

SPENCER-VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

(June Newsletter)

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SPENCER - VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Gabrielle Sousa is the Valedictorian for the Class of 2016. She is known around school as Gabbie and is someone who has excelled academically with a 100.89 GPA. Her high scholastic achievements have brought her many awards and honors. She is also an accomplished musician, playing First Flute for three years in the school band. In addition, she is a three-sport athlete who played field hockey in the fall, cheerleading in the winter and softball in the spring. Although she is soft-spoken, Gabbie is a leader. She was named captain of the cheerleading squad for three years and captain of her team in field hockey and softball, for one year each.



Gabbie took a very rigorous course of studies at S-VE and will graduate with an Advanced Regents Diploma. For the last two years at S-VE, her academic classes have been either Advanced Placement (AP) – which can qualify for college credit- or ACE classes through Corning Community College which earn CCC college credit. These courses include Physics, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Spanish IV and V, English, Economics and Government. Despite this very demanding class, band and sports schedule, Gabbie was a class officer for four years and a member of Key Club (a service organization), Student Council, Yearbook and Prom Committee for two years. This year she was also one of the Athletes as Role Models (ARM), a group who visits the middle and elementary schools to help increase participation in sports.

Despite her busy schedule, Gabbie has found time to do community service. She has picked up litter along the roadside as a member of National Honor Society, set and waited tables during the annual Yuletide Café for senior citizens (a free dinner gift to the elders from Student Council), she refereed at youth-level field hockey tournaments and volunteered at a youth cheerleading clinic to teach cheer skills to younger students. For two years, she has mentored a freshman having difficulty adjusting to high school. As part of Student Council, she organized two educational assemblies; one on distracted driving and one on teen pregnancy. She also organized a Career Day, bringing in S-VE graduates to speak about the career that each chose. On top of all this, Gabbie is still a reader and looks forward to curling up with a good book. (She prefers “the real thing” to an e-reader.) Gabbie will be going to SUNY Geneseo in the fall and will likely major in pre-Law studies.

Kelsey Pierce is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2016. Her path to graduation took her to GST BOCES this year and a program for exceptional seniors called New Visions Health Careers. This program introduces the participants to many careers in the field of health; from veterinarian to dentist to lab technician, nutrition, physical therapy and more. Kelsey entered the program thinking she wanted to be a physical therapist and was surprised to discover a different interest. For eight weeks of the school year, she went to rotations in all the health careers. She really enjoyed watching three surgeries and is now seriously considering surgery as her future career.



New Visions offered Kelsey the opportunity to participate in HOSA, a state-level competition in Syracuse sponsored by Health Occupation Students of America. She entered two team events and completed a knowledge test by herself at home. She came in third on the knowledge test which dealt with human growth and development. Her team in Syracuse placed second in public health and first place in health education. That first place finish won them all the opportunity to go to Nashville, Tennessee on June 23 to compete in the national level of competition. This is quite an honor, but also a bit nerve-wracking due to the date. Kelsey’s team will compete the day before her graduation on June 24. She plans to fly back on the evening of June 23 and is hoping for good weather and no airport delays.

Kelsey’s senior year classes were through New Visions in the morning and S-VE in the afternoon. Kelsey will also be graduating with an Advanced Regents Diploma. She has received numerous academic awards and honors, including a Finger Lakes Scholarship to Hobart and William Smith College, where she is going next fall. In addition to excelling scholastically, Kelsey is a talented athlete known for her incredible commitment and work ethic. She received many awards in her athletic career and recently was named Outstanding Female Career Athlete of the senior class. Field hockey was her favorite sport and she played on the varsity team for four years. This year, she was also named as a Top Drawer 24 Scholar-Athlete. As an Alto Saxophone player in band, she was selected as All-County First Chair in both the regular band and jazz band. In addition, as busy as her schedule was, Kelsey also found time to volunteer doing community service, including many of the same activities as Gabbie chose.

Seeking Graduates of Distinction Nominations

Spencer-Van Etten community members, administration, Inspire and former S-VE graduates established the Graduates of Distinction recognition to honor S-VE graduates for outstanding lifetime achievement. Honorees will be graduates from at least ten years following their date of graduation from S-VE and who are exemplary citizens having distinguished themselves through their communities, professions or careers. This may include service to humanity, exceptional career achievement or a lifetime of accomplishment. Nominees may have succeeded at the local, regional, national or international level in any appropriate area of endeavor, including academia and education, arts, business, media, public service, philanthropy, medicine, military, science or sports. To view further requirements or to complete an application to nominate an individual, please refer to our website (www.svecsd.org/communityinfo.cfm) or stop in the district office at the high school. Applications are due by July 1, 2016.

The Building Project

Work on Phase 2 of the capital project will begin this summer. This work includes updating the science classrooms at the high school, installation of wireless access points at the middle and elementary schools and new storage space for musical instruments at the high school. The serving lines in the high school cafeteria will be redesigned along with the replacement of old equipment. The auditorium at the middle school will be redesigned to include a separate chorus room and band room along with practice rooms for music lessons. On the outside, the north parking lot at the elementary school will be replaced and the parking lot at the middle school will be expanded to include additional parking spaces and a redesigned bus loop. The middle terrace athletic field at the high school will receive a new backstop and safety fence. Please visit the district website for a more extensive list of capital project work.

S-VE Bookmobile

Your school principals, teachers and other school staff will be visiting different community locations weekly at varying times this summer. We will arrive with lots and lots of FREE books for you and your child to choose from and we would love to spend some time reading to/with them! You can bring your favorite blanket or towel to spread on the lawn, listen to stories, read with a partner, and choose from our huge selection of new or “gently-used” books. Our goal is to keep you reading *ALL SUMMER* long!

We hope you and your child can make it to a few of our Bookmobile stops to spend time reading together. So bring your friends, bring your family or bring your daycare! It will be so much fun; we can't wait to see you! In the event of inclement weather, we will post any cancelations on our district website (www.svecsd.org) and Facebook page (Spencer-Van Etten Central School District).

The Van Etten Village Square on **Wednesday, July 6th @ 12:30 pm**

S-VE Middle School (Tennis Court Side) on **Monday, July 11th @ 6:30 pm**

S-VE Middle School (Tennis Court Side) on **Friday, July 22nd @ 6:30 pm**

Nichols Park (pavilion by the baseball fields) on **Thursday, July 28th @ 12:30 pm**

Halsey Valley (near the church) on **Wednesday, August 3rd @ 10:00 am**

Nichols Pond Pavillion (across from Parkview Pizza) on **Wednesday, August 10th @ 12:30 pm**

East Spencer Road Trailer Park on **Monday, August 15th @ 6:30pm**

S-VE High School (SVEYA Football Practice) on **Wednesday, August 24th @ 7:30 pm**

*** Please refer to our website and your child's backpack for additional dates.**



Middle School Summer Reading

SUMMER READING INCENTIVE

We are excited to work with your child next year at the middle school! It is important for your child to read and write over the summer so he/she can maintain the skills they have worked so hard to gain throughout the school year. **If your child reads throughout the summer they will have a chance to win prizes when they return to school.** The books they choose to read may be any genre (biography, mystery, fiction, etc.) but should be around their reading level. To have a chance to receive a prize, they may complete any appetizer, beverage, entrée or dessert listed on the paper we sent home. Your child needs to check the box of the items selected and fill in and/or attach the appropriate information required for each choice. The number of tickets they will receive for each choice is listed on the menu. Their completed menu will be collected on the first day of school. If your child loses their menu, please go to our website on the middle school page to print off a new copy. We look forward to hearing how your child chose to read and reflect upon their reading throughout the summer. If you have any questions about the assignment, please contact any teacher in the Middle School Humanities Department.

Happy Reading!

The Middle School Humanities Department

Elementary Summer Reading

During the last week of school, every elementary student was able to choose and bring home 2 gently used books, 1 new book from the Scholastic Book Fair profits and 1 new bookmark, purchased from a volunteer! Their love for reading radiated from their faces as they proudly walked back to class carrying their new stack of books. We hope you enjoy reading these 3 books with your child(ren) this summer!

High School Summer Reading

With implementation of the Common Core and higher expectations for student achievement, the English Department at the S-VE High School is again assigning summer reading to its students. Literacy skills are critical across the curriculum in every subject area now, from math to science to global - not just English. Students who do not read well are at risk for failing the Regents exams, which must be passed in order to graduate. Thus, reading is critical and all teachers want kids to read well.

Reading throughout the summer helps students to maintain their reading level, also. Like strength training or any other activity, it's "use it or lose it." Research shows that students who do not read over the summer return in September at a reading level two months lower than when they left school in June. To encourage students to actually do their assigned summer reading of two books, the high school English teachers send each student home in June with two books, one fiction and one non-fiction.

There is a welcome change in teacher expectations this year. Students will have free choice of any fiction book so they can be sure to find one they'll actually enjoy reading. The non-fiction will still correlate with the coming year's English/Social Studies curriculum, so students will choose from a grade-level list available online at the school's web site - <http://svelibrary.pbworks.com>. An easy way for students to find the web site is to go to www.svecsd.org, click on department-library-high school-summer reading for the non-fiction book lists.

Unchanged, however, is the September assessment based on the summer reading. Within the first five days of school, students will complete a writing task reflecting upon both books. The assignment will count as 15% of the first marking period grade. Students who fail to complete the task in a timely fashion will get a zero.

Families can encourage their students to read more than the required two books during the summer by accessing materials at the public library. Library cards are easy to get for those who don't have them. Both local libraries have evening hours and anyone can get a card at any library, regardless of what town they live in.

Libraries are not what they used to be. Once a student has that card, he or she may never have to go in person again. There are many online resources available for anyone who has a card and Internet access. There are magazines, e-books to read, audio books to listen to, software to learn a foreign language – all for free at the library. All you need is the Internet and a phone or tablet or computer. Physical books can be ordered online and the library will notify you when they are ready to be picked up. Many books in the public domain (no longer under copy write law) can be downloaded to a device at no charge – just google “free books online” to find them. BookBub.com will send a daily email with free or very low-cost e-books to download.

Anyone with questions can call the high school library for help, 589-7140. We are always happy to encourage reading and promote access to materials that interest students.