

Gifted & Talented

ENRICHMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Laura Dwyer



Gifted & Talented /Enrichment Teacher

[G&T WEBSITE](#)

PRESENTATION

NOVEMBER - The Maine Holocaust and Human Rights Center will present *Decision Making in Times of Injustice*. This program is geared for grades 7 - 12 . The program will give students an awareness of the enormity of the crimes committed during the Nazi Holocaust and provide students with an awareness of their impact on future generations. Background information will aid students in reflecting and understanding the fact that thousands of ordinary people participated in perpetrating these crimes, while thousands more stood by as *quiet witnesses*.

Date: November 26th

Time: 12:15 - 1:45



GEOGRAPHY BEE

JANUARY - The Stearns Jr/Sr High School will participate in the National Geography Bee this year! Grades 6 - 8 will showcase their geography talents in Classroom Bees, and two winners from each grade will move to the school Bee in January!

Date: January 11th

Time: 12:15 - 1:15

Location:

Auditorium

Mapmaker Interactive

GeoBee Study Corner



SPELLING BEE

JANUARY - The Stearns Jr/Sr High School will participate in the Scripts Spelling Bee this year! Grades 6 - 8 will showcase their spelling talents in Classroom Bees, and two winners from each grade will move to the school Bee in January!

Date: January 17th

Time: 12:15 - 1:15

Location: Auditorium

Spelling Bee Website



KEY DATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2019: THROUGH THEIR EYES PRESENTATION

JANUARY 11, 2020: SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE

JANUARY 17, 2020: SCHOOL SPELLING BEE



JANUARY 18, 2020: FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

MARCH 21, 2020: DESTINATION IMAGINATION STATE COMPETITION

MAY 2, 2020: NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HS MOCK TRIAL

NOVEMBER - On November 16th the Mock Trial team headed to their first competition. The ride was as silent as a Christmas snowfall. The team nestled in their seats studied and prepared to face the rival John Bapst team at the Penobscot County Judicial Center. The case the State of Maine v. Jordan Spencer was a criminal case. The alleged charges against Mr. Spencer were AGGRAVATED CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AND ASSAULT. The trial was intense, and our legal team wowed the judges with their expertise and courtroom confidence. Our witnesses were genuine and stole the show — the sharp skills of our official timekeeper made a significant contribution to the team's success.



MOCK TRIAL TEAM

Avery Farrington

Zoe Beth Parent

Isaac Hakes

Grace Murray

Emily Murphy

Rebecca-Lynn Tash

Tristi Stanley

Gabe Benson

Winter Buzby

Abby Sanders

JOURNEY NORTH GARDENS



SEPTEMBER - The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th-grade classes all participated in the Journey North Tulip Project this September! Two hundred bulbs were planted in all! Stearns sixth graders planted 100 bulbs in a beautiful plot expertly dug and cultivated by Mr. McInnis, and Granite 1, 2, and 3rd graders planted another 100 bulbs in front of the school in the existing flower bed. The students examined cross-sections of tulips bulbs, diagrammed, learned the parts of the tulip, and created 3-D models as part of the project. Along with 20 other schools across the country, they will track the signs of spring by inputting data on the Journey North website when their tulips emerge.

MINUTEMAN NEWS - HS NEWSPAPER!

DECEMBER - The Minuteman News will release the first edition after Thanksgiving break. The Minuteman News will be delivered directly to your email. Hard copies will be available in the library. Try to guess this month's mystery teacher? Keep current on events and much more awaits you in

the Minuteman News!

Minuteman News Staff

Isaac Hakes

Beth Parent

Pedro López

Amber Rose Parent

Samuel Xu Zoe Zoe

Mckenzie Hafford

Afra Lu

DYSLEXIA

NOVEMBER - Did you know that dyslexia has its own set of gifts. These include greater development of intuition, the ability to perceive multi-dimensionally, vivid imagination, greater curiosity, insightfulness, the ability to experience thought as reality, heightened awareness of the environment, the ability to think in pictures, and, most important, the ability to alter and create perceptions. These are vital gifts that are becoming more and more sought after in the professional world (Davis & Braun, 2010). The person with dyslexia of today could be and might be the genius of tomorrow. The future of today's students is dependent on their ability to see the big picture, to predict trends, to read customers, to think outside the box, to see patterns, to inspire collaboration among peers, to empathize, to synthesize information from a variety of sources, and to perceive possibilities from different perspectives. These are the natural talents of people with dyslexia (Davis & Braun, 2010).



FUTURE CITY ENGINEERING



2019 Competition

JANUARY - Future City starts with a question—how can we make the world a better place? To answer it, 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future that showcase their solution to a citywide sustainability issue. Past topics include stormwater management, urban agriculture, public spaces, and green energy. **The 2019-2020 theme is *Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow*.** Teams will choose a threat to their city's water supply and design a resilient system to maintain a reliable supply of clean drinking water. The middle school team is currently made up of seven sixth graders, one-seventh grader, and one eighth-grader. Three members of the team will present the team to a panel of judges on January 18th in Boston at WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

HS DESTINATION IMAGINATION



Improv Challenge from 2018 competition!

MARCH - Stearns Jr/Sr High School will proudly represent the school at the state competition on March 24, 2020! The team consists of seven enthusiastic, high school, and middle school creative geniuses that will impress the judges with their presentation skills. The challenge they have chosen is called **TECHNICAL** and will involve all the diverse skills of the team members!

DESIGN LAB

DECEMBER - STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math are what the Design Lab is all about! Participants will use their creativity to design and create an art piece (sculpture, painting, etc.), Exhibit Board, Documentary, Individual or Group Website, Individual or Group Performance that takes a historical event and brings it life. Perhaps a group would like to recreate the Berlin Wall, create a website about Rosa Park's courageous bus ride, re-create the Battle of the Bulge, or film a documentary on the rise and fall of the Millinocket Paper Mill! At the end of this exciting program, participants will be invited to showcase their project/performance at the Academy Awards Banquet on March 27th and enter the National History contest on March 28, 2020. Parent, friends, family, and community members are all invited to this gala event!



Holocaust Documentary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brQpnBb6_RA

NEW YORK TAKES A STAND ON GIFTED

Expand Gifted and Talented Education: A Proposal to Scrap It Would Take City Schoolchildren in Exactly the Wrong Directi ..

New York Daily News

NOVEMBER - New York takes a stand on Gifted education that will create a domino effect to other states. Problems require solutions, and complex problems require sophisticated solutions. Consider Mayor de Blasio's approach to struggling schools. Unlike his predecessor Mike Bloomberg, de Blasio hasn't closed struggling schools in masses. Across the city, he has invested in wraparound social services for children and families.

In historically underserved neighborhoods in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, the mayor and Chancellor Richard Carranza worked with the UFT to develop what is known as "the Bronx Plan," an investment in education designed to attract and retain staff with pay incentives and to provide schools access to more funds and supports to meet their students' needs.

That's the kind of approach the city should take to reforming gifted and talented programs. This fall, the School Diversity Advisory Group, which the mayor formed in 2017, recommended eliminating gifted and talented programs entirely. It's a terribly misguided approach; while reform is needed, we need to **expand and not contract, much less eliminate, specialized programs for high-achieving youngsters.** READ MORE

HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

DECEMBER - As a team event, students who compete in Public Forum need to be able to work well with a partner. Balanced teams, both in terms of preparation before debates and contributions within a debate, help provide a competitive advantage during tournaments. Public Forum is the newest form of debate in the Association and topics. Students Public Forum debate in front formal debate persuade a central looks at current event who participate in must be prepared to of judges without any training. Being able to range of judges is a component to this event. Additionally, Public Forum is focused upon debating varying resolutions that change frequently, which exposes students to a variety of topics during a singular competitive season.

