



Gibraltar School District

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Holidays approach, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a relaxing and healthy Holiday season. I know that our Holidays this year may look a little different, but all of us at GSD are thankful for the partnership between our community, staff and parents.

Let's finish strong these last two weeks of school and have a wonderful new year!

Your Partner in Education,
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!

Chapman's First Annual Kindness Rally sponsored by the Chapman PTO

On November 21, 2020 Chapman Elementary students competed in the First Annual Kindness Rally, hosted by the Chapman PTO. Each student and staff member who registered formed their own team of family and friends to compete in the one-day challenge. Using a mobile app, there were 100 random acts of kindness to choose from. There were challenges like chalking a sidewalk with positive messages, leaving a positive review for a local small business, delivering a thank you card to local police or fire departments, or giving flowers to someone not expecting them to brighten their day. Each challenge earned points and the teams were able to follow the leaderboard throughout the day. This year's winner, 5th Grader Elliott Brown, earned 198 points for completing 79 acts of kindness throughout the community. The students and staff were able to lift the spirits of friends, family, and strangers in a time when it is so very needed and it was an amazing show of Charger Spirit. The goal was to create enough ripples that they would turn into a tidal wave of kind acts. That goal was achieved with over 615 kindness challenges completed. The photos and videos were shared on social media to encourage others to participate on their own and keep it going. Even while competing virtually, it was a wonderful way for the students and staff to stay connected while working toward a common purpose, to spread kindness.



Carlson High School



Carlson High School got some much deserved publicity on Thanksgiving morning. It was well represented by the Carlson High School Marching Marauders, led by the Maestro David Brockington. The Marching Marauders were able to safely travel downtown a week before Thanksgiving and record their part in the parade. Local 4 digitally put together the “parade” just for everyone to safely enjoy in their homes. Mr. Brockington and his band did a fantastic job of representing CHS for a huge television audience!

Parsons- Kindness Stones Pave the Way to a Pirate Memorial at Parsons



When students get curious, great things happen. Parsons 5th graders were curious about a memorial stone they found on the school property that looked abandoned and sad. After a little research, it was discovered that the stone was a memorial for a little girl, a former Parsons Pirate, who passed away in 1985 from childhood cancer.



Our leaders also learned that a tree was planted as part of the original memorial many years ago. Since then, this tree had been removed due to construction of our bus loop. Stacey Andrzejewski, the little girl who passed away, and her family deserved a memorial with better placement and a tree.

Our fifth graders took action. The 5th grade lighthouse leaders planned a memorial rededication ceremony where a new tree would be planted, the memorial stone moved to a better location, and kindness stones to surround this beautiful memorial. All 5th grade students painted kindness rocks that they placed around the memorial stone that was moved next to a newly planted tree, donated by Carefree Lawn Care in Trenton. Three of our lighthouse leaders led the memorial service on November 10th with all 5th grade and the family and friends of Stacey in attendance. It was a kindness project like no other.

Lakeshore Virtual School

LVS would like to recognize our **November Students of the Month**. Each Student of the Month is based off of our acronym LVS Pride. Our second letter, **V**, represents **Versatility**. These students have shown versatility at LVS in a multitude of ways. Some of these students are versatile due to the many different technology tools they use in their assignments, their ability to adapt to different curriculum platforms, and their ability to learn from anywhere in any environment. Our other nominees are versatile because they are doing well in all their classes while working full time as a surgical assistant or attending a Leadbetter Junior Golf Academy. We are extremely proud of these students and are thrilled to recognize them as our Students of the Month for Versatility.



Congratulations to:

Jonah Fitzpatrick, Kindergarten

Tran Pham, 5th grade

Paul Wienke, 6th grade

Ashlynn Chapman, 8th grade

Hailey Holbdy, 10th grade

Bailey Buckler, 12th grade

Athletics

Although athletics have been put on pause, our coaches and athletes remain ready and excited to get going after the pause is lifted. We have already been able to start a couple of sports for winter, and the remaining sports are ready for tryouts. The teams that have not yet had the opportunity to have tryouts, will have that opportunity as soon as we get the clearance to resume scheduled athletic activities. We look forward to hit the ground running as soon as possible.

Shumate NJHS Giving Tree

Shumate's National Junior Honor Society is not letting our current remote learning environment get in the way of giving to our families in need this holiday season. The Shumate Giving Tree has become a celebrated tradition here at SMS, and while it was organized differently this year, the goal remained the same; ensuring that all of our Seahawks have a merry Christmas. This year, the staff reached out to 7 students, to learn what they wanted or needed for Christmas. Specifically, students selected were asked to supply 4 needs and 1 want. Shumate staff generously chose a tag or two...or three from the "virtual tree", and shopped for these students. NJHS students, Mrs. Gresham, Mr. Liptow and Mrs. Kopchia will be busy wrapping and delivering the presents over the next few weeks. Understanding that this holiday season finds many families in need due to the pandemic, NJHS has also elected to include a Kroger gift card for the families of each recipient using their hard earned fundraising money. Our Shumate Staff and students are truly amazing!! Shumate's National Junior Honor Society wishes those students, their families, and the rest of our Shumate community a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Gibraltar Food Service

While the district was in remote learning, GSD Food Service sprang into action providing 7 free breakfast and lunch meals each week to our students! They provided 11,200 meals in the last three weeks! Thank you to our food service staff for always supporting our community and being ready at a moment's notice!



Free food pick-up is available on 12/23, 12/30 and 1/6 from 1-2:30 at the CHS/SMS bus loop!

Hunter Elementary



First grade teachers and students at Hunter received a shout out from the eSpark director for their frequent and consistent use of eSpark in their classrooms. eSpark is a program where students in Gibraltar engage in standards-based digital activities in reading and math. The work is fun, differentiated, and each student works independently at their own pace to master skills. When a quest is completed correctly students receive a "high five" for their hard work. Hunter classrooms showcase these student achievements with high five bulletin boards where they can work toward earning rewards. When asked about eSpark some of the student comments were: "I like that it lets me move on to harder work when I pass a pretest" - Alaina, "I like that it helps me with math" - Mia, "I like the videos that we watch, they are interesting." - Miela, "I like the learning games on eSpark" - Holland, and "I like the quizzes we take to earn high fives." - Easton



Downriver STEM @ Weiss



This past week we were lucky to have author, Ellen Potter, visit our Wildcats. Ellen was really amazing to listen to as she shared about how she became a writer, what inspired her to write certain books, how she goes through the writing process, and more! When she was done sharing, she took questions from about 15 of our Wildcat students. Our students really enjoyed hearing from Ellen through a back-and-forth dialogue. We are excited to order her books for our school library to share with our students going forward. I want to send a huge THANK YOU to our librarian, Kelly Hughes, for setting up this experience for our students. We are so grateful for all you do for the school!

Transportation



December 15, 2020 will be our last day for our 8th annual “Fill the Bus” food drive. We are still collecting non – perishable food items and daily essential supplies. Total over the years is just under 24,000 pounds of food. The bus is located at the Transportation Building, 28291 Fort St. from 6:30am to 4:30pm. All donations go to the Gibraltar Food Pantry. We appreciate your support and efforts to help us continue our mission of feeding those in need within our community. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Curriculum and Instruction

Our staff and students have continued to utilize our new learning management system, [Schoology](#). We are using Schoology in grades 3rd-12th as a platform for teachers to create, deliver, and manage their content, as well as monitor participation and assess performance among learners. Earlier this month, schools distributed Parent Access Codes, which were sent home with your child(ren) as well as emailed through our mass communication platform. These access codes allow parents to create an account within Schoology, giving parents full access to see assignments and grades for your child(ren).



Parent access to Schoology allows you to see much more than you could see on Mi-Star Parent Portal, including whether an assignment was turned in and what that assignment looks like. This is a powerful feature to allow parents and teachers to better partner in supporting student learning. Parent access is especially important in the event we transition to periods of remote learning. While a transition to remote learning is never planned, when it has happened in our district and others, there is never a lot of lead time.

Parents of students in grades 3-5 can obtain Parent Access codes from your child’s teacher. Parents of students in grades 6-12 can call the main office or the counseling office to obtain your parent access code.

Below are a few resources to help parents get started with Schoology:

[Schoology Parent Video](#)

[Schoology Digital Print Resources for Parents](#)