

District Newsletter

SIDNEY

www.sidneycsd.org

Central Schools



June 2014

Volume 17, Issue 2

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Kwok Hing Chen



Kwok Hing Chen, this year's Valedictorian, is a conscientious, diligent, and bright young man. Throughout high school, Kwok has taken several advanced and college-level courses. As well, he has been involved in Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering program of study offered

in affiliation with Rochester Institute of Technology. Both a leader in and out of the classroom, Kwok has participated in soccer, where this year, he was named senior captain, and in tennis, where he is also one of the captains. As well, he has been a member of the French Club.

In his sophomore year, Kwok was chosen Sidney High School's Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) ambassador and as a junior, he was one of the young men selected by the faculty to attend Boy's State. He has been recognized for his academic accomplishments by earning several awards including achievement awards, scholar athlete awards, the Bausch & Lomb Award, the RIT Computing Medal, the Rensselaer Medal, and the Clarkson Achievement Award.

In addition to his academic ability and strong work ethic, Kwok also has a wonderful personality. He is kind and concerned for his peers, always willing to help those around him. Kwok is a retrospective young man, filled with a great sense of humor. Willing to speak up, sometimes against the majority, he leads with humble confidence and sets an example of excellence for all who know him.

This fall, Kwok will be attending either Binghamton University or Columbia University where he plans to study Pre-Med. Kwok is the son of Bang Qi Chen and Man Wai Tung of Sidney.

Nicole Smith



Nicole Smith, this year's Salutatorian, is a bright, conscientious, and intuitive young lady. Throughout high school, Nicole has challenged herself with the most rigorous coursework, including taking several college level classes through Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY Broome and SUNY Delhi.

Nicole remains balanced, juggling academics with sports, clubs, employment, community service, church, family and friends. She has participated in Field Hockey, Basketball and Softball throughout high school. Nicole is Vice-President of the National Honor Society; she is Secretary of the Interact and Varsity Letter Clubs and is a Yearbook committee member. She has worked as a lifeguard and academic/sports counselor for our school. Nicole finds time to give back to her community through participation in the Relay for Life, volunteering countless hours for the Sacred Heart Church, American Red Cross, Flood Recovery, Rotary functions, and has been a youth coach. Balancing all of that, Nicole still maintains strong family ties, as they enjoy traveling, fishing and skiing together.

Nicole has demonstrated outstanding leadership, responsibility, and a clear sense of purpose. She loves to help others, she has a very caring demeanor, she works well with others, she pays careful attention to detail, and has good communication skills. She has consistently been a dedicated student, responsible young woman and genuine friend to her peers.

This fall, Nicole plans to attend Providence College, Rhode Island. She will major in Bio-Chemistry and her long term goal is to become a Pharmacist. Nicole is the daughter of Scott and Rose Smith of Sidney.

Superintendent's Message

This time of year is always bittersweet. We of course look to the end of the school year with excitement and tremendous anticipation to see student achievement results, but we are also saying goodbye to another senior class. For me this is the *freshman* class that I started with here at Sidney and the one that I got to know the most. I know I will miss seeing the friendly faces in the hallways. This class has accomplished so much and has risen to one challenge right after another. We wish them the best of luck and cannot wait to see what the future brings for them.

Congratulations Class of 2014.

William H. Christensen, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Child Find

Child Find is the process of locating, evaluating, and identifying students with special needs who are in need of special education services, from birth to 21 years old. According to federal special education law, IDEA 2004, this includes all students, including those who are homeless, wards of the State, home schooled or attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities.

If you have a child with a suspected disability, age birth to 3 years old, we encourage you to contact the Early Intervention Program at your County Health Department. For children ages 3-5 and school aged, you may contact the Committee on Special Education, at Sidney Central School. If you would like further information, please contact the CSE Office at Sidney Central School, at 607-561-7714.

- **Chenango County Public Health**
Department of Children with Special Needs
5 Court Street
Norwich, NY 13815
(607) 337-1566
- **Delaware County Public Health**
Department of Nursing Service
99 Main Street
Delhi, NY 13753
(607) 832-5300
- **Otsego County Public Health**
Division for Children with Special Needs
140 County Highway 33, W, Suite 3
Cooperstown, NY 13326
(607) 547-6494
- **Sidney Central School District**
CSE Office
13 Pearl Street East
Sidney, NY 13838
(607) 561-7714

Telephone Directory

Please note: You can still dial (607) 563-2135 and enter an extension number if you know your parties extension.

District

District Office Main Menu	561-7700
Registrar's Office	561-7728
Special Programs	561-7714
Athletic Department.....	561-7712
Curriculum	561-7728
Transportation	561-7710
Buildings and Grounds.....	561-7715
Food Services	561-7703, Option 5
Pool.....	561-7718

Elementary School (UPK-6)

Principal/Main Office.....	561-7701
Nurse's Office (Grades UPK-4)	561-7705
Nurse's Office (Grades 5/6)	561-7706
Guidance Office	561-7708

Junior High School (7-8)

Main Office	561-7702
Nurse's Office	561-7707
Guidance Office (Grades 7-12)	561-7709

High School (9-12)

Principal/Main Office.....	561-7703
Nurse's Office	561-7707
Guidance Office	561-7709

School Based Health Clinic

Elementary (Grades UPK-6)	561-7795
Junior/Senior High (Grades 7-12)	561-7796

SES Dismissal Procedures

In order to ensure the safety of students at dismissal time each day, all students are required to have a blue dismissal form on file. Please follow the rules below when making changes to your child's dismissal:

We will not accept notes or phone calls to change a child's bus and/or bus drop off location. Only changes to the dismissal form will be accepted. These changes will take five days to process.

We will accept changes to a child's daily routine but only for instances of parent pick up or if the child is to be a walker. Remember the child must bring a note to school in the morning signed by the parent stating they are being picked up or are to be dismissed as a walker.

In the event of an emergency school closing, a global connect call will be sent out. We will not make phone calls to determine a child's emergency dismissal. Please be sure the main office is kept up-to-date with any changes in home phone, work phone or cell phone numbers.

SES Kindergarten Registration

It is important that all District kindergarten entrants for the September 2014 school year register at this time. Parents must call Nancy Edwards, the SCSD registrar, at 561-7728 to set up an appointment to register their child. During registration parents will be asked to present their child's birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residency as well as fill out paperwork. They will also have an opportunity to sign their child up for a kindergarten screening.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before December 1, 2014. A child who turns six years old any time during the school year must attend school at the start of September the following year.

Wanted

Foster and Adoptive Parents

Have you ever wondered how you could help a child and family during a time of need? Becoming a foster parent may be the answer.

Contact the Otsego County Department of Social Services at (607) 547-4355

Doctors with a Heart

Saturday, September 13, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, the 19th annual Doctor's With A Heart Day will be held at several locations throughout the region. Those with urgent dental needs who have no money, job, means of welfare health care or health insurance are invited to visit one of the following for free dental care.

- Progressive Dental, 703 Conklin Rd., Conklin, NY, 607-722-5464
- Progressive Dental, 565 Hooper Rd., Endwell, NY, 607-754-2273
- Progressive Dental of Norwich, 101 S. Broad St., Norwich, NY, 607-334-8666
- Progressive Dental of Montrose, 57 Public Avenue, Montrose, PA, 570-278-1186
- Chenango Bridge Dental, 528 Main St., Chenango Bridge, NY, 607-648-4113
- Marusich & Conti Dental Office, 190 Main St., Johnson City, NY 607-797-1310

Any questions, please contact Mary Beth Pichura at 607-722-5464 or 607-754-2273.

4th Annual Sidney Central School District Summer Camps

The Sidney Central School District will be holding their 4th Annual Summer Camps. Camps will run from July 7th through August 8th and are open to all Sidney students as well as students from surrounding districts. Camps run Monday through Thursday with field trips being offered to some grade levels on Friday.

For more information regarding camp offerings and signing up, go to www.sidneysd.org and find the summer camp link, or go to our Facebook page.

HOBY Ambassadors Selected



Congratulations to **Xiu Shan Chen**, this year's Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) ambassador from Sidney High School and to **Nicole Rajner**, this year's alternate ambassador. HOBY is a leadership opportunity that was founded in 1958 by Hugh O'Brien, a retired actor. This organization's

mission is to inspire youth from around the world to pursue lives of leadership and service. Since its inception, over 375,000 students have participated in the HOBY Leadership Seminars with programs in all 50 states and 20 countries.

This year, through the continued generous support of the Kiwanis Club, both Xiu Shan and Nicole will be attending the conference. They will travel to RPI in Troy in June to participate in informative workshops and activities with other high school ambassadors.

Xiu Shan is the daughter of Mang Wai Tung and Bang Qi Chen of Sidney. Nicole is the daughter of Edmund and Theresa Rajner of Sidney.

CONGRATULATIONS XIU AND NICOLE!

National Honor Society Induction

On Wednesday evening, April 9, the Lydia C. Metz Sidney Chapter of the National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony of eligible junior and senior students. In a combined ceremony, the Tri-M Music Honor Society also held its annual induction of eligible members. The program included introduction of all new members, a candle lighting ceremony, and recognition by Mr. Eben M. Bullock, Sidney High School Principal, of the outstanding accomplishments of these fine young men and women. The speaker for the evening's program was Mrs. Rosemary Fisher, an alumnus of Sidney High School. A reception was held following the ceremony. Mrs. Marge Johnson is the advisor for the National Honor Society and Mr. Nathaniel Sodeur is the advisor for Tri-M.

Junior Inductees into the Lydia C. Metz Sidney Chapter of the National Honor Society



Front Row (l.-r.): **James Martin**, son of Crystal Littell; **Zheng Pan**, son of Zi Fu and Ai Ming Pan; **Seth Arnold**, son of Brian and Lauri Arnold; and **Tyler Boice**, son of Ted and Lisa Boice; 2nd Row: **Hope VanBuren**, daughter of William and Julie Van Buren; **Kala Lomnicki**, daughter of Richard Lomnicki; **Samantha Bordeau**, daughter of James and Brenda Bordeau; **Katlyn DeShaw**, daughter of Timothy and Kelly DeShaw; **Emma Egli**, daughter of Denis and Sandra Egli; **Kyle McMillan**, son of Gavin and Theresa McMillan; **Jacklyn Gannon**, daughter of Joseph and Lori Gannon; and **Rachel Gibbs**, daughter of Thomas and Paula Gibbs; 3rd Row: **Rachel Maxwell**, daughter of Ron and Rita Maxwell; **Ashley Smith**, daughter of Charles and Alisa Smith; **Brandon Bessett**, son of Jason and Robin Bessett; **Thomas Hoskins**, son of Thomas and Susann Hoskins; **Tanner Schunk**, son of Timothy and Tammy Schunk; **Leonard Larson III**, son of Leonard Larson and Barbara Lent; **Nicholas Meno**, son of James and Regina Meno; and **Katelynn Kirk**, daughter of Jeffrey and Stacey Jones. Not pictured, Senior Inductee: **Raleigh Genung**, daughter of Jody Genung and Scott Genung.

Current Members of the Lydia C. Metz Sidney Chapter of the National Honor Society



Front Row (l.-r.): **Sarah Kokell**, daughter of Julia Althiser and James Kokell; **Chun Pan**, daughter of Zi Fu and Ai Ming Pan; **Mekayla Wakeman**, daughter of Jeffrey and Melinda Wakeman; and **Hannah Wood**, daughter of Josette Woodyshek and Jared Wood; 2nd Row: **Bethany Karl**, daughter of James and Sarah Karl; **Taylor Krom**, daughter of Wayne and Nicole Krom; **Kwok Chen**, son of Bang Qi Chen and Man Wai Tung; **Jonathon Gorshack**, son of Jan and Gina Gorshack; **Nicole Smith**, daughter of Scott and Rose Smith; **Robert Bidwell**, son of Herbert and Maureen Bidwell; and **Kelsey Decker**, daughter of William and Robin Decker.

Members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society



Front Row (l.-r.): **Sarah Kokell**, daughter of Julia Althiser and James Kokell; **Rosalind Gatto**, daughter of Monica Gatto and David Gatto; **Madisynn Cutting**, daughter of Tim and Connie Cutting; **Hannah Wood**, daughter of Josette Woodyshek and Jared Wood; and new inductee, **Seth Arnold**, son of Brian and Lauri Arnold; 2nd Row: **Hope Van Buren**, daughter of William and Julie Van Buren; new inductee, **Rachel Maxwell**, daughter of Ron and Rita Maxwell; **Trevor Northrop**, son of Ondria Northrop and Russell Northrop; **Sharie Webster**, daughter of Renee Spatafora; and **Ashley Smith**, daughter of Charles and Alisa Smith.

Two Students Attend Women's Conference



The Cornell University Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Graduate Women's Group held a program for select sophomore women on March 22. This outreach event was intended

to introduce high school girls to chemical engineering and related fields. The main feature of the program was a series of interactive modules in four key areas: Bio-Engineering, Materials Engineering, Process Engineering, and Applied Physics and Mathematics. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with faculty and learn about careers in science and engineering. The outreach program hopes to show girls the rewarding possibilities of a career in chemical engineering and related fields, and the benefits such a career can have on society.

This year, Sidney High School was pleased to send two young ladies to this program. Chosen by the STEM faculty at SHS, the selection criteria included academic excellence and potential career goals. Attending the conference were **Jillian Hornbeck**, daughter of Jeffrey and Debra Hornbeck, and **Tatum Kiff**, daughter of Terry and Bridget Kiff. We congratulate Jillian and Tatum on their selection and wish them continued success in their studies.



Makayla Bales and Ava Cirigliano work with arrays in Mr. Hoff's math class. Here we use arrays to help us solve repeated addition sentences. We also incorporated multiplication into our addition lesson.

2014 RYLA Students Named



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is Rotary's leadership training program for students. It emphasizes leadership, citizenship and personal growth for the exceptional young men and women who are selected to participate. Each year, Sidney High School is pleased to offer this opportunity to four of our outstanding juniors.

After an application and interview process, the following students will be attending this year's conference: **Kortnee Gilmore**, **Thomas Hoskins**, **Kala Lomnicki** and **Nicholas Meno**. **Devanashia Wint** was selected as this year's alternate. The 31st annual RYLA conference will be held the week of June 29-July 3, 2014 at Hartwick College in Oneonta.

Congratulations to these fine students and thank you to Rotary for this wonderful leadership opportunity that you offer to our juniors each year.

National Technical Honor Society Induction



On March 26, in an evening ceremony held at the Robert W. Harrold Campus, DCMO BOCES, two Sidney students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Juniors, **Mallorie Hoag** and **Samantha Bordeau**, were selected for membership based on academic success in their BOCES program, as well as their strong academic standing at Sidney High School. The two, along with senior NTHS member **Madisynn Cutting**, are part of the Cosmetology program at DCMO BOCES.

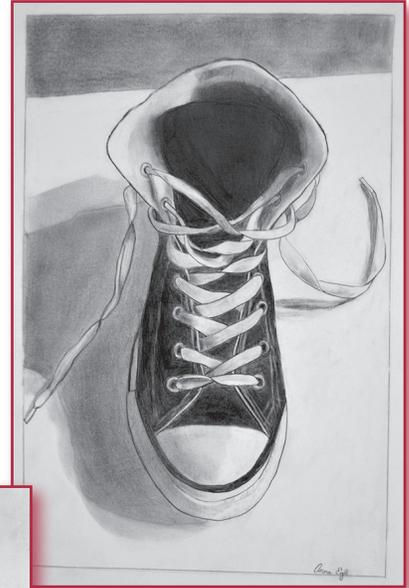
Mallorie is the daughter of Kim and Tiffany Hoag, Samantha is the daughter of James and Brenda Bordeau, and Madisynn is the daughter of Timothy and Connie Cutting. Congratulations to all three young ladies for this accomplishment.

10th Annual K-12 Select Art Exhibition!

The 10th Annual K-12 Select Art Exhibition opening reception was held in the conjoined Elementary and Junior High School hallways on Wednesday, April 30 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This prestigious exhibit showcased the very best of the artwork made this year by all students, from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Refreshments were provided by the high school Art Club 313 and were served in the Elementary Cafeteria. Musical accompaniment was provided by JP Dewey on keyboard.

Previously held in the High School Community Room, this year's exhibition venue was in the hallways between the Elementary School Cafeteria and the Junior High School Main Office. The hallway display boards and showcases were chock full of drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, collages, sculptures, masks, puppets and ceramics made by Sidney's finest.

The show remained intact from April 30-May 16.



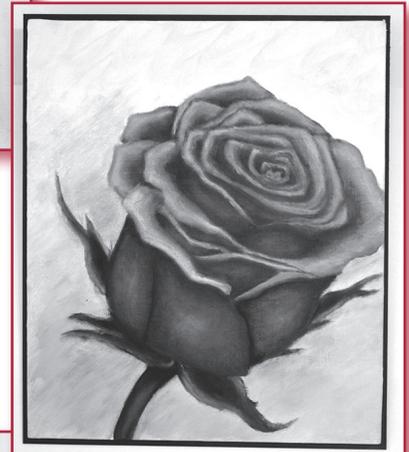
A.



B.



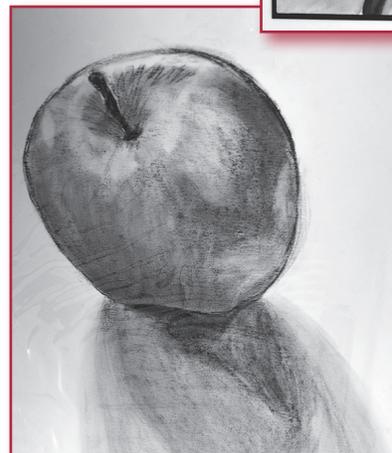
C.



D.



F.



E.

- A. Anna Egli, Converse, graphite
- B. Noah McKee, Confused, bw
- C. Emily Nages, Self-Profile, graphite
- D. Salome Clarke, Rose, oil on canvasboard
- E. Rosie Gatto, Study of Apple, charcoal
- F. Visual Arts Faculty, Chris Lissandrello, Beth Wunderlich and Alan D. Robinson

Congratulations to the Sidney Middle School Green Giants!

Lexi Cooper, Dina Cordes, Cora VanKingsley, and Rachel Zoon competed in the Jr. Iron Chef competition on March 21 at Delaware Academy against teams from across the region. The teams worked to create a healthy recipe that utilizes at least two local ingredients, and at least two USDA commodity foods commonly available to school cafeterias. Recipes were also judged on taste, presentation, creativity, and food service friendliness.

While Sidney's Green Giants did not place in the competition, competition judge Sean Taylor, Chef and Culinary Arts Instructor at SUNY Oneonta was so impressed with the girls' work that he asked for their recipe and permission to use it on the menu at SUNY Oneonta. Chef Taylor plans to invite the team for a taste testing experience. The team was coached by Jean VanKingsley. The competition was sponsored by the Bassett Research Institute 5-2-1-0 initiative, RHENSON, and Healthy Schools, NY.

Look for Leracona Soup with Pimento Cheese Crostini on the menu at SUNY Oneonta sometime soon.



*Bernardina Cordes, Cora VanKingsley,
Rachel Zoon, and Lexi Cooper.*

*Preparing the crostini,
l.-r.: Bernardina
Cordes, Lexi Cooper*



Leracona Soup

Ingredients:

- 4 Celery Sticks, Sliced
- 3 Tablespoons Olive Oil
- 7 Large Sage Leaves, Sliced
- 8 Fresh Carrots, Peeled and Sliced
- 2 Sprigs Rosemary, Sliced
- 1 Ginger Root, Grated
- 1 Cup Garbanzo Beans
- 1 Box Vegetable Broth + 2 Cups
- 1 Vegetable Flavor Booster
- 1 Cup Shoepeg Corn
- ¼ Teaspoon Pepper
- Fresh Cilantro, Sliced
- 1-3 Teaspoons Curry Powder
- 1 Cup Barley
- 1 Can Crushed Cannellini Beans

For Crostini:

- 4 Baguettes, Sliced Lengthwise
- 1 Block Cheddar Cheese
- 1 Jar Pimentos

Directions:

1. Peel carrots and slice, saving one for shredding (Garnish)
2. Chop celery and onions and start barley—cook per recommendation on box
3. Chop fresh seasonings, grate ginger root
4. Heat olive oil in pot
5. Add onions and celery, cook until sweaty; as they're cooking, smash cannellini beans
6. Add seasonings and grated ginger root
7. Add vegetable broth
8. After broth is boiling, add carrots
9. Cook until carrots are soft
10. Add flavor booster
11. Add barley, cannellini beans, corn, and garbanzo beans
12. Add curry powder to taste
13. Slice bread lengthwise
14. Add pimentos to bread and cover with grated cheddar cheese
15. Toast at 350 degrees for 5-10 minutes
16. Garnish soup with shredded carrot and cilantro

Bon Appétit!

Scholar Recognition Dinner



Sidney Central School senior **Hannah Wood** was recently honored at a dinner for the Scholar Recognition Program.

Wood was Sidney's selection for the program, which honors one student and one teacher from each school in the DCMO and ONC BOCES districts.

Denise Jacobus, who teaches English, was selected by Wood as Sidney's teacher.

Sidney guidance counselor Jody Gravelin wrote Wood's biography, which read:

Hannah Wood excels at everything she does, from academics, to sports, music and art (she has won several awards in each). Her achievements are a testament to her relentless work ethic, personal pride, and self-motivation. Hannah is enthusiastic and outgoing; she has great leadership and organizational skills. She has participated in field hockey, basketball and softball. She has earned first and second team all-star honors in field hockey and softball, and broke the school record this year for career goals scored in field hockey. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, was a RYLA participant, and has finished first, second and third in Junior Idol singing competitions.

Hannah is actively involved in the Interact, Student Council, and Varsity Letter Club, where she has held leadership positions in each. She has dedicated countless hours volunteering for our school and our community. Hannah will be attending Hobart and William Smith College to major in Environmental Science and play field hockey, and she would also like to study abroad.

Part of Wood's responsibility was to select a teacher who has been an impact on her. She chose Jacobus and wrote:

Mrs. Jacobus has not only impacted me positively in class, but also as a role model because she cares for people with the utmost respect. I could trust her with my personal hardships and emotional stress. Her ability to persuade students is amazing; no matter what student she had, she would get them to read books. Her impact on me was even greater; she motivated me to participate verbally and she helped me to be a better writer. Because of her sincerity, her comments on my report cards would outshine every other teacher's. This made me feel so special and recognized. Her lovable, positive, persuasive, understanding, and enthusiastic nature puts a smile on everyone's face.

Originally started as an Otsego County Chamber of Commerce initiative, the Scholar Recognition Program has grown to be much bigger, according to the program's booklet. It has become one that enhances relationships between the business community, schools and institutions of higher and continuing education. The program recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement by a member of the graduating classes of the public, private and parochial secondary schools in the DCMO and ONC BOCES supervisory areas.

The program also recognizes a teacher, nominated by each student scholar, for having a significant and beneficial influence on the student's education.

The booklet also notes student representatives are chosen on the basis of scholarship, as well as leadership and service to his or her school and community. Teachers can be from any grade level or subject area.

Sidney Senior named MAC Baseball Player of the Year



Sidney senior **Bill Kozak** has been named the baseball player of the year in the Midstate Athletic Conference. Kozak hit .634 in the conference this year, including six doubles, three triples and three home runs. He also had 22 RBIs and 22 runs scored. When pitching, Kozak

went 3-0 with a 2.80 earned run average.

Four other Sidney players—senior **Patrick Vibbard**, junior **Brandon Bessett**, sophomore **Zak Green** and senior **Jonathon Gorshack**—earned first-team honors from the MAC.

Vibbard, a catcher, hit .400 in the MAC, with one triple and one home run. He also had 16 RBIs and 12 runs scored. In the field, Vibbard threw out 13 runners attempting to steal.

Bessett hit .375 with two doubles, a triple and a home run. He had 14 RBIs and scored 16 runs. On the mound, he went 3-0 with a 0.969 ERA.

Green batted .361 with a home run, six RBIs and nine runs scored. He also went 3-0 pitching, with a 1.40 ERA.

Gorshack hit .385 in the MAC, including four doubles, a triple and a homer. He had 11 RBIs and scored 10 runs.

Students Experience Europe Over Spring Break



Four students and two teachers from Sidney Central School had the opportunity to travel to Italy, Austria and Germany over spring break. The group was joined by students from Delaware Academy in Delhi, as well as with students from a school based in Virginia.

Sidney students on the trip were **Emily Nages, Kiarra Bonacci, Jilleen Livingston** and **Trey Larson**. Beth Wunderlich and Samantha Oliver served as the chaperones.

After landing in Rome, the students had a chance to tour Piazza Del Popolo, sample some gelato and head for the hotel. Other places visited while in Rome included the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Novona, the Pantheon, the Vatican, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica.

During a transfer to Florence, there was a stop at Juliette's Balcony. When in Florence, the group had the chance to see a leather-making demonstration, the Duomo Cathedral, Piza Della Signoria, Chiesa di Santa Croce, Gates of Paradise and Ponte Vecchio.

They then traveled through Tyrol, Austria, stopping in Innsbruck where the Winter Olympics have been held twice (1964, 1976). They went through the Alps and into Munich, Germany, where the students spent a morning touring Dachau, a World War II Nazi concentration camp. That afternoon, they had a chance to experience the Glockenspiel at the neo-gothic City Hall and then visit King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle.

On the final day of the trip, the students toured the 1972 Olympic Stadium, as well as BMW headquarters.

Students Perform Well at Robotics Competition



Sidney showed its robotics prowess March 11 at Broome Community College. With a sea of maroon shirts overpowering the room, 34 Sidney students put on a strong display at the competition, placing three teams in the top four of the remote control category and three more in the top six of the autonomous category. The students ranged in grades from 3-12.

"I thought it went great," Sidney high school technology teacher Christine Race said. "Any time you get interest like this from kids is great."

The competition, which featured teams from Seton Catholic, Greene, Harpursville, and several other Broome County School Districts, also served to show where Sidney students have to keep working, should they opt to compete more in the future. "If you always practice, you don't know what you have to do to get better," Race said. "This helps us learn what we need to do."

Sidney sent 18 high school students, and eight each from the middle school and the elementary school.

In the remote control division, the sophomore squad of **Jon Fitch, Miranda Gregory, Connor Gregory** and **Brandon Hitchcock** made it to the championship, where they fell to a team from Harpursville.

Sidney also took third and fourth place. A freshman group, made up of **Carolee Pierce, Adam Wagner, Matt Ross** and **Gavin Hoepnner**, placed third. The fourth-place team consisted of senior **Kwok Hing Chen** and freshman **Riley MacPherson**.

The competition grouped all students together, despite age or grade. "I'm impressed with what our group did," junior high school technology teacher Jonathan Bogardus said. "This is a new system for them. They are against high school students, so I'm impressed."

In the autonomous category, which is where robots are controlled via programming rather than a remote, Sidney placed 4-6. The fourth-place team consisted of **Anthony**

Continued on page 11

Sidney Educator Selected For Master Teacher Program



Sidney Central School District science teacher Richard Townsend has been selected as part of the New York State Master Teacher Program. A total of 215 teachers from around the state were added to the program. The 215 selected this month to the program help bring the total number of Master Teachers in the state to 319.

"I am very excited to be part of the New York State Master Teacher Program," Townsend said. "This will provide me the opportunity to grow as an educator and to bring valuable information and strategies back to share with my fellow teachers. I'm looking forward to my involvement over the next four years.

The newly named Master Teachers have more than 2,700 years of combined full-time teaching, according to a media release sent by the office of New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo. Subjects of expertise include calculus, algebra, physics, earth science, chemistry, engineering design and development, and genetics. "This is a great acknowledgement for his work," Sidney Superintendent Bill Christensen said. "It's also good for the district as we have a huge focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) all the way down to the elementary school."

"This fits in well with what we already do," he continued. "It goes well with our rigor and relevant curriculum. It's good to have an in-house resource."

Supported by SUNY campus partners, Townsend was one of 23 teachers selected in the Southern Tier region, which partners with Binghamton University. The state is broken into 10 regions.

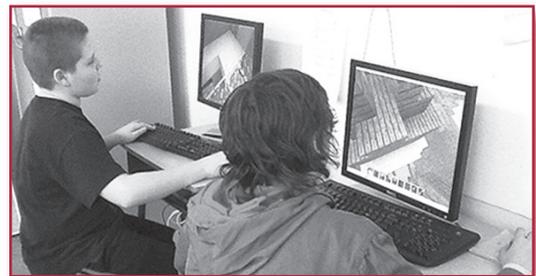
Masters Teachers earn a \$15,000 stipend per year over four years for participation in the program, for a total compensation of \$60,000 per teacher.

Master Teachers will also:

- Engage in peer mentoring and intensive content-oriented professional development opportunities throughout the academic year.
- Work closely with pre-service and early career teachers to foster a supportive environment for the next generation of STEM teachers.
- Attend required regular cohort meetings and participate in and lead several professional development sessions each year.
- Master Teachers are also being invited to attend the inaugural Master Teacher Program professional development conference on August 15, 2014.

"The Master Teacher Program creates a community of teacher experts dedicated to providing a first-rate learning experience for students across New York, and contributes to our efforts to attract and retain the best and the brightest in our STEM classrooms," Cuomo said in the media release. "Investing in our teachers is investing in our students, and I am pleased to welcome and congratulate 215 additional outstanding teachers to this program, who have already proven to be some of the highest-performing professionals in their field."

Using the Minecraft Computer Program



Utilizing the computer program Minecraft, three Sidney elementary students re-created the survival area for a 13-year-old boy from the book *Hatchet*. *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen, is about Brian Robinson, a boy who is on his way to visit his father. The plane he is in crashes and Brian is alone in the Canadian wilderness. He has to survive, wearing just a windbreaker and the hatchet he received as a present from his mother.

The three sixth graders—**Zack Croft**, **Dakota Mann** and **Matthew Smith**—each re-created the scene. They also, based on descriptions in the book, worked on trying to plot where the actual crash occurred to have a better idea on how to design their area.

Tauna LaBare, a self-contained special education teacher at Sidney, gave the students a list of items they had to create with Minecraft. The students needed to design several items and then place them into their survival area. They weren't just building randomly, however, as they needed to work from a list of things from the book, including the sunken aircraft, the L-shaped lake where Brian was surviving, a fish in the lake, a lean-to/tree-woven shelter, food storage area, a fire and a ladder.

In total, LaBare gave 11 items the students had to design and build, based on the book. She said they spent class time, as well as free time, working on it and each student went beyond, creating other aspects from the book as well.

The class started the project February 7 and had about a week to complete it, working on the project for about 30 minutes per day.

"What I liked about the project is they helped each other, too. It's teamwork," LaBare said. "For them to sustain attention and get all the detail is amazing. I'm very impressed with them and they've been very independent."

Sidney Fares Well at NYSSMA Competition



More than 20 students from Sidney Central School competed at the New York State School of Music Solo and Small Ensemble Festival at Norwich recently.

During the festival, students perform solo or small ensemble literature from the New York State School of Music Association (NYSSMA) manual, scales from memory and read music they have seen before. The literature is evaluated at levels from I (beginning) to VI (advanced). Students who perform literature from levels I-IV are scored on a 28-point scale. Students performing level V or VI are scored on a 100-point scale. The points are for a specific rating system.

Three Sidney teachers, Marjorie Pipes, Nathaniel Sodeur and Amy Hoxie, took students to the festival. Twelve Sidney High vocal students competed, with seven being there for the first time. Of those seven, two received an *outstanding* rating and five had an *excellent* rating.

Those competing in this part of the competition were **Rachel Gibbs, Hope VanBuren, Seth Arnold, Rosie Gatto, Natalie Hornbeck, Trevor Northrop, Jackie Gannon, Susan Chen, Emily Cooley, Madeline Hitchcock, Victoria Perry, Thomas Frederick**

Two students—Northrop, a senior, and Perry, a freshman—each had only one point deducted.

Seven students who are part of the grade 7-12 band also participated and had extremely strong showings.

Juniors **Kortnee Gilmore** and **Rachel Maxwell** each received an A, and junior **Ashley Smith** received an A-.

Seventh-grader **JP Dewey** received an outstanding grade in the trumpet and piano. **Ale Johnson** and **Cora VanKinglesey**, also seventh graders, received outstanding ratings as soloists, as well as teaming up in a duet. Seventh-grader **Dina Cordes** received a rating of excellent.

Five elementary students each received outstanding ratings. Three of those students—**Anna Dewey, Hannah Gray** and **Kaitlyn Marquez**—each received perfect scores. **Sam Bagley** and **Adrienne Paternoster** each had only one point deducted.

Robotics, cont.

Ruling, Tanner Schunk and **Kyle McMillan**. Fifth place went to **Emma Egli, Dylan Gifford** and **Trey Larson**, followed by the team of **James Martin, Ryan Haley** and **Seth Arnold** in sixth place.

One squad of elementary students—sixth graders **Hannah Gray, Adrienne Paternoster** and **Jill Robinson**—placed second in the Challenge bracket.

“Today was kind of like a preview for my kids,” elementary teacher Deb Vaughan said. “They are younger than most groups here by two or three years. That’s pretty big. They were competing with all the kids. They weren’t outclassed.”

Besides teams placing, all Sidney students competed well and represented the school well, Superintendent Bill Christensen said. “I am thrilled with how well our students performed,” Christensen said. “We are very proud of everything these students did and look forward to seeing what they can do at future competitions. Students need to learn in a variety of classrooms and today our students were able to demonstrate and reap the rewards of being exposed to 21st Century rigorous and relevant curriculum. In the terms of testing, our students all demonstrated mastery in a fully engaging and real-life application of their knowledge.”



Jacob Byma's dad is serving our country in the U.S. Navy and is stationed in Afghanistan. Mr. Hoff's class wrote letters and sent messages to encourage Mr. Byma during the school year. Here Jacob and his dad are talking to our class about what the military does to protect our country. We thank Mr. Byma, and all of the brave men and women that serve our country.

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