

YOUR SCHOOLS

2018

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By PAT R. CICCANTELLI
Superintendent of Schools



Winter definitely did find us and as a result we have had our share of snow days and even a closing due to a power outage from the storm we had in November. Although

we have had to delay and even close our buildings this winter due to the weather, we have continued to be on track with learning, testing, and participating in extracurricular activities.

We continue to achieve in many areas throughout the district. Aurora High School recently earned the 2017 Momentum Award from the Ohio Department of Education for the second consecutive year, which is no easy feat. Since this award is based on a value added measure of growth and not overall achievement, it is much harder to attain. Congratulations to our staff and students on this notable achievement.

Students here in the Aurora Schools have continued to excel in not only academics, but the arts as well. Most notably, participants in both the Ohio Music Education Association's (OMEA) Adjudicated event and the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards earned top honors. A listing of AHS OMEA participants along with their top ratings can be found in the article in this issue of the newsletter. Congratulations to AHS Scholastic Art & Writing Award winner Lara Ketonen who earned the

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BEVERLY KUCH LEAVES SCHOOL BOARD AFTER 12 YEARS

Long time Aurora City School Board of Education member Beverly Kuch has retired from the Board after twelve years and three terms of service. Kuch's term began in 2015 and ended on December 31, 2017. Current Board member Stephen Sabulsky replaced Kuch effective January 1, 2017.

Kuch said she originally decided to run for a school board position in 2005 when she saw that an open seat had become available. She explained, "I believed then, and still believe now, that our schools are excellent and I felt it was time for me to give back to the community. I knew the Aurora Schools were already great, I just wanted to see if I could help make them even better." Kuch added, "I ran for the 2nd and 3rd terms because I felt our Board had done well in managing this school district (as the data showed) and felt we could continue to do so." Kuch explained that the reason she continued to stay on the Board even after her daughter Heather



Beverly Kuch received a plaque honoring her tenure on the Board. Pictured from left to right: Board President, Gerald Kohanski; Beverly Kuch; Board Vice President, Pam Mehallis and Board Member Zena Elliott.

graduated was because, "I stayed on after my daughter graduated because her being in the school district was not the reason I originally ran. So nothing really changed when she graduated."

During her time on the Board, she learned, "how a school district is run, and the complexity involved in running it. It amazed me that the superintendents during my terms (Pat Ciccantelli and

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NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SABULSKY BEGINS TERM

Newest Aurora Schools' Board of Education member Stephen Sabulsky began his term on January 1, 2018, replacing long time Board member Beverly Kuch.

Sabulsky is pictured with his wife Jayme, and sons Steven (left) and Sam.



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Russ Bennett) were able to keep up to date on the many aspects of running the district. I was amazed at exactly how much there was, from contract negotiations to keeping the buildings sound, while educating our children in the meantime. I learned a lot from them. We have the best people at all levels. I learned what a great community Aurora is and that we always had their support - from parents being involved to levy passage." During her tenure on the Board, Kuch said, "My memories of the last twelve years as a Board member would be primarily that our Board worked well together, each member bringing their own expertise and experience. We built a great relationship with each other, the administrators, the teachers and the staff."

When asked about her impact on the district as a Board member, Kuch stated, "I can't point to any specific thing that I personally accomplished, but I think that together we accomplished quite a bit: the superior academic performance, successfully navigating the continual programming changes mandated by the state, the expansion/remodel of the schools, and the stadium improvements and artificial turf, to name a few. We also worked closely with the City, thanks to their cooperation, and many joint programs/projects resulted. I just hope I was able to add a little to all of it and have a positive impact on the Aurora City School District."

Aurora School Board President, Geraard Kohanski, said, "It was a pleasure to work with Beverly for the past twelve years. She was an excellent Board member and always kept the welfare of our students and the community at large at the forefront. Beverly always exhibited excellent teamwork and a positive attitude, even in stressful situations. She is a very intelligent person whose good insights and comments will be missed."

CLASS OF 1976 DONATES PODIUM TO AHS



Superintendent **Pat Ciccantelli** (left) and AHS Principal **Paul Milcetic** (right) were presented with a new podium donated by the Class of 1976 Reunion Committee. **AHS Class of 1976 reunion committee Members** (left to right): **Kathy** (Gorny) **Grumney**, **Karen** (Truce) **Bosley**, **Lloyd Hagenbuch**, **Betsey** (O'Brien) **Wolschleger**, **Vicki** (Hurley) **Frisic**, **Janet** (Deskins) **Auber** and **Randy Moore**. Not pictured committee members include: **Lynn Hubach**, **Lee Ann** (Byers) **Mancini**, **Kathy** (Hanes) **Roehner**, **Jim Hickey** and **Dave Grumney**.

The Aurora High School Class of 1976 wanted to present the Aurora City School District with a gift and decided to collect \$1,500 at their 40th reunion toward their objective. On January 11, 2018, class reunion members presented the new hand crafted podium to the high school. Reunion Committee special donations chair, Janet (Deskins) Auber, worked together with Superintendent Pat Ciccantelli to come up with the idea and find craftsmen to create and build the podium specifically for AHS. Pat Ciccantelli and AHS Principal Paul Milcetic were on hand to accept the gift. Janet (Deskins) Auber explained that they had been working on the contribution, "for over a year," and wanted to make a donation that would be both useful and long lasting. Thank you for your generous donation.



YOUR SCHOOLS

Published by the Aurora City School District
102 East Garfield Road • Aurora, Ohio 44202

Editor: Stacey DeAnna

Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

AURORA SCHOOLS' EMIS/BENEFITS COORDINATOR AMY LANGE RETIRES

Amy Lange, the Aurora City Schools' Educational Management Information System (EMIS)/Benefits Coordinator, retired on December 31, 2017 after 27 years in the district. Lange spent 10 years as the Payroll Manager and then went on to work for 17 years in the role of EMIS/Benefits Coordinator for the district.

After earning her degree in accounting from the Youngstown Business College, Lange worked in accounts payable/receivable at the Samuel Moore/Eaton Corp. and was the Accounts Payable Manager for the James A. Garfield Schools.

After seeing an advertisement in the newspaper for a payroll position at the Aurora Schools, Lange applied for the position after deciding to, "try for it." After working for 10 years in the Payroll Department, Lange took on the role of EMIS/Benefits Coordinator for the district. Lange explained that, "the benefits part of my job was handling all the benefit data for the district. That included life, medical, dental, vision, and workers comp. It starts with explaining the benefits to new employees, enrolling them in all the benefit systems and then entering their deductions into the payroll system. This involved keeping many spreadsheets to make sure everything balances and then making sure the premiums were all paid at the beginning of each month. The part I enjoyed the most was helping the employee's with insurance issues."

Lange explained that the most difficult aspect of her job "was all the changes that occur continually on the EMIS side. You have to constantly go to meetings and keep up on what the state is doing. It grew into a very huge job that deals with every aspect of the District." As the EMIS Coordinator, Lange said, "My career started in accounting so I had to learn everything about the information on students, gifted, special education, testing, funding, scheduling, pretty much every piece of information on the district and how it affected funding and the report card. That is what I loved about the job. It was challenging and kept me on my toes and I continually learned every day."

When asked what she liked most about her job at the Aurora Schools, Lange explained, "I loved having the two different sides - EMIS and Benefits. I found in the 43 years I worked, I got tired of doing the same thing over and over so I changed jobs within companies and changed employers three times. I can honestly say I was never bored in this job. I found my place at Aurora and I was given the opportunity to take on this job that I absolutely loved." She added, "Aurora grew into one of the top schools in Ohio during my 27 years. It was exciting and I have to say I was very proud to be a part of it."

Aurora School Board President Gerald Kohanski said, "Amy Lange served the Aurora district well during her long career in the Central Board Office. As Benefits Manager she was a key resource for our employees and their families. Her extensive knowledge of this very complex area was always impressive. Most of all, her pleasant and upbeat personality will be missed by everyone. We wish her a happy and long retirement."



Retired ACSD EMIS/Benefits Coordinator Amy Lange

As for her retirement, Lange plans on, "watching my grandchildren a few days a week and helping my parents. I would really like to find a part time job I can do from home, but I will keep busy no matter what comes my way." Good luck to Amy in her retirement.

Aurora High School's OMEA Participants Earn Honors



Congratulations to the Ohio Music Education Association's (OMEA) Adjudicated event participants in grades 9-12 from Aurora High School.

The following Aurora High School students participated in the OMEA Adjudicated event:

- Leah Domos** - Class C Clarinet solo - Rating I - Superior
- Michael Stoycos** - Class B Tuba solo - Rating I - Superior
- Christian Lutkus** - Class A Bassoon solo - Rating III - Good
- Nick Minite** - Class B Alto Saxophone solo - Rating I - Superior
- Paige Haley** - Class C Flute solo - Rating I - Superior
- Bella Stoyke** - Class C Clarinet solo - Rating II - Excellent
- Zachary Goldston** - Class A Cello solo - Rating I - Superior
- Amanda Hsia** - Class B Piano solo - Rating I - Superior
- Amanda Hsieh** - Class A Violin solo - Rating I - Superior
- Catherine John** - Class B Cello solo - Rating III - Good
- Kameron Kainec** - Class B Cello solo - Rating I - Superior
- Hannah Kulawiak** - Class A Vocal solo - Rating I - Superior
- Ryan Stahl** - Class B Viola solo - Rating I - Superior
- Olivia Stein** - Class C Cello solo - Rating II - Excellent

Who's Who & What's New

Thank you to **TRI COUNTY CONCRETE** for their generous donation and delivery of sand for our **MILLER SCHOOL PRESCHOOL** and **KINDERGARTEN SANDBOXES** for the second time. The students really enjoyed the new sand.



The **DISTRICT** and **BUILDING PHOTO GALLERIES** contain photos from events held throughout the school year including, Dads and Donuts, Ice Cream Socials, Holiday Shops, District Art Shows, Class Activities, etc. Just look in the **QUICK LINKS** section on the district and building homepages and click on **PHOTO GALLERIES**.

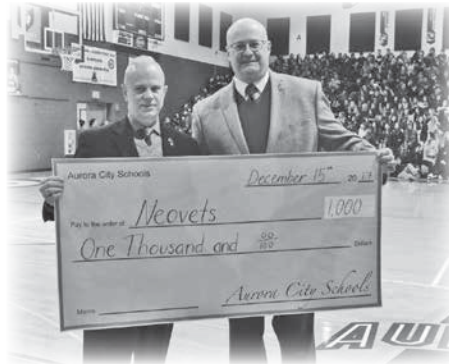
Thank you to **GANLEY CHEVROLET OF AURORA** for their **DONATION OF \$19,000** to the Aurora City School District. **JAMES REINART** from Ganley Chevrolet presented Superintendent Pat Ciccantelli with a check in December 2017.



Superintendent **PAT CICCANTELLI** (left) and **JAMES REINART** (right) shake hands after a Ganley Chevrolet donation was presented to the school district.

U.S. Military Service Member **JAMES RICHARD DAVIDSON'S** contributions and sacrifices were recognized by the Aurora School Board. Davidson left Aurora High School his senior year to serve in the Vietnam War. The Aurora School Board certified that he completed all requirements by State law and the Aurora Board of Education. The Board ordered his diploma and passed the resolution deeming Davidson a graduate at the November 2017 Board

meeting. Congratulations to Davidson. **NEOVETS'** Board members, **RICK DECHANT** and **BRYAN A. MCGOWN**, attended a student rally on December 15, 2017 at Aurora High School to accept a \$1,000 donation from the student body. Each year the students select area charities and then conduct numerous fundraising activities throughout the school year. This all culminates in a student rally, a student vs. faculty basketball game and a pie-in-the-face event for faculty members who have volunteered to help the students raise money.



NEOVETS' Board members **BRYAN A. MCGOWN** (left) and **RICK DECHANT** (right) accepted a \$1,000 check from AHS students.

In December 2016 the Ohio General Assembly passed **HOUSE BILL 410** and it was fully implemented for the 2017-2018 school year. HB410 now requires school districts to track attendance by the hour/minute versus ½ day and full day increments that were previously reported. Districts are also now required to notify parents in writing when defined absence thresholds are met or exceeded.



The **AURORA HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH MENU** is now featuring **THEMED LUNCHES** on Wednesdays that include Asian, Mexican, Italian and Deli Subs. Students have a choice in what items are included in their entrée.

CLASS ACTS

YOUNG ASTRONAUT DAY AT NASA GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

Students from Leighton School attended the **25th Annual Young Astronaut Day at NASA Glenn Research Center** in Cleveland on October 28, 2017.



Astronaut (center), Sunita L. Williams; Students (left to right) Masen Terrano, Griffin Welsh, Evan Yasenosky, Riley Lane, Audon Hanson, Luciana Avila, Stella Seiler.

Kindergarten students were visited by the new dean from **Kent State University's College of Education, Health and Human Services**. One of **Dean James Hannon's** top priorities is getting to know the local school districts that host the pre-service and student teachers from Kent State University.



Dean James Hannon and kindergarten students read one of his favorite books, Pete the Cat: Play Ball!



Ohio students now have the opportunity to pursue one of several honors diplomas. New Honors Diploma criteria are available to the class of 2021. These criteria will replace the current Honors Diploma criteria. Honors Diplomas can now be earned in the following categories: Academic, CareerTech,



Scholastic
Art & Writing
Awards

AHS 2018 SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to **Sean Berrodin** and **Brian Caponi** and their students as the Aurora High School Art Department had yet another outstanding showing at the 2018 Northeast Central Ohio Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. The exhibition of all silver key, gold key and portfolios was on display January 17 - February 1, 2018 at the Kent State University, Stark Campus.

In this year's competition the judges boiled down 83 excellent portfolio entries to 11 gold winners and selected from over 3811 entries only 417 silver and gold key winners.

The Gold Portfolio Medal is the most outstanding level of achievement demonstrated by graduating seniors who submitted a body of art in the Portfolio categories. These portfolios are forwarded to New York City for national adjudication. Congratulations to Aurora High School's own **Lara Ketonen** for receiving this prestigious Portfolio Gold Award.

The three AHS Gold Key winners, demonstrating the highest levels of originality, technique, and personal vision, are: **Josie Hydell** (4), **Ryann Blakkolb** (1) and **Lara Ketonen** (1). Their work will be forwarded on to New

York City for national adjudication.

AHS Silver Key winners, whose artwork demonstrated advanced artistic achievement worthy of recognition on the regional level, are: **Josie Hydell** (6), **Emma Duckham** (2), **Amanda Hsieh**, **Lara Ketonen**, **Olivia Pinney** and **Karina Rodgers**.

The 12 Aurora High School students who received Honorable Mention awards for artwork demonstrating artistic quality and potential received 15 certificates. They are: **Josie Hydell** (3), **Sophia Roberto** (2), **Nolan Albanese**, **Emma Duckham**, **Carrie Harper**, **Amanda Hsieh**, **Rees Jones**, **Lara Ketonen**, **Grayson McMaster**, **Olivia Pinney**, **Karina Rodgers** and **Lauren Sapochetti**.



AHS Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Key Winners from left to right: Ryann Blakkolb, Lara Ketonen (Portfolio Gold Award Winner also) and Josie Hydell

BOARD NOTES

AURORA SCHOOL BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ~ January 3, 2018



Aurora School Board President Gerald Kohanski took his oath standing next to Board Vice President, Pam Mehallis.



ACSD Treasurer Bill Volosin (left) shakes hands with newest Board member Stephen Sabulsky after taking his oath.



The AHS Unaccompanied Minors sang while AHS art students Carrie Harper, Amanda Hsieh, Josie Hydell, and John Holt sketched Board members during the January 2018 Board Appreciation Month meeting.



Amanda Hsieh sketched the Board members as a part of School Board Recognition Month.



SPORT REPORT

The fall 2017 athletes earned a **CUMULATIVE GPA** of 3.54 with 78% of them earning over a 3.0 and 30% earning over a 4.0 average. AHS



Principal, Paul Milcetic, said, "It was also impressive to see that six of the ten fall sports teams had over a 3.5 GPA."

FALL SPORTS GPA'S

BASED OFF 1ST QUARTER GRADES 2017

TEAM	GPA
Girls' Soccer	3.73
Girls' Cross Country	3.70
Boys' Golf	3.69
Boys' Soccer	3.60
Volleyball	3.57
Girls' Tennis	3.56
Boys' Cross Country	3.48
Girls' Golf	3.47
Football Cheerleading	3.46
Football	3.13
FALL SPORTS AVERAGE	3.54



GAVIN BLUNT received the **CABLE 9 FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD**.



COACH JAVOREK and **COACH SCHULTZ** and the **GIRLS' GYMNASTICS TEAM** took 6th place in the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS**. Way to go!

Congratulations to **AHS SWIMMER DREW RUSSELL** who took 1st place in the 200 IM at the Suburban League Championships and **AHS SWIMMER TYLER LISTON** for coming in 1st place in the 500 and 200 Freestyle in the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS**.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY – DECEMBER 20, 2017

The **NATIONAL SIGNING DAY ATHLETES** signed their National Letters of Intent during a ceremony in the AHS Library on December 20, 2017. **MASON COPLEY**, will be attending Holy Cross where he will be playing football, **GAVIN BLUNT** will be playing football for the University of Akron, **KELCI FLEMING** will be heading to Wheeling Jesuit University where she will playing softball, while **JOE CAPRETTA** will continue playing baseball at Kent State University, and **EVAN FROMWILLER** has chosen Ohio University and their baseball program. Good luck in the future to each of our athletes.



SIGNING DAY ATHLETES (left to right): **MASON COPLEY, GAVIN BLUNT, KELCI FLEMING, JOE CAPRETTA** and **EVAN FROMWILLER**. Back Row (left to right): **GERALD KOHANSKI, PAUL MILCETICH, BRIAN BROOKHART, MIRIAM CONNER, PAT CICCANTELLI** and **PAUL POWERS**.



The **GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM** and **COACH ERIKA GREENBERG**

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prestigious Portfolio Gold Award. For a complete listing of the Scholastic Art & Writing winners, please read the corresponding article inside this issue.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our service learning class and instructors Melissa Foster and Mike Rubin for hosting area veterans to a breakfast on November 10, 2017. I was extremely proud of our students as they were once again very polite, efficient, respectful and helpful to all who attended. The Unaccompanied Minors choral singers performed and several students read poems to the well-attended crowd. It was a very uplifting tribute and one I know the veterans very much appreciated.

Our district has also experienced several Board and staff member changes with the retirement of Board member, Beverly Kuch, and the retirement of Benefits/EMIS Coordinator, Amy Lange, in the district office. New Board member Stephen Sabulsky took Kuch's open seat. Former AHS Secretary, Mary Jane Cech, replaced Lange as the Benefits/EMIS Coordinator for the district. I would like to thank both Beverly and Amy for their many years of service to our district and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Our sports teams continue to play well with our Boys' Soccer team winning the Suburban League Title and making it to the Final Four in postseason play. The Girls' Basketball team went on to win the Suburban League Conference Title for the second year in a row while our Grapplers won the League title for the third consecutive year.

We have a lot of activities to look forward to as winter (finally) ends and spring begins to sprout. The National Honor Society's elementary Princess Prom is always spectacular. The AHS Drama Club will be presenting the play *Big Fish* in April. The Aurora Orchestra Association will sponsor their Steak N Strings benefit. Kindergarten registration will take place in March. Not to mention all of our upcoming Senior Class graduation events. Check our website to keep up to date with all of our many activities. I look forward to seeing our students continue to succeed and grow as they complete the 2017-18 school year.

Pat Ciccantelli
Superintendent

Class Acts – Continued from p. 4

STEM, Arts, Social Science and Civic Engagement. Students in the class of 2018, 2019, and 2020 have the option to use the existing Honors Diploma criteria OR the new Honors Diploma criteria. More information and a list of criteria can be found at: ODE Honors Diplomas.

GENETICS

AHS HOSTED GENETICS EDUCATOR AND SPEAKER SAM RHINE

Genetics Educator and Speaker, Sam Rhine, combined his over 25 years of expertise in genetics with his passion for teaching while addressing students at AHS. The high school hosted several other school districts for his presentation that focused on recent advances in Genetics.

Second Grade Instructor **Sue Leko's Class** was featured on **Cleveland's WKYC Channel 3's** morning show. WKYC Meteorologist Michael Estime visited Mrs. Leko's Class and returned to the station with video of the students showing how much they knew about meteorology and the questions they had for him.



LOCAL CABLE 9 PROGRAMMING MOVING CHANNELS

As Spectrum Cable completes its move from analog to complete digital service, the channel for Cable 9 has moved to channel 1021. Programming for local city channels have also moved. The cities of Aurora, Macedonia, Northfield Center, Reminderville, and Twinsburg Township can be found at Channel 1023, while Sagamore Hills and Twinsburg can now be seen on Channel 1022. You can also watch Cable 9 programming, including the Aurora Schools' monthly Spotlight on Aurora Schools show, online at cable9.org.

AURORA HIGH SCHOOL EARNS MOMENTUM AWARD 2017 FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Aurora High School (AHS) has recently earned the Momentum Award 2017 from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The award recognizes schools for earning A's on every value-added measure on the 2016-2017 State of Ohio Report Card. Aurora High School also previously received the Momentum Award for their 2015-16 Report Card results.

According to the ODE website, "The Momentum Award is presented by the State Board of Education and recognizes schools for exceeding expectations in student growth for the year. Schools must earn straight A's on all Value-Added measures on the report card. The school or district must have at least two Value-Added subgroups of students, which includes: gifted, lowest 20% in achievement, and students with disabilities." The value added is a measure of growth and not overall

achievement, making this award much more difficult to attain.

Aurora Schools' Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Mike Roberto, said of the award, "We are always grateful and proud of the recognition of the good work taking place at Aurora High School. The students, teachers, and administrators put in a lot of time together to reach this level of success. The 'Momentum Award' is a natural by-product of student learning (collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking, etc., which we call our students' 'roots') which is really the driving force of the work being done at AHS."

AHS Principal, Paul Milcetic, added, "I'm very proud of this. It's very impressive. It's a very hard metric to meet at the high school level."

AHS ILEP SCHOLARS ARRIVE

Welcome to our visiting International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP) scholars. The ILEP program provides international teachers with an opportunity to enhance their teaching skills and increase their knowledge about the United States by offering semester long opportunities at schools. It is run by the College of Education, Health and Human Services at Kent State University and is a program of the U.S. Department of State.



ILEP Scholars (left to right): Willis Kitto – Uganda, Assane Sow – Senegal, Aurora Schools' Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Mike Roberto; Niranjn Paul – Bangladesh, Mejd Mej – Morocco.

Sport Report – Continued from p. 6

continued their winning way by earning the conference title for second year in a row.

UPDATE: **The BOYS' SOCCER TEAM** made it all the way to the **FINAL FOUR** in postseason play. The team lost to the Bay Village Rockets 2-1 on November 8, 2017. What an outstanding and exciting season for **COACH JASON BIBZA** and his team.

Congratulations to the **GREENMEN WRESTLING TEAM** and their **COACH JOHNNY PAPESH** who won the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE CONFERENCE REGULAR SEASON TITLE**. This is the third consecutive year they have earned this title.

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SWEET SMILES FOUND AT CRADDOCK DADS AND DONUTS



VETERANS HONORED AT SERVICE LEARNING CLASS' BREAKFAST

In honor of Veterans Day, the Aurora High School's Service Learning Class sponsored an annual buffet breakfast for area veterans on November 10, 2017. Students read poetry and the Unaccompanied Minor choir students sang several patriotic songs. Thank you to class instructor's Melissa Foster and Mike Rubin for their hard work. Rubin said, "The Aurora service learning class was privileged to continue the tradition of honoring local veterans at the Veterans breakfast. Our students did a tremendous job planning, decorating and recognizing service members for their sacrifice. The poems, singing and acknowledgement of each member present was deeply moving. We look forward to saluting our veterans next year and for many years to come." Thank you to all who serve or have served our country.



Dan and Gail Hamilton attended the breakfast.