

# Bobcat *Alumni* Banner

Grand Blanc High School • 12500 South Holly Road • Grand Blanc, MI 48439

810-591-6021 • [www.grandblancschools.org/alumni](http://www.grandblancschools.org/alumni)

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School



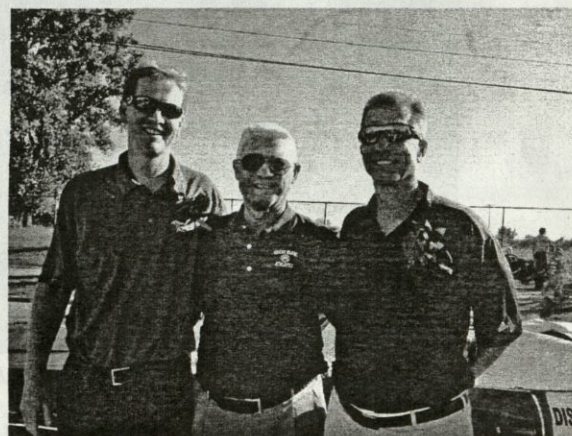
## HOMECOMING 2013



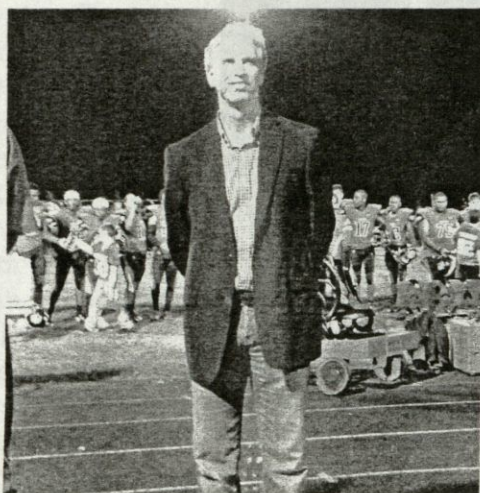
*Frank Thomas Field prior to kickoff*



*Jim Gooch, Steve Jaksa and Bob Stefanski in the parade*



*Jim Gooch and Steve Jaksa with Bob Burek*



*Bob Stefanski*



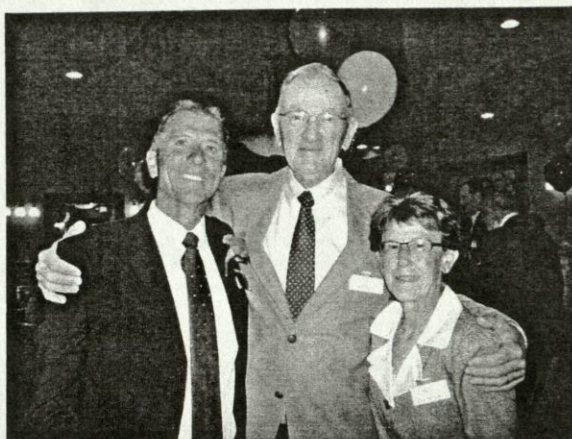
*The Schlauds with Joan Batchelor Kifer*



## HOMECOMING 2013 continued...



*Steve Jaksa, Current Head Football Coach Joe Delaney,  
and former Varsity Football Coach Doyle Rice*



*Steve Jaksa with Tom and Mary Weadock*



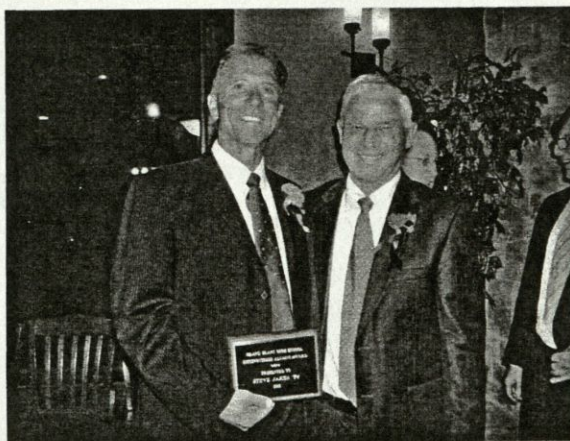
*Steve Jaksa with John and Dorothy Schlaud*



*Joe Delaney, Joe Durbin, Steve Jaksa,  
Dolye Rice, and Bob Stefanski*



*John Walter accepting the  
Distinguished Alumni Award  
for Jim Gooch*



*Steve Jaksa and Bob Burek*



## AN APPRECIATION OF OUR HOMECOMING

from Dr. Norm Abdella,  
Superintendent of Grand Blanc Schools

Once again, I had the opportunity to attend this year's Grand Blanc High School Alumni Banquet and Award Ceremony, which Charlie Carmody and his committee did an outstanding job planning and hosting! Three former graduates were honored as distinguished alumni: Steve Jaksa (1974), Bob Stefanski (1980), and Jim Gooch (1985). Charlie was kind enough to ask me to say a few words at the beginning of the program. I told the guests that I had graduated in 1970 from St. Agnes, one of the several Catholic Schools in Flint. I was a member of the last graduating class at St. Agnes because my high school, and all of the other Flint area Catholic high schools, closed in June of that year. Luke M. Powers Catholic Central was to open in the fall and all of the high schools were combined into Powers.

I told them that little story, to tell them this I never experienced a homecoming. My high school was closed and Powers, although it was very nice, was not my alma mater. And even though I never required psychotherapy (for that, anyway!), I sort of felt cheated out of the whole "homecoming experience." But I was nonetheless very happy that the guests at the dinner, and the thousands who celebrated the weekend, could enjoy that wonderful homecoming experience here in Grand Blanc!

I went on to say that the weekend was called "home" coming, not "school" coming, or "district" coming. That's significant, I think, because returning to one's school is truly like a trip back home. Each of the honored guests at the banquet talked about the teachers who meant so much to them and about the friends they made here and the very special friendships they've maintained over the years. They reminisced about walking the halls and they talked about their families. And so an obvious thought came to me. It occurred to me that those of you who work so hard today on behalf of our students will undoubtedly be the ones remembered so fondly by future alumni honorees. In the years to come, it will be their memories of you, and the friendships they formed here, that will once again bring them "home."

## HOMECOMING 2014 SAVE THE DATE

Our 78<sup>th</sup> annual Homecoming celebration will be our earliest ever September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The Friday Homecoming activities include the Parade at 5:00pm. It is now starting from the GBHS East Campus, and winding its way up Saginaw Street to Grand Blanc Road and ending at the GBHS West Campus. The pre-game at Frank Thomas Field will begin at 6:45pm and kick off of the football game will be at 7:00pm. Halftime will include the introduction of the Distinguished Alumni Awardees, the introduction of the Homecoming Court and the crowning of the Queen and King, and it finishes with the Bobcat Marching Band.

We are proud to be awarding three (and possibly more) GBHS graduates with our Distinguished Alumni Award. They include: Rick Shick, Pete "Storm" Sims, and Sally Longroy. Our Alumni Banquet will be held at the Brickstreet Restaurant on Grand Blanc Road with a social hour at 6pm, dinner at 7pm and our awards at 8pm. Reservations can be made by calling Meri at 810-591-1695. The cost is \$30 per person.

We hope you will join us for all the fun. The Class of 1964 is joining us for their 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion that weekend. They'll be in the parade, and join us for the Homecoming game too.

For more info on the '64 reunion, contact  
Judy Weber at: [jwebber24@att.net](mailto:jwebber24@att.net).

## GETTING HER STORY PUBLISHED

Tracy Mannon (1977), an ESOL specialist for Fairfax County in Northern Virginia, has published her first book, *Travels with Tyler: A Mom's Journey with Her Aspie Son*. The book is written in two parts: the first shares snippets of daily life with a child who has autism, and the second tells of their four-week trip back to Europe to show Tyler where he was born in Switzerland and to explore (and get lost in) six other countries. (There are even a few stories that go back to her GBHS days!) More information about the book can be found on Amazon.





## FISHER IS THE US CHAMPION

Grand Blanc High School Junior Grant Fisher won the biggest title in his career last Fall when he won the Foot Locker Cross Country National Championship. Grant defeated the field of the top 40 high school runners in the country at Balboa Park in San Diego. The victory closed an undefeated season for Grant as he won all six races he competed in during the Fall Varsity Cross Country season including the Division 1 State Final, and the Midwest Regional Finals to qualify for the National Championships.

Grant was a finalist last July in the 1500m event at the World Youth Championships in Donetsk, Ukraine. His track season has begun this Spring with the hopes of helping the Bobcats win the Division 1 State Championship. He has been a member of the State Runner-Up teams the past two seasons.

In January, Grant was named Gatorade National Cross Country Runner of the Year. The Gatorade Player of the Year award recognizes outstanding athletic excellence as well as high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the racecourse. Grant is now a finalist for the Gatorade Male High School Athlete of the Year award. Grant was also an All-State Honorable Mention in Boys Soccer this past fall, Fisher has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. A peer tutor at his school, he has volunteered locally as part of an effort to renovate the Grand Blanc High athletics concession stand in addition to donating his time to youth sports programs.



## THE HOLY GRAIL FOUND!

As the GBHS Alumni Association continues to maintain an archival collection of Echo's, one yearbook continued to allude our completing this collection 1923. Only one copy of this paperback first ever GBHS yearbook was known to exist in the collection at the Grand Blanc Heritage Museum. I have searched at garage sales, EBay, local libraries, and spoken with many fellow alums about this 1923 Echo, but I have never seen one. With so few high school students back in the early 1920's, there weren't many copies of the Echo even printed and sold at GBHS.

Walking to the main office at GBHS recently, one of our hall security members stopped me with quite a surprise. He was holding a 1923 Echo that a fellow had dropped off at the front desk. The man has been cleaning out his mother's home and ran across this yearbook. He thought the school would enjoy having it. This 1923 Echo is in perfect condition and more than 90 years old. Our collection is now complete and each year grows with the addition of a new Echo from our award winning yearbook class.



## DO YOU REMEMBER?

*By Max Harrison '16*

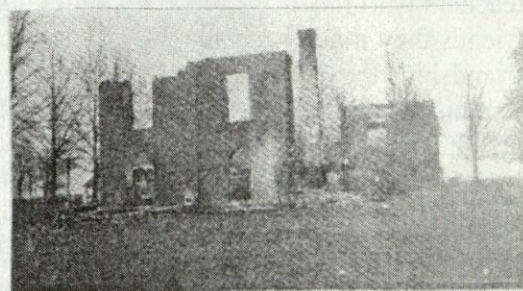


*Grand Blanc School before fire*

Odds are you probably don't remember this one the Grand Blanc Schoolhouse was originally built in 1867 as "Whole District No. 2". The land was bought for only \$300. The building had fallen apart by 1890, when it was rebuilt. This second schoolhouse can be seen on the far left. It is here that the first consolidated school in the state was established in 1903/1904, when the Cook and Porter Schools joined the Grand Blanc School. It was expanded twice between 1904 and 1920, making a five-room school. It burned on

December 9, 1920 when a kerosene stove in the home economics classroom exploded. When the schoolhouse burned, plans immediately began for its replacement. Construction began in March, 1921 on the new, Warren-Holmes designed school building.

When it opened January 9, 1922, the Grand Blanc Township Unit School was considered to be state-of-the-art; among the most modern high schools in the state. Increases in enrollment forced the construction of additions.



*Grand Blanc School after fire*



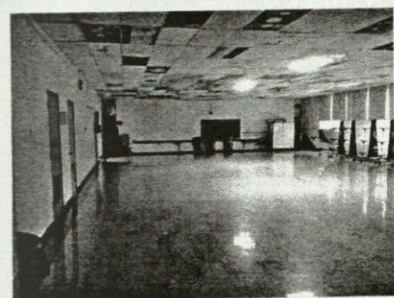
## DO YOU REMEMBER? continued..

Three classrooms were added above the gym in 1924, followed by 11 in 1926. A separate building with a cafeteria, shop and band rooms was built in 1938. A planned eight room addition, the Annex, was reduced to four during the Second World War due to the project not being supportive of the war effort. The final additions were added in 1946 (six classrooms), 1950 (eight classrooms) and 1952 (six classrooms and a new gym). When the current high school was opened in 1964, the building became the junior high school. It was named after Ezra W. Perry in 1967. In 1983 the building was renamed the Perry Center, and is currently the home of a number of programs, including community education and an elementary program, City School.

The first high school gymnasium was part of the original segment of the building built in 1921. It was used for gym classes and basketball games. A balcony with bleacher seating rings the upper level. The gym was expanded with a large stage in 1924, with a locker room underneath the stage. The old gym fell out of use when the new gymnasium was completed in 1952, however it was used for physical education classes into the 1980s. When Perry Junior High School closed in 1983, the gym became a warehouse for the school district.

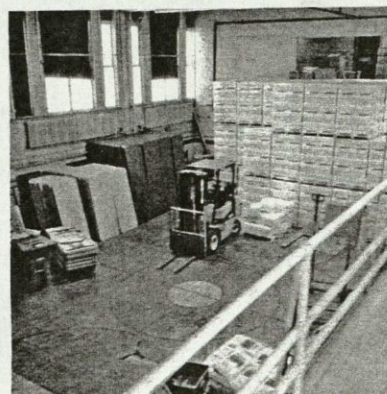
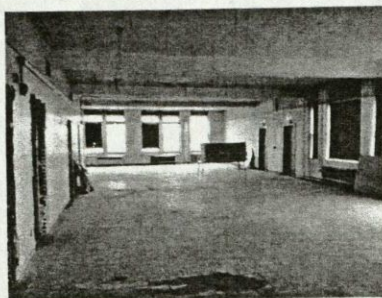
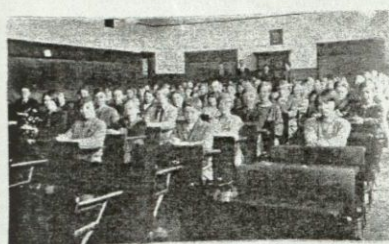


The cafeteria that students from the 1940s, 50s and 60s remember was actually the second used by the school. The first was located in the oldest segment of the school, where the main offices are now. The first cafeteria wasn't even a cafeteria at all; it was the home economics classroom. Many kids brought their food, or went home for lunch. Only the students who lived farthest away were served a hot meal by the home economics class. The new cafeteria was finished in 1938, in a separate building that was later connected with a covered walkway. It is still in use today, but the stage you might remember was covered.



If you went to the high school in the late 1950s and early 1960s, this was your library. It was the last of many uses for this section of the school. The entirety of the library was built in 1924, when enrollment increases necessitated new junior high classrooms. Three classrooms and offices were built above the original gym a sixth grade, seventh and eighth grade and commercial classroom. The rooms later served various purposes, such as for home rooms. In the late 1950s the addition was reconfigured into the school's library, with the commercial classroom remaining on the west end. Today the entire addition is open, and is not in use.

The old study hall is one of the least changed classrooms in the school. It was built as part of the original school building. While its main use was a study hall, it was also used for home room classes, among other things. It continued to be used when the building was the junior high school. It is currently used for storage. The picture on the far left is from soon after the building opened in 1922, the middle picture is from the 1930's, and the picture on the right is from the present.





## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NOMINATIONS

The Alumni Association is sponsoring its tenth annual Distinguished Alumni Awards. We are looking to honor Grand Blanc High School graduates that have excelled in their career or profession, made a significant contribution to their local community, or made an impact on the lives of others.

Tell us about it!! We would like you to submit the names and accomplishments of those alumni that you think meet the qualifications above. It would be helpful if you have a current address and phone to contact the alumnus you are submitting.

**Nominations are due by June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

The Distinguished Alumni will be introduced Friday, September 19th, during the Homecoming Football game, and honored at the Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet on Saturday, September 20th. In addition, a picture of each inductee will be placed in the Distinguished Alumni Hall, located in the front entrance atrium at GBHS.

Please send your nominations to :

GBHS Alumni - Distinguished Alumni Award  
12500 Holly Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Or [ccarmody@grandblancschools.org](mailto:ccarmody@grandblancschools.org)

## BOBCAT BASH 2014

The original is back for a 4th time. Kick the Summer off June 28th at the Jewel in Grand Blanc. Open to ALL GB alumni and friends. Food, live music by Sugar Hook, DJ on the patio. Starts at 7 pm. Sponsored by the Class of 1984

## 1970'S BOBCAT BASH

**Saturday August 9 2014. 6pm-12am.  
The Jewel of Grand Blanc.**

Make your check in the amount of \$25/person payable to and mail to:

Susan (Piesko) Grossklaus c/o Grand Blanc 70s Bash  
9814 Hawthorne Glen  
Gross Ile, MI 48138

Fee covers band, room, and appetizers.  
Reservation and payment deadline is July 9, 2014

**GBHS Alumni online:**

[www.facebook.com/gbhsalumni](http://www.facebook.com/gbhsalumni)

Or at: <http://grandblanc.alumni.schoolfusion.us/alumni>

