

BLUE PRIDE/Hartnett Elementary School
April 22, 2012

Students at Hartnett are participating in Rachel's Challenge! Each classroom has a color of paper that represents them and the acts of kindness they do. The staff also has its own color. Our goal is to make a long "chain reaction" to show the world we care for each other, our school and our community. Fifth grade shared the purpose of chain links with the entire school on April 10 as a way to model Rachel's Challenge for k-3. Fourth and sixth grade have already begun their chains.

Hartnett has received two red bookshelves. One came to us from Cortland County Family Reading Partnership with help in transportation from Wes Shoemaker. The other one came to us from Mr. Sonnachio's father-in-law who built it. We have designated one for K-3 books and one for 4-6 books. Students will stock them with their books that they love but do not read anymore. Mrs. Flood, Art, had students, who participated in the art month activity, decorate the shelves with their original paintings and we had a kick off on April 10 at a school wide assembly.

Students are writing, reading and calculating daily in grades K-6. They are learning to name what they think and how they think. Standards are high and students are striving to meet them.

Fifth graders are taking a leadership role with support from Student Council, Mrs. Mastroe, Mrs. Hartnett, Ms. Clark and Mr. Burr. K-3 students are learning to scrap their own trays, sort their garbage from the compostable food, with oversight from 5th grade leaders. We will have two assemblies regarding our recycling initiative: the first one is an awareness/kick off assembly with a problem solution format.; the second one is data based and will show what is accomplished when we recycle. Our essential question is: How much garbage did we NOT create by recycling? K-3 students will graph the difference between what is the total weight of garbage and compost vs. what the discrete weight is of just garbage. This is how we are celebrating Earth Day.

Homer Elementary School Blue Pride

Author Robin Pulver to visit HES

On Tuesday, April 23rd, Author Robin Pulver will be visiting HES to read **Author Day for Room 3T, Axle Annie,** and **Axle Annie and the Speed Grump.** She will also be available to autograph books that have been purchased prior to the visit. The Homer Elementary PTO made the visit possible.

Homer ES is a Community of Readers

Our annual PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) celebration is focusing on the theme of “Hats Off To Reading” The celebration kicked off with a “Celebrity Whodunit Mystery” surrounding the theft of Mr. Falls’ cheese hat. Each day, classes are treated to a video of staff members giving literary clues to help the students find the missing hat.

During PARP month, students have the opportunity to read as many books as possible in a 4-week period. Our goal is to break last year’s record of 2543 books. As a culminating activity, students will be treated to a free book from the RIF (Reading Is FUNdamental) Program and an author visit by Robin Pulver.

Homer Elementary School’s Kindness Day Starts A Chain Reaction

On April 10th, students and staff at Homer Elementary celebrated a Day of Kindness to kick off our commitment to Rachel’s Challenge. All staff members have been presented with pre-formatted kindness chain links that make it easy for everyone to record an act of kindness. Stop by HES to see how our “Chain Reaction” is coming along.

Second Grade Horticulture

Our Second Graders will be traveling to Arnold's Florists to learn about planting and taking care of spring flowers. The great folks at Arnold's will allow each child to plant flowers that they will be able to give to their families on Mother's Day.

Homer Intermediate School

Blue Pride Spotlights

4/22/13



1. The Imagination Celebration, county-wide art show, opened at the Center for the Arts on April 10, 2013. The line was out the door for the K-6 opening! Thank you to Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Flood all their hard work that went into the preparation for the show.
2. NYS ELA and Math tests are underway. The teachers and students have been working hard all school year to prepare for this opportunity to show evidence of their learning in the Common Core. This year we added two new components to help support students- a parent session was held on the NYS CCLS and testing program as well as test anxiety groups for students.
3. The Intermediate teachers/staff are active with the Stride for Blue Pride. The teachers are sharing ideas for incorporating exercise and fruits/vegetables into their daily routine.
4. Ms. Fox is happy to announce that at the Regional Science Fair Homer was the only school to have every student receive an award!!
5. A group of 45 6B graders from the Intermediate School participated in five events from the Greek Olympics. This was a great culminating activity for the sixth graders since they are reading Percy Jackson and the Olympians, The Lightning Thief as part of the Common Core Curriculum and studying Ancient Greece in Social Studies. Students represented the Ancient Greek city-states of Sparta, Argos, and Megara. The events were the shot-put, discus, pool-noodle javelin, high jump, and a chariot race. The winners were awarded with tradition wreaths that resembled the olive trees.

Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
4/22/13 Board of Education meeting

Hartnett/St. Mary's Visitation Day

Twenty-eight students from Hartnett Elementary (22) and St. Mary's (6) visited the Junior High on Friday, March 22nd. They spent the day shadowing a current seventh grader to become familiar with the building in anticipation of their attending next fall. The students were given a tour of the building by Miss Bell and Mr. Turck as part of their visit.

Grade Configuration Discussions

Staff at the Junior High are continuing to plan for the anticipated State Ed. approval of our district's grade configuration plan. An extensive list of items to consider is being formulated that will help us make a smooth transition to a 6-8 configuration. Communication to our school families will be an important part of this successful transition.

Sixth Annual Class Night

The sixth annual Class Night will be held Friday, May 3rd at the Junior High. This SCA family event pits students from seventh and eighth grade against each other as they compete in a variety of events to determine the 2013 Class Night champion.

The SCA will be manning the concession stand complete with baked goods supplied by our school families. Activities include: Karaoke, Wii Fit games, Cross-fire, Photography, Donkey tails and Electronic Trivia. The last activity of the evening will see some of our adventurous parents taking part in the festivities.

High School Blue Pride Activities for March and April 2013

Skills USA Winner

Dylan Cochran, Culinary Arts Program, earned 2nd place in Food Prep Assistant at the Skills USA Regional Competition held at Morrisville State college on February 15th. The Skills USA State Competition will be held at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse from April 24-26th. We wish Dylan good luck!

National Technical Honor Society Induction

The following Homer High School students earned induction into the National Technical Honor Society. The ceremony was held Thursday, March 14th at the Mc Evoy Center. Students earned this distinction based on academic achievement and attendance record.

Computer Technology

- Dallas Butler,
- Zachary Libbey
- Connor Munn
- Jack Ryan
- Michael McGrath
- Connor Munn
- Austin Glazier

Construction Technology

- Nathan Renninger

Culinary

- Chaylyn Cleveland
- Dylan Cochran
- Morgan Phelps
- Natasha Toolan

Graphics

- Courtney Burch
- Jared Keep
- Health Occupations Technology
- Jaide Strauf

New Vision Environmental

- Jekeytha Carter-Adkins
- Rachel Murray
- Maria Urban

New Vision Medical

- Drake Devon
- Hannah Kristof
- Logan McEvoy
- Bradley Sciera

Welding

- Chad Dann
- Nicholas Gordon

Homer High School Musical

Students and staff worked to produce a wonderful presentation of Wonderful Town, March 7th – 9th. The performances were attended by many from the school and community.

Pi Celebration and Recitation Competition

March 14th was the official Pi Day with celebratory activities held after school and attended by many students and staff. On Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 19 student competitors met the challenge of reciting from memory the never-ending digits of Pi. Robby Johnson recited nearly 700 digits in front of a crowd of over 100 students and staff.

Rachel's Challenge – Thursday, March 14th, 2013

Homer High School hosted 2 all school assemblies for Homer students in grades 6-12 on the story of Rachel Joy Scott and Rachel's Challenge. In the afternoon, nearly 200 students from grades 6-12 participated in additional leadership training. Students in grades 9-12 have begun to meet to form a FOR (Friends of Rachel) Club and are working in 4 key areas new student project, target kindness, atmosphere of kindness, and chain link projects to continue the chain reaction that started on March 14th in Homer.

Braeden Sharer wins National Recognition!

Braeden Sharer, a senior at Homer, has achieved a Silver Key at the National level for the Scholastic Competition in Art and Writing. Braeden earned a Gold Key on the State level for her short story, "A Changing Neighborhood", which automatically sent her to the National level.

Braeden is only the second student from Homer to achieve national recognition for writing in the Scholastic Competition. This honor not only recognizes her talent and skill, but gives her the opportunity for scholarships in writing programs, should she choose to attend a specific college that offers these scholarships. At the state level, Braeden competed with thousands of pieces of work. At the national level, although the number was smaller, the other competitors were all Gold Keys. Braeden has every reason to be very proud of her accomplishment, as she is in the company of past recipients such as Sylvia Plath and Truman Capote. Congratulations Braeden!

Homer Students compete with Y Stingers Swim Team

The following Homer students participated in NY State Swimming Championships: Robby Belton, Madysen Eckhardt, Emily Elliott, Kelsey Elliott, Madeline Gallagher, Abby Gray and Bradley Keith. Kelsey Elliott went on to compete in the Y Nationals Competition during Spring Recess in North Carolina.

Successful Student Government Casino Night

Student Government hosted Casino Night VI on April 12th, with students attending being able to dance, participate in a variety of games, and enjoy snacks. Through the generosity of the school community, participants in attendance for the entire evening had the opportunity to win one of several door prizes. This event has become a favorite of students as a fun, safe, supervised event.

Health Occupations Class Visits Upstate Medical College

Students in Mrs. Whitney's Intro to Health Careers Exploration visited Upstate Medical College. The visit provided students with experiences on what opportunities exist at Upstate and in the field of medicine. The class is pictured below.

