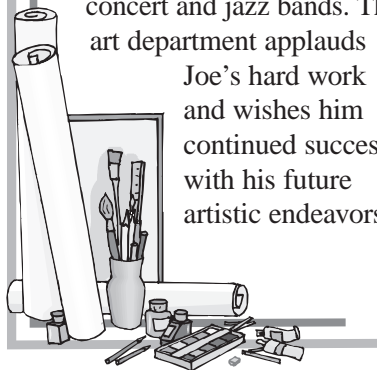
## Joseph Farrell is Awarded Artist of the Month



The Art Department of the Grand Island School District is pleased to announce Joseph Farrell as the third recipient of the K-12 Artist of the Month Award. Joseph, a 5th-grader at Kaegebein Elementary School, also participates in the after school art club. He enjoys drawing, painting, and working with clay. Joseph credits his brother, Mike, for encouraging and influencing him with his artwork. A true

Renaissance boy, Joe, is also an accomplished musician who plays in Kaegebein's concert and jazz bands. The art department applauds

Joe's hard work and wishes him continued success with his future artistic endeavors.



## Sidway Staff Demonstrates Support of Core Values



learned the importance of being Respectful, Responsible and Safe in every aspect of their school day.

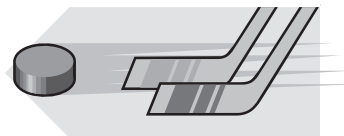
Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) is a program that teaches students three important core values; Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe. This is a program that is now implemented at all of buildings in the Grand Island Central School District. Students hear about the importance of these core values in every grade level. Faculty and staff at Sidway School demonstrate support for the Sidway Values by wearing their PBIS shirts the last Friday of every month. Students have

## Sports Muralist Visits AP Art Classes



The High School AP Art classes were treated to a lecture and slide presentation from Sports Muralist, Lyssa Nowakowski.

Ms. Nowakowski is from Brooklyn, N.Y. and has recently finished a large, 200 foot long sports mural for the Prudential Center. This new arena is home to the N.H.L. New Jersey Devils Hockey team.





# Don't miss the Winter 2008 Community Education Brochure located inside!

*Grand Island Central Schools*

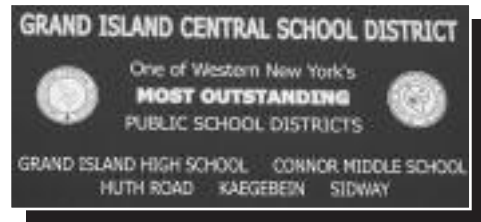
## *Community Education*

# Winter 2008

*Class Listings*



If you've been to the high school lately, you may have noticed a large sign



high up on the outside brick wall entrance. This sign, which uses the existing lighting to be seen at night, states what you already know. First, we do have an outstanding school district in Grand Island and one that the students, parents, staff and the entire community have every right to be proud. Second, by listing all five schools we want to remind everyone that it takes all of us to reach a level of excellence. No one school, grade or specific job title can do it alone. We're in this together as a community and the results demonstrate the quality of what we all do every day for our students.

### **Grand Island Central School District**

1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

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