



Blue Pride

Homer Elementary School

September 2015

Our Blue PRIDE moment for the month of September is an acknowledgement to all of our faculty and staff for their work in having our building ready for its opening day with students.

Melanie Ensign and her crew truly have our building looking in great shape. Our building has mirror like floors, clean smelling classrooms, new paint within the building, and the curb appeal of the building have caused many positive comments from parents and community members.

Our teachers and staff were in during the summer months getting their classrooms and work areas ready to absorb our students. Their efforts have made our students feel welcomed and safe while in our building.

Sue Downes is a magician at times. She balances so much and always finds a way to get the job done prior to our students starting. I am fortunate to have her here in our building.

My own "A-Team" of Seth Aldrich and Emily Lalone taking the necessary time to plan with me for students who need additional supports in place and getting those in place for teachers.

It has been a great start because of our entire team!



September 2015

1. We are proud to be a SUNY Cortland Professional Staff Development (PSD) School in the Intermediate-Junior High Schools (grade 3-6). We are hosting 10 MST students as practicum students (150 classroom hours) then as student teachers in the third quarter. Their professor, Dr. Benton, will be in our school each week and students will be conducting action research related to assessment under her direction. Because we are a PSD school, all of our teachers will be eligible for free staff development at the college, we will receive a stipend for our schools, and host teachers are also given special privileges at the college. We are excited to have been chosen to be part of this program for service to our students as well as the teaching profession.
2. PRIDE council is ready to begin our new school year. We had our first pep rally on September 11, 2015. Thank you to Officer Lake for coming to help welcome our new students. Our committee and council are looking to grow our community partners to make our school a great place to work and learn.
3. Open School Night was well attended. Each classroom was open for students and families to find classrooms and friends before school began. There were many staff members in attendance to welcome families to our school. Thank you to all that attended this event!
4. Hartnett students, families and staff have been welcomed into the Intermediate School. Many of the families were able to attend the Open School Night and/or came in during the week (previous to school opening) to find classrooms before school began. We look forward to learning more about our new staff and students throughout the school year.

Homer Junior High

Blue Pride Spotlight Items

9/22/15 Board of Education meeting

Local Family and Consumer Sciences Leadership

Barb Bachmann was appointed to the position of area coordinator for the central NY chapter of New York State Association of Family and Consumer Science Educators (NYS AFCSE). The area coordinator will work with the Vice-President of the organization to keep their area up to date with the functioning of the organization and keep their membership abreast with current issues in their curriculum area. The coordinator is also responsible for the monthly meetings for the area and to create professional development programs for the meetings. The coordinator will also participate in Executive Board meetings that will take place in Albany three times a year. During these meetings the group will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from NYSED to continue to working on curriculum updates.

Modified Sports Participation

113 Junior High students are participating in five modified sports teams (field hockey, girls and boys soccer, girls and boys cross-country, and football) this fall. This represents 35% of the student population.

Conservation Field Days

Grade six students and staff traveled to Camp Owahta last Friday to attend the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District's Conservation Field Days. Established on May 1, 1946 to promote the conservation and wise use of our county's natural resources, the event provides an educational opportunity for local 6th grade students to gain an appreciation for the natural environment and the need for continued conservation efforts.

Local and state conservation specialists, public service organizations, environmentalists, and volunteers donate their time, energy, and expertise every year to provide presentation and hands on learning activities for students.

High School Blue Pride Activities for Summer - 2015

Village of Homer Clean up Day

Mayor Suits sent a letter thanking the Homer High School students who were involved in the Village Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 9, 2015. These students participated in two hours of community service raking, shoveling, pulling and hauling out branches, picking up garbage and debris was greatly appreciated.

The students that participated include:

| | | | |
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| Ethan Stiles | Blake Allen | Jake Riley | Kevin Bush |
| Isac Burroughs | Zach Barber | Dalton Beck | Jack Walter |
| John Horner III | Lars Roos | Max Riley | Noah Goddard |
| Cameron Perks | Dante Yacavone | Jacob Morenus | |
| Justin Wainwright | Dom Natale | Dan Hale | |
| Ethan Whittington | Daniel Fox | Stephen Walter | |
| Hunter O’Gorman | Tucker O’Donnell | Luke Sears | |
| Jared Berry | Vincent Basile | Bryce Haines | |
| Juan Carlos Kern | Owen Ryan | Mike Turck | |

Homer’s Parade Band and Pep Performances

- Homer’s Parade Band performed at the Village of Homer’s Memorial Day remembrance ceremony May 25th as well as the Dairy Parade June 2nd and the Homer Fireman’s Field Day Parade June 6. Pep Band made its 2015 debut at the Homer Cortland Football Game on September 11. Both bands bring the spirit of music and community to each event they perform.

August 2015 Graduates

- Five students completed requirements for high school diplomas as of August. Congratulations to Brandon Barrow, Nate Bishop, Gage Eldred, Bridget Hulbert, and Eric Rowley!

Eagle Scout Recognition

- David Fein was recognized at a ceremony on September 20, 2015 for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

NYS Fair Activities

- Tristan Brown, Hailey Forbes and Emma Murphy all participated at the NYS Fair, presenting at the FFA Building. Hailey was also active in her role as a Cortland County Dairy Princess Alternate. Tristan won his showmanship class during the NYS Beef Show at the Fair.

Students Participate at State Fire Training Day for Youth

- Bridget, Francesca and Zachary Huibert traveled to Albany to participate in FASNY’s annual statewide training day for Youth in the Fire Service. The 3 students volunteer as members of the Preble Fire Department.