

The Eagle Tribune



www.mcgrawschools.org

District Office 836-3636

Volume 12 Issue 3

McGraw Central School

March

1	Booster Club Dodge Ball @ 6:30
2	Booster Club Alumni BB @ 7
3	Sr. Class Pancake @ Applebees
11-12	All-Co. Band Clinic
13	BOE meeting @ 7
14	Breakfast w/Elem. Principal
15-16	Musical @ 7:30
20	PTO meeting @ 6:30
23	Sr. Ball @ Tinelli's—6-11 pm
26	Gr. 1 & 2 Concert @ 7
29	Good Friday Supt. Conf. Day for staff

April

1-5	Spring Recess
10	BOE meeting @ 7
11	Breakfast w/Elem. Principal
12	All-Co. Elem. & Jazz Band
17	PTO meeting @ 6:30
18	Lions Club Talent Show @ 7
20	Baseball BBQ
22	BOE meeting @ 7
26	PTO Carnival
27	Sr. Honor Roadside Clean-up

Community Email News

Weekly email updates are sent for events of the week, including additions and cancellations. Request your name to be added to the community email list by emailing Donna Fox at dfox@mcgrawschools.org



"Monday Morning Meeting Mania!!"

The February Monday Morning Meeting to highlight our Character Education program was an exciting school-wide event. As you can see in the top picture all eyes were on the two winners of the Cherrydale fall fundraiser sponsored by the McGraw PTO. In the bottom picture, Mrs. Helen Sherwood, PTO President, stands with the first place winner, Riley VanLiew (left), and second place winner Zachary Moon (right) after they participated in the Cherrydale Money Machine. The boys were given thirty seconds to grab as much money as they could while it flew around in the Money Machine. Both did an excellent job and were able to collect over \$30.00 each. Congratulations to Riley and Zachary on a job well done!

Board of Education Members

Term expires	Member	email
2015	Tony Opera, President	topera50@yahoo.com
2014	Barbara Closson, Vice Pres.	barb.closson12@gmail.com
2014	Cindy Buerkle	buerkle.cindy@gmail.com
2013	Steven Jenney	skjenney@twcny.rr.com
2015	Cheryl Kenyon	cdk6976@verizon.net
2015	Steve Tobias	srtobias71@yahoo.com
2013	Al Mosher	mosher_al@yahoo.com

McGraw School News— From the Superintendent's Office

Good News All Around

Going Paperless

If you have not noticed yet, the Board made the move to going paperless. We are currently using a program called BoardDocs. This program allows the board to upload all documents for the board meeting. If at any time you would like to view the board minutes, packet, or agenda, just go to the McGraw home page. Click on “Click Here to View the Board Agenda” and you will have access to those materials.

Safety

Safety is always a district's number one priority. I count it a privilege to be the superintendent of McGraw and I take it seriously that we are here to educate children and keep them safe. Though we are a small community, and we think we may be immune from any of the atrocities that have happened at other schools, we take safety seriously. To make sure that we are on the cutting edge of keeping children safe, we have sent both principals for safety training. We are sending our secretaries for training in March. I attended Threat Assessment training last week and our interim Building and Grounds Supervisor will help us complete that assessment. Through the leadership of the Health and Safety Team we are updating and editing our District Wide Safety Plan. All of these efforts will keep our children as safe as possible. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to contact the district office.

Grants

We continue to implement several new programs because of the funding provided by recent grants we have received. We have filled the Library Media Specialist position at the high school. We have hired a Teaching Assistant to help with both libraries. We also hired a Family Advocate to work with families and young children with reading. We have hosted a book event in December and in February. Lastly, we have purchased two IPAD carts with 20 IPADS each. A cart has been placed in each building. All of these positions and materials have been funded by the literacy grant and the governor's performance grant.

Budget

To date the governor has proposed his budget, but the legislators still have their work to do. While we wait for them, the board has held two budget meetings to discuss and analyze the McGraw budget for the 2013-2014 school year. Through the Gap Elimination Adjustment, the state has taken away 1.5 million dollars over the past four years. Though that is a large loss of funds, the board and I continue to work hard to manage the funds we do have. This year the GEA is \$344,530 which is a gain of \$144,521. With that gain, increased BOCES aid and use of reserves, the budget gap can be closed. While we make this good prediction, we wait on Albany.

HS Art News

Art Show - The annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards was held at Onondaga Community College until March 2nd. This huge art show displays amazing works of art done by students all over the central New York area. Sophomore, Jessica Newby, received an “Honorable Mention” for her print of a zebra.

Paws Pantry – McGraw art students have been busy designing a logo for the “Paws Pantry”. This new service has recently branched off the “McGraw Community Food Pantry”. People may donate food and other items for pets and other animals to families in need within McGraw.

Art Club – During the month of December the Art Club held a “Holiday crafts” workshop, we had a huge turn-out and the students were able to bring home a variety of beautiful crafts. During the month of January the Art Club created bulletin boards or framed mirrors by using large, ornamental picture frames, mat board, and mirrors or cork paneling. This was a great way to recycle old picture frames that have been stored in the art room for many years! In February we made “Valentine's Day” crafts and in March we plan on making candles.

McGraw School News

From the Elementary Principal 's Desk

In the wake of the recent school violence that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School, I would like to provide some tips and resources for our McGraw families about how to help children cope when tragedies occur. When these types of incidents take place both adults and children can be very confused or frightened. One of the first things that parents and school staff can do is to help children feel safe and secure by remaining calm and attempting to stay in control of their emotions.

Children take their cues from the adults in their lives, so it is essential that adults control their anxiety and fear as much as possible. Reassure your children that they are safe and make sure to point out the realities of things that make them safe in their community such as: the police department, the fire fighters, doctors, and other emergency personnel. Remind children that it is acceptable to feel upset and allow them to express their feelings. Monitor their emotional states and seek out additional help if their ideas and feelings are at greater risk.

When explaining situations always stick to the true facts and limit the amount of media coverage that they are exposed to. Try to maintain a normal routine and monitor their health. Watch for signs of behavioral changes such as excessive crying, anger, or lack of sleep and contact your child's physician or local mental health office for assistance. Lastly, spend extra time with your children doing some fun activities such as group puzzles, games, or outdoor activities. Enjoy some extra special reading time and share light, uplifting stories. As always if you need any assistance please feel free to contact the Elementary School (836-3650) and we will provide any help that we can.

Additional Resources:

- Family Counseling Services of Cortland County, Inc.- (607)753-0234
- NASP(National Association of School Psychologists- www.nasponline.org)
- NAESP(National Association of Elementary School Principals)- www.naesp.org

"Fill A Pig... Kiss A Pig"

On Monday February 4th, I kept my promise to the McGraw Elementary students. I kissed a pig because they earned 500 Pom-poms during the month of January for various good deeds following the different character attributes they have learned about each month. For the month of January, we focused on the words cooperation and flexibility. During the morning announcements and throughout the school day students were reminded of these character attributes. Many set individual as well as classroom goals and it was impressive to see the school working together to achieve one main goal. I was amazed when they collected 1,102 Pom-poms- more than double the original goal I set. Joining me in this venture was Mrs. Boland, Mrs. Pinkerton, and Mrs. Gorman. They agreed to kiss the pig too if the students collected more than 500 Pom-poms. All of the students were excited about this challenge and were even more excited to see it in the Cortland Standard. It was a great way to kick off a new month and work together towards the common goal of character education for all of our students. The character education committee will be planning fun activities for the students to help them learn and internalize the character traits that we highlight each month.

Our next challenge will be to have the students work together to earn 1,000 Pom-poms for a school-wide ice cream party focusing on the character attribute for February which is: Friendship.



McGraw Jr/Sr High School News

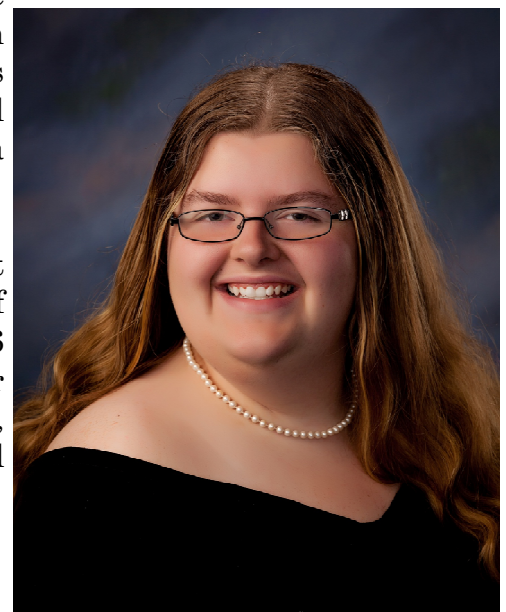
FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we start to prepare for the nice spring weather, we also prepare for budget season and all that is involved with that process. Our Board of Education, administration and instructional and non-instructional staff have been working to put together a budget that fills our needs and that is favorable to the entire community. This is a relentless task, however it is important that we continue to provide a quality education to each and every one of our students. As with most things in life, this has financial implications that must be carefully critiqued to ensure that every dollar is spent with a fiscally sound motive to promote student success.

The Literacy Grant that we received earlier this school year has allowed us to bring new technology to the high school building and therefore we have purchased two I-pad carts. The carts will be housed in the library and will be available for teachers to sign out for class use, as well as for individual student use in the library. Use of the I-pads will be incorporated into curriculum and will be a great tool as we continue to prepare our students for the technological world. Mr. Hinman, the librarian, has been working with teachers to discuss the technology options that are available in our district and is helping teachers plan lessons in which they can incorporate the use of the various technology resources that we have available. He has also been working with teachers to discuss and research other options and sources that would be advantageous to their teaching. Student learning encompasses a wide variety of styles and technology and we as a district are working hard to prepare our students for life after high school. The Literacy Grant has provided us with the staffing and funding that will help prepare McGraw students for the future.

Mrs. Lener, our Living Environment and Environmental Science teacher and 10 of her Environmental Club students won a national contest and a prize of \$10,000 for our district and the 10 team members. The club will be doing a presentation at a future Board of Education meeting, where they will discuss their accomplishments thus far and what the future holds. Our Environmental Club is very active in our community and we as a district are proud of their accomplishments.

Congratulations to Tiffany LaVancha, a senior at McGraw who was named "Cortland County Youth of the Year." Tiffany was chosen from a pool of 16 candidates as the most worthy based on four characteristics. These included community engagement, leadership, overcoming significant challenges and personal merit. We are very proud of her achievement.



McGraw Jr/Sr High School News

Environmental Club

Ten students from our environmental club recently won a national environmental competition by creating a project pertaining to climate change. This environmental competition, entitled the Lexus EcoChallenge, is sponsored by Toyota Motor Corporation and Scholastic Books Inc. The title of the student project was, "Recycling Outside of The Box". Students wanted to tackle climate change by encouraging people to recycle and reuse.

Students created over 50 collection boxes for non-traditional recyclables such as cell phones, inkjet cartridges, MP3 players, CDs and DVDs. These collection boxes were placed in businesses throughout the community which also included all of the residence halls on the SUNY Cortland campus. The students collected over 300 cell phones and various amounts of all other items listed.

In December the students held a Really, Really Free Market at the YWCA in Cortland. People could drop off unwanted items and take anything there for free. The purpose of this event was to encourage reusing, breaking the chains of commercialism and to foster a sense of community.

Students also created several educational documents including flyers and posters to promote recycling/reusing and to educate the public on the impacts of climate change.

This project won first place out of over 200 submissions nationally. Students won a \$10,000 prize that will be used for environmental conservation and monetary grants directly awarded to the students. They now are in the last round of the competition for a \$30,000 Grand Prize in their participation in the Lexus Final Challenge. Students are still collecting the non-traditional items listed above and these items can be dropped off at the high school. There is a collection box near the main office. Students are also conducting a political letter writing campaign to call government officials into action in the face of climate change. Sample letters are available through Nicole Lener at the high school.

**Alumni vs. Faculty
basketball game
Saturday, March 2 @ 7 pm
in the high school gym.
Interested players arrive at 6.
\$10.00 to play
\$2.00 to watch
\$5.00 for family**

The McGraw Varsity basketball team has had a very successful season this year. Achieving a record of 16-1 all together and 11-0 in league play. As a result of their success on the court, they have won the CCL and have been ranked 15th in the state by the Post Standard.

We would like to thank the parents, community, and the school district for all their continued support of the basketball program. We would like to also thank the supporters of the McGraw AAU team. Their support of the AAU team has allowed our players to continue to play year round and has vastly improved our ability on the court. Special thanks to Derrick Beaumont, Donna Dimorier, Tim Henry and the McGraw American Legion.

As we look toward sectionals, we have earned the number 1 seed and as a result have received a first round bye.

We appreciate the continued support of our team and hope to continue our success in sectionals.



McGraw School News

Guidance Department News

College Bound Seniors: Class of 2013

The Scholarship Book located in the Guidance office is where to look for federal, state, and local scholarships. Each page contains qualifying information and how to apply for each scholarship. This book contains only scholarships sent directly to our school. There are potentially many other scholarship opportunities available from sources such as the college you applied to, www.fastweb.com, and other web sites. A list of websites with scholarship information is available in the Guidance Office.

Financial Aid: In order to be eligible for federal and state loans as well as grants, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form needs to be completed.

Each college has their own financial aid deadline. Make sure you are aware of the deadline of the college(s) to which you have applied and have completed the (FAFSA) form.

To complete the FAFSA form:

Obtain a PIN number at www.pin.ed.gov in order to electronically sign the FAFSA.

Complete the FAFSA on-line at www.FAFSA.ED.GOV Free help is available from the FAFSA web site or by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID. SUNY Cortland and TC-3 also offer help with filling out the FAFSA forms no matter what college your student plans on attending. Call the Financial Aid Offices of these colleges for help in filling out the forms on- line.

Juniors: Class of 2014

As part of the college admissions process, many colleges (especially 4-year colleges) require either a SAT Reasoning Test or ACT test. Each college admissions office, college catalog, or website has information whether a SAT or ACT is required as part of the admission process to that particular college. There you can also find the average score expected of an incoming freshman.

For Juniors this means taking the test in the Spring 2013 or in the Fall 2013. Some students prefer to take the test in the Spring and upon receiving their results may opt to retest in the Fall. Juniors were given information regarding testing. If there are questions please call Mrs. Walter in the Guidance Office.

The SAT Reasoning Test has an essay. The ACT gives a choice of taking an essay.

If a student is looking for admission to a 4-year college the recommendation is to register for **the SAT and/or ACT with the essay.**

Fee waivers are available from the Guidance Office for students who meet the federal income guidelines for free or reduced lunch and register by the regular registration deadline.

Test dates/costs and on-line registration is available on the web at www.collegeboard.com for the SAT and www.actstudent.org for the ACT.

All registrations now require an uploaded photo of the student. If your child needs a photo uploaded and needs help doing this please have them come to the Guidance Office.

2013 SAT Test Dates

Students must register at www.collegeboard.com

All test dates are Saturdays

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline Date</u>	<u>Late Registration Date</u>
May 5	*April 5*	April 19
June 1	*May 2*	May 17

Cost: \$50.00

The late registration fee is an additional \$27.00 which makes the total late registration cost \$77.00.

A student with free and/or reduced priced lunch must come to the Guidance Office for a fee waiver. Fee waivers cannot be redeemed if registering late for a test.

McGraw CEEB code: **333087**

Nearest testing site: Cortland High School

McGraw School News

2013 ACT Test Dates

Students must register at www.actstudent.org

All test dates are Saturdays

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline Date</u>	<u>Late Registration Date</u>
April 4	*March 8*	March 22
June 8	*May 3*	May 17

Cost: \$35.00 (no writing)
\$50.50 (with writing)

The late registration fee is an additional \$22.00 to the cost of either ACT test.

A student with a free and/or reduced priced lunch must come to the Guidance Office for a fee waiver. Fee waivers cannot be redeemed if registering late for a test.

McGraw CEEB code: **333087**

Nearest testing site: Cortland High School

AP Students:

The AP History Exam will be held Tuesday morning, May 14, 2013, at 8 a.m.

Cost: \$81.00 due by 5/7/2013 to the Guidance Office.

Students receiving free/reduced lunch can possibly obtain a fee waiver. If a student/parent is not financially able to pay for the exam, please call either Mrs. Tongue or Mrs. Walter to discuss possible alternative resources at 836-3610.

Scheduling for 2013-14:

Students in grades 8-11 are in the process of meeting with Mrs. Walter and choosing high school courses for next year. Course selections will be sent home for parent signatures, however, if you would like to meet with Mrs. Walter with your child to go over graduation requirements, etc. please call the Guidance Office at 836-3610 and arrange a convenient time.

Summer School 2014

Please encourage your child/ren to do everything they can to pass their courses. To avoid the need for summer school, engage in conversations with teachers if your child is struggling with certain subjects.

If the necessity of summer school does arise please be aware that **transportation will be available for your student during summer school.**

As always registration for summer school is done through our Guidance Office and you will be made aware if summer school is an option for your student at the conclusion of the school year.

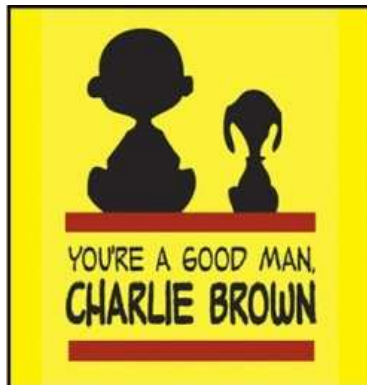
Access to College Education (A.C.E.)

Our school is participating in a free and exciting program called **A.C.E. - Access to College Education.** This program is designed to offer students high school opportunities designed to prepare them for eventual enrollment in college. Activities and workshops are offered for high school students and their parents to reach this goal. A.C.E. offers workshops on study skills, career exploration, financial aid, college life, college application process, college visitations, as well as social activities. Some of the A.C.E. events are school field trips while others are offered at night or on the weekend so parents are able to attend. Please check out the A.C.E. website at www.cortland.edu/ace.

On March 26th the freshman will have a field trip to Ithaca College to discuss Careers and on April 24th the sophomores will be attending a college class at Cortland State. Don't let your child miss out on these fun and educational opportunities!!

Parents and students (grades 8-11 this year) can pick up enrollment forms in the Guidance office. Students must be enrolled to participate in field trips and all other events.

McGraw Central School
proudly presents



Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts"®

by

Charles M. Schulz

Book, Music and Lyrics

by

Clark M. Gesner

Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer

Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Original Direction for this version of

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" by Michael Mayer

Originally Produced in New York by

Arthur Whitelaw and Gene Persson

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN is presented through special arrangement with

Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022

(212) 688-2525

March 15 & 16, 2013

7:30 p.m.

High School Auditorium

Ticket Information (607) 836-3601

Call 2-1-1

Or (1-877-211-8667)

That's the number to call

or 211.org is the website

If you or someone you know needs a connection with local health and human services agencies in the Cortland area. Looking for food, shelter, physical and mental health resources, daycare, transportation, and many other services?

Available 24 hours a day with live chat on the internet or speak with a live person who will direct you to the best agency to help you.

McGraw School News

Lamont Memorial Free Library
 (607) 836-6767 phone
 (607) 836-8866 fax
lmemoria@twcnv.rr.com



2012 Annual Report

The Lamont Memorial Free Library provided great patron service for 2012. The library experienced excellent attendance at our children's programs held at the Lamont Library, which were funded in part through grants. The library has maintained good circulation of library materials. The computers were actively used. Library staff were kept busy.

The county wide library card created in 2011 is working effectively. Patrons have one library card to access all five libraries in the county. Patrons enjoy using all the libraries with the same great services and materials.

The library's Children's Coordinator, Tammy Sickmon, was able to continue all of the children's programs: a weekly preschool storytime, a five week summer reading program for preschoolers – 5th graders, a weekly Books & Babies program, a monthly Starbright Storynight family oriented storytime, a yearly Puppet Pals workshop, and an outreach storytime held for Head Start students at the library. Library Assistant Mary Beth Whittaker provided a five week summer reading program for the tweens and teens.

This year the library received a Community Arts Grant from the Arts Council in the amount of \$1,600 and \$2,000 from the Cortland Community Foundation which helped to fund 6 special programs enhancing our summer reading program: the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre, Ivy Vine Players, Robin Bady, Tom Sieling and Storytime Stage. The special programs were held at the McGraw Community Center. 69 children, 18 young adults and 13 adults registered for the summer reading program. Total attendance for all of the summer reading programs was 374.

Thanks to the Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library, the library received a \$500 grant to be used to update the adult and juvenile DVD collection.

The Board of Trustees and library staff look forward to providing another excellent year of patron service in 2013. Take time to visit YOUR LIBRARY!

Library Board Meetings: Open to the public, held at 7:00pm the third Monday of each month in the Rose Room on the second floor of the library. Any change will be announced in the Cortland Standard.

Library Hours:

Monday & Tuesday 2-8 pm
 Thursday 10 am – noon & 2-8 pm
 Friday 10 am – noon & 2-5 pm
 Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm
 Closed Wednesdays, Sundays and all Federal Holidays.

Upcoming Events:

Beginner Quilting Classes
 March 7, 14, 21 & 28 6:30 – 8:00 pm
 Registration is required, space is limited

Craft Show & Vendor Sale
 April 6 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
 McGraw Community Center

Puppet Pals Workshop
 May 17 3:30 – 5:00 pm
 Children ages 6 thru 12

Spring Book Sale
 May 31 3:30 – 6:00 pm
 June 1 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
 McGraw Community Center

Weekly Programs:

Preschool Storytime
 Thursday & Friday at 10:00 am
 Children ages 2 thru 5

Books & Babies
 Saturday at 10:00 am
 Parents and babies 6 months to 24 months



McGraw Central School District
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