



Gibraltar School District

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had an amazing month with our students being recognized for their outstanding achievements in academics, robotics, and athletics! We are so pleased to share with you how their hard work, perseverance and dedication has placed them in the spotlight. Please take a few minutes to check out the below highlights from this past month and I hope you feel as impressed as I do with the continued success our talented students!

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!

Parsons Surprises Bus Drivers

There is no doubt that this winter has been one of the worst in Michigan history. Our Gibraltar School bus drivers were given the important responsibility of getting our students to and

from school safely during these weather conditions. The students and staff at Parsons wanted to show their appreciation to their bus drivers. On Thursday, February 20th, members of the school orange squad along with the teaching staff surprised the bus drivers with banners, balloons, hand-written cards, and donuts. The bus drivers also had no idea that when they pulled up to Parsons on this day that they would feel so loved and appreciated! The students were also given the opportunity to walk up on the buses and say their own personal words of thank you to the drivers.



Kindergarten Round Up

Do you have a child at home who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2019? Do you know someone who does, perhaps a friend or a neighbor? If so, Gibraltar School District has a spot waiting just for them in our kindergarten classrooms next year! Gibraltar School District offers both a traditional Kindergarten program as well as a Young Fives Kindergarten program. Both of these programs have a strong focus on the math and literacy skills needed for a solid foundation through the course of the formative elementary years. Registration will open at each elementary school's office on February 19, 2019.

Please join us for an informational night, for parents and prospective students, on March 20th at 6:30. These will be held in each elementary building. Visit our website for more information!

<http://www.gibdist.net/about/register-students/kindergarten-young-5s-registration>

Kindergarten

Registration

Information



Introducing the Carlson Top Ten!



Valedictorian: Raghav Rajesh - 4.2889- Undecided- Medicine

Salutatorian: Arun Jayaraman - 4.2826- Wayne State Univ - Mathematics

3- Andrew Panter - Undecided -4.2444- Aerospace Engineering

4- Alyssa Cadez -4.2000- Univ. of Michigan Ann Arbor - Neuroscience on a pre-med track

4 - Seth Walczak -4.2000- Wayne State or Univ. of Mich. Dearborn - Mechanical Engineering

6- Tauheed Bhatti -4.1929 Wayne State Univ.- Honors Med Direct program with major in Biology

7 - Blake Smerigan-4.1778- Michigan State University - Chemical Engineering

8- Sydney Magusin -4.1556 - Michigan State University - Pre-veterinarian

9 - Zayden Rinehart -4.1333- Shawnee State University - Occupational Therapy

10 - Christian Cuevas -4.0994-University of Michigan Dearborn - Computer Science

Devoted Barn Visits Hunter Elementary



The Devoted Barn came to Hunter Elementary in February. The Devoted Barn is an animal rescue and rehabilitation facility in Newport, Michigan. They help animals that are unowned and that need urgent medical attention. In addition to helping the animals, their mission is to teach compassion & empathy to others through working with animals. Tommy (the 8 month old Great Dane) and George (the 5 week old sheep) came to visit and interact with students. During this assembly



students talked about how everyone has their differences and when they receive just what they need they are able to be successful. Hunter Elementary

Family Association is doing a drive for supplies for the expansion of the devoted barn. Students and families are donating blankets, peanut butter, and trash bags.

Lakeshore Virtual

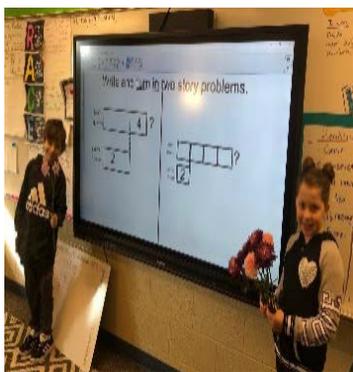


LVS would like to recognize our **February Student of the Month**--Theo Ciotti. Each Student of the Month is based off of our acronym LVS Pride. Our first letter, **L**, represents **Leadership**. This student has shown leadership at LVS by always being on progress or ahead in his classes. He consistently does above average work in his classes and is currently ranked number 1 in his class at LVS! Besides a leader in academics, Theo is always polite, respectful, and very hard-working. We are extremely proud of Theo and are thrilled to recognize him as our Student of the Month for Leadership.

Also, each month, LVS will be recognizing a **Teacher of the Month** determined by our students. For February, students awarded Ms. Firsdon with the Teacher of the Month Award. Ms. Firsdon has been with LVS since it was established. She has a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Toledo and is finishing up a Master of Education with an Educational Technology endorsement degree at U of M--Dearborn. Students voted for Ms. Firsdon for many reasons. Students appreciate her understanding and caring nature. She is always quick to respond to students and provides multiple ways to learn difficult material. Finally, she has been extremely helpful with postgraduate information and will always take the time to research information for students. Congratulations **Ms. Firsdon** on being Lakeshore's Teacher of the Month!



Chapman Students Make Learning Math Engaging and Visible



Chapman students are excited about math! They are learning math in a whole new way that keeps them engaged, thinking critically and allows the opportunity to teach others. SIS 4 Teachers coach, Shannon Samulski has been working with our staff and students to create not only a deep understanding of math (not just how to solve a problem, but WHY it makes sense!) but also to love math! Listening to students justify their thinking during number talks, politely agreeing or disagreeing with explanation, not only completing model drawings, but



TEACHING model drawings and completing performance tasks (even at Kindergarten) has been a shift in math instruction and learning at Chapman. It has been an exciting year to see the growth in our students and their new passion for mathematics.

Transportation Department Update



In March we will be receiving three new lease buses. Two are lift buses for our special education needs and one is a 77 passenger with storage compartments on the bottom. We will turn in the old buses once we receive the new ones.

The transportation department would like to say "Thank You" to the Parsons Elementary staff and students for the donuts and all of the thank you cards you made for the drivers and aides.

Downriver STEM@Weiss



It was amazing having Representative Darrin Camilleri visit our school this past month! He taught our students about his job in Lansing and read a story to our 1st graders **about kindness!** Thanks Mr. Stanton for arranging this great opportunity for our Wildcat students!

Also in 1st grade, our students have been working on the engineering design process. The students were given time to plan in our Makerspace in order to build the longest chain link by using 2 pieces of paper and 12 inches of tape. The students worked in groups to formulate plans, and test out their designs. After designing, they had a chance to view other group's designs and discuss ways to improve their own designs. After they made a plan to improve their designs, they built a second chain link with their new knowledge. Great job, 1st graders!



Special Education Consortium Update

Being a parent is tough. Being a parent of a student with a disability with significant needs can be very stressful. It is important as a parent with a student with an IEP to be sure to take care of yourself. In a recent article by Juliann Garey, she writes about the essentials for parents to take care of themselves so they can be there for their child. She shares the following:

1. Accepting limits to what you can do. Experts agree that part of avoiding or lessening burnout is to challenge the idea that you are the only one who can help and there is no limit to what you need to do. She urges parents to take seriously their own basic self-care including: Getting enough sleep every night, staying hydrated, getting regular exercise, taking time for yourself.
2. Isolation and exhaustion. When you have a child whose behavior is difficult or whose needs are challenging, feeling cut off from support and empathy can contribute to the stress. Colleagues, neighbors, friends, family — even your spouse can seem to be on another planet. Many parents aren't aware of the existence of respite care. Visit this site on the ABC's of Respite Care <http://archrespite.org/consumer-information> for possible resources.
3. It takes a village, but you need to ask. Another obstacle to getting help is that you may be afraid to ask. But in truth, people who genuinely want to help may not know how. Parents need to be fairly direct. "Could you watch the kids on Wednesday so that I can get a haircut?" "If I give you a list, could you pick up the groceries?" These specific requests make it easier for family and friends to pitch in while not feeling out of their depth.
4. Getting out and about. Many parents of kids with psychiatric and developmental challenges find that they lose touch with friends and activities outside the home. To cut down on feelings of isolation: Finding a support network outside the immediate family, spending time with friends who have no connection to your child, planning social activities that put you among people who care about you, time for activities that are purely pleasurable — reading, running, painting.

Thank you for being a parent, guardian, and/or caregiver for a student with a disability. You are important. Please take care of yourself.

Sean Waymaster, Director of Special Education
Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile, and Huron Schools

Parsons Flat Stanley's Kindergarten Adventures



Friday, February 22nd was a busy day at Parsons Elementary School. Not only did our kindergarteners celebrate being 100 days smarter, we also went on our first field trip. The wonderful staff at the Trenton Theater welcomed us to see their performance of "Flat Stanley". Our classrooms had previously read the story and were now given the opportunity to have the story brought to life! Anyone who has ever read "Flat Stanley" before knows how many adventures he has. While being flat, Stanley encounters many problems and has to find solutions to them all. With the assistance of our literacy coaches, our kindergarteners have been learning to use a 5 Finger Retell to explain who the characters are in a story, what the setting is, what

the problem is, and the events of the story from the beginning and middle to the end. This was a very fun way for our students to be able to "see" the characters, setting, problem, and how the story's events progressed! We were very blessed to have had the assistance of our wonderful parent volunteers to chaperone this field trip and help to make sure we had a safe and fun learning experience! After the show, the actors took a few minutes to let our students ask any questions they had about who they are and what they do in real life before taking a group photo with us. Upon returning to school, our kindergarteners used their higher level thinking to compare the book we read to the play that we saw. We discussed what elements were the same and what was different. Thank you Trenton Theater for continuing to bring to life so many wonderful stories to our students and for helping to make learning fun!

Food Service

Wake-Up to a great breakfast! We are celebrating National School Breakfast Week March 4th – 8th so it's the perfect time to join us in the cafeteria for a tasty, well-balanced meal. Look for Lucky Tray day that week at the elementary schools and jump start your day with a nutritious breakfast. Breakfast is available to ALL students. If you are eligible for Free/Reduced price lunch you are also eligible for Free/Reduced priced breakfast.

CHS Wrestlers Qualify for States



Carlson had three state qualifiers this year: Garrett Bunea, Josh Brott and Ryan Goulet. Garrett Bunea came in 7th at the State Competition at Ford Field this past weekend, congratulations!



FIRST Robotics Competition

Carlson High School hosted the FIRST Robotics Competition for the 2nd year and it was also the 3rd year that our Robotics team competed. The Terror Bytes placed 14th in the qualifying round before falling in the quarterfinals. Thank you to all of our staff, students and parents that volunteered to make this state-wide competition a success!



Business Professionals of America States Leadership Conference



Shumate Middle School students Zachary LaForet, Kristine Piatt-Bakos, Seth Dunlap, Richard Justice and Cole Fountain along with their parents and advisor, Ms. Iott, attended the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference on February 22, 2019 at Davenport University in Grand Rapids. They competed against students from various middle schools throughout Michigan in business-related competitions. When the dust settled, all five Seahawks earned multiple top 6 finishes, and are now advancing to the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim California May 1-5. Congratulations Shumate Seahawks and good luck at Nationals!

Carlson Cheer wins Division 2 State Title

Carlson Cheer has done it again! They have won their 11th State title and their 7th in the last 8 years! The girls have worked tirelessly for months perfecting their routine to make it to the State level. Congratulations on another job well done!

