



Homer Elementary School

Blue PRIDE

BOE

December 12, 2017



1. The first Bus of the Month was awarded for the month of October to driver Gail Darrow and her students. Each student received a certificate awarding their positive behavior. A pizza party was held for these students at the elementary and intermediate schools on November 21, 2017. Be on the lookout for the November Bus of the Month!
2. The Socks from Santa program is underway at the elementary school this month. This program started 4 years ago to assist families with making sure students had warm socks, gloves, and hats for the winter months. Faculty and staff purchase socks, gloves, and hats during the month of December to provide our students with these necessary cold weather items. These items collected will go directly to Homer Elementary students! Last year we collected over 100 pairs of socks and multiple sets of gloves and hats!



3. The three little pigs helped usher in the Homer Elementary School Principal Million Minute Reading Challenge at our November character development assembly. Students have been challenged to read 1 million minutes combined at home for the 2017-18 school year. If the students accomplish this goal, Mr. McGory will have to kiss a pig along with Mrs. McNerney, Mrs. Rockwell, and Mrs. Freshwater. The top ten readers at each grade level will receive recognition for their reading achievements at the end of the year assembly as well! Stay tuned for updates on how our students are doing!

4. Former teacher and Homer resident Bill Lee visited with two of our grade 2 classrooms on November 16th to share his experiences with the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. Bill had always dreamed of participating in the parade ever since he was a child. He inquired with Macy's every year for a period of 15 years wanting to be a part of the parade just to be told "no." After several years of inquiring, Bill was finally allowed to participate. Bill showed students pictures and gave a history lesson on how the parade began. Students asked many questions about the floats and Bill's experience as someone who has participated in the parade for the last 8 years. This past year Bill was a part of the Santa float that is the last float of the parade. The most important message Bill shared with students was how to persevere when things become difficult and to never give up on a dream!

5. Our Thanksgiving food drive was a huge success in supporting 6 different families from our building during the Thanksgiving holiday. Multiple food items were collected and turkeys were donated by the Homer Elks to our PTO in making sure that our school families who needed us the most were taken care of. Great job to students, faculty, and staff for collecting for these food baskets!



December 2017

1. Connie Martin is the local Chapter President for the Pajama Program. This organization collects new books and pajamas to give to children. The organizations belief is that "The right to a loving good night is inherent and universal, one shared by all children, regardless of their family circumstances." A fundraiser was held at The Krebs restaurant in Skaneateles, NY where over \$3,000 was raised and 306 books were donated. All of the books will be donated to children in the Cortland/Homer area and the money will be used to purchase new books and pajamas for local organizations to give to children in need. Many local children will benefit from the generosity that was shown that night. The campaign is still open for this holiday season!
2. Grades 4-5 have had several guests speakers this month- Mary, Courtney, and Colin have been in the classrooms from Family Counseling Services. We are working on inter-personal relationships and self-confidence. We are grateful for these community partners.
3. SUNY Cortland Masters level Health Education students were in grade 5 this month. Dr. Donna Videto has been working with our school to help improve health education skills. Students from her EDU 575 (graduate level health education methods) came into health classes for two sessions.
4. We celebrated Veterans Day with many guests in our school. Students invited family members from several generations to come into our classrooms to talk about their service to our country. We appreciate their time and important life lessons imparted on our students.
5. Students have been using the Breakout EDU boxes this fall. Students in Ms. Streeter's and Mrs. Higgins's class did a monster Halloween puzzle with the boxes. Mrs. Totman has been using the boxes to solve a puzzle written by Mr. Dewey about the Dewey Decimal system. Students have enjoyed the time to work collaboratively and even debrief on their own about the process.
6. Our Thanksgiving food drive was a great success. Check out the photo from the local food pantry on the Trojan Messenger. Our students helped the pantry at a critical time. Families were treated to desserts, too, for the holiday which was an unexpected delight for families.
7. Author Kevin Kurtz visited the Intermediate School as sponsored by the Intermediate SCA. He presented to all the grade levels. Mr. Kurtz is a Homer graduate and an excellent role model for students. He is a non-fiction author.
8. Thank you to Priscilla Beggren-Thomas at the Phillips Free Library for her continued contributions to our school. Poet Rachel DeVries worked in small groups with grade 5 for four instructional days. Students will be publishing the poems as part of this grant, too. In addition, Ms. Priscilla has continued to offer grade 5 book club once per month. She offers two sessions to accommodate 30 students each month.
9. Mrs. Kelley Brown hosted a 7 Habits parent program in cooperation with the SCA. Parents learned about Habit #1 while students watched a movie in the auditorium. All had an ice cream break to spend time as a family. We will be offering more parent education programs this year to help parents become aware of how the 7 Habits can help at home and school.

**Homer Junior High School
Blue Pride Spotlight Items
12/12/17 Board of Education meeting**

Tech Buddies

Tech Buddies has been a wonderful way to enhance school relationships, integrate technology, foster creativity and innovation, and support curricular content and process goals among high school seniors and sixth grade students during Applied Skills Class at the Junior High. The students are seeing technology as a tool to help them create, learn and express their learning to others. Throughout the school year, sixth graders have had the opportunity to work with our seniors—Conner Lake, Devin McCall and Klara Nilsson. The high schoolers come to the Junior High daily and work with our students. These seniors have seen the potential of technology as a way to collaborate, share and work together on issues and ideas that matter!

“Earth Ship” Field Trip

Twenty-nine members of the Junior High Science Club visited a local off-grid home owned by Chad & Courtney DeVoe in Freeville. They live in the Earthship style home with their two young daughters.

To qualify as an Earthship the design must meet six criteria:

- 1) Thermal/Solar Heating and Cooling
- 2) Solar/Wind Electricity
- 3) Self Contained Sewage Treatment
- 4) Building with Natural and Recycled Materials
- 5) Water Harvesting and Long Term Storage
- 6) Internal Food Production Capability

It is known to be only one of three Earthship homes in New York State, as many homes of this style exist in the Southwest, where the design originated. The house was built in 2012 using a variety of local and natural recycled materials with the help of an Earthship architect, a volunteer crew who specializes in building these homes, along with Chad, Courtney and their own friends. Some of those materials include granite fragments for the floor, pallet wood for shelving and design pieces, 900 tires for wall framing and foundation, 15,000 cans for building walls, and 3,000 bottles for walls and design elements.

The house is self-sustaining with many modern features, just with a twist! Water is collected via runoff from their roof and stored for use. They do not have a well and everything that required water comes from a collection system and goes through designated filters for use in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry and greenhouse. The

greenhouse is used to grow bananas, lemons, oranges, tomatoes, peppers, and avocados to name a few!

The Junior High students were amazed at the technology involved to build a “simple” home, drawn to the interior design elements, and appreciated the reasons why someone would want to build a home like this. They asked great questions and respected being let into someone else’s home for a tour!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences were conducted on November 17th at the Junior High. The conferences are scheduled after requests are made by parents of students in the building. 129 conferences took place during the day on Friday. This is not the only time of the year that conferences are conducted. Since the beginning of the year, 27 additional conferences have been held with parents during the planning period of the appropriate team. These conferences can be requested by either the family or the school to address immediate concerns/questions that are better not left until the designated conference time.



HIGH SCHOOL BLUE PRIDE ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER - 2017

Jump Start 10 Conference

Homer High School 10th grade students participated in the Cortland Area Communities That Care Jump Start 10 Conference on Tuesday, October 17th. The goal of the conference was to assist students to think about and discover career and educational paths that best fit them and make health choices. Tenth grade teachers attended with students.

Homer Student to Attend World Food Prize Conference

The World Food Prize Foundation Group has been raising awareness about global agricultural issues since 1994. They established the World Food Prize Youth Institute as a national contest for youth interested in studying global agricultural affairs. Students from twenty-two states and seven countries have the opportunity to submit an essay detailing a specific crisis that affects a third-world nation's agricultural production, as well as a possible solution to avoid that particular crisis. There were hundreds of topics students had to choose from. Anna Gugerty, a senior, selected women's empowerment and social equality issues in Bangladesh. In addition to her written essay, she presented a three-minute speech at Cornell University's New York Youth Institute. Anna and five other students from all over New York were selected to attend the culminating Global Youth Institute in conjunction with the World Food Prize in October 2017 in Des Moines, Iowa. Anna was accompanied by her teacher mentor, Mrs. Lori Andersen for the three-day conference as one of four hundred high school students and mentors from around the world. She had the opportunity to meet with World Food Prize winners, Heads of State, Ambassadors, USDA Representatives, as well as doctors, researchers and charity leaders. Congratulations Anna, Homer is very proud of you.

Shakespearian Play "Hamlet"

The Shakespearian Play "Hamlet" was held on November 18 & 19 in the HS Auditorium and it was another exceptional play by our very talented staff and students.

Environmental Club- Tupper Lake Youth Climate Summit 2017

Four members of the High School Environmental Club (Connor George, Andrew Fagerheim, Claire Kuiken and Shenequa Perry) attended the 2017 Youth Climate Summit at the WILD Center in Tupper Lake, November 8-9. The students attended workshops covering such topics as The Edible Landscape, Where Does Gasoline Go? and Getting Started On AN Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The students completed two action plans one on using local produce in our cafeteria and the other on

using solar power as an alternative to electricity while at the conference. The Environmental Club members will be instrumental in implementing the action plans.

On October 21st the Environmental Club in conjunction with the Master Teacher Program held its first annual CNY Youth Climate summit. Over 15 schools attended this inaugural event. Members of the Environmental Club gave presentations and helped with the physical aspects of running the event.

All-National Honors Ensembles

We're very excited that senior Christopher DeLage was asked to represent Homer High School as a Bass 2 singer in the All-National Mixed Choir in Orlando, Florida this year. To our knowledge, this is the first time a Homer student was selected for an All-National Ensemble, since in New York, it means you must be selected for Conference All-State your junior year, and then go through an additional audition process to be selected.

Chris joined 608 of the best high school musicians from 49 states to rehearse in Orlando, Florida to work under the direction of the wonderful Z. Randall Stroope, a renowned composer, conductor, and lecturer. The experience was truly a transformative one for the students, rehearsing for 3 days before putting on a truly moving performance!

Fall Sports Teams

Congratulations to all of our Fall student athletes. Special recognition to the Boys' Cross-Country Team who were League Champs and to Grant Stokoe and Teddy Mercer, qualifying for the NYSPHSAA State Meet. Additionally, Congratulations to Homer Varsity Football, earning a fifth straight League Championship and earning our school's fifth Section III Class B championship as well. The team was ranked 6th in the last November NYS Poll and after the 11/26 State Championship Game may actually move up as the team also handed New York State Class C Champion Skaneateles their only loss of the year. Recognition also goes to Coach Podsiedlik and his coach staff, once again named the Class B West Division Coach & Staff of the Year for the fifth time in a row.

Upcoming Events:

- Vocal Concert Bonne' Auditorium – Thursday, December 14th
- 15 week marking period ends – Friday, December 15th
- 15 week report cards mailed - Thursday, December 21st
- Holiday Recess – December 26th – January 2nd
- All County Choir – Friday, January 12th & Saturday, January 13th
- Martin Luther King Day – Monday, January 15th
- Regent Exams – January 22nd – 26th
- 20 Week marking period ends – Friday, January 26th
- 20 week report cards mailed – Friday, February 2nd
- Area All State – Friday, February 2nd & Saturday, February 3rd
- Honors/AP Night – Wednesday, February 7th
- Winter Recess – February 19th – 23rd



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Homer High School Environmental Club



Saturday, October 28, 2017 the Homer Env Club In conjunction with the New York Stat Teacher Program and the Wild Center held annual CNY Youth Climate Summit. Over 1: and advisors from 17 school districts gathe learn about environmental issues and crea plans to make their school and fellow stud environmentally conscous. Several of our former "greenies" presented talks to the gi club's accomplishments and how to write i plan. Participants at the summit left feeling

and ready to put their plans into action.

Our Schools

- Homer Central High School
- Junior High School
- Intermediate School
- Homer Elementary School

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Homer Central School District

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