Gateway hosts 90 area senior citizens for brunch, concert

Huntington – Nearly 90 area residents flocked to Gateway on Wednesday, December 6, to enjoy the 26th Annual Senior Citizen Brunch and Concert, hosted by the Gateway Regional School District. The event was filled to the brim with smiles and cheer as National Honor Society members helped to serve food made by Tasha Hartley and the Cafeteria Staff.

Hartley, who is beginning her first year in the role of Gateway’s Food Service Director, described the event as successful and reported that “staff did a fabulous job” and the “NHS kids were awesome”. She also reported that area senior citizens enjoyed the meal of quiche, cinnamon buns, and a fresh fruit cup. Recently retired Food Service Director, Wendy McCaul, attended the brunch and relished her break from years of coordinating the food!

Following the brunch, guests moved from the Gateway cafeteria to the Performing Arts Center for a holiday concert. The concert opened with 4th Graders at Littleville performing “Singin’ in the Rain”, from their upcoming musical in early 2018. Gateway’s Jazz Band performed “Winter Wonderland”, “God Bless’ the Child”, and “Christmas Jazz Suite”. Show Choir, Concert Choir, and the Grade 7 and 8 Choir serenaded the audience with holiday classes “White is in the Winter Night”, “Minka”, Over the River and Through the Wood” and “Let it Snow! Let it Snow”. The 7th and 8th Grade Band played “Dance of the Slippery Slide Trombones”, “Celtic Bell Carol”, and “The Chipmunk Song”. A quartet of Alexandra Russell, Maria Pless, Livia Shepard, and Elizabeth Niemiec sang a piece by Mark Burrows called “Falling Snow.” Gateway’s Concert Band finished up with “Pat-A-Pan”, “Sussex Mummer’s Christmas Carol”, and “Erl-King”.

Superintendent David Hopson reported that he was able to visit with guests during the brunch and as they were leaving the concert. He said that two retired music teachers had high praise for the school’s music program, as seen in the concert.

Organizers wish to thank the Town Councils on Aging representatives--Margit Mikuski, Carrie Florek, Suzanne Lemieux, Kat Peterson, Sue Kucharski, Anne-Marie Buikus, and Sandy Epperly--for getting the word out and helping to make this event possible.

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Photos (above): National Honor Society members (left to right): Chloe Otterbeck, Lindsae Loomis, Megan Wright, Joe Coon, Allie Clark, Olivia Clark and Jessica VanHeynigen helped set tables and serve the brunch.
(below): Guests greet each other at the 26th Annual Sr. Citizen Brunch & Concert at Gateway, held December 6.