

# Paw-sitively Connected

Great Path Academy at MCC



## The Seniors' "Big Chill"

As a tradition, various classes take a trip together to talk plans for the year and bond. This is a student-led and student-planned event that helps get students on the same page for the school year. As an acknowledgement for their hard work, the senior class took part in this tradition on October 1st, 2015.

The senior class went last year, they loved it so much that they repeated the event. They headed to JB Williams Park in Glastonbury. It was a potluck, so everyone brought a dish to share with everybody, games that they wanted to play and blankets to keep warm. They danced and enjoyed each others' company. They also watched a scary movie. They took walks on the trails, played on the playgrounds and played catch. They found a lake and walked there when the rain stopped. They ate lot of food, played card and board games. "There was a bunch of desserts that people brought. There was some good flan— like, Spanish

flan. I don't know who brought it but they are a great cook." Mikalea R., a senior remembers the event fondly.

"Even though it was rainy, we



Various pictures of the trip— here and more on the last page.

all sat by the fire, listened to music, huddled up in blankets and just laughed and had a good time."

Owusu D., a senior also, said, "It was pretty awesome, we got to spend time with everyone and we played soccer and it was the funniest game of soccer ever."

Obdulio S. said, "The soccer game was funny, because it was raining and everybody was slipping. The handstand competitions that we had we very funny. I won. John lost. Let it be known."

Aaron H. said, "It was cold, yet we still had a feeling of warmth and community, because we are a small community, so we know each other really well. I enjoyed it."



## GPA's Vocal Ensemble "Wants You Back"

GPA's Vocal Ensemble class created a music video to enter in the competition for the Macy's Acapella Challenge. All of the entrants had to perform the same song, "I Want You Back" by the Jackson 5. The process began with the vocal recordings. "The altos, the sopranos, everyone all got together to record. The background with the harmonies is the biggest asset to the video, I think", Destiny Arroyo "The Girl" in the video says. The recordings were done with Mr. Wolf, in a small studio for the

music department. The harmonies were created piece by piece and layered together by Mr. Wolf. The students came up with the storyline for the music video through and inspired by the song.

Talia Clarke, a senior at GPA, choreographed the dance routine. The whole Vocal Ensemble was a part of the dance routine and the video. Talia designed the choreography to be simple and tasteful, and easy for those student who aren't necessarily comfortable dancing to perform. Mr. Wolf worked to direct the acting in the video. It was, however, a student-led project. "The whole time, we

would give Mr. Wolf suggestions about what we wanted in the video. My favorite part of the whole project was being in the studio, recording the vocals because I grew up listening to the Jackson 5, to be able to replicate the song in my own voice and hear it back, it's such an awesome feeling." Destiny performed the solo in the GPA Vocal Ensemble Music video, which can be found, along with other information about the GPA Music department, at [www.greatpathmusic.com](http://www.greatpathmusic.com). A link is also available on the school website, at [www.greatpathacademy.org](http://www.greatpathacademy.org).

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### Special points of interest:

- The magnet lottery opened on October 15th. If you know of anyone interested in GPA, please tell them to visit us during an open house or call the school for a visit and tour!
- If you have a sibling who is applying, they get sibling preference if their brother or sister will be in school at GPA with them. Call (860) 512-3756 to tell us and also make sure you apply!



## Unified Arts News

Drawing students having been working on observational drawings using several types of contour lines. Students learn how to "see" objects as lines and shapes in order to draw them realistically. On the top left, Xavier works on his piece.

Ceramic students have been learning about different clay construction techniques to create soup bowls for MCC's Annual FoodShare Event, Empty Bowls. Empty Bowls will be held at MCC on October 31st, from 11 am- 3 pm.

Students are creating bowl



## Social Studies News

In World History, students have been presenting their current event projects. Some topics include the situation in Syria, natural disasters, and the refugee crisis in Europe. Students are finishing up their unit on "Ancient Religions in a Modern World" and have started learning about Gandhi. Many of the classes are making connections with their world history class to their other subjects. We will continue to increase our content and academic vocabulary within our next units, concentrating on word origins,

## English News

Students in English I and English I honors are completing the short story unit. They are currently reading Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart" and will connect it to other stories they have read this unit. Students are examining how authors structure stories as well as how they use other techniques to develop theme and characterization. Students' final creative project will be to write their own short story.

Ms. Robinson's classes are continu-

forms using the drape mold technique (left middle) and students learn how to make bowl forms using the pottery wheel. (left bottom)

In Culinary the students are currently getting "grossed out" with research and presentations on food borne illnesses. They are learning all about prevention of salmonella and trichinosis along with others. The students have also been busy with our first food blog which is getting published in MCC's "The Live Wire". It was all about fun fall foods.

prefixes, and suffixes.

This month in United States History students are studying the concept of imperialism. Students are researching the key roles in the annexation of Hawaii and will have a panel discussion on American Imperialism. Next we will investigate the causes of the Spanish American War and the long term impact of our victory.

In Criminal Justice we have been studying the elements of a crime and the various forms of defense for a

given crime.

Ms. PD's civics classes have just completed their citizenship unit and are beginning their study of the history of how America came to be. Students will start with a review of the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence (from England) and proceed to an investigation on the origins and meaning of constitutional ideals that framed the United States of America.

Ms. Robinson's classes are continuing to dive into the question "What Makes a Good Society?" Students in the Honors class have just research Hobbes and applied the Sociological concepts as a lens for Lord of the Flies. Honors will next work on Maslow's Hierachy of needs in connection to Lord of the Flies. College Prep just finished a claim based essay on Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron." Students will apply questioning and inferences to the short story "A Soldier's Home" by Ernest Hemingway.

American Lit: Students have begun

Small Business Management is finishing up a unit on ethics, we had a great example of Volkswagen to use from the news. They will be utilizing this information to tie into their own business plans.

In Spanish IV, students have studied and debated on stereotypes and human rights with connection with current events and issues. In Spanish I, each student is making a children's book in which students teach how to greet, tell time, the calendar, the seasons, the weather & body parts.

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preparing to read their first full novel of the year The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. The class will be examining the novel's importance to America and how it functions as a satire.

College Writing: Students have been continuing to work through One Hundred Years of Solitude, examining how it functions as a piece of Latin American Lit and mirrors the complex history of the author Gabriel Garcia Marquez's home county of Columbia.



## Science News

Physical Science students are improving their scientific literacy by using study island, analyzing science-related articles of their choosing to develop extension questions, and working on their inquiry and numeracy skills through projects and practice.

Students in Biology are wrapping up their first unit on Sustainability by engaging in a water-testing lab activity and using their data to formulate a sustainability plan for a lake community. For their plans, the students will need to consider many stakeholders, the town budget, and still improve the sustainability of the lake ecosystem for future generations.

In Genetics, did several beginning

projects to better understand the significance of small changes to genetic code. Then we took a look at the over genetic material and are concluding that short review of DNA. Next we will be moving into a study of Mendelian Genetics and going into great detail on genetic testing techniques.

At present, both Anatomy and Physiology classes are finishing their exploration of cells and tissues, and will soon be moving on to relating this learning to the Integumentary System - skin! At that time we will be looking at fingerprint variations and how transdermal medication patches affect the body. Soon, it's on to Dem Bones!!!

Students in Chemistry are learning

about different types of matter and how to distinguish them by creating picture models. Next they will learn about properties of matter. They will also perform an inquiry lab on identifying the clues to chemical and physical changes. We will then wrap up the unit with a unit test.

Students in Honors Chemistry finished up designing a lab on separating components of a heterogeneous mixture by applying their knowledge of separation techniques. They are currently working on chromatography as a separation technique. Next they will learn about the importance of scientific measurements in our day to day lives.

**GALAPAGOS!!!- 2016 March break GPA will be traveling to the Galapagos! The very islands where Charles Darwin collected the data that lead him to his theories of natural selection and evolution! Any student who has passed Biology is welcome to sign up. Details can be found at: [www.explorica.com/Thurrott-8568](http://www.explorica.com/Thurrott-8568)**

## Math News

Mr. Hoffman's classes are just starting to get into the full swing of things. Algebra classes are finishing up the NWEA tests, and starting to practice solving more and more complex equations. The Calculus class has finally finished the introductory unit, and has begun the study of infinity, which is probably way

cooler sounding than it is in practice. I'm looking forward to seeing where are students can go this year!

Ms. Kondratuk's Algebra II courses are moving along and are almost done with Unit I. Juniors are preparing for the PSAT as that is rapidly approaching.

Pre-calculus students are also almost complete with the unit on Conics and have been working hard! With Mr. G. in Geometry, students have been reviewing basic vocabulary and beginning reasoning and proof.



## Welcome to Our 2015 Student Council!

This year's elections were close. Everyone created a positive campaign, representative of GPA's attributes of Respect, Responsibility and Safety. The week-long campaigning process culminated in a school-wide assembly, where candidates spoke to their peers. Highlights from the speeches included Ricky Hamilton's presentation about school spirit, as our longest standing student council member. He rose from freshman representative all the way to Student Body President

this year. He was the Vice President last school year. His experience with student leadership at GPA will help to guide the way for a wonderful year. Ms. Gillies, a Student Council advisor, says, "I am very excited to see what this diverse group has in store for GPA this year."

Please congratulate the following students on their successful campaigns:

President – Ricky Hamilton

Vice President – Destiny Arroyo

Secretary – Azaria McCalop

Treasurer – Karen Avila

Reporter – Marissa Guilmain

9th grade reps: Justin Hernandez, Ashley Fecko, Minela Husic

10th grade reps: Michael Cotton, Forest Richardson

11th grade reps: Troi Johnson, Jadea Harris

12th grade reps: Gabby Robertson, Nancy Lys



**GREAT PATH ACADEMY AT MCC**

**A Middle College High School**

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**Respect,  
Responsibility and Safety**

We're online!

[www.greatpathacademy.org](http://www.greatpathacademy.org)



Photos of the Senior's "Big Chill".

Is your child very  
**ANXIOUS, NERVOUS, or SHY?**

Does your child seem  
**AFRAID, WORRIED, or STRESSED?**



We might be able to help!

UCONN Health is conducting a research study in Connecticut schools called STARS (School-based Treatment of Anxiety Research Study) that evaluates treatments for children and teens with a lot of anxiety.

**WHO can participate?**

Families with a child (6 – 18 years old) who has excessive anxiety, worry, and/or shyness.

**WHAT is involved?**

- In the first part of the study, you and your child will meet with STARS staff so we can learn more about your child's anxiety.
- If your child is eligible to participate in treatment, they will then receive one of two types of talk therapy from your school counselor.
- Your child will meet with the school counselor for 12 weekly sessions at their school.
- After treatment, you and your child will meet with us 2 more times so we can see if your child's anxiety has improved.
- No medication is involved in this study.

**Is there a COST?**

All evaluations and treatment are provided at no cost to families. Families may earn up to \$120 for participating in the study.

**HOW do I get involved?**

Contact STARS at (860) 523-3798 or STARS@uconn.edu  
65 Kane Street, West Hartford

Principle Investigator: Golda Ginsburg, Ph.D.  
Department: Child Psychiatry  
IRB NUMBER: 14-2010-6



to GPA and taught exercises to relieve stress and increase flexibility to the students. Melissa teaches yoga at the college weekly.

Rimsha Jafri, a sophomore, joined in this activity. "It was pretty relaxing and fun. I've never done yoga before, but I've heard about it. It

## Yoga Demonstration for Health Class and Beyond

Ms. Traynor, GPA Health and ELL Instructor, organized a yoga demonstration for her students. A yoga instructor (photo to the top right), Melissa Little, from the MCC fitness center, came in

wasn't really hard, we had to watch her first and then copy. Doing yoga would be good for relaxing you, so that you're not tense. I still feel it afterwards. I might try it at home now." Jadea Harris, a junior, had a similarly fun experience with the free demonstration. "I had a chance to unwind and step back from the school environment and the pressure and the stress that comes along with it. My muscles are a lot less tense, you even feel better walking afterwards. I've tried yoga before and always had a liking for it. It prepares you for meditation and mind-centering. Historically, only men practiced yoga, which is ironic because women predominantly practice it in North America. Here at GPA, we had a couple of guys doing it today, which was great."



Ms. Traynor brought this demonstration in as a part of her unit on mental health and stress. She will also be having a visitor from UConn, Amy, who will speak about the STARS program (photo to the left). During this unit, the students are studying mental health and stress management in other countries. The students will examine alternative medicine and ways to relieve stress, such as meditation, mindfulness and aromatherapy. The benefits of yoga, per Ms. Traynor, can last for up to two days after participating. She said that the students were intrigued by the process and interested to have Ms. Little back in the future.

Thank you to the following donors to the PBIS Gotcha Cart this month:

Dunkin' Donuts for the donations of "any-size free beverage" vouchers, Mr. Hoffman, Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. DiFedele-Dutton, Ms. Lopez, Mr. Buder and Ms. Johnston for donations this month to the Gotcha Cart.

We appreciate the support for helping to recognize GPA Student Cougars for being Responsible, Respectful and Safe!

If interested, donations can be made to Ms. Canty— please email cants001@hartfordschools.org or call (860) 512-3723.

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