

## **Homer Elementary School & Hartnett Elementary School**

Parent visitation day occurred on Friday, March 7, 2014 in both the elementary and Hartnett schools. During this visitation our parents were able to visit their child's classroom to observe what a typical ELA, math, or special area class lesson was like. Parents in many cases were exposed to our new curriculum as many questions have been posed over the first several months of school about how we now teach ELA and math. Feedback from parents was positive.

At the elementary we had over 250 parents attend, while at Hartnett over 50 parents attended. The turnout for this event was encouraging as we are always looking for ways to better enhance our school community with more parent involvement.

### **Homer Elementary**

This blue pride recognition serves as a follow up to the prior blue pride report from the last BOE meeting. We are now heading into week 5 of our newly implemented RtI block. Student feedback has been very positive as students enjoy switching classrooms at the end of the day. Our teachers have truly enjoyed this time of the day as well. In order to provide interventions for our students it has taken a little extra work by our teachers and teacher assistants in regard to preparing for the interventions, however all personnel have risen to the occasion and are providing academic interventions for all students. I had a parent approach me on Friday afternoon who attended a session of the RtI block with their child. The parent stated that "this is a game changer for my child" as the parent complimented our efforts and reflected upon how much their child looks forward to the end of the day and the RtI block.

### **Hartnett Elementary**

- On February 27<sup>th</sup>, Hartnett had their annual science fair. Grades K-3 each did an experiment with their homeroom and represented it on display boards. The students had a lot of fun explaining their experiments to the judges. Every student in grades 4-6 did their own science fair project. They put in a lot of time and effort. 6 students will be moving on to the regional science fair at the end of March!
- At the end of February, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders demonstrated for the school what it means to be honest by doing several skits that they created themselves. They worked very hard to develop their skits to show what happens when you are honest and what happens when you are dishonest both in and out of school.
- Hartnett had an assembly to celebrate integrity throughout the month of March. Mrs. Gilbert's 6<sup>th</sup> graders demonstrated what it means to have integrity and did a fantastic job! Each grade level honored the student in each homeroom that showed the most integrity throughout the month.



March 25, 2014

1. Fourth graders got a real Iditarod experience to compliment instruction last week. Mrs. Martin, in cooperation with Seven Valley Reading Council and the SCA, organized some local CNY mushers to visit and demonstrate how sled dogs really work to pull a sled. The Iditarod unit was an exciting way for students to use their close reading, inference and synthesizing skills!
2. Our Pep Rally this month had the addition of a "Minute to Win It" contest amongst the spot lighted students. Our Homer Hero demonstrated the "Booty Scoot" for the students- and the winners were treated to a book thanks to the RIF program.
3. Author Franny Billingsley visited our school on March 13, 2014. Thanks to Priscilla at Phillips Free Library for many opportunities to learn about being an author. Franny visited each school and offered evening programs at the public library. Our 5th graders really enjoyed meeting the author that created the creepy Folk Keeper...
4. Our all-district instrumental concert was a huge success despite the weather! Students were eager to show their skills- it is amazing how far students have come since first learning to open their instrument cases. Our bands have a wide breadth of instruments and many students at each Intermediate level.
5. Thanks to all the school personnel, students and community members for supporting the Elks 3K. Many staff participated to help raise money for youth programming and encourage physical activity.

**Homer Junior High School  
Blue Pride Spotlight Items  
3/25/14 Board of Education meeting**

**Hartnett/St. Mary's Visitation Day**

Twenty-four students from Hartnett Elementary (12) and St. Mary's (12) will be visiting the Junior High on Friday, March 28th. This year will be a bit unique as we have both incoming sixth and seventh graders coming for a visit. They will spend the day shadowing a current sixth or seventh grader to become familiar with the building in anticipation of their attending next fall. The students will also be given a tour of the building by Miss Bell and Mr. Turck as part of their visit.

**Albany New Tech Visit**

Ten staff members from the Junior High, two from Homer High School and Linda Llewellyn will be taking a day-long visit to the Albany New Tech School on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. While there, the staff will be visiting classrooms, meeting with a panel of both staff and students to learn more about the school and the New Tech model, which is centered on project based learning and community partnerships. Lastly, a teacher will walk us through the unit/project based development process.

**JH Career Exploration Day**

The annual Career Exploration Day was held recently at Homer Junior High. Thirty-seven presenters from a wide range of occupations met with students during the morning of March 14th. Eighth grade students rotated to three different presenters after all attended the keynote address from a representative from SUNY Cortland. Students had pre-chosen the occupations they were interested in hearing more about.

All Career Day events were planned by Barbara Bachmann and Stacy Bell. It was a fantastic experience for our kids and gave them some information and lessons that they can lean on into the future.

Additionally, the sixth graders took part in two presentations. Foreign Language staff from the High School met with them to discuss French. They talked about what students should expect to learn and do if they make the choice to take French next year in seventh grade. The students also met with author Franny Billingsley, who spent the week in Homer conducting writing workshops and sharing her love of reading and writing with students. Her visit at the Junior High was made possible by a partnership with the Phillips Free Library.

## High School Blue Pride Activities for March - 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>Alice Jenkins</i>		<i>Writing Portfolio</i>	<i>Silver Medal</i>
<i>Rachel McNeil</i>		<i>Short Story Home</i>	<i>Silver Medal</i>
<i>Monique Sheldon</i>		<i>Drawing the Open Door Policy</i>	<i>Silver Medal</i>

### "Guys and Dolls"

Congratulations to the entire cast, crew, musicians, volunteers and their families for an excellent performance of "Guys & Dolls" held February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Homer High Auditorium.

### Youth and Government –

Thank you to everyone who helped to support the delicious Spaghetti Dinner that was held on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Homer High Cafeteria.

### Red Cross Blood Drive –

A Spring Blood Drive was held Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

### FFA District Career Development Event

Homer FFA members were outstanding at the February 27, 2014 District Career Development Events! The Ag Issues Team of Mary Cope, McKenzie Brown & Hailey Forbes placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hailey Forbes also earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place in CREED speaking & 4<sup>th</sup> in Exempt Oraneous speaking. Mikayla MacNeill placed 4<sup>th</sup> in prepared speaking out of over 30 contestants. Mary Cope also put in a great performance in prepared speaking and Tristin Brown did well in CREED Speaking. Congratulations to all Homer FFA members who took the time and made the effort to improve their speaking ability!

Congratulations to Mikayla MacNeill on being crowned 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate NYS Dairy Princess! Mikayla will be promoting the dairy industry all across New York this coming year. Homer and Cortland County are proud of her!

### Durkee ParkClub Clean-up

The THANCS Club has been doing an ongoing service project to clean-up the Durkee Park and/or give the Community Building a face lift.

### Loaves & Fishes

Students of the THANCS Club, Olivia Harrington, Alex Contento, Jessica Fuller, Jordan Green, Hannah Agate, Mrs. Breneman and Mrs. Durkee, donated two weeks of their time in March to Loaves and Fishes food pantry serving dinners along with volunteering their time at the Bounce House at the Winterfest in February.

### Cortland YMCA Stingers Swim Team-

The following students, Robby Belton, Madysen Eckhardt, Nick Eckhardt, Emily Elliott, Madeline Gallagher and Bradley Keith, participated in the 2014 New York State YMCA Swimming Championships in Ithaca on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. These swimmers have worked long and hard to qualify for this prestigious meet where they swam against other qualified YMCA swimmers from NY State.

### 2014 New York State Youth & Government Conference –

These Homer students joined 600 other teens across the state to experience the branches and programs of our government. Homer students served as attorneys and justices in the Judicial branch and as Bill Sponsors, Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs in the legislative branch. These Homer students held leadership positions at the conference.

- Baylie Goddard – Committee Chair
- Grace Gugerty – Committee Chair
- Erik Gustofson – Secretary of State
- Andrew Jacobi – Justice
- Ali Jenkins – Commissioner of Environmental Protection
- Jas Singh – Justice

Many Homer students were also recognized for their achievements. In addition to several nominated students these delegates received “best” awards, which rewards delegates achievements through a peer voting process.

- Tighe Gugerty – Best Attorney
- Joe Settineri – Best Brief
- Drew Gustafson – Best Debate in the Senate
- Ali Jenkins – Best Debate in Assembly Liberty

*Youth & Government Conference on National Affairs (CONA) –*

Twenty-one students are chosen each year to represent New York State at the National Youth & Government week, the Conference on National Affairs (CONA). This year, Grace Gugerty, Andrew Jacobi and Ali Jenkins were chosen to represent Homer High and New York State at this conference, and Erik Gustofson was chosen as an alternate delegate for the program.

*Blue Pride in the Florida Keys –*

Eleven members (Julia Fouts, Abby Gray, Mary Keefe, Jordan Laundry, Emily Lawrence, Sara McNamara, Brian Mitchell, Steven Novello, Adam Walling, Matt Walling and Sara Willsey) of the Homer High School Environmental Outdoor Education Club traveled to the Florida Keys to learn about the local environment and wildlife.