

Blue Pride Spotlight

Elementary and Hartnett Schools

October 2013

Elementary

Open house at the elementary school was a huge success! Students, parents, and families were greeted at the door by Mr. McGory and Mrs. Ruscio. Families enjoyed a night of meeting their child's teacher, attending the Homer Fire Department open house where cider and donuts were served to all, and they were able to visit the Homer Library open house as well! This was a very special evening that continues to bring out families in support of their children. We appreciate all that they do to support their children and especially appreciate the attendance at our open house!

The elementary school hosted the 2nd annual Farm to School Fest at the beginning of October. Elementary students had the opportunity to learn about the environment and the importance of a sustaining food resources. We look for this program to continue over the next several years!

Hartnett

Open house at Hartnett was a very well attended event! Families of Hartnett were attending a soccer game out behind the school prior to the open house. The book fair was a huge attraction for students and adults. A unique feature of the night was calling all families to the gymnasium at 7:10 p.m. so that we as a community could listen to the positive things our SCA brings to the building. SCA representatives also had set up a volunteer sign up table for new membership to the SCA. We appreciate all our SCA does for our students and staff!

The Truxton Fire Department arrived in fashion on Friday, October 11th and were greeted by many of our students smiling faces. The fire department members took time to explain what fire safety is and quizzed our students on what to do in case of a fire. The volunteers of the department had responded to a very tough call prior to our fire safety day. They all did a fantastic job regrouping for our students at Hartnett! We appreciate all that they do!

Homer Intermediate School
Blue Pride Spotlights
10/22/13

1. Congratulations to Ms. Caitlin Mack and Mrs. Stacy Brown for being awarded an IM:PACT grant to continue to grow Integrated Co-teaching. The grant was awarded to allow the teacher to purchase iPads for the classroom.
2. Our grade 4 teachers will be continuing to work with Bridget Hier from Syracuse University to study writing instruction. Last year students from S.U. worked with the grade 3 teachers to implement writing interventions. This year the college students will follow up to research the long-term effectiveness of the instructional feedback.
3. Parents of 4th and 5th grade students were given copies of the new standards-based report cards with the 5 week progress reports. All parents were given an outline of our standards-based report card to follow the report card changes that were implemented in grades K-2 last school year. It is our hope to acclimate students to our new report cards before parent-teacher conferences.
4. Our Character Council has been selected by classmates to be our school leaders in character education. With the guidance of Ms. Caitlin Mack and Ms. Brianna Bibbens students will be planning our pep rallies, spirit days and other events to promote Blue PRIDE in the HIS.
5. Ms. Priscilla, Phillips Free Librarian, will be offering a grade 5 book club during lunch periods. Students will be reading Dodger and Me and meeting for a book talk in November. Thanks to Mrs. Joy Barrett for helping with student supervision and the HIS/JH Site-Based Team for helping forge the partnership.

**Homer Junior High
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
10/22/13 Board of Education meeting**

Junior High School Junior Police Program

School Resource Officer, Mike Howell, has created an exciting new club that has been positively received by twelve Junior High students. The program is called the Homer Junior Police and has been meeting during tenth period every Wednesday since September. The focus of the program is to highlight what police officers and emergency personnel do as part of their job, the training and education required to attain a position, and what pathways are available for someone interested in the law enforcement field. Later this month, the group will make a trip to both the Town of Homer Court to visit with Judge Shiffer as well as the Cortland County Jail for a lecture and tour.

Student Council News

Cassie Shurtleff and Tiffany Solan are serving as advisors of the 2013-14 Student Council and have instituted some exciting changes. The focus of this year's Student Council is to provide meaningful opportunities for student members to assume more responsibility for the operation of the school. Toward this end, a new cabinet level has been formed to help with various school activities.

The officers are: President- Alexandra Baldwin; Vice President- Alex Cottrell; Secretary- Elyse Butts' and Treasurer- Adam Brown. Cabinet posts consist of: Secretary of the Senate, Secretary of Student Affairs, Secretary of Charitable Contributions, Secretary of School Events, and Secretary of School Spirit Week. Each cabinet member will be meeting with me to organize and plan their assigned activity...giving them more ownership and input.

New York State Middle Schools Conference

Twenty-three members of the Junior High staff will be attending the state's Middle Schools Conference in Verona during the October 25th staff development day. A number of worthwhile presentations will be offered that deal specifically with the middle school child and issues faced by teachers in the classroom. Additionally, a major thrust of the conference and the workshops will be on Common Core implementation strategies. Those attending will be sharing information with the entire Junior High staff at upcoming faculty and team meetings.

Blue Pride October 2013
Homer Senior High School

Alice Jenkins and Erik Gustafson have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program with letters of commendation. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Thomas George has been named one of several New York Master Teachers. We are very proud of his accomplishment! GREAT JOB!

SADD hosted a Game Night on Friday, October 4th. Many students attended this safe alternative for fun on a Friday night. SADD continues to plan positive activities for our students to interact and have fun.

Access to Independence - Mentoring Day - October 17th Students involved in work study programs joined with other students from Cortland County 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.

PSAT Testing was offered on Saturday, October 19th, with 87 students testing.

FFA Students, under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Pratt are attending the National FFA Convention in Louisville the week of 10/28-11/1.

Shakespearean Society practices and set construction are underway for King Lear. Musical Auditions scheduled for this year's musical, *Guys and Dolls*.

Students are looking forward to the International Fall Ball scheduled for Friday, October 25th. This night will be a busy one as we host Camden in first round sectional play in Football.

Homer/OCM BOCES Star Classroom Students enjoyed a visit from Tully Graduate and Olympic Runner Lopez Lomong on September 26th. Lopez came to visit fellow Tully Student Faith Austin. He delivered a positive message about the opportunities growing up in CNY offered him as well as the importance of physical activity and good nutrition. The Star students were excited that he was able to visit!

