We all miss Mrs. D’Ambrosio, but remember, we have a new principal! Mrs. Cotter, our new principal is kind, and has her own way of doing things. I was given the opportunity to interview Mrs. Cotter, and I have to say she is an amazing person.

I started off my interview by asking her what she liked about our school so far. She responded, with the staff and students. She said, “they were all very friendly.” She especially likes our school’s diversity. She said, “Everyone is very different and unique.”

She grew up in Waterville, and her memories include the friendships she had growing up. Mrs. Cotter was a teacher for twenty years, and General Herkimer is her first position as a principal.

I really wanted to know what she would tell everyone in our school if she could, so I asked her. She replied, “Teamwork is important to accomplish our goals, and your actions determine the consequences.”

I so agree with the above quote because if we want something positive to happen, working together just like GH does-it will happen. Furthermore, WE are responsible for any end result-not what others make us think or do.

Like I said, we all miss Mrs. D. but our new principal, Mrs. Cotter is doing so very well, adding to the fact that we have so much going on at General Herkimer! Thanks to Mrs. Cotter, I was able to get an amazing interview for our Herkimer Journal—and now we know much more about her.
General Herkimer supports The Kelberman Center and Team Andrew each year because Mrs. Karas, 2nd grade teacher at GH, has a son Andrew, who was born with autism. Without the Kelberman center helping kids like Andrew, it would be much more of a struggle. Andrew attends the Kelberman Center where he participates in swimming, dancing, arts and crafts, and the Kelberman Club House.

As you enter GH in the morning, you will see many items for sale or raffles with all the proceeds to go to the Kelberman Center. The biggest hit every year are the blue puzzle shaped chocolate pops. Mrs. Karas makes the puzzle pops over February break. This year she made 1000 pops.

If you were wondering what the puzzle shapes mean in the pops, Mrs. Karas said, “Everyone who has autism, has it differently, because it is very puzzling to researchers who are studying it. Researchers really do not know what causes autism.”

Mrs. Karas also supports the children by doing a short awareness walk to raise money for the center. This walk takes place at the Utica SUNY Campus on April 18.

The Herkimer Journal hopes you will help the children who have autism by buying sale items, popcorn, puzzle pops, raffle tickets, or support the walk for “TEAM ANDREW!”

See the raffle items as you enter GH!
PENNIES FOR PETS
By Abrianna Pentasuglia & Ajla Hadzic

Every January, General Herkimer and other Utica Schools hold the fundraiser called “Pennies For Pets” organized by Mrs. Farda. Our school alone raised over $800 so don’t let the title fool you. The money raised goes to Stevens Swan Humane Society to help all the homeless/abused animals at the shelter. The shelter rescues the dogs, cats, or other animals then finds loving homes for them.

One big part of our fundraiser was our annual popcorn sale which Herkimer Journal members help with. This alone raised $400 and our wonderful GH family raised the rest of our donation with the power of small change. In Utica, all the schools together who participated raised over $5000.

If you would like to adopt an animal, please visit our community shelter. Stevens-Swan Humane Society is located at 5664 Horatio Street (route 12 North-just past the mall) and the phone number is 315-738-4357.

GH CELEBRATES VALENTINE’S DAY WITH WEAR RED DAY
By Jaiden Felder

On February 14th, Valentine’s Day, GH celebrated with “wear red day” and it sure was a fun day! There were red pants, red shirts, red shoes, red head bands, and so much more. Every student I talked to agreed that it was a fun way to celebrate the holiday.

If you forgot to wear red, don’t worry it will be wear green day soon. GH knows how to make coming to school fun.

Chocolate Fever
ONE BOOK/ONE SCHOOL
By Trinity Teal

By now everyone at GH should have completed reading Chocolate Fever, and completed the question/activity pack provided by our school. Those of you who have not read and enjoyed this book, you don’t know what you are missing.

The story is about a boy named Henry who loves chocolate 24/7. One day he started to see brown spots all over his body. The story involved nurses, doctors, a truck driver, and even kidnappers. I will tell you it is a great book, so get caught up on it.

Our school had trivia questions on Fridays, and we sold chocolate once a week which everyone enjoyed. It sure was a fun book and a great school-wide project.
In Honor of Martin Luther King  
*By Charlotte Brewer*

Fifty-seven years ago African Americans were protesting to have as many equal rights as whites. Martin Luther King JR. believed in integration, not segregation. He helped all people black or white get through protesting.

In 1953, Blacks were protesting and got sprayed down with fire houses and bitten by police dogs. In 1956 Rosa Parks was arrested for not giving up her seat on the bus to a white man. This action was called the Montgomery Bus Boycott. On January 30, 1956 Martin’s house was bombed as well as his brother’s. Luckily, his wife Coretta and daughter Yolanda were both unharmed. On August 28, 1963 King had made his “I have a dream” speech to speak against protesting. He believed that if people protest, there would be more hate in the world. Martin didn’t want hate. He wanted kindness and love.

On April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King JR. was assassinated. Without Martin blacks and whites wouldn’t be allowed to be friends. Without Martin I wouldn’t be allowed to be best friends with Ziyah. February is Black History Month... let’s honor it.

---

Young Scholars  
*By Howara Almayahi*

This year the Young Scholars Program selection process has begun. Everyone who was nominated went to a meeting, wrote an essay, and got interviewed already.

You might be reading this and thinking, “I don’t even know what this program is!” Well, Young Scholars is a program for 7th graders to high school graduates. The essay you were asked to write helps the selection team to figure out if you get to move to the next step, as does the interview. Out of the hundreds of students nominated, only 70 students are chosen.

Once you make it into the program, the work and fun activities begin. There is a summer program at Utica College, amazing educational field trips, and volunteering activities.

During the 7th grade school year, you have times in your schedule which you work with Young Scholars staff on homework. The staff are all very helpful and are focused on giving you opportunities for success.

Even if you don’t make it in, just getting nominated is really a big deal and honor. Now, the wait game begins as I anxiously await the results.