

Blue Pride

Homer Elementary/Hartnett Elementary

February 2014

### **Homer Elementary**

I am proud to say that the elementary school has fully implemented an academic Rti model that began on Monday, February 25, 2014. This ½ hour school wide block of time each day is designed to address the academic needs of all our students. Students who need further remediation in language arts will receive direct instruction in small group settings while our students who are enriched will receive challenging research and enrichment curriculum during this block of time as well.

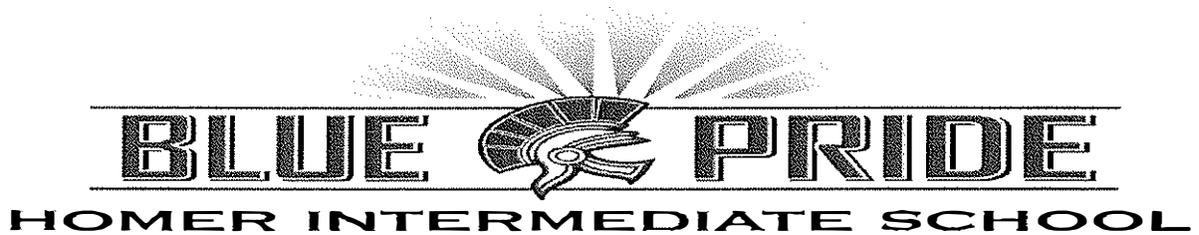
All of this would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of all of our faculty and staff members! Our faculty and staff has put in much time organizing, developing, questioning, discussing, and implementing this model in order to ensure this idea of an Rti block was fully implemented. I am so very proud of their efforts!

### **Hartnett Elementary**

Hartnett had an assembly to celebrate Self-Control throughout the month of January (and the whole year!!) Mrs. Hartnett's first grade class did a fantastic skit to show why it is so important to have self-control. They also sang us an original song about self-control. Each homeroom honored the student that had showed outstanding self-control throughout the month.

On Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, students attended an SCA sponsored movie night. They showed Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2. Many students came to enjoy the movie and had a great time!

On Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, the student council and the students on the basketball team played a game of basketball for the K-3 students. The student council also provided a special treat for the students to enjoy!



**BLUE & PRIDE**  
**HOMER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

February 2014

1. Students in Miss Sam Perkins and Mrs. Laurie Snyder's classes participated in the activities to celebrate the Sochi Winter Olympics. Ms. Nancy Eddy helped to coordinate centers for the students to learn about the Olympics, practice math and more. Thank you to Ms. Perkins, Ms. Sam Perkins' sister, for volunteering to help the students, too!
2. Our Pep Rally for February was again planned and conducted by our PRIDE council! Students were excited to be able to celebrate integrity and introduce honesty for the month of February. Our heroes are excited for the opportunity to participate in the Community PRIDE event coming this month, too.
3. Grade 3 students have been learning the life-time leisure activity- ice skating. Each class visited the McDonald Center with Ms. Patterson and Mr. Barnes.
4. Ms. Priscilla hosted a book chat for students and community members on 1/28/14. Students and teachers attended the chat for Folk Keeper. The grade 5 book club is also reading this text in preparation for the author visit in March. Thank you to the reading teachers for supporting our author visits with the Phillips Free Library.
5. The Intermediate School volleyball team took third place in the social pool at the HEF volleyball tournament as part of Winterfest. We had several first time teammates this year- thanks to the HEF and all the teams for many laughs!
6. Grade 3 students have their art work displayed at the Blue Frog in Cortland. Ms. Jessica Tarry planned the art show to highlight the students' artwork. The project complimented the grade 3 ELA module- frogs! Thanks for all your support.

**Homer Junior High School  
Blue Pride Spotlight Items  
2/25/14 Board of Education meeting**

**Students Attend Naturalization Ceremony**

Twenty-four eighth graders had the unique opportunity to attend a naturalization ceremony earlier this month. As part of their study of immigration in grade eight Social Studies, Jennifer Greenfield and Kim Butts collaboratively planned the trip and accompanied the students to the Cortland County Courthouse on February 7<sup>th</sup>. While there, the group met with State Supreme Court Justice Phillip Rumsey prior to the ceremony where he explained the various components of the ceremony they would be viewing. The students sat in the balcony and were able to watch as more than thirty people from seventeen different countries took the oath of citizenship. After the ceremony, students met with a naturalization supervisor who explained the process that people must go through to become a United State citizen.

**Cortland Youth Bureau Spelling Bee Semi-finals**

The Junior High hosted the CYB Spelling Bee semi-finals on February 12th. Six of the fifteen semi-finalists were from Homer Junior High School, with five of our students moving on to the finals on February 26th at Cortland Junior-Senior High School. Justin Brodeur has done a wonderful job encouraging our students to take part in the competition, with the winner getting the choice between a \$1,000 savings bond, a laptop computer or an I-Pad. Elizabeth Gilbert, Julia Gustafson, Jenna Esposito, Skylar Powers and Brianna Ussery will move onto the finals.

**Junior High “Students of the Month”**

As part of our continuing efforts to recognize positive student behavior and accomplishments, our character development team has instituted “Students of the Month.” Each of the six teams selects one student who has most exemplified the “Above and Beyond” character traits that have become a part of the Junior High experience. Last month, Arpit Atwal., Taber Sunderland, Megan Evangelista, Sheridan Monroe, Elyse Butts, and Joey Tummino were identified by their team of teachers and a short descriptor was read on the morning announcements. The group’s picture was taken and posted on our building television in the main lobby. Students were also given a Blue Pride token to be redeemed in our “Above and Beyond” store.

## High School Blue Pride Activities for February - 2014

### Scholastic Writing Results

The following students have been recognized for their writing in the annual Scholastic Art and Writing awards. They have been selected from tens of thousands of entries at the State level. Those who were awarded Gold Key status move automatically to the national competition. This year's honorees are:

<b>Student</b>	<b>Special Award</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Award</b>
<i>Amanda Cochran</i>		<i>Science fiction/fantasy</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Liam George</i>		<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Alyssa Smith</i>		<i>Science fiction/fantasy</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Freideric Handelman</i>		<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Alice Jenkins</i>		<i>Portfolio/two Short Stories</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Alice Jenkins</i>		<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Alice Jenkins</i>		<i>Science fiction/fantasy</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Alice Jenkins</i>		<i>Writing Portfolio</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Rachel McNeil</i>		<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Rachel McNeil</i>		<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Jordan Laundry</i>		<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>

### Cocoa and Cram

The week of January 21-24, Homer Senior High School Link Crew sponsored its annual "Cocoa and Cram." The event has been an annual event for the last three years with the purpose of helping students study for mid-term exams. Link Crew leaders helped supervise students as well as acted as tutors for those who were interested in getting some extra help.

### SADD and the Wizards

Saturday, January 25, 2014 Homer High School's SADD (Students Against Destructive Decision) had the pleasure of selling concessions at the Harlem Wizards game; they sold hot dogs, brownies, nachos and other assorted snack. SADD's advisor, Michael Massenzio and 15 students were there to help out. Part of the funds SADD received will be donated to Homer's Largest Red Ribbon's fund to benefit the Southern Tier AIDS programs. Student Government also made some half court shots and several of our teachers (Mr. Posiedlik, Mrs. Wakula, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Sorenson and Mr. Allen as Referee) also played in the game.

### Jeans for Teens

Student Government is holding a "Jeans for the Teens" where students can drop off gently used jeans to help children in need. Nationally, the top elementary, middle and high schools will each win \$5,000.00. The school that collects the most jeans will receive the grand prize of \$10,000.00, as well as Aeropastale t-shirts and a party.

### Chili Bowl-off

The second annual chili bowl off was held at Hi-Lanes January. Bowlers from Homer and Cortland paired up with their favorite teachers while parents and teachers competed in a chili cook-off. \$400.00 was raised for the Special Olympics.

### 2014 New York Firefighters Winter Games

Saturday, February 8, 2014 approximately 400 firefighters from 35 departments competed in full gear in winter games at Greek Peak Mountain Resort. The weekend was full of tubing, sled pulling and tug of war, as well as other events was hosted by the Firemen's Association of New York. This year Homer High School student Brooks Champion helped to win a round of tug-of-war and was highlighted in the Cortland Standard. Brooks volunteers with the Cortlandville Fire Department.

### Eagle Scouts

David Guest, Homer High School Senior received his Eagle Scout at the end of January. There are several ranks (from Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout) along with 24 merit badges that they must earn to reach this achievement (with half of the badges being a bit more complex than others). Another requirement to the Eagle Scouts is to demonstrate Leadership by taking on an Eagle Project: David's Eagle Project was to adopt a Highway. He adopted a section of Rte. 222 in the town of Cortlandville.