

# DIMENSION



Holley Central School District | April 2017

## Holley Photography Students Sell Work as Fundraiser

The Arts Department is hosting a fundraiser of Holley Postcards. Eleven different designs are featured, with each postcard selling for \$1, or a full set of all 11 selling for \$10. Customers can also select their own set of 11 postcards (choose all the same design or mix and match) for \$10. The postcards will be on sale at music concerts in March and in Evinne Meadows' art classroom, with the sale ending April 4.

The MS/HS Photography students designed the postcards using their own photos from a walk through Holley in the fall. Thanks to the Holley PTSA and Board of Education Member Melissa Ierlan for helping the students print the postcards professionally. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the cost of field trips for art and music students.



## Invitation for Annual Senior Citizens Breakfast on May 4

Holley Central School District would like to thank you for your continuous support of our students and schools.

**Please join us for our 12th Annual Senior Citizen Appreciation Breakfast  
Thursday, May 4, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Holley Elementary Café**

Transportation is available, so please let us know if you need a ride when you RSVP. You may RSVP by calling Connie Nenni at 585-638-6316, ext. 2003, or mailing the completed form below to: Holley District Office, 3800 North Main Street, Holley, NY 14470 by **Friday, April 28.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I need transportation.      Number attending the breakfast \_\_\_\_\_

Did you attend Holley High School? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what year did you graduate? \_\_\_\_\_



## Superintendent's Message: The Link Between Nutrition and Academic Performance

Research clearly indicates that hunger directly impacts a child's academic performance. It affects their ability to focus, hinders their cognitive skills and squelches their motivation. For students who spend most of their morning memorizing, analyzing and internalizing specific concepts, a good breakfast provides proper nutrition necessary to carry out these complex functions. The same can be said for having a good lunch, in preparation for afternoon studies.

A report entitled, "The Wellness Impact: Enhancing Academic Success Through Healthy School Environments," issued the following findings related to nutrition and physical activity as contributors to good academic performance:

1. After just 20 minutes of physical activity, brain activity improves; yet only 25 percent of high school students are active for the recommended 60 minutes each day.

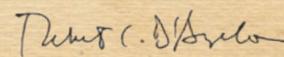
2. Students who eat a good breakfast have better attention and memory, but only 38 percent of all teens say they eat breakfast every day of the week.

3. Schools are the logical place to start, as most American students spend more than 2,000 hours at school each year. This means that schools create an environment that encourages students to eat right and get moving.

Our district serves our students an outstanding breakfast and lunch menu. Two additional programs that I am proud to have initiated are an expanded afterschool snack program, and a free breakfast and lunch program during the summer. The snack program provides students with nutritious food afterschool, which is a great benefit to those students who remain at school after hours for athletics, clubs or other activities. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the free summer breakfast and lunch program is offered to all children under the age of 18,

and reduced price meals are offered to adults in the community. This program has been very well received, and I intend to continue it as long as it is offered.

The district also assists families who qualify for free or reduced price meals for their children. The information provided by families is held in the strictest of confidence and students are not identified as free or reduced meal recipients as they move through the lunch line. If you believe your family qualifies for free or reduced meals at school, please call your child's school office for an application or contact Vickie Scroger, our Food Service Director, at [vscroger@holleycsd.org](mailto:vscroger@holleycsd.org). It's as easy as that to ensure your children are able to enjoy a nutritious breakfast and lunch each day at school.



Robert C. D'Angelo  
Superintendent of Schools

## HS Students Dine with Superintendent

Ten students in grades 9-12 had breakfast with Superintendent Robert D'Angelo and discussed their experience at Holley Central School District (HCSD). Middle School/High School (MS/HS) Principal Susan Cory selected the students to be invited to the breakfast on Feb. 10; another breakfast will be held in April. Holley Board of Education members Sal DeLuca and Brenda Swanger were also present to listen to the students. The breakfast was prepared by HCSD Food Service Director Vickie Scroger and her staff.

D'Angelo stressed that the breakfast is a relaxed conversation between administration and students. Students were asked to talk about things they thought worked well in their school and they would like to see continue, as well as areas that can be improved upon. Students said they appreciated the Makerspace events that occur on Fridays in the MS/HS Library; courses that overlapped and aligned subject areas together; and the opportunity to take online courses through Genesee Community College. Students offered up ideas for electives, requested more availability of popular lunch items, and asked for more organized spectator participation at sporting events.

"We're a professional high school since the renovations," said senior Kayla Thrower. "We have teachers who really care. We have more opportunities because we're a smaller district. For instance, we rotate roles in the musical so more students can participate. My involvement in Interact Club helped me gain a better sense of myself and a bigger sense of the world." Cory agreed, saying, "We're providing students with opportunities to become global citizens." Senior Jerry Kennedy appreciates the environment at Holley. "We're allowed to have our own opinions," he said. "We're taught to form our own opinions and stand by them," said Thrower. "Holley is a small, tight-knit community that's fun to be a part of," said freshman Morgan Cary.



# COUNSELING News

## Financial Aid for Seniors

Families can still submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) if they haven't done so already. If they haven't applied, please do so **immediately** so students don't miss out on funding from loans, grants or other financial aid available. Please visit the website [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to file the online form. The website provides worksheets and access to the Federal Student Aid Information Center for assistance in completing the application. **Do not** mail the worksheets to the Federal Student Aid Information Center. For questions about the financial aid process, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center directly at 1-800-433-3243 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.).

## SAT/ACT for Juniors

Juniors who haven't taken the SAT/ACT, or would like to retake the exams, are encouraged to sign up online or by mail. Registration forms are located in the Counseling Office. Request that scores be sent to the colleges to which students are applying. Many colleges request that students send scores after the tests have been taken, and many scholarships require scores as part of the selection process. If students have any questions, please have them contact their counselors.

- ACT website: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- SAT website: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

## Scholarships! Scholarships! Scholarships!

Seniors are encouraged to visit the Counseling Office for scholarship opportunities. Many of the scholarships are located on the Holley website at [www.holleycsd.org/scholarships](http://www.holleycsd.org/scholarships). In addition, hard copies of the scholarships have been printed and are located in the Counseling Office. Visit the following websites for more scholarship information: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com). Check with the colleges students are applying to. Most colleges offer specific scholarships based upon SAT/ACT scores and GPA. Please make every effort to apply for these scholarships! Contact Kristina Tese with any questions.

## Spring Break for Juniors

Spring break is a great opportunity to visit college campuses for the first time. Register for a tour of the college through their website or by phone. By visiting individual college websites, students can also learn about opportunities for scholarships and special programs. It's not too early to start looking!

## College Acceptances

We are pleased to announce that Andie Carpenter was accepted to North Country Community College, Mackenzie Hendrickson was accepted to Walsh University and Helana McLean was accepted to D'Youville College with an Academic Achievement Scholarship.

**Congratulations!**



## Soaring Award

Sixth graders Kameron Walch and Ryan Frank received the "Soaring to New Heights" award at the Holley Board of Education meeting on Feb. 13. This award is given monthly to deserving students and adults who go above and beyond expectations, and lend their skills and abilities to help others. Both boys received the Soaring award from Elementary Principal Karri Schiavone for being role models to stop bullying in their grade level. "They both have great character, even when no one is looking," said Schiavone. "The entire sixth grade teaching team nominated them, which says a lot about these students. They have helped cut down on bullying, especially in the cafeteria."



From left, Ryan Frank, Kameron Walch and Karri Schiavone.

## Fish Fry Fundraiser

by Holley Track & Field Coaches

The Holley Running Program is kicking off the 2016-17 season with a very promising start. The coaching staff is excited to implement new techniques and strategies they acquired at a multi-day coaching clinic in Atlantic City this past December! The team's annual Fish Fry is April 7 in the MS/HS Dining Hall. The cost is \$12 and includes delicious fried fish, potato salad, coleslaw, roll and butter. Dinners will be served from 2:30-6:30 p.m. The bus loop will be available for drive-up service after 3:30 p.m., and we will also have limited seating in the Dining Hall. You are encouraged to purchase tickets from March 20-April 5 from any team member. We hope to see you there!



## PRE-K CELEBRATES 100

Pre-schoolers always have their own ideas, so when asked to demonstrate what they would look like at age 100, they showed up in all manner of dress. The Pre-K students in Amie Callen and Lori Passarell's classes had walkers, canes, suspenders, eyeglasses, grey hair and hats to demonstrate what they might look like in their advanced years. These students were celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on Feb. 13. They also participated in many 100 day activities such as using cereal rings to count to 100 to make necklaces.



## 100 Days Celebrated in Many Ways



*Pictured, from left, kindergarteners Cameron Kelley and Gage Campbell celebrated the 100th day of school with their cool t-shirts. Around the elementary school, different teachers led different 100 day activities with their students to mark this special day.*

## Fourth Graders Write Letters to Betsy DeVos

Fourth graders in Lynn Vendetti's class have been busy writing letters to U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, inviting her to visit Holley Elementary School. They would like her to visit a public elementary school so that she will become more familiar with how they operate. DeVos has not worked in education prior to her appointment to her current position. Students wrote about receiving nutritious, delicious, low-cost meals from the cafeteria; rollerblading in PE class; singing in Fourth Grade Chorus; exploring mystery matters in their science unit; receiving help before and after school from teachers; and participating in fundraisers like Jump Rope for Heart. Students are eagerly looking forward to receiving a response from DeVos.



## Food for Families

Spring recess is fast approaching in April. We know that a week with no school in session means hungry mouths to feed. Our Food for Families program can help with those "extra" meals that the kids will now be home for. This program provides your family with a small bag of food to help get through the week off from school. This program is first come, first served, so please call Roxanne Wagner in the MS/HS Main Office at 638-6318, extension 5500 ASAP to reserve your food. The registration deadline is Tuesday, April 11 by 1 p.m. Unfortunately, there is no "drop off" service. You will need to pick up your food.

## Cheerleaders Share Cheer in Many Ways This Year

The Holley Cheerleading team had a successful year as they won top honors at many competitions and spread cheer through their partnerships with many local organizations. They were crowned Genesee Region champions, placed fourth at Sectionals, won first place at Empire Cheer and the Cheer and Dance Extreme competitions, and placed second at the Webster Thomas competition. They competed as a co-ed team in class divisions from D to AA, only being beaten by the AA teams. Student-athletes Derrick Hildreth and Jessica Mandigo were selected to the Genesee Region All Star Cheerleading Team. Cheerleaders Kelsey Daniels and Maddy Rowley placed second and first, respectively, in individual competitions, and they won the honor of representing the league at the Ronald McDonald Charity Basketball Game.

One of the charitable organizations that is close to the team's heart is the Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Rochester, NY. As their fundraiser to support this charity this year, they sold shingles for \$1 each to cover the roof of a dollhouse. They were able to

collect \$2,050 through this fund drive and donated it to RMHC, along with the dollhouse, in March. The team was featured on WHAM-TV Channel 13's "Bright Spot" for this charitable act.

Interacting with their community is important to the team, and not just from the sidelines at soccer, football or basketball games. They regularly visit the Villages of Orleans Nursing Home to spread cheer there, too. They distributed cards and stuffed animals at Christmas time, and then painted ceramic hearts and delivered them for Valentine's Day.

They also participate each year in Games for the Physically Challenged and act as buddies for the obstacle courses to help the competitors navigate ambulatory and wheelchair-accessible courses. The team hopes to make another trip back to RMHC this year to volunteer their time.

"As coaches, we try to teach them how to be a good person and make a difference in their communities," said Penny Cole, Varsity Cheerleading Coach. "It doesn't take a lot to make a difference. These athletes are doing it, and I'm so proud of them."



Photo courtesy of Tom Rivers, Orleans Hub.

## Holley vs. Kendall Faculty Game

The Holley Faculty Team competed against the Kendall Faculty Team in a basketball game on March 16 at Kendall Junior/Senior High School. The score was tied at 50-50 by the end of the final quarter. Three students from each school were pulled from the audience to try to break the tie by shooting baskets, but the score tied again at 52-52. This is the fifth time Holley has competed against Kendall in a sporting event.

Ticket proceeds from the game went to the family of Kendall junior Payton Walters, who was diagnosed with Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM) after suffering a concussion during a hockey game in January. Payton receives specialized medical care from a hospital in Boston and the fundraiser helped with those expenses.



Front row, from left, Jennifer Boerner, Maddy Sears, Emily Harms, Mark Thomas and Jon Wharram. Back row, from left, Zach Busch, Matt Hennard, Bill Silpoch and Nick D'Amuro.

## BASEBALL NEWS

by Jason Cole, Varsity Baseball Coach

In April, the Holley baseball team will be going to Myrtle Beach again to play on the all-turf fields at the Ripken Experience. We will play two games, two scrimmages and four practices during our stay over spring recess. We will also visit an all-you-can-eat buffet as a team, along with any other Holley family members that are fortunate enough to accompany us. The students have a great time on this trip, with lots of team bonding and memories that last beyond their high school years.

We will also be playing a night game at Frontier Field on May 1. We play Alexander in a big Genesee Region game that could decide if we win another title this year.

*We hope to see many Holley fans there, so save the date!*

## Holley Strong Event a Success

On March 2, the entire Holley community was invited to the Holley Strong event held in the MS/HS Auditorium. The event featured a preview of the musical "Grease," student and faculty presentations, two videos, and a lip sync battle between elementary and high school teachers and staff. "Holley Strong" t-shirts were given away to members of the audience. Orders were taken for these shirts after the initial supply sold out. The MS/HS Library hosted a keychain fundraiser. All of these activities were designed to encourage students and their families to take pride in what the Holley schools and community offer and to celebrate their strengths.

Students helped kick off the evening with a "Did you know?" fact presentation about the school district. High school students Kayla Thrower and Jessica Sedore from the Contemporary Issues class talked about how they struggled with some of their classes, but they received support from their teachers and staff so that they could succeed. Teacher Nick D'Amuro talked about his Current Events students putting together a publication of their short articles analyzing the issues they've studied this year. This publication titled, "Holley

Speaks," will be made available later this year for everyone to read.

D'Amuro also led a "Piece of the Puzzle" presentation, which explained how teachers use projects, tests, homework and class participation to assess student learning in each subject area. "We need all the pieces of the puzzle to accurately evaluate each student," said D'Amuro. "If one piece is missing, that has a large impact. Please help us complete the puzzle. We can't do it alone." He encouraged students and their families to view assessments not as an obstacle, but as a positive opportunity to show how much they've learned and grown in their knowledge.

Sixth grader Sara Kingdollar introduced the Hawk News Network video segment on "Another thing that makes Holley great," which featured teachers talking about how they use assessments to gauge student learning and how they address skills that students are struggling with. Students were paired with teachers in the video and talked about what they liked best about their classes and what they've learned. Another video, "Holley is Home," featured students, faculty and staff being interviewed about what they liked best about Holley. "Be proud to



be from Holley," said MS/HS Principal Susan Cory. "Don't say 'I'm just from Holley.' Celebrate the positive things."

The most anticipated segment of the night was the lip sync battle between each school's team. Each team performed twice, with the elementary staff performing group performances to "Can't Stop the Feeling!" and "Fight Song." The high school team featured a medley of individual performances in their first round, with the second round featuring a group performance. The evening ended with both teams combining to perform "Don't Stop Believin'"; students were invited to sing and dance with them on stage. Students then voted on which team had the best performance, with the elementary team narrowly winning, 96-88. As one student said, "Thank you to Mrs. Langelotti for making this the best night of my life!" Holley Strong, indeed.

## Assemblyman Hawley's Representative Visits Humanities Class

Eileen Banker, Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Stephen Hawley, visited the Holley Humanities class on Feb. 16 to further discuss the ideas students presented at the Hawk Talks in January. Students had presented ideas on innovation, such as the Umbrella-Pack and Convenient Cart, and social issues, such as various educational paths, being set up to fail in the traditional educational path, and the emphasis on authentic learning in the age of Common Core, during the Hawk Talks. Banker was so impressed with the students' well-thought-out discussions that she invited the class to visit Albany at the end of March.



Students discussed with Banker their fears that Common Core is preventing students from receiving a full classroom experience because while the standards are good, the implementation isn't working. Seniors Chris Balys and Derek McArthur talked

about how students in advanced classes were not taught Common Core curriculum. "For those of us who took advanced classes, we were exempt from Common Core learning," said Balys. "Taking Common Core-based tests now, like the SATs, we aren't prepared for." "We weren't taught by the test in advanced classes," said McArthur. Students found that the money that is tied to Common Core isn't spent on the Common Core curriculum. "The self-interest of the government is getting in the way of the people," said junior Angela Weaver.

Banker told students that a visit to Albany would help them advocate and talk to legislators about their ideas and concerns. She encouraged them to watch State Assembly coverage on the web and TV. She also instructed students to look for internships in the fields that interest them to give them exposure to possible careers.

## Holley Musicians Participate In Orleans All-County Festival

by Hannah Bock, Elementary Band Director

Every year, the first weekend of February marks the beginning of the Orleans All-County Music Festivals. Music students from Holley had the opportunity to sing and play alongside their peers from Kendall, Lyndonville, Albion and Medina. Lyndonville hosted three musical groups: elementary band, junior high chorus and high school band.

Students practiced their music independently until the festival, then they rehearsed for several hours with students from other schools on Friday before performing at the Saturday concert. Fourteen students from the Holley Elementary Band, 16 students from the Holley Junior High Chorus, and seven students from the Holley High School Band participated in the concert. Students enjoyed their guest conductors Tom Dylag (elementary band), Drew Burke (junior high chorus) and Layna Viloría (senior high band).

Holley sixth graders Sara Kingdollar, on oboe, and Ava Quincey, on flute, were selected as soloists for the jazz piece "Blues is My Favorite Color."

Overall, students and teachers alike learned valuable musical lessons during the first festival weekend. As quoted by an elementary musician, "It was amazing to play with such a huge group of kids!" Our Holley musicians look forward to continuing the Orleans All-County Music Festival tradition next year!



## A Cast of Characters Overcomes Power Outages to Perform "Grease" at Holley

Holley MS/HS presented three performances of "Grease" in March. The final week of rehearsals and performances had to be rescheduled due to power outages from the windstorms on March 8-9. The cast and crew did a great job of overcoming the obstacles these weather conditions presented and played to large crowds at each performance.

"Grease" takes place at Rydell High School in the 1950s. The musical tells the story of the relationship between hot-rod greaser Danny Zuko (Matthew Skehan) and the new girl in town, Sandy Dumbrowski\* (Abrianna Kruger). As Danny rejoins his gang of friends at the start of school (Kenickie – William Harrington, Sonny – Nick Merlau, Roger – Kory Puente, and Doody – Storm Boyce), Sandy tries to fit in with the

Pink Ladies (Rizzo – Jocelyn Cervone, Frenchy – Anna Adams, Marty – Callie Updike, and Jan – Michaela Williams). Pressure from their friends gets in the way of Danny and Sandy's romance, as they struggle to conform to the expectations of their social cliques and navigate their senior year of high school.

The student actors did a fine job of playing their roles from this well-known movie. The set pieces and costumes recreated the 1950s atmosphere. The performers on stage and in the pit band sang, danced and played their way through the familiar songs, easily engaging the audience. Congratulations to all involved!

*\*Note: The cast varied by performance, so the actors cited for these roles performed in the matinee on March 11.*



# MS/HS Library Students Attending TBF 2017

by Lisa Osur, MS/HS Librarian

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival (TBF) is Saturday, May 20. The Holley Central School District has taken students to this event for the past three years, and we are planning to do so again. The bus is scheduled to leave Holley MS/HS around 7:15 a.m. and return at 6 p.m.

TBF is a celebration of teens and the authors they love. This year, 27 authors will gather at Nazareth College. Teens will have the opportunity to get to know them by attending the Opening Session, where all 27 authors are welcomed. There are four breakout sessions scheduled throughout the day; in these sessions, students can discuss books and ask questions of their favorite authors. Local food trucks will be present to sell lunch, snacks and drinks, and the Nazareth campus is open for students to explore. At the end of the day, there is a **huge** autographing session! It's a fun day for all, and the authors and teens who love them are the stars. For more information, visit [www.teenbookfest.org](http://www.teenbookfest.org).

Holley students will wear t-shirts and represent Holley with pride. The sign-up for the bus and t-shirts is in the MS/HS Library.



## Petitions for Board of Education

Any district resident interested in running for the Holley Central School District Board of Education must submit a petition on or before 5 p.m. on April 17, 2017. Petitions are available in the District Office or by calling District Clerk Connie Nenni at 638-6316, extension 2003. The petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of Holley Central School District. The petition may be submitted at any time during business hours to the District Clerk, as long as the deadline of April 17 at 5 p.m. is met.

The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms of office commencing on July 1, 2017. Current board members Robin Silvis and Salvatore DeLuca, Jr. have terms that expire on June 30, 2017.

The school budget vote and board member election is on Tuesday, May 16 from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. in the Holley Middle School/High School Foyer.

## Student Councils Attend Leadership Conference

On March 13, members of the High School and Middle School Student Councils attended the District XI-Genesee/Finger Lakes Region annual student leadership conference at SUNY Geneseo. The theme of this year's conference was "Loving Like a Leader." This conference hosts students from Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties.



## Holley Students & Staff Took the Plunge Once Again

The Senior High School Student Council donated over \$1,500 to the Special Olympics New York organization by participating in the Polar Plunge fundraiser event held at Ontario Beach Park on Feb.

12. Several faculty and staff members set specific fundraising goals, which the Holley community gleefully donated towards, helping to seal their team members' fates of plunging into the icy, cold waters of Lake Ontario. Kathy Monks' and Suzanne Lepkowski's classes tied for the largest classroom donations. A warm thank you to Principal Susan Cory, Assistant Principal Dan Courtney, Director of Special Programs Stephanie Sanchez, teachers Jim Di Sessa and Nick D'Amuro, and students Angie Weaver, Cortney Phillips, Claudia Drechsel, Dawson Moy, Aaron Strathearn, Jade Hoffarth, Alexis Clemons, Regan Hodge, Julia Smith, Hannah Day, Morgan Cary, Kelsie Johnstone and Allison Howard for taking the plunge this year. An even bigger thank you goes out to all of those who donated. "It was a great time, for a great cause," said Di Sessa.



## Students of the Month for February

Holley Central Schools recognizes Students of the Month in grades K-12. Elementary students are nominated from each classroom, and middle and high school students are nominated in each subject area, all on a monthly basis. Each student receives a certificate with their photo on it and the nomination from their teacher written on it. The certificates are also displayed in the glass display case outside the MS/HS Library and then filed in a binder in the MS/HS Main Office. Pictures of the elementary students are displayed in the hallway near the Elementary Library and archived in a binder in the library.



Once each month, students of the month from grades K-12 have breakfast together with the principals in the Elementary Café or MS/HS Dining Hall (location rotates monthly). Breakfast is 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 February: John Blosenhauer, Michael Zaragoza, Lucas Bradley, Ian Bannister, Peyton Caufield, Ethan Bennett, Kadence Schoonmaker,

Ava Mosier, Tarek Garrett, Aubrey Hazzard, Brianna Heberle, Veronica Brooks, Rylie Redmond, Zachary Fichter, Chloe Onofreychuk, Lilian Haight, Hailey VanGelder, Jordan Anderson, Natalie Foose, Nicholas VanLogten, Harlee Schicker, Olivia Brooks, Dakota Burch, Kameron Walch, Elise Quincey, Rayelle Bonacci, Antonyo Geska, Zander Carpenter, John Patt, Fabryce Polite, Kiana Haghton, Erin Kelly, Nick Phalen, Amanda Ryan, Kamryn Berner, Megan Harrington, Brad Kingdollar, Janelle Miles, Taylor LaPlante, Callise Monk, Nathan Schoonmaker, McKenzie Hill, Daniel Norman, Corina Wright, Hannah Biedlingmaier, Anna Brasted, Makenzie Ferranti, Isaiah Flow, Nick Smith and Jeffrey VanOrden.

## Interact Club Volunteers at Open Door Mission

In February, the MS/HS Interact Club volunteered at the Open Door Mission in Rochester, NY. They made sandwiches for lunch. Students posted photos and statements to their sponsor's Facebook page, the Holley Rotary Club, about this experience: [www.facebook.com/holleyrotaryclub](http://www.facebook.com/holleyrotaryclub).



## Drop-in Math Tutoring Offered

Students in grades 7-12 can drop-in for math tutoring on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. at the Gillam-Grant Community Center at 6966 West Bergen Road in Bergen, NY. Cost is \$5 per visit. Tutoring is available when school is in session. No appointment or registration is necessary. For more information, contact Tracey Phelps at 494-1621 or [tracey@gillamgrant.org](mailto:tracey@gillamgrant.org).



# FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS GAIN CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICA

Seniors Katharina Reisenbauer, Anna Adams and Rosa Bender are all foreign exchange students at Holley MS/HS this year. Katharina, 15, is from Austria; Anna, 16, is from Switzerland; and Rosa, 16, is from Denmark. They have been in the U.S. since August and will return to their native countries after graduation in June. All three girls appreciate being foreign exchange students together, as they support each other and try to understand American culture.

The exchange students are surprised by how big America is, and how far apart places are to travel to. They rely on public transportation in their home countries, and are not used to riding on school buses or asking for rides. The girls were in awe that teenagers can drive in the U.S. "Now, I feel the need to have a driver's license," said Rosa. Snow days are also a new phenomenon for them since they never have them in their own countries. All three students are amazed by how much American parents do for their children, since European children are very independent. By age 14, many European teens travel around Europe by themselves. The foreign students are astonished by how much college costs in the States. In Denmark and Austria, university is free. European students don't pay fees to apply to universities; instead, they take qualifying exams. The girls said it is not hard to get into a

university, which is also different from the American process.

Anna plans to attend college in the United States next year and would like to attend Genesee Community College or The College at Brockport to be close to her host family. Rosa has three more years of pre-college studies to take before she will attend university in Denmark. Katharina still has two more years of high school to finish in Austria.

For Katharina and Anna, their time at Holley counts for school credit in their home countries; Rosa is on her gap year between high school and university, so she does not receive any academic credit. They find school to be easier in the U.S. and are all doing well in English class. All three students like the security methods at Holley and feel more reassured after practicing fire and lockdown drills; these procedures are not followed in Europe, so initially the drills made them nervous. "Sometimes, the U.S. may seem like it's more dangerous, but they really do have more precautions," said Katharina.

All three girls said their expectations of America were based on American movies and TV shows. "I thought everyone went to school in their sports uniforms all day, like cheerleaders and football players," said Anna. She was also surprised to see lockers in school, since they don't have them in Switzerland. Rosa said she thought it would be more like New York City, with celebrities everywhere.

Katharina said she thought America would be "big and cool." The girls were also astonished at how casually Americans dress for school. They found it confusing when someone would get dressed up one day, and then come to school the next day in sweats, with no makeup on or their hair in a different style; sometimes, they were not sure if it was the same person! "Appearance is important in Europe," explained Anna.

The exchange students are enjoying their experience in America. Rosa was part of the cheerleading team this year, which enabled her to start school already knowing a group of students. She joined several school clubs to keep busy, which helps her from being homesick. "I am never bored!" said Rosa. "I also like how people aren't afraid of being different in the U.S." Anna enjoys school sports and spirit days, and the availability of different clubs and activities. "U.S. kids have it so good," said Anna. "I like that there is always something going on. It's easy to make friends because everyone is so nice. I like how everyone can belong to different groups and it doesn't matter because everyone mixes together. Americans can be who they want to be. In my country, you identify with one group and stay stuck in that group."

Katharina also enjoys her mix of friends and the availability of choices in American schools. She loved Homecoming and the associated activities. She is here on a Rotary Club exchange and follows the same program that Holley senior Claudia Drechsel was enrolled in when she spent her junior year in Austria. All three exchange students appreciate being able to talk to Claudia. She is the only current Holley student who understands their experience of being strangers in a strange land. Katharina enjoys getting together every month with all the Rotary exchange students for activities, and she has met people from all over the world.

(continued on p. 11)



From left, Katharina Reisenbauer, Anna Adams and Rosa Bender.

(continued from p. 10)

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS GAIN CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICA

She stayed part of the year with Holley student Nina DiLella's family while Nina is on a Rotary exchange in Hungary.

The exchange students are astonished by how much ethnicities are mixed in the States. "In Denmark, you are Danish, and that's it," said Rosa. "Americans are so proud to be American, but they are also proud to be Italian, Irish or Greek," said Anna. "That was confusing at first because we didn't understand how you could identify with so many different groups of people."

Katharina, Anna and Rosa recommend being an exchange student. They agree they have gained a lot of confidence from the experience. "It is the best thing you can do with your life," said Anna. "My character has changed a lot; I'm not as quiet. I like how Americans are so honest and open, and you can start a conversation with anyone." Katharina wants to do the exchange experience again. "I've learned not to judge people as much and I can talk to anyone now," said Katharina. "My personality has changed; I'm willing to learn from others who are different from me. I'm more outgoing." Rosa has been the most homesick, with her own family coming to visit her over the holidays, but she hopes to come back to the U.S. to visit her host family. "My English skills are better, I'm able to make friends easier, and I can approach other people and ask for help," said Rosa. "I've learned so much about diversity in my time here. I learned a lot about myself and now I know how to cope in a new experience."

## HOLLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SPAIN

by Señora Tammy Menzie, Spanish Teacher

For 11 days in February, our group of 19 traveled to Spain to experience the many facets of Spanish life. We participated in many hands-on activities as we ventured through the cities of Málaga, Granada, Sevilla, Córdoba, Madrid and Barcelona. Our trip was organized through EF Tours, and we met our tour director, Manuel, at the airport. He interacted well with us and we will miss him.

On tour, students participated in a "city challenge" in Granada and were able to speak Spanish to, and interact with, the locals. We visited the Alhambra and stopped at a Moroccan tea house. We toured an olive farm and enjoyed orange-infused olive oil over chocolate ice cream. Next, we visited the Alcázar and the grave of Christopher Columbus inside of Seville Cathedral. We went to the Plaza de Toros (the bull ring), attended flamenco dance lessons and watched a spectacular show. In Córdoba, we visited the Mezquita, a beautiful mosque.

On the way to Madrid, we made a short stop in the La Mancha region to see the traditional windmills and learned about the famous Don Quixote. While in Madrid, we visited Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor, and we toured the Royal Palace. We participated in another challenge at the Prado Museum. Students especially enjoyed interacting with students at a high school in Madrid for a couple of hours. There is a possibility we could have a student exchange with this school in the near future. Some students also toured the enormous soccer stadium in Madrid. On our last evening there, we went out for Una Noche de Tapas (an evening of bar snacks) and tried Jamón Serrano, Manchego cheese and Tortilla Española, followed by churros and chocolate. We enjoyed a private performance by La Tuna, a traditional music group made up of university students. We even sang and danced a bit.

We then traveled on the high speed AVE train to the beautiful city of Barcelona. We snapped photos in the open air plazas and saw the spectacular Basilica de la Sagrada Familia

and the Magic Fountain of Montjuic. We looked at the harbor and the 1992 Olympic Stadium. We marveled at the mosaics and the landscaped greenery at Park Guell, and then walked Las Ramblas, stopping at the famous Boqueria Market. On the final day, students biked through Barcelona for a few hours, and then ate a paella lunch at a restaurant on the Mediterranean shore. During lunch, students gave Manuel a Holley t-shirt and made him an honorary member of "Holley Strong."

Our students were given free time in small groups to shop or enjoy an ice cream while we were in each city. They were responsible and always made it back to our meeting point on time. Principal Susan Cory and I could not be more proud of these young men and women. We all got to know one another better, and we will share memories that will last a lifetime. When the journey was over and our students unpacked, I hope they realized that the benefits of this life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

Thank you to those who supported our fundraising events for this trip: the Elementary Winter Wonderland, Father-Daughter Dance and spaghetti dinner. Thanks also to the Holley Rotary Club and Holley Teachers Association for their donations. Finally, thank you to the parents that paid for this trip and allowed their children to participate. We loved every minute of our adventure.

We encourage you to sign up for our next adventure in February 2019: Costa Rica!



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*Holley Dimension is produced with the assistance of the Communication and Technology Services (CaTS) Department at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES.*

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# APRIL 2017

- 3 Modified Spring Sports begin  
Sports Boosters Meeting, MS/HS Library 7 p.m.
- 4 Biggest Winner Meeting, ES Caf  6:30-8 p.m.
- 6 PTSA Grades 4-6 Spring Fling, ES Caf  3:30-5 p.m.
- 7 Third Marking Period Ends
- 8 ACT Exam
- 12 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-6:30 p.m.  
PTSA meeting, ES Rm. 49 5 p.m.
- 13 Report Cards Mailed
- 14-21 No School, Spring Recess**
- 25 Board of Education Meeting 6 p.m.
- 26 Pre-K Graduation Pictures

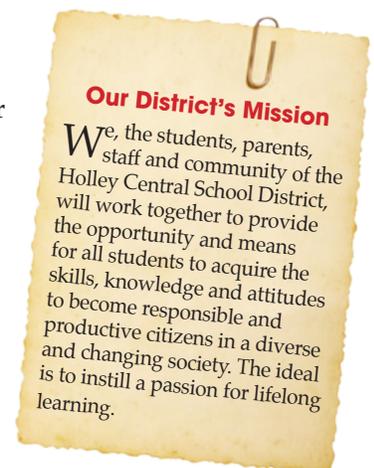
*Check the district calendar online for additional detail.*

## Holley Schools, District Office Have Individual Twitter Accounts

You can now follow news on each building through the Holley Elementary School and Holley Middle School/High School Twitter accounts. Follow their tweets through [@HolleyElem](#) for the Elementary School and [@Holley\\_MS\\_HS](#) for the MS/HS (this is the former Holley Athletics Twitter account).

The District Office also has a Twitter account: [@Holley\\_CSD\\_DO](#).

To receive district-wide tweets, follow [@HolleyCSD](#).



**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.