



Big Flats Falcons

October 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 wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who attended our annual Open House last week! We all hope you had an enjoyable evening, despite the heat. This year, we have many new staff members joining our Big Flats Elementary Team. I would like to welcome the following new staff members:

- Ms. Karen Myers - Main Office Secretary
- Mrs. Kate Biddle - Kindergarten
- Mrs. Jamie Satterlee - Teaching Assistant Contract Substitute
- Miss Jayda Scharborough - Teaching Assistant
- Mrs. Summer Kenefick - 2nd Grade Teacher
- Mrs. Sabrina Harndon - Teaching Assistant
- Miss Mary Coble- Speech Pathologist
- Mrs. Amy Greene- Contract Substitute Teacher

During the month of October, we have many drills that we complete so we are prepared for any emergency. Of course, we practice these drills throughout the school year, however, there are a couple that are designated during the month of October. Next week, on Thursday, October 12th we will have our Off Site Evacuation Drill. This drill is when we all walk over to the Wesleyan Church in case we need to evacuate the school. Then on Friday, October 13th, 2017 we will be practicing our Region Wide Emergency Go Home Drill. The purpose of this drill is to ensure that students know what bus they are to get on, in case we need to send all students home early. Please note that students will not be sent home early on this day.

Another important date for October is Saturday, October 28th, 2017. This is Make a Difference Day! On Saturday, October 28th, 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 many different activities/locations that you and your child (ren) may participate in. Please refer to the Make a Difference flyer for more information.

Lastly, in an effort to make a difference for those impacted by our season of hurricanes, we will be collecting school supplies to send to schools impacted by the hurricanes. More information will be coming home soon from the PTO.

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

**Character Education Assembly with
Higher Impact in September.**



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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 9th 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 12

On Thursday, October 12, 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 afternoon as your child will not be on campus.



Clifford greets Big Flats Elementary students

Halloween Parade

This year's parade will be on October 27 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 – April 11-13, 2018
3rd and 4th grade Math – May 1 - 3, 2018

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

MAKERSPACE

Our innovation lab has transformed into a Makerspace! Along with our marble run, Lego, STEAM, 3D design and creation stations, we would like to offer a "take apart or reverse engineering" station to the students. To make this happen, we are asking for donations of old/broken machines and toys. Items can be big or small. Some examples are calculators, watches, timers, cameras, answering machines, typewriters, stuffed animals, old play toys that made noise or had moveable parts, clocks, radios, etc. Please NO computers or cellphones.

SUPPLY WISH LIST FOR THE MAKERSPACE

- *tools- screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, lightweight hammers, hand drills etc.
- *soft woods- like balsa
- *Hardware odds n ends - nuts, bolts...etc
- *Legos (old, new, easy, hard)
- *Embroidery hoops
- *Brads
- *Modeling clay
- *Magnets - any size
- *coffee stirrers/straws
- *wire
- *pipe cleaners
- *CD's
- *tape! Any size, any kind!



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!!

Be A Learner, not just a finisher!

We are encouraging students this year to think about their learning to gain a deeper understanding and not simply finishing assigned work.

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

Big Flats PTO

October 3

BF PTO Color Run

October 5, 5:30

Columbus Day - No School

October 9

4th Grade Field Trip to Tanglewood

October 10

Capital referendum vote

October 17

7am - 9pm High school

Picture Day

October 19

Board of Education

October 19

6:00 p.m.- HS

Conference Day - No School

October 20

Make a Difference Day!

October 28

Halloween Parade

October 27

1:30 p.m. (weather permitting)

Parent/Teacher Conference

Half Day – 11:00 Dismissal

November 9 *No Kids World*

Veteran's Day – NO School

November 10

Parent/Teacher Conference- No School

November 17

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

Please Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald



PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com

Like Us on Facebook

Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald

House Charites

The tabs will be picked up mid-May.

Hurricane Relief!

Big Flats Elementary School is sponsoring several classrooms that have been impacted by Hurricanes in recent days. If you would like to donate, please contact a PTO representative.

PTO Officers

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

Alissa Creighton at alissaacreighton@gmail.com or
Melissa Morrissey at morrisseymk@yahoo.com

2017-2018 Officers

Alissa Creighton	President
Melissa Morrissey	Vice President
Mary Juan	Co-Treasurer
Jill Staats	Co-Treasurer
Renee Miley	Secretary

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

VOTE OCTOBER 17

On October 17, voters in the Horseheads Central School District will vote on a capital project to begin renovating and updating district schools and elect one member to the Board of Education.

High School Gym from 7am to 9pm

Make a Difference Day Oct. 28

Bring your family and friends to help our community on Saturday, October 28 from 10 am till noon for the second annual 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. PetSmart/PetCo
6. Appleridge and Bethany Village
7. School Volunteer Activities

Please return sign-up sheet to the school by October 12th. Also note that children in grades Pre-K-6 must be accompanied by an adult.



BIG FLATS

ELEMENTARY

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 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 gender, race, color, national origin, or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Megan Collins, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.