

#SherrardRoars

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We Inspire We Empower We Prepare

January - March 2018

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

This is the first quarterly newsletter we have published in a number of years. Previously, the newsletters were sent to every home in the district. The publishing and mailing costs were substantial, so the newsletter was discontinued when financial times became tough in the earlier part of this decade. The benefits of technology now provide a cost effective way to publish the newsletter, so we are going to renew the newsletter tradition.

Earlier in the school year, the Board determined it wanted to have a positive presence in the local newspapers and on social media. It also wanted to start publishing the newsletter again. The Board believed hiring a district journalist was the best way to accomplish these things.

Subsequently, Cala Smoldt was hired in December to work part-time as the District Journalist. She has experience working as a news correspondent and, before being hired, wrote numerous Sherrard School District stories for the Rock Island Argus and the Aledo Times Record. She also possesses the technology skills needed for the online responsibilities. You can look forward to learning about the many marvelous things that take place each day in our schools.

Alan Boucher
- Superintendent
bouchera@sherrard.us



Upcoming Events:

High School
April 18 – 6 p.m. School Board meeting Unit Office
April 19, 20, and 21 – 7p.m. High School Musical
May 2 – 6:30 p.m. Academic Achievement Awards in the Auditorium
May 3 – 4 p.m. FFA Section Banquet in the Commons & Auditorium
May 5 – 8 – 11 p.m. Prom at the Camden Center, followed by Post Prom at HS
May 10 – 7 p.m. Band Concert
May 16 – 6 p.m. School Board meeting at the Unit Office
May 20 – Baccalaureate in the Auditorium
May 27 – 2 p.m. Graduation

May 29 – 6 p.m. Letterman's Banquet

Jr. High
April 3 – 5:30 p.m. Meet the team night
April 4 – 2:30 p.m. JH Team pictures
April 27 and 28 - JH IGSM State Contest
May 15 – 7 p.m. JH Spring Jazz Band Concert
May 22 – 7 p.m. Spring Band Concert, Auditorium
May 23 – 7 p.m. Spring Choir Concert, Auditorium

Matherville Intermediate
April 6 – 3:30-5:30 p.m. Fun Night

Winola Elementary
April 2 and 6 – Book Fair

The last day of school is June 5.

STUDENTS INSPIRED BY HEART MONITORS

Sherrard High School stepped up physical education this school year with new technology. Students have been using heart-rate monitors since August.

Each monitor is connected by Bluetooth technology to an iPad that monitors heart-rate data. Those numbers are then sorted into heart-rate zones so students can see what level they are working at and how long they've been in a certain zone.

Adjustable straps are purchased as part of the P.E. uniform and worn all four years of high school. Monitors are assigned by number to each student and attached to the strap during their P.E. or weight-lifting classes.

"It helps us tailor workouts to each kid's needs and help kids to be individualized," said P.E. teacher Brian Adams.

The idea was introduced by P.E. teacher Justin Zigler, who used similar technology at the school where he previously taught.

The goal is that the technology will help students become health-conscious adults by instilling a deep understanding of how their bodies function and what level of exercise it takes to gain the most out of their workouts.

"We wanted the kids to know what it's like to actually be in their zone. The only way we can teach that to them is to show them

how it's monitored, then they can physically see for themselves. It teaches them what it feels like to be working in their heart-rate zone," said P.E. teacher Kim McCreight.

Teacher Sarah Souhrada said her students said they like wearing the monitors because they provide motivation.

"They can see what zone they're in as they're doing their workout, so they know if they need to go a little bit harder, or if they can slow down. It's that personal satisfaction that they get every day," she said.

"The heart monitors have improved P.E. because you can go at your own pace and see when you need to achieve a higher heart rate," said senior Eric Campbell.

Freshman Lauryn Kline said she likes that the monitors help her set tangible goals based on her performance results.

During class, the numbers of the monitors, rather than the students' names, are projected on the wall in the gym as students participate in games and exercise. Students look for the number of their monitor to see the zone they're in. New numbers are assigned each semester.

"There are kids that are performing better in my class. They are having to work a little bit harder, and that means they're getting in

better shape," said Ms. Souhrada.

Teachers can more accurately grade students, thanks to the monitors.

"We have to have proof as to why a kid is getting what they're getting for grades. If you just eyeball-test it, the kid could be working at a high level, but it doesn't look like it," said Mr. Adams.

Ms. McCreight said students found that getting in their personal "zone" proved to be easier than they first anticipated.

"It's a lot easier than you think. ... They (students) have found they like it a lot better because they know whether or not they're working hard enough, and they don't have to worry about us going, 'I don't think you're working hard enough,' " said Ms. McCreight.

Final exams incorporate analyzing results from the workouts and heart-rate graphs provided by the monitors.

Superintendent Alan Boucher said the district replaces aging equipment with a recurring technology lease every three years. Last May the board bought 100 monitors for about \$39 each.

"Last year as part of that upgrade, a small portion of that budget was dedicated to the heart-rate monitors," said Mr. Boucher. He said the board also purchased robot-



Lauryn Kline, left, and Carrigan Minch, freshmen at Sherrard High School, model the heart monitors students wear in physical education classes.

ics equipment and Sherrard TV equipment for the broadcasting department, teacher computers, and computer lab computers.

"Nowadays, physical education classes emphasize the self-aware-

ness of one's own health. The heart-rate sensors are a great way to engage our tech-savvy students, and we hope it will motivate them to adopt healthy lifestyles," said Mr. Boucher.

TEAM JESS



The Sherrard High School baseball program – and the community - is rallying around head baseball coach Brandon Oelmann and his wife Jessica. She was diagnosed with cancer. Seniors Hunter Jackson, Ryan Ebberson and A.J. Hatlestad organized a fundraiser during the Sherrard and Orion basketball game Feb.

3. It included t-shirt sales, 50-50 drawing and a silent auction with proceeds benefitting the Oelmann family.

They call the effort “Team Jess”.

Prior to the event 250 shirts were sold – raising over \$1,000 in advance.



Senior Night



Jan. 30 Varsity girls basketball senior night. Congrats to our awesome seniors and good luck in all you do!

Spelling Bee



The district-wide Spelling Bee was Jan. 23, for grades 1st through 6th. The gym was full of everyone who came out to watch our top spellers compete. Congratulations to our students who went to Augustana College for Regional Competition.

From Winola Grade School - Aliza Dominique, Sherrard Grade School - Gavin Cottrell, and From Matherville Intermediate - Samantha Phipps. We are proud of all of you.

Augustana regional Spelling bee was Feb. 22

Fun in First Grade



The first graders at Sherrard Elementary had a great time making “oobleck” and using it in a sink or float experiment. “Oobleck” is a fictional green substance in the Dr. Seuss book Bartholomew and the Oobleck.

SHERRARD STUDENTS BUILD INDUSTRIAL OVEN



Seniors Ann Weber, left, and Nick Grubbs, work on the foundation of the industrial oven the Metal Fabrication 2 class is building from scratch.

Students at Sherrard High School are building an industrial oven from scratch.

Vocational agriculture students at the school have been creating wall art items using a recently purchased plasma table. Agriculture instructor John Rasty said he saw a need for the oven when students spray-painted the wall art and it didn't get quite the look they wanted.

"We wanted to start powder-coating things," he said. "You spray the powder on, and then you put it into an oven to cure it."

He said he priced a new oven at \$6,000 to \$8,000. The cost to build one as a class came to about \$2,000 for materials, and the project is providing an invaluable experience for the participating students, he said.

The plasma table, located in the general shop area, teaches students about automation, robotics and computer-assisted design — "all those different educational goals, just in that one machine," said Mr. Rasty.

Mr. Rasty said a certified electrician will check the students' work on the industrial oven before it is used. "As long as it doesn't burst into flames, I think we'll be OK," he joked.

Proceeds from the sale of items created with the plasma table were used to buy the supplies used to build the oven.

"It's been a really good class project for us to work — and save us a lot of money," said Mr. Rasty.

Mr. Rasty said school officials have been very supportive of the program. "Everything that we feel we have a need for, they back us 100 percent, and do what they can do to make sure we get what we need," he said.

In August 2016, in his second week of teaching at Sherrard, he approached the board about spending approximately \$30,000 to buy a plasma table, three multi-process welders, and a TIG welder, he said. In the following months — using grant funding and district money from the education fund — the equipment was bought and brought into the school.

"Our skilled-trade crafters in the nation are declining," said Rhys Fullerlove, school board president. "We feel by reinvigorating our ag/trades programs, we are giving back to the Quad-City community, (which) has had a rich history of manufacturing excellence for centuries."

The board has been focused on including skilled-trade programs

for students, Mr. Rasty said. "There's better ways for different kids to get jobs than just a four-year degree," he said.

"We want Sherrard to be a place for every student on any walk of life," he said. "This includes those who want to go to college to those who want to work directly with their hands."

Mr. Rasty also is working to improve other areas of the school's ag/industrial arts program. He said vocational classes at the school have expanded.

Last summer, he revamped the welding section by repainting walls and opening up the windowless space. He also directed a class in making new welding booths to replace the old ones. Welding curtains for the booths were donated.

"They were awful, burnt-up booths, carving cut into them," he said. "They were bad."

Originally from Lohrville, Iowa, Mr. Rasty earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education from Iowa State University. He said it wasn't until he began studying under a professor in a top mechanics class that he discovered his passion for ag mechanics.



Seniors Ethan Sheese, left and Brayden Mallette put together the metal framing for an industrial oven for their Metal Fabrication 2 class at Sherrard High School.



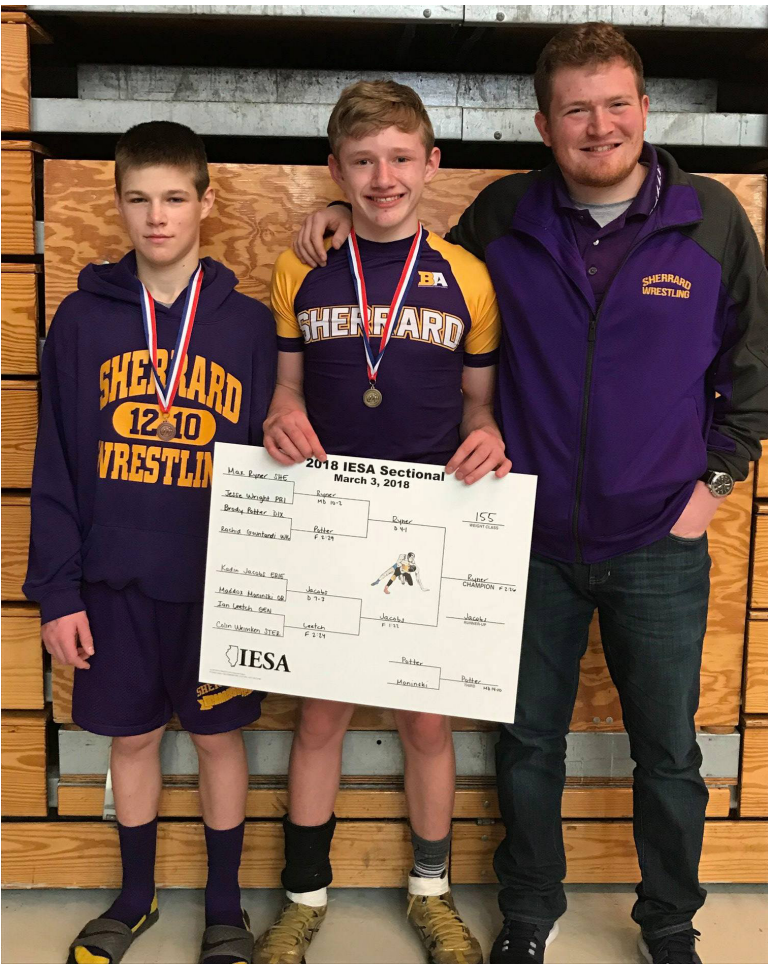
Seniors Greg Appleby and Logan Ortnier work on the oven.



Pictured on the right -The Sherrard FFA hosted a teacher appreciation breakfast on Feb. 21. Thanks FFA! -- Sherrard JH and HS teachers

#SherrardRoars

7th Grade Girls Basketball Team



Congratulations to Austin Fratzke and Max Ryner. They both advanced to the State Wrestling Meet.

Athletic Calender

To see team rosters, team photos, game schedules, event locations and more visit the 8to18 website at <http://il.8to18.com/SherrardHS>

Sign up to get game cancellation updates via email, just go to the athletic calendar on the 8to18 website.

- Go to E-Mail Alert - on the right side of the page and click the "Click to Join" link.

- On the next page click the "Create New Account" link to create a login.

- Once you're logged in you can then select the sports that you would like to receive email alerts on and click the "Add Selected Sports" button, then the "I'm Done Log Me Out!" - button at the top.

Also search the Sherrard Boosters Facebook group to stay connected.



March 14 - Tiger boys and girls track Monmouth college invite



On Friday, March 9 the JH students and staff sent Austin and Max off in style to the State Wrestling Meet.



Feb. 26 - The Junior High wrestlers advance to Sectionals: Walker Anderson, Max Ryner, Marcellus Trice, Austin Fratzke, Ryder Roelf.

SHERRARD’S STEM — SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH — CLUB

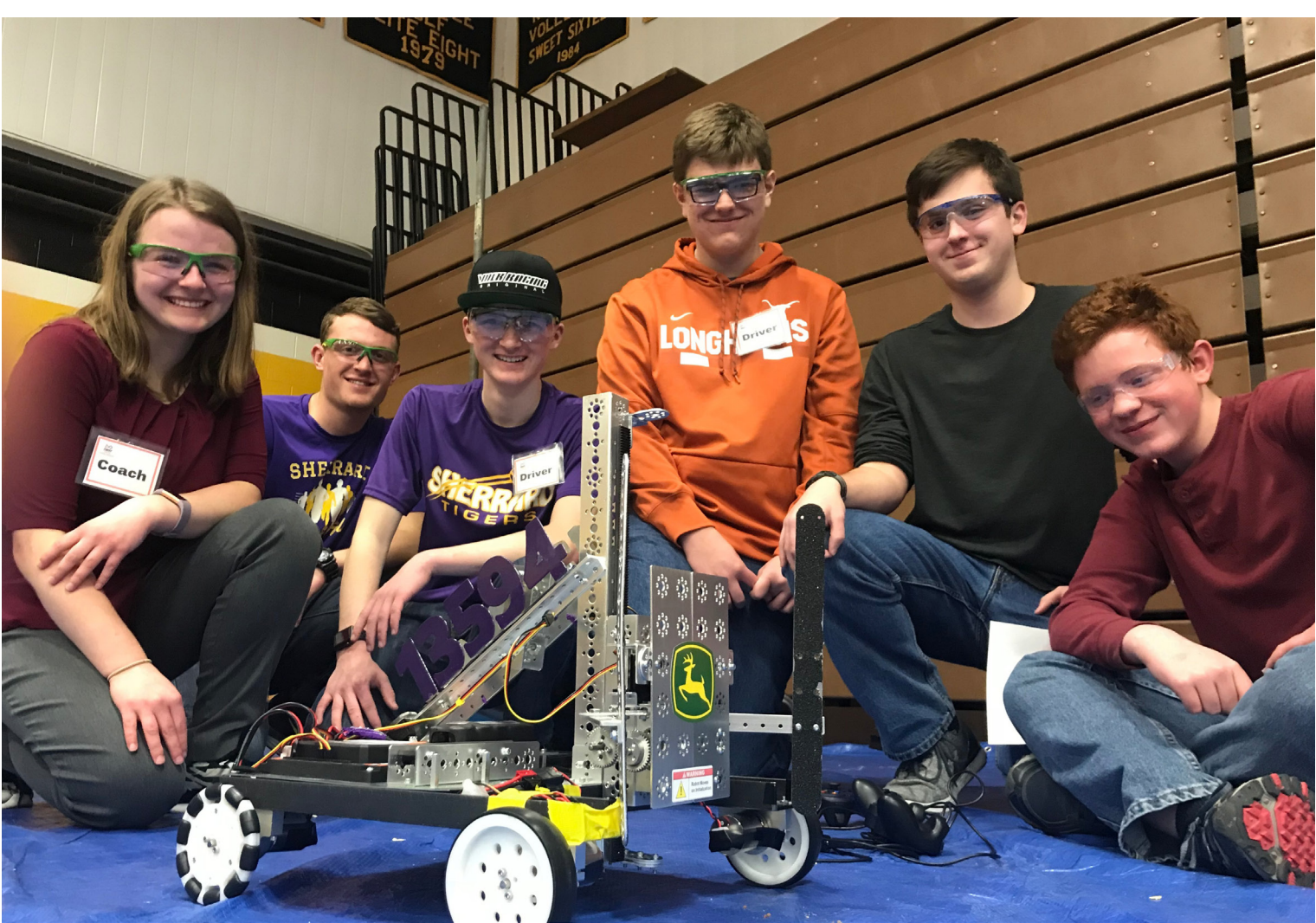
The Sherrard High School First Tech Challenge robotics team finished 11 out of 19 teams overall, Saturday, Feb. 10, at Peoria Manual High School in the league qualifier. On Jan. 28, the students won two of five matches at Riverdale High School near Port Byron in the last of three league meets this season.

Their division includes United Township, Orion, Riverdale, Kewanee, Fulton, Knoxville and Carthage high schools. This year’s FirstTech game is called, “Relic Recovery.” Teams work together and earn points by placing cubes, called “glyphs” into a designated three-glyph wide by four-glyph tall “cryptobox” and recovering “relics” from the corner of the field.

Competitions include pre-programmed instructions and driver-controlled portions. Throughout the school year, student teams create a single robot. It must fit into an 18-inch cube but can expand during competition. During a competition, teams place robots in a 12-foot-square playing field with a foam-tile floor surrounded by 1-foot-high walls.

Sherrard’s STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — Club began in the fall of 2016. Students meet every day after school for a few hours. The team has been funded through charitable sources, including a \$1,450 John Deere Inspire Grant, a \$1,500 Sherrard Boosters gift and an Illinois FTC Rookie matching grant of \$1,500. Math teacher Lucas Fritch and science teacher Chris LaRoche guide the students, with assistance from ag instructor John Rasty and tech coordinator Jay Wyckoff.

“We have six students who have been to every competition,” Mr. Fritch said. “We have approximately four more students who help after school but are not able to commit enough time to be a full member.”



The Sherrard High School First Tech Challenge team will compete against seven other area schools Saturday in Peoria. Team members, from left, are Holly Jacobs, Corey Tegtmeier, Casey Jacobs, Ethan Schmelzer, Aidan Welch and Michael Wherry. Not pictured is Jacob Zimanek.

There are three qualifying rounds of competitions. The “game” is revealed in September, and teams are given a design and test window before competitions. The first was held in November in Orion with the second in Knoxville in December. Knoxville and Riverdale provided help for the Sherrard team.

“They provided ‘trouble shooting’ at the competitions in order for our robot to pass inspections and to begin working autonomously,” Mr. Fritch said.

Students go through a process of interviews and presentations to judges, and complete forms regarding the safety and functionality of the robot. Between

matches, students can repair or enhance robots as needed. Mr. Fritch said Sherrard students fabricated parts of the robot, while other teams buy robotics kits.

The team includes Casey Jacobs, lead engineer; Aidan Welch, lead computer programmer; and Ethan Schmelzer, lead operator. Also on the team are Holly Jacobs, Jacob Zimanek, Ryan Mack, Corey Tegtmeier and Michael Wherry.

“Teamwork has been paramount in progressing through the competition preparation,” Mr. LaRoche said.

“Other students have worked

to organize the team and ensure that all game requirements were met.

“Some of our students have had the opportunity to apply academic material learned in math and science courses to the mechanics and operations of the robot,” he said.

Mr. Casey, a junior, said the program gave him the privilege of working with other mechanically-inclined minds. “I can physically manipulate our robot to suit our ever-changing needs and observe the results,” he said, “as opposed to the science and mathematics courses ... where the solutions to problems are generally either simply numbers, theoretical, or so minute that I

cannot see them.” He also said that, as an aspiring engineer, FTC allowed him to broaden his intellectual horizons by creating mechanical solutions to challenges. He said he already was looking forward to next year’s challenge. Mr. LaRoche said he hoped to integrate the FTC program into Sherrard’s curriculum. Eventually, he said, the high school hopes to create a STEM center and offer robotics as a class. “The best part of FTC is having the opportunity to get a taste of mechanics, programming, and educating others without having to fully commit to one thing,” Ms. Jacobs, a sophomore, said. “The FTC community is a great support system no matter where we are.”

Junior High CPR



Sherrard Junior High students learned the important life skill of CPR in Mrs. Zigler’s health class Feb. 5. The JH students are CPR certified and prepared for an emergency!



Valentine fun at Sherrard Elementary

SCHOLASTIC BOWL

8th Grade



Congratulations to the 8th grade Scholastic team for their victory at the Prairie Land Conference Championship.

Varsity



On Monday, March 5 Sherrard high school hosted scholastic bowl regionals where your Sherrard Tigers High School Varsity team earned the first place win. The team now advances to sectionals to be held Saturday, March 10 at home. Varsity Team members include: senior Ryan Sackfield (captain), sophomore Holly Jacobs, sophomore Joshua Gibson, junior Ethan Schmelzer, sophomore Phil Whan, senior Bailly Taylor, senior Brittanie O'Brien and sophomore Kacey Plambeck. The team is coached by Aimee Ellis.

MAHERVILLE INTERMEDIATE GRANDPARENT BREAKFAST

Early Feb. 23 Matherville Intermediate students had the opportunity to spend time with their grandparents before school. Principal Jeff Shillinger said the Grandparents Breakfast was well-received. "A lot of people thanked me on the way out." He said the feeling was mutual. Despite postponement due to an impending snowstorm early February, the event had a large turnout. 160 students and grandparents signed up to attend, and 30 dozen donuts were brought in. "One of my goals as Principal is to bring in more community involvement," said Mr. Shillinger.

He said they try to hold events throughout the year, like family nights, to create unity and a positive school identity. Following breakfast students had fun showing off their classrooms to grandparents on informal tours around the building. Gloria Kobow won the raffle drawing for four River Bandits tickets at the event. "It's always good to have people come in our building to see what we do," said Mr. Shillinger.

Check out the picture album on the Sherrard School District Fb.



WINOLA HONORS DR. SEUSS WITH A DAY OF READING



VIOLA — Winola Elementary School students enjoyed festivities to honor Dr. Seuss' birthday on Friday, March 2, as part of a nationwide annual event called Read Across America. The children's author was born that day in 1904; he passed away in 1991. During his life, he inspired a love for reading through unique, whimsical storytelling. Sherrard School District reading specialists Kim Powell and Lauren Johnson worked alongside Teresa Kirwan from the University of Illinois Extension office to plan stories and activities featuring six beloved Dr. Seuss books.

- Preschoolers focused on "Cat in the Hat" with a coloring page and a shared classroom writing activity about what they would do with the cat for a day.
- "McElligot's Pool" was the focus for kindergarteners, who enjoyed goldfish crackers and a fishing maze.
- First-graders were treated to "Hop on Pop," Tootsie Pops and a diagram and labeling activity.
- Second-graders read "Green Eggs and Ham." They got green Easter eggs and pig erasers, and did a crossword puzzle.
- The book for third grade was "Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can



A group of High School students volunteered to dress up as characters from Dr. Seuss stories to entertain elementary children. Left to right back row: Hanna Waddell, Megan Russell, Ellie Herad, Cole Bizarri, and Taylor Barber. Left to right front row: Cade Helm, Lauryn Kline, Payton Wilson, Allison Marring, Carrigan Minch, and Adam Barber.

You?" They had string cheese and an onomatopoeia activity.

- Fourth-graders read "Ten Apples on Top." They got bookmarks and stickers and apple logic puzzles. Physical education teacher Sarah Souhrada brought 12 high school students from the Letterman's Club to read the books and dress up as characters from then. Letterman's Club is open to athletes

who have worked to earn their "letters" as junior varsity and varsity players. "At Winola, our goal is to not just teach our children to read, but to also become readers and find a love of reading in the process," said Ms. Powell.



Little Tiger Cheerleaders demonstrated their skills at the Junior High Boys Basketball Game Jan. 11



Square dancing fun in JH PE Feb. 14

THE ARTS



The Junior High jazz band performed in the auditorium Thursday March 1.



The SHS Jazz Ensemble had a 4th Place finish in Class 1A at Jazz in The Meadows Saturday, Feb. 24. They placed 4th out of 11 bands in their class from a festival of 100 performing jazz groups from 5 states. They performed Big Dipper, Lil Darlin', and Hunting Wabbits. The jazz band performed their entire set at the Winter Jazz Concert on Thursday, March 1st at the SHS Auditorium.

Lights! Camera! Action!

March 16 - The students in the 7th grade advanced English class have recently studied drama. Reading a play is a component of the 7th grade Illinois State test. Thus, students compared a play's format with other types of text for literary elements.

As a part of the unit, students performed two plays "Hercules, the Mighty" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". Students with acting experience became the student directors and led each group in preparation of the

reader's theater. The creativity shown through the acting, prop choices, and scene designs with technology were wonderful! Bravissimo!



STAR LAB SHARES NIGHT SKY

VIOLA — The lunar eclipse visible to the Quad-Cities area Wednesday morning added a little something extra to classes for Winola Elementary School students.

Coordinator Carly Minch, the fourth-grade teacher at the Sherrard School District building in Viola, said students annually look forward to the Star Lab program.

The lab is set up in Winola’s library for the week. Excited students — five at a time — enter the Star Lab’s inflated dome and look up in awe at stars so clear most of them could only be seen deep in the country, away from city lights.

Every year Ms. Minch works with the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education to secure use of the Star Lab for an entire week at no cost to the Sherrard district. She also invites retired special education teacher Gail Sederquist to teach Star Lab for a day.

“Her knowledge is so great that it’s nice to have her come back.” Ms. Minch, adding that Star Lab gives students a different perspective on the night sky.

Ms. Sederquist first brought the Star Lab to the school in the early 1990s, using an idea from a teach-

er in Orion.

“She did a star night,” Ms. Sederquist recalled. “My children were in kindergarten. That piqued my interest.”

To have access to the Star Lab, Ms. Sederquist had to take a class and become certified with the regional education office.

“The school district supported it 100 percent from the start,” said Ms. Sederquist. “I teach about the stars and the constellations. And since planets are so awesome to see when they’re out bright, the first star you see is often a planet.”

Ms. Sederquist taught 30 years in the Sherrard School District before retiring in 2010. She taught second and third grades, and was a special education teacher.

“I didn’t get an interest in it until I was an adult,” she said of the night sky. “I think of all the times I went camping as a kid. My parents would have shared it if they knew that stuff.”

During the first years of the Star Lab effort, she taught every class that went through the dome.

Once the program took off, more teachers also took the Star Lab training.

“Then they (the district) didn’t have to hire a sub, because we just covered for each other,” she

said.

Currently five Winola teachers are certified to teach in Star Lab. Having a rotation of teachers — each with different levels of knowledge — helps lessen class disruption and create diversity in teaching styles.

Ms. Sederquist shows students the current night’s sky so they can later go home and exercise their knowledge that same evening — if it’s a clear night.

“It’s never clear on Star Lab week, though,” she joked.

She said her goal is to help students be able to identify at least two or three celestial bodies.

The teachers switch between seven Star Lab cylinders, each featuring a different educational aspect such as constellation pictures outlined over the stars.

The cylinders are placed over a large light that projects the images onto the inside of dome, above the kids.

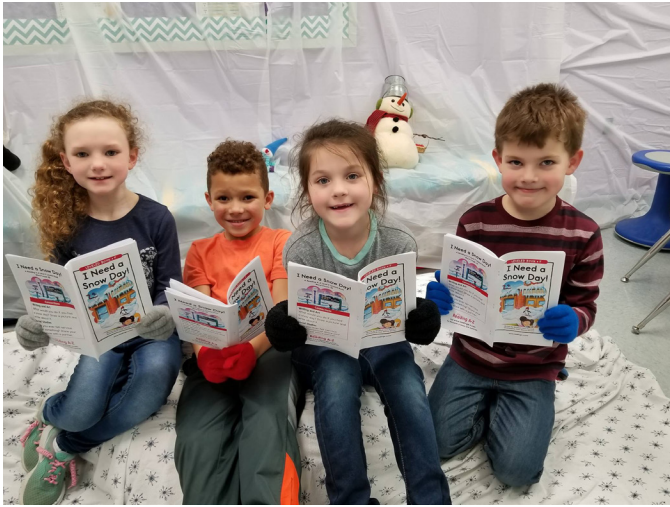
Using a red laser light, the teachers point out constellations and memorable ways students can recall their names.



Ms. Sederquist, of Orion, told students Wednesday that her favorite constellation is Orion. Teachers also can sprinkle in mythology with the Star Lab lessons.

Ms. Minch said some teachers also incorporate preview lessons so kids are better prepared to learn more about the stars.

Ms. Minch said fewer schools are hosting the program. “Not all schools have a big enough area that can be disturbed,” she said.



Jan. 23 - Since it warmed up to the 50’s to start snow week, Ms. Strandberg brought the winter wonderland inside. With gloves on and blizzard sounds, the kids even thought it was really cold inside.



Valentine fun at Sherrard Elementary

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SHERRARD GRADE SCHOOL

Fundraising efforts yield new playground equipment

Sherrard Elementary school children will soon have new playground equipment thanks to a community effort.

Principal Konnie Fry said the PTO has been discussing changes to the playground since before she took the principal position two years ago. Once they completed research on possible equipment and decided how much they needed to raise - they began fundraising at the beginning of the school year, now they are just shy of their goal of \$10,000.

Throughout the school year as funds were raised, a giant poster in the hallway showing their goal was filled in, fueling the kids excitement.

She said they didn't contact large companies or apply for grants - "Everything we've done has been community based - school based, and it's involved the children."

The kids were a part of every



Over 400 students and teachers cast votes - this piece won out of two options by only four votes. Principal Fry said it may be a different color when ordered.

fundraiser, helping facilitate carnival games at their booth during Pumpkin Fest last October, bussing tables at the spaghetti dinner, helping at the family oriented bingo night. A lockbox jar set up during the holidays attracted significant donations

from visiting family members.

Third grade teacher's Allyson Williamson and Kayla Hollins were instrumental in organizing fundraising efforts as well as serving in the medial tasks. They stored the community donated

baked goods and set up tables for bake sales, among other things.

Ms. Williamson said she got involved because they needed more 'T' in 'PTO.'

"It was an opportunity to work closely with families... Our efforts this year have been very successful. We are very appreciative of community members, family members and staff members for all of their support," she said.

Ms. Fry said the teachers have repeatedly given of their time - "They want this for the kids. They need to feel very very proud for all they've done... I'm super proud of them."

Ms. Hollins, whose children attend the school, said recess is an important outlet for the kids. She said their involvement with the fundraisers helped create a sense of ownership. They even voted on which equipment they wanted, out of two options.

"It empowers them to feel like they have a voice - It make them feel like their opinion matters. Everything is student driven and they get a say."

This summer, the new equipment will add much needed slides. Ms. Fry said several dad's have already said they would be willing to help with setup.

"We feel confident that if we pay for the company installer to be here, and give us guidance to make sure we're following regulations and doing everything property, that we can have a team here to construct this.

"It's more than just a toy - it's exercise, expending energy, working collaboratively in sharing, a playground is more than just recess and play, we want to make it awesome," she said.

They are still raising money for installation and gravel.

Students learn to pay it forward



The fourth-grade classes at Sherrard Elementary have been learning more than reading, writing and arithmetic. This year, teachers Jacquie Shemek, Julianne Teerlink and Debby Allen have integrated character building through helping others. The class of 54 students worked together to make 25 Empathy Bags filled with comforting items for the Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House in Bettendorf on Wednesday, March 14. Some items included in the bags are a

drawings. Earlier this year, Ms. Shemek's class read a book about what it means to "Pay it Forward." The class then made Valentine's for nursing-home residents in Galesburg — where a student's great-grandparents lived. The whole fourth grade read the book titled, "Wonder," learning kindness and empathy. "There were a lot of tears through that book," Ms. Shemek said.

tissue package, chocolate kisses, chapstick, protein bar, gum, playing cards, a coloring book and a rose quartz worry stone. The kids spent the afternoon decorating the canvas bags with words of encouragement and

So it was perfectly timed when Principal Konnie Fry was invited by the Realtor Foundation of Iowa to apply for a \$250 grant called Project Jack. The fourth-grade teachers jumped at the opportunity to give the kids real-world experience to practice the empathy they were learning. According to the Iowarealtors.com website Project Jack is a pay-it-forward initiative in honor of Jack Lindaman, who died of a rare disease at 6 years old. The original project happened four years ago when children in Jack's class at Alan Shepard Elementary School, Long Grove, Iowa, were given \$100 to pay it forward. The Foundation now awards grants to classrooms each school year to pay it forward to a project of their choice to carry on Jack's legacy through the good deeds of children. When they found out they didn't get the grant — the kids were disappointed, according to Ms. Teerlink. She said they had known about it since mid-Janu-

ary and were looking forward to the project. Then, on March 3, Ms. Allen's husband, Gary Allen, passed away at the Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House. Sherrard teachers were called the day before and asked if they still wanted to do a project when another school backed out. With only six days left before spring break, and a narrow deadline to complete the project, they didn't hesitate. They saw an opportunity to honor their colleague. For Ms. Allen, it was a meaningful gesture. "I was so touched by the love and compassion of both my fellow teachers and all the fourth-

grade students. I could truly see the face of God through them. It is a wonderful tribute to my husband and Clarissa Cook Hospice. They are angels," she said. "They know who it's going to affect," Ms. Teerlink said. "This is a thing they can relate



Fourth Graders Ellie Swanson, Jasmyn McCray, Sawyer Kurtenback and Blake Pender helped create empathy bags at Sherrard Elementary March 14.

to — so they can actually make that connection — my teacher, or someone you know personally has benefited from this." Two other Sherrard elementary staff recently have spent time there with close family members. "It means something to us here on a personal level — it touches home for us even more emotionally. ... We're all family here. (The teachers) saw it was a good way for the kids to build character and have empathy for others. ... They did an awesome job," Principal Fry said. Ms. Fry said it was a unique opportunity for the kids "to give back — or even to give before somebody gives to them. That's a big message. We try to give to the kids all the time, but for them to give without expecting anything in return ... it's really powerful for them." Ms. Shemek said they would continue to find ways to build character. "They need to know what to have inside them to be a better person," she said.

Sherrard Staff - frigid Polar Plunge



Resource Officer Mike Mendoza, Matherville Intermediate Principal Jeff Shillinger, Winola Elementary Principal Kari Roberts and Matherville Intermediate teacher John Nyman took the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Illinois.

Sunday, March 25 at 2 p.m. - following the recent spring snow, and with wind chill temperatures nearly freezing, four Sherrard School District staff jumped in Wicks Lake at Jumer's Casino in Rock Island. Matherville Intermediate Principal Jeff Shillinger, Matherville Intermediate teacher John Nyman, Winola Elementary Principal Kari Roberts, and School Resource Officer Mike Mendoza raised a cumulative \$642 exceeding their cumulative goal of \$500 for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois.

Fox News and Channel 4 were on site to interview some of the over 200 plungers with from several groups supporting the cause.

The idea started with Resource

Officer Mendoza who has participated in the plunge for several years with the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department.

"I thought it would be fun to see if we could put together a team from Sherrard Schools. It's an awesome fundraiser." He said he hopes to double Sherrard's team for next year's dip.

Mr. Shillinger said funds were raised through online giving, a jean day for staff, and a hat day for kids at Matherville Intermediate.

"We feel it's important to support our community and the different groups making a positive impact on the lives of others," he said.

Sherrard student creates art from washers

The field of industrial arts has taken on an artistic new meaning for Sherrard High School senior Curt Miller.

Tasked by art teacher Janet Wilson to create something he’s always dreamed of making, Mr. Miller began working on a life-size 3-D human sculpture, using only metal washers.

“The Sprinter” was born out of combining four years of art skills with welding skills learned in metal fabrication classes.

“I always wanted to make something big — and human. I was looking on the internet; I saw some people make stuff out of washers. No one’s made something this big out of washers,” Mr. Miller said. He completed the project in early February.

When he got the idea, he approached his metal fabrication teacher, John Rasty, for help. He received permission to work on it in the shop during his art class and continue working on it into his metal fabrication class, giving him a large stretch of uninterrupted time for the project every day. Mr. Rasty found a base in the shop for Mr. Miller to use, and he set to work last November.

“I thought it was a cool idea. He seemed to like doing the 3-D metal sculpture stuff. ... I trust him enough to let him go in there and do his thing. It turned out pretty good,” Mr. Rasty said.

Mr. Miller said he wasn’t sure exactly how the project would turn out.

“I was told I needed to look at a human being the entire time, but no one’s going to stand there for me for that long,” he said. After spending time studying pictures of people in running poses, he just went with his instincts.

It was an arduous task. Safety precautions required him to wear a helmet, a welding jacket and



Sherrard High School senior Curt Miller stands by “The Sprinter,” a sculpture he built with metal washers.

industrial gloves to complete the project. He said the process was painful at times — he often burnt through his welding gloves when

he had to hold each washer and carefully weld it on by placing each one on top of another, with a bead of metal weld until it took

form. Once the form was complete, he sanded and painted it.

“When I started the foot, I didn’t have any idea of what I was going to do,” he said. The most difficult transition for him was going from one leg to the other, as it curves up into the running position with the second leg lifted off the ground.

“It was pretty mentally straining,” he said. But the form never toppled over. To prevent that, he attached rebar supports.

Mr. Miller said when he tried to make a head on the piece, it didn’t work out. That’s when Ms. Wilson suggested he keep it abstract.

During the process, Mr. Miller learned the importance of proportions. “If you have one thing off, it’s going to throw the whole thing off. ... You have to have the person who’s looking at it fill in the pieces, that creates art,” he said.

Since completing the project, he has started welding small sculptures. He recently created a motorcycle out of random scraps he found in the shop.

His future plans are to apprentice as a bricklayer, but he also hopes to continue to explore his interest in creating 3-D industrial art.

“I really want to make a giant, giant sculpture, huge. (But) I don’t have the time and resources for that — maybe in the future,” he said.

“The Sprinter” will be displayed at a Quad-Cities art show in late March. The sculpture is for sale, he said.

“Ever since I was little, I wanted to create something huge to wow people. I always like to see people’s reaction. I didn’t think it would turn out like this, but it worked out,” he said.



February’s Rotary Student of the Month is SHS junior Joelle Gallagher. She serves as a member of the junior class senate, competes on the soccer team and she is also a part of the yearbook staff. Joelle enjoys photography and science and is considering a career in the engineering field. A gracious concern for others is shown through the student tutoring she does during the lunch period and after school. Joelle lives with her parents near the town of Viola. Congratulations, Joelle!



Avery Krah, pictured left, is Rotary Student of the Month. He is a member of the Art Club, the GSA Club and the Yearbook Club. Avery enjoys writing, martial arts and anything related to art. He plans to attend Bradley University and major in computer animation. Interesting fact: Avery has a 2nd degree black belt in Karate.

Rotary Student of the Month - January Junior, Ryan Mack, right, is the Milan Rotary Student of the Month. At school, Ryan is a member of the band, jazz band, track team and robotics team. He also participates in the high school’s drama program. Outside of school, Ryan participates in scouting and he referees soccer matches. It is worth noting that Ryan is an Eagle Scout! Ryan enjoys music, math, science and things related to engineering. In fact, he plans to become an engineer one day.

