

February 2024



## Vestal Staff Art Show 2024

We know how special everyone we work with in Vestal are, for all they do to support our students and families... But, we are amazed at the other talents our colleagues possess! Last month, artwork and other handmade pieces created by some truly gifted friends were on exhibit in the Vestal High School art gallery.

The Vestal Staff Art Show was displayed January 16 - February 1, with an Artists Reception after school on January 19. We'd like to thank the high school art teachers, Melissa Restuccia, Pete Durham, Mary Cate Fruehan, and Mallory Little, for all their hard work in curating this show!

For photos of some of the artists and their pieces, see page 4 of this newsletter!



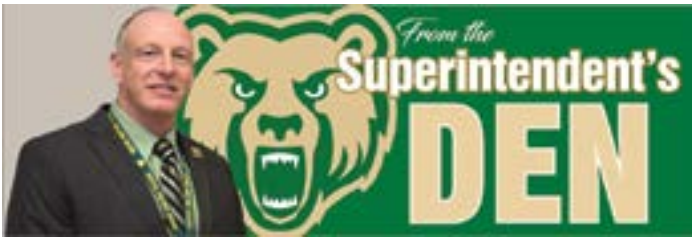
Our colleagues in Counseling & Guidance Offices across the District are being celebrated Feb. 5 - 9 for National School Counseling Week

**Cover Photo** - Former student Joanna Miller came into Mike Olson's second-grade classroom at Clayton Avenue on January 26 to lend a hand for the morning. Ninth-graders with the day off due to Regents volunteered at their former elementary schools and earned service hours.



Photos on page 3

Published for the staff of the Vestal Central School District



It's hard to believe we have entered the month of February. As I reflect, it seems like yesterday we were all in the VHS auditorium beginning the new school year. I know these first five months have not been without challenges. However, I am extremely impressed by your dedication to ensure we offer the very best to our students, both inside and outside the classroom. Our educational approach is second to none!

Part of having a great school system is promoting health and safety for our students, faculty, and staff. We currently have four School Resource Officers and engaged in conversations with the Town of Vestal last summer to add two more SROs. Since then, there has been a change in Town of Vestal leadership. Although I have met with the new Town Supervisor on numerous occasions and shared the various ways the Town of Vestal and the Vestal School District have collaborated over the years, it has been made clear that she is not supportive of two additional VPD SROs and is now reconsidering the commitment of active-duty Vestal police officers in our schools past June 2025.

As a result, I have addressed the Town of Vestal Board on two occasions, advocating for the addition of two SROs and to maintain the four SROs that we currently have. I will continue to advocate for our SROs and will take every opportunity to speak to the importance and benefits of having Vestal Police Officers in our school buildings.

On another note, we have only utilized one snow day as of this writing. Even though Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, I am not optimistic that Spring is on its way... I'm sure we are in for some snowy weather in the weeks to come! Looking ahead, we do not have school on February 16 and 19 in recognition of Presidents Day. I hope you are able to enjoy the long weekend and get some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Please know that I am extremely grateful for our Vestal School community. When I am out and about, I witness the camaraderie and collective Golden Bear spirit reflected in our faculty and staff. Thank you for always going above and beyond for our school district, community, students, and each other!

**Stay Golden, Vestal!**

Superintendent Clifford R. Kasson

## School Board Meetings

6 p.m., Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
Clayton Avenue Auditorium

6 p.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
Board Conference Room, Admin

6 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
Board Conference Room, Admin

6 p.m., Tuesday, March 26, 2024  
Board Conference Room, Admin

## RUNNING OF THE BEARS 5K

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 13, 2024**  
Vestal High School



ADULTS - \$25 / STUDENTS (UNDER 18) - \$15  
KIDS 1/2 MILE FUN RUN (9 AM) - FREE!

**PRE-REGISTER ONLINE BY MARCH 28**  
**TO RECEIVE RACE DAY SHIRT**



[RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/NY/VESTAL/THERUNNINGOFTHEBEARS](https://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/NY/VESTAL/THERUNNINGOFTHEBEARS)

**ONLINE REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 10...**  
**RACE DAY REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM**

## National School Counseling Week



*Savonna Pittari  
African Road*



*Colleen Ferratella  
Clayton Avenue*



*Stephanie Mitsakos  
Glenwood*



*Grace McLaughlin  
Tioga Hills*



*Julia Tyson  
Vestal Hills*



*Christian Conner  
Vestal Middle*



*Ashton Cerow  
Vestal Middle*



*Alyssa Williams  
Vestal Middle*



*Katy Jablonowski  
Vestal HS*



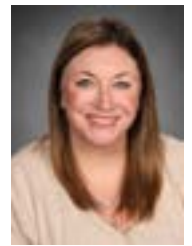
*Becky Martino  
Vestal HS*



*Leanne Schneider  
Vestal HS*



*Christi Smith, VHS  
Counseling &  
Guidance Chair*



*Katie Yezzi  
Vestal HS*

*Please take a moment to thank one of the super heroes in your building!*

## January Staff Photos

*Clayton Avenue staff accepted our Facebook "Snowday Challenge" and provided photos on January 16.*



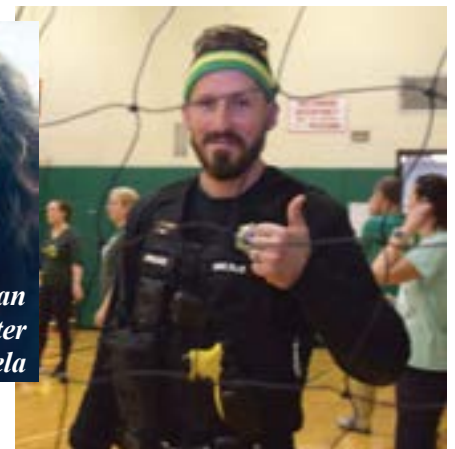
*Amy & Mr. Braman*



*Becky Gorman  
& Daughter  
Mikaela*



*Emily Rose  
& Max*



*A beloved tradition, Tioga Hills fifth-graders love their annual Volleyball Tournament against staff. This year, Conor Talbut was proud to play, not only as the school's SRO, but also as a Fifth-Grade parent!*

**Challenge**



**Support**



**Foster**



**Invest**

**3**

## Vestal Staff Art Show



*Mallory Little with her photographs; Christi Smith with her quilting pieces; Sean Bowers with his mixed media; Mary Cate Fruehan with her hanging sculpture; Pete Durham with his sculptures.*



Kudos to all of these talented staff members who contributed art work to this year's show: Robyn Adams, Deb Arthur, Sean Bowers, Chris Cardarelli, Pete Durham, Chris Dutkowsky, Mary Cate Fruehan, Patty Giovannone, Michael Kaefer, Stephen Marcin, Mary Merta, Rachel Moses, Hannah Moyer, Amy Panella, Ingrid Peters, Marina Pomukchynsky, Melissa Restuccia, Josh Rose, Jessica Snyder, Ashley Woughter, and Teal Yajko.

Visit [www.vestal.stier.org/StaffPhotos.aspx](http://www.vestal.stier.org/StaffPhotos.aspx) or use the QR code on the right to see more photos from the show!

