



Big Flats Falcons

October 2016

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 & Guardians,

The month of October is a very important and busy month for us here at school. During the month of October we have many drills that we complete so that we are prepared for any emergency. Of course we practice these drills throughout the school year, however, there are a couple that are designated to be held during the month of October. Next week on October 6, we will be completing our annual Off Site Evacuation drill to the Wesleyan Church right next door to our school. This year, however, we will be adding the next step in our evacuation process, which will be to be bused to the Intermediate/Middle School complex. We would do this in an emergency evacuation when we needed to be farther away from this campus. We are expecting this drill to take approximately 75 minutes. For additional information please read the letter that was sent home to parents dated September 30, 2016.

On Friday, October 14, 2016, we will be having our Emergency Go Home Drill. This drill is designed to ensure that we have enough buses in the event that we have an Emergency Closing. Please remember should that ever happen, parents will not be able to pick up their children, nor would we be able to make or take phone calls; every student would be sent home by bus. Buses will not actually be leaving school early the day of the drill; students will arrive home at their regular time.

October is also Anti Bullying Month! This year we would like to increase our unity by having students and staff “Go BLUE” by wearing a blue shirt every Monday during the month of October. Then on Wednesday, October 19, we will have everyone participate in Unity Day by wearing **Orange!**

Another important date for October is Saturday, October 22, 2016. This is Make a Difference Day! On Saturday, October 22, we as a district are coming together to “Make a Difference” for others in our community. Participants are asked to wear “Raider Blue.” There are six different activities/locations that you and your child(ren) may participate in. They are:

1. Big Flats Community Park
2. Teal Park
3. Maple Grove Cemetery
4. Jubilee Plaza
5. Appleridge and Bethany Village
6. School Volunteer Activities

See the flyer that went home for details.

I look forward to an exciting month ahead and hope that our students can participate in these fun days to make a difference in the lives of others!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. 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

739-6373

795-2550

795-2555 fax



FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

- ❖ **Write your Name on your Lunch Box!**
Lunch boxes have been brought to the office several times this year, after having been left on the bus or in the cafeteria. Most of the lunch boxes have had no name in them, making it difficult to find the owner. Please write your child's first and last name somewhere in or on the lunchbox so we can get it back to them prior to lunch. Thanks!
- ❖ **Half Days and Kids World**
Kids World is not offered on half days of school. Next month, November 10 is the only scheduled half day so far, and there will be no Kids World available. Be sure to send in a blue note!
- ❖ **Please Always Park in the Parking Lot**
When you visit the school to drop something off to your child, attend a meeting, pick your child up for an appointment, etc. please park in the lot (not the fire lane). All visitors must report to the office. If you are dropping something off to your child, the office staff will be more than happy to get it to their classroom or teacher.
- ❖ To be proactive and avoid difficult situations, please review the **Code of Conduct** with your children. All students received a copy of the Code of Conduct the first day of school. Behaviors such as using threatening words or bringing any type of weapon to school could put them and the school in a position where a suspension is the outcome. These are just a couple of examples, but the point to be made is that we all want to avoid these situations. Proper dress for school, such as safe footwear, no hats, and appropriate clothing, are also part of the Code of Conduct. **Please have your student sign and return the last page of the Student Handbook.**

Main Office Updates:

Reminder for October 6

On Thursday, October 6, it is very important that your child is in school as we will be having our Off Site Evacuation Drill. The drill will take approximately 75 minutes to complete. Please do not schedule any appointments for your child(ren) during the morning as your child will not be on campus. Should you need to bring your child late, and find you will be later than 9:00, please wait until 10:30 to bring them, when we return from the drill.

Halloween Parade

This year's parade will be on October 28 at 1:30. Students are not allowed to come to school in costume—this includes make-up and colored hair. All costumes must be non-threatening, and no toy weapons are allowed. Visitors are NOT allowed to wear costumes. Only pre-approved parent helpers will be allowed into the building to assist students with costumes. The parade is held outside, and in the event of rain, the parade will be canceled and not rescheduled. To ensure the safety of our students, we ask that all visitors please remain behind the yellow caution tape while watching the parade.

If you are taking your child out of school early, we ask that you PLEASE send in a blue note NO later than the morning of the parade. Please note, often classroom activities are held immediately following the parade and students do not want to go home early with parents.

Guidelines for Classroom Parties and Celebrations Reminder

If bringing food for your child's class such as drinks, cakes, or pastries (**please do not bring frozen items**), the following guidelines need to be used:

1. **Check with your child's teacher for approval and to see if students in the class have any food allergies, such as peanuts, chocolate, etc.**
2. Immediately after cooking and cooling, items should be wrapped individually (i.e. home-baked cookies, cupcakes, muffins).
3. The Chemung County Health Department makes these additional requests:
 - Cold food needs to be refrigerated immediately and held below 45 degrees.
 - Hands are to be washed before food prep.
 - Gloves, tongs or deli paper should be used so there is no barehanded contact with food after preparation.
4. In an effort to provide all students and teachers with optimal uninterrupted instruction we are no longer allowing students to share their birthday treats with other staff outside of their classroom. Please send only enough birthday treats for the number of students in your child's classroom. We appreciate your understanding.

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:

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

Innovation Lab

We've got an exciting room at Big Flats Elementary. It's called the Innovation Lab, and it will provide all of our awesome students with an opportunity to utilize both their knowledge and creativity. The theme of the room will incorporate Project Based Learning, with an emphasis on student driven problem solving. Through hands-on experience, a student will take responsibility for the completion of their projects big and small, from initiation to completion. This additional learning style will utilize a number of activities and projects to pique their interest using invention, design, and manipulation, both independently and in a team format. To help get the room up and running, we are asking our great parents to help fill the room with some tools to get the students excited and motivated to increase their knowledge base. Here is a brief list of ideas, and of course any of your ideas or thoughts will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do.

SUPPLY WISH LIST FOR THE INNOVATION CENTER OCTOBER 2016

- ❖ Paper bowls and plates
- ❖ Yarn!!
- ❖ CDs
- ❖ Hardware odds 'n ends – nuts, bolts, etc.
- ❖ 4oz-6oz containers (sour cream or big yogurt)
- ❖ Magazines
- ❖ LEGOS GALORE (old, new, easy, hard)
- ❖ Wallpaper
- ❖ Bottle caps
- ❖ Embroidery hoops
- ❖ Fabric scraps
- ❖ PVC pipe – any size
- ❖ Small motors
- ❖ Robotics
- ❖ Twist ties
- ❖ Play dough
- ❖ Modeling Clay
- ❖ Magnets – any size
- ❖ Coffee stirrers
- ❖ Wire
- ❖ Golf tees
- ❖ Wikki Stix
- ❖ Egg cartons

Academic Tenacity, Growth Mindset, & The Power of YET!!

Again this year, I spoke to the students about academic tenacity, having a growth mindset and the Power of YET! We discussed all of these new BFE Rising Star Characteristics and I wanted to share with parents just how important it is that we all use the same language to support our children through their own learning. So please talk to your child about our Town Meetings and the ideas of Growth Mindset and the Power of Yet!!

Academic Tenacity is about working hard (and working smart) for a long time.

More specifically, academic tenacity is about the mindsets and skills that allow students:

- to look beyond short term concerns to longer term or higher order goals
- to withstand challenges and setbacks to persevere towards these goals.

An individual with a Growth Mindset believes.....

With time, patience and persistence I will get this!! It will not come to me easily, I will have to work very hard to be successful, but I believe and know that I CAN DO IT!!

The Power of Yet.....

I may not get this concept, or I may not be very good at something, however, I just don't have it YET!!



Horseheads Central School District Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data

The District, in compliance with Education Law 2-d, hereby establishes the following Parents' Bill of Rights in regard to student data:

1. A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's educational record. Procedures for reviewing student records can be found in the Board Policy entitled "Student Records," Policy 5500, Regulation 5500-R;
3. Security protocols regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable information are currently in place and the safeguards necessary to protect the confidentiality of student data are maintained at industry standards and best practices. The safeguards include but are not limited to encryption, firewalls, and password protection.
4. New York State maintains a complete list of all student data collected by the State and the data is available for public review at www.nysed.gov, or by writing to 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234
5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845.

Mark Your Calendars

Go BLUE MONDAYS!

10/3, 17, 24, and 31

Big Flats PTO

October 4

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

BF PTO Color Run

October 6, 5:30pm (note new date)

Columbus Day - No School

October 10

Unity Day

October 19 – Wear Orange

Picture Day

October 20

Board of Education

October 20

6:00 p.m.— MS

Conference Day - No School

October 21

Make a Difference Day!

October 22

Halloween Parade

October 28

1:30 p.m.

Parent/Teacher Conference

Half Day – 11:00 Dismissal

November 10 *No Kids World*

Parent/Teacher Conference

Day - No School (Elem/IS)

November 18

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.

If you aren't getting our emails, please check your spam folders. Or, put our email in your address book so your system doesn't think our messages are spam. The email address for our auto-emails is notifications@schoolconnectsweb.com

PTO Officers

The PTO officers for this year are as follows. If you are interested in volunteering with the PTO, please contact:

Melissa Morrissey at morrisseymk@yahoo.com or Sally Heffner at sallyheffner@live.com

2016-2017 Officers

Melissa Morrissey	President
Sally Heffner	Vice President
Mary Juan	Co-Treasurer
Jill Staats	Co-Treasurer
Renee Miley	Secretary

Unity Day Oct. 19, 2016

Show those being bullied that they are not alone, that you care, and lead the movement against bullying. Join the movement to make it orange and make it end! If you are being bullied, you are not alone. Celebrate Unity Day to show we are together against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. **Wear ORANGE on October 19.**

Make a Difference Day Oct. 22

Bring your family and friends to help our community on Saturday, October 22 for the first ever district-wide Make a Difference Day. Let's show how much Raider Nation cares!

See the flyer for full details, but here are your options:

1. Big Flats Community Park
2. Teal Park
3. Maple Grove Cemetery
4. Jubilee Plaza
5. Appleridge and Bethany Village
6. School Volunteer Activities

All students and their family members who volunteer on the 22nd are invited to the Horseheads Raiders Football Game at 1pm that day. All participants will receive a blue Make a Difference wristband during the morning – that's your ticket to the football game. Zeke, our character education mascot, will be joining us at the game, and the wonderful work you've done will be announced during the half time celebration.



Character Education trait for October is: RESPONSIBILITY

Ideas to support Responsibility include:

- ❖ Do what you are supposed to do
- ❖ Plan ahead
- ❖ Persevere: keep on trying!
- ❖ Always do your best
- ❖ Use self-control
- ❖ Be self-disciplined
- ❖ Think before you act – consider the consequences
- ❖ Set a good example for others

Follow Us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

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, #lovelearning@BFE, #celebratemonday, or the District @HhdsSchools
Follow us on Instagram at hhdsschools



BIG FLATS

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.

Notification of Rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

This is to advise you of your rights with respect to student records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of student records. The law gives parents and students over 18 years of age (referred to in the law as “eligible students”) the following rights:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the US Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The office that administers FERPA is as follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office
US Department of Education
600 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605



October 2016

I will be ... Safe
 I will be ... On task
 I will ... Always be caring
 I will be ... Ready for success
 I will have a great day of learning at
 Big Flats Elementary School!
 I WILL SOAR TODAY!!!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Plan ahead ◊ Be diligent ◊ Persevere ◊ Do your best ◊ Do what you are supposed to ◊		Think before you act ◊ Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes ◊ Set a good example for others				1
2	3 Go Blue! 1	4 2 6:00 Principal Chat 6:30 PTO	5 3	6 4 5:30 Color Run 	7 5	8
9	10 No School	11 6	12 1	13 2	14 3	15
16	17 Go Blue! 4	18 5	19 Unity Day 6 	20 1 Picture Day	21 No School Conference Day	22 Make a Difference Day
23	24 Go Blue! 2	25 3	26 4	27 5	28 6	29
30	31 Halloween Go Blue! 1 					

when we stand together



no one stands alone