

DIMENSION



Holley Central School District | February 2016

Students Learn Juggling from a Professional

Nels Ross Cremean, a professional juggler, spent eight days at Holley in December and January teaching students to juggle different objects during physical education classes. He performed a comedy juggling show for the community on Jan. 13. His program, entitled "Juggling for Success," taught students the elements of juggling. By learning to juggle, students become more patient, learn to persevere and feel a sense of accomplishment, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem. The physical benefits include better coordination, balance, rhythm and quicker reflexes. It's also a unique way for students to work on their fine motor, tracking and sequencing skills, which are used in reading, writing, math and science.

Cremean showed students how to juggle scarves, tennis balls, pins, and rings; spin plates; balance feathers on their fingers; "walk" sticks up and down; and spin a Chinese Yo-Yo, toss and catch it.



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Superintendent's Message

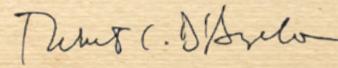
Dear Parents and Community Members,

Quite often, once the December and January holidays have passed, many people concentrate on certain New Year's resolutions that very often involve eating healthier, losing weight acquired during the holidays or establishing a regiment of exercise so that when spring arrives, they can hit the ground running in a more healthy state. Here at Holley Central School District (HCSD), we are no different from the rest of the population. We are fortunate to have many vehicles currently in place to promote health and wellness among our students, staff and community.

Thanks to the efforts of our District Physical Education Director, Lisa Campbell, the district was awarded our second Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) grant in the amount of almost \$900,000, to be used over a three-year period. It is highly unusual for a school district to be awarded one of these grants, let alone two, so I am very grateful to Lisa for her hard work in securing these grants. The underlying purpose of the PEP grant is to promote physical fitness and good nutrition among the students and staff of the district. The creation of the HCSD Family Fitness Center last year was an additional by-product of the grant. The grant enables us to make the fitness center available to the community free of charge in the evenings. State-of-the-art fitness equipment is available in the center for use by our students, staff and community. I am thrilled that our total school community has access to this outstanding fitness center. If you have any questions about the fitness center, such as hours of operation, how to gain access to it, etc. please feel free to contact my Administrative Assistant, Connie Nenni, at 638-6316, extension 2003.

In September 2016, the District will launch a comprehensive Health and Wellness Program in conjunction with BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York. This program will incorporate many facets of the PEP grant, but it will also include programs offered by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York that will augment the current grant. The Health and Wellness Program will be available to school district staff only, but the basic premise will be the same: the acquisition of a healthy lifestyle that promotes physical fitness and good nutrition. There is a considerable amount of research published on this topic, but the evidence shows that following a healthy lifestyle results in healthier, happier and more productive employees. This has long been the focus in the business world, and educational institutions are just beginning to catch up.

Please feel free to take advantage of all that our school district has to offer in the areas of fitness and nutrition. Have a healthy 2016!



Robert C. D'Angelo
Superintendent of Schools

Our District's Mission

We, the students, parents, staff and community of the Holley Central School District, will work together to provide the opportunity and means for all students to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to become responsible and productive citizens in a diverse and changing society. The ideal is to instill a passion for lifelong learning.

History Students Take a Trip to College

by Lisa Osur, MS/HS Librarian

On Jan. 14, MS/HS Librarian Lisa Osur led a fieldtrip to Genesee Community College (GCC) so students could experience a college library and utilize its resources. Fourteen students in Mike Crissman's College History class went on the trip. The students worked all morning accessing the GCC databases and library resources to research topics related to the American Revolution. Students set up GCC accounts and checked out books related to their topics. They worked with the GCC librarian on search techniques, tips and citation styles. Students bought lunch in the college lounge and then took a walking tour of the campus. Most of the students are juniors, and they benefitted from the exposure to a college campus as they begin to think about what they will be doing after high school.



Back row, from left, Diana Yaroshchuk, Will Harrington, John Heinlein, Colton Major, Ryan Moseman, Lisa Alemu, Emily Herzog, Anna Brasted and Lisa Osur. Front row, from left, Brooklynn Bartholomew, Alice McAllister, Garrett Moy, Ashlyn Hotchkiss, Megan Hatfield and Madeline Rowley.

COUNSELING News

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB)

will be administered at the MS/HS on Feb. 29. If you plan on enrolling in the military upon graduation, this test is mandatory. Any student in grades 10-12 who is interested in taking the exam needs to register with Kristina Tese in the Guidance Office. If you would like to know more about which careers you would be successful in, then register for the test. A workshop has been scheduled for March 14 to review students' results.

Attention: Juniors

What are your plans after graduation? Attending college? Working full-time? Now is the time to start thinking about the direction you would like to take. Counselors recently met with juniors to discuss their PSAT results, create their accounts on www.collegeboard.com and do some career exploration in order to get them thinking about life after high school. If you haven't registered for the SAT/ACT, now would be the time to do so. Many four-year colleges require the exams as part of the admission process. Don't delay!

Attention: Seniors

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available at www.fafsa.gov. The FAFSA is the source of all federal and state aid, loans and work study programs. The form must be completed online and submitted to each college before their due dates in order to be eligible for these programs. Additionally, worksheets can be printed out from the FAFSA website to assist in this process. As a reminder, do not mail the worksheets to the colleges. If you need additional assistance in completing these forms, please see your counselor or contact FAFSA directly at 1-800-4-fed-aid (1-800-433-3243) or visit federalstudentaid.ed.gov. If you are planning to attend a four-year institution, you will need to complete the application as soon as possible. Those students who have applied to two-year institutions should be making appointments to take placement tests. If you have already applied and been accepted to a two-year institution, you should be meeting with your advisors.

Scholarship opportunities

This time of year, scholarships are added to the list weekly. Keep an eye on new scholarships; they are located in the counseling office, and on our website: www.holleycsd.org/scholarships. Please pay attention to the deadlines. Apply early! Please see Kristina Tese for more details.

Financial Aid Assistance

State University of New York (SUNY) is offering a Financial Aid Day to assist prospective students and their families in applying for financial aid and completing the FAFSA. This workshop is free and available at various colleges throughout the state. To see a list of participating campuses and register for the workshop, visit www.suny.edu/studentevents. You may also register by calling the SUNY Recruitment Response Center at 1-800-342-3811.

College And Career Readiness Night!

Don't forget to attend the College and Career Readiness Workshop on April 14 at 6 p.m. at Brockport High School. The workshop is open to grades 8-12. More details to follow.

Save
The
Date

Scholarships

Monroe Tractor Scholarship

Public high school students located in Monroe or Orleans County that are interested in pursuing an education in an agricultural-related field may apply for an annual \$1,000 scholarship that is renewable. For more information, visit <http://www.racf.org/Scholarships/Scholarship-Database?s=1195>. Deadline is Feb. 15, 2016.

Buick Achievers Scholarship Program

The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program is open to high school seniors, current undergraduates and U.S. military veterans and their dependents who plan on enrolling full-time at a four-year college or university in 2016-17 and majoring in a field focused on engineering, technology or design, with an interest in the automotive industry. Students should show dedication inside and outside the classroom and drive positive change in their communities. The scholarship awards up to \$25,000 per year for qualified students. Visit <http://buickachievers.com/> for the online application and more information on the scholarship. Deadline is 5 p.m. EST on Feb. 29, 2016.

Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo

Students must be a current resident of the eight counties of Western New York and been admitted to a full-time undergraduate program. Applicants must complete the FAFSA and submit the Community Foundation's scholarship application online, along with a copy of their most recent grades. For more information: <http://www.cfgb.org/scholarships/>. Deadline is March 1, 2016.

Association of Fire Districts of the State of NY - Ned Carter Scholarship

The student must be related to a firefighter or be a firefighter or an explorer in a fire department that is a current paid member of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to a New York State high school senior who will be enrolled at a two- or four-year college and will be entering a career of service to the community (for example, nursing, social work, health-related services or teaching). Please see Kristina Tese for an application. For more information, visit <https://firedistnys.com/cms/node/1244>. The deadline is March 5, 2016.

Fireman's Association of the State of NY (FASNY) - Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Volunteer Scholarship

The student must be related to a firefighter or be a junior firefighter, Explorer Scout or RAM in a volunteer fire department that is a member in good standing of FASNY. The student may also be a volunteer firefighter or volunteer with an EMS unit. Fifteen \$1,500 scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who will be enrolled at two- or four-year colleges and demonstrate a commitment to volunteer emergency service and their communities. For more information, visit http://www.fasny.com/pdfs/AwardApps/2016/2016Scholarship_App.pdf. The deadline is March 15, 2016.

Holley Takes Measures to Keep Students and Staff Safe

Holley Central School District has taken several measures over the last few years to ensure the safety of students and staff while they are on campus. This includes employing security officers in both buildings, locking the doors at the beginning of the school day, issuing swipe cards to faculty and staff for building access, using video surveillance throughout the campus and performing lockdown drills. "Even though there have been no incidents or threats to the security of Holley Central School District, given the current state of the world we're living in, we're being proactive by seamlessly integrating these measures into the regular school day," said Robert D'Angelo, district superintendent.

Several years ago, the Board of Education approved the district contracting with C.O.P. Security to employ security officers in the Elementary School and Middle School/High School buildings during the school day, as well as during evening hours and special events. The security officers are all active or former police officers or sheriff's deputies from local law enforcement agencies. The officers patrol inside and outside the buildings daily and can be seen at district concerts and sporting events. The students greet the officers daily, and they have become very comfortable with the officers' presence in the district.

D'Angelo is appreciative of their presence. "They are part and parcel of the culture of the district," said D'Angelo. "Everyone knows them. The presence of C.O.P. Security helps us maintain a safe and orderly environment. We gain from their

experience with law enforcement, which adds to the safety and security of Holley Schools."

"We have to be so security conscious in this age, it just makes sense. Our presence has a calming effect on people because we're there to ensure everyone's safety."

– Bob Lillie

Bob Lillie, who is a security officer at the Elementary School, approves of the measures Holley has taken to keep district employees and students safe. "From what I've seen, Holley security is head and shoulders above the other schools in the area," said Lillie. "We have to be so security conscious in this age, it just makes sense. Our presence has a calming effect on people because we're there to ensure everyone's safety." Lillie also enjoys the interaction he has with students. "I enjoy the kids. They crack me up with how honest they are. We're able to fill in the gaps for the principals and give the kids a neutral person to talk to. In addition to providing security, I see myself and the other officers as ambassadors to get the kids to do right and make good choices. The staff has been very appreciative of having us here, too,

and they tell us they feel better having us here." D'Angelo agrees. "The security officers are outstanding role models," said D'Angelo. "In the past, we've had them go into classrooms and talk about bike safety, perform car seat checks for the community, and educate students about their rights and responsibilities as citizens."

The Board was also instrumental in approving locking the exterior doors to both buildings, issuing swipe cards to faculty and staff to gain entry, and equipping the campus with security cameras. Security at the Elementary School was enhanced with the decision to contain visitors in the foyer by locking the interior doors to the main hallways. The Board also strives to make sure there are enough lights installed on campus for evening events as students travel between buildings and parking areas. "I am so thankful that the Board of Education has been committed to taking the lead on adding security measures to the district," said D'Angelo. "Without them, it wouldn't happen."

D'Angelo is part of the Superintendents and Law Enforcement Group, where the five Orleans County school superintendents meet with Orleans County law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office to collaborate on maintaining the safety and security of all Orleans County schools. Holley recently performed a lockdown drill in both schools and all agencies came together for the debriefing on the drill. "The cooperation from these agencies has been phenomenal," said D'Angelo. "They were very complimentary about how well the drill went in Holley."

Holley Hires New Director of Special Programs



On Jan. 4, Stephanie Sanchez assumed the role of Director of Special Programs for the Holley Central School District. Sanchez worked for seven years as a Special Education teacher at Holley MS/HS, assisting students in a 12-1-1 class transition from high school to the workplace. She is now responsible for approximately 160 students with disabilities in grades K-12 in the district.

A native of Brockport, Sanchez has her Masters in Special Education from Walden University and her administrative certification from the University of

Rochester. She is responsible for the intake process of special education students, making program referrals or changes, working with homeless and home-schooled students, and functioning as the on-site administrator for the Alternative High School, since her office is located in that wing of the Elementary School. "My main focus is to meet the needs of every learner in the least restricted environment," Sanchez said. "I love the district and I'm really passionate about meeting special education students' needs, so I was lucky enough to apply for this job opening within the district just as I completed my degree."

Chef Visits Holley Elementary to Talk About Snacks with Students

Chef Kevin McCarthy visited Holley Elementary to talk to students about healthy snacks. McCarthy, who works at the Buffalo charter schools for food service vendor Personal Touch, was accompanied on his visit to Holley by the president of Personal Touch, Dave Cervi. Personal Touch is also the food vendor for Holley. Cervi encouraged students to “eat the colors of the rainbow.” He pulled students out of the audience who were wearing the colors of the rainbow to illustrate what fruits and vegetables were represented by those colors that could be used for a healthy snack. McCarthy taught the students how to make a snack using homemade granola, yogurt, and fresh blueberries and strawberries. “Our students loved the healthy snack!” said Physical Education Teacher Lisa Campbell, who worked with Food Service Director Vickie Scroger to bring McCarthy and Cervi to Holley to talk to physical education students about nutrition.

“Personal Touch is always looking for new ways to get our students to eat healthier by trying new products and creating new selections,” said Scroger. “We are very lucky at Personal Touch to have on board some talented chefs. They are always coming up with new recipes for our students that look good, taste good and are what our students enjoy. They provide training for our staff, too. It was a pleasure to have the president of our company come to Holley and talk to the students about healthy snack choices.”



Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension Visits Holley



Robert Batt, from the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, visited Holley to educate students about becoming knowledgeable food consumers. He gave hands-on demonstrations to improve the students' knowledge of food additives. Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension is a Carol M. White Physical Education Program grant partner with the Holley Central School District.

From left, Robert Batt and senior Richard Tamblin

February Activities for Children at the Community Free Library

During February recess, Feb. 15-19, students in grades 2-5 can register to work with local artist and retired art teacher, Larry Dabney, on art projects at the Community Free Library. Children will be working in mixed media from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. each day. Fifteen spots are available for this class. Beginning Feb. 8, parents can register their child by calling the library at 638-6987 or registering in person at the library.

Story Hours are held every Wednesday in February from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Community Free Library. This free event combines stories, crafts, games and songs to help children develop a love of reading. The theme varies by the week. For more information, contact Library Director Sandra Shaw at 638-6987.

The Community Free Library is located at 86 Public Square, Holley, NY 14470.



College Acceptances



We are pleased to announce that Xander Apicella and Jared Scherer were accepted to the University at Buffalo, and Colton Major was accepted to Finger Lakes Community College

Congratulations!

Makenzie Ferranti Selected for RPO Chorale

Makenzie Ferranti was selected as Holley's representative in the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's (RPO) High School Chorale. Holley students have participated in this chorale event since 2010. Makenzie was one of 200 singers from the Rochester area who performed with the RPO at their Holiday Pops concert in December. She was recommended for the chorale and selected based on her experience and talent.



*Congratulations, Makenzie,
for being selected for
this honor!*



Winter Wonderland Event Helps Students Fundraise for Trip

Holley high school students traveling to Spain in February 2017 sponsored a Winter Wonderland Event fundraiser on Dec. 18. They acted as elves to entertain students in grades K-6 while their parents accomplished holiday tasks. The younger students watched "Frozen," created a Christmas craft/gift, decorated gingerbread houses, listened to Christmas music, bowled, had a snowball fight, had their fingernails or cheeks painted, enjoyed cookies and milk with Mrs. Claus, and had their photo taken. The students that are going to Spain were able to collect \$412 for their trip.



Volunteer elves, front row, Megan LaMarca, Hannah VanSkiver, Hannah Biedlingmaier, Brooke Bartholomew, Megan Hatfield, Briana Colucci, Derrick Hildreth and Antonio Puente. Back row, from left, Amaya Gunther, Jillian Menzie, Tyler Merritt, Jacob Lutz, Will Lavender, Jessica Sedore, Diana Castillo, Chris Balys, Ryley O'Mara, Derek McArthur, Greg Morrill, Collin Nothnagle, Anna Brasted, Jennah McMillion and Chloe Shuskey. Missing from photo: Veronica Mendoza.

Basketball Teams Volunteer at Salvation Army

by Matt Hennard, Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach

On Dec. 16, the Boys' and Girls' JV and Varsity Basketball teams traveled to the Rochester Salvation Army Distribution Center to help with their Christmas present and meal distribution program. This is the fourth consecutive year that the teams have volunteered for this program. The Christmas program provides needy families in the Rochester area with gifts, games, hats, scarves, gloves and holiday meals. The students help the families choose gifts for their children, select items for meals, and deliver everything to the recipients' vehicles. This year, the distribution center also received donations of live evergreen trees, and families were able to select one on a first-come, first-served basis. The students always do an incredible job of representing the Holley community, and they always come away from this experience with a renewed sense of the Christmas spirit.



Holiday Happenings at Holley Elementary

On Dec. 22, students and staff gathered to celebrate and sing holiday songs at the annual sing-along. Sally Martin, choral director, and Hannah Bock, band director, led the chorus and band performances of familiar holiday tunes for the students to listen to and sing along. Two of the students' favorite songs were the "12 Days of Christmas" and "Must be Santa." Holley staff members were selected from the audience, and they brought along students to hold up picture cues to help the audience sing all the verses of both songs.



Santa surprised the kindergarten and first grade students in the Elementary Café on Dec. 16 by showing up to read "Olaf's Night Before Christmas." He had the students join him in singing some Christmas songs and he played a round of "Santa Says" (like "Simon Says") with them. He asked them to be on their best behavior for their teachers and went around to the different classrooms to find out what each student wanted for Christmas. As Santa passed by a student in the hallway, the student said to his friend, "Now I finally know what Santa looks like!"

Second graders made gingerbread houses in the Elementary Café on Dec. 18, with help from the National Junior Honor Society members and family members.



Drawing & Painting Students' Self-Portraits

Drawing & Painting students recently completed their thumbprint self-portraits. They used their thumbs dipped in black ink to recreate a photo of themselves. When creating their self-portraits, they had to utilize a grid technique to double the original size of the photo. They mounted their own artwork and then critiqued their own work as well as their classmates' artwork.



Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest Winners

Holley MS/HS held an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest in December for students and staff. The student winner was Arianna Ratchford and the staff winner was Colleen Milner.



From left, Stacey Richenberg and Colleen Milner



Arianna Ratchford

FIT4U! Sessions

The current session of FIT4U! ends on Feb. 13, with the next session beginning on Feb. 22 and running until April 21.

At the MS/HS, early morning fitness classes are on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 6-7 a.m. Jason Cole and Mark Thomas are the instructors.

FIT4U! elementary activity instructors are looking for middle and high school volunteers to help them during their sessions. The elementary sessions run from 3:30-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and Saturday mornings from 8:15-9:45 a.m. If interested, contact Lisa Campbell in the Elementary School at lcampbell@holleycsd.org. The volunteer hours count towards National Honor Society and Participation in Government class requirements.

SPANISH CLUB HOSTS CHRISTMAS FIESTA

The Holley Spanish Club hosted their 23rd Annual Christmas Fiesta on Dec. 17 in the MS/HS Dining Hall. The students prepared Hispanic dishes, such as "una ensalada de taco," "arroz con pollo," "una rosca de taco," "polvorones" and "pastel de tres leches." They sang Spanish Christmas songs, participated in the Candy Cane Limbo and held a Christmas raffle. Tammy Menzie, Kathy Monks and Laura Wagner thank everyone for attending and for all their hard work.



Hawk Wrestlers Soaring This Season

Holley Hawks Varsity Wrestling team is having a successful season this winter. Current stats:

- Winner of the Holley Varsity Duals with 5 wins and 0 losses
- Winner of the Holley Team Tournament with 5 wins and 0 losses
- Second place at the Caledonia Mumford Duals with 4 wins and 1 loss
- Second place at the South Seneca Duals with 4 wins and 1 loss
- Second place at the Springville Duals with 4 wins and 1 loss
- They have defeated Alexander, Attica, Brighton, Kendall, Lyndonville and McQuaid so far

The JV Wrestling team is undefeated in Duals and placed fourth at the Victor JV Duals.

The Hawk Junior Wrestling Club meets every Monday and Tuesday from 6-7:15 p.m. at the MS/HS.

The Holley Hawk Youth Club will start its sessions on Monday, Feb. 22 in the Intermediate Gym at the Elementary School. The club will meet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6-7:15 p.m. for 10 sessions and then end with a Club Tournament on Saturday, March 12.



Annual Alumni Wrestling Match on Dec. 15



Former Holley Hawk wrestlers, front row, from left, Zachary Farruggia, John Tanis, Kevin Avery, Ashley John Grillo, Adam Grillo, Andrew Grillo and Matthew Sanders. Back row, from left, Lucas Silvis, Kacee Sauer, Matthew Paeth, Joseph Clark, Bill Silpoch, Jerry Bishop, Paul Moore and Justin Widrig.

Girls on the Run Again

by Lynn Vendetti, Girls on the Run Coach

On Nov. 8, 12 girls in grades 3-6 from Holley Elementary School completed a 5k run at Delaware Park in Buffalo. This was the fifth season Holley has participated in the Girls on the Run Program. The girls met twice a week after school to train for the 5k event. Not only did the girls train to run, they also engaged in activities to promote self-confidence, healthy eating habits, and teamwork. Each girl ran with a Running Buddy, who was her parent, grandparent, coach or a community member.

The girls are coached by Hannah Bock, Paula Sanford and Lynn Vendetti.



Pictured, front row, from left, Isabella Thom, Iris Capurso, Emma Downey, Jasmine Apicella and Tia Hoffarth. Back row, from left, Lena Hayes, Madilyn Beechner, Leigha Walker, Laney Walker, Kira Gantman, Mya Hayes and Alexis Kowalski.

Saturday Morning Basketball is in Full Swing

by Amy Ostrom, HS Special Education Teacher and Holley JY Coordinator

Saturday Morning Basketball is provided by the Holley Joint Youth Recreation program. It is a free program for Holley's youth to become active and learn basketball skills. It is available to Holley students in grades 3-8.

Third and fourth graders play from 9-10 a.m.; fifth and sixth graders play from 10-11 a.m.; and seventh and eighth graders play from 11a.m.-noon in the Elementary School Intermediate Gym. Participants have the opportunity to show off their skills during half-time at the Alumni Basketball Game tentatively scheduled for March.

It's not too late to participate in this session. If you are interested in registering your child, bring them to a Saturday morning class and fill out the registration form when you arrive. Remaining dates for this session are Feb. 6, 13, and 27; and March 5 and 19.

Biggest Winner Contest Keeps Participants Active

The Holley Biggest Winner Weight Reduction Contest was in full swing at their Dec. 1 monthly meeting in the Holley Elementary School Cafeteria. After weighing in, the participants stayed to listen to the owners of S & S Fitness and Martial Arts Center, Scott and Sandy Haug, talk about interval training and participate in a workout session led by the Haugs. The contest is in its fourth year at the school, with anyone age 10 or older who lives in Holley or works for the school district eligible to participate. In the past three years, 152 participants have lost a grand total of 901 pounds in the contest.

The contest kicked off in November with a presentation on nutrition by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. The 48 participants weigh in at the school on the first Tuesday of each month, and then stay for a presentation on a different aspect of exercise or nutrition. Plans for this year's presentations include a session on meal choices led by the Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension, another exercise session using fitness equipment led by the Haugs, and a fitness demonstration on proper exercise form and equipment use by Agapé. Anyone from the community is invited to attend the informational presentations, even if they are not participating in the Biggest Winner program.

At the December meeting, participants worked out their upper and lower bodies by doing two sets each of bicep curls, triceps extensions, skier jumps, squats and lunges with the Haugs. The two sets, or intervals, work off more calories than a constant level of effort in the same exercise because they increase the level of cardiovascular effort.

At each meeting, participants have a chance to win prizes in the monthly drawing. Current prizes being offered are restaurant deals and tickets to sporting events, museums, art galleries, state parks and amusement parks. Grand prizes will be awarded to those who lose the most percentage of weight by the final meeting in June. Grand prizes so far include a Wegmans gift card, an overnight at the Rochester Airport Marriott Hotel, and cash prizes from Heath & Martin and Christopher Mitchell Funeral Homes, Inc.

The next meeting of the Biggest Winner Contest is on Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m., and the Haugs will lead participants once again in an exercise program, using a variety of fitness equipment.



Participants use hand weights during the December meeting of the Holley's Biggest Winner Weight Reduction Contest

Soaring Awards

School Library Media Specialist Julie Bader received the "Soaring to New Heights" award at the Holley Board of Education meeting on Dec. 21. This award is given monthly to deserving students and adults who go above and beyond expectations and who lend their skills and abilities to help others. Bader received the Soaring award from Elementary School Principal Karri Schiavone and Assistant Principal Ashley Grillo for turning the Elementary Library into an inviting place that students want to visit. Bader was commended for working with the teachers to incorporate the themes and skills they are teaching into the library and providing resources for the classrooms to use. She helped design and is teaching integrated technology classes to all of the third-sixth grade classes.

"Julie is creative and exciting and goes above and beyond to make the library a more enticing space than we ever thought possible," said Schiavone. "She designs activities during the day and after school to involve children in the 'fun' of reading. Julie has taken the library from a place to simply exchange books to a child-friendly, adventure-filled, literacy-rich media center."



From left, Ashley Grillo, Julie Bader and Karri Schiavone

Fourth grade student Landin Chaffee received the Soaring award at the Holley Board of Education meeting on Jan. 11. He received the award from Elementary School Principal Karri Schiavone and Assistant Principal Ashley Grillo for his "tremendous character." Landin heard about a child in need in another part of the state and brought the story to his class, which started a discussion on how his class could create and execute a class project to help that child. "Landin showed selfless compassion and true leadership," said Grillo. "We teach our students that true character is how you act when no one is watching. Landin embodies that definition and is a role model within the fourth grade, our school building and community."



From left, Fourth Grade Teacher Karin Richards, Landin Chaffee and Ashley Grillo

Holley Students Stage Presidential Debates



Ross Pinson, portraying Governor Martin O'Malley, addresses a point in the debate

During December, Holley High School's Current Events class held a series of mock presidential debates before determining a final winner. Students were assigned the roles of presidential candidates, presidential advisors or moderators. The candidates worked with their advisors to prepare for each debate. The Republicans endured three rounds of debates, while the Democrats had one, due to the number of candidates running. Debate times were restricted to one class period each day when the Middle School/High School Auditorium was available; students from other classes

made up the audience. Students voted on their cell phones to determine the winner of each debate. The moderators played an important role in breaking any ties in voting.

Current Events Teacher Nick D'Amuro invited the Holley faculty and staff to watch the series of debates. He was pleased with the support from them as well as the students. "I am so happy to hear students, who aren't even in my class, talking politics around me," said D'Amuro. "I am so excited that our students are going above and beyond to discuss the current political climate." District Superintendent Robert D'Angelo agrees. "Nick and his students did an outstanding job with each and every debate," said

D'Angelo. "I was very proud to attend them and was impressed with the number of students and staff in the audience each time. This activity was a perfect example of authentic instruction and learning. I am confident that our students' knowledge of both the political issues surrounding this presidential election, as well as our political process, have been greatly enhanced by these debates."

Sophomore Matt DeSimone portrayed Republican Senator Ted Cruz and went up against senior Ross Pinson as Democratic Governor Martin O'Malley in the final round. They discussed issues such as immigration, gay rights, terrorism, national debt, gun laws, health care, the middle class, jobs and religion. Moderator Mikala Smith, a senior, kept the candidates on task while D'Amuro kept track of time. DeSimone was determined the winner with 67 votes against Pinson's 37 votes. "The students in our district tend to lean towards the ideals of Cruz on several subjects," said D'Amuro. "I expected Ross to have a hard time convincing them, but he wanted to meet the challenge head-on. I am so pleased with both of their performances and their rebuttals to each other. I think both of them could end up serving in public office if they wanted to go that route."



Matt DeSimone, portraying Senator Ted Cruz, speaks at the presidential debate

Students of the Month for December

Holley Central Schools is changing its recognition program for Students of the Month in grades K-12 this year. While students from each classroom at the elementary level will continue to be nominated each month, students at the middle and high school levels will be nominated monthly in each subject area. Each student will receive a certificate with their photo on it and the nomination from their teacher written on it. The certificates will also be displayed in the glass display case outside the MS/HS Library and then filed in a binder that will be kept in the MS/HS Main Office. Pictures of the elementary students will be displayed in the hallway near the Elementary Library and archived in a binder in the library.

Once a month, students of the month from grades K-12 will have breakfast together with the principals in the MS/HS Dining Hall. Breakfast will be supplied by Food Service Director Vickie Scroger and her cafeteria staff.

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized as students of the month for December: Atlas Kruger, Kallan Babcock, Ruby Carlston, Peyton Caufield, Kyla Burne, Lillian O'Brien, Dante Wilder, Dylan Ceravolo, Makkiah Morris, Addison Probst, Aro Kruger, Lily Newman, Braden Read, Lon Odle, Miguel Vazquez-Pulcino, Julianna Thomas, Stephanie Miles, Alivia Wolf, Prestyn McMillion, Alexis Kowalski, Angelena Golisano, Grace Fuller, Ethan DeWilde, Omillio Vargas, Sarah Kelly, Christopher Lyndaker, Kirsstin Althoff, Alexis Taylor, Kayla Pagano, Elizabeth Kruger, Amya Cancino, Evan Valentine, Brian Gay, Sean Kennedy, Nathan Silversmith, Mackenzie Hill, Alicia Osborne, Anna Brasted, Jessica Mandigo, Becky Gay and Brady Smith.



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FEBRUARY 2016

- 1 Sports Boosters Meeting, MS/HS Library 7 p.m.
- 2 Biggest Winner Meeting, ES Café 6:30 p.m.
- 5 Report Cards Sent Home
- 5-6 All County Music Festival at Albion
- 8 Board of Education Meeting 6 p.m.
- 12 Pre-K-Grade 6 Sweetheart Dance, ES 6:30-8 p.m.
- 15-19 No School, Mid-Winter Recess**
- 19 Pre-K-Grade 6 Sweetheart Dance (Snow Date), ES 6:30-8 p.m.
- 25 MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences 3-6 p.m.

Save the Date for "The Little Mermaid"



- Holley MS/HS will be hosting several performances of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" from March 11-12. The musical tells the story of a mermaid who dreams of the world above the sea and gives up her voice to find love. Show times will be March 11 at 7 p.m. and March 12 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the MS/HS Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 and may be purchased online at <http://www.showtix4u.com> or in the MS/HS Main Office.

Makenzie Ferranti plays the role of Ariel, with Matt Skehan as Prince Eric. Kohl Morgan plays the role of Flounder, and Ronnie DeWaal and Kory Puente share the role of Sebastian. Kayla Thrower and Hannah Ellsmore share the role of Ursula. Many more students make up the cast of "The Little Mermaid," so attend a performance to spot more stars in Holley's musical production.

Hawk News Network Debuts First Broadcast of 2015-16

The Hawk News Network (HNN) first broadcast of the 2015-16 school year has been posted to the district website. To see all the HNN broadcasts, visit <http://www.holleycsd.org/hnn>.

