



GJHS to host Polar Plunge on Feb. 12

Students and staff at Greensburg Junior High will be taking a frigid dip for a good cause.

School Resource Officer Brendan Bridges has led the initiative to bring the Polar Plunge fundraiser to the school.

It will raise funds for the Indiana Special Olympics and the only people eligible to participate are staff members and students in grades 6-12.

Bridges added that there might be some first responders who also get involved in the plunge.

GJHS is the only middle school in Indiana given the opportunity to host the event and it will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 12.

A pool will be placed in the bus parking area at the junior high and a portion of East North Street will be closed during the event.

The school is hoping to raise at least \$5,000 for Special Olympics and you can donate to the cause by inquiring with the GJHS front office.

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PIRATES ARE PRIMED

THEME OF THE MONTH

DEPENDABILITY

The Pirates Are PRIMED initiative is to answer one critical question: What do we hope every student will gain from their PreK-12 experience? PRIMED is our guiding acronym and it represents the core attributes that define what it means to be a Pirate.

In January, our focus is being Dependable. No matter the grade level, we want to prepare each student to be organized, responsible and reliable while managing assigned tasks and receiving feedback.

For Kindergartners, Dependability can mean following instructions and for high schoolers it can mean being organized and having strong time-management skills.

STUDENT EXAMPLES



Sophomore Erica Capper knows the importance of being dependable to others.

She is a student manager for the Lady Pirates basketball team and steps up whenever someone needs assistance.

"It is important to be reliable in life and be willing to cooperate and just be there for everybody," Capper said.

Ag Program receives \$5,000 donation

The Greensburg Community High School Agricultural & FFA program has received a generous \$5,000 donation from River View Farms.

River View Farms is a diversified agricultural business involved in hog, turkey, egg, pullet, and crop production. They have been in operation in Orleans, Indiana for over a century and now also have operations in Decatur County.



"FFA is a great opportunity for students to learn and understand what the world of agriculture is all about, along with leadership skills," said River View Farms President Bryan Johnson.

Johnson added that the organization strives to support the community while also promoting agriculture as a profession.

"It's a great way of life and we just want everybody to understand the hard work, organization, economics and management that it takes to get food onto plates," he said.

GCHS Agricultural teacher and FFA advisor Quinn Wilds said the funds will be used to continue building a sustainable Agriculture Program by providing hands-on experiences for students.

Girls reflect on inaugural wrestling season

Members of the inaugural Greensburg High School girls wrestling team are reflecting on their season.

The first-ever season featured five Pirates wrestlers who made it all the way to Regionals in January. Those athletes are Mahleiah Orozco, Peyton Powers, Noemy Ramirez, Mickinzi Hollin and Anastasia Ridzon.

Each student-athlete had their own reasons for joining the inaugural team.

Junior Peyton Powers said she grew up around wrestling as several family members have participated in the sport.

“I always wanted to do it and when Coach Schmidt brought it up it made me really want to,” Powers recalled.

Coach Orinn Schmidt had to work a bit harder to recruit some other girls. Senior Noemy Ramirez was in his classroom one day and asked to use the restroom.

“He said only if I joined the wrestling team, so that is basically why I did,” she laughed.

Ramirez recalls how her mom grounded her at first because she kept it a secret. “But now she is proud of me and thinks it is amazing,” she added.

The team credits Schmidt for getting the program off the ground and making it a welcoming environment for all.

“He knows this is our first year and knows we can be a bit sensitive. So, he probably goes a bit easier on us than he does the boys, as he knows we won’t get everything right,” said junior Jasmine Bailey.

As the student-athletes look back on the first year, each member highly encourages other girls to get involved in the sport.

Peyton Powers says wrestling seems a lot scarier than it actually is and she also said it is the most rewarding sport she has been part of.

“Wrestling keeps you in shape for other sports and I am definitely in the best shape I’ve ever been. It’s just been really fun and I think if someone wants to try it, they certainly should,” Powers said.

Ramirez also had a wonderful experience on the mat this year and describes her teammates as being like another family.

“I recommend other girls get involved and be confident, even if you are a bit nervous,” she added.



SEBASTIAN'S CORNER

Article by GES 4th Grader Sebastian Russell

Our School Finds Magic in Aladdin

Fifth graders will put the musical performance Aladdin on January 23rd and 24th in the GES cafeteria.

Students participating will demonstrate this month's character trait of dependability.

Each student dedicated hard work and time to the musical. These 5th graders have been working on the musical since early November and are ready to perform!

They spent time after school practicing their lines, learning choreography, and performing on stage. It is important because these 5th graders will get to see if theater is something they would like to do in the future.

Cora Gauck, who plays a skeleton, said her favorite part of the musical is "connecting with all the other cast members and working together with them."

Evelyn Cruz Herrera said, "During the musical, I am a guard. I am in charge of the marketplace and palace. I also guard the prince. When I'm backstage I am in charge of the props, and I look for missing items." The musical has been a great experience for both students.

Aladdin is the 5th musical performed at GES under the instruction of Mrs. Karen Matthews and Mrs. Megan Moore.

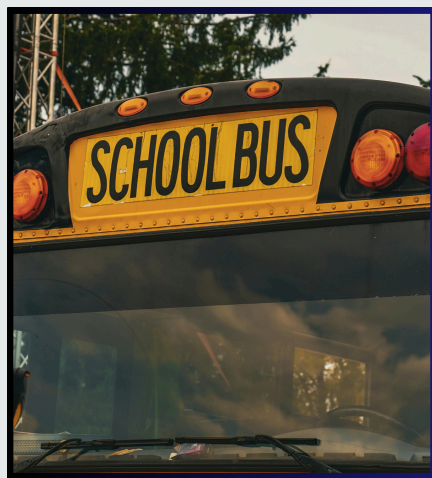
If you are looking for something fun to do next week, contact Greensburg Elementary School's office to purchase tickets for Saturday night before they are sold out. Friday night is already sold out! Ticket prices are \$5 a seat, and concessions and souvenirs will also be available for purchase.

This report is coming from Sebastian Russell, 4th Grader at GES!



4th Grader Sebastian Russell

Want to be a substitute bus driver?



The Greensburg Community School Corporation is currently accepting applications for substitute bus drivers.

This position pays up to \$120 per day and there are several ways to get involved.

It's not limited to driving a morning or afternoon route. There are other needs such as extracurricular activities.

"Whether it be for a field trip or a sporting event, we have a lot of opportunities for someone to make extra money by driving a bus," said Transportation Director Travis Scudder.

The ideal candidates should enjoy being around children and be comfortable operating a bus.

In addition to passing background checks, Scudder trains each driver to ensure they are operating at the best of their ability.

Interested candidates can start the process by calling Greensburg Schools Central Office at (812) 663-4774.

Fifth graders combine construction and STEM

Fifth graders in Mrs. Krista Harmon's STEM class had a fun hands-on learning assignment this week.

Her class was awarded a grant from the Decatur County EDC for a project called STEMstruction Zone.

The students designed and built doghouses for Greensburg Elementary's therapy dogs.

STEMstruction Zone provided meaningful exposure to building trades, engineering and problem-solving.



Work-Based Learning Spotlight

BRENLEY JAMESON

Greensburg senior Brenley Jameson is getting a real-world experience that few high schoolers receive.

Jameson is in the Business Pathway and has always had an interest in the legal field.

She reached out to Decatur County Prosecutor Nate Harter and inquired about a possible Work-Based Learning internship in his office.

"I knew it was unlikely to have a high schooler working in the prosecutor's office due to the confidentiality and other factors involved," Jameson said. "However, I said I could do whatever that needed to be done and I am just really interested in the field."

The prosecutor's office granted Jameson the internship and she says each week on the job brings new experiences.

She has assisted the office in multiple ways including drafting plea agreements as well as trial preparation.

"I'm learning things that law school may not teach and it's been very helpful at a young age to prepare me for college and my future," she said.

Jameson plans to study International Affairs in college and credits GCHS for putting her on the path toward a bright future.

"Everyone is in my corner to support me, whether that is the counselors or Mrs. Kolkmeier who has always been my biggest supporter and biggest cheerleader. The school has been super supportive and a family environment similar to our town," she added.