



The E-Bridge

Grand Island CSD, May 2023

Greetings!

Welcome to the second edition of The E-Bridge, an extra electronic supplement to the Grand Island Central School District's print edition of The Bridge newsletter.

If you have ideas for a future edition of The E-Bridge, send them to larryaustin@gicsd.org.

Check your mailbox for your four-page budget newsletter print edition of The Bridge.

Transportation: Operation Safe Stop



District, law enforcement drive home safety message

Law enforcement agencies on the Island helped drive home a message to the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus is dangerous and illegal.

On April 27, the Grand Island Central School District Transportation Department took part in the statewide Operation Safe Stop event, a traffic safety initiative to educate and enforce traffic laws related to busing.

Operation Safe Stop is a combined effort of law enforcement agencies, school personnel, district transportation departments, and traffic safety organizations across the state.

Police vehicles followed GICSD buses during the morning and afternoon bus runs, and GICSD Transportation Supervisor Theresa Alizadeh reported that two motorists received tickets for passing GICSD school buses during the Island's Operation Safe Stop.

According to the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, an estimated 50,000 motor vehicles illegally pass New York State school buses every day. It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus when its red lights are flashing. (Flashing lights mean the bus is picking up or discharging students.) Vehicles must stop when approaching the school bus from the front or overtaking it from the rear and stop for flashing red lights even on divided and multilane highways and on school grounds.

The GICSD joined local law enforcement and the Town of Grand Island's Traffic Safety Advisory Board to participate in this year's operation. In a letter to law enforcement agencies, Alizadeh said, "We have always appreciated that your department has been an integral part of our Operation Safe Stop plan of action."

Pictured on the morning of Operation Safe Stop at the Jack Burns Transportation Center on Baseline Road are GICSD Transportation Department personnel along with New York State Trooper Andrew Stanbro, Grand Island Police Department officer Troy Livesay, and GICSD school resource officers Rachel Stanbro and Mike Paternostro.

Health & Wellness Fair

The Grand Island Central School District's Wellness Committee brought back the Health & Wellness Fair on April 19.

The Health & Wellness Fair is designed to promote physical, mental and emotional health for families. Visitors to the fair, held at Grand Island High School, enjoyed activities that included cardio drumming, yoga, lacrosse, chess, and dance, to name a few, and met vendors offering nutrition, hybrid defense, fitness, and chiropractic information.

Members of the committee that organized, planned, and facilitated the fair include Christopher DeMarco, Adam Buffomante, Kristen Wegrzyn, Amanda Martinez, Sarah Coburn, Jen Chowske, Beth Huffnagle, Bobby Ross, Patrick Smith, Mike Antonelli, and Sherry Steffans.



Soma Cura held a mini-class in yoga in the upstairs fitness room of the high school.



Grand Island girls varsity lacrosse players helped children learn about their sport.



Vendors of nutritional and physical health disciplines lined the Viking Mall of Grand Island High School during the fair.

Grand Island High School

Wear Your College Colors to School Day

May 1 was the national declaration day for students heading off to college in the fall. Grand Island High School seniors repped their college colors, and teachers and staff did likewise in support of the students and alma mater.





Alumni



6 honored at Distinguished Alumni Ceremony

After a four-year hiatus, the Grand Island Distinguished Alumni Committee honored six Grand Island High School graduates at the Distinguished Alumni Ceremony on April 14.

Three of the award recipients attended the ceremony in person in the high school Grand Viking

Theater and spoke to the GHS student body. Pictured above, from left: Bryan Castellani ('89); Dr. Mitch Nikolich ('77); and Jeff Stone ('76). Three more alumni, who were named during the pandemic, sent video speeches: Kelly Landen ('82); Dr. Christopher Hejmanowski ('90); Lois (Conn) Gibbs ('69).

The ceremony can be viewed via the school district's LocalLive feed at the following link:
<https://events.locallive.tv/events/106305>.



Dr. Mitch Nikolich



Bryan Castellani



Jeff Stone

Fine Arts/Performing Arts

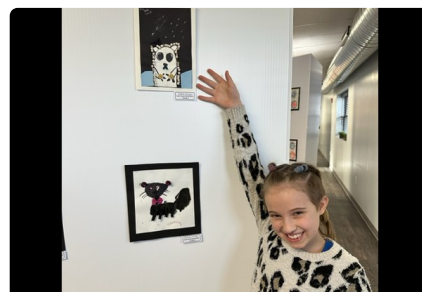
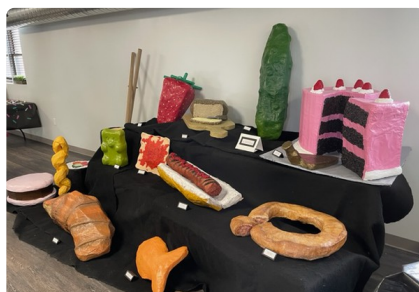
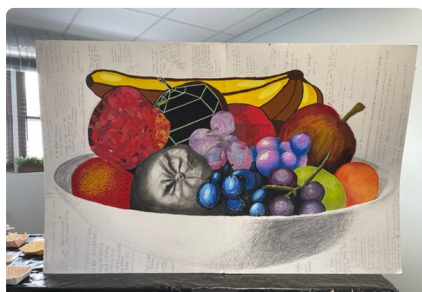
YAMFest 'one for the books'

March was National Youth Art Month and concluded with the Island's first-ever YAMFest at the Grand Island Community Center in Nike Base Park on Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25.

The theme of YAMfest was: "Art that nourishes us." Students from Grand Island High School's Art Department joined in the celebration by presenting an art showing in the town's Community Center, and the town's Recreation Department hosted art activities in the Studio @ Nike Base Park.

The Island YAMFest was a joint venture between the Town of Grand Island Recreation Department and the GICSD K-12 Art Department, in line with YAM activities across the state through initiatives by the New York State Art Teachers Association and the Council for Art Education.

Sidway Elementary School teacher Matt Doherty said, "We had a tremendous turnout with some very proud parents, artists, and teachers! Definitely one for the books!"



Accolades

Henneberger, Murray, Fitzpatrick honored

Three employees of the Grand Island Central School District have been honored for excellence in service of education.

Anne Henneberger and **Mike Murray** were honored at the annual WNYESC Awards of Excellence Banquet on April 26 at the Creekside Banquet Hall on Union Road in Cheektowaga. Henneberger received the 2023 WNY Educational Service Council Award of Excellence for Support Services, and Murray received the 2023 WNY Educational Service Council Award of Excellence for Teaching.

John Fitzpatrick has been named Administrator of the Year by the Region 12 SAANYS Executive Committee. He will be recognized at this year's awards dinner to be held May 11 at Creekside Banquet Hall.



Anne Henneberger

Henneberger's nomination for the award said she "goes above and beyond by writing inspirational quotes for the teachers, staff, and administrators she works with on a daily basis." An employee of the district for 23 years currently working as a cleaner at Sidway Elementary, Henneberger has developed a pen-pals program of writing letters and cards for students in the Life Skills classroom. She is "an incredible role



Mike Murray

Murray is a social studies teacher who began working at GICSD in 1994. His nomination said he "has positively influenced thousands of students and hundreds of faculty and staff. His teaching and coaching and volunteerism have been inspirational." Grand Island High School Principal Hillary Kretz-Harvey added Murray was awarded "for his commitment to kids, leadership, and excellence as a Teacher. Myerson's dream."



John Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick became principal of Veronica Connor Middle School in 2014 and since then "he has grown into an outstanding principal and an even greater educational leader," his award nomination said. "Mr. Fitzpatrick has led several initiatives that have resulted in a culture of caring in his school. His faculty and staff are committed to the overall wellness of their students, and, as a result of this focus, students are

model for our entire organization," her award nomination said.

committed to their own social-emotional and academic growth."

Knight named Sunrise Exchange Club Youth of the Year

Grand Island High School senior **Sydney Knight** has been named the Erie-Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club Youth of the Year for GIHS.

The Youth of the Year program, a project of the National Exchange Club, provides the Erie-Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club with the opportunity to honor outstanding students in the community who have exhibited excellence in academics and leadership. The program promotes good citizenship, a desire for greater scholastic achievement, and development of well-rounded personalities in the young adults of the community.



Knight was presented with her certificate of recognition and a \$400 scholarship at a meeting of the Exchange Club. She is pictured with GIHS school counselor Christina Kensy.

Calendar

- Friday, May 26, is a full school day (the print calendar has an error).
- The application deadline for the 2023-24 Grand Island Central School District UPK lottery is May 12 at 2 p.m. All are invited to attend the live lottery, which will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, in the Professional Development Room 137 of Grand Island High School, 1100 Ransom Road.

On the Horizon

- The next print issue of The Bridge is in the works.
- The Grand Island PTA Council will sponsor Meet the Candidates Night at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, in the Professional Development Room of Grand Island High School, 1100 Ransom Road.

Island media

Watch and listen to newscasts and podcasts from the Grand Island Central School District. The district's LocalLive connection offers a video feed of events in the Grand Viking Theater and at Masters Field.





VikingVisionNews 5-5-2023 #697

Happy Cinco de Mayo as Juniors Audi Satterlee, Jenna Gorton, and Mariella DiCarlo send you to the weekend with a reminder for the Senior Class of 2023 that Senior Prom and Senior Class Day tickets are on sale now in Room 187, plus don't miss some of the fundraisers going on this weekend and in the coming weeks, and Senior Reagan Fast returns with another positive and thought-provoking Viking Values Message!!

schooltube.com



Grand Island Schools - Using Floreo Virtual Reality to Improve Life Skills - Inspiring Viking Values

In this episode we interviewed Mr. Brett Finnan, a Behavioral Specialist in our school District. Brett discussed his use of Floreo technology which is a learning app that uses virtual reality as a method for teaching science-based social and comm...

buzzsprout.com



Kaegebein Elementary 2023 Talent Show 3-2-2023

Students in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades at William Kaegebein Elementary School in Grand Island, NY, perform a plethora of acts in the wildly entertaining 2023 Kaegebein Elementary Talent Show, filmed on Thursday March 2nd, 2023 in the Kaegebein Auditorium.

schooltube.com



LocalLive Networks: Grand Island Senior High School - 2023 VCMS Talent Show

Grand Island Senior High School - 2023 VCMS Talent Show

events.locallive.tv



NHL on Twitter: "The @BuffaloSabres paying homage to some local high school teams with appropriate pregame fits. pic.twitter.com/o7aoJHMOvd / Twitter"

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twitter.com



The Community Relations Desk

