

# NEWSLETTER

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## All Roads Led to Grove Street

By Hailey Lemons

Conrad Tuerk, our English teacher at Grove Street Campus, has spent a great deal of his life on the road. We are fortunate his journeys led him to Grove Street Campus.

Conrad is originally from a suburb of Chicago, Illinois and graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington. It was from there that he set off on his adventures. From a ski bum in Telluride, Colorado to being employed as a sales representative in Chicago, to working at an international school in Salzburg, Austria, he has definitely had more excitement than the average person.

It was his experience at the international school in Austria that influenced Conrad's decision to become a teacher. When he came back to the United States, he pursued a career in education. His first experience was student teaching in a rough neighborhood in Los Angeles. In August of 1999, Conrad's travels brought him to Rutland and he started teaching at Rutland High School.

In 2019, Principal Olsen and Assistant Principal Schillinger approached Conrad and asked if he would like to teach at Grove Street Campus. He was excited for this new adventure given he had always heard good things about this campus and he was ready for something new. He said, "I really enjoy working at Grove Street. Its intimate setting provides a chance to work more closely with students. I also like the building's big windows and natural lighting. It brightens my mood." He also stated he likes working together with the teachers at our campus.

Conrad is much more than a teacher who teaches, returns home to grade papers, and babbles about the day. What fun is that? He is an avid reader, has a love for nature and outdoors, hiking, basketball, tennis, water polo, traveling, and spending time with his wife., just to mention a few of his many interests and hobbies. He especially likes long walks with his dog. Conrad is also a well-traveled man; he has visited East Africa, China, India, Russia, Turkey, and much of Central and South America.

His life experiences make Conrad who he is; an interesting, fun, calm, open-minded teacher who has the ability to connect with his students. He respects us for who we are and knows what is important for us to learn, staying positive even in the worst situations.

Conrad has experiences and memories of exciting places that he will treasure for the rest of his life; thankfully, all roads led him to Grove Street Campus.



Conrad working with Kiara  
Grove Street Campus

Check out our  
Special  
January Graduate  
Insert

# The Poet Within

By Darisha Yoder

As promised in the last edition of this newsletter, we are sharing more of the amazing award-winning poems written by Grove Street Campus students who participated in “Through Their Eyes,” a poetry competition sponsored by Young Writers. This contest challenged students to step out of their comfort zones and compose a poem from someone else’s point of view.

## Identity

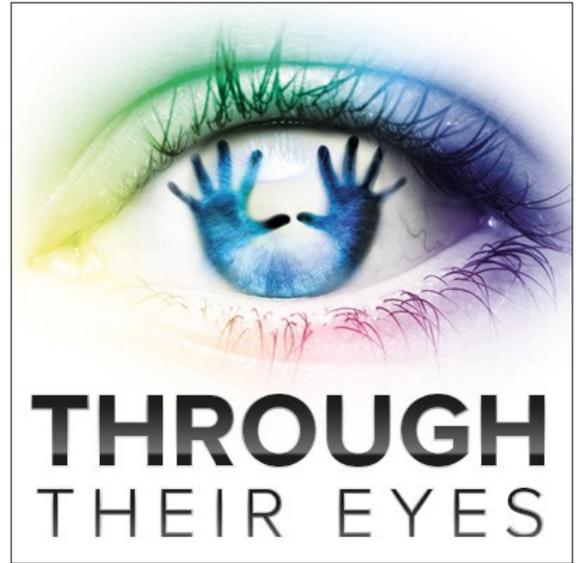
By Trent Duprey

As he lay in his bed through the night,  
 He sat there and stared at the stars that shine so bright.  
 As his thoughts wander he sits up real quick to grab his binder  
 He had thought to write his thoughts so he could fall asleep.  
 When he woke in the morning  
 There appeared in his dream a brand new red jeep.

## How I See It

By Elisabeth Emrick

It all starts off with a loud noise  
 coming out of my speakers, waking me up.  
 A few nice conversations with people to cheer me up.  
 Funny videos to make me laugh.  
 But sometimes, my day doesn’t go so well.  
 Bad conversations happen.  
 I get thrown sometimes; I crack.  
 I want to break but I can’t.  
 Sometimes my days are hard, but most days are good.  
 I’m happy where I am, but sometimes,  
 I wish I was in different hands.



## Growing Older

By Brielle Notte

As we grow older  
 We seem to separate  
 Grow a little bolder  
 I hope you’re doing great

Sometimes I miss you  
 And I know you’re thinking the same  
 You came right out of the blue  
 And I guess I forgot your name

It’s been so long since I’ve seen you  
 I can’t believe you are here  
 How’s working at the London 200?!  
 I’ll never understand why you disappeared.

## Campus Chatter

By Mea Sullivan

### Do you struggle with online classes?



I don't really struggle but I would say it's hard to do everything online. Don't get me wrong; I can do the work. However, I would definitely rather do in-person learning.

**-Brielle Notte**

I personally struggle with online classes. I feel unmotivated when school is online.



**-Kiara LaPenna**



Yes, I do struggle because I am easily distracted. When I am home, I really don't have the motivation to do the work. Also, when I'm home, I get distracted and go watch TV.

**-Zander Gottlin**

## Interviewing for a Job During COVID-19

By Taina Marrero

For the foreseeable future, job interviews will be online. That means you need to look your best on the video call. This was the case for me when I recently interviewed for an after school position at the Rutland City Boys and Girls Club.

Added to the stress of the online interview, I did not have any experience working with children. I have worked for a drycleaner in New York City and as a crew member at Little Caesars in Rutland; however, I have not worked directly with children.

My online interview with the Director and two other employees lasted 30 minutes. I was inexperienced, so they asked a lot of questions. I looked directly into the webcam to make eye contact, dressed professionally, and did my best to make a connection as I answered their questions.

I am happy to report I was hired for the job. My advice to you? Don't let online interviews intimidate you. Review basic interview techniques and present your best self. Good luck!



**Boys & Girls Club**

## Snow Days a Thing of the Past?

By Vincent Lee Burke

We had finally gotten our first major snowfall and it was not what we expected. It snowed for about fourteen hours and we had accumulations of over a foot of snow. We also had to go remote for the day; no more snow days for Rutland City Public School students.

Going remote is nothing new; we have been remote, off and on since last March. In my opinion, remote learning is not fun; when you go remote for a snow day, it's frustrating.

I do not believe schools should schedule online classes for a snow day. Schools should be encouraging students to go outside and assist with shoveling, help working parents by watching siblings, or just have fun with your family outside in the snow. I call it a mental health day.

This pandemic has stripped us of so many traditions: graduation, school dances, sports, prom, social contact and more. Snow days are the least schools can do to give us some sense of normalcy.



**Important****Dates:**

MLK Day: Jan 18th

**February Break:**

Feb. 15th—Feb. 19th

**April Break:**

April 12th—April 16th

**Memorial Day:** May 31st**SAT:** May 8th

June 5th

**ACT:** February 6th

April 17th

June 12th

# Birthdays

## *February*

Taina Marrero—February 2

Gillian Cook— February 8

## *March*

Tucker Rappaport— March 7

Brielle Notte – March 26

Devin Reed—March 31



## *April*

Ariel Siliski—April 19

## **In Our Own Words: Thoughts on COVID-19**

### **Vaccines: What to Believe?**

By Mea Sullivan

Many people are scared when it comes to COVID-19. A good majority of people are afraid that by taking the vaccine, they might get COVID. With that being said, we have vaccines that could possibly “cure” COVID. I have heard the statement, “The vaccine just has the virus.” According to the CDC, “The vaccine does not contain the virus and cannot cause COVID-19.” My belief is you don’t have to worry about COVID as long as you do your part by wearing your mask, making sure you are social distancing, and washing your hands and things you touch.

### **The Need to Work Together**

By Darisha Yoder

January graduation will be a little different this year due to the pandemic; however, we will get through it together. We all need to work as a team. I’m super proud of everyone in our school for doing their part to keep themselves and others safe. Hopefully, things will get better this year.

### **Unintended Consequences**

By Vincent Lee Burke

From March of last year to the present, we have either had to go online or have chosen to attend school virtually. While it has been a necessity due to COVID-19, many students are not able to do online school properly and fear they might fail this year of school. That would not be good at all. Additionally, students coming back to school in the fall of 2021 will not be used to attending classes and following the rules of the building. These are major concerns that will need to be addressed by the schools.

### **To Our Readers**

We welcome your thoughts! Do you have an opinion you would like to share? If you wish to submit an article for the next edition of our newsletter, please email your thoughts to Carolyn Ravenna at [Carolyn.ravenna@rcpsvt.org](mailto:Carolyn.ravenna@rcpsvt.org)