



Third Place Win for OCAY League

By Nolan Johnson

On November 16, GRB sent students to participate in the OCAY league competition. OCAY League stands for Oswego County Academic Youth League, where schools send their brightest students to compete in academic challenges. This competition was held at the DEC building in Pulaski.

Fulton's roster included junior Hayley Vann, junior Shaylee Cealie, junior Andrew Dedich, junior Jadelyn James, junior Ryan Barry, sophomore Kira Whitehead, senior Caitlyn McAfee, junior Nora Kingsbury, and junior Nicholas Brown. Mrs. Ruzekowicz supervised and helped students when it was allowed.

This event's competition had literature, history, writing, and performance components. Mrs. Ruzekowicz said she was very impressed with the students and thought their art project was "amazing." She noted that she even hung it up in her room, 227, if anyone would like to see it.

Senior Caitlyn McAfee shared that the students "worked together amazingly and made sure to really play off of each other's strengths."

The team placed third out of eight Oswego County teams.



Pictured wearing their medals is the winning OCAY League team. From left to right are junior Ryan Barry, senior Caitlyn McAfee, junior Jadelyn James, junior Nicholas Brown, junior Hayley Vann, sophomore Kira Whitehead, junior Shaylee Cealie, junior Andrew Dedich, junior Nora Kingsbury, and OCAY League advisor Mrs. Ruzekowicz.

This is a great achievement considering the team was one person short and only had two students who have competed previously.

This is the second of four compe-

titions that will be taking place this year.

Congratulations to the OCAY League!



Quirk's Players recently announced the cast for their production of Annie. See article on Page 2.

Annie Cast Announced

By Brian Trombly

On Tuesday, November 21, Quirk's Players announced the cast of their spring musical, *Annie*, which will take place March 8, 9, and 10 at 7:30 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on March 10.

The main leads in the musical are senior Alfred Arduini as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, sophomore Alex Blaine as Oliver Warbucks, senior Alexis Phelps as Miss Hannigan, junior Sarah Fisch as Lily St. Regis, sophomore Kaylee Foster as Grace Farrell, junior Nicholas Brown as Rooster Hannigan, and senior Michael Zarichny as Bert Healy. Annie will be played by elementary students Jayda Whitehead and Harper Ells. The other orphan ensemble consists of elementary students Hailey Jenkins, Madelyn Sands, Ava Greeney, Adyson Shepard, Sarah Patrick, Cassie Clarke, Geena Abbott, Katharine Demars, Grady Marshall, and Ella Halladay.

The students who are part of the ensemble and may play servants and residents of New York City include Ethan Abalgore, Kaley Allen, Justin Atwater, Donald Austin, Alexis Barth, Selene Belrad, McKenna Bourgeois, Milenia Brown, Shaylee Cealie, Vita Dean, Andrew Dedich, Marcus Doran, Babette Dunham, Julie Duval, Anthony Galletta, Lauren Goss, Cassandra Gray-Blasczienski, Olivia Hawthorne, Haiden Johnson, Leah Kingsbury, Jessica LaPage, Arthur Lincoln, Griffin Marriner, Samantha

McRae, Emily Sohoski, Chris Tetro, Gabby Tomarcchio, Wesley VanBuren, Hayley Vann, Kira Whitehead, Karina Whitten, Madison Wilson, and Ronde Wood.

With the cast set, Quirk's Players can finally begin their work on preparing for the spring. Director Mr. Briggs said that he was glad many talented students came out to audition. He added, "We're excited about starting work on this year's musical. We're confident that it will be something the entire community will enjoy."

Although it was difficult to choose the cast, Assistant Director Mr. Lescarbeau said that he and Mr. Briggs and Mr. Nami spent a lot of time working to put the students in roles that will "give them the best opportunity to learn and grow as performers and to contribute as company members to the overall success of the show."

He also believes that "everyone involved will do their best to make themselves, Quirk's Players, and the Fulton community proud."

This is a busy and exciting time for members of Quirk's Players and it is just the beginning of what will be a long few months for the cast in order to put on a great musical for GRB and the Fulton community.

Freshmen Win First Quarter Attendance Wars

By Sammy Tanner

Attendance Wars is a competition between all the grade levels in GRB. Each quarter, every class that maintains 91% attendance or better each week receives an ice cream scoop on the bulletin board near the attendance office. The grade level with the greatest number of scoops at the end of each quarter wins a party.

At the end of the first marking period, the freshman class came out victorious with ten scoops. The sophomore class trailed close behind with nine scoops. The junior class earned four scoops and the senior class earned three scoops.

On Monday, November 20, the freshmen were treated to donuts for their outstanding attendance.



Pictured is the Attendance Wars competition display. The freshman class has already earned one ice cream scoop for the second marking period.

College Lacrosse Ahead for Five Seniors

By Sammy Tanner

On Tuesday, November 21, five members of the varsity girls lacrosse team signed their National Letters of Intent to continue their lacrosse careers at the Division I collegiate level. These members include seniors Jordan Coulon, Mallori Kitts, Hailey Carroll, Hannah Burlingham, and Mckenna Chesbro.

Jordan Coulon will be attending the University of Connecticut to continue playing lacrosse and further her education. Coulon has played lacrosse since third grade and also plays soccer.

Mallori Kitts signed to play lacrosse at the University at Albany. Kitts has been playing lacrosse since seventh grade. She also plays soccer and basketball.

Hailey Carroll will also be attending the University at Albany to continue her lacrosse career. Carroll has been playing lacrosse since third grade and she also plays soccer.

Hannah Burlingham signed to play lacrosse with Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She has been playing lacrosse since third grade and said she is really excited to play lacrosse in college.

Mckenna Chesbro signed to George Mason University in Virginia. She has been playing lacrosse since third grade and also plays soccer and basketball.

Fellow team member, junior Kaylee Waugh, said, "I'm super excited to see them succeed and take their lacrosse careers to the

next level. I feel so proud to know and play with them."

Good luck to the girls next year!



Pictured are the five players and their parents as the girls sign their letters of intent.



Pictured are the senior girls lacrosse players after they signed their letters of intent. From left to right are Mallori Kitts, Hannah Burlingham, Mckenna Chesbro, Jordan Coulon, and Hailey Carroll.

Tied Score for Hockey Opener

By Camiel Heagle

As the 2017 hockey season gets into full swing, the team took on FM on Tuesday, November 28 on their home turf.

In the first period, a goal was scored by junior Eric Shear with an assist by senior J.J. Wahl. There were also two penalties by senior Ben Perl.

In the second period, a goal scored by FM set the score at 1-1. Two more penalties were made by Perl and senior Nolan Bonnie. This left the third period with no goals, but one penalty by Bonnie. The game went into overtime and ended with a tied score of 1-1.

Senior Nolan Bonnie said, "We played hard, but need to focus more on teamwork and staying out of the box."

Junior Nate Lindsey stated, "I thought we played well, but the penalties weighed us down a bit. I also feel that our goalie had an amazing game."

Coach Heindorf said, "I thought we played slow and our goalie, Jadon Lee, bailed us out, especially in overtime. We're going to work on our conditioning this week to get ready for the Conklin tournament this weekend in Baldwinsville."

Good luck to the hockey team on Friday and Saturday!

Busy Week for First Quarter Celebrations

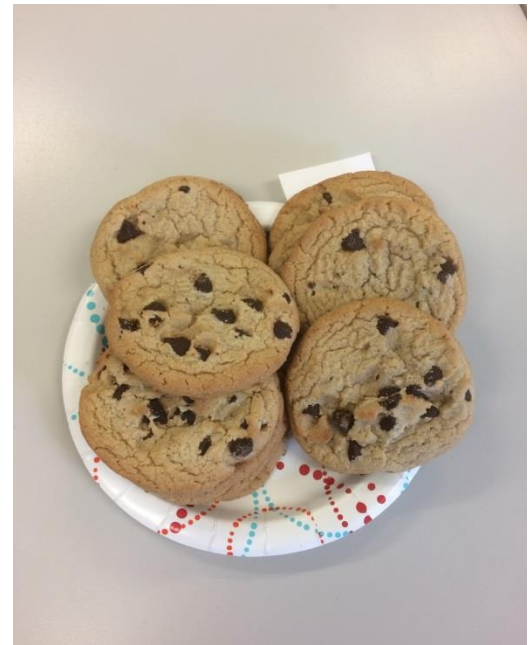
By Gage LeBlanc

On Monday, November 27, there was a small celebration for students who were referral-free for the first marking period. Bakery cookies were delivered to each Guided Study Hall for those students. For the first quarter, 745 students were referral free. The criteria for this is simply having no major or minor referrals for the first ten weeks.

On Wednesday, November 22, there was a celebration for the 340 kids who achieved VIP status, which means they had 95% attendance, were on time to school 95% of the time, had no major referrals, and had grades of 70% or above in every class. The perks of being a VIP include being able to go outside for lunch, using a VIP pass as a pre-signed pass,

and, new this year, using a VIP pass as a hall pass.

Congratulations to all referral-free and VIP students!



Cookies were delivered to Guided Study Halls for referral-free students.



The VIP lunch included baked potatoes with several toppings, cookies, and bottles of water.

Super Golden Feather Awarded

By **Brian Trombly**

For some high school students, being on time for the first bell of the day is a tough and tiring task. The golden feather initiative acknowledges the first bell classes that have earned the most feathers for having the most students present for first bell for each quarter.

In order to receive a golden feather, the class must be 95% present and on time to first bell. At the end of each quarter the classes with the most feathers received a golden feather and breakfast pizza. Mrs. Piraino and Mrs. Edele's classes went above and beyond and both received a golden feather for the first marking period.

It is great to see that these classes were recognized for having great attendance and being ready to learn for the rest of the school day. The hope is that this initiative will encourage students to arrive to school on time and be prepared for their classes in order to take advantage of a full day of learning.



Pictured is the Golden Feather, which was awarded to Mrs. Piraino and Mrs. Edele's first bell classes.

Ten Weeks of Data Shows Highs and Lows

By **Mason Rowlee**

Data from the first ten weeks of the 2017-2018 school year shows some areas that definitely need improvement, but the building is abuzz with optimism for the second marking period.

In the first ten weeks, the amount of students skipping classes is up 9.4% and the building has had five more instances of fighting (up from 6 to 11). The top three behaviors that are being prioritized and documented are skipping classes, truancy/leaving school without permission, and defiance/insubordination. There have been 147 instances of truancy and 53 instances of defiance/insubordination. Although defiance/insubordination is in the top three problem behaviors, there has been a 42% decline in instances compared to last year (53 instances this year compared to 91 instances last year).

Students, staff, and administration now have to try to tackle what is undoubtedly the biggest problem facing GRB, students skipping class. The first marking period was host to 350 instances of skipping class, which is an increase from the first marking period of the previous school year, which had 321 instances.

Physical Education (PE) was found to be the class with the most cases of skipping at 105 instances. At a recent Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) meeting, committee members noted that students may be skipping so they can attend other bells that their friends are in or because some students do not have a lunch bell, are hungry, and

choose instead to eat their lunch during their PE class time.

This data raises the question of why students skip class so often. One concrete answer does not exist. The PBIS Committee found that students failing a course often do not see the need to attend the class. Similarly, some students are allowed to hang out in classrooms and are not forced to go to class. The committee also noted, "Teachers must check schedules to see where students belong and send them to where they are supposed to be."

Principal Mrs. Parkhurst explained that the data shows that "when students come to school they learn and do well." She added, "When students are absent, it is far more difficult for them to learn. We are constantly looking for ways to help students come to school, arrive on time, and stay all day. It is an important habit that will serve our students well in their future careers."

Some positives from the ten-week report include a 41% decrease in classroom disruption and ten fewer cases of cheating compared to last year. Administrators were also pleased to note a 1% decrease in the number of major referrals this quarter compared to last year's first quarter (704 this year compared to 711 last year). These triumphs, however, seem to be overshadowed by the overwhelming problem facing GRB, students skipping classes.

Even though GRB's first quarter highlighted some building-wide problems, the second quarter offers an opportunity for improvement.

Fresh Ideas at Roundtable

By Megan Guernsey

The Principal's Roundtable met once again on November 15. Although attendance was low, it did not stop ideas from spreading.

One issue brought up was the loss of space used by the robotic teams to practice. The practice ring used to be located in the GRB newsroom, but both groups were relocated to make room for new additions in the high school. The possibility of finding a new area for the practice ring was taken into consideration and is currently being examined.

Another school improvement topic that was brought up was the future use of the courtyard for lunches. Some thought it would be a nice breath of fresh air for students and faculty. It was suggested that it could help with club involvement with examples such as Art Club members painting benches and Science Club members labeling plants in the courtyard.

The central topic was what it means to be an engaged learner in classes and what makes certain classes more rigorous than others. This has been a hot question being heard around the school building lately with different answers popping up. The topic was brought up by Principal Mrs. Parkhurst herself. Some of the different responses included the energy level of teachers, interest

in the topic, and a teacher's preparedness.

Senior Bradley Martin attended the meeting and said the roundtable is "a good place to

give out my ideas and for the students to connect with the principal."

Mrs. Parkhurst hopes to see new faces and hear new ideas at the next meeting on Wednesday, December 20.

Wrestling Off to Good Start

By Jessie Sharkey

On Thanksgiving Day, the Fulton wrestling teams participated in the Turkey Trot, which was a run around the city of Fulton.

Coach Waldron explained that this run is a good way for the wrestlers to lose some weight so they can indulge in the Thanksgiving feast.

He stated, "Weight management is a big part of being on the wrestling team and we have to make weight, even during the holidays."

The Fulton wrestling team beat Central Valley Academy 48-29 on Tuesday, November 28.

Their next match is tonight at 6:00 p.m. at home against Baldwinsville.



Many members of the Fulton Varsity, JV, and Modified wrestling teams participated in a Turkey Trot run on November 23.



The wrestling team participated in a Veterans Day run around Fulton on November 11. This picture includes members of the Varsity, JV, and Modified Fulton wrestling teams.

-Opinion- Multiple Study Halls are Not Necessary

By Brian Trombly

Study halls are intended for students to have additional time to work on homework and other various assignments, but a problem arises when students' schedules are littered with more than one of these study halls.

On the average day, students will not need eighty or more minutes in order to get work done. If they use their study time correctly after school, then multiple study halls are not necessary. Multiple study

halls just cause wasted time during the day in which students could be taking elective classes to further their education.

Seniors, especially, should be taking as many classes as possible in order to get college credit and to get enough high school credits to graduate.

There is no question study halls are an important time for students to study or make up late work for classes, but having more than one of these "free bells" is simply too much dead time that most likely

will not be spent on learning, which is the reason students should be coming to school each day.

Guided Study Hall and lunch bells are also great opportunities to get additional help from instructors and both are available for most students.

This is not to mention the time students could stay after with teachers for extra help or the time at home students could use.

New Staff Spotlight Welcome, Ms. Newidomy!

By Nolan Johnson

You may not have realized that GRB has received a great group of new teachers this year. The newest addition to the English department is Ms. Newidomy, who teaches ninth grade English and Response to Intervention.

Ms. Newidomy grew up in Oswego and is "very excited" to be starting her first year here.

Before coming to Fulton, she was a seventh grade English teacher in Hannibal for four years and a veterinarian assistant.

In addition to warming up to GRB, Ms. Newidomy said she will also be getting accustomed to her first purchased house.

She noted some differences between the Hannibal Junior High and GRB, including the size. Ms. Newidomy said, "It is very cool to see a bigger body of students."

She also said she loves "the staff and opportunities GRB provides."

GRB, make sure you keep giving Ms. Newidomy a warm welcome to our school!



Ms. Newidomy is starting her first year at GRB as a ninth grade English teacher.