



Gibraltar School District

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! We made it to 2021! I am looking forward to a new year and hopefully you are too! Although we are still in the middle of a school year with lots of changes, we are motivated that hopefully things will return more to normal this last half of the school year. Please review your child's notifications from their principals this week as there is a lot of information to get ready for in person learning. Please make sure to notify your child's principal before in person learning starts on 1/11, and do not send your child to school if:

- 1) Your child is a close contact to a positive COVID case
- 2) Is awaiting a COVID result/or someone they are a close contact with is awaiting a COVID result

Only together can we make in person learning a successful experience for all.

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!

The fourth grade at Chapman Elementary wanted to get parents involved in any way possible during the Holiday Season. Since class party visitors were not permitted this year, parents got to sign up to visit the classrooms virtually. Parents zoomed in and surprised the students with a variety of holiday picture books that they read to the classes. The students loved being surprised by a new reader every day. It was a nice way to spread the love and stay healthy this holiday season.



Shumate NJHS Holiday Reading



Shumate's National Junior Honor Society has been coming up with creative safe ways to spread some holiday cheer. Some NJHS members read aloud one of their favorite children's holiday book. The students went all out! They set the scene by sitting in front of a Christmas tree or fireplace. Some wore Santa hats or holiday attire. We will be reaching out to the elementary teachers to share these videos with their students. All of the links can be found on the Shumate website thanks to Ms. Iott.



Lakeshore Virtual School

LVS would like to recognize our **December Students of the Month**. Each Student of the Month is based off of our acronym LVS Pride. Our third letter, **S**, represents **Scholarly**. These students have continued to be stellar students as they adjusted to online learning at LVS. They were nominated for their extraordinary work ethic in all of their classes. These students are always on pace or ahead in their classes and strive for perfection on every assignment. They pay attention to detail and reach out when they need clarification. We are extremely proud of these students and are thrilled to recognize them as our Scholarly Students of the Month.



Congratulations to: Bash Toye, Kindergarten
Kennedy Ellison, 3rd grade
Matthew Jia, 8th grade
Reyna Bogins, 8th grade
Alysha Baker, 12th grade
Sara Rasmussen, 12th grade

Hunter Elementary Author's Chair 2020 Style



While safety measures and protocols for the 2020-2021 school year look very different, the 5th grade teachers at Hunter have not let that keep their students from sharing their writing by doing Author's Chair. Author's chair is the final step in the writing process, a special time allotted to writers to share and celebrate their writing with an audience. The 5th grade students at Hunter used some of the Remote Wednesday learning time to use a program called Screencastify to record themselves reading the final draft of a writing piece. Then all students got to view and celebrate with their classmates the next day when students were face-to-face learning.



Downriver STEM at Weiss- PTO Virtual Holiday Party

While this year has been different, the PTO at Downriver STEM at Weiss really wanted to create an event that would be fun for our families and keep the positive sense of community that we are used to all year round. On December 11th, they did just that by hosting a virtual holiday party. During this hour-long Zoom event, Christmas books were shared by different guest readers while kids enjoyed cookies, jingle bells were made with supplies that were sent home with students, and carols were sung by all in attendance. Many of our students were able to participate in this event and good times were shared by all. Thank you so much to our Weiss PTO for organizing this fun event!



Transportation



Congratulations to Crystal Pompa! Crystal is a bus aide that has decided to transfer over to become a bus driver. She has started training and will soon take her road test and beginning bus driver classes. Our 8th annual "Fill the Bus" food drive was a great success. We collected 1,246 pounds of food this year. Thank you for supporting our community. Wishing you a healthy and Happy New Year!



Magnetic Mission at Parsons



The third-grade scholars in Ms. Fleming, Mrs. Buscemi and Mrs. Bannan's classes were given a challenge to solve possible problems within their school. The choices included designing a tool for the school office to collect the paper clips from the floor, design a solution to keep coats fastened at recess when a zipper is broken, design a magnet to keep the bathroom doors locked while waiting for new ones to arrive or design a device for a teacher to find their lost keys within five minutes.



Once the groups chose their problem to solve, they quickly began to design, create, pilot and test their solution. Each group also documented all of their work in their own google slideshow. During this process, the students needed to collaborate, take risks, learn from their failed attempts and continue to improve their tools and devices.



After each group completed the magnetic mission, they were then given the opportunity to share their findings, present their slideshow and their newly created tool with the rest of the classmates. The commitment and excitement of these future engineers was so evident as they completed their magnetic missions! The next step in their action plan is to share this information and their tools with others.