



Blue Pride

Elementary and Hartnett

April 2015

### Homer Elementary School

I am proud to share with you that the Homer Elementary School has created a vision statement to lead us forward into the years to come in the way we approach educating our students! The vision committee surveyed our faculty, staff, parents, and community in attempts to gain feedback in formulating our vision statement. Our vision statement is:

#### **In Our School Community:**

**We build the foundation for life-long learning.**

**We create opportunities that enrich young minds and hearts.**

**We nurture compassion and tolerance in a safe learning environment.**

**We foster independence and leadership.**

**We celebrate Blue PRIDE.**

### Hartnett Elementary School

The Hartnett elementary school sent 12 total students to the regional CNY science fair. Students did very well in presenting and explaining their projects. Parents that attended the event shared that our students represented us well!



Some of the winning topics included: Best Insulators, Fiery Sensation, Germ Warfare, Hovercraft, and Elephant Toothpaste" Front row from left: Steven B., Hunter L., Tanner L., Middle row: Brielle G., Amberle B, Travis S., Liam A. Back row, Anna W, Adrianna G, Sydney O., Sophia S., Sean M.



April 2015

1. We had ten students participate in the Regional Science Fair: Jake Calabro, Jacob Ruebush, Carly Calabro, Hannah Slade, Emily Daniels, Tanner Douglas, Matthew Fagerheim, Andrew Fagerheim, Jonah Campos, and Mitchell Riter. Our students brought home several awards from the Regional Fair. We are very proud at the number of awards that were bestowed on our students. Special thanks to Mrs. Kate Fulton for organizing the science fair.
2. Thank you for supporting our musicians during the All District Concerts. The students did an outstanding job preparing for the event. It is always a pleasure to see the student success in the vocal and instrumental concerts.
3. Thanks to Homer Elks for sponsoring the March Madness 3K. Mrs. Guy was the race director and promoted the race for employees and families. There were MANY staff, students and parents from the Intermediate School as well as other buildings that braved the cold to run/walk to support the Elks charities. Thank you for promoting physical activity in our school community.
4. Ms. Patterson, as well as other PE staff, hosted Dr. Naoki Suzuki in cooperation with the SUNY Cortland. Dr. Suzuki visited our school from Japan to learn more about our PE programs. Dr. Suzuki attended the National Conference in Seattle and visited PE programs across the country.
5. Our pep rally this month will spotlight several Homer students in preparation for our Autism Walk. Please attend to see these brave students' presentation for April's theme of acceptance- April 2, 2015 at 2:40 in the Int gym.

**Homer Junior High School  
Blue Pride Spotlight Items  
4/14/15 Board of Education meeting**

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

Forty-one students from Hartnett Elementary and St. Mary's visited the Junior High on Friday, March 27th. They spent the day shadowing a current six and seventh graders to become familiar with the building in anticipation of their attending next fall.

**Fourth Annual Grade 8 Career Fair**

On March 26, the Junior High School hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the building. The day started with keynote speaker Paul Muench, who spoke about the importance of a strong work ethic as the students enter High School. The students spent the rest of the morning in three small group sessions with over forty (40) professionals that came in to share their first hand knowledge on a variety of careers. The careers that were represented ranged from Chemistry to Cosmetology, Marine Biology to Mechanics and Engineering to Electrician.

In the afternoon, a representative from the BOCES program spoke and discussed all of the programs that are available at the McEvoy Campus. The students were then treated to a "What to Wear to School" fashion show highlighting models from our student body. The day was capped off with a dance to celebrate all the students had learned that day!

A big thank you to Barb Bachmann and Stacy Bell for their coordination of the event. It was a fabulous day for our students.

**National Geographic Bee**

Grade 8 student Ben Herman was the local winner of our National Geographic Bee competition held in March. The National Geographic Bee is an annual geography competition organized by the National Geography Society and consists of three levels of competition... school, state and national.

Local winners qualify for the state level competition by taking a written test and scoring in the top one hundred of all students in New York who sit for the exam. Ben successfully qualified to compete in the state level competition held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at the New York State Museum, Cultural Education Center in Albany but was unable to attend due to family and extracurricular commitments.

Thanks to Karen Shirley for her organization of the local Geographic Bee which attracts many students from the Intermediate and Junior High School each year.

## High School Blue Pride Activities for March- 2015

### Homer FFA

The Homer FFA members competed at their District Career Development Events on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at the State Fair Grounds . These events were for FFA members to practice their speaking and presentation skills. The following students won in these categories:

Ag Issues : McKenzie Brown, Emma Murphy & Hailey Forbes

Prepared Speaking: Hailey Forbes

Senior People in Ag: Lauren Fisher

Job Interview: Tristin Brown

Prepared Speaking : Evan Perry

Exempt Speaking: McKenzie Brown

Homer's Ag Issues Team moved on to compete at the Sub–States Contests which was held at V-V-S High School Saturday, March 21, 2015. The Ag Issues Team competed against many other District winners for a chance to compete at the State level in May. Their topic was “Chronic Wasting Disease: and its effects on the environment, other animals and humans. FFA members did not win one of the top two spots at the State level but will be attending the conference at Morrisville College May 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>.

FFA Members traveled to Camp Oswegatchie on March 13 for their Winter Weekend. Members tried out snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, night hiking, winter survival techniques, maple sugaring and team building activities with members from Moravia and Cazenovia Chapters.

### Cortland YMCA Stingers Swim Team

The following students from Homer High School participated in the 2015 New York State YMCA Swimming Championships that was held on Long Island at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in Eisenhower Park March 20-22, 2015.

Madysen Eckhardt, Nick Eckhardt, Emily Elliott, Madeline Gallagher, Michael Gregory, Connor Haldane and Bradley Keith.

These swimmers have worked long and hard to qualify for this prestigious meet where they swam against other qualified YMCA swimmers from NY State.

### Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research

The Boyce Thompson Institute is pleased to offer a summer internship with the Plant Genome Research Program to Lydia Brown. Lydia was selected from a group of nearly 70 applicants. Lydia has been invited to work with a group of scientists and students working at the forefront of plant biology research to protect the environment, improve agriculture and advance human health. This program investigates plants through genome studies and the latest molecular and biochemical techniques. The internship starts June 29<sup>th</sup> and ends August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The Ithaca Garden Club and the National Science Foundation fund this opportunity.

### Center for the Arts

The Center for the Arts sent a letter thanking the Homer students (Connor Haldane, Lindsey Van Duesen, Charlotte Hollenbeck, Tasha Robertson and Marc Harris) for once again helping them with their 4<sup>th</sup> annual opera night and cabaret fundraising dinner that was held Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. These students independently performed their assigned tasks, were very respectful during the aria performances, some members stayed beyond the required 5 hours to make sure the kitchen was spotless and were the best volunteer “waitstaff” so far at this event. This is just an example of the many instances of our students volunteering in the community.