

# School Gram

Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

## Helping the Children of Haiti



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A student outside a child development center near Belle-Anse in southeastern Haiti holds a hand-made sign to thank students, staff and parents at Roosevelt Elementary School. The school supported a teacher assistant's trip to Haiti by collecting items for mothers and babies, raising money to buy soccer balls, making cards and cloth satchels, and more. **Page 11**

## Staff Reflect on Importance of CPR Training

Roseann Johnson, a teacher aide at Kenmore West High School, was just driving away from her parents' home after visiting with her sister and niece when they called to tell her she had left some papers behind. She parked her car and walked back up to the second-floor apartment, finding her father unresponsive on the floor of the hallway. He had left the apartment to meet her halfway, but he had collapsed before he made it to the stairs.

Finding no pulse, Johnson yelled for her mother and sister, who hurried to the scene while her niece called 911. She remembers her sister asking if any of them knew CPR, and that's when a light bulb switched on for Johnson. In the shock of finding her father in that condition, she had momentarily forgotten that she knew exactly what to do.

Six years ago, Johnson decided to take a

**"People don't realize how important it is until something like that happens."**

*– Roseann Johnson, teacher aide at Kenmore West High School*

CPR certification class through the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD Staff Development Center, and she has taken the renewal course every two years to maintain her certification.

"Originally, I started taking it because my parents were getting older and I work around kids," Johnson said. "For those two reasons, I wanted to have as much CPR knowledge as possible."

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## A MESSAGE FROM DAWN MIRAND, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Beginning next school year, the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD will expand instructional technology opportunities throughout the District. Technology in classrooms provides an opportunity to differentiate instruction and change classrooms into dynamic learning environments. Technology can give students more control over their own learning, facilitating analytical and critical thinking and collaboration. Integrating technology into instruction tends to move classrooms from teacher-dominated environments to ones that are more student-centered as students tend to work cooperatively and have more opportunities to make choices, thus having a much more active role in their own learning. Technology allows teachers to differentiate instruction more efficiently by providing a wider variety of avenues for learning that reach students of divergent readiness levels, interests, and learning styles.

Beginning next year, the District will begin a multi-year roll-out of a new one-to-one iPad initiative. iPads will be provided for every student in third grade with additional grades to follow in subsequent school years. Each iPad will be equipped with a management system called "eSpark." This tool for teachers and students will readily identify engaging and challenging apps and activities to match abilities and lessons.

Our District is also very fortunate to have developed a partnership with A+ Educators that will provide iPads for every student in grades K-5 at Holmes Elementary School. Each iPad will be equipped with an interactive platform of individually tailored instructional activities according to student need



**Dawn F. Mirand,**  
Superintendent

and ability. Teachers will be able to monitor each student's progress in real-time.

Mobile devices connect students with countless apps, activities and other content that is specially designed to enhance and accelerate their learning. They provide a more personalized learning experience, allowing students to use different apps

tailored to their individual strengths and weaknesses, as well as learning style. They enhance communication and collaboration, foster creativity and problem-solving in real-world applications, provide instant access to information, and allow students to demonstrate evidence of learning like never before.

There is much technological work on the horizon, supported by the Governor's Smart Schools Bond and the Phase 2 Capital Project. The District will be enhancing the technological infrastructure to address bandwidth needs and WiFi access. This will allow for support of all mobile devices while moving toward a district-wide one-to-one student-to-device ratio.

Students today are accustomed to using mobile devices beginning at a very young age. Incorporating the technology they interact with so much on a daily basis provides a more meaningful educational experience for our students, and therefore, one that is more engaging. Technology in all classrooms to support teaching and learning recognizes the impact technology will have for the college and career readiness of our students, providing our students with multiple opportunities for success!

Dawn F. Mirand  
Superintendent of Schools



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#### Board Meetings

Regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and usually begin at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

Call 874-8400 ext. 20342 to confirm the time and location.

#### SchoolGram

The SchoolGram is the official newsletter of the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District and regular editions are published four times a year.

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## Stephen Peters Delivers Inspirational Keynote for Teachers

Stephen Peters, one of the nation's most sought-after speakers in education, came to Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda schools to deliver an inspirational keynote address during the Superintendent Conference Day in May. Hundreds of teachers as well as educators and leaders from non-profit community and education organizations and a dozen other school districts were present for the keynote at Kenmore East High School.

Prior to his career in education, Peters was a basketball star at Hampton University bound for the NBA when an injury on the court ended his athletic career prior to the draft. He went into teaching, and after demonstrating an ability to transform the classroom and school environment in even the most challenging circumstances, he rose up to become one of the most respected educators and school turnaround experts in the U.S.

Peters' visit was made possible by American Reading, which is being piloted in two elementary schools. Peters told his story and shared his philosophy that all teachers today must rise to the challenge of



Stephen Peters delivers the keynote address for teachers and other guests at Kenmore East High School during the Superintendent Conference Day in May.

connecting with a new generation of students that is like no other in history.

"These students, the millennials, are counting on you, because this is a new show in a new world," Peters said. "There has never been a better time to pick up the pieces in education and pave different paths for a bright generation to seize countless opportunities."

The theme of Peters' address was, "Do you know enough about me to teach me?" He discussed some of

the unique ways he and his teachers successfully connected with students during his career. He also challenged every teacher to strive to reach every child – to develop strong relationships with their students first, then inspire, and then educate.

"We need teachers to commit to bringing their best stuff every day, because when you don't, you're letting children down," Peters said.

In his addresses and workshops, Peters challenges teachers to value all students equally, to adapt as the world and their students continue to change and evolve, and to look to new methods of reaching and engaging students.

"You have to know that in education there is always room for improvement," Peters said.

Peters is the CEO and president of a consulting company that creates and sustains success in schools and districts by supporting educators. He is founder of the Gentleman's and Ladies' Club, which cultivates success for at-risk students through mentoring and self-empowerment, and is the author of several award-winning and best-selling books.

## Law Enforcement Community Teams Up for Operation Safe Stop

In April, the local law enforcement community teamed up with Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD as part of Operation Safe Stop, a statewide effort to promote safe driving around school buses and protect children as they are getting on and off the bus.

According to a recent national survey of school bus danger zone fatalities by the Kansas State Department of Education, 10 children ages 6 to 17 were killed during the 2013-14 school year while getting on or off their school bus. Six of the 10 fatalities were caused by passing motorists.

As part of Operation Safe Stop, patrol vehicles from New York State Police, the Erie County Sheriff's Office, Kenmore Police, and Town of Tonawanda Police followed school buses to enforce

New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law as it pertains to stopping for buses. Citations were issued to motorists who did not properly stop when the school buses had their red lights flashing.

The law requires all motorists traveling in either direction to always stop for a school bus when its red lights are flashing. This applies everywhere – on all roads including private roads, multiple-lane roads and divided highways, on school grounds, and in parking lots. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop in order to load or unload passengers.

Motorists are also cautioned against creeping up to buses that are stopped and trying to time the lights, and parents are discouraged from ever dropping their children off in bus loading zones.



Town of Tonawanda police officer Brian Valint, Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD head bus drivers Liz Keleher and Marion Linneborn, and Town of Tonawanda police officer Joseph Gioele.

ATHLETICS

# Student Named to Team USA Junior Synchro Team

Alexandra McGee, a junior at Kenmore East, is one of only 12 girls in the country to earn a spot on the Team USA National Junior Synchronized Swimming Team.

After earning a spot on the team at the 2015 U.S. National Synchronized Swimming Championships in Moraga, Calif., the talented 16-year-old athlete will now go on to compete at the 2015 U.S. Synchronized Swimming Junior Olympics in Greensboro, N.C. from June 26 to July 4.

For the past eight years, Alexandra has swam with the Town of Tonawanda Aquettes, a team of synchronized swimmers age 7-19 that competes throughout the country.

Alexandra has a long list of

accomplishments to her name. She recently competed with the Aquettes in the 2015 Niagara Junior/Senior Association synchronized swim meet at the Hobart & William Smith College natatorium in Geneva, with teams from Western New York and the Finger Lakes competing. Alexandra won first place in all five events: figures, solo, duet, team, and combo.

In the past, she has also earned a spot at the National All-Star Training Camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Alexandra McGee is lifted above the water during a swimming routine. Photo courtesy of the Town of Tonawanda Aquettes.



Olivia Colby in a game against rival North Tonawanda.

## Freshman Among 36 U.S. Players Bound for Munich

She is only in her freshman year at Kenmore East High School, but Olivia Colby will be among 36 players her age who will spend seven days in Munich as part of an elite training program with Germany's premier FC Bayern soccer organization.

In Munich, she will train with FC Bayern coaches, play against German teams and tour the region. She will also get to watch a game at Allianz Arena, home to FC Bayern, one of the most dominant soccer teams in the world.

Olivia began her soccer career at Kenmore East as a seventh-grader at Franklin Middle School. She was only 11 years old, but her skills earned her a spot as a starter with the Kenmore East junior varsity team.

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## Seven Teams Honored With Scholar Athlete Awards

In the spring, seven varsity high school athletic teams were honored by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association with the Scholar-Athlete Award for carrying cumulative team GPAs of 90 percent or higher.

From Kenmore East, the teams were Boys Tennis, Boys Track and Girls Track. From Kenmore West, the teams were Baseball, Softball, Boys Track and Girls Track.

These bring the total for the 2014-15 school year to 40 varsity teams from Kenmore East and Kenmore West that were recognized by New York State with the Scholar Athlete Award.



### Over the Top

Taylor Adams, an eighth-grade student at Franklin Middle School who competes as part of the Kenmore East High School Track and Field Team, is photographed as she clears the top of a hurdle at a recent track meet at Adams Field.

## ATHLETICS

# Ken-Ton Teams, Athletes Compete in Post-Season

The following is a summary of Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda teams and athletes that competed in the New York State Public High School Athletics Association (NYSPHSAA) Section VI post-season and other playoffs:

**Baseball:** Kenmore East Baseball enjoyed their best season since 1994. Coming into the Class A1 quarterfinals as the sixth seed, the team upset third seed Williamsville South 9-6 and then won the semi-final against rival North Tonawanda 8-2. They faced top seed Hamburg in the championship game. It was tied 1-1 going into the fifth inning but Hamburg ultimately prevailed with a score of 3-2.

Kenmore West Baseball competed in the Class AA pre-quarter finals as the seventh seed, losing to Jamestown 11-3. Player Rickey Deiboldt received First Team All-Western New York Scholar Athlete distinction.

**Softball:** Kenmore West Softball earned a place in the Section VI Class AA quarterfinals with a 15-3 win over Lockport on May 21 but lost to second seed Orchard Park 8-1 in the quarterfinal match.

Kenmore East Softball competed in the Class A1 pre-quarter finals, falling to Niagara Frontier League top seed Grand Island 7-0.

**Rugby:** The combined Kenmore East and Kenmore West Rugby team finished fourth in NYS Class A Rugby. Kenmore was undefeated this season, but Upstate rival Fairport – also undefeated – took the region's No. 1 seed. That left Kenmore facing two-time defending champion Xavier in the semi-finals. Kenmore fell 49-14



The combined Kenmore East and Kenmore West DevilDogs Lacrosse Team poses for a team photo after their win in the Section VI Independent championship game.

and Xavier went on to win its third straight championship.

Depleted by injuries, Kenmore just barely came up short in the consolation match, losing to Fairport 24-19 in double overtime to finish fourth in the state.

**Lacrosse:** The combined DevilDogs lacrosse team won the Section VI Independent Lacrosse Championship on May 16 in a 5-4 decision over previously undefeated Newfane, which had been averaging 12 goals a game entering the playoffs. It was a stellar season for the DevilDogs with a final record of 9-4.

**Golf:** Ben Shotwell from Kenmore East led all Niagara Frontier League golfers in the Section VI Tournament at Oaks Country Club on May 18 with a score of 83 over 18 holes. Shotwell had a strong start with 40 on the front nine but in the end fell just one stroke shy of qualifying among the top 20 golfers in New York State to compete in the state tournament. Chuckie Panepinto from

Kenmore West also had a strong start with 40 on the front nine, finishing with a score of 85.

**Tennis:** Nick Atallah from Kenmore West qualified for the Section VI Championships in singles. He lost Round 1 against Cooper Miller from Falconer/Jamestown 6-0 and 6-1.

**Track & Field:** The following students competed at the Section VI Tournament at Niagara Wheatfield on June 5:

**Kenmore East Girls:** 100m Hurdles: Emily Bandinelli (9th); 400m Hurdles: Casey Rymarczyk (3rd); Long Jump: Austin Nagelhout (6th); Triple Jump: Nagelhout (6th); 400m: Shelby Goudy (12th); 3000m: Isabella Bona (15th); High Jump: Marie Thomakos; Pole Vault: Anna Pitliangas (11th) and Kiara Smith; 4 x 100: Sarah Bandinelli, Nicole Giliforte, Emily Bandinelli and Smith (12th). Alex Henning (400m Hurdles) qualified but was unable to attend.

*Continued on Page 20*

## Coaches, Contributors Honored at NFL Awards Banquet

Several awards were given to Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda coaches and contributors at the 78th Annual Niagara Frontier League Awards Banquet held June 10.

Jennifer Stanton (Cross Country and Track) was selected as Kenmore East's Coach of the Year. Parent and advocate Paul Spors received the prestigious Cornerstone Award for the Bulldogs.

For the Blue Devils of Kenmore West, Jeff Martin (Girls Basketball) earned Coach of the Year and the late David

Myers was selected for the Cornerstone designation for his work with volleyball and softball boosters clubs.

Four Kenmore East teams were selected as Most Sportsmanlike. They were Golf, Girls Tennis, Girls Bowling and Boys Swimming.

The evening concluded with retired Kenmore East and Kenmore Middle School administrator Connie Thompson receiving the league's most respected award, the Donald F. Burns Key Person Award.

## Continued: Teacher Aide Administered CPR After Father Collapsed

### Continued from Page 1

Her sister helped get their father into position and, with paramedics at least five minutes away, Johnson began administering rounds of CPR: two rescue breaths followed by 30 chest compressions. She doesn't know how long it went on. Later, she asked the others if they remembered how many rounds she administered. They estimated 10, and at roughly three rounds every two minutes, that probably translated into six or seven minutes before the paramedics arrived and took over. She walked away for a minute while they worked; when she came back to see how he was doing, she found that her father was responsive.

"At first, it was difficult to focus because it's my dad, but once I started, I got into the routine, and I just kept focusing on what I had to do," Johnson said. "Then, with my niece on the phone with the 911 operators, they were giving me advice and encouraging me to keep going and telling me, 'You're doing a good job.' I knew what I was doing would ultimately help him."

And it did. Her father suffers from atrial fibrillation and has a pacemaker. When he ran out to meet Johnson with her papers, his heart had stopped, causing him to lose consciousness. Without Johnson administering CPR, which kept oxygenated blood moving through his body, his brain would have been deprived of oxygen for at least six or seven minutes before the paramedics arrived, potentially causing brain damage or death. Now, he has fully recovered and has a new pacemaker.

"It's something people don't realize how important it is until something like that happens," Johnson said. "I know now first-hand it's something people should really consider."

Johnson's CPR instructor is retired social studies and psychology teacher Lee Herbst, who taught at the elementary and middle school level for six years and then at Kenmore East High School for 28 years before retiring in 1999. Herbst was a swim coach for most of his career, which led to teaching CPR and First Aid to lifeguards and other swim teachers.

Herbst recalls many different incidents that, for him, reiterate the importance of knowing CPR and First Aid. He was on scene at an adult hockey game when a player collapsed on the ice, requiring CPR and a shock from an automated external defibrillator (AED). With Herbst's

help and a volunteer firefighter who was there as a spectator, he is back playing hockey, and at least 10 people who were there that night signed up for a CPR class.

Choking is an ever-present risk, and Herbst's class addresses how to perform abdominal thrusts to clear obstructed airways – formally known to most as the Heimlich Maneuver. Herbst recalled five school district staff members who took his class after one of their coworkers was choking and they didn't know what to do.

Herbst himself remembers a student of his who came to his desk one day in class. The student said nothing, and Herbst calmly asked if he was choking. The student nodded, and Herbst used abdominal thrusts to clear the obstruction. The same thing happened to his sister-in-law at his daughter's wedding.

Herbst believes it is important for everyone to know what to do in these types of situations – particularly people who work around children.

"I think it's a responsibility they have to their family, and if they are working with young people, they should be trained," Herbst said. "We

also include First Aid, enough to control severe bleeding and what to do in other kinds of emergencies, and do something – not just sit back, but take action."

Herbst teaches the full 10-hour CPR, AED and First Aid course three times a year and the seven-hour review course three times a year through the Staff Development Center. The course teaches CPR for adults, children and infants, as well as AED operation and First Aid, which includes training on what to do in the event of shock, injuries, burns, moving a patient – any life-threatening situations, and how to react and respond so they are not life-threatening.

The course is free for staff to take, though there is a small American Red Cross certification fee, and it is also open to parents, depending on space limitations. There is an important reason the course is open to parents: there are many events, activities or meetings taking place on school property at which students and parents are present, and it could help save a child's life.

"The thinking behind this is the fact that anytime a meeting occurs on school property in which students are included, someone must be present with this certification," said Elaine Altman, Staff Development Center director. "Opening the training to our parents who may also be in our parent associations seems like a good idea."

Herbst expressed gratitude for the support of the Staff Development Center as well as the athletics and physical education department, which has provided books and supplies. Like Herbst, Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD school nurse Nancy Cliff believes everyone should consider taking the course.

"We never know when someone will need cardiac care in the form of CPR, either at home, in the workplace or out in the community," Cliff said. "We can help save lives by taking a CPR class and being willing to use our skills. What more rewarding thing can one do than restore a beating heart?" ■

**"We never know when someone will need cardiac care in the form of CPR, either at home, in the workplace or out in the community."**

– Nancy Cliff,  
school nurse

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

# Girls on the Run Team Builds ‘Little Free Libraries’

In the fall, the Girls on the Run teams coached by Karen Harter, Leslie Evans, Rita Klipfel and Tracy Caruana partnered with Home Depot to create “Little Free Libraries.” Home Depot provided some of the money, supplies and space that allowed the design of Tom Harter to come to life.

The girls and their coaches spent a Saturday morning at Home Depot working on this community service project. The goal of the libraries is to promote literacy and the love of reading through a free book exchange.

There are Little Free Libraries in four different locations throughout the Holmes Elementary community. Each library is unique in where it is placed and how it is decorated. Jennifer Tracey and Chrissy Zona joined Harter and Caruana as this season’s Girls on the Run coaches, continuing the project by collecting

books to fill each library.

One of the first libraries to be built is located in the center circle in front of Holmes Elementary. The students created a brick path that leads to the library, and benches dedicated to Mark Kaiser, former principal of Holmes Elementary, and the late Barbara Gilday, a former teacher at Holmes, will be placed in the circle to create a warm environment to encourage the love of reading. For more information on the national Little Free Library project, visit [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).

Girls on the Run is a national program for third- through eighth-grade students that uses the process of preparing for a 5K to teach the importance of nutrition, health and fitness and build self-esteem and confidence while also combating bullying.



The Little Free Library built in front of Holmes Elementary School.



## Partners in Education

Continuing its strong relationship Holmes Elementary, mentors from Praxair helped 30 students raise more than \$1,000 through a bake sale for Children’s Hospice with students volunteering to help sell the treats at Praxair. Students also made care packages for children in need. These included toy doctor kits for children facing treatment or surgery so they could become familiar with instruments doctors use. Each student helped decorate the packages and made cards with encouraging and hopeful messages.



Laferald Hines and Tre’Vian More, second-graders at Holmes Elementary School, work to improve their reading stamina.

## Literacy Tool Boosts Reading, Writing Skills at Holmes

Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) is a small-group supplementary literacy intervention designed for students who find reading and writing difficult. Through systematically designed lessons and original, engaging leveled books, LLI advances skill development reading and writing while helping students expand their knowledge of language and words and how they work. The goal of LLI is to bring students to grade level achievement in reading.

Jen Casullo, Academic Intervention Services provider for Grades 2-3 at Holmes Elementary, has used this program daily with her students. Her recent reports show that 60 percent of her second- and third-grade students reached their instructional and independent reading goal for their grade level in May. The remaining 40 percent made significant progress as well and are approaching grade level.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

# Students Raise \$5K for Leukemia, Lymphoma Society

Edison Elementary School has continued its tradition of supporting Pennies for Patients, an effort by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society that gives children an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those affected by blood cancers such as leukemia.

Since 1949, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has led the way in providing funding and support for blood cancer research and treatment. Over the past nine years, Edison Elementary has raised approximately \$35,000 for the effort, and this year, the school raised \$5,157. The winning class will be treated to lunch at Olive Garden, one of many prizes awarded for reaching specific goals.

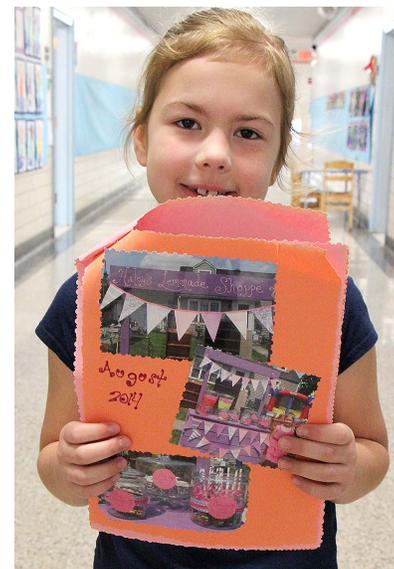
First-grade student Haley Wright,

a student of Susan Hirsch, organized a lemonade stand in August and October to raise money for Pennies for Patients. With the help of her mother, she raised more than \$800 by selling lemonade, pink lemonade, apple cider, marshmallows covered in chocolate with M&Ms, Oreo cupcakes, and butter cookies, all for \$1.

Haley's contribution put her class over the top, winning her and her classmates lunch at Olive Garden.

As a reward for her efforts, Haley was allowed to enjoy some of the desserts that were left over afterwards, which she said was one of the best parts.

Edison first-grader Haley Wright poses with pictures of her lemonade stand after raising \$800 for Pennies for Patients.



# Chorus, Instrument Ensembles Perform for Hamilton Students

The Hamilton Elementary School Band and Orchestra hosted their Spring Concert on May 7.

Under the direction of Suzanne Barmasse, the fourth- and fifth-graders did an outstanding job with many fourth-graders able to play with the fifth-grade Band and Orchestra during the performance. Special thanks was extended to Elaine Korczykowski, Laurie Criden, Rose



The Hamilton Elementary School Band.

Laughlin, Jill Combo, and Charlene Brown for joining the ensembles for the performance, and to Erin Lexner, a junior at Kenmore East and former

Hamilton Elementary student, who helped with the jazz band.

The Hamilton spring choral concert on May 19 was also a tremendous success. The fourth- and fifth-graders put on a great show under the direction of Jill Cumbo. The concert included a small group of select singers, Orff ensembles and cooperative songs combining both the fourth and fifth grades.



## Red Nose Day

WGRZ Channel 2 visited Edison Elementary for Red Nose Day, a nationwide fundraising event that leverages comedy to raise money for children living in poverty, culminating in an NBC special. Students and staff from Edison purchased and wore the iconic red noses from Walgreen's to raise money for and support the cause.

For more information, visit [rednosedayusa.org](http://rednosedayusa.org)



## Students Take Part in Sunflower Sprint

On May 15, Edison Elementary School hosted a Sunflower Sprint with 90 students taking part. The one-mile run consisted of two laps around the school and participants received a packet of sunflower seeds to plant. The first-place winner was fifth-grader Carson Pryor, in second place was fourth-grader Annika Pryor, and in third place was kindergartener Bryce Johnson. The run coincided with the very successful Krolicks chicken dinner fundraiser for the PTA.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**Celebrated Children’s Author Visits Lindbergh, Edison**

Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, a resident of Holland and a celebrated children’s author, poet, and writing teacher, recently visited two elementary schools to share with students her love of poetry, writing, and nature.

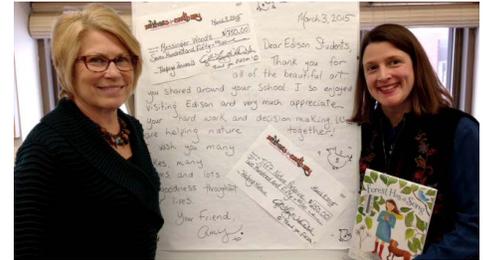
VanDerwater visited Lindbergh Elementary and Edison Elementary to read some of her poetry and share creative writing techniques during interactive and inspirational sessions with individual grade levels. She has also visited many other elementary schools, including Franklin Elementary and Holmes Elementary.

VanDerwater received the 2014 Golden Kite Picture Book Text Honor and the 2013 Cybils Award for Poetry for her celebrated children’s book “Forest Has a Song,” a collection of poems published through Clarion

Books. As a teacher, VanDerwater was also the recipient of the Golden Apple Award from WROC Channel 8 News in Rochester.

During her visits to the schools, VanDerwater used objects she had found in nature as well as her books, photographs and puppets to inspire students to pay attention to the extraordinary things that could be observed in everyday activities.

Students at Edison prepared for her visit by creating art and poetry inspired by “Forest Has a Song.” At Lindbergh, students were shown a log with many holes made by a woodpecker. They were then invited to pull hidden poems out of the holes in the log and read them aloud, while also acting out poems such as “Chickadee” and “Puff.”



Top, Gretchen Seibert and Amy Ludwig VanDerwater. Bottom, student Shannon Saccomando assists VanDerwater with her presentation.



Fourth-grade students Gabriella Gugino, Lauren Knight, Nicolas Piazza, Rezhwan Radha and Janiya Betts pose with their artwork.

**Franklin Students Show Off Art and Literary Projects**

On May 21, Franklin Elementary School students and families participated in the annual Art Show, Read Aloud Night and Ice Cream Social.

This event gave students the opportunity to show off some of the art projects and literary work that they have been working on this year.

Literacy and reading was the focus. Faculty members Erica Pompert, Debbie Kucinski and Michele Cammarata read a short story while the Computer Lab was opened for reading research.

After families enjoyed some ice cream, they were invited to stay for a family movie night in the auditorium, watching the Disney film “Big Hero 6.”



**‘101 Dalmatians’**

Second-graders at Roosevelt Elementary recently performed the musical “101 Dalmatians” with more than 300 people in attendance. It was the third year the school has organized a musical with the support of William Hall, Catherine Gruber, Kristen Simon, Betsy Thomas, and Michele Dean.



**Grandparents Day**

First-grade students at Hoover Elementary School perform during Grandparents Day, a special day to celebrate the important role students’ grandparents play in their lives hosted by the first-grade classes.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Ride for Missing Children Comes to LES

More than 100 bicyclists taking part in the 100-mile Ride for Missing Children made a stop at Lindbergh Elementary on May 30.

Students lined the sidewalk to welcome the bicyclists with hand-made signs which were autographed by the riders and other participants. Students returned the favor by signing the riders' cyclist jerseys.

Riders and participants alike spoke to the students about a variety of topics such as internet safety.



A Lindbergh Elementary student signs a rider's cycling jersey.



Students Take to the Stage

The fourth-grade chorus performs for fellow students at Hoover Elementary on May 29 led by Margie Lane, followed by the Orchestra led by Gabby Moore. Fifth-grade ensembles performed for their classmates on June 4.



Family Support Center Donation

At left, Janet Cerra, Family Support Center coordinator, left, accepts a check for \$434 from Hamilton Elementary art teacher Elaine Korczykowski, which was raised at the school's Art Show and Ice Cream Social. Staff decorated birdhouse, such as those photographed in the top photo, that were included in a silent auction.



Hoover Elementary Supports United Way Community Baby Shower

Hoover Elementary helped make the United Way Community Baby Shower a success.

The Community Baby Shower is a community-wide effort to collect essential baby items that will help thousands of at-risk mothers living in poverty give their newborns a stronger start. The effort supports mothers and babies served by the Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, the Catholic Charities WIC program, and the Jericho Road Community Health Center's Priscilla Project.

Thanks to the efforts of the Student Council, staff, and

families, Hoover Elementary collected two cases of diapers as well as baby wipes, bibs, digital thermometers, onesies, books, socks and pacifiers, filling four large boxes. This contribution helped the United Way fill nearly 1,000 "Baby Bundles" to help low-income mothers and their infants.

"I am grateful for the generosity of the whole Hoover family to help make a positive impact on the lives of others in our community," said teacher aide Mary Falzone, who helped coordinate the effort.



Paw Pride Tea Party

As part of Hamilton Elementary's Paw Pride program, art teacher Elaine Korczykowski and library media specialist Grace Morrison had a tea party for first-graders who had saved enough Paw Pride tickets to attend the event. Attendees had a great time participating in the fun-filled event.



Beautifying Kenmore

Students from the K-Kids club at Roosevelt Elementary in addition to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts joined many other groups including students from Kenmore East, Kenmore West, and Lindbergh Elementary to beautify Kenmore as part of the annual Big Kenmore Clean Up on April 25. Roosevelt students made their way down to Military Road, picking up trash all along the side streets.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

# Helping the Children of Haiti

## Roosevelt Elementary Students Support Effort to Help Children in Need 2,000 Miles Away

Roosevelt Elementary School teacher assistant Heather Zielinski joined a team of individuals from Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church on a mission trip to Haiti from April 19 to 25 through Compassion International. The team visited and assisted child development centers in both Belle-Anse and Savane Zombi in the southern portion of the country.

The centers reach out to young, vulnerable children to set them on the path toward healthy development. The centers provide one meal a day to malnourished children and supports their education by paying for school fees, providing clothing and supplies, and assisting with homework, tutoring, and literacy instruction.

One of the roles of the team was to provide miniature field days for the children, allowing them to reach hundreds of Haitian children over the course of three event days. The team brought with them all the necessary supplies and left them so the events could be replicated in the future. For the events, Zielinski drew inspiration from Roosevelt Elementary.

"I drew from the many years of field days here at Roosevelt as a planning model for the Haiti events," she said.

Zielinski also assisted with the Belle-Anse Child Survivor Program. This program provides illness prevention to children through immunizations and medical check-ups; offers nutrition to pregnant mothers, babies, and children; provides mothers with training to care for their children; and supports care for orphaned, abandoned, and exploited children.

Students and staff at Roosevelt were very much involved with the trip.



Above, students at Roosevelt Elementary School supported teacher assistant Heather Zielinski's recent trip to Haiti by donating items for mothers and babies, raising money for soccer balls, packaging items, and creating inspirational cards.

Below, a child in Haiti poses with a soccer ball donated by the school.

Students as well as the PTA collected items to give to mothers and babies in the Child Survivor Program. The K-Kids group raised \$135 by selling dog biscuits to purchase 10 soccer balls. Students made cards for children at the centers with inspiring messages written in French. Teachers made cloth satchels to package the items in, and fourth- and fifth-graders came to school early to help package items. Zielinski shared her experience with students and staff upon her return and also tied it to instructional activities.

"For me, the most exciting part of this mission trip was to see the impact it is having on each student at Roosevelt," she said. "I had the opportunity to tie the trip into the fifth-grade social studies curriculum on Latin America and their ELA module on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Children in third grade connected it to their ELA module on world librarians. Children were excited to help a community other than their own and learn more about Haiti."

In exchange for the cards made for them, the Haitian children made

cards for students at Roosevelt, and Zielinski shared these along with photographs of the children who made them. All of this was tracked on an interactive bulletin board outside Zielinski's room, which encouraged students to find Haiti on the globe, read interesting facts about Haiti, track collection items by reading a bar graph, and solve math questions.



MIDDLE SCHOOLS

# Concerts Resonate at Hoover Middle School

The Hoover Middle School choral department finished off the year with its Spring Concert on May 20. The combined sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade chorus performed an authentic piece from Kenya entitled “Kenya Melodies” that included body percussion and was sung in three different languages, and “Defying Gravity” from “Wicked” featuring a solo by Kristen Benner and a duet by Samantha Sauvageau and Alyssa Germano.

The Glee Choir shared several songs with the audience including “Rolling in the Deep” by Adele featuring solos by Luci Weatherbee, Madi Nice, Meghan Donacik, Tabitha Peterangelo, Celia Lynch, Benner, and Natalie Gleason; “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore” by Duke Ellington; and a medley from “Phantom of the Opera.”

The concert also included a tribute to eighth-graders who are moving up to high school. Several soloists took the stage including Joey Cannizzaro with “Go the Distance,” Audrey Holden with “Bubbly,” Lynch with “When I Look at You,” Germano with “Lego House,” Sarah Gustafson with “Little Things,” and Peterangelo with “Feeling Good.” Chorus director Lisa Welfare presented each eighth-grader with a red rose and a heartfelt thank you for their dedication over the past three years.

Reprising a duet they performed in seventh grade, Peterangelo and Lynch



Top, the Hoover Middle School Concert Band performs for students on May 18. Bottom left, Tabitha Peterangelo performs a solo during the Glee Choir’s performance of “Rolling in the Deep” on May 20. Bottom right, the Orchestra performs at the May 18 concert.

performed “For Good” from “Wicked,” and the Combined Chorus closed with “We’re All in This Together” from Disney’s “High School Musical.”

On May 18, multiple ensembles came together for a concert for the entire student body. The Orchestra performed “At World’s End” from “Pirates of the Caribbean” and a medley of Disney favorites: “Under the Sea,” “Circle of Life,” and “Beauty and the Beast.” The String Ensemble added to the animated movie motif with “Part of Your World” from “The Little Mermaid” and “World of Pixar” featuring themes

from “Cars,” “Up,” and “Ratatouille.”

The Jazz Band reprised Disney-themed melodies from their recent Pops Concert with solos from Ryan Miller on trumpet, Peterangelo on alto saxophone, Zach Meder on trumpet, Jayden Thorpe on trombone, and Emma Paul on trumpet.

The Concert Band closed with “Disney Marches,” the theme from “The Incredibles,” and a medley from “Aladdin.”

The Combined Chorus and Glee Choir also performed selections they had prepared for their May 20 concert.

## Counselors Team Up to Help Fifth-Graders Prepare for Transition

Hoover Elementary School Counselor Michelle Washington teamed up with Hoover Middle School Counselor Rebecca LaRoach for a special “lunch bunch” to help fifth-graders prepare for the transition to middle school.

These current fifth-graders ate lunch with former Hoover Elementary students to hear about the opportunities that await them at Hoover Middle School. The students discussed the best ways to navigate the building, how much homework they could expect, how to make new friends,

and who they can turn to for help in the first few weeks of school.

The sixth graders filled the white board with all the great things happening at Hoover Middle that they can get excited about, such as carnival night, field trips, Book Battle Jeopardy, family and consumer science, the teachers, talent show, musicals, health fair, more freedom in the hallways, and taking a foreign language.

School counselors at all middle schools are looking forward to making the transition to middle school a smooth one for this year’s fifth graders.



Back row, Michelle Washington; fifth-graders Samantha Scruggs, Sara Scruggs, Ryan O’Grady, Devin Bly, Emily Kwiatowski and Colton Visiko; and Rebecca LaRoach. Front row, sixth-graders Nyna Garduno, Luke Brundin, Alexander Ferraro, Kaitlyn Swartzmeyer and Fiona Brenan.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Classes Help Beautiful School Grounds

With assistance from math teachers Gary Robey and Janine Tocke, Kenmore Middle School math teacher Jennifer Schultz’s eighth-grade students used their measurement skills to build vertical pallet planters to help beautify the school grounds.

This project enabled students to recycle old wooden pallets, transforming them into something that was not only useful but also made beautiful by the plants. These finished planters were placed in front of the school to the left of the center entrance stairs.

This creative problem-solving activity was a positive cooperative learning experience that was also a lot of fun and very satisfying for students.

That wasn’t the only way Kenmore Middle School students worked to beautify the school grounds. Marjorie Waldron and Thomas Ryan’s ELA classes picked up garbage in the fields behind the school. Students worked their way to the bleachers



Kenmore Middle School students use recycled pallets and plants to create vertical gardens. The finished product is on display just outside the main entrance to the left of the center stairs.

and swept all of Crosby Field including the baseball diamonds, picking up enough garbage to fill 10 large garbage bags.

KMS Ensembles Perform for Students

The Kenmore Middle School Jazz Band under the direction of Miranda Delbello gave an up-beat concert for students on May 18. They played a combination of both contemporary and traditional jazz arrangements and many students were featured in solos.

The following day, all three choral ensembles took to the stage for students. First to perform were the Chamber singers, followed by the Soprano, Alto, and Baritone singers with five selections including “Music Speaks.” Next came the Soprano 1, Soprano 2 and Alto singers with “All Things Bright and Beautiful” as one of their selections. The combined choruses performed “Siyahamba” in the Zulu language of South Africa. Choral director Elaine Grant engaged the students in the



The Kenmore Middle School Jazz Band (top) and Soprano, Alto and Baritone singers (bottom) perform for students.

audience by inviting them to keep the beat of that song by slapping their legs in time.



Franklin Middle School students take part in the “Goin’ Bald for Bucks” initiative for Roswell Park.

Students Raise \$1,600 for ‘Bald for Bucks’

Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at Franklin Middle School went “Bald for Bucks” to raise money and awareness for cancer treatment and research.

It was a school-wide effort that wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the administrators, teachers and staff. The heroes were the brave boys and girls who were willing to do their part either by getting their head shaved or getting a streak of pink chalk in their hair to raise money for the Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Students raised \$1,600 through the effort with one student raising more than \$200. A father of a student raised more than \$500, and he then had his head shaved and beard removed in support of the effort.

The Goin’ Bald for Bucks campaign dates back to the early 2000s and was founded by Anthony George, a history teacher at Lake Shore High School. At the time, his sister Cathleen was undergoing intensive chemotherapy and radiation treatment, the latest counterattack in her long fight against cancer. George and his students came up with the idea of shaving their heads to raise money for cancer treatment and research and to offer support to Cathleen and others struggling with the illness. That first year, they raised \$3,600.

Though Cathleen ultimately succumbed to her illness, her legacy lives on in the form of the annual Goin’ Bald for Bucks campaign, which has expanded to schools across the country and has raised millions of dollars for the Roswell Park Cancer Institute to date.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

# KMS ROCKS Promotes a Positive School Environment

Students at Kenmore Middle School have been able to enjoy fun motivational celebrations this year as a reward for upholding and supporting the school's ROCKS program, which is short for Respect, Ownership, Cooperation, Kindness, and Safety.

These fun and engaging celebrations have included the Kenmore Middle School ROCKS Band, comprised of faculty and staff members William Jacobs, Joseph Leone, Michael Haggerty, and Gregory Minorczyk, as well as skits featuring students and staff.

The ROCKS program was created by the school's Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) team. PBIS programs seek a more positive and proactive approach to promoting good behavior in schools. Instead of the traditional approach of just responding to student misbehavior, PBIS programs seek to set clear expectations and

encourage and motivate students to meet those expectations and emulate positive core values each and every day.

The Kenmore Middle School ROCKS program encourages a sense of community in which everyone plays an active role in the school's safety and success, as well as the safety, success and growth of every student. This school-wide program utilizes proactive strategies in defining and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create a positive school environment while also supporting ongoing character education.

The PBIS team developed school-wide expectations and a system of positive reinforcement that was implemented throughout the school, including classrooms, the cafeteria, bathrooms, hallways, exterior grounds, and assemblies. A system of recognition and rewards has helped motivate students to do their best.



Faculty and staff members who have made the Kenmore Middle School ROCKS celebrations possible. Back row, from left, William Jacobs, Joseph Leone, Michael Haggerty, and Gregory Minorczyk. Middle row, from left, Anita Dybas, Karen Peehler, Jane Stevens, Thomas Schwob and Thomas Ryan. Front row, from left, Susan Krieger, Elaine Grant, Janine Galante, and Principal Elaine Thomas.



## 'Throw for the Troops'

Kenmore Middle School students raised \$300 for the Ken-Ton Closet and WNY Heroes through the National Junior Honor Society's "Throw for the Troops" after-school double-elimination dodge ball tournament. The tournament included five-minute boys vs. boys games and girls vs. girls games in the gym. Teams paid entry fees to support the two organizations with additional money raised through a bake sale.

# Successful PTA Food Truck Night Raises Money for Field Trips and Activities

The recent Franklin Middle School Parent Teacher Association's Food Truck Night was a tremendous success, raising money to fund educational field trips as well as activities to help next year's seventh- and eighth-grade students transition to high school.

It was the PTA's largest event to date. Lines for the food trucks wrapped around the buildings, and each truck ran out of food and had to call for deliveries and additional staff.

The event coincided with the school's orchestra and choral concert and art show with pre-show entertainment outside by the jazz ensemble, a basket raffle, a book sale, and the Chrysler Drive for the Kids program, which netted \$10 for every test drive.

The test drive program alone brought in \$2,700, and that was in addition to proceeds from the food truck sales as well as the basket



The Franklin Middle School Jazz Ensemble provides pre-show entertainment for guests at the PTA's recent Food Truck Night prior to the school's orchestra and choral concert.

raffle, all of which will support field trips and student transition activities.

The PTA was praised for an extremely well-organized and well-attended event. The PTA expressed gratitude toward the teachers and administrators who worked a long day to help ensure the event was a success.

## MIDDLE SCHOOLS

**140 Middle School Students Inducted Into NJHS**

In the spring, 140 middle school students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, having demonstrated their adherence to the five NJHS pillars: citizenship, leadership, scholarship, character, and service.

The NHJS is the middle school equivalent of the National Honor Society at the high school level. NHJS members are very active in their schools, engaging in activities such as orientations, open houses, evening events, and fundraising efforts.

The induction events included a candle-lighting ceremony with five candles representing the five pillars and ideals of the NHS. Students also recited the NHS pledge: “I pledge myself to uphold the high purpose of National Honor Society to which I have been elected, striving in every way by word and deed to make its ideals the ideals of my school and of my life.”

To be inducted into the NHJS, students had to demonstrate exceptional academic performance by meeting a minimum grade point average of 90 percent or more, as well as demonstrating leadership in their school, contributions to the school and community, and exceptional character.

At Franklin Middle School, 36 NJHS members with at least 25 hours of community service were honored with the Principal’s Service Award. Four students – Nicole Coughlin, Lily Holmberg, Rachel Hamilton and Jeanique Diaz – received the Gold Eagle Award with more than 100 hours. Two students received Distinguished Service Awards: Liliana Dimmig with 172 hours and Cheyenne Mohr with 358 community service hours this past year.

**2015 NJHS Inductees****From Franklin Middle School:**

Isaiah Ballantyne, Anna Bandinelli, Kayla Baron, Matthew Barton, Amber Baum, Madison Chapman, Taylor Chapman, Alessia Craig, Devin Debski, Grace Eeley, Joshane Fernando, Samantha Gartz, Elise Gerardi, Alexander Ghosen, Adam Graziano, Kristin Greiner, Evan Haeick, Shannon Hussar, Jennifer Jepson, Shawna Langenfeld, Jessica Mitchell, Mursal Mohammad Akbar, Jordyn Parks, Madison Reimer, Megan Sawyer, Aurora Scolla, and Connor Sullivan.

**From Hoover Middle School:**

John Abramo, Jordan Adamczyk, Dominic Argenio, Matthew Baldwin, Efrem Bekteshi, Kristen Benner, Zachary Boyes, Connor Brace, Alex Cabrera, Ashley Cadro, Joey Cannizzaro, Colleen Chen, Christina Clawson, Jennifer Dang, Isabella DiGesare, Meghan Donacik, Maura Dungan, Jordan Esposito, Neal Fletcher, Madison Fox, Mary Fremming, Brandon Garcia, Madison Gibson, Trey Greco, Bailee Hauck, Owen Hochmuth, Haylee Hoffman, Audrey Holden, Nicholas Horvath, Jack House, William Hudson, Zack Kalinowski, Alison Kern, Griffin Lee, Adrianna Licata, Zach Lo, Maya Maccagnano, Mia Madore, Jacob Marshall, Emma Marzec, Jillian McKinney, Ava Mihelbergel,

Michele Morrocco, Hailey Murdie, Anna Nesci, Madison Nice, Carter Obstein, Aleah Palmer, Krish Patel, Zachary Peterson, Justina Petrilli, Brandon Pettit, Alyssa Quinlan, Faith Reinard, Brianna Reynolds, Kayli Reynolds, Alexander Robles, Gerald Rott, Daniel Rumschik, Rachel Ryckman, Elizabeth Saeli, Edward Saleet, Samantha Sauvageau, Emily Schofield, Cassandra Schwab, Vincent Sciortino, Sydney Sikorski, Kevin Smith, Reagan Smith, Dylan Speck, Alexander Spencer, Molly Tobin, Courtney Tully, Allison Webb, Michael Weber, and Jarrett Whipple.

**From Kenmore Middle School:**

Dominic Alessi, Briana Asobie, Claire Bressette, Kristen Butkowski, Matthew Chimera, Brigid Christiano, Janessa Cudzillo, Jason Diaz, Julianna Falsone, Santo Falsone, Stella Federice, Olivia Guarino, Meredith Hunt, Olivia Kandler, Nathan King, Jesse Kopasz, Emily McDonnell, William McGonagle, Ryan McNamara, Aaron Mendez, Vincent Mendez, Adelina Metz, Patrick Mohr, Gabriella O’Brien, Alex Oberkircher, Anthony Oliveri, Niko Panagopoulos, Joseph Peters, James Petschke, MacKenzie Rusinek, Stephanie Seyfang, Wayne Schmidt, Sara Trifkovic, Samuel Tuttle, Angela Westfall, Jakob Wiegand, and Alexandra Wilczek.

**Kenmore Middle School Students Visit Washington D.C.**

After a year and a half of fundraising, 81 students from Kenmore Middle School had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. from May 6 to 10.

Led by eighth-grade social studies teacher Paul Davies and teachers Miranda Del Bello, Joe Leone, Keith Murphy, Jessica Pielich, Tom Ryan, Karen Tobin and Heather Wolf, students visited such historic and iconic sites as

the White House, Mount Vernon, the Holocaust Museum, war memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson memorials as well as the National Zoo and three other Smithsonian museums. Students also had the opportunity to take an evening history and “ghost” tour of Alexandria, Va.



Kenmore Middle students pose in Washington, D.C.

HIGH SCHOOLS

# Survivor of Nazi Germany Speaks to Ken-East Students

Herman Stone, who emigrated to the U.S. after escaping the horrors of Nazi Germany, recently shared his experiences with students of Kenmore East High School social studies teacher Nicole Pauly.

Stone, his parents and his brother lived in Munich when, on Nov. 9, 1938, Hitler's SA forces launched deadly attacks against people of the Jewish faith in Germany and Austria and their homes and businesses in what would later be known as Kristallnacht – the Night of Broken

Glass. He was just 13 years old at the time.

The family narrowly avoided being sent to the Concentration Camps and barely escaped Germany, emigrating to the U.S. at the last minute before the German borders were sealed.

Stone spoke about his experiences as a Jewish child growing up in Germany at the time of the Nuremberg Laws and why it is so important to remember the Holocaust and be vigilant against prejudice in any form.



Herman Stone speaks to Kenmore East students in the auditorium.

# Ken-West Art Students Decorate Dumpster for Earth Day



Student Christina Dang helps put the finishing touches on a dumpster decorated for Earth Day.

Kenmore West High School Art Department chair David Rogalski rallied his students along with teachers Amy Veltri and Darryl Swanson and their classes to decorate a dumpster for an Earth Day competition.

The dumpster was on loan from local company Guard Contracting. Students had until April 20 to complete their work before the dumpster was picked up by the company, put on display,

and then deployed as part of its fleet in Western New York. They worked on it right up to the April 20 deadline, contending with heavy winds to perfect their artwork.

The challenge for students was to decorate the dumpster with their vision of Earth Day, and Kenmore West students transformed the dumpster into a collage of intricate animal- and nature-themed images against a green and blue background.



## Donation to the SPCA

On May 19, students in special education teacher Kathleen Tico's class visited the SPCA to donate fleece blankets and toys they had made and participate in an educational tour of the facility. As part of the school's community-based functional academic program, the students practiced their ADL skills by purchasing the material and assembling the blankets and toys from scratch.

# Students Named Youths of the Year

Two Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda students are recipients of the Erie-Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club Youth of the Year Award.

Kenmore West High School student Ashley Raymond and Kenmore East High School student Miranda Kassman were both honored by the Erie-Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club on March 11 with the Youth of the Year Award and scholarship.

The Sunrise Exchange Club, based in Tonawanda, is part of a national service organization dedicated to youth, Americanism, community service, and child abuse prevention.



Top, Ashley Raymond from Kenmore West. Bottom, Miranda Kassman from Kenmore East.

## HIGH SCHOOLS

# Internships Help Students Choose Career Paths

*Editor's Note: This is the first of two stories about students' internship experiences. Then next will focus on the Big Picture Program.*

**E**ach year, dozens of high school students at Kenmore East and Kenmore West experience real-life learning in a multitude of career areas through internships in the Ken-Ton area.

For Melissa Stogsdill from Kenmore West, her internship at the Nelson Prosthetics and Orthotics Laboratory turned a mild interest into a passion. The company creates prosthetics for patients who have lost extremities and provides orthotics such as braces. Melissa recalled one patient who had just had her leg amputated, and she witnessed first-hand the emotional toll it takes on a person.

"It was almost heart-breaking," Stogsdill said. "But a few weeks ago, we had a final follow-up with her and she is standing and starting to walk on her own. She has the confidence to do things she may have been unable to do."

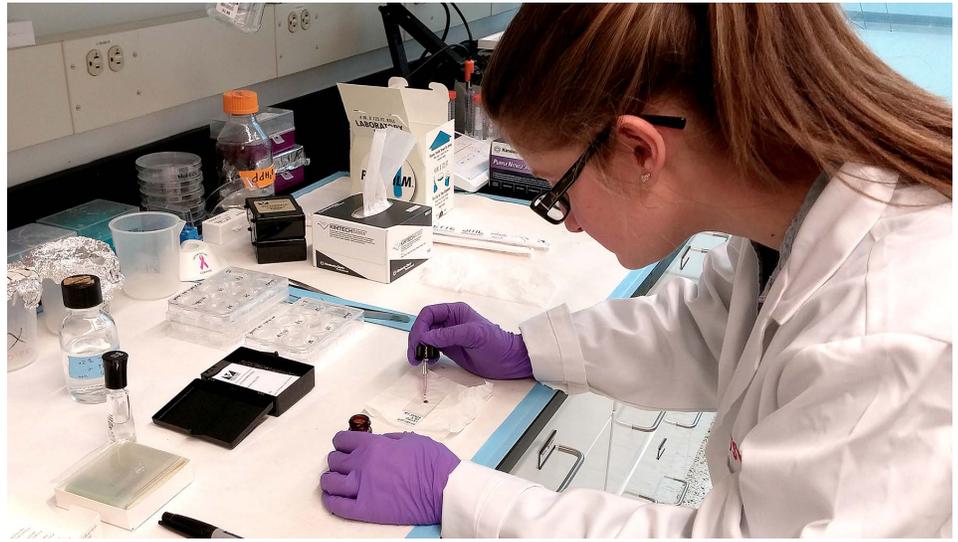
Jordan Hendricks from Kenmore East interned in the pharmacy at Walgreen's, which reinforced her desire to pursue a career as a pharmacist.

"I loved working with professional people towards our goal of improving and saving lives," Jordan said. "I'm thankful that this program allowed me to make so many new connections, introduced me to people in my intended field, and encouraged me to pursue this path in college at UB."

Anissa Strzalkowski from Kenmore West interned at the UB Department of Anthropology with Professor Douglas Perrelli and was involved with cleaning, sorting and labeling artifacts. She even had the chance to visit a historical site where a trench was dug to see the differences in soil over time and then sift through it to locate artifacts.

"I love history, and I think archaeology adds to its depth," Anissa said.

Earlier this year, Nick Kaszynski from Kenmore West interned at



Top, Christine Hickey from Kenmore West, who interned at Gates Vascular Institute. Bottom, Nick Kaszynski from Kenmore West, who interned at Hebel.

Hebeler, a local manufacturing and engineering company. Nick was able to contribute at the worksite with Autodesk Inventor, a 3D modeling program that he was familiar with from pre-engineering classes he took in the Project Lead the Way Program.

"The best part was that I came here knowing half the stuff I had to do and how it relates to the industry," Nick said.

Brianna Filippone, a senior at Kenmore East enrolled in the Pre-Engineering Academy, interned at US isek Group, which sells and repairs electronics. Brianna repaired computers, organized parts, and arranged for the sale of items online.

"I have been interested in technology and engineering since middle school," Brianna said. "I am going to ECC for electrical engineering technology next year. In the future, I may end up working with computers and I learned some of the basics that will help with a future job."

Monica Hutten from Kenmore East's Virtual Enterprise & Finance Academy interned at local accounting firm Borelli & LiPuma, working on small business tax exemption forms and financial records.

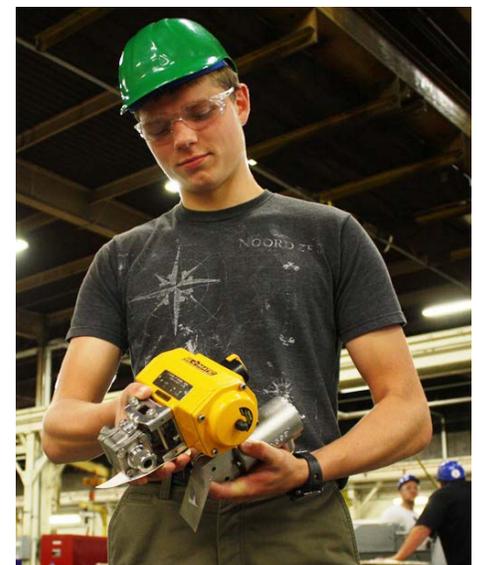
"This experience will definitely help me in the future because it gave me real world experience for what it will be like

for me once I'm in the working world," Monica said.

Kenmore West senior Christine Hickey's experience helped prepare her for college. She interned at the Toshiba Vascular and Stroke Research Center at Gates Vascular Institute to explore careers related to biomedical engineering and scientific research. Her group was studying aneurysms that form in the carotid artery in the brain, which have a high mortality rate.

One experiment Christine assisted with tested the surfaces on which a cell grows better to enhance three-dimensional blood vessel modeling.

[Continued on Page 20](#)



## HIGH SCHOOLS

# Guiding Students to College & Careers

## School Counselors Find Many Ways to Help Students Plan for Their Future

**T**he months of March and April were devoted to college readiness at Kenmore East High School and Kenmore West High School with opportunities for students and parents to speak to college representatives, explore the various options available in higher education, and learn about the college application process.

With an overwhelming majority of Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda graduates continuing on to higher education, college preparation is a priority for high school counselors. Although the most intensive programs are geared towards juniors, freshmen and sophomores are also strongly encouraged to take advantage of the School Counseling and Career centers to think ahead to college.

The Kenmore East Counseling Center, led by school counselor David Coates, worked closely with students in the spring. A culminating event – College Night 101 – provided an evening of panel discussions for students and parents led by visitors from several colleges and universities.

“Planning for their future starts now,” Coates said.

At Kenmore West, the counselors organized a Spring College Planning Night in April to review information and procedures about the college application process with students and parents. A variety of topics were covered, including standardized testing, Naviance, college essays, letters of recommendation, financial aid, scholarships, and applying to college online.



Above, Kenmore East High School students pose in front of Michigan State University's iconic Sparty statue during a visit to the campus. Below, Kenmore West High School students work on computers in the library.

“We strive to create a partnership between the student, parent and counselor during this process, and the best way to create that is by providing the crucial information needed during what can be a confusing and overwhelming time,” said Judy Flatau, who leads the Kenmore West counseling department.

Counselors at both high schools visited the English classrooms of all juniors to discuss the SAT/ACT exams, letting them know about upcoming opportunities, and familiarize the students with the first part of the college readiness program through Naviance.

Naviance is a website designed to streamline the college process, making it easier for students, parents, and teachers to access information. Through this website, students can

organize their college search list, explore careers that interest them, create a resume, and link to the Common Application. Teachers can also submit letters of recommendation through the site.

“The college process is connected through Naviance,” Coates said. “Students, parents, and teachers can work together.”

Naviance also provides data that helps counselors better



## HIGH SCHOOLS

**Continued:** Naviance an Important Tool in College Planning Process

understand the college readiness needs of Kenmore East and Kenmore West students. This assists them in personalizing the college preparation process for future students.

The Kenmore West counselors worked collaboratively with juniors in March in the computer labs to give them in-depth instruction about Naviance. Students were able to complete college searches, research careers, and begin a resume.

“We want our students to broaden their horizons when it comes to college choices and be able to make well-informed decisions throughout the application process,” said Kim Sedita, Kenmore West school counselor.

During the week of March 16, 65 juniors from Kenmore East and 86 juniors from Kenmore West participated in the National College Fair at the Buffalo Convention Center. More than 200 colleges from across the country were represented at the event, providing the students with an excellent opportunity to learn more about their options.

Also, 35 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate junior students from Kenmore East attended a trip to Michigan State University March 19 and 20. Coates organized and chaperoned the Michigan trip and believes it is very important for students to see for themselves what college is like.

“I wanted to show them what one

**“Planning for their future starts now.”**

– David Coates,  
school counselor at Kenmore  
East High School

of the large comprehensive research universities looks like,” Coates said. “It broadens their horizons so they know what is out there. They get to hear directly from college students who chose to go to Michigan State through the student panel. They get to experience what it is like on a college campus.”

College Night 101 was held at Kenmore East on March 31 for freshman, sophomores and juniors as well as their parents. Coates invited representatives from the University at Buffalo, Buffalo State College, Michigan State University, Marist College, Ithaca College, Erie Community College, and Niagara County Community College to provide a variety of viewpoints during a panel discussion.

On average, colleges and universities accept 60 to 70 percent of applicants each year but, as Coates pointed out, this varies by institution. He said it is important for students and their parents to know that some colleges are more selective than others. Even colleges that have open admission, like ECC and NCCC, have certain programs that have specific

admission requirements.

Coates said that the emphasis was on “searching, deciding, and applying” during College Night 101. Approximately 140 students and parents attended the event and Coates received very positive feedback.

While parents are usually more concerned about financing college, students can become anxious navigating the application process.

“Our job as counselors is to work through that,” Coates said.

In fact, Coates feels that, as students begin the college preparation process, they should be “searching and dreaming.” Optimism and excitement in looking forward to the college years is part of the goal.

“Starting with research and gathering information early is helpful in the process as well,” said Amy Handley, another Kenmore West counselor.

Ninth-graders were introduced to Naviance earlier this year by completing a career interest survey. Tenth-graders took a more lengthy assessment – a career interest inventory – which helped drive their course choices for the next school year.

Coates and the other Kenmore East counselors visited junior classrooms to follow-up on Naviance and further discuss college plans, and Kenmore West counselors followed up with seniors to collect data on their final college decisions and scholarship information in May.

**Students’ Work On Display at Art Show**

The Kenmore East Fine Arts Festival took place May 18. There were a wide variety of high-quality paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics, photographs, and digital media on display. The awards ceremony recognized the following students for their outstanding work this year:

- **Best Drawing:** Kayla Bartlett & Rachael Czarnecki
- **Best 3D Modeling/Animation:** Xena Williams
- **Best Illustration:** Gabby

Williams

- **Best Ad Design:** Gabby Williams
- **Best Digital Media:** Austin Nagelhaut
- **Best IB Visual Artwork:** Jess Long
- **Best of Show:** Jess Long
- **Best Photo:** Lauren Balbierz
- **Best Video:** Emma Greathouse
- **Hardest Worker:** Devon Eeley
- **Best Sculpture:** Brianna Fillipone
- **Best Series:** Jarick Roderick



Art teacher Richard Scaduto recognizes a student at the Ken-East Art Festival.

- **Best Painting:** Kelsey Stroh and Sarah Nelson
- **Artist of the Year:** Abigail Walter

## Continued: Students Take Part in Variety of Internship Opportunities

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“This exposure to a lab environment and experiments prepared me for college courses as well as further endeavors with a future career in the medical field,” said Christine, who is planning to study pathology.

Not all students found confirmation that the career was the one for them. That was the case for Shanel Tanks from Kenmore East, who interned at a local pediatrician. Though it was a great learning experience for Shanel, one for which she was thankful, it helped her realize it wasn’t the career path for her.

“Internships can either make one feel more interested in their personal career choice or confirm that it may not be the right career choice,” Shanel said. “I love science and so I decided I wanted to be in the medical field. After completing the internship, I still wanted to work in the medical field, but in a hospital instead.”

Some students are able to find internship opportunities in the district. Alexis Troutman, a senior at Kenmore East, interned at a kindergarten/first-grade special education classroom. She helped students with their work and engaged them in activities and games. For Alexis, the experience helped her identify a career path she would be



Top, from left, Kenmore East internship students Lexi Troutman, Brianna Filippone, Jordan Hendricks, Shanel Tanks, Monica Hutten, and Natalie Maida, and Kenmore East business teacher/internship coordinator Wendy Cox. Bottom left, Anissa Strzalkowski from Kenmore West at the UB Department of Anthropology. Bottom right, Melissa Stogsdill from Kenmore West at the Nelson Prosthetics and Orthotics Laboratory.

excited and passionate about.

“I always have known that I have wanted to be a teacher, but I never knew specifically what kind of teaching,” Alexis said. “I had thought about special

education but never really knew if I could do it. After my internship, I just knew, and I knew what steps to take to go in the right direction to become a special education teacher.”

## Continued: High School Teams and Athletes Compete in Post-Season

Continued from Page 5

**Kenmore East Boys:** 4 x 100: Jeremy Jacob, Alex Rusch, Dion Woods, Zak Coburn, Justin Moser and Marquee Moody (13th); 100m: Coburn (13th) and Woods (14th); 200m: Coburn (14th). Cole Bokoski (High Jump) and Ben Jackson (Pole Vault) qualified but were unable to attend.

**Kenmore West Boys:** 200m: Terrell Ford (3rd); 800m: Aaron Doboizin (8th); Long Jump: Cody Lambert

(8th); High Jump: Lambert (7th); Triple Jump: DeAngelo Walker (6th); 100m: Walker (13th); 4 x 100: Tavion Renfro, Mark Taylor, Ford and Walker; 4 x 400: Kahlil Saadiq, Lambert, Ford and Doboizin (7th); 4 x 800: Nate Welnhofner, Raniero Masecchia, Alex Militello and Justin Sagasta (14th).

**Kenmore West Girls:** 100m Hurdles: Katie Proy (7th); High Jump: Proy (8th); 2000m Steeplechase: Jordan Sobon (12th); 4 x 800m: Julia Gaeta, Josie Michaels, Gillian Boal and Sobon (8th); Triple Jump: Christina Wende (8th).

## Continued: Colby Will Travel to Munich for FC Bayern Partnership

Continued from Page 4

In eighth grade, Olivia was pulled up to the Kenmore East varsity team for the playoffs, and she has been with the team since. She was starting sweeper this year and was named to the “Buffalo News” Niagara Frontier Second Team.

Last year, she trained with the Olympic Development Program and was selected to represent New York State at

a tournament in New Jersey. This year, she has trained two to three days a week with Global Premier Soccer, and she was selected for the trip through GPS’s new partnership with FC Bayern. The trip will take place from July 29 to August 6.

In addition to playing soccer at Kenmore East, Olivia is an honor roll student, a soccer coach for preschool-age children at Sports Stars Skills and

Drills, and student secretary.

The Kenmore East community has helped Olivia’s family pay for the trip through the sale of \$20 raffle tickets. The prize is an all-expenses-paid round trip for two to England, including plane tickets and hotel accommodations, to watch a soccer game. To purchase tickets, contact Olivia’s mother Jill, at jcolby@ktufsd.org.