

COOP CREW

new excel brings chickens to school

Led by teacher Brandi Young, a new Excel class called Chickens 101 was introduced. The class raises the chickens and learns how they adapt to different things.

"This Excel gives me a chance to learn more about how chickens are raised and all about their qualities," eighth grader Jett Warner said.

Seventh grader Katie Johnson likes the variety in the new class.

"This Excel was a good idea because it's something that Gorzycki has never done before," Johnson said.

The woodshop Excel contributed to the class as well.

Eighth grader Talia Hanley helped paint the coop.

"By painting the coop I feel that it helps the chickens have a home and makes our school more diverse," Hanley said.

Many students enjoy this project because it's something different from the typical excel. Seventh grader Bradon

Peterson agrees. "It feels good to be able to start something new," Peterson said.

The chickens arrived in early April, but some students wish they would have come earlier.

"It's a disadvantage because we have to wait longer to learn how to deal with the chickens," seventh grader Matthew Garcia said.

The class conducted a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for the chickens. Students and community members contributed to reach the goal.



Photo by Victoria Hernandez

Building the chicken coop for the Chickens 101 Excel, seventh grader Michael Milliner nails wooden planks for the roof. A larger coop was built later in the year. "It feels good to be apart of something new here," Milliner said. Photo by Victoria Hernandez



1. Leadership students Cole Zimmerman and Aiden Ball talk about the Souper Bowl of Caring to the Book Club Excel. Photo by Victoria Hernandez

2. Doing homework, seventh grader Samantha Perry completes her work in the cafeteria for study hall. Photo by Victoria Hernandez

3. Dancing the class away, eighth graders Mackenzie Ferguson, Camryn Cuchia, Stephanie McEwan, and, seventh grader Saaya Wakamatsu practice their dance for the Karaoke Time Travel Excel. Photo by Victoria Hernandez



THURSDAY study hall or tutoring

"Study hall is important because it's where I get a lot of work done."

Chloe Chips, 8



FRIDAY sel & d.e.a.r

"D.E.A.R is important because some people can't read after school and it is fun to read."

Susan Ballesteros-Mascorro, 6



KEEP IT 4 by 100

students run the 4x100 relay

The moment is silent and suddenly there's a bang and lanes of runners take off.

The 4x100 relay is an event where four students each run 100 meters.

The eighth grade girl's team has consistently gotten fast times in meets.

To successfully run the 4x100, these students have to fill their roles in the race.

Lilly Yeager is the starter of the 4x100. The first runner usually is the second fastest and gives the team a good start.

"When I first start, I'm kind of nervous, but I get more confident along the way," Yeager

said.

Yeager hands the baton to eighth grader Riley Hughes, and then Hughes takes off.

"When I run and hear everyone cheering, it motivates me," Hughes said.

The relay is nearly done at this point of the race and only two more people will run.

Hughes hands the baton to the third runner eighth grader Lisa Wilkerson.

"My position is challenging because there are curves and you need a lot of speed," Wilkerson said. "The handoff is hardest though."

When Wilkerson reaches eighth

grader Samantha Porter, Porter will finish for the Lady Tigers.

The fourth competitor in the 4x100 relay is the anchor, and has the fastest time.

"I feel pretty good being in the last position because you do not have to do two hand offs and you have less responsibility," Porter said.

To run a successful relay, teammates have to work together and build on each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"We are all friends and we all get along, we work hard and get better," Porter said.



Handing off the baton to eighth grader Riley Hughes, eighth grader Lillian Yeager runs the 4x100 relay. When the two runners exchange the baton, it's called the handoff. "The more we practice, the closer we get. The team is like a family," Yeager said. Photo by Lila Vale



Playing doubles in a match, seventh grader Natalie Roche and eighth grader Peyton Ivey prepare to receive the ball. Students at Gorzycki can participate in singles and doubles matches. "I like how tennis can be an individual and team sport," Ivey said. Photo by Carlos Canepa



1. Leaping into the sand pit, eighth grader Aidan Parente participates in long jump. Photo by L. Shirack



2. Serving the ball, eighth grader Shawn Ichikawa practices his serve. Photo by L. Shirack

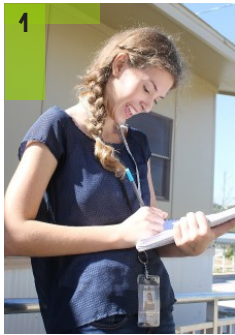
DIGIT.PRESS GOES media launches new website **DAILY**

1. Getting an interview, seventh grader Ryan Kinney writes down quotes for Yearbook.

Photo by Gail Roggenbauer

2. At the 7A volleyball zone championship, seventh grader Elise De La Fuente takes photos.

Photo by Halle Krogstad



This year Media Production launched a new website, digit.press. The staff voted to change the website from GorzyckiDigit.com to make the website easier to remember and access.

Media's goal was to post on the website every weekday. The posts could be quick updates, such as a game score, or a longer story about an event that happened.

The website has three editors that upload the daily posts.

"I decided to be a website editor because during training I understood how to do everything," eighth grader Ashley Johnson said.

Eighth grade

editor Maddi Feen explains what she does for the website.

"My job is to schedule posts and keep up with others and what they are doing. This year we are trying to go more in depth with things and make it easier to convey our ideas," Feen said.

Eighth grade newspaper editor Samantha Gonzales coordinates with the online editors to schedule posts.

"My favorite part of working on Digit.Press is that pretty much anything can go on the website. If something is cool or interesting but it doesn't really fit on Gnasher News (broadcast) or DIGIT (newspaper), it can go online and that makes the website really unique," Gonzales

said.

Seventh grader Rohith Chindalore said the website is more intriguing this year.

"The stories on the front (page of the website) catch my eyes. They are hooking and give important information about Gorzycki," Chindalore said.

In March, the staff learned that the site had earned a Distinguished Merit rating and was competing for a Star at UIL Journalism, ILPC.

Eighth grader Shervin Bamdad thinks that the website has possibility to expand even more.

"The website has a lot of space to grow," Bamdad said. "By the end of the year, I hope the website is at its full potential."



In Intro to Journalism, sixth graders Lucy Debonis, Cristina Canepa, and Katherine Crosley check names in the yearbook. Once sixth graders take Journalism, they can decide if they want to take Media Production or Yearbook. "I think that taking photos is really fun, and I think Yearbook would allow me to do that," Canepa said. *Photo by Aspen Kissinger*

Participating in the tripod race, eighth grader Robbie Warhola and eighth grader Max Fortin compete against each other. Students did tripod races to test their knowledge on how to use tripods. "I liked how we were able to turn something that was a task into something competitive and fun, it made it much easier to learn and remember," Fortin said. *Photo by Victoria Hernandez*



ROBOT ARMY

eighth grader creates self-thinking robot

Eighth grader Jacob Segura created Gorzycki's first self thinking robot all by himself.

The robot is controlled by a program that Segura created using the computer. The robot spins in one direction until it sees something then moves toward that object.

The robot is designed to sumo-fight other robots in the class.

"I tried to think of something people are intimidated by, and came up with the robot that thinks for itself," Segura said.

Segura started creating the robot at the beginning of the year. The



Segura operates his robot in the Tech Lab. Photo by Samuel Hayek

achievement. "I have never seen anything like it before," Howard said.

Howard has been teaching in the Technology department since the school has opened in 2009.

Howard describes his experience in tech.

"I used to be a programmer, and when I sold my company I wanted to stay in the tech field," Howard said. "I decided to teach middle school tech because I have kids this age and I like the energy and excitement middle school students have everyday."

program that runs the robot, plays itself over and over until the robot has succeeded.

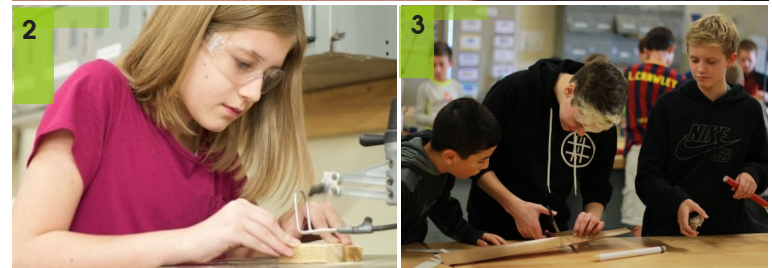
Technology teacher Jon Howard was impressed by his student's



Cutting wood, seventh grader Ben Forrest focuses on the machine. Forrest used the machine for his birdhouse. "In Woodshop we use some dangerous tools and knives that can sometimes be scary to use," Forrest said. Photo by Mandy Pedneau



Concentrating on painting his car, eighth grader Austin Moorman focuses hard on finishing his project. Toothless the dragon is from how to train your dragon. "My model of the CO2 car is Toothless the Dragon," Moorman said. Photo by Megan Williams



1. Focusing on fixing their robot, seventh graders Robert Tafoya and Juliane Payne get it ready to race. Photo by Samuel Hayek **2. With her eyes** on her work, seventh grader Hannah Shepard uses the scroll saw on her bird house project. Photo by Mandy Pedneau **3. Constructing their project,** eighth graders Diego Moreland, Jake Bradbury, and Logan Mayberry bring their rocket to life. Photo by Aspen Kissinger



1. Looking at the photo booth at the Paws for Fun, seventh grader Sophia Oh waits in line. *Photo by Aspen Kissinger* **2. Rolling arms together**, sixth graders Julia Everett and Alejandra Wayman dances at the sixth grade Glow Dance. *Photo by Mandy Pedneau* **3. Singing karaoke**, sixth grader Sydney Dean sings "Let Her Go" by Passenger. *Photo by Victoria Hernandez*



Trying to get a popsicle from seventh grader Vivian Howard, eighth grader Sasha Sunga participates at Paws for Fun. Paws for Fun is an activity to reward students that are doing well in their classes. "Getting to eat popsicles and hanging out with friends was the best part for me," Sunga said *Photo by Gail Roggenbauer*

PAWS PAUSE BUTTON

paws for fun gives students a break from academics

This new year brought some new changes and gave students a new reward for their good behavior.

"Paws for Fun is a break for the good kids to relax a bit," seventh grader Jordan Sommers said.

Paws for Fun rewards students who have not been in serious trouble and have maintained passing grades through the six week grading period. During Paws For Fun students are given a variety of options on how to spend their Paws for Fun.

"My favorite part is hanging out with my friends and eating popsicles," seventh grader Vivian Howard said.

Eighth grader Bevin Flaherty thought it was nice to be able to have a day to relax. "I thought that it was a great idea and that it should definitely be done again," Flaherty said.

This is the first year that Gorzycki has done Paws for Fun, so it leaves room for lots of improvement.

"I think that Paws for Fun can be improved by adding more

snacks and more sports," seventh grader Naya Tillisch said.

"I thought that the length of Paws for Fun could be improved," said Howard. "I hope they make it longer in the future."

Paws for Fun differs from our typical school celebrations due to the fact that it occurs every six weeks rather than once a year.

Many students agree even with room for changes, Paws for Fun is a great way to reward their good grades.