

Regular Board Meeting |

Monday, May 30, 2016

### *Student Recognition Program*

The recognition program is Grand Erie District School Board's way to honour and celebrate students who have accomplished excellence in the areas of academics, athletics, and the arts, as well as excellence in the community. All recipients receive a certificate signed by Brenda Blancher, Director of Education, and David Dean, Chair of the Board. Greg Anderson, Trustee, was with Brenda to present the certificates.

**Lexie Nagy (Centennial-Grand Woodlands School), Madison Golden (Cobblestone Elementary School), Miciah Havens (Agnes G. Hodge Public School)**

Three students from three different schools in Brant ventured to Toronto to share the stage with Cirque de Soleil and perform in the opening ceremony of the Pan Am Games last summer. Lexie Nagy of Centennial-Grand Woodlands School, Madison Golden of Cobblestone Elementary School, and Miciah Havens of Agnes G. Hodge Public School were selected from more than 500 dancers who tried out for the 133 spots. Lexie has been dancing since she was four years old and started to train at Carol Kitchens Dance Centre, but has since moved on to Pure Energy Performance. Madison dances at Dimensions Dance in Kitchener, on two teams – an intermediate competitive team and an intermediate/senior elite competitive team. Her favorite genres are jazz, ballet, lyrical, contemporary but she also likes hip hop, tap and acro. Miciah also had her start at Carol Kitchen Dance Centre at the age of 2, and is currently a full time competitive dancer there. Miciah has had a number of private lessons at a gymnastics academy to help keep fit and offer some cross training.



**Bailey, Grade 10, and Logan, Grade 12, Donaldson Waterford District High School**

Last summer, Logan and his horse Homer took home the world Champion title in Breakaway Roping at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championships last summer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Logan also qualified in the top 10 in other events. Breakaway roping is an event in which a calf is released from a chute and a rider attempts to throw a lasso around its neck. Logan wasn't the only member of the family to attend the Championships last summer. Sister Bailey placed 6<sup>th</sup> in cutting – cutting is an event where horse and rider are timed for separating an animal away from a herd.



**Bryce Savage**  
**Valley Heights Secondary School**

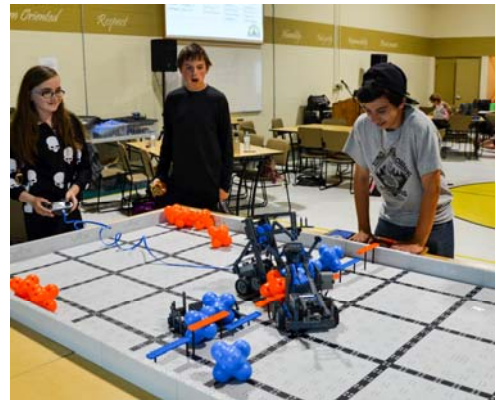
Bryce has had significant success in basketball foul shooting, winning for the past two years at school competitions, the Knights of Columbus District competitions and at regional competitions in the London area. Bryce is formally identified with multiple exceptionalities (he has autism and a developmental disability), making his accomplishments shine. He was also awarded the Council for Exceptional Children Student Achievement Award last year. Bryce and his family were unable to attend the Board meeting last month, but we were able to present him with his certificate of recognition and his gratitude for the award.



- Bryce was unable to attend the Board Meeting but we share this video to commemorate his achievement: <http://bit.ly/1X9z9RT>

*Do you know a student to nominate for this recognition? Learn about the criteria and the nomination process by visiting the Student Recognition section on the Board's website under the Student tab or directly through this link: <http://bit.ly/1T2CS1v>*

**Vex Robotics Challenge:** Students in Grades 4 to 8 from five different elementary schools were challenged to swap the workbooks for robots and rely on each other to troubleshoot best practices. Ten students from Major Ballachey Public School, Prince Charles Public School, Houghton Public School, King George School and West Lynn Public School competed in a VEX Robotics Challenge on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. Each school was supplied 12 kits to build different robots to bring to the challenge. Their day started with completing various competitions including soccer and basketball that comprised of a robot wired in by remote control.



- See more pictures on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/1OYXH7G>

**Vicki Martin and Sonia Biehn are recipients of this year's Frances Pleschuk Award:** The pair work as the educator team in the Kindergarten room at Langton Public School. They have been working with young learners together for the past six years, making a powerful impact on the students they teach. The Frances Pleschuk Award recognizes educators or educator teams in Ontario who have made an exemplary contribution to the education of young children.

- Video: Vicki and Sonia were featured in a 2014 video with one of their students, Charlie: <http://bit.ly/1NZYBWu>



**Lakewood Child Care Centre Grand Opening:** Today's Family Early Learning and Child Care in partnership with the Grand Erie District School Board celebrated the Grand Opening of Lakewood Child Care Centre on May 26, 2016. The Honourable Liz Sandals, Minister of Education, was on hand to commemorate the official opening celebration.

- For more pictures, click here: <http://bit.ly/1XVnh4R>



**Lending Voices:** Students from seven school boards in the London East Region joined Grand Erie for Leading Voices, a day of student leadership at Six Nations Polytechnic on Thursday, May 19, 2016. Key note speaker Pakesso Mukash started off the morning with his story as a Cree/Abenaki musician and activist. Students were invited to workshops that included Electroacoustic Music, Wampum Belt Teachings, Lacrosse Teachings, Onkwehon:we Organics and more. The afternoon concluded with a youth panel and future leadership planning.

- Click here to view the photos on Grand Erie's Facebook page: <http://bit.ly/1THC1Pp>



**Schools Support Fort McMurray Relief Effort:** Featured in the photo is River Heights Elementary who helped those in Fort McMurray, Alberta by raising funds with Winegard Ford Dealership in Caledonia through the Drive 4UR Community program. There are more schools and students who are active in the relief.

- Read more: <http://bit.ly/1WSXifg>



**Director's Visits:** Director Brenda Blancher's secondary school visits continued this month. She visited Hagersville Secondary School's hospitality class, Cayuga Secondary School's construction and drama classes, Delhi's Library and cosmetology class, Simcoe Composite School to deliver 25 year gifts to staff, Waterford's Art class (School bell picture featured in her tweet: [www.twitter.com/brenblanch](http://www.twitter.com/brenblanch)), and Dunnville Secondary School's co-op employer breakfast and community closet.



**Grand Erie Special Olympic Games:** The inaugural Grand Erie Games was held on Wednesday, May 18 at Cayuga Secondary School. The Games were a fun-filled day for our Special Education Secondary Self Contained classes (Autism, Developmentally Delayed, and Multi-Handicapped students). The event began with an Opening Ceremony at 10:15 am, followed by individual and team events that students can participate in. The day ended with a brief awards

- Click here to watch the video: <http://bit.ly/1UpSg5P>



*Achievement • Environment • Engagement*



**The Council for Exceptional Children Annual Awards:** The Council for Exceptional Children Annual Awards Night will be held on May 31 at Jean Vanier Catholic Elementary School in Brantford at 7:00 p.m. The awards will be presented in the following categories: Teacher of the Year Award, Paraprofessional Award, Student Award, Life Skills Student, Educational Leader, Business/Community Service, Community Volunteer, Warrener Parent Involvement, and Professional Support Services.

**Annual Operating Plans Review – 2015-2016:** The following Annual Operating Plans, which includes a status update and measurement component for the specific initiatives set in the 2015-16 school year that directly contribute to the goals and objectives set in the Multi-Year Plan, were presented to the Board:

- Environment - Safe and Inclusive Schools: <http://bit.ly/1Pd8CjE>
- Environment - Quality Accommodations: <http://bit.ly/1sHoKPX>
- Engagement - Community and Communications: <http://bit.ly/1NZGEr5>
- Engagement - Parent Engagement: <http://bit.ly/25urr5K>
- Engagement - Staff Engagement: <http://bit.ly/1Uegayh>

**Major Construction Update (FT2):** École Confédération (former Coronation school) redevelopment is the school included in the update report, which can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1LBYMSc>

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#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS

**Approval of minutes:** Trustees approved the minutes of April 25, 2016 (Regular Board Meeting), May 2, 2016 (Committee of the Whole No. 1), May 2, 2016 (Special Board Meeting), and May 9, 2016 (Committee of the Whole No. 2).

**Committee minutes and reports were received as information:**

- Summary of Accounts - April 2016: <http://bit.ly/1THtlqK>
- Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Minutes - April 21, 2016: <http://bit.ly/22us8uc>
- Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes - April 7, 2016: <http://bit.ly/1TT9XfC>
- Audit Committee Minutes – May 3, 2016: <http://bit.ly/1XJOnLO>
- Compensatory Education Steering Committee Minutes - April 28, 2016: <http://bit.ly/27ZkXy9>