Students Compete in Skills USA

On February 2, Skills USA hosted the Regional Leadership Competitions in Middletown CT. President Elisabeth Lundequist competed for Job Interview, along with 2021 Gold Medalist Jocelyn Cheever. For Job Interview, the contestants created a resume, filled out an application, and sat down for an interview. Secretary Alison Sandoval competed for Job Demonstration A. Job Demo A involves teaching a skill from a trade using a slide show or video presentation. All contestants are excited to receive their results and are looking forward to the next competition. Please contact Ms. Johnson, the Skills Advisor, if you scored well on your Skills exam and would like to represent your trade in competition.

Computer Smarts

Congratulations to IT Student, Joseph Spinelli, on achieving 5 Microsoft Technology Associate Certifications so far this year. The Certifications are:

- Introduction to Programming Using JavaScript
- Introduction to Programming Using Java
- Introduction to Programming Using Python
- Introduction to Programming Using HTML & CSS
- Security Fundamentals

We are very proud of Joey's passion for Technology and encourage all his successes along the way. Way to go, Joey!
Celebrating Black History Month
Student Council is celebrating Black History Month in many ways. During lunch waves students sold orders for "Be the Dream" t-shirts. Students and staff purchased the t-shirts to wear at the end of the month to show support for Black History month. The sophomore and junior dress down day will be February 25th and the freshmen and senior dress down day will be February 28th. All that purchased a shirt are very excited to be involved in such an important cause and cannot wait to see the finished shirts!

Student council members also have been working on weekly writeups to spotlight important leaders in the Black community. Announcements will be read weekly as well as posted out to the students, staff, and parents. Lastly, freshmen student council students worked on a bulletin board to also spotlight some of these leaders. They did a wonderful job!

Students Showcase Black History Month
To celebrate Black History Month, the sophomore hairdressing class researched different topics related to the "History of Black Hairstyling". Please take a minute to stop by the showcase and read the information to learn about "Madame C.J. Walder", "The History of Corn Row Braiding", "The CROWN ACT" law, and "Hairstyles Through the Decades". To learn more about the amazing Madame C.J. Waler, watch the Netflix documentary "Self Made".

Students of the Month
Congratulations to our January Students of the Month! The Student of the Month Award is presented to students demonstrating scholarship, good attendance, citizenship and high levels of responsibility. Recipients set the level of expectation for all of our students.
Girls Basketball Team Hustle to Win

The girl's basketball team is having a very successful season. They currently have **12 wins and 7 losses** and have qualified for state tournament play. The varsity stars for the team are **Tessa Davis, Stephanie Tamburrino, Gianni Gomez, Navoni Harris, Marley Orosz, Amaya DeVillegas, Lizzy Jimenez** and **Tori Casey**. The girls picked up a big win last week by defeating and upsetting Bullard Haven Tech by a score of 48-39. Junior Tessa Davis scored 22 points, pulled down 13 rebounds and had 5 blocked shots. Sophomore Stephanie Tamburrino had 16 points and 4 assists and sophomore Navoni Harris had 5 points and 8 rebounds. Junior Gianni Gomez played lockdown defense and was the sparkplug for the offense. Freshman Marley Orosz had 8 rebounds and 6 assists. Marley's court vision and unselfish play was a big factor in picking up the win. Senior Lizzie Jimenez and Amaya DeVillegas provided senior leadership on the court with great hustle and teamwork and Junior Tori Casey provided the team with hustle and defense. As the girl's season winds down, they will be fighting for a top eight spot in the league in hopes of making the league playoffs which star February 21st.

Creating a Safe and Supportive Learning Environment for all Stakeholders

As Educators let's keep in mind that conversations about understanding and respect should not be limited to a commemorative event, or other special programs, holidays or activities but instead, should be a part of everyday business in the classroom.

Creating an environment in which all students feel recognized and valued encourages learners to reflect on their beliefs, thoughts and actions. Research has shown that bias is countered when educational environments foster critical thinking, empathy development and positive self-esteem in students.

Creating inclusive, respectful classrooms is an ongoing effort, and working for social justice is a life-long endeavor that we all share a responsibility in providing and supporting.
National School Counseling Appreciation Week 2022 - February 7 - February 12

This week we celebrated School Counseling Week. We not only recognize but also applaud our School Counselors for their commitment in assisting and providing daily support and guidance to our students. Their unique contributions has a tremendous impact in helping students achieve school success, develop social/inter-personal skills and plan for a career or college.

The 2022 theme for this year is "School Counseling: Better Together". This week through morning announcements we emphasized the importance of teamwork/collaboration, compromise, learning to rely on each other and embracing our differences. These skills should be in practice every day. Remember to always spread kindness and show empathy. Together, we really are better!

FAREWELL

Mr. Swanson and Mr. Tranter

The Emmett O'Brien staff and students would like to say good-bye and best of luck to Mr. Swanson and Mr. Tranter. Mr. Swanson, our Plumbing Department Head, transferred to Platt Tech. As a member of our EOB family for 9 years, he was the class advisor of 2020, an assistant soccer coach for 5 years and the 2017 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Tranter, our Main Office Security Guard, has left the building for a State Capital Security Officer admittance position. His consistently professional and friendly manner in dealing with students, parents,

Upcoming Events

February 11
Holiday - No School
Lincoln's Birthday

February 14
Valentines Day

February 16
Professional Development
Early Dismissal - Students

February 21
Holiday - No School
Washington's Birthday

All the best!