



The Mid-State Messenger

March 2022

National School Social Work Week



School Social Work Week is March 6th through March 12th. This year, the national theme is “Time to Shine”. The School Social Work Association of America believes that School Social Workers shine brightly for their students, families, and school communities. This includes shining hope, shining understanding, and shining respect. MSSE and our 13 member districts are blessed with the wealth of knowledge and support that our School Social Workers provide to our districts, students, staff, and families. Help us in thanking our School Social Workers during the week of March 6th and every week for the outstanding work they do. Our great team of School Social Workers are: **Karen Bennett** (Vandalia), **Barb Daugherty** (Morrisonville, Panhandle, South Fork), **Rick**

Cina (Hillsboro), **Michelle Dothager** (Bond), **Patricia Redpath** (Edinburg), **Jessica Ryan** (Carlinville), **Nancy Roasio** (Litchfield), **Sarah Turner** (Litchfield, Panhandle), and **Scarlett Vanzo** (Mulberry Grove, Brownstown, Ramsey, St. Elmo).

Happy TWOSday

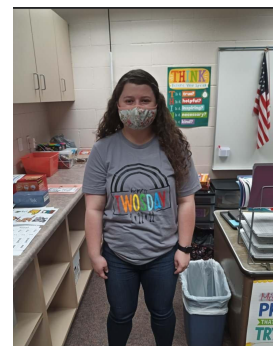
Students and staff all over our 13 member districts celebrated TWOSday. TWOSday was held on Tuesday, 2/22/22. The date “2/22/22” is a palindrome. A palindrome is a sequence that is read the same backwards as it is read forwards. The fact that it also fell on a TUESDAY, made it extra fun for students and staff to celebrate. Pictured below are staff members from 2 of our member districts sharing their TWOSday spirit!



Pictured to the left: Mrs. Lotz and Mrs. Murray, Brownstown Elementary.

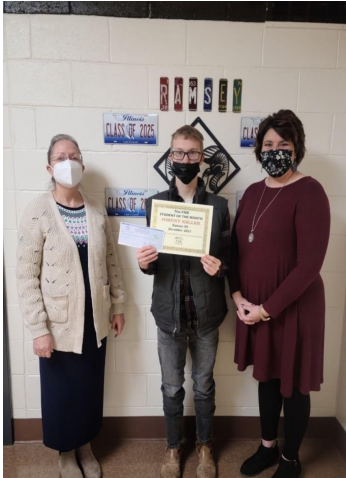


Pictured below: Ms. Hedgpeth, Brownstown Elementary



Pictured to the left: Mrs. Stewart, Beckemeyer Elementary School (Hillsboro).

Student of the Month



Johnny Keller, senior at Ramsey High School, was awarded the First National Bank student of the month for December. He is pictured below with a representative from the bank to his left and Mrs. Eddy, Principal, to his right. Mrs. Eddy shared

this about Johnny: "Johnny is new to Ramsey this year. He started at Ramsey not knowing a stranger. He puts a smile on everyone's face that he comes in contact with and genuinely cares for others. Johnny has volunteered to be the Ram Mascot during basketball games and anytime that is needed. He also works alongside the janitor during the afternoon to help in any way he can through the STEP program. He strives to get good grades and is a conscientious student."

Dr. Seuss Week

The week of February 28th-March 4th, students in grades Pre-K through 5th at Litchfield CUSD #12 participated in dress up days, in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students and staff got to wear hats, wear green, dress wacky, wear crazy socks and end their week wearing pajamas to school. These dress up days were just part of a week-long focus on literacy designed to encourage children to develop a love for reading.



Pies for a Purpose

Kelli Stewart, Speech Language Pathologist in the Panhandle School District, serves all students from PreK to high school. She loves her job and is passionate about helping her students communicate. She decided to create a fundraiser in order to purchase an app that helps her nonverbal students communicate. Kelli put her baking skills to work and offered to bake pies to raise the money for the app. She took advantage of Valentine's Day and encouraged people to surprise their sweetie with a homemade treat and support a great cause. Kelli's fundraiser was a huge success by selling 111 pies. She earned enough money to purchase the apps for her students. The Panhandle staff are hopeful that Kelli will make this an annual event!

