

Administrators Avenue

Dear Tuxedo Community,

Our initiative to create our identity as a “small, state-of-the-art public school with a private school feel” is in full swing. So much has happened in such a short time, which in a nut-shell, defines our district; small but extremely capable. We welcome some dynamic new employees who include Superintendent’s Secretary and District Clerk, Mrs. Kristine DiFrancesco, GGM Principal and Testing Coordinator, Mr. Paul Brown and Technology Aide, Mr. Donte Walter. In addition to the cosmetic changes around campus, we have been working diligently to upgrade our infrastructure. This undertaking thus far has included the installation of a new PA system, the creation of a Community room for events and meetings, the replacement of our server switches and the incorporation of computer programs to streamline many of our procedures. We are also working with a company called Apptegy who is helping us create a brand new TUFSD app and website. When fully integrated, it will provide for an easy, user-friendly, yet significantly improved means of communication between the district and community. In addition to the featured articles, so much more has happened amongst our students. Freshman, Chima Oparaji competed in states for Cross-Country. Freshman, Grace Donnelly was selected to High School All-County as a violinist. Our volleyball team won its division. Student Council, NHS and the PTO have organized events which include assisting with the St. Mary’s yard sale, sending cards to veterans, a trip to Dorney Park, a student games night, the PTO Carnival, a monthly Café for a Day and a book fair. The lower school students celebrated Peace Day and held a Veteran’s Day Celebration. Stay tuned for future editions of “The Eye of the Tornado”.

Sincerely,
Timothy H. Bohlke
Superintendent of Schools



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Contact Us

Please feel free to reach out to us for more information about our district events by phone, mail or email.

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THE EYE OF THE TORNADO

TUFSD Newsletter SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

October-December 2019

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

GEORGE F. BAKER AUDITORIUM. Ms. Jennifer Jones and the current members of the Tuxedo Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed in their new inductees at this year’s induction ceremony held on Thursday, October 24th in the George F. Baker Upper School Auditorium. The event was attended by Superintendent and Upper School Principal, Mr. Timothy H. Bohlke, Director of Student Services, Dr. Alexis Kearsy and members of our Board of Education as well as the families of the new inductees. This year’s ceremony perpetuates a long-standing tradition at Tuxedo of recognizing our students in the areas of Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character; the four pillars of the National Honor Society. The evening was highlighted by a speech from Superintendent Bohlke and Guest Speaker, Mrs. Anne Castellanos, the symbolic lighting of candles by the honor society officers to represent the four pillars and musical performances by the Tuxedo Jazz Ensemble. On behalf of the administration, board of education, faculty and staff, the Tuxedo Union Free School District would like to extend a warm welcome to the new honor society members for the 2019-2020 school year!

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela



New and Current Members of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society

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Students and Teachers Taking Part in the STEM Olympics

STEM OLYMPICS

TUXEDO On Tuesday, October 15th, George F. Baker Upper School students took part in the annual STEM Olympics at Murphy Field in Eagle Valley. The event was organized and conducted by Mr. Marco Margotta, the Tuxedo Union Free School District STEM Advisor. After breakfast from B & G Bagels in Ramsey, NJ, all students were provided with a T-Shirt from Mr. Margotta and spent the morning on campus designing logos for them with their individual STEM groups. Between 9:30 and 10:00, the students and teachers departed for Murphy Field where they spent the rest of the gorgeous Fall day. Once there, they had to put their creative problem solving and teamwork skills to use to work on completing various outdoor design challenges and activities with their groups. All of the STEM groups were provided with various supplies that they were allowed to use in order to develop a solution and compete against each other; making for a fun-filled day of innovation and ingenuity. A wonderful, catered lunch was provided by Carmelo's out of Ringwood, NJ, providing the students with a respite from the design activities as they ate in the shade under the Murphy Field pavilion. After eating and successfully completing all of the challenges, they spent the rest of the afternoon participating in other outdoor activities with their peers.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Madison Spivak shines in her Senior year! Her accomplishments include being our 2020 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medalist, 2020 Series Scholarship for Academic Excellence recipient and AP Scholar with Distinction. She is also the VP of Service in the National Honor Society, Student Council President and President of the Drama Club. Among all of these tremendous accolades, one of her most treasured experiences at Tuxedo is being so involved with the Musicals, Concerts and the Music Program as a whole.

TUFSD NATIONALLY

Tuxedo was recently recognized nationally as one of the best STEM schools in the country by Newsweek

EMPLOYEE EYE

It is often said that the measure of an individual is evidenced by what they do when no one is watching. No truer words could be used to describe Tuxedo's Director of Operations, Mr. Brendan Eirand and his operations and maintenance staff. You may have noticed some of the wonderful cosmetic changes around certain areas of the school, particularly in the upper school main office, front hallway and exterior. What is not so overt is what they do on a daily basis behind the scenes. They're the first ones here and the last to leave. When the weather is bad and the rest of us are home on the couch, they are here with plows, shovels and salt making sure we are ready to go the next day. From maintaining and ordering equipment and supplies to cleaning and caring for the classrooms and campus to troubleshooting and being an integral part of the school safety plan, these unsung heroes form the foundation on which we are built.



Mr. Brendan Eirand is the Director of Operations for the Tuxedo Union Free School District

A NEW HALLOWEEN TRADITION

GEORGE F. BAKER UPPER SCHOOL On Thursday, October 31st, Superintendent and Upper School Principal, Mr. Timothy H. Bohlke ushered in a brand new Halloween celebration for the entire school district. The day began with members of the Junior and Senior classes escorting the GGM Lower School Students through the hallways of GFB to Trick-or-Treat at different classrooms and offices. After the Trick-or-Treating, the students paraded on the stage of the auditorium where parents were welcomed in to watch, take pictures and escape the weather.

Once the GGM students returned to their building, the upper school students watched a Halloween-themed movie on the big screen in the auditorium. Following the film, the students had lunch which included delicious, home-made empanadas compliments of Mrs. Marisol Ramos. The day concluded with the 5th annual STEM Haunted Challenge run by the Tuxedo Union Free School District STEM Advisor, Mr. Margotta. For the challenge, the students engaged in collaborative activities with their STEM groups with the goal of designing and creating a Halloween-themed presentation in their classroom, which they shared with all.



More Halloween Fun

A NEW PRINCIPAL ON THE BLOCK

The TUFSD family welcomes Mr. Paul Brown as the new principal at the George Grant Mason Lower School. Mr. Brown has been in education for about 12 years. In that time he has been a substitute, a teacher, an assistant principal and now a principal. When asked about positive influences in his life, Mr. Brown said, "My brother is an influence because he was my greatest role model growing up." Both Mr. Brown and his brother are now principals. A second person who inspired Mr. Brown was his high school Social Studies teacher who encouraged his love of history.

A highlight of Mr. Brown's day at GGM is interacting with students. He loves talking to them at lunch and PE where he recently got to join them in a game of "Dance, Dance, Revolution." When not at school, Mr. Brown loves hiking with his wife and 2 year old son. This is also a family of animal lovers. The Browns have two dogs and 10 ducks that live on their property. In addition, Mr. Brown enjoys reading and right now he is reading "Team of Rivals", a biography of Abraham Lincoln that focuses on his leadership abilities. GGM is looking forward to Principal Brown's continued leadership in 2020.

By Karasten Kasker, 5th Grade

HAUNTED HALLWAYS

GEORGE F. BAKER UPPER SCHOOL On October 25th and 26th, the Tuxedo Union Free School District held its annual Haunted Hallways performance. Spanish Teacher and Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Anne Castellanos coordinated the show for the second consecutive time. This year's theme was to take visitors through the unknown as they delved into the haunted, zombie-infested ruins of Tuxedo's long-lost subway system. The performance is entirely produced by the students as they handle all of the script-writing, costume creation, choreography and set design and members of the Haunted Hallways cast collaborate with the "Tech Crew" to provide for the lighting, sound and other special effects used in the show. Attendees to the spectacle were able to purchase tickets in-person or online using a third party company called Book-Tix. All of the money raised for the event will go toward the Tuxedo Drama Club fund to help make future productions as successful as this one. According to Mrs. Castellanos, "The show gets better and better every year and I am proud of what we do".