



# THE BRIDGE

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Grand Island Central School District

Summer 2009 The Bridge - The Community Newsletter for the Grand Island Central School District [www.k12.ginet.org](http://www.k12.ginet.org)

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## GIHS Hosts GM Fuel Cell Car Demonstration



Grand Island students had an exclusive opportunity to view the car of the future when General Motors presented their fuel cell prototype at Grand Island High School on Monday, June 15, 2009. Grand Island High School was the only high school in Western New York awarded the privilege to host a visit from GM's futuristic car.

GM has taken the technology of tomorrow and put it to use today. A fuel cell is a thin box about the size of a cookie sheet. It makes electricity from a chemical reaction and by "stacking" fuel cells together, a fuel cell stack is created – similar to a battery. The difference is you can keep it running as long as you supply it with fuel. The fuel cell uses hydrogen and oxygen to create electricity to power things. Its only waste is water and heat.

A group of Veronica E. Connor Middle School technology students attended the demonstration along with some high school students enrolled in Grand Island's Project Lead the Way program. Grand Island High School, partnered with the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), offers a pre-engineering program to students called Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The program offers a hands-on, project based approach to learning that incorporates math, science, English and technology skills to prepare students who plan to continue their education in the field of engineering. Students that complete the necessary requirements may apply for RIT college credit for those courses. Since its inception in 2007, enrollment for the Project Lead the Way Program has grown exponentially with more than five times the number of students registered than anticipated.

# Message from your Superintendent

By Bob Christmann, School Superintendent



Superintendent  
Bob Christmann

How quickly the 2008-09 school year flew by and what a great school year it was. From the smiling faces (and a few tears) of our incoming kindergarteners on their very first day of school, to the emotion filled Artpark graduation ceremony, the year was filled with one highlight after another. Both individual student honors and collective student achievements were earned to a far greater degree than ever expected. At the elementary, middle and high school levels, excellence was demonstrated day in and day out. This community can be very proud of being represented by such a wonderful, caring group of children and young men and women. To list all that has come to our district this year would fill more pages than we could include in this newsletter.

Grand Island is also blessed to have such dedicated, highly skilled staff serving those students. Our march from a very good school district to a great district is led by our administrators, faculty and staff.

Working with parental support, our student outcomes have continued to accelerate in a positive direction. With 98 school districts in Western New York, to be judged #7 (up from #10) by the *Buffalo Business First* publication speaks loudly about the quality of our students, entire staff and parents who seek the best results and work hard to achieve them.

We had DECA students compete nationally, Kaegebein students compete nationally in the Destination Imagination competition, our Masterminds team competed against the brightest students in our region and won the Western New York area then finishing second in New York State, the selection as the only school district to see the exciting GM fuel cell car of the future, the technology competitions that highlighted a very special group of high school students led by a very special middle school and high school technology faculty, the winning of the Niagara Frontier League Sports Supremacy Trophy for the best overall athletic program, the too many to count music awards where winning the highest performance level of "Gold with Distinction" has become the standard routine, the Mock Trial super team,...the list could go on and on.

We thank the community for supporting our budget. The Grand Island Board of Education was determined to be a "Board of Distinction" by the Erie County School Board Association. Their efforts on behalf of students

and the community are extraordinary. Grand Island is well served by these seven fine volunteer members who spend many, many hours creating this great school district that is the lighthouse to our region.

This was a wonderful year gone too soon but one that has laid the foundation for an even greater and more productive 2009-10. Following what promises to be a busy summer, we will be eager to get started in less than six short weeks from now. Thank you Grand Island residents for all you do to make the dreams of our students and families a reality.

## Voice of GIHS



Sim Cheema and Allie Boron were awarded a piece of the rock by principal, Sandra Anzalone in recognition of their service to Grand Island High School. Sim and Allie's voices were well recognized throughout the high school as they began first period every morning by leading the school in the Pledge of Alligiance followed by reading the morning announcements.

## **What Every Adult Needs to Know Before Hosting a Party Where Alcohol is Served**

**P**roviding or being aware that alcohol is being consumed by minors in your private home is a criminal violation. To do so is a Class I misdemeanor which carries a fine of \$2,500 and/or up to one year in jail.

In addition, New York State law recognizes an adult's liability for criminal negligence if alcohol is provided to a minor who causes injury to himself/herself and/or another person. Adults have a civil liability for any injuries which result from having a minor consume alcohol on his/her property.

We urge all adult Grand Island residents to refuse to serve alcohol or to allow it to be consumed in their homes by minors. Further we urge any adult who learns of another adult violating this law to contact either the Grand Island Police or the Erie County Sheriff at 773-5252 or the NYS Underage Drinking Hotline at 1-866-UNDER21.

We understand your hesitation to report violations but how would you feel if the next time this adult hosts a party and a minor is injured or killed? If you are a parent, please know where your child is, who he/she is with and what he/she is actually doing. Most parents are surprised when the police arrive to make arrests for

*(What Every Adult Needs article continued)*

underage drinking. We urge you not to be one of them. The school district wants every child to be safe from risks that can quickly change their lives.

## **Unauthorized Vehicles on School District, Town of Grand Island and Private Property**

**T**here is a growing concern among Grand Island residents regarding the damage being done by ATV's and other special two and four wheel vehicles. Their use is prohibited on school and town properties as well as private property without the permission of the landowner. Students are being injured when they unknowingly step in ruts created by these vehicles. In addition, thousands of dollars are being wasted by both the Town and School District to repair the damage to the grass.

If you are an adult and have a child with an ATV, are you 100% certain that you know where the vehicle is being ridden? We urge all residents to call 911 when you see ATV, four wheelers, etc. on a property that you know has a prohibited use. We urge residents not to tolerate this type of destruction to our recreational areas – it puts our children at risk of serious injury. Even if uncertain, please make the phone call. The safety of our Grand Island children must be our top priority.

## **Jack Burns is Honored for his Dedication to School Transportation**

Jack Burns, supervisor of transportation for Grand Island Central School District, has dedicated his 27 year career in school transportation to understanding and achieving the goals and objectives of safe student transportation. On Sunday, July 12, 2009, the New York Association of Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) presented Jack with the "Art Schock Award". This award honors a NYAPT member who best exemplifies the character and qualities Art Schock epitomizes - using involvement and sharing to improve pupil transportation.

Jack Burns has achieved an impeccable student transportation safety record. He has also made a name for himself throughout the community for his "secret bus driver safety sign". The sign is the original, "Live Long and Prosper" Vulcan sign from Star Trek and instills the importance of school bus safety in all Grand Island students. Grand Island alumni still remember the Vulcan safety sign years after their graduation and refer to the sign as they instill the importance of bus safety in younger generations to come.

Jack believes with everyone pulling together, Grand Island will be a safer place for our students as well as a safer place to work. His tireless efforts to make student bus safety information available to the public is always a priority. Jack is an effective, efficient and extremely competent leader of the Grand Island school transportation department. He directly supervises 80 employees and serves approximately 3500 students by providing safe transportation to some 60 public, private, parochial and special education schools. The Grand Island bus fleet consists of 72 buses that travel between 70,000 and 750,000 miles per year.

# Celebration of Inspiration

*Celebration of Inspiration is an annual program sponsored by the Grand Island Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Council which honors faculty and staff members, past or present, who have had a profound influence on a student's life. The following is a list of honorees and presenters.*

Dana Allen by Caitlin Cook

Martin Allen by Jeff Szczepaniak, Rachel Gaydosh,  
Emily Thompson, Ashley Fike

John Arnone by Julia Figliotti, Nikki Fadel

Jenepher Banker by Amber Duda

Tracy Beatty by Chelsea Bernardi

Lori Burns by Samantha Forsysinski

Sandra Burns by Susan Pioli

Cheryl Chamberlain by Katie Raiser

Carilyn Chauby by Rachel Jessica Reagle

Robert Collard by Joe Aladeen, Zachary Adams

Michael DeDario by Alexis Raepple

Elizabeth Dunn by Molly Hyland

Thomas Feeney by Matt Krupczyk, Andrew Stange

John Head by Carly Snyder

Alexann Incao by Jenna Hutzler

Jeff Johnston by Anthony Gugino

Amy Kessel by Bianca Roberts

Elizabeth King by Tim Lewis

Carl Koppman by Tim Shantler,  
David McMichael, Joe Oliverio

David Lilleck by Jonathan Caruana,  
William Koller, Heather Goris

Michael Murray by Victoria Kowzan

Amanda Myers by Tyler Zikuski

Donald Pray by Mary Grace Egloff

Sean Reddein by Dominic Cannata

Debra Remson by Amanda Zernickel

Jodie Rudney by Michael Hillock, Danielle Bush

Donald Sauer by Evan Tsembelis, Simarjot Cheema,  
Jordan Gibson, Kelsey Mash

Jeannine Scibilia by Jenna Fanara, Paul Chiaravalle

Christopher Simpson by Lauren Fermoile

Mark Tollner by Shawn O'Rourke

Timothy Williamson by Taylor Jackson

Roger Wright by Carolina Luciani

Cynthia Wynne by Taylor Kaufman

## Congratulations 2008-2009 Retirees

*The Board of Education hosted a reception on Monday, June 8 in the Grand Island High School foyer to recognize the following retirees for their service, dedication and commitment to the District. Best wishes to our retirees for a long and healthy retirement period.*

Joanne Beringer (1971)

Bonnie DiSarno (2001)

Patricia Dunn (1996)

Carol Fergen (1981)

Kathleen Fik (1971)

Carol Jones (1990)

Carol Kimmerle (1993)

Carolyn Manzo (1997)

Donald Sauer (1993)

Randy Seiwell (1988)

Janice Stevens (1973)

Valerie Swain (1998)

Kathleen Volk (2001)

John Wiertel (1989)

Roger Wright (1969)





# K-12 Artist of the Month

*The Grand Island Art Department proudly announces the following K-12 Artists of the Month.*

## March: **Marissa and Benjamin Freedman**



Marissa and Ben are fifth-grade students at Huth Road Elementary and both are very involved in the arts.

Marissa likes to paint, color and draw in her spare time. She is well rounded in the arts as a dancer and saxophone player. Her goal is to attend the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts High School and eventually become a second-grade teacher.

Benjamin designed part of the logo we used this year for art club. The final logo was printed on t-shirts using a photo silk-screen process. He enjoys painting and drawing along with playing his trombone. Benjamin pays close attention to detail and craftsmanship, which will help him in his career later

in life. He decided he wants to become an architect.

## April: **Jenna Hutzler**



**J**enna is a senior at Grand Island High School and plans on attending Buffalo State College to major in art education with a minor in Spanish. She has excelled in art, academics and athletics. Jenna was chosen for the Grand Island Chalkwalk team during her sophomore year and has performed well at the Lewiston Art Festival competition for two years.

Jenna enjoys collage and painting. Artists such as Dali, Matisse and Phillip Singer are her inspiration. During AP art class this year she completed a portfolio based on things out of place, which mirrored these artists' ideas.

## May: **Brenton Fisher**

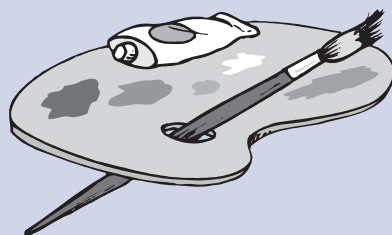


**B**renton is a fifth-grader at Kaegebein Elementary School and participates in after school Art Club. He believes that art is a wonderful way to express yourself. Brenton enjoys working in pencil and is currently working on a weaving. Brenton credits his family and art teacher, Mrs. Incao, for encouraging him and giving him so many compliments! The art department applauds Brenton's hard work and wishes him continued success in all of his artistic endeavors.

## June: **Eliza Sarigiannis**



**E**liza is a first-grade student at Charlotte Sidway Elementary School. Eliza is extremely talented and gifted in the visual arts. She enjoys painting and working with clay. The art department would like to wish Eliza luck and we hope to see her talent continue to grow in the arts.



## An Explosive Lesson



*Avery Andrews, Emma Dickinson, Jack Faso and Ella Sorel are pictured teaching principal Denise Dunbar all they learned.*

**S**tudents in Mrs. Benevento's first-grade class recently completed a research project on volcanoes. Students worked with Sidway librarian, Janet Balk to learn about how volcanoes are formed, areas in which they are most prevalent, numbers of active volcanoes, the largest volcanoes, and many more interesting facts.

## First-Grade Patriotic Show



*First-grade students from Charlotte Sidway Elementary School dressed in red, white and blue as they presented a patriotic assembly.*

Family and friends of Sidway Elementary School were treated to several songs and dance numbers performed by all the first-grade students during the annual Patriotic Show on May 20 -21. Mrs. Clendenen composed and directed this patriotic program and first-grade teacher Ms. Farghaly sang the National Anthem. The Niagara Falls National Honor Guard was also in attendance and performed a flag folding ceremony.

## Make A Book Night



*Kyle Lyon shares his story with Mrs. Cali as Joe Cali and Jason Sorri work on their stories.*

**M**ake a Book Night for first-grade students of Charlotte Sidway Elementary School is an annual Parent Teacher Association (PTA) sponsored event. First-graders worked with their parents to write and illustrate stories. They published their stories in beautiful covers and shared with family members and teachers before enjoying cookies and juice.

## Welcome Class of 2022



The future class of 2022 and their parents attended a kindergarten orientation program at Charlotte Sidway Elementary School on May 19, 2009.

Registered children and their parents participated in this special event designed to prepare students (and parents) for the start of their academic career. The new kinder-kids were actively engaged in a variety of activities including classroom projects and a ride on the big yellow bus while parents attended an informative workshop.

# Character Counts

*The following students from Huth Road Elementary School have been recognized for exemplifying the chosen character trait of the month. Congratulations to all honorees for expressing good character.*

## Creativity

**Second-graders:** Natalie Turck, Abigail Siebert, Jacob Wolf, Jonathan Prell, Maria Sciortino, and Bryce Wolf. **Third-graders:** Cora Schuerholz, Cameron Blair, Andrew Thompson, Tess Laviviere, John Kwarciak, and Caitlin Watt. **Fourth-graders:** Megan Adamczyk, Trevor Palamuso, Katie Kovacs, Jordan Blanchard, and Jenna Verost. **Fifth-graders:** Brianna Little, Sabrina Lemme, Nicolas Bailey, Alexa Graff, and Alex Whetham. *Also recognized were Eric Pease, Tim Roberts, and Alexis Belstadt.*



## Cooperation

**Second-graders:** Allison McDonald, James Worrall, Linda Eichler, Colby Muggli, Jake Maracle, and Vincent Quarantello. **Third-graders:** Matthew Giordano, Nico Catanzaro, Stephen Sweeney, Jenette DiLaura, Tyler Myszka and Jessica Gonda. **Fourth-graders:** Angela Smith, Louis Fabiano, Shaye Fermoile, Ryan Tetreault, Madisyn Pezzino, and Tori Aronica. **Fifth-graders:** Sabrina Giordano, Jarod Brandon, Ian Estonez, Cailin Atkins, Camille Watt and Smeen Shah.



## Sportsmanship

**Second-graders:** Olivia Wright, Kostas Vasiliadis, Alyssa Konopczynski, Zachary Reading and Bryce Wolf. **Third-graders:** Tyler Bernatovicz, John Griffin, Lauren Piechowiak, Emily Cordero, and Parker Phillips. **Fourth-graders:** Jack Stieringer, Emily Jelonek, and Anthony Stolfo. **Fifth-graders:** Rachael Farmer, Michael Ziehm, Carissa Parsons, Chancellor Warmus, and Kaitlin Hoy.



## Perseverance

**Second-graders:** Emma Halpin, Bradley VeRost, Brandon Bruner, Wyatt Tollner, and Ashley Hurley. **Third-graders:** Sydney Hoerner, Jacob Weise, Ricky Little, Nathan Steggs, Nicole Hoy, and Kaitlyn Grybel. **Fourth-graders:** Braden Hawley, Chris Sharp, Ayah Abdelal, Madelyn Konopczynski, and Olivia Turck.



## Flag Patrol Receives Patriotic Service Award



On June 12, the students at Huth Road Elementary School assembled in the school's gymnasium for a celebration in honor of Flag Day. The program was coordinated by Mrs. Cindy Kaiser, flag patrol advisor, with the assistance of Mr. Craig Poissant, band director, and Mrs. Carol Horrigan, music teacher.

Huth Road's Flag Patrol is made up of 25 fifth-grade students who are responsible for raising and lowering the flag each day throughout the school year. The Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW Grand Island Post 9249 presented these students with a certificate of appreciation, a flag pin and flag magnet for their patriotic service to their school. Mrs. Kaiser also received a Patriotic Citizen Award for her support and dedication as advisor to the group. The Flag Patrol showed off their new vests that were made by some students from Mrs. Jane Fonte's home and career's class at the middle school. The Ladies Auxiliary also awarded special patches that they will be sewing on the Flag Patrol vests.

## Spelling Bee Winners



Spelling Bee winners were: **First place:** Sydney Keane, fifth-grade. **Second place:** Emily Nobumoto, fifth-grade. **Third place:** Olivia Turck, fourth-grade. Congratulations to the 2009 Spelling Bee champions!

**T**he annual Huth Road Elementary School Spelling Bee was open to students in fourth and fifth-grades and two students as well as an alternate were chosen to participate from each class. This year's

## Outstanding Students Recognized at Huth

### Fifth-Graders Awarded at Huth

Huth Road Elementary School is proud to announce the list of this year's fifth-grade students who were awarded the H-Pin and Presidential Awards.

### H-Pin Winners



*Tori Aronica, Brianna Little, Andrew Carlson, Leah Jasek, Samantha Lesinski, Jill Anderson, Michael Mankowski, Laura Szczepankiewicz, Eric Albrecht, Maria Ramsperger, Margaret Rennells, Sara Kwarciak, Emma Smith, Benjamin Freedman, Benjamin Abbott, Cailin Atkins, Leora Bellia, Cameron Smith, Alexa Graff and Emily Nobumoto.*

### Presidential Awards



*Madison Brown, Jill Anderson, Julia Lawley, Cailin Atkins, Cameron Colan, Brianna Little, Tori Aronica, Emily Nobumoto, Justine Cardone, Alexa Graff, Carissa Parsons, Benjamin Freedman, Jake Schmidt, Andrew Carlson, Hope LoHouse, Christina Serianni, Maya Harper, Cassie Shickluna, Mohamed Eltagouri, Joel Peppers, Emelie-Jo Scheffler, Kaitlin Hoy, Cameron Smith, Sara Kwarciak, Laura Szczepankiewicz, Eric Pease, Liana Lombardo, Camille Watt, Maria Ramsperger, Lindsey Supparits, Samantha Violino, Alex Whetham and Austin Blair.*



## Outstanding Students Recognized at Kaegebein

### Gold K Winners



*Kady Liesenfeld, Hannah Lamarco, Dana Simmons, Brendan Sheehan, Caitlyn Bykowicz, Ashley Giambra, Emma Railey, Alexander "AJ" Cancilla, Madeline Dallessandro, Olivia Goc and Natalie Braun.*

### Presidential Awards



*Sarah Bellinger, Natalie Braun, Caitlyn Bykowicz, Alexander AJ Cancilla, Adam Dryfhout, Ashley Giambra, Olivia Goc, Shannon Holt, Jacob Kaweck, Hannah Lamarco, Holly Lutnick, Jason Miller, Nathaniel Nowocien, Emma Railey, Gabrielle Robinson and Taylor Vanderzell.*

## Art Teachers Awarded A National Grant



*L-R: Art teachers, Dana Allen and Alexann Incao with the artwork.*

**K**aegebein and Huth Road Elementary Schools are one of over 56,000 schools and public libraries across the nation awarded the Picturing America program. Picturing America is a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) that helps teach American history and culture by bringing some of the country's great art directly to classrooms.

Art teachers, Alexann Incao and Dana Allen were each awarded 40 large, high-quality reproductions of American art and a comprehensive teacher resource book to facilitate the use of the works of art in core subjects including American history, social studies, language arts, literature and civics. Both art teachers will be implementing this program in September.

## Fik Named Outstanding Citizen of the Year



On April 23, the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce recognized Kathy Fik, a second-grade teacher at Kaegebein Elementary School, as Outstanding Citizen of the Year in Education during their annual awards dinner held at the Holiday Inn. Mrs. Fik has taught at Kaegebein for 37 years, during which she has touched the lives of hundreds of children. She has also participated in many community projects such as Kids Vote, UNICEF, the Hospice Bouquet Sale, and Relay for Life. Mrs. Fik has chosen to retire this year. She will be missed but we wish her well in this new chapter of her life.

## A Blooming Success



Kaegebein Elementary students and families experienced an out-of-this-world, show-stopping performance by the third-grade classes of Mrs. Ahne, Mrs. Seibert, Mrs. Hartman, and Mrs. Reddien. These students worked hard in the classroom learning about plants, then brought their knowledge to life with singing, dancing and humor as they performed "The Garden Show."

Aliens from the planet Chlorophyll landed on planet Earth. With no fuel for their spaceship, they turned to a few helpful gardeners and Earth's natural resources to get them back home. The play included everything from fungus and flowers to a singing compost pile. Kaegebein principal, Mr. Wiertel noted, "Not only did the play enhance the students' science curriculum and fluency skills, but also provided them with an important social experience."

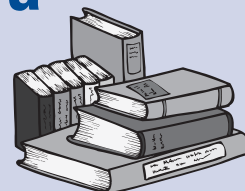
## "Reading Passport" to Sidway



On April 23, 42 students from Kaegebein Elementary School traveled to Sidway Elementary School to read to Sidway students. Kaegebein's

readers were chosen from students who successfully completed a reading incentive that began on "Read Across America Day - Dr. Seuss' Birthday." Students had to read five books from five different genres and complete a "Reading Passport" in order to qualify. Two students who met the requirements were chosen from each class to travel to Sidway where they entertained students with stories from some of their favorite books.

## Author Visit Leaves Students with a Special Gift



The students at Huth Road Elementary and Kaegebein Elementary School recently had a wonderful opportunity to listen to Mr. Peter Roop - a classroom teacher and author who has been bringing children and books together for over 30 years. This opportunity was sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and was part of the annual author visit organized by the librarians at Huth and Kaegebein Elementary Schools, Ms. Vinnie Passanese and Mrs. Pat Rizzuto.

Mr. Peter Roop, and his wife Connie Roop, have written over 100 books ranging from fiction and joke books to science and biographies. Seven of their books have been chosen as "Reading Rainbow" books, including the featured book, **"Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie."** The Roop's books have received recognition from the National Association of Science Teachers, the National Council of Teachers of English, the Children's Book Council, and the American Library Association. They also received Wisconsin's Laura Ingalls Wilder Book Award.

In preparation for his visit, students at both schools were exposed to Peter Roop's books and teachers planned a variety of activities in conjunction with his books. The author spent a day at each school and gave performances throughout the day for all of the grade levels.

At Huth Road, the librarian arranged a breakfast before school so teachers could mingle with the guest author. An Author Luncheon for students followed the morning presentations. Students were asked to write an essay about why they would like to have lunch with the author and one student from each class was selected to represent their class at a special luncheon held in the library where they were able to ask questions and take pictures with Mr. Peter Roop.

Peter Roop left our children with a special gift...the knowledge that they are all authors and can also write great stories. It only takes an idea, paper and many "rough copies."

## Bald For Bucks



**D**ozens of schools and organizations from across Western New York hosted Goin' Bald for Bucks events to raise funds for Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Over 45 students and faculty members from Veronica E. Connor Middle School donated their hair for locks of love or had their head shaved in support of those who lose their hair during cancer treatments. Veronica E. Connor Middle School raised over \$9,790 for Goin' Bald for Bucks. The top fundraisers were Lance Russo (\$2,000), Christopher Swagler (\$890), Ben Wright (\$435) and Shawn Fermoile (\$367). Thank you to all who supported this worthwhile event.

## A Lesson About Bullying

**S**ixth and seventh-grade students received a lesson about bullying presented by Tony Williams, director of operations at Northwest Buffalo Community Center and certified program facilitator for school violence prevention. Mr. Williams has extensive training and knowledge about bullying behaviors and his discussion covered what to do when you are bullied, how to handle a bully and how to make our school a safe place to learn.

The students really enjoyed his humorous approach to this important topic and the discussions he had with them left an impact on our students.



## VCMS Students Experience Medieval Times



Sixth-grade students at Veronica E. Connor Middle School were treated to a demonstration by storyteller, author and educator, Lorna MacDonald Czarnota. Lorna, a professional storyteller, specializes in presentations and facts related to medieval times as well as colonial America. She is the author of several books and audio recordings. During her presentation at the middle school, she focused specifically on the artifacts and elements present during medieval times.

Lorna's medieval presentation began with a demonstration of the harp that she played while the students settled into their seats. She continued by welcoming the students and describing her clothing to them. Dressed as a peasant, she explained to the students what the life of a peasant was like during medieval times. The students remained enthralled throughout the exhibit as she shared several re-created artifacts that she has gathered throughout the years. Amongst her collection was a sword, chainmail armor and a helmet. Students were invited to the front of the room to try on the armor.

Lorna has been visiting the middle school for several years through funding generously provided by the Grand Island/Tonawanda Teacher's Center. Her visit supplements the study of medieval times in the sixth-grade social studies/ELA curriculum.





# Connor Character Connection Awards

**V**eronica E. Connor Middle School is pleased to announce several recipients of the Connor Character Connection (C3). In order to receive a Connor Character Connection award, a student must be nominated by a faculty or staff member. To submit a nomination, teachers write a paragraph about the student mentioning specific details about how he/she, in their everyday lives, exemplify the character trait being awarded that month.

The Connor Character Connection Program was implemented by the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports Committee (PBIS) at the middle school as a

supplement to the district goals of providing opportunities for character education. These award recipients should be proud of their efforts. The following are lists of students chosen for the featured character traits:

**Kindness:** Eyad Abdellatif, Jessica Amsdill, Jenn Argy, Michelle Aronica, Chris Barberic, Christian Baumann, Selina Bichler, Kristen Call, Robert Carroll, Alyssa Cinelli, Angelina Colucci, Lauren Cook, Hannah Corrao, Charles Corwin, Nancy Dahlquist, Anna DeMartin, Chad Ducette, Joyce Endozo, Carleshia Evans, Brianna Farmer, Leah Geis, Katie Gentz, Dylan Graff, Maxwell Grenda, Andrew Grinchinsin, Kassy Guyette, Darren Huttenmeir, Kaitlyn Jennings, Kurtis Johnson, Alyssa Karb, Jackie Kehoe, Christian LaMarco, Michael McMahon, Orendael Miller, Catherine Navagh, Robin Neary, Maggie Nobumoto, Aaron Noyes, Yiannis Papavramidis, Alyssa Pizzuti, Sydney Quarantillo, Kris Rassega, Andrew Reiderer, Eric Reiderer, Alyssa Schmidt, Brandon Stevenson, Emilie Stinner, Joaquin Vasquez and Madz Wright.

**Helpful/Cooperative:** Alexandra Bahgat, Dee Bajwa, Chris Barberic, Nick Bonora, Sierra Brooks, Patrycia Burley, Jessica Cieri, Alexander Cousins, Colton Czajka, Genevieve Davis, Brian DeRubes, Jessie Dhaliwell, Shannon Driess, Halle Fitzgerald, Ashley Franz, Ryan Held, Natalie Henderson, April Hippert, James Hodan, Joshua Horvath, Nicole Kerr, Stephanie Kowalak, John Lillian, Alexa Lombardo, Ellen Lutnick, Austin Mahoney, Vincent Malpica, Johnna Marinello, Zachary McFarland, Mrs. Crippen's Resource Room, Nick Paolini, Michael Podgorny, Ben Purrington, Kaitlyn Rudney, Alyssa Schmitt, Peter Schuerholz, Keona Singletary, Vincent Shores, Alexandra Spohn, Amelia Stepnoski, Tim Sutton, A.J. Swanson, Ray Tafelski, Taylor Weis, Corey Wilkinson and Bridie Wilton.

**Friendly:** Joe Alkhatib, Alexandra Bahgat, Rachel Bailey, Hannah Bastian, Kassandra Bennett, Kevin Borowicz, June Ann Chadima, Darnell Cleveland, Tommy Corrao, Cody Csendom, Athena Dorr-Henson, Emma Garten, Cassie Gilcart, Ben Goc, Alex Gormady, Andrew Grinchishin, Joey Halpin, Henry Huang, Maddie Jackson, Marah Killian, Leah Killian, Austin Loveric, Sara McMahon, Kevin Minton, Wyatt Mock, Greg Nicolai, Annie Niland, Alex Rallo, Ryan Ross, Maren Russell, Grace Scherrer, Molly Smith, Jeremy Smith, Kristen Stark, Nicole Swiantek, Becky Symon, Sarah Valvo, Vicky VanNorman, Mia Villani, Jadon Wegrzyn, Mitchell Weis, Amanda Weslak, Apelasan Wigneswaran, Nick Young and Ashley Zartman.



*Veronica E. Connor Middle School students are recognized for their kindness.*

## Digital Design Talent



**G**rand Island High School student, Andrea Wilson recently won the over all competition for vector or raster art work in a digital talent contest held by Bryant & Stratton College. She was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship and a 27 inch flat screen TV. Andrea is currently enrolled in the Erie 1 BOCES graphic design technology program at Kenton Career & Technical Center. Congratulations, Andrea!

## Grand Island Tech Fair



The first ever Grand Island Technology Fair was held on Wednesday, June 10 in the Grand Island High School Viking Mall. This was a great opportunity for students, parents and community members to view what the middle and high school technology programs have been working so hard on all year.

Many interactive projects were showcased at the fair including the opportunity to drive the heavy weight sumo robots, compete in a "Hockey-Bot" competition, race air cars and test out the "Cyborg" electronic guidance system. Demonstrations were held as students tested a large scale bridge for strength, raced magnetic levitation cars, built a kayak and unveiled "Viking Hoops." It was a pleasure for many to view the amazing architectural designs that our students built.

## Science Students Recognized For Work Ethic

**T**he Grand Island High School science department would like to congratulate the following students who displayed excellent work ethic and achievement in their science courses this year:

*Senior Regents Physics Student of the Year:* Ally King

*AP Physics Student of the Year:* Josh Kahn

*Marine Biology Student of the Year:* Lauren Kucharski

*Senior Anatomy and Physiology Student of the Year:* Kelly Williams

*Junior Regents Physics Student of the Year:* Luke Burkhart

*Junior Anatomy and Physiology Student of the Year:* Tara Hook

*AP Biology Student of the Year:* Hillary Figler

*Regents Chemistry Student of the Year:* Mike Mucci

*Honors Chemistry Student of the Year:* Evan Shaw

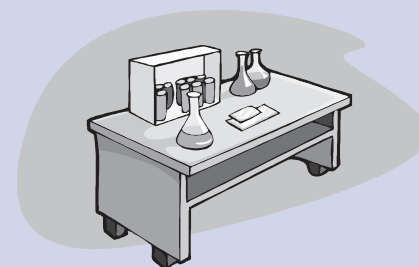
*Modified Living Environment Students of the Year:* Krysta Kinmartin  
Dominique DeGregorio

*Regents Living Environment Student of the Year:* Ava Jackson

*Earth Science Student of the Year:* Jessica L. Spencer

*Earth Modified Student of the Year:* Victoria Kustra

*Honors Living Environment Students of the Year:* Alexandra Corrao  
Sarah Stanczyk  
Joshua Miller



## NFL Supremacy Champion 2008-2009

Holding the title of NFL Supremacy Champion is a huge accomplishment for Grand Island. Prior to this year, with eight schools in the league, Lockport has held this title every year since the inception of the Niagara Frontier League in 1996. As the second smallest school in the league, Grand Island has finished second 10 of the 12 years with last year being the closest as we lost by falling only one point behind Lockport. One point basically means one win behind them in any fall, winter or spring sport.

We did it this year, thanks to three spring NFL championships: baseball, girls track and boys track and we have a huge cup to prove it! The NFL Presidents Cup will be on display in the Viking Mall until it gets passed on to the winner next year. Unless, of course, we prove once again in 2009-2010 that Grand Island remains #1!



## Grand Island Track Takes 2nd and 4th at States



*Tsembelis Breaks School Record  
in 1600.*

The Grand Island Track & Field team broke two school records and took second and fourth place in the New York State Track & Field Championships this season.

Adam Helman capped his high school career by taking second place in the pole vault. It was Helman's first

loss this year after winning all five Invites during the season as well as the NFL and Sectional titles.

Other top finishers included senior Evan Tsembelis in the 1600. He was seeded number 10 in the race and came up big with an impressive fourth place finish. Tsembelis' time improved his own school record to 4:13.24. The day before, Tsembelis anchored the 4x400 relay team to second place in their heat and a new school record. Shaun Winter led off with a 51.7 split followed by Jordan Gibson followed with a 52.8. Chris Stessing came back with a 51.2 and Evan finished with a 51.6 for a time of 3:27.45. Greg Feathers took eighth place in the discus with a 148' 7" effort.

## GI Performing Groups Featured at NYSUT Convention



On Thursday, April 2, Grand Island performing groups were featured at the NYSUT Rep Assembly at the Buffalo/Niagara Convention Center. The following groups performed: The Veronica E. Connor Middle School Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Shannon Smith; The middle and high school String Quartets, under the direction of

Debra Remson, The Huth Road Elementary School Fifth-Grade Select Choir under the direction of Carol Horrigan, and Inlite sponsored by Miss Remson. All groups were very well received and performed beautifully.





# 2008-2009 Viking Champions



## NFL SUPREMACY CHAMPION (2008-2009)

### NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS

23 of 25 teams qualified

\*2007-2008 School of Distinction

### 5 NFL CHAMPIONS

Girls Cross Country

Boys Volleyball

Girls Track & Field

Boys Track & Field (2nd consecutive)

Baseball (2nd consecutive)

### 2 SECTION VI CHAMPIONS

Girls Basketball – Class A1

Baseball – Class A

### INDIVIDUAL SECTION VI CHAMPIONS

Lee Schuster – Wrestling 112 lb.

Evan Carey – Boys Swimming 100 Free

Jenna Raepple – Indoor Track Triple Jump

Jenna Raepple – Girls Track & Field Long Jump

Adam Helman – Boys Track & Field Pole Vault

Evan Tsembelis – Boys Track & Field 800, 1600,  
4 x 400 relay

Jordan Gibson – Boys Track & Field 4 x 400 relay

Chris Stessing – Boys Track & Field 4 x 400 relay

Shawn Winter – Boys Track & Field 4 x 400 relay

### HEWITT AWARD WINNERS

Amber Duda (Soccer, Basketball, Track & Field)

Evan Tsembelis (Cross Country, Indoor Track,  
Track & Field)

### OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Jamie Raepple (Soccer, Indoor Track, Track & Field)

Alex Neutz (Football, Basketball, Track & Field)

### GENE MASTERS \$500 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Joe Oliverio (Football, Hockey, Baseball)

### BUFFALO FAN NETWORK AWARD WINNERS

Adam Helman – Boys Track & Field

Alex Neutz – Football

Joe Oliverio (*Honorable Mention*) All around athlete

### SECTION VI SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM AWARD

Girls Cross Country

## BUFFALO NEWS ADPRO SPORTS ALL WNY SCHOLAR ATHLETES

**FALL:** Mike Karpie – Boys Volleyball and  
Alex Neutz – Football.

*Honorable Mention:* Amber Duda – Soccer, Jenna Hutzler –  
Soccer, Mia Magliazzo – Soccer,  
Jamie Raepple – Soccer, Joe Oliverio – Football and  
Evan Tsembelis – Cross Country.

**WINTER:** Amber Duda – Basketball, Zach Adams –  
Boys Swimming, Evan Tsembelis – Indoor Track and  
Alex Neutz – Basketball.

*Honorable Mention:* Greg Feathers – Basketball.

**SPRING:** Jordan Gibson – Track & Field, Joe Oliverio –  
Baseball and Marvin Pawlowski – Baseball.

*Honorable Mention:* Jenna Hutzler – Girls Lacrosse,  
John Osberg – Golf, Susan Pioli – Girls Lacrosse,  
Chris Podlucky – Baseball and Nrianna Wojnar –  
Girls Lacrosse.

### SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS

**FALL:** Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Girls Cross Country,  
Girls Tennis, Girls Swimming, Boys Football, Boys Soccer,  
Boys Volleyball, Boys Cross Country and Boys Golf.

**WINTER:** Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Bowling,  
Boys Indoor Track, Girls Bowling, Boys Swimming and  
Girls Indoor Track.

**SPRING:** Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Girls Softball,  
Boys Tennis and Boys and Girls Track and Field.

### NIAGARA FALLS GAZETTE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Joel Klock – Baseball

Evan Tsembelis – Boys Track & Field and Cross Country

Jenna Raepple – Girls Track & Field

Jamie Roepple – Girls Soccer

Scott Holler – Boys Volleyball

### ALL NEW YORK STATE

Alex Neutz – Football

Jenna Raepple – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Soccer

Jamie Raepple – 5<sup>th</sup> Team Soccer

Joel Klock – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team Baseball

### NFL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD (Team-Individual)

Joe Fischer – Boy's Soccer

Susan Pioli – Girls Volleyball

Kelsey Mash – Girls Tennis

### Grand Island Central School District

1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

#### Board of Education:

Richard Little, Jr., President  
Neil Seaman, Vice President  
Myrna Blair  
Glenn Bobeck  
George Casey  
Thomas Franz  
David Goris

**Superintendent:** Robert W. Christmann

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## GICSD Ranks 7 Out of 98 WNY School Districts



On behalf of the Grand Island Board of Education, it is difficult to find the words that adequately express the pride and appreciation felt towards the entire body of staff members employed here at Grand Island Central School District. As the rankings were released by Business First, we saw that our district ranked number seven out of 98 WNY districts and it again became clear that something special is happening academically within our district.

It was only a few years ago that we were at number 20. Since then there has been a methodical, consistent

move up to numbers 16, 14, 12 and two years at number 10. To jump three slots up when you are already a top 10 district is truly outstanding.

The Grand Island Board of Education expresses again its deepest appreciation to all the faculty, staff and administrators who created a district for students which can only be described as exceptional. Finally, we have a large sign on the front of the high school that notes Grand Island as one of WNY's most outstanding school districts. That has never been more true than it is today.