



HOLLEY DIMENSION

www.holleycsd.org

Holley Central School District • APRIL 2021

Remembering John Heise

On December 23, 2020, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES (BOCES 2) and Holley Board of Education (BOE) member John Heise suddenly died, leaving behind a strong legacy in education and a devastating sense of loss for those who knew him. A cheerful and enthusiastic presence when interacting with both students and adults alike, Heise loved extolling the accomplishments of all students and the educational opportunities he championed in both the Holley Central School District (HCS D) and BOCES 2 programs.



Heise worked as an elementary school teacher and administrator for the Rochester City School District for 11 years, then moved to Holley CSD in 1981 to become the Elementary School principal. In later years, he became the Holley High School principal, and then director of instruction and special programs, before retiring from the district in 2002. He spent his retirement years volunteering as an advisor to Holley students in the Interact Club and connecting with foreign exchange students who spent a year at Holley CSD. Both programs are sponsored by the Holley Rotary Club, of which he was a long-time member. Heise enjoyed taking foreign exchange students on trips as part of the Rotary International program so they could better experience Western New York and all it has to offer. He firmly believed in the Rotary Club motto of "service above self." He was president of the Holley Rotary Club and former district governor for the Rotary Club. He served on the Holley BOE for 13 years and the BOCES 2 Board representing Holley CSD for 12 years.

Heise also was a trustee for the Holley Community Free Library and a member of the Holley Village Board. He was a recipient of the Best Friend Award from Orleans County ARC.

"My dad loved this district," said his daughter, Samantha Zelent, a social worker at Holley Middle School/High School. "He was proud of the fact that he hired so many staff members, and he was even a principal for a few of them. He was proud that his kids graduated from Holley and had an incredible education. Being a Board of Education member was one of the highlights for him; he loved and respected everyone on the board who served with him. Most of all, my dad loved our students. He loved watching them succeed in the classroom, on stage and on the athletic fields. He could always be found at an event, cheering them on and taking photos. My dad was proud to be part of the Holley family."

Holley Middle School/High School Principal Susan Cory said, "I was hired here in Holley when John was the Elementary School principal. As I moved into administration, he was always very supportive and a role model. John loved education, and he believed that you supported students and teachers the best by being involved. Even after he retired, he continued to stay connected to us all. John was an asset to the school, but more importantly, he helped shape me into the educator that I am today. He will be missed."

"John was not only a colleague on the Holley BOE, but a friend and mentor," said Holley BOE President Robin Silvis. "His ability to contribute and lead was remarkable. I thank him so much for being a guide in my BOE

journey. As a parent and community member, John was very visible and a huge part of the upbringing of all three of my children, now adults. He cheered them on academically and athletically, and more importantly, in the development of their character. I truly miss my friend, colleague and neighbor, and he will never be forgotten."



Jeff Martin, attorney for Holley CSD and Holley Rotary Club member, said, "John and I were in Rotary together for over 35 years. He and his wife, Sandy, served as surrogate parents for many visiting Rotary Youth Exchange students. With his daughter, Samantha, John was instrumental in getting the Interact Club started. He was very supportive of youth programs and he always encouraged our Club to provide financial assistance to children who otherwise would not have been able to participate. I cannot recall any Club member having a greater impact than John, as evidenced by his multiple Paul Harris awards."

"As a school board member, John was always the voice of reason," said Martin. "Not only did he bring the perspective of a former school administrator to the board, he had a genuine interest in giving students every opportunity to be successful, and he truly had a lifelong love of learning. He was a pillar of the community for over 30 years and the impact of his death is far-reaching."



(continued on page 2)

A Message from the Superintendent



Greetings Holley Families,

Spring is here, and there is a lot of enthusiasm in the air around the school district.

Along with the welcome signs of warmer weather, we are very engaged in our plans to have more students return to school in-person. After a

long year of hybrid and remote learning, it is an exciting time to prepare for having more students on our campus and involved with athletics and other activities.

Along with working on plans to have students back in school more fully, we're in the final stages of preparing our budget for the 2021-22 school year. Our school budget vote will be held on **Tuesday, May 18**. This year, we will again

be having the Board of Education election and budget vote in-person at the MS/HS. There will be absentee ballots available, and the process for that will be coming out soon.

Anyone interested in seeking a seat on the Holley Board of Education should contact our District Clerk, Connie Nenni, at 638-6316, ext. 2003, or stop in to District Office on school days between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be detailed information on our 2021-22 school budget and candidates for the Holley Board of Education in our annual Budget News in May. You can also check for updates on our district website: [2021-22 Budget \(holleycsd.org\)](https://holleycsd.org).

As we look forward to students returning to school more fully, we also have to do our best to remain safe and use precautions in and out of school. We'd like to consider having events this spring for

our students, particularly for our seniors, and we need everyone's help to make that possible. If we begin to see an increase in positive cases, this will reduce what we'll be able to offer. By remaining diligent with mask wearing and social distancing, hopefully for a little while longer, we can work on offering more opportunities for our students. However, safety is our first priority, so thank you for all you're doing by reinforcing healthy habits with our students at home, just as we continue to do so at school.

Have a safe, healthy and happy spring! Once again, thank you for your continued support of the Holley Central School District!

Brian Bartalo
Superintendent of Schools

(continued from cover)

Remembering John Heise

"John acted as my mentor when I became an administrator at Holley," said Holley Elementary School Principal Karri Schiavone. "He was always willing to answer my questions, guide me to resources, and provide support and encouragement. His legacy of generosity, love for his community and kindness will not be forgotten."

Former Holley BOE member Brenda Swanger said, "I had the privilege of working with John for many years in the community and on the school board. He always found the time to be at so many events, not only the school events, but extra classes and meetings to better understand and improve our role as board members. John was an educator who was always learning and receptive to new ideas. He helped so many families, and he made a long-standing stamp on our community."

"John was a true leader in all that he did," said Holley CSD District Clerk Connie Nenni. "When anyone would speak, he truly listened and heard every word. He was never shy in sharing his thoughts, feelings or concerns on any given subject, and he always wanted to hear the feelings of others on the same subject."

Heise's wife, Sandy, said, "John was dedicated to the community, school, and most importantly,

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John's contributions to the Holley Central School District are immeasurable.

- Holley Superintendent of Schools Brian Bartalo

students. Of particular joy to him was getting to see so many of his former students grow up. He enjoyed reconnecting with many of them through social media, and he was so proud of what they accomplished as adults. When John was in the hospital, he received so many cards and letters from former students and Holley community members. It made his heart so happy. He got to see the impact he had on others, and for that moment, I am truly grateful. When John and I moved to Holley in 1981, he just knew that this would be his lifelong community. He truly loved all things Holley."

"John's contributions to the Holley Central School District are immeasurable," said Holley Superintendent of Schools Brian Bartalo. "He was a consistent champion for the students of Holley. He always wanted the best for the district he loved. John's generosity and dedication to the students of Holley left a legacy that will never be forgotten." The Holley Board of Education gave approval for a new scholarship in memory of

Heise in January; the first award will be given to a student who graduates in June.

"As a board member, we will miss John's sense of commitment to our cause, his willingness to take on tough issues to support students and staff, and his invaluable insight," said BOCES 2 District Superintendent Jo Anne Antonacci. "On a personal note, we will miss John's unlimited kindness, his genuine concern for others and his ready laugh." BOCES 2 Board President Dennis Laba echoed Antonacci's praise of Heise. "We were fortunate to have him as a colleague and blessed to have him as a friend," said Laba.

Heise is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandy; his son, Kevin (Iris); his daughter, Samantha (John) Zelent; and his grandson, Alexander Zelent, with whom he shared a birthday. He is also survived by his brothers, James (Suzanne) and Timothy (Hope). Heise loved his family, with a special light in his life being his grandson. He and Alexander shared a love of history and reading.



Holley HS Student Council Recognized for Blood Drive Efforts

On Feb. 6, the Holley High School Student Council (HSSC) was recognized by the American Red Cross for continuing to hold blood drives in 2020, despite the pandemic. Holley Middle School/High School (MS/HS) is number one in the region for having the most successful blood donation drives and conducting the best-run donor events overall.

"The HSSC has a long history of supporting the American Red Cross with blood drives," said Holley Superintendent of Schools Brian Bartalo. "It was even more important to do this during the COVID-19 crisis – step up and support their need when the blood supply was dangerously low. We had very successful and safe blood drives in 2020."

The HSSC was recognized for conducting six blood drives and collecting 79 pints of blood, which will help save 237 lives. HSSC Advisor Jim Di Sessa, MS/HS Principal Susan Cory and HSSC President Callie Updike accepted the award at the ceremony in Batavia. Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who participated in these events.



HSSC Blood Drive on May 4

The High School Student Council (HSSC) is hosting its third American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the MS/HS Auditorium. Please consider donating. Walk-ins are welcome, but having an appointment makes the donation process go more smoothly. Visit [Schedule Your Blood Donation With The Red Cross \(redcrossblood.org\)](https://www.redcrossblood.org) to register for an appointment. Don't forget to wear your mask!

After conducting two drives this year, we've been able to collect 79 productive units of blood, which helps 237 people! Holley students have also qualified for scholarships due to the success of our blood drives. Thank you for supporting our students!

Soaring Award

Eighth grader Prestyn McMillion received the "Soaring to New Heights" award at the Holley Board of Education (BOE) meeting on March 15. 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. Prestyn received the award from Principal Susan Cory for his "fast actions and compassion for a neighbor in need." He heard a car running in his neighborhood for a while, realized his neighbor was having a medical issue, sought help for her and stayed with her until first responders came. Prestyn is involved with the local fire department and first responders, so he knew what to do and remained calm. "Prestyn is having a good year and we've seen a lot of growth this year," said Cory. Speech Language Therapist Anna LaForce remarked, "We are so proud of you, Prestyn!" Congratulations, Prestyn, for helping people in your community!



From left, teacher Rhian O'Dell, speech language therapist Anna LaForce, Prestyn McMillion and Principal Susan Cory.

Two Holley Students Inducted into NTHS

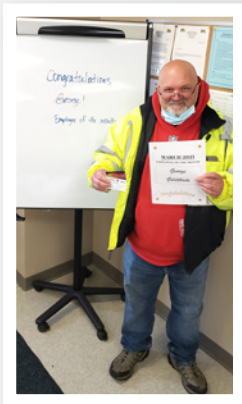
Holley students Skyla Milazzo and Allyson Skehan were two of 39 students inducted into the WEMOCO Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) in February. To be a member of NTHS, a student must have good academic standing, an excellent attendance record, a CTE teacher recommendation and be graduating with a local, Regents or Regents with Distinction diploma. Inductees must adhere to the seven tenets of the NTHS: skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship and leadership. Skyla and Allyson are enrolled in the Cosmetology program at the Career and Technical Education Center at Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES. To listen to why they were nominated, visit [2020 NTHS Inductees \(monroe2boeces.org\)](https://monroe2booces.org). Congratulations, Skyla and Allyson!



From left, Gracie Bloss (Churchville-Chili), Skyla Milazzo, teacher Raeann Materise, Heather Smith (Brockport) and Allyson Skehan.

Transportation Employee of the Month

The Transportation Department is instituting an Employee of the Month award this year. All employees in this department are eligible to win this award during the school year, and a winner will be announced each month, based on the nominations submitted. Transportation employees may only win once a school year. Winners receive lotto parking, which is the closest spot to the door, and a \$25 gift card to Walmart, donated by Matthews Buses Inc., who is the supplier of school buses for the district.



Congratulations to George Goldthrite, the Transportation Department's Employee of the Month for March! Thank you, George, for putting our students' safety and well-being first!

Anyone nominated for this award must have good attendance, be safety conscious, kind/courteous, professional, respectful, positive, willing to help others and open to new ideas for safety. "We have started this program because our employees have devoted themselves to the safety and well-being of our students," said Tammy Beaney, Transportation Director. "Our staff has distributed food for students who have been quarantined and/or attend school remotely five days a week. Our employees have put their hearts and souls into this job, and they always make sure they start students' days off right. During these challenging times, we thought this opportunity to recognize them would uplift them, show them how much they are appreciated, demonstrate the difference they make in students' lives, and give them recognition as a team player and individual."

Nurses' Offices Receive Donations of Hygiene Kits for Students

On Feb. 10, the ES and MS/HS school nurses received donations of hygiene kits from the ACT Program. The kits will be distributed to Holley students in both buildings. The kits contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, body wash and wipes. ACT Program Education Coordinator Erin Mattison and Health Educator Halee Potter presented the hygiene kits to School Nurses Orissa Hill, Rose Porter and Meaghan White.



From left, Assistant Principal Dan Courtney, ACT Program Health Educator Halee Potter, MS/HS Nurse Orissa Hill, ES Nurse Meaghan White, MS/HS Nurse Rose Porter, ACT Program Education Coordinator Erin Mattison and Principal Susan Cory.

The ACT Program helps teens delay their initial sexual encounters, make responsible decisions, lower teen pregnancies and reduce sexually transmitted infections. The ACT Program is housed at Community Action, and it is funded by the NYS Department of Health Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grant.

2020-21 Kids Heart Challenge Results

by Lori Passarell, Physical Education Teacher

Individual Winners:

- 1st place:** Brody Williams (6th grade) - \$1,185.00
- 2nd place:** Leah Pasch (2nd grade) - \$545.79
- 3rd place:** Jackson Spencer (2nd grade) - \$393.51
- 4th place:** Beau Hughson (kindergarten) - \$385.00
- 5th place:** Logan Spencer (kindergarten) - \$344.29



Brody has been our top fundraiser for at least four years in a row; he has collected over \$3,000 for the American Heart Association during his time at Holley Elementary School. Thank you and congratulations, Brody!

Mrs. Langelotti's second grade class raised the most money, a total of \$1,185.92.

All of the winners were invited to a silly string party where they got to silly string physical education teachers Jeff Cumpston and Lori Passarell!

This year we raised a grand total of **\$9,002.91. Great job, everyone!**

Many thanks to the Heart Heroes who participated and helped raise money for the American Heart Association. We had a record year; we could not have done it without you!



Congratulations to our winners!

Genesee Promise Plus

Genesee Promise Plus is a special program designed specifically for high school students who are graduating in June 2021 from a high school located in Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming (GLOW) counties in New York State. Under Genesee Promise Plus, every GLOW area June 2021 high school graduate will receive a scholarship covering the cost of tuition and fees for one or two summer 2021 courses offered by Genesee Community College at any of its seven campus locations in Albion, Arcade, Batavia, Dansville, Lima, Medina and Warsaw. Online classes are also available for students without access to transportation. Students are responsible for purchasing required textbooks; the scholarship doesn't cover these costs.

In addition, all 2021 high school juniors are eligible to receive a scholarship covering the cost of tuition and fees for two college courses during the summer between their junior and senior year.

The application deadline is **June 18, 2021**. For more information, visit [Genesee Promise Plus \(GPP\) | SUNY Genesee Community College](#).

April 22 is Operation Safe Stop Day

On April 22, law enforcement officers around the state will participate in Operation Safe Stop Day. During "Safe Stop," police officers are on board school buses and in marked and unmarked patrol units on selected bus routes that have a history of illegal passing complaints. Police issue tickets to drivers who pass stopped school buses.

In New York State, it is illegal to pass a bus when its red lights are flashing. When drivers see the red lights flashing, they must come to a complete stop at least 20 feet away from the bus so that the bus driver can pick up or discharge students. This rule applies even when a bus has its red lights flashing in a parking lot, on school grounds, on a multi-lane highway or on the opposite side of a divided highway. Drivers must stop, whether they are approaching the bus from the front or the rear. When the red lights stop flashing or when the bus driver signals, drivers may resume driving. Drivers must yield to flashing yellow lights on a bus, slow down and be prepared to stop. For more information, visit <https://trafficsafety.ny.gov/operation-safe-stop>.

College Acceptances

We are pleased to announce that Abby Bubb was accepted to St. John Fisher College with a Presidential Scholarship; Julia Buck was accepted to Alfred State College of Technology with a \$3,000 scholarship; Kasey DeFrank was accepted to Niagara University, Keuka College, Elmira College, St. John Fisher College and Alfred University; Hope Diaz was accepted to Genesee Community College (GCC); Rachael Howard was accepted to GCC; Allison Lyndaker was accepted to the University at Buffalo; Shashona MacPhee was accepted to SUNY Brockport, Buffalo State College and Russell Sage College; and Allison Trowbridge was accepted to GCC. Congratulations!

We'd also like to announce that Callie Updike received a \$10,000 scholarship from the Horatio Alger Association. Congratulations, Callie!

Edwards Enlists in Marines

Connor Edwards was accepted for enlistment in the Delayed Entry Program of the United States Marine Corps. He is officially a Poolee until he arrives at Parris Island in the fall of 2021 to enter boot camp as a Recruit, and then he will be on the pathway to earning the title of United States Marine. Congratulations, Connor!



Students Engage in Activities While Reading "The Alchemist"

by *Melanie Richards, English Teacher*

Students in Melanie Richards' ninth grade class read the novel "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. The novel takes place in Andalusia, Spain, so students sampled authentic Spanish foods as part of their introduction to the book.



For a culminating activity, students created dream catchers to follow the theme of the novel, which was "follow your dreams." Students enjoyed the food and hands-on activity. A special thank you to Lisa Osur and Jodi Foster from the MS/HS Library for helping the class with both lessons.

Rochester Area Colleges Videos

Colleges that make up the Rochester Area Colleges (RAC) group have collaborated and created videos about each school. These videos contain details on each school, including visit opportunities, application and scholarship information, and more information that is important for high school seniors to know. The RAC normally visits high schools in the fall to meet with students in-person and answer their questions, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, this video series was created instead. Visit <http://www.rochesterareacolleges.org/members> to find out more about schools your student may be interested in attending next fall.

Studio Art Class Receives Civil Rights Lesson

by Brandi Zavitz, MS/HS Art Teacher

Every March, I do a unit around Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to create social awareness of acceptance. Students began by picking a vocabulary word from a basket. These words include: freedom, democracy, equality, acceptance, peace, patriotism, civil rights and education.

In the first lesson, students bring to class three things that represent the word they picked. They can select poems, quotes, photos, song lyrics, book text and symbols. It gets them really thinking about the word. Next, they create a Microsoft® Word document with as many things they can think of to represent their word.

When they come to their following class, several students are randomly chosen to go to the back of the room. The other students are told not to look at or talk to the students in the back of the room. Candy was given to those students in the front of the room, but not to the students in



the back of the room. A discussion of the Word documents was held for about 15 minutes. Then, students in the back of the room are asked how they felt about being singled out, and excluded from the discussion and receiving candy. This introduces students to the lesson on Civil Rights and the link to all the vocabulary words they chose. As they leave this class, they choose a number from 1-3.

When students come to the next class, they sit at the table labeled with the number they chose at the last class. Some of the students were not happy with their fellow group members. They tried to switch out to another group, with some saying they don't want to work in a group at all. This is the point of this lesson. Students present their Word documents to their groups and decide which word they will use to create a mural.

Students learn about composition, and they begin designing their murals as a group. This becomes a learning experience for all.

Once the murals are complete, we critique them in class. The main focus is discussing the pros and cons of working in a group. We talk about how all the vocabulary words they chose were linked, and when we work in a group, we assume roles. They were given a self-reflection paper to document their thinking about the roles they played in their groups and how the roles affect each group. They document the change their roles may have had from start to finish on their groups. They speculate on how they could have done things differently and how the roles they played in the groups could be a reflection on society. Students learned a lot about themselves and others. Many learned how to accept others' ideas, and that by working together, you can accomplish so much more.

The finished projects are displayed in the glass cases in the MS/HS Foyer.



Portfolio Students Create Music Mural for Band Room

by Brandi Zavitz, MS/HS Art Teacher



This year, Music Teacher Zach Busch presented a unique opportunity to Brandi Zavitz's Portfolio Art students. He asked if they would be willing to paint a band

mural on the Band Room wall. Students were excited to get started on an art project outside of the classroom.

Students first explored the concept of public art. They were given information about several artists, and the class viewed murals created by those artists. Many students remembered fieldtrips the

Art Department had taken to Rochester, where they toured the WALLTHERAPY murals located in and around the city, and learned about their creation.

They next reviewed the compositional elements involved in creating a design composition. Busch suggested several elements that he wanted incorporated into the mural to give students a starting point.

Each student then created a design. Remote learners and in-school students were all involved in the process. After a month of working on designs, all students participated in a group final critique. It was impressive to hear students' input and enthusiasm as they critiqued their peers' designs.

Finally, the class drew and painted the design on the Band Room wall. Students worked in the Band Room every first period until the mural was completed. Students learned a lot and gained some real-world experience from the whole process.

There is room on the mural for graduating seniors to add a musical note each year to mark their time in the music program at Holley.

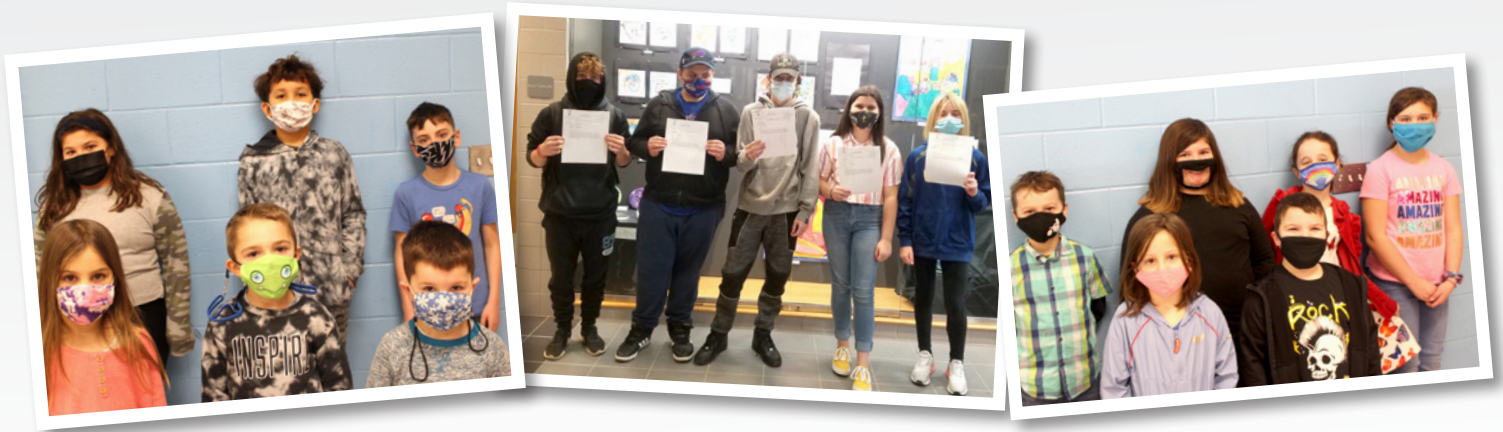


Students of the Month for December, January and February

Holley Central Schools recognizes Students of the Month in grades Pre-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. All cohorts of students are included in the nominations. At the ES, each student receives a certificate with their photo on it and the nomination from their teacher written on it. Photos of the elementary students are displayed in the hallway near the ES Library. MS/HS Red and White Hawks receive a certificate, nomination form and snack voucher. When they assemble in the MS/HS Foyer for a group photo, their nominations are read aloud and photos are later displayed in the Music Department hallway. MS/HS Silver Hawks receive a certificate, nomination form and coupon for a free treat that is hand-delivered by Matt Hennard or Kristina Tese.

Once each month, students of the month from grades Pre-K-6 have breakfast together as the Red Hawks or White Hawks cohort with the principals in the Elementary Café. Proper social distancing procedures are followed at these breakfasts, including the use of transparent dividers at tables so that students may safely eat together in small groups. Breakfast is supplied by Food Service Director Vickie Scroger and her cafeteria staff.

Photos of Students of the Month are on our district Facebook page: www.facebook.com/holleycsd/. For a complete list of students who were nominated for Student of the Month, visit www.holleycsd.org/StudentsoftheMonth.aspx.



PARP Program Persists for ES Readers This Year

Holley Elementary School students participated once again in the Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) program this winter. They read books with a partner for three weeks, and names were drawn from each cohort weekly to determine the winners of McDonald's gift cards.

Here is a list of winners selected for the gift cards: Kellan Farrell, Gianna DeFilipps, Rocco Pellegrino, Arianna Rivera, Robert Weit, Mallorie Laird, Jamey West, Finn Barhydt, Helena Reed, Khloe Leone, Stephen Fittos, Trent Klatt, Mackenzie Niles, Lily Neff, Nora Restivo, Lilly West, Liam Embury, Milo Cappotelli, Maleighia Sargent, Audrey Blake, Dylan Meyers, Jackson Spencer, Ariya Lusk, Jack Snook, Makenna Seaward, Grace Cater, Abigail Reed, Caiden Murray, Lilly Geringer, Sophiia Boychuk, Ryan Seaward, Exzavier Pellegrino, Sophia McCormack, Averie Johnson, Madilyn Gearing, Annabel Buzard, Isaiah Wheelock, Isaac Bartlett, Sawyer Schutz, Gideon Sugar, Alexander Fleisch, Brianna Pellegrino, Turrion Nixon, Aidan Kelley, Desiree McCormack and Ezekiel Christakes.

The winners will participate in a culminating event to celebrate their reading accomplishments by the end of the year. Congratulations to all who participated in PARP this year!





Superintendent of Schools

Brian Bartalo

Board of Education

Robin Silvis, President
Anne Winkley, Vice President
Melissa Ierlan
Andrea Newman
Mark Porter
Anne Smith

Editor

Beth Nash, 585-349-9028
bnash@monroe2boces.org

Layout & Design

Lisa Constantine

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Mission Statement

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.

HOLLEY STRONG



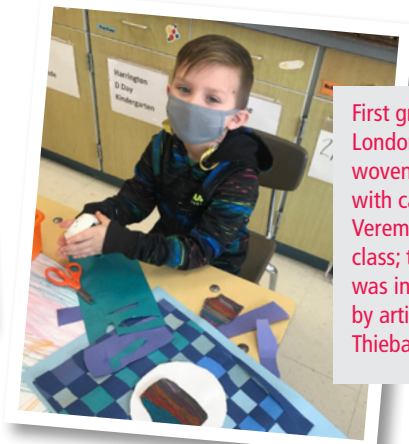
Kindergarten students Gabriella Green and Oakley Pogel stand in front of artwork they made in Katie Veremeychik's art class that was inspired by artist Jackson Pollock.



Pre-K students in Amie Callen's and Alexa Downey's class had visits from a variety of community helpers within the district. They read stories and explained their jobs. They were a big hit!



With the return to school in-person four days a week, kindergartners in Nicole Ohler's class get used to sitting in new seats, using dividers and participating in full class activities together.



First grader Eli London works on a woven place setting with cake in Katie Veremeychik's art class; the project was inspired by artist Wayne Thiebaud.