

Special points of interest:

- Actor Gary Farmer
- STEM Wars
- New Superintendent



A member of the Reynold's Battery reenactment group speaks to students about cannons. Photo by staff.

Civil War Day is a Blast Back to 1860's

By Mira Wade and Alanna Waite

Seventh graders at Silver Creek participated in a Civil War Day on Friday, May 19th. Re-enactors from the Reynold's Battery from Rochester, New York, came to talk to students about life and roles during the Civil War. Silver Creek's town historian, Mr. Lou Pelletter, also came to talk to students about Silver Creek's history during the war.

Students went to different stations, such as a blacksmith, cannon, medicine, uniforms, quilting, music, farm wife, and the Ladies' Aid Society. The guests spoke to groups of students for about fifteen minutes each before the groups rotated to the next station. At the end of the day, a cannon was fired multiple times for students.

Mr. Graf, the 7th grade social studies teacher, planned this year's event. He stated, "We wanted it to be an interactive experience where students
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Actor Gary Farmer Speaks to Students and Families

By Alanna Waite

On Thursday May 25th, Actor and musician Gary Farmer visited Silver Creek Middle School to speak to students about goal setting and their futures.

Middle School students listened to him talk for 45 minutes about his past, giving students advice and what we can do to help the environment. Farmer is Canadian but grew up in Buffalo and is a member of the Cayuga Nation. He has been in many movies and television shows, such as the show *Reservation Dogs* and the movie *Smoke Signals*.

Seventh grader Asha Wolverton stated, "He was funny and entertaining." When asked if she learned any lessons from his talk, Asha said "to not give up."

Ms. Williams, Title VI Native American Education Program Coordinator, arranged the event and introduced Mr. Farmer. Mr. Farmer later spoke to the public in the evening after a meal of traditional Native American foods that were served by vendors.



Gary Farmer shared wisdom and stories with students on May 25th. Photo by staff.

Students Attend and Compete STEM Wars at JCC

By Mira Wade

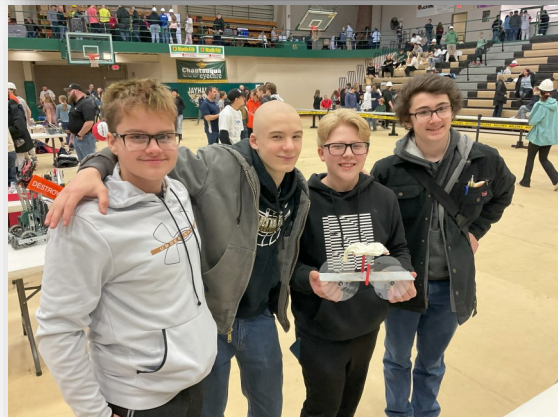
A long, long time ago, at college far, far away, (in Jamestown), middle and high school students participated in the annual STEM Wars at Jamestown Community College.

Students participated in the event to showcase their science, technology, engineering, mathematics skills. Competitions were held in robotics, bridge building, drones, and marble races. Guest speakers talked about careers in STEM.

Eighth graders Eli Cook, Calem Izzo, Owen Kilburn, and Marek Kowal earned second place in the D.I.D.I. 500 competition. This was a new competition. Students had to design, build, and test a vehicle of their own creation in one hour. Congratulations to the eighth graders on their success!

Students who are interested in attending next year should talk with Mr. Francisco, middle school technology teacher.

Above: Students work at a building station creating CO₂ emission cars for a race. Photo by Mira Wade. **Below:** Owen, Calem, Marek, and Eli earned 2nd place in the D.I.D.I. 500 Design and Build Competition. Submitted photo.



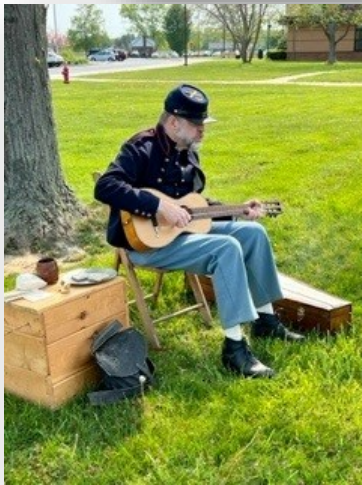
Civil War Day: Sights from the history event

—continued from page 1— could meet Civil War re-enactors who would bring in primary sources that would help them appreciate what went on during the Civil War.”

“It was interesting because I got to learn about how different people worked in the Civil War,” said Payton Cain, a 7th grader.

“It was cool because we got to learn about how it was back then and during the Civil War,” added seventh grade student Jada Tyler.

Mr. Graf also noted that he plans on holding the event again next year because “Students had a blast.”



Book Banning is Not the Correct Choice

By Mira Wade

What is book banning? You may think that it doesn't affect you, and you would be right because for the most part we live in a prominently liberal state. This phenomenon has occurred more so in conservative states, like Florida, and has become a recent hot topic in the news.

Book banning is a controversial topic that has been debated for decades. On one hand, proponents argue that banning certain books protects vulnerable groups, such as children, from harmful content. They argue that books that contain explicit language, violence, or sexual content can negatively impact young readers, and therefore, should not be available in schools or public libraries. On the other hand, opponents argue that book banning is a violation of the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech and expression. They ar-

gue that individuals should have the right to read and access any book they choose, and that censorship is a dangerous practice that can lead to a lack of intellectual freedom and understanding.

Ultimately, the decision to ban a book should be carefully considered, taking into account the potential benefits and drawbacks of such action. I think personally that the child should be able to choose what they read and if the parent doesn't like the topic/book then they can tell the child why they can't read it. Hopefully both guardian and child would learn from this situation because it could open dialogue about a family's values and reading interests. Each family may have their own values about what their child should be reading, and that decision should be up to the family. Books should not be banned because what to read is the decision of a family.

Think Before you Act in the Hallways

By Jessie George

Imagine you were in school, you see an exit sign or just anything hanging, you jump, smack it, and it breaks. Well, that's what I did. You don't want to make those silly choices like I did because one reason is you might hurt yourself or others. If you see anyone do anything like that, tell someone. Just think about how much people break or do something to the school, and guess who has to clean or fix it: the janitors. They do a lot of things to keep the school clean. Imagine being one of them; it would be so annoying to have to clean or fix things after other people's messes.

If you do something bad, tell them what you did so the administration doesn't find out by themselves, you won't get in trouble as much if you just admit you did it and know that it's wrong. If you don't, you would most likely have a gut feeling and need to say something. It won't be as scary if you just talk it out. If you know that it's wrong and won't do it again then that's good, but it still doesn't help that something broke. It doesn't matter what it is—the doorway, a clock, an exit sign, anything hanging or on a wall—can break and you'll get blamed for it. Even if it doesn't break, you shouldn't be doing that. It's okay to goof around have fun, but it has limits. There is a right time and place to do that, but school isn't one of them. I'm not saying you can't have fun, but if you do something you know is bad then it's your fault for what you did.

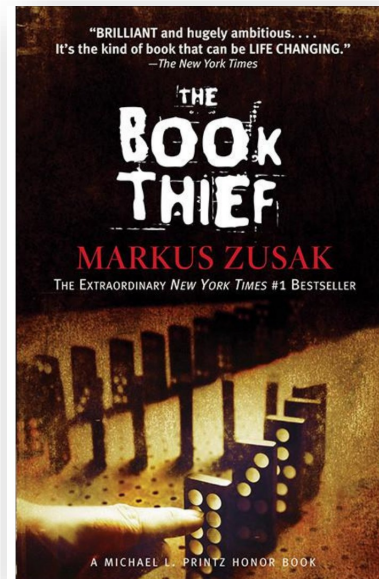
In conclusion, you shouldn't be goofing off in the hall and hitting or smacking anything, even if you don't think it will break, because anything no matter what it is, has a way to break.

Zusak's *The Book Thief* is a Powerful Read

By Mira Wade

The *Book Thief* is a novel by Markus Zusak, that tells the story of a young girl named Liesel Meminger during World War II. When Liesel is nine years old, she is sent to live with foster parents in a small town outside of Munich. Despite being illiterate, Liesel becomes enamored with books and begins stealing them from various places, including the mayor's wife's library. Alongside her best friend Rudy, Liesel navigates the challenges of growing up during a time of war, experiencing loss and love along the way.

The novel is narrated by Death, who offers a unique perspective on the events unfolding in Liesel's life. *The Book Thief* is a powerful and poignant story about the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. My personal rating is a 5/5, but read the novel only if you like death, heavy topics, and swearing.



2023 Oscars Winners Announced

By Everett LeBarron

Two-thousand-twenty-two was a great year for movies and Hollywood. The Academy Awards, or Oscars, were hosted on March 12th, 2023, and some of the most critically acclaimed films of 2022 got a chance to shine. Though such movies as *Top Gun Maverick* and *Avatar: The Way of Water* did not win big, here are some of the winners:

Best picture: *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

Best actor: Brendan Fraser, *The Whale*

Best actress: Michelle Yeoh, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

Best supporting actor: Ke Huy Quan, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

Best supporting actress: Jamie Lee Curtis, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

Best director: Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

Best animated feature: *Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio*



8th Grade Moving Up Day

Thursday, June 22, 2023
9am—District Auditorium

Class of 2027: Congratulations and Best Wishes from your Silver Creek Middle School teachers and staff. We are so proud of you and look forward to all that you can achieve in high school! Have a safe and happy summer!

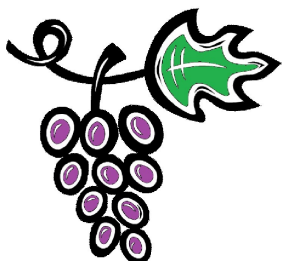


Jessie George
Everett LeBarron
Mira Wade
Alanna Waite

Mrs. Kempster
Advisor

Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of every month in room 318 during after school. All are welcome to join!

The opinions presented within this issue are not necessarily those of the Silver Creek Central School District nor its employees.



New Superintendent Set to Begin in July



The Board of Education welcomes Dr. Ralston (to the right of the knight statue) who begins as Superintendent of School on July 1st, following the retirement of Mr. Crandall (far right). Photo taken by Braden Carmen for the district website.

By Alanna Waite

Over the summer, Silver Creek Central Schools will see a change in leadership.

On July 1st, school superintendent Mr. Todd Crandall will be retiring. In his place, the district has hired Dr. Katie Ralston, who is currently the 6-12 lead principal at Cuba-Rushford. She stated in interviews that her goal will be relationship building between the school and families.

Dr. Ralston was hired after a multiple round interview process which included teachers, students, families, and administrators. Dr. Katie Ralston was a middle school special education teacher before becoming an administrator. Welcome to Dr. Ralston and thank you to Mr. Crandall for his service to the district.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, 6/13—	Last Full Day of Classes; Gr. 6-8 Locker Cleanout
Wednesday, 6/14—	Science Final Exam
Thursday, 6/15—	Math Final Exam
Friday, 6/16—	ELA Final Exam
Monday, 6/19—	NO SCHOOL —Juneteenth
Tuesday, 6/20—	Language Final Exam (Gr. 7/8); Social Studies Final Exam (Gr. 6); Gr. 6 iPad Collection
Wednesday, 6/21—	Gr. 7/8 Social Studies Final; Gr. 8 Moving Up Day Rehearsal; Gr. 7/8 iPad Collection
Thursday, 6/22—	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL —Gr. 8 Moving Up Day, Gr. 7 <i>The Outsiders</i> Movie