

# Ring in the season right at GRB chorus concert

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.”

As the month turns from November to December, the G. Ray Bodley Choirs will be bringing in the season with their annual holiday concert. On Wednesday, December 1 the sounds of merry music will ring through the auditorium.

During this season many people go out and

pay for concerts that will bring them Christmas joy. This seems silly when they could just attend a concert performed by Mrs. Walrath’s women’s choir and Mr. Nami’s mixed choir, for free.

Songs ranging from upbeat jingles to winter ballads will all grace the ears of the audience and turn on that inner switch of holiday bliss that we all have in our hearts.

The talent within the walls of the high school often times goes unappreciated and unnoticed. The only time the voices of the choirs are heard by the school is at pep rally in a gym filled with the entire student body. Support your classmates and enjoy the sounds of the holidays by attending the first of three concerts of the year.

By Brenna Merry



G. Ray Bodley High School, Fulton, NY

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## Seniors thrilled by “VIP” treatment

By Brenna Merry

In life it seems as though society puts its primary focus on those who are doing wrong. A ridiculous amount of money is spent on jails to care for criminals as well as the money that is given to those who are poor and need welfare. But what about those who are excelling? What do they get for being a valuable member of society?

It seems like they get nothing but a sense of self-satisfaction to drive them onward. This trend is applicable within the walls of G. Ray Bodley High School, where the primary focus of the faculty is on those who are doing wrong, merely expecting that the well-behaved will remain that way. Finally, however, good behavior is not going unnoticed.

On Monday, November 29 the “Senior Lounge” that was once supposed to be a reward for seniors, was finally not crowded with angry misbehaving students. Only those who had been distinguished as VIP’s due to their grades and behavior entered the true lounge. Upon entering they saw tables filled with breakfast pizza, donuts, bagels and the like. What these students had expected from a lounge had taken form. Smiles graced the faces of the students, and as senior VIP Kali Kearns noted, “I’m glad that all my work is finally getting noticed.”

Before entering the lounge senior VIP Kirsten Francis said, “Last year for the top 25 breakfast was pushed off for weeks and once it took place there was one breakfast pizza that was barely edible. It seemed like more of a slap in the face than a reward. I really hope this isn’t the same.” She was pleasantly sur-

prised that this was not the case and ate her breakfast with many exclamations about how happy it had made her and how good her day would now be.

As students munched and chatted, Principal Buchanan made the rounds, sitting with each of the tables to discuss what they did on Thanksgiving break and why they feel they made it into the VIP category. This was the first time many students had a one on one talk with the principal, having never had to visit his office. This gave students a feeling of maturity, showing that due to their good behavior they were looked upon as something other than high school students.

With bellies full of munchies the seniors exited the cafeteria with sight of the non-VIPs exiting the auditorium. Seeing what their classmates had been treated to, those exiting the auditorium exclaimed how they wanted to be a part of this eating extravaganza. This made

it evident that rewarding those who are excelling will, in all, make others wish to excel. It seems that focusing more on good behavior than bad will create fewer hooligans, and is more successful than assigning detentions and suspensions.

The senior VIPs wished to give thanks to those who created this breakfast. The food was fantastic and so was the company. This pat on the back helped to cure senioritis for many, knowing that what they are doing on a day to day basis is being appreciated. Members of the sophomore, junior and freshman classes will also receive the “VIP treatment” later this week as the school honors students for good behavior and passing grades.

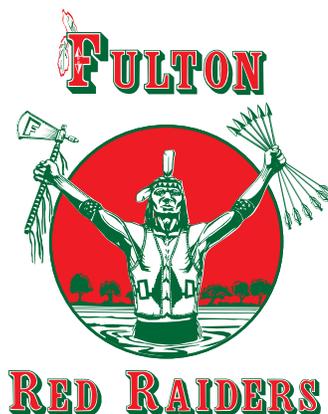
Sponsored by the Pride Committee at GRB, the VIP passes are awarded to students who pass all of their classes with no referrals and 90% attendance rate and 90% on time for school.

### Enviro. Club meets Thursday

All members of G. Ray Bodley High Schools Environmental Club are encouraged to attend a meeting this Thursday, December 2. It will be a brief meeting, about fifteen minutes after school, and the topic discussed will be future fundraisers for the club.

The plastic water bottle fundraiser idea will be an area of discussion. All participants in the club are asked to attend this meeting, and to spread the word to their fellow club members.

By Kayla Distin



## Opinion

# Lack of monitoring has made it easier to skip

By Kaitlyn Lauber



Recently I have heard many teachers and several hall monitors complaining about students skipping classes excessively. But in the students' defense, they aren't the only ones to blame. Sure, there are those few who will skip no matter what, but it's not that there are more students skipping class, but it's also a lack of hallway monitoring.

So the few who tried to skip last year and got caught (and sent to class), are trying this year with a great success. These students are testing their boundaries. As humans, we will always try to test boundaries, but it's the job of an administration to keep us in check. That is why we have the government isn't it?

As a test, I have spent a total of three regular school bells in the hallway in the past week. I had no pass, and didn't find myself in any sort of trouble and one of those bells was even spent with a friend in the

**"So the few who tried to skip last year and got caught (and sent to class), are trying this year with a great success. These students are testing their boundaries. As humans, we will always try to test boundaries,"**

hallway.

Every single one of those bells was spent in every school hallway and at one point I even sat in a hall monitor desk as a monitor walked by. I really wanted to see just how strictly the school class attendance policy was being followed. And my assumptions were more than correct, there is a lot of talk but not a whole lot to back it up.

Students are always told to have a pass in the hallway because they will get into trouble if they don't have one. I know that monitors and administrators don't ask everyone because that would take up too much time. But, at one point I passed by two different administrators in the hallway multiple times during the same bell and even talked to them! Never once did they ask me if I had a pass or why I was in the hall.

Last year I paid a few visits to the office for skipping. I have skipped class before and been caught, it's as simple as that. If you know that you'll get caught, you won't do it. "They only ask you for a pass if you're a boy," one senior commented, "and if you are on a list. Otherwise, they don't even care." This is one of many opinions on our school's skipping policy. Thinking back, I have only been asked for a pass once during my high school career, and that was during my freshman year. My skipping was actually reported by my teacher, and I willingly took my punishment.

These days, a majority of the time I'm in the hallway is spent without a pass. Of course I get permission from my teacher before I leave the classroom, but only two of my teachers actually make me get a pass to go into the hallway. And I give those who do make students have passes complete credit for actually following the rules. As for the other staff members, I know that you have a lot going on with handling students, grades, and planning lessons; but it is definitely contributing to the skipping problem. And in my opinion, enforcing a "90% attendance or no credit" policy won't help because in reality, those who skip really don't care whether or not they pass a class. This policy definitely hurts the kids who go to class but have to miss certain bells for lessons, field trips, and other academic activities, because now the good students have to restrict how much they do based on how much they sit in that classroom.

Note: This is not meant to accuse any teachers, administrators, or hall monitors of not doing their jobs, but without the proper support, some students will take complete advantage and skip. This is really just the point of view of one disgruntled student, who is very sick of listening to teachers gripe about attendance.

## Bizarre News of the Day

A German retiree accidentally locked himself in the basement of his home when he bricked over the entrance. As odd as that may seem, after being questioned by police upon his escape, the elderly man told them that he only became aware of his mistake when his work was complete.

After he camped out in the cellar for several days, he finally decided to free himself by knocking down a wall. However, it wasn't the wall he'd built. It was his neighbor's. Police were waiting for the man after he escaped the basement, and officers are now investigating the event.

*By Morgan Firenze*

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## Reflections

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In the News

# Troop 715 welcomes newest Eagle Scout

By Daniel Summerville

On Saturday night, the Fulton Boy Scout troop welcomed their newest Eagle Scout. Senior Phillip Field received the highest rank in Boy-Scouting, the 23rd scout to receive eagle from the troop.

Eagle is a great honor; only three percent of all scouts get to this rank. It takes years of hard work and dedication, including the planning and execution of a service project that entails 80 man-hours of labor. For his Eagle project, Phil worked with his troop to clean and map the cross-country trails at Great Bear Park just outside of Fulton.

The rank Eagle Scout also requires at least twenty-one merit badges, half of which are required. Phil earned thirty-six merit badges, including backpacking, hiking, first aid and emergency preparedness. Phil is the first scout in the Fulton troop to complete this requirement in over three years. To reach eagle, Phil had to climb through the other ranks: Tenderfoot, Second-class, First-class, Star, and Life.

During the ceremony, Phil was escorted to the front of the church by the honor guard, the four scouts who are next in line for Eagle. Phil promised to live by the scout oath and law, continuing to serve his community. Two former eagle scouts joined him as he took his oath. After he took his oath, Phil thanked everyone who helped him reach his new rank, including his father Mark Field, his scoutmaster Doug Devendorf, and the committee chairperson Bob Ireland. When the ceremony ended, the guests gathered for refreshments and to congratulate Phil on his accomplishment. Phil's name is now on Troop 715's Eagle Scout plaque, showing that he did what few others ever do.

If you happen to see Phil in the hallways, congratulate him, it is an honor to become Eagle Scout, and it takes an extraordinary person to accomplish it.

Going someplace cool?

Take

# RaiderNet

Daily

with you and get your picture taken for this year's

Fultonian Yearbook feature

## "Where in the world is The Raider?"

Don't forget! The annual French Club food drive is underway until Dec.3

Quote of the day:

"Time passes. Will you?"  
English teacher Mr. Senecal

## Meet the Reporters

Brett Williams, Senior

Brett joined the staff of The Raider to express creativity, knowledge and interesting facts within articles that concern the school. Outside of school, Brett spends a



lot of time outdoors, he hunts, snowmobiles, 4-wheels and he also plays football and lacrosse. One thing you don't know about Brett, is that he made the Central Lacrosse Team last summer and competed in the Empire State Games, the team took silver.

Compiled by Patty Morrison

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**School of Thought** compiled by Max Fobes and Hunter Gorton

# How many inches of snow are we going to receive this Winter?



"Maybe 96 inches."  
*Mr. Lescarbeau*

"Probably 10 inches or 24."  
*Breanna Thomas*

"20, but hopefully some snow days"  
*Nick Lake*

"Were going to get a lot, a blizzard."  
*Mrs. Crucitti*

## Meteorology and you

by Carson Metcalf



**Today:**

**Tonight:**

**Tomorrow:**



Windy with rain. High in the low-50s.  
Record high-67 (1998)  
Avg. high-41

Rain showers. Low in the low-40s.  
Record low-5 (1976)  
Avg. low-27

Cloudy with rain. High in the mid-40s.  
Record high-68 (2006)  
Avg. high-41

*Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ [www.centralnewyorkweather.com](http://www.centralnewyorkweather.com) ...Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*