

“Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air’s salubrity,” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

GIBRALTAR

school news

SUMMER 2022

Friends of Gibraltar and Gibraltar Area Schools

Ecology Club News

By Mary Kate McCormack and Andrew Pirrung, Ecology Club Advisors

The Gibraltar Ecology Club was reestablished this year after a couple of years’ hibernation. The club met on a weekly basis with a dedicated group of engaged students. Various meetings included creating bird feeders from suet and seeds, decorating tote bags, watching environmental documentaries, creating natural gifts around the holidays, hikes in Peninsula State Park, improving cafeteria recycling, holding a plant sale benefit for Ukraine, growing new plants from cuttings and learning how to contact public representatives, to mention a few. Many conversations

were enjoyed regarding the actions and feelings of being a young person during this time in regards to the Earth and climate.

The club is proud to fund and donate three picnic tables made by Mr. Duane Braun’s woodworking students Michael Pothast, Tony Curiel and Colton Burnes. Two of the tables are located at Peninsula State Park’s Nature Center area and the other one is near the Gibraltar boys’ baseball diamond.

With the Nature Conservancy and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, the Ecology Club participated in

the planting and protecting of trees in Baileys Harbor and Liberty Grove as part of a year-end field trip. 18 students helped protect 250 hardwood trees with protective sleeves and planted 475 red pine and white spruce trees. These trees will help to create a more intact forest for migrating birds and animals in the future.

Thank you to Bob Bultman of the Forest Recovery Project, Natalie Dorrler-Hyde from Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Kari Hagenow for The Nature Conservancy and Tony Gatenby from the Climate Change Coalition.



SMALL CAMERA BIG PRINT STUDENT EXHIBITION



Students from Gibraltar High School participated in a one-day workshop with Door County Photographer, Suzanne Rose to learn and explore the fundamentals of digital smart-phone photography as part of the Hardy Gallery’s Exposure to Creativity Program (ETC). ETC is a free arts education program for high school students, created to provide explorations in the visual, performing, literary and applied arts administered in collaboration with Gibraltar High School and Friends of Gibraltar (FOG).

The Exposure to Creativity (ETC) program of The Hardy Gallery responds to the community need to provide our youth with access to the ample and diverse resources of the creative professionals of our local arts community, and at a time – during the school day and year – when they are in school and not working. The ETC program consists of two primary components: a free full day hands-on workshops for all Gibraltar High School students held at outlying artists’ studios/facilities and an out-

of-school arts mentor program aimed at personal development where artists and creative professional partner with local youth in areas of mutual creative interest.

While the workshops provide, on average, seventeen unique opportunities each winter, the arts mentoring component involves the match of a local artist and student(s). The mentors are local arts professionals and community members either actively engaged in their craft or retired who work in a variety of art disciplines (e.g. visual, performing, literary, etc.).

The ETC program was initially launched during the 2007-08 school year and is administered jointly by The Hardy Gallery, Friends of Gibraltar, and Gibraltar High School. We are providing students the opportunity to expand their personal horizons, strengthen their academic success, and increase their potential career directions and productivity as members of a future workforce. The ETC program empowers young

people to develop creative practices they can sustain throughout all facets of their lives.

Now in its fifteenth year, the program continues to provide high-quality experiences for over 200 students each year. The program is partially funded by the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the state of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts and private contributions.

Thank you to the Gibraltar High School students who participated in this year’s workshop, Small Camera Big Print.

Sam Bass, Lauren Bertges, Dasia Daubner, Mia Hummel, Marcy Lopez, Rachel Matson, Lily Nostvick, Vanessa Olson, Isabelle Soriano, Jade Toney, and Christina Padilla-Volkman.

Photographs from this workshop will be on display at the Link Gallery of Children’s Art at the Door County Auditorium from June – August 2022.

2022 Cardboard Regatta

The Door County Maritime Museum brought the cardboard regatta back to Gibraltar School this May. Students in grade 6 spent the morning working in teams of four building boats out of cardboard. The teams were allowed to use 4 sheets of corrugated cardboard, one roll of Gorilla tape, and hot glue to construct their boat. Teams also decorated their boats with markers. Students walked their boats to the YMCA pool and selected a boat captain to paddle the boat for a sea trial in the YMCA pool. Teams were scored on their team work, boat design, creative sinking, and amount of time floating in the pool.

Thank you to Lori Minnema, Sam Perlman, and Andrea Stromeyer from the Door County Maritime Museum for bringing this excellent educational program to Gibraltar! Thank you to the Lee McConkey and Megan Schneider from the Northern Door YMCA.



Lifetime Fitness Camp Out

Mrs. Winker’s Lifetime Fitness high school physical education class had their overnight camping/biking field trip to Washington Island this May. Students learned about setting up tents, camping basics, campfire how-to and safety, cooking, and biking safety/rules of the road. Students biked to all the attractions on the Island, with Schoolhouse Beach being the favorite.

They then prepared and cooked a low country boil over the fire of potatoes, carrots, onions, corn, sausage, and shrimp, and Mr. Dickson prepared his famous Dutch

oven chocolate cake for dessert.

For many of these students, it was their first time camping or first time to the island. The weather was beautiful and a fun time was had by all, with one student remarking, “This is the most fun I’ve ever had on a school event!” Thanks to Mr. Dickson for once again being our second chaperone, the Washington Island Lions Club for use of their camp area, and the transportation staff for getting us to the ferry and back. We are already looking forward to next year!

Learning Positive Communication Skills from Horses

Mrs. Lindenberg’s High School Ladies on Life class traveled to a local horse farm to work with trainer, Leslie Leline on the crucial role communication plays in relationships. Leline uses positive cues to train horses who have been mistreated. She works to rebuild trust by focusing on intentional positive communication cues. By observing and working with Leline and one of her horses, students experienced how subtle non-verbal cues relay messages and impact communication. Students learned positive communication skills, how to invite conversation, and the incredible connection between horses and humans.

Students commented about what a valuable and memorable experience this was for them. Thank you to Leslie Leline for this impactful experience in building positive communication skills.



Pride Pump Thank You

For the past few years the JP Express BP gas station in Carlsville owned by the Jandu family has been giving back to the community with their use of their Pride Pumps. A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the Jandu family. The \$211.74 raised in the month of October will be used as scholarships for students for the Gibraltar 8th Grade Class trip to Washington DC in November 2022. Thank you very much.

THERAPY DOG in the Elementary School

Gloria Dougherty and Libby, her therapy dog, have been visiting some Gibraltar Elementary classrooms once a week since early March spreading joy and reading with students. Libby is a sweet tempered, 2 year old golden retriever and her owner, Gloria is just as wonderful! Students and staff have seemed to really enjoy their visits. We’ve had the pleasure of witnessing a few students with fears related to dogs quickly overcome them in Libby’s presence. In thank you letters students wrote to Libby and Gloria, they stated positive feedback such as, “I liked reading with you, it was so fun!” and “I am so happy that Libby could come in!”

Gloria reached out to Brooke Petrie, K-6 School Counselor, earlier this year desiring to help bring some joy to students

during what has been a challenging time for many. We were so thankful for administrative support with getting to see this desire through. Some of the many benefits to welcoming a therapy dog into a school community may include: helping young readers gain confidence, lowering stress and blood pressure levels, increasing positive moods, decreasing anxiety, enhancing physical well-being, increasing the levels of dopamine and serotonin (the happiness hormones), easing social isolation and increasing social skills. If you’re interested in learning more about the many potential benefits of therapy dogs working with students, please view: <https://www.edutopia.org/article/bringing-dog-school>. We hope to continue our partnership with Gloria and Libby next year!

