

April 2015

Volume 1, Issue 2



## Monthly Meetings

2014-2015

5:30 PM High  
School Conf.  
Room

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>

January 21, 2015

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>

Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>

Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>

May 20<sup>th</sup>

Jun. 17<sup>th</sup>

2015  
Bill Baker  
Memorial  
Golf  
Tournament  
July 10, 2015  
(see back  
page for  
details)

## Mohonasen Foundation and Mission

The mission of the Mohonasen Foundation for Excellence is to enhance educational opportunities for all Mohonasen students by generating and providing resources for innovative curriculum, enhance staff development and promoting partnerships between our schools and our community. Through grants to teachers, the foundation funds projects that encourage original approaches and incentive means for attaining educational excellence. The Mohonasen Foundation was formed as a 501c3 not for profit foundation in 1998 for the purpose of providing grants to members of the Mohonasen community and to date has provided over \$150,000 in grant awards.

## Author Leslie Connor visits Mohonasen

English Department and the Social Workers at the High School were excited and enthralled to welcome Leslie Connor to Mohonasen on March 19, 2015. This project would not be possible without the generosity of the Mohonasen Foundation of Excellence. Through this grant funded project, 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were invited to participate in both a discussion session and creative writing workshop led by Ms. Connor. In addition to the literary workshop, school social workers facilitated with outside providers on the topics of Healthy Boundaries and Relationships. These social work sessions focused on both awareness and prevention education. 10<sup>th</sup> graders read Ms. Connor's newest novel, The Things You Kiss Goodbye in English class prior to this workshop day, a novel about a high school student who is a victim of relationship abuse. Students gained awareness of situations of domestic violence and engaged in discussions about the controversial, timely and relevant topic. Through this experience, students gained awareness of how to better prepare themselves to combat situations like the one Bettina faces in the novel, and grow from the experience of interacting with a real-life author. Ms. Connor originates from the Schenectady area.





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*Grant applications should be  
submitted to this email address  
for efficient processing*

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.sites.google.com/  
sites.mohonasenfoundation.org](http://www.sites.google.com/sites.mohonasenfoundation.org)



Don't forget to sign  
up and participate in  
this year's Golf  
Tournament

## 2015 Annual Golf Tournament

The Bill Baker Memorial Tournament will be held on July 10, 2015 at the Stadium Golf Club. This is the Foundation's major fundraiser for the year. In 2014 through the generous donations of sponsors and the participation by 84 golfers the Foundations was able to raise over \$11,500 to support our mission of providing grants to the Mohonasen Community. We look forward to seeing you this year. The entry form is available on our website

## Grants from the Foundation supports the Arts



The Mohonasen High School Art Department received a grant from the Mohonasen Foundation for a set of table easels. Prior to receiving the grant students only had access to one easel that was in poor condition, consequently students have been resigned to the fact that they must work with suboptimal equipment. The grant allowed the art department to acquire 15 easels. Easels are essential to higher level drawing and painting and without these modest tools the students are placed in a position to fail rather than succeed. When projects are created in an upright position, students are able to step away from their work, to gain a better vantage point for problem solving, allowing them to expand on their creation and compose pieces that are competitive with adjacent school districts. Art is a tool that can be used in all walks and professions and as such deserves the same quality and consideration as any other course. The grant provided the art department the means to give the students the ability to perform with their peers.