



HIGH SCHOOL BLUE PRIDE ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH - 2016

Success at the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

The following students have been recognized for their writing in the annual Scholastic Art and Writing awards. They have been selected from tens of thousands of entries at the State level. Those who were awarded Gold Key status move automatically to the national competition. This year's honorees are:

<i>Student</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Award</i>
<i>Lauren Kiley</i>	<i>Painting</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Joe Brady</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Meagan Condie</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Wendi Contento</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Marleah Dentes</i>	<i>Mixed Media</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Anna Gugerty</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Brent McNeil</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Rachael Osterhoudt</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Lauren Kiley</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Kristen Rahner</i>	<i>Photography</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Jack Bancroft</i>	<i>Photography</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Nathan Cottrell</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Megan Evangelista</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Reno Gaffney</i>	<i>Sculpture</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Kennedy George</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Abby Gray</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Abby Gray</i>	<i>Photography</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Isabelle Hart</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Brent McNeil</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Travis Rowan</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Tessa Yonta</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Kristen Rahner</i>	<i>Photography</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Anna Gugerty</i>	<i>Photography</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Marleah Dentes</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Kate Halstead</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Isabelle Hart</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Natasha Kanichuk</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Brent McNeil</i>	<i>Sculpture</i>	<i>Silver key</i>
<i>Tanner Stone</i>	<i>Drawing & Illustration</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Tanner Stone</i>	<i>Sculpture</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>

Student	Category	Award
<i>Chandler Champion</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Gold Key</i>
<i>Samantha Shephard</i>	<i>Poetry</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Meghan McGrath</i>	<i>Personal Essay/Memoir</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Tianna Brown</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Kennedy George</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Andrew Jacobi</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Alex Levitsiy</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Samantha Robbins</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Silver Key</i>
<i>Jonah Lightaul</i>	<i>Personal Essay/Memoir</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Maddie Gallagher</i>	<i>Personal Essay/Memoir</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Victoria Shevchuk</i>	<i>Personal Essay/Memoir</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Eden Dodge</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Tighe Gugerty</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Sarah Jensen</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Brenton Newcomb</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Joe Settineri</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>
<i>Tim Swenson</i>	<i>Short Story</i>	<i>Honorable Mention</i>

Youth and Government

Youth and Government extends a thank you to everyone who helped to support the delicious Spaghetti Dinner that was held on Monday, March 7th in the Homer High Cafeteria. It was another great success and helps fund a variety of the group's activities.

The 2016 Youth & Government State Conference was held March 10-13 in Albany. This year was a very special one for Homer students as the Youth Governor, Andrew Jacobi, was one of their own. Prior to the conference, Governor Andrew Jacobi, along with his Chief of Staff Jordon Laundry, met with his Cabinet to review proposed legislation for the State Conference. They reviewed 101 bills that have been written by teens from all over the state of New York.

Governor Jacobi delivered his State of the State Address in the New York State Assembly Chamber to the Assemblies, Senate, and other guests. Along with Jordon, Andrew was selected to the Conference on National Affairs. Seniors find it very difficult to be selected as out of 530 teens only 21 are chosen. Andrew returns to Nationals for the third time and Jordon for the second. Also selected to attend this week long conference was sophomore Chris DeLage. In addition Matt Walling, who served as a committee chair this year was selected as an alternate for the National Conference. The Homer Delegation was also selected as premier district once again. Judicial students all won their cases and the bill sponsors were all ranked high on the docket in Chambers.

Youth & Government is a mock state government that encompasses all three branches of government. Within the legislative branch,, students are researching, writing, and speaking on legislation. In the judicial branch, students are writing briefs and arguing law. The executive branch led by Governor Andrew Jacobi and assisted by his Cabinet decided whether to sign or veto legislation

FBLA, Future Business Leaders of America

FBLA students competed in regional competitions on Friday, February 5th at Bryant and Stratton College in Syracuse for the first time! Competitions included exams in business mathematics, entrepreneurship, personal finance, hospitably management, sports management and much more! Bringing only 13 students, they brought home 15 plaques! Congratulations go out to Ryan Aylesworth (1), Shannon Cole (1), James Denkenberger (1), Olivia Harrington (2), Ashley Lee (2), Kuerstin Markely (3), Jerrad Reiner (1), Hannah Shattuck (2), and Ian Stoddard (2).

Homer FFA

Global Governmental Awareness Institute

Four Homer FFA members traveled to Albany to participate in the Global Governmental Awareness Institute co-sponsored by NY FFA and NY Farm Bureau. Emma Murphy, Hailey Forbes, Niles Jenney and Reno Gaffney met with both Assemblyman Gary Finch and their Senator James Seward to discuss important issues concerning NY Agriculture and Agricultural Education. They also witnessed a News Conference headed by Senator Patty Richie to bring attention to the importance of these two areas and announcing the Senate was re-instating all monies for Agriculture in the budget. Several farmers and a FFA member spoke. Numerous leadership workshops were held, NYFFA members were recognized during a Senate session and Homer FFA members had the opportunity to network with other FFA members from across the state. We also toured the New York State Museum! A big thank you to Homer's Board of Education and Cortland County Farm Bureau for making this trip possible.

Cortland County Ag Celebration

Homer FFA also attended the Cortland County Ag Celebration with their Advisor Kathy Pratt and Superintendent Nancy Ruscio. Tristin Brown, Hailey Forbes, Niles Jenney and Emma Murphy represented Homer FFA at this annual fest celebrating the strength, versatility and importance of agriculture in Cortland County!

Annual Ag Literacy Day

Homer FFA celebrated by reading to Homer Elementary 2nd graders - a book about apples. A copy of this year's book selection was donated to the Elementary Library. Everyone enjoyed eating nutritious apples donated by Anderson's Farm Market! A special thank you to Niles Jenney and Tom Spinner (Homer sophomores and FFA members) for helping with Agricultural Literacy in Homer Schools!

Homer Students Wins at Dance Competition

Jenna Galeotti performed in eight dances at competition on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Three out of the eight earned her a special invite to the Elite Dance Challenge National Competition. One dance won her the title and crown of Miss Elite! This is a huge accomplishment Jenna as it is something she has dreamed of being crowned at a dance competition since she was a little girl.

High School Musical "South Pacific"

The Homer High School Musical "South Pacific" was held March 4&5 at the Bonne' Auditorium and was a huge success! This beloved Rodgers and Hammerstein show centered around two parallel love stories. Set during World War II in a tropical paradise, the story dealt with racial prejudice, fear, separation, and, of course, romance. The students rehearsed for weeks and were ready to entertain!

High School Quiz Team

The High School Quiz Team has passed the preliminary rounds, and have made it as one of the top 8 teams in the annual tournament conducted at TC3. The team had a 2-1 record to advance. The team is comprised of primarily seniors, with an array of expertise in history, geography, math, and the sciences. The outcome will be on the next Blue Pride.

**Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
3/22/16 Board of Education meeting**

JH Math Competition

On Saturday, February 27th, a group of Homer Junior High students competed in the MATHCOUNTS Competition, held at Onondaga Community College. MATHCOUNTS is an organization founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and CNA Foundation.

There are four levels to this competition- school, chapter, state and national. February's competition was the Chapter Series and the group will be advancing to the State Competition on March 19th at RPI near Albany. Homer students that competed were (6th Graders) Rishi Aeleti, William Dady, Gavin Linton, Conor Powers., Brandon Stevanus, and (8th Grader) Andrew Fagerheim.

Homer students placed first, second, third, fourth, sixth and eighth in the competition, and they all will be advancing. This is the first time Homer Junior High competed in a math competition and to qualify for States on the first time is an impressive feat. Congratulations to our students and a big thank you to Renee DeCarlo, the Junior High faculty advisor who prepared the students and accompanied them to both competitions.

April 1st Career Day

The annual Grade 8 Career Exploration Day will take on a new twist this year. More than thirty business leaders from our community, along with numerous CTE instructors from BOCES will descend on the BOCES-McEvoy campus to meet with our eighth graders on Friday, April 1st.

This collaborative effort is spearheaded by Barbara Bachmann and Stacy Bell and gives students the opportunity to explore career options that are of interest to them. We are excited about this year's event and have worked closely with Chris DiFulvio, principal of the CTE program at BOCES- McEvoy to plan the day's activities.

Culinary students from BOCES will be preparing the lunch for our students and staff on site, which will provide them the opportunity to apply what they are learning in their program. It proves to be a fantastic experience for all involved.



March 2016

1. On Thursday, February 25, 2016, over 200 marvelous Science/Social Studies projects were on display at the 9th Annual J. Oechsle Homer Intermediate Science/Social Studies Fair! 5th grade student Matthew Fagerheim received the grand prize for being selected as the winner for his Social Studies project 'The Importance of Fort Stanwix.' Four exceptional science projects will be competing at the Regional Science Fair sponsored by the Museum of Science and Technology in Syracuse completed by Mitchell Riter, Aaron Lener, Kayla Crump and Jonah Campos.
2. Most of the Intermediate teachers have applied to be part of the Smithsonian Science Education's field testing with new NGSS aligned units. The program includes one unit of 7-9 lessons and staff development to support the materials.
3. Check out the Intermediate web-page! Ms. Morse has been working with teachers, SCA, and other staff to update our webpage to be more of a resource for parents, students, and the community.
4. We are very proud of our instrumental music students for their performances at the district concert to celebrate music in our schools.



Blue Pride

Elementary School

March 2016

☺ Mrs. Susie Urban, a grade 1 teacher at the Elementary School was recognized on March 8, 2016 (International Women's Day) by the Zonta Club of Cortland for her work with children and women within our community. Mrs. Urban was nominated by a community member for this award that recognizes the work Mrs. Urban has done to improve the lives of women and children within our community. The award was presented by Lisa Atkinson (pictured with Mrs. Urban) who represents the Zonta Club of Cortland. Great job Mrs. Urban! We are proud of you!

☺ Second graders at the Elementary School have begun learning to code. When asked how it was going, classroom teacher Mrs. Keefe said, "I loved it! They loved it! The kids even took time during indoor recess to revisit the website to try to do more." Over the past eight weeks, Homer's Technology Integration Specialist Nick LeForte has worked with all fourth grade students to this point and is currently working with second graders. Students and teachers at both grade levels have found computer coding activities both fun and challenging.

☺ Our PTO was able to sponsor \$5,100 in teacher mini-grants for our building teachers. Teachers wrote grants for items that were not supported within our school budget. One of those items that Mr. Chad Totman wrote a grant for were new speakers for our building to be used during assemblies. These new speakers project quality sounds throughout the gymnasium during these assemblies. Thank you to the PTO and Chad for making these new speakers a reality for our building!