

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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RAM ANNOUNCER

APRIL 2017
www.g-aschools.org



****ECRWSS****
Residential Customers

Administration Offices
1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053
(269) 484-2000

Primary School (Pre-K through 4)
Principal: Shaun Sportel
(269) 484-2040
ssportel@gacsnet.org

Middle School (5th - 8th Grades)
Principal: Darin Schmidt
(269) 484-2020
dschmidt@gacsnet.org

High School (9th – 12th Grades)
Principal: Christie Robinson
(269) 484-2010
crobinson@gacsnet.org



**APRIL 2017
GACS BOND UPDATE**

See page.....2

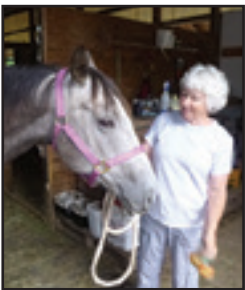


Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Welcome Three New Board Members

Dear Community,

My husband Keith and I have been enjoying many years of retirement since teaching in Galesburg-Augusta Schools, and I thought it might be time to give back to our community and school system in the form of service as a school board member. I am well aware of many of the responsibilities, difficulties, and challenges that a school board member will encounter, having sat for many years on the other side of the table both as a parent (with two daughters who graduated from G-A) and as a teacher. I believe I can put my experience to good use and, hopefully, make a positive difference in this community that I have enjoyed being a part of since my marriage of more than 50 years.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Martin



Carolyn Martin

Dear Community,

While I am now retired, my employment background is mostly in the Medical field, including administration and management. I have a wide range of experience; working as a reserve police officer and in the security industry. I also have taught CPR and first aid, and am currently a Certified Personal Protection Instructor.



Archie Silkworth

I noticed that there were unfilled seats on the GACS school board, and I felt an obligation to the community to accept the responsibility to serve on the School Board. The time was right to step up and try to have a positive impact on the school community. My goal is to ensure we provide our students with the best education and opportunities possible.

Sincerely,
Archie Silkworth

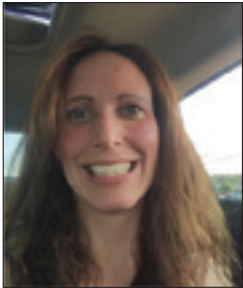
Stay connected to
Galesburg-Augusta
Community Schools by:



Dear Community,

My name is Kim Hubbard. My husband and I have lived in Galesburg for 18 years. I have two children in the Galesburg Augusta school system. I joined the school board because I want to serve and support the district. I value the educational opportunities Galesburg Augusta has to offer.

Sincerely,
Kim Hubbard



Kim Hubbard

SCHOOL HOURS:

PRIMARY SCHOOL
7:50am – 2:53 pm
(Half day 7:50 am – 11:05 am)

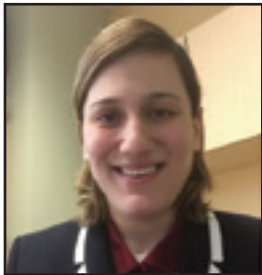
MIDDLE SCHOOL
8:15 am – 3:17 pm
(Half day 8:15 am – 11:30 am)

HIGH SCHOOL
7:35 am – 2:42 pm
(Half day 7:35 am – 10:51 am)

Sudoku Puzzle Answers from page 5

4	1	8	9	2	6	5	3	7
9	2	3	7	1	5	8	4	6
6	7	5	8	3	4	2	9	1
5	3	7	6	4	8	1	2	9
2	4	1	3	5	9	6	7	8
8	6	9	1	7	2	3	5	4
7	8	2	4	6	3	9	1	5
3	9	4	5	8	1	7	6	2
1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8	3

From the Desk of Superintendent Dr. Bazzi



Dania Bazzi
Superintendent

Superintendent's Message

Dear Galesburg-Augusta Students,
Staff, Families and Community,

A demanding but productive school year is coming to an end. Before we breathe a huge sigh of relief and leave for summer break, it is appropriate to take a moment to reflect on how far we have come and where we are headed.

A Strategic Planning Team of 29 community members, parents/guardians, staff, and students participated in an all-day planning retreat on March 3, 2016 and developed the District's strategic goals.

Throughout the planning process the community, expressed high expectations of Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools becoming a world-class school district and having all students graduate college and career ready from high school. Even though some of the goals are extremely high, they reflect the strong desire that has been expressed to embrace significant change and dramatically improve the school system.

The Strategic Planning process yielded five goal statements that focused on:

1. Operations
2. Academics/Programs
3. Personnel/Leadership
4. Learning Environment/Culture
5. Communications/Community Engagement

The team also identified first year objectives that would help the district meet the established goals. I am very proud to say that we have accomplished most of the objectives we set forth, including, passing a bond, increasing classroom technology, hiring a full time dedicated facilities coordinator, and implementing a new teacher evaluation observation tool. We will continue to work tirelessly as a team to accomplish our intended goals. We appreciate the community's support, as they are our strongest partner in providing students with the best educational experience possible.

Building a better school district and providing students an opportunity to succeed in the classroom and beyond, requires a strong support system. Engaged parents are a critical component to creating a thriving school environment. When we all work together, - school, family and community - we provide students of all backgrounds

and ability levels the opportunity to achieve at the highest levels.

I want to thank the entire Galesburg-Augusta Community School's staff and community for your devotion, talent, drive and care you bring to this school community. Together, we are making a visible difference for our students, families and community. I wish each of you a relaxing, safe, and fun summer! Take this time to re-energize and reflect upon our achievement. I am looking forward to being even more engaged and taking it to the next level for the 2017-2018 school year!

In education,
Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent of Galesburg-Augusta
dbazzi@gacsnet.org



Vision Statement

To encourage learning, inspire pride and support all students.

WE ARE G-A!

Mission Statement

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will empower all students to be productive and responsible citizens.

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Board of Education

Jeff McCubbin President	Diana Walker Vice President
Stephanie Gillfillan Secretary	Chad Rainey Treasurer
Carolyn Martin Trustee	Archie Silkworth Trustee

Kim Hubbard
Trustee

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOND UPDATE

Exciting times ahead for GA Primary, Middle and High School facilities as district prepares for upcoming improvements. Since the May 3, 2016 successful election, district representatives, architects, engineers and construction managers have been busy with planning, programming and design phase meetings and program development. In November and December 2016, the projects moved into final design and bidding phase. In January and February 2017, bids were received, evaluated and contracts awarded to perform remodeling work at Primary, Middle and High School buildings. The bid's received were very competitive and came in on budget. Of the 15 contracts awarded, 90% of the prime contractors performing the work are local. Of the \$10.4 million approved by voters, approximately \$1.2 million will be spent

at the Primary School for safety, security, roofing, temperature controls, lighting and parking lot improvements. The Middle School will undergo significant remodeling for its nearly \$8 million investment. Improvements will be focused on parking lots, lighting, roofing, windows, doors, a new secure entrance vestibule, flooring, ceilings, lockers, plumbing, heating systems, electrical, temperature controls and fire alarm system. The High School will receive approximately \$1.2 million of improvements centered on secure entrance vestibule, gym lighting, temperature controls, roofing, and parking lot repairs. District wide technology improvements and furniture upgrades are part of the improvements at each building. The timeline for the improvements varies:

Continued next page



**GALESBURG-AUGUSTA
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



Back row left to right: Jeff McCubbin,
Stephanie Gillfillan, Archie Silkworth,
Chad Rainey
Front row left to right: Kim Hubbard,
Carolyn Martin, Diana Walker

**GALESBURG-AUGUSTA
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATION**



First Row (left to right)

Dania Bazzi (Superintendent),
Christie Robinson (High School Principal),
Aaron Wright (Special Education Director)

Second Row (left to right)

Darin Schmidt (Middle School Principal),
Shaun Sportel (Primary School Principal),
Brian Dolph
(HS/MS Dean of Students)



GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICE STAFF



High School Secretaries
Doris Wolthuis and Samantha Kohl



Middle School Secretaries
Sarah Larue and Diane Gray



Primary School Secretaries
Diana Lewis and Linda Dunithan



Central Office Staff
Amanda Whittaker, Cheryl Fryer,
and Brenda Sutherland

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

Monday, May 15, 2017

Monday, October 16, 2017

Monday, June 19, 2017

Monday, November 20, 2017

Monday, July 17, 2017

Monday, December 18, 2017

Monday, August 21, 2017

Monday, January 15, 2018

Monday, September 18, 2017

All meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the high school media center.

Special students participate in the “Alternative Arts Initiative” program

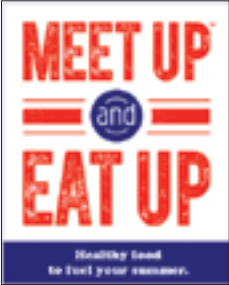
During the 2016-17 school year, a number of Galesburg-Augusta Middle and High School students have had the opportunity to participate in the KRESA Education for the Arts “Alternative Arts Initiative”. This program brings arts instructors out to local districts to provide meaningful arts education to students with diverse backgrounds and needs. Music, dance and drama instructors provide eight-week residencies, working with a small group once a week. In addition to the weekly sessions, students travelled to Chenery Auditorium to watch a performance by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and will head to the Carver Center in May to participate in an interactive theater performance. The students look forward to their arts class every week! We are lucky to have this program and look forward to continuing to provide a well-rounded education to our precious G-A students!



MEET UP AND EAT UP SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Food Service Department is sponsoring the federally funded Meet Up and Eat Up summer food service program again this year. The program will begin on Monday, June 19, 2017 and conclude on Friday, August 18, 2017.

Under the program, nutritious lunches are provided to children 18 years and younger free of charge. Adults can eat for \$2.00. Lunch will be served at Galesburg-Augusta Primary School Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





GA Staff vs. student basketball game raises biggest one time food drive amount ever collected!!

On Thursday, March 23rd, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools hosted a staff vs. student basketball for a great cause. The event was organized by Jamie Korinek (GAMS Social Studies teacher) and its ultimate goal was to raise canned good and non-perishable items for the Galesburg United Methodist Church Food Pantry. It was a fun evening for the students, staff, and Galesburg-Augusta Community. The Staff played head to head against all basketball teams at all levels, including both the girls and boys teams. The students pulled off a stunning upset, 85-82. The grand total of food collected was 3,321 pounds, which was the biggest food drive amount ever collected for one drive.



The Galesburg-Charleston Memorial District Library challenges you to



Summer Reading Program
June 21 — August 12, 2017

Wonderful Wednesdays — Crafts & Activities
June 21st — August 9th

Special Programs:
Extreme Duct Tape — June 17th @ 2:00
Joel's Book Builder Magic — June 23rd @ 2:00
Kalamazoo Air Zoo — July 6th @ 2:00
Organization for Bat Conservation — July 13th @ 2:00
Wildlife Safari — July 19th @ 10:00
Community Picnic — August 6th @ TBD

For more information, call, visit, or “Like” us on Facebook.

Galesburg-Charleston Memorial District Library
188 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053 • Phone: 269-665-7839

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOND UPDATE

- The Primary and High School projects will commence construction in May-2017 with construction work being completed in September of 2017.
 - The Middle School project commences construction in May-2017 and continue with remodeling and phased construction work through the summer of 2018 and be complete in September of 2018.
- Construction activities will be separated from students and staff but will continue throughout the school year. As areas are completed, students and staff will move with the remodeling and improvements. We are very excited for the community to begin to see their investment in their school facilities.



NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools that no discriminatory practices based on sex, race, religion, color, age, national origin, disability, height, weight, or any other status covered by federal, state or local law be allowed in providing instructional opportunities, programs, services, job placement assistance, employment or in policies governing student conduct and attendance. Complaints or inquiries related to discrimination should be forwarded to:

Superintendent of Schools
1076 N. 37th St.
Galesburg, MI 49053
269-484-2000

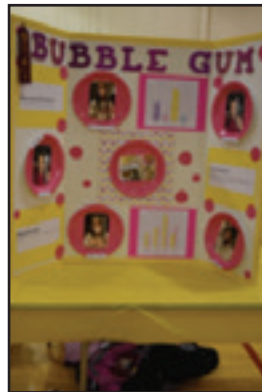
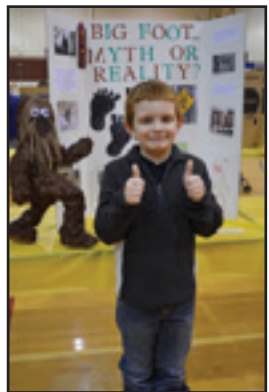
G-A Primary School News:

Learning Fair / Literacy Night

Learning Fair / Literacy Night was a big success. Thank you to all the parents who helped their sons and daughters with their projects and for all the parents and students who were able to come check out our event.

This year's event was different than in the past years.

We combined our Learning Fair with our Literacy Night as well as inviting everyone to check out what our students are learning in Math, in our STEAM class, as well as art that the students have been working on in their individual classrooms.



Sudoku Puzzle

			9			5		
	2	3	7			8		
6				3			9	1
						1		
2			3		9			
		9					5	4
			4					
						7		
5				7				3

Answers on Page: 20

Reading Buddies

Volunteers through our Early Literacy Grant provided by the United Way are reading with our students at the Primary School. Comfortable places throughout the building have been set up for guests to work and listen to our students.



Volunteers throughout the surrounding areas include people from: Eaton, KRESA, Target, Retired Educators, and Grandparents. If you would like to volunteer to work on reading with our students, please contact the Primary School office.



Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Foundation

The G-A Education Foundation is a non-profit organization established to promote, receive, invest and administer funds or other tangible gifts for students. The foundation was organized to provide an avenue for individuals and businesses to contribute funds into the educational system in an organized manner that can be of financial benefit to the donor and a benefit to G-A students. All gifts are to be used solely for the support or enhancement of educational, literary, artistic or scientific endeavors of the school district. Currently scholarship awards are given to high school seniors from the Galesburg-Augusta community. In the last 30 years, we have awarded over \$100,000 in student and staff grants.

Why Give?

The Foundation's ability to continue its mission depends on the generous support of individuals and groups in the Galesburg-Augusta community and beyond. Your generous gift will be used to enhance the educational experiences of our students by:

Supporting Education: Venture grants designed to supplement the educational program and provide teachers and students with unique learning experiences.

Providing Opportunities: Projects that enrich students' exposure to 21st-century learning and promote the district's commitment to educational excellence.

Recognizing Excellence: Opportunities to celebrate quality education while acknowledging the significant contributions of select individuals.

Building Futures: Endowed scholarships established to assist those students and families desiring to access quality programs and services both on a post-secondary and basic education level.

The Foundation accepts contributions from individuals, families, corporations, civic groups, local businesses and other foundations. All donations support the educational efforts of the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools.

If you would like to donate, checks can be made payable to: KCF/G-A Education Foundation and mailed to: 1076 N 37th Street, Galesburg, MI 49053 or you can call 269-484-2000 to discuss. Remember, every dollar helps create better students and citizens in the G-A Community! Thanks for your consideration.

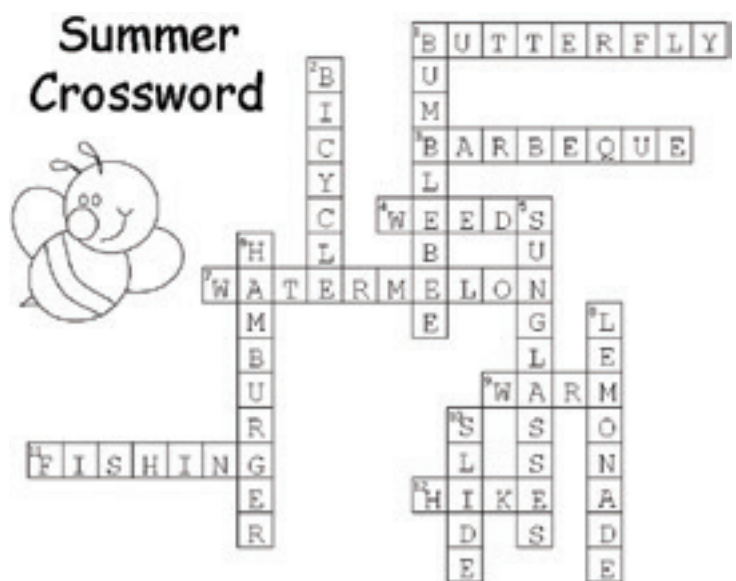
You can also donate by using Amazon Smile: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3082334>

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

2017-2018 Schools of Choice Enrollment

May 15, 2017 through June 13, 2017

Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools will be accepting K-12 Schools of Choice Applications for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications will be available beginning May 15, 2017 at the Superintendent's office, 1076 North 37th Street, Galesburg, MI or printed online at www.g-aschools.org. Applications must be returned by June 13, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. to the office of the Superintendent. Please call 269-484-2000 if you have any questions.



G-A High School Athletic News:

G-A GIRL’S TENNIS SCHEDULE 2017

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Sat. 3-25	Niles Brandywine Indoor Tourn.	Away	TBD
Tues. 3-28	Comstock	Home	4:30 p.m.
Thurs. 4-13	Three Rivers	Home	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 4-15	G-K Tourn. At Mattawan	Away	TBD
Mon. 4-17	G-K Tourn. Rain date		
Tues. 4-18	Eau Claire	Home	4:30 p.m. canceled
Thurs. 4-20	Kalamazoo Christian	Home	4:30 p.m.
Fri. 4-28	B.C. Pennfield	Away	4:30 p.m.
Thurs. 4-27	Schoolcraft	Away	4:30 p.m.
Tues. 5-2	Hackett at Port. West	Away	4:30 p.m.
Thurs. 5-4	Coloma	Home	4:30 p.m.
Sat. 5-6	Niles Brandywine Tourn.	Away	TBD
Tues. 5-9	Constantine	Home	4:30 p.m. revised
Wed. 5-10	Hillsdale	Away	4:30 p.m.
Fri. 5-12	League Tourn. TBD	Away	TBD
or Sat. 5-13			
Mon. 5-15	Plainwell	Home	4 p.m.
May 18,19, or 20th	Regionals TBD	Away	TBD



Please check the school website at www.g-aschools.org for the most updated schedules.

G-A J.V. BASEBALL SCHEDULE 2017

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Wed. 3-29	Paw Paw (single)	Away
Tues. 4-11	Bangor (DH)	Home
Thurs. 4-13	Constantine DH	Home
Sat. 4-15	Parchment (DH)	Away 10 a.m.
Mon. 4-17	K-Christian DH	Away
Thurs. 4-20	Lawton DH	Home
Fri. 4-21	Comstock DH	Away 4 p.m.
Mon. 4-24	Decatur DH	Away
Thurs. 4-27	Schoolcraft DH	Away
Mon. 5-1	Hartford (DH)	Home
Thurs. 5-4	Delton-Kellogg DH	Home
Fri. 5-5	Parchment (single)	Home 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 5-8	Gobles DH	Home
Thurs. 5-11	Hackett DH	Away
Mon. 5-15	Fennville DH	Away
Thurs. 5-18	B.C. Pennfield DH	Away 4 p.m.

All games start at 4:30 p.m., unless noted. DH=Double Header

Please check the school website at www.g-aschools.org for the most up to date schedules.



G-A TRACK/FIELD SCHEDULE 2017

DATE	OPPONENT	MEET TIME
Wed. 3-29	with Delton at Schoolcraft	4:30 p.m.
Wed. 4-12	with K-Christian at Constantine	4:30 p.m.
Fri. 4-14	Gull Lake Invitational at Gull Lake	4:30 p.m.
Wed. 4-19	with Hackett at Lawton	4:30 p.m.
Fri. 4-21	Comstock Invitational at Comstock	4 p.m.
Wed. 4-26	at Schoolcraft	4:30 p.m.
Fri. 4-28	Schoolcraft Inv. At Schoolcraft	3 p.m.
Tues. 5-9	SAC Divisional Championship at Delton-Kellogg	TBD
Fri. 5-12	Gobles "little guys" Inv. At Gobles	TBD
Fri. 5-19 or Sat. 5-20	Regionals TBD	TBD
Tues. 5-23	SAC Championship at Constantine	TBD
Wed. 5-24	SAC Championship rain date	
Sat. 6-3	State Finals (location TBD)	

Please check the school website at www.g-aschools.org for the most up to date schedules.



G-A J.V. SOFTBALL SCHEDULE 2017

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Wed. 3-29	Paw Paw (single)	Away
Tues. 4-11	Bangor DH	Home
Thurs. 4-13	Constantine DH	Home
Thurs. 4-20	Lawton DH	Home
Mon. 5-1	Hartford	Home
Thurs. 5-4	Delton-Kellogg DH	Home
Mon. 5-8	Gobles DH	Home
Mon. 5-15	Fennville DH	Away
Thurs. 5-18	B.C Pennfield DH	Away
Tues. 5-23	Martin DH	Away 4 p.m.

All games start at 4:30 p.m., unless noted. DH=Double Header

Please check the school website at www.g-aschools.org for the most up to date schedules.



G-A Primary School News:



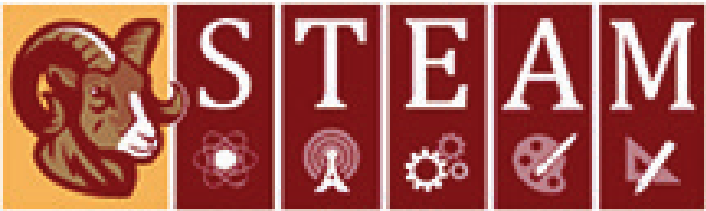
President: Laura Wilks
Vice President: Lindsay Krugh
Treasurer: Amelia Martin
Secretary: Marcella Beard
Trustee: Marcie Beard

AFGAK’s mission is to enrich the school experience for families who attend G-A Primary. We accomplish this by sponsoring family events and fundraising to purchase needed items and support field trips. Do you know a student at the Primary that enjoys events like the Father Daughter Dance, Mother/Son event, family movie days, and the Holiday Shoppe? Do you appreciate the reduced field trip costs Primary students enjoy? If so, won’t you help us continue the great traditions of G-A by considering joining AFGAK? If you don’t like those things or think there are better ways to make our school great, we’d love to have fresh perspective! You can make positive changes with your ideas. We need new faces to keep the PTO alive so we can continue helping our students and teachers grow! It costs you nothing to join, and meetings are once a month for an hour. We need you! Please consider joining us at one of our next meetings on Tuesday, April 11th or Tuesday, May 9th at 6pm in the Primary library. You can check out how our PTO operates, hear about our upcoming events and opportunities, as well as share your ideas! FREE childcare is provided for kids 3 years of age and older! You can also check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GA.AFGAK, or email us at ga.afgak@gmail.com to find out how you can help!

Upcoming AFGAK events...

- Planning a staycation during spring break and looking for fun things to do!? Join us at Chuck E Cheese on Friday, April 7th from 3-9pm! It’s a perfect excuse to get together with other students and families over the break, and on top of that, our school will receive a portion of sales that night! If you plan to go, just tell the cashier you are participating in the Galesburg-Au-

gusta Primary night. We hope to see you there, and feel free to invite your friends!!
- We’re excited to see you out at C.O. Brown Stadium on Saturday, June 10th at 7pm to watch the Battle Creek Bombers! Don’t miss your chance to catch all the action. Join Adults For Galesburg Augusta Kids for an exciting night of baseball with the family! Tickets are available for \$15 each, and include a reserved bleacher seat and a Bombers hat! To order your tickets, please email us ga.afgak@gmail.com or call Laura at (269)348-8735.



3D Pens

Our AFGAK group helped purchase several 3D pens for our students. A heating element melts a plastic wire. An extruder pushes the liquid plastic at variable speeds to allow the plastic to be placed in several directions and amounts, which helps give the ability to create 3D objects. We had a test run in Mr. Brennan’s technology room during this year’s Learning Fair. Later this spring, we will be having an after/before school makers class that will let students use these to be creative.

STEAM class

Our 1st graders are beginning to use technology (computers and I-Pads) to become engineers, scientists, and artists in Mr. Brennan’s technology class. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) curriculum that will let our students use hands on materials with technology to predict and experiment with science, engineering, and art projects.

Stay connected to Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools by:



G-A Primary School News:



<http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs/>

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is an innovative father involvement, educational initiative of the National Center For Fathering. There are two primary goals of the WATCH D.O.G.S. program.

1. To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.

2. To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

If you would like to be a part of our WATCH D.O.G.S. program, please contact the Primary School Office.



Jump Rope For Heart is a national education and fundraising event sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE).

This event engages elementary students with jumping rope while empowering them to improve their own health and help other kids with heart-health issues. This is a great way to satisfy the physical education standards as determined by NASPE (National Association for Sport and Physical Education) and AAHE (American Association for Health Education).

It Takes Heart to be a Hero!



Jump Rope For Heart Help Students Grow!

- Kids learn the value of community service and become empowered to contribute to their community's welfare.
- Children join together in helping other kids with special hearts.
- Students learn how to develop heart-healthy

habits while being physically active.

- Participants learn jump rope and basketball skills they can use for the rest of their lives.

- Students help your school earn gift certificates for free P.E. equipment!

This year, the Primary School Raised over \$8,500...



WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 schooldays, Student B will have read for 12 schooldays, and Student C will have read for 3.		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

G-A High School Athletic News:

ATTENTION STUDENT-ATHLETES AND PARENTS:



Hometown Urgent Care is no longer offering the "Give Back Program" like they did in the past. However, they will still be offering low cost physicals for a \$25 fee. Hometown Urgent Care has locations on Gull Road, Westnedge Avenue and Centre Street in Portage.

The M.H.S.A.A. has revised the physical form starting in the 2017-18 school year. It will now include concussion awareness acknowledgement. Please make sure you use the form provided on the school website or in the middle school or high school office. The old forms will be invalid.

Current 5th graders that will be participating in middle school athletics in 6th grade should start planning for a sport's physical. This is a requirement for school sanctioned sports. A valid physical is one that is given on or after April 15th, 2017 and includes the new M.H.S.A.A. form.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (M.H.S.A.A.) requires each student-athlete to have a valid physical on file with the school before they may participate in Middle School or High School athletics. A valid physical for the 2017-18 school year is one that is given on or after April 15th of 2017.

Stay connected to Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools by:

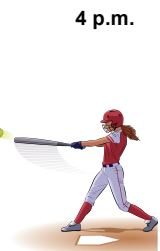


G-A VARSITY SOFTBALL SCHEDULE 2017

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Mon. 3-27	Bloomington DH	Home
Wed. 3-29	Paw Paw (single)	Home
Tues. 4-11	Bangor DH	Away
Thurs. 4-13	Constantine DH	Away
Sat. 4-15	Mendon Tourn.	Away
Mon. 4-17	K-Christian DH	Home
Thurs. 4-20	Lawton DH	Away
Mon. 4-24	Decatur DH	Home
Thurs. 4-27	Schoolcraft DH	Home
Mon. 5-1	Hartford (DH)	Away
Thurs. 5-4	Delton-Kellogg DH	Away
Mon. 5-8	Gobles DH	Away
Thurs. 5-11	Hackett DH	Home
Mon. 5-15	Fennville DH	Home
Thurs. 5-18	B.C. Pennfield DH	Home
Mon. 5-22	Martin DH	Home
5-30 and 6-3	Districts	HOME
10-Jun	Regionals	TBD

All games start at 4:30 p.m., unless noted.
DH=Double Header

Please check the school website at www.g-aschools.org for the most up to date schedules.



G-A VARSITY BASEBALL SCHEDULE 2017

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	
Mon. 3-27	Bloomington DH	Home	var. only
Wed. 3-29	Paw Paw (single)	Home	
Thurs. 3-30	Parchment (single)	Home	var. only
Tues. 4-11	Bangor DH	Away	
Thurs. 4-13	Constantine DH	Away	
Sat. 4-15	Mendon Tourn.	Away	9 a.m. Var.
Mon. 4-17	K-Christian DH	Home	
Thurs. 4-20	Lawton DH	Away	
Mon. 4-24	Decatur DH	Home	
Thurs. 4-27	Schoolcraft DH	Home	
Mon. 5-1	Hartford	Away	
Thurs. 5-4	Delton-Kellogg DH	Away	
Fri. 5-5	Parchment (single)	Away	
Mon. 5-8	Gobles DH	Away	
Thurs. 5-11	Hackett DH	Home	
Mon. 5-15	Fennville DH	Home	
Thurs. 5-18	B.C. Pennfield DH	Home	4 p.m.
Mon. 5-22	Martin DH	Home	
5-30 and 6-3	Districts	HOME	
10-Jun	Regionals	TBD	

All games start at 4:30 p.m., unless noted.
DH=Double Header

Please check the school website at www.g-aschools.org for the most up to date schedules



G-A High School Band News:

New Uniforms for GAHS Marching Band

The Galesburg-Augusta High School Marching Band will sport new uniforms next year. The district selected Stanbury Company to produce the uniforms, including the custom band coat and trousers as well as the related accessories. Scottie Walker, GAHS Marching Band Director, and the G-A Band Boosters assisted with the selection process. They provided valuable input to ensure the district selected the highest quality product available. In addition, the GA Band Boosters generously donated \$5, 000 towards the purchase of the new uniforms. The students, staff, and parents are very excited about the new uniforms. Dania Bazzi, Superintendent of GACS said the current uniforms are roughly 30 years old, "They have had a great run for marching band uniforms," Bazzi said.





On Monday, February 27th, the Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools Foundation held their 2nd annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at the Dig-In Café (Augusta, MI). The Dig-In Café was gracious enough to open up on Monday (they are generally closed on Mondays) and allow the GACS Foundation to hold the fundraising dinner there. The Dig-In Café staff also volunteered to do all the prep work and cooking for the event, while GACS Foundation Board Members, GACS Staff, and National Honor Society students from the high school worked as waiters, bussers, and greeters. In three short hours the Foundation was able to raise \$887. Dollars raised will help allow the Foundation to continue to provide Educaiton Enhancement Grants for Teachers at GACS and also provide scholarships to senior students at GACS. Last year alone, the GACS Education Foundation awarded \$11, 750 in scholarships and over \$5,000 in education enhancement grants. The Foundation is very grateful to the community and the Dig-In Café for all their support.



G-A Primary School News:

Enrollment for 2017-2018 Preschool is now open!

Our GSRP preschool is a 4-year-old, state-funded program that is free to families that qualify. To qualify your child must turn 4 on or before September 1st and your family must meet the guidelines set up by the state.

Tuition Preschool

We offer 3 and 4-year-old tuition preschool for families that do not qualify for GSRP, but still want to utilize our preschool program. The 3-year-old tuition based students must also turn 3 on or before September 1st.



Our Preschools Feature:

- Certified Early Childhood Teachers!
- Full-day program for all 4-year-olds
- Half-day program for 3-year-olds
- Emphasis on developing literacy skills
- Technology centers with iPads
- Student work done in small groups, whole groups and center-based activities

If you would like to learn more about our preschool program, the Primary school, schedule a tour or speak with the building principal, Shaun Sportel, please contact the office at 484-2040. We at G-A Primary are proud of our terrific facility and commitment to student achievement!

The staff at G-A Primary believes all children can learn and succeed. Our goal is success for every child!

Keep in mind we do offer "wrap around" and "before and after school" daycare for students aged 3-12!

Preschool pricing is as follows:

If you do not qualify for GSRP...

- 4's Tuition is \$2,600 per year
- 3's Tuition is \$1,300 per year

The Great Achievements Learning Center prices are as followed:

- Before School Care = \$25.00 per week
- Afterschool Care =
- 3 or fewer days: \$35.00 per week
- 4 or more days: \$50.00 per week
- Wrap-Around Care: \$20.00 per day
- Full Day Friday Care: \$30.00 per day
- No School Day / Snow Day: \$30.00 Per day
- Half Day Care: \$20.00 per day



Summer Library

This summer, our Primary School Library will be open every Wednesday from 10:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Mr. Russell will be there for every Primary Student to check out a book of his or her choosing. Come on in for a good book. "You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book." Dr. Seuss



Dear Parents of G-A Primary 2017-2018 Kindergarten Students,

Welcome to Galesburg-Augusta Primary! We want you to know how much we are looking forward to having your child begin school with us in the fall. We are hosting a Parent Information Night on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Primary music room. A panel of kindergarten teachers will answer your questions about starting school next fall. Enrollment packets are available for you to pick up at the Primary School office. To register for Kindergarten children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2017.

Right now, it is important for you to get all of the necessary paperwork into the Primary Office so that your child will be ready to start school. It is mandatory (by law supported by Sec. 9208 of Public Health Code) that all items be on file at our Office. Students will not be able to attend school until the enrollment paperwork is complete. Please bring to school the following:

1. Legal birth certificate (We must see the original certified document)
2. Validated proof of immunizations (to date)
3. Proof of vision and hearing screening
4. Parent questionnaire
5. Enrollment/Information card
6. Transportation form



G-A Primary School News:

Summer School

Galesburg-Augusta Primary School will be conducting a reading AND math skills SUMMER SCHOOL program for ELIGIBLE STUDENTS. This year, our summer program will run for 8 weeks from July 10th through August 31st. Students from all grades K-4 will work with three teachers and a team of paraprofessionals to build up both their literacy and math skills!

Eligibility for summer school will be determined using the following criteria:

1. Completion of grades K, 1, 2, 3, or 4
2. DIBELS scores (reading) AND response to current interventions and DELTA Math Scores.
3. Teacher recommendations AND response to current interventions

Summer school will meet 4 days a week, Monday – Thursday, from 9:00 – 11:30am.



Happy Retirement

Linda Dunithan has been a lifelong resident of Galesburg. She is a proud graduate of Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Class of 1977. Linda has spent the last 21 years working here at GA. She has spent the majority of the time as the face of the Primary Office. We have been blessed to have her with us. She will truly be missed. Happy retirement Linda.

Vicki Lewis has been a lifelong resident of Augusta. She is also a proud graduate of Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Class of 1972. Vicki has been with the

District for 15 years. She was a paraprofessional at the intermediate building for 7 years and has been a part of our kitchen staff here at the Primary School for the last 8 years. If you are looking for Vicki in the near future, she will be enjoying retirement out on her boat.



Linda Dunithan and Vicki Lewis

G-A High School News:

Student Information System

Our district wide student information system, Synergy, has become an integral part of our high school function. Students are now utilizing the system for the following: monitoring of grades, tracking attendance, contacting teachers, registering for classes, unofficial transcripts, and others. In addition, teachers have the option to post assignments on the calendar, link their classroom website, and send messages directly to their students to increase communication. If you or your student need assistance with log in, contact the high school secretary, Ms. Samantha Kohl, for assistance.



New Elective Opportunities

Staff surveyed students earlier this year to determine areas of interest and potential new electives to offer at the high school. Based on the results, the following elective courses have been added to the curriculum guide for the 2017-2018 school year and beyond:

- Contemporary and Global Issues
- 21st Century Media
- Introduction to Engineering
- Theatre



Student course requests and teacher availability will determine the final course offerings but we are pleased to continue to add to the opportunities for our students.

School Calendar

April 21 (F) ½ Day K-12 Early Release
PLC 12:30-3:00

May 29 (M) No School K-12 Memorial Day

June 9 (F) H.S Exams-modified schedule (Full Day K-12)
H.S. Graduation 7 pm

June 12 (M) ½ Day 9-12 H.S. Exams

June 13 (T) ½ Day K-12 H.S. Exams

June 14 (W) ½ Day K-12 Last Day / H.S. Exams - Teacher Check Out

June 15 (Th) Last Day Teachers/ Teacher Check-Out



Early Middle College and KVCC on GAHS Campus!

Fall of 2017 will mark the first year of GAHS offering classes on campus for KVCC as a part of the Early Middle College program. We will be hosting Eng 110 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you or someone you know is interested in taking the course they should look for the GA option in the course guide at KVCC. All KVCC and/or EMC students are welcome to enroll.



Education for Employment Outstanding Student Awards

Students who attend various EFE programs throughout the county are honored for their dedication and growth. Recipients for this years Education for Employment Awards will attend a scholarship banquet on April 27 at the Radisson, downtown Kalamazoo. Congratulations to the following students in each of their respective areas of study:

BMA = James Chadwick

Marketing = Hailey East

Banking & Finance = Alyssa Gibson

Accounting = Natalie Hosmer



Behavior Celebration

GAHS has been dedicated to the fidelity of behavior supports for our students as a means to provide a safe learning community for all. March 3 we took a day to celebrate the outstanding conduct and attitudes of our kids. Our staff takes time to review data and monitor how we are progressing in our endeavors of education; here is our latest data pull for the past 3 years regarding referrals (data was pulled for each year from September-March):

	Student Referrals	
	Female	Male
2014-2015	155	276
2015-2016	62	128
2016-2017	52	118



SLIME!!!!

We had a great turn-out for our Slime Science Project for 3rd and 4th Grade Students. Students learned all about Slime in the world and how to create their own glow in the dark slime. We also made elephant toothpaste... Thank you to our adult mad scientists Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Ryder, Mr. Sportel and Dr. Bazzi. You can see from the looks on the kids faces, they had a blast!!

G-A High School News:

Construction to begin June 19

June 19 will be the opening day of construction at the High School. Our main office will be relocated to the superintendent's office. Our staff will be available to help you from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday-Friday until June 30, 2017. If you need to contact the high school staff beyond that time, you can email Mrs. Robinson and she will return your message as soon as possible.



Farewell to the Class of 2017

Senior Dates to Remember!

April 21-24:	Senior Trip
May 13:	Prom
May 11:	Awards Assembly
May 18:	Senior Band Concert and Awards
June 2:	Seniors' Last Day
June 9:	Senior Walk
June 9:	Graduation



Summer School Opportunities

We will be hosting summer school this year to provide time and support for students needing an additional opportunity to recoup their credits. The first option for summer school will be computer-based delivery with Mrs. Groetsema. The second option will be for students who need to recover a math credit. We will be offering a classroom experience for students looking to get back on track in that core area. The schedule for summer school is as follows:
Monday-Thursday
8:00 am – 11:00 am
July 10-August 10



If we have enough interest, we will run an afternoon session from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm for the online courses only.

If you are interested in more information, contact the high school main office or visit the district website.

Galesburg-Augusta Early Middle College

GAHS is proud to say we have our first Early Middle College students who will walk with their graduating class this spring. Our students will be continuing as thirteenth year GA students; but they will spend their entire school day on the campus of Kalamazoo Valley Community College and its program facilities. Spring of 2018 they will complete their high school career and will have earned their associates degree or a number of other endorsements.

If you are interested in more information for your student regarding this unique opportunity contact Ms. Lindsey Lake at the high school counseling office.



Galesburg-Augusta Alternative High School

GA's alternative education setting is a great opportunity for individuals who may struggle in the traditional classroom setting but are looking to complete their high school diploma. Our alt ed program is an online delivery system with a certified teacher as the classroom mentor. Students interested in enrolling in GAAHS should contact the GAHS counseling department for paperwork and an application. If you have additional questions contact Steve Erickson, Alternative Education mentor, at 269-484-2010 ext. 1015 or email erickson@garams.org



Prom 2017

Prom will be held at Thorapple Creek Golf Course on Saturday, May 13. It will start at 7:30 p.m. and will conclude at 11:00 p.m.. Students must purchase their tickets ahead of time. All guests must be preapproved by the school administration.



High School Orientation

Mark your calendars!! All students are expected to attend orientation on August 23, 2017. We will be distributing schedules, reviewing basics, meeting teachers, and having school pictures taken. Stay tuned to your monthly newsletter and the fall Ram Announcer for more details!

G-A Primary School News:

Happy Retirement

Ann Mayo - I'm a WMU graduate with certifications in special education (K-12), general education (K-8) and history (9-12). I began teaching in Shiprock, New Mexico at a middle school on a Navajo Indian Reservation. From there I went to Calhoun County Intermediate School District where I taught for 6 years on an adolescent psych unit. I taught one year with middle school at Starr Commonwealth with adjudicated youth. Next was 5 years at Battle Creek Pennfield Schools (combo of special and general ed middle and high school). Lastly, here at G-A, 5 years in SPED (K-3) and 14 years as part of the first grade team!!! That totals to 33 years. My best experience?? G-A by far! That is why I stayed so long. I love my colleagues who have always put students first. A quote that I embrace as it applies not only to my first grade team but to the support staff, Mr. Reggie, front desk ladies extraordinaire, and our building principal, Mr. Sportel as well as Dr. Bazzi:

you" Robert John Meehan. It's been a privilege, not just a career. This school community has helped me to build a life for which I will always be forever grateful.



Ann Mayo and Kim Stone

Kim Stone - I received my Bachelors of Education teaching degree from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. My first four years of teaching were spent in Calhoun County as a substitute teacher. For the next twelve years I was a teacher at two different preschools in Battle Creek. My last, longest, and best teaching job has been here at Galesburg Augusta Community Schools. First as a long term sub in fifth grade, then as a 2/3 multi-age teacher, and finally as a second grade teacher. My time here at Galesburg Augusta Primary has been wonderful. The people that work at the primary are an amazing group of people. They care deeply about the children they work with. I could not have asked for a better district to teach in.

"A key to growing as a teacher is to keep company mainly with teachers who uplift you, whose presence inspire you and whose dedication drives

Summer Enrichment through Book Mailings!

Before we know it, summer will be upon us and with the summer months, comes a break from the normal routine of school. Although there is a break from school, we do not want learning to end or a loss of reading skills to occur! For the past three years, Galesburg-Augusta has been the recipient of an Early Grade Reading Grant through United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region in partnership with Kalamazoo RESA. One important component of the Early Grade Reading Grant is summer enrichment opportunities to help prevent a loss in reading skills over the summer.

Although we are still working out the details and logistics, one way we are hoping to support reading throughout the summer is through summer book mailings:

The goal – every child receives one book a month over the summer (June, July and August) *What Would everyone's role be?*

• Students – Read and Respond! Read the books mailed to them that they pick out in

May. Respond to the book via the postcard or response card included with the book mailing. Grow and learn as a reader!

• Teachers and KRESA Consultant – Manage logistics of the book mailings and check in with students on his/her reading.

• Parents – Encourage your child to read and respond the book received in the mail, provide support as needed, and have conversation about the book your child is reading.

Incentives

• Last year, United Way donated two bikes and the bikes were raffled off to Claire Callender and Ethan Metty. Students who turned in a Summer Reading Graph were entered into the drawing. This year, we are looking to provide some prizes to students who read over the summer. Our hope is to provide something related to reading as a way to encourage more reading with the goal of becoming a successful and life-long reader!

Stay tuned for more details in the upcoming months!

G-A Middle School News:

Principal's Letter:

Farewell, but not goodbye!

Dear G-A Rams,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your middle school principal for the last two and a half years. The G-A community gave me a warm welcome, and I am happy with the many friendships I have made here.



Darin Schmidt

We began by strengthening school spirit. I remember students personally thanking me for attending basketball games. We worked hard to celebrate our successes, and we solidified our financial footing to allow teachers to purchase improved instructional materials.

Next, we brought the nation's top pre-engineering curriculum to G-AMS. Since this was not in the budget, we found funding through KRESA. Terri Jordan and Jamie Korinek went through intense summer training to make it all happen. We continued to listen to parents and students, and we dramatically expanded our elective offerings. Today, we offer Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Forest Science, Debate, Drama, Creative Writing, Ancient Civilizations and Empires, three different Computers classes, and a number of support classes for Math and English.

Most importantly, the community came together to support a bond proposal that will invest \$8 million in our middle school. By the fall of 2018, G-AMS will look like a very different place.

I say farewell but not goodbye because I will spy on you! One of my biggest regrets about my choice to accept the principalship of the Shenzhen American International School is that I won't be able to be onsite for the construction and grand re-opening of the school. However, I will return to the states a couple times each year, and I'm sure I'll find myself on the hill in Augusta, admiring the new building that the community supported.

Thank you for this opportunity. There will always be a place in my heart for the G-A Rams.

Yours,
Darin

Basketball Results

7th Grade B Girls Basketball - Record 3-2
at Battle Creek Springfield - Won 16-8
at Comstock - Won 24-18
vs Delton - Won 13-9
at K-Christian - Lost 16-11
at Parchment - Lost 14-8

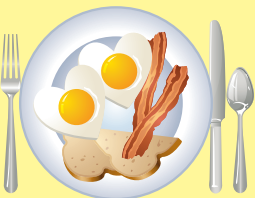
Our B girls matched up well with every team we played and were very close to a perfect season.

8th Grade B Girls Basketball - Record 6-6
at Battle Creek Springfield - Lost 23-18
vs Martin - Won 31-18
at Comstock - Won 21-20
vs Parchment - Lost 18-13
vs K-Christian - Lost 22-12
at Martin - Won 32-25
at St. Monica - Won 22-17
vs Delton - Won 30-14
at K-Christian - Lost 25-10
at Constantine - Lost 37-12
vs Comstock - Won 11-8
at Parchment - Lost 27-22

The home and away victories over Martin and Comstock were special and this group of girls had not beaten Comstock in prior competitions. The teams also played their best basketball games of the season in the finale at Parchment, who was one of the better teams we faced all season.

Senior Citizen breakfast hosted by sixth grade students

On Friday, March 17, sixth grade students hosted a breakfast for senior citizens in the middle school cafeteria from 8:45-10:30 am. Students received invitations to give the special seniors in their lives. Seniors citizens in the G-A community were invited to join us. Sixth graders acted as hosts and servers during this event and looked forward to visiting with all who attend. The breakfast was free for senior guests with generous funding by the United Way and Meijer. We were delighted to host these special people!



G-A Middle School News:

G-A Middle School Creates its National Junior Honor Society Chapter

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is a nationally renowned organization premised upon the recognition of outstanding middle school students. The NJHS spotlights those young people who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. On February 16, 2017, Galesburg-Augusta Middle School welcomed its first members to the National Junior Honor Society. The induction ceremony was held in the middle school auditorium, followed by a reception in the middle school media center. With the assistance of several Galesburg-Augusta High School National Honor Society members, the evening was a resounding success. Family, friends, staff members, and school board members gathered in celebration of our select middle school students. Galesburg-Augusta Middle School is proud to announce the following National Junior Honor Society members:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Noah Armstrong | Abigail Newton |
| Dove Chavez | Andrew Reist |
| Megan Earles | Aubree Sedore |
| Jordyn Klimp | Mackenzie Terry |
| Elizabeth Kuras | Mikaela Van Hoven |
| Alyssa Luce | Aleigha Vos |
| Lauren Needham | Andrew Wilks-Millard |

Bad Island Crew visits via Skype

Graphic novelist, Doug TenNapel, visited with 40 of our middle school students, via Skype on March 29. Participating students received a copy of the book, Bad Island, and they met with Mrs. Way during their lunch/recess times to read it, discuss the author, and write thoughtful questions. The culmination was held on March 29th when Mr. TenNapel met with the students via Skype, discussing his book and answering their questions. The Bad Island

Crew enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate their hard work and successful meeting. Thank you to the G-A Foundation for making this awesome opportunity possible!



Summer Crossword

Across

- 1. From caterpillar to _____
- 3. dad's grill
- 4. A gardener's worst enemy.
- 7. pink juicy fruit
- 9. In the summer, the weather is _____
- 11. I have a rod and reel. Let's go _____
- 12. A long walk.

Down

- 1. Insect with yellow and black stripes.
- 2. Healthy summertime transportation.
- 5. Protective eyewear.
- 6. A patty and a bun. Yum!
- 8. Favorite drink of young salespeople.
- 10. Playground toy you swoosh down.

Answers on Page: 17