

## The Holocaust...A Survivor Shares His Story

On March 25, Mr. Ivan Vamos, a Holocaust survivor presented his story to the eighth grade students at Knox who have been studying World War II. Ivan was a child during WW II and as a Jew, was hiding in Budapest throughout the war with his mother. The young Jewish men, including his father, were inducted into the Hungarian Munkaszolgat units (labor units). Ivan's father was sent to the Russian front, probably sometime in 1942, but his entire unit was reported by the Hungarian Military to be killed in an

"accident". Ivan and his mother had many close calls during the war, both in Budapest and other parts of Hungary. They used false papers and sought temporary refuge in "protected houses". Though he was seven years old at the end of the war, he has quite vivid memories of these events. He came to the USA in 1948, by way of Slovakia. This year, Ivan has begun to speak about his experiences during the Holocaust. He came to Knox as a representative of the Holocaust Survivors & Friends Education

Center. If you would like to read more of Ivan's story, Ivan recently donated a beautifully illustrated book of his Holocaust experiences to the Education Center Library at the Golub Center on 184 Washington Ave. Ext. in Albany, NY. We would like to thank Ivan for taking the time to share his story with us. Below are some of the comments and feelings from the students who were fortunate enough to hear Ivan's first hand account:

*"Ivan Vamos' speech was truly amazing and inspirational. I knew about the Holocaust because we learned it in school. But I further understood it because it wasn't just coming from a textbook or a teacher. It was coming from an actual Holocaust survivor and that's what made it so inspiring."*

Hope Cerasuolo

*"I enjoyed listening to Ivan Vamos because it really put a picture in my head of what the Holocaust was like. I think it really made me and many other students realize how good we really have it. It was a nice experience for me."*

Mikaela Etherton

*"Mr. Vamos, I enjoyed listening to your story on the Holocaust. It's hard to believe that you and your family went through all of this. It really put an image in my mind. Thank you."*

Alexis Berry

*"It made me feel sad and bad for him for what he went through."*

Devlin Bahruth

*"Ivan, thank you for your time and I thought your German sounded really cool. I am glad that you recounted your time in the Holocaust to teach us more about it."*

Jenna Salisbury

*"It was a great opportunity to hear about the Holocaust from somebody who experienced it."*

Logan VonderHeide

*"I thought this was a very nice and interesting presentation on the Holocaust. It made me further understand what it was like to have someone 'out to get you' just because you believe in something."*

Tyler Hillhouse

*"It was truly inspirational to hear about how Ivan's mother basically saved his life and saved him from an even more terrifying experience."*

Morgan Swedick



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS:

Teacher recommendations for course selections have been done with 8th graders for 9th grade. Eighth grade students with parental permission have been assigned to a small group for a high school visit. These visits will continue throughout the month of April. While at the high school, students will meet with their counselor to discuss course selections. The course selection sheet requires a parent signature before it is returned to Mrs. Schienberg at Knox.

Course selections for 7th graders for 8th grade will also be completed during April.

Have further questions? Feel free to contact Mrs. Schienberg in the Knox guidance office at 762-3726.

## Congratulations Knox Founder's Day Recipients

The following three people were recognized by Knox at the annual Founder's Day dinner on March 24th:

**Mr. Matt Greco** was nominated for this award because he strives to create a positive school community at Knox. He demonstrates his dedication to the students and Knox throughout the year through a number of activities and initiatives. He has spearheaded a school-wide positive rewards program for the Knox student body as well as being involved in Winter Activities Day at which he participated in the talent show portion playing guitar. Mr. Greco has also been a detention supervisor for the last five years—not an easy job.

**Mr. Scott Chamberlain** is one of the most well-respected and well-liked teachers at our school. He really cares about his students and goes the extra mile with the

after school help he offers for students who are struggling. Although he has only been at Knox for a relatively short time, he has already made an impact on our students and our school. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, this year Mr. Chamberlain took on coaching the boy's 8<sup>th</sup> grade modified basketball team. His players and their parents say that as their coach, he showed fairness, a great deal of patience, understanding, encouragement and discipline as he taught them the fundamentals and nuances of the game. The fact that he had to miss the majority of his own daughter's games so that he could coach the boys team showed the level of sacrifice he made to coach a team in the game he loves.

**Mrs. Jaime Kosowicz**, our current PTSA President, is being recognized for years of

service to the Knox community. As Knox President not only does she take care of running the meetings, gathering information for meeting agendas, and all that goes with her position, she also sells dance tickets, chaperones the dances, helps with ice cream socials, chaired the promotion ceremony last year, and helps with fundraisers including the recent Harlem Superstars events. She fills in wherever she is needed. Mrs. Kosowicz has been an integral part of many of the day to day activities at Knox. She is extremely hard working and takes the lead in promoting the value of parent involvement in our school and its activities. We appreciate her dedication and service as she has put her heart into making Knox a better place for the students, parents and staff.

### APRIL

April 1 Third marking period ends

April 2-9 Spring Recess, No School

April 14 PTSA Mtg. 6:30 pm

April 16 Report Cards Issued

**April 27-28 NYS 8th Grade ELA Exams**

### MAY

May 5-7 NYS Grade 7 & 8 Math Exams

May 5 PTSA Mtg. 6:30 pm

May 10 Pleasant Ave. 6th Graders Visit Knox

May 11 Spring Instrumental Concert 7:00

May 12 Warren 6th Graders Visit Knox

May 13 Spring Choral Concert 7:00

May 14 Progress Reports Issued

May 18 Sister to Sister Summit

May 18 School Board Election & Budget Vote

May 20 Glebe 6th Graders Visit Knox

May 21 Student Council May Dance 7-9:30, Gym

May 26 NYS Grade 8 Science Performance Test

May 31 Memorial Day Observed-No School



## Keys to Success on the ELA Exam

1. Be sure to get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast. Food fuels the mind!
2. Bring at least two #2 pencils to your testing room each day.
3. Before reading articles, preview the questions.
4. Take notes during BOTH readings of the listening passage.
5. Read extended response questions carefully and PLAN before you begin to write.
6. Do not use personal pronouns (I, you, me), symbols, or abbreviations.
7. Use transition words: furthermore, for example, in addition, etc.
8. Create an interesting introduction by using one of the following techniques: a question, an interesting fact, a quote, a typical situation, a joke or humor.
9. **PROOFREAD. PROOFREAD. PROOFREAD.** Check your responses for errors with spelling, capitalization, punctuation, complete sentences, and paraphrasing and correct them.
10. Use all of the time given! If extra time remains, **DON'T** close the test booklet. Instead, re-read the questions and make certain that you have answered correctly. Proofread **AGAIN** if time remains!



## *Knox Positive Behavior Reward Program*

The Knox Faculty and Staff is providing an opportunity for those students who demonstrate appropriate and positive behavior to receive special rewards. ALL Knox students are eligible to receive a positive reward but it must be earned. Ways to earn a positive reward include demonstrating good character, following all school rules, being helpful to classmates and teachers, and showing that you care about our school. Students who demonstrate some of these great characteristics earn a ticket. The tickets are then put into daily, weekly or monthly drawings. Some of the prizes that have been won so far include: school supplies, candy, book bags and gift cards. Winners may also choose from homework passes, locker passes, take a friend and go to the front of the lunch line, do the morning announcements, order lunch out with the teachers, etc. Thank you to the staff, the library, the Scholastic Book Fair and the PTSA for the donation of fabulous prizes.

**Congratulations to every single one of  
the 284 March ticket earners!**

## **Foreign Language Week**

Recently, in celebration of foreign language week, Knox students did the morning announcements in different languages. Each day, foreign language students greeted Knox staff and students, told the day of the week and date, the weather and the lunch menu and wished everyone a nice day. Our announcer, or translator in English all week was Kevin Ammann.

Monday, we heard from Ieasha Lopez Gonzalez in Spanish. Tuesday was Kaitlyn Duesler and Nicole Bentley speaking in French. On Wednesday, Saisree Cherukumalli spoke in Telugu, which is a South Indian language. Thursday was Serena Smith and Jenna Salisbury in Chinese. Friday was Kayla Jackson and Catherine Hladik in Japanese.

The Greater Johnstown School District is offering ***Family Swim*** and ***Morning Lap Swim***. Morning Lap swim is open to high school students and adults and is held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 AM**. The cost is **\$1** per person. **Family Swim** is on Thursday evenings from **6- 7:30 PM**. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The cost is **\$1** per person or **\$5** for a family of 5 or more.

*Congratulations to Kevin Ammann and Hannah Chamberlain who did a fabulous job representing Knox at the Fulton County Spelling Bee. Kevin finished first and will be traveling to Washington, DC to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee May 31-June 6, 2010 courtesy of the Leader-Herald.  
Go Kevin!*

## **Congratulations "Students of the Week" For March**

**Devlin Bahruth**

**Stephen Russo**

**Connor Rodecker**

**Tyler Lawyer**

## **INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?**

The terms of three current board members of the Greater Johnstown School District will expire **June 30, 2010**. The election of new members to serve three-year terms will be held on **May 18, 2010**.

Candidates for the board of education must be at least 18 years old, qualified voters in the school district, able to read & write, and must be residents of the district continuously for one year before the election. They can't be employees of the school district or live in the same household with a family member who is also a member of the same school board.

Nominating petitions signed by 100 qualified district voters must be filed with the District Clerk before 5:00 PM **April 28, 2010**. Petitions may be obtained at the District Office, 1 Sir Bills Circle, or visiting the school web site, [www.johnstownschoools.org](http://www.johnstownschoools.org).