

Big Flats News

April 2018



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are beginning our final semester of the 2017-2018 school year! As we prepare for the final weeks of school, teachers are doing their best to ensure that your children are ready for the next grade level. Also during this time, we find ourselves assessing our students to measure how well they have mastered the learning standards, as well as critical skills that will lead them to be successful future employees. During the months of April and May, our third and fourth grade students will be taking the New York State Assessments. I am very happy to report that the state continues to make positive changes to the assessments to better meet the needs of our students, teachers, and parents. Last year, the state implemented a change that students would be allowed unlimited time to complete their tests. In my opinion, I believe this relieved a lot of anxiety for some of our students as it allowed them to take their time and to complete the assessments to the best of their ability. I am pleased to report that this change will remain this year for our students and hopefully for years to come. New this year, the state has reduced the number of testing days for students. Historically, students tested for ELA and Math over three days each, and this year, the students will only be testing two days each. Another appreciated change to this year's assessments are that the test questions have been reviewed and written by New York State Teachers. This change, I know, has made many educators across the state very happy to see return. Lastly, the state is providing results and improved resources for both teachers and parents. The state plans to continue to provide parents with more information on what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, to ensure their success with meeting graduation requirements. My final advice to parents during the remaining months is to ensure that your children get plenty of rest and to eat a healthy breakfast each morning. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our end of the year assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth M. Scaptura
Principal

*At Big Flats Elementary,
we will SOAR together
as we explore our
"wonders"
in a fun and engaging
community,
where we will inspire each
other to achieve
anything!*



GENERAL INFORMATION:

Big Flats Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Office Phone Numbers

(607) 739-6373
(607) 795-2550
(607) 795-2555 fax

Save the Date!

Please join the
Student Leadership
Team on **May 17,
2018** at Bottcher's
Landing for a school
picnic! The picnic
will begin at 5:30pm!



FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

— Go Home Procedure for Bussing

As we are coming into beautiful spring weather and your children are beginning to be more active outside and playing with friends, we would like to remind all parents that it is district policy that students cannot ride a different bus home with another student for a play date. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

— Drop-off Procedure

Mornings are busy here at Big Flats! We ask that you continue to follow the drop-off line in the morning to drop your students off at the cafeteria doors located at the north end of the building. This way, we can keep the morning routine as smooth as possible and easy for all.

— Borrowed Clothing?

Reminder: If your child borrowed clothing from the nurse's office, please wash and return it as soon as possible! *Thanks!*

— Guidelines for Classroom Parties

Food for your child's class may include such items as drinks, cakes, or pastries (**please do not bring frozen items**). Also, please check with your child's teacher for approval, and to see if any students in the class have any food allergies; such as peanuts, gluten, chocolate, etc.

Interested in running for the Board of Education?

Voters will elect three members to the Board of Education on May 15. If you're interested in running for the board, petitions and other information are available in the Business Office. Interested residents must submit petitions with the appropriate number of signatures of qualified district residents to the Business Office by **April 16**. Any questions can be answered by emailing hcsdin-fo@horseheadsdistrict.com or calling (607) 739-5601 x4260.

Certified Teacher Substitutes Needed Teaching Assistant Substitute Needed

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified teacher substitutes receive a rate of \$95 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

Main Office Updates:

Budget Development

The Board of Education and District Administration are currently developing the 2018-19 proposed school budget. The first of three board budget workshops was held February 8. Both the presentation and a video of the presentation, as well as budget and vote information, are available on our district website. The last workshop will be held **April 5** at 6pm in the High School Multi-Media Center located in the South Wing. The workshops are open to the public. A public hearing on the proposed budget will be Thursday, May 3, at 6pm in the High School Multi-Media Center. The Budget Vote/Board Election is Tuesday, May 15, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the High School South Gym.

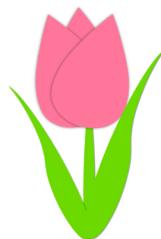
NEW REQUIREMENTS for Health Examination Effective July 1, 2018

Beginning July 1, 2018 all New York State public school students must have a health exam when they enter school as a new entrant and in Pre-K or Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. These examinations must be completed on the approved NYSED Student Health Examination Form for School for the health exam.

We understand that your medical provider's office may not yet be aware of the change, so if you have already had a physical examination completed for the 2018-19 school year on different form, the school may accept the physical on that form.

The Approved NYSED Student Health Examination Form for Schools will be available this spring on the New York State Center for School Health (NYSCSH) website at www.schoolhealthny.com on the Samples|Forms|Notifications page.

HAPPY SPRING!



SPRING PHOTOS

MAY 7, 2018

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS

To provide schools and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program. These standardized tests challenge all students in grades 3 through 8 to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Please visit the site at <http://engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>. If you are interested in viewing this site but do not have access to the Internet, please call the school office so that we can make arrangements for you to see this guide.

3rd and 4th grade ELA – April 11-12, 2018
3rd and 4th grade Math – May 2-3, 2018

4th grade Science Performance Test – May 23, 2018
4th grade Science Written Test - June 4, 2018

Student News – Our Falcons *SOAR!*

From the Student Leadership Team

Thank you to all of the students who submitted poems and illustrations for our contests. We really loved all of them, but could only choose a couple. Please see our winning poems and illustrations below!

Poems/artwork by: Zach S., Devan G., Olivia S., Lauren K., Katie M.

A White Winter World

It is the time when the days grow shorter
It is the time when families huddle to the fire to get warmer
It is the time for snow to cover the earth like a blanket

Then some kids go outside and are greeted by the cold like someone
greeting them at a door
And they know what the snow is for,
building snowmen, having snowball fights and building snow forts
Best of all, a excuse for a sweet hot cup of hot chocolate
"MMMMMMMM" they say "that makes my day!"

It is the time the snow falls like silent raindrops
The cold nips at your nose
One touch with your fingers,
It sends shivers up your spine

There so many patterns of snowflakes none can be repeated
Like no person can be repeated
The families are afraid they will not be heated

then ,
The world spins and turns
The snow starts to melt
Then there is no one to pelt
The kids sit and wait
Sit And Wait
Sit and wait
until they can experience...
A white winter world.

 Sun shines

 People are outside playing

 Rain come down and ruins the fun

 I love it when we pick flowers in the field

 Now that spring is here we can finally

 Go outside

by, Lauren Kozemko



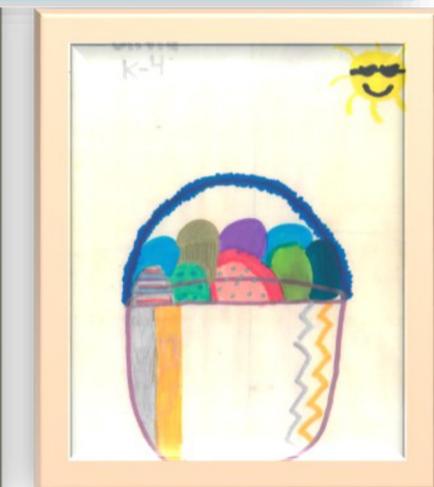
Poet: Katie McKee

My Cinquin Poem 2nd grade



Falcon

brown , gray
eating , flying , hunting
torpedos of the sky
bird



Mark Your Calendars

No School – Easter Recess

April 2

PTO Meeting

April 3, 6:30pm; BF Library

Board of Education

April 5, 6pm; HS MMC

Report Cards Go Home

April 6

Student Leadership Meeting

April 10, 2:30pm

NYS ELA Testing

April 11-12

Board of Education

April 18, 6:00pm; GR Elementary

Spirit Day – Crazy Sock Day!

April 20

Earth Day

April 22

Spring Recess

April 23-27

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2018						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Student

Achievements:



Congratulations Jaxson Burchard for coming in 3rd place in State for wrestling!!!

Fourth Grade Parents: The IS Wants You!

The Intermediate School is already looking forward to next year. If you would be interested in serving as PTO Treasurer, Secretary, or Vice President for next school year, please let them know.

Responsibility

Be reliable and dependable;
Do your part at home, school, and in your community;
Think before you act;
Take ownership of your actions



Cell Phone Use Reminder

“Cell phones and all hand held electronic devices interfere with the educational process and are not allowed in the classroom or to be used during the school day. It is highly recommended that these devices be left at home.” A new item that needs to be included in this statement is a watch phone and locator designed for children. These are great items, but they must not be used as a phone during the school day. Thank you.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR 5TH GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2018-2019 classroom placements for students. We create class selections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent’s perspective. If you have specific information about your child’s needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School by **Friday, April 6, 2018**.

We look forward to working with you to ensure your child’s academic success!

Principal’s Chats

Do you have questions about changes or current trends in education?

Mrs. Scaptura hosts her monthly Principal’s Chat prior to each PTO Meeting in the library at 6:30 pm. Take advantage of these opportunities to chat with her and get some information. Future dates:

April 3

May 1

June 5

If these times do not meet your scheduling needs, please feel free to call the office for an appointment to learn more.

Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter!

Keep up with last minute announcements by liking us on Facebook! We post classroom activities, school reminders, emergency closings, and all sorts of interesting facts and photos.

Check us out daily!

AND – follow us on Twitter –
Mrs. Scaptura @escaptura1
or the District @HhdsSchools.

Please pull tabs for Ronald McDonald!



PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com

Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities!
Tabs will be picked up mid-May.

Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Big Flats Elementary is Elizabeth Scaptura. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mrs. Scaptura at 607-739-6373.

The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Horseheads Central School District is Megan Collins. Mrs. Collins may be reached at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, or 607-739-5601 x4211.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression). Inquiries regarding this notice may be made to Megan Collins, Title IX and DASA Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.



The 2018 Grades 3-8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know

Every spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered to students across New York State. These annual ELA and math tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with the learning standards. Below you will find information about the 2018 tests.

Fewer Test Sessions

- The 2018 Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Tests have been reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject this year, meaning each subject will have two days of testing instead of three.
- With fewer test sessions, each test will have substantially fewer questions than in recent years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

Untimed Tests

- Like the 2016 and 2017 tests, the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will be untimed.
- In general, this means that as long as students are working productively, they will have as much time as they need to complete each test session, within the confines of the regular school day.
- Schools and districts have discretion to allow students to read silently or quietly exit the room when they have completed their test while others continue to work.

Test Questions Reviewed and Written by New York State Teachers

- Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.
- This year, the assessments will feature many test questions written by New York State teachers specifically for the annual New York State tests. The future goal is for all test questions to be written by NYS educators.
- Teachers from across the State serve on committees to write, evaluate and select questions for the tests.
- In all, hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for the 2018 assessments and selecting the questions for the test forms.

Providing Results for Teachers and Improved Resources for Parents

- Like last year, the New York State Education Department plans to have instructional reports returned to teachers by the end of the school year and to release at least 75% of the test questions again.
- As in 2017, the 2018 Score Reports for parents will feature more information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Computer-Based Testing

- Some schools chose to administer the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on computers rather than by paper and pencil. The computer-based tests (CBT) will have the same questions as the paper versions. Students in those schools utilizing the CBT option have access to CBT practice tests and most have had prior experience participating in other computer-based tests in ELA and Math.
- The long-term plan is for all schools use CBT for annual State tests. CBT has the potential to further reduce the need for stand-alone field tests and make assessments better instructional tools for students with disabilities.