

## **Blue Pride**

**November 2014**

### **Elementary and Hartnett Schools**

At Homer and Hartnett Elementary, character education is highlighted in several key ways. One of these new programs is called "Citizen of the Month." Teachers and staff members nominate students who consistently demonstrate the following character traits:

**Responsibility, Caring, Respect, Integrity,**

**Kindness, Perseverance, Honesty and Sportsmanship**

Nominated students are acknowledged at the end of each month. Students are awarded at our monthly character development assembly. Students receive certificates and a helper will take pictures of students individually for our lobby display case. Then, all of the winners take a group picture with Mr. McGory and are treated to a pizza lunch.

#### **Citizen-of-the-Month Criteria**

Each month the classroom teacher selects a student for the "Citizen-of-the-Month" program. The following is the criteria for "Citizen-of-the-Month":

- ❖ The child demonstrates good citizenship skills in the way he/she interacts with his/her peers and adults in the school.
- ❖ The child demonstrates knowledge of an understanding of the importance of being a good citizen at school.
- ❖ The child exhibits a positive attitude in carrying out his/her student responsibilities.

**Number of students recognized for this accomplishment for the month of October:**

El – 19 students

HT – 7 students

# Homer Intermediate School Blue Pride Spotlights

November 18, 2014



1. Congratulations to Mrs. Amanda Dembowski for her Apple for the Teacher Award. Her nomination letter was submitted by Ms. Amanda Behnke.
2. Team 3B hosted a delicious Awesome Apple Day. Students cooked and made crafts to celebrate NYS Apples. Thanks you to the parent volunteers for helping make it a successful day.
3. Several teachers are working with Dr. Aldrich and Syracuse University to continue the research began 3 years ago with writing interventions. Initially, grade 3 and grade 4 worked with a PhD candidate on the intervention- now there are teachers implementing the intervention. We are very excited as there are few writing interventions for classroom use.
4. Grade 5 will be visiting Garcia's restaurant as a culminating activity for the ELA unit on *Esperanza Rising*. Students will be sampling food and learning about the Mexican culture while dining. Thanks to the SCA for helping with this special event.
5. Thanks to the SCA for funding author Gail Jarrow to present to Grade 4-5 from HIS and Hartnett. Students will be working together with Mrs. Nachtrieb after the presentation. Ms. Jarrow's newest book is a medical mystery... The information text compliments are ELA instruction in both grades 4 and 5.

**Homer Junior High School  
Blue Pride Spotlight Items  
11/18/14 Board of Education meeting**

**Living History Project**

In Mrs. Flood's art class, students recently completed a Living History Project. This activity brought veterans into school to talk with us about their experiences. After meeting with the veterans, the students created art projects in small groups that were given to them as gifts. The project was a wonderful collaboration between the Junior High and an area adult care facility, the Elizabeth Brewster House. EBH staff transported the residents to our school to enable them to interact with our students and teachers.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher conferences were conducted November 10th at the Junior High. The conferences are scheduled after requests are made by parents of students in the building. 104 conferences took place on Monday. This is not the only time of the year that conferences are conducted. Over the past few years, the number of conferences scheduled during team meeting times have increased drastically and tend to lessen the number of the more formally scheduled meetings.

**Shared Decision Making Committee**

The building's Shared Decision Making Committee continues its discussion on the prospect of moving to a standards-based reporting system. Literature on the topic has been shared with members and problem-solving discussions are being held to gather more information on the critical elements that must be considered when contemplating such a move. At the OCM BOCES Middle Schools meeting in December, we have added this topic as an agenda item. In my preliminary conversations, a number of middle school principals have expressed an interest in forming a study group to work on this issue.

## Homer High School Blue Pride – November 2014

### The Hollow comes to the Homer High School stage

Rehearsals will payoff for students involved in *The Hollow*. Students in the Thespian Society have been rehearsing since the start of school for this fall's dramatic production. The community will have a chance to view the production November 21 and 22 at 7:30pm.

### Winter Musical Theatre is Underway

Casting for the musical performance of *Bye, Bye Birdie* is complete. Look for more information on this winter performance.

### Cortland County Youth of the Year Awards

Cortland Area Communities that Care is proud to announce that it will present the Cortland County Youth of the Year Awards in a ceremony on Tuesday, November 18, 6:30 pm at The CNY Living History Museum. Students were nominated based on one or more of the following four criteria: community involvement, school involvement, character, and personal accomplishments. The award winner will receive a iPad mini for their education. All youth nominated will receive a certificate, goodie bag, and a \$25 downtown gift card. Homer HS student nominees are: **Bill McLaughlin and Emma Murphy**.

### Trojan Football Success

Lots of excitement surrounds the continued success of the Homer Trojan Football team. Some events to help show PRIDE and support for the team include:

- Homer High School staff and students sign banners made by the high school PRIDE council for the team to be displayed at the Section Championship game at the dome. Other district schools participated in other banner making and spirit activities.
- The Homer community bleeds blue! Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> is **Bleed Blue Friday** throughout the greater Homer School community. Given the large turnout at the game at the dome by parents, students, staff, and community members. We expect to see lots of Blue on November 14 in the Homer.
- The Section 3 Class B-West All League Coaches have recognized 18 of our football student athletes. The results include:

#### 1st TEAM Honors

**OFFENSE:** Alec Bush (RB), Anthony Basile (OG), Jayden Gavidia (WR), Drew Cottrell (QB), Matt Suits (Center), Joel Christopher (Kicker) **DEFENSE:** Gage Root (NG), Jake Hayes (DB)

#### 2nd TEAM Honors

**OFFENSE:** Luke Sears (OT), Zach Clark (OT), Dean Riley (TE), Dylan Hotchkiss (OG)  
**DEFENSE:** Dylan Williams-Bachman (LB), Drew Becker (LB), Chris Birchenough (DL), Adam Raymond (DB)

**Honorable Mention:** Cameron Cronk (DB), Luke Miller (OL)

The Homer Staff was the **Coaching Staff of the Year**.

We are very proud of the team and all the team's achievements this season! GO HOMER!!!

### Winter Sports Begin

While our fall season has been extended, winter sports have kicked off and are underway.

### Science teachers attend and present at state conference.

Several science teachers attend the STANYS conference in early November. This state conference for science teachers included a presentation from Homer Master Teacher Rob Nasiatka. Both Mr. Nasiatka and fellow master teacher Tom George were available for discussion with conference attendees about the NYS Master Teacher Program at the program's display booth.