



Gibraltar School District

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to be self-reflective and identify our current strengths and opportunities, Gibraltar School District is conducting a Parent Survey. We value your opinion and ask that you would set aside 5-10 minutes to complete this survey. To complete the survey, please go to: <http://bit.ly/GSDparentsurvey>

Please be assured that your responses to this survey will be anonymous. Your honest opinion is appreciated. We will use the data from the survey in our school improvement processes at the building level and at the district level. Thank you for your time and attention to helping us celebrate our successes and find new opportunities for improvement.

Amy

Amy Conway
Superintendent

District Launches new STEMtech Class!

Beginning this week, every elementary student will experience a new “specials” class, STEMtech. STEMtech, in its simplest description is a technology based class in which students will receive direct instruction in foundations of information technology and will ultimately lead to integration of technology with core classroom content. The curriculum and instruction will be guided by the Michigan Educational Technology Standards as well as the updated standards from the International Society of Technology in Education. Watch for future e-blasts in which this new course will be spotlighted!

Downriver STEM @ Weiss Drama Club

Downriver STEM @ Weiss had their first Drama Club performance this winter. The students did a wonderful job with Hansel and Gretel and the play was enjoyed by all who attended. A huge shout out goes to the students and parent volunteers who spent many Fridays during the fall preparing for this special show. Additionally, a number of Carlson High School students helped by building the props: Olivia Hagen, Carley Engstrom, Adam Brown, Zach Polakowski, Jonathan Yap, Devin Gilliam, Trent Mills, and Athena Grias



Engineering is Elementary

The 'E' in STEM is in full swing over at Downriver STEM @ Weiss. We have multiple grade levels working in our new E-Lab to collaborate, engineer, and create models that solve and are related to real world problems. So far, students have been engineering plant packages that can support the needs of plants as they are transported from one place to another over several days. In addition, we have a group of students who are building, testing, and redesigning solar ovens. It is exciting to see our Wildcat students work together and push their thinking and apply their knowledge to the real world.



Recognizing Manager of Shumate's Kitchen Service, Bonnie Trottier



Gibraltar School District would like to recognize monthly an outstanding support staff person from our district. This month we would like to recognize, Bonnie Trottier of Food Service!! Bonnie is Manager of Shumate Kitchen and has been a loyal Gibraltar/Chartwells Employee since 2000. She is very efficient in keeping things running smoothly. Bonnie is always willing to help with caterings, extra work load and with last minute changes in schedules. Bonnie prepares the hot entrée and sends them out to each of our elementary schools on time each day. Bonnie is helpful, organized and pleasant to students and to work with. Thanks Bonnie!!

Lakeshore Virtual has its First Graduate

Lakeshore Virtual School is very proud to announce that Kiele Felker is our first graduate. Kiele has been a great contributor to our school by attending Lakeshore's numerous social events and community service opportunities. Throughout many of our social time interactions, Kiele went out of her way to make other students feel comfortable. Next year Kiele plans to attend Monroe Community College where she will study environmental science so she can learn more about different types of renewable energy. Kiele will make a great impact on our world and Lakeshore is thrilled we could be a part of her story!



Kiele is pictured on the left

Chapman Offers Garden Club to Students

Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together we can make our community a beautiful garden through the newest club offered at Chapman Elementary. The goal of the Garden Club is connect gardening to enhancing our community.

Through club activities, students will learn about gardening, flowers, flower arrangements, and create one of a kind flower related crafts. The Garden Club has, and will continue to put what is learned into practice by enhancing our school garden and reaching out to the community by donating flower arrangements and crafts to a local senior citizen center.



Back in December the club made and donated Christmas themed arrangements and cards, which were donated to a local senior center. In January the club promoted recycling as part of their Valentine's Day themed flower arrangements and cards. Next up are St. Patrick's Day themed arrangements that will be donated in March. As the weather gets nicer we plan to also work in the school garden.

The staff members that sponsor the club are also working with parents to set up an after school field trip to the senior citizen center so the students can meet their senior "flower friends". Great things are growing at Chapman!

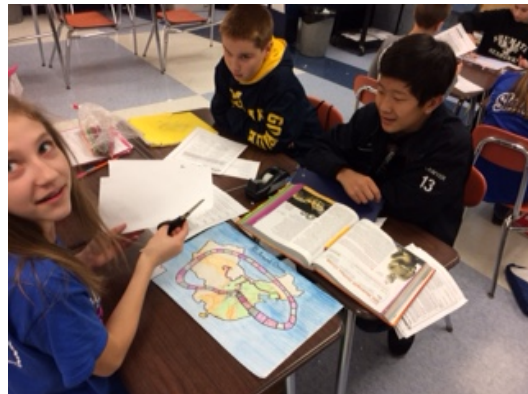
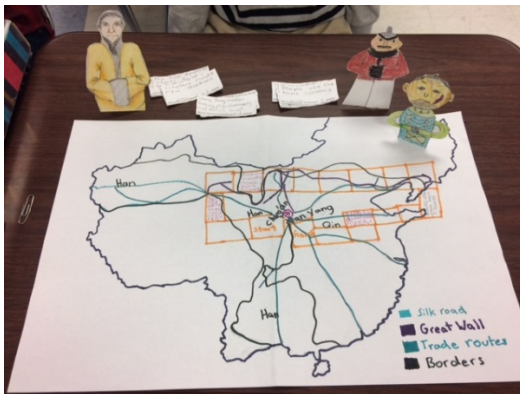
Shooting with the Stars!

In case you missed it, Sunday, January 15th was the 3rd annual Shooting with the Stars basketball game between the basketball teams of Jo Brighton and Carlson High School and it was amazing! Thank you to all that helped make this game a success; such as the Pep Band, Ryan Donaldson for his wonderful photography, the digital media class, the booster club, the Elks Club who provided the food and of course, the boys and girls basketball teams for putting together another phenomenal event.



Ancient China Board Games!

Parker Brothers and Milton Bradley may soon have some company in the world of board games. 7th Grade students, in all Social Studies classes at Shumate, recently created board games illustrating empires of Ancient China. On the game boards, students depicted trade routes, physical geography and the development of Chinese culture. In addition to creating the actual game boards which featured a path around Ancient China, students also made action cards telling contestants where to go and even actual game pieces (all of which were way cooler than the Monopoly thimble) to move around the board. Students were able to actually play their games once their project was created. It was enjoyable to watch the students brag to each other about their creations and to see the creative talents of the students on display.



Food Service Update

Gibraltar School District in conjunction with Chartwells Food Service is in need of lunch aides at our Elementary schools, if interested please contact Maria @ [734 379-7619](tel:7343797619). Position is 1.5 -2 hours daily and pays \$8.90 per hour. No cost to applicants for background and drug screening. Reminder: Breakfast served daily at each of the Gibraltar Schools, half an hour before school starts for all students.



Transportation Update



Our Transportation Department continues to be busy getting students to and from school, along with getting them to their sporting events. Our district's "Fill the Bus" Campaign was a great success this year, with the Gibraltar food bank reporting over 4,600 lbs of food! Great job and thanks to all who donated the much needed items! We look forward to a goal of at least 5,000 lbs next year!

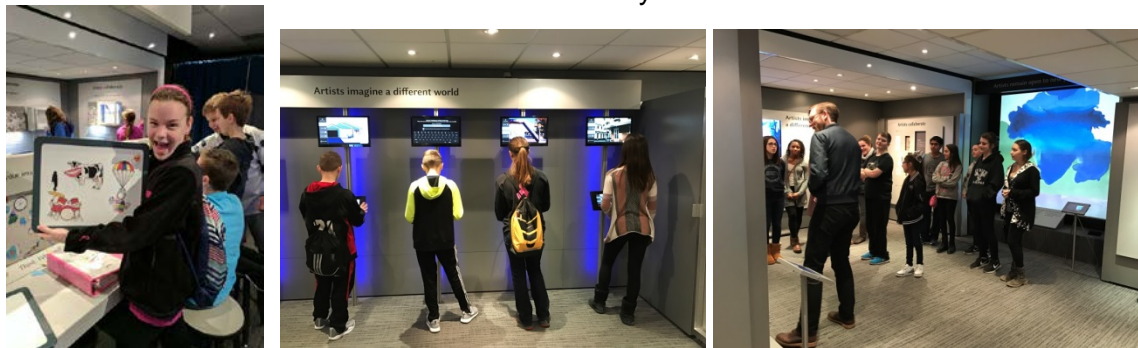
A friendly reminder to all:

Students should be at their bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to the estimated pick up time. They should not be running to the bus after it arrives, this puts the student's safety at risk. Our lights and stop signs only stop traffic in one direction and car drivers don't always obey the traffic laws, caution helps our children to be safe.

DIA Away Visits Shumate

On January 18th, 19th, and 20th, we were overjoyed to have DIA Away Experience come to Shumate! Students were invited to attend this PBIS reward opportunity that had good attendance, no referrals to the office, and no missing assignments. About 600 students were eligible for the reward. Well done Seahawks!

DIA Away: Think Like an Artist is a free, mobile interactive classroom and a creative exploration space for people of all ages. It brings educational, hands-on art experiences to schools. *DIA Away* is a fully furnished, vibrantly designed 53' double-expandable trailer. Inside, participants will discover some of the ways artists think and then have the opportunity to try out creative thinking skills at digital and hands-on stations. Visitors will be surprised and inspired to discover the connections between themselves and the ways artists think and work.



Engineering at Parsons Elementary

On your mark, get set, go! Before the winter break, 4th grade students from Parsons Elementary utilized the engineering and design process to figure out how a car can run without gas. In science class, students researched and studied energy and motion and came up with a design using paper cups and rubber bands to create their very own rubber band racers. Students designed and built their own racers and had an afternoon of STEM fun with family and friends racing and experimenting with their designs in the Parsons gymnasium.

