

Communicator

Information for the Grenada School District Community

January 19, 2021

Building Tomorrow



Superintendent's Message Dr. David Daigneault

As we look ahead to a new year, many of us hope we can move on from the struggle and strife of the recent past to rebuild a better tomorrow.

We've all felt the effects of being stuck at home, being cut off from loved ones, and foregoing many of the activities we love. Hopefully in 2021, we can start to mend those bonds and forge new ones.

One way we hope to reconnect at Grenada School District this year is by partnering with local businesses to bring our community closer together.

It's important to get the community involved in everything that goes on within the school district — particularly when it comes to jobs. This is what determines whether or not our children, who grew up and have been educated here, will be encouraged to move back. The working relationships we develop today will help determine what the future of Grenada looks like.

GSD has built relationships with many community partners over the years through our High Hopes program. We're very fortunate to have approximately 100 businesses that partner with individual schools. Their contributions are immensely helpful in motivating and rewarding students and teachers as well as maintaining a line of communication between the school and town.

More recently, we've begun talking to local industry in an attempt to understand their needs when it comes to skilled work. Our engineering students have visited local plants such as Novipax to study their assembly line process. We've worked with Modine, one of the county's biggest employers, to determine their specialized needs. That conversation resulted in the introduction of brazing techniques in our welding classes at Grenada Career and Technical Center. (See the related article on page 4.)

For local businesses, a working relationship with Grenada School District opens a seat at the table when it comes to training future workers. We are very fortunate that the curriculum we teach can be modified to meet the specialized needs of industry since we are one of just a few Districts of Innovation in the state of Mississippi.

You won't find health and medical classes like ours in most Mississippi high schools. We're focused on building a program that will make future doctors and nurses in our community so that these people want to come back home and work.

See "Building"
Continued on page 2

Grenada Bands' Outside-The-Box 'Countdown' Performance





(Photo left) Kayla Herrington plays Santa in a mini-movie featuring the GHS Marching Band's color guard with Nora Dyson in the background. (Photo right, I to r) Members Anna James, Madelyn Anthony, and Katie Beth Bennett demonstrate flag-spinning holiday cheer in the video, which was part of the Grenada Bands' "Countdown to Christmas" virtual performance series.

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

COVID restrictions and distancing policies hampered many Christmas traditions this past year. But when the Grenada Band program opted to cancel their annual holiday concert in the high school auditorium, the musicians got festive and creative.

Over the eight days leading up to Christmas, the band released a different ensemble performance or virtual concert to highlight the student talent and spread holiday cheer.

"Everything about this school year has required all of us in the band program to move out of our comfort zone and think outside of the box," said assistant band director Kim Presley, who organized the series. "The Grenada Band's Countdown to the Holidays was our solution for helping bring more holiday spirit to our school and community as well as provide a performance platform for our students."

The online video series features performances of holiday music by the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands, along with the GHS Jazz Band and several breakout sectional ensembles.

"Band is very much a performance class," Presley said. "We believe that music is meant to be shared and that highlighting student achievement was paramount."

The Countdown culminated with

an imaginative short film by the GHS Marching Band's color guard.

Presley said the high school band students were disappointed that their 2020 competition season was cancelled, so she offered up the idea of the "mini-movie" as a way to showcase the students' storytelling skills.

"We played off of the disappointment of the situation and turned it into the story of one girl's Christmas wish to reunite with her friends while doing what they love in the places where they have made the most memories together," Presley said.

See "Countdown" Page 6

GMS Health Council



Grenada Middle School nurse Stephanie Coker conducted the first socially distanced meeting of the GMS Health Council on Oct. 20, 2020. Participants met in person and virtually. (I. to r.) Grenada City Councilman Michael Smith, along with 7th-grade council members Braley Carnathan and Brayden Trusty, assisted Major George Douglas from the Grenada City Police Department in a role-playing exercise. Douglas spoke to the council about prescription drug abuse among teens. The Health Council, sponsored by Coker, was established to advocate for drug and tobacco prevention and to promote healthy lifestyle choices among students. The council meets regularly and includes administrators, teachers, students and community representatives.

AmeriCorps Featured Member

By Gwen Woodson AmeriCorps Director

Heather Storey joined AmeriCorps so that she could earn the education award to further her education while gaining experience teaching students.

"Currently, I tutor 14 students, and they have opened my heart to teaching and have renewed my dream of becoming a teacher," Storey said. "I enjoy helping students who are struggling and giving them confidence that they can accomplish great things."

"AmeriCorps has impacted me by

giving me the love of service and community," she added. "I am now more aware of the needs of my community. I did not participate in community service before AmeriCorps, but I plan to continue to serve after my service term is up."

Storey was selected as team leader at GES 4-5, and her leadership style is truly impressive for someone who was reluctant to take on the responsibility. She leads by example and is a huge support for her team members. She also realizes that COVID-19 has created challenges for our students, and they now need AmeriCorps help more than ever.

"AmeriCorps has taught me patience and it is one of the most rewarding programs in our community," Storey said.

In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award of \$6,195 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Storey plans to pursue an education in teaching.



Storey is married to Robert Storey. They have two children, Allen and Austin, who both are in the second grade. She graduated from Winona High School and attends Holcomb Baptist Church. She values spending time with her fam-

Storey's motto in life is, "It's your choice to live life happy or miserable. It's up to you to decide. Let all that you do be done in love."

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps program, contact program director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12. com. For more information about Ameri-Corps, visit www.americorps.gov

"Building" **Continued from Page 1**

One way we hope to achieve this is by establishing internships with local businesses. We would like to work with partners in the community to bring opportunities for our students to contribute, to learn real-world skills, and to hone their work ethic, all while lending their intelligence and good character to community endeavors.

Every parent in this community wants to see their children achieve great results. Oftentimes, our best and brightest move away to attend college. Sometimes they move back, but too often, we lose them to other communities. We've helped foster some of the best

and brightest minds, so we should do all we can to create a community they'll be proud to come back to and help expand.

Our community partners understand that if you don't have a great education system, you don't have much chance of success. They know that Grenada takes education seriously. Our school district can be a critical asset to them by helping create a pipeline to the local workforce, as well as shaping minds that will be the future business and industry leaders of tomorrow's Grenada.

Together we can build a workforce that will sustain Grenada for a long time.



GSD Parent Resource Center

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Infants/Children of Moms Who Smoke More Likely to Become Ill or Die

Secondhand smoke causes numerous health problems in infants and children, including more frequent and severe asthma attacks, ear infections, respiratory infections, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The chemicals found in tobacco, including nicotine, can be passed from a breastfeeding mother who uses tobacco to her infant through breast milk.

"It doesn't matter if the mother breastfeeds or uses infant formula, maternal smoking is a risk factor for several illnesses including bronchitis, pneumonia, and impaired lung function in infants and children," said Amy Winter, Director of the Office of Tobacco Control at the Mississippi State Department of Health. "Little is known about the effects of e-cigarette use by the mother on the infant's health, but ecigarette aerosol can also contain harmful and potentially harmful chemicals including nicotine and other toxicants, flavorings and solvents."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), smoking also decreases maternal milk supply. It is likely through the effect of nicotine. Nicotine can lower the level of the prolactin hormone which causes

breasts to produce milk. Mothers who use tobacco or e-cigarettes should be encouraged to quit. Smoking during pregnancy results in more than 1,000 infant deaths annually.

"Despite the fact that nicotine and other harmful chemicals are found in cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and chewing tobacco, a mother who uses tobacco or e-cigarettes can still breastfeed her infant." said Sue Mashburne, Director of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Grenada, Yalobusha, and Calhoun Counties. "Breastfeeding provides numerous health benefits and breast milk remains the recommended food for an infant."

To minimize exposure to the infant, the CDC recommends mothers and others who smoke should not smoke near the infant, smoke outside, have smoke-free rules for the car and home, and change clothes and wash hands after smoking and prior to handling the

For help with quitting and information on the health dangers of tobacco products visit www.quitnow.net/ms, or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

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GES Kidzeum Celebrates Christmas in Canada



Second graders (I to r) Shayna Melton, Chance Walker, Nevaeh Willis, Carter Honeycutt, and Lily Holland, all students of Keeley Van Namen, were among Grenada Elementary Red Top students who toured the Kidzeum's Christmas-themed Canada exhibit in December.

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

Joyeaux Noël.

Red Top students at Grenada Elementary PreK-3 discovered the customs and holiday traditions of our neighbors to the north during the Kidzeum's Canada exhibit this past November and December.

Each year, the Kidzeum's popular holiday exhibit gives children an

opportunity to learn about other cultures around the world while celebrating Christmas in new ways.

Students paid two visits to the Kidzeum during the lead up to Christmas break. The first visit introduced them to the culture of Canada.

Kidzeum director Melanie Williams said students learned about the Inuit, Canada's native people. They visited a fabricated igloo where they heard a native Inuit legend and then built totem poles.

They toured Niagara Falls on the U.S.-Canadian border. The three majestic waterfalls provide a valuable source for hydroelectricity for Canadians. The kids also learned that Canada has more lakes than every other country in the world combined.

"We talked about about animals that live in Canada, from moose and rein-

Be Responsible

Grenada

deer to the beaver, which is the national animal," said Williams. "And the kids learned that Winnie the Pooh is named after a Canadian black bear."

Students learned how to say phrases in French (the native language in the province of Quebec), and Williams said they were fascinated by Canadian currency. "They were interested in how Canadian bills come in different colors," she said. "They also enjoyed sampling maple syrup, which a lot of them thought tasted like coffee. We thought that was funny."

Part of each visit includes time in the new Kidz Tech room, where students engage in technological activities. For the first visit, younger grade worked with the robots Dot and Dash while the older grades built satellites out of Legos.

On the second visit to the Kidzeum, the exhibit floor transformed into a winter wonderland — complete with snow. Students enjoyed walking into a simulated blizzard and practiced ice skating in their socks on a slick surface.

Two Christmas trees, donated by Wal-Mart and Ashley Furniture, featured Canada-themed decorations. Williams said the kids really enjoyed getting cozy at a new home scene, complete with fireplace and mantle for stockings, which was donated by Robert and Louise Williams.

Be Caring

See "Kidzeum"
Continued on page 7

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Due to COVID-19 Guidelines, The Grenada School District asks that visitors wear a facial covering.



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Welding at Grenada Career and Technical Center



Metal trades student Caden Jolly (left) works with instructor David Robinson to build new work booths for the welding class at Grenada Career and Technical Center.

By Jamie Kornegay GSD Reporter

In his third year teaching metal trades at Grenada Career and Technical Center (GCTC), David Robinson has watched the program grow from "a couple dozen kids" to nearly 90 students this year.

"It's word of mouth," explains Barry Rogers, the GCTC director. "Students love the class, and they love David as a teacher."

Rogers says the welding students grind and weld "from bell to bell" each day because they love doing the work. Robinson agrees.

"They stay busy," he says. "They want to work, and they want to learn."

Rogers believes the students are so engaged because Robinson teaches them a lot, but he also gives them room to work and learn on their own. "He lets them design and figure things out, which gives them the opportunity to be creative."

The project-based class work is often inspired by what the students want to make. One student may be welding an iron deer stand, while others are helping Robinson build new tables and work booths for the welding shop's makeover.

In addition to fresh paint and new windows, the class recently acquired ten new arc welders and a brand new arc cutter to replace some of the older equipment. "The kids need to see the actual equipment they'd see in the industry if they ever left here and went to work," Robinson says.

Robinson says he fostered a relationship with local industry Modine to find out what skills they were looking for when it came to hiring. That's how the specialized brazing technique became a key component of the welding class curriculum.

Brazing is a welding technique that fuses two metals by adding a filling element into the joint. It's used to construct the copper coils that make up the heating and cooling equipment that Modine produces.

"Modine furnished gas and brazing supplies such as copper tubes," Robinson says. "It's a good opportunity for them and the kids as well. Kids can get in here and learn a trade they can go and make money right away if they choose. The jobs are there."

Rogers says that students who take advanced welding classes at GCTC are also eligible to take the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) exam to earn certification in welding. With industry accreditation, he says, students are more attractive hires in the work force.

"That's because they've learned not only the skill but the science behind it," Rogers says. "David teaches them in the classroom as well as the shop."

In January, the GCTC welcomed Grenada Middle School eighth graders to tour the facility. Many didn't know welding was offered at Grenada.

When prospective students come through on a tour, Robinson encourages them all to learn a trade.

"If it's not my program, go over here and take automotive, take construction," he says. "Because maybe you're going to school to do one thing, but it doesn't pan out. Then you've got something to fall back on. If you can work with your hands and do these trades, you can always find work."



GHS Visons Winter Spectacular 2020



Callie Smith and Meredith Meriwether



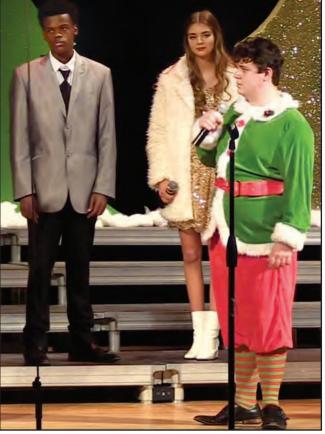
Joy Madkins, Josh Miller, Ella Brooke Horan



Alexis Smith



Zach Woodall



Roy McIntosh, Sophia Kornegay, Dalton Dawson



Hannah Briscoe

GHS Boys Soccer



(back,I to r) Landon Waters, Austin England, Cameron McBride, Bratton Willoughby, Dawson Carnathan, Will Nisbett, Aiden White, (middle I to r) Dylan Carnathan, Jacob Chavis, Avery Zangri, Caleb Estes, Kimhong Kangheng, Jaheim Latham, (front, I to r) McCarron Clausel, Luther Mattox, Luke Hardin, Kade Robertson, Eli Black Not Pictured: Reid Cannon, Ryan Wood, Lane Lemley, Thomas Kuhn

2020 Pizzazz Christmas Programs



(front, I to r) Mary Ashton Surrell, Joel Boler, Emma Grace Rocha, Ruby Kornegay, Jashaun Winfrey, (middle, I to r) Shelby Harper, Aubrey Hicks, Caroline Harrison, Jana-Paige Kirk, Kerri Harris, Jazlyn Anthony, back, I to r) Halle Holcomb, Kara Cockrum, Cadence Vanstory, Alexis Welch, Taylor Davis Not pictured: Madison Armstrong



(back to front) Frosty Caroline Harrison, Cadence Vanstory, Jana-Paige Kirk



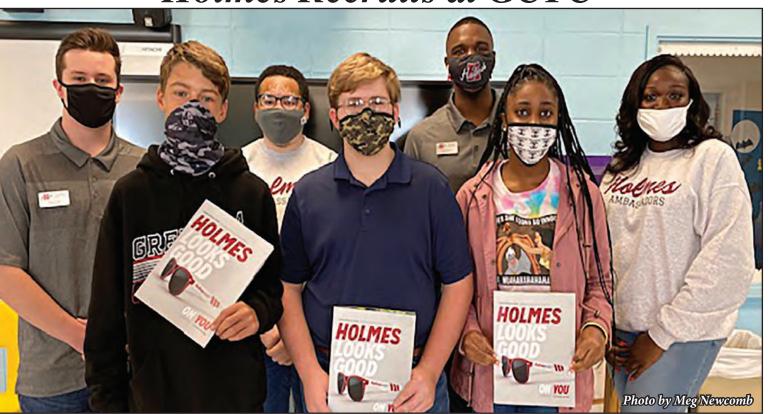
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Holmes Recruits at GCTC



Holmes Community College sent recruiters to the Grenada Career and Tech Center on Wednesday, November 18. Holmes Ambassador Students, all of whom had graduated from Grenada High, spoke about school events and campus life. Several Holmes instructors also spoke about their programs, including forestry (James Floyd), HVAC (David Hill), and Business and Medical Technology (Lisa Wilbourn). GCTC students learned about the options available at the Grenada campus and how they can attend tuition-free with an ACT Scholarship. Pictured are (back, I to r) Holmes Ambassadors Tanner Vance, Nick Johnson, Markyel Pittman, Madison Mallett, and (front, I to r) GCTC students Aidan Carolla, Matthew Bardo, and Nydia Hurd.

"Countdown" Continued from Page 1

The color guard performed their flag-twirling routines at various sites around campus, from the band hall to Charger stadium to the courtyard in front of the high school. "It turned out to be not only a great showcase of our color guard section, but our school campus as well," Presley said.

Presley said band students naturally love to perform, so creating this series allowed them to show off their work and success, even in a trying year.

"The students' response to all of the changes in our routine and the adaption of new procedures has been nothing short of impressive," Presley said. "Our band parents have been incredibly supportive and those who have reached out to us have been grateful to have a peek into what their children have been working towards."

The public can view the eight performances of "Countdown to Christmas" on the district's Facebook page, @GrenadaSchoolDistrict.

GES 4-5 Students Give Back to Homeless Animals

Through a multi-class holiday project, Grenada Elementary 4-5 students of Mrs. Hopper, Mrs. Foster, and Mrs. Leggett learned the importance of giving back during the holiday season.

The three classes collected approximately \$300 worth of donations for SHARE-Grenada. SHARE, which stands for Shelter Homeless Animals Rescue Efforts, is a small group of volunteers dedicated to helping homeless animals in the Grenada area.

The group places stray animals in foster homes until they find a "FUR-ever" home. All supplies are provided during their stay. The animals are also spayed/neutered and receive all vaccinations before leaving for their new homes.

"My students know that I have lots of FUR-children, so this cause is close to my heart," said Hopper.

Mary Horan, one of Hopper's students, said, "I really love animals and this was a fun project to help those animals in need."

SHARE-Grenada is always in need of dog/puppy food, cat/kitten food, potty pads, toys, treats, collars, leashes, Tractor Supply gift cards, and monetary donations. Donations can be dropped off at Veterinary Associates, located at 336 Branscome Dr. in Grenada.



Students (front, I to r) Helen Liberto, Alexa Delgado (back, I to r) Josiah Knox, and Mason Wright collected supplies for the SHARE-Grenada, Shelter Homeless Animals Rescue Efforts.

"Kidzeum" Continued from Page 3

While many Canadian Christmas traditions would be familiar to Americans, Canada is the second largest country in the world and represents many diverse cultures. One of the more unique traditions the students learned about is "mummering," an old Irish and English custom still practice in Newfoundland province.

Mummerers disguise themselves in masks and costumes to visit the homes of friends. The disguised visitors perform songs, dances, or jokes, and the host must guess the identities before offering treats and food. Williams said the kids loved the game, which was fitting this year as students were used to wearing masks and facial coverings.

Williams said she and the staff enjoyed meeting the unique challenges of hosting students in the Kidzeum during the pandemic year, but they look forward to cooking and sampling food in the kitchen again.

"We also missed our Grandparent's Day this year," Williams said. Traditionally, the year-end exhibit culminates with an open-house with students and their grandparents. "We hope that next year everything will be back to tradition and that we'll be able to spend time celebrating together."

Students will be treated to a new exhibit when they return to school in January. The Kidzeum heads to the southern pole for a special unit on Antarctica.



UMMC Outreach Coordinator Visits GCTC



(I to r) Bryan Deloach, Brent Jones, JaCorey Cunningham, Ms. Elizabeth Foster UMMC Children's Hospital, Safety and Community Outreach Coordinator, Trey Yates, and Brad Deloach. Ms. Foster spoke to GCTC students on Friday, November 20 about the dangers of texting and driving. She supplied each student with a mask, hand sanitizer, and each student signed a pledge to not text and drive.



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For inquiries regarding this policy on discrimination contact: Title IX

Coordinator, Mrs. Kim Ezell; ADA/504 Coordinator, Dr. Lyle Williams; Grenada School District, 253 S. Main, Grenada, MS 38901; 662-226-1606

GHS Girls Soccer



(back, I to r) Ella Brooke Horan, Chloe Gillis, Lauren Brogan, Greenlee Mosconi, Jesse Muilwyk, Sidney Allbritton, Sydney Brown, Sadie Stockton, Camila Clevenger, (middle, I to r) Mak Kendall, Ciera Breeland, Katelyn Fulgham, Lauren Dungan, (front, I to r) – Allison Escobedo, Abigail Griffin, Kira Finkley, Kate Blankenship, Kelly Moran Not pictured - Lily Horan

