

News

...of the Horseheads Central School District

Volunteer makes a lasting impression on students, staff, and parents

When there's time in teachers' English Language Arts instruction schedule at Big Flats Elementary School, you can bet Barbara Dick will be in a classroom, guiding and helping her students with their writing and poetry skills, and showing them how much she cares.

"Mrs. D," as students and staff call her, has been volunteering at Big Flats, and Gardner Road before that, for the past 20 years. "I love it," she says.

Mrs. D was a first-grade teacher and school librarian for 25 years in the Campbell and Canis-

teo school districts. After retirement, she wanted to stay in touch with students and their learning, so she began volunteering.

"I just love getting to know the students and how they think," Mrs. D said. "And I want them to think."

She helps students in more ways than one. "We address feelings and emotions too," she said, noting that poetry helps students do just that. Many years ago, a student told her he didn't realize he could write his feelings down.

Mrs. D has made a difference not just for students, but for staff members and families.

"Mrs. D is a gem," said Big Flats third-grade teacher Lisa Comer. "She is such a great role model for what seniors have to offer. My students and I are so lucky she's willing to share her time and all she knows with us."

"Mrs. D was my librarian when I was a little girl," said parent Susan Stage-Derrick. "Loved her then and love her now. She is so sharp and sweet."

Mrs. D worked with Stage-Derrick's son Bryce when he was a student at Big Flats. "What an awesome thing to share such an awesome person with your child in a lifetime."



Barbara Dick - Mrs. D., as students and staff call her - works with Nathan Preston, a third-grader in Lisa Comer's class at Big Flats Elementary School, on October 31.



Our Mission ***"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.



Our Vision

We, the Horseheads School Community, want a district that:

- is nurturing and responsive;
- strives for balance in a supportive, safe, encouraging environment;
- recognizes the need for continual improvement in an ever-changing world;
- has a clearly defined focus on learning outcomes, collaboration, and support systems; and
- creates an environment within which everyone can thrive and achieve his/her highest potential.



Our Beliefs

We believe:

- everyone can achieve his/her highest potential;
- trust is essential for growth;
- learning is cooperative;
- programs are inclusive;
- success will be nurtured and expected;
- learning is performance-based;
- decisions are data-based; and
- responsibility, respect and results guide our every effort.



Exit Outcomes

The Horseheads Central School graduate will be...

- a life-long learner;
- a caring, productive citizen;
- an effective communicator;
- a creative problem-solver;
- a quality decision-maker;
- a healthy, well-rounded person.

From the superintendent

Dear Community Members,

It has been a very busy school year so far for our students, staff, and district. Our students and staff are working so hard. We have so much to be thankful for this holiday season.

There have been many wonderful events going on in our schools, from Grandparents Day at Ridge Road, to a special Veterans Tribute at Center Street, to concerts and college signings. There are too many to mention, but all are very special.

The Common Core Learning Standards and Assessments have been the subject of many discussions and news stories across the state and nation. The standards are designed to prepare our students to be college- and career-ready, and the assessments are designed to measure learning. For more information on the Common Core, visit www.engageny.org.

There are also many things going on at the district level. The state has granted the Elmira Heights Central School District \$49,500 for a consolidation study with our district. This study will explore the viability of a consolidation of the two districts. At this time, our two districts are determining the next steps. We'll share more information as it becomes available.

Additionally, in late October, a focus group of district residents, parents, staff, and business members took a close look at the various facilities/grade reconfiguration scenarios developed by consultants using data collected over the last year. The focus group ranked each scenario, and our Strategic Plan Implementation Team looked at the focus group's work at their November meeting and will be further involved in the process going forward. Our Board of Education is looking at the work and the various scenarios to determine the next steps in the process.

Why are we undertaking these studies? Like districts across the state, we have been facing financial struggles for several years due to decreasing revenues from the state. We have used reserve funds to make up for budget deficits. We have also reduced staff - 140+ positions in six years - and some programs and services. Many districts in the state are headed for educational and financial insolvency if they don't make changes. We do not want to be one of those districts.

Deficit spending cannot continue. Making more reductions and raising taxes will not make up the difference. As a result, we must take a close look at our facilities to see if we can make significant savings by using facilities in a different way, closing buildings, and/or changing the grade configuration of our schools.

These are difficult decisions in challenging times. I ask that you stay informed about the studies and the decisions being considered by the Board of Education. The Program/Facility study information is on our website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com. I also hold roundtable discussions in our community each month. The dates are on the district calendar, which is also on our website.

Thank you for your support, and best wishes this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Ralph Marino, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Special day at Ridge Road

Every other year, some very special people descend upon Ridge Road Elementary for a morning of fun and learning. This year, nearly 500 people came to Grandparents and Special Friends Day on October 25.

After registering, grandparents visited their grandchildren's classrooms, participating in activities and hearing about what the students are learning. They then watched and listened to a concert in the gym, with students in each grade performing.

Thank you, grandparents and special friends!



First-grader Grayson Hartke talks with his grandpa, Ed Kaufmann



Delainey Bishop and her grandfather, Errol Dilmore on Grandparents and Special Friends Day at Ridge Road.

New assessments: How does the Horseheads district stack up?

Our students and staff work hard to prepare for state assessments, which are designed to measure learning. As a result, our students score well compared to their counterparts in the region and state.

Last year was the first administration of the new Common Core state assessments. Below is a chart showing Horseheads students' results on these tests compared to students in the GST BOCES and in the state. A score of 3 or 4 is considered passing:

<i>Test</i>	<i>Horseheads % at Levels 3/4</i>	<i>GST BOCES Rank (of 21 districts)</i>	<i>State % at Levels 3/4</i>
Math Grade 3	43%	2nd	34%
ELA Grade 3	42%	2nd	31%
Math Grade 4	49%	1st	36%
ELA Grade 4	34%	2nd	30%
Math Grade 5	35%	3rd	30%
ELA Grade 5	34%	4th	30%
Math Grade 6	39%	2nd	31%
ELA Grade 6	37%	5th	30%
Math Grade 7	34%	2nd	28%
ELA Grade 7	33%	6th	31%
Math Grade 8	43%	1st	28%
ELA Grade 8	49%	2nd	34%

Business First ranks districts

Business First has issued its annual rankings of the 429 Upstate New York school districts. The Buffalo-area publication ranks districts in many areas.

For the second consecutive year, the Horseheads district ranks fifth in academic performance of the 40 districts in the Binghamton/Elmira area.

The district has the lowest per pupil spending of the districts in the Binghamton/Elmira area.

Additionally, the district ranks 13th out of the 429 Upstate New York districts in terms of administrative efficiency, which is based on an analysis of district spending, staffing levels, and debt service.

In the top ten percent of the rankings, the district receives a five-star designation from the magazine in the administrative efficiency category.

The district is also ranked 24th for cost-effectiveness, placing the district in the top 6% in upstate school districts.

Snapshots...

Center Street third-grader Brielle May with her dad, Shawn May, at the November 7 Veterans Tribute at the school. Fifty-one veterans walked through the halls of the schools, while students and staff waved flags and said thank-you. Patriotic music played overhead. Thank you, veterans.



Congratulations to the High School Marching Band on earning third place in their division at the New York State Field Band Championships.



Intermediate School Students, staff, and families took part in Make a Difference Day October 26. They participated in a wide range of activities to help the community and the school. Above, left to right: Brooke Thompson, Michaela Elston, Madilann Johnson create materials for Grade 6 Egypt Day.



Center Street students voted for their Student Council officers in October using real voting machines. Above, Nikolaos Beschler casts his vote. Congratulations to the elected officers: Lucas Granger, president; Natalie Yearick, vice president; Olivia Packard, secretary; and Jack Masker, treasurer.



Center Street's October 9 Spelling Bee winners: Michelle Amponsah (left), fourth-grade champion, and Meadow Barr, third-grade champion.



Ridge Road's Fun Run September 28 brought students, staff, and families together. Above, Emma Kintz-Florczyk, Sarah Austin, Dakoda Howerton, and Hannah Miller participate in the run. The four students held hands and cheered each other on throughout the entire run.



Students in Elisabeth Bostwick's second-grade class spent Halloween morning with lots and lots of pumpkin seeds. The students were divided into three teams, and each team was given a pumpkin. The teams counted individual seeds and grouped them into tens. Once the team had 10 tens, they moved the group of tens to the hundreds place. It was quite a job - each pumpkin had more than 300 seeds! The team's totals were 326, 351, and 305, for a total of 982 seeds. Above, Sarah Lenhardt and Gage Wilson count pumpkin seeds.



Students in Jillian Mastronardi's kindergarten class at Big Flats spent the morning surrounded by pumpkins October 28. With help from parents, the students measured and weighed pumpkins, then watched as they cut the pumpkin open. They emptied the pumpkin and separated the seeds, and then the adults carved the pumpkin. Above, Shawn Woodard and Ella Brady measure their pumpkin with string.

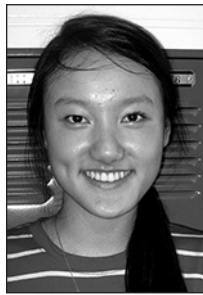
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or visit our website at
www.horseheadsdistrict.com.***

Sixth-graders in Sherri Crans' art classes participated in a cave art project in October and November. After researching and analyzing prehistoric painted images found in the Lascaux Caves in France in 1940, each student chose an animal depicted in the paintings and created their own cave painting. The images were then put on display in the main lobby showcase. Above, Brandon Paul (left) and Henry Juan work on their cave drawings.



News worthy...

- Senior Carrie Wang is a semi-finalist in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship competition.



Carrie Wang

- The following students were accepted to the Senior High Area All-State Music Festival November 15-16:

- Women's Choir: Madalyn Owen, Sophia Genier.
- Mixed Choir: Tyler Struble, Rebekah Stoddard, Patrick Hoose Saukas.
- Orchestra: Carrie Wang, Chloe Johnson, Alyssa Militello, Sophia He, Sarah Leipham, Nidhi Shah, Grace Marshall, Madison Capek, Jacob Weber, Elisabeth Estep.
- Band: Nicole Walrath, Sruti Akula, Emily Wagner, Abigail Swartout, Josh Tinker, Marissa Faroni, Claire Preston, Patrick Leslie, Caroline Feyling, Sebastian Bauco, Jessica Hoffman, Brendan Marshall, Ryan Hallstrom, Adam Bassler, Jeffrey Hansen, Rebekah Gordon, James Bergman, Patrick Buckley, Justin Gregory, Dan Anderson, Cameron Stone, Tim Wallisky.

- The following students were accepted to the Junior High Area All-State Festival in Penn Yan November 8-9:

- Women's Choir: Mackenzie Bailey, Marissa Eddy, Michaela Conklin, Julie Valicenti, Danielle Ike, Emily Pinto.
- Mixed Choir: Jared Anderson, Matt Bauman, Erik Brown, Leslie Card, Ethan Cavanaugh, Andrew Earley, Katie Hayden, Aaron Hoose-Saukas, Max Kuhnel, Dominic Magistro, Emma Schiavone, Serena Van Osdol, Madalyn Wieder, Harley Young.
- Orchestra: Anthony Snowburg, Judith Lee, Christopher Coble, Rebekah Rendino, Jiesi Liu, Mackenzie Hyde, Victoria Riina, Sieun Park, Ryan Casey, Jonathan Stanbro.
- Band: Madalyn Robbins, Luke Gromer, Peter Grella, Michela Shutts, Erich Stoltzfus, James Parker.

Middle School students practice for the job search

Eighth-graders in Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes got a taste of the job search process October 29 when each had a five-minute interview. Students were interviewed by volunteers including parents, district staff members, and community members.



Superintendent of Schools Ralph Marino, Jr. interviews eighth-grader Scott Cardamone October 29.

Prior to the interviews, students wrote resumes, filled out job applications, and got tips on interviewing and keeping a job.

Matt Sharpe of Cameron Manufacturing visited classes to talk about preparation for the interview and the interview itself. Tom Casey from Boeranger Ingleheim Pharmaceuticals talked to students about work ethic, skills, and attitude necessary to keep the job once you get it.

The Career Development Council assisted FACS teachers Elisha Mashanic and Pat Abernatha with this project.



Tom Casey from Boeranger Ingleheim Pharmaceuticals talks to eighth-graders prior to their mock interviews.

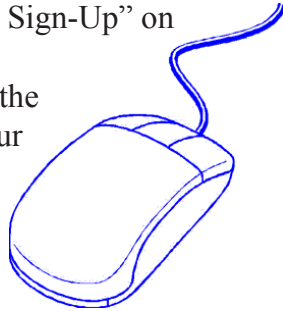
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Help us save costs by reading the newsletter online.

Sign up to receive the district newsletter on-line instead of through postal mail by going to www.horseheadsdistrict.com/newslettersign-up.cfm to sign up.

You may also access the sign-up page at www.horseheadsdistrict.com. Click on the blue button titled "E-Newsletter Sign-Up" on the right side of the page.

When a new edition of the newsletter is uploaded to our website, you will receive an e-mail with a link that will take you directly to the newsletter.



Please send us information

If you live in the district and have a young child, please share your child's information with us so that we'll be prepared to contact you when your child is eligible for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Please send your child's name, birthdate, parent(s)' name(s), address, and phone number to hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions? E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call 739-5601, x4251.

"Like" us on Facebook

The district and each of our seven schools have Facebook pages. See up-to-date information about our schools and district by "liking" our pages. Search for the school or district name, and click the "like" button. Thank you!



Visit the district's website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Reminder to parents...

If you move within the district, we require two proofs of residency when you submit the address change for your child(ren). Accepted forms of proof are the following:

- Bank contract or mortgage agreement with name and address showing home purchase
- Signed rent or lease agreement with landlord's name, address, and telephone number, or DSS processed landlord statement
- Most recent utility bill (electric, phone, etc)
- Deposit receipt for gas, electric, phone service start-up
- Driver's license or State ID card with picture showing current district address.
- Currently active bank account/checkbook statement with name and address imprinted (bank may be contacted to verify existence of account)
- Payroll stub with address

Questions? Call 739-5601, x4251.

Safe Schools Line

To report a concern, rumor, or other safety issue anonymously and confidentially 24 hours a day, call

**795-2044 or
1-800-305-4984**

For alumni...

All former Horseheads students are invited to join the Alumni Association.

To join, send a check for \$5 to the Horseheads Alumni Association, PO Box 285, Horseheads, NY 14845.

For more information, contact Joyce Arms at 739-3272 or Pat Gross at 739-7334.

If you'd like to have the fiberglass horse at your reunion or other school-related event, please contact Arland Phillips at 739-1865. A donation of \$25 is requested.

Events

- December 9 Middle School Choir Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:30pm
- December 10 Intermediate School PTO, 6:30pm; Ridge Road Grade 4 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7pm
- December 11 High School Marking Period ends; Center Street Grade 4 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7pm
- December 12 Big Flats Grade 4 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7pm
- December 13 Middle School Dance/Open Gym, 7-9pm; High School Snow Ball, Cafeteria
- December 16 Gardner Road Grade 4 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7pm
- December 17 High School Parent Advisory Council, 9am; Ridge Road PTO, 6:30pm; Middle School/High School Concert Bands, High School Auditorium, 7:30pm
- December 18 Middle School Progress Reports; High School Choir Concert, Auditorium, 7:30pm
- December 19 Board of Education, Middle School, 6pm
- December 23-January 3 Winter Recess



Horseheads Central School District
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Happy Holidays from the
Horseheads
Central School
District



Board of Education

Brian Lynch, President; Pam Strollo, Vice President; Rose Apgar; Karen Boullas; Mark Brinhaupt; Warren Conklin; Jim Jacobus; Doug Johnson; David Sadler; Austin Smith (student representative)

Superintendent

Ralph Marino, Jr., Ed.D.

Contact

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supirozz@horseheadsdistrict.com