



NOVEMBER 2014 DISTRICT NEWS REVIEW

EAST AURORA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Congratulations to the 2014 National "Middle School Counselors of the Year"!



The National Association of Middle School Principals has named East Aurora Middle School's Cathy Warda-Bender (left) and Carrie Cole "Counselors of the Year" for 2014 at a meeting in Baltimore. Mrs. Warda-Bender has been the School Psychologist since 1996, and Mrs. Cole has been School Counselor since 2000.

They were nominated for the award by their principal, Mark Mambretti, who wrote a letter outlining their achievements to accompany the nomination. "Carrie and Cathy have shepherded the transition of our school from a grade 6-8 Middle School to a 5-8 Middle School, making sure the developmental needs of students and staff were always at the forefront of our planning and decision-making," said Principal Mambretti. "To compound their impact, our school's mental health staff was reduced over 50% during this time, giving them a joint case-load over 600 students."

Mr. Mambretti noted that Mrs. Warda-Bender and Mrs. Cole have remained student-focused team players, using creativity to form solutions to challenges, and are willing to stop at nothing to promote health, safety and happiness for their students. "They practice what they preach in terms of hard work, integrity and doing the right thing. They are both the "glue" which binds students, teachers, administration and parents together and the "grease" which facilitates the smooth operation of the various moving parts of a middle school. In short, they make EAMS work."

Mrs. Warda-Bender and Mrs. Cole were responsible for creating the school's Counseling Center, a safe, quiet, calming place at the school's central hub, where they are available for students and faculty alike to check in or find a listening ear. They also created a building wide mentoring program to link students and school personnel in a personal and positive way. "But the greatest value to both me, personally, and to the school community at large is their ever-present reminders of 'What is best for the student?'" said Mambretti. "It is a powerful and needed witness to have two such individuals who work together in perfect tandem, keeping us focused on our primary mission of helping children learn and grow."

EAEF presents annual award to Alison Hyde

The East Aurora Educational Foundation hosted its 2014 Celebration Event on Thursday, October 30 at the House at Knox Farm, presenting the second annual James Ford Commitment to Education Award to community leader Alison Hyde. This prestigious award, established in memory of one of the founding fathers of the Foundation, is presented to the person who most exemplifies the qualities that Mr. Ford brought to the support creative learning: commitment to the betterment of education in East Aurora, persistent dedication to the cause, creative and original thinking, and involvement in community life.



Mrs. Hyde accepted the award from Foundation president Susan McClaren and James Ford, son of founder Dr. James Ford. Several projects funded by the EAEF, like Parkdale's Community Garden (below) were on display at the reception.



Since its founding, the EAEF has provided more than \$600,000 in grant funding to our teachers in support of projects beyond the scope of the District's operating budget, benefitting all students in the East Aurora District.

The not-for-profit EAEF relies on donations and community support to fulfill its mission: "To enhance the educational experience of students in the East Aurora Union Free School District." For more information, please visit www.eastauroraeducationalfoundation.org.



Congratulations to District Business Manager Paul Blowers, who received the “Business Administrator of the Year Award” from the New York State Association of Educational Office Professionals at a meeting Farmingville, NY. in October. The award was presented by Cathy Eberle, the group’s immediate past president.



Dear Diary... Mrs. Green’s and Mr. Stonebraker’s eighth grade social studies students collaborated with Middle School librarian Mrs. Kruse to access print and online resources to research what life was like working on the Transcontinental Railroad. Students then used the information they found to create diaries similar to those that might have been kept by railroad workers *Photo/K. Kruse*



On October 28, EAHS teachers Janiese Green, Jim Stonebraker, Krisanne Hailey, Kevin Weigel and Marian Whitcomb attended a workshop sponsored by the Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown to hear Mary Beth Tinker (front row right), a plaintiff in the 1969 U.S. Supreme Court Case *Tinker v. Des Moines*, a decision that defined the constitutional rights of students in U.S. public schools. She spoke on her experience, its impact it has had on her life, and her mission to advocate for children’s rights. She currently is touring the U.S. on the “Tinker Tour Bus USA” and is a pediatric nurse working in emergency rooms in Washington D.C.



Parkdale’s October 2 Fall Fest

was a family evening filled with fun activities, tractor rides and a pumpkin walk, featuring fifty pumpkins decorated by staff. Students voted for their favorite jack-o-lantern entries that included *Frozen* characters, a princess carriage, owls, M&M’s and a beautifully crafted snail, and had the opportunity to win their favorite pumpkin to bring home. In other fun, fourth grader Jack LaRouech was the Apple Bobbing Contest winner in under two minutes, and 70 baskets donated by local businesses and community members were raffled off. PTO co-president Niki Krieger attributed the success of the evening to event volunteers, donors and families who assisted with the event.

Another Parkdale traditions in October included the staff’s group photo in costume following the Halloween Parade (below).



Mr. Gipe submitted the photo at left of students in action in a Parkdale Elementary Physical Education class, reminding us that daily physical activity benefits academic achievement.

Kids’ Dance and Play, a four-week after school program with Mrs. Lisa Brown, will begin in January through the District’s Community Education department (www.eastauroraschools.org/communityeducation).





Late summer flavors Miss Kibler's second graders enjoyed purple, orange, and yellow carrots and tomatoes from the Parkdale School Community Garden. *Photo/J. Kibler*

The East Aurora Rocket Club hosted a launch-off on Sunday, October 26 at the EAHS athletic fields in preparation for the 2015 Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC). Other participating schools included Immaculate Conception, Orchard Park, and City Honors. Moog provided some volunteer personnel to help coordinate the event. This year's TARC rules will require teams to build and launch a rocket carrying a raw egg to 800 feet and return it to Earth uncracked within a flight duration of 46 to 48 seconds. 100 top scoring national teams will compete in Washington, D.C. in the spring of 2015. TARC is the U.S. aerospace and defense industry's flagship program, designed to encourage students to pursue study and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Mr. Paul Kondak is the EAHS club advisor.



Middle School's National Junior Honor Society (left) raised \$185 for City Mission with a bake sale on October 29. The staff's *Dress Down Jar* contributed an additional \$336 to the effort to purchase a total of 263 Thanksgiving dinners for the mission. *Photo/B. Converse, chapter advisor.*

The annual **EAHS College Consortium** (below) took place September 24, with eighteen local colleges and universities and sixty students attending. *Photo/Jen Marshall*



Mrs. Head's students in the **EAMS Math Club** worked to solve Rubik's cubes this fall. The students spent a few weeks mastering the seven algorithms necessary to solve the cube, with the goal of memorizing the steps and improving speed by the end of the exercise. The cubes are on loan from the Rubik's company as part of the "You Can do the Cube!" program. Since its creation in 1974, the Rubik's Cube has continued to fascinate, bewilder, and challenge millions all over the world. While many



have tried to solve the cube, few succeeded. The objective of the campaign is to share the secrets of solving the cube with young people, and to encourage them to do the same. In mid-November, before surrendering the cubes, Math Club members will be given the opportunity to demonstrate mastery by solving a scrambled cube without the provided guide in a speed-solving competition. *Photo/B. Converse*

Briefly...

The **Class of 2017 Executive Board** held a cleaning supply drive in November to benefit WNYHeroes, a service that provides veterans and their families with help to regain stability and dignity in their lives after combat, offering financial assistance, health care, housing, and other essential gestures such as food delivery and holiday gifts. Many veterans and their families requested cleaning supplies for Christmas last year, a household staple often taken for granted.

Donated items included laundry detergent, dryer sheets, wipes, all-purpose cleaner, dish detergent, toothpaste & brushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, tissues, sponges, dish towels, rags, and toilet tissue, brushes and cleaners. Mrs. Green, a veteran herself, is the Class of 2017 advisor.

Founded in 2007 by U.S. Army veteran Chris M. Kreiger and community activist Dionne Kane, WNYHeroes is a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of Western New York's veterans and their families. Through direct experience, WNYHeroes has identified substantial gaps in post-combat care that must be addressed to enable veterans and their families to regain stability and health in their personal and professional lives.

Looking for *Fantastiks, Guys and Dolls* EAHS is creating a gallery of musical program covers for the hall walls, but a couple are missing. If you have a program from the 1973 production of "*The Fantastiks*" or the 1986 "*Guys and Dolls*" musical, please contact Mr. Campoli at ncampoli@eastauroraschools.org, or send to his attention at the high school. Images will be scanned and returned.

Recently elected officers for the **EAHS Class of 2018** include President Maddy Nemec, Vice President Shawn Linder, Secretary Isabella Koch and Treasurer Dan Phillips.

Career Pathways MOOG hosted a meeting on October 22 for local school board members, administrators, Regent Bennett, Jane Corwin, Pat Gallivan, regional Chamber members and area businesses. The focus was on Career Pathways funding, and the direction of NYS in education, including a Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway to high school graduation.

Congratulations to the East Aurora-Holland Blue Devil Football Team, holders of the 2014 Class B championship for Section VI, and to the EAHS Cross Country team, winning top place in the ECIC division for the 14th consecutive year on October 18 at the Alden Invitational.

Recently installed officers of the **Middle School Jr. National Honor Society** include President - Johnny Chugh, Vice-President - Jack Gurbacki, Secretary - Kendall Ertel, and Treasurer - Tom O'Leary, Public Relations Officers - Grace Frederick and Chris Fuller.

Five new members were inducted into the **Roycroft Chapter of the National Honor Society** at EAHS on October 29, including Mike Durant, Elisabeth Giacalone, Ellen Horbachewski, Madeline Kelchin and Gabriella Sadek.

Board of Education meeting change:

The meeting originally scheduled for November 5 has been rescheduled to

November 19 in the Middle School library at 7:00 PM

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