

# LION PRIDE



DRYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MICHAEL FARNEY, PRINCIPAL

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## Staff Spotlight

Meet Middle School Counselor Ashley Buckley



I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to the parents and guardians of the students here at Dryden Middle School. My name is Ashley Buckley, and I am the new Middle School Counselor working with 6th graders L-Z, and this year's 7th graders. I earned my Masters in Counseling and Psychological Services from SUNY Oswego. As part of my graduate work

I interned at Paul V. Moore High School in the Central Square School District. Although I have already achieved my Master's Degree, in the interest of best serving our students I plan to further my education by earning my Certificate of Advanced Studies in Health and Wellness (...continued on page 3)

## Super Reading Lab!

In Period 9 Reading Lab, we have been analyzing the qualities of a superhero and noticing how they often share the qualities of animals and insects. We started by reading about spiders and listing some of the qualities they share with Spiderman, such as their ability to climb walls and spin webs to catch their prey. Then we considered other superheroes like Batman, Black Panther, and Wolverine who are fast and strong. We noticed comic book heroes are often active at night and have good reflexes and acute senses. We ended up our unit by creating our own superheroes. Keep your eyes open for DragonFly, Underdog, Sharkman, and Armaman (part human-part armadillo!) -- fighting crime on the streets of your hometown!

## Upcoming Events

March 16th  
Half Day Student Attendance

March 19th  
BOE Meeting  
Freeville Elem, 7:30 p.m.

March 21st  
Bands Concert  
AUD, 7:00 p.m.

March 26th - April 2nd  
Spring Break

April 9th  
BOE Meeting/ Budget  
Adoption  
MS/HS Library, 7:30 p.m.

April 13th  
End of 30 weeks



**"DragonFly" superhero  
illustration by Wyatt V.**

*Find more information about Dryden Middle School  
on the web at: <http://dcsd-ny.schoolloop.com/>*

## Gears Plus with the National Guard

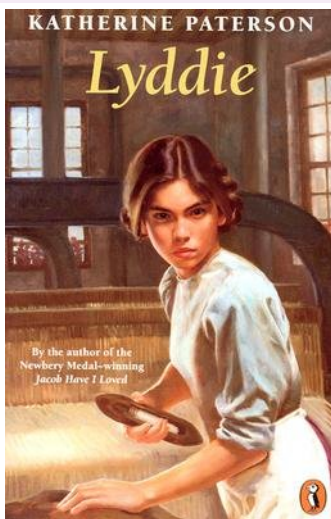
The National Guard came into Physical Education classes and worked with all of our students with the Gears Plus program activities. These activities consisted of a variety of challenges that needed team work, cooperation, communication, problem solving, listening and leadership skills. Thank you National Guard! The kids loved the activities!



## 8th Grade Science

Living Environment students have been finishing a unit on photosynthesis and cellular respiration. They had a great time playing the game "Bloom or Doom." These students also started a one month plant study using Wisconsin Fast Plants and different amounts of fertilizer. With the help of retired Dryden science teacher, Carole Erslev, the L.E. students planted their own plants and have been

measuring plant height daily, watering them, studying leaf area, and even pollinating the plants themselves with real bees. These plants go through the entire plant life cycle in a short amount of time, and they will conclude with counting seed pods produced by the plants from their pollination efforts. They will sort through tons of data and prepare a lab report. Meanwhile, we will start our month-long genetics unit.



## 7th Grade ELA

Students in ELA 7 have been reading Lyddie, the story of a Lowell, MA mill worker in the 1800s. We are learning about working conditions in factories during the American Industrial Revolution. Students will also be learning how to write an argument essay, citing textual evidence to determine whether Lyddie should risk her job to sign a petition for better working conditions.

(Continued from Front Cover)

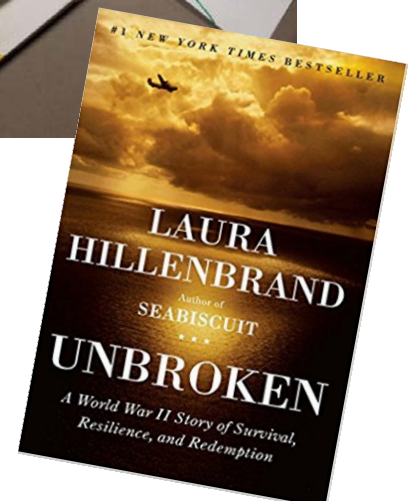
Before becoming a School Counselor I predominantly worked with individuals with disabilities. I worked as a mentor, an employment specialist, and most recently a teaching assistant at Pine Grove Middle School in the East Syracuse School District. We have a great team here at the middle school and work together closely to ensure students have every opportunity to succeed, and that each feels supported. This has made for a smooth mid-year transition into the school. I've enjoyed the time I have been here so far and look forward to working with the Dryden Community. If you ever find yourself needing me I can be reached at: (e) abuckle1@dryden.k12.ny.us, (p) (607)844-8694 ex:4242, (f) (607)844-5174. Sincerely, Ashley Buckley

***School-Wide Expectations:***  
**Be Respectful ~ Be Responsible ~ Be Safe**



## 8th Grade ELA

In 8th Grade ELA, students have completed their Shakespeare Magazine Projects! Students not only wrote a magazine article, but also had fun creating set designs, costumes, and advertisements for their magazines. Currently, we have started our new text, *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. In this unit, students will be learning a lot about the Pacific Theatre during World War II. We have teamed up with Social Studies so that students have the appropriate historical knowledge to understand this challenging novel. Students will be learning various note-taking and annotating strategies as they read articles and primary sources. Our goal is to give students practical reading skills that will prepare them for high school next year. Students are also going to have an increase in the amount of weekly homework and weekly reading so that they can become more independent and confident in their learning.







## 8th Grade Physical Science

8th Grade Physical Science students have been finishing up the Chemistry unit that we started back in October. Students have been learning about bonds and how different chemicals bond with each other to make compounds and chemical reactions. On Valentines Day, the students all were able to be a specific ion and bond with another classmate (ion). Math has been an integral component of these last few concepts while students have had the challenge of balancing equations - they have used Legos to model how this actually works. In a few weeks, students will be starting the two month long physics unit and then we will have to begin preparing for the 8th grade state science test at the end of May and beginning of June. All students are encouraged to take this exam so that they can practice for their science Regents exams in high school and more importantly see where they stand in terms of their science knowledge throughout middle school.

### **Box Top News . . .**

Mrs. Loiselle is our homeroom Boxtop winner - bringing in 355. Mrs. White's homeroom was a distant second place finisher with 259. We collected \$107 worth of Box Tops during this collection cycle. Thanks for collecting!

## 6th Grade Art

Sixth grade Art students just completed their painting unit. They focused on blending colors and filling their large paper with a close-up view of a flower in the style of artist Georgia O'Keeffe. This project included the Art Elements line, shape, color, and value. Next we are moving on to a mask unit which will also include the Art Elements form and texture.

***Artwork on this page,  
from left to right by  
Brooke Brown,  
Shelby Howells,  
Chris Greene***