

Superintendent's Message



enthusiasm for work and learning

On behalf of our Board of Education and students I would like to thank everyone who had the opportunity to attend our annual Board of Education Dinner Theatre fundraiser. There were 70 attendees and the funds raised will go toward scholarship money for our graduates this June. A special thanks to Mrs. Winnie Sortman our Middle School/High School Choral Teacher and her students who provided the entertainment. Our cafeteria staff under the direction

of Susan Sebeck who prepared the dinner, Mrs. Aimee Piedmonte our District Secretary/Board Clerk for coordinating the signups for meals and Mr. Bakhuizen who directs all the set up. Last but not least, thanks to the National Honor Society members who under the direction of their advisor, Mrs. Heather Wilcox, served at the dinner theatre.

A reminder to everyone that we have an upcoming Bus Vote on Tuesday, February 2 in our school lobby from 12:00-8:00 p.m. It is important in our area to keep an eye on the condition of our buses as they incur wear and tear due to salt and other chemicals used on the local roadways and parking lots. We try to replace our vehicles in a timely fashion in order to minimize the cost of repairs and maintenance on our buses. We are managing rusting issues as well as other maintenance concerns within 5 years of purchase. Funds have been set aside in a Capital Reserve to offset the tax payer costs. We currently receive 78% Aid on transportation costs. This State Aid is placed in the reserve fund to cover costs of such purchases.

By the time you receive this newsletter, school districts will have received the governor's executive proposal for the 2016-17 school year. This proposal will provide a better picture for State Aid which makes up over 67% of our school district revenue. We have been working on developing the 16-17 budget over the past few months and I will keep you apprised of budgetary information as we work through the budget process. Thank you for your continued support of the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton School District where the Quality of the Journey Counts!

-Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent and CSE Director

Alternative Veterans' Exemption

On November 30, the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Board of Education approved the Alternative Veterans' Exemption at its meeting. Website links to the application and instructions are noted below. If you feel you qualify please complete the application and submit it to the Town Assessor's Office. If you already receive the Alternative Veterans' Exemption from the town you will automatically qualify for the Alternative Veterans' Exemption. If you have no access to a computer, please contact your local assessor for instructions.

- **Instructions** for Application for Alternative Veterans' Exemption from Real Property Taxation: *http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/ current_forms/orpts/rp458ains.pdf*
- Application for Alternative Veterans Exemption from Real Property Taxation: http://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/ orpts/rp458a_fill_in.pdf
- Veterans' Exemption Questions and Answers: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/ property/exemption/vetexempt.htm

Senior Citizens!

Please join us in the High School Cafeteria for lunch on any Thursday that school is in session. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Price**

\$4

Holiday Dinner

heard student presentations. The legislators greeted and

dined with 40 local senior citizens and staff members who

dined at the Annual GMU Staff and Senior Citizen Holiday

Dinner. The Jazz Band played holiday sounds and up-tempo

tunes to kick-off the dinner. Thank you to everyone who

helped make this event a success!

Superintendent Annette Hammond and the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School District welcomed Senator James Seward and Assemblyman Clifford Crouch to GMU on December 23. The legislators arrived at 9:30 a.m. and spent an hour and a half visiting several classrooms and interacting with students from the elementary grades through high school. Seward and Crouch answered student questions and



Middle/High School News

Elementary News

February brings the start of a new semester and new classes for some of our students. The start of the semester marks the halfway point for the school year. Report cards will be sent home with students on February 4. It is so important for students to stay focused on their studies and to ask for assistance if they are having difficulty in a class. If you are concerned about your child's progress, you will have the opportunity on March 10 to participate in a parent teacher conference day for grades Pk-12. These conferences will be scheduled based on parent and/ or teacher request, so if you would like to meet with one or more of your child's teachers, please contact Mrs. Ostrander in the Main Office. Further information will also be coming home in the mail.

This is also an exciting time for seniors as their High School experience is almost over and they are planning for their futures and receiving college acceptance letters. Seniors need to stay focused throughout this semester because grades can affect graduation. If accepted to a college, a student's acceptance can be rescinded or the student can begin college on academic probation due to low or failing grades. These next few months are critical, and require the strong work ethic that so many colleges, the military, and employers are looking for. One of our goals here in the Middle/High School is to have students be College and Career Ready upon graduation.

Inclement weather continues to be an issue this time of year. You can listen to the radio, local TV, or check the GMU website, to see if school or events are delayed or cancelled. We will also send an automated message to your phone to inform you of any delays or cancellations. Students who drive to school need to keep in mind that the district provides busing for all students, so if the weather is questionable on a school day, riding the bus to school is always an option and can be safer than driving to school.

There is an Awards Ceremony on February 8, in the Auditorium at 8:15 a.m. for Grades 9-12; and 9:15 a.m. for Grades 5-8.

School is closed February 15-16 for President's Day and Winter Recess. Students will resume classes on Wednesday, February 17. Enjoy the winter recess!

-Denise Wickham, Pk-12 Principal

Winter is here in full force, so please remember that your children need to wear mittens, boots, a hat, winter coat and snow pants, so they can go out for recess. Please label all items with your child's name. If your child wears boots to school, please try and help him/her remember to also bring shoes or sneakers to put on during the school day. It is amazing how many jackets, boots, shirts glasses, etc. get lost and go unclaimed, so please remind your child to check in the Health Office for lost items.

Our spring parent conferences are being held on Thursday, March 10 from 11:45 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Teachers will send home an appointment time with your child.

Pre-K and kindergarten Registrations will be held on Thursday, March 10 and Saturday, March 12. Pre-K registration is for children who will be four years of age on or before December 1, 2016. Kindergarten registration is for children who will be five years of age on or before December 1, 2016. More details will follow in the March newsletter. There will be no school from February 15-16 due to Presidents' Day and Winter Recess. Students return to classes on Wednesday, February 17. Enjoy the winter recess!

-Denise Wickham, Pk-12 Principal

Technology Education News

As the school year progresses, Technology students are indulging in a variety of projects and activities. Seventh grade students produced a foot stool as part of a manufacturing unit. They have covered related topics including systems, resources, manufacturing concepts, energy, technical drawing, design, tools, and machines. Each student builds his/her own foot stool during the manufacturing process. Students in Design and Drawing For Production/AutoCAD have learned various concepts related to technical drawing and have produced several drawings since the start of the year. In addition to drawing, students have had the opportunity to construct actual models of their drawings. Cutting boards were designed and produced using local hardwoods. Students will begin learning the AutoCAD software this winter while earning college credit for their efforts. Two technology students are also in the process of making gun cabinets. The future cabinet makers are presently designing and assembling the base to their gun cabinets.

-Mr. Ken Held



Guidance News

College Financial Aid and Scholarships

For seniors who are going to college in Fall 2016 and want to apply for federal and state financial aid, students need to have filed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the colleges' financial aid application deadline. Many colleges will start awarding financial aid by March 1st, and some aid is awarded on a first come, first served basis. If the FAFSA has not already been filed, do so ASAP and please be sure to use the website *www.fafsa.ed.gov*. The FAFSA may be filed online or via paper. In addition to the FAFSA, scholarship information will be posted on the Guidance Office bulletin board and the school website. Be sure to check weekly. Deadlines along with timely completion of applications are important! If you have questions or need help please see Mrs. Wilcox in the Guidance Office.

Reminder: It is important to continue to stay focused on your studies because even after getting accepted into a college, schools will require a final transcript to confirm your graduation. Also, it is necessary to write thank you notes to teachers who have written letters of recommendation for college admission and scholarships.

PSAT 10

The College Board has created a new initiative this year by offering the PSAT to sophomores. On February 24, GMU will be hosting this practice assessment to better prepare students for the SAT exam that they will be taking during their Junior and/or Senior year as a college entrance exam. If you are interested in taking this exam, please make sure that you have submitted your registration paperwork and payment to the Guidance Office by February 12.

Boces Career and Technical Education Programs

During March, sophomores will be visiting the DCMO BOCES to explore their interest in Career and Technical Education Programs. Students and parents interested in receiving more information on the Tech programs should contact Mrs. Wilcox.

Upward Bound and Outward Bound Programs

Students interested in applying for a scholarship through the Clark Foundation to attend the Upward and Outward Bound trips will need to submit their application to the Guidance Office ASAP. Current eighth graders may apply for Upward Bound and current tenth through twelfth graders may apply for Outward Bound. Students and parents interested in receiving more information on these programs should contact Mrs. Wilcox.

Upcoming SAT and ACT Administrations:

Now is the time to start registering for the Spring 2016 SAT and ACT exams. Test dates are as follows.

SAT—www.collegeboard.com		
Test Date	Register By	
March 5	February 5	
May 7	April 8	
June 4	May 5	

ACT—www.actstudent.org		
Test Date	Register By	
April 9	March 4	
June 11	May 5	

Note: June 4 is also the Sherburne Pageant of Bands. (Please register for the May exam versus June if you are a marching band member.)

Library News

Recently our library catalog received a makeover. We joined DCMO BOCES for our Library Server which contains our whole catalog. This has allowed us to have everything online as well as everything the students need now in one place. Students will have access to the databases that are provided to them as well as over 500 eBooks. If you would like to browse our catalog or try out an eBook then follow the instructions below.

- 1. Type in the following web address: *opalsgmu.dcmoboces.com*
- 2. The screen that pops up allows you to type a subject in which will allow you to search both libraries. You may also select from the owl or the 24/7 database icon. If you select the owl, then you will only be searching books located within our elementary library. If you select the database icon it will take you to our databases that we offer. To access the databases you will need a username and a password.

Username: upton Password: look

Once you type this information in then you will have access to all of the databases below:

- Teachers Reference Center
- Art Museum Gallery
- Consumer Health Complete
- OmniFile (formerly Wilson Full Text Select)
- Literary Reference Center
- Teacher Reference Center
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- The New Book of Knowledge
- The New Book of Popular Science
- TeachingBooks.net

They have each database broken down into categories in order to make your search a little easier. If you have any questions then please call Raquel Norton at 783-2207, ext. 116 or email at *rnorton@gmucsd.org*.



Many Thanks to All Who Helped!

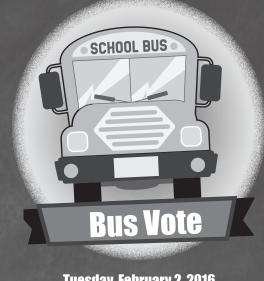
The Elementary Student Council would like to thank teachers, students, and families in Pre-K through sixth grade for all of the wonderful items that were donated to our local food pantries. Your generosity will help local families in need at a time of year that can be difficult for many. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

-The Elementary Student Council





No Impact on Tax Levy



Tuesday, February 2, 2016 Noon- 8:00 PM Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Front Lobby

Proposition One: School Bus Purchases

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit: RESOLVED, shall the Gilbertsville-Mount Upton Central School District, Otsego County, New York, be authorized to purchase two 66-passenger school busses at \$117,000.00 each, and to expend therefore a maximum estimated cost not to exceed two hundred and thirty four thousand dollars (\$234,000.00), including incidental expenses in connection therewith, and that \$234,000 Capital Reserve Fund monies shall be used to pay the cost thereof.

Please note: Residents must present identification in order to vote.

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Yearbooks for Sale! Yearbooks for Sale! Get Your Yearbooks!

It's that time of year again when yearbooks go on sale! Have you ordered your copy? If not, the 2016 Yearbook Staff is now taking orders for this year's *Vallerian*. Yearbook prices are as follows:

Order between these dates	cost per yearbook
Now – May 1, 2016	\$30.00
After May 1, 2016	\$35.00

To order your copy of *The Vallerian*, please follow these simple steps:

- Complete and cut out the form below
- ➤ Write a check for the appropriate amount, made payable to GMU Yearbook
- Send the form along with your payment to:

GMU Central School ATTN: Yearbook Order Staff 693 State Highway 51 Gilbertsville NY 13776

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. John Grenier at jgrenier@gmucsd.org or at (607) 783-2207.

Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	Grade/Teacher:
Number of copies of <i>The Vallerian</i> being ordered:	

Gilbertsville - Mt. Upton Central School presents A Family Entertainment Event





Matthew and Jason Tardy have been touring professionally at theatres, schools, colleges and resorts for over 20 years with such highlights as the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas, the Golden Phoenix Casino in Reno, NV and even The White House in Washington DC three times! They have also been seen on CBS Sunday Morning, Inside Edition, and David Letterman.

"ONE OF THE HOTTEST JUGGLING ACTS IN THE COUNTRY!" ~ INSIDE EDITION

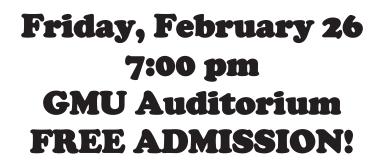
fun, physical comedy, live music and high energy juggling!

Friday, February 26, 2016 7:00 pm GMU Auditorium FREE ADMISSION:

THIS IS A FAMILY NIGHT EVENT ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN

Gilbertsville – Mt. Upton Central School presents A Family Entertainment Event





The GMU Raiders Safety Patrol present a



featuring Baked Ziti Before the **The Tardy Brothers** Show Friday, February 26, 2016 Serving 5:00 - 6:30

A Family Night Out – Dinner and a Show!

Please order your Family Dinner tickets before February 19th. No tickets will be available at the door!



Baked Ziti Tossed Salad Bread & Butter Drink Dessert

Tardy Brothers Family Dinner Ticket Order

Tickets	Quantity	Price	
Adults		6.50	
Children 12 & younger		5.50	
		Total	
Name			

Address

Phone

Please make checks payable to: GMU Safety Patrol

Return to School Office or mail to:

GMU – Tardy Brothers Family Dinner 693 State Highway 51 Gilbertsville, NY 13776

For more information please call the school – 783-2207.

The Baked Ziti Family Dinner is sponsored by the **GMU Raiders Safety Patrol** – for our trip to Washington DC/Philadelphia, May 2016

Winter Weather FAQs

From www.cdc.gov

What is the wind chill effect?

As the speed of the wind increases, it can carry heat away from your body more quickly. When there are high winds, serious weather-related health problems are more likely, even when temperatures are only cool.

Why are infants and older people most at risk for coldrelated illness?

Infants lose body heat more easily than adults; additionally, infants can't make enough body heat by shivering. Infants less than one year old should never sleep in a cold room. Provide warm clothing and a blanket for infants and try to maintain a warm indoor temperature. If the temperature cannot be maintained, make temporary arrangements to stay elsewhere. In an emergency, you can keep an infant warm using your own body heat. If you must sleep, take precautions to prevent rolling on the baby. Pillows and other soft bedding can also present a risk of smothering; remove them from the area near the baby.

Older adults often make less body heat because of a slower metabolism and less physical activity. If you are more than 65 years of age, check the temperature in your home often during severely cold weather. Also, check on elderly friends and neighbors frequently to ensure that their homes are adequately heated.

What should I do if I get stranded in cold weather?

- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or put it out your window as a signal to rescuers.
- Move anything you need from the trunk into the passenger area.
- Wrap your entire body, including your head, in extra clothing, blankets or newspapers.
- Stay awake. You will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems.
- Run the motor (and heater) for about 10 minutes per hour, opening one window slightly to let in air. Make sure that snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe—this will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to improve your circulation and stay warmer.
- Do not eat unmelted snow because it will lower your body temperature.

What should I eat/drink during periods of extreme cold?

Eating well-balanced meals will help you stay warmer. Do not drink alcoholic beverages—they cause your body to lose heat more rapidly. Instead, drink warm, sweet beverages such as hot chocolate, to help maintain your body temperature. If you have any dietary restrictions, ask your doctor.

Hope this is helpful.

-Carol Angelone, RN, School Nurse

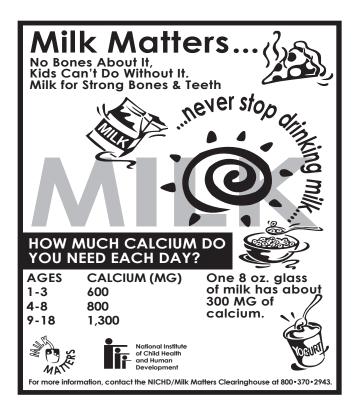
Memo from the Health Office

Here is some helpful information from the Harvard Medical School:

Answers to Five Questions About Cold & Flu

- 1. When should I stay home from work or keep my child home from school? It's important to stay home when you are most contagious. However, it can be hard to pin down just when that is. With a cold, you are contagious the entire time you have symptoms, but you are most likely to pass on your cold right after you contract the virus, before symptoms start. For the flu, you are most infectious from the day before symptoms start until about the fifth day of symptoms.
- 2. When should I see my doctor? Call your doctor if you experience high fever, shaking chills, chest pain with each breath, coughing that produces thick yellow-green mucous, dehydration, or worsening of a coexisting medical condition.
- **3. Why do colds and the flu increase in the winter?** People are more likely to stay indoors when it's cold outside, so they pass germs around more easily.
- **4.** Should I "feed a cold; starve a fever?" No, there is no need to eat more or less than usual. Do drink plenty of fluids.
- **5.** Can I get a flu shot if I have a cold? Yes, you can get vaccinated as long as you are not feeling very sick and do not have a fever.

-Carol Angelone, RN, School Nurse



December Artist of the Month



December's Artist of the Month is a student in Mrs. Hankey's second grade class, **Dannaka Rasmussen.** The second grade worked on our project based on Norwegian Expressionist painter Edvard Munch's famous painting, "The Scream." I show the students a short video about why he created

such an odd painting. In it, it says he can, "sense an infinite scream passing through nature." He painted the figure in the painting to show that emotion. Dannaka thought it was kind of an odd story.

Dannaka likes working with oil pastel, it is her favorite medium to work with. And she likes working on land-

scapes and sunsets, so this project was just about perfect because it had everything that she likes! One of the reasons I chose her piece was because she really



looked at the example of the painting, and used elements in it like the boats in the water. Good job Dannaka!

-Cheri Theis

Poetry Out Loud (POL)

POL participants took to the stage to recite selected works before an enthusiastic crowd of listeners on December 22, the last full day of classes before holiday break. Students showed grit and courage in presenting memorized pieces in front of their peers, teachers, and community members, earning the admiration of the audience. Those who participated with either one (non-contest) or two (competing) poems are Cecilia Caietta, Jessica Conklin, Molly D'Amato, Vasiliki Drapaniotis, Meredith Hammond, Michael O'Connor, Tim Picozzi, Lucas Piedmonte, Will Schwartz, John Sullivan, Samantha Sullivan, and Zara Zeidman. Our winners, who are now eligible to compete in



the regional competition on February 1, at SUCO, were **Zara Zeidman** and **Vasiliki Drapaniotis.** Great job, everyone! Many thanks to our POL team, judges Diane



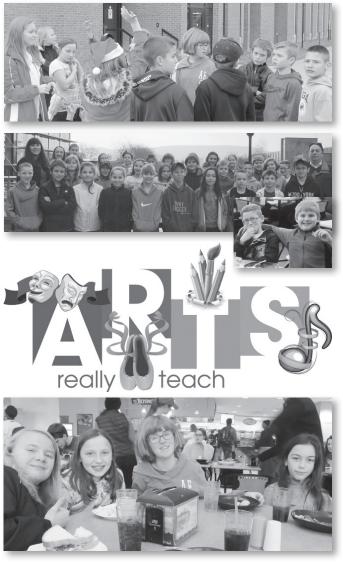
Gallo, Claudette Newman, Thomas Connell, and Larisa Waghorn-Muller; tabulator Lynne Talbot, prompter Elaina Palada, emcee John Grenier, accuracy judge Jan Costello, ELA teacher Mark Luettger, auditorium manager Gerrit Bakhuizen, and the administration, teachers, and staff who encourage these events. Long live poetry and POL!

—Mrs. Costello

College For Every Student/ Arts in Education News

On December 11, fifth graders had the opportunity to see The Nutcracker performed by the Folkline Ballet Company. This performance took place in the Goodrich Theater at SUNY Oneonta's campus. Our very own Fiona Held performed in the show and did a tremendous job! After the show, we were treated to lunch at Walsbach Dining Hall. This allowed the students to see the variety of food offered to college students. As our culminating activity, two college students gave us a tour of the campus, focusing on the college dorms. Students were excited to learn that you can pick your roommate and you can arrange your room anyway you like. The majority of students said they wanted to go to college after their visit to SUNY Oneonta. We would like to thank The College For Every Student Program for funding our lunch and Arts in Education for paying for our tickets to the ballet.

-Raquel Norton, Steve Cimineri and Alicia Cummings



Senior of the Month

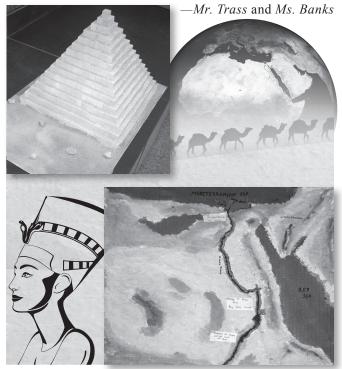


Congratulations to February's Senior of the Month, **Lexus Coughlin!** She is currently out of the GMU School building much of the day, as she is attending the New Visions program for law and *apprenticing* at the Chenango County Courthouse

in Norwich. This is a very appropriate placement, as she is planning on attending college for pre-law and has been interested in the legal field for some time now. Lexus has been an important member of our winning Mock Trial Team that starts getting ready this month for competition, and she has been an active participant in her Class of 2016 activities throughout high school. Lexus is also a member of Student Council and Chorus. She spends many hours outside of school as a member of a competitive dance studio and performing with a band. Lexus is a very fashionable, straight forward, professional young woman who is driven to succeed and make a difference in the future of others. We wish "our Valentine" the best in everything she pursues! —*High School Student Council*

Egypt in Sixth Grade

We had a lot of fun learning about the Egyptian culture. As a culminating activity each student could choose from five different final projects to demonstrate their understanding of this interesting civilization. Below are two of the projects that were shared with the class.



Fifth Grade News

On December 23, fifth grade students hosted a Celebrations around the World museum. Students were paired up with a partner, selected and researched a celebration from another country. They used their computer class to create a PowerPoint. During Library each week, they used multiple resources to locate facts and pictures for their final presentation. During ELA classes, they put their information together in order to present at the museum. Parents, teachers, staff and community members were invited into our museum to see all of the wonderful presentations, as well as food created by the students. This year we had the pleasure of Senator Seward and Assemblyman Crouch visiting our museum. The students were thrilled to explain their celebration to these two gentlemen, as well as the media that joined us. We would like to thank everyone who made this project a great success!

-Raquel Norton, Steve Cimineri, Garrett Bakhuizen and Alicia Cummings



First Grade Gingerbread Houses



GILBERTSVILLE-MOUNT UPTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 693 State Highway 51 Gilbertsville, New York 13776-1104

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DCMO BOCES Printing Service • Norwich,

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

ECRWSS BOXHOLDER

Calendar of Events

February

- 1 No School—Superintendent's Conference Day BJVB vs. Schenevus
- 2 Bus Vote, Lobby, Noon-8:00 p.m. GJVVB @ CVS
- 3 BJVVB vs. CVS
- 4 Report Cards Go Home
- 5 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
- 5-6 GJVV Tri-Valley League Playoffs
 - 6 All-County Festival BMB @ Sharon Springs GMB vs. Sharon Springs
 - 8 Awards Ceremony: Grades 5-8, 8:15 a.m.; Grades 9-12, 9:15 a.m.
- 8-9 BJVVB & GJVVB Tri-Valley League Playoffs All-County Festival Concert, 2:00 p.m.
 - 9 BMB @ Edmeston
 GMB vs. Edmeston
 Board of Education Meeting, D104, 7:00 p.m.
- Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
 BJVVB & GJVVB Tri-Valley League Playoffs GMU's Got Talent, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Tri-Valley League Championships @ SUCO
- 15 No School-Presidents' Day, Offices Closed
- 16 No School-Winter Recess
- 19 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.
- 19-21 Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival
 - 20 BMB vs. Richfield Springs
 - 24 PSAT 10
 - 26 Morning Raiders, 8:25 a.m.Family Night: Dinner, 5:00 p.m.; Tardy Brothers, 7:00 p.m.

Advertising in the School Yearbook

Please take this opportunity to show your support for the Class of 2016 at Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton by taking out an advertisement in this year's edition of The Vallerian. These ads can be business or personal.

If you have never taken out an ad in the yearbook and would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please follow these simple steps:

- Draw a sketch of your ad (don't forget to include pictures, logos, etc.—anything that is labeled will be returned to you)
- Write a check, made payable to GMU Yearbook, for the chosen amount
- Send the ad along with your payment by 4/1/16 to:

GMU Central School Attn: Yearbook Ads Staff 693 State Highway 51 Gilbertsville NY 13776

Our pricing is as follows:

Full Page Ad—\$200 1/2 Page Ad—\$130 1/4 Page Ad—\$80 1/8 Page Ad—\$40 Patron Ad—\$10 (one line—usually with graduate's name)

If you would like to meet with one of our staff members regarding your ad, or would like more information before you decide to take out an ad, please feel free to contact Mr. John Grenier at *jgrenier@gmucsd.org*, or by calling (607) 783-2207.