

# Big Flats Falcons

## December 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have lots of fun and exciting events occurring this month! First, the PTO is sponsoring an annual Food Drive to support local families. New this year, however, we will be “CANstructing” some kind of an object on our school stage with all of the canned good items that we collect. The more canned good items that we get, the bigger our object can be! The students and staff are very excited about the possibilities of what we can construct!



Also, this year we are having a “Joey the Elf” Toy Drive. We are asking for donations of new toys of any size, shape, or age-level to provide to local children so that they, too, can have a wonderful holiday season. The toy drive ends December 16, and the food drive ends December 22. Students may drop off their canned good items and/or toys in our main lobby under our holiday tree. We thank you for your anticipated support to show our students the importance and significance behind “The Spirit of Giving.”



In addition to our Spirit of Giving opportunities, I have a couple of dates that I wanted to share with you all. On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, there will be a “Horseheads 2030” Community Wide Discussion in the high school auditorium at 6:30 pm. All district residents, parents, students, business people, senior citizens, community members et al are invited to an important discussion about the future of the Horseheads Central School District. The “Horseheads 2030” discussion will involve both the educational program as well as our infrastructure. **Due to this meeting, the PTO meeting will start at 5:30.**

We will also be hosting our Winter Choral Concert on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 here in our school. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade choral students have been working very hard and we are excited that we will be able to see them perform here at Big Flats Elementary!



*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.*



### Inside News:

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Edutopia – Successful Questions  
<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/parents-fifteen-questions-replace-how-was-school-today-elena-aguilar>

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

#### **Big Flats Office Hours**

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

#### **Office Phone Numbers**

739-6373

795-2550

795-2555 fax

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

### ❖ Delayed Start Procedures

As we enter into the winter months, please be advised that the Horseheads Central School District uses a delayed start procedure in addition to school closings. The delay opens school two hours later than normal start time. School ends at the regular time on delayed start days. Morning buses will arrive at your bus stop two hours later; staff will arrive two hours later and students being dropped off at school in the morning should arrive two hours later. **BREAKFAST WILL NOT BE SERVED ON DELAYED START DAYS.** The announcements can be found on our Facebook page, on our District website [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com), or on the local media stations. Radio and television stations that will be announcing the delayed starts and/or school closings are listed on page 4 of the school district calendar. PreK class will begin at 10:30 when there is a delayed start.

### ❖ Snow Days Impact our Schedule

When a snow day occurs and all schools in the District are closed, it changes our six-day schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle day that the snow day would have been.

### ❖ Recess

Students continue to go outside for recess during the winter months. Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, a hat, and gloves/mittens so they can stay warm as they play.

### ❖ Borrowed Clothing?

Reminder: if your child borrowed clothing from the Nurse's office, please wash and return it as soon as possible.

### ❖ Winter Break

Winter recess will begin on December 22, school will reopen on January 3, 2017.

# Main Office Updates:

## Certified Teacher Subs Needed

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

## Valuable Items in School

Each year over the Winter Recess many of our students will receive gifts that they will treasure. To avoid the possibility of damage or loss of any valuable items, we encourage students to leave those items at home. Please encourage your child to follow our suggestion so that we can avoid any unfortunate situations where items of value disappear or get broken. Thank you for your help.

## Absence Notes

We know student absences tend to increase in the winter. Please be sure to send in a blue note so the absence can be marked as excused.

### Changing your Child's Dismissal Plans?

Thank you for helping us to know that students are going home the correct way each day by using our blue note pads. We acknowledge that changes can occur during the day, which impact your child's dismissal plans. We have seen an increase in calls near the end of the day, and it is often difficult to make these adjustments at the last minute. We ask the parents to call before 12:00 so that we can ensure a smooth dismissal and to keep our students safe. Thank you!

## Principal's Chats

Do you have questions about changes or current trends in education? Mrs. Saptura hosts her monthly Principal's Chat prior to each PTO Meeting in the library at 6:00 pm. Take advantage of these opportunities to chat with her and get some information. Future dates:

January 3	April 4
February 7	May 2
March 7	June 6

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

## 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.

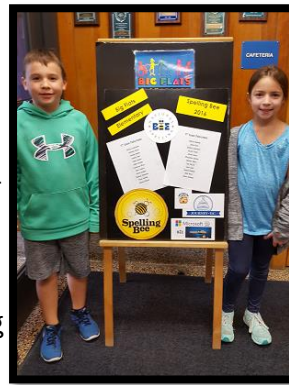
### NYS Testing Dates:

3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA- March 28 - 30, 2017	4 <sup>th</sup> grade Science Performance Test – May 24 – June 2, 2017
3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade Math – May 2 – 4, 2017	4 <sup>th</sup> grade Science Written Test - June 5, 2017



# Our Falcons SOAR!

Our Scripps 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. Spelling Bee champion, MacKenzie and Runner-Up Dominic, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. champion James and Runner-Up Katie. MacKenzie and James (alternate Dominic) will be heading to Corning in March for the Regional Spelling Bee competition.



Keeping up-to-date with technology – using an iPad in Art Class.

Miss Hunt's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class prepared salt dough for 3-D maps of New York State.



Third Grade students in Mrs. TenEyck's class worked on a STEM Project – building towers out of spaghetti and marshmallows.

Barnes & Noble Maker Space Day



Pre-K Turkeys! Gobble, gobble, gobble!



Our own Miss Williams, veteran of Desert Storm, was presented with a Quilt of Valor. The quilt was made by several Big Flats Elementary retirees. Thank You!



## Mark Your Calendars

### Picture Make Up Day

December 1

### Joey the Elf Toy Drive

November 7 through December 16

### BF PTO Spirit of Giving

December 5 through December 10

### BF PTO Food Drive

December 5 through December 22

### PTO Meeting

December 6, **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**  
(please note new time)

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Choral Concert

December 7, 7:00 p.m. – BFE

### Board of Education

December 22

6:00 p.m.—Intermediate School

### Winter Recess

December 23—January 2

### Principal Chat

January 3, 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

### Character Education trait for December is: CARING

Ideas to support Caring include:

- ❖ Being kind
- ❖ Being compassionate and showing you care
- ❖ Expressing gratitude
- ❖ Forgiving others
- ❖ Helping people in need



&



### 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!

## SUPPLY WISH LIST FOR THE INNOVATION LAB DECEMBER 2016

Teachers in the Innovation Lab have added a few items to their wish list for this month. They would love to see donations of:

Fabric glue	And we can still use:
Feathers	Egg cartons
Q-Tips	Fabric
Tempera paint	Yarn
Acrylic paint	Mrs. Kilmer's class used
Pompoms	some of your donated items
Pipe cleaners	for their Presidents Dialogs.
Wire	Thanks!



### 15 Questions to Replace “How Was School Today?”

These questions will help you draw out important information from your kids.

The author of this article realized just asking, “How was school today” doesn’t usually elicit a satisfactory response. She has come up with 15 questions that may help you talk with your child about school.

With slight wording modifications, these questions can work with all ages:

1. Tell me about a moment today when you felt excited about what you were learning.
2. Tell me about a moment in class when you felt confused.
3. Think about what you learned and did in school today. What’s something you’d like to know more about? What’s a question you have that came from your learning today?
4. Were there times today when you felt that one of your classmates demonstrated care for you?
5. Were there any moments today when you felt proud of yourself?
6. Tell me about a conversation you had with a classmate or friend that you enjoyed.
7. <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/parents-fifteen-questions-replace-how-was-school-today-elena-aguilar>

All district residents - parents, students, business people, senior citizens, community members - are invited to an important discussion:

### Horseheads 2030

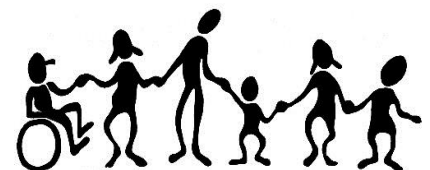
**Initial Community-Wide Discussion**

**Tuesday, December 6**

**6:30pm**

**Horseheads High School Auditorium**

All are welcome and urged to attend this important discussion about the future of the Horseheads Central School District - both our educational program and our infrastructure.



**BIG FLATS**

**E L E M E N T A R Y**

543 Maple Street  
Big Flats, New York 14814  
607-739-6373

Elizabeth Scaptura, Principal

## 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 Judith Christiansen. Mrs. Christiansen may be reached at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, or 607-739-5601 x4211.



**Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent**  
One Raider Lane • Horseheads, NY 14845  
(607) 739-5601, x4201 • Fax (607) 795-2405  
[www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)

November, 2016

Dear Community Members:

For the last few months, we've been talking about Horseheads 2030, a comprehensive project to improve both our educational program and physical infrastructure. We have now reached a time for action with our entire school district community, and we welcome all to become involved in order to help shape the future of our school district.

Our neighboring districts have undergone many major capital improvement projects in recent years, committing hundreds of millions of dollars towards their facilities. Horseheads, unfortunately, has only completed relatively small projects during the last decade. Our facilities are an important aspect of our educational programming if we are to continue being the district of choice for families moving into the area, and to keep our property values at the level they have been in past years.

Last December, you told us – by an overwhelming margin (84% voted NO) – that you want our district to stay the Horseheads Central School District. Last spring, the district determined the internal consolidation of schools would not yield major financial gains for the community and, therefore, finalized the green plan of no school closures at this time. Now we must consider moving forward in order to discuss what we want the Horseheads Central School District to look like, both educationally and physically, in the future. Therefore, we are developing a district initiative entitled:

### ***HORSEHEADS 2030***

Please mark your calendar:

Date:	December 6, 2016
Time	6:30 p.m.
Where	High School Auditorium
Why:	Initial community-wide discussion about Horseheads 2030

We named the project Horseheads 2030 because this year's pre-kindergartners will graduate in the year 2030. Our efforts will not only benefit those students, but all students in our schools as we work to improve our district and educational programs. Horseheads has long been considered an excellent district for the quality of education we offer our students, but our facilities are aging. Our children and our community deserve facilities that keep up with the changing times and enhance the education we offer. Our athletic teams and community programs use our facilities, and they are in and out of the buildings extensively. Like in our schools, these facilities are showing significant wear and are not up-to-date. Many of the critical operating systems in our schools are original to the buildings and starting to fail. Many of our current classrooms are undersized and cannot seat all the students in a class. Our science rooms are small and not equipped for the latest in lab experiments. Additionally, today's technology landscape is entirely different, and our schools must keep up in order to allow our students to have the best education we can give them in today's global connectedness.

Our next step is to open the process up to our community. We need you to join the discussion in order to help us sort through district needs and wants for both our educational program and our facilities. There will be additional meetings in the coming months, but we hope you will come out and join us at the start as we work together to enhance our great district.

Thank you for your support of our students and their education. Thank you for giving your time to help us build on the excellence that is the Horseheads Central School District—for our students now, and our students of Horseheads 2030 and beyond!

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools

### **"Quality Education for All"**

The Mission of the Horseheads Central School Community is to provide a quality education for all within a nurturing environment which promotes excellence, growth, and a sense of civic responsibility.



## *A Change in Plans.....*

**What we were doing:** In past years, The Big Flats PTO has sponsored Spirit of Giving week. During this week, students could make a craft which they could choose to donate or take home.

**Why the change:** Unfortunately, we were unable to find a chair person to set up and run the Spirit of Giving week as it was traditionally done in the past. We saw this as an opportunity to change what we have been doing in past years. Hence, the PTO is helping with the Joey the Elf Toy Drive.

**About Joey the Elf Toy Drive:** The Joey the Elf Toy Drive was set up to help make the wish of one of our students, Joey, come true. If you would like to support the toy drive, please send in a new, unwrapped toy, so we may give them to local charities. The charities will distribute the toys to boys and girls in our area.

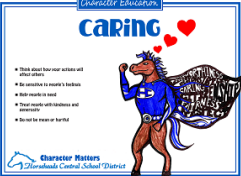
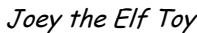
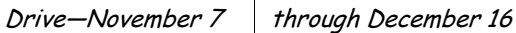

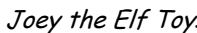
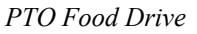
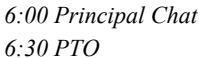

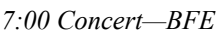


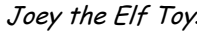
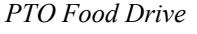
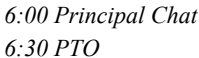

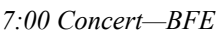


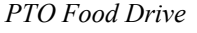
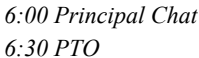

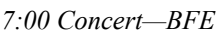


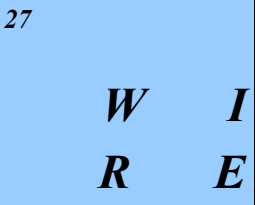



**When:** You may send in your toy donations now through Friday, December 15

**Remember:** Please support the Big Flats Elementary Holiday Food Drive, as well. We will be collecting nonperishable food for the Big Flats Food Pantry now through December 22.

**Questions:** Please contact Big Flats PTO at [pto.bigflats@gmail.com](mailto:pto.bigflats@gmail.com) or call/text Melissa Morrissey at 607-857-7457.

We would like to thank you in advance, for your generosity during this holiday season. Season's Greetings and wishes for a very Happy New Year!!

# december

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<b>CARING</b> Be Kind Express Gratitude Forgive Others Help People in Need	5  	6  	7 	8 	9 	10
11	12  	13  	14 	15 	16 	17
18	19 	20  	21 	22 	23 NO SCHOOL	24
25	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	31