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New Staff Join Pioneer District

Suzanne Rioch (*above*) recently joined Pioneer High School as a special education teacher. Mrs. Rioch grew up in Victor and graduated from Nazareth College of Rochester, earning degrees in Art and Special Education.

“I worked in special education art for about five years and then in special education. I now live in Springville in a house that I designed and is totally green; it has geothermal heating, solar panels that collect energy and Tesla Power Walls to store the energy.

Mrs. Rioch and her husband, Jon, have five grown children who live across the country and whom they love to visit. She said, “I love to read, ski, cook, do artwork, quilting and dance. I am at a great place in my life to enjoy teaching and I feel honored to be a part of the Pioneer District.”

Steven DeGroff (*at top right*) is the new psychologist at Delevan Elementary. He has been a school psychologist for nine years and



said he is excited for the opportunity to join the Pioneer family.

“I was born and raised in Western New York,” he said. “I worked in Vermont for two years, and then in Salamanca for 6-1/2 years.

He added, “I just started working at Delevan on January 6, have hit the ground

running, and am learning so much from everyone here already. Everyone has been so welcoming and friendly, and I cannot wait to just continue to grow and support the teachers, staff, students, and families in this community. Thank you to everyone in the district for the opportunity and the support!”



Alex Heldwein has been a hero to many. He is being honored during the upcoming Winterfest 5K in Arcade.

Paint the Town Purple for Alex

When you see a flash of purple during the 2020 Arcade Winterfest 5K Run on February 8, you'll know it is for a very special Arcade

Elementary student-hero. A plethora of purple is expected for Alex Heldwein, who is battling Hunter's Syndrome.

The Arcade Winterfest Committee has generously purchased purple capes in support of Alex, and runners can don the capes during the race. The capes are \$5 each, with proceeds going toward Alex's medical costs. To reserve one, contact Lauren Julicher (ljulicher@pioneerdsd.org)

“Let's paint the town purple for Alex,” Mrs. Julicher said.

The race starts at 11:00 a.m. Sign up to run at falconracetiming.com. Learn more about Hunter's Syndrome at <https://mpssociety.org/learn/diseases/mps-ii/>

Look for Pioneer student art as part of Arcade Winterfest!

Arcade Historical Society will again host its annual Pioneer Art Show during the 2020 Arcade Winterfest weekend. The show, which features artwork from PCS students in grades K-12, opens Saturday, February 8, at the Arcade Historical Society's newly renovated old brick Fire Hall (15 Liberty Street).

The Historical Society is excited to have the Pioneer Student Art Show as the first exhibit in the renovated building, which is



Student art work from a past Winterfest Pioneer Art Show.

now handicapped accessible. Hours for this colorful and inspiring show are:

- Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with chili and refreshments being served, and raffle ticket sales;
- Thursdays & Fridays in February following Winterfest (2/13, 2/14, 2/20, 2/21, 2/27 and 2/28), 3-7 p.m.

The Historical Society purchased the former Arcade Fire Hall in 2009 and has held two major exhibits here. In 2012, “50 Years of Steam” celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Arcade & Attica's steam excursions, and in 2013, the building hosted the 75th anniversary of the Hendershott-Manness VFW Post.

National Honor Society Inducts 29 New Members

On Monday December 16, 2019, the Pioneer Chapter of National Honor Society held its inductions ceremony in the George C. Crawford Auditorium. In order to be inducted into NHS, students must maintain a 90.0 average. Once it has been determined that they qualified academically, they each completed an application and essay demonstrating their service, leadership, and character. The 29 students inducted this year strongly exhibited all of these characteristics. This year, the following students were inducted: Tyler Bley, Layla Boyer, Jack Buncy, Erika Conhiser, Zachary Coppola, Tyler Day, Adrienne Eck, Evan Frazier, Marley Fuller, Gaven George, Mary George, Kaylee Hartman, Abigail Heitzman, Mackenzey Holmes, Zachary Holmes, Brody Hopkins, Bradley Jones, Sophia Kehl, Alexandra Kirsch, Madison Matuszak, Lydia Maul, Chloe McCutcheon, Kristin Morris, Tristen Owens, Faith Ruppert, Madisen Sonner, Victoria Trevett, Beth Wolfer, and Wade Wolfer.

High School Principal Mark Schultz and NHS Adviser Stephanie Hogan began the evening before turning the podium over to NHS



2019 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES are shown left to right: **Front Row - Beth Wolfer, Mackenzey Holmes, Mary George, Sophia Kehl, Madisen Sonner, and Faith Ruppert; Row 2 - Jack Buncy, Kristin Morris, Erika Conhiser, Zachary Holmes, Lydia Maul, and Abigail Heitzman; Row 3 - Adrienne Eck, Bradley Jones, Layla Boyer, Tristen Owens, and Madison Matuszak; Row 4 - Evan Frazier, Zachary Coppola, Tyler Bley, Chloe McCutcheon, Kaylee Hartman, and Victoria Trevett; Back Row - Brody Hopkins, Marley Fuller, Gaven George, Tyler Day, and Wade Wolfer. Not pictured: Alexandra Kirsch.**

President Cora Blackwell and the other officers. The guest speaker, AP English Teacher Alanya Zuniga, discussed the importance of

community service and being active members of the society.

Congratulations to all the new members.

Two Seniors Join National Technical Honor Society

Two Pioneer High School seniors have been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society at the Career and Technical Education (CABOCES) Center at Ellicottville. Abigail Papke (Early Childhood) and Olivia Harder (Medical Assisting) were enshrined during a ceremony held on Thursday, December 12 at the CTE Center.

Abigail is also a member of the National Honor Society and Skills USA. She plans to attend SUNY Fredonia to further her education in Early Childhood Education.

Olivia participated in basketball, bowling, track and field, and softball. She will be attending college to study nursing with a focus on neonatal intensive care (NICU).



Olivia Harder is welcomed to the NTHS by CTE Center at Ellicottville Principal Noel Sheehy (left) and Pioneer High School Principal Mark Schultz (right).



Abigail Papke also joined the NTHS.

National Technical Honor Society membership is based on students meeting high standards in academic and technical scholarship, skill, attendance, leadership and citizenship.

School Closings Due to Weather

Weather-related closings are possible this time of year. Please make sure Parent Portal has your up-to-date phone number and email address, so you can receive closing notifications. Pioneer will also contact Buffalo TV and radio stations, if there are closings, delays or cancellations of after-school activities. Be sure to check our Facebook, Twitter and the pioneerschools.org live feed for the latest info.



All Signs at Middle School Point to Crafty Kids!



Pioneer Middle School students showcase signs during their latest entrepreneurial effort.

Students in Ms. Jessica Lussier's and Mrs. Michelle Breen's class at Pioneer Middle School were busy late in 2019, sanding, painting, stenciling, decorating, selling, and delivering beautifully handcrafted wood signs. Check out their beautiful work (*in photos*)!

According to Mrs. Breen, many students said their favorite part was selling them to the customers (staff). Their sale profited \$409.75, which will be used to teach budgeting skills.

Mrs. Breen said profits will be divided three ways: 1) used for a future community outing; 2) saved for a future project; and 3) donated to Pioneer Corps (a staff service group) for a local family in need. The students delivered \$136.50 to Mr. Schooley and Mr. Flasz of Pioneer Corps, and were praised for their fund-raising effort.



World Language News



In November, French students celebrated the seventh annual National French Week at Pioneer Middle School, with each day focusing on a special French-speaking country. France, Canada, and the United States were the main focus this year. Students sewed berets, enjoyed crêpes, and had the opportunity to learn about many Canadian ties to France.

Christmas was a great time to bring culture from around the world! The middle school LOTE (Languages Other Than English) Club had a celebration of Christmas around the World open to all students (*see photo above*). The students got to try Danish cookies, Greek baklava (layered pastry with honey), Italian panettone (sweet bread), and German Pfeffernüsse (spiced cookies).

With the debut of 2020, Middle School Spanish 7 students learned about one of the New Year's Eve traditions that takes place in Spain: Las Doce Uvas (The Twelve Grapes). To have good luck for the New Year, you are

supposed to successfully eat 12 grapes, one for each ring of the bell at the start of the new year, before the 12 bells have finished ringing. If you do not finish your grapes, you will not have good luck in the New Year! Don't worry, many of the Spaniards actually peel the grapes to help eat them quicker; this will ensure good luck over the New Year. Meanwhile, Spanish 8 students learned about the story of Guadalupe and made beautiful poinsettias out of tissue paper to celebrate the holiday season.

French students learned about the winter solstice and sampled a "Bûche de Noël," which is a cake made in the form of a Yule log, to commemorate the shortest period of daylight of the year. The students learned about French traditions of Christmas, learned some carols, and talked about the differences between the American Santa and the French Saint Nicholas. Also, students created paper shoes that were filled with candy to commemorate Saint Nicholas Day in France and Three Kings Day in Spanish-speaking countries.

On January 23, high school World Language teachers visited the eighth grade Spanish and French students to talk about the benefits of continuing the study of other languages. This was a great way for students to see what happens in high school classes and what is expected of them while earning a Regents credit.

National Foreign Language Week will begin on March 2, so stay tuned for more from the World Language Department!

Teacher-Coach Jana Landahl Calls It A Career

Long-time Pioneer School District teacher and coach Jana Landahl said she knew what she wanted to do back when she started substitute teaching at her alma mater in 1983.

"This is my home and I knew I wanted to stay," said Mrs. Landahl, whose retirement as middle school health teacher took effect Jan. 24. In addition, she is walking away from a 36-year career as Panthers field hockey coach.

Over the years, Mrs. Landahl has also been an assistant track coach (alongside partner-in-crime and track coach Mary Doud), cheerleading coach and softball coach. She continued guiding Panthers field hockey even as she left to work at St. Bonaventure University and earn a masters degree there (1990-93).

She was back in the classroom by 1996 to teach Health Education at Pioneer Middle School. "My colleague and friend Debi Lutz and I developed a student-centered curriculum emphasizing the changes, challenges and choices middle-level students face mentally, physically, and socially. We had fun and so did the kids!" she said.

Mrs. Landahl said she has also enjoyed working with fellow teachers as the Pioneer Faculty Association's new member coordinator for over 20 years.

Coaching has come naturally to Mrs. Landahl. "When kids aren't performing at practice I always tell them to stop spoiling the very best part of my day," she laughed. "But seriously, I love coaching female athletes. They are so tough, dedicated and hilarious. I have laughed every day on the turf."

Some of Coach Landahl's most memorable moments:

- Winning NYS Scholar-Athlete Team title in 2002 with the field hockey team.
- The 'broken ball' game to win the 2003 Section 6 championship
- Going to States in 2003 and 2018
- Coaching both of her daughters (Kelsey and Lissa)
- Suffering a torn Achilles' tendon when her team scored in overtime
- Going to States with so many track athletes

What are some of her takeaways from a long career? "Kids are fun. Patience is essential. Respect for self and others is a skill. Laughing is my best friend," she said.

Mrs. Landahl is a Panther booster for life. "I brag about Pioneer all the time. The facilities, the community, my colleagues and how wonderful the kids are," she said.

As for her retirement plans, she said "I really just want the freedom to visit my kids, walk the dogs, hang out on my deck with my husband Jim, and figure out what's next. I plan to continue coaching track with Mary Doud,

run the Section 6 field hockey senior game, and help in the community. Maybe start a dog walking business!

"I can't think of a thing I'll miss but I will look back on all of it fondly. I've had a blast!"



Jana Landahl (second from right) is shown with (left to right) husband, Jim, and daughters, Kelsey and Lissa, upon Mrs. Landahl's induction in the Cattaraugus County Sports Hall of Fame in April 2018.



Pioneer's Unified Sports team members are gearing up for another season. They recently attended the 2020 Unified Youth Activation Leadership Summit at Eden Central School. Look for where and when you can catch these Unified Sports athletes in action.

10th Graders Check Out Programs During Trip to CTE Center



Fifty Pioneer sophomores recently traveled to the Career and Technical Education Center at Ellicottville (CABOCES) for a tour of the various program facilities.

According to guidance counselor Kali Supples, Pioneer students were given the

opportunity to explore three programs of their choice.

“These programs are designed to provide a career pathway to students while satisfying many of the requirements for a Regents High School Diploma,” Ms. Supples added.

“If a student is interested in attending BOCES next year, they will have to inform their counselor during their scheduling appointment in February,” she said.

Busy Fall and Winter for Pioneer FFA

The Pioneer FFA chapter is on a roll! The past few months our chapter has engaged in numerous activities and have many activities planned for the months ahead.

To kick off the fall our October chapter meeting was a Halloween-themed party. Many students aided in the set-up of our very own haunted house that harbors all the spookiest elements you can think of. There were also some not so spooky, yet fun, activities that were eagerly played by all.

In November the FFA had our annual “Operation Christmas Child” meeting, where

students packed boxes full of toiletries for boys and girls in need. The boxes were successfully sent out the week of November 18. They are shipped all over the world.

Also in November we held our very first comedy hour. Students were able to stand up, tell jokes, show funny videos, and laugh among their dear friends and peers.

During November, Pioneer FFA also purchased and sent out four turkey dinners with traditional Thanksgiving side dishes for local families to enjoy. Thank you to all who aided in the preparation.

In December FFA held its Christmas meeting. Students played a variety of holiday-themed games and enjoyed frosting their own sugar cookies. And to end the year properly, we decided to participate in an event called the Giving Tree. During the holidays we donate clothes, toys, and necessities to two boys that would receive these gifts for Christmas.

On behalf of the entire Pioneer FFA chapter, we wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!



Fun with a purpose: Arcade Elementary STEAM Club

By Arcade STEAM Club Advisors Jenna Fontaine, Elizabeth Blesy, and Jessie Zymowski

This year Arcade Elementary started a STEAM Club, organized by teachers Jenna Fontaine, Elizabeth Blesy, and Jessie Zymowski. This club is funded by a grant from Navient Inc. to help pay for all the activities.

Students meet twice a month to work on activities centered around Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. This year we have had 46 students participating in the club.

The club runs from October to March, and the year will culminate with our annual STEAM Night on Thursday, March 5.

So far this year, students have worked on a coding project, engineered structures, worked with food science, used their creativity with the arts, and explored these areas through fun, engaging activities.

Make sure to attend STEAM Night on Thursday, March 5 to see some of the work showcased from this year’s club. We look forward to continuing it in the future.



Delevan 3rd Graders Celebrate Reading Successes

Students in Mrs. Jessica Mueller's and Mr. Jason Wilkie's third grade classes at Delevan Elementary recently celebrated the completion of their Narrative Writing unit.

The writers had worked hard since the beginning of the school year, crafting personal narratives. They had the opportunity to share their work with their own classmates and students from the other third grade class when the students walked between classrooms and took the time to read each others' stories.

After reading the story, the students also left positive feedback for their peers. The students were so excited to come back to their own writing and see such amazing compliments. The students should be so proud of the hard work they put into this writing unit. Congrats, amazing authors!



McMoments: A Fresh Way to Celebrate Writing Achievements

A new partnership between the Delevan Elementary School, Delevan PTA, and McDonald's of Arcade is helping spice up home-school relationships. DES Principal Tiffany Giannicchi said the Delevan PTA and McDonald's are co-sponsoring writing celebrations with families.

"Our writing curriculum is Lucy Calkins' Units of Study," Mrs. Giannicchi said. "This month's unit of study in Grade 1 is 'Small Moments.' So since we are having McDonald's pancakes during these celebrations, we've called them having a McMoment. Basically, it's pancakes with pals."

In the Small Moments unit, students take the everyday events of their young lives

(such as getting a dog or going to the circus) and make them into focused, well-structured stories. Writers are encouraged to write about small moments, with a focus on writing with details, including showing characters' small actions, dialogues, and internal thinking.

The Delevan PTA funds and picks up the McDonald's pancakes, and then sets up the breakfasts in the school cafeteria.

First grade teacher Rose Wagner said reaction to McMoments has been overwhelmingly positive. "One student of mine, Emily, said she liked having this family time, and other students said they enjoyed reading their stories and eating pancakes together."



Successful Food Drive at Delevan Elementary School

On December 13, students from Delevan Elementary School delivered the goods they collected during their most recent holiday food drive. Home-school liaison Melissa Luderman and a group of fourth graders took all of the donations to the local pantry.

Pioneer Central School District

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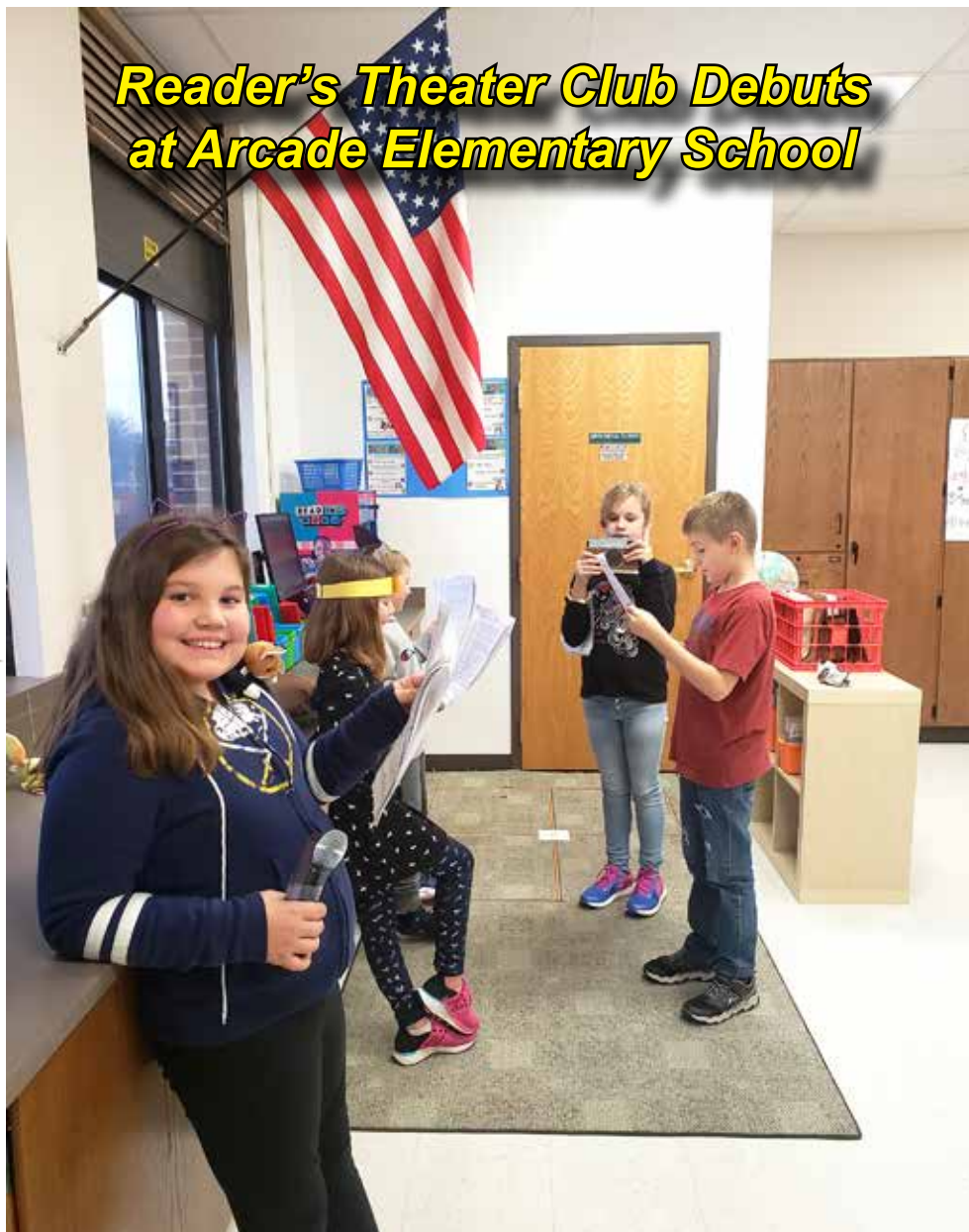
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Reader's Theater Club Debuts at Arcade Elementary School



At Arcade Elementary, fourth grade students recently had the opportunity to participate in a club called Reader's Theater Club.

According to Literacy Specialist Brooke Reynolds, small groups got together after school for several weeks to read and perform a short play.

"First, they read the script and practiced their lines," Ms. Reynolds said. "Then they were given time to create props for their performance. Students had to be creative and use only what was around them in the classroom. They mostly relied on construction paper, makers, tape and some other miscellaneous materials around the classroom for props."

Ms. Reynolds said the club was primarily student-driven. "Students worked together to help each other make props, find and set up things in the room to use for their character, and determine how they were going to perform the play. Each week they were given a new script to perform."

She added that students did a fantastic job working together, using their creativity skills and most importantly having fun.

The culminating event was a performance in the auditorium. Students received a winter-themed script to practice. After gathering materials and making props they were ready to perform it on the big stage in the auditorium.

School Closed on . . .

February 17-21 - Mid-Winter Recess

April 10-17 - Spring Recess

May 22-25 - Memorial Weekend