



# AMBRIDGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BRIDGER BULLETIN

The mission of the Ambridge Area School District is to be the "Bridge" to leading and learning, preparing students for the future through academic excellence.



## Biotechnology Units

BY PAMELA GREEN AND JASON ROOS

The Biotechnology class at the High School has been busy lately examining various aspects of Biomedical Engineering. First, they learned background information regarding the anatomical structure and function of the heart, and dissected a cow heart to see the actual structures.

Then, they learned how to use manual blood pressure cuffs and sphygmomanometers to measure each other's blood pressure, and how to use the Vernier LabQuests to collect and analyze their own EKG rhythms.

The culminating project of this unit was to use Engineering Design Drawing Software to design and test an interpretation of a stint that may be used to save a patient from an aneurysm, a weakened part of a blood vessel that with increased pressure could rupture, in a model blood vessel.

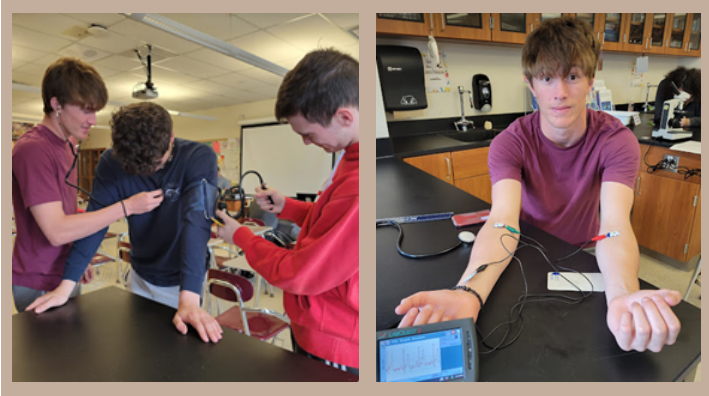
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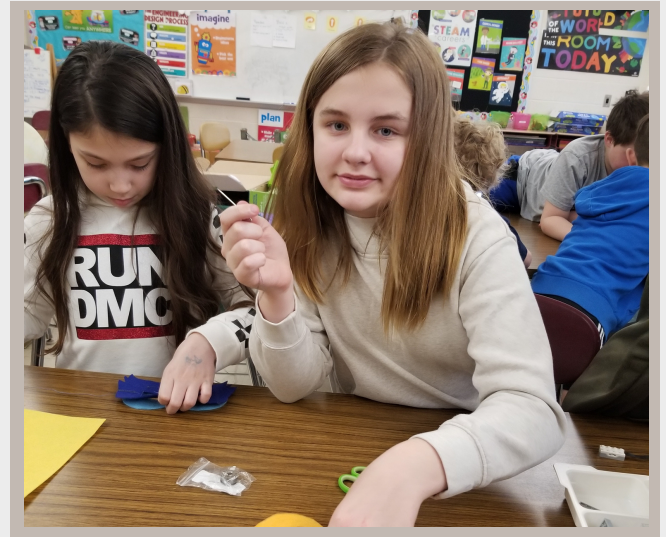
# Biotechnology

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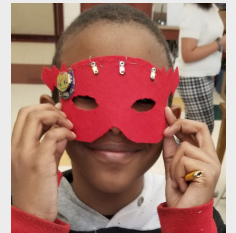
The students drew their design, printed it as a prototype using a 3D printer, then tested their model under various vessel pressure simulations a patient would experience during rest or while exercising. Following the Engineering Design process, they then evaluated the testing of their prototype to analyze the effectiveness of their design and decided whether or not to innovate their product.

During the Forensics Unit, students develop theories based on evidence collected during a crime scene investigation. The class is separated into teams that look through the evidence using qualitative data to solve the crime. Stations are designed for students to understand blood typing, blood spatter, hair and fiber analysis, fingerprinting, and crime scene processing.



## E-textiles Are Lighting Up For Fourth Grade

BY KRISTIN HOLMES



Thanks to the Beaver County Educational Trust and Lincoln Learning Solutions, the fourth graders at Economy were able to design, create, and sew something that lights up. E-textiles are wearable designs that incorporate circuits and LED's.

Patterns were first drawn, then used to cut out the felt pieces. The pieces were glued on or stitched in place. The conductive thread was used to stitch the circuit and LED's in place. Students chose the placement of lights, colors, and materials. The thread is conductive and a parallel circuit connected the LED's and battery pack. The students needed to be careful that the threads had the correct polarity or it would short out.

**Genevieve Bogati** and **Lillya Janectic**, fourth graders in Mr. Beighley's class, are excited to sew. "We love this project and hope to do more sewing in fifth grade. It was fun," agreed the girls. Holmes is glad that the students were not shy with sewing and were excited to try it themselves.





## National Honor Society Members

BY MIA GANTZ

Congratulations to our newest members of the National Honor Society (NHS) as well as our current members that have continued to represent the four pillars of Scholarship, Service, Leadership and Character. New and current members of NHS were recognized in the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

New Members: **Samantha Astorino, Julia Bennett, Norah Best, Grace Buchanan, Kira Burd, Lena Carr, Emilie Clouse, Brandon Dawson, Emily Deane, Ava DeMuth, Carter Dunlap, Samantha Ellenberger, Rudy Erickson, William Gruca, Logan Hammond, Gabriella Hoge, Caison Holland, Annabelle Hrinko, John Jarrup, Taylor Kennedy, Sydney Klaas, Delaney Moore, Lily Park, Naomi Pedigo, Addison Shaffer, Zachary Sutton, Anita Szymoniak, Samuel Tusick, Amanda Waschak, Zachery Weigand, Chris Woten, Ivan You.**

Current Members: **Blake Gibson, Leah Fritsch, Taraea Macon, Caleb Ziemkiewicz, Michelle Krol, Jaina Ilko, Elliott Powell, Brandon Streb, Alexis Hitchens, Tyler Simms, Niko Manos, Stacia Misencik, Jenna McFarland, Tyler Holman, Noah White, Kyrsta Girardi.**



## Ambridge Area High School Youth Ambassador Program

BY GREGORY MELL



On Wednesday, April 20th, Ambridge Area High School Youth Ambassador Program (YAP) students participated with students from several different school districts across Beaver County at Community College of Beaver County where they showcased mental health awareness and coping skills with various system of care partner organizations.



# Have You *Heard* The Good News From Ambridge Area Middle School?

BY LORI HEIM

Last November, Ambridge Area School District hired Mr. **Ronnell Heard**, as the new middle school principal. Prior to becoming a principal, Mr. Heard had many leadership experiences including: consulting teacher, dean of students, instructional coach, and assistant principal in Propel Schools and the Allentown City School District. He was also a classroom teacher for 11 years in the Pittsburgh Area.

“My time in Ambridge has been pretty amazing,” Heard said. “The students, families, and community are great. The faculty is top-notch. They have welcomed me with open arms. They have given me grace and allowed me to get my feet wet as the new principal.”

Mr. Heard is proud of all the positivity around the school. “This year we started recognizing the student of the month and the Bridgers Being Good incentive,” Heard said, “when students are caught being good, they get a pride ticket from me and at the end of the week I pull one ticket and that student receives a gift card for their efforts.”

Along with his role as the principal, Mr. Heard is also the District Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The committee was started under the guidance of Superintendent Dr. Pasquerilla and Principal Heard. They recognized the district’s need to become more diverse and meet the needs of the community. The committee held its inaugural meeting this past winter. A survey was sent to students, staff, and parents to identify areas for improvement. The committee plans to meet again in May. Regarding the committee, Heard said, “We are focused on making sure everyone has a seat at the table and their voices are heard.”

Mr. Heard is grateful for the opportunity to work in Ambridge and stated, “Thanks to everyone for making my first year at Ambridge Area Middle School a success.”

Mr. Heard's background includes a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education grades (PreK-12) from Bethany College in West Virginia, and Master of Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University in Arizona. Mr. Heard lives in the Pittsburgh area with his wife and his son.



Principal Heard and Officer Phan

Officer **Anthony Phan** was hired by the district to work at the Ambridge Area Middle School this spring as the School Resource Officer. Officer Phan has been with the Ambridge Borough for 3 years.

“I enjoy interacting with the kids. I am helping to shape the generations of the future,” Officer Phan stated. He always tells the students, “anything in life that is worth doing is worth over doing.”

Officer Phan is using this opportunity to engage students and provide mentorship. The Ambridge Police Department is preparing to put together a youth program that provides positive outcomes to the youth and community. Students will participate in activities such as boxing, fishing, and community service relations.

Officer Phan completed his training at the Beaver County Police Academy in the summer of 2018. He enjoys working out and spending time with his golden retriever.



## Caring Place Poster Winners

BY CHELSEA BENEDICT

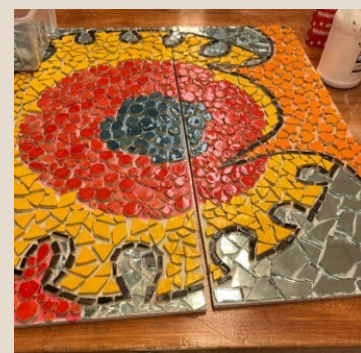
We are so proud of **Angelina Propst, Ricardo Lopez** and **Lydia Mycyk**! Lydia's poster was chosen as the 2021-22 Caring Team Poster Contest Winner for the High School Category and will be featured at their opening kick-off next year and around local High Schools!



## Ambridge Competitive Cheer

BY JENN PHILLIPS

This year the AAHS Varsity Team competed in 5 competitions around the surrounding Pittsburgh area. This year was a big year for the team because they received a UCA bid to nationals. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the team was unable to attend and opted to attend a virtual national competition instead. The AASD Varsity team competed virtually at the All-Star Cheerleading Championship and placed 1st place in the Varsity Traditional Division. **Coach Phillips** stated, "We have a very young team and are looking forward to the years ahead!" Tryouts are held in May for interested athletes in grade 6-11.



## High School Students Create Beautiful Outdoor Mural

BY JAMIE ORTH

Students in Mrs. **Jamie Orth**'s art classes created a 3.5' x 15' site-specific outdoor mural panel for the Chamber of Commerce building located at 562 Merchant St, Ambridge. The mosaic panel, to be delivered to the Chamber in early May, will be on display on the front of their building. Each and every tile was hand-made with care. Seniors **William Mickle, Haley Hogue, Valeria Young** and sophomores **Chloe Palmer** and **Devin Payne** assisted Mrs. Orth with running a 2 part tile-making workshop with the Life Skills class. Community members were able to get a sneak peak of the piece at the April 28th Art Show. The artwork was made possible by BCET Great Ideas Mini-Grant. Thank you to all who made this artistic vision become a reality.





## Ambridge High School Student Council Update

BY GREGORY MELL

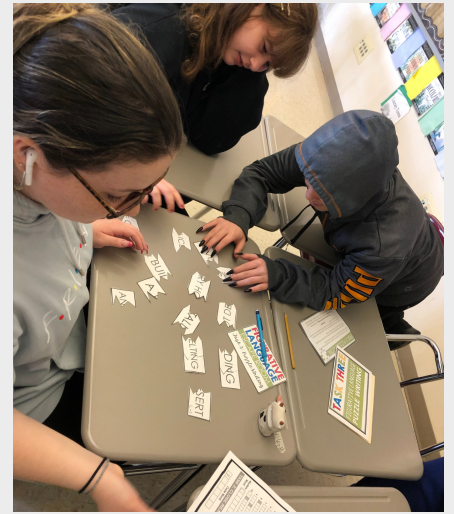
Student Council has decided to undertake a 2021-2022 2nd Semester project of updating the glass display cases located around the High School. Leading this project is Student Council President **Morgan McKay**. The primary goal is to make the display cases more engaging, dynamic, and aesthetically pleasing.

It is the Student Council's hope that this project will give the student body at large a greater sense of ownership for their school environment and community. Some of the themes the display cases will showcase; pandemic theme - how the pandemic has impacted our students/community, Youth Ambassador Program, and Achievements in School Sports, & School History

## Mobile Agriculture Science Lab

BY APHRODITE GALITSIS

The Mobile Agriculture Education Science Lab is an annual event at Economy Elementary. Our students in Pre-K through fifth grade participate in hands-on science experiments. The lab is fully equipped with science manipulatives and an instructor. Each grade level participated in a different activity.



## Figurative Language Escape Room

BY CASEY NEEL

Mrs. **Casey Neel's** Reading 9-10 class solved a Figurative Language Escape Room while preparing for the Keystone Literature Exam. Each group did a fantastic job communicating and working together. Great job students as well as Mrs. **Phillips** and Miss **Raccipio**.





# High School Student Recognition

BY MIA GANTZ



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

### September

12th- Elliott Powell  
11th- Micah Kwolek  
10th- Heidi Setzenfand  
9th- Saellyah Paolino

### October

12th- Tyler Holman  
11th- Emilie Clouse  
10th- Emily Gray  
9th- Maddy Palmer

### November

12th- Abbee Clear  
11th- Zappula Lewis  
10th- Alora Edwards  
9th- Kailyn Turko

### December

12th- Jenna Bechtold  
11th- Brooklyn Colon  
10th- Preston Korol  
9th- Anewdys Rivera Rivera

### January

12th- Haley Faltenovich  
11th- Alex Acierto  
10th- Mason Lewis  
9th- Cody Roper

### February

12th- Leah Fritsch  
11th- Will Gruca  
10th- Zoe Elias  
9th- Sheridan Olenic

### March

12th- Jaina Ilko  
11th- Ivan You  
10th- Natajha Alexander  
9th- Savanna Jones

### April

12th- Brandon Streb  
11th- Norah Best  
10th- Ava Timmons  
9th- Madeleine Gelinis

## EXTRA EFFORT

### September

12th- Thomas Stowers  
11th- Leila Ruckert  
10th- Zach Bucka  
9th- Amiracle Emerson-Harmon

### October

12th- Alexis Hitchens  
11th- Christian Earle  
10th- Joseph Janicki  
9th- Kaitlyn Desrochers

### November

12th- None submitted  
11th- Alyssa Kress  
10th- Josh Horvath  
9th- Savanna Jones

### December

12th- Taraea Macon  
11th- Jaida Kinter  
10th- Aivah Wright  
9th- Angelina Betters

### January

12th- Dolores Ruiz Quinteros  
11th- Julia Bennett  
11th- Evan Scheib  
10th- Kenoray Ronczka

### February

12th- Morgan McKay  
11th- Kemagne Phillips  
10th- Trinity Stubbs  
9th- Lillian Ruckert

### March

12th- Akiyah Hines  
11th- Amanda Palmer  
10th- Kylie Bedillion  
9th- Anthony Seymour

### April

12th- Christian Davis  
11th- Elise Propst  
10th- Pietro Pucci  
9th- Anthony Speicher



## MathCounts Competition

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON AND GLENN FREED

On Thursday, February 17th, eleven students from Ambridge Area Middle School participated in the Beaver County MathCounts Competition held online through the Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) website. The Beaver County chapter is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. Coached by teachers **Glenn Freed** and **Ashley Simpson**, the competing students were **Alison Bittner**, **Eden DeMuth**, **Parker Eisel**, **Noah Fabrizio**, **Owen Hammond**, **JR Koster**, **Colin Meadows**, **Janna Rusnak**, **Cooper Scheidemantle**, **Abby Smith**, and **Hannah Thear**.

The competition featured 43 students from schools across Beaver County. Students independently competed in the Sprint round of 30 no calculator questions within 40 minutes and the Target round of four sets of 2 calculator questions within 6 minutes for each set. Then Janna Rusnak, Hannah Thear, JR Koster, and Parker Eisel worked together on the Team round of 10 questions. The final individual results had four Ambridge students in the top 10 in the county level. Alison Bittner ranked 5th overall, JR Koster ranked 6th, Janna Rusnak ranked 8th, and Hannah Thear ranked 10th. Only the top 4 ranked students from this county competition are invited to the state competition. Congratulations to all who competed and thank you to the students and families for their hard work!



## AAHS Annual Talent Show

BY MARIAN PUET

On Friday April 22nd, the GSA and Stage Crew clubs sponsored Ambridge High School's annual Talent Show, an event not held at the High School in many years. Though the cast and crew were small, their performances were mighty.

Audience members were treated to vocal performances by **Olivia Deluigi**, and a duet by **Kira Burd** and **Kailyn Turko**. **Amiracle Emerson-Harmon** shared her literary prowess by composing and performing an original slam poetry piece entitled "Worldwide". Show-goers were also treated to a kaleidoscopic guest performance by Ambridge's varsity Color Guard Squad, comprised of members **Kylie Bedillion**, **Madison Holcomb**, **Alyssa Kress**, **Natajha Alexander** and **Taryn Mahmoud**. Freshman pianist **John Chalupiak** serenaded the crowd to an adagio concerto, while Ambridge's own JAZZ Band closed the show with a set consisting of classic 60's Beatles rock, and everyone's favorite Peanut's classic "Linus and Lucy".



A special shout-out goes to our illustrious Stage Crew members **Shani Harmon**, **Chloe Palmer** and **Devin Payne** who planned, blocked and executed the show all in one day! GSA and Stage Crew would also like to extend a special thank you to everyone who turned out in support of our show. It means the world to us and got us off on the right foot to build the Talent Show up even bigger and better for the next school year.

## Beautiful Collaborative Art Mural at Economy

BY JAMIE SEIFERT

All Economy artists collaborated to create a mega mural inspired by the contemporary artist Jen Stark. Students learned about the California artist and the many mediums she uses to create her sculptures, murals, animations, and paintings. All grades learned about color theory and each student created their own drip art masterpiece. Each grade level worked with various mediums to create a unique but cohesive drip mural. Kindergarten used colored pencil. First and second grade used "magic" paint crayons that transformed into watercolor. Third and fourth grade used tempera paint. Finally, fifth grade used liquid watercolor resulting in a colorful collaborative art installation.



Jen Stark Drip Mural





# Ambridge Alumni Spotlight: Dana Donati

BY MATT ZATCHEY

Since graduating from Ambridge in 1999, Dana Donati (Mazzotta) has made her passion for the airways a tool for those that have followed in her footsteps. Her career track has recently led her to be announced as the CEO of the new United Aviate Academy. This is United Airline's new flight school based out of Phoenix Goodyear Airport in Arizona. UAA is the only flight school owned by a major U.S. airline. This decade alone, the school is expecting nearly 5,000 students to walk through the doors on a path to become commercial pilots, 50% of whom will be women or students of color. While Donati started her position at UAA mid-2021, the school formally made its grand opening in late January 2022.

Donati realized her passion for flight while traveling on a National Guard "hops" flight to Germany when she was 15 years old. Dana's father, a now retired Major in the U.S. Army, and her family, were afforded opportunities to take military flights to various places from time to time. On this flight to Germany, she was invited to sit on the flight deck with the crew. Because the crew was accommodating to Dana, they sparked her love for flying and started her eventual career track.

After graduation, Dana attended CCBC's aviation program from 1999-2001 and continued to Robert Morris University to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management in 2003. She started her flight career as an instructor at the Beaver County airport and soon after as a first officer for Piedmont Airlines for two years. Dana then transitioned to Republic Airlines where she spent the next 11 years serving as a Captain and Assistant Chief Pilot. Dana left Republic to return to CCBC to serve as the Dean of the School of Aviation in 2016 and 2017. She then moved to Indianapolis with her family to start a flight school for Republic Airlines, Leadership In Flight Training Academy. During her time at LIFT, she also earned her MBAA in Aviation with a leadership concentration at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Donati served in several roles at LIFT before leaving for the UAA in Phoenix in 2021.

Donati has many achievements while leading schools and teaching future pilots. Donati was the first woman Assistant Chief Pilot at Republic Airlines. She was the first woman to be Dean of Aviation at CCBC, and under Federal Transportation Secretary Elaine Cho (2017-21), she sat on the Women in Aviation Advisory Board. Dana is proud to be the first female of many things in aviation, but she takes pride knowing



## Dana Donati Class of 1999

she won't be the last. She wants young girls that want to get into aviation to know that it is possible and achievable with hard work. Dana doesn't want girls to get talked out of their interest just because it is a male dominated profession. She wants young girls to know that hard work will bring achievements. When Donati reflects on her time at Ambridge, she credits teachers and curriculum for showing her a successful work ethic. In her words, she may not have been a straight A student, but she was determined to make something of herself and her future. She credits her teacher and tennis coach, Mr. Sangermano, for not only being a motivator, but also gentle in his approach to help her apply herself in everything she did. Miss Martell was another influential teacher who showed her how to excel. Dana joined several clubs on Martell's direction and says it helped round out her experiences at AAHS. As Donati works to make UAA successful, she resides in Phoenix with her husband of 19 years, Chris, and her two sons, Franco and Luca. She has not forgotten her roots in Ambridge. She is currently working with other Ambridge alumni that also became pilots to create a scholarship for students interested in aviation. She hopes this can be offered in the near future.

AASD is proud to announce that Dana will be inducted into the Hall of Honor. We will welcome her and her family at graduation for the induction.



## Exciting Events at Economy

BY APHRODITE GALITSIS

The annual Princess Ball at Economy invites girls in Pre-K through third grade and their fathers for a memorable and fun-filled evening of enjoyment. The girls meet our grown-up Princesses from our school community to dance, enjoy cookies and princess punch, and to have a princess photo taken with their fathers.



Each month at Economy, a Student-of-the-Month is selected that meets the criteria of helpfulness, kindness, and good citizenship. The winners from February, March, April and May pictured above.



Economy students receive monthly rewards for displaying good student behavior that aligns with our School-Wide Positive Behavior Program. Our program is entitled "STAR" which represents:

Safe  
Trustworthy  
Accountable  
Respectful

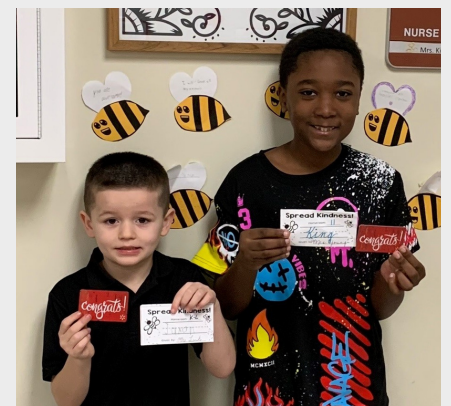


## Choose Kindness Grant

Economy celebrated "Kindness Day" by wearing T-shirts with the logo "Kind Kids". Students in grades Pre-K through fifth grade demonstrated acts of "Kindness" throughout the school year. The program was funded by the Choose Kindness Foundation. All of our students received a T-shirt.



The State Street Elementary Kindness winners in March and April pictured below







# Celebrating Dr. Seuss Across The Elementary Schools

BY KIM ROPPA & DANA BURNS

On March 11th, **Dr. Joseph Pasquerilla** made a stop at State Street Elementary to read "Oh, The Places You'll Go" to the fifth grade students. Dr. Pasquerilla gave the kids words of wisdom about making good choices and their ability to move mountains.

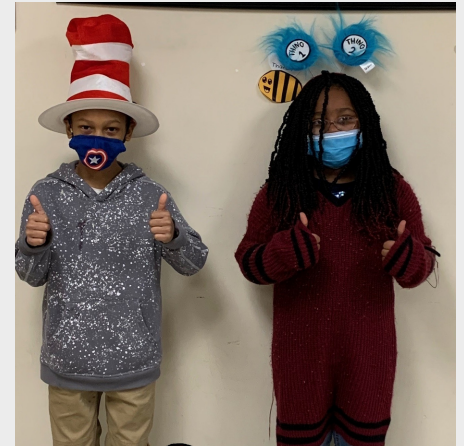
State Street also featured their Seuss costume contest winners, Cat in the Hat Lollipop helpers, and Seuss Trivia Contest Winners



First grade at Highland had fun enjoying Dr. Seuss literacy and math activities. They read the story, "Hop on Pop." The children popped balloons to find letters inside. They worked in groups to build, read, and write words. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a fun snack!



Economy celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss by planning classroom activities and reading popular books written by Dr. Seuss to their students.







## MJROTC Field Trip at CMU

BY JEFFERY TISAK

On April 29th, The Ambridge Area JROTC Cadets had the opportunity to experience a collegiate level ROTC program hosted by the Cadre and Midshipmen at CMU. The field trip included physical fitness, drills, and professional development in the classroom where academics are paramount, and panel discussion.



## Special Olympics at Geneva

BY PATTY WEALE

Thirty-four students from the Ambridge Area School District attended the Special Olympics at Geneva College on Friday, April 22nd. A total of 14 students from Economy Elementary, Ambridge Middle School and Ambridge High School competed in running, throwing, and jumping events. Student buddies from middle school and high school, as well as teachers, came to support and cheer on our athletes. All athletes enjoyed representing our school district by showing off their skills and earning medals for their efforts. We are so proud of all of them.

## Food Service Director Announces Retirement

BY JANET GAFFNEY



**Janet Gaffney**, AASD's Food Service Director has announced her retirement from the district, effective June 30, 2022. Mrs. Gaffney has served the district for the past 29 years. She has really enjoyed working for the AASD all these years. Janet is a 1977 graduate of Ambridge Area School District. In fact, both her parents and her brother are also Ambridge graduates!

While serving as Food Service Director, Janet earned her Master's Degree in Strategic Leadership from Mountain State University's branch campus in Monaca. Earning this degree was one of the best decisions she's made, allowing her to better serve in her leadership role as food service director. Choosing the field of Nutrition and Dietetics was the right path for Mrs. Gaffney, who loves to cook and values the benefits of healthy eating!

Mrs. Gaffney, who resides in Economy Borough with her family, would like everyone to know she is proud to be a Bridger and to have served the students and community of the Ambridge Area School District over all these years!





## GFWC Women's Club Art and Literature Winners

BY JAMIE ORTH AND KIM ROPPA

Ambridge Area HS art students participated in both the Fine Art and Photography categories of the General Federation Of Women's Clubs (GFWC) annual Jurored Art Show. Student art is judged and ranked at the Local Level with 1st place going onto Regional Level judging. The following student artists placed at the local level:

Fine Art: **Kenoray Ronczka** 3rd place, **Emma Diakiwsky** 2nd place, **Danielle Carpenter** 1st place. Photography: **Paris DeLuigi** 1st place. First place at the regional level wins a cash prize and goes on to State Level competition to be judged. Danielle and Paris are currently being judged at the State Level. Please wish them the best of luck!

## Merrick Art Gallery Senior Art Competition

BY JAMIE ORTH

AAHS had three student artists who displayed work in the Senior Art Competition at the Merrick Gallery. Please congratulate **Danielle Carpenter, Emma Diakiwsky, and Paris DeLuigi** when you see them, their work was hung alongside professional artists March 27th - April 9th. Danielle received an honorable mention award for her piece "Three in the Sea" and sold her painting entitled "Scratch and Drip". Congratulations to all three participants.



Local Art Division Winners for the GFWC Women's Club of Baden:

- **Caramia Cravotto**
- **Alice Smedley**
- **Milayna Potts**
- **Abigail Dobich**
- **Holly Bell**
- **Mason Blazier**
- **Mila Berry**

Mila and Milayna advanced to the District Level



Local Literature Winners for Grades 3-5 for the GFWC Women's Club of Baden:

- **Zackary Bayer**
- **Deanna Trautman**
- **Ella Stimmel**
- **Caden Caler**
- **Jaycenn Davis-Arnold**
- **Leighahna Kachinski**

Ella advanced to the State Level



Student Winners at the State Level GFWC Competition

**Mila Berry**

1st place in her division and the winner of a \$25 gift certificate

**Ella Stimmel**

Honorable Mention for her division



## 3D Printing Becomes Real With BCET and LLS Grant

BY KRISTIN HOLMES

A fantastic grant from the Beaver County Educational Trust and Lincoln Learning Solutions provided a 3d printing experience for the elementary kids at Economy. STEAM classes, led by Mrs. **Kristin Holmes**, made their drawings tangible and real by simply clicking “print.” The 3D printer was purchased with grant monies allowing the kids an opportunity they have never had. The Toybox, a kid-friendly, mini 3D printer, and plastic in the colors of the rainbow allowed their drawings to be printed in a few minutes. “It’s small, but it is really good,” says Doug Mitchell a fifth grader.

The grant was originally targeting the fourth and fifth grade students to explore 3D modeling and design prototyping, but the younger ones quickly found it intriguing and were eager to try it also. All grades were able to draw something or write their name in cursive for a quick 3D printed memento. The older students used TinkerCadd, a free 3D modeling software, to design more detailed and useful things—like a Mother’s day charm, miniature coffee cup or a finger skateboard!

3D printing technology is neat and makes learning active and tangible. It has been around since 1980’s, but is now truly becoming part of our tech world. The melted plastic is thinly laid down in layers as the build is created over multiple passes, making it taller and taller. Recently, a house in Virginia was 3d printed. What would you make? This challenge for this year’s students was a bubble wand. Yes—a simple bubble wand in any shape or size, but can it blow a bubble? Some kids chuckled at first, but even a loop in a name can collect enough bubble juice to make a bubble. This was a wonderful engineering design process activity! Bubbles make smiles and there were lots of smiles!

“The Toybox printer proved to be dependable and easy to use! I love that the kids are eager and excited to make something that is their own. I look forward to next year’s creations and thank the BCET and LLS for supporting this program,” says Holmes.

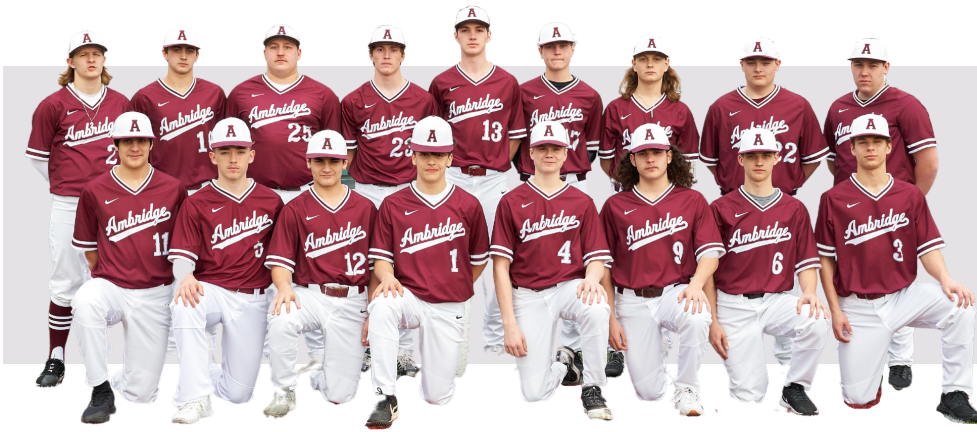
## English Learners Receive Time Capsule Letters

BY KIM SPRINGER

Hindsight is 20/20. Or in this case, 2021. English as a Second Language students (ELs) received letters from themselves “in the mail.” Composed in the spring of 2021, students’ letters reflected their sentiments toward a unique school year, citing the pros and cons of learning from home. Several wrote of their aspirations to learn English to “help their families” and perform well in school. Guided by devoted teachers, ELs accomplished many of their goals this year. While reflecting on this school year, ELs shared their appreciation for in-class instruction and the opportunities it affords. Students said their grades were better, they were having more fun with their friends, and they enjoyed assemblies and field trips. Foresight is 22/23.







## Bridger Spring Sports Update

BY VARSITY COACHES

**BASEBALL:** The varsity baseball team continues to battle their way through a crazy season of weather and have worked hard year round to achieve their success on the field. A few of the top performers this season are **Caison Holland**, **Nate Thomas**, and **Cole Grable**, all three have helped lead the Bridgers offense. **Blake Gibson** continues to lead the team on the mound pitching the most innings on the team.

The implementation and development of the junior varsity team has been important in the development of baseball program. The team has grown as a group while finding success on the field. Top junior varsity performers include **Teagan Baker** and **Liam Baker**, who lead the team offensively. **Nick Thomas** and **AJ Gerace** have been strong on the mound while gaining valuable experience.



**SOFTBALL:** The varsity softball team was led by **Anita Szymoniak** with a .552 batting average. She led the team in the following categories, RBI's, runs scored, hits, home runs, walks, least number of strikeouts and the highest on base percentage. She was followed by **Mackenzie Keber** with a .480 batting average. She had 12 hits with 3 doubles, and a triple. **Alivia Bupp's** .333 batting average was followed by **Kaetlin Calyo** hitting .280 and **Autumn Mellor** at .240. **Macy Smith** had a .435 on base percentage while **Sami Astorino** was at .357. Poor weather, injuries and lack of depth slowed the progress of this team. The team will need to improve on their overall team defense and pitching for the 2022-2023.

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL:** The high school boys' volleyball team is on track for a WPIAL playoff appearance for the 21st year in a row. The team is led by seniors **Josh Hovan**, **Nate Norton**, **Austin Merlina**, and **Brett Mueller**. Austin and Josh have been chosen on separate occasions as Player of the Week by the Western PA Volleyball Coaches Association. The coaches also have the team ranked 5th in the WPIAL. Playoffs begin on May 17th. Good Luck, Bridgers!



**BOYS TENNIS:** The boys varsity tennis team was rebuilding this season after a departure of several seniors and only two returning starters. By the end of the season, all of the players had improved immensely as well as beginning to win matches. The team is in off season right now and not only working on their skills, but actively recruiting players for next season.



## Baked Apple Pie in F&CS

BY COLLEEN D'ANGELO

The staff and students at Ambridge Area High School all got to smell some delicious scents through the halls near the Family and Consumer Science room last month. Mrs. **Colleen D'Angelo's** F&CS classes made baked apple pie. The students received the recipe and made the crust on the first day. On the second day, the students peeled and sliced the apples, added the sugar and spice, and rolled out the dough. As the saying goes, it was easy as pie.



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