



Homer Elementary School

Blue PRIDE

BOE

October 10, 2017

1. The Homer Elementary School introduced a new component to the character development program. The Buddy Bench is a place for students to sit when they are looking for a playmate during recess times. Students will be taught the importance of inclusion, accepting, empathy, and being a good friend to all through Sean Covey's work of *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids*. So far the students have utilized this bench in the manner for which it was designed! The goal is that no student has to use the Buddy Bench!



2. Our first prekindergarten classroom is off to a fantastic start! Mrs. Shari Powers (teacher) and Mrs. Janie Hughes (teacher assistant) have done such a wonderful job in working with parents and transitioning students into our new classroom! The 18 students in this classroom have done a wonderful job of learning new routines and procedures. Mrs. Powers is really surprised at how the students have quickly learned these routines. The classroom is off to a wonderful start!

3. Over the past 3 years our Elementary School has recycled milk cartons. Students were taught the about the positive impacts that recycling has on our planet and this was one way we could help as a school community. This coming November we will begin phase 2 of our school wide recycling program by composting half eaten food products. Students will not only continue to recycle their milk cartons, but will further separate their half eaten food items when they finish their lunch. Students will be taught the use of our newly formed recycling line by our student leaders at grade 2 and Mr. Kirkwyland. The compost itself will go to a local hog farm for many Sus Scrofa's to enjoy!
  
4. In collaboration with the transportation department the Elementary and Intermediate Schools we will be kicking off a new character initiative called "The Bus of the Month" for students in grades k-5. Drivers met with building administration to create language and expectations that k-5 students could already relate to through the 7 Habits work that is currently happening in the k-2 and 3-5 buildings. Students will learn that the bus is an extension of the school and classroom through this new initiative! Each month drivers and staff at the transportation center can nominate a bus for this recognition based on students being on their best! Once the bus is identified students and the driver will be recognized with a poster that hangs in the bus window identifying the bus of the month, have their picture taken for the school website, and be treated to a treat at either the Elementary or Intermediate Schools.



September 2017

1. We had our first pep rally on September 15, 2017 to introduce our 7 Habits theme and talk about Habit #1. Our students are currently campaigning to be part of the Leadership Council to help plan and implement the 7 Habits this school year.
2. Open School Night and Open House were well attended. Both were crowded and well attended by families. Thank you to the SCA for hosting our Book Fair. Classroom libraries were given donations from the proceeds of the Book Fair. Thank you to all that attended this event!
3. Dan the Snake man visited to help compliment the grade 5 science unit Animal Responses. Dan brought a variety of reptiles to illustrate the differences in animals that live in a variety of habitats. It was interesting to see how a desert snake's scales are different from a tropical snake's scales.
4. Mrs. Garrett's class has been utilizing the nature preserve behind the Intermediate/JH for the new poetry module in grade 4. With the continued warm weather, the students have been using the natural setting to help with descriptive language and the use of all five senses in their writing.
5. We are proud to continue our partnership as a SUNY Cortland Professional Development School (PDS) School in the Elementary, Intermediate, and Junior High Schools (grade 1-6). The MST Coordinator, Dr. Benton, will be in our building several times school each week and students will be conducting child study research project this semester. In addition, we are working with the Dr. Rombach to further her research with the Cognitive Apprenticeship Model. 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 continue to build our partnership and improve instruction.

**Homer Junior High  
Blue Pride Spotlight Items  
10/10/17 Board of Education meeting**

**Grade 7 Response to Intervention**

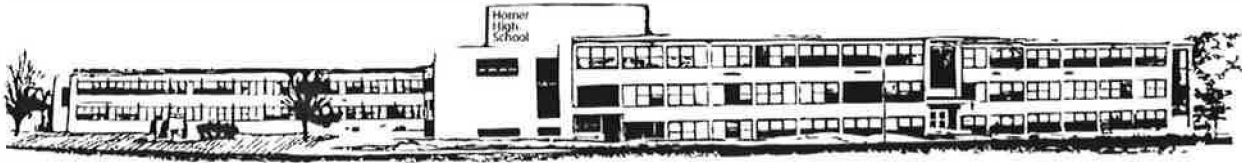
We have instituted a Response to Intervention (RtI) period in grade seven this year. Our intervention groups have been meeting since the beginning of the year. RtI data meetings are scheduled every six weeks to review intervention data and to determine student progress and appropriate grouping placements. We will continue to assess our process as we move through the school year and, at the same time, develop a communication system that allows us to share meaningful student data between grade levels and buildings.

**Student Council News**

Betsy Gray is serving as the advisor for the 2017-18 Student Council. The focus of Student Council is to provide meaningful leadership opportunities for students and for them to assume more responsibility for the operation of the school. Students interested in filling one of the leadership roles are expected to produce a short video that outlines their qualifications for the office and to create campaign posters that are displayed around the school leading up to the election. The videos will be viewed in Social Studies classes where students will then cast their ballots. The successful candidates will be announced shortly.

**JH Clothing Closet**

Junior High staff have accepted new and gently used clothing and created the Junior High Clothing Closet. It is located in a renovated closet on the first floor of the school and is accessible to all students at regularly scheduled times. To lessen the potential stigma of accepting clothing, the closet has been billed as available to all students who “are tired of their current clothing” and “want a new look.” We have been very pleased with the response from the student body. Many students have taken advantage of the Clothing Closet and are wearing items that have been chosen from our collection.



## **High School Blue Pride Activities for September and October - 2017**

### **All State Conference Performance**

Senior, Travis Rowan, will be representing Homer High School at the 2017 NYSSMA Conference All-State in Rochester, NY on November 30-December 3, 2017. Thousands of students auditioned for this honor last spring at solo and ensemble festivals throughout the state. Travis will be performing the Bass II, mixed chorus on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Congratulations Travis!!!!

### **Center for the Arts Mural**

As part of the Free Summer Youth Mural Program at the Center for the Arts, four Homer High School ninth grade students (Rebecca Jones, Riley Parmiter, Tessabelle Seamans and Edie Russo) worked with two art professionals to pull it off. Students painted over the mural from the previous year and they worked on it for a month. The mural is designed around underground and the subway.

### **Homer High School Spirit Week and Homecoming**

Homer High School Student Government coordinated the annual Homer Spirit Week and Homecoming. This culminated in a successful Homecoming Parade and Banner Contest as well as the recognition of the Homecoming Court. Congratulations Julia Gustafson and Tucker O'Donnell - newly crowned Queen and King and to the Freshmen Class - winner of the Banner Contest.

A great Homecoming Dance was hosted by the National Honor Society with many students attending.

### **Homer High School participates in Go College NY College Application Week**

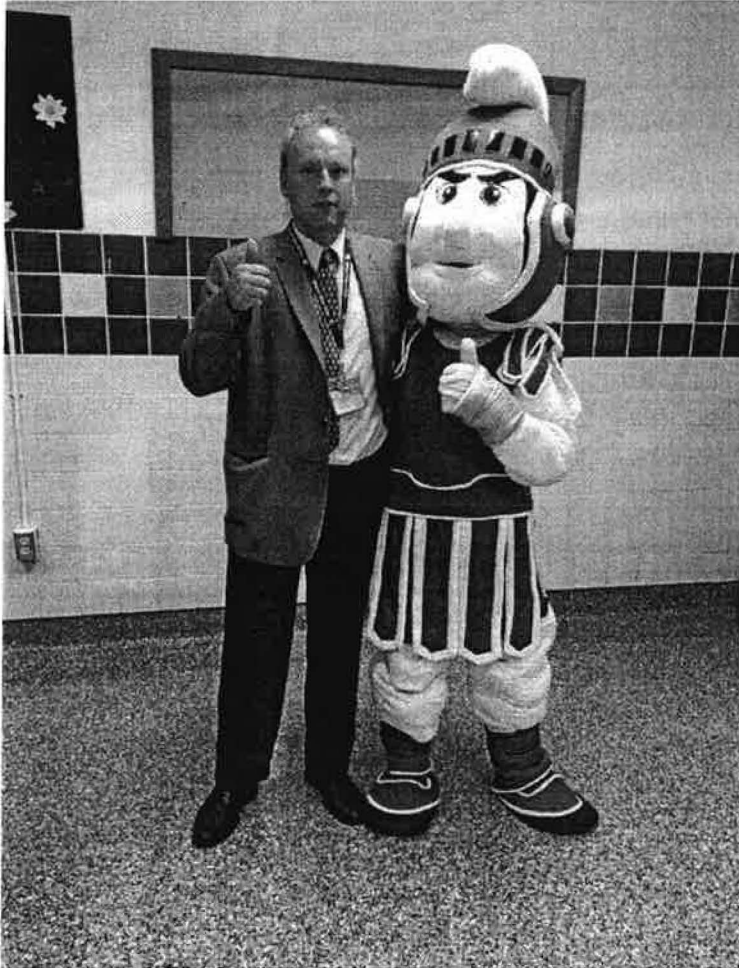
Homer High School is one of over 420 High Schools and Community Organizations in New York State participating in College Application Week (September 25- September 29, 2017). Students and staff participated in activities discussing and promoting applications to college seniors and families who are in the college application process will receive reminders to assist them as they continue applying.

### **Hamlet Production Underway**

The Shakespearean Society production is underway. The curtain will go up on this production November 17 & 18.

## Open House - October 4th

A successful Open House occurred October 4th. Staff provided an overview of courses to parents and students who attended. Nearly 20 different student and parent organizations were present highlighting the many co-curricular and parent opportunities that exist. Even the Trojan Warrior Mascot was present and showing off BLUE PRIDE!



### Upcoming Events include:

- 5 week report cards mailed - Friday, October 13th
- Jumpstart 10 – Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>
- HS International Fall Ball – Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>
- HS Picture Retake Day – Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 10 week marking period ends – Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Veterans Day – Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>
- 10 week report cards mailed – Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>
- HS Shakespearean Play – Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving Recess November 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>