



Gibraltar School District

19370 Vreeland Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183 www.gibdist.net

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am happy to announce that Gibraltar School District has received grant money from the Competitive School Safety Grant Program (CSSGP), sponsored by the Michigan State Police. Only a small percentage of districts received grant money and we are thrilled to be a part of this elite group. Assistant Principal, Tracy Richardson and our Restorative Practice Advisor and Safety Liaison, Larry Williams were the driving force for getting our grant approved. The grant monies will allow GSD to purchase radios that will allow communications between all schools and also trauma kits for each building that will supply items that would be useful in the event of a crisis.

Additionally, we now have ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) trained staff members located in each of our buildings. We strive to continually improve our procedures to help our staff and students feel safe and prepared.

Amy Conway
Superintendent

Spark's Corner



Research shows that being happy and positive primes the brain to be more successful and productive. Promoting positivity will enhance our student's academic ability and develop them into happy and positive thinkers and leaders. Each month we will highlight a building or staff member that is spreading "The Orange" (Happiness) through Gibraltar!

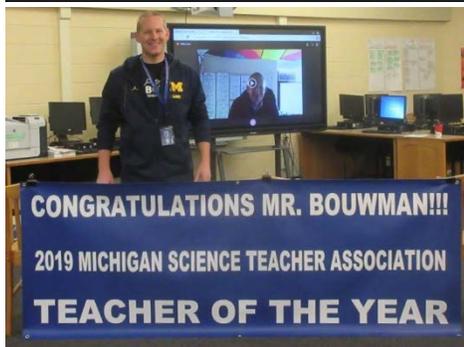
Downriver STEM @ Weiss



Wildcat students were hard at work the last 2 weeks trying to fill Mr. Anderson's office full of canned and boxed items for local food pantries. They made a deal that if they could fill his office, he would shave his head. Students brought in a steady flow of food items every day and there were several large car loads dropped off by some very generous families too. Altogether, there were well over 3,000 items brought in and the food overflowed out of the principal's office! On Wednesday, November 21st, Mr. Anderson's head was shaved! We talk a lot about kindness and choosing kind at Downriver STEM @ Weiss and the Wildcat students showcased that kindness through this canned food drive. Great job Wildcats!



Mr. Bouwman Named MSTA Teacher of the Year!

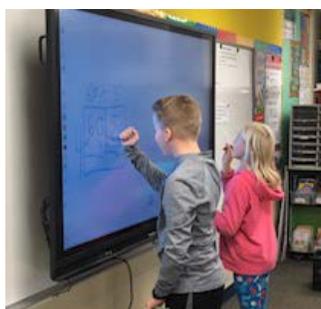


Earlier this month, the Board of the Michigan Science Teachers Association announced that Jeff Bouwman was selected as the 2019 Michigan Science Teacher Middle School Teacher of the Year! Mr. Bouwman was chosen from a pool of thousands of science teachers throughout the state for using and modeling best practices, inspiring students, demonstrating innovative teaching strategies, being an excellent role model for students and other teachers, demonstrating leadership, and exhibiting a passion for science and teaching.

Students and parents of Shumate are well aware of Mr. Bouwman's role in bringing innovative science programs to Shumate such as GLOBE, Weather STEM, Sturgeon in the Classroom and The Salmon Project. Through his ongoing work, Mr. Bouwman has also formed a strong partnership with NASA, which continues to serve our students and allows for amazing scientific opportunities.

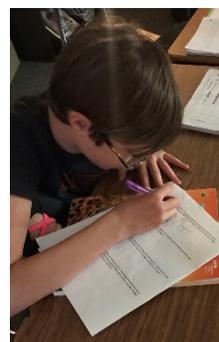
Mr. Bouwman will be formally recognized at an awards ceremony during a special dinner at the 2019 MSTA Conference, as he joins the prestigious list of MSTA award winners. #GettingScienceDone

Hunter Elementary



The teachers at Hunter Elementary are always taking risks and making adjustments in their teaching practices to increase the rigor of learning in their classrooms. Teachers are implementing Model Drawings and Number Talks which they have learned about through professional development with Strategic Intervention Solutions for Teachers. Through model drawings students are exposed to listening, reasoning, justifying, applying patterns and communications generalizations about numbers. Model Drawings and Number Talks move our students beyond learning strategies to inventing, and construction using mathematical concepts. Below are photographs of our 4th and 5th grade students engaged in Model Drawings in multiple settings. Students work alone, in groups, digitally and using

pencil and paper to display their thinking.



7th Grade Engineering STEM Tech



Mr. Irwin's and Mr. DeAngelo's 7th grade Engineering STEM Tech students took on an additional project over the first 2 quarters of the year. Along with designing and building Rube Goldberg machines, tension towers, and cardboard boats that the students raced across the CHS pool, this year's students also built a new home for our resident tortoise, Mr. Crawlinton. Prior to designing the enclosure, students researched Mr. Crawlinton's specific environmental needs, and made sure to design



the enclosure to support his weight. Through the building phase, students had the opportunity to learn how to use various tools and painting techniques. The end result is a spectacular enclosure that will allow Mr. Crawlinton to stretch his legs through the winter, and will allow all of our students the opportunity to visit with our slowest Seahawk through the cold months.



Wendy Brozek- Downriver Teacher of the Month



On Wednesday, October 31st, Darrin Camilleri, our state representative, surprised Ms. Brozek during her classroom Halloween party. Ms. Brozek was chosen for the Downriver Teacher of the Month. Ms. Brozek is a third grade teacher at Parsons Elementary School. Our district is very proud of Ms. Brozek and all of the other outstanding teachers in Gibraltar.

Lakeshore



The Lakeshore staff would like to give a huge shout out to Sahmantha Decker! Sahmantha has already finished all 6 of her classes and we still have two months until this semester is complete. In the three years that this program has been operating, this is the best start for any student. What makes this more impressive is that Sahmantha just gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on November 4th. Since enrolling this year, her child has been a huge motivating factor for Sahmantha's success. We are all so proud of Sahmantha and know that she is setting an amazing example for her daughter.

Transportation Department Update



On Tuesday, November 6th our drivers attended their Safety Education Program for the Advanced Bus Driving class, which they are required to take every two years. Our drivers were updated about laws and learned about OK2SAY.

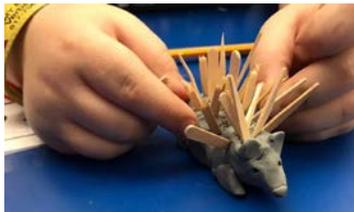
OK2SAY is the prevention-based reporting system established in response to the mandate of the Student Safety Act of 2013. The purpose of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs by encouraging anyone to report threatening behavior. Anyone can report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at

students, school employees or schools. Tips can be submitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We are holding our annual "Fill the Bus" food drive at the bus garage, located @ 28291 Fort Street. The bus will be out front for you to drop off your items Monday through Friday 7:00am - 5:00pm starting November 1st. We will be collecting non-perishable food and other daily needed supplies for the Gibraltar Food Pantry. This is an opportunity for our community to come together and help those in need. Our last day for collections will be Thursday, December 20th @ 12:00 noon.

We also want to take this time to wish you all Happy Holidays and thank everyone for their support of our mission to feed the hungry in our community.

Downriver STEM @ Weiss



First grade Wildcat students were hard at work engineering animal models that showcased their defensive structures. They worked in pairs and groups to create an animal using modeling clay and then used different materials to show the structures that help keep them safe from predators. Great job Wildcats!

Cooperative for Special Education Services

The students, staff, and parents for Ms. Beth Creekmore and Ms. Kelly Hunter at Hunter Elementary had a wonderful celebration and collected food donations to help out their community.

Ms. Creekmore and Ms. Hunter's classroom at Hunter held their annual Thanksgiving celebration before break. Parents, siblings, and other valued community members were treated to traditional Thanksgiving fare. This annual celebration is always well received. Additionally, non-perishable food and goods are collected to be donated to the community. Thank you to Ms. Creekmore and Ms. Hunter's classroom students, staff and community. Your classrooms are really demonstrating how to be virtuous by helping others as Shawn Achor in his book, Big Potential shares that " we can all inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, no matter what seat we are in."

Thank you to Ms. Beth Creekmore and Ms. Kelly Hunter's classroom students, staff and community for sharing your Big Potential!

First Chapman Literacy Event a Success



November 15th marked a fun, informative, first-time event for Chapman families. Kindergarten thru third grade students and their families were invited for a Literacy event in the evening at Chapman Elementary. Reading Interventionist, Angie Couvreur along with the help of the District Literacy Coaches, Courtney Russo and Colleen Buscemi, created an evening dedicated to informing parents the best way to help their children at home as they practice reading with them. This event could not have been a success without all of the teacher volunteers that facilitated the parent workshops!

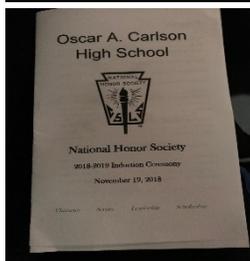


The evening started with a storyteller, Judy Sima. She involved the students in the stories and acted out different parts. She also gave the history and importance of oral storytelling. From there, parents and their children separated into grade levels where they learned strategies to work on with their child at home, played a literacy geared game, and ended with a Go Noodle movement activity.

The evening ended with everyone gathering in the cafeteria for cookies and milk. All students and siblings received a book to take home with them, donated by the Chapman PTO.

This event was a lot of fun and was well-received by families. We can't wait to start planning next year!

Carlson High Celebrates High Academic Achievements



On Monday, November 19th, 2018, we welcomed 305 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior students and their families to the Carlson High School Auditorium for the Academic Letter Award Ceremony. In order for a student to be awarded an Academic Letter, they need to have a 3.5 grade point average.



On Monday, November 19th, 2018, in the Carlson High School Auditorium, we held our National Honor Society Induction. We invited 40 students and their families for the ceremony and light refreshments. In order to be inducted into NHS, students must complete an extensive and rigorous application process that requires a 3.5 grade point average, and a panel of five teachers that analyze the scholarship, leadership, and character of each inductee.

Future Engineers at Parsons



On your mark, get set, design! Before the Thanksgiving break, the fourth grade students at Parsons Elementary utilized the engineering and design process to create a wind tunnel. In class, the students researched and studied energy and motion. The students were then given the task of designing and creating a wind tunnel that will help solve the energy crisis. After lots of collaboration, analyzing, perseverance, discussion and redesigning, the students were able to present their wind tunnel to the rest of the engineers in the classroom!



Custodial-Maintenance Department

The Custodial-Maintenance Department has been busy with the construction at Chapman Elementary and with the planning of the upcoming renovations at the other buildings. Our Grounds Department has been preparing for the winter season by ensuring that all snow removal equipment is working properly and that all buildings have snow blowers and salt. Most importantly, we would like to welcome Amanda Fritz and George Dagan to the Custodial Department. Amanda is at Carlson and George is at Shumate.

Lighthouse Leaders at Parsons



It is smooth sailing ahead for these members of the student lighthouse team at Parsons. One of the goals at Parsons has been to create student leaders. These student leaders had to apply for this important leadership role. The purpose of a lighthouse team is to allow students to lead and guide others at Parsons. The second part of their job is to be a shining ambassador in their community.

Since the beginning of this school year, they have already participated in community outreach programs. Recently they organized a donation drive to collect items for a local animal shelter. Their next community project is to organize and lead the collection of new or gently used stuffed animals or books. The team will be working with S.A.F.E, a non-profit organization that gives stuffed animals and books to children who are facing a crisis in their lives. We are very proud of the lighthouse team and all of the other student leaders at Parsons.

Carlson Students take Third Place in Regional Competition



Mrs. Bechtol and Mrs Fountain took the Carlson BPA (Business Professionals of America) to Tennessee for the southern regional competition for entrepreneurs. The students built a cake pop business. The Carlson team brought home a third place trophy in the category of best booth!



Chapman's Annual Thanksgiving tradition Continues!



For over 30 years, Chapman has held a Turkey Trot and this year was no different. The 2018 Chapman Turkey Trot was held at Lake Erie Metropark on November 20th. 80% of the students participated along with over 90 parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. The 2.3 mile course was challenging, but 350 of our students completed the course! This event teaches students about walking or running for health and fitness, community participation, sportsmanship, and meeting personal goals. Although the first place boy and girl in each grade receive a trophy, every student that participates is a winner and receives a certificate and Turkey Toe Token for their shoe! A special thank you goes out to the teachers & staff, parents, Brownstown Fire Department, Chapman PTO, Lake Erie Metropark staff and everyone that makes the day successful.

Curriculum Department News:

In addition to November 6 being such an important date, as it was election day, it was also a great day of learning for our teachers in Gibraltar School District! Teachers at each level participated in professional learning that had immediate application back into their classrooms, mostly all facilitated by our own building principals! A theme in the learning was something called "cognitive rigor", which describe the level of thinking our students are engaged in during instruction and assessment. As students become career and college ready while moving through our system, it is imperative we provide learning experiences that build to levels of deep thinking and promote problem solving and critical thinking. This cognitive rigor can also be described as "depth of knowledge" with describes how deeply students must engage with content. Simply put, cognitive rigor is about deep thinking, not necessarily more work. More to come on this topic in future e-blast publications.



Lower el teachers facilitating conversations on rigor in the classroom.