



Homer Central School District
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BLUE PRIDE at HARTNETT SCHOOL

- **Hartnett Elementary School kindergarten and first grade are benefitting from a mini-assembly on turkeys by volunteer scientist and elementary teacher, Elain Sturgess. Students will be able to touch turkey feathers, turkey feet, and a turkey wing. They will also read books about the turkey. This kind of workshop builds background knowledge for children within an interactive and engaging lesson.**
- **Hartnett Elementary's student council has held its organizational meeting under the co-advisorship of Mrs. Mastroe and Mrs. Hartnett. Highlights of the meeting included a discussion of what leadership looks like and sounds like to be effective and the role of student government. Students in grades 4-6 also want to engage in social activism to question a meal choice in our building and offer what is an improvement from their perspective.**
- **Our staff met voluntarily to consider strengths and areas of improvement regarding safety at end of day dismissal and safety on our playground. We will be changing the way we currently do our dismissal (from the gym) to dismissing from classrooms.**
- **Second grade students created riddles as part of their critical thinking and creative writing Halloween activity. Art was incorporated into the riddle to show the answer. The students "riddled" Mrs. Musson and me.**
- **Our sixth grade students are finishing their autobiographies, a long project that is both investigative and reflective. They are getting ready to travel to Egypt in their social studies unit to locate their mummies.**
- **Fifth graders have been exploring social justice issues through an expeditionary learning unit and the text, Esperanza Rising. They have written two-voice poems to unravel point of view and express characters' complex emotions.**

Homer Elementary School
Blue Pride

iAm

As part of the District Character Education Initiative, the Elementary School will be unveiling their new School Pledge on Tuesday, November 13th. The pledge is based on a classroom promise from the book “The Juice Box Bully”. Mr. Falls and HES Staff Members will read the pledge on the announcements next week to show a whole school investment in the Pledge. Students will be encouraged to make good choices for themselves, their classmates and the school community. Students will also be charged with the task of being an “Upstander” not a “Bystander”. The November iAm assembly will be on November 20th.

PTO

The HES PTO is currently running their Thanksgiving Basket Drive for those HES families in need of a quality Thanksgiving meal. Students and staff are encouraged to bring in boxed and canned items that will complement a Thanksgiving Turkey provided by the PTO. Last year, the PTO was able to provide the community with 12 baskets.

Standards-Based Report Cards

Homer Elementary School is implementing a new Standards-Based Report Card that provides more information about what children know, understand and can do. The purpose of the report card is to communicate to parents, students and staff the progress each student is making toward accomplishing the New York State Performance-Based Standards. HES and HT Staff worked very diligently on the report cards. Creating new Report Cards and setting a new standard for evaluation and reporting is no small task. I appreciate the efforts of all involved. It is a huge step forward for HES and the District! Please contact Mr. Falls to see copies of the new Report Card.

Homer Intermediate School
Blue Pride Spotlights
11/13/12



1. Our October Pep Rally highlighted responsibility. Students were awarded certificates from local community businesses as well as books as part of RIF. Thanks to Mrs. Morenus for organizing the Box Tops for Education to supply books to students throughout the year as prizes and incentives. Officer Mike was also part of the assembly to introduce respect for November.
2. Congratulations to Mrs. Redenback for receiving a math grant through SUNY Cortland. SUCC students will be working with teachers in grades 3-6 on math CCLS interventions and HCSD will be receiving training and materials to help support the CCLS implementation.
3. The HIS/JH Site-Based Team will be hosting an iPad workshop for parents on 11/19/12. Ms. Mack will be sharing apps with parents that will help students increase academic achievements. The same team will be cooperating with the SUCC math grant to co-host a Family Math Night on 11/28/12.
4. Several classrooms held Election Day events- Ms. Eddy hosted several in grade 3. The students had their own polling places including a REAL ballot. Students tallied the results at the end of the day. Most classrooms predicted that President Obama would win but there were also some classrooms that had Mr. Romney as the winner. The students were very excited about the election on November 7, 2012, too. It is great to see the children practicing to exercise their voting right!

**Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
11/13/12 Board of Education meeting**

“Building wide” National Mock Election

Students in both seventh and eighth grade took part in a building wide mock election on November 6th. A district owned voting machine was used to conduct the vote. This culminated a collaborative unit of study between seventh and eighth grade Social Studies classes on all aspects of the political process and the importance of using your voice to select our leaders. The students’ re-elected the Democratic ticket by a considerable margin (60% to 40%).

Cornell Cooperative Extension Partnership

On Thursday November 8th Junior High Science Club students performed a chemical and biological assessment of Factory Brook under the guidance of water quality specialists from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. The activity was the first part of a three session program to engage students in the understanding of watersheds and their importance.

The first part of the activity had the students donning waders to kick rocks to dislodge macro invertebrates from the stream bottom. Students used large nets to capture the organisms. Then they used keys to identify the animals to ascertain their sensitivity to water quality. They found a number of mayfly species as well as caddis flies, crane flies, stone flies, and some leeches.

The next step was to monitor the chemicals found in the water. The students took the water temperature and measured the pH. Then they took water samples and measured the dissolved oxygen, chloride, phosphate, and nitrate levels of Factory Brook. After analyzing the macro invertebrate and chemical data the students concluded that the water quality of the brook is excellent. Students will perform the same tests this spring to see if there are seasonal differences in overall water quality.

Watershed specialists will visit the Junior High in the coming weeks to work with science club members with follow up activities to help students understand the significance of our watersheds.

Shared Decision Making Team Student Survey

A parent representative and school personnel from the building’s Shared Decision Making Team met with Student Council officers this week to gather information that will lead to a student survey to be administered prior to Thanksgiving. The survey will provide the SDMT with topics to study, eventually leading to building initiatives that will improve the academic experience of students.

Homer High School Blue Pride Activities for October and Early November - 2012

- Art Trip to Cooperstown - On October 25th, members of Mr. Andre's and Mr. Wallace's studio art and photography classes traveled to Cooperstown to visit the Fenimore Art Museum and the Farmer's Museum. Students learned of New York's participation in the Civil War, studying artifacts, weapons, and letters from that time period at the Fenimore. Students also viewed a special exhibit of Native American crafts and paintings at the art museum. At the Farmer's Museum, students learned about 19th century culture and lifestyle as shown by historic re-enactors, having conversations with a blacksmith, an apothecary, and of course, farmers. Mr. Andre and Mr. Wallace were especially helpful with their lectures of history (the Cardiff Giant, for example) and explanations of painting techniques and materials. Many of the students will be starting painting projects this semester, so the trip was especially helpful to them. The weather cooperated, and everyone had an enjoyable day.
- Access to Independence - Mentoring Day - October 17, 2012 Mrs. Mahunik's Life Skills class joined Cortland schools in their participation in Cortland Mentoring Day organized by Access to Independence. The students shadowed a variety of local businesses and gained an understanding on how they operate. They then enjoyed a catered lunch followed by a discussion period and awards ceremony.
- Powder Puff Football Game - On November 9th. Students are again planning what has become an annual tradition. The Powder Puff football game continues and serves as a fun event for students and the school community. It also serves as another in a series of fund raising events for the More than a Game Foundation.
- Women in Engineering Day - Kailee D., Emily L., and Bailee B., Engineering & Design students in Mr. Steedle's classes participated in the Annual Lockheed Marten "Women in Engineering Day" on November 2nd, 2012. This event is intended to encourage high school girls to consider a rewarding career in one of the myriad fields of engineering. In addition to gaining significant insights by touring the Lockheed Martin facilities and hearing of the various roles their engineers play in design development, production and support, students were able to speak to women engineers in small groups to gain insights into their respective career paths and identify with the passion they have for the vital roles they play in this exciting career. Kailee, Emily and Bailee along with teammates from another district won the creative problem-solving design challenge, beating out approximately 75 other students! A great collaborative and creative effort!
- A New Footbridge at the Factory Brook Nature Area This past summer, Homer High School senior Nate C. constructed a footbridge over a creek in the Factory Brook Nature Area behind the Junior High School. The project was the final phase of Nate's Eagle Scout program and opened up a new portion of trail so students could safely cross a small brook. The project was designed by Nate and construction was accomplished by Nate and his fellow scouts, leaders, and parent

volunteers. Seventh grade teacher Jim Barry assisted Nate with planning and implementation of the project and the Homer Education Foundation provided financial assistance for lumber and supplies. Take a walk on the interpretive trail along Factory Brook and check out Nate's accomplishment. Congratulations on a job well done!

- Community service day for the Lady Lax club! Lady Lax booster club was formed last year to support the girls lacrosse program in Homer. Girls from 3rd grade to 12th benefit from money raised by the club. On Sunday October 21st girls of all ages raked leaves at the Brewster House, Center for the Arts, Post Office and library. The girls are also raking leaves at private homes as a fundraiser.
- T.H.A.N.C.S. Club Fundraising Dinner - On November 3, 2012, THANCS held its second annual dinner designed to raise money to fund community service projects and fund scholarships. Mr. Jim Durkee, chef extraordinaire, donated his time and energy to make the yummy dinner a success! Just a selection of the accomplishments of the THANCS club so far this year include a Lime Hollow Trail Clean Up; painted pumpkins and donated them to the Brewster House; as well as the fundraising dinner. Students in the upcoming months will be doing a food drive to support the Spafford Food Pantry like last year, will donate our time to help Loaves and Fishes during the holidays, and will adopt a family through Catholic Charities. This year, the newest venture is having a community focus project for the year; something we can work on to make our community a better place than it already is. The project will be decided upon in the upcoming week.



- When liquids vaporize volume increases dramatically. In an enclosed container this results in an increase in pressure. The dramatic decrease in pressure (when the container fails....boom) caused the ping pong balls to be thrown into the air during a demonstration led by Mr. Fuller and Ms. Jones. Liquid nitrogen injected into the hot water creates a water condensation cloud. The pressure change can be directly related to the temperature change through the ideal gas law.