

Hartnett and Elementary School

Blue Pride

May 2015

Hartnett

On Friday May 1st, 7 additional students in grades K-6 were recognized as student citizen's of the month. This past month our building focused on the character trait of acceptance. Students demonstrated character throughout the month by working cooperatively with each other, inviting others to play with groups, and supporting each other through state assessments.

The Hartnett Elementary SCA also sponsored the annual Hartnett Bingo Night during the month of April. The vent was very well attended and parents and students alike enjoyed an evening of fun, food, and friendships.

Elementary

On Friday April 24th, 35 additional students in grades K-2 were recognized as student citizen's of the month. This past month our building focused on inclusion. Students again once demonstrated that helping others and making others feel a part of something bigger than them was the most important thing we can do for each other.

On Friday May 1st, All students participated in a walk-a-thon where we raised funds through our PTO to help support a charity called Mended Little Hearts and our end of the year field trips. This charity raises awareness and helps fund surgical procedures for young children with heart defects. I am very proud of our students in their efforts. Our PTO had a DJ present playing music during our walk-a-thon along with special guests from Mended Little Hearts, the Homer Fire Department, and the National Guard that led laps of our walk-a-thon.



May 2015

1. Our Autism Awareness walk was a huge success. We raised over \$700.00 for Puzzle Solvers through our event. Community members joined our walk and the SCA provided Super Cream ice cream for all the students and staff afterwards. Thank you to the PRIDE council and Character Education committee for organizing the event.
2. Ms. Mack was awarded the TACNY Outstanding Teacher award for her work in the classroom with technology.
3. Mrs. Redenback and Mrs. Durkee have been busy in the community educating the community about ELA and math instruction. They attended an open house at the McDonald Center for CHAMPS, YWCA Bridges for Kids Spring Carnival and SUNY Cortland pre-service teacher classes.
4. Ms. Patterson is teaming up with Cortland County to promote bike safety during P.E. classes. Tizah Tucci-Kamps will be visiting Ms. Patterson's class to educate students about bike helmets and to provide helmets, as appropriate to students.
5. A big thanks for all those that supported the Grade 5 musical. Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Ostrander worked with students and staff to provide a great show for students, families and the community.
6. Mrs. O'Shea and Ms. Ferris worked with grade 4 to present Homer History for the entire grade level. Students took a bus tour, visited the Cardiff Giant, viewed old photos, and heard stories about Homer's early history as part of the day. Congratulations to Valerie Mayo for winning the Homer History writing contest.
7. Ms. Priscilla, Phillips Free Library, continues to support our students. She visited classrooms, Mrs. Shirley, Mrs. Stevens, and Mrs. Barrett's to talk about the summer reading program and will host visits to the library for students to receive FREE books for the summer!

**Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
5/12/15 Board of Education meeting**

Eighth Annual Class Night

The eighth annual Class Night was held last Friday night at the Junior High. This SCA family event pitted students from seventh and eighth grade against each other as they competed in a variety of events to determine the 2015 Class Night champion.

Families brought in canned foods as their entrance fee to the evening. We collected 630 canned foods/boxed items that were donated to very appreciative area food pantries. Activities included: Karaoke, Heads Up!, Cross-fire, Pictionary, Photography, and Electronic Trivia. During the last activity session, students looked on as parents and teachers competed in some very entertaining activities that demonstrated why we have day jobs and don't rely on our athletic ability to earn a living.

Science Club Fieldtrip to Raquette Lake

Forty-two Science Club members and their chaperones are headed to SUNY Cortland's Outdoor Education Center at Raquette Lake on May 15-17. Club advisers Jim Barry and Kevin Douglass have planned an aggressive and highly educational three days of activities that will have students engaged with the wonders of the Adirondacks. Students will be hiking, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. An outdoor ropes course will test their mettle and educational programming will challenge their mind as they learn about the history of the great Adirondack camps. Each year, this trip is a highlight of the Science Club's activities and surely provides experiences that will last a lifetime.

Pit Fire Reported at Homer Junior High!

Lauren Flood and her art students conducted a very exciting activity earlier this week. They created clay pottery that was fired in trash cans that served as kilns. To view the process of pit firing...check out Lauren's YouTube video by copying and pasting the address below in YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1J4BL6J1U8&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1&safe=active

High School Blue Pride Activities for April- 2015

Spanish Students Traveled to Costa Rica

Mrs. Zimmerman's upper-level Spanish students traveled to Costa Rica on April 1 for fifteen days. While there, they lived with families, studied at Intensa Language Institute and carried out community service projects. One day, the students spent the day cleaning, painting, and playing with the children at the Institute. This day was one of the favorites! The paint, supplies, several board games, soccer balls, crayons and chalk were donated by the High School International Club!! Through this Study Abroad program the students were able to see the language and culture that they have studied in a real and personal way. Through the community service project they saw the positive impact that their hard work had in the lives of the adults and the children involved with the children center. These students were excellent representatives of Homer High School! - See more at: <http://www.homercentral.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=670#sthash.us0Y6DLs.dpuf>

New York State School Music Association

The New York State School Music Association awarded Zackary Sovocool an "Award in Recognition" of his selection for the Conference All-State Performing Group as an alternate.

National Technical Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held Thursday, April 30th at OCM BOCES McEvoy Campus. The goal of National Technical Honor Society is to recognize deserving students who have chosen technical education pathways to a successful future. The Homer High School students that were honored included:

Culinary Arts

Lauren Fisher
Emily Stupke

New Visions Environmental Science

McKenzie Brown
Lucia Ferro
Grace Gugerty

New Visions Medical

Hiland Bush
Kiersten Hawks
Taylar Williams

Welding

Brett Barden
Robert Conger

Band Trip to Boston

Homer High School band and choirs traveled to Boston on April 16-19 for the "Festivals of Music," an event that brought together bands and choirs from the US and Canada to compete against each other. In our school classification, the Concert Band took 5th place, Concert Choir and Men in Black in came in 2nd, Blue Notes, Ruby Rhythms, and Chamber Choir all came in first place with Ruby Rhythms earning a superior rating. In addition, Kate Halstead was named overall outstanding vocal soloist. Homer also won the Tim Lautzenheiser award which is given to the school with the most positive support for others as well as exemplary behavior. Mr. DiGennaro and Mrs. K-B McLaughlin would like to take this opportunity to thank the Homer music community for their help and support.

Prom and All Night Party –

The Prom and All Night Party were held on May 2, 2015. The Prom was held at Tinelli’s Hathaway House in Solon and a great night was had by all. This year’s King and Queen were; Dean Riley and Alex Contento.

The All Night Party was held at J.M. McDonald Sports Complex and was also a great evening with everyone having a lot of fun.

National Honor Society Induction

The National Honor Society held their induction ceremony Monday, May 4, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at the Homer Junior High in the Bonne’ Auditorium. The new inductees include:

Nicholas Barnard	Anthony Levitskiy
Anthony Basile	Hilary Luety
Robin Baumeister	Stephanie McGory
Julia Brazo	William McLaughlin
Lydia Brown	Sara McNamara
Lucy Connery	Mara Nasiatka
Andrew Cottrell	Meghan Rahner
Sarah Denkenberger	Dean Riley
Nicholas Dentes	Marissa Sackett
Katherine Fuller	Shannon Spencer
Ryan Gabriel	Daniel Turck
Grace Gugerty	Nathaniel Ulrich
Bradley Keith	Tyler Wallace
Stephanie Kristof	Elizabeth Walter
Bradley Laman	Emilie Whittington
Erin Leach	Sophie Whittington

Several students will be inducted into the National Honor Society in the Fall, Congratulations to: Emily Groulx, Nicholas Guerrera, Tyler Holcomb and Zachary Sovocool, who were fall inductees.

Catholic Charities of Cortland County

The Think Again Group (TAG), a program of Catholic Charities, has again asked for help in identifying members of the community who demonstrate the notion that “Mindfulness Matters”. They were seeking nominations in several categories to recognize individuals and businesses for the promotion of important values in mental health such as wellness and recovery. Nominations were due by May 1st. Mr. Cortese nominated Josh Thompson for the Youth Category – “for an adolescent (peer or ally) who leads by example in promoting the values of acceptance and strives to reduce stigma”. Josh Thompson will receive this award at the “Mindfulness Matters” recognition ceremony on Wednesday, May 13 at the annual Cortland Mental Association Dinner, Ramada Inn Cortland.

Conference in Albany

Two local High School students (one from Homer – Harmony Johnson) will be attending the League of Women Voters in Albany on May 17th -20th. Homer High School Senior Harmony Johnson will meet students from all across New York and state government officials. The conference is designed to increase students’ awareness of their responsibility in representing government. Harmony is active in community service activities. She has volunteered at CRMC and St. Margaret’s Church. She has helped with Amateur Athletic Union sporting events and the ghis school musical production costuming team. Both students are sponsored by the local Cortland County LWV, Zonta International and AAUW.