

Holiday art winners

Artwork by Riley Fiege, 11th grade

See all of the holiday art winners on p. 5!



Catching up with Quentin Brunson, 2008 graduate

Planning a marriage proposal can be a nerve-racking experience for most anyone.

Imagine finding out that you've won a contest to propose on national television. You have two weeks to find and buy an engagement ring, and plan a "fake" date that will lead to the surprise "ultimate proposal", which by the way, will be seen by 10 million people!



Quentin Brunson and Ashleigh Mann with Adele.

This is the real life experience of 2008 Spencerport grad Quentin Brunson, who won a contest by CBS television to do just that.

On Oct. 24, Quentin arranged a picnic date for his girlfriend of eight years, Ashleigh Mann, at Griffith Park in central Los Angeles. After the picnic, Ashleigh was blind-folded and the pair was driven up to the Griffith Observatory, where a television special was being recorded. Moments later, Quentin escorted Ashleigh onto the stage, removed her blindfold, and, with cameras rolling, knelt to one knee to propose. She said, "Yes!"

Quentin added, "When the lights came up and we really saw who was there (celebrities like Oprah Winfrey and Gayle King), I was like 'Oh, man!' ... It was a great experience just to see the smiles on people's faces and people crying."

It was then that singer and song-writer, Adele, appeared on the stage to perform, "Make You Feel My Love" for the couple. You see, the "contest" and their engagement was part of Adele's "One Night Only" television special on CBS.

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Superintendent message



Dear Community,

Over the past few weeks, I've been reflecting on the many things I have to be grateful for. I'm often asked if it is difficult to manage all the responsibilities that comes with being a Superintendent. Yes, it is true that managing those responsibilities can be daunting, but where else can you be greeted by a 5-year-old with hugs and sit down with an 18-year-old and enjoy their

excitement as they prepare to embark on a new life path. Being your Superintendent and serving our students is one of my greatest joys.

The last two years have been different than ever before and challenging in ways we never could have imagined. I am thankful for the enduring spirit that can only be found throughout a caring and supportive community. Over the past few weeks, I have been overwhelmed by the countless ways our students, staff and community members have chosen to serve our Spencerport community. Please enjoy a few examples in this edition of Cornerstone on pages 6 and 7. Each of these acts of giving and support is a reminder that we will not only persevere through these challenging times, but together, we will thrive!

As we move into 2022, I wish you all a happy and healthy new year. I certainly look forward to continuing to meet students, staff, families and community members in my first year as your superintendent and building upon this great district.

Sincerely,

Kristin Swann
Superintendent of Schools

Please consider volunteering for the 2022-23 Spencerport Budget Focus Group.

The volunteer group, made up of senior citizens, parents, staff, civic leaders, administrators and students, meets six times during the course of the budget development process and provides feedback to the district on such areas as revenues, expenses, state aid, tax levy, and tax rate.

The Budget Focus Group meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays in the District Office building. The BFG meeting dates are as follows:

- Jan. 25
- Feb. 8
- Mar. 1
- Mar. 15
- Mar. 29
- Apr. 12 (BOE meeting)

If interested in serving on this committee, please email Marcy Clapper, mclapper@spencerportschools.org with your name and stating your interest.

WINTER MEANS OUR STUDENTS HOPE FOR A SNOW DAY!

The changing weather brings with it the annual reminder on our closing procedures and family notifications.

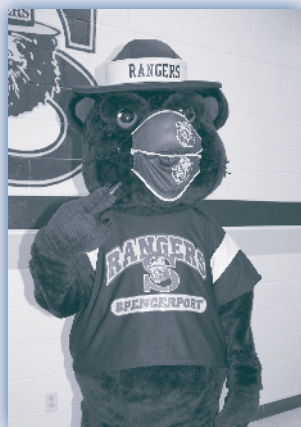
- Closings and/or cancellations will be announced by 5:30 a.m.
- Families and staff will be contacted directly through the district's automated notifications. The information will also be posted on our website, social media accounts, and through traditional, media outlets.
- When school is closed or after-school/evening activities are canceled, this includes the cancelation of all sports practices/games, student activities, continuing education, community programs or external community group events.

Make sure you receive our notifications

- If families have changes in contact information during the year, please notify your student's school with updates.
- If families are not receiving our emails, please check your spam/junk folders and move any school or district messages into your inbox. This will indicate to the system that the emails are not spam.
- In the event our Spencerport emails are not located in your spam folder, please contact info@spencerportschools.org for assistance.

COVID updates

Revised Emergency Regulations



On Dec. 10, the New York State Department of Health revised their emergency regulations requiring individuals to wear face coverings for all indoor public places in an effort to combat the transmission of COVID-19.

We appreciate your support as we continue to enforce the layered mitigation strategies that we utilize every day to keep our staff and students healthy.

Please know that the state's

masking requirement is extended to any gathering on school grounds, including athletic contests, clubs and activities, community programs, and board of education meetings.

In addition, the revised regulations clarify that schools may now accept antigen OR PCR testing to allow people to participate in school following COVID-19 symptoms. In order to accommodate our school community, we will still be holding COVID-19 testing clinics for students who need to provide proof of a negative test to return back to school.

For an overview of the testing programs including, Return to School and Test to Stay, please visit the COVID section of our website at https://www.spencerportschools.org/district/2021-22_c_o_v_i_d-19_updates_and_resources/c_o_v_i_d_testing_programs

This section is updated regularly, so please continue to visit often.

Booster vaccines

Some community members have inquired about booster vaccinations and if or when their child might be eligible. Booster vaccinations are an important step to help assure protection against current strains of COVID-19, including the Delta and Omicron variants. Booster vaccines can be given six months following the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination and are now approved for all ages 16 years and older.

For local updates, as well as vaccination and booster information, please visit the Monroe County website, <https://www.monroecounty.gov/health-COVID-19>

Indoor masking still required for winter sports

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association issued a reminder to all school districts that the indoor mask mandate remains in effect for the winter season.

All students, personnel, teachers, administrators, spectators, and visitors must wear masks at all times indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

(continued from cover)

Catching up with Quentin Brunson, 2008 graduate

Hometown of Spencerport

Quentin grew up in Rochester, and moved to Spencerport with his family when he was in the fourth grade. He entered our district at Munn Elementary School, and remained a Ranger until his graduation in 2008. He said that his classmates may remember him through sports, since he played basketball and football.

Quentin fondly recalls bringing Ashleigh to Rochester for a visit in 2019. That trip included a visit with extended family in Chili and a walk around the halls of Spencerport High School. The pair ran into his basketball coach, Josh Harter, and football coach and teacher, Jeremy Frechette.

Quentin credits Frechette with being “the reason I’m here. He kept my head on straight” while in high school.

He also keeps in touch with friends like Stevon Irwin, a best friend since Munn and one of the first people he called about his engagement. Irwin will be in the couple’s wedding, which they hope to schedule in 2022.

The happy couple

Quentin attended Syracuse University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in social work.

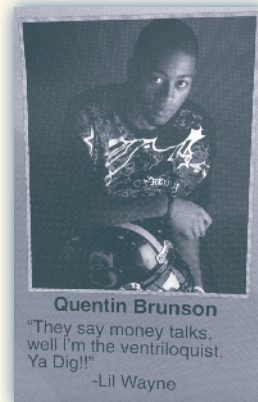


Quentin Brunson and Ashleigh Mann pose after the proposal. She said YES on national TV!

After college, Quentin interviewed in Los Angeles for his first job working with kids. While there, he stayed with his college fraternity brother, whose apartment was next door to Ashleigh. Quentin got the job and moved into an apartment one floor below hers. The two started dating and the rest is history!

Quentin started his career in social work, but later decided to pursue a different path. He has been building an acting and music career for the last several years, and Ashleigh is a vegan chef.

The couple hopes to land a deal to have their wedding planning and ceremony recorded as part of a possible reality TV show, but that is still in the works. To follow their journey to the altar, they’ve created an Instagram account, @ashandqsayIdo.



Quentin Brunson
“They say money talks, well I’m the ventriloquist. Ya Dig!”
-Lil Wayne

Quentin Brunson’s senior photo in the 2008 Spencerport yearbook.

Take care of your **mental health** and **social emotional well-being**

Mental health, physical well-being, and social emotional learning are essential to our students, staff, families and learning community, so our districtwide mental health team has collected several resources to create a Virtual Calming Room.



There are nine different rooms with a variety of tools and activities, including:

- sounds and music,
- visual relaxation,
- mindfulness and guided meditations,
- coloring and drawing,
- games and puzzles,
- live animal cams,
- virtual field trips,
- movement, and
- resources.



A link to the calming room may be found on our website, <https://www.spencerportschools.org/>

In February 2019, Dr. Tami Sullivan also visited our district to present “From Worrier to Warrior”. This presentation provides the neuroscience of anxiety, as well as several strategies for managing high levels of stress and anxiety. The information remains applicable today, and the one hour presentation may be found at this link: <https://ensemble.monroe2boces.org/hapi/v1/contents/permalinks/worrier/view>

We hope you find these resources helpful and take care of yourself and each other.

Instructional update: emergency relief funds accelerate transition to MTSS

Spencerport has been working towards transitioning to a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in recent years.

MTSS is grounded in the belief that all students can learn. It further provides educators with a framework that is responsive to the academic and behavioral needs of all students. MTSS focuses on evidence-based practices, relies on student progress data to inform instructional decisions and ensures that each student, based on their unique needs, receives the level and type of support necessary to be successful.

MTSS grew out of two other intervention-based frameworks: Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS), both of which are long-standing programs in the district. Ultimately, MTSS will incorporate current practices, both academic and social emotional, into a streamlined system to best support the whole child.

The timeline to implement MTSS took a leap forward with federal stimulus funding, particularly the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds. Four Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) positions have been created to act as MTSS coaches at the K-5 level.

One MTSS coach is assigned to each elementary school, with the primary focus in this first year is Response to Intervention. The RtI program is a data-driven analysis that ensures equitable response to student needs across schools and demographics.

“We work closely with teachers to identify students’ needs, plan and implement support, and monitor those interventions so that we can document how students are progressing toward their individualized learning goals,” said MTSS coach for Munn Elementary School Hannah Hill.

In addition, our MTSS coaches can help bring classroom teachers and interventionists together to unify individual plans to support a student’s growth. Standardizing this process with measurable data will ensure consistency districtwide.

Coaches are currently working on math and ELA learning goals, in many cases identifying unfinished learning due to pandemic shutdowns. As their work continues over the next three years, the district will grow the MTSS initiative to include behavioral interventions. Ultimately, MTSS will encompass RtI, PBIS, and Restorative Practices and help deliver the best supports to individual students throughout the district.

Director of Curriculum Kristen Paolini presented an overview and update on MTSS for the board of education on Dec. 7. The video of that meeting may be found at the 29-minute mark this link, <https://youtu.be/AGO8g4g7waM>.

Holiday art winners

Spencerport art teachers from Cosgrove and the high school submitted original works from their students to be considered for the superintendent's annual greeting card. Each year the submissions rotate between the elementary and secondary levels. Congratulations to the student works chosen on the cover and below for Superintendent Kristin Swann's card:

- Riley Fiege, 11th grade, Ms. Prusik (*featured on cover*)
- Annaliese Gray, 11th grade, Ms. Prusik
- Alexa Latronica, 7th grade, Ms. Heeks
- Sarah Measday, 7th grade, Ms. Heeks
- Michael Rush, 7th grade, Ms. Heeks
- Cat Seely, 10th grade, Ms. Prusik
- Carter White, 7th grade, Ms. Heeks



Annaliese Gray,
11th grade, Ms. Prusik



Alexa Latronica,
7th grade, Ms. Heeks



Sarah Measday,
7th grade, Ms. Heeks



Cat Seely,
10th grade, Ms. Prusik



Michael Rush, 7th grade, Ms. Heeks



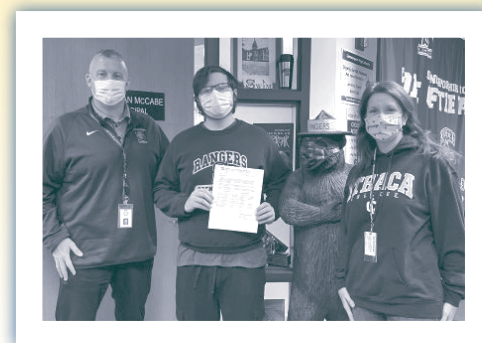
Carter White, 7th grade, Ms. Heeks

National Merit honors

Congratulations to senior Joseph O'Neil, who is a candidate in the competition for a Special Scholarship to be awarded through the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition to identify and honor academically talented U.S. high school students. We want to wish the best of luck to Joseph, and we are very proud of you.

Pictured to the right:
Mr. McCabe,
Joseph O'Neil,
Mrs. Gillett



Spirit of holiday giving throughout our schools

The holidays brought our Ranger community together this season with numerous opportunities to support, volunteer, and donate to such programs as Cartons for Christmas, Eagle Star Housing, St. Peter's, and Willie Bee Foundation.

The examples of kindness are too many to list, but here are just a few. Thank you to our learning community for your generosity in supporting one another and these charitable efforts. #SpencerportTogether

All of the schools committed to collecting donations for Cartons for Christmas, which is a community-based program to provide families food and gifts for the holidays. This is a confidential program to respect the recipients, and volunteers package the food and gifts. Some schools collected non-perishable foods, gift cards and money, while others set up giving trees with ornaments that listed needed gift items.



Munn

Munn Elementary School supported Cartons for Christmas, supporting about 108 families with food, turkeys and gifts. Volunteers also assisted with delivering the items to St. John's Church and sorting the donations (pictured).



Taylor

Fifth grade student leaders at Taylor Elementary School organized a collection of monies and gift cards for Cartons for Christmas. Staff, students and families generously supported the effort, raising more than \$740 in money and grocery store gift cards.



Canal View

Faculty and staff at Canal View participated in a Secret Santa gift exchange that also included donations of toys to the Willie Bee Foundation in honor of third grader, Aubrie Robinson. Aubrie is currently receiving treatment for a brain tumor, and many in the Spencerport community are part of #AubriesArmy.

Canal View faculty and staff collected more than 75 items to donate to the foundation, which was established in 2017 in memory of Will Beeman. The organization assists local families who have a child facing a life-threatening illness.



Bernabi

The Bernabi learning community raised more than \$450 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in late November.

The school's annual giving trees provided an opportunity for students, staff and families to take an ornament and obtain gifts in support of Cartons for Christmas and Eagle Star Housing.

Pictured are the fifth grade student leaders with the gifts for Eagle Star, which is a local organization that offers affordable short-term and transitional housing for veterans and their families who need it. These ornaments/gifts provided essential items such as bath towels, blankets, pillows and toiletries.

Tony Dero from Eagle Star said, "I would like to express our sincere heartfelt gratitude with this effort. Coming from a veteran myself, I can tell you with confidence you all saved some lives with this movement. When I returned to Eagle Star with two vans full of gifts, to say our veterans' faces lit up would be a clear understatement."

HS

Members from Spencerport High School's Student Government participated in Cartons for Christmas and bought over 25 gifts for children this holiday.

They spent a few days shopping and wrapping each gift for each child to enjoy this season.

Spencerport High School jazz band members served as Santa's elves in early December, when they shopped for gifts for Cartons for Christmas. The students picked a gift for an assigned age, then returned to the band room to wrap them (pictured here).

Service Learning Internship Program students volunteered throughout the month for organizations such as the Salvation Army and St. Peter's Kitchen.



SLIP students spread holiday cheer with the Red Kettle campaign at Eastview Mall; purchased and donated 25 sets of hats and mittens, as well as a dozen blankets to St. Peter's Toy Store; and volunteered to distribute these and other gifts to Rochester area children.



Cosgrove

Cosgrove Middle School's student council featured three giving trees throughout the school. Donated items were then set up in a designated area, where students in need could shop for themselves or their families. Wrapping paper was also provided, and the students love it.

Board of Education:

- Mr. Kevin Hutton, *President*
- Mr. Greg Kincaid, *Vice President*
- Mr. Gary Bracken
- Ms. Leah Brown
- Ms. Kate Czarnecki
- Mr. David Gibbard
- Ms. Lori Stone

School Board members are elected to three-year terms and serve without pay.

Superintendent of Schools

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*All events are subject to change due to COVID.
Please check for updates in the weekly
principal messages or on the district website.*

JANUARY

- 12 Bernabi winter concert
- 13 SHS National Honor Society induction
- 14 UPK-8 Half Day release (grs 9-12 in session)
- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school
- 18 Board of Education meeting, 6 p.m., D.O.
- 20 Taylor winter concert

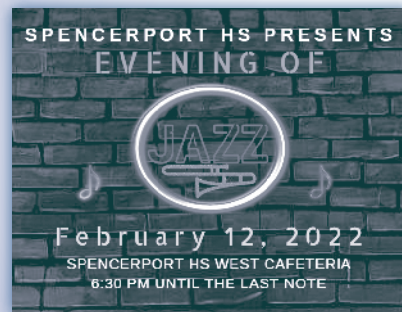
FEBRUARY

- 1 Board of Education meeting, 6 p.m., D.O.
- 4 CMS/SHS 2nd quarter report cards, via Parent Portal
- 15 Board of Education meeting, 6 p.m., D.O.
- 21-25 Mid-Winter Recess: no school

Save the date!

Evening of Jazz set for Feb. 12

Spencerport High School presents its 22nd annual Evening of Jazz on Sat., Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m., in the west cafeteria.



This year's performances feature the HS Jazz Ensemble, Friday Jazz Band, Cosgrove Jazz Ensemble, Fairport High School Jazz Ensemble, Brockport Community Big Band, and special guest John Fedchok on trombone.

Tickets: adults, \$13; students/senior citizens, \$10, and are available at the door or in advance at the high school main office, Ogden Farmer's Library, and the Spencerport Federal Credit Union.

REMINDER

There will be a pre-K-8 Half Day release on Friday, Jan. 14. Grades 9-12 will remain in a full-day of instruction.