

The Eagle Tribune



www.mcgrawschools.org

District Office 836-3636

Volume 16 Issue 4



*CLASS of 2017 Valedictorian
Alexandrea Duff*



*CLASS of 2017 Salutatorian
Hanna Bordwell*



McGraw Class of 2017

Class of 2017

Anthony J. Alberts - 3	Employment
Meghan N. Benjamin	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Criminal Justice
Bridgette Marie Bice	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Nursing
Hanna Mae Bordwell - 1, 2, 4	College of Charleston, Business Administration
Dylan J. Bridger - 2	Keuka College, Criminal Justice
Lynesie L. Busby-VanCise - 2	Keuka College, Psychology
Joshua M. Card - 1, 4	Keuka College, Business Management
Kelsey Lynn Clark	Keuka College, Criminology
Lucas A. Cortez	Employment
Jordan Bailey Cowen - 2	Mansfield University, Criminal Justice
Dakota L. Davidson	Employment
Damion Deckard	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Photography
Alexandrea Lynn Duff - 1, 4	Keuka College, Occupational Therapy
Christopher Joseph Dwyer	Tompkins Cortland CC, Communications and Media Arts
Daniel P. Hammond - 1, 4	Clarkson University, Mechanical Engineering
Kati Elizabeth Hammond - 1, 2	Keuka College, Business Management
Dustin Hewlett	Employment
Timothy J. Horner	Employment
Maura Kelly	Finger Lakes School of Massage, Massage Therapy
Larissa Noelle Larsen	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Business Administration
Maximilian Joseph Marie Lickona - 1	SUNY Geneseo, Physics
Devon S. Livermore	Employment
Kayli June Marshall	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Culinary Arts
Audrey May	Corning CC, Nursing
Patrick Ian McGuinness	Onondaga CC, Psychology
Anthony J. Mitchell	Employment
Austin Ryan Nauseef - 4	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Early Childhood Education
Kassandra Mae Neff - 1, 4	LeMoyne College, Biology
Brett Michael Potter	Employment
Allysen MarLeah Rainbow - 4	Alfred State, Radiologic Technology
Alexis Elizabeth Roy - 3	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Nursing
David George Smith	Onondaga CC, Liberal Arts
Eric Grayson Smith - 3	Employment
Erik R. Smith - 4	SUNY Adirondack CC, Hospitality & Tourism
Haley Jean Smith - 4	Employment
Rachel A. Todd - 1, 4	Herkimer County CC, Forensic Science
Carter Shane Towsley	Onondaga CC, Nursing
Devon B. Tuttle - 2	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Liberal Arts
Travis J. Walker	Tompkins-Cortland CC, Liberal Arts
Spencer Collin Welsh - 4	Tompkins Cortland CC, Liberal Arts
Logan J. Whible	Employment
Skylar Victoria White - 2	Keuka College, Social Work
Jordan Taylor Young - 2, 4	SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Nursing

Key:

- 1-National Honor Society – White Sashes & Gold Tassels/Cords
- 2-Business & Marketing Honor Society – Royal Blue & Silver Cords
- 3-National Technical Honor Society – Purple Cords
- 4-Advanced Regents Diploma – Maroon & White Cords

McGraw Central School District Attracts Impressive Number of Homegrown Leaders

On Friday, June 23, 44 seniors at McGraw Central School District (MCSD) will earn their diplomas during a graduation ceremony held on the front lawn of the high school.

"Graduation has always been there," said MCSD Cafeteria Manager Greg Bilodeau. "It's tradition." Bilodeau is a Class of 1974 McGraw Eagle, and one of five McGraw alumni in leadership positions at the school district.

"It's a unique situation," said MCSD Superintendent Melinda McCool. "Having five of eight administrative roles filled by McGraw alumni shows we are invested in our community. We all have a common goal: To make the community a better place. We want to make a difference for our future generations, and we are able to do so by coming to work every day."

Superintendent McCool was valedictorian of the Class of 1984.

The 2016-2017 school year was McCool's first as superintendent for the district of 550 students. Before coming home to McGraw, she taught in the Homer Central School District for 14 years, and then served as an elementary school principal in the Hunter Tannersville Central School for 10 years.

"It was a dream come true to come home," said McCool. "My family is here. My roots are here. I'm thrilled to be back."

McCool says her first year at the helm of her alma mater has gone very well, thanks in part to her leadership team.

"I've experienced incredible support -- it already feels like we're family. Everything has felt so natural to be here."

Leading with heart

High School Principal Mark Dimorier has been with the district for nearly 20 years. A proud member of the Class of 1989, Dimorier believes, "Home is where the heart is." Serving as the principal for the past 14 years, Dimorier offers all new employees, especially those who are not McGraw alumni, the same advice: "Be careful. This place will draw you in and you'll never leave."

And it seems to be true. MCSD faculty and staff rarely leave the district, with the exception of retirement.

"When people come, they stay," said Dimorier.

Superintendent McCool agrees. "The No. 1 reason our district is so fantastic is our students. Additionally, the leadership we provide and the relationships we have with our students' family members are both critical to our success. When a situation arises, Mark deals with it immediately, and has the parents' support."

When a controversial situation took place during the 2016-2017 school year, a parent commented on social media, "I trust whatever Mark and Melinda do." McCool says that was the best compliment she could have received because it showcased the strong relationships and level of trust she and her team have with their families.

"To have the respect and trust of our parents and community is powerful," said McCool. "It's because they know us. They knew us when we attended school, and they know our family."

"The relationships make my job so much easier," said Dimorier. "Parents and guardians respect my decisions and know I'm acting in the best interest of their kids, and they know I care. That's everything."

Faculty and staff at MCSD do care. They want to help students strive to succeed and grow.



From left to right: Mr. Mark Dimorier, High School Principal; Mr. Tom McCall, Facilities & Transportation Director; Superintendent Melinda McCool; Mr. Greg Bilodeau, Cafeteria Manager; and Mr. Troy Bilodeau, Business Administrator.

News from the Guidance Department

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!!

Be sure to contact TC-3 to obtain your TC-3 transcript to transfer and /or use these credits toward the college degrees you pursue in the future. Go to www.tc3.edu/CollegeNow

Few things left to do:

-Inform the Guidance office of where you will attend college to ensure your final official high school transcript is received by that college.

-Plan to participate in Alumni Day in January 2018!! Invitations are mailed to your current addresses in December so be sure to let the Guidance Office know if your address changes.

-If you are interested in the Excelsior Scholarship go to www.hesc.ny.gov. The deadline to apply is July 21, 2017. If you need assistance please don't hesitate to call the Guidance Office.

Wishing you good health, happiness, and success!!

Fall 2017

Seniors: Class of 2018

This is a great time to look at different colleges, what the requirements are to attend, and prepare to take or retake the SAT/ACT. Visit potential colleges and check college websites. There will be a Senior Parent Night on Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. to review the college application process.

Juniors: Class of 2019

The PSAT will be given Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at McGraw High School. Juniors are encouraged to take the PSAT to practice for the college entrance exam, the SAT Reasoning Test. The PSAT helps students become familiar with the SAT questions, obtain the experience of taking a timed test, and have the opportunity to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) competitions for college scholarships. The test fee is \$16.00 and after taking the PSAT students will have the opportunity with their results to research colleges, majors, and careers as well as take free practice SAT exams. **Students with disabilities need to contact the Guidance Office immediately to register and apply for approval to use accommodations during testing.** All other registration for the PSAT will be in September through the Guidance Office and materials will be distributed at that time. All Juniors are encouraged to take the PSAT. To find out more about the PSAT and the SAT visit www.collegeboard.com and practice through khanacademy.org/sat.

For All Students:

Summer is a great time to think about what you might like to do after high school.

Job Shadow someone to see a day in their career.

Volunteer and provide a service to others! Many scholarships require some volunteering, this always looks great on a resume and you could get a terrific college reference out of the experience.

Here is a list of college/career related activities to help you discover ideas for your future!

www.nycareerzone.org Established by the NY Department of Labor this website offers a career interest inventory, career task search, and other links to help you research different careers.

www.collegeboard.com Prepare for the PSAT and SAT, conduct scholarship and college searches.

www.petersons.com A college search engine helps you to learn about different college majors and the colleges or technical schools which offer them.

www.fastweb.com One of many scholarship search engines.

When researching scholarships always remember scholarships are meant to be free. Never pay toward finding out or applying for a scholarship.

Access to College Education (A.C.E.) for incoming 9th-12th Graders

Our school is participating in a free and exciting program called **A.C.E. - Access to College Education**. This program is designed to offer activities and workshops to high school students and their parents to help prepare for enrollment in college. The activities include workshops on study skills, career exploration, financial aid, college life, college application process, college visitations, as well as social activities. Some of the A.C.E. events are school field trips while others are offered at night or on the weekend so parents are able to attend.

Summer programs are available to increase writing skills, study skills, college comparisons, and a visit to Coltivare, the teaching restaurant to learn the restaurant business, and sustainable agriculture.

Check out the website at www.cortland.edu/ace and then call the Guidance Office at 836-3610 to sign up. Once you are a member, the A.C.E. sends the information directly to you.

2017-18 Schedules

Schedules will be mailed home in late August. Please notify the Guidance Office if your address changes. August 29th and 30th are the dates you can make appointments to review possible schedule changes with your counselor. Call 836-3610 to make an appointment.

Have a fun and safe summer!!

Music Department Notes

With various rehearsals, appearances, concerts, festivals, and planning for the Annual Music Awards, all those involved with the McGraw Music Department have been kept extremely busy. Below are just a few highlights of what have transpired.

Cortland Repertory Theatre Pavilion Awards

McGraw High School's musical production of *Into the Woods* received CRT Pavilion Award nominations in the following categories:

- Outstanding Musical Production
- Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Musical
- Leading Actor in a Musical (River Milsapp – Baker)
- Leading Actress in a Musical (Kassandra Neff – Baker's Wife)
- Supporting Actor in a Musical (Maximilian Lickona – Cinderella's Prince/Wolf)
- Featured Actor in a Musical (Wesley Baker – Rapunzel's Prince)
- Featured Actor in a Musical (Jerred Stedwell – Mysterious Man)
- "Rising Star" – for middle school students (Hannah Fitzgerald – Granny)

The awards ceremony was held on Sunday, June 11th at the Little York Pavilion. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew!

Senior Recognition

Thank you to the following graduating seniors for their service to the music department: Kelsey Clark, Maximilian Lickona, and Kassandra Neff

Scholar Musicians

The following students qualified as 2016-2017 scholar musicians by being a member of the band and/or chorus and achieving high honor role for the first three marking periods: Blake Bergey, Jeanne Beveridge, Kelsey Clark, Mackenzie Cobb, Paige Euson, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Hannah Fitzgerald, Domonic Guilini, Reagan Hillman, Rayevyn Hodgson, Marissa Jenney, Gabriel Kahle, Kaylee Lang, Michael Levitskiy, Maximilian Lickona, Joyce Lin, Neka Long, Tehya Long, Caitlin Luzum, Abigail Morse, Kassandra Neff, Lyndsie Neville, Lena Pitcher, Joseph Ryan, David Simmonds, Paige Simmonds, Trinity Tanudjaja, Sarah Thornton, Lindsey Watrous, and Karissa Wilbur

Area All-State

Area All-State Festivals are sponsored by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). Selection into these performing ensembles is based on scores received at NYSSMA Solo Festivals held throughout the state each spring. The counties of Broome, Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Tioga, and Tompkins make up our Area All-State zone.

The Junior Area All-State Festival includes students in grades seven through nine and was held on November 4th and 5th at Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School. The Senior Area All-State Festival includes students in grades ten through twelve and was held on February 3rd and 4th at Ithaca High School. The following McGraw students were accepted:

Junior High School Chorus: Paris Allington, Paige Euson, Matthew Heath, Brok Montesano, Ashley Neff, Paige Simmonds, Ahlexis Tetreault, and Lindsey Watrous

Senior High School Chorus: Angel Davis, Marissa Jenney, River Milsapp, and Trinity Tanudjaja

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CONGRATULATIONS



Mrs. Alison Bonawitz is retiring after 32 years. Some of her family members are McGraw alumni and she made them proud when she began her tenure here. Her fondest memories include the year seven of her students scored a 100 on the Algebra Regents, a Secret Santa exchange when the students secretly chipped in for a gift certificate for her, a January celebration when all the students passed the Math A Regents, and most especially when the Class of 2010, Mr. Brownell and Mr. Tei walked to the podium at her sister's funeral to perform "For Good" from *Wicked*. Mrs. Bonawitz (some will remember her as Miss Ferris) plans to be a stay-at-home beagle Mom and a "Nana to the rescue" if her grandchildren need day-care. She laughingly says her husband believes she is going to learn to use the snowblower and riding lawn mower.



Mrs. Jenny Tucker is retiring after 30 years of teaching. Next year will find her enjoying family at her new home in North Carolina, minutes from Topsail Beach. She looks forward to decorating with ocean colors, finding sea glass on the beach, relaxing on Sunday nights, and vacationing in Alaska. Among the many memories of her teaching years are Senior Seminar class, NYC trips, Homecoming and the song "Sweet Caroline", proms, the first days of school, students wearing the pregnancy suit, serving moose meatballs, and teaching kids whose parents she taught. Mrs. Tucker says she has developed wonderful friendships here. She keeps thinking of the song, "You're Gonna Miss This!" Her dream retirement job is to design and decorate homes with Joanna Gaines of HGTV's *Fixer Upper* or to wear a hoop skirt and be a tour guide at the nearby historical sweet potato and peanut plantation.



Mrs. Jan Anderson is retiring after 14 years in the district. She has enjoyed working with students and teachers over the years at the elementary school. A favorite event was the Kindergarten Zoo Trip. Mrs. Anderson also enjoyed when her husband, Bill, gave a yearly presentation to the students at "Apple School." After her retirement, the Andersons plan to travel throughout the United States. It has been their dream to do this and Mrs. Anderson is excited to begin their adventures! Eventually they will settle in New Market, Virginia to be near Mrs. Anderson's mother.

THANK YOU

Mrs. Barbara Closson is leaving the Board of Education after 9 years of service. Her future plans include "much more travel, and now that Lou is also retired, he can join me. I am in my 4th year with the Cortland County Hospice Foundation, this year as president. I also plan to continue the work on my house. I usually have at least one project going on at a time. I have joined a hiking group and now I will be able to join more of their weekly hikes. Most of all my plans include spending more time with family and friends. There is never a shortage of things to do."

Mrs. Cindy Buerkle is leaving the Board of Education after 6 years of service. She says, "I will start a new position at DCMO BOCES as their School Library System Director on July 5th while finishing my CAS in Administration at SUNY Stony Brook. We will take trips to visit Tyson who is living in Colorado, Laura in Connecticut, and Wyatt who will soon be living in New York City. We will continue to pursue our outdoor adventures. I would like to serve on the school board again when I retire when I can dedicate the time."

Music ... continued

All-County

All-County Festivals are sponsored by the Cortland County Music Teachers Association. The Middle and High School Chorus Festival was held on January 13th and 14th at Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School, and the Elementary School Band and High School Jazz Band Festival was held on February 10th at Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School. The following McGraw students participated:

Middle School Chorus: Julia Baker, Madison Boyer, Remi Chorley, Elizabeth Connelly, McKenzie Fuller, Matthew Heath, Caleb Knickerbocker, Nolan Knickerbocker, Kaylee Lang, Neka Long, Damian Marks, Hailey McCall, Brok Montesano, Abigail Morse, Joseph Ryan, Paige Simmonds, Rachel Stone, Lindsey Watrous, and Yasmine Willis

High School Chorus: Donovan Avery, Wesley Baker, Jeanne Beveridge, Angel Davis, Paige Euson, Cassandra Hinkle, Larissa Little, Brandon Mayr, Jr., River Milsapp, Ashley Neff, Kassandra Neff, Trinity Tanudjaja, Ahlexis Tetreault, and Nicole Williams

Elementary School Band: Gabriel Kahle and Owen Thomas

High School Jazz Band: Marissa Jenney

Solo Festival

The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo and Ensemble Festival was held on May 5th and 6th at Newfield Central School. The following McGraw students performed: Paris Allington (voice), Donovan Avery (voice), Wesley Baker (voice), Blake Bergey (voice), Jeanne Beveridge (voice), Angel Davis (voice), Paige Euson (voice), Hannah Fitzgerald (voice), McKenzie Fuller (voice), Matthew Heath (voice), Marissa Jenney (voice), Gabriel Kahle (flute), Kaylee Lang (voice), Neka Long (voice), Caitlin Luzum (voice), Damian Marks (voice), Hailey McCall (voice), River Milsapp (voice), Brok Montesano (snare drum and voice), Ashley Neff (voice), Lyndsie Neville (voice), Jenna Nye (voice), Jenelle Oot (voice), Paige Simmonds (voice), Rachel Stone (voice), Trinity Tanudjaja (voice), Ahlexis Tetreault (voice), Owen Thomas (trumpet), and Lindsey Watrous (voice)

Students for the Environment



On May 4th, four students from McGraw's High School environmental club, Students for the Environment, participated in a day long environmental competition, the Cortland County Envirothon at Camp Owahta. Our students came in 2nd place for their oral presentation, which was based on an agricultural stewardship plan devised for a hypothetical dairy farm. Students also competed with other schools based on the completion of written exams on aquatics, forestry, current issues, soils, and wildlife. This team was advised by Nicole Lener.

Pictured : Allysen Rainbow, Haley Smith, Jeanne Beveridge, Trinity Tanudjaja

Thank you to McNeil & Company

for hosting a company tour and presentations for our

Math & Financial/INVEST Business Students



Varsity Softball 2017

The season started out a little rough. There were some up and downs during the season, but they stuck with it and developed as a team. They struggled with hitting this year, however the girls worked hard and started winning games. They went 4-10 and had so much growth! This year's team was a young team with only 3 seniors: Captain, Lyesie Busby-VanCise; Kelsey Clark; and Captain, Jordan Young. These girls will be missed next year. The two eighth grade pitchers learned a lot this season and really worked out the bugs and started pitching much better. All the girls worked very hard and are looking forward to continuing to develop the softball program.



2017 Golf Team

This year the Golf team won the CCL for the 4th straight year with an 8 and 1 record. The team consisted of seventeen students from 7th to 12th grade. The golf team was led by the four seniors Erik Smith, Eric (Ric) Smith, Chris Dwyer, and Brett Potter. Erik Smith qualified for sectionals shooting two rounds of golf under 40; one home and one away. He then shot a 78 at Pompey Club which advanced him to the state qualifier at Seven Oaks at Colgate University. Ric, Chris, and Brett embodied the spirit of the game trying to improve every round, each one trying to achieve his personal best this year. The seniors provided the team with



countless stories and entertainment and will be missed next year. The team as a whole was able to improve their combined score by 30 strokes when compared to their first match and the future looks bright for the golf program. We have several excited underclassmen that are making improvements to their golf swing. Some underclassmen are signing up for summer golf programs at Elm Tree Golf Course and Willowbrook Golf Course.

Varsity Baseball 2017

The Varsity Baseball team completed a very up and down season in 2017. The team finished 8-9 and 4-6 in the CCL, good for 4th place. Some of the highlights of the season included a 10-0 win over Onondaga (Class C) and a 10-3 victory over Brookfield (CCL Champs). It was very clear that this team could compete with anyone on any given day. However, sometimes lack of experience and youth, didn't allow the team to reach the high expectations I had at the start of the season. Several players were recognized by the league for their outstanding play this season.



Summer School & Feeding Program Information

Summer is here... but our learning always continues! The McGraw Summer School Program will take place July 10th through August 4th from 8:00 AM—12:00 PM for incoming Kindergarteners through our exiting 5th graders at the Elementary School. Breakfast and lunch will be included through the summer feeding program.

The Elementary School will also be an official summer feeding site for any children in the local area ages 18 and under. The Summer Feeding Program will be open Monday, July 10th through Friday, August 4th. Breakfast will be served from 8:00—9:00 AM and lunch will be served from 11:00 AM—12:00 PM in the Elementary School cafeteria.

Some Fun Summer Learning Ideas....

Make sure you keep the learning going with different activities this summer. Some ideas might be to:

- Attend the Friday Summer Reading Programs at the McGraw Community Center sponsored by the Lamont Library
- Play traditional board games such as: Uno, Monopoly, Boggle, Scrabble, Yahtzee, Apples to Apples, etc.
- Visit a local zoo- there are many in the area: Burnet Park Zoo in Syracuse, Ross Park Zoo in Binghamton, or The Wild Animal Park in Chittenango
- Plan a mystery field trip to somewhere special and have the students keep a journal of their trip
- Try some fun fitness activities: hiking, swimming at the different local parks and pools, kayaking, etc.

Continue practicing the basic math facts- addition, subtraction, multiplication, and addition using flash cards or simple playing cards.

If your student enjoys computer time below are some suggested educational websites that we use here at school:

- PBS kids
- Mathblaster.com
- ABCMouse.com
- Learninggamesforkids.com
- Starfall.com
- Prodigygame.com

Leaders.....Continued from page 3

“McGraw is a small, tight-knit community,” said Tom McCall, facilities and transportation director, and valedictorian of the Class of 1996. “I know 500 of the 550 students in our district by name. When I’m driving bus, I call them by their name and ask them how they’re doing, or congratulate them on a recent success. This makes a difference and the students feel validated.”

Come home to McGraw

Tucked away in the southeast corner of the picturesque Finger Lakes region, McGraw offers residents a private, country-infused lifestyle, with city amenities nearby. Located in the center of New York just off Route 81, McGraw is approximately 45 miles from Binghamton and Syracuse, and 28 miles from Ithaca.

“McGraw is a gorgeous community just outside of the Seven Valleys of Cortland,” said McCool. “Our tax dollars are well spent to ensure our infrastructure, such as our waterways and bridges, remain well cared for. This is a great place for a new family to start their next chapter. We have plenty of land available for building and growth. The future is unwritten for the McGraw community.”

Despite a deeply-rooted community, McCool believes it’s a very welcoming place to relocate.

“You’ll never feel like an outsider,” said McCool. “It’s a wonderful place to be, and to grow, and to learn.”



Superintendent McCool proudly displays her McGraw CSD varsity jacket from 1984.

Small district, big opportunities

“We want our students to have access to the best opportunities possible,” said McCool.

She’s working with her team to create pathways to ensure students are successful. “I want to improve our technology offerings at McGraw in order to bring our students and curriculum into the 21st century.”

Beginning in September, kindergarteners will be keyboarding, and technology internships will be developed for high schoolers.

The district is also creating an electric piano lab to help enhance the elementary school’s music program. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will experience instruction on pianos during a portion of every music class.

Additionally, the 2017-2018 school year will launch the district’s first Pre-K program.

“We have a job to do: To serve the kids and our community – and we do whatever it takes to accomplish this,” said Troy Bilodeau, business administrator and member of the Class of 1997.

Five-hundred chairs will soon be set up in front of the high school. At least half of the community is expected to attend the graduation ceremony. It’s tradition.

To learn more about the McGraw Central School District, please go to www.mcgrawschools.org.

Environmental Club

Our High School environmental club, Students for the Environment, embarked on an overnight camping trip to Kingston, Ontario in May. Students started out the trip with a beach clean-up on Lake Ontario. Students filled multiple garbage bags with beach debris. This cleanup was preempted by a viewing of a new environmental documentary entitled, "A Plastic Ocean" on the Syracuse University campus. Students then toured the Thousand Islands on a two hour boat excursion. Canadian culture was explored as we crossed over into Canada via the Thousand Island Bridge. While in Kingston, students visited the Kingston farmers market and were able to tour the city. In conclusion, students took a ferry ride to Wolfe Island, the largest Island in the Thousand Islands before returning to the U.S. This trip was led by Faculty Advisor Nicole Lener. Jennifer Wrisley accompanied the group as a chaperone.



Students aboard the Uncle Sam Thousand Island Boat Tour pictured from left to right: Allysen Rainbow, Haley Smith, Trinity Tanudjaja, Jeanne Beveridge, Jerred Stedwell, Makenzi Whible, Tia Mabry

8th Graders Visit our Nation's Capital

On May 16-18 this year, the McGraw 8th grade class had the opportunity to visit our Nation's Capital. In the early morning hours of May 16, thirty-nine 8th graders and five chaperones, including Mr. Dimorier, boarded a coach bus and traveled six hours to Washington DC.

On the first day, we started at the Washington Monument where we marveled at the impressive size of one of the most recognizable landmarks in our country. Then we went to visit the Smithsonian museums; Air and Space, American History and Natural History. At the American History Smithsonian, students were incredibly excited to see some incredible exhibits including one on Japanese Internment, Civil Rights, as well as an exhibit featuring the inauguration gowns of the First Ladies, dating all the way back to Martha Washington! We even got to see the flag that inspired our National Anthem; the Star Spangled Banner! At the Museum



of Natural History, they explored exhibits on Ocean life, evolution, mummies and they even got to see the Hope Diamond. The weather was beautiful and the lines were short on our first day!

Our adventure continued the next morning when we boarded the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, or “Metro” train and took it to the Capitol Building. For many students, this experience was their favorite one of the trip. We had arranged a tour of the building with our congressional representative, Claudia Tenney’s office. We were all incredibly impressed at the grandness of the building with its statues and beautiful marble columns! What we loved even more was seeing the enormous famous paintings of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Victory at Saratoga, and the surrender at Yorktown by John Trumbull in Statuary Hall! They are all more than 12 feet tall and 18 feet wide! We were treated to special passes to watch the House of Representatives in session! We were able to view congressional representatives from Texas, Minnesota and Pennsylvania address the House on various political issues from the incredible viewing gallery level. It was awesome to see our government at work first hand. From the Capitol we made the long walk to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to view the White House! While it was difficult to get very close, it was still excellent to see this incredible piece of history where so many of our Nation’s important decisions have been made. We then visited the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center and



had lunch before our next stop- the National Zoo! Some highlights from the Zoo included seeing the pandas lounging around and eating bamboo, watching the sea lions, chimpanzees and orangutans. We had planned to see more monuments that night but the oppressive record-breaking heat in Washington rendered us useless and we opted to head back to the hotel to swim instead. The kids enjoyed cooling off and having dinner at Chick-Fil-A.

On day three, we woke up early and took the Metro into the city again, this time to wait in line for the opening of the National Archives. We were the first in line and were able to go right upstairs to the Rotunda and view the most important documents in our nation’s history: the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights. The students really loved seeing the documents in person. The Declaration is quite faded but they could still see John Hancock’s signature! Mrs. Goodwin’s cousin Devin, an archivist who works there, led us around giving us a tour of some of the exhibits and told us some interesting facts about the National Archives building, including the fact that it once had a moat around it to protect the documents!

From the Archives, we walked a couple of blocks to Ford's Theatre, site of the Lincoln Assassination. First we viewed a play at the theatre called "One Destiny" about the night of the assassination. From there we crossed the street to see the Peterson House where President Lincoln died following the assassination. We then viewed some exhibits at the Center for Educational Leadership about the aftermath and the hunt for the conspirators. From there we were treated to a Q&A with an actor from the play and some special programming from the Directors of Education at Ford's theatre. We did some document and primary source analysis about the African-Americans in the Civil War and Lincoln's role influence on that. The kids did an awesome job engaging in the materials and the people at Ford's were very impressed. After our Ford's Theatre experience we walked back across the National Mall to begin our monument tour.



We started at the World War Two Memorial where we marveled at the beautiful fountains and the huge columns depicting the European and Pacific theatres. From there we went to the Vietnam Wall.

We all agreed that it was a very powerful experience seeing the thousands and thousands of names displayed so that we wouldn't forget the sacrifices that these brave men and women made.

The final stop on our tour was the Lincoln Memorial. The students were in awe of this massive memorial to our 16th President. They were able to stand on the spot where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech during the 1963 March on Washington. We were able to talk about the enormous statue of Lincoln and how he is looking out over the Nation's Capital, poised to get up and try to finish the work that he started. It was a very poignant way to end our trip.

Mrs. Goodwin, the Middle School Class Advisor and Jr. High Social Studies teacher, would like to thank the district for their support of this endeavor, the parents who helped raise funds to make this an affordable trip for all, the chaperones, and the kids for being outstanding representatives of our school and community.

McGraw Elementary C.A.R.E.S.!

At the beginning of this school year our Elementary School began a new Character Education Program related to our Responsive Classroom training entitled "C.A.R.E.S." Each letter stands for the character trait listed below:

C - Cooperation
A - Assertion
R - Responsibility
E - Empathy
S - Self-Control

For the months of March and April we focused on our fourth trait: Empathy. At our "Friendly Friday Finale" we began a school wide thank you card for a local resident. He showed empathy to our walkers and kept the sidewalks clear all winter long. Congratulations to our students that were recognized for frequently showing "empathy" towards others.

April 2017



**Congratulations Good Citizens: Kasen V., Alex R., Brayden H., Andrew T.,
Casiana V., Foster E., Makari N., Timothy R., Sam M.,
Dominic L., Keira L., Allie W., Haleigh E., And Mrs. Prince**

Our focus for the months of May and June was on our last trait: Self-Control. Mrs. Frink's fourth grade class created a fun presentation that showed our students what Self-Control Is and Is not. Our local Cub Scouts began our assembly leading the school in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition, they presented a red bookshelf that they made for the school. The bookshelf is sitting in the front lobby of our school and has books on it for students to "borrow" and return. Feel free to take a book and return it when you are finished with it. Teachers are finishing up the school year by recognizing students that have regularly displayed all of these character traits throughout the year. Way to go to our "C.A.R.E.S" students!

May 2017



Congratulations Good Citizens: Christopher W., Tully W., Landon Z., Jenna M., Lucas J., Scott B., Mason G., Anthoni N., Natalie R., Hailee G., Caleb M., Kimberly H. Hannah W., and Mrs. Prince

Submitted by: Elementary Character Education Committee

5th Grade Career Day



On Thursday April 13, 2017 the 5th grade class hosted their first annual Career Day. Presenters from around the community came to the elementary to talk with the students about their careers and life experiences that lead them to this particular career. Nine people came in to present and students were able to attend three presentations each. There were eight career fields represented: Farm/Agricultural, Coach/Athlete, Computer/Information Technology, Veterinarian, Environment, Automotive, Business Owner and Law Enforcement. The students did a wonderful job and were very engaged with all of the presenters. We are hoping to make this an annual event for the 5th grade class!

-Mrs. Laffoon K-7 School Counselor

McGraw Afterschool Program

The McGraw Elementary Afterschool Program completed our C.A.R.E.S (cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, self-control) Challenge! The challenge ran from April 3rd through May 4th. Each grade chose a character trait they wanted to improve upon during the challenge. We made 6 columns in the hallway to the cafeteria, one for each grade. Each column had a STAR which was moved up (RISE) as the challenge progressed throughout the month. Whenever a student displayed the classroom trait they got a point which in turn gave a point to the whole class. This encouraged individual participation as well as group participation. All the classes stepped up and showed what they are capable of accomplishing when they put their mind to it! Each student had a chance to earn sixteen (16) points during the challenge. The picture shows our grand prize winners, 5th grade, enjoying a pizza party for their hard work!

- Our kindergartners worked on developing RESPONSIBILITY. Thirteen (13) kindergartners earned a total of 107 points, an average of 8.3 points per child.
- Our first graders worked on SELF-CONTROL. Ten (10) first graders earned a total of 87 points, an average of 8.7 points per child.
- Our second graders learned to be more COOPERATIVE. Fifteen (15) second graders earned a total of 149 points, an average of 9.9 points per child.
- Our third graders worked on SELF-CONTROL. Eleven (11) third graders earned a total of 86 points, an average of 7.8 points per child.
- Our fourth graders worked on COOPERATION. Fourteen (14) fourth graders earned a total of 137 points, an average of 9.7 points per child.
- AND FOR THE WIN... Our fifth graders worked on SELF-CONTROL. Thirteen (13) fifth graders earned a total of 152 points, an average of 11.7 points per child.



Our TOP STUDENTS are:

KINDERGARTEN – Samantha and Kimberly Doty: Tied with 12 points

FIRST GRADE – Shyla Rude: 15 points

SECOND GRADE – Madeline Doty and Danica Smith: Tied with 16 points (the most points possible!)

THIRD GRADE – Hannah Storie: 13 points

FOURTH GRADE – Hailee George: 14 points

FIFTH GRADE – Damian Bush, Shannon McCool, and Kirsten Tetreault : Three-way tie with 15 points each

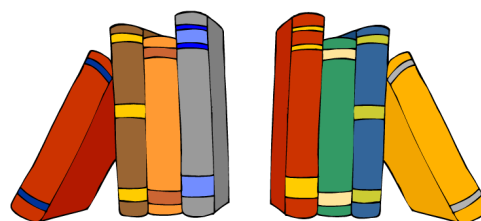
Lamont Library News

School is out for the summer which means plenty of free time for reading and visiting your library! Join us for some amazing fun with the 2017 Summer Reading Program. The program runs July 3rd – August 11th for preschooler to adults. The summer reading program is simple: You read and earn prizes! Program registration begins on July 3rd. Stop in the library to register and pick up your reading log.

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, July 6 th	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Deck My Deck (grades 6-11)
Friday, July 7 th	2:00 -3:00 p.m.	“Build a Better World” Activities (grades PreK-5 th)
Thursday, July 13 th	10:00 – 11:00 a.m. 3:30-5:30 p.m.	Minecraft author Sean Faye Wolf McGraw Elementary School Making Mobiles (grades 6-11)
Friday, July 14 th	10:00 -11:00 a.m. 2:00 -3:00 p.m.	Judy Stock - Musician “Build a Better World” Activities (grades PreK-5 th)
Thursday, July 20 th	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Kreative Klothes (grades 6-11)
Friday, July 21 st	10:00 -11:00 a.m. 2:00 -3:00 p.m.	The Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre Presents: The Three Little Pigs “Build a Better World” Activities (grades PreK-5 th)
Thursday, July 27 th	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Box Building Bluff (grades 6-11)
Friday, July 28 th	10:00 -11:00 a.m. 2:30 -3:00 p.m.	“Story by Story” with The Storycrafters “Build a Better World” Activities (grades PreK-5 th)
Thursday, August 3 rd	2:30 – 4:30 p.m. 3:30-5:30 p.m.	The Game Truck Perfect Pieces (grades 6-11)
Friday, August 4 th	10:00 -11:00 a.m. 2:00 -3:00 p.m.	Moreland the Magician “Build a Better World” Activities (grades PreK-5 th)

Friday morning programs will be held at the McGraw Community Center, 15 Clinton Street. All other programs will be held at the Lamont Library, 5 Main Street. All programs are free and open to the public. These programs are made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by CNY Arts. The visit with author Sean Fay Wolfe is funded by the Bernard Carl and Shirley Rosen Library Fund of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County.



McGraw Central School District
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Senior Mystery Trip—June 8, 2017—Dorchester Park, Whitney Point, NY

