



Race Results

>A3



Kid Biz

>A4



Seussical Smash

>B1



Sports & Rec

>B3

Covering Shelburne Falls and Beyond

Free

VOL. 2, NO. 2 • MARCH 12, 2015

# The BSE Flow

STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER OF THE BUCKLAND-SHELBURNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY • SHELBURNE FALLS, MASS.

## Mini-grants Putting spring in their step Mary Lyon Foundation plants seeds

An art teacher gets money for clay. A second-grade teacher gets funding toward tools that help students strengthen their comprehension through visualization.

This just scratches the surface at BSE, where six educators have received spring 2015 mini-grants from the Mary Lyon Foundation, the community-based 501(c)3 non-profit that supports all aspects of quality education in Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Rowe, and Shelburne.

A list of all-school awards (26, ranging from \$57 to \$335) is heartening: solar educational training kits at Mohawk; a parade float for Charlemont's 250th anniversary; a yearbook project at Colrain.

What emerges as a theme, though, is spring.

At Colrain, Kate Kelly's request for help for a shade garden came through. Carole Fisher at Sanderson now has seeds for a third-grade garden. Travis Minnick's class at Mohawk has money for a bumblebee watch (and Jim Markham is going to be able to demonstrate solar construction in the classroom).

At Hawlemont, Jean Bruffee's kids will see what grows in a new incubation system. Claudine Poplawski and Laurie Pike at Rowe have funds for a pollinator garden.

And one of the requests approved by the foundation for Heath's Virginia Gary is an allotment for revitalizing and protecting the school garden.

For more information on mini-grants, scholarships, student assistance, and giving, visit [marylyonfoundation.org](http://marylyonfoundation.org).

— John Snyder

## Leveraging education



Clockwise, from top left: Connor volunteers for a turn with the lever, one example of a simple machine; Gavin, Ethan, Bronson, Connor, and Nathan make short work of a heavy load; Kylie and Mirra help tip an instructor off her feet; Aidan and Arwen survey watershed health; Ainsley, Lily, Damien, and Connor see the effect of pollutants on their watershed.

— BSE Flow photos



## Environmental Day clicks schoolwide

It was too difficult for the students to lift the instructor off his wooden plank, let alone fit their fingers underneath to try for a grip, so they wedged in pry bars and levers and toppled him with ease.

Elsewhere, students considered land and water management in tabletop microcosms. Other kids traced personal milestones, and the health of forests, back in time through tree rings.

Science and the environment ruled the day Feb. 27, as sta-

tions were set up schoolwide for kids to get their hands on how the world works. It was, according to school counselor Jana Standish, the event's organizer, "our own mini Earth Day."

The program is backed by the Student Conservation Association, based in Hawley, which has been with our schools for 18 years, thanks to Standish. Environmental Day has been at BSE for four.

SCA members Miriam Grill and Joshua Orendorf, who've

been at BSE since November 2014, were joined by a dozen colleagues in making Environmental Day 2015 a success.

Teachers said they enjoyed it too. Sitting in on a demonstration, Lindsay Funk observed: "Even though you're teaching, you're constantly finding new activities you've never done before. You're never done learning how to teach a unit. You always look for ways to make it more fun, to make it better."

## 'A big hit' Kids 'mad' about science

New Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker recently released his transition report, advocating for more STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) teaching in elementary schools. One of the fun ways BSE does that is through its Mad Science after-school program, which started March 5.

Due to popular demand and an excess of applicants, the program was split into two groups for K-1 and 2-4 graders, with approximately 30 students participating.

Created to spark the imagination of young scientists, Mad Science designs weekly classes around exciting science experiments like optical illusions, the invisible power of magnets, lightning, weather and film-worthy special effects. Students bring something home each week to show their parents.

Angela Roux, the administrative coordinator at Mad Science of Western New England in Northampton, said the after-school program seems like a big hit at BSE and she'd like to extend it to 10 or 12 weeks.

"We keep filling up, so stay tuned and register early," Roux said.

Other enrichment offerings taking place at BSE through April 10 are Extreme Outdoor Sports, led by Jamie Bishop, physical education teacher at Sanderson Academy; Pages to Projects, led by Jamie LaRue-Bishop, and focused on the most beloved picture books around; Iron Kid Challenge, led by preschool teacher Angelina Read; Exploring Dance Through Fun and Fitness, led by Karen Shulda, artist-director of Ballet Renversé; and Fantastic Mask Making with Polly Anderson.

— Catherine Fahy  
with Brooke Looman



Participants in the spring 2014 Mad Science enrichment got an eyeful!

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## Ruckus at Memorial Hall; circus workshops at BSE

On Saturday, March 21, savor the sweetness of performance with Piti Theatre Company's 6th annual SYRUP: One Sweet Performing Arts Festival, at Memorial Hall.

Piti says it's presenting a potpourri of theatre, circus, clowning, magic, syrup tasting, food and free pickles. This year's headliner: Nimble Arts, an internationally acclaimed circus troupe that



Nimble's Elsie Smith's graceful aerial silks.

will perform on Saturday and offer workshops on Sunday.

On Saturday at 3 p.m., Piti premieres "Innocenzo," which blends live music, humor, and magic to tell the tale of a clown struggling with electromagnetic pollution.

At 5 p.m. Nimble Arts' RUCKUS! This award-winning, high-flying troupe brings its signature show to Memorial Hall. Presented on a unique aerial rig, acrobats, jugglers, and

trapezists share their talent in a vaudevillian-style show described as perfect for the family and special enough for a date.

Intermission includes a raffle, syrup tasting, food, syrup-themed treats around the Village and complimentary pickles from Greenfield's Real Pickles. Tickets are \$5 (children 12 and under), \$12 (general admission).

Tickets are available at Boswell's Books, World Eye Bookshop, and at [ptco.org/syrup](http://ptco.org/syrup).

On Sunday, March 22, bring the kids to Nimble Arts Workshops at BSE.

At 2 p.m.: Aerial silks (7 and up). Try this beautiful aerial apparatus of soft fabric slings on lengths of strong fabric. The apparatus is hung low so anyone can try hanging upside down, climbing, and exploring shapes.

At 3 p.m.: Juggling (7 and up). Learn to manipulate objects, from scarves (easy on little hands) to balls and more complicated objects.

Tickets \$10 each. Registration recommended at [www.ptco.org/syrup](http://www.ptco.org/syrup). For more information, call (413) 625-6569 or write [info@ptco.org](mailto:info@ptco.org).



# News and opinion

## Overheard



Courtesy photo

“Last night Evelyn informed me that when she gets older she is going to be a teacher because ‘being a teacher is a lot easier than being a grownup.’”

— Emily Shonk Schoelzel, on Facebook.

## Editorial

### Stay open to what fourth grade and life may bring



By Bennett SNYDER

When I started fourth grade this year I wasn’t expecting it to be this fun. I was nervous to see my friends after the break, but I was also relaxed. My teacher, Ms. Hyer, is AWESOME, and we learn a lot of new things like long division and advanced multiplication and fractions. Recently we did this activity called Scrambled Multiplication Tables. It was a box and only some of the boxes were filled in with numbers, but not all of them, and you had to figure out which numbers go where in the multiplication table. We have Read-Aloud every day. We’re reading “Wonder” by R. J. Palacio, which we reviewed recently. I love it. It’s about a kid who has a somewhat deformed face, and there is one kid, named Julian, who makes fun of him. It’s a very interesting book. Also in fourth grade, I joined this AMAZING newspaper staff. For this issue and the previous one, I am the editor in chief. I help lead meetings and I’ve settled a couple of disputes. It’s fun. I love working on stories, writing funny things, and seeing our people being productive. In the February issue, when we reported about the school budget, I wrote an editorial saying I thought our school computers should have “Minecraft” on them, and after the paper came out we looked again and found out someone put “Minecraft” on the computers. Maybe they did it because of the editorial. I think people who aren’t in fourth grade yet should look forward to it. I am already looking forward to fifth grade.



Terri Hyer

## District turns to towns for harmony on improvements



Shelburne Falls Military Band photo

IN TUNE. Above, the Shelburne Falls Military Band plays its final concert of the season Aug. 20, 2014. Below, the bandshell, built and dedicated in 1970, endures a lonely 2014-2015 winter.

By Catherine Fahy with Brooke Looman

The faded bandshell at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School and the cracked and weedy asphalt surrounding the school may get a much-needed facelift in the coming months if the member towns approve money for their repair. The Mohawk Trail Regional School District School Committee voted at its Feb. 25 meeting to request that Buckland and Shelburne place an article on their town meeting warrants that would allow the District to borrow up to \$744,532 for capital improvements to the school. In addition to the bandshell and the as-



Catherine Fahy photo

phalt, the work would include re-caulking and masonry repairs, asbestos abatement, and floor replacement. School Committee Chairman Robert Aeschback said the Committee’s vote is the first step toward making the improvements and said Buckland and Shelburne must approve the funding request at their respective town meetings this spring.

“Then the School Committee would prepare bid specs and proceed with the work,” Aeschback said. “It certainly would address much of the capital work at BSE.” The vote took place at the same School Committee meeting where members also voted to approve the elementary and middle/high school operating budgets totaling \$18.3 million.

## Letter to the Editor

### You made our day, Mrs. Wagner

Dear Editor, Wanted to let you, and all other newspaper students, know what a great job you do. I picked up the Feb. 5 issue today [Feb. 26] at my hairdresser’s shop, State Street Style. My great-granddaughters go to Hawlemont Regional School and I didn’t know Mr. Yagodzinski left [as principal] and Mr. Kermenski came. Now I know. I enjoyed reading about “Pants” [“Pants is on the case to help kids read,” Features]; Emily Schoelzel building and repairing canoes [“All of our boats are handmade...” Cool Careers]; Pam Snow and teaching environmental matters [“Teaching the teachers: Pam Snow helps bring science education



John Snyder/BSE Flow  
Flow staffer Joy Bohonowicz enjoys a letter sent in by reader Linda Wagner of Charelemont during production of this issue.

to life,” Magazine]; and the valentine-making for seniors, to name a few. Last fall, Brooke Looman and Joy Bohonowicz did an interview with

Holly Mae (Brown), my granddaughter, a senior at Mohawk. [“Charelemont’s Holly Mae Brown is going places,” Features, Nov. 20, 2014]. Nice piece. Kylie Lowell is correct to want field hockey and volleyball at BSE. [Editorial, Feb. 5.] However, it’s time and money, and an adult who would volunteer. Last year, while watching field hockey, [I heard] the coach tell the adults there to cheer for “our kids,” that “the opposing team is tough. They start in the lower grades to learn field hockey.” [...] Adults need to know about good things teens and younger people do with their time. Sincerely, Linda Wagner Charelemont

**THE BSE FLOW**, founded in 2014 and published monthly, is the independent, student-run newspaper of Shelburne Falls, Mass. Based at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, we serve our village and its surroundings through the practice of journalism, current events, history, ethics, language arts, and commerce. We belong with pride to the National Elementary Schools Press Association, the Journalism Education Association, the New England Scholastic Press Association, and the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association.

**NEWS, LETTERS, AND CORRECTIONS**  
John Snyder, adviser and publisher  
75 Mechanic St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370  
Tel. 413-325-6348 • news@bseflow.com

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**STAFF 2014-2015, STUDYING TITLES THIS ISSUE**

Bennett Snyder, grade 4	Editor in chief
Joy Bohonowicz, grade 5	Assistant editor
Ainsley Bogel, grade 4	Assistant editor
Areia Heilman, grade 5	News editor
Myah Grant, grade 4	Roving reporter
Eliza Bogel, grade 4	Op-Ed Page editor
Kylie Lowell, grade 5	Advertising manager
Katie Martin, grade 5	Art director
Brooke Looman, grade 5	Circulation manager
Harper Brown, grade 4	New York bureau chief
Kara Bohonowicz	Tracking adviser
Catherine Fahy	Editorial adviser; proofreader
Linda Rollins	Advertising adviser

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Ask Harper



By Harper BROWN

Posts on the Web can come back to bite

Dear Harper: Thanks for taking my letter. I wanted to know if you have a Facebook or Instagram account. My parents feel that I am too young to have one but they don't seem to know that everybody in school is on Facebook but me. How can I get them to relax about it? I'll be careful.

— Offline For Now

Dear Offline For Now, I do not have a Facebook or Instagram account because my parents do not think I should. Right now I do not want either. There could be someone in your school who doesn't have a Facebook or Instagram account. It's not true that "everybody" has them. My health teacher, Mrs. Cappotelli, taught us that friends online are not always what they seem. They could be posing as the person they say. She also taught us to report when something gets bad during games, like if someone sends you something extremely rude.

A couple of months ago I had an experience with someone on my bus who has an Instagram account. She's in third grade and I really think that's too young to have a Facebook or Instagram account. She took a picture of me and posted it on Instagram. Did she ask if it was OK? No way, José! My mom was upset because this friend hadn't asked my permission. I told her many times to delete it, but she said there were a lot of "likes" on it so she didn't want to. After this, the vice principal had to get involved to ask the girl to remove the picture.

The age limit for Facebook is 13. So if you're younger than that, I highly recommend you NOT get either Facebook or Instagram because hackers, viruses, and predators like to hunt on chat apps. I can see why your parents do not want you to have one of these accounts: It's not what you do, but rather what other people might do to you. You can afford to be patient. The Internet, and Facebook, aren't going anywhere.

The major reason I don't want to have Facebook or Instagram accounts is because what's posted there never comes off! If you say something rude to a friend online and delete it later, guess what? It's still out there. It won't be deleted. Have you ever hear the saying, "Once it's said, the Web is fed"? For related safety information, visit facebook.com/safety and help.instagram.com. Thanks for asking my views on this important topic. Please let me know how you and your parents handle it.

Harper Brown is The BSE Flow's advice columnist and New York bureau chief. Got a question? Write Ask Harper, The BSE Flow, 75 Mechanic St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 or advice@bseflow.com. Please include your name and contact information.

Quick Chat

‘What do you want spring to be like?’



By Myah GRANT



Hannah Chase Student

Very sunny, and warmer than it is. I want all the snow to be gone.



Jill Jablonski Administrative assistant

I would like it to be warm and green. Spring is my favorite season.



Kevin Holmes Custodian

Spring sure sounds good to me. Warm, with no mud. I have a dirt driveway.

Must-Read



By Ainsley BOGEL

‘Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library’ (2013) by Chris Grabenstein

I think “Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library” is a really good and interesting book. It’s sort of realistic fiction. The main character, Kyle Keeley, and 11 other people enter a contest: If they win they can go to a lock-in at a new library in their new town that’s not even open yet. After they win, they spend the day in the library playing games, and then they wake up on Saturday and at noon a game starts where they have to escape from the library without using the doors or the windows – using clues they find in the library. Finding one clue leads them to another.



The author says Grabenstein rhymes with Frankenstein

At first, no one tries to solve the puzzles together. They all work against each other. Then Kyle unites his friends into a team, and it ends up being them against Charles Chilton, who will do anything – even cheat – to win.

One puzzle is you can do an extreme challenge. To get a hint they have to solve a rebus, and it’s just really cool. The answer to the rebus is “Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend. Inside of a dog it’s too dark to read.” What I think is cool about the library in the book is that they have a room just for educational video games. There’s also a Wonder Dome that has cool things on the ceiling, and if you play a game in it the top of the room looks like the top of the box in the game.

I have never been trapped in a library and had to solve my way out, but I sort of want to. I’ve been to Greenfield Public Library and our school library. I don’t think I’ve been to Arms Library or Buckland Library yet. The description in the book is great. Books that take place in cool places, like this and in “The Candymakers” (2010) by Wendy Mass, I love how the authors describe settings. It’s really fun.

There are pictures in the book, but only when there’s a picture clue. What’s really cool is at the end there’s a rebus I could solve. With the rebuses, if you don’t look at the answers when the characters do, it’s a nice challenge for the reader. It’s fun. “Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library” is not part of a series, but the author, Chris Grabenstein, has written many other books, including “The Smoky Corridor: A Haunted Mystery” (2010), “The Hanging Hill: A Haunted Mystery” (2010), and “The Crossroads: A Haunted Mystery” (2009). If you like funny books, give this a try. There aren’t really any scary parts. It’s a book I think most people would enjoy.

Perfect for kids 8-12; grade level 3-7; paperback, 336 pages; publisher: Yearling (2013).

In Gear

2015 Pinewood Derby winners

Congratulations to our scouts competing in the Pack 85 Pinewood Derby, held Feb. 28 at the Shelburne Grange. From all reports this was the perfect blend of balsa wood and gumption. According to Cubmaster Adriaan Tuttmann, pictured left setting up a heat, the overall winners are Trevor

Mills, 1st; Liam Green, 2nd; and Henry Jones, 3rd. Trevor Mills won for Webelos 1; Tyler Dubreuil for Webelos 2; Ethan Poirier for Bears (he’s pictured below on right with his brother, Thomas Adams); Everett Jones for Wolves; and Liam Green for Tigers.

— The BSE Flow



Sam Jones



Joseph Poirier

Sibling vs. Sibling

Help clingy siblings make their own friends

Dear Ainsley: I have a younger brother. He should have his own friends and interests but he’s always trying to take over when my friends are over, and my parents just let him. Even though I love him I can’t get away from him and he’s driving me nuts! What do you think?

— Annoyed in Fifth Grade

Dear Annoyed, Whenever Eliza and I get annoyed at each other because of space we get together as a family and discuss a schedule for where we’ll be in the day. I think that might work for you too.



By Ainsley BOGEL

As for the issue of the friends, you should try and encourage your brother to make friends and hang out with them and not yours. You could also give him tips on making friends. If you’re new to the school, you can tell him to go up and

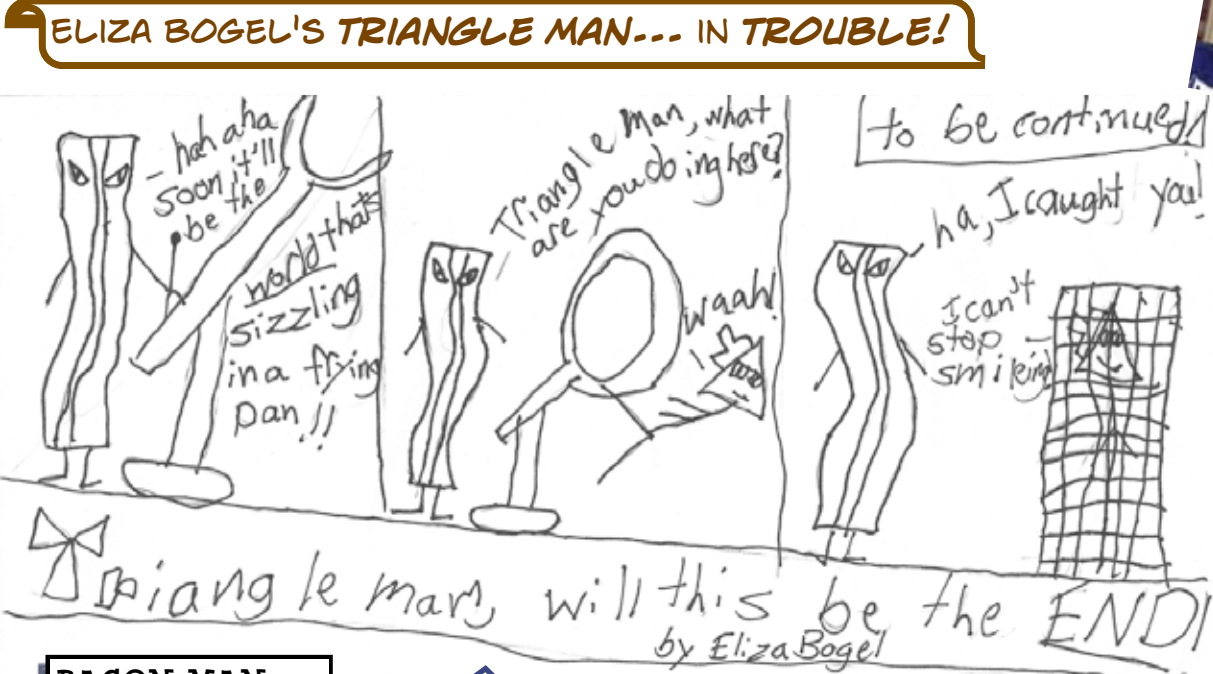
introduce himself to that person and they might get off to a good start and become friends. It may be that your brother feels shy without you or thinks of you as a role model and doesn’t know what to do without you. That might change as he grows up and he’ll be better at making his own friends. My sister and I are very rarely good friends but sometimes we are goodish friends because we did things like these tips, so give them a try. You don’t have to have a younger sibling to have these problems.

Good luck! — Ainsley

> Your turn!

Are you having problems with a brother or a sister? Are you, yourself, a problem child and need advice? Do you want to share a tip or trick you’ve picked up to make having a brother or sister more bearable? Or hey, do you have a story to share about how wonderful it can be to have a brother or sister? Write Sibling vs. Sibling, The BSE Flow, 75 Mechanic St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 or advice@bseflow.com. Include your name and a way to reach you in case we have questions. We will not use anyone’s name in print. (To protect the innocent.)

Eliza Bogel’s Triangle Man!



BACON-MAN seems to have the upper hand...

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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> Send your idea to Triangle Man, The BSE Flow, 75 Mechanic St., Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 or write news@bseflow.com.



# Business

## Village Dispatch

### Business Association seeks views in arts survey

Calling all artists, cultural organizations, and area businesses promoting the arts: The Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association (GSFABA) announces the launch of a regional initiative — Connecting Commerce & Community — funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. According to GSFABA Executive Director Mary Vilbon, the organization aims to build a stronger, more sustainable rural economy for area towns and businesses. That will be achieved, she said, “by integrating the skills of our residents with the power of local associations and the support of local institutions.” Phase One of the multi-year effort is to learn as much as possible about the region’s creative economy by collecting and analyzing data from folks representing a variety of economic sectors. Those who complete the survey will be eligible to win a \$50 gift certificate to a local establishment. The survey is available at [www.gsfaba.org](http://www.gsfaba.org).

### Full year ahead for fun community, regional events

There’s a lot coming up this year that you can help make happen or simply enjoy: The GSFABA sponsors annual events to promote

the region, bring business to our town centers, and celebrate our vibrant communities. Highlights include:

- **19th Annual GSFABA Auction:** *March 28.* This premiere fund-raising event will auction more than 100 items from certificates from local businesses to items produced by renowned local artisans.
- **Themed Art Walks:** *May, July, September, and November.*
- **RiverFest:** *June.* The annual celebration of the Deerfield River.
- **35th Annual Bridge of Flowers 10K Road Race:** *August.* The classic Shelburne Falls event that attracts athletes and tourists from around the Northeast.
- **Iron Bridge Dinner:** *August.* This unique event features a single table set with linens and china for 400 people along the span of the Iron Bridge over the Deerfield River, which connects Buckland and Shelburne.
- **Moonlight Magic:** *November.* Moonlight Magic has become a traditional event across the region. It is the kick-off to the holiday season that includes Lighting of the Village, the Parade of Lights, Santa’s Workshop, carolers, and street performers.

For a full listing of events in the region, visit [www.shelburnefalls.com/upcoming-events](http://www.shelburnefalls.com/upcoming-events).

*The BSE Flow, which by way of disclosure is a member of the GSFABA, looks forward to covering these community events, particularly as area youth may be involved as volunteers or as other stakeholders.*

## Kid Biz

# His product is coming up sunny side

### Griffin Kearney, ‘Eggtrepreneur’

Fifth-grader Griffin Kearney has 19 chickens and a rooster. They’re Rhode Island Reds and Ameraucanas. He says the chickens lay blueish-greenish eggs in addition to white eggs, and they’re all delicious. And he’s selling them from his home in Shelburne Falls, \$3 per dozen. “I wanted to try this as a business. It’s really cool to have fresh eggs every morning. I just thought I’d try it out and see where it goes,” he said. Griffin said his business started this past summer when he checked out his neighbor’s chickens and he thought it would be something he could get into. He sells all the eggs he raises that his family doesn’t eat. “It’s going pretty good. Business has been a little slow, but I have hopes it’ll pick up soon,” he said. He also said he likes to crush the bad eggs. The chickens are hard at work. Griffin said he hatched seven chicks from an incubator, and they were the mixed kind. So they will be egg layers. Griffin is getting more chickens in the spring. He’s not stopping here, either. Griffin said he might be getting bees in the spring as well, so he can sell honey.

*To buy eggs from Griffin, call (818) 800-6038.*



By Joy BOHONOWICZ



RIGHT: Griffin and the first egg produced for his business. BELOW: Doing chicken chores as Lucky looks on.



Mary Kearney



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**19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL** Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association

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The BSE Flow  
March 12, 2015



Tess Rancourt/The BSE Flow

WHEN THEY SAID all-school they weren't kidding. Add to BSE's ranks (below) the following Whovillians: COLRAIN ELEMENTARY: Meara Henderson, Hailey Buchanan, Ethan Pike, Kaitlyn Randall, Aidan Oakes, Eliza Bigelow, Lizzy Lynch, Emily Eastman, and Maya Ottaviani. HAWLEMONT ELEMENTARY: Lily Gibson, Courtney Churchill, Megan Nehrig-Gamache, Chris Churchill, Hailey Cunningham, Madeleine Locke, Tess Rancourt (photographer), and Nick Forbes. HEATH ELEMENTARY: Gavin Steele. SANDERSON ACADEMY: Taylor Vettori, Ella Rizzi, Hannah Boutwell, Kyliah Hoff-Christian, Sydney Taylor, Matthew Isabella, Erica Szewczyk, and Courtney Allen. ROWE ELEMENTARY: Nathan Paige, Stella Clark, Laney Celli, Alexis Parent, Bailey Cousineau, Taylor Loomis, and Olivia Parent. Gina Glover, in black is the elementary school liaison.



Section

B

Magazine

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Kylie Lowell on hoops > B3  
Amanda Kingsley on happiness > B4



# All-school 'Seussical' a district 'Who's Who'



Hannah Boutwell/The BSE Flow

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, your Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School Whovillians: Left to right, back row: Areia Heilman, Kylie Lowell, Hannah Johnson, Olivia Poirier, Avery Dupree, Octavia Crawford, Joy Bohonowicz, Brooke Looman, Elayna Patnode. Middle row: Zander Adams, Gavin Crehan, Caitlin Bistrek, Arwen King, Katie Martin. Front row: Sarah Close, Tove Schweitzer, Mirra Girard, Alex Lilly, Elivia Kingsley, Gina Glover.

Amar Abbatiello is the Cat in the Hat and Laura Purington is Gertrude McFuzz in Mohawk Trail Regional High School's "Seussical the Musical," the dazzling show by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty based on several of the books of Theodor Seuss Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss. More than 85 students from grades 5 through 12 joined in the fun on stage March 6-8, and members of the Mohawk Concert Band performed alongside professional musicians. Even the set was an all-school production, with digital, Seuss-like dreamscapes projected behind the players. Costuming, lighting, sound, choreography, and makeup and hair shone as stars in their own right. Concessions were staffed by the Mohawk Music Association and parents. David Fried's photographs of dress rehearsals are for sale as an MMA fundraiser. Each performance sold out. This was a smash hit. Director was Shelley Roberts. Assistant director was Eva Otten. Music director was Scott Halligan. And the elementary school liaison, who shuttled hither and yon and made Whoville happen with grace and cheer? That was Gina Glover...

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David Fried/Mohawk Music Association. His photos are for sale. Used here with permission.

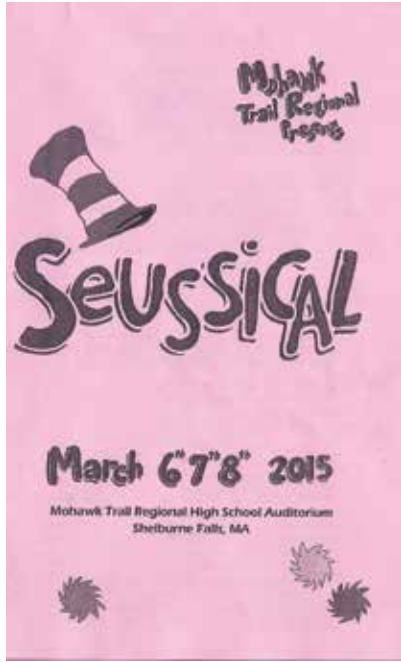


# Cover story

## It's all Conner!



David Fried/MMA  
BSE's Conner Herzog stars as Baby Elephantbird in Mohawk Trail Regional's 'Seussical the Musical.'



SEUSSICAL CAST LIST	
Cart in the Hat	Amar Abbatiello
Jojo	Allan Blakeslee
Horton the Elephant	Adam Hallenbeck
Gertrude McFuzz	Laura Partridge
Martie the Lizard	Sarah Malone
Sour Kangaroo	Sara Paige
General Genius Khan Schmirz	Isaac Paige
Professor Mayor of Whoville	Noah Blakeslee
Mayor's Wife	Hannah Monahan
Verne the Turtle	Sam Harris-Fried
Vlad Vladikoff	Emmett Ruth
Lead Wickersham Brother	Erin Townsley
Baby Elephantbird	Conner Herzog
The Grinch	Jessica Chalmers

Bird Girls	
Lacey Derosa	Ady Harris-Fried, Sam Harris-Fried, Olivia Girard, Kyle Cole, Sophie Rayford, Christina Tiberti

Wickersham Brothers	
Erin Townsley	Gay Rice-Lesson, Zakary Miller, Wyatt Bandy-Page

Jungle of Nool Citizens & Circus McGurkus	
Jessica Chalmers	Jada Hagen, Mae Rice-Lesson, Sierra Lewis, Zakary Miller, Emma Page, Miranda Bennett, Helen Todd, Emmett Ruth, Natalie Sorensen, Ashley Winsky, Lydia Beagles

Directors & Crew	
Director: Shelley Roberts	Guitar: ...
Assistant Director: Eva Oton	Assistant Director: Scott Halligan
Music Director: Scott Halligan	Elementary School Liaison: Gina Glover

Hair Stylist: Margaret Abbatiello	Makeup Artist: Barb Harris
Assistant: Barb Marshall, Lucy Brown Smith	Costumes: Jane Partridge, Ed Malone, Amy Herring, Sarah Malone
Lighting & Sound Director: Sam Gaudin	Assistant: Griffin Baker, Brandon Beckwith, Ella de Rougemont, Gracey Galeys
Set Designer: Michelle Lathrop	Assistant: Natalie Chalmers, Jada Hagen, Mae Rice-Lesson, Sierra Lewis, Zakary Miller, Emma Page, Miranda Bennett, Helen Todd, Emmett Ruth, Natalie Sorensen, Ashley Winsky, Lydia Beagles

Pit Band	
Zach Aris	Ryan Guller
Caleb Browning	Guitar
Matthew Taylor	Guitar
Catherine Kallay	Perussion
Max Cary	Clarinet
Makella Dean	Trumpet
Morgan Young	Trumpet
Dylan Sheldon	Trumpet
Chad White	Trumpet
Melissa Giffels	Trumpet
Kyle Dettelmeier	Trumpet
Kyle Killebrew	Trumpet
Nig Brown	Trumpet

Cast and crew in addition to Whoville, named on B1.



David Fried/Mohawk Music Association. Used with permission.  
Adam Hallenbeck as a beleaguered, true-blue Horton the Elephant. He's got his hands full with bird girls, the Jungle of Nool citizens, cadets, and Circus McGurkus, and of course the spirited Wickersham Brothers.

“It gets them excited. ‘This is what I can do...’”

We caught up with middle school music teacher Gina Glover on opening night of "Seussical," just after her charges — the Whos of Whoville (upper grades from the district's elementary schools) had finished their first number to tremendous applause and swirled into the school cafeteria.

Glover — elementary school liaison for the Mohawk Music Association — managed the sea of energetic performers with a cheerful, crackling efficiency.

The next day we asked Glover to tell us what she and the kids are tackling next and what's valuable to the community in seeing greater collaboration in the arts among the elementary schools and Mohawk.

**GINA GLOVER:** We try to make a lot of connections with all of our schools in the district. April 30 we have our annual Kids in Concert event. This is a culmination of the year's work — all our kids' work. I collaborate with Joan Fitzgerald, who is another elementary music teacher, and Sandy Carter. We each teach general music, chorus, and elementary band in our own schools. We combine chorus students and band students in grades 4-6, and have two rehearsals and a concert. We pull it all together with 125-plus band students on stage and 80 to 100 chorus students.

We also have our Heath string program, led by David Haskell. They perform as well. In the elementary school world, that concert is the next big thing coming up. It's huge.

**THE BSE FLOW:** What's the benefit to these younger kids in work-



The BSE Flow  
Elementary School Liaison Gina Glover corrals dozens of kids from across the district March 6 during the all-school production of 'Seussical.'

ing on these larger, all-school productions?

**GLOVER:** It's a huge benefit. They get an immediate connection to the school. The majority of them will be coming to this school. The connection that these guys have with me being the middle school music teacher, they know me coming in. I'm a known quantity. It's welcoming. It helps with the transition.

And it helps with retention, definitely. I have about 40 kids in my chorus between seventh and eighth grade, and about 30 in the band. There were some years in my band I only had, like, 15 kids, and even 20-25 kids in the chorus. This works.

And it gets them excited. They say, "This is what I can do when I get to Mohawk..." In [2014's] "The Wizard of Oz" they were in two scenes. They get to see, "Well, there are seventh-graders on stage, so when I'm in seventh grade I can have maybe a larger role, and then when I get to high school I can have this really big role." They can see this natural progression.

**FLOW:** And the benefit to the older students?

**GLOVER:** I think the older kids take the younger kids under their wing. I think they like to be an inspiration for them as well.

**FLOW:** Is this a formal plan? Are we going to have a K-12 music department?

**GLOVER:** That's our goal: to have it streamlined K-12, and I think we have a fabulous group of teachers who really want to work together to see this come to fruition. And Mr. [Scott] Halligan at the high school is doing his thing — we're banding together and seeing what we can do to help each other out and make the department even stronger than it's become.

Another outreach we do, Scott Halligan and I, at the end of the year we team up and take both of our ensembles and tour the elementary schools and have performances. It's a great way for the kids to see what we do and to see what their next step is as musicians.

For more information, visit [mohawkmusicassociation.org](http://mohawkmusicassociation.org).

‘Singing, dancing is always good for any kid...’



The BSE Flow  
Amar Abbatiello as the Cat in the Hat during a preview of 'Seussical' at BSE on Feb. 27.

Mohawk junior Amar Abbatiello is one hard-working cat. Coming off his amazing performance as the Scarecrow in Mohawk's 2014 "Wizard of Oz," he was a natural under the hat in this month's "Seussical," which sold out its three consecutive-days' performances.

He also maintains very good grades, competes in track and field, and works at South Face Farm Sugarhouse in Ashfield.

Performing wasn't always on his mind. He wasn't an artsy kid, he said. When he was in elementary school, at Sanderson Academy, he was a tinkerer.

"I liked building things with wood. I did that at home; I didn't do much in school," he said.

Even music seems to have been thrust upon him: "In seventh grade band I took saxophone because my brother had, and my mom was like, 'I'm not wasting money on this saxophone; you're going to learn saxophone.'" So he did.

Next came chorus. "I got into eighth grade and they were like, 'You can take chorus or you can take gym.' I was like, 'Sign me up, I'll sing my heart out!' And now I'm the Cat in the Hat."

Asked a couple of hours before his March 7 performance what it's like working with so many kids from all over the school district, Amar immediately said he enjoys it.

"It's a very good learning experience for both groups. All the elementary school kids get to see how all us *slightly* more mature kids kind of act about theatre. They can kind of get an experience of theatre and see that singing and dancing — that's always good for any kid, whether he wants to go into dancing or not."

He added: "I think it's just a healthy experience for kids of wider age groups to communicate with each other, because it creates more understanding between both of them and leaves less of a gap between social groups. So you can communicate as a whole better later on."

— John Snyder

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# Sports and Recreation



By Kylie  
LOWELL

## Basketball at Cowell is fast, fun Restarting BSE’s team possible?

Basketball at Cowell Gymnasium is a lot of fun. I participate with approximately 10 other players in grades 4-6. We meet on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

We would like to be able to compete against elementary school teams at Mohawk. Doug Martin, who is a coach along with my dad, explains the coaches spoke with Principal Joanne Guiguere about restarting a team at BSE. She said she is open to the idea, so we will see.

Other Mohawk elementary schools have teams and ours would be separate from the free, drop-in Cowell program.

I’ve enjoyed basketball since I was a little kid. I think more people should try it. It’s really fun and gets you a lot of exercise. Because you play with other people you need to be flexible with decisions.

You dribble the ball down the court and try to make a shot into a net.

Meanwhile, there are people on the other team trying to block your shot — you have to be able to pass the ball to your teammates and shoot the ball when you get the chance.

The game, founded in Springfield 125 years ago, is played in four quarters of eight minutes. At the end of the second quarter there’s a halftime break.

There’s my league, middle and high school, college, and the National Basketball Association (NBA), which is where the game is played professionally.

According to Mary Johansmeyer, basketball is a sport you can play at any age. It doesn’t require a lot of equipment.

“The hardest thing to learn is shooting. There are so many different shots you can take. The second-hardest thing is playing defense,” she said.

“You also learn a lot about teamwork and good sportsmanship,” she added.



About to hoop it up! Left to right, front row: Katie, Brooke, Emily, and Rikku. Back row: Doug, Kylie, Hannah, Eve, Elly, and Dave.



Oscar, Matt, Gavin, Tyler, and Reuben work the court at Cowell Gym.

Courtesy photos

## Flow Sports Athletic director thanks volunteers

The Mohawk Athletic Association continues its mission of support for athletics at Mohawk Trail Regional High and Middle schools.

As it noted in a press release, the MAA recently approved \$27,900 in purchases for uniforms, equipment, and annual turf field maintenance services.

At the meeting, Athletic Director Fred Redeker thanked the all-volunteer organization for its continued support of the school’s student athletes.

“The efforts of the MAA with fundraising and directing those donations to Mohawk Athletics make a significant difference in the ability of numerous sports to fully involve athletes and compete throughout the school year,” he said.

MAA, through fundraising by its volunteer efforts, fills a critical gap. Athletic users’ fees are allocated for coaches’ salaries, transportation expenses, officials’ fees and some equipment costs.

For more information, write [mohawkathleticassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mohawkathleticassociation@gmail.com).

### Coaches sought for girls’ softball

Melissa Leitner Plesnar writes to say Purple Huskies (girls grades 2 and 3) softball needs a new coach. She says practices usually start in April and run through the end of the school year.

For more information, contact Melissa Plesnar Lowell.

We’re psyched that there’s a ton of stuff going on in our area that helps kids and families get involved, have fun, and stay fit. Send your sports and rec news to [sports@bseflow.com](mailto:sports@bseflow.com). We’ll share it here.



### Cowell Notes

#### Tuesday youth basketball extended

Update from Cowell Gym Manager Emily Stone: Youth basketball on Tuesday nights (for grades K-1 co-ed) is extended: Due to popular demand and thanks to volunteer coach Tom Manning, it’ll meet for two more weeks (5:30 6:30 p.m.).

That said, youth basketball on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights is now over. Boys 4-6 will not meet.

Many thanks go out to all our volunteer coaches!

#### Food Pantry Open-House March 21

The Food Pantry is having an Open House at the Cowell on Saturday, March 21 at 11 a.m. Visit and learn more about this new, permanent space operating at the Cowell.

Meanwhile, **Cub Scout Pack 85 is gearing up for its annual Scouting for Food** to fill that food pan-

try. Boxes will be placed March 28 for collection at BSE, Colrain Elementary School, Keystone Market, and other locations.

#### Hilltown Draw-Around at the Cowell April 11

Saturday, April 11, from noon to midnight is the Hilltown Draw-Around, a 12-hour

interactive community art extravaganza. A carnival of mark making will cover the gym walls and floor in every conceivable way.

For more information, visit The Art Garden on Facebook.

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# Traditions



Katie Martin illustration

Thank you for reading, commenting, and advertising in our unique and wonderful pages. Our next issue ships Thursday, April 9 in school, around the village, and by subscription. The deadline for ads and submissions is Thursday, April 2. Meanwhile, keep in touch and have a wonderful start to spring. We all deserve it. – Staff

## The Last Word

# ‘Grow your happy’: 10 ways to feel better every day

Underneath all this snow I can feel the Earth buzzing as spring gets closer and closer.

Can you feel it? The sights, and sounds, and smells are all shifting ever so slightly and reminding me why I love New England so much. I love it because it's always changing, just like we are!

I have spent the past year in a very exciting career shift in which I have been gifted daily exposure to beautifully inspiring words of wisdom.



By Amanda KINGSLEY

I believe that world peace and a healthy planet all start inside each one of us and our ability to Grow our Happy!

Here are my 10 tips to Grow your Happy:

**1. Create a daily gratitude practice:** Choose something that you do every day (driving, brushing your teeth, preparing family dinner) and

use that time to think about at least three things you're grateful for: family, fingers, fudge, flapjacks.

**2. Make someone smile:** Tell jokes, share art, sing songs, dance.

**3. Eat healthy food,** the kind that grows in gardens and orchards and barnyards, the kind that gets moldy when you forget to take it your of your backpack.

**4. Make a new friend** or reach out to one you haven't spent time with in a while.

**5. Practice mindfulness:** Be observant, live in the moment, and honor your feelings.

**6. Get curious:** Ask questions, read a book, or listen to a TED Talk. There is more to learn in this world than you can imagine.

**7. Move your body:** Smile, give yourself a hug, stand up straight, put your chin up, wiggle your fingers and toes. Simple movements shift your wellbeing.

**8. Ask someone, “How can I help?”** This will ripple goodness in your body and throughout the world.

**9. Breathe fresh air:** Go for a walk, open your house windows, and fill your whole body with clean, fresh air.

**10. Find the people who support and encourage you,** and support and encourage them back: your religious community, your tribe, your neighborhood, and your co-workers. We are herd animals, don't try to do it all yourself.

Life is full of challenges, but we are in full control of what we choose to do each moment. Very simple shifts in our perspective and our daily habits can have huge impacts on the bigger vision.

Make this spring your most vibrant yet. Cleanse your lifestyle by choosing to Grow your Happy!

Amanda Kingsley, raised in Colrain, is a mama of three and a passionate spreader of joy. She owns and operates two small businesses from her home, near BSE. She can be reached at [Feelingthefungi@gmail.com](mailto:Feelingthefungi@gmail.com).

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