



Gibraltar School District

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May 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the last 7 weeks of school! As we head towards the end of the school year, we want to recognize the people who make this all happen; our secretaries, principals, teachers and volunteers. Each day these amazing people support our students and provide them with opportunities to learn, grow, and to be successful. The term, “It takes a village to raise a child” is something that rings true in the educational world as we all work together to help our students be successful. Thank you to all of those that put in the long hours taking care of our students; from volunteering in the classroom, taking care of their bumps and bruises, helping them to learn to read, or creating wonderful literary pieces and making sure our students are learning in a safe, clean environment. It takes each and every one of you to help get our students to the top! Thank you for all you do!

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, staff member, or student that is spreading “The Orange” (Happiness) through Gibraltar!

Spark was so happy to see the way his young friend, Shumate student, Isaiah Rowe was welcomed and embraced by the Carlson students in the cast and crew of Bye Bye Birdie this month! This exciting young talent from Shumate brought smiles to audiences all weekend in the high school play. It shows how amazing our Carlson students are to welcome a Shumate student into their cast with open arms. Great job cast crew and directors of Bye Bye Birdie!



## Downriver STEM @ Weiss

4th Graders at Weiss have been exploring concepts of vision and light as it relates to predators and prey. They have reached the end of our unit and as a culmination and celebration of all of their learning have created models of an eye! These models include all of the structures that work together to help a predator see and recognize its prey. Come check these awesome models out at Innovation Night on May 7 at Weiss. These 4th Graders would absolutely love to share their hard work with you!



## Shumate Empty Plates



Mrs. Walchak's art classes once again partnered with the Gibraltar Food Pantry to create 60 plates for the annual Empty Plates fundraiser to benefit community members in need. Participants that bought tickets for the fundraiser dinner will leave with one of the plates that our Seahawk students created. All profits will go to the Gibraltar Food Pantry.



## Instructional Rounds at Parsons



On March 27th, educational leaders from other districts spent the day at Parsons for instructional rounds. The school is one of the few schools that have been chosen from across Wayne County to participate in the Wayne RESA program of instructional rounds. The process started with the building team leaders from Parsons being trained from Dr. Elmore on the instructional rounds process. During the visit on March 27th to Parsons, the team visited classrooms in the school to

observe the learning that was taking place.

The team of visitors then spent the rest of the day learning and sharing ideas about the process. There was lots of learning that took place at Parsons. The visiting leadership team was also very impressed with the positive culture and educational programs in place at Parsons. The next instructional round will take place at Silver Creek Elementary School in Northville. The building team at Parsons is looking forward to another day of learning with colleagues.



## Transportation Department Update

We are excited to welcome aboard Michele Finzel, our Sub Bus Driver. She has passed all the requirements needed.



Spring is here and I would like to remind all parents about EpiPens. Please make sure your EpiPen is updated, especially if you have a child that is allergic to bees or food. The school should be aware as well as the bus driver if your child has an EpiPen.

## Lakeshore Virtual

LVS would like to recognize our **April Student of the Month**--Adrienne Butler. Each Student of the Month is based off of our acronym LVS Pride. Our third letter, **S**, represents **Scholarly**. This student always puts forth her best effort in all of her classes. She is always on pace or ahead in her classes and never falls behind. She strives for excellence in her courses and is a top leader of her class as a freshman. She does all of this while being a competitive dancer! We are extremely proud of Adrienne and are thrilled to recognize her as our Student of the Month for Scholarly.



Also, each month, LVS recognizes a Teacher of the Month determined by our students. For **April**, students awarded **Ms. Moritz** with this award. Ms. Moritz is the Mathematics Mentor Teacher at LVS. She has a Bachelor's degree from U of M--Dearborn in Mathematics and certified in Biology. She is currently working on a Master's in Educational Technology. Students voted for Ms. Moritz for a variety of reasons. Students appreciate her helpfulness and motivational conversations. She is extremely supportive to her students and is always looking for new resources to help them learn mathematics. LVS staff and students are very proud of Ms. Moritz's accomplishments. Congratulations Ms. Moritz on being Lakeshore's Teacher of the Month!

## Food Service



We are excited to offer a new café program designed for our students. **Student Choice** promises to deliver on engagement by giving students a voice in their menu options! New, on-trend station concepts provide more variety, while voting technology allows for better student interaction – all resulting in an enhanced student dining experience.

Here's a quick overview of how Student Choice works:

1. Students **taste** sample menu options of two or more new food concepts in a tasting event held in the student café.
2. Students **vote** for their favorite concept using live polling software.
3. The winning concept is then featured on our menus for students to **enjoy!**

**Voting begins the week of May 6th!**



**Happiness is contagious! Students at Chapman Elementary are full of happiness and radiating positivity. One hundred stickers were randomly placed on lunch trays this month with messages of happiness and positivity.**



## Carlson High School

Carlson student, Ethan Webb, recently took 1st place in the Midwest Region Silent Film Festival. He also won Best of Show for Digital Arts Film and Television (DAFT) Awards. He will be honored on April 27th at the Detroit Institute of Arts for his DAFT award. Ethan will also be headed to Seattle, WA to represent his film at the International Silent Film Festival. For Ethan, who is just a junior, this will certainly be a major step in getting his name out in the film and television industry and these awards are often accompanied by financial prizes and scholarships. Ethan is the second student in two years from Mr. Morrow's class at CHS to win the Midwestern Silent Film Festival. Last year's winner, Sean McKay, won \$3,000 for his work and is currently a film student at Northwestern College in Traverse City, Michigan. Pictured is a still frame shot from Ethan's film titled 'DEFINED'.



### **Energy Management**

Spring Break Results = 100% District Wide Set Back = Thank you all! Congratulations to the 3 Winners of the \$25.00 gift cards: Elaine Anderson – Hunter, Dawn Locke – Chapman, Ismael Saucedo (Izzy) - Carlson

### **Energy Star Certification**

We are in the process of getting our Elementary, Middle and High School buildings Energy Star Certified. During the month of May 2019, we will be doing an Energy Star audit during school hours to get the required information to complete the application.

### **Earth Day Everyday**

We celebrated Earth Day on Monday 4-22-2019. This is a great way to get everyone thinking about saving our natural resources. Let's keep the momentum going and think of ways to make every day Earth Day.

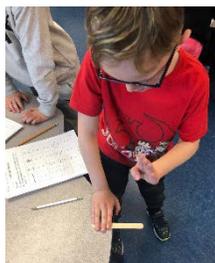
*Reduce-* The amount of energy you use each day by shutting off items that are not being used. Unplug if possible.

*Reuse-* Try to repurpose items instead of just throwing them away.

*Recycle-* Check with your city to see how and where to take recyclable items.

### **Chapman**

Ms. Banas's first grade class is working on their light and sound science unit from the new Amplify Science curriculum. They used four different types of sound sources to see if they could observe sound with other senses besides hearing. Students used the senses of sight and touch to see and feel vibrations created by the sound sources. Students kept track of their findings in their science investigation journals to later reflect on what they saw, felt, and heard.



### **Carlson's Earth Club**

This year the CHS Earth Club's Earth Day and Arbor Day project was to add more plantings and color to the front of Parsons Elementary. Earth Club students and teacher volunteers spent the day making Parsons look amazing. Thank you Earth Club for all your hard work!



## Making Social Studies Come Alive at Hunter



Storyteller, dancer, and musician, Genot Picor, performed “Stories, Songs and Dances of the Voyageur,” for Hunter’s 3rd Grade classes. Students were given an opportunity to explore four tables of artifacts such as tools and examples of “new technology” from hundreds of years ago in Michigan. Genot shared the items with the students and explained how they were used. Students were also able to view life-sized animal tracks and touch animal furs. They were especially excited to explore the beaver fur since we focused on that a lot in our History of Michigan unit. Students learned that

French explorers were searching for a way to China to get silk and spices. They came upon North America and explored our region. It wasn’t China, but we had beaver which was very valuable to them since it was scarce in France. Students learned about the fur trade and the relationship between the French and Native Americans in Michigan. It was awesome to watch the students’ faces light up as they touched the beaver fur. I observed students saying, “This is what the French wanted! This is what they used during the fur trade!” Students were also given an opportunity to play the “Stick and Ring” game. It is a Native American game that was used to teach fishing or to pass the time. Students worked together as a whole-group to successful “spear” 50 or more fish.



Genot Picor’s presentation is always a big hit with our Hunter students and families! Hunter is so grateful that he comes back every year to share his talents. His interactive storytelling and use of music and dance creates an engaging, educational experience for the students and enhances our learning of Michigan history.



## Introducing the S.S. Conway

The S.S. (School Safety) Conway is a vessel that can withstand the roughest of seas! She will make her maiden voyage in this edition. The S.S. Conway will offer monthly tips on school safety for staff, students and our valued guests. Safe schools are achieved through the dedication of the entire GSD community.



### **S.S. Conway Safety Tip #1**

Gibraltar School District has emergency plans in place for many different types of emergencies. Staff and students practice various drills throughout the year. You can find additional information in student handbooks or speak to school administrators.

Each of our schools take safety seriously. Please be prepared to show your I.D. when picking up your child. Also, please remember that we cannot send children outside to meet those who are picking up.