



December 13, 2021

Groves Families,

Winter Break will begin Wednesday, December 22 and school resumes Monday, January 3rd. I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing break!

Our **Art as Therapy** event will take place this Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. There are still a few spots left to sign up!

As discussed earlier, we are going to have a school-wide discussion on Wednesday in fifth hour around the evacuation and counter strategies that are part of ALICE. This will also involve scenarios in order for students and staff to work together to determine what strategy they would use.

Students will participate in the annual Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition wellness survey this week, and results are anonymous. If you do not want your student to participate, please email Dr. Smith at ssmith4@birmingham.k12.mi.us.

Birmingham Education Foundation Annual Fund

Please support the Birmingham Education Foundation in their Annual Fund Campaign by making a donation TODAY!

The mission of the BEF is to create exceptional education experiences by connecting innovative teachers with community support. Each year the BEF provides teacher grants for activities that directly impact your children.

Visit supportBEF.org to learn more and to donate.

The Wellness Club will be holding their first official meeting on Thursday, December 16th, at 3pm in the back of the media center. Snacks will be provided, the leaders will be giving a run-down of the club's purpose, and leading some wellness activities!

Debate - State Champs!

Groves' Debate Team placed first in the Varsity State Policy Debate Finals and second in the Novice Policy Debate Finals at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association's 104th State Championships (and second virtual state tournament), held on Saturday, December 11, 2021.

In the varsity division, the team of Ben Glick and Eleen Laham posted a perfect 4-0 win/loss record in preliminary rounds, before defeating Okemos HS on a 2-1 decision in the final round. Ben has won the varsity championship twice, the junior varsity championship on two occasions as well and was runner up in the novice finals. Eleen was honored as the novice state champion, won two junior varsity state finals, before winning the varsity championship on December 11. In the novice division, all the teams won two rounds, with the Groves teams of Joshua Gibson and Christina Jones, and Gabe Faber and Mali Rencher, reaching the final round. Based on total speaker points, Joshua and Christina competed in the final round v. HH Dow HS, who bested them in that debate.

This is Groves' 8th varsity championship, and the third in the last four years. This was Groves' 11th appearance in the novice final round, with five first place finishes.

Michigan Thespian Festival Awards

Students enrolled in Theatre 5B participated in the Michigan Thespian Festival in Lansing December 9-11.

The following awards were handed out to the students based on their individual events.

Superior Awards:

Monologue: Annelise Ross

Monologue: Lily Reed-Nordwall

Duet Acting: Grace Hummel/Gigi Maki

Duet Acting: Gillian Emerick/Logan Reynolds

Solo Musical Theatre: Ainsley Nelson

Solo Musical Theatre: Anna Forberg

Duet Musical Theatre: Mia Frank/Ainsley Nelson

Duet Musical Theatre: Anna Forberg/Hope Sherwood

Group Musical Theatre: Jack Handzel/Kyle Maynard/Kevyn Roessler/Hope Sherwood

Solo Dance: Gigi Maki

Playwriting: Lily Reed-Nordwall

Theatre Marketing: Jack Handzel

Excellent:

Costume Design: Grace Hummel

Scenic Design: Kevyn Roessler

College Scholarship: Kyle Maynard

Thespian Scholarship: Kyle Maynard

A show case featuring each of the superior award winners will be presented on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Groves Little Theatre. The event is free and open to all.

Groves Athletic Updates

Good luck Birmingham Varsity Skating (BVS) at the first competition on Monday. We will be sending three teams to the competition. The teams are divided by US Figure Skating test levels. There are eight levels for Freestyle and eight levels for Moves. The A team/high level, B team/intermediate level and the C team consists of skaters who are beginners or fairly new to skating.

BVS is a unified skating team that includes skaters from Seaholm, Groves and IA. Many of the girls on A team practice 6 -7 days a week. Team practices are held at the Birmingham Ice rink before school.

Men's Swim and Dive Updates

The Emerald Tide Swimmers are led by head coach Ricky Forrest, and assisted by Bill Thompson and Jacob Carl. The Tide's Divers are coached by Bob Huston. Team captains this year are seniors Jack Knoper, Nolan Lamphere, Drew Varda, and Jackson Zako.

Results from the Emerald Tides' first swim and dive meet of the 2021-2022 Season at Groves Pool Wednesday December 8.

The Emerald Tide kicked off this season with a 127 to 56 win over Cranbrook Kingswood HS.

Special shout out to junior Chase Richardson for his great swims in the 100 yard butterfly and the 100 yard breaststroke!

The following swimmers qualified for the Michigan HSAA State meet by meeting this years Division 2 specified times:

- Senior Jackson Zako in the 50 freestyle
- Sophomore Asa Allen in the 50 freestyle
- Sophomore Joey Stebbins in the 100 backstroke
- Junior Ian Duncan in the 100 backstroke
- Asa Allen, Ian Duncan, Joey Stebbins, and Jackson Zako in the 200 yard Medley Relay
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- The following swimmers and divers qualified for the Oakland County meet by meeting the specified times / scores:
- Senior Joe Doroan in 1 meter diving
- Senior Drew Varda in 1 meter diving
- Senior Jack Knoper in the 200 and 500 freestyle
- Junior Ian Duncan in the 200 freestyle
- Sophomore Joey Stebbins in the 200 Individual Medley
- Sophomore Asa Allen in the 100 freestyle
- Senior Nolan Lamphere in the 50 freestyle

The Emerald Tide took **first** among six schools (Seahom, Detroit Country Day, Dexter, Brother Rice, UD Jesuit) at the annual Brother Rice Warrior relays held at Groves Pool December 11.

The following swimmers qualified for the MHSAA State finals by meeting the Division 2 qualifying standard:

- Junior Ian Duncan in the 200 freestyle
- The 200 freestyle relay team, composed of sophomore Asa Allen, junior Ian Duncan, senior Jackson Zako, and senior Nolan Lamphere

The next swim and dive meet is this Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 6 pm at the Groves Pool. This is a tri-meet with Grosse Pointe North and Rochester Stoney Creek. Come out and support your Emerald Tide as they compete in the final meet before the end of the year!

Women's Basketball

The Lady Falcons had a big win over University Prep 45-26 on December 7th. Cameron Little (10th) led the bench in scoring with 9 pts. Ella Blank (11th) was tough in the post with 8 pts and 3 rebounds. Payge Charnas (11th) was a fighter pulling in 3 rebounds and getting 2 blocks. Kirsten Jasinski (11th) shot 100% from the line, had 2 boards, a block and a steal.

Birmingham United Gymnastics

Our Birmingham Unified Gymnastics team is off to a great start this 2021-2022 season. This team consists of gymnast from both Seaholm and Groves schools and will be competing in their first meet this Saturday at the Walled Lake High School Invitational. This meet will be a collection of 16 other teams from across the state. We wish them all the best in their first competition! GO BUGS!

Thank you,

Dr. Smith

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