

BUTLER SCHOOL DISTRICT 53 newslines

Summer 2019

COMMENCEMENT 2019

Grads salute school, teachers and parents



Evan Carlson and Imaan Zaheer were honored with the Oak Brook Education Association Citizenship Award for character, leadership and compassion.



Honored with the Academic Achievement Award were Prachi Shah and Shiv Goel for the highest grade point.

For more photos on graduation, check out our Facebook page, Butler School District 53

The 8th grade Butler Junior High graduation was held on May 29 and served as the beginning of the next chapter for the 81 students.

The ceremony was marked with tradition. The Butler Junior High Graduation Band performed the traditional *Pomp and Circumstance* and the Graduation Choir performed the Class Song, *For Good*. Principal Amy Read welcomed the Class of 2019, friends and families, and Board of Education President Christopher Edmonds greeted attendees on behalf of the Board of Education.

Four student speakers reflected on their time at Butler. Adam Baridi, Student Government Vice

President gave the speech *The Butler 53 Adventure*; Student Government President Rohan Julka presented the *Eighth Grade Accomplishments*, and Imaan Zaheer, Student Government Communications Director and Fatimah Shaikh, Student Government Treasurer each gave their take on *A Look Back on Eighth Grade*.

Student Government President Rohan Julka focused his speech on the accomplishments of the class. "We have pushed our comfort zone...we have shown compassion, we were involved...and we furthered our learning and understanding."

Principal Amy Read spoke after

the students and commended them for their growth mindset. "When I heard these speeches, I knew we had accomplished something special. Our students feel safe to learn and grow in their very own exceptional way." It was the last graduation with Read as principal. She resigned, effective at the end of the school year.

At the ceremony, Prachi Shah and Shiv Goel were honored with the Academic Achievement Award for earning the highest grade point average in the class.

Evan Carlson and Imaan Zaheer were awarded the Oak Brook Education Association Leadership Award.



Students produce news



Some of the 4th and 5th grade editors pose in front of their broadcast news show.

Brook Forest 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are learning about the news business by broadcasting their own show about their school.

The club, called BFPN (Brook Forest Production Network), is new this year and sponsored by Reading Specialist Courtney Whittaker.

"It really creates a sense of community within the school," she said. "It also gives the student producers a sense of pride not only in their work, but also in their school," she said.

Students select their roles – anchors/reporters, film crew and video editors – and rotate into different slots during the year: "We are lucky to have so many activities and learning opportunities at Brook Forest and it is nice to be able to highlight some of them," Whittaker noted.

Students decide what to cover and how to cover it, film and edit the footage, write the anchors' scripts

and design the headlines and video opening. It's a creative and collaborative process.

More than 65 students participate and are split into smaller, more manageable groups. The club broadcasts once a month and covers some of the events and classroom activities that have happened during that month. This spring, they highlighted the musical *Annie*, Colonial Fair and Science Expo, among others. In all, the group has produced six broadcasts; each grade level produced two episodes.



On YouTube, search Butler District 53 for their work

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Good News



Science Olympiad winners Aayan Ilyas and Rebecca Guan.



Science Olympiad winners Akash Saini and Saavni Mylavarapu.



Science Olympiad winners Yash Gupta & Arjun Saini.

Science Olympiad represents

Congratulations to the Butler Science Olympiad team on their performance at the State Science Olympiad Competition. Of 50 junior highs competing and hundreds of teams, Butler students took 3rd, one duo team took 4th, another took 5th and two teams took 7th. It was a stellar showing for the group, pictured above. The team is sponsored by science and STEM teacher Kim Krupicka.



Winners of the 5th grade Oak Brook Education Association Citizenship Award are Kailee Tu, Remy Egbert and Asha Sarai.

Fifth grade award winners

Fifth graders are honored with the Oak Brook Education Association Citizenship Award. Pictured here are this year's honorees Kailee Tu, Remy Egbert and Asha Sarai.

Dr. Prosen receives recognition

Dr. Chad Prosen was honored with a Distinguished Service Award of Excellence from the Illinois School Public Relations Association for his work on creating a child-centered culture at Brook

Forest. He was one of 62 individuals or teams recognized during the awards program May 10. The Distinguished Service Awards recognize those who make a difference in their school communities by advocating for public education and enhancing its programs and services.



“Brook Forest School is a joyful, inclusive child-centered place of learning. Through his interactions with parents, students and teachers, he creates feelings of safety and belonging, opening up doors for partnerships, social media and initiatives,” said the nomination.

Board members elected

Board members Laura Bieselin, Keith Carlson and Dr. Sanjay Rao won election to the Board of Education following the April 2 election. All three were elected to four-year terms.

Finalist for art teacher of the year

Art teacher Mike Divelbiss is a finalist for Art Teacher of the Year by the Illinois Art Education Association.

Salute to retiree

Butler Junior High Math teacher Patti Harte retired at the end of the school year. She served the school for 27 years, including many as Math Team coach. We will miss you Mrs. Harte!



Reading makes life a little sweeter



Students were eager to read this spring, knowing that if they met their goal there would be an amusing reward at the end of the year.

“The kids were very motivated to read and achieve the goal of 500 minutes and many have surpassed that goal,” said Brook Forest Librarian Jeri Murguia.

The students logged their minutes and for every 100 minutes they read they received a raffle ticket. The winners, drawn from each grade level, were selected to “pie” a teacher at lunch at the end of the program in June. Fittingly, the program was called “Reading Makes Life a Little Sweeter.”

“We wanted to keep students motivated all the way through to the very end of the school year with their at home reading,” said Reading

Specialist Courtney Whittaker. The hope was that reading becomes a habit and continues into the summer, she said.

Surprisingly, a number of Brook Forest educators volunteered to be “pied,” including Principal Dr. Chad Prosen, Assistant Principal Lisa Owen, and teachers Todd Beyer, Colleen Taratino and Brittany Kuethe.

“We knew giving the students the opportunity to do something out of the ordinary for a celebration was going to really increase the excitement for the event and reading program,” said Whittaker.

ART EDUCATION

Projects takes popular TV show and adds art and nutrition



Inspiring Instruction

like food using clay, adding textures with tools and painting them with tempera or water colors.

Students began by researching possible dishes using cookbooks and websites. In designing their dish, they had to adhere to the national MyPlate nutrition goals. Already, the students had mastered the fundamentals of clay construction such as pinch, coil and slab, and applied those techniques in the construction of their dishes.

“My family loves watching the Master Chef Junior show and I thought it'd be a fun way of teaching ceramics to my fifth grade artists,” said Brook Forest art teacher Mike Divelbiss. “The project really hits on many of the standards and utilizes the 4C's of best practices in education: Creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking.”

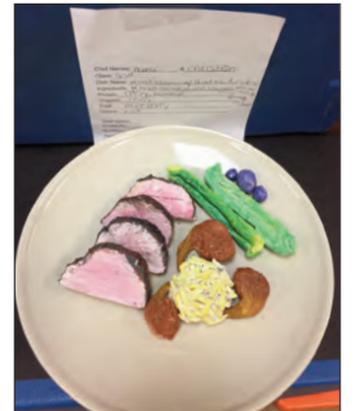
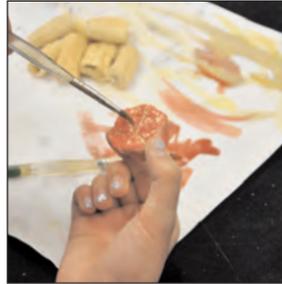
Students worked in partners and detailed their work by writing a list of ingredients and cooking methods. They also took photos of their dishes and narrated a video and artistic statement that described their dish. Students could receive extra credit if they cooked their dish and submitted a photo.

The students' finished projects were judged by three “Master Chefs” at Brook Forest. Creativity was judged by Divelbiss, accuracy by science teacher Andrew Griffith and nutrition by Physical Education teacher Todd Beyer.

The winners were announced and a trophy was presented. “The artists really enjoy this project and it is something they look forward to every year,” said Divelbiss.

Brook Forest students competed in an art project that combined sculpture, creativity, nutrition and competition. The project was inspired by the popular TV show *Master Chef Junior*.

During the months-long project, Brook Forest students sculpted a dish of life-



From top left, clockwise, a student paints her ceramic foods, art teacher Mike Divelbiss with Hana Razminia and Christian Cheung, who were awarded Master Chef Junior artists; their winning project; and students Adam Khan and Alex Odishoo working on their projects.

Art students create interactive exhibit

Butler Junior High Art Expo students created an interactive fun house series of “rooms,” inspired by the national art installation “29 Rooms.”

The students were charged with developing a theme and message for their “room” and embedding an interactive component so that visitors could participate.

The idea of the project was to encourage visitors to explore new ideas, step outside of their comfort zone, develop curiosity about the art and interact with it. Students used some warm days to paint their boards outside. The exhibit was displayed at the Butler Spring Band Concert in May. There, visitors could crowd source their ideas, pose with the art and just have fun. The project was developed by Butler Junior High art teacher Nina Angelillo.



Visitors can color on this *Interactive Coloring Book* created as part of the BJH “rooms” project.

Above right, the artist painted *Wings*, envisioning that visitors could pose with the wings and take photos and selfies.

The project, at right, features *Planets* where visitors can write their wishes on the stars. The goal of the assignment was to create an interactive component to the project.



Students earn national standing on Spanish exam

A number of Butler Junior High attained national recognition for performance on the 2019 National Spanish Examinations.

Butler students earned 25 gold, 33 silver and 19 bronze medals along with 61 honorable mentions.

“Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious,” said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams. The exams are the largest of their kind in the U.S. with over 146,000 students participating.

In addition to earning national recognition, 29 students earned the highest awards through the local Chicago chapter.

Students from Butler have a long history of high achievement on these exams, said Principal Amy Read. Spanish teachers are Andrea Korhonen, Rebekah Stathakis and Jen Vargocko.

The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 6 through 12, and are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES

Photo Gallery

EXPLOREMORE

It's a day of fun, fellowship, trying new things and learning. For many, it's also the best day of the year. Exploremore Day is a well-loved tradition at Brook Forest where students can choose from multiple classes, sports, crafts and events. This year there were 48 different choice offerings. Students could run an army boot camp obstacle course, learn beginning boxing, solve some STEM problems, make bracelets or boxes, plot escape room puzzles, create some Harry Potter elixirs and much more. "It is a time when everyone comes together to make wonderful memories, grow as learners and, most importantly, celebrate the students," said 5th grade teacher and Assistant Principal Lisa Owen, who directs the event. The PTO plays an instrumental role by securing volunteers (community members and outside instructors), organizing lunch, t-shirts and the assembly and helping fund the day.



Students could explore with legos and physics, play human bubble ball, meet exotic animals, fish, make magnetic slime and much more at Exploremore Day.

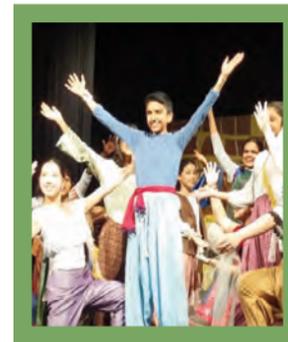


BUTLER JUNIOR HIGH MUSICAL

Butler Junior High students had a magical time putting on the annual spring musical *Aladdin*. Students also served as stage crew, props and make up. The musical was directed by Karina Stribley with music directed by teacher Lauretta Sterner.



Thirty-eight cast and stage members were part of the musical *Aladdin* at Butler Junior High.



Large games like Connect Four were part of Exploremore Day this year.

BROOK FOREST MUSICAL

At Brook Forest, 46 cast members enjoyed exploring the rebellious and spirited orphans in the musical "Annie." The musical is a favorite annual event for 4th and 5th graders. Director and music teacher Lauretta Sterner said, "This show has been a delight to work on because students have been extremely dedicated to the process and putting great care into their performance." The cast included 24 stage crew members.



Forty-two cast members participated in the 4th and 5th grade musical *Annie*.



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www.Butler53.com



Art Board

Butler District 53 students display their artwork on artsonia.com
 Pictured here (from l to r) are 5th grade perspective drawing, 1st grade multimedia self portrait and 3rd grade drawing.



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