



News & Notes

A newsletter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Galluzzo

Following the Board of Education Meeting of November 17, 2020



REMINDER

The Thanksgiving holiday is
Nov. 26 and 27.
Wednesday, Nov. 25
is a (full remote)
regular school day.

The Board of Education on Tuesday night:

Approved the six-month probationary appointment of:
Richard Reynolds,
Bus Attendant

Accepted with regret the resignation for the purpose of retirement of: **Glenn Smith,**
J.T. Waugh Senior Custodian. Mr. Smith has been with the District for 40 years. His retirement will be effective Christmas Day.

Information on the Holiday Adopt-A-Child program will be coming out shortly!



Hello Everyone,

As we resume full remote instruction on Monday, we can take comfort in the fact that the pivot back is not due to the spread of Covid-19 within our schools. If anything, schools have been an oasis from the community Covid surge that has led to yellow and orange-zone designations throughout our region.

The reasons for school being a safe haven are clear: masking, social distancing and sanitizing. We have followed those protocols diligently and I thank all of you for your efforts.

We are better prepared for remote instruction this time around. We have established instructional plans and class schedules and clear expectations for attendance. Best practices for instruction with our full remote students have been in place since the start of the school year. This time around, we are simply better prepared and have the benefit of experience on our side, as do our students and parents.

That said, while we know we can do full remote, we also know that in-person instruction provides the most benefit and a richer experience for our students. So, please continue to take necessary precautions to limit the Covid-19 spread in our communities by wearing a mask at all times, maintaining social distance, washing or sanitizing your hands frequently, and avoiding large group gatherings and parties. Let's adhere to all the precautions so we can bring back in-person instruction sooner rather than later. The orange zone designation is not permanent and with our continued diligence we can help hasten the return to more normal times.

Best wishes to you and yours for a very Happy Thanksgiving. I look forward to seeing everyone back again soon.

Sincerely,
Dr. Charles Galluzzo, Superintendent



Meet a few of the essay writers [HERE.](#)

Did you know that the Iroquois Confederacy is considered the oldest living participatory democracy on earth? Founded in 1142, the Great Law of Peace is the oral constitution of the Haudenosaunee (the "Six Nations," comprising the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora peoples). In 1988, the U.S. Senate paid its respects with a resolution stating, "The confederation of the original 13 colonies into one republic was influenced by the political system developed by the Iroquois Confederacy, as were many of the democratic principles which were incorporated into the Constitution itself."

So, what do the Great Law and the U.S. Constitution have in common? Quite a lot, say High School students in Richard Sasala's Iroquois Studies class who participated in the Daughters of the American Revolution/Elma Chapter contest for essays comparing the two. There also are significant differences, and the students articulated their perspectives well enough to garner 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in the competition. Here's a sampling of what they said:

Taking 1st place was Molly Saccomando. In her essay, she points out, "... the Great Law of Peace is a guide to provide the Haudenosaunee people with instructions on how to treat others, how to maintain a democratic society, as well as emphasize the power of reason. It is strongly believed that the founding fathers of the United States were greatly influenced by the Iroquois' Great Law of Peace when they were writing the U.S. Constitution."

chiefs, and also inform and make final decisions among the people. Ideas like this were not achieved by the U.S. until about 1920, when the 19th amendment was ratified." "When forming the Great Law," she continues, "It was well known that leaders were to possess qualities that allowed them to accept criticism and the pressure that comes with leadership responsibilities. They were to be the most selfless people in the Nation and should always have the welfare of the people at heart."

ple appoint others to make the decisions in favor of them. The Haudenosaunee had chiefs from each nation, when they came together they were able to make decisions for the entire confederacy ... The Constitution also has a similar system in having the public elect other people to speak for them and their rights."

2nd place winner Layla Seneca wrote, "Clan mothers are often referred to as the 'backbone of the Iroquois people,' since they voice the opinions of the people to the

3rd place winner Lila Bennett said, "One similarity between the two is that they are both a representative democracy. They both have the peo-

Other Lake Shore students participating were: Kia Johnson, Anna Kennedy, Keith White, Jr., Lainey Scanlan, Angela Edmond, Kailey Ellis, Ella Jimerson, Marissa Gates, Aaliyah Lyle, Lainey Scanlan, Jaelynn Seneca, Layla Seneca and Devonni Tallchief.

HS Capital Project UPDATE ...



As the Capital Construction Project continues at the High School, the boys' pool locker room with new green lockers is completed, as are the new green bleachers in the pool area, and the new green bleachers and curtains in the gym. The indoor track will be completed by the end of December. The tech rooms are furnished with cabinetry and tables. Finishing is being completed on the walls of the hallway connecting the new addition with the old building. Ductwork, plumbing and electrical are ongoing. Outside, brickwork is beginning to cover the building, dark on the bottom, light on top. Doors and windows are going in. It's looking great and completion is targeted by next Fall.

Top: Boys' pool locker room with new green lockers.

Middle: Technology room with sleek new cabinets and butcher block counters. Tables also are butcher block.

Bottom: Two-tone exterior brickwork is looking sharp and windows and doors are starting to go in.



MS Capital Project UPDATE ...

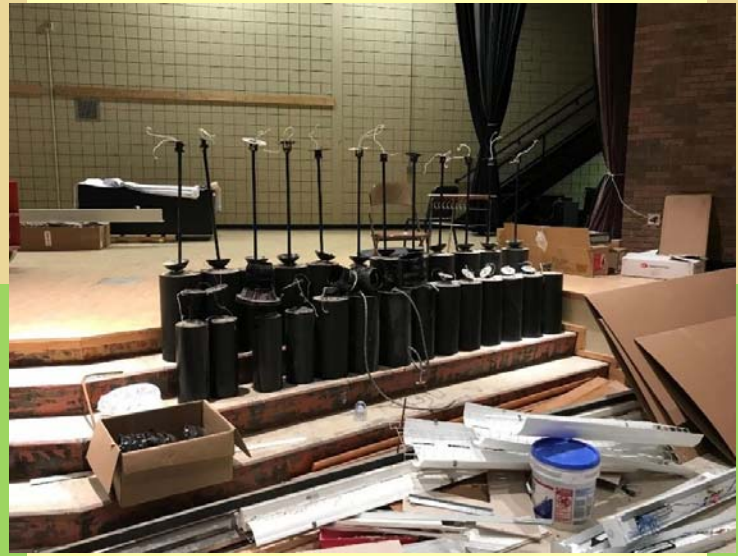


At the Middle School, Capital Construction work has seen the completion of the Main Office and the offices for Principal, Assistant Principal and Nurse, which have been occupied since the start of school. Meanwhile, work on the security entrance is ongoing, as is work in the auditorium, which is being completely renovated. Signs of progress in the aud are multiplying, with the installation of new carpeting in the upper balcony and the start of installation of new seats. Also, lighting, including theatrical lighting, and the sound system have been demolished, making way for the new.

Top: New carpeting in the balcony.

Middle: Demolition of old lighting system.

Bottom: Exam room in new Nurse's Office.



From Street Art to Fine Art to Classroom ...

W

When art teacher **Chuck Ruffino** saw the **Caledonia Curry** mandala exhibit at the Albright Knox, he knew her work could spark some terrific art lessons. The artist, whose work appears under the name **Swoon**, is one of the first women Street Artists to become internationally recognized on a fine arts scale.

Fellow art teacher **Megan Smaldino** says **Swoon's** mandala artwork was chosen because of its geometric nature, as well as the humanity it shares.

"Most of her designs have a lot of deeper meaning and symbolism," she explains [HERE](#).

In Mrs. Smaldino's classes, the students draw their symmetrical, circular mandala designs and color them brightly. In Mr. Ruffino's class, the designs are left in black and white. They will be combined into a coloring book for elementary students!

Delaney Glose, a student in Mr. Ruffino's class, discusses the work [HERE](#).



Above: A mandala artwork used to introduce students to the work of Caledonia Curry.

Left: Art teacher Chuck Ruffino videos Studio in Art students Isabella Hrynio, Maya Bauer and Gabriella Bartz with their work.



Skyler Gierszewski



Brayden Budziszewski



Lillian Hroncek