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News from March 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Many of you are aware that there was a safety incident after school on the Gibbs playground this month. Two young girls who attend the Arlington Rec KidCare After School program were accidentally stuck by a hypodermic needle when they picked up a used, discarded syringe. Arlington Police responded quickly, treating the girls until firefighters and Armstrong Ambulance medics arrived. The syringe was properly discarded and held for testing, and the girls were taken to Winchester Hospital for test and treatment. I joined Interim Police Chief Julie Flaherty, Health and Human Services Director Christine Bongiorrno, Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine, APS Director of Nursing Susan Franchi and other town government support staff in subsequent discussions on response and action.

Our schools immediately performed thorough inspections of the grounds and asked all teachers and staff to remind their students that they should always report unsafe items such as a needle or syringe to an adult and never pick up anything that may be dangerous. Safety sweeps of our playgrounds and parking lots are standard practice, and I assure you that Arlington Public Schools and our town government agencies take all incidents of this kind very seriously. The safety of our students and staff is of utmost concern.

This is a particularly busy time in our district calendar as we plan for the upcoming school year. The 2019-2020 Budget has been approved by the School Committee and reviewed by the Arlington Finance Committee. Town Meeting consideration of the budget will take place in May. I invite you to review the [FY2020 Superintendent's Proposed Budget](#) that includes my Budget Message. You may also wish to review the [Draft Five-Year Budget Plan 2020-2024](#). This document is designed to provide a view into the district's longer term needs in the areas of enrollment growth, closing the achievement gap, improving instruction for students, ensuring safe and supportive schools, and attracting and developing talented staff.

Over the last couple of years, Arlington Public Schools and the School Committee have been discussing whether to change the starting time for our middle and high school students from 8:00 to 8:30 am. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) reports that too little sleep "...is associated with several health risks including being overweight, drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco, and using drugs, as well as poor academic performance." Having students begin school at 8:30 am or later is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics in their 2014 report [School Start Times for Adolescents](#). This month the School Committee voted to implement the later time at Gibbs, Ottoson, and AHS beginning September 2020. There are many details still to be considered, and the district administrative team will be evaluating all the issues and working on a plan for an appropriate implementation. A start-time plan for the middle schools will be presented to the School Committee in June. I will be sharing more information about this topic in future newsletters.

As I reported in my February newsletter, the [Massachusetts School Building Authority](#) has been considering our Schematic Design and approximate budget for the Arlington High School rebuild. I am pleased to report that the MSBA Board of Directors voted to approve the Project Scope and Budget Agreement at their April 10 meeting. The next steps in the process is to secure local funding for the

project through a debt exclusion (a temporary increase in taxes to pay for the debt required to build the school) and a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting to appropriate the funds. Town Meeting will consider the project for appropriation approval on April 29. The town-wide debt exclusion vote is planned for June 11. If this vote is successful and Town Meeting approves the appropriation, construction could begin as early as July 2020 and the first wings of the building will open to students in 2022.

The Arlington High School Building Committee is working hard to make sure that everyone in the community is well-informed about this project. April included information sessions for seniors and Town Meeting members and community tours of the building are being planned. A community forum to present the project, hear comments and answer questions is scheduled for May 21 from 7:00-9:00 pm at Town Hall. I urge everyone to take advantage of this opportunity, as well as attend one of the upcoming tours of the current high school to understand the many ways the deteriorating building is an obstacle to teaching and learning. Please visit the [AHS Building Committee website](#) where you will find the [design concept](#), [project budget](#), and [Educational Vision](#), as well as the calendar for upcoming events, the current status of the project, and the history of the rebuild process. I am pleased to have been part of this very exciting project to create a high school that will meet the requirements of 21st century education.



The Visual Arts Showcase on the [APS home page](#) now has a new exhibit. Please take a few minutes to scroll down the page and review the wonderful work being done by the young artists at Thompson.

If you are the parent or guardian of a sixth grade student, you will want to mark your calendar so that you and your child don't miss the May introduction to the Ottoson Middle School. The Forum is being held on May 30 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Wood Gym at OMS. Use this link to provide input regarding the topics to cover that evening: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgVtSsyPIXQ9AqMbMIMxDE-5H5aViuciH-c7TddVllsB6N4w/viewform?usp=sf_link

In closing, I want to list some of the wonderful spring events involving our students and faculty that the entire community can enjoy. On Sunday, April 28, the AHS Jazz Band is at Arlington Town Hall at 7:00 pm as part of the [Arlington Jazz Festival](#).

The 2019 K-12 Town Hall Art Exhibit opens on the second floor of the Arlington Town Hall on May 2. Over 200 selected student artworks reveal a rich variety of media, themes, and student learning goals, showcasing our Visual Arts curriculum. The Exhibit can be viewed weekdays during Town Hall hours which are Monday-Wednesday, 8:00 am–4:00 pm, Thursday, 8:00 am–7:00 pm, and Friday, 8:00 am–noon. The free closing reception for the student artists and their teachers is set for May 22 from 4:30-6:30 pm and is open to the public.

The Ottoson musical, *Mary Poppins*, takes place in the OMS Wood Gym at 7:00 pm on May 3 and at 2:00 and 7:00 pm on May 4. The AHS Pops Concert will be held at Town Hall the evenings of May 3 and 4, and the afternoon of May 5. The final Music Technology Concert of the year is in the Lowe Auditorium on May 16 at 7:00 pm. I hope you will be able to be part of some of these wonderful demonstrations of the talent and creativity of our young people.

Best regards,

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Headline View

Safe & Supportive Schools

Hardy Artist-in-Residence Uses Student Input to Create Colorful, Welcoming Mural

During his time at Hardy, artist [Bren Bataclan](#) helped students learn how to create visual representations of the ideas behind words, and used their drawings to create a beautiful mural that welcomes everyone into the building and illustrates the school climate. [Learn more>](#)

Majority of Survey Respondents Do Not Use Drugs Not Prescribed to Them

I am happy to report that 93% of over 900 Arlington High School students who responded to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) have never used prescription drugs not prescribed to them. [Learn more>](#)

Department News

Remember to Register for Arlington Community Education SummerFun!

You will be amazed by the scope of choices available to create dynamic vacation experiences for your children in the [Arlington Community Education SummerFun!](#) program enrolling now. [Read more>](#)

Redesign Work on Hardy and Peirce Playgrounds Begins

The landscape architecture team at [Weston & Sampson](#) held the first of two planned community meetings at Hardy and Peirce to review preliminary designs and collect input as work gets underway on the Chandler Street and Kindergarten Playgrounds. [Learn more>](#)

Professional Development

Eight Visual Arts Teachers Attend National Art Education Association Convention

Eight APS Visual Arts teachers from across the grade levels attended workshops related to pedagogy that included instructional strategies, assessment of student work, and curriculum development at the three-day [National Art Education Association Convention](#) this month. [Read more>](#)

Awards & Distinctions

Gibbs Students Share Project-based Learning Example at LearnLaunch Conference

The Ultimate Rock CD, a project completed by a first trimester Project Block class, was presented by three students as part of a poster session at the [LearnLaunch Institute 2019 Conference](#). [Read more>](#)

Eleven Middle School National History Day Projects Move from District to State Competition

Eleven projects illustrating the theme of *Triumph and Tragedy in History* are moving forward to the [National History Day](#) Junior State Finals in April. [Learn more>](#)

All Gibbs and Ottoson Grades Place Well in the New England Math League Competition

The official results of the [New England Math League](#) Competition test are in, and all grades did very well, with sixth grade test takers ranking ninth, seventh grade ranking fourth, and eighth grade coming in 11th out of all schools taking the exam at each level. [Read more>](#)

Ottoson 8th Grade Boys Basketball Team Wins State Middle School Championship

Congratulations to the members of the Ottoson 8th Grade Division 1 Town Basketball Team on their terrific season that ended with a win over Randolph to capture the State Middle School Championship. [Learn more>](#)

OMS National Academic Quiz Tournament Teams Having Strong Season

Two Ottoson teams have completed three contests as they compete to earn a spot at the [2019 Middle School National Championship Tournament](#) of the [National Academic Quiz Tournament](#). [Read more>](#)

AHS Students Win Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Congratulations to the two AHS artists and one writer who received [Scholastic Awards](#) this month. Learn more>

Two AHS Documentaries Receive Honorable Mention in C-SPAN's StudentCam Competition

Congratulations to the five AHS AP Government students whose videos responding to the theme of "What does it mean to be an American?" received Honorable Mention in this year's national [C-SPAN StudentCam Documentary Competition](#). Learn more>

Runners Earn Recognition at New Balance Nationals Indoor Championships

Congratulations to the four members of the Boys Indoor Track team on their accomplishments at the [New Balance Nationals Indoor](#) in New York City this month. Read more>

Academics & Enrichment

Middle School Mathematics Program Provides Experiences that Meet Different Needs

Mathematics Director Matthew Coleman met with community members this month to explain the current middle school mathematics program and the options available to fifth grade students as they transition from elementary school. Learn more>

Stratton Parents and Children Reason, Problem Solve, and Have Fun Learning at Math Night

There were board games, tactile block and shape games, word games, measuring activities, and much more at the first ever Stratton Math Night that gave families got a chance to listen and learn with their students as they engaged in mathematical thinking and reasoning. Read more>

Artist and Graphic Designer Visits AHS

Students in AHS teacher Annie Rebola-Thompson's Visual Arts classes had the opportunity meet and consult with professional artist, graphic designer, and founder of [Emulsion Printhouse](#) David DiAngelis last month. Read more>

Wetlands and Rain Forest Flora and Fauna Mark AHS STEM Service Learning Trip to Panama

Eleven AHS student scientists traveled from the city to the wetlands, the rain forests, a coral reef, and the Panama Canal during an amazing trip that included sloth and monkey sightings and joining local students to plant mangrove seeds. Learn more>

Creative Highlights

AHS Instrumental/Music Technology Concert Showcases Student Composers and Arrangers

Members of Introductory and Advanced Music Technology and the AHS Honors Orchestra joined together to create an amazing evening of original music and arrangements, presented live or recorded and accompanied by pulsating colors, 3D animation, and live action videos. Read more>

Voices of all Ages Come Together for Joyous All-Town Choral Concert

A love of singing and sharing songs with others was evident as nine groups featuring elementary, middle, and high school students performed a wide range of music to an enthusiastic audience at the All-Town Choral Concert on March 7. Learn more>

Painting, Drawing, and More was on Display at Gibbs Second Trimester Art Show

A beautiful and fun evening was created on March 12, as students, families, and friends appreciated the work of over 200 young artists, listened to the select music chorus Ignition, and purchased student-made baked goods in a fund raiser for art club supplies. Learn more>

Three All-Town Instrumental Concerts Illustrate Depth and Breadth of APS Program

Between 240-300 young musicians delighted their audiences at each of the three instrumental concerts that treated attendees to a range of music and demonstrated the growth that occurs as the students progress from third and fourth grade into high school. [Read more>](#)

Looking Forward to the School Art Shows

April and May are the months when all the elementary schools will hold shows to celebrate the work done by the students in Visual Arts classes, with Ottoson celebrating in April and June, and Gibbs announcing the date of the third trimester show soon. [Learn more>](#)

Continue to read the full News from March 2019 Newsletter

Safe & Supportive Schools



Hardy Artist-in-Residence Uses Student Input to Create Colorful, Welcoming Mural

The Hardy entryway was painted last summer, and while this made the halls look brighter and cleaner, Principal Kate Peretz felt that something was missing. Her hope is that every child walking through the front door feels welcomed and gets an immediate sense of what the school environment is like. She wanted the entryway to deliver this message, and she soon thought of artist [Bren Bataclan](#). Ms. Peretz had worked with him at a previous school, and she knew that he was the person she needed.

Mr. Bataclan is known as an artist who spreads kindness. Starting in Boston, he began leaving paintings in public places and inviting people to take for them for free providing they would promise to smile at random people more often. He warmly describes the project, now global in scope, in his [2017 TED talk](#). He also works in schools to create special, kindness-related murals that incorporate student ideas. His work is colorful, fun, and meaningful for the young people.

Kindness Week at Hardy was the perfect time for Mr. Bataclan to have his residency. On Monday, he held two assemblies, one for grades K-2 and another for grades 3-5. He shared some information about himself, showed some of his work, and demonstrated how the students could draw their own cartoonish characters. Prior to Mr. Bataclan's visit, the fifth grade had created a list of words that they believed described them and the Hardy school--words like friendship, caring, and love. These words became the basis for the mural. Every child received two words from the list, and during a special workshop, Mr. Bataclan helped the students learn how to create visual representations of the ideas behind them.

The next day, Principal Peretz and the artist reviewed the drawings and chose one from each student to be included in the final product. Mr. Bataclan grouped the characters into general themes that they represented such as character, community, strength, perseverance, and welcoming. He then laid out a mural by pinning the drawings in place on the walls.

Mr. Bataclan worked on the mural over the next few days. First, he drew the characters on the walls using pencil. He went over this with black line, and then added brilliant colors. He worked throughout each day, and as the students passed by, he talked with them and continued to spread messages of kindness. Ms. Peretz said that the students really enjoyed interacting with the artist and loved seeing how the mural took

shape. On Friday, the mural was unveiled, and each class was able to come and spend some time with Mr. Bataclan before he left.

Throughout Kindness Week, Hardy students discussed ideas for nice things they could do for the school and for each other. Every class came up with something they executed. These activities included reading books about kindness, writing “thank you” cards to adults, making a paper quilt with kindness acrostics as the squares, leaving notes of kindness in visible places and on random lockers, and making and displaying kindness posters around the school. Ms. Peretz shared these acts of kindness with the whole school during an assembly.

As you can see from the pictures above, Mr. Bataclan’s visit not only created a beautiful mural that welcomes everyone and shows that the school is kind and supportive. The project is also a wonderful illustration of the power of art to deliver messages. I want to thank the PTO for funding this amazing project that serves as a beautiful legacy for the departing fifth grade students.



Majority of Survey Respondents Do Not Use Drugs Not Prescribed to Them

Research tells us that it takes about 25 years for the brain to fully develop, so during the teen years it is vulnerable to damage from prescription drugs as well as other substances. It is gratifying to know that 93% of the over 900 Arlington High School students who responded to the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) report that they have never used prescription drugs not prescribed to them.

The [Partnership for Drug-Free Kids](#) reports that “Two-thirds of teens and young adults who report abuse of prescription medicine are getting it from friends, family, and acquaintances.” It is important for all of us to take precautions when storing and disposing of prescribed medications, and to remember to talk with our young people about the dangers of medicine abuse. You can find more information about the ways prescription drugs may affect the teen brain in a graphic on the Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition’s [Drug Facts: Know The Risks webpage](#). Helpful ideas for talking with your children can be found at [Take Action to Address Medicine Abuse](#). You will find a drop box for the disposal of unneeded prescription drugs at the Arlington Police Department at 112 Mystic Street.

Department News

Remember to Register for Arlington Community Education SummerFun!

Don't forget to go online and check out the wonderful options offered in [SummerFun!](#) this year. There are over 100 enrichment classes available for students in grades 1-9, all taught by experienced classroom teachers. Students can choose from Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Fitness Fun, Friendship, Fantasy and Games, Languages, Music, Theater & Dance, Nature Explorations, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Older students have additional options that include adventure, art, Chinese culture, history and Maine adventure day trips, Babysitting Basics, community activism and environmental leadership, LARP, media production at *ACMi*, SAT/ACT test prep, and a week-long camping adventure that starts in Acadia National Park and ends at the Maine/Canada border along the St. Croix river.

In addition to morning and afternoon classes, the *SummerFun!* program is offering an early option from 8:00-9:00 am. Except for the field trips, *ACMi* Television Workshop, and *Imagine, Design and Build Your Ideas*, the classes take place at the Ottoson Middle School. The five weekly sessions begin on July 8, 2019. Register now for a fun, creative, and adventurous summer of learning.

Redesign Work on Hardy and Peirce Playgrounds Begins

I am happy to report that the work to redesign two elementary playgrounds has begun. The Chandler Street Playground at Hardy is being designed to accommodate the school's increasing student population and serve the surrounding neighborhood. The first of two planned community input meetings was held on March 21, where preliminary concepts and play equipment options were discussed. At this time, attendees requested that the design firm consider a plan that minimized the blacktop and included more natural play space.

A similar meeting was held at Peirce on March 26 so that community could see the initial designs for the new Kindergarten Playground and provide feedback to the landscape architects. [Weston & Sampson](#) is handling both projects. The goal is to finalize the designs in the spring, request bids over the summer, and begin construction in the fall. It will be exciting to see how the work proceeds and I urge everyone in the Hardy and Peirce communities to attend the follow-on meetings and provide input.

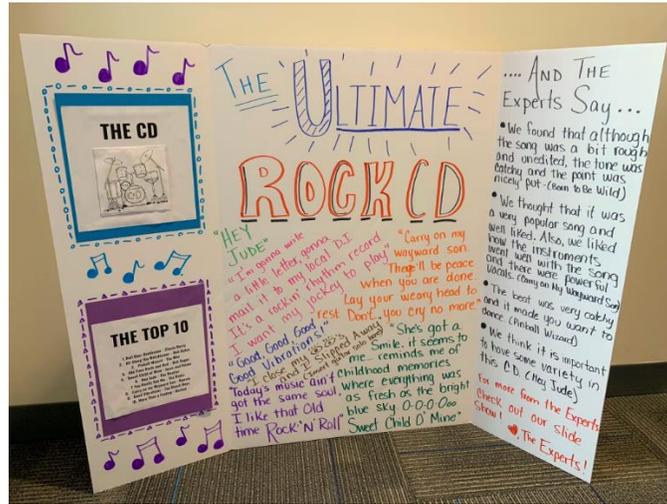
Professional Development

Eight Visual Arts Teachers Attend National Art Education Association Convention

Eight of our Visual Arts teachers were able to spend time with art educators from all over the world at the three-day [National Art Education Association National Convention](#) in Boston this month. Our attendees, representing all grade levels, had the opportunity to attend multiple workshops related to pedagogy that included instructional strategies, assessment of student work, and curriculum development. They will be sharing what they learned with the other members of the Visual Arts department so that everyone has a change to benefit from their experience.

Conferences such as the NAE National Convention give teachers the chance to learn from experts, collect and share ideas with other educators, and take time to reflect on their own teaching practice. This year's Convention offered hundreds of consecutive sessions as well as additional hands-on and off-site workshops and tours that participants could choose to attend. I am pleased that so many of our Visual Arts teachers were able to take advantage of this learning opportunity.

Awards & Distinctions



Gibbs Students Share Project-based Learning Example at LearnLaunch Conference

I was proud that three Gibbs students were selected to present at the [LearnLaunch Institute 2019 Conference](#), sharing the work they and their classmates completed during first trimester Project Block. Our young people were among those from about 22 Massachusetts middle and high schools who had applied and been accepted to demonstrate examples of project-based learning (PBL)--a style of active engagement where students learn about a subject by investigating it over time. Teachers take on the role of a coach, setting the stage for the students to get excited about what they are uncovering through their work. The topic being explored can extend or be independent of the curriculum. The work is focused on an essential question that will engage the students in a way that makes them want to create and execute a project that accomplishes a goal.

At Gibbs, all students participate in Project Block that involves groups of about 12-15 students that meet twice every six day cycle. Cooperative project-based learning is introduced during the first trimester. A school-wide theme is set and the young people in each class work together on a single project under that theme. Each class can approach the project differently. The Project Block teacher sets the overall parameters for the work and walks the students through a process that enables them to learn the elements of group collaboration--cooperation, listening to others, planning meetings, agreeing respectfully, researching, organizing, reflecting as a group, taking the work to completion, and presenting the results.

The theme for the first trimester's Project Block was Adversity. Music teacher James Ham asked his students to examine how rock musicians and their music has explored this theme over time and create a CD that illustrates what they found. He provided a list of rock groups to research, and then gave them a list of songs to study. The young people considered questions such as What are the groups trying to say? Did they accomplish their goal? Why is this song a good one to illustrate the theme? As they evaluated and discussed what they had found, a rubric was created that was used to make the choices of what to include on the CD.

Mr. Ham reports that the students were very excited as they worked on the project. Rock music is one that sixth grade students identify with, and they dove right in. They created *The Ultimate Rock CD*, a compilation of music from six artists that included Chuck Berry, The Who, Guns and Roses, and The Kinks, among others. The project was accepted for the LearnLaunch Conference, a display poster was created. Three students were chosen to represent the class, and Mr. Ham worked with them to refresh their speaking skills and understand what to expect from a poster session. They talked about how to

Speak personally and professionally with high level educators (including the Commissioner of Education), and how to teach someone else what they had learned from the project.

The students experience at the Conference began with a one minute introduction to the attendees in a large auditorium, where each group introduced themselves and their project and invited the attendees to visit them in the Innovation Showcase and learn more. Mr. Ham and Gibbs Principal Kristin DeFrancisco said that the young people had no idea about the questions they would need to respond to when people came to their booth. They report that there were a lot of visitors who came forward, and that the Gibbs students “really got into it”, engaging very professionally. It was a very rewarding experience for them.

The students who were involved in this project will now be helping their peers at Gibbs prepare for a visit from members of the [Massachusetts Personalized Learning Edtech \(MAPLE\) Consortium](#) next month. This group is part of a public-private partnership created by the [LearnLaunch Institute](#) and the [Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) to drive the development and implementation of personalized education in our state. Gibbs students will invite the visitors to a mini-poster session like the one held at the Conference that showcases many of the projects completed during Project Block.

The Ultimate Rock CD is a wonderful example of how a hands-on, research-based project can capture students’ imagination and give them the opportunity to apply what they are learning. During the work to create the CD, the students not only had to embrace and exercise new skills related to cooperative research work, they also had to apply many of the concepts they were learning in Mr. Ham’s music class. Throughout the year, the work in Project Block evolves over each successive trimester as the young people practice what they have learned by working in smaller groups and experiencing more self-direction and choice.

I want to congratulate all the students who worked on *The Ultimate Rock CD* and thank the three students who represented the project and their school so well at the LearnLaunch Conference. I also thank Mr. Ham for directing his class through such an innovative project, and Ms. DeFrancisco for her leadership in driving project-based learning at Gibbs. It is always gratifying when our district can share the great work of our students and teachers with the wider community, and I look forward to doing more of this during the upcoming MAPLE visit.

Eleven Middle School National History Day Projects Move from District to State Competition

Once again, our middle school historians have been recognized during district [National History Day](#) (NHD) competition and 11 projects are moving on to the NHD Junior State Finals being held at Winchester High School on April 6. This year’s NHD theme is *Triumph and Tragedy in History*, and the top three projects in each category are eligible to move forward. The following projects are competing in the State Finals:

Category	Placement	Project	Student(s)	School
Group Website	First	<i>The Partition of India: A Triumph and A Tragedy</i>	Brynn Elverson and Jiya Iyer	OMS
	Second	<i>Typhoon Cobra and the Triumphs and Tragedies of the Worst Storm to Ever Hit the US Navy</i>	Elliot Elkin and Mo Hagenbush	OMS
	Third (tied)	<i>The Atomic Bomb</i>	Felix Nelson and Mac Shilling	Gibbs
	Third (tied)	<i>The Titanic: Triumph and Tragedy</i>	Melanie Weiner and Nora Vallarino	Gibbs
Group Documentary	First	<i>Triumphs and Tragedies of the Philadelphia Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793</i>	Emily Neoh and Clara Schneider	OMS

	Second	<i>The Triumphant Pressure that Took Down the Berlin Wall</i>	Maeve Padien and Sadie Simon	OMS
Group Exhibit	Third	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>	Mara Colosimo and Keira Haley	OMS
Group Performance	Second	<i>The Triumph and Tragedies of Corrie Ten Boom</i>	Naomi Danison and Sadie Ford	OMS
Individual Documentary	Second	<i>The Qin Dynasty</i>	Leo Young	OMS
Historical Paper	First	<i>The Battle of Thermopylae</i>	Brandon Drapeau	OMS
Individual Website	Second	<i>The Triumph and Tragedy of Typhoid Mary and New York's Typhoid Epidemic</i>	Julie Bihari	OMS

Another project, *The Tragedy of Dunkirk* done by OMS student Nick Moylan, received Honorable Mention. A total of 12 projects were submitted by OMS students and three by Gibbs students.

The projects are the culmination of six months of work. After researching the theme, the students chose a project category that best demonstrated their strengths. Advisors and Social Studies teachers Jason Levy (OMS) and Thomas Bushell (Gibbs) taught them about time management, writing a thesis, narrowing down a topic and connecting it to a theme, and conducting research according to Modern Language Association guidelines.

Those competing in the Website category needed to complete their work two weeks before the competition so judges could review it. Those competing in the Exhibit category set up their exhibits the day of the competition and these were viewed by the public after the judging. The public also got to see the Group Documentaries.

All projects include a Process Paper, which describes how students conducted their research and how their project and thesis relate to the theme. All entries also include an Annotated Bibliography, which is separated into Primary and Secondary Sources. Each group defends their project and thesis in front of a panel of 2-3 judges for 10 minutes. The judges focus their questions on how the project relates to the theme and the type of sources they used.

Junior Group Website has been a particularly strong category for our middle school students over the last few years. This is the fourth consecutive year that our young people have captured First and Second place in Junior Group Website, and this year with two projects tied for third, it is a grand slam! Mr. Levy reports that the judges praised our projects for their creativity, how well they fit this year's theme, and for their use of Primary and Secondary sources in their research. He is proud of the great job they did representing Arlington Public Schools and says that all the students have a strong work ethic and are very supportive of each other.

Mr. Levy and Mr. Bushell believe that the skills learned in NHD competition, especially those that involve 21st century learning objectives, prepare students for success in high school and beyond. I congratulate all the students who are taking part in National History Day competition and thank Mr. Levy and Mr. Bushell for providing the guidance that makes our young people so successful.

All Gibbs and Ottoson Grades Place Well in the New England Math League Competition

On February 26, interested Gibbs students and all Ottoson students participated in the New England Math League Competition, a 30-minute test designed to demonstrate that academic competition and problem-solving can be fun. The test questions emphasize "outside of the box" thinking. This is not a graded or required exam, but rather a way to illustrate that it can be fun to think through challenging brainteasers. The five high scorers in each grade receive certificates of merit.

The official results have been posted, and I am delighted to report that our young people scored very well. The sixth grade ranked 9th out of 68 schools taking the exam and 4th among schools in the Middlesex Region. The seventh grade ranked 4th out of 72 schools and 2nd among schools in the Middlesex Region. The eighth grade ranked 11th out of 68 schools and 3rd in the Middlesex Region. We also had several students whose individual performance was particularly notable within their grades: one sixth grade student ranked 17th among all contestants, two in the seventh grade ranked at 14th and 21st respectively, and one eighth grade student ranked 15th.

Congratulations to all the students who participated and to our mathematics teachers who contributed to these excellent results. I want to thank Ottoson ACE teacher Amy Duke and Gibbs math teacher Julie McDaniel for coordinating the administration of the exam. The [Math League](#) is dedicated to bringing challenging materials to students through contests, books and computer software. Two acclaimed high school mathematics teachers started it in 1977. Today approximately one million students participate in the math contests each year, which are a wonderful way for young people to explore their problem-solving abilities.



Ottoson 8th Grade Boys Basketball Team Wins State Middle School Championship

I am happy to share the news that the Ottoson 8th Grade Division 1 Town Basketball Team won the State Middle School Championship this month! Their 26-11 season record earned the invitation to play in the State Tournament, where the team won all five of their games over two days. They beat Randolph 69-64 to clinch the Championship.

Over the season, the team played against other town and school teams with home games taking place at Ottoson and AHS. In celebration of their Championship win, OMS Principal Brian Meringer congratulated the team during morning announcements and the players attended school wearing their Massachusetts State Championship shirts.

Congratulations to Jay Jeanty, Marcues Jean-Jacques, Jalen Allison-Cardoso, Andrew Yang, Cameron Connell, Freddie Tatlock, Ian Heurtelou, Matt Nufer, Simon Hess, and Jayden Williams and Coaches Lloyd Williams (father of Jayden) and Peter Howe (father of Simon) on the great season. Unfortunately, Coach Howe was ill when the above picture was taken, but eighth grade student Rowan McConkey who is the team videographer and Jayden's younger brother Jacob are included.



OMS National Academic Quiz Tournament Teams Having Strong Season

Two Ottoson [National Academic Quiz Tournament](#) (NAQT) teams will be trying to earn a spot at the [2019 Middle School National Championship Tournament](#) when they compete in Darien, Connecticut in April. I am sure they are inspired by the strong performance of last year's first ever OMS team who went to national competition and missed making the playoffs by just one question! This season has been going very well, with the teams competing in three tournaments so far--Connecticut, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

At the Massachusetts tournament held at the Advanced Math and Science Academy, OMS Team A consisting of eighth grade students Cameron Connell, Owen Shi, Rafi Nelson, and seventh grade student Henry Mastro ranked first, beating teams from the Academy, Andover West, Boston Latin, and Chenery/Belmont. In addition, Cameron and Henry ranked among the top 12 individual scorers.

Cameron is having a particularly strong season. He has placed among the top 10 individual scorers in all three tournaments. This has earned him an invitation from NAQT to participate in the first-ever National Individual contest to be held in Chicago. He is hoping that the team will make it to Nationals, and in that case, would forgo the Individual competition to compete alongside Owen, Rafi, and Henry.

I want to congratulate the members of Team A and eighth grade students Armaan Merchant and Alex Perhanidis and seventh grade students Allison Dixon and Greta Mastro who make up Team B. I thank OMS ACE teacher and sponsor Amy Duke and parent Coach Dr. Michael Connell for their leadership and hard work getting the two teams ready for competition. Good luck in Connecticut!

AHS Students Win Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

It is always gratifying when an outside organization recognizes the talent and accomplishments of our students. Several AHS students chose to participate in the [Scholastic Art and Writing Awards](#) this year, and I am happy to report that three of them received awards. Congratulations to Avril Lynch (Art, Silver Key), Leo Drake (Art, three Honorable Mentions), and Emma Davison (Writing, Silver Key).

Two AHS Documentaries Receive Honorable Mention in C-SPAN's StudentCam Competition

Congratulations to the five AHS students whose videos received Honorable Mention in the national [C-SPAN StudentCam Documentary Competition](#). Now in its 15th year, the contest poses a theme and asks middle and high school students to submit documentaries that illustrates it. Almost 3,000 submissions were received that responded to "What does it mean to be American? Choose a constitutional right, national characteristic, or historic event and explain how it defines the American experience."

The winning videos are:

- [The Evolution of Modern News](#) by 10th grade students Serena Bernstein and Mia Umali

- [Locally Sourced Government](#) by 12th grade students Michael Graham-Green, Hikaru Koga, and Samuel Monks

A total of six documentaries were submitted for consideration by students in Social Studies teacher Glen Fant's AP Government class. Mr. Fant set the expectations early, introducing the competition and the theme on the second day. Brainstorming around American values, what the American experience is, how to illustrate it, and how to frame the question were the first steps. Working in small groups, the students picked a topic to pursue. Then the effort really began.

To complete the project, everyone had to learn how to create a video. They spent time at *ACMi* Studio B getting trained on using the cameras and tripods, learning how to film, and gaining an [understanding](#) of production issues. *ACMi* Youth Liaison Kevin Wetmore was a tremendous resource, and equipment could be taken offsite for filming or used within the studio.

Over the course of the project, Mr. Fant provided direction as the students looked at documentaries, reviewed those created by previous C-SPAN contest winners, and discussed how to frame shots. They talked about how to find experts and reviewed interview techniques and examples of tone. Decisions on who to interview and making the arrangements to do so were done by the students. Since the films were due in January, the class looked at the rough cuts before winter break. Mr. Fant used the C-SPAN rubric to grade them, and then they talked about the good elements in each video and what could be improved.

The students found the project difficult because they were researching and understanding content as well as learning video skills. One student reports that it was challenging to figure out how to create something that was interesting to the viewer, but that it was great to explore a whole new topic—especially one she was passionate about. Mr. Fant found that the students were very supportive of each other and believes that the project created a culture of helpfulness.

This is the second year that Mr. Fant has asked his AP Government students to take part in this excellent example of student-driven project-based learning. The young people determined a topic that would illustrate the theme, researched it, learned the subject matter and determined how to structure the content into a cohesive, informative format while learning the skills of videography and interviewing along the way. I want to thank *ACMi* and Mr. Wetmore for all their support of the project. I congratulate Serena, Mia, Michael, Hikaru, and Samuel on their Honorable Mentions and the \$250 award that comes with this recognition.

Runners Earn Recognition at New Balance Nationals Indoor Championships

Congratulations to Roger Buckley, Jeff Candell, Miles Harrison, and Ryan Oosting on their performances at the [New Balance Nationals Indoor Championships](#) in New York City this month. The four runners took part in two relays, coming in 19th in the 4X800 Meter Relay and sixth in the Distance Medley Relay Championships. Additionally, Ryan Oosting participated in the 2 Mile Championship where he placed second.

The rankings in the Distance Medley Relay and 2 Mile Championship earned the athletes the prestigious designation of All-American. AHS Track Coach Justin Bourassa reports that all three races were Arlington records! These accomplishments at Nationals are a wonderful way to end an amazing indoor track season. Kudos to all!

Academics & Enrichment

Middle School Mathematics Program Provides Experiences that Meet Different Needs

This spring, K-12 Mathematics Director Matthew Coleman has been meeting with members of the community about the learning opportunities for current fifth grade students as they transition to middle school. I am pleased that we offer middle school options to meet the varied needs of our students.

The majority of fifth grade students transition into Mathematics 6, and after this first year, move on to either honors level Mathematics 7A or standard Mathematics 7. Additionally, we offer Digital Media and Literacy and Computer Science to all sixth grade students. Currently 97% of the sixth grade class is enrolled. This course focuses on algorithmic thinking and design and includes [Scratch](#) programming software, 3D printing, and [Vorpal Robotics](#). Seventh and eighth grade students may take Digital Media and Literacy and Computer Science as an elective, and currently 33% of all these students are enrolled.

The small group Mathematics Support class is designed to improve foundational skills and concepts required for developing mathematical fluency. This class is not required, but highly recommended for those young people who can use additional support preparing for upcoming assessments and assignments, and in developing communication skills within mathematics. Students meet with a teacher for a few days each cycle and may transition out of the program as they are ready. The Mathematics Support class is only offered for standard level classes.

There is also the opportunity for fifth grade students to determine if it is appropriate for them to bypass Mathematics 6 and go directly into Mathematics 7A. Students who believe that they can display evidence of mastery of the content as well as the reasoning of Mathematics 6 and wish to explore this pathway must have consistent third and fourth grade MCAS scores of *Exceeding* and take the Mathematics 6 Final Exam. Students who score 95% or higher quantitatively and demonstrate reasoning that is consistent with the Mathematics 6 standards will then be considered. The test results are combined with feedback from the fifth grade teacher and the results of a face-to-face meeting between the parents, the student, and Mr. Coleman to discuss the positives and negatives involved in bypassing Mathematics 6. It is important that all ramifications involved in this decision are well understood before a final decision is reached. We have offered the opportunity to take Mathematics 7A in the sixth grade for six years. The progression from here is to Algebra 1 in the seventh grade and geometry in eighth grade.

For more information, please see Mr. Coleman's [Transition to Sixth and Seventh Grade Mathematics Presentation](#). The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [Mathematics Curriculum Framework](#) for grades Pre-Kindergarten to 12 describes the expectations for what all students should know and be able to do at the end of each year. Specific questions about mathematics transition may be addressed to Mr. Coleman at mcoleman@arlington.k12.ma.us.

Stratton Parents and Children Reason, Problem Solve, and Have Fun Learning at Math Night

Mathematics Specialist Elizabeth Van Cleef isn't completely sure why everyone who attended the first ever Math Night at Stratton on March 14 had such a great time. It could have been because it gave parents and families a chance to see and hear their children thinking and reasoning mathematically in ways they had not seen before. It might be because they enjoyed doing mathematics with their children. It could also have been because the way the adults learned to do math was so different from the way their children were doing it on Math Night that they were able to understand what was happening every day in the classroom. Whatever the reasons, Math Night, attended by 300-350 people (200 of which were children), exceeded expectations and was a huge success.

To get the whole school in the mathematics mindset, a Penny War was started the first part of the week. Students were encouraged to bring in loose change and put it into their grade's jug. Each penny earned one point, but dimes and nickels subtracted points from the other grades. At Math Night, children submitted their guesses for the number of coins in each container, hoping to win a gift certificate to [Cookie Time Bakery](#). After the event, each second and third grade class got busy counting, adding, and subtracting the contents. Half the money went to the Stratton PTO and the other half was used to buy Arlington EATS snacks for the school.

Attendees to Math Night had plenty of activities to choose from at the 18 tables in the cafeteria. Each table contained one or two games, or a variety of problem solving activities. Ms. Van Cleef chose some games from the curriculum, [Investigations in Number, Data, and Space](#), and she purchased some that

she believed are particularly good for family engagement around thinking and learning mathematically. There were also eight different data questions hanging on the walls that attendees could answer. Mathematics Specialist Stewart Deck ran *How long is the Hallway?*, an exploration station that used children as the unit of measurement. The cafeteria was full of engagement, but the two Specialists report that *Racing Bears*, *Make a Block*, *Set*, *Metaforms*, *Five-in-a-Row*, *Close to 100*, *Decimals in Between*, *Half Yellow*, *The 24 Game*, *Which One Doesn't Belong?*, *How Long is the Hallway?*, and the *Question of the Day* and Problem Solving tasks were especially popular.

A *Passport* guided the families through the stations, and activities and games were checked off as they were completed. A prize was awarded every time four check marks were amassed. Colored balloons aligning to the PRIDE colors for each grade level helped the families determine the best games and activities to engage in with their children. About 30 volunteers, including a dozen fifth grade students, staffed the stations. Ms. Van Cleef reports that the fifth grade volunteers were AMAZING and that it was great fun to see the older students teaching the younger ones and everyone teaching the parents. The fifth grade students each took the games home to learn ahead of the event. One even came up with a list of extensions for the game she was supporting.

The idea for Math Night came from a brainstorming session and survey about what enrichment activities Stratton parents would like to see the PTO hold this school year. I want to thank the members of the Stratton PTO for the wonderful support they provided, Ms. Van Cleef and Mr. Deck for leading Math Night, PTO Vice President of Fundraising Andrea Haas for the idea of the Penny War, parent Chrissie Collins who helped with the *Passports*, all the adults and students who manned the stations, and those who assisted with set-up and clean-up. PTO Co-president Bryn Hollenbeck notes that in addition to being so much fun, the event was a way to showcase the mathematics curriculum and the great work done by Specialists Ms. Van Cleef and Mr. Deck. Everyone hopes to make Math Night an annual event!

Artist and Graphic Designer Visits AHS

Visual Arts students in Annie Rebola-Thompson's classes had the wonderful opportunity to meet with a professional artist and graphic designer last month. David DiAngelis spoke with the young people about how he survived as a struggling artist and went on to found [Emulsion Printhouse](#), a successful design and apparel printing company in Boston. While at AHS, he consulted with students about the personal designs that they had created in preparation for his visit. One of these designs is now being printed on complimentary T-shirts. I want to thank Ms. Rebola-Thompson for hosting this visit and enabling her young artists to understand more of the possibilities open to them to pursue their art in the future.



Wetlands and Rain Forest Flora and Fauna Mark AHS STEM Service Learning Trip to Panama

During February vacation, 11 students joined AHS Science teacher Jayce McG and Special Education teacher Amanda Donohue on an amazing STEM service-learning trip to Panama. The first two days in Panama City were spent getting grounded in the national and biologic environment. On the first day, trips to the Panama Viejo Ruins, the remains of the old city, and the district of Casco Viejo introduced the students to the nation's history. The students visited the [Biomuseo](#), where a series of exhibits illustrates the geological origin of the region and the way this has influenced the immense biodiversity found

throughout the country today. The following day was spent with staff members from [CREHO, the Centro Regional para el Hemisferio Occidental](#). This organization is Panama's division of the [Ramsar Convention](#), an intergovernmental treaty that is tasked with protecting wetland resources. The students were able to view a variety of colorful birds as they visited natural and man-made wetlands, a mangrove forest, and mudflats.

Cultural immersion and service learning was the focus of the next day. The group made their first trip across the Panama Canal to reach a school in El Libano where they were joined by the Educational Director, an Environmental Biologist, a Shark Biologist, two members of the Ministry of Environment, and young student volunteers. The group hiked to the edge of the mangrove forest and planted seeds in the muddy ground. After lunch and a soccer game, two boats ferried the group to a large mangrove forest, where they cruised along the edge learning about the types of mangrove trees and looked for wildlife. A break in the trees allowed the boats to slip into the middle of the forest for a different view. There was also time to try some shark fishing and take a dip in the Pacific.

Two hikes the following day enabled the AHS visitors to move from the wetlands and experience the humid tropical rainforest. In the morning, the group visited the [Metropolitan National Park](#), the only protected park within the limits of a city in Central America. Here they learned about the vegetation and creatures who inhabit the lush area. It was especially exciting for the students to spot their first troop of monkeys and great fun to help one of the students celebrate her 17th birthday with a dulce de leche cake! [Camino de Cruces National Park](#) was the site of the evening hike. As they walked into the rainforest just before sunset, the group came upon basilisks surrounding a small pond and bats began to emerge. After the sun set, flashlights and headlamps were switched on as they continued into the forest looking for creatures that included colorful frogs and toads of all sizes.

There was more service work on the next day, under the direction of a guide and researcher from the [Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Punta Galeta](#). The students classified and counted the types of mangroves in measured areas and learned about an orchid that lives in the bark and only blooms at night. After a quick bus stop to observe a mother sloth with a baby wrapped around her stomach, the group picked up their snorkeling equipment and swam in a small cove to observe dozens of fish species and coral on the reef.

On the last day, the students boarded a boat and visited the Panama Canal. Passing beneath a bridge, the group came face to face with a massive cargo ship and headed towards the Caribbean Sea and Gatun Lake. They saw various birds and tamarin, capuchin, and howler monkeys as they motored deep within a group of islands. The last major event of the trip was a guided tour of the [Miraflores Locks](#) on the Canal.

All aspects of the trip provided amazing learning opportunities and Mr. McG says that the service work done with the Panamanian students and the boat ride in the Panama Canal were highlights for the students. Mr. McG's extensive background in wetland environments made him the ideal leader for the Panama trip. During the summer he has led student environmental trips to areas that include Rhode Island, the Florida Keys, Coastal Louisiana, and Alaska for Brown University. His teaching at AHS includes AP Environmental Science and Oceanography. Trips such as these make what is being studied in the classroom come alive and create lasting memories. I want to thank Mr. McG and Ms. Donahue for accompanying our students on what was an amazing journey of exploration and discovery.

Creative Highlights



AHS Instrumental/Music Technology Concert Showcases Student Composers and Arrangers

The second annual AHS Instrumental and Music Technology Combined Concert held on March 6 was a delight for both eyes and ears. AHS Instrumental Director Sabatino D'Agostino and Music Technology teacher John DiTomaso wanted to create a concert environment where their students could collaborate in meaningful ways. They believe it is important for the students to feel more connected across the curricula and to understand live concert production more deeply and from different perspectives.

This co-curricular workshop concert, therefore, had students engaging collaboratively in every aspect of the creative process—writing, arranging, and rehearsing the music and designing, producing, and recording the live concert experience. AHS Old Hall, the performing venue, was transformed into a surprisingly lovely and intimate chamber concert space. *ACMI* Youth Coordinator Kevin Wetmore was engaged, and the lighting and video resources brought in provided students with the option to create a concert movie production after the performance.

In the extensive program notes, the young composers shared how they created the pieces and accompanying graphical animation videos with applications such as [MuseScore](#), [Music Animation Machine](#), [Blender](#), and [REAPER](#), and described the thinking behind their compositions. A romantic situation in one composer's life inspired the atmospheric, dreamlike, quality of *Last Time*, a song centering on two people who have trouble ending an unhealthy relationship. Winter was the theme of another piece, and here the composer used vocal synthesis technology for the melody and created high-pitched cold-sounding tones suggestive of the season paired beautifully with photographic images.

Members of the AHS Honors Orchestra joined the Music Technology students in the live performances. It was a special treat to have AHS alumnus Bennett Parsons (Class of 2014) as a featured guest. Mr. Parsons is currently completing his four-year dual enrollment degree at Harvard University and the New England Conservatory. Instrumental Director Sabatino D'Agostino directed the performance of Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64* which Mr. Parsons had adapted for soprano saxophone.

Whether the audience members were listening to the first movement of a new string quintet, an updated arrangement of *Valerie*, a driving rhythm accompanied by 3D animation, or watching a video where actors illustrated a song, they couldn't help but be amazed by the creativity and skill on display. Congratulations to all the students who participated in this amazing concert, and to Mr. DiTomaso and Mr. D'Agostino whose talented leadership makes evenings like this possible. I am also grateful to Mr. Wetmore and *ACMI* for the support and access they provided.

Voices of all Ages Come Together for Joyous All-Town Choral Concert

Anyone who had the pleasure of attending the March 7 All-Town Choral Concert can attest to the fact that Arlington school children love to sing! Over 400 voices from elementary through high school delivered a

polished and well-rehearsed concert that can best be described as joyous. The audience was treated to enthusiastic performances from the Arlington Treble Chorus (elementary), Grade 6 Chorus, Grade 7 Chorus, Grade 8 Chorus, OMS Singing Bros, AHS Chorale, AHS Freshman Chorus, AHS Madrigal Singers, and AHS Bros II Men.

It is always a delight to see how our vocalists progress in skill and sophistication as they move from elementary to middle to high school. The music ranged from the classical melodies in *Solfège Symphony* delivered by the Treble Chorus, to spirituals, the Gregorian chant inspired *Ubi Caritas*, an Italian madrigal, Broadway show tunes, and more. Soloists were featured throughout

Bringing all the groups together for Michael Praetorius' *Jubilate Deo* was a spectacular way to bring the evening to a close. Praetorius is a German organist whose compositions can be traced back to the early 1600s. It was truly wonderful to see and hear all the ages raising their voices as one. Congratulations to all the vocalists who participated, and I send my thanks to the dedicated music teachers who inspire our young people to sing and perform—Kate Elmendorf (Treble Chorus, Dallin Music teacher), James Ham, (Gibbs), Cori Smith and Greg Condakes (OMS and AHS Bros II Men), and Madalyn Kitchen (AHS). It was a night to remember!



Painting, Drawing, and More was on Display at Gibbs Second Trimester Art Show

A large group of students, families, and friends turned-out to appreciate the wonderful artworks on display at the Gibbs Second Trimester Art Show on March 12. The work of over 200 young artists was shared, and attendees could purchase student-made baked goods at a sale to raise money for art club supplies. Visual Arts teacher Alicia Serafini and Music teacher James Ham have worked together this year to unify the arts program at Gibbs, and the select choral group Ignition was on hand to provide music.

Our school art shows are a good way for the community to appreciate the range of art forms that our young people explore, the talent of our students, and the dedication of our teachers. I want to thank Ms. Serafini, Mr. Ham, and all the Gibbs artists who created this beautiful evening. The early June date of the Gibbs trimester art show will be announced in the future.

Three All-Town Instrumental Concerts Illustrate Depth and Breadth of APS Program

The music continued with three All-Town instrumental concerts held in the OMS Wood Gym this month. These performances are eagerly anticipated by our community as they illustrate the remarkable progress our children make from their first days of playing a string (third grade) or band instrument (fourth grade) through their elementary, middle, and high school careers.

There are so many string players that two concerts were held. The afternoon concert featured the approximately 300 musicians that make up the Grade 3 Beginner String Ensemble with students from Bishop, Dallin, and Thompson, Grade 4 All-Town Orchestra, Gibbs School Orchestra, Ottoson Chamber Orchestra, AHS Honors Orchestra, and AHS Full Orchestra. The program included works by Mozart, Vivaldi, Britten, and Mendelssohn as well as folk and movie tunes. A highlight of the afternoon was the

world premiere of *Western Side*. The melody for this piece was created by a Thompson fourth grade student and Arlington resident and musician Seth Hamlin composed the setting that was played by the Grade 4 All-Town Orchestra.

The evening concert featured the Third Grade Beginner String Ensemble with students from Brackett, Hardy, Peirce, and Stratton, Elementary Chamber Orchestra, Grade 5 All-Town Orchestra, Ottoson Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Orchestra, and repeat performances from the AHS Honors and AHS Full Orchestra—over 240 musicians. The music again ranged from classical to contemporary, folk, and movies. *Cello Ole* presented by the Elementary Chamber Orchestra was a particularly fun piece, having a lyrical melody with shades of Spain. As they did in the afternoon concert, the AHS Orchestra gave the audience a taste of what to expect at AHS Pops in May with *Movie Night!*, a medley of film music arranged by Instrumental Director Sabatino D’Agostino that was played in front of clips from famous movies.

The Nineteenth Annual Festival of Concert Bands included the All-Town Beginning Band, All-Town Grade 5 Band, Gibbs Grade 6 Concert Band, Ottoson Middle School Concert Band, AHS Concert Band, Gibbs Jazz Workshop, Ottoson Middle School Jazz Ensemble, and AHS Jazz Band—almost 300 musicians. The twinkling of the stars was evident as the bells were played beautifully by the percussionists in the Beginning Band during Mozart’s *Star Search*. The Grade 5 Band ended their set with John Edmondson’s majestic *Chorale and Recessional*, and the Grade 6 Concert Band delivered a fun and jumpy version of the African folk song *Siyahamba*. A jaunty, high spirited march started the Ottoson Middle School Concert Band’s set, and the AHS Concert Band delivered their Pops preview with Mr. D’Agostino’s arrangement of *A Night at the Movies*, complete with film clips. The three Jazz Bands closed the concert with tunes by Randy Newman, Miles Davis, Quincy Jones, and Charles Mingus. *En La Valle*, a Latin flavored number written by Mr. Hamlin, was lively and fun.

Each concert treated the audiences to some wonderful solo performances as well and the depth, breadth, and popularity of our music program was evident. I want to congratulate all the performers who participated in the All-Town Concerts and thank Elementary and Middle School String Director Jing-Huey Wei, Elementary and Middle School Band Director Paula Demitrio, Mr. D’Agostino, and the additional string, brass, and percussion teachers who assist them for their amazing work with our students.

Looking Forward to the School Art Shows

You may want to mark your calendars now so that you don’t miss the upcoming All-School Visual Arts shows that are happening between now and the end of the year. The Peirce show, which took place on March 29, will be reported on in following newsletters. The shows at the other six elementary schools are coming up.

School	Date	Time
Bishop	April 11	6:30-8:00 pm
Hardy	April 25	6:00-7:30 pm
Stratton	May 16	6:00-7:30 pm
Thompson	May 23	6:00-8:00 pm
Brackett	May 24	9:00 am
Dallin	May 30	6:00-8:00 pm

As mentioned in a previous article, the date for the June Gibbs Third Trimester show has yet to be announced. Ottoson has two more shows coming up—April 11 and June 13, both from 5:00-7:00 pm. The AHS Spring Art Exhibit, in the Teachers Café Gallery, has been running since the end of this month and ends on April 11. I hope you will be able to attend one or more shows and view the wonderful work.