



FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021

Kuschel wins President's Choice Award in State Art Exhibit

by Julissa Mitchem

First-grader Olivia Kuschel took home the President's Choice Award for lower elementary in the Missouri Arts Education Association (MAEA) Youth Art Month Capital Exhibit 2021. This year's exhibit was virtual due to COVID-19, with the winners being recognized in an awards video posted on the MAEA website in March.

Art teacher Joyce Wright selected four students, grades K-12, to represent the Osage County R-1 School District. Besides Kuschel, other participating students were Grayson Gerloff, fifth grade; Rylee Davis, eighth grade; and Brittney Patridge, ninth grade.

Congratulations to all of the students for being selected to represent our district!



Fifth-grader Grayson Gerloff and first-grader Olivia Kuschel participated in the Missouri Arts Education Association (MAEA) Youth Art Month. Kuschel took home the President's Choice Award for lower elementary for her work titled "Unicorn Valley." Gerloff's work is titled "Statue of Liberty."



Freshman Brittney Patridge, left, and eighth-grader Rylee Davis show off their works of art that were featured in the virtual MAEA Exhibit at the State Capitol. Patridge's work is called "Forest at Night" and Davis' is "The Pierce of Electric Glow."

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By Principal Jeremy McKague

It's Testing Time!

I know this is everyone's favorite time of the year with all the testing. Juniors will be doing the ACT test on April 7. For elementary students, MAP testing starts on April 9 and goes through April 19. MAP testing for junior-high students runs April 20-22. High-school testing is April 22-30.

I understand this is a busy and stressful time. I want you all to take your time and do your best because these tests are important.

We've come a long way this year, and we're almost done, so keep working hard and hang in there just a little longer.



Junior High Volleyball Fights Hard in Short Season

by Abigail Keilholz

The junior high volleyball girls--Brianna Keilholz, Carley Brandt, Addyson Powers, Kendall Mitchem, Rylee Davis, and Savanah Sieg--have just started and ended their season in a matter of days. These girls have worked tirelessly on their skills to make our school proud.

On Monday, March 22, they played Eugene at home. Eugene's team was very large, but the Pirates didn't let it get to them. They played the first part of the team, who were seventh graders, beautifully. The Pirates were in high spirits when they played the second part of the team, the eighth graders, although it could've been too high, as they lost that match. They played their hardest and had some really good kills.

The girls then played at Eugene Tuesday, March 23, to try to beat them again. They played so hard and gave amazing effort at the game, although it didn't come together. They lost the first game against the seventh graders 25 to 23, and the second game, against the eighth graders, 25 to 16. Congrats to the girls for a short, but amazing season!



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Take a Bite with Healthy Teeth

by Celia McKague, RN

Taking care of your teeth helps prevent plaque, which is a clear film of bacteria that sticks to your teeth.

After you eat, bacteria go crazy over the sugar on your teeth like ants at a picnic. The bacteria break it down into acids that eat away tooth enamel, causing holes called cavities. Plaque also causes gingivitis, which is gum disease that can make your gums red, swollen, and sore. Your gums are those soft pink tissue in your mouth that hold your teeth in place.

If you don't take care of your teeth, cavities and unhealthy gums will make your mouth very sore. Eating meals will be difficult. And you won't feel like smiling so much.

How You Can Keep Your Teeth Healthy

You can take charge of your teeth by taking these steps:

- Brush at least twice a day - after breakfast and before bedtime. If you can, brush after lunch or after sweet snacks. Brushing properly breaks down plaque.
- Brush all of your teeth, not just the front ones. Spend some time on the teeth along the sides and in the back. Have your dentist show you the best way to brush to get your teeth clean without damaging your gums.
- Take your time while brushing. Spend at least two or three minutes each time you brush. If you're having trouble keeping track of the time, use a timer or play a recording of a song you like to help pass the time.
- Be sure your toothbrush has soft bristles. Ask your parents to remind you to get a new toothbrush every three months. Some toothbrushes come with bristles that change color when it's time to change them.

- Ask your dentist if an antibacterial mouth rinse is right for you.
- Learn how to floss your teeth, which is a very important way to keep them healthy. It feels weird the first few times you do it, but pretty soon you'll be a pro. Slip the dental floss between each tooth and along the gumline gently once a day. The floss gets rid of food that's hidden where your toothbrush can't get it, no matter how well you brush.
- You can also brush your tongue to help keep your breath fresh!

It is also important to visit the dentist twice a year. Besides checking for signs of cavities or gum disease, the dentist will help keep your teeth extra clean and can help you learn the best way to brush and floss.

It's not just brushing and flossing that keep your teeth healthy, you also need to be careful about what you eat and drink. Remember, the plaque on your teeth is just waiting for that sugar to arrive. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables and drink water instead of soda. And don't forget to smile!



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Principal by Day, Race Car Driver by Night

by Veronica Slack

Some may not know it, but our very own principal drives race cars as a hobby. Principal Jeremy McKague started racing in 1994 after he received his driver's license. He said he was already at the track because his brothers were racing. He said it looked like fun, so he gave it a try.

McKague races almost exclusively on 1/8-mile dragstrips, but he will occasionally race on 1/4-mile tracks. He drives both door cars and dragsters. The car he drives the most is a 1969 Chevy Nova, and he also often drives a 2015 Camaro Roadster.

McKague says the race season runs from March to November, and he has made over 500 runs in a year before. The fastest he has ever gone is 0 to 188 mph in 7.1 seconds on a quarter-mile track, and 0 to 154 mph in 4.42 seconds on an eighth-mile track. McKague has won several races, which means he had to win six to 10 races in a row. The most he ever won in one day is \$10,000.

While he says he doesn't really have a superstition or a good-luck charm, McKague's

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Osage R-1 School District Principal Jeremy McKague (center) races with his brothers from March to November.

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favorite number is 341. That is his car number, and he will point it out every time he sees it.

On the safety front, McKague's car contains a roll cage, transmission shields, five seat belts, plus many certified parts. He also wears fireproof pants and jacket, helmet, neck brace, and gloves, depending on what car he is driving. He says he has never really been majorly injured. He did crash one time, ending upside down and sliding backwards. He said it wasn't scary because it happened so fast, but when it caught on fire, it got scary really quickly.

McKague says his family other than his brothers who race with him find racing boring! McKague adds, "My advice to someone looking to get into racing is that it is an expensive sport, but that you don't need the fanciest of everything to win."



McKague's 2015 Chevy Camaro Roadster

His favorite part of racing? The competition and being in the winner's circle!

Band Performances and Art Show Spring into Action

The rain is falling and the flowers are coming out! That means spring is in the air. The upcoming spring concert will be split into a high school and elementary performance. The high-school band will perform at 3 p.m., on Sunday, April 11, in the school gym. The songs they will be playing include: *Rivanna River March*, *Soul*

Bossa Nova, *Sing Sing Sing*, *Counting Stars*, and possibly more.

The fifth- and sixth-grade elementary band will perform at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, in the school gym. Kindergarten through second-grade students will be singing, and third and fourth graders will be playing recorders.

There will also be an art show at the spring concerts. The students have worked hard on their art and will now be able to show off their work. The art show will take place in the gym lobby. The art will be switched out from the junior-high and high-school work to the elementary, so be sure to enjoy the art show on each separate day.

Masks will be required for the music program and art show. Come show your support and see the performances along with all of the beautiful art!



Music Director Beth Sieg leads the elementary students as they practice for the upcoming spring concert.

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First Grade Celebrates 120th Day of School

by Kaylee Sieg

The first-grade class and one second grader celebrated the 120th day of school on March 11. Teacher Misty Hilkerbaumer says that this day was one for the class to shine because they had been learning their math while counting to the 120th day.

The class was paired up to create masterpieces out of 120 items. Each pair was given 120 items of Hilkerbaumer's choice, and they all made some wonderfully creative things.

Carsen Wolf-Keller, below left, and Carson Miller were given Legos. They created a battleship fit for a sailor.



Cali Starke, left, and Olivia Kuschel were given 120 cups, which they made into a beautiful structure that had a nice little touch on the top middle.



Braxton Utte, above left, and Ryder Charlton, a second grader, were given 120 pattern blocks. The two created a crazy, amazing maze.

One other thing the group created were some hats. The hats had 120 on them and were colored by each student. The students all had a lot of fun!

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Schollmeyer Scores a First in Pirate Sports History

Fourth-grader Carly Schollmeyer recently took home the first-ever trophy for Chamois at the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) State Archery Competition, held March 18-20, in Branson. Schollmeyer placed fifth out of 191 elementary girls who participated in the state tournament.

Congratulations to Schollmeyer on this great achievement for our school!



Carly Schollmeyer

The Pirate Post Survey Asks...

Each issue we feature different grades and a different survey question.

by Julissa Mitchem

This issue we asked our third graders, “What’s your favorite Easter candy?”

Third Grade

- Leighton Doney - Absent
- Olivia Hord - Gummy Krabby Patties
- Boone Kuschel - Reese’s Pieces
- Will Kuschel - Reese’s Pieces
- Dorain Meyer - Chocolate Dump Truck
- Mark Mitchem - KitKat Bar
- Jaelyn Thoenen - Bottle Caps
- Keira Powers - Chocolate Eggs
- Ms. Kley - Peeps (yellow ones) and Cadbury Eggs



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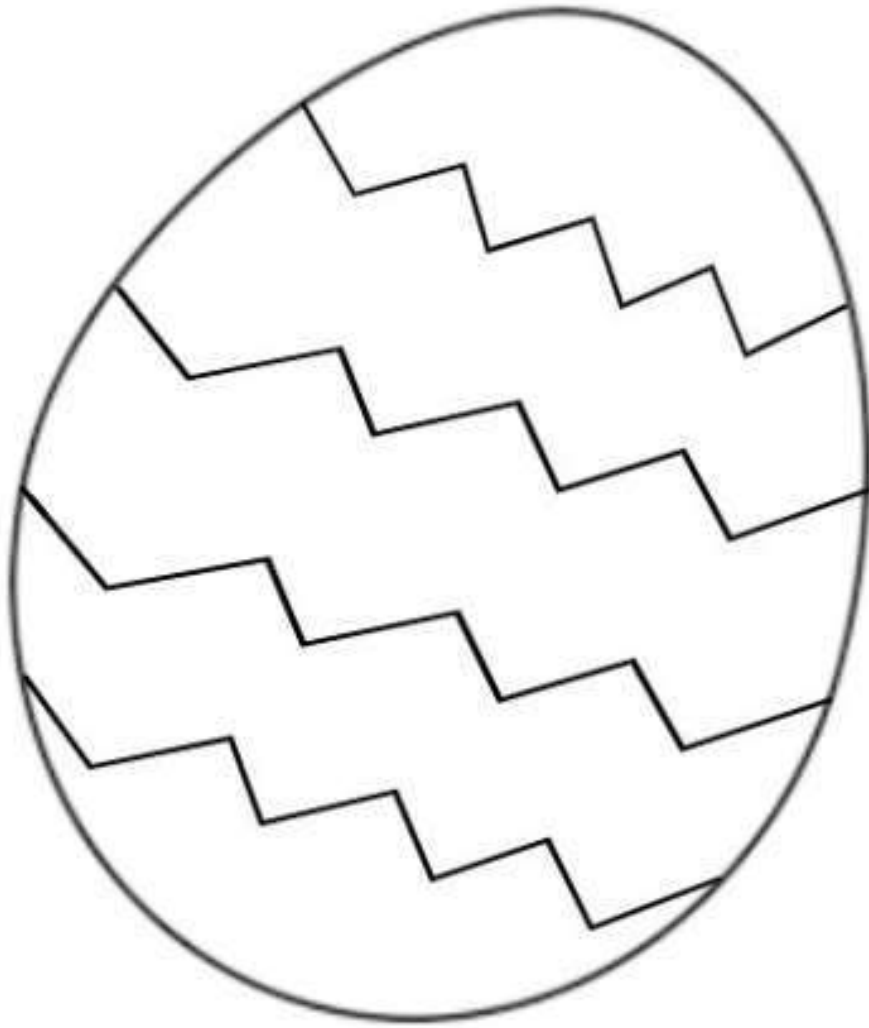
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Color Your Easter Egg

Color our Easter egg and share with a friend. Happy Easter!

by Levi Theissen



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