



# News & Notes

following the Board of Education Meeting of March 7, 2023



The Board of Education toured A.J. Schmidt Elementary School prior to its work session on Tuesday night. The school's gym was the site a few days earlier when AJS students had their first-ever 3-on-3 March Madness Basketball Tournament, in preparation for the first All-District 5th Grade 3-on-3 Tournament being held last night at the High School. In this Hooping for Literacy event, organized by Michele Amoia-Hornberger and Evan Koehler, each school gets \$50 from LSCTA for sports books for their school libraries, and each student athlete gets a goody bag funded by Dress Down Day donations.



**Participating from A.J. Schmidt are (pictured above):**

Ella Clendening, Cordelia Maybee, Lyla Nelson, Sidney Pitillo, David Haugh, Gianni Hawes, Charles Wasmund, Jayden Wilson.



## Elementary Kids Are Hooping for Literacy!

**Participating from Highland are:**

Karsyn Smith, Ava Smolinski, Alyana Hamrick, Sophia Reinhardt, Aiden Madison, Lucas Dusenbury, Dylan Govan, Landon Jablonski.

**Participating from J.T. Waugh are:**

Mila Fox, Jacelyn John, Arihanna Faraci, Iris Young  
Boys: Joseph Dentice, Jack Houston, Cooper Young, Brett Gates, Jax Jamieson.

## March 7, 2023: Board of Education Meeting

### Personnel Actions:

**Probationary Appointments of ...**

**Timothy Thexton**, Bus Attendant  
(effective 2/13/23).

**Mariah Ceppaglia**, Senior Clerk Typist  
(effective 3/6/23).

**Resignation of ... Victoria Thuman**, Personal  
Care Aide (effective 3/16/23).

**Mariah Ceppaglia** Personal Care Aide  
(effective 3/5/23).

### Want to Meet Fascinating Folks?

Be at Lake Shore on Saturday, March 13 when the High School hosts this year's Maker Faire. A Maker Faire is a sort of convention of do-it-yourself enthusiasts with a interests that can range from robotics to arts and crafts. The Faire gives makers visibility and a venue to show their work and talk to others about it—rather than leaving it tucked away at home.

This event is a collaboration of the Buffalo Science Center, Fredonia State University, Erie 1 and Erie 2 BOCES and the Makers Faire organization. High School Principal Katy Berner-Wallen is looking for committee volunteers—staff and students—please reach out to her if you would like to be part of this exciting event.

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## Introducing Vanessa Parker, Middle School JOM Teacher

Vanessa Parker grew up on the Cattaraugus Territory. She spent most of her life here and went on to SUNY Fredonia, for her bachelor’s degree in education, then on to Stony Brook, for her bachelor’s in journalism.

Since then, she’s done a lot of traveling and different things, including being a Johnson O’Malley (JOM) teacher at A.J. Schmidt in the late ‘90s, a reporter and editor for a community newspaper in Nassau County, and an assignment desk editor for a downstate cable TV station.

Since January, however, she has been back at Lake Shore, this time as a JOM teacher at William G. Houston Middle School, where she hopes to inspire students to “go out and do their own amazing things in the world.”

[READ MORE about Vanessa Parker ...](#)



Vanessa Parker, W.G. Houston Middle School JOM teacher

## Celebrating Our Master Teacher: Hannah Wawrowski



Hannah Wawrowski, NYS Master Teacher

William G. Houston Middle School math teacher Hannah Wawrowski has been named a New York State Master Teacher, making her a member of a professional network of public school teachers with a passion for inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders.

Master Teachers are exposed to and grapple with ideas central to their Science, Technology/Computer Science, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) discipline at advanced levels, beyond the level at which they teach, allowing them to enrich their own content learning and build connections across disciplines.

They are recognized for their commitment and dedication to growing their knowledge of content, pedagogy, and the students, families, and communities that they serve.

Selected applicants commit to a minimum number of professional development activities, as well as their district and state requirements, and agree to a four-year commitment.

“One of my foundational philosophies is we ask students to push themselves and go out of their comfort zone and I think we should model the same thing as their teachers,” says Mrs. Wawrowski.

[READ MORE about Hannah Wawrowski](#)

## Eye on Albany ...

Superintendent Dan Pacos, Board of Education Vice President Michael Franey and Board member Kathleen Chiavetta spent a day in Albany as part of annual advocacy efforts at the NYS School Boards Association annual Capital Conference.

Here, they are pictured in the Assembly Chambers with Assemblyman Bill Conrad, who introduced the successful bill to minimize state aid loss when a school district resident scores a lottery wind fall. Their efforts were recently featured in a [front page article in the Buffalo News](#).

