



Homer Central School District  
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### **BLUE PRIDE at HARTNETT SCHOOL**

- **Hartnett School is focusing on increasing critical thinking skills in all aspects of school life at all grade levels. We want to help students to increase their independence in working through problems. We want students to feel a sense of belonging at our school in a climate of generosity. We are assisting students in achieving mastery and thinking from a growth mindset.**
- **Officer Mike Howell, School Resource Officer, spoke at our Morning Meeting in September. He shared the story of his career path and how he cultivated courage in his work, how he used skills he learned in school on the job and still does, and his reason for choosing his new role as a School Resource Officer: He wants to be proactive in young people's lives, by helping them learn how to make life affirming choices.**
- **On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Hartnett students at grades 4, 5, and 6 will have the opportunity, as a result of collaboration with the Phillips Free Library and the Bernard Carl and Shirley Ruosen Library Fund of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County, to meet author Frederic Durbin. Mr. Durbin is a children's fantasy writer and author of The Star Shard.**
- **Donna Frankel is working with Hartnett School to secure a Bright Red Book Shelf for our foyer. We will have the shelf stocked with books that can be borrowed or kept. We hope eventually to find another site in Truxton where children and families can access books with ease.**

## **Homer Elementary Blue Pride Spotlight**

### **Parent Information Nights**

Over the past 2 weeks, parents were invited to meet with their child's teacher at a Grade Level Parent Information Night. Parents were introduced to topics such as: Common Core State Standards, Core Curriculum, Technology, Classroom Expectations and How to effectively communicate with their child and their teacher about what's happening in the classroom. At the end of the night, Parents were invited to a Q&A session with Mr. Falls. Families are invited to attend Open House at HES on October 11th.

### **Farm To School Food Fest-A National Farm to School Month Celebration**

*Wednesday, October 3, 2012*

*Homer Elementary School*

*Village Green*

*Noon to 3pm*

The students of Homer Elementary School (K through 2nd grade) will participate in educational activities around food, farming and the environment, and they will visit/shop at the farmers' market. Through community donations, the 2nd graders will take home \$2 worth of local food products, along with recipes and educational materials to share with their families.

The students will spend approximately 30 minutes participating in their outdoor activity and 15 minutes visiting the market. Two classes of each grade level will be outdoors at once, rotating in and out. The event will run from noon to 3pm.

Kindergarteners will be participating in an activity led by Cortland Soil and Water Conservation District (Pollution Model) and Lime Hollow Nature Center.

First graders will learn about the process of composting and its importance for "closing the food loop" and preserving soil and growing healthy food. Students will be read the story: "Compost A to Z" and participate in a workshop led by Tim Sandstrom and his New Vision students.

Second graders will learn about aquaponics; the process of growing food in water with fish. Homer aquaponics farmers Allan and Bob of Main Street Farms will be showing off their mini aquaponics systems, as well as explaining the process to the students. Students will be able to take home samples of their lettuce.

All students will visit the market. The 2nd graders will be able to take home \$2 worth of produce. Other students may purchase items with money provided by their parents.

The market vendors will include:

- Chris Applegate, head of the Virgil Farmers Market and long time organic gardener
- Main Street Farms
- Bill Sullivan
- The Owl and Pussycat, Tomi Jacobs Ziobro, homemade granola

- Dave's Veggies
- Tim Sandstrom

### **HES/Community Open House**

HES will be holding their annual Open House on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The Homer Village Fire Department and the Phillips Free Library will also be holding Open Houses at that time as well.

Homer Intermediate School  
Blue Pride Spotlights  
9/25/12



1. Mrs. Durkee was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow award by the Cortland County Rotary. She was originally nominated for Teacher of the Year in the spring. Mrs. Durkee was given the award for her own community service as well as for her commitment to teaching students the importance of community service. Congratulations to Mrs. Durkee!
  2. We hosted our new SRO in an all school assembly on Friday, 9/7/12. We learned positive character traits including bullying, by-standers, and messengers and reviewed our Green Cafeteria procedures.
  3. Our open houses and book fairs were held over the last two weeks. Both were well attended and our SCA helped once again to increase the books in our school. Our Bus Safety Committee, Phillips Free Library, and Boy Scouts were at the open house to increase awareness. Common Core Learning Standards information was available in paper format as well as displayed in the book fair.
  4. Ms. Podsiedlik and the football cheerleaders began their series of cheerleading clinics for students. The first session was very well attended.
  5. We have been celebrating patriotism this month. We marked September 11<sup>th</sup> with red, white and blue day, celebrated the Constitution Day with a week-long trivia contest, grade 5 is learning about human rights, students are writing/drawing about patriotism in their own words and we will wrap the celebration up with a pep rally on October 1, 2012.
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# Homer Junior High Blue Pride Spotlight Items 9/25/12 Board of Education meeting

Grades 6-8 Open House was held Thursday evening, September 13th. We had a great turnout for the evening that included a general assembly, P.O.S.T. time with teachers, team level meetings, and then self-guided tours of the building. Additionally, our school's book fair was a favorite stop for families with 198 books being purchased totaling \$2,898 in sales.

154 Junior High students are participating in five modified sports teams (field hockey, girls and boys soccer, girls and boys cross-country, and football) this fall. This represents 43% of the student population.

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Twelve teachers attended a full-day 6+1 Traits of Writing workshop held for us at BOCES McEvoy last week. The training was given in conjunction with our work to develop a Junior High writing rubric that will be used across all subject areas. The training provided a common vocabulary to use with students when discussing their writing and will enable students to critique their own writing using the rubric and ensure a common expectation of their writing by all teachers.

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## High School Blue Pride Activities for September - 2012

- Freshmen Orientation
  - Prior to the start of school, many of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the Link Crew Orientation and then returned that same night for the parent-student presentation. A full auditorium heard presentations from school officials as well as Mary Dykeman from the Cortland County Health Department and enjoyed ice cream and a tour of the building afterwards.
  
- Link Crew Dance
  - Link leaders under the direction of Mr. DiGennaro and Mr. Cortese, hosted a very successful welcome back dance for high school students. Nearly 300 high school students attended this dance which also served as a fund raiser for the freshmen and sophomore classes.
  
- Spirit Week Preparations Underway
  - Student Government has begun preparations for this year's spirit week and homecoming. A pep rally will be hosted by Student Government at Butts Field on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be followed by several theme days at high school. Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> will be filled with homecoming activities including Blue Pride spirit day, homecoming parade and banner contest, home football game, and home coming dance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Cortese', is located in the lower right quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.