



Homer Elementary School

Blue PRIDE

BOE

April 11, 2017

1. Ms. Sue Downes, our main office secretary was awarded the Pride in Workmanship award by the Cortland Rotary for the 2016-2017 school year. A luncheon for area honorees will take place on April 11, 2017. We are proud of Ms. Downes efforts as she continues to be the first face people see as they come to our building. Below is a piece of the recommendation letter that was submitted on behalf of the Homer CSD Administrator's in nominating Sue for this recognition:

"Sue is heavily relied on by our teaching and professional staff members for many different things that occur within our building. When it comes to responding to the needs of her co-workers, Sue is the first to assist with their needs. Many faculty and professional staff members have commented on the positive job that Sue does each day and they wonder how she accomplishes it all within a day's work. Whether it is finding a substitute for a teacher or organizing a plan for professional staff member's personal needs, Sue finds the time to help even if it is her own personal time."

2. We appreciate our volunteers at the Homer Elementary School. This year we have seen retired Homer teachers Ingrid Fox, Becky Badorian, and Brenda Nobles take time out of their day to be a part of our building. Ingrid works closely with Mr. Bertram at grade 2 with special classroom activities and planning. She even brings her friends in coffee to brighten up their days! Becky also works with grade 2 but assists at Kindergarten when needed as well. She always has a smile on her face and is willing to assist anyone. Brenda has been a constant in our library this year working up to 3-4 days per week to keep our library organized. I know that all of our faculty and staff appreciate the assistance that these folks give to our building each week!

3. This is a little late but very noteworthy! The students of Homer Elementary School were treated to a *Suessical the Musical* teaser by our high school student performers on February 27, 2017. This was a wonderful treat for our students! We have placed an emphasis on partnering with our high school students this year on many different occasions. Our students have had many exposures to the performing arts and artists this year! Kudos to our high school music and art departments!



High school musical performers entertaining the Homer Elementary students

4. On Friday April 7, 2017 the Homer Elementary School students and staff will be kicking off the May walk-a-thon with an assembly designed to get students even more excited about reading! This year a portion of the proceeds raised from our walk-a-thon will go directly to the Phillips Free Library to support student programs. Librarian Priscilla Berggren-Thomas will be on hand to introduce programming at the library for students and to get them excited about visiting the library. Students will bring a book to this assembly and read together for 15 minutes to kick off this fundraising event. This time will also count towards their monthly totals for the Million Minute Reading Challenge!

5. Our first grade students started our concert season by performing for parents and guests on March 23, 2017 in the Bonne' Auditorium. Students performed vocal pieces along with instrumental pieces in front of a packed house! They did such an excellent job! Many parents and community members gave positive feedback about our student performers and to the first grade teachers and music teacher Mrs. Combs for effectively organizing this event. Great job grade 1 students and teachers. A special thanks to Mrs. Combs for her dedication to our students and music in our school!



First graders perform at the annual First Grade Concert on March 23, 2017



April 2017

1. Congratulations to Caoimhe Dudgeon (5th grade), Katie Greenman (5th grade), and Kyler Crump (4th grade) for their awards at the Regional Science Fair. Caoimhe and Kyler both received the Lockheed Martin Award. Caoimhe also received the IEEE Award in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Katie received the LeMoyne Excellence in Mathematics or Computer Science. We are proud of our students' achievement, especially since they were competing with many older, high school-aged students.
2. Many staff and students helped to support the Elks 3K fundraiser for the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. It was a brisk, misty morning for a quick run/walk around the Village.
3. The Intermediate School was one of the first in NYS to use the computer-based-testing (CBT) for ELA. We are thankful for the cooperation and teamwork from building as well as district level staff to make this possible.
4. Students in Mrs. Durkee's TEAM again have won the National Read 2 Succeed contest. We are proud of their hard work and perseverance.
5. Dr. Cindy Benton, Mrs. Caitie Sidebottom and Mrs. Falls presented the Professional Development School model used at the Homer Elementary, Intermediate and Junior High Schools at the National Association of Professional Development Schools conference. The model provides Homer students with increased consistent, adult support in the classroom during summer school as well as the school year. The action research associated with the program helps with academic interventions and increases co-teaching across grade levels.
6. JH student Ryder and his mother Nikki Wynn spoke to our school for the March pep rally about Autism. Ryder taught students what it is like to be a student with Autism and Nikki spoke about the group Puzzle Solvers. The Wynn family kicked off our month of Acceptance. We also had a t-shirt design contest and will be having a dance-a-thon later this month.
7. Harmony High was a Huge success for our grade 5 students. The students and staff worked many hours to put on a fabulous show.

8. We are very proud of our vocal and instrumental music students for their performances at the district concerts to celebrate music in our schools.

**Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
4/11/17 Board of Education meeting**

March 31st Career Day

The annual Grade 8 Career Exploration Day was held last Friday. More than thirty business leaders from our community, along with numerous CTE instructors from BOCES met with our eighth graders on the BOCES-McEvoy campus.

This is the second year that this collaborative effort has been planned and carried out by Barbara Bachmann and Stacy Bell. The activity gives students the opportunity to explore career options that are of interest to them. To bring this to fruition, both Barb and Stacy worked closely with Chris DiFulvio, principal of the CTE program at BOCES- McEvoy.

Students returned to school for lunch and then finished the day with an hour-long dance in the gymnasium. They also completed a survey that helps us to evaluate the day's effectiveness and to make any future adjustments. Below, please find the link that will take you to the BOCES webpage where a story is located about Career Day.

<http://www.ocmboces.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=3235>

Junior High Orientation set for Monday, April 10th

Bonne` Auditorium will be the sight for our annual Junior High orientation next week. Fifth grade students and their parents will be in to begin the transition from the Intermediate to the Junior High School next fall. A number of sixth grade teachers will be on hand to provide highlights of the curriculum and to share some of the experiences that students will have as a member of their sixth grade family. Counseling staff will provide information that will be important for students and their families to know before back to school time arrives in September. This night serves as an excellent opportunity to begin the formation of a positive home-school relationship helping us to better meet the needs of students during their time at the Junior High.

Character Ed. Activity Day on April 13th

Our next building wide Activity Day is planned for Thursday afternoon, April 13th. A committee of staff members have put the finishing touches on what proves to be another exciting event that will have all students in the gymnasium taking part in non-competitive, collaborative activities. The purpose of these activities is to help strengthen the bonds between students of all ages and to provide common experiences toward that end. We will have the last Activity Day on the last day of school when students are taking part in our End of Year BBQ. This has been a planning committee run by staff members who recognized a need in the building and were willing to step up to accomplish their mission. The Junior High students have been the beneficiaries of all of their creativity and hard work.



HIGH SCHOOL BLUE PRIDE ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL - 2017

Winterguard Homeshow

The Winterguard Home Show was held at Cortland High School on February 18th and was a great success.

Suessical the Musical

Congratulations to the entire cast, crew, musicians, volunteers and their families for an excellent performance of "Suessical the Musical" held in the brand new High School Auditorium on March 3rd & 4th.

Student Government

The weekend of March 9th, Homer was again well represented in Albany at the New York State Youth and Government Conference. Elizabeth Gilbert, Anna Gugerty, and Ben Herman were selected to attend the Conference on National Affairs with Amanda Kruman and Nina Armedio being chosen as alternates to that conference.

Elizabeth Gilbert was also selected as Fosdick/ San Antonio Scholarship winner. Devon Drake, Volunteer Adviser and Homer Alum won the CLEVELAND E. DODGE COLLEGIATE ADVISER Award. The award of \$1,000 cash will be used to assist with educational expenses. The Homer students, once again won Premier District this year.

The Youth and Government program could not exist without the continued support of administration along with the encouragement the Homer Staff gives all those involved.

Ribbon Cutting

Thursday, March 9th the District held a second "Ribbon Cutting Ceremony" for the grand showing of the Gymnasium and Locker Rooms. The girls volleyball team had a fun match to show off the new Gym. It was a very nice evening and many people attended.

EDC Dance Competition, Syracuse NY

Jenna Galeotti, a Homer Senior, Competed in the Elite Dance Competition the weekend of March 11, 2017 and was 1st Runner-up for Miss Elite, she also placed 5th overall (out of 27 soloist in her age group) for her solo performance. Jenna received two Elite Gold Medals, a Platinum Medal, Miss Photogenic and a special award for "Believable Emotion."

Jenna closed the day out with two special invites, one for the "Hollywood Summer Tour" and the other for "The 2017 National Elite Performance Team."

Congratulations Jenna!!

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Two Homer students Meagan Condie, a senior and Mackenzie Conklin, a junior received a National Medal in the 2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Award. The National Ceremony will take place in New York City, June 7th -9th. Congratulations!!!

Student Name	Title	Category	Awards
Meagan Condie	Dead	Drawing & Illustration	American Visions Medal
Mackenzie Conklin	Don't Chuck With Me	Drawing & Illustration	Silver Medal

American Culinary Federation

Mr. Cortese received a thank you note from Matt Murphy, Executive Chef for the Opera Night Dinner and wanted to share with the Board.

On March 11th the American Culinary Federation was part of a fund raiser at the Homer Center for the Arts. They provided hors d'oeuvres and a four course dinner for their guests attending Opera Night. Several students from Homer High School (Brent McNeil, Jack Walter, Max Riley, Mikaela Elkins, Ben Hyde, Paddy Fox, Marty Mosher, Isabel Torres, Leah Potter Ann Slougher, Allie Osterhoudt and Rachael Osterhoudt) participated by acting as our "front of the house" staff. Their duties included passing hours d'oeuvres, bussing tables, serving courses and then clean up. Each and every one of these students learned and performed their jobs remarkably. They acted in a most professional manor and were an absolute joy to work with.

Students from Tokyo

Eight multi-disciplinary graduate students from Tokyo Gakugei University in Japan, and their professor, Dr. Suzuki, visited the High School and Intermediate School in early March. The graduate students taught short 15-20 minute mini-lessons on Japanese cultures at both schools and ate lunch with students in our cafeterias. The visit was facilitated by Dr. Tim Davis at SUNY Cortland. - See more at: <http://www.homercentral.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1063#sthash.Y1rJjiKL.dpuf>

Casino Night

Casino Night was held Friday, March 31st in the HS Gymnasium it was a fun night had by all.

Cabaret Night

Our Annual Cabaret Night was held April 1, returning to the HS Gymnasium. It is a fundraiser for the Music Boosters, which is an essential part of Homer's music community. The event showcases the musical talent of the youth of Homer. Overall, Cabaret Night was a complete success.

Upcoming Events:

- 30-week report cards mailed home – April 12, 2017
- Good Friday – April 14, 2017
- Easter – April 16, 2017
- Spring Recess – April 17 – April 21, 2017
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – May 1, 2017
- Tompkins County NYSSMA – May 5 – 6, 2017
- HS SR/JR High Prom – May 6, 2017
- Onondaga County NYSSMA – May 12 – 13, 2017
- Shakespearean Play – May 12th & 13th in the HS Auditorium
- School Budget Vote – May 16, 2017
- HS Instrumental Concert – May 18, 2017
- 35-week marking period ends – May 19, 2017
- Onondaga County NYSSMA – May 19-20, 2017