



Wishing everyone in the TRSD/Union 61 Districts a very happy summer vacation!



## AROUND THE REGION

FY 2019 Issue #9

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# Superintendent's Message



To the Graduates of the Class of 2019:

As you begin your next great adventure, know that you have been equipped to face life's challenges. As Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

We here at Tantasqua are proud of you for having achieved a major, but not your final accomplishment. You have graduated from High School! The educational foundation you have received throughout your years at TRSD/Union 61 has prepared you to enter the global community in pursuit of your dreams, whatever they may be.

The mission statement of our districts is *Student learning is the core of everything we do*. We are committed to providing programs that support that statement, structuring our educational system to provide all levels of learners the opportunity to achieve their lifetime goals and aspirations, instilling in each the ability to communicate effectively, think critically and solve problems. These characteristics give you the ability and courage to succeed.

You, the graduating class of 2019, are a shining example of this achievement. As you set out in pursuit of your goals, know that it is with great pride that I offer my sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued future success. Be lifelong learners and never stop seeking knowledge.

Enjoy the summer, and remember that you are always a part of the Tantasqua family.

Congratulations,

Erin M. Nosek  
Superintendent of Schools

# Team B.E.S Strong

submitted by Dawn Lataille

The Brimfield Elementary School Relay for Life team—which consisted of teachers, students, & parents, raised over \$4,100!!

who were able to walk in the event and to those who donated to the cause.

Ms. Dawn Lataille expresses her appreciation to her team and thanks all

“I hope that many of the students/parents will continue to walk in this event in the years to come.”



The Sturbridge Community Food Collaborative published in its May newsletter, “The Dirt”, their appreciation for the “fast and great work of the Tantasqua carpentry students who not only built more raised growing boxes but a large sturdy shed for the garden tools.” In addition to the carpentry students lending a hand, the Tantasqua Girls Lacrosse Team arrived at the garden with a few coaches and teachers to help garden committee members weed the boxes from last year, add topsoil to all the growing boxes, remove old fencing, put up new

fencing and do a little cleanup of the garden. “It’s great to have so much help from the communities and the local students. We couldn’t have done it so fast without you!”

# Kudos and Congratulations to:



The cast, crew (stage, lighting, set design and construction), pit band, directors (**Samantha Briggs, Ashley Arrastia, Derek Ternullo, Julie Boyd, Rob Raymond, Andrew Morrison, and Tim Seguin**) of "Seussical" performed on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition to high school cast members, 16 students from our district elementary schools (Brimfield, Sturbridge and Wales) participated in the production.



# Tag You're It!

submitted by Cara Peters

On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> it was staff vs students on the Holland Elementary School playground! Students were able to use their hard earned Eagle Feathers to purchase the privilege of playing tag against some of their favorite teachers.

There was lots of plotting and strategy planning on behalf of all players! A great time was had by all! While there was no score kept, everyone felt like winners, either because they played hard and had fun or because they made it through without breaking a hip!





# On the Tech Side:

submitted by Mark Wood

## Tantasqua High School Technical Division's MAVA Outstanding Student 2019



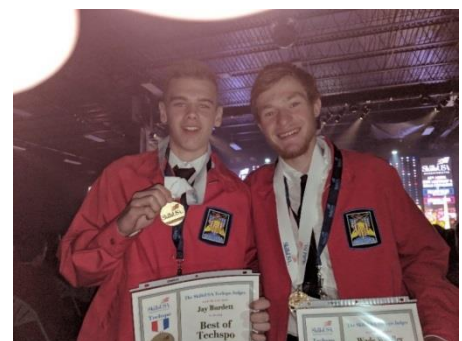
Monica Quianes, daughter of Jamie Briggs and Rodolfo Quianes, is a student who has excelled in both her academic classes as well as her technical program of Honors Level Health Careers. Currently, Monica has earned a 3.96 grade point average and is ranked second at the Tantasqua Regional High School Technical Division. Monica's coursework throughout her years at Tantasqua has been primarily at the College Preparatory and Honors levels and she has continually challenged herself by taking multiple AP level courses, including AP Biology, AP US History, and AP English Language Composition. Monica has been on the Honor roll every year of high school, is a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipient. She was awarded Student of the Quarter on many occasions, as well as

Senior of the Month. Monica is also member of the National Honor Society.

Monica is a very conscientious student who has ideas of changing the world and making it a better place (especially for animals.) Monica intends on majoring in Pre-Veterinary Science in college. Monica is passionate about taking care of the environment and the prevention of animal cruelty in the world. Monica has been a member of the Be Good to People Club since the 9th grade and enjoys being a part of that group very much.

### SkillsUSA

Congratulations to winner Luke Hall, who took a gold medal in Related Technical Math. Luke will be moving onto Nationals. Also moving on to Nationals is Liam Paulhus who won gold in Computer Programming. Wade Wooley and Jay Burdett also won gold in Techspo, but not going to Nationals as this is currently not a nationally recognized event. This is the second year in a row that Tantasqua students have won this event.



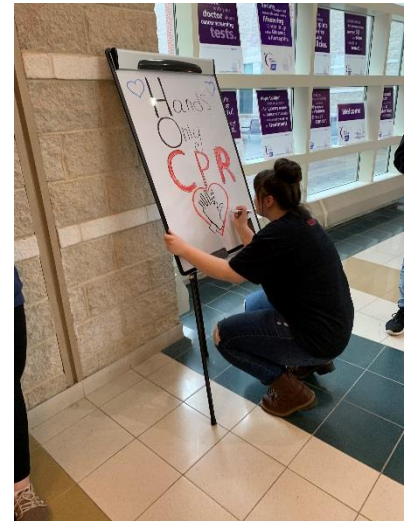
### Community Outreach

Tantasqua continues to be an active partner in the Community Food Collaborative. This year the carpentry students have been especially busy building new raised beds, as the garden has doubled in size. They have also built a new shed for the garden.



### Health Careers

This is the third year Tantasqua's Health Careers Program has participated in the Hand's Only CPR Competition, sponsored by the American Heart Association. The students are challenged to train as many people as possible in the skill. The area high school with the most signatures wins the coveted cup. It should be noted that our students work with Harrington Hospital to train all students at both the junior high and the high school, but those students do not count in the census. This year we were 136 names short and in second place to Auburn HS. Our students vigorously worked training staff in several of our District schools. At the end of the day 2063 were trained Congratulations to our students and the teachers in Health Careers.





## **Team Chef 2019**

The Team Chef Competition was held on May 19, 2019 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel from Noon-3:00pm. There were six restaurants competing and each chef worked with two students. Each team met several times to work out both their entrée and dessert. The entrée and dessert had to include chili pepper so it was an interesting challenge. This event could not have happened without huge support from corporate sponsors that include the restaurants (chefs donate their time, talent, and the cost of the food), The Sturbridge Host Hotel (donating the space, staff for set up and breakdown, and all chafing dishes and small wares needed), Dexter Russell (donates knives and chef knives sets for the winning teams), Polar Corporation (donates water and

beverages), and our judges; Chef Jeff Nicholas, Dominic Mercurio (Mercury Enterprises), and Barbara Houle (Worcester Telegram and Gazette food columnist). This was amazing opportunity for our students to work with incredible chefs. The proceeds from this event provide scholarship funds to graduating seniors from the Culinary and Hospitality programs. This year's participating restaurants include:

Porterhouse Steakhouse  
BT's Smokehouse  
Sturbridge Seafood

The Sturbridge Host Hotel  
Eller's Restaurant  
JP's Twisted BBQ and Grille

The interesting twist this year is that the Chef for Eller's is a graduate of the Culinary Arts Program, as is the Chef from Sturbridge Seafood.

The results were:

### **B. T's Smokehouse-Judge's Entrée**

**Pork Loin with ancho chili rub and Aleppo and Calabrian chili glaze served over cilantro-lime rice topped with jicama**

Chefs: Brian Treitman & Bill Nemeroff  
Students: Grace Boucher & Eric Desorcy

### **Jay's Twisted BBQ & Grille- Judge's Entrée**

**Chili rubbed blackened lamb with a Mediterranean couscous and spicy chipotle yogurt with mint**

Chef Jay Powell & Nancy Powell  
Students: Timothy Rynearson & Mya Durand

### **Sturbridge Host Hotel – Judge's Dessert**

**Mexican Brownie Sundae with ancho chili chocolate mousse and fudge sauce**

Chef Eric Swenson  
Students: William Sullivan & James Shea

### **Sturbridge Porterhouse – People's Entrée**

**Ancho Chili rubbed Baby Back Ribs with maple-bacon vinaigrette, avocado aioli, brussel sprout slaw and corn fritter**

Chef Ken Yukimura  
Students: Haley Grimes & Gaige McDonald

### **Eller's Restaurant – People's Dessert**

**Chocolate Chili Cupcake with orange buttercream and candied orange zest**

Chef John True  
Students: Joseph Fagerstrom & Cody Josti

### **Sturbridge Seafood**

Chef Riley Feeney  
Students: Marissa Parker & Allison Henri





# Congratulations to Ted's Diamond & Champagne Brunch Grant Award Recipients

submitted by Laurie Placella

On May 5, 2019 at the Publick House over \$33,000 in grant monies was awarded to teachers in the Tantasqua/Union 61 District who are this year's *Ted Grant* winners. Since The Tantasqua Education Foundation was established twelve years ago, this is largest amount of grants that have been awarded. The projects and the teacher/teams funded are:



Escape Room Science (Lisa Lamothe and Toni Berthiaume); Warrior's Workbench (Amanda Hellyar, Brandon Bernard, Karen Kennedy, Adam Popp, Meagan Rice); Using Picture Books to Increase Narrative Language Skills in Young Children (Kimberly Ferreira, Kaitlyn Smith); Light a Spark – Coding with Sphero Robots (Alesia Peck, Erin Parker, Julie Vinton, Maureen Kenneway); Family Game Night with a Math Twist (Laura Palmer); Elevation Exploration (Cassie Amadio, Shannon Beveridge, Kristin Daley); Table Tennis at Tantasqua (Shannon Beveridge, Joseph Beveridge, Robert Casaceli); Pollination Garden (Nicole Berry, Traci Marek, Kerri Glanville, Stacy Cizik, Marion Reilly, Christine Nowacki); Tantasqua Soars with Redbird (Kerry Breinlinger).

The brunch is a celebration of all grant recipients.

## TSHS Hosts Inaugural Model United Nations

submitted by Amanda Hellyar on behalf of Julie Mercado

By Julio Mercado *THS-MUN Secretary General*

On Saturday, March 16th, 2019 delegates attended Tantasqua's inaugural Model United Nations host conference at Tantasqua Regional Senior High School. The topic for the conference was the Syrian Crisis, focusing both on the ongoing war and the refugee crisis it has created.



From 9:00-9:30 AM the chairs from Clark University MUN gave a presentation covering Parliamentary Procedure.

We welcomed our keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Bousquet to speak on the Global Refugee crisis and her part in working in refugee camps across Europe from 9:45-10:45 AM. Dr. Bousquet's insight as both a Fulbright scholar living in Bulgaria and Greece, as well as a Harvard Egypt Forum Fellow, provided delegates with a valuable global perspective.



Vice President Michael Distefano introducing Dr. Bousquet.

After Dr. Bousquet's speech, President Brooke Freitas called us into session and we all transitioned into debate. Our first session was held from 11:00-12:00 PM and focused on the Syrian Civil war. We discussed topics such as the use of chemical warfare against civilians and the fate of the Assad Regime.



Delegates debating during our first session Cadence Boyce and Rowan Downey (left to right).

We then had a break for lunch from 12:00-12:45 PM at Cornerstone Cafe and enjoyed a fantastic lunch prepared by Chef Popp and his culinary students. During lunch, Syrian refugee Roshan Abdi and her daughter spoke to us about their family's experience fleeing Syria and the long journey to America. She then brought out traditional Syrian dishes for us to try as well as Middle Eastern accessories for the delegates to purchase. All of the proceeds go to supporting her family still struggling in the Middle East.



Our guest speaker Ms. Abdi, right and her daughter Hirou.

Following Abdi's remarks, we returned and held our second session from 12:45-2:30 PM where we focused on debate of the refugee crisis and then passing resolutions. The first resolution focused on a block of countries that were attempting to aid the migrants and help relieve pressure from struggling countries due to migrant overflow. The second resolution focused on getting the UN directly involved in the Syrian Civil War in order to defeat the Assad Regime as well as hold UN-monitored democratic elections. The third resolution detailed a plan where all foreign involvement in the war would leave and allow the Syrian people to decide who wins. After this, the UN would create a safe in order for free and fair elections to take place.

After much deliberation, delegates voted on all three resolutions. Resolution one organized by France passed with an overwhelming majority, the second resolution organized by the USA passed by a narrow margin and the third resolution organized by The Islamic Republic of Iran failed.

Closing ceremonies and awards were held from 2:45-3:15 PM. Tantasqua distinctions included the award for Best Position Paper to **Ty Lacey** and **Shannon Tweraser** representing Turkey, the MUN Warrior Award and honorable mention to **Aras Bellahcene** and **Liam Metz** representing the USA, Honorable mention to **Andrew Gustavson** representing the United Kingdom, Outstanding Delegates to **Michael Distefano** and **Reese Crosby** representing Iran, and Best Delegate to **Brooke Freitas** representing France.

## BRIMFIELD 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CELL PROJECTS

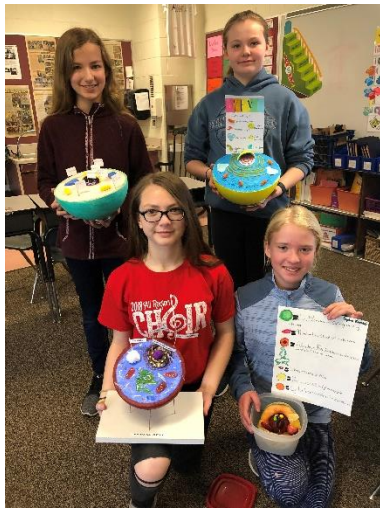
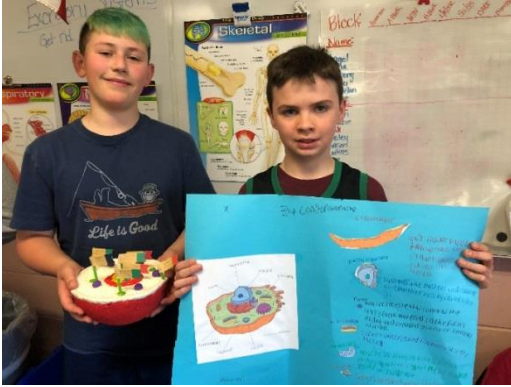
submitted by Dawn Lataille



Rice Krispies) for their models—most of which we were able to eat! Students were graded on their presentation as well as the accuracy of their models.









# Creative Pathways

submitted by Lisa Connolly

This year's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class from Burgess Elementary had 40 students as our Creative Pathways Ambassadors. Our Creative Pathways Ambassadors have been peer buddies throughout this year. These 6<sup>th</sup> graders have accompanied their peers in the Creative Pathways program to social/motor group. They have had fun while playing, modeling and positively interacting with their peers in the Creative Pathways program. Their friendship and dedication have positively impacted us all. These students exemplify what a Burgess Bear is. Thank you for your friendship!

