



Students Drop the Ball with Physical Education Contracts

By Mason Rowlee

The first marking period, students and staff were surprised by one staggering statistic - almost 60 percent of students on Physical Education (P.E.) contracts were failing the class. This number left many students, staff, and parents wondering how so many students could fail P.E. if they are on a contract.

There are a few different reasons a student could be put on a P.E. contract. Many students have no room in their schedule for P.E. and may need the contract to fulfill that year's physical education half-credit requirement. Typically, many CiTi students end up on contract because they simply do not have room in their schedule for P.E. Additionally, some students who are instructed at home or at 4th Street School are required to participate in a P.E. contract since they do not have access to a P.E. class.

There is also a medical contract, which is obtained with a doctor's note that is brought to the school nurse who initiates the contract. In almost all the cases, the student will complete written work on the contract instead of staying in a regular P.E. class. Students on a medical contract will be placed in a study hall during their P.E.

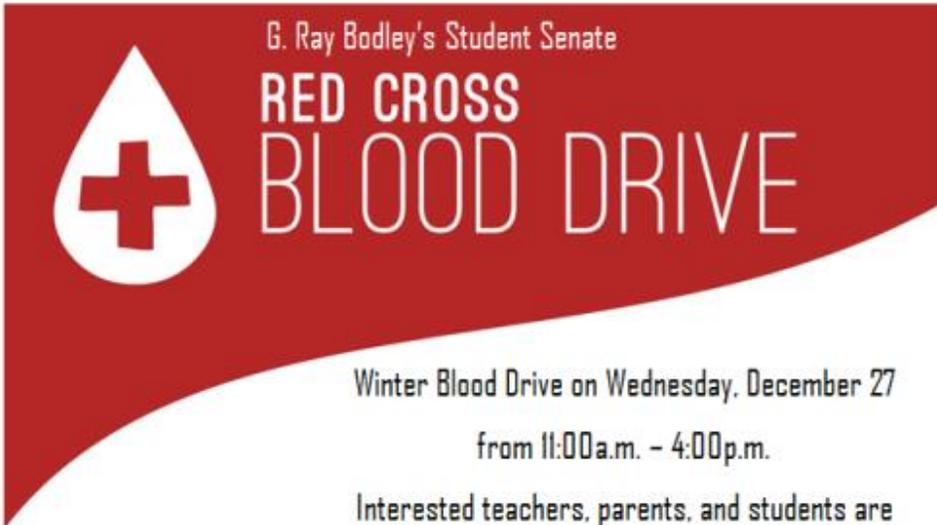
bell. Students remain on the medical contract until a note from their doctor clearing them for activity is brought to the nurse.

No matter what the reason for the contract, all students complete the same assignments in Google Classroom. Many of the components of these assignments are streamlined and refined by Mrs. Killian and Mrs. Lazarek, who are the P.E. teachers who oversee the students on these contracts and, eventually, grade these students' assignments.

The answer to why students are failing these contracts is not simple, but a large contributor to the problem is that many students are constantly moving in between medical contracts and regular

phys. ed. classes. The transition between normal P.E. class and a medical contract makes many students believe that an opportunity to "make up" P.E. classes will arise. However, more often than not, the student gets so far behind that it becomes difficult to get caught up.

A common misconception that seems to exist within the student body is that P.E. contracts are cumbersome and repetitive. However, Mrs. Lazarek said she and Mrs. Killian "work very hard to come up with assignments that are short, concise, and as relevant as possible to the curriculum." She added, "When a student goes onto a P.E. contract, the assignments are supposed to simulate the 90- (continued on page 2)



G. Ray Bodley's Student Senate
**RED CROSS
 BLOOD DRIVE**

Winter Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 27
 from 11:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Interested teachers, parents, and students are
 welcome to walk-in or contact Mr. Wasacz
 to make an appointment beforehand.

120 minutes of P.E. class that student is missing per week.”

These assignments are often a small writing assignment reflecting on a topic relevant to the New York State-mandated Physical Education curriculum and standards that include attending a sporting event and writing a one-page reflection, watching a health/fitness-themed commercial and reflecting on it using a half-page writing sample, and reading health/fitness articles to reflect on them. The issue that exists, however, is that many students do not submit any assignments for the quarter because they often think these assignments can be made up on a later date.

Another issue that arises from these contracts is student participation. “When assignments are not being completed we follow up with students and guardians and often receive negative feedback,” noted Killian. “Students are required to take phys. ed. each year and the contracts are in place to ensure students are meeting the state mandate. If students aren’t completing the work, they will be in jeopardy of failing. Students who fail phys. ed. have to double up the following year or go to summer school because phys. ed. is a requirement for graduation.”

Continuing into the second marking period, Mrs. Lazarek and Mrs. Killian are hoping that student participation will improve and parents will help reinforce their efforts to give equal opportunities to all students.

Two Wins for Girls Basketball

By **Cara Smith**

The girls varsity basketball team had a tough game at Cortland on Friday, December 8. The girls showed effort and attitude throughout the game, just like the coaches asked.

The leading scorer of the game was Mckenna Chesbro with 27 points, which also made her the highest scorer in Section III girls basketball for that night.

Senior Captain Mckenna Chesbro stated, “This game was a tough game for us as a team, but I think we played scrappy until the end, leading us to a win.”

Senior captain Erin Nicholson stated, “I feel we played well as a team the first half, but we struggled toward the end.”

Senior Mallori Kitts stated, “These are games that we need as a team because they will make us better and will have us fighting as a team until the end.”

The girls pulled off a win with a score of 48-46, ending the night with a record of 3-1.

On Friday, December 15 the girls played Carthage and won at home with a score of 53-34.

The leading scorers of the game were Erin Nichol-

son with 20 points and Mckenna Chesbro with 16 points.

Junior Emily Hilton stated, “We all pushed through this game to get a win, which is exciting because it put our record at 4-1.”

Chesbro stated, “I feel that we won that game by getting open jump shots around the three-point arch.”

Junior Lindsay McCraith stated, “I feel that our defense was strong and we need to keep up the hard work that we have been putting in for the rest of the season.”

The Lady Raiders have a home game tonight and hope to see you there.



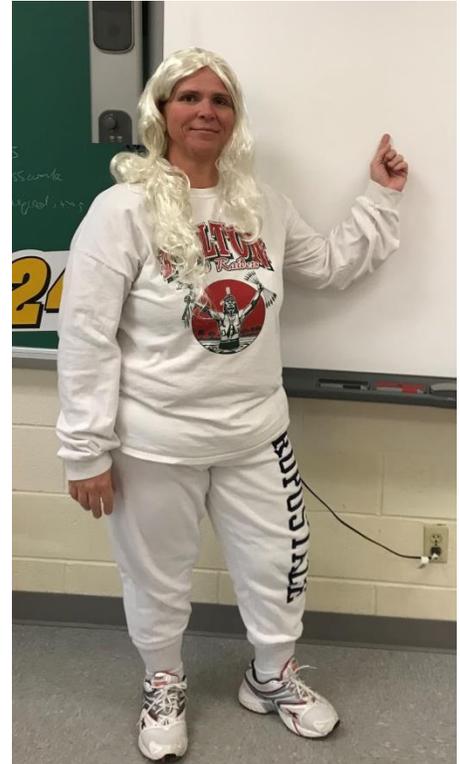
The Lady Raiders huddled together for a team talk before a game on their home court on Friday, December 15.



Sophomore Cristina Reynoso was in the holiday spirit on Wednesday, December 20 for Red and Green Day as part of Holiday Spirit Week.



Pictured is junior Selene Belrad on Monday, December 18, the first day of Holiday Spirit Week. Monday was Holiday Hat and Socks Day. Tuesday was Winter White Out Day. Wednesday was Red and Green Day, and today is Holiday Sweater Day.



Pictured is math teacher Mrs. Clayton participating in Winter White Out Day on December 19, the second day of holiday spirit week.

CiTi Field Trip Informative for Sophomores

By Sammy Tanner

On Thursday, December 7, Sophomore Guidance Counselor Ms. Rickert and Freshman Guidance Counselor Ms. Toleno took a group of 82 sophomores on a field trip to the Center for Instruction, Technology, and Innovation so they could see the campus and explore the opportunities available to them as juniors.

Each sophomore chose two programs to learn more about and some even got to get their hands in and participate by making french fries or operating heavy equipment.

GRB students who are already participating in the CiTi programs showed the sophomores what they do everyday.

Ms. Rickert noted, “It was awesome to see approximately 16 upperclassmen from GRB out there teaching the potential new students about the programs.”

Sophomore Destinee Eggleston saw the Early Childhood Development program. She said, “It could definitely be helpful for my future plans.”

Many students thought this trip was very helpful and informa-

tional and decided they would like to be part of it as a junior.

As of right now, all of the current CiTi programs will be available next year, along with a new program called Industrial Electrical Technologies. If you are interested in any of the programs, there is information in the Counseling Office.



**Center for Instruction,
Technology & Innovation**

Eighty-two sophomores visited CiTi for an informational field trip on December 7.

Freshmen Send Holiday Cheer

By Molly Metcalf

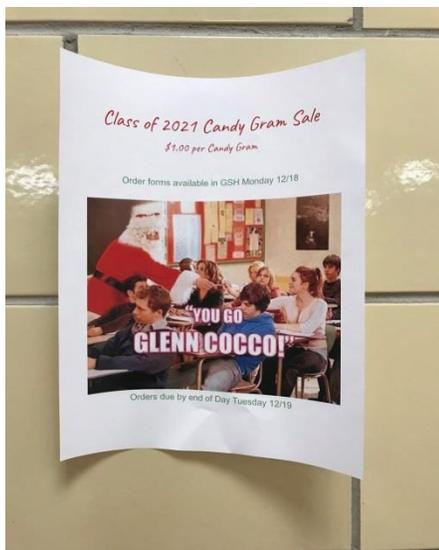
The Class of 2021 recently held another fundraiser here at GRB.

The students sold Candy Grams, which are candy canes with a message attached. Students and staff could purchase them for one dollar.

Freshman Class Advisor Mrs. Lazarek explained, "The freshman class officers wanted to do it as a fun Christmas fundraiser. It comes from the movie *Mean Girls*."

The sale started on December 18 and the candy grams will be delivered today during Guided Study Hall.

Mrs. Lazarek added, "This is the first year I have been a class advisor and it sounded like a fun idea so we gave it a try."



Pictured is the poster for the Candy Grams fundraiser.

Students Excited For Holiday Traditions

By Jessie Sharkey

The holidays are fast approaching and everyone is getting ready to celebrate. Some people have different traditions from others. Here are some traditions that families in Fulton celebrate.

Senior Katerina Porcari explained, "Every year on Christmas Eve we go to a mass. Then we go home, watch TV, and eat seafood. It's the best thing ever."

Junior Adam DeMauro said, "On Christmas Eve, I hang out with family and exchange presents. My favorite part is eating dinner and spending time with family."

Senior Lillian Bray stated, "Every Christmas Eve I go to my grandma's with all of my family and we have a big dinner and everyone exchanges presents."

The holidays are for coming together and creating memories with friends and family.



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from all of us at RaiderNet!

Fulton Bowlers Back for Another Big Year

By Megan Guernsey

As another winter comes around, the boys and girls varsity bowling teams have started up their season. With the girls coming back from a sectional championship, and the boys as strong as ever, it is bound to be an exciting season with ups and downs along the way.

So far, both teams have a 4-2 record as they enter their next match against Central Square tonight.

In the team's latest match against Oswego, the boys team rolled an impressive 3-0 with junior Aiden Franco leading the pack with a series of 669. Senior Jacob Wilcox and junior Joey Benavidez followed close behind with a 665 and 657 series. The girls team went 2-1, making a comeback in the third game. The girls were led by senior Megan Guernsey and eighth-grader Alexis Ingersoll with a 641 and 603 series. Also contributing to the win were multiple personal bests from the girls.

According to senior captain Bradley Martin, the boys team has "done well and is showing potential for the rest of the year." The girls team has four of the top 30 averages for the league. This is with senior Megan Guernsey and eighth-grader Alexis Ingersoll (continued on page 5)

leading the averages with 214.67 and 201.47 respectfully. On the other hand, the boys have five boys in the top 30 averages, with senior Bradley Martin coming in second in the league with a 212.33 average.

A change being made to the league this year is the addition of home and away matches to the calendar. In previous years, all matches were bowled at Strike and Spare in Mattydale. This new schedule will allow different teams to have a home field advantage, truly bringing out the competitive edge, and it also allows communities to engage with their high school bowling teams.

Coach Mike Tryniski said, "The new bowlers have been a big boost to the team right away." Most have picked up the technique quickly.

Both losses this season have come against CNS and Liverpool, two undefeated teams. Martin said that CNS is a good team that bowled well. He also said that the losses gave both of the teams "motivation to keep working on our skills."



Eighth-grader Alexis Ingersoll has been practicing hard at Lakeview Lanes in Fulton.

Students Enjoy Field Trip and Christmas Tree Victory

By Nolan Johnson

On Friday, December 7, Mrs. Thompson's class traveled to the CYO to tour the relocated facility and to pack bags of food for families in need. The students worked together packing both large and small bags of food. By the end of the day, the students had packed nearly 200 bags of food for families in need.

The students enjoyed a lunch together at Subway, browsed Tractor Supply Company, and enjoyed a tasty treat at Dunkin' Donuts before heading back to school.

Mrs. Thompson's class also participated in the Pratt House Museum's Annual "Parade of Trees". The class settled on the theme of "The Elf on the Shelf". Each student made an ornament with their elf doing an assortment of "Naughty or Nice" activities. One elf was even zip-lining with a candy cane from their tree to the neighboring tree displayed by Towpath Towers. After participating at the museum, students were treated to breakfast at Burger King.

This year's display includes thirteen Christmas trees decorated by businesses, Fulton City School District classrooms, and community organizations. Visitors to

the festival vote for their favorite trees in three categories, including Adult, Youth, and Children. Winners in each category receive a first prize of \$100.00, second prize of \$75.00, and third prize of \$50.00. Students traveled back to the Pratt House a week later to take a guided tour from one of the museum's volunteer tour guides, vote on their favorite tree in each category, and enjoy lunch out at Burger King.

The students from Room 137 were presented with a check for \$100.00 from Fulton Savings Bank as the First Place Winner in the Youth Division. The students celebrated out in the community after receiving their prize at the museum.

The students enjoyed helping those in need in their community and competing in the "Parade of Trees" competition and are looking forward to a visit to the CYO for the next Christmas season.



Pictured are students from Ms. Thompson's class accepting the check for their winning Christmas tree. In the back row from left to right are Roy Harvey, Aleesha Rinn, and Ernie Ferro. In the middle row are Nancy Kush Ellis (Fulton Savings Bank), Shannon St. Andrews, Katlyn Jones, and Bailey Whalen. In the front are Daquan Davis and Sydney Perry.

Repealing Net Neutrality Could Impact Schools Looking to Modernize

By Mason Rowlee

In light of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) ruling on Thursday, December 14 to repeal Net Neutrality, many millennials and educators are distraught over the effects the change may have on schools such as GRB that are looking to modernize and become more technologically advanced.

The concept of Net Neutrality is simple. Ideally, the internet is supposed to be an open market for business, entrepreneurs, and curious citizens to showcase their skills, discover new skills, and connect with the world beyond their immediate grasp. However, Thursday's decision by the FCC will complicate this view of the internet.

The repeal of Net Neutrality is a direct repeal of President Obama's 2015 decision to require internet service providers to offer equal access to all web content without charging consumers for higher-quality delivery or giving preferential treatment to certain websites.

Mozilla chair and cofounder Mitchell Baker said in an interview with CNN on Thursday that the repeal would bring a new set of guidelines to the internet. "These rules allow a small set of companies and a small set of individuals to make decisions about the communications platform for

all of us," he said. "And by removing the regulation, it means that just a very small handful of people and the businesses and the motives that motivate them actually determine the communication that's available to all the rest of us."

In the past year, GRB has made great strides in reaching its goal of creating an environment that is both technologically up-to-date and accessible to all students. This goal was what propelled the movement to push for school-wide Chromebook usage in all subjects during the 2018-2019 school year, which was widely well-received and seemed to spark student interest in a multitude of disciplines.

However, with the repeal of Net Neutrality, it seems that the hopes of the district may have a rocky start if the invisible hand decides to raise the premium of certain web services. For example, if a teacher is looking to use a YouTube video of a president's speech or a biological process, in the coming months, the school district may have to allocate funds to pay for these internet premiums, if the district's internet provider chooses to charge for them in the future. Additionally, if students have to pay extra to access school resources at home to complete homework, the push for online homework may become complicated.

In this process, many students feel disgruntled by the lack of consideration for the "technological generation" and the effect this may have on low-income families. The comparison that many of these regulations correspond with what is done with mail service, electricity, and telephone companies, is seen by millennials through a very different lens. Many view this change as an act that violates the First Amendment rights of many Americans, since many without money to pay for potential fees imposed by internet providers will be left without the means of reaching millions of individuals as they previously could have.

GRB Principal Donna Parkhurst recently noted, "Fulton is a high-need, low wealth district and we depend on [access to the internet]. If this were to go away, there's a potential for students to get shortchanged based on the zip code they live in."

Additionally, Director of Technology for the Fulton City School District Dominick Lisi added, "In the long term it could have an enormous effect. Basically, if [Net Neutrality] passes, internet providers can limit bandwidth, charge per email, etc. I can't imagine that the FCC would allow it to affect schools but we'll have to wait and see."

(continued on page 7)

The fight to keep the internet open is certainly not over. Many politicians and celebrities have openly criticized the FCC’s repeal and, currently, Democratic Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts is working on a bill that would allow Congress to overturn the decision made by the FCC. Locally, it is important to open discussions and continue the fight to keep the internet open and free by contacting local politicians, including Congressman John Katko, Senator Chuck Schumer, or Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.



On Thursday, December 14, the FCC repealed President Obama’s actions in 2015 to preserve Net Neutrality. This repeal is an issue that could filter into local schools and impact the way students are learning (Picture via ABC News).

Random Acts of Kindness Boost Holiday Spirit

By **Jordan Sawyer**

As we come closer to Christmas here at GRB, most would agree we need to be more thankful and kind to one another.

This calendar shows some random acts of kindness that students and staff could do for the month of December.

Some teachers are putting this calendar in their rooms and are encouraging students to try and follow it.

How many days in a row can you complete a random act of kindness?

 Random Acts of Kindness Christmas Calendar						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Do a chore for someone else	2 Write a letter to a military member	3 Fill a bag with books to donate to the library
4 Clean up a mess you didn't make	5 Let someone get in line ahead of you	6 Call a long-distance relative	7 Compliment someone	8 Write a nice sidewalk message with chalk or in the snow	9 Make cards for nursing home residents	10 Pick up litter in your neighborhood
11 Introduce yourself to someone new	12 Mail a postcard to a friend or family member	13 Make a card for a school staff member	14 Tell someone all the reasons you like them	15 Hold the door for someone	16 Write a thank you note to someone who helps you	17 Fill a bag with clothes to donate
18 Collect loose change and donate it	19 Smile at everyone you see today	20 Leave a friendly note where someone will find it	21 Hug someone	22 Thank someone for making a difference	23 Draw a picture for mom or dad	24 Fill a box with toys to donate to charity
25 Share something with someone else	26 Write thank you notes for your gifts	27 Help make dinner	28 Tell a stranger to have a nice day	29 Make a list of things you're thankful for	30 Make a bird feeder	31 Make someone laugh

Holiday Dance Fun for Students

By Gage LeBlanc

On Friday, December 15, there was a school dance at GRB that was sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). This was their first-ever “Holiday Sweater Dance” and over 100 students attended.

Price for admission was \$5 pre-

sale and \$7 at the door. This included pizza, Grinch Punch, water, and candy. The dance was held in the cafeteria from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

FBLA Advisor Mrs. Ferlito commented, “It was great to see the unique and creative costumes worn by our students. Everyone was in the holiday spirit, which made the night even more fun for everyone.”

Students who attended had the chance of winning a prize based on their outfit with categories including Most Original, Funniest, and Craziest Sweater. Students were also able to make music requests.

Senior Luke Stoutenger said, “There was plenty of leg-room and the music was stellar.”

The FBLA Club made a small profit from the event, which will be used to help fund their spring regional and state competitions.



Freshmen Kyra Baker (left) and Paige Clark were big winners at FBLA's Holiday Sweater dance.

Two Losses for Hockey Team

By Camiel Heagle

On Thursday, December 14, the hockey team took on West Genesee at home.

In the first period, West Genesee's Patrick McDonald scored the first goal of the game assisted by Daniel Colabufo.

Ten minutes into the game, junior Eric Shear scored a goal with no assist.

There were two more goals by West Genesee in the first period.

In the second period, West Genesee added four more goals to the scoreboard leaving the second period with a score of 7-1.

This left the third period with no goals from the Fulton Red Raiders and one goal from West Genesee, ending the game with a score of 8-1.

Senior Nolan Bonnie said it was a good game, but noted it is difficult to beat a team that is now second in the state.

On Tuesday, December 19, Fulton played Liverpool at home.

In the first period, twenty-nine seconds into the game, the first goal was scored by Liverpool's Carson Ferguson, assisted by Bobby Welch. A goal was added

to the scoreboard by junior Joe Galvagno who is a Central Square student on the Fulton team. Another goal was scored by Ferguson with no assist and soon after another goal was made by Liverpool.

In the second period, junior Eric

Shear made the first goal for Fulton assisted by Senior Nolan Bonnie. Another goal was made by Ferguson seven minutes into the period, leaving it with a score of 4-2.

In the third period, no goals

were made by Fulton, but a goal was made by Liverpool, leaving the final score 5-2.

Coach Heindorf said, “We came out slow and let them dictate the pace. In practice, we will be working on shooting and faster paces.”

Tough Loss at Home Opener for Boys Basketball

By Nolan Johnson and Macean MacIntyre

The Fulton varsity boys basketball team is off to a slow start this year with a record of 2-4 with losses against Central Square, Marcellus, ESM, and Cortland.

While they have four losses, the team also pulled together for a close win against the Carthage Comets on December 2 with a final score of 67-65 Fulton.

The team also pulled off a solid win against Oneida on December 16. The final score was 53-49 Fulton.

The team’s most recent loss on December 19 was against ESM with a final score of 49-42. It was a tough game and it was certainly a game that could have been won. The game was even tied after a ten-point second half deficit with two minutes to go.

Senior Captain Ryan Sheffield said, “The game was close and could have been won. They just won important possessions late in the game that could have been turned into game-winning scores for our team.”

The team will have some bouncing back to do after this loss.

They have their second matchup with Cortland tomorrow at Cortland.

Continue to come out and support the boys basketball team this season!



The Fulton varsity boys basketball team huddles during a timeout during their game against Oneida.

Movie Review

Star Wars: Episode VIII The Last Jedi

By Nolan Johnson

For 40 years, *Star Wars* has been the pinnacle of sci-fi fantasy in the movie world. In one way or another, it seems like everyone has seen or heard of the franchise. On December 14, the latest installment, *Star Wars: Episode VIII*, hit theaters with all of the hype that a *Star Wars* movie brings with it.

Opening weekend brought the film an estimated \$450 million, with \$220 million coming from North America alone (CNN Mon-

ey). For the most part, people feel they got their money's worth watching this movie.

With a compelling new story somewhat drifting from the *Star Wars* formula, critics gave the film high praise for showing fresh, new concepts with a familiar and classic feel. Long-time fans shared this sentiment, but many fans thought some plot points have been repeated too many times, calling the movie "predictable" and "weak".

Overall, the newest chapter had

great layers, which, although reminiscent of past movies, are still fantastic and a joy to watch. The action was incredible for the *Star Wars* universe and kept audience members glued to the edge of their seats. One hope for the next movie would be more risky decisions. The film, while strong in presence, had a hard time deciding what path to go down with certain characters and plot points.

The final installment of the trilogy will be hitting theaters in late 2019.



Pictured is the movie poster for *Star Wars: Episode VIII The Last Jedi*.