

Big Flats News

March 2017

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.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope everyone has enjoyed the mild winter that we have been having and I would guess that most everyone is ready for spring! I would like to thank the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and all of our families that supported our Annual Winter Festival last month! It is always a wonderful event that allows our students to have some indoor winter fun. The festival wouldn't be the same without our very popular cake wheel and festival games. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this annual fundraiser. The month of March brings many other school opportunities.



This Saturday, March 4, our two spelling bee champions will be participating in the SCRIP Regional Spelling Bee at Corning Painted Post High School beginning at 12:30pm. This event is open to the public and we encourage students and their parents to attend to support MacKenzie and James as they compete to be our Regional Champion. Good luck to both of our BFE Falcon Spelling Bee Champions!

Saturday March 10, 2017, is the Annual Horseheads St. Patrick's Day Parade. Our PTO and students are walking in the parade this year, so please consider joining us!

On Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 pm we will be hosting our Innovation Fair! This was previously the Science Fair, but have changed the name to allow our innovative students the opportunity to share their creative innovation projects. We ask all parents to encourage their students to participate.

Lastly, our 3rd & 4th grade students will be taking the New York State English Language Arts Assessments on March 28, 29, and 30. The Math Assessments are May 2, 3, and 4. We ask all parents to do their best to ensure that their children get a good night's sleep, as well as a hearty breakfast each morning prior to the assessments. I believe strongly that our teachers do an amazing job at preparing our students for these exams, as well as minimizing any anxiety that students may have. All we ask students to do is to do their best! Should anyone have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Scaptura
Principal



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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

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

❖ Delayed Start Procedures

As we continue through 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.** Announcements can be found on our Facebook page, on our District website 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.**

❖ Vacation Homework

Please note that at Big Flats Elementary we will NOT provide homework to students who will miss school for vacations, etc., prior to the student's absences. Students will be expected to complete daily reading and a writing journal during these situations. It is very possible that students may also be expected to complete any pertinent work deemed necessary by the student's classroom teacher once the student returns.

Horseheads 2030 Infrastructure Discussions

Please mark your calendars to attend one or more of the infrastructure discussions for the Horseheads 2030 comprehensive project to improve by the educational program and infrastructure of the district now, in 2030, and beyond. More information on the project is available at www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

All meetings begin at 7pm in the Horseheads High School Auditorium, and are open to the public.

3/16 3/27 4/26 5/11 5/30

Questions? E-mail
hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Spring New York Assessment Dates (Grades 3 & 4):

ELA: March 28 – 30 **Math:** May 2-4

Grade 4 Science Performance: May 24-25

Grade 4 Science Written: June 5

Main Office Updates:

Substitutes Needed:

The Horseheads Central School District is seeking applications for substitute teachers, bus drivers, and substitute teaching assistants. For information, please visit:

<http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/subteach.html>

Human Resources Office: 739-5601, x4211

e-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

Changing your Child's Dismissal Plans?

Thank you for helping us to know that students are going to the correct place 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. Scaptura 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:

February 7	April 4
March 7	May 2
	June 6

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



Office of Children and Family Services

To report child abuse or neglect:

Call toll free 1-800-342-3720 or
ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR 5TH GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2017-2018 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 7, 2017.

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

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.

Our Falcons SOAR!

iPad activities



Mrs. Buckley's class explores Ramps and Inclines

Celebrating 100th Day!



Mrs. Kilmer's 4th Graders show their How-To Presentations

Read Across America



1st Graders count out 100 gumballs for 100th Day



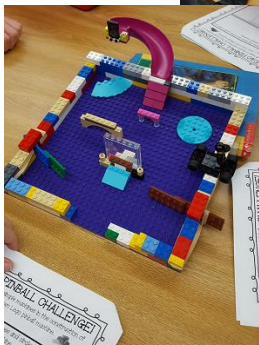
Kindergarteners warm up their gross motor skills



Third Graders recently experienced how to navigate the Underground Railroad



Mrs. Aepelbacher's 4th Graders do a Pinball Challenge!



Mark Your Calendars

CSE Meetings

March 1

Principal Chat

March 7, 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

PTO Meeting

March 7, 6:30 p.m.

Spirit Day: mlsMaTch dAy

March 9

Superintendent's Conferences

March 10 – No School

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 11 2:00 Start

CIM Meetings

March 14

Innovation Fair

March 14 6:30 pm BFE Gymnasium

Spirit Day: Wear Green

March 17

IS Open House for 4th Graders

March 20 6:00 pm MS Cafeteria

CSE Meetings

March 22

Board of Education

March 23

6:00 p.m.—MMC

Spirit Day: Hat Day

March 24

NYS ELA Assessments (Grades 3&4)

March 28, 29, 30

Spirit Day: Sports Day

March 31



&



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.

SUPPLY WISH LIST FOR THE INNOVATION LAB FEBRUARY 2017

Teachers in the Innovation Lab have a couple of things on their wish list for this month. They would love to see donations of:

Pom-Poms, Clothespins, Clay, Tempera Paint, Tape of all kinds!

Thanks!

2017-18 Budget Development Calendar:

The Board will meet to discuss budget development with the community on the following dates:

March 9, 2017 - 6pm, Erin Town Hall – Budget Workshop

March 23, 2017 - 6pm, Multi-Media Center - Board of Education Meeting

April 6, 2017 - 6pm, Multi-Media Center – Budget Workshop

April 19, 2017 (Wednesday) - 6pm, Ridge Road – Board of Education Meeting

The board will adopt the budget to be offered to voters at this meeting.

May 4, 2017 - 6pm, Multi-Media Center – Public Hearing on the 2017-18 Proposed Budget

May 8, 2017 - 7pm, Multi-Media Center – Candidates' Forum

May 16, 2017 - 7am - 9pm, Big Flats/Ridge Road/High School - School Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

Encourage RESPECT:

Follow the Golden Rule

Be tolerant and accepting

Deal peacefully with anger and insults

Use good manners, not bad language

Be considerate of the feelings of others

Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone



Please Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald

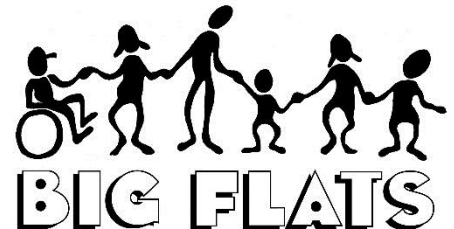


PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com

Like Us on Facebook:

Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

The tabs will be picked up mid-May.



E L E M E N T A R Y

543 Maple Street
Big Flats, New York 14814-9707
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.

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 Judy Christiansen, Title IX and DASA Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

Math+Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

Big Flats Elementary School
Ms. Elizabeth Scaptura, Principal

INFO BITS



Open-door angles

Doors in your house are the perfect place for hands-on practice with angles. Take turns opening or closing a door and asking, "Acute, right, or obtuse?" Partially open a door, and it's an acute angle. Open it straight out, and it's a right angle. Open it wider, and it's obtuse.

Habitat for rent

Help your child think about what animals need to survive (shelter, food, water). Then, have her choose an animal (monkey) and write a classified ad for a home that will meet its needs. *Example:* "Tall tree in a tropical rain forest. Large river nearby for drinking. Plenty of leaves, fruit, and insects to eat."

Book picks

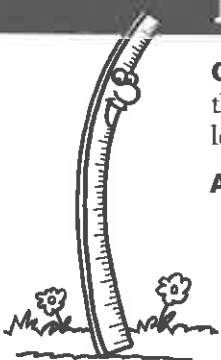
■ *The Man Who Counted: A Collection of Mathematical Adventures* (Malba Tahan) combines an adventure story with interesting math puzzles.

■ Learning about the solar system is fun when planets tell the story themselves. Dan Green's *Astronomy: Out of This World!* contains fascinating facts and details along with cartoon illustrations your youngster is sure to love.

Just for fun

Q: What has three feet but no legs or arms?

A: A yard.



Fractions of fun

Understanding fractions is much easier when your child can visualize them. Here are ideas to help her see—and use—fractions.

Keep a diary. Show her that fractions are a part of everyday life. For a week, have her record and illustrate each one she notices. For instance, she might write, "We had a half day of school today," or "Mom asked for $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of turkey at the store." How many examples can she find and draw?

Play a game. Have each player cut a sheet of construction paper into six horizontal strips. She should leave the first one whole and then cut the second one in half (fold it, and cut along the fold), and the others into thirds, fourths, sixths, and eighths. With bits of masking tape, label a die: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, and "wild." To play, roll the die, and lay the matching



piece of paper on your whole strip (for "wild," choose any piece). The goal is to be the first one to fill your strip without overlapping any pieces (*example:* $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$ whole strip).

Put in order. Together, make a set of fraction cards, with one fraction per index card ($\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{3}{4}$, 2). Shuffle the cards, and see how quickly your youngster can put them in order. Then, while she closes her eyes, lay the cards in order but leave out a few. Give her the missing cards, and have her put them where they go. 🎲

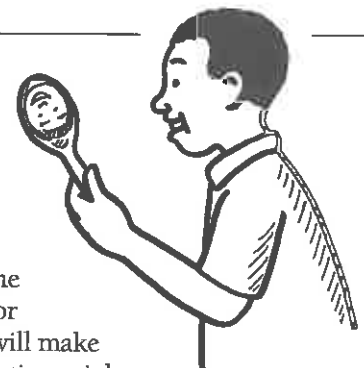
Look at me!

Help your youngster learn about the science of optics with this mealtime activity.

Have him look at himself in a clean spoon. What happens if he looks in the bowl of the spoon? (He's upside down.) What happens on the other side? (He's right side up.)

Next, have him bring his finger toward the spoon and watch what happens on each side. The bowl (the *concave* side) will magnify his finger, or make it look larger. The back (the *convex* side) will make his finger look smaller. Ask your child how scientists might use this information to make eyeglasses, cameras, or telescopes.

Tip: He can remember which side is which by thinking of concave as "caves in." 🎲

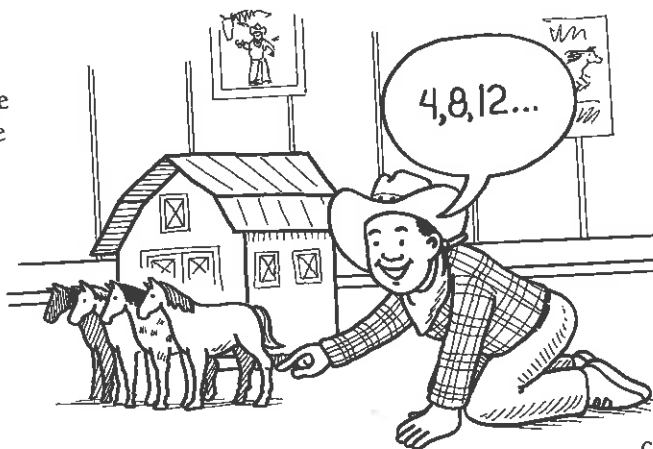


Multiply and divide

Learning to multiply and divide can be more about *thinking* than memorizing. Strategies like these can help your child practice.

Make it fun


Practice using toys or food. If your child collects toy animals, you might ask, "How many legs do 4 horses have?" He can "skip count" the legs by 4s (4, 8, 12, 16) to see that $4 \times 4 = 16$. If he has 17 pretzels and wants to give 3 friends an equal amount, he can "deal them out." He'll see that each person gets 5, and there are 2 left over. ($17 \div 3 = 5$, remainder 2)



Use what you know

Encourage your youngster to look for clues to help him solve problems. For 8×7 , he could consider other facts he knows. "I know 4 groups of $7 = 28$. I need 8 groups, so I can double that answer.


If $28 + 28 = 56$, then $8 \times 7 =$

56." For $30 \div 5$, he might say, "I know $10 \div 5 = 2$. There are three 10s in 30, and $3 \times 2 = 6$. So $30 \div 5$ must be 6." 

Q & A Ask math questions

Q: I've never felt comfortable with math. How should I talk to my children about what they're learning in math class?

A: Try to show enthusiasm for what your youngsters are doing in math. You might ask them each day at dinner or homework time what they studied in math that day. Let them explain the concepts they're working on, and follow up with questions. For instance, if they're learning about decimals, you could ask how decimal points are used in money (they separate the parts of a dollar from the whole dollar).

Then, when your children finish their homework, have them show you how they solved a few problems. As they explain their methods to you, they'll be reinforcing their own skills. And they'll be proud to be teaching you something! 




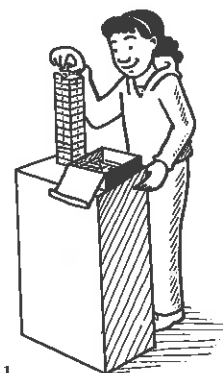
MATH CORNER

Find, build, compute

What do a shoebox, book, and refrigerator have in common? They are all rectangular prisms, or solid shapes with rectangles for their faces (sides). Encourage your child to explore geometry with this common shape.

Volume. Let her build a rectangular prism out of dice, sugar cubes, or same-sized Legos. Her model should be solid, with no hidden spaces. When she finishes, have her figure out the volume (count the cubes along the height, width, and length, and multiply the three numbers together). To check her math, she can take apart her structure and count all the cubes.

Dimensions. Give your youngster 36 blocks, and see how many different sizes of rectangular prisms she can build. Have her record dimensions of each one. *Examples:* $2 \times 2 \times 9$ and $2 \times 3 \times 6$. What do the sets have in common? (Each product equals 36.) 



SCIENCE LAB

Save your breath


Your youngster can inflate a balloon without using his breath. A chemical reaction will do the job for him!

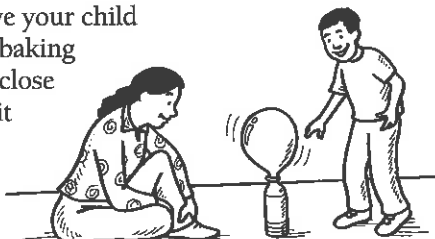
You'll need: empty plastic soda bottle (20 fl. oz.), $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water, 1 tsp. baking soda, uninflated balloon, lemon juice

Here's how: Have your child add the water and baking soda to the bottle, close the cap, and swirl it around until the water is cloudy. Then, help him stretch out the

balloon and place the opening over the top of the bottle, leaving a small space. He should very quickly add a little lemon juice, seal the balloon completely over the bottle, and shake lightly.

What happens? The balloon inflates.

Why? When you mix an acid (lemon juice) with a base (baking soda), they create carbon dioxide. The molecules spread out as the gas forms, pushing against the walls of the balloon and causing it to inflate. 



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's math and science skills.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

Horseheads 2030

Infrastructure Discussions

All district residents are welcome to attend meetings related to the physical infrastructure of the Horseheads district as part of Horseheads 2030, a comprehensive capital project to improve the education and infrastructure of the district. These meetings will focus on the district's buildings and grounds.

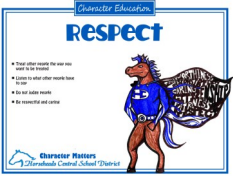


All meetings are open to the public and will be held at 7pm in the Horseheads High School Auditorium. Here is the schedule:

February 28	7pm	Auditorium
March 16	7pm	Auditorium
March 27	7pm	Auditorium
April 26	7pm	Auditorium
May 11	7pm	Auditorium
May 30	7pm	Auditorium



Questions about Horseheads 2030? Visit www.horseheadsdistrict.com, call (607) 739-5601, x4295, or email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
RESPECT Follow the Golden Rule Be tolerant and accepting Deal peacefully with anger and insults		Use good manners, not bad language Be considerate of the feelings of others Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone	1 CSE Meetings 1	2 2	3 3	4
5	6 4	7 5 6:00 Principal Chat 6:30 PTO	8 6	9 1	10 No School Conference Day	11
12 	13 2	14 CIM Meetings 3 6:30 Innovation Fair	15 4	16 5	17 6 	18
19	20 First day of Spring! 1 6:00 IS Open House	21 2	22 CSE Meetings 3	23 4 6:00 BoE—MMC	24 5	25
26	27 6	28 NYS ELA Assessments 1	29 NYS ELA Assessments 2	30 NYS ELA Assessments 3	31 4 End of Marking Period	