

# WE ARE MONROE

The **Monroe Public Schools** Newsletter

• GRADUATION EDITION •



"To know who you can lean on in this wonderful world while staying humble and kind will bring you happiness and purpose.

**Class of 2017, you are ready to begin your next chapter."**

- Sandra Kreps



"I could not be more proud of you. Good luck with all of your future endeavors!"

- Courtney Bodgen



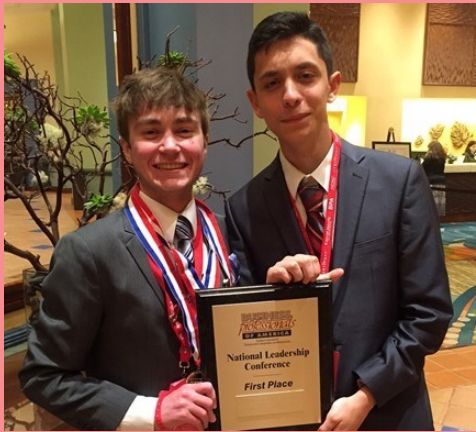
"For this is just the beginning of your life; how the middle and end are played out is up to **you and your persistence!**"

- Ryan Walentowski

Monroe Public Schools is committed to being the premier education organization in the region. We are devoted to promoting high expectations for all in a state of the art 21st century curriculum. We recognize that all of the students and the communities that we serve are our customers, and we promise to make all decisions in their best interest.

## INSIDE...

- Trojans take top state and national honors in CTE, BPA, choir, and mapping
- Custer student 3D prints local business leader's invention
- Raisinville gets families ready for summer learning with Cozy Reading Camp
- 6th graders get ready for the next big step!
- Kindergarteners slide into first grade



Sven Wollschlaeger and Anthony Levesque pose with their honors at the BPA National Conference in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

## Wollschlaeger takes first in nation in BPA competition

Monroe High School senior Sven Wollschlaeger added to his already impressive business resume with a great showing at the 2017 Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference, held May 9-14. He placed first in a field of 552 other students nationally in Administrative Support Concepts, while also placing fourth out of 369 students in Computer Programming Concepts. Wollschlaeger was also in the top three percentile in Merit Scholar competition at the conference.

Wollschlaeger, who plans on attending the University of Michigan Ross School of Business in the fall, was the president of the Monroe High School Class of 2017 as well as the National Honor Society. Wollschlaeger also was the recipient of a Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders Academic Award of Excellence and was a scholar and researcher in the Leadership, Education, and Development (LEAD) Summer Business Institute.

Sophomore Anthony Levesque also did very well at the conference, placing second in the state and 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation in Personal Financial Management. Like Wollschlaeger, Levesque was also in the top three percentile in Merit Scholar competition at the conference.

"We are so proud of both Sven and Anthony," said Monroe Public Schools Superintendent Julie Everly. "Their success at such a high level is a true testament to their hard work and the quality of the programs and instruction we have in the district."



Christian Guy performs with the 2017 MSVMA All-State Honors Choir in the Michigan Youth Arts Conference in Kalamazoo on the campus of Western Michigan University.

## Guy sings with All-State Honors Choir

Monroe High School senior Christian Guy received the opportunity of a lifetime for a choral student in the state of Michigan. He was named a Michigan Youth Arts Distinguished Scholar and attended the Michigan Youth Arts Conference in Kalamazoo May 18-20, where he was among the best youth instrumentalists and singers in the state.

"This is a huge event that goes on, taking students from the best choirs at a regional level, then from a state level, to get to the all-state level," he said.

In its 55th year, the Michigan Youth Arts Conference, held on the campus of Western Michigan University, brings together students from all over the state to celebrate excellence in not only choir and band, but in many other performing arts.

"We are so proud of Christian and everything he and all of our choir students have achieved," Monroe Public Schools Superintendent Julie Everly said. "The students have shown such passion for singing and the staff, especially Cate Windleborn (Monroe High School

Choir Director), are so dedicated to fostering that passion."

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association's (MSVMA) All-State Honors Choir is the third stage in a very competitive field of the best singers in the state.

"I'm in my 21st year of teaching and I've had two make it that far," said Windleborn. "It's a huge deal. If you take all four sections separately, that means that Christian is one of the best 25 basses in the entire state. I'm so proud of him and the experience he was able to have."

## Why Monroe High? MHS has more!

Monroe High School's career and college focused curriculum has offerings for a wide array of interests and plans.

With 13 Advanced Placement courses currently offered, MHS is unsurpassed by any other school in Monroe County. Count those along with Direct College and Dual Enrollment, no school prepares your student for college like Monroe High School.

The Career and Technical Education department has a wide array of courses and pathways that give students an unparalleled experience and educational foundation in an array of careers not found anywhere else.

# Knabusch takes Grand Award in MITES competition



Corey Knabusch stands with his Grand Award-winning Wrought Metal submission for the 2017 Michigan Industrial and Technical Education Society (MITES) competition. He is the first Trojan to take the Grand Award.

Monroe High School senior Corey Knabusch was awarded the Grand Award for Wrought Metal at the 2017 Michigan Industrial and Technical Education Society (MITES) Student Project Competition. Knabusch is the first Trojan to ever receive the honor, which is given to the top project in the competition that brings CTE students from all across the state.

"It was really humbling," Knabusch said. "It was a really cool event. There were so many great projects, even outside of my division. I was actually surprised that my project did that well. It was really cool."

Knabusch's project, which was the first he had ever entered into MITES competition, depicts two pheasants taking flight from the foreground of four stalks of corn, adorned with an intricate spider web and a butterfly. He began working on it before the start of the third trimester and spent time outside of school working on it as well with Glenn Zorn, his welding teacher.

After having started the project, Knabusch broke his leg in a dirt bike accident and had to take time off of working, but was still able to produce a top-tier submission in the Large

Sculptures/Models over 30" division, which would eventually win the top prize for the Wrought Metal category.

"He had to take six weeks off of working," Zorn said. "He worked really hard on it, though. It was a really cool project."

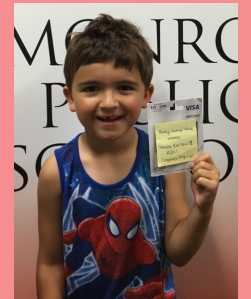
Zorn has a lot to be proud of with his students this year. Several other Trojans performed extraordinarily in the Wrought Metal category of the 2017 MITES competition. Senior Dalton Benner took first in Outdoor/Sporting Goods Project division and senior Trevor Duvall took first place in Small Sculptures/Models under 30".

## Summer Reading and Dreambox Challenge!

What can be better than reading and playing Dreambox during the summer?

**Winning prizes for doing it!** Just ask Damien Rastelli, a Manor 1st grader, who won a \$20 Visa Gift Card! Remember to read and play Dreambox every day!

**Log your minutes every day for a chance to win fantastic prizes! Drawings are pulled every Monday!**



## MPS Board of Education awards scholarships to 25 seniors

The Monroe Public Schools Board of Education honored the academic careers of 25 seniors Tuesday evening, welcoming their families in as the students were awarded a range of scholarships, totaling over \$30,000 for the group.

The evening began with opening remarks from Monroe Public Schools Superintendent Julie Everly, who after welcoming the seniors and their families, praised them for their dedication to their academics as well as their dedication to volunteering and service in the community.

"The scholarships that are awarded tonight are all deserving honors recognizing both your scholastic achievements and your community service," she said. "We are all very proud."

Six very special scholarships were awarded

in addition to the traditional endowments.

The Sean Brady Memorial Scholarship is given in the memory of the Monroe High School alum who tragically lost his life in a vehicle

accident in 2015. Brady's parents, Richard and Ann Brady, were in attendance to celebrate with those whom the family had awarded the scholarship.



# Raisinville preps students for summer reading fun

Raisinville School mixed s'mores and stories at the Cozy Reading Camp. Students and staff came together outside the school for a night of tents and tales in an event aimed at getting the school community reading over the summer.

Roadrunners and their families had many great opportunities to interact with reading in different ways. In the field next to the school, families could borrow books to read together, after grabbing a hot dog expertly cooked by school staff. The International Baccalaureate Candidate school also set up reading tents based on the learner profile traits, so students could read with their families and friends. A photo booth with reading theme props was the next stop before making crafts and finishing off with a freshly-cooked s'more.

Community partners were also present to help kick off the summer reading mood. The Monroe County Library System had books to borrow and the YMCA offered more summer reading fun. The Monroe County Humane Society, along with a couple canine companions, signed students up to share their reading to furry friends throughout the summer. Major Muskrat also reported for duty, representing the River Raisin Battlefield, to encourage kids to continue reading over the summer.

"It's been a great night," Raisinville principal Scott Hoppert said. "It's heart-



River Raisin Battlefield's mascot Major Muskrat reads with some Raisinville students at the Cozy Reading Camp.

warming to see so many families interacting with each other, reading with the kids. People are taking advantage of it and I love it. I am so lucky to have such a talented group of people to work with who are dedicated to kids and families and that's what it's all about; kids and families."



Braden Dean, Graden Dushane, and Colton Alston's book "Triple Super Ninjas" raised over \$400 for the cancer ward C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. (Photo taken by TOM HAWLEY)

## Waterloo authors donate proceeds to Mott's Children's Hospital

Waterloo first-graders Braden Dean, Graden Dushane, and Colton Alston together wrote a book, "Triple Super Ninjas," about a dream in which the boys become ninjas to protect a friend who is being bullied because she is bald from chemotherapy treatments.

The boys sold the books around the school for \$5 to raise funds for the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital cancer ward.

"We picked Mott because there are a lot of kids with cancer there," Graden said.

"We can make a difference and stop bullying and help kids who are who are sick," said Colton.

The boys had a great time writing a book and are already thinking about a sequel.

"I like it because writing takes my mind off of stuff and I really like to do it," he said.

## Custer student recreates business leader's patent

Earlier in the school year, John Giarmo of Giarmo's Carpet Cleaning came and presented to Custer teacher Kyle Reed's sixth grade robotics and coding class about the process of designing an invention and receiving a patent. Before he left, he gave the class a challenge; following his design, he requested that the students design and manufacture a model of his invention on the school's 3D printer.

"These guys really took it and ran," Reed said. "There were about five students that really hit the nail on the head with it, but Kyle Pafford's was the closest."

Pafford, after working with TinkerCAD software, designed a prototype almost identical to Giarmo's.

"It was fun to make," Pafford said, explaining all the steps to



Kyle Pafford models his replica of John Giarmo's patent.

his design. "We used calipers to measure everything. It wasn't too hard."

"This is great," Giarmo said. "I was telling people, 'I'm getting a new prototype made,' but they were shocked when I said it was being made by a sixth grade class at Custer. People could pay a company to do this work, but he (Pafford) made it here in school. It looks

# STEAM POWERED!

Custer's "Night at the STEAM Museum" drew a great turnout, introducing the Cougar community to the amazing lessons its students are learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. Waterloo's STEAM Shop was also featured in a nationally-syndicated magazine dedicated to STEAM!



For more information on these stories and more great happenings at MPS, visit [www.monroe.k12.mi.us](http://www.monroe.k12.mi.us), or visit the MPS Facebook page!

## "A Cup of Joe because We Love You So!"

Manor thanks parents with a morning pick-me-up!



Manor staff showed their appreciation for their students' parents by handing out cups of coffee, adorned with thank-you stickers made by their Bobcats, at the parent loop. The coffee was generously donated by Tim Hortons and graciously delivered by dedicated Bobcat staff.

"This is my favorite time of day," Manor Principal Ronda Meier said. "I love parent drop-off in the morning. I love seeing all these kids that make me so proud every day and hey, they all came from somewhere! We just wanted to say thanks!"



Arborwood fifth grader Xavier Boudrie grabs a wheelbarrow to help plant trees for Arborwood's second annual Arbor Day Celebration with the City of Monroe.

## Arborwood celebrates 2nd annual Arbor Day

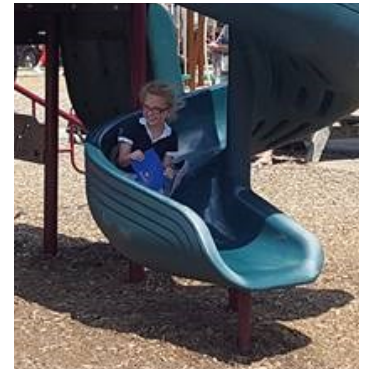
For the second year, Arborwood Elementary Campus welcomed elected community members, members of the Monroe Public Schools central administration, and a Board of Education member to celebrate Arbor Day. "I felt it was an honor that we were chosen by the city to celebrate and host a wonderful event," Steve Pollzzie, principal of Arborwood said. "We are grateful for the beautiful trees that will grace our campus and we hope to continue the tradition for years to come."

After months of planning with City of Monroe Forestry and Grounds Supervisor Tony Abbott, six more Tulip Poplars were planted on the campus grounds, four along Linwood Ave. and two on the south field. Eighteen fifth grade students assisted City of Monroe forestry crew members in planting the trees before a ceremony dedicating the trees and the day. Arborwood's student body assembled on the field to witness the dedication and take part in the celebration.

"This was a great experience for our students to meet dignitaries from throughout the community and be a part of Monroe's bicentennial celebration," Megan Alexander (Angerer), Dean of Students at Arborwood, said. "Being a Green School, Arborwood is proud to house this annual event, bringing awareness to environmental concerns in the community and teaching students about the importance of trees."

In attendance were Mayor Robert Clark, State Representative Joe Bellino, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle LaVoy and former State Representative Bill LaVoy. Also present were Board of Education member Robert Nichols, Director of Human Resources Cindy Flynn, and Director of Student Services Terry Joseph.

"We are so happy to be able to celebrate this occasion with elected members of the community," Julie Everly, Superintendent of Monroe Public Schools said. "We are grateful for our partnership with the City of Monroe, especially when we are able to collaborate for wonderful events like this one."



**SLIDE INTO FIRST GRADE**



**CLIMB INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL**





# REGIONAL CHAMPS!

In a nerve-wracking Saturday of back-to-back 11-inning performances, the Monroe varsity softball Trojans took home the 2017 Regional Championship! Congrats girls!

## Seventh graders travel the world in room 407



Students were able to sample food and clothing from cultures all across the globe.

Monroe Middle School seventh graders in Jacqueline Pecora's social studies classes traveled the globe right inside room 407. Perusing food, artifacts, activities, and clothing from around the world, these middle school students learned about different cultures with adult guests teaching them from different perspectives.



Katja Classic, who was born and raised in Germany, came into Jacqueline Pecora's seventh grade social studies class to give students a new perspective into different places around the world.

## Thomas takes second in national GIS mapping competition

Monroe High School senior Zachery Thomas has certainly mapped out a course for his future. The Class of 2017 graduate took second place in the nation in the ArcGIS Online U.S. School Competition after he won the ESRI ArcGIS 2017 Map Michigan Competition. Thomas submitted the story-map project he completed while working on an internship with the Monroe County Planning Department through the GRACE (Geographic Information System Re-



Zachery Thomas

sources and Applications for Career Education) Project in conjunctions with Monroe Public Schools.

"Mr. (Russell) Columbus (Thomas' teacher at Monroe High School) walked up behind me and put his phone in my face and it said, 'Zach Thomas is the Michigan winner,'" Thomas said. "It was pretty exciting."

Thomas was first introduced to the world of mapping when Columbus held an informational meeting about a possible internship with County Planning. Columbus, who has been working towards building a partnership with ESRI, an interna-

tional mapping technology company that is responsible for much of the Global Information System (GIS) technology used today, was excited at the prospect of getting this software in students' hands.

"I had been building this partnership for years and years," Columbus said. "These kids are given free access to the same professional training that pros are paying for. Our kids are getting it for free."

After finishing the training, Thomas, along with sophomore Donovan Vitale, as well as a few Middle College students, interviewed for two positions in the County Planning Department before the summer of 2016.



Monroe Public Schools  
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Monroe, MI 48162

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Stop by and see us in the MB&T Expo Center July 30– August 5 at the Monroe County Fair!

## Superintendent's Remarks

Contained in these stories are countless examples of why we can beam every single day with that one-of-a-kind Trojan Pride! "We Are Monroe" celebrates the passion and interests of our students, who with the support of our talented staff, involved families, dedicated Board of Education members, and invested community organizations have closed the 2016-2017 school year with both local and national honors, awards, and scholarships.



When I speak to others about our district as my home, where my own children have been and are educated, and where I have invested my career as an educator, I am proud to share the many memories and opportunities within Monroe Public Schools. Whether it be in academics, arts, athletics, leadership, technology, or volunteerism, our students have access to the programs and initiatives that support them in meeting high expectations and becoming successful lifelong learners and global citizens.

Each of us holds an important position in our community as a champion for our students and the school district. For every positive story that we share, there is a person or an entire group of people, young and old, working harder and feeling a deeper sense of pride because of it. Let this issue of *We Are Monroe* support you with new and exciting stories to share about amazing students and educational opportunities beyond the imaginable.

Thank you for your support. We are a community school, and you are always welcome here. Working together, we promise that much excitement, celebration, and achievement lies ahead of us! Monroe Public Schools is stronger because you are a part of it, and WE ARE MONROE!

Believe. Engage. Excel.

As always,

Julie Everly,  
Monroe Public Schools Superintendent



## Monroe Public Schools

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Cindy Flynn	Director of Human Resources
Jerry Oley	Director of Operation
Terry Joseph	Director of Student Services
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News Best of the Best!

