



# The Journey

A Newsletter of the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School District

*Mission Statement: The Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School District is committed to an educational environment that assures equitable opportunity for individuals to become College and Career Ready and ultimately, responsible, productive members of society. We will encourage all individuals to do their personal best, that they may gain a lifelong enthusiasm for work and learning.*

November/December 2016  
VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2

**It's the Quality of the Journey that Counts!**

## Superintendent's Message



Each and every year we have a great turn-out for our PK-6 and 7-12 Open Houses and this year was no exception. We thank parents and community members for supporting our students by attending various school events. Your attendance at athletic events, concerts, plays, and other programs adds so much to the quality of our students' journey in life. Thank you!

I hope you were able to make it to our fall 2016 Musical Production of *Aida*. The students put in a tremendous amount of time between soccer practice and games to rehearse and make this a great production under the direction of Mrs. Winnie Sortman! Many staff, students, and parents worked tirelessly in preparation for the musical. Bravo! And Congratulations!

During this time of year there is always a possibility of weather delays or school closings. In cases of a delayed opening or a closing, the District is using the School Messenger System to automatically call student's homes at the number designated on their student information sheet. We have sent many other informational messages home thus far this year, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having any issues with receiving these messages. We will attempt to get closing and/or delay information on the radio or television stations as quickly as possible after the decision has been made.

We are in the season of thanksgiving and family. Although exciting for many, it can be a stressful time for families and students. We keep careful watch of all students and try to meet their needs as much as possible, but if you have concerns about your child or if your family is struggling in some way, please do not hesitate to contact the school. If we cannot be of direct help to you we can certainly provide you with resources that may be helpful.

This season is also full of student activities at the school including holiday concerts and winter athletics. Boys' and Girls' Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball will have a full slate of games throughout the first three weeks of December.

If you decide to attend our sporting events, please remember that each of us is representing the GMU school community as a whole. We need to model good sportsmanship for our student athletes and for all spectators. When spectators become negative in their comments and actions, this becomes stressful for the student athletes and others around them. It is imperative that comments and actions remain positive at all events and that respect is shown for all, even if we are in disagreement. Thank you for representing GMU well and for your support to our student athletes. I would like to thank the following individuals for their dedication in coaching for our fall and winter sports this year: Girls' Varsity Soccer, Mr. Tim Diters; Girls' Modified Soccer, Ms. Alicia Sebeck; Cross-Country, Mr. Mark Seigers; Boys' Varsity Soccer, Mr. Mark Luetzger; and Modified Boys' Soccer, Mr. Matthew Johnson. For our winter sports, Girls' Varsity Basketball, Ms. Nikki Conway; Girls' JV Basketball, Tanya Barnes; Girls' Modified Basketball, Ms. Kaitlyn Woods; Boys' Varsity Basketball, Mr. Greg Bonczkowski; Boys' JV Basketball, Mr. Travis Woods; and Modified Boys' Basketball, Mr. Matthew Johnson. It takes an incredible amount of dedication and love of teenagers and the sport to coach students, and I am so grateful for such a committed group of individuals. Thank you!

Our music department will showcase the talents of our choral students on December 8 and our instrumental musicians on December 15 at two concerts. Student talent in grades 5-12 will be featured at these concerts, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. I am always impressed by the musical talents of our students!

As a capital project update, we are moving forward and are hoping to begin site work in April! We have started working regularly with our architects and construction firm to ensure a smooth process with beautiful new features added to our building to improve safety for all.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the School District Staff, I would like to extend to all community members a safe, peaceful, and joyful holiday season!

— Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent

## News from the Main Office

Thank you to the parents, family members and community members who were able to attend our Open House in November. It was great to see teachers and parents making connections that will benefit students.

The holiday season is approaching us and winter is in full force! Please be sure your children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Your children need to wear mittens, boots, hats, winter coats and snow pants, so that they can go out for recess. It is important for the students to get fresh air, so unless your child has a doctor's note stating they must stay in due to illness, we will not be able to keep students in at recess time. We try to go outside every day that is above 20°F, even if it is for 15 minutes. If students do bring in notes stating they cannot participate in recess due to an injury, they will also be removed from PE during that time. Label all items with your child's name. If your children wear boots to school, remind them 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 have your child to check in the Health Office for lost items.

It is important that students listen to the radio on questionable days so they can be alerted to a delay or possible school closing. Radio stations that broadcast our school information are: WCDO, WDOS, WKXZ, WZOZ, WSKG or watch WBNG-TV Channel 12. You can also access this information on the District Website [www.gmucsd.org](http://www.gmucsd.org). You will also receive a School Messenger call at the phone number, which you provided to the District this year. Please make sure your phone number is up to date with the school. You can call the Main Office.

### Important Dates

December 1: Picture Day Absentee/Retake

December 8: 4-12 Choral Concert, 6:30 p.m.  
(snow date: 12/13)

December 10: Movie Night: *The BFG*, 7:00 p.m.

December 15: 4-12 Band Concert, 6:30 p.m.  
(snow date: 12/20)

**December 23:** ½ Day for Students, dismissed at 11:00 a.m.  
Lunch will **not** be served.

**December 26-30:** NO SCHOOL—Winter Recess

**January 2** NO SCHOOL—New Years Day Observed

January 3: Students return to school

**January 16:** NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,  
*Offices Closed*

January 20: Grades 5-7 Musical, Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

January 21: Grades 5-7 Musical, Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

**January 27:** ½ Day for Students—Staff Development Day,  
dismissed at 11:00 a.m., Lunch will **not** be served.

— Mrs. Wilcox, PK-12 Acting Principal

## Counselor Corner

Character education helps students achieve academic, career and social/emotional development goals to become positive contributors to society. Students have been working hard these past couple of months on Character Education traits. Each month students learn a new character trait and are encouraged to display that trait throughout the entire month. Through various lessons and modeling, students learn the importance of these traits and how they will be used in order for them to make appropriate and healthy decisions. So far students have learned the importance of *giving*, *motivation* and *understanding*. Next month students will be introduced to the character trait of *responsibility*. I encourage all of you to practice these qualities with your child.

Banana Splits groups are up and running and have been very successful! Students are learning how to express their feelings and being a support system for their peers. Lunch Bunch groups have just started and students are eagerly waiting their turn. Every PK-1st grade students will be a part of this group. Some of the main focuses of our group are learning about manners, following directions, friendship, problem-solving skills, expressing emotions and listening skills. These groups will meet in my office during lunch every other week.

Finally, all 6th grade students are a part of a curriculum called STEP-UP to better grades. Each letter in STEP-UP represents a word that describes a specific study habit or skill. By remembering what study skill each letter represents, students can then remember the study skills habits that will help them to be successful in school. Parents are encouraged to reinforce the lessons at home through parent letters sent after each lesson. So far, students have learned about the letter *S*, which represents our studying SPACE. Their SPACE needs to be free from distractions and should closely resemble their workspace at school.

Stayed tuned for more counseling news and updates!

— Tina Hall,  
Elementary School Counselor

# GMU NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



## Disney's The BFG

Saturday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.  
GMU Auditorium



## The SECRET LIFE of PETS

Saturday, January 14, 7:00 p.m.  
GMU Auditorium

*Sponsored by the Raiders Safety Patrol for  
Washington DC/Philadelphia—May 2017*

### EXTRA... EXTRA... READ ALL ABOUT IT

## Free After School Snack

The Cafeteria is PLEASED to share with you that we have been approved to participate in an after school snack program. We are so pleased to be able to offer this to our students at no cost to them.

That means any student staying after school for academic or enrichment programs can visit the cafeteria before their activity begins, put their account number in (they won't be charged, but that way we get an accurate count for reporting purposes), and walk away with a snack. **Snack examples include:** fruit and milk; yogurt and juice; juice and a cheese stick.

**For students in Middle School or High School** who might need a little something extra on their long days, we will begin offering a **Raider on the Run Meal**, which will consist of a sandwich on a 6-inch sub or kaiser roll, fresh fruit, a bag of chips and milk or a bottle of water. We can also offer a salad to go with a fruit, bag of chips and milk or bottle of water.

The cost will be \$4.50. Students will be asked to pay for and place their order by 12:30 p.m. and their Raider on the Run meal will be ready for pick up at the end of the day in the cafeteria.

The meal must be picked up at the end of the day or they will be thrown away. **NO REFUNDS.**

Order forms will be at the register.



### Election 2016!

With the assistance of elementary teachers and staff, the entire school voted for a new president on November 8. All students in PK-12th grades participated, including faculty and staff in the building. Mrs. Delaney's volunteers marked off all voters and handed them ballots in the front lobby. Polls were open at 8:15 a.m. and closed at 2:20 p.m. for tabulating purposes. Volunteer polling monitors and tabulators included: Molly D'Amato, Felicia Musson, Kayla Grabo, Jade Osterwald, Mike Birdsall, Dan Backman, Jocelyn Duncan, Mallory Robinson, Lucas Piedmonte, Tim Picozzi, Jessica Conklin, Marena Zaczek, Michael Pope, Scarlett Newman and Savana Conrade. Thank you, folks, for making it happen! The student results were Donald Trump winning the GMU school election as well. Thanks to everyone for helping to make the day as important as it should be for all American voters!

## Senior of the Month



### November

Congratulations to **Tyler Lindsley**, Senior of the Month for November! Tyler is a hard-working young man who runs his own sound and lighting production company as a high school student and has been involved in this throughout Junior and Senior High School! He has always been a part of performance, whether he is on stage, behind the scenes, running audio, or programming the lighting. He has taken dance classes at Studio B and been hired as a part of theater productions for the Town of Bainbridge, schools in Sidney and Norwich, and Tri-Town Theater in Sidney as well. He is a member of Chorus and Yearbook and an active member of his class of 2017 when he can find time. Presently, he is a huge part of the successes of GMU's school productions, including *Aida*, while working with and learning from Mr. Bakhuizen. Tyler is currently enrolled in an independent study with him, as well as English 12, Economics and Participation in Government, Yearbook, and Intro. to College Seminar. We wish Tyler well as he focuses on a *dramatic* and *bright* future!



### December

Congratulations **Jocelyn Duncan**, December's Senior of the Month! As a Lady Raider, Jocelyn has been a member of Girls' Basketball and Softball teams. She is also a member of Chorus and Ladies Ensemble. In July, Jocelyn represented the Gilbertsville American Legion Auxiliary and GMU at Girl's State at SUNY Brockport. Currently she is enrolled in College Accounting, Economics and Participation in Government, TC3 Academic Writing, and Intro. to College Seminar. She is an active member of the Class of 2017 and is also employed outside of school. Jocelyn is dedicated to her family farm, enjoys horseback riding, and showing prize bulls. As you can imagine, Jocelyn has a great work ethic and a heart of gold. As resilient and strong as she may be, her beautiful smile is contagious. Congratulations Jocelyn and thanks for all your efforts—whether it has been in the gym, on the field, at class events, or in the show ring!

— HS Student Council

## Wine to Water Lecture



On September 27, seniors enrolled in Ms. Waghorn's TC3 Intro to College Success course attended Hartwick College to hear author and humanitarian Doc Hendley speak about the world water crisis. Students enrolled in Intro. to College and students taking 'Wick 101 (at Hartwick) read Doc Hendley's novel, *Wine to Water*. *Wine to Water* is the story of man trying to find his place in the world and his desire to make a difference. During his lecture, Doc shared how he evolved from being an awkward teenager who kept failing at everything he attempted to a bartender, a college student and to an adult whose passion encouraged him to help bring clean water to Darfur where war has destroyed wells and limited the water supply. Doc was great a speaker and students listened intently as he shared his life story. Students unanimously enjoyed hearing him speak and said he was, "an inspirational regular guy," and, "I liked hearing that he felt he was a failure but didn't give up." In his parting words to the students, he said that everyone has a purpose—sometimes it just takes trial and error and stubbornness to figure out what that is. In his words, "Don't give up!"

## Academic Team on *Double Down*



The HS Academic Team competed against a number of Syracuse area high schools to be one of the 16 schools to participate in WCNY's award-winning high school academic quiz show, *Double Down*. The show airs on Sundays, at 6:00 p.m. on WCNY/PBS—Syracuse with

host Bill Baker. Answering the tough questions at the PBS Studio were: **Seniors Molly D'Amato, Kayla Grabo, Nicole Grabo** and **Juniors: Timothy Picozzi, Lucas Piedmonte**.

The GMU Academic Team will participate in the Upstate Academic Competition sponsored by the Catskill Area School Study Council in January at SUNY Oneonta.

## Fall Sports Celebration 2016

On October 25, the GMU Athletic Department and Booster Club honored GMU Fall Sports teams. This year, we honored modified and varsity athletes who played soccer, football, cross-country, and golf. Three awards were presented for each GMU varsity team. They are:

### **Coach's Award:** (All Players are Eligible to Receive Award)

The Coaches Award is given to the athlete (or athletes) on each varsity sports team whom the coach feels made a significant contribution to the team while serving as an exemplary student-athlete. This award is given to the athlete who best demonstrates throughout the season, the true spirit of GMU Athletics. It is given for hard work and personal improvement, willingness to learn, to recognize their own full potential, and also to help the team recognize its full potential. Other attributes that may be considered for this award include: dedication, commitment, excellent attendance at practices and games, sportsmanship, character, team oriented, and overall contribution to the team.

### **Most Improved:** (All Players are Eligible to Receive Award)

The Most Improved Player Award is given to an athlete (or athletes) on each varsity sports team who has improved their skills greatly from either the previous season and/or from the beginning of the season to the end of the season. Other award factors may include: the player's willingness to learn and grow, excellent attendance at practices and games, consistently shows a positive attitude, demonstrates team spirit, and displays good sportsmanship.

### **Rookie Award:** (First Year Varsity Players are Eligible to Receive Award)

The Rookie Award is given to an athlete (or athletes) on each varsity sports team that has had a significant impact on the team during their first season as a member of the varsity team. Their positive impact on the team as a first-year player is a major part of the award, but other factors are also taken into consideration. These may include: consistently shows a positive attitude, displays good sportsmanship, has excellent attendance at practices and games, and demonstrates team spirit.

### **The following students were honored:**

- **Varsity Girls Soccer:**
  - Rookie of the Year: **Sadra Smith**
  - Most Improved Player: **Scarlett Newman** and **Kaitlyn Fuller**
  - Coach's Award: **Marena Zaczek**
- **Varsity Boys Soccer:**
  - Rookie of the Year: **Gavin Bonczkowski** and **Ethan Newman**
  - Most Improved Player: **Lucas Piedmonte**
  - Coach's Award: **Michael O'Connor**

### • **Varsity Cross-Country:**

- Varsity Award:  
**Tanner Sutliff**
- Most Improved Player:  
**Alyssa Hotaling**
- Coach's Award:  
**Deirdre Brett**

Thank you to all who came to support our student-athletes.



## Great Job!

## Booster Club Membership Information

The GMU Booster Club welcomes new members at any time of the year. We follow by-laws which were written in July 1990 and were based on the by-laws of the Gilbertsville Booster Club (with records dating into the early 80's).

### **According to Article III, Section 1:**

*Any person in 7th grade or above shall be eligible for membership in the Booster Club. A member is a person who has paid dues and attended two regularly scheduled meetings following the first payment of dues.*

In May of 2017, the GMU Booster Club will take nominations for ALL offices. Elections will follow in June 2017 and the term of service for new officers begins at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. Current officers are eligible for re-election. The current president and treasurer are looking for new members who are interested in taking on these offices in June 2017.

Our October meeting was an Interest Meeting held on October 12, in the HS Cafeteria. The November meeting was November 15, at 7:30 p.m. **On December 14, we will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Booster Club Concession Room, the small room off the HS Cafeteria.** Meetings for January, February and March 2017 will be scheduled in accordance with the basketball schedule and will be posted as soon as that schedule becomes available. All are welcome!

If you have any questions regarding GMU Booster Club or cannot make the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the Booster Club by email: [nbakhuizen@gmucsd.org](mailto:nbakhuizen@gmucsd.org), or calling (607) 783-2207.

## Health Office Reminders

- Please call the Health Office or the front desk if your child will be absent that day and include the reason for the absence.
- All prescribed medications must be brought to the Health Office by an adult.
- When your child has had a physical or updated immunizations, please send a copy to the Health Office to keep on file.
- Students may not return to school after sickness until their temperature is normal without fever-reducing medication or no symptoms of the *stomach bug* for 24 hours.
- All over-the-counter medications require a Health Care Provider's Order and parent permission, including cough drops. If in doubt, please call the Health Office.
- Students may not carry their own medication unless it is ordered by the Health Care Provider that they are capable of doing so. This requires an attestation by the provider that the student has been observed for proper administration.
- Sunscreen may be applied without the Health Care Provider's order; we need parent permission for the student to do so.
- Please remind your children that if they are ill, they must come to the Health Office for evaluation and the parent will be called from here. They are not to text or call their parent themselves.

Thank you for your help with all of the above.

— Carol Angelone, RN, School Nurse

## Information from the Health Office What is SEPSIS?

*(Taken from a publication from the  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)*

Sepsis is a complication caused by the body's overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death. Sepsis is **DIFFICULT TO DIAGNOSE** because it happens quickly and can be confused with other conditions. Sepsis is a medical emergency and is **DEADLY** when it is not quickly recognized and treated.

### What can you do to prevent sepsis?

1. Get vaccinated against the flu, pneumonia, and any other infections that could lead to sepsis. Talk to your doctor for more information.
2. Prevent infections that can lead to sepsis by:
  - Cleaning scrapes and wounds; and
  - Practicing good hygiene (e.g., hand washing).
3. Know that time matters. If you have a severe infection, look for signs like: shivering, fever, or very cold, extreme pain or discomfort, clammy or sweaty skin, confusion or disorientation, short of breath, rapid breathing, and high heart rate.

### What should you do if you think you have sepsis?

Seek medical treatment if you have signs of sepsis following an infection. By practicing proper cleansing of all wounds, serious infection can be prevented. We follow this rule in the Health Office to prevent minor scrapes and cuts from becoming infected.

## Information from the Health Office Asthma, Allergies and the Flu— What You Need to Know

*(Taken from "Fresh AAIR" a publication for  
the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America)*

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. The flu can be dangerous for anyone, but people with asthma need to take extra steps to avoid the flu.

The flu can affect your lungs when you have asthma. It can cause inflammation (swelling) and narrowing of your airways. These changes could trigger asthma symptoms, an asthma episode or an asthma attack. If you or your child has asthma, defending yourself and your child against the flu is important.

### Special Information for People with Asthma, including your children

- If you have asthma, get a flu shot. Do **NOT GET THE NASAL SPRAY VACCINE**. The nasal spray could trigger asthma symptoms of an asthma attack.
- Flu viruses change from year to year. So the flu vaccine changes each year, as well. Get a flu vaccine every year when it becomes available.
- If you have asthma and get the flu, see your doctor right away. You are at greater risk of becoming very ill with health problems from the flu.
- If you care for children with asthma, get the flu vaccine to protect them.
- The vaccine is safe. If you have asthma, the risks are far greater than not getting the vaccine.

### Special Information for People with Allergies, including your children

Check with your allergist or Health Care Provider to learn whether the flu vaccine is safe for you if you have ever had:

- A life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of the flu vaccine.
- A severe allergy to any part of a flu vaccine.

The medical community agrees that there is no reason to avoid the flu shot if you have an egg allergy. The flu shot is safe for everyone with an egg allergy, even if you have had a severe allergic reaction to eggs. Your allergist or Health Care Provider should be able to administer the shot in his or her office.

## Veterans Day Celebration



It is with great pride that students and staff could honor our local veterans. We recognized 55 veterans at a ceremony in the auditorium. The entire student body, along with staff, community members, and families of veterans watched an inspiring speech by Ronald Reagan and then witnessed a POW presentation and

personal acknowledgement of each veteran's services, as a thank you for their service to our nation, the CFES club



served breakfast to the veterans, their families and student sponsors. Audience members were very attentive during the assembly, and CFES members truly went above and beyond to decorate for the event, welcome our veterans, and serve them breakfast. We will continue to offer this tremendous event each year and hope that more veterans can join us next year!

—Mrs. Cierra Stafford,  
National Honor  
Society Advisor



## Fire Prevention Week



A very special thank you to the Gilbertsville Volunteer Fire Department for their presentation of Fire Prevention Week at Morning Raiders. We reviewed *Stop, Drop and Roll; Don't Hide, Go Outside; Stay Low and Crawl;* and making sure our smoke detectors work. Afterwards we had a chance to take a close look at the fire trucks and their equipment. Thank you for answering all of our questions!



## Junior Carnival

Thank you to all who came out for our fun-filled Junior Carnival on October 21!

—The Class of 2018



## GMU Halloween Celebration



On October 27, GMU students celebrated Halloween with the 2nd Annual World's Largest Online Gathering of K-6 Classes Concert and The Parade of Characters. Almost 50,000 students from across the United States and the World joined Emmy-winning artist Dave Ruch for a live online concert from his studio in Buffalo with songs, stories, movement and laughter. Followed by the GMU Parade of Characters, students dressed as their favorite characters from books, comics, movies, television and their imagination. Our GMU Elementary Staff dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss character to the delight of the students.

## Poetry Out Loud

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Poetry Out Loud assembly to be held on Tuesday, January 10, at 1:30 p.m. For nine years, the English Department has sponsored this riveting event, which combines the magic of the spoken word with the thrill of competition. Our local school-wide winners will advance to compete in the regional competition to be held at SUNY Oneonta in February. Join us and support the arts and our students!

## Elementary Student Council News



It has been a busy few months for the Elementary Student Council. So what have we been up to? Well, we have been busy in the garden! Students in grades 3-6 stayed after school to harvest potatoes in the school garden. Some of these potatoes were sold during our successful produce sale at Open House where we again sold out of all of our garlic! Parents and Council members teamed up on a cool day in October to clean the garden up for spring and the 5th grade made quick work of mulching rows with leaves from the Copes Corners Cleanup.

By the time this letter reaches you, we will have done even more as a Council, hosting and judging a coloring contest for students in grades PK-6. We also hope that our food pantry collection will have been a big success, helping local families in need.



### Toys for Tots

One of our major goals as a Council is to provide service and help those in need. Please help us reach our goal by sending in new unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots. A collection box will be located at the front desk in the lobby December 5-16. Even the smallest gift will make a child's Christmas.

We are excited as we look ahead to the rest of the school year. If you would like to become involved in the school garden or have ideas for the Elementary Student Council, please send me an email, at [acummings@gmucsd.org](mailto:acummings@gmucsd.org) and let me know!

— Mrs. Cummings

The GMU Drama Club  
Proudly Presents:

## A Travelogue Cabaret

*"Around the World in about 90 minutes"*

Friday, January 27, 2017

6:00 p.m. in the Gym

### Dinner and Music!

Dinner Tickets are \$15; Balcony seats are \$5.

All benefit the Board of Education  
Scholarship Fund

*Please call Aimee Piedmonte in the District Office  
at 783-2207, ext. 140 to reserve tickets. Tickets will  
be sold on a first come, first served basis.*

# Artist of the Month

## September



The Artist of the Month for September is kindergarten student **Logan Panek**.

Our project is making a fall tree with marker and tissue paper. First the students drew their tree, growing from the ground up to the branches. Next they added leaves by tearing tissue into small pieces and adding them to the top of the tree with diluted glue. The leaves overlap and create even more shades of orange, red and yellow by blending. After they are done, they add the grass at the bottom of the artwork, and some even had some leaves falling and landing on the ground. Logan's tree turned out great and he did a super job with his leaves. Logan's favorite part of the project was putting the leaves on the top of the tree.

I asked him what is his favorite subject to work on in art, and he told me he liked making dragonflies, and he likes to use the colors blue and red when he creates. And his favorite medium to work with in art? Clay!

*Great job, Logan!*

## October



**Leelah Charles**, a second grader in Ms. Hankey's class, is our October Artist of the Month. The second grade worked on an underwater silhouette painting. We painted the paper with watercolors in ocean hues, and used stencils to trace and cut out black paper in the shapes of different underwater creatures.

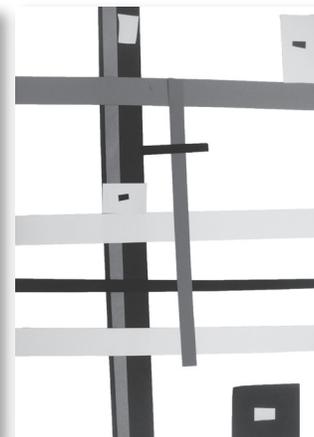
Leelah said that her favorite part in making this project was creating the octopus. She said that the project was a lot of fun to do. When she is



making her artworks, she likes to use people and animals, especially dogs, when she creates. Her favorite colors are purple and blue, and she used that in this particular piece. Her favorite medium to work with is clay.

*Beautiful job, Leelah!*

## November



November's Artist of the Month is kindergarten student **Emily Quitugua**. The kindergarten worked on a picture in the style of Mondrian, an artist who was famous for his non-objective art using shapes and lines in blue, red white, black and yellow.

Emily said she liked cutting the paper in different lines and blocks, and using all the different colors.

Emily likes to work with clay, and make people, and cows, horses and sheep. Another thing she likes to make when she does her art is flowers. I think the Mondrian piece was pretty special.

*Good work, Emily!*

— Cheri Theis, art teacher

## Winter Choral News

This year the Choral Winter Concert will be on Thursday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the GMU Auditorium. The groups performing at this concert are Elementary, MS, and HS Chorus, and Ladies Ensemble.

The Elementary Chorus consists of students from grades five and six. The students have been working very hard on their choral music and it should be a fantastic performance. Among the pieces the Elementary Chorus will be performing is a composition called, *Holiday Lights*, arranged by Jay Althouse with words and music by Sally Albrecht. This piece has definitely been one of their favorites to sing and perform!

Likewise the Middle School and High School Choruses have been preparing a diverse program opening jointly with *Antiphonal Gloria*, by Vivaldi. The choruses will also be performing some lighter pieces including, *Christmas Chopsticks*, *Pat-A-Pan Salsa*, and a hauntingly beautiful *Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind*, by John Rutter. The Ladies Ensemble portion of the program will include some jazzy carols as well as an Andrews Sisters' classic, *Jing-A-Jing-A Ling*.

It should be an exciting winter concert and we hope you will come out and see us!

— Anne Monaco and Winnie Sortman, Music Teachers

## Instrumental Music News

The 2016 Instrumental Winter Concert will be on Thursday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the GMU Auditorium.

The Elementary Band consists of elementary students from grades five and six. The students have been working very hard on their band music and it should be an enjoyable performance. Among the pieces the elementary band will be performing is a composition titled *Dragon Slayer*, by Rob Grice. This piece was fun to prepare early in the morning as mist rose on the hillside outside the band room window. We imagined the dragon behind the mist as we played!

Concert and Symphonic Bands have also been working diligently to prepare an exciting variety of classic and contemporary wind band literature, including our annual performance of Leroy Anderson's, *Sleigh Ride*. The audience will also be treated to selections by our fantastic jazz ensemble, including some funk, swing, and a jazzy arrangement of the holiday favorite, *Silent Night*.

Please join us for an exciting evening showcasing the many musical talents of the instrumental performing ensembles at GMU.

— Anne Monaco and Mathew Oram, Music Teachers

## Pied Piper, the Musical

The Junior Musical production is well under way! Our performance of *Pied Piper, the Musical* will be on Friday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 21, at 2:00 p.m. in the GMU Auditorium.

This story combines three sets of characters. The musical starts out in the Town of Hamelin. Here we meet such characters as: Towncrier—**Tait Christensen**, Innkeeper—**Kendra Hammond**, Flower Stall Lady—**Maya Farwell**, Rattytatty—**Hannah Bonczkowski**, and Dilly—**Bianca Plows**. The citizens are describing the issue that is plaguing Hamelin—RATS! as Duchess Dingaling—**Anika Christensen** yells out and proposes to solve the issue with all the citizens: **Nicholas Bertrand**, **Kadence Canfield**, **Abigail Davis**, **Corbin Demmon**, **Devon Hartwell**, **Jordyn Jones**, **Connor Lenhardt**, **Rylee Lum**, **Rylan McNamara**, **Corbin Page**, **Andrew Stone**, **Ella Thatford**, **Brian Wilson** and **Nevaeh Wright**. Duchess Dingaling believes they should discuss the issue with the Mayor—**Dalton Proskine**, the Mayor's wife—**Alivia Retz**, and of course the Mayor's daughter—**Angelina Correll**. Pattycake—**Fiona Held** and her kitten Kittykat—**Aubree Palmer**—describe how the rats eat all her apples, and the school teacher—**Ella Stockdale**—complains the rats have eaten the books and drunk all the ink! The dance tutor—**Bree MacNeill**, believes she has created a dance as a solution to the rat problem but the citizens and the mayor are not impressed. Bongo—**Brackon Banks**, the town's police officer tries very hard to keep the citizens quiet and begins to write tickets for anyone who says the forbidden word—RATS!

Chaos is created by our second set of characters—The RATS! These pesky critters have now tried to take over the town of Hamelin all with the help of their leaders: Rat King—**Brennan Finch**, Rat Queen—**Carly Davis**, and Old Whiskers—**Waylon Raymond**. Of course the town cannot be overrun by only three rats so, there are many other rats filling the streets, nooks, and crannies of Hamelin: **Mackenzie Barnes**, **Thomas Breslau**, **Leah Cotten**, **Kendra Dunham**, **Taylor Gager**, **Mya Gross**, **Marley LaBounty**, **Alaina Maxson**, **Isaac Maxson**, **Alexander Nickel**, **Rene Posner**, **Mason Prentice**, **Kali Wilcox**, **Morgan Williams**, and Loud Rat—**Kyle MacNeill**.

Who will save Hamelin from their sad plight? Well, a stranger wanders into town, named the Pied Piper—**Dante Manwarren**. Will he be able to save Hamelin? Or will the town be completely overrun by the rats! You will have to watch and see who the third set of characters are! Come and find out what happens on Friday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, January 21, at 2:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Gerrit Bakhuizen is the crew of *Pied Piper the Musical*. They include: Gavin Bonczkowski, Gabrielle Charron, Molly D'Amato, Nina D'Amato, Catherine Giammateo, Emily Hammond, Charlene Heisler, Tyler Lindsley, Felicia Musson, Mathew Oram, and Winnie Sortman. Cheri Theis provided our program, posters, and props. Thank you parents and friends for all your help! We could not have done this without all of you!

— Anne Monaco, Music Teacher

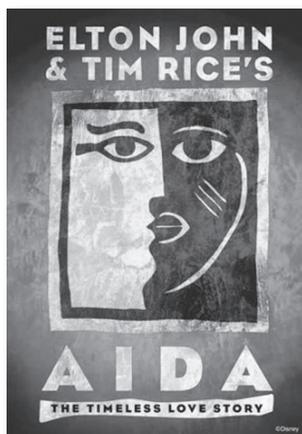
## Bravo! Brava! Kudos! Thank you!



Congratulations and Thank You to the GMU Drama Club for their amazing performances of *Aida*. Audiences enjoyed this high-energy show filled with mystery, intrigue, beautiful dancing, and powerful, haunting music. The emotional journey stayed with audiences long after the show was over.

*Aida* is based on an Egyptian legend personified in Verdi's opera (1871) of the same name. With music and lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice, Disney's Broadway adaptation juxtaposes modern *pop* style music with ancient Egyptian and Nubian cultures. Princess Amneris (**Felicia Musson**), daughter of Pharaoh (**Michael Birdsall**), is betrothed to Egyptian army captain, Radames (**Mickenson Clune**), son of Pharaoh's Chief Minister, Zoser (**Michael O'Connor**), who, in turn, falls in love with Aida (**Charlene Heisler**), a captured Nubian princess and daughter of the Nubian King, Amonasro (**Timothy Picozzi**). Self-evaluation, confusion, betrayal, heartbreak, resolution, and death ensue from this ill-fated romance.

Student Assistant Director/Dance Captain Molly D'Amato played the role of Nehebka, a Nubian slave captured with Aida. **Cecelia Caietta, Gabrielle Charron, Hunter Christian, Nina D'Amato, Vasiliki Drapaniotis, Emily Hammond, Meredith Hammond, Auttum Hartwell, Alyssa Hotaling, Scarlett Newman, Shalleigh Taranto, and Zara Zeidman** completed the female ensemble. Radames' faithful servant, a captured Nubian, Mereb, was played by **Lucas Piedmonte. Gavin Bonzcowski, Michael Pope, Theodore Sharkey, and Isaiah Stockdale** completed the male ensemble.



## Otsego County Fair Art Exhibit

The Elementary students made a great showing with their artwork in this year's Otsego County Fair. The following students were the prize winners, but everyone who showed had really wonderful work, I was very proud of them. Our winners were as follows.

### Pre-kindergarten

- **Alivia Lum**, *Lilac Painting*, 1st Place
- **Julius Smith**, *Watercolor Daisy*, 1st Place

### Kindergarten

- **Estella Mauriano**, *Color Wheel Caterpillar*, 3rd Place
- **Marissa Furgison**, *Shape Chicken*, 2nd Place
- **Daisy Crisell**, *Shape Chicken*, 3rd Place

### First Grade

- **Alexis Davis**, *Fish Collage*, 1st Place
- **William Vacarro**, *Fish Collage*, 2nd Place
- **Mia Mantellassi**, *Hands and Hearts*, 1st Place; *Fish Collage*, 3rd Place

### 2nd Grade

- **Alexia Furgison**, *Oil Pastel Mandala*, 1st Place; *Scratch Art owl*, 2nd Place
- **Blake SanSoucie**, *Oil Pastel Mandala*, 2nd Place

### 5th Grade

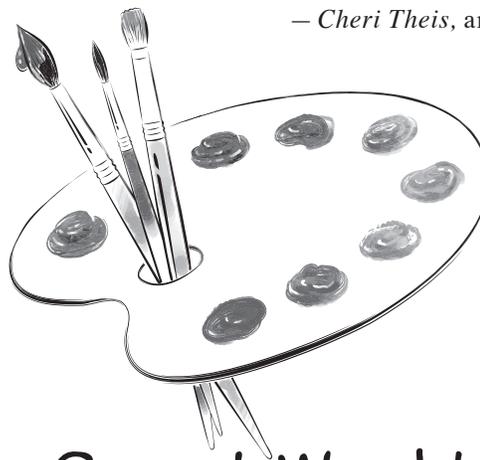
- **Mackenzie Cherry**, *Zentangle Warm, Cool Color Name*, 1st Place; *Hex Sign*, 1st Place
- **Ivy Stensland**, *Zentangle Warm, Cool Color Name*, 2nd Place

### 6th Grade

- **Angelina Correll**, *Stick Figure Pop Art*, 1st Place
- **Briann See**, *Day of the Dead Skull*, 2nd Place
- **Kailah Davis**, *Day of the Dead Skull*, 3rd Place

I am looking forward to another wonderful year of making art with my students, and hope I can get as much great work as I got this past year!

— Cheri Theis, art teacher



# Great Work!

# YEARBOOK INFORMATION



## Advertising in the School Yearbook

Please take this opportunity to show your support for the Yearbook Club at GMU 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 4/1/17 to:

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

### Our pricing is as follows:

- Full Page Ad .....\$200
- ½ Page Ad.....\$130
- ¼ 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 Lynne Talbot at [ltalbot@gmucsd.org](mailto:ltalbot@gmucsd.org) or at (607) 783-2207.

# THE VALLERIAN

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

It is that time of year again when yearbooks go on sale! Have you ordered your copy? If not, the 2017 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, 2017         | \$30              |
| After May 1, 2017         | \$35              |

### 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 Lynne Talbot at [ltalbot@gmucsd.org](mailto:ltalbot@gmucsd.org) or at (607) 783-2207, ext. 268.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies of *The Vallerian* being ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

## Board Minutes

### September 13, 2016, BOE Meeting

#### Positive Highlights:

The FISH Philosophy is catching on! The start of the school year was excellent; very smooth opening days. Teachers had a conference day on September 6, with training on RTI and AIS.

Reports: Superintendent Annette Hammond reported on Curriculum Audit and grades 3-8 test results. She discussed several strategies for moving the district forward, including LINKS goals and RTI/AIS instruction.

Discussion: Guilford-Butternuts Summer Program has requested to use GMU facilities for this summer.

The board convened in executive session from 7:28 to 7:40 p.m.

#### Business:

Approve Minutes of the 16 Aug 2016 and 24 Aug 2016 meetings

Accept/approve the 13 September 2016, Financial Consent Agenda.

To accept donations for GMUMCS Track and Field Program: \$100 from Preferred Mutual and \$100 from Scholet Furniture.

To accept/approve the 13 September 2016, Personnel Consent Agenda.

To accept resignation of Occupational Therapist Angela Garlick, effective 30 Aug 2016.

To appoint Jaime Sherwood as Full-time Occupational Therapist, starting date 01 September 2016, per Terms of Employment. This is an exempt position and other benefits are in accordance with her employment agreement.

To appoint Superintendent Annette D. Hammond as Chief Emergency Officer for the 2016-2017 school year.

To appoint Anne Monaco as Assistant Director/Choreographer for the 2016-2017 school year, per GMUTA stipend.

To appoint Erin Marinelli as mentor for new hire elementary special education teacher Nikki Conway.

To appoint the following coaches for the 2016-2017 season:

Boys Varsity Basketball – Greg Bonczkowski; Boy's JV Basketball – Travis Woods; Boys Modified Basketball – Matt Johnson; Girls Varsity Basketball – Nicole Conway; Girl's JV Basketball – Tanya Barnes; Girls Modified Basketball – Kaitlyn Woods; Varsity Baseball – Greg Bonczkowski; Modified Baseball – Matt Johnson; Modified Softball – Nicole Conway; Varsity Track – Mark Seigers; Modified Track – Holly Wilkinson

To approve Kimberly Oliver as a substitute bus driver for the 2016-2017 school year.

To accept/approve the 13 September 2016, New Items Consent Agenda.

To approve the Table of Organization for the 2016-2017 school year.

To review athletic procedures/policies: Dual Sport Participation Policy & Emergency Athletic Action Plan.

To rescind Milk Bid from Balford Farms for the 2016-17 school year.

To award Carlo Masi & Sons Produce as our new milk supplier for the 2016-17 school year.

To approve request to bus student to Valley Heights Christian Academy.

Discussion: Superintendent goals for 2016-2017 school year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

### October 11, 2016, BOE Meeting

#### Positive Highlights:

Meet and Greet with New Teachers

School Board Recognition Week is October 24-28; thank you!

Junior Carnival, PSATs and College Day next week

Aida will be November 10, 11, 12

Veteran's Day Breakfast will be November 10

Soccer season is wrapping up

Open House was very well attended

We have a new 3D printer

Thank you Morris Rotary, for the signs

Morris Rotary New Teacher Dinner was nice

Our football team won homecoming

October 7 was a very productive conference day

Reports: CSEA and GMUTA Sick Bank, Dorothy Iannello

Discussion:

Butternuts Summer Program will not be using our school this summer, due to the Capital Project construction.

Superintendent Goals: Yes, BOE would like weekly emails

Board Goals: Will form a committee to work on these and superintendent goals/evaluation.

Policy Book: Move forward with new book from Hogan et al. Will look at policies as needed in future.

BOE Code of Conduct: Incorporate into Board Goals discussion

Business:

Approve minutes of the 13 September 2016 meeting.

Accept/approve the 11 Oct 2016 Committee on Special Education/ Committee on Preschool Special Education Consent Agenda. The meeting dates: 22 Sep 2016, 30 Sep 2016, 06 Oct 2016.

Accept/approve the 11 Oct 2016, Financial Consent Agenda.

To accept financial reports for August 2016.

To accept donation of cookbook from Samuel and Seth Donahoe, Herkimer County 4-H members.

To accept donation of \$500.00 for School Based Health Program, from Miles Supply.

To accept donation of two traffic signs from Morris Rotary.

To accept donation of \$49,000 from Senator Seward for School Based Health Program.

To approve the Budget Calendar for 2017-2018 school year.

Accept/approve the 11 Oct 2016, Personnel Consent Agenda.

To approve FMLA leave for aide Nicole Christian.

To appoint Mark Luetzger as Varsity Softball Coach

To appoint cafeteria substitutes and substitute aides for the 2016-2017 school year

To accept/approve the 11 Oct 2016, New Items Consent Agenda.

To approve GMUCSD's 2016-2019 APPR Plan.

The board convened in executive session from 8:01-8:11.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

## Emergency Closings

A call will be made to all parent/guardians of students who attend GMU by our Automated Phone Messaging System notifying them of any delays or cancellations.

Notifications of delays or a school closing will also be made on the following broadcast stations.

### Radio Stations

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| WCHN (AM 97)           | WKXZ (FM 94)            |
| WDOS (AM 730)          | WSRK (FM 103.9)         |
| WZOZ (FM 103.1)        | WDLA (AM 1270, FM 92.1) |
| WDHI (FM 100.3)        | WIYN (FM 94.7)          |
| WTBD (FM 97.5)         | WBKT (FM 95.3)          |
| WCDO (FM 101, AM 1490) | WHWK (FM 98.1)          |
| WAAL (FM 99.1)         | WWYL (FM 104.1)         |
| WLTB (FM 101.7)        |                         |

### Television

WBNG TV (Binghamton)  
Time Warner Cable News  
WUTR/WFXV  
News Channel 34  
YNN TV

### GMU Website

[www.gmucsd.org](http://www.gmucsd.org)

### GMU Facebook Page



## Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Resident children of the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton School District who will be four years of age by December 1, 2017, are eligible to register/apply for the full day Pre-Kindergarten program. For those who are interested and have not already done so, you may contact Mrs. Clapp in the Student Support Services Office (783-2207, ext. 141) to provide information for obtaining an application. **All Pre-Kindergarten Applications must be returned and in the Student Support Service Offices by noon on Monday, April 3rd, 2017.** The class size is limited to 18 students; therefore, if more than 18 applications are received, a lottery system is used to determine the class roll.

## Kindergarten Registration Day

Parents of children who are turning five (5) on or before December 1, 2017, are eligible to register to be in the Kindergarten class for the 2017 School year. **Kindergarten registration will be held on March 9, from 12:00-3:45 p.m.** Please call or contact Mrs. Clapp to arrange an appointment, at 783-2207, ext. 141.

### The items needed at the time of registration are:

- Child's Birth Certificate,
- Immunization Record,
- Social Security Card, and
- Three proofs of residency.

Students that have already attended our in-house PK program during the current school year do not have to attend this registration. If you are not able to make **Registration Day on March 9**, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Clapp in the Student Support Services Office, at 783-2207, ext. 141.



# The largest learning event in history

During Computer Science Education Week  
December 5-11, 2016

HOUR  
OF  
CODE





“Computers are going to be a big part of our future...and that future is yours to shape.”  
— President Barack Obama

Anybody can learn! Start with an Hour of Code [code.org](http://code.org)

## December 5 – 11

## Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Elementary Computer Science Class

## code.org

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CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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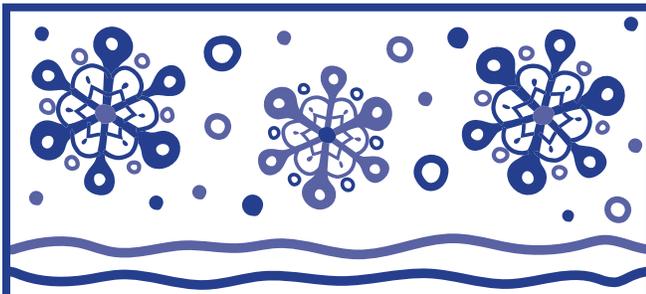
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Ethan Eberly  
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Zachary Proskine

Annette D. Hammond, Superintendent  
Aimee Piedmonte, District Clerk

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**

**ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER**



**Attention Senior Citizens**

# Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner

The holiday season is upon us and the Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School will be hosting its annual Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner. **The dinner will be held on Friday, December 23, at Noon in the Cafeteria.** Come celebrate the holiday season with the faculty and staff, as well as with your friends, family and fellow community members.

The District administrators, Board of Education and cafeteria staff are excited to prepare and serve this festive fare. Mark your calendars and bring your appetite!

Please RSVP to the District Office by Friday, December 16, at 783-2207, ext. 140 if you plan on attending. We look forward to seeing you there.

# BUS VOTE

Tuesday, February 7, 2017  
Noon-8:00 p.m.  
Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Front Lobby

**NO IMPACT ON SCHOOL TAX LEVY**

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

**BUS PURCHASE-PROPOSITION NO. 1**

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 small (28 passenger) Type A buses at \$58,000.00 each, and a seven passenger vehicle for a cost of \$28,000.00, and to expend therefore a maximum estimated cost not to exceed one hundred and forty four thousand dollars (\$144,000.00), including incidental expenses in connection therewith, and that \$144,000 Capital Reserve Fund monies shall be used to pay the cost thereof.

