

Hartnett Blue Pride – November 2013 – Administrative Intern Jacquie Lingurouhi will present

This month we had our Character Education assembly on Responsibility. The whole school came together to discuss what it meant to us. Kindergarten volunteered this month to demonstrate to the school the different ways we show responsibility. Mrs. Keefe's class did several skits showing responsibility to ourselves, our homes, the Earth, our pets, our possessions, and our school. It was interactive, as they had the rest of the school guess what area they were showing responsibility in. They did a great job.

Also this month, students have been looking for ways their classmates showed responsibility. Each homeroom made a responsibility pledge, which we posted on our character education bulletin board. Then, students were able to write specific ways they saw their classmates showing responsibility. Many of these are also posted around our character education bulletin board.

We are now working on building our "chain" of respect (which is our next Character Ed. word) for Rachel's Challenge. Students are looking out for how their classmates show respect, and we are putting all of their findings together to create a chain to display in the gym.

Elementary School Blue Pride – November 2013

On Friday, November 8, 2013 our elementary school was treated to a fantastic character education assembly. The theme of the assembly and message throughout the beginning of the school year is "fall into kindness." Mr. McGory kicked off the assembly by speaking to the students about demonstrating kindness among peers, adults, and taking care of our school. It was also mentioned through an email to all faculty and staff at the elementary that we all should model random acts of kindness for our students to witness. The character education committee then created a short video that included students around the theme of "fall into kindness" where students were filmed demonstrating the different character traits of kindness. Lastly, and not least Jim Kleefeld, a retired educator and current traveling magician wowed students and staff with a magic show with the theme surrounding character traits. Not only was he an amazing magician, his message of demonstrating good character fit very well with our district character development initiatives. Mr. Kleefeld volunteered his services for an hour in our building that afternoon demonstrating a rare random act of kindness!



November 13, 2013

1. Our PRIDE council has taken over planning our school-wide pep rallies and spirit days. Look for their posters around Homer businesses! We are so appreciative that the community has been supportive of our school PRIDE.
2. On 11/1/13 the SCA and PTO hosted a joint movie night in the Bonne' Auditorium. The families were treated to the new release "Monsters University." Thanks to the volunteers for making a free, fun night out for families.
3. Grade 3, Team 3B, hosted another Awesome Apple day this year. Students had the opportunity to make: shrunken apple heads, apple bird feeders, caramel apples, apple crisp, apple muffins, and apple salad. Students wore shirts that they had painted for the occasion. A good time was had by all!
4. Thanks to the JH Student council for giving each Intermediate student a glow stick for Halloween safety.
5. Ms. Jessica Tarry's art students have been busy. There are many beautiful projects throughout our building. At the beginning of the month each class participated in peer critiques and brunch as a culminating activity.
6. Thank you to the SCA for helping to sponsor the grade 5 trip to Garcia's restaurant. The students were able to sample Mexican dishes as part of their ELA class to celebrate the completion of the book Esperanza Rising.
7. Parent-teacher conferences have begun in the Intermediate. Our new standards-based report cards have been implemented to better communicate with parents about their children's progress as related to the CCLS.

Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
11/19/13 Board of Education meeting

Student Council “Fill a Truck” Holiday Food Drive

The Junior High Student Council would like to spearhead a community wide food drive to benefit families in our area during the holiday season. The students have decided to hold a "Fill a Truck" food drive beginning right after Thanksgiving and lasting through the third week of December. Students throughout the Homer Central School District will be hearing more about this endeavor as the season approaches and the Homer community will be invited to bring any non-perishable food item to the Christmas on the Green celebration on December 6. Together, we should all be able to make a significant impact on our community and teach our children the joy of participating in an event simply to "pay it forward."

Technology Use in Action

Grade 7 Special Education teacher, Kristin Barnoski, has found a new way to infuse technology into her students' day to help them become more independent in their learning. For students with a "tests read" accommodation on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), Kristin has begun pre-recording the word passages and/or questions onto an I-pad. During the class period, students are given an I-pad with headphones and are able to navigate through the exam at their own pace. This allows them to review questions as many times as is needed while formulating an answer.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be conducted November 18th at the Junior High. The conferences are scheduled after requests are made by parents of students in the building. 79 conferences will take place on Monday. This is not the only time of the year that conferences are conducted. Over the past five years, the number of conferences scheduled during team meeting times have increased drastically and tend to lessen the necessity of the more formally scheduled meetings.

Homer Senior High School Blue Pride Activities
November - 2013

- Junior and Senior females competed in what has become an annual event - the Powder Puff Football Game held this year on November 7th. Over the past 3 years the event has raised nearly \$5000 for Coaches vs. Cancer. We appreciate the support of students, staff and the community for this event.
- The Homer Shakespearean Society will present *King Lear* on November 22 and 23rd. Rehearsals for the musical *Guys and Dolls* are well underway for a March performance.
- Members of the senior class, assisted by Gordon Valentine, are planning for the Semi-Annual Red Cross Blood Drive for staff and students to be held on November 26.

Parents continue to work hard to provide for opportunities for their children and our students. Preparations for the annual Homer – Cortland Cotillion, to be held Saturday, November 30th continue.

- The Environmental Club had another successful camping trip to Highland Forest October 26th and 27th. Thirty-eight students camped out in 34 degree temperatures Costume judging for Halloween, mountain biking, hiking, scavenger hunts and a bonfire. We will be doing it again in the spring! Please see Mr. Nasiatka or Mr. Graves if you are interested in joining.

