



Homer Elementary School

Blue PRIDE

BOE

April 18, 2016

☺ Physical Education teachers Mr. Ferrito, Mrs. Cook, and Mr. Totman created a student learning opportunity that brought students back into the days of disco! In collaboration, our three physical education teachers installed a disco ball and lighting for a unit where students learned to incorporate dance moves and exercise all at the same time. The unique thing about this unit was that students did not even realize that they were reaping the benefits of exercise as they truly believed it was just a dance party! This is an excellent example of how to engage all students! I believe I even saw a few teachers joining in along with myself!

☺ I am so proud of our faculty and staff for stepping up to the plate during my extended absence. Numerous personnel contributed to duties that were outside of the expectations of their job descriptions. Members of our administrative team also stepped in to take the lead as administrator in the building. Great job to everyone and thank you for all of the support that was given to me and my family during this difficult time!

☺ The PTO sponsored book fair was a huge success this past March. The fair was held for three consecutive days at the Elementary School in unison with our RIF (Reading is Fun) program where all students received a new book to read even if they were not able to afford one from the book fair itself. Great job to our PTO for organizing this event year in and year out!



April 2016

1. Mrs. Durkee's TEAM group, Achieve3000, has again won the National Read 2 Succeed contest. They will be joining us at the next meeting to talk to you about their successes this school year.
2. The 5th grade musical "Pirates!" was a huge success. Congratulations to Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Ostrander. Thank you to parents for their support and time.
3. Ms. Priscilla, Phillips Free Library, again was awarded a grant to host an author visit to our school Kenneth Oppel visited with grade 5 and even had a student introduction. Students were excited to meet Ken as their book club had recently read one of his books.
4. The SCA sponsored a local musher to visit with grade 4. Students learned about the Iditarod as well as the care of dogs and equipment used for dog sledding. Classes followed the race and current events related to the race. Students were saddened by the loss/injury of dogs this year during the endurance event.
5. There was a large group from the district that participated in the Homer Elks 3K on March 26, 2016. Many families and school staff participated on the chilly morning to raise money for the Elks programming for children.
6. NYS math and ELA testing is completed. We are participating in the computer-based (CBT) field testing this school year. We are anxious to be able to start planning for the state's transition to CBT. Grade 4 teachers have transitioned to a typing program now that coding has been completed with Mr. Lefort to better prepare students for the testing and the use of Chrome Books for daily assignments.

**Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
4/18/16 Board of Education meeting**

JH Orientation

Orientation for our incoming sixth graders was held April 13th. The night consisted of a 45-minute informational session that began at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Teachers from each of the content areas spoke to parents and discussed highlights of the curriculum. A wide range of topics were discussed that included information about the daily schedule, secrets to success and the best ways to communicate with staff to help ensure a positive junior high experience. Each family was asked to complete a program survey detailing their level of satisfaction with the information shared during the evening. Responses were very positive. Parents were also asked to give us recommendations for additions to the program. We will look to incorporate those into future presentations.

Ninth Annual Class Night

The ninth annual Class Night will be held Friday, May 6th at the Junior High. This SCA family event pits students from seventh and eighth grade against each other as they compete in a variety of events to determine the 2016 Class Night champion.

The SCA will be manning the concession stand complete with baked goods supplied by our school families. Activities include: Karaoke, Cross-fire, Photography, Donkey tails and Electronic Trivia. The last activity of the evening will see some of our adventurous parents trying to make a human outline map of New York State, playing shipwreck and a tic tac toe relay race! We will have plenty of Bengay on hand to soothe their sore muscles!

Author Kenneth Oppel visits Homer Junior High

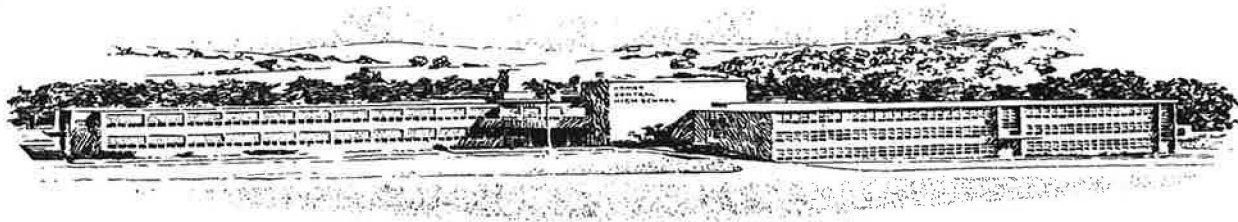
Kenneth Oppel, award winning author, spoke with our Junior High students on Wednesday March 30th, thanks to the Phillips Free Library and a generous grant from the J. M. McDonald Foundation.

Grade six students heard of Oppel's newest book *The Boundless* a big adventure on the longest train ever.

Grade seven students learned of the adventures of Matt Cruise and Kate DeVries onboard a zeppelin-like airship in the book *Airborn*.

Grade eight students enjoyed an overview of Oppel's career and work with summaries and teasers for many of his books.

In each presentation Mr. Oppel underscored the importance of the research he does for each book and answered questions from the students. We have many of Kenneth Oppel's books available to students in the Junior High Library.



HOMER HIGH SCHOOL BLUE PRIDE ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL - 2016

The National Technical Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society recognizes deserving students who have chosen technical education pathways to a successful future. Twenty-one students were recognized for the attributes of knowledge, skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship and leadership in the following trades: Automotive Collision, Automotive Technology, Computer Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, New Vision Environmental Science, New Vision Medical Professions, Physical Therapy Professions and Welding. The inductees include: Trenton Albright., Naomi Wright., Jack Bancroft., Darrick Baldwin., Joshua Frenia., Victoria Anderson., Rebecca Hartquist., Shannon Cole., Madeline Jennings., Jacob Jensen., Kenian Ulrich., Emily Lawrence., Kathryn Ryan., Karlee Van Wagenen., Brianna Hawks., Olivia Porter., Anna Young., Ross Brown., Jeremiah Bush., Isaac Cline., and Austin Stone. Congratulations to all!

Junior Players Troupe to Perform in Homer

The Center Players Junior Company of the Center 4 the Arts of Homer will be presenting the world theatrical premiere of "The Worst Play in the History Ever" Friday, April 15th at 7:00 pm, Saturday, April 16th at 7:00 pm and Sunday, April 17th at 2:00 pm at the Center 4 the Arts. The Director for this production is Senior High Student David Perfetti, who has performed in theater since he was in the 4th grade. The production also includes several other students from the High school. The plot involves a group of school students who attempt to put on a play for pre-school students but nothing goes according to plan. All proceeds will be used to support youth activities at the Center.

Semi-Annual Red Cross Blood Drive

Students assisted by Red Cross volunteer Gordon Valentine conducted the Semi-Annual Red Cross Blood Drive for staff and students to be held on March 23 in the Music Building. While not as many donors could participate because of a change in time and location, the Red Cross appreciates the efforts of our students and donors!

Parents Continue to Work Hard

Parents continue to work hard to provide for opportunities for their children and our students. Preparations for the annual All Night Party, to be held after the prom on May 7 & 8th continue. We greatly appreciate the support for our students and a safe prom celebration!

Successful Cabaret and Casino Nights

Student Government conducted the annual Casino Night on April 1. While the cafeteria provided a change of scenery from the gym, a good time was had by all in attendance. THANK YOU Music Boosters for hosting Cabaret Night at Homer Junior High on April 2. A fine bill of student performances was complimented by delicious desserts! This was a great event and was a nice opportunity for the community to support the Music Boosters and Music programs.

Upcoming Events:

- 30 week marking period ends Friday, April 8th
- 30 week report cards mailed Friday, April 15th
- Spring Vacation - April 25th – April 29th
- National Honor Society Induction – Monday, May 2nd
- Top 10% Recognition Ceremony – Tuesday, May 3rd
- Prom and All Night Party – Saturday, May 7th and 8th
- Honors and Awards Ceremony – Tuesday, May 31st