



Blue Pride

Homer Elementary School

January 2016

At the beginning of this school year I visited with our 2nd grade classrooms to ask students to help me during the school year by modeling appropriate behaviors for our younger students. When meeting with our 2nd graders I asked them to tell me what BLUE Pride means and how they can demonstrate that each day. Students shared many on task responses which demonstrated to me that they are very aware of our school rules and expectations. I am proud to say that our 2nd graders took my visit very seriously and have been awesome role models for our younger students in grade 1 and Kindergarten. I have observed 2nd grade students walking appropriately in the hallway, helping younger students during the day, demonstrating random acts of kindness, and playing nicely at recess together just to name a few things they are doing each day to help me in modeling appropriate behaviors in our building! I am proud of their efforts and recognize them each month at our character development assemblies for their willingness to help me out!

Speaking of character and 2nd grade taking to heart what we had discussed at the beginning of the year, Brylee Darnell in Mrs. Berthelot classroom demonstrated BLUE PRIDE with a very random act of kindness this past month. Brylee had heard about people donating their hair for the creation of wigs for youth who are battling cancer and undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Brylee took it upon herself and told her mother that she would like to donate her hair to this cause. Brylee's mother set up an appointment with a local hairdresser and Brylee had her long flowing hair cut to a bob. We are so very proud of Brylee and her decision to demonstrate BLUE Pride outside of the walls of our building!



January 26, 2016

1. Madelynn Lellig in Mrs. Guy's class made care packages for US troops during the holiday season. She collected and purchased items with money she had earned.
2. Congratulations to fifth graders Aaron Lener and Mathew Fagerheim for their participation in the second round of the Geography Bee for the Intermediate/JH Schools. There were 180 participants in the first round and 11 in the second. The participation in the first round was outstanding for 4th and 5th graders. Mathew Fagerheim is the winner of the Homer Geography Bee!
3. We are preparing for our annual science fair... this year we have added a social studies competition, too. Students now have a choice to complete a science or social studies project. Mrs. Fulton and Mrs. Higgins are working together to make this a new academic opportunity for students. We are proud to share that both the Phillips Free Library and Living History Museum are helping with the event.
4. Ms. Priscilla continues with providing grade 5 students with a book each month. Students receive a free book and eat their lunch as a group. We are thankful that Ms. Priscilla has pursued this opportunity for students through grant writing.
5. Mr. Kirkwyland and Ms. Eddy are working together to offer math club for students in grades 3-5. Ms. Eddy has been offering this since her retirement and we are happy to have Mr. Kirkwyland assisting with the club.
6. The students in Mrs. Sumner's class would like to sincerely thank all who bought cat and dog treats to help raise money for CNY Snap. This year the students raised \$121.00 which will be given to CNY Snap to help animals in need.
7. Grade 4 students and teachers are learning coding and basic computer programming with Mr. Nick Lefort. Students are learning perseverance, critical thinking and math skills as well as ELA skills during the sessions. One teacher commented that students are being successful with math tasks during coding that they have struggled with during math centers. There are now many friendly competitions amongst students and adults!

**Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
1/26/16 Board of Education meeting**

Cortland Youth Bureau Spelling Bee Semi-finals

The Junior High will be hosting the CYB Spelling Bee semi-finals on Wednesday, February 24th at 9:30 a.m. in the Bonne Auditorium. Each year, more than half of the participating students are from Homer Junior High! We are extremely proud of the number of students we have participating in this annual competition and look forward to seeing who will move on to the finals that will take place in March at Cortland Junior-Senior High School.

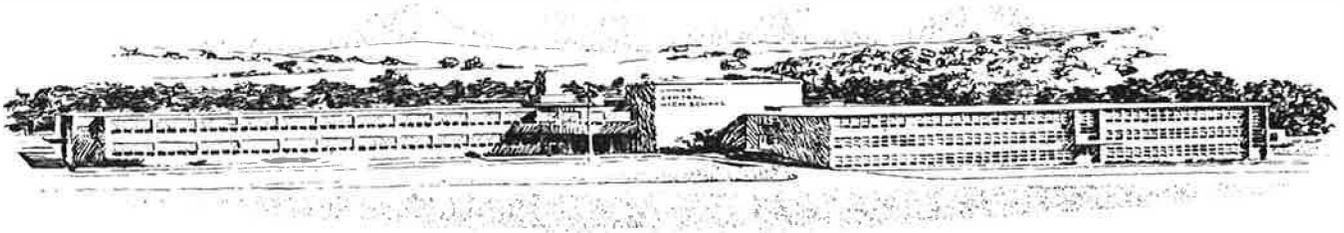
Digital Footprint Study

In grade eight Home and Careers, students have begun studying about their digital footprint, and the effects that it can have on their career and future plans. Mrs. Bachmann has begun to talk to students about their social media use and just what is available for public consumption. Additionally, they are learning about some of the misconceptions people have about the permanency of digital content, and how to protect yourself against having an online presence that may cast you in a negative light.

Science Club Trip to Raquette Lake

The club made their annual trek to Raquette Lake Outdoor Education Center in the Adirondacks on January 22-24. Twenty-one seventh and eighth graders made the trip this year, and had a wonderful experience. On the way to Raquette Lake, the group hiked Rondaxe (Bald) Mountain. While at Camp Huntington, the students took part in outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and taking a plunge into the lake after a nice hot sauna! Additionally, the students participated in indoor educational programs focusing on hypothermia and hyperthermia, and the history surrounding the great camps of the Adirondacks.

Two new adult attendees this year included both of our seventh grade science teachers, Tom George and Katie Besler. They joined Kevin Douglass, Billie MacNeill and Donna Farkas in supervising the fine group of students.



HOMER HIGH SCHOOL BLUE PRIDE ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 2015 AND JANUARY - 2016

Boys & Girls Varsity Basketball

Both the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball Teams were asked to play in a fundraiser with Oneida and Rome on November 27, 2015. The boys team won and beat Rome Free Academy and the girls won and beat Oneida. All the proceeds of this event went directly to the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, Syracuse NY.

Homer High School Music Events

- On November 6 & 7, 2015 several students from the Homer School District performed in the Junior High All-State Concert at Cortland Jr./Sr. High. Ninth grader Adam Brown performed the Tuba with the Wind ensemble.
- The Tompkins/Cortland County All-County High School Band for the first time ever performed on November 20 & 21, 2015 with Kennedy George playing the Euphonium, Ana Shore on Tuba, Allison Osterhoudt played the trumpet, Strawberry Wilcox played alto sax and Noah Kilmer on tenor sax.
- On November 13, 2015 Homer Band Students, Mikaela Elkins, Kate Halstead, Rowan Travis, Drew Gustafson and JenniEllen Withers attended a Drum Circle Workshop in Tully. A Drum Circle is any group of people playing (usually) hadn-drums and percussion in a circle. They are distinct from a drumming roup or troupe in that the drum circle is an end in itself rather than preparation for a performance. Drum Circles can range in size from a handful of players to circles with thousand of participants. Congratulations to all of our Band members.
- Festive Holiday Concerts occurred in December highlighting student efforts in the first semester.

Bridges for Kids

The YWCA offers a program called Bridges for Kids. This program is a mentoring program for children ages 5-12. Trained adult volunteers provide enrichment experiences designed to build self confidence and resiliency skills. We received a thank you note this January from the YWCA thanking the school for the donation of books that the Class of 2015 collected before their graduation last year. The YWCA was able to give books out to 189 kids this Christmas. The Class of 2015 is to be commended for the donation of the great gift of books to read!

Homer Girls' Varsity Basketball

On December 2, 2016 the girls' varsity team and coaching staff hosted a skills clinic for some of Homer's future players. The younger girls currently play in the Homer Recreation Department's basketball program. Thanks to the varsity team for mentoring and supporting our younger girls. It was a win-win for all.

Academic Planning for 2016-2017 School Year

Academic planning for the 2016-2017 school year has begun. School counselors have been meeting with students in grades 8-11 to discuss a course options for the upcoming school year. Scheduling should begin with our Juniors before February vacation.

Liberty Partnership Program

The Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP), was established in 1988 to address the dropout rate of New York's youth. Homer Central Schools has been invited to reestablish its membership in the SUNY Cortland LPP consortium. The structure of our program has changed since we were last in Homer when it was an afterschool homework program run by Homer school personnel. The new structure places a teacher in the school for 3-4 days a week to work with students who meet one or more of the risk factors. SUNY Cortland LPP recently received additional funding to increase the number of students to whom we can offer services to. We look forward to this renewed partnership!

SUNY Cortland Pre-Service Teacher Tutor Partnership

SUNY Cortland continues to look for opportunities for pre-service teachers to gain experience working with students and also contribute positively in the local community. A need for math and science tutors in our learning lab in afternoons prompted a conversation with SUNY Cortland on ways to work together to fill the needs of all of our students.

Beginning in the second semester, SUNY Cortland Math and Science students will be assisting Homer High School staff in our learning lab working with students in small groups. They will also observe in Math or Science classrooms to receive an opportunity to observe direct instruction. We are excited about the benefit for students and the potential for growth this new partnership holds!

Upcoming Events:

- January 26-29th Regents Exams
- February 5th & 6th Hs Area All-State at Ithaca College
- February 15-19 Winter Recess