AASP/JOM NEWSLETTER
MARCH ISSUE 2017

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"Don't wait for the perfect moment, take the moment and make it perfect."

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<td>MS/HS End of 3rd Quarter</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting 7:00PM</td>
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Spring Recess

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<td>No School  No School</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting 7:00PM</td>
<td>Elementary Report Cards Sent Home</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Parent Night 6:00 PM</td>
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White - All Schools
Red - Seneca Education Department
Green - Lake Shore
Blue - Gowanda Central School
Gold - Silver Creek Central School
Silver Creek High School treated the community to a performance of “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” in March. Our own Sabrina Seneca played the part of Peppermint Patty.

Submitted by Aimee Sleeth
A.J. Schmidt has started its second year of Robotics Club. The program is run by Mrs. Wagner. She started the program last year and it has been a great success. They meet after school on Mondays. The students practice using code to move robots. The students love the program and are excited to learn. They are learning a skill set that will build their future. We’re so happy to have such a great program at our school!

Amanda Sobczyk
On Thursday March 9th, the Lake Shore Middle School Fit Club held its first annual Fit-tastic winter event. Students and their families were invited to come and participate in a variety of wellness activities. We had a craft, yoga, relay races, a fitness scavenger hunt, and Just Dance. Pizza and a healthy snack were also served. Each participant also went home with a picture of themselves in which other people had written inspirational comments on such as “Great Smile” and “I Love your hair cut.” Students and their parents can look back at these when having a hard time with something and find some good in the world. The event had about 80 participants and many volunteers. I hope to see the group grow and our events continue to be a success.

This is the Fit Clubs first year at the Middle School. It combines both Girls on the Run and the boys 100 mile club into one co-ed group. We run, laugh, encourage each other, work through problems, and learn how to lead fit and healthy lives. I encourage new members to join us for our last session of Fit Club that starts up again in just a few weeks. Our end of the year event will be a blast, but is yet to be determined. In November, we held a “Glow-tastic” run at the Lake Shore Track that was very well attended. See you out for a run!

Elizabeth Best-Laurie
Celebrating Reading!

The National Education Association holds its annual Read Across America Day encouraging every child in every community to read on March Second, Dr. Seuss’s Birthday. Furthermore, the PTA, the Gowanda Teacher’s Association and the Character Education Committee, are sponsoring a Reading Challenge from March 6-March 31. This year’s theme is “Reading is my Superpower”. One book per classroom, per week, will be awarded during the challenge. Students are encouraged to wear their student designed theme t-shirts every Tuesday and Thursday in March.

Faith Stewart
AASP/JOM Teacher

First Grade AASP/JOM students at Gowanda Elementary School listen to Dr. Seuss’s If I Ran the Zoo. Charlette John, Lillian Spruce, Diana Kuhs and Emmett Williams
SCMS Dissection in Science Class

This month’s article focuses on our 8th grade JOM students at Silver Creek Middle School performing a frog and squid dissection in Science class. They were fully involved in the entire process of dissecting these organisms. Students were amazed once they opened the squid and frog up to see how the body systems of the two worked. The students learned how each of them adapt to their environment and what mechanisms they possess to protect themselves from predators. They also learned what the functions are of each of the organs in the bodies of the two organisms. It was a very good hands-on learning experience for them to see how other organisms survive and adapt in their environment.

Next month, students will be looking at real hearts of sheep and deer. They are going to learn about the different parts of it, how it functions, and why the organ is essential to have in order to live.

Submitted by Jamie Wallschlaeger, Silver Creek Middle School JOM Teacher
This month in lunch group, students learned about the power of their choices and the consequences that follow, as well as the impacts of stress and how to handle it in a healthy way. Students discussed possible positive and negative consequences that could result from everyday choices and even acted out different scenarios to demonstrate.

Students were also able to come up with great ideas to manage their stress from school and life in general, such as: talking to someone, playing sports, listening to music, and writing in a journal. Students were encouraged to practice these strategies throughout the week when feeling stressed, to build up coping skills that can help them get through tough times for the rest of their lives.

The students explored their hopes and dreams for the future. We also learned how to set relevant goals to make those dreams a reality. Students were challenged to think of three goals, academic and social, and three steps they can take to achieve each goal. They were also introduced to the six main career clusters in New York State and participated in games and drawing activities involving their favorite careers. Students will have the opportunity to continue exploring college and career options, as well as to create a vision board of their goals and aspirations in April.

Nya: wëh!
What an exciting month we have had! Just when you thought old man winter was kaput, he reared his ugly head one last time and we here at JT Waugh got plenty of snow. So much snow, that we had two snow days!! It was nice to have a day or two off, but the students quickly rebounded and got back into the work routine.

Our third graders have been extremely busy preparing for their New York State ELA exams that will be taking place in two weeks. We have been busy learning how to read and analyze brief excerpts, in order to be able to write brief responses as well as essays. It has been a lot of pressure, but the students are adapting swimmingly. Although there has been a lot of reading and writing, the students have shown great fortitude and are clearly improving in all areas of the exam.

The fifth graders are doing much of the same as they prepare for their New York State math exam. The students have been working on becoming more competent with their computer and typing skills, as this year, all math exams will be done on laptops. This is a new concept. At first it seemed very daunting, however, they gradually became more confident in themselves. I have no doubt that they will do superbly.

St. Patrick’s Day was a hoot! Almost all of our students and staff dressed to celebrate. Many of the classes created leprechaun traps to snare any leprechauns that dared to show their face around the school. I had heard a rumor that one brave, perhaps foolish, leprechaun did wreak havoc on a kindergarten classroom. There has been no word on if he has been captured yet or not.

Just last week we held a school-wide science fair. Although I was unable to attend, I heard that attendance was excellent and that the brilliant minds of JT Waugh were certainly on exhibit that evening. Judging by the amount of students called down to the office to receive recognition, I would say the rumors are true!

As we wrap up the month, we are all hard at work. We’re getting closer to the home stretch and no one has lost sight of the goals we have set. Go WAUGH!
Happy spring!!! We’re ready for some warmer weather!! Things have been moving right along for students. We’re already half way through the 3rd quarter. The students have been very busy. 5th grade has been busy reading *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor in ELA and learning about fractions in math. 6th grade has been reading *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen and working with equations in math. The 7th grade just finished up their volcano projects for science and reading the book *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson for ELA. 8th grade has been learning about Anne Frank in ELA and functions in Math.

Students are encouraged to come to homework help Monday-Thursday after school in the JOM classroom (room 121). The learning center is also available for homework help. It is located in the middle school library and students can get math help in there as well.

We have a very busy month coming up. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- March 27-31: ELA testing for grades 3-8
- March 30: Family Activity Math Night (cafeteria 5-7pm)
- April 7: Half day for students
- April 10-17: Spring Recess

That’s all the news for now. Keep working hard.

~Tristin Hageman & Anne Foit
ATTENTION ALL JUNIORS...

If you are currently in 11th grade and plan on attending college after you graduate from high school now is the time to register for the SATs!

The SATs will be held May 6 (registration deadline April 7) and June 3 (registration deadline May 9).

What is in the test?

- Reading test (65 mins, 52 questions)
- Writing and Language Test (35 mins, 44 questions)
- Math, two sections: No Calculator (25 mins, 20 questions), Calculator (55 mins, 38 questions)
- Optional Essay (50 mins)

You must register for the test on the College Board website: collegeboard.org

You will need:

- Credit card or fee waiver (you are eligible for a waiver if you receive free or reduced lunch and can get them from your guidance counselor) there is a registration fee
- Current photograph
- Know when and where you will be taking the test

The College Board website also has valuable test preparation materials. Once you create your account you will have access to practice tests and skill building.

There is FREE SAT preparation available through the Khan Academy website: khanacademy.com

The best way to prepare: Take a practice test or use your results from the PSAT to see what areas need work. You should spend 1–3 hours a week on Khan Academy for at least two months prior to the exam!

Jillian Schmitt