

## A salute to Brockport's Best

The 2014-15 school year has ended, but we want to take a moment to congratulate all the year's winners of Brockport's Best Awards, especially our latest honorees.

### April saw the Brockport's Best recognition go to several outstanding staff members and two departments.

**Charlie Clark, aka "Mr. Charlie"** drives Bus #199. Nominated by the Bruno family, Mr. Charlie is credited with putting the hustle in the Bruno kids when they get ready for school in the morning. They are disappointed if they have to drive in with dad. Principal Bruno said, "Mr. Charlie has a knack for making the most anxious kindergarteners comfortable, and always has a smile and a story to share with the kids on his bus. We are lucky to have drivers like Charlie Clark."



Bus drivers **Gary Mault** and **Mike Sorce** were recognized for their alertness and responsiveness which averted a potentially dangerous situation. As they drove their separate routes, each spotted a Middle School student walking along Route 19 on a very cold day. The boy was far from home and visibility on the road

was poor. Sorce said, "We're trained to look for anything that's out of the ordinary and this was." Both drivers informed the Transportation Department and, with the combined efforts of other BCSD staff, the boy was returned home safely. They epitomize the fact that every staff person can be depended upon to look out for the safety and security of our children.



**Mr. Scott Wilson**, Head Custodian at the Ginther & Barclay Schools, does bus duty every morning. He was nominated for a Brockport's Best Award because so many of our parents notice and appreciate that he is always focused on the children and provides them with a heightened sense of security.

In February, two of our departments undertook a massive reorganization project while the students and most of the staff were on break. The Board acknowledged these efforts by presenting **Buildings & Grounds** and **CEPACS** staff with Brockport's Best Awards. Those honored included: Charlie Clark, Gary Mault, Mike Sorce (Transportation), Jill Wright, Renee Torres, Bonnie Baciulis, Phil Cole, Jim Bosotina, Kurt Fishbaugh, Scott Wilson, (Buildings and Grounds); Dom Laure, Wayne Rickman, and Brian Liebe (CEPACS). We appreciate that these folks worked tirelessly to move and set up classrooms, offices and equipment throughout the Barclay building in time for teachers, staff and students to return to their newly "expanded" spaces.



### Early in May, we honored two of our most impressive students from Oliver Middle School and the High School.

Adopted as an infant from an orphanage in Colombia, South America, OMS student **Mateo Mortellaro's** drive and imagination know no bounds. Mortellaro is already the CEO of his own company—Red Wagon Farms. He grows and sells heirloom and organic vegetables, donating 10 percent of the proceeds back to the orphanage in Colombia. Assistant Principal Jerrod Roberts nominated the young businessman, who is part of the U of R's Young Entrepreneurs Academy, because he truly represents our District's vision of being career and college ready. (You can find his produce at the Brockport Public Market. The Pittsford Wegmans will soon stock his Red Wagon Farms Organic Popcorn.)



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**Connor Wiest**, who graduated in June, was named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program and holds a 99.77 GPA: That's about as close to perfect as you can get. He served as Vice President of the National Honor Society and Band President, belonged to the Key Club, the FLEC student mentoring program, the Student Council and our 3-1-3 program. HS counselor Christine Howlett describes Wiest as an "amazing young man who is very modest about his successes."



### Later on in May, we were thrilled to see Brockport's Best Awards go to exceptional people at the Ginther and Hill schools.

The **Ginther Gives Committee** has provided food, clothing and gifts to Ginther families in need during school breaks. They have raised the money, gone shopping, packed it all up and then delivered these packages to our families who might otherwise go without over the holidays. This is a wonderful example of going "above and beyond your job description" to fill a very real need. We thank Donna Anker, Kylie Armstrong, Liza Auglia, Darlene Blondolillo, Danielle DeLeo, Marie Drennan, Becky Erbland, Chrissy Ewanow, Jaime Fazio, Cathy Gurnett, Diane LaFrance, Amanda McMillan, Jenn Powell, Penny Ross, Anne Shrader, Ann Lee Walker, Jane Wood and Kelly Wrzochul.

The District lost a dear friend and valued colleague—Dorothy Rochon—to her struggle with cancer this year. Everyone who worked with "Dody" was deeply affected, but they put their service to our schools and our students above their own personal sense of loss and sadness. In nominating the **Hill School Custodial Staff** for a Brockport's Best Award, Director of Buildings & Grounds Christian Hansen said, "I am extremely grateful to our staff for the professionalism they displayed throughout this trying time." We thank Justin Bartlett, Desiree Brundage, Candace Cobb (Ginther), Cheryl Fishbaugh, Deb Nanuskeski, Bob Spiegel and David Staub.

### We ended the year in June with nominations for the very best from all areas throughout our schools, plus several valued community supporters.

Under the guidance of **Dr. John R. Halstead**, the College at Brockport has moved from a regional institution to one of national acclaim. SUNY Brockport is now a modern, competitive university. We honor Dr. Halstead for his support of an increased collaboration between the college and the Brockport School District, which has greatly benefited students of all ages.



As Executive Director of MCSBA for fifteen years, **Jody Siegle** has been a tireless advocate for the students, teachers and administrators in 21 school districts. She has logged thousands of miles and spent thousands of hours in Albany promoting child-centered policies and wellness support for our kids. She has always represented the interests of our District and her guidance will be sorely missed.



This was our first year in the Unified Sports program, and thanks to our **Unified Sports Team** and the **Unified Sports Committee** the program is off to a remarkable start. Through their dedication and hard work, the program was a model for inclusion and the lifelong lessons that it teaches. The camaraderie this team displayed was infectious and brought joy to everyone who participated, on the court and in the stands. **Team members:** Jacob Booher-Babcock, Jake Buirch, Nicky Cappadonia, Adam Cirincione, Ketchel Clements, Luis Colon, Zoe Foote, Alahna Grady, Ally Greider, Corie Holding, Hunter Kovacs, Victoria Liucci, Dylan Markle, Dwight McMillon, Robbie Popielarz, Michael Ruhlman, Megan Sheehan, Nicole Sheehan, Amanda Smith, Lilly Stroup, David Sutton, Trent Wade and Armani Wolfe. **Team Coaches:** Chris Carr, Betsy Fitzpatrick and Jenna Hoenk. **Committee Advisor:** Christine Howlett. **Committee members:** Cory Albrecht, Luis Colon, Dani Falkenstein, Anna Fisher, Zoe Foote, Bryan Giltner, Alahna Grady, Devon Grady, Peter Howlett, Nick LaRocca, Sydney Love, Jackson Mahoney, Lizzy Reynolds and Amanda Smith.



We are sad to say goodbye to retiring Board of Education VP **Ray Gabriel**. He will be missed: "Ray was an advocate and worked to bring legislators into the schools to see the work being done." (Darrin Winkley) "Ray's passion for Pre-K and his advocacy for all children made adding a class at Ginther a reality this year." (Sue Curtis) "On behalf of the very youngest of our students, thank you for fighting so diligently for the expansion of our UPK program here at Brockport." (Kathy Robertson).



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Barclay second-grade teacher **Kristina Kirchgraber** has been the kind of teacher everyone would want their child to have for 14 years. She is devoted to the District, the school, the faculty and most importantly, the kids. She was nominated by her son Kyle, who said, "In granting this award to my mom, you send a ... message to all teachers that hard work and dedication to your students, your classroom, and your District is recognized and appreciated."



**Shawn Halquist** is an exceptional colleague, musician and educator and we congratulate him for receiving the 27th annual RPO Musicians' Award for Outstanding Music Educators. In addition to his music theory and application classes at BHS, Halquist serves as director of the concert, jazz and marching bands, and is in his 11th year as the Music Department Chair. Nominator and colleague

Liz Banner calls him "a consummate professional and an incredible human being. It has been my privilege to work with him every day for the past 19 years."

This spring, OMS student **Sam Sevor** participated in the Regional History Bee in Syracuse, New York and proceeded to finalist competition at the National Bee in Kentucky. The History Bee is an academic tournament that challenges students to "buzz-in" with the correct answers to questions that cover a wide range of U.S. History. Only a select few of thousands of participants advance to this level. Sevor is clearly one of Brockport's Best!



To view all Brockport's Best recipients for the 2014-2015 school year or to nominate someone for the award, visit [www.bcs1.org/boe](http://www.bcs1.org/boe).

## BHS 2015 Project Graduation contributors

On June 27, the Brockport High School Class of 2015 attended their graduation ceremony at the SERC. Later that evening, they celebrated their graduation by attending the 30th annual Brockport High School Project Graduation. Project Graduation is an all-night event run by parent volunteers and funded by the generous donations of local businesses and senior parents. The 2015 graduates spent the evening having fun with their classmates in a drug- and alcohol-free environment.

The Project Graduation Committee, along with the BHS Class of 2015, would like to thank the following businesses for their sponsorship and support.

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Arjuna Florist                          | Kirby's Farm Market              |
| Arrowhead Operations                    | Kiwanis Club of Brockport        |
| Bateman Orthodontics                    | Krony's                          |
| Beyond Center for Yoga                  | LD Networking                    |
| Bill Gray's Restaurant Inc.             | Lester & Lester, Attys.          |
| Brockport Animal Hospital               | Lowe's                           |
| Brockport Chamber of Commerce           | Mark's Pizzeria                  |
| Brockport Custom Carpet                 | Mary Janes Holmes #440 O.E.S.    |
| Brockport H.S. Student Council          | Northside Service/Express Mart   |
| Brockport Lions Club,<br>Charles Deacon | Riley Law Firm                   |
| Brockport PTSA                          | Robb Farms                       |
| Brockport Rotary Club                   | Robert A. Lang Jr., D.D.S.       |
| Brockport Teachers Association          | Rochester Theater Management     |
| Brockport United Methodist Church       | S & S Fitness                    |
| Byrne Dairy                             | Salmon Creek Country Club        |
| Carriage Place Craft & Antique          | Seabreeze Park                   |
| Catholic Daughters #931                 | Seaward Candies                  |
| Christ Community Church                 | Speer Equipment, Controls Div.   |
| Clarkson Veterinary Hospital            | Spencerport Federal Credit Union |
| Concordia Lutheran Church               | Subway                           |
| County of Monroe STOP<br>DWI Program    | Sweden Town Hall                 |
| Crosby's                                | Tents Today                      |
| Danielle Windus-Cook Properties         | The Christmas Tree Shops         |
| Domino's Pizza                          | The Schoolhouse of Brockport     |
| Dr. Dan Glowinsky                       | The Town of Clarkson             |
| Dr. Fred Clasquin                       | Thomas Bowdler, D.M.D., P.C.     |
| ESL                                     | Tim Horton's                     |
| First Baptist Church of Brockport       | TOPS Friendly Markets            |
| First Niagara Bank                      | Twin Hills Golf Course           |
| Five Star Bank                          | Two Brothers Restaurant          |
| Genesee Valley Pennysaver               | Ultimate Sports Apparel          |
| Gingerbread Manor                       | Victorian Bed & Breakfast        |
| Dr. and Mrs. James Goetz                | Walmart                          |
| Hamlin Firemen Exempts                  | Wegmans Food Market, Inc.        |
| Hamlin United Methodist Church          | Weinstein Dental Group           |
| Hamlin VFW Post 6703                    | Wendy's                          |
| Hamlin Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.        | West Monroe Historical Society   |
| Hart Hearing Centers                    | Westside News, Inc.              |
|   | White Farm Bed & Breakfast       |

If you're interested in helping to plan for Project Graduation 2016, please contact Mary Love: [mlove555@live.com](mailto:mlove555@live.com). We'd love to have you!