



Griffin Spotlight

Independent Study Explores Photography

Boquet Valley Central School District offers various independent studies and elective classes for students to explore different interests. Junior Liam Clifford took hold of this opportunity.

He enjoys working creatively, especially with music, but he wanted to further tap into his artistic abilities. This year he is taking an independent photography course with Technology Teacher Mrs. Andrya Heller.

"I was just taking pictures of everything I thought was unique or cool on my phone, but I wanted to see what I could do when working with a professional camera," Clifford said.

Heller has given him selective projects that focus on different



aspects of camera work, such as aperture. Aperture adjusts how much light is flooded into the sensors, and it affects depth of field in a photo. He's also worked with selective color in Photoshop.

"We started off the year with an introduction to composition, and he had to keep his camera in an automatic setting, much to his chagrin," Heller said.

"But the focus was to be

Superintendent of Schools Message: Joshua R. Meyer

*Dear Parents, Students, and
Community Members,*

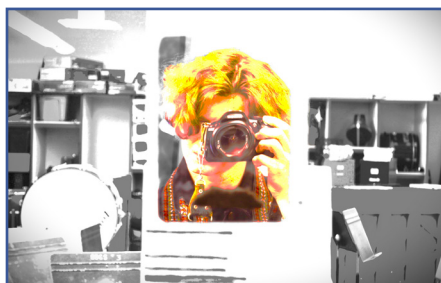
As we approach an important milestone for our school district, I want to express the significance of your participation in the upcoming Capital Project vote. On February 15, our community will have the opportunity to make a crucial decision that will shape the future of our school district and directly impact the educational experiences of our students.

It is through our collective voice and action that we can ensure the continued growth and success of our school. Your vote matters, and I urge each and every one of you vote. The vote will be held from noon to 8 p.m. at the Lake View Campus.

I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who took the time to participate in the recent forum discussions. Your insights, questions and feedback have been invaluable in helping us understand the needs and concerns of our community as we move forward with this important decision.

Together, let us create a future where our students have every opportunity to thrive and succeed, both inside and outside the classroom.

Sincerely,
Joshua R. Meyer



Self Portrait by Liam Clifford

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Mountain View Top 5

Arts & Culture

1. High School students recently visited The Wild Center's Wild Lights exhibit in Tupper Lake. The forest glowed with enchanting lights. Students basked in the glow of thousands of twinkling lights and strolled through Forest Music, a curated specifically for the looped trail. Students were able to discover nature, science and art while meeting Social-Emotional



Learning standards.

Salmon in the Classroom

2. Salmon Eggs were welcomed at the Mountain View! Seventh grade students eagerly awaited the arrival of salmon eggs. "Salmon in the Classroom" is a program through the nonprofit organization Trout Unlimited. They send eggs for students to monitor until they hatch. Once the fish are ready, the class will get a DEC permit to release the fish in the spring.

Water Table

3. Students in Mrs. Fielder's 9th grade Earth Science and Environmental



Science classes had a chance to explore the EM River Stream Table. Every year, this stream table is borrowed from Essex County Soil and Water Conservation. Students were able to observe the small changes in how streams develop and the pattern of groundwater movement. They made their own straight channel and meandering streams and noticed how erosion and deposition occurs for different streams. This is a unit all students look forward to learning about!



All County Music Festival

4. Middle School band and chorus students performed an amazing display of musical excellence at the All County Music Festival, held in the Mountain View Auditorium. It was a collaboration of middle school students for across the region, from AuSable Valley, Keene, Lake Placid, Moriah, Saranac Lake, Ticonderoga, Tupper Lake and Willsboro.

ASVAB Test

5. College, Career, Military, oh my! All 10th graders took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test, a heavily researched and well-respected aptitude test developed by the Department of Defense. The ASVAB measures aptitude and acquired skills which can be used to help predict future academic and occupational success. ASVAB scores thus give students insight into their options and aid them in planning their next step after high school.



Lake View Top 5

Grade 5 Biome Boxes

1. In December, the enthusiastic fifth graders embarked on an engaging and educational journey as they initiated a captivating project centered around the exploration of various biomes. The culmination of their hard work was showcased to their fellow classmates, teachers and administrators. This project not only deepened their understanding of science but also fostered teamwork, communication and a sense of accomplishment.



Middle of Year Diagnostic Testing

2. The second week in January all of our students completed middle of the year diagnostic testing using iReady, DIBEL's, and IntoMath. Based on results, our Griffin Support Team has been meeting to determine various levels of academic support, or enrichment, we can provide to students.



Lake View Spelling Bee

3. The annual spelling bee was held at Lake View, with roughly 20 participants in grade 4-5. Winners will go on to compete in a regional bee representing our district. The results: 4th grade: Rayne Larmore (champion), Peyton Murray (runner-up) and 5th grade: Mason Peck (champion), Henry Saltamach (runner-up). Rayne and Mason were also our overall runner-up and winner, respectively. These four students will represent BVCS at the regional bee in March.



New York State Literacy Initiative

4. Building principals Elaine Dixon-Cross and Lee Kyler and Superintendent Joshua Meyer attended a training from the New York State Education Department regarding a

literacy initiative prioritizing alignment to the Science of Reading.

OASIS Programming

5. In the OASIS, cooking club with Ms. Shannon from Cornell Cooperative Extension students are learning why sugary drinks and caffeine are unhealthy and what can replace them, how to build strong bones and healthy teeth by easily incorporating more calcium into their diets and reminding students it



can be quick to add some fresh fruits to breakfast! OASIS is also collaborating with Moriah Central School to offer swimming lessons to our Lake View and Mountain View students twice a week. Students have enjoyed learning these life skills and are looking forward to when they will be able to join our free swim group!



Lake View Principal Message: Lee Kyler

The Lake View Campus is bustling with activity as we hit the ground running after the holiday break. Our team, consisting of interventionists, counselors, teachers, and myself, has collaborated to analyze mid-year diagnostic testing results and tailor academic support or enrichment accordingly. Should you have inquiries about our Response to Intervention (RtI) process, please don't hesitate to reach out. Looking ahead, we're excited to host a variety of events next month, such as the Scholastic Book Fair, Winter Concert, and Art Fair. Your continued partnership in education is deeply appreciated!



Mountain View Principal Message: Elaine Dixon-Cross

As we reach the midpoint of the academic year, I am delighted by the outstanding achievements of our students. They continue to push themselves in academics, athletics and extracurriculars.

In our commitment to academic success, there are several opportunities for tutoring and support. These sessions aim to provide additional support and guidance, ensuring that every student has the resources needed to thrive academically. I would also like to emphasize the crucial role that regular attendance plays in a student's success. Attending classes regularly is not only a requirement but a key factor in academic achievement.

As a reminder, our teachers, counselors and administrative team are available to provide assistance.



Spotlight Continued...

intentional about composition, and now we are moving through all of the camera settings before he'll shoot in manual."

Clifford used a blurry effect to make certain images look like ghosts. He's also interested in abstract images. One photo called "Fire(line)" is of a string of beads on a classroom's blinds. The background became rich with color, and he focused in closely in on the beads.

"I've learned quite a bit about not just capturing an image, but making pictures look how I want them to," Clifford said. "I do a lot of abstract stuff. I like things that look interesting or making something mundane look alluring."



Fire(line) by Liam Clifford

He used selective color in his image "Sun," which was taken of a green paper star in a window. Clifford framed his image to have the star hover over a

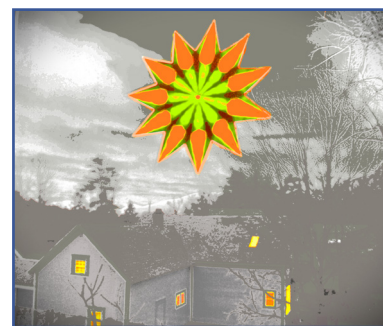
house, and he then used selective color to grayscale the image except for the star and the windows in the house. Those pieces remained vibrant in contrast to the rest of the image.

His next big project will work on using shutter speed.

"He will be learning how to freeze action and purposefully blurring the motion you want to see," Heller said.

Clifford has enjoyed his experience working with Heller's professional cameras, and he notices the drastic difference in his work.

"My photography looks so much better and more cinematic," Clifford said.



Sun by Liam Clifford



Notes by Liam Clifford