

YOUR SCHOOLS

2021

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By MIKE ROBERTO
Superintendent of Schools



As we are now into our third school year of being disrupted by the pandemic and dealing with the distractions and challenges of keeping the district up and running, I wanted to be sure to refocus this message on the young

people in our district, which is why we are here, and highlight their resilience under some extreme circumstances.

To start, there is a lot to celebrate when you have six National Merit Semi-Finalist sitting in your classrooms. Congratulations to seniors **David Bian, Joey D'Allesandro, Alyssa Marotta, Andrew Pilarczyk, Andy Ploskunak and Thomas Stoycos**. This recognition is quite an honor as it signifies that they have scored in the top one percent on the PSAT as compared to classmates across the country! Speaking of being tops in the country, did you know that senior **Dylan Fishback** is the top rated wrestler in the 195-pound weight class in the NATION? Even with Aurora's storied tradition of excellent wrestlers, we have never had an individual rated this high. However, why stop at the national borders? I'm thinking of **Akash Lokesh's** recognition in the 2021 International music competition "London Grand Prize Virtuoso." Along with this recognition, Akash has been invited to perform at Elgar Room, Royal Albert Hall (London, UK) this coming year. Of course, there is plenty to celebrate closer to home as well.

You might have heard "Thunder Over Aurora," earlier in the season as the AHS band hosted schools from eight local districts. However, if you caught the grand finale you would have seen the AHS

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ACSD PLACES RENEWAL LEVY ON NOVEMBER 2, 2021 BALLOT – NO TAX INCREASE IF ISSUE #24 PASSED

The Aurora City School District's Board of Education voted unanimously to place a 7.33 mil operating renewal levy on the Portage County November 2, 2021 ballot. Ohio law allows public school districts to ask voters to renew a limited levy when it expires. The levy must be for the same purpose and is renewed at the effective millage rate.

This is a renewal of a 7.33 operating levy that was first passed by City of Aurora voters in 1987. It has since been renewed six times and was last renewed in 2016. Since this is a renewal levy, there is **NO INCREASE IN TAXES** for citizens if the levy is approved by voters.

This levy finances the Aurora City School District's general operating fund. The income from this fund, by Ohio law, can only be used for daily operating expenses, including curriculum, utility and transportation costs. This levy annually generates \$4,888,358 of the district's General Fund Operating Revenue. The cost of the 7.33 mills for an owner of a \$100,000 home is approximately \$224 per year.

The Aurora City School District's Treasurer, William Volosin, explained, "The 7.33 mill renewal levy will cause no increase in taxes, as it is a renewal levy. The renewal

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ACSD TREASURER'S OFFICE EARNS EXEMPLARY AUDIT 10th Consecutive Year

The Aurora City School District's (ACSD) Treasurer's Office has once again earned an exemplary audit from the Ohio Auditor of State. This award was given for the fiscal year ending in 2020. This is the 10th consecutive year (2011-20) the ACSD Treasurer's office has earned the Ohio Auditor of State Award. The ACSD Treasurer's Department consists of Treasurer, Bill Volosin; Accounts Payable, Pam Prochaska; Payroll, Diane Ebie and Treasury Secretary, Sue Dick.

Volosin explained, "We received another unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion that you can receive and indicates that the District's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Aurora City School District conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."

The Ohio Auditor of State Award is, "presented for excellence in financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP) and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended 2020." Ohio Auditor of State, Keith Faber, stated, "The citizens you represent are well-served by your effective and accountable financial practices."

Volosin said of the award, "This clean audit is a result of all of the hard work and effort of the three individuals in my office, Sue Dick, Diane Ebie, and Pam Prochaska, along with the work of the district administrators, secretaries, food service head cooks, and athletic department staff who have a responsibility for working with the financial information of the District."

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Pilarczyk Earns Perfect ACT Score

Aurora High School senior Andrew Pilarczyk has earned the rare distinction of having earned a perfect score on his ACT test in 2020. Pilarczyk's achievement puts him in elite company attained by fewer than half of 1% of students who take the ACT. Of the 1.67 million students who took the ACT in 2020, only 5,579 earned the top composite score of 36. The ACT includes tests in English, mathematics, reading and science with each test scored on a 1-36 scale. The composite score is the average of the student's four test scores.



ACT CEO Janet Godwin, said, "Earning a top score on the ACT is a remarkable achievement. A student's exceptional score of 36 will provide any college or university with ample evidence of their readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead." Pilarczyk will be applying to a number of in-state and out-of-state universities this fall with plans to study engineering.

Pilarczyk is also active as a Life Scout in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 269. He is currently working on his Eagle Scout requirements which include planning a nature playground for the Moebius Nature Center. He is also a leader in National Honor Society and in his free time, enjoys gaming with his friends and playing golf.



IMPACT OF STUDENT TESTING OPT OUTS

The impact to a public school system when a student opts out of testing can be substantial to the district's results in multiple areas. To further understand how a student's opting out of testing impacts a district and the consequences, Aurora City School's Superintendent of Instruction and Curriculum, Dr. Paul Milcetic, explained, "This past spring, most of our students in grades 3-11 completed their state required end of course exams in multiple subject areas (English Language Art, Mathematics, and potentially Science or Social Studies). Typically, a student would have two or potentially three exams with our district completing 22 different tests with students at Leighton, Harmon, and Aurora High School. In the past, we have had very few students opt out of these required assessments, especially at Aurora High School as students need to fulfill certain requirements for graduation. However, the pandemic created conditions where some families were concerned about having their students come into the buildings to complete this testing. This spring, 56 students (mostly at Leighton and Harmon) did not participate in state testing, which translates to 126 zeroes on multiple tests. When we received the results of end of course exams in July, these zeroes were not calculated into our passing percentages, but they will be a part of the equation for the Performance Index."

Milcetic added, "Due to the pandemic, the state is not providing Report Cards or

letter grades for schools and districts, but indicators such as test results, graduation rates, etc. will still be tracked, as will Performance Index, which is a calculation of all of the student test scores in grades 3-8 along with English Language Arts and Mathematics at the high school with point values attached to the level of performance. The formula takes into account levels of student performance, meaning a student scoring an Advanced, Accelerated, Proficient, Basic, or Limited comes with a certain weight, while untested students count as zero. Obviously, this large number of student opt outs will then translate to lower Performance Index (PI) for the Aurora City School District for the 20-21 school year. That being said, scores in general may be down statewide and locally in some tested areas, due to limited instructional time for all schools when COVID-19 caused school closures and remote learning in the spring of 2020 and remote instruction for many districts for at least a portion of the past year. For the most part, our students fared well on these assessments, and we are proud of the hard work of our students and staff in challenging conditions (for both in person and virtual instruction) during the 2020-21 school year. Our priority was and will continue to be educating the whole child, making our students feel safe and valued first, and then building off of that foundation to create the best learning environment possible."

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levy brings \$4.9 million in general fund revenue to the district or roughly 12% of our operating budget so it is critical for this levy to be renewed and continued to maintain the current programs and operations of the district."

Gerald Kohanski, president of the Aurora Board of Education, said, "The Board of Education is hopeful that Aurora voters will continue to recognize the excellent

results produced by the schools and the outstanding instruction being received by our students. This renewal will allow us to continue our high level of achievement and progress without increasing taxes which are among the lowest tax rates of Northeast Ohio's highest performing school districts. The renewal of this levy is critical to maintaining the district's nationally recognized performance and the continued excellent real estate values in the city of Aurora."

Aurora Schools' Superintendent, Mike Roberto added, "The renewal of this levy will allow us to continue to provide an excellent education for our students. The financial support that our community has provided us is used to create outstanding academic opportunities, as well as our successful co-curricular offerings in athletics and the fine arts."



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

SPORTS BOOSTERS' COMMUNITY DAY 2021

Thank you to the Aurora Sports Boosters who held their first Community Day on August 15, 2021 from 2:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Various clubs, foundations, sports teams and school affiliated programs were on-hand at Veterans Memorial Stadium. The Aurora community was invited to meet the various teams/groups, enter a 50/50 raffle and enjoy on-field games, concessions, and band/cheer performances.



Aurora Schools Foundation **Cross Country**



Quiz Bowl **Volleyball**



Choirs



AHS 2022 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS

The Aurora High School's 2022 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists have been announced. Congratulations to David Bian, Joey D'Allesandro, Alyssa Marotta, Andrew Pilarczyk, Andy Ploskunak and Thomas Stoycos.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These high achieving high school seniors have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million dollars.

Aurora High School Principal, Mike Hayes, said, "These students represent less than one percent of high school seniors across the entire nation. Semifinalists have earned the highest marks on the PSAT taken during their junior year, and to be considered a finalist in February, they must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the PSAT. Congratulations once again to these amazing Greenmen!"



David Bian, Andrew Pilarczyk



Joey D'Allesandro, Alyssa Marotta



Andy Ploskunak, Thomas Stoycos

MEDHA KISHORE NAMED TO SANDY HOOK PROMISE'S NATIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD



AHS junior Medha Kishore has been selected to serve on the 13-member National Youth Advisory Board for Sandy Hook Promise (SHP). Kishore was chosen from hundreds of applicants.

The board consists of high school Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Club leaders who will guide the activities and engagement of clubs and members nationwide.

Serving on the National Youth Advisory Board (YAB) requires committing to many hours of service during the school year. According to the YAB, "On average, most members contribute more than 300 hours of time for the YAB, working with their local club and planning for the National Youth Violence Prevention Week and annual National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit, as well as individual projects and presentations. Past YAB members have organized town halls with local officials and first responders, while others have testified before Congress on pending student safety legislation."

Kishore and AHS teacher Melissa Foster, spent four days in Connecticut attending the Sandy Hook Summer Institute with 3,300

national clubs attending. Foster explained, "Although the foundation was created out of grief, the inspiring part is that the week was focused on youth empowerment and education, not grief and tragedy." These students and educators set out to be agents of change in their communities. By utilizing their many ideas, Kishore and Foster want to implement programs at Aurora High School (AHS). The AHS SAVE Club is integrated into the AHS Interact Club and Service Learning Classes. Foster said, "We are working hard to integrate programs effectively that teach youth and adults how to prevent school violence and other harmful acts. We look forward to implementing further SHP programming into AHS, and my goal is to get further involvement at the middle school level."

Medha Kishore (center) pictured with AHS Instructor, Melissa Foster (right) and Nicole Hockley (left), the Co-Founder and Managing Director of SHP, whose son Dylan was murdered in Newton, Connecticut at Sandy Hook Elementary School.



Kishore discovered the purpose of SHP during the pandemic when she attended the virtual National Youth Summit. The Black Lives Matter movement, Atlanta spa shootings,

Asian hate crimes, spike in mental health issues and domestic violence encouraged her to apply for the board. She will be working with SHP to bring education to others about combatting gun violence, racism, social isolation, bullying, suicide and a range of other issues.

Kishore said of her prestigious achievement, "I am so grateful to have been given this huge platform to advocate for issues that are currently concerning this nation. I ultimately hope that I can help youth to use their voice for good because I know sometimes kids feel like their voice isn't being heard or it doesn't matter, but I want to change that. I applied for the Youth Advisory Board because the year of 2020 was one filled with pain and thankfully I am part of Sandy Hook Promise which aims to heal that pain. As for my goals at AHS, I hope to foster a more inclusive, tolerant, and accepting school environment. I know in high school there are many cliques/social groups formed, so I hope we can all be willing to bridge the differences between us and act like one big family. One of my big goals, before I graduate from AHS, is that soon the elementary, middle, and high school will know about Sandy Hook Promise and its goals; that way we can continue to carry out its legacy and fun programs."

Who's Who & What's New



Leighton School Counselor, **Tammy Mazzella**, was extremely thankful to **Mrs. Wurm, Emma &**

Tommy Wurm, Ava Worman, Alyssa Rodenhauer and **Blake Gardener** for donating the funds that they earned from their summer lemonade stand to her Project Back Pack.



The **Leighton School Ice Cream Social**, originally scheduled to take place on September 2, 2021, was cancelled by the PTO. They are hoping to reschedule this "sweet" event next spring. Please look for more details to follow.



AHS Junior **Kate Liang** (Top Row, Fourth from Left) was named as a finalist for the **2021 Northeast Ohio Shining Star**

CLE solo singing competition for the 2nd consecutive year. She was also a finalist in the same competition in 2020. The annual competition is sponsored by Montefiore of Menorah Park. The competition is a benefit for the memory card programs at the Menorah Park facility with students competing for college scholarships.



A big thank you goes to **Ganley Chevrolet of Aurora** who is the proud sponsor of the **Aurora High School Drug Free Club**. Members of the Drug Free Club will have the opportunity to win a 2-year lease on a 2022 Chevy Trail Blazer LS front wheel drive vehicle or a \$5,000 scholarship.



As a reminder to district parents/guardians, the Aurora City School District is currently offering **COVID-19 TESTING KITS** that are free to families who would like to test for the Covid-19 virus without leaving home. The kits are provided by the Portage County Health District. Each of these test kits are easy to complete, provide results

in minutes and come with telehealth support. If interested, please contact your child's school building nurse and arrange to safely pick up a testing kit. If you have any questions, please contact the school building or the school building's nurse for more information.



The **Senior Internship Program 2021** produced yet another outstanding mural design located at Aurora High School. The ocean themed mural, with guidance by art instructor **Sean Berrodin**, was created by **Christian Kovalycsik, Laine Palko, Sarah Robb, Parker Susil** and **Cat Taylor**.



The **Greenmen Café** is once again open at AHS. Students and staff can stop by and purchase a variety of delicious items to start their morning off right all while supporting a great cause!



BOB MIHALIK – CELEBRATED AS A CLEVELAND LEGEND

Congratulations to Aurora Schools' English/Work Study Instructor and Varsity Football Coach Bob Mihalik, who was honored as the Coach Sam's Inner Circle Foundation 2021 Steve Friedman Coach of the Year. Mihalik, who finished his 20th coaching season as Head Coach of the Aurora Greenmen in 2020, was recognized on August 11, 2021 alongside other Cleveland Legends, former Cleveland Brown's Coach Sam Rutigliano and former Cleveland Brown's tight end Ozzie Newsome.

In 2020, Mihalik finished his 20th season with the Aurora Greenmen with a winning record of 6-3. He won the Division III State Title in 2008 and has made five, Final Four appearances in the state tournament.

According to the Foundation's program, "Mihalik has been named a conference coach of the year 10 times; the OHSFC Region 6 Coach of the year in 2006, 2011, and 2019; the NEO D3 Inland Coach of the Year in 2006, 2008, and 2019; Plain Dealer Coach of the Year in 2006 and 2008; Akron Touchdown Club Coach of the Year in 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2012; Cleveland Touchdown Club Lee Tressel Award winner in 2008 and 2011; the National Football Foundation Coach of the Year in 2008 and the Associated Press State Coach of the Year in 2008. He has also coached in the prestigious Big 33 All Star game and the annual Ohio North - South All Star game."

Mihalik said of his recognition, "It is an honor to receive this award from such a great organization (Coach Sam's Inner Circle) that provides excellent opportunities for at risk young people. This award is possible because of all the great assistant coaches, football players, administrators, and parents that have been a part of our program during my 21 years at AHS. They have helped create the culture that has led to our success."



Aurora High School Principal, Mike Hayes, said, "Bob Mihalik has been an Aurora legend for quite some time, but his legendary status was officially cemented in history on August 11th as he was recognized and celebrated for earning the Cleveland Legend's Coach of the Year Award. Coach Mihalik was recognized alongside fellow Cleveland legends Ozzie Newsome and Sam Rutigliano at Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights. Bob's speech was filled with class and humility as he recognized his family, coaching staff, student-athletes and the Aurora community for all their support over the years! Congratulations again Bob, and good luck the rest of this fall football season!"

Mihalik, an educator for 31 years, began his career at Lakewood High School where he was an assistant football coach and English teacher for 11 years. He has been at Aurora the past 20 years as both an English teacher and a Work/Study Coordinator. He holds a Bachelor's degree in English Education from Slippery Rock University; a Master's degree from Slippery Rock in English and a Master's Degree from Cleveland State University in Educational Administration. He and his wife Debbie have been married for 30 years and have two adult children, Matthew, 26 and Meghan, 22.



THE NUTRITION GROUP UPGRADES DISTRICT SCHOOL LUNCHES

The Aurora City School District's Board of Education has awarded a contract to The Nutrition Group, a food management company that has been in business for nearly 50 years. This contract allows for the implementation of the Food Service Department's new school lunch program throughout the District. The Nutrition Group has been awarded the contract for the 2021-22 school year. They currently serve approximately 250 school districts across six states.

While school lunches for students remain free for the 2021-22 school year, this year's student menu's will consist of a wide variety of new food offerings and nutritious choices to create well rounded lunches. Aside from the free meal offerings, many à la carte options are available for students to

purchase also. The Nutrition Groups also offers Nutrislice, an interactive, online way to view the building menus. It offers the ability to view images and descriptions, view nutrition information for each food, filter the menu for specific food allergens, rate foods and see carb counts, and access menus with the Nutrislice mobile app.

Superintendent Mike Roberto said, "We are excited to introduce The Nutrition Group which will work with our own cafeteria staff to provide a new menu for the upcoming school year." A resident food service director, Brandon Zimmerman, will manage the Aurora Schools' existing kitchen staff and oversee the day-to-day operations of the cafeterias. The Nutrition Group explained, "This director has the support

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band literally light it up with the help of freshman majorette **Marla Edgecomb** who provided the fireworks by simultaneously twirling three flaming batons while performing the finale. It was amazing. Great job also goes out to seniors and cross country runners **Morgan Schmidt** and **Matt Singleton** who both recently broke long standing school records in their respective classification. Morgan's time of 18:31 minutes surpassed a school record that stood since 2014 and Matt's record run of 15:29 minutes bested a school time established in 1999. We have been enjoying some team success this fall as well with the girls' tennis team off to a 10-1 start and the boys' golf team winning the Suburban League Tournament and holding a 10-0 dual meet record up to this point. Solid seasons are also being established by the girls' golf team, both boys' and girls' soccer teams, and the volleyball team. Finally, the football team seems to be preparing for another deep state playoff run with some impressive wins up to now while sporting a 6-0 record and a ranking of #3 in the State poll going into Homecoming weekend.

Homecoming weekend not only brings back our alumni, but gives us a chance to honor them as well as our outstanding staff. This year is no different as we saw the induction of **Joe Cech** (07) and **Wes Miller** (07) into the Athletic Hall of Fame and we honored **Ken Mitroff** (AHS/Harmon) with his addition to the Honored Educator's Wall at AHS. The Homecoming festivities continued for our current Greenmen as they enjoyed a fun filled spirit week as well. Celebrities, big hair from the 80s, a visit from all four seasons, and (my favorite) class color day made appearances throughout the week

creating great memories for the young people in our district.

Activities and athletics help to build memories of the PreK-12 experience, but it is the nurturing of the roots every day in the classroom that make the difference for young people in Aurora. The academic opportunities through lessons designed to meet young people where they are and then to build off of what they know is best accomplished when they are able to collaborate and learn with their classmates and teachers in person. These experiences have been able to take place this year, even in the middle of a pandemic, because the young people in grades PreK-12 have been willing to do whatever it takes to stay in school. I salute their resilience and determination to continue to grow and learn under the circumstances. I also want to thank the administrators and staff in all of our buildings for creating a culture that supports these learners.

Please help us to continue to provide these experiences and learning opportunities by being sure to vote this November 2, 2021. The Aurora City School District has a 7.33 mil renewable levy on the ballot which means NO NEW TAXES. However, the passage of this levy, which has happened every five years since 1987, is critical as the levy annually generates nearly five million dollars for the district which is close to 12% of our annual budget. Thank you for your continued support of the young people in the Aurora City Schools and for taking the time to read this message.

Take care,
Mike



HARMON SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ~ RYAN BEAUMONT

Staff and students at Aurora Schools' Harmon Middle School recently welcomed not only the beginning of a new school year, but a new assistant principal as well. Ryan Beaumont, who was hired over the summer, took over the position of assistant principal that was previously held by Staci Albanese.

Beaumont, who is a graduate of Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Adolescent Young Adult Integrated Science Education, also earned his Master of Science Degree in School Improvement Leadership from Goucher College in Maryland. He began his career as a science teacher in 2007 at Northeast High School in Maryland. Beaumont then went on to teach middle school 8th grade science where he also worked as a progress coach and interdisciplinary team leader at Corkran Middle School in Glen Burnie, Maryland. At Crofton Middle School in Gambrills, Maryland, Beaumont was hired as the assistant principal from 2014-17. Beaumont, a Twinsburg, Ohio native, relocated to Northeast Ohio and had most recently worked as the assistant principal at Shaker Heights Middle School since 2017 before joining the Aurora City School District.

Harmon Middle School Principal, Mark Abramovich, stated, "We are very fortunate to be able to have someone like Ryan Beaumont come into Harmon Middle School with his experience in teaching, administering, understanding and helping grow the middle school child. While at Shaker Heights and in Maryland, he understood how to not just take high achieving schools to another level, but was able to do it while building positive relationships with the students, staff and community."



Harmon School Assistant Principal Ryan Beaumont (left) stands with Harmon School Principal Mark Abramovich (right)

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SPORT REPORT

Aurora High School graduates **DYLAN FISHBACK** and **CODIE CUERBO** both earned **ALL-AMERICA** status at the Junior Freestyle Nationals in Fargo, ND. Out of the 1,585 wrestlers who competed a total of only 120 earned the All-America title. Fishback won the **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**. Cuerbo took 5th place. Congratulations to both on their stellar performances and titles well deserved.

A "thank you" goes out to **SCOTT TINCHER** who worked with the Aurora Schools' Athletic Director, Paul Powers, to upgrade the **AHS TRACK LONG JUMP PIT** making sure it was ready for competition regardless of the weather conditions.



The Aurora Schools' Athletic Department's **GOFAN LINK** includes sporting event information and ticketing for ALL upcoming home games at the Aurora City Schools. Entry to sporting events is by Mobile/Smart phones only. **No paper tickets will be sold.** To view the GOFAN links, please visit the Athletic Department's webpage and the link can be found on the right hand side under Tickets for Games.

The **VARSITY BOYS GOLF TEAM** had a strong second place finish in the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE TOURNAMENT** held at Pine Hills Golf Club in Hinckley, Ohio. The team was led by **ADAM ABBASS, MAX DEVINS, ANTHONY DOLATA, CHARLES HESSE, ANDREW LEON** and **ALEXANDER VENTIMIGLIA**.

COACH JOHN

SHERIDAN developed a program for the **ICE HOCKEY TEAM** and created a simulated ice training rink area under the bleachers at Veterans Stadium for players to use to practice on during their off season.



Students in the **AHS DRUG FREE CLUB** are eligible to compete in the **FIELD GOAL KICKING CONTEST** during pre-game varsity football festivities on Friday nights at Veterans Stadium. The \$500 prizes for the season long contest is generously provided courtesy of **GANLEY CHEVROLET OF AURORA**.



The **GIRLS GOLF TEAM** took **2nd PLACE** at the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE 2ND CHAMPIONSHIP** on August 25, 2021. The

team was led by **BROOKLYN MALLARD** (72) and **KAYLA TEJADA** (82).



Ty Lillard Makes the Winning Field Goal Kick

Congratulations to **TY LILLARD** for winning the **AHS DRUG FREE CLUB** varsity football pre-game field goal kicking contest. Lillard won the \$500 prize provided by **GANLEY CHEVROLET OF AURORA** at the Aurora Greenmen vs. Twinsburg Tiger's game on September 3, 2021.



Congratulations to **MORGAN SCHMITT**, who set a new Aurora High School record of 18.31 and is now the **FASTEST LADY GREENMEN** in school history.

MATTHEW SINGLETON (4th from right) now holds the AHS record as the **FASTEST GREENMEN OF ALL TIME** with a new school record of 15.29. Way to go!



The 1st Annual **CATCH FOR THE CURE ULTIMATE FRISBEE TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER** was held on September 12, 2021 at the AHS Veterans Memorial Stadium. The fundraiser was held for the **LUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY** in support of ACSD teacher **JUSTIN MONTELLO**.



Thank you to the Aurora Schools' **WATER BOYS** (left to right) **TOMMY STENGER, JACK WERVEY** and **AIDEN ABRAMOVICH** for their efforts in keeping our players well hydrated and ready for action.



Aurora Athletics Director, **PAUL POWERS** (right), congratulates **DYLAN FISHBACK**, on his ranking as

the **#1 WRESTLER IN THE NATION** at #195. Amazing achievement!



Way to go Greenmen! The **AHS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM** was **RANKED #3** as Cleveland Heights was added to the

slate for Aurora's Homecoming game on October 1, 2021.

SCHOOL FRIENDLY FIDGET PROPOSAL RECEIVES ASF GRANT

Leighton School 4th grade student Ella Lombard came up with the idea to help other students gain access to school friendly fidgets. Knowing that not all students can afford to purchase the fidgets, she wanted to make them available to all students.



Lombard asked Leighton School Guidance Counselor, Tami Mazzella, to help her with the project. Mazzella said, "She shared that after she met with me several weeks prior and I gave a couple fidgets to try, her parents ordered some for her from Amazon. She said she realized at that moment that possibly not everyone would be lucky enough to have parents that could afford to purchase the fidgets kids might need, and she decided she wanted to help others. When we met, Ella came prepared with a google slide presentation and her amazing uplifting personality."

Mazzella explained, "I was moved or motivated to help her with this endeavor by trying to write a grant. Her ultimate goal was to make school friendly fidgets available for all students that may need them. In her words, 'Velcro under the desk is all fine and dandy, but it might not work for all students.' Her passion and reasoning behind her idea motivated me to want to help her with this endeavor. I contacted her parents and told them what had transpired and how Ella had approached me with this idea, and that I was going to do my best to help make her dream come true. Thanks to the Aurora Schools Foundation grant opportunities, I not only wrote the grant using Ella's ideas, but we were fortunate enough to be awarded the funding for her School Friendly Fidget proposal."

Mazzella added, "THANK YOU to the ASF members for awarding us the grant funds.....and to Ella for having an idea and working hard to make that 'dream come true' (in her words again)."

Mazzella said, "Prior to submitting the grant, we surveyed the teachers for their input on fidgets or sensory items they needed or wanted for their classrooms. We then took that data and created a wish list of items to purchase for them. Ella and I met shortly after school started this year to compile our list of items to purchase. We have submitted an order and spent most of the money we were awarded. We both decided we wanted to see what else we might need and didn't want to spend all of our funds right away."

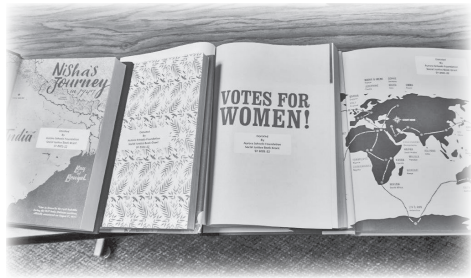
CLASS ACTS

Congratulations to the following **AURORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION** scholarship award recipients:



Alex Brogen Ila Kerchenski Benjamin Wilson

Miller, Craddock and Leighton Elementary School students (not including preschool) had **AUTUMN ASSESSMENT DAYS** on Friday, September 17 and Monday, September 20, 2021. These Autumn Assessment Days help to administer important literacy assessments to the students.

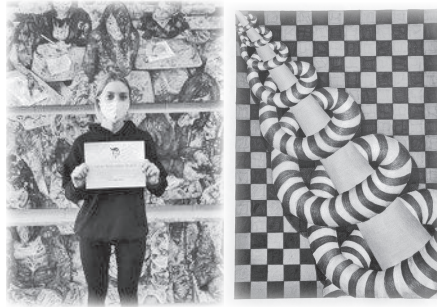


The **HARMON SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER** was awarded an **AURORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION GRANT** in the amount of \$670.00 to help fund the purchase of a social justice book collection. The grant application was submitted by Harmon School's Director of Media Services, **MARY BECKSTROM**.



Mason Kacmar Lydia Schiopota

The **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** for September 2021 were seniors **MASON KACMAR** and **LYDIA SCHIOPOTA**. **AHS PRINCIPAL, MIKE HAYES**, said, "These students are dedicated leaders in and out of the classroom while being incredibly focused on serving and empowering others. They have made a tremendous impact on not only Aurora High School but the community at-large!" They were honored at the Aurora Board of Education Meeting on Monday, September 27, 2021.



Congratulations to **LAUREN BAKA** whose artwork earned her the title of the first **AHS ART TO REMEMBER AWARD**. The AHS staff voted and Baka's artwork was deemed the most successful from the four Art 1 courses.

Recent **AHS A-TIME** was used to feature Aurora Schools' **SRO MICHELLE ICE** who provided **ALICE TRAINING** to students in different grade levels helping to keep our students and community safe.



Leighton School 5th grade students, **MADISON, JENNY, NICK**, and **BROOKLYN**, took initiative and cleaned up the schools' trail during their short morning snack time. They walked up and down the trail picking up the trash that they noticed earlier in the year. They managed to clean up 2 ½ grocery bags full of trash and set a fantastic example for other Leighton students.



Former AHS Instructor, **ROSE BROWN** (far right), continues to work with Kent State University's Fulbright Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program which provides visiting teachers from numerous countries with an opportunity to learn about U.S. classrooms and instruct alongside U.S. teachers. **KATE WHITE** has helped in the facilitation of the experience for **GUNA BADALLOVA** from Azerbaijan, **KAREL BUCHTA** from the Czech Republic and **GUNAY BADALLOVA** from Azerbaijan. Thank you AHS Instructors **JESSICA TRESKO, KEVIN WILCOX**, and **AMY WILLIAMSON** who have partnered with the scholars during their stay.

Beaumont — Continued from p. 5

Superintendent, Mike Roberto, explained, "I am not sure we could find a better fit than Ryan Beaumont to fill the assistant principal's position at Harmon School. Ryan rose to the top of a very deep pool of candidates. He brings a strong background as a teacher and mentor of teachers to Harmon School and his approach as an educator fits in with Harmon's culture of focusing on meeting the needs of all young people. Ryan will also be a great addition to our Administration Team through his varied experience and I am looking forward to his contributions to the team."

Beaumont said of his new position in the Aurora City School District, "Having the opportunity to work in Aurora is an opportunity I will not take for granted. I am beyond excited to continue the amazing work already taking place and look forward to working with the amazing staff at Harmon Middle School, and the larger Aurora community, to advance educational opportunities for all students within the district."

Beaumont, who grew up in Twinsburg, Ohio currently resides in Twinsburg once again with his wife, Katie, and their 6-year old boy/girl twins Hudson and Ellison.

Nutrition — Continued from p. 5

of all of our [Nutrition Group] experts, including dietitians, chefs and professionals within purchasing, human resources and beyond. We are extremely proud to be able to offer you our very own well-trained network of educated and qualified individuals. These individuals are experts in their respective fields and are hands on to help with challenges large and small."

"We're thrilled to be a part of the Greenmen community and excited to provide wholesome meals to all students" said Jessica Anzelone, Managing Director of The Nutrition Group. "Creating a safe and healthy environment for the highest quality food service is our top priority, and we're so thrilled to welcome students to the cafeteria!"

Nancy Kohl, President of the Nutrition Group, said, "Our commitment and focus remain providing students access to healthy, nutritious and wholesome meals while assuring the utmost food safety without compromising quality."

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8 — **October 2021**

Your Schools

CRADDOCK SCHOOL MEET & GREET 2021



SCHOOL LUNCHES FREE FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR



The Aurora City School District is offering free student school lunches for the 2021-22 school year. The Ohio Department of Education has approved the free student lunch program for all students in Ohio public schools and parents DO NOT need to sign up or register their child.



Lunch menus for each of the Aurora Schools' buildings can be found digitally online with Nutrislice, an interactive, online way to view the lunch menus from the district's new lunch program provider, The Nutrition Group. Nutrislice allows you to view images and descriptions, view nutrition information for specific food allergens, rate foods and see carbohydrate counts and access menus with the Nutrislice mobile app.

Craddock School First Grade Teacher, Katie McArthur, had a special guest visit her classroom to honor Patriot Day 2021. City of Aurora Police Officer/ Aurora City School District Resource Officer, Michelle Ice, addressed her class. Students also wrote thank you letters to area first responders in appreciation for all they do.

