

Big Flats News

April 2020

*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 Student, Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you and your family healthy and well, and adapting to these unprecedented times. As I reflect on the past few weeks, I find myself being thankful for all that I have. I am incredibly thankful for a very dedicated, hard-working, and caring team of teachers and support staff who quickly came together to create packets for their students and families to maintain each student's skills that they have worked so hard to learn this school year. That then brought me to feeling thankful for all of our students, who quickly adapted and trusted the adults in their young lives that everything would be okay. Our teachers told your students how much they would miss them, but wanted them to know that their parents could contact them if they ever needed anything. I then started to reflect on our students' parents and families. I want you all to know how thankful I am for all of you, our parents and guardians. As I shared in my letter to you last week, I truly believe that during these challenging times, we all need to work together, more now than ever, to ensure that your children will look back on these days as some of the best days of their lives! For that to occur, you need to allow your children to have fun and to create lots of positive memories for them to recall. As I look at the photos and videos that parents are sending in, I am truly thankful for everyone who is doing their best to create a beautiful canvas of memories for your children.

As we move forward to the next phase of your children's learning, it is going to be very important that you continue to stay connected to your child(rens) teacher(s). I want all of you to know that what we are going to be asking of our teachers, students, parents, and families is, again, unprecedented. We will all be learning to teach our students and children new content through electronic online learning. Please know that I have many teachers who have many questions, concerns, and probably even some anxiety with what is being asked of them. I have no doubt that I have some parents and guardians who probably have the same questions, concerns, and anxiety. I want you all to know that it is okay, I am no different than any of you! I want and need this to be successful for your children. I simply ask that as parents, you PLEASE give your child's teacher's patience, flexibility, and understanding, as they too are doing their best to support your child(ren) during these unprecedented times. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my best to also support you. Again, we are all in this together, and we will not only learn together, we will succeed together!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura
Principal

Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

Explore

Empower

Excel

BIG FLATS FALCONS:

Our very own BFE Team has special messages for you all!

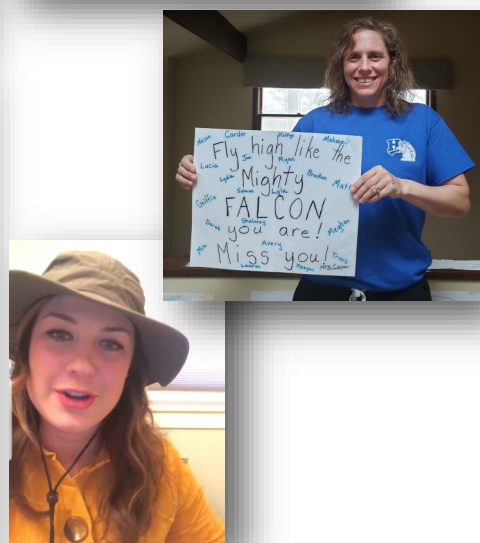
Please enjoy our video to you, and the #RaiderPride video from across the Horseheads Central School District!

Falcons SOAR!:

<https://safeshare.tv/x/f8Ar46gw9wl>

Horseheads Raiders:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7y7lzxmikU&feature=youtu.be>



Horseheads Central School District Emergency Meals Information

State and federal regulations allow districts to provide meals to lower income children during school closures. During our closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we provide meals to families in need of assistance.

Meals are provided weekdays during the school closure at the following locations and times:

10:30-11:30am Center Street School 812 Center St, Horseheads

10:30-10:50am Collingwood Mobile Home Park 358 Chambers Rd, Horseheads

10:30-10:50am Pine Valley Mobile Home Park 3600 Watkins Rd, Pine Valley

10:30-11:00am Ridge Road School 112 Ridge Rd, Horseheads

11:00-11:30am Millport Fire Department 2016 Crescent St, Millport

11:00-11:20am Thunderbird Greens Mobile Home Park 391 Sing Sing Rd, Horseheads

11:15-11:35am Erin Estates 1356 Breesport Rd, Breesport

We can deliver the meals to you if you are unable to get to a site. If you are unable to get to a site, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or x4295 to order meals for the following day. Please note: For Monday delivery, please contact us on the Friday before. We will need parents to contact us each day they need delivery.

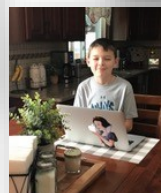
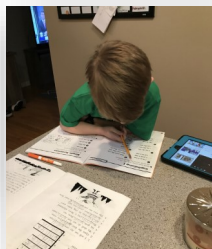
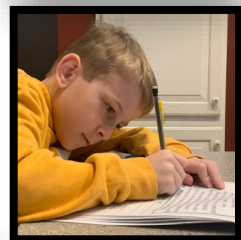
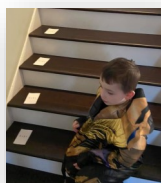
2020-21 Budget Development

In efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the state has postponed state-wide school budget votes until at least June 1. All previously scheduled budget presentations since our school closure are postponed while we await further guidance from the state regarding the state and district budgets. You may view preliminary budget information on the district website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/Budget2020-21.cfm?school=District>, but please note that information does not include any current updates on state aid or information since the closure of schools. Information will be updated once we receive information from the state. Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4295.

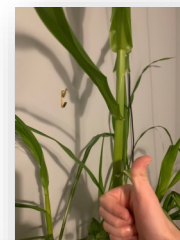
Our Falcon students making their parents and teachers proud! Continuing to learn from home...

Way to SOAR!

MATH



Science

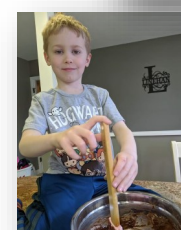
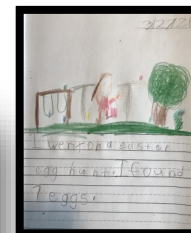


How are YOU learning?

ART



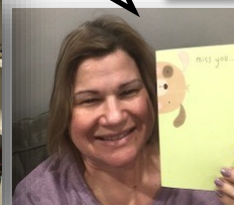
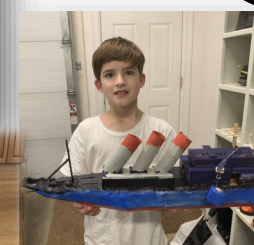
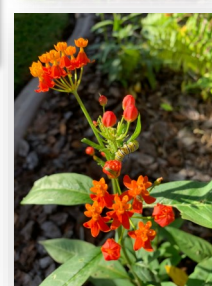
Awesome!



Thank you!
-Mrs. Aeplbacher



Mrs. TenEyck's caterpillar!



Mark Your Calendars

****We will keep you as updated as possible on current and upcoming events.**

April

PTO Meeting—TBD

April

BOE Meeting—TBD

Important future dates:

May

PTO Meeting—TBD

May [4-7]-TBD

Kindergarten Screening

May 15

Kindergarten Orientation; 8:45am

May 21

BOE Meeting; 6pm

May 25

NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day

June 2

PTO Meeting; 6pm

June 18

BOE Meeting; 6pm

Learn Up-To-Date Information About Our Schools and the District

Facebook: The district and each of our seven schools have pages. "Like" them to see our information in your news feed.

Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at @HhdsSchools to read our tweets. Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at @escaptura1

Instagram: The district's page—hhdschools

Visit our district website at:

www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com



BE RESPONSIBLE:

STAY HOME. STAY HEALTHY. *Wash your hands!*

All NYS Tests for 2019-2020 have been cancelled.

*National Scripps Spelling Bee is postponed until further notice.

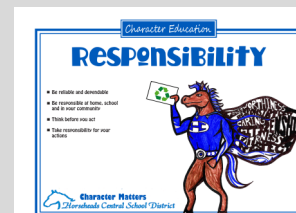
Remaining Spirit Days: Favorite Book Character Day 5/29, Hawaiian Day 6/25

*****A presentation and self-guided tour was scheduled on March 23rd for all 4th grade students and families. Due to the extended school dismissal, that event needed to be cancelled. The Intermediate School plans to reschedule for a later date once we resume normal activities. A flyer and email will be sent home with more details when the date is finalized. As a reminder, if you have any input regarding your child's placement at the Intermediate School please mail it to the school ASAP. You may also email your letter directly to Mr. Bostwick mbostwick@horseheadsdistrict.com. The Intermediate School will not take specific requests for teachers.*****

April — The month of:

Responsibility

- Be reliable and dependable
- Be responsibility at home, school, and in your community
- Think before you act
- Take responsibility for your actions



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 (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Non-Discrimination Notification

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.

NEWS FLASH!



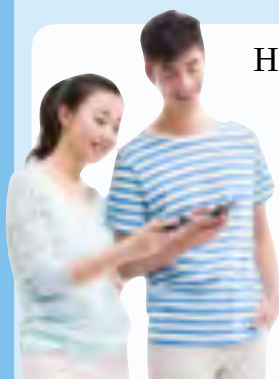
NEW YORK STATE RELEASES NEW EXAMS APRIL 1ST

In a surprising move today, New York State Regents decided to embrace the needs of our digital native students by allowing the use of emojis in essay answers on the Regents exams.

“As we continue our transition to a future of all computer-based testing, it only makes sense to allow students more ways of expressing their ideas”, said an assistant to the Chancellor of the Regents. Students are spending many hours a day using these symbols to communicate so it is only natural that they would eventually work their way into scholarly articles and papers.

Educators have expressed concerns about the variety of emojis and avatars that students might use so the Regents have established a recommended list of emojis that students may freely use.

Download the approved list from
<http://go.gstric.org/308-emojis>



Here are some quotes from students:

Jim:



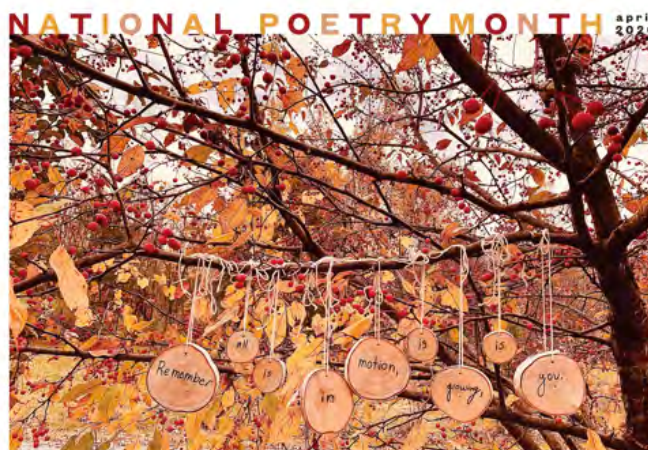
Sue: I agree with him!

Disclaimer: If you hadn't caught on until now, the article above is fake news. Happy April Fools Day! and enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

P.S. It really is National Poetry Month. Enjoy!



APRIL IS . . .



Yes! April is National Poetry Month!

We encourage you this month to explore Poetry online.

The web has many sites where you can read and study the work of well-known poets, and lots of other sites where you can publish your own poetry for free.

Whatever way you choose - find something new to you, and download a PDF of the poster above featuring a line of poetry by Joy Harjo.

<http://go.gstric.org/308-poetry-poster>



<http://go.gstric.org/308-power-poetry>



BRADFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

No Crying Over Technology Skills

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

APRIL

Through the use of **Keyboarding Without Tears**, Bradford Central School is working to create technology savvy students who not only possess the skills to be proficient and successful keyboarders, but also students who can safely navigate the internet and all that it brings to their lives.

Keyboarding has always been an important skill, but with many districts now moving towards **computer-based assessments**, it is necessary for our students to master **keyboarding skills**. On top of computer-based assessments, students are increasingly being required to move away from paper and pencil assignments and complete more work on devices. Keyboarding proficiency is a necessary skill to help them be successful in these endeavors.

For these reasons, Bradford Central School has decided to take a proactive stance in their teaching of keyboarding skills as well as Digital Citizenship components to their students. Society currently dubs students as "**digital natives**" due to the fact that they are being brought up in a world where they are surrounded by technology almost from birth. However, it would be good for us to remember that being a digital native doesn't necessarily mean that they have learned the appropriate skills and behaviors to be successful in the digital world into which they were born.

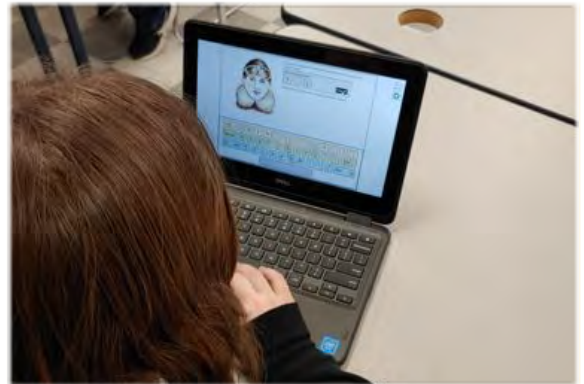
At Bradford, students are being led through the **Keyboarding Without Tears Program** through both direct instruction as well as individual progression. Students have individual accounts where they can work at their own pace at designated times of the day. On other occasions, the Instructional Technology teacher, leads direct instruction on keyboarding skills such as finger placement, home row, capitalization and punctuation. Digital Citizenship components are incorporated into many of the lessons to provide students with an understanding of how to be safe and responsible while online.

Most recently, students in grades 3-6 at Bradford completed activities surrounding their digital impressions and how the things they do online now, will stay with them throughout their lives. Many students were surprised to know that they are creating a **digital footprint** (positive or negative) through their use of various **social media** sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, and YouTube. Students in grades K-2 were led through a lesson entitled "Stop the Strange" where they were presented with various scenarios and asked to discuss and decide which of those situations were strange and when they should consult with an adult.

More information about Keyboarding Without Tears at <http://go.gstric.org/308-KWT>



Bradford second grade students discuss "strange" online scenarios



Bradford fifth grade students work independently on KWT



Bradford sixth grade students discuss their digital impressions

Just Use Your Common Sense!

PART 2

This article continues our quick look at all of the resources at CommonSense Education, one of our favorites Digital Citizenship sites.

Last month, we focused on the excellent curriculum resources at CommonSense (<http://go.gstric.org/307-dc-curriculum>). Now we will turn our attention to the video resources at CommonSense.



The online safety video shown here, about is an example of the high quality information shared in many of the CommonSense video offerings. In this example, a teacher is speaking about an incident where a student from a different district came to their campus looking for a female student who had left her location services turned on on her mobile device. <http://go.gstric.org/308-video>



The Classroom Video page for Digital Citizenship hosts a lot of videos on a lot of DC topics that are anywhere from 54 seconds long to 10 or 11 minutes.

<http://go.gstric.org/308-dc-video>

For parents, CommonSense has a large collection of movie reviews for current films that have been given ratings for age level and content. <http://go.gstric.org/308-movies>

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Calendar Art Contest!

WE HAD **OVER 100** ENTRIES!



See all of our winners in the next issue.
The calendars will be available in June.

Plagiarism is a Real Concern in Higher Education

Submitted by Kelly White, ELA Teacher
Bush Campus Career and Technical Education

Ten Career and Technical Education alumni recently returned to the Bush Education Center at GST BOCES to offer advice to current students. The discussion was moderated by Allen Orshal, audio media instructor. A wide variety of academic and college life issues were discussed during the two-hour panel. One of the hot topics during this informative session concerned high school versus college writing.

Several students noted that plagiarism is an issue on college campuses. One noted that his roommate freshman year “got busted” for plagiarizing an essay. Another described “mass plagiarism” in one of his classes, “and they all failed.”

One panelist described a roommate who was “lazy and spent all of his time playing Counter Strike and sleeping” while another noted that students in one class were “caught copying exact papers.” However, other plagiarism issues were not so blatant. Some alumni reported some students just didn’t know how to quote correctly or didn’t cite correctly. One panelist “was told I plagiarized my entire paper because of one wrong citation.”

The panelists described consequences ranging from failing the class to being expelled from school or fired from a job, and they urged high schools to clearly explain the consequences and to make it clear that plagiarism will likely be caught. In addition to more instruction on citation, they advocated a strict response to plagiarism. One alum urged educators “Don’t treat plagiarism as a minor issue while saying it’s a major one. Actions speak louder than words.”

“I was told I plagiarized my entire paper because of one wrong citation.”

“Don’t Do It!.”

Some advice from
College Students

Several students noted plagiarism checkers like Turnitin can help. They explained the software has helped them recognize similarity in their writing.

A final topic included the panel member’s advice about the dangers of plagiarism. Overwhelmingly, the advice was clear: Don’t do it!

One panelist noted “In college, it’s not a joke. You can be kicked out of not only the class but from school.” Another panelist spoke of the consequences in the workplace saying, “Your co-workers will lose respect for you and you will be fired. Don’t do it.”

April 2020 Digital Citizenship Poster

HOME EDITION

Use Your Digital Citizen Tools to Sharpen Your Skills



● Take Care of Yourself

Listen to the advice to stay home. Practice **social distancing**. Call the doctor if you get sick.

Take time to talk to your family. Take time to **enjoy things** you like to do like reading, writing, and listening to music. Re-connect with friends

Find a balance in your life between technology and simple things.



● Maintain Your Privacy

Stay calm. Keep a cool head. There has been an increase in online and phone scamming recently. **Scammers use fear to trick you** into doing things and rushing you into decisions.

If you start using new sites be hesitant to enter your personally identifiable information until you have checked their **privacy policies**. If you are using them for school work make sure they are **compliant** with ED Law 2-D.



● Get Good Information

Use your detective skills to **weed out fake news**. There has been a lot of fake info about the virus. Make sure your sources are reliable.

Support sites with **good** info by giving them likes and **ratings** that help to promote them.

Re-post and re-tweet good info and positive messages. **Report fake sites** and news to the platforms they are exploiting.



● Use Your Tech Wisely

Even though you may be in quarantine you **do not need to be in isolation**.

Use your phone to call friends, neighbors, and family that you can't visit in person.

You can use platforms like zoom, facebook, and messenger to **meet with groups of people online**. Churches and business groups are already using them.



● Use the Web to Help Others

If you are able the web has lots of sites where you can donate to organizations that are doing good in this nation, and in our local communities. If you aren't in that position you can find groups that will accept donations of things other than money, like volunteer, time or materials. If you can't get out there are lots of support groups and organizations that will let you participate in online forums, chats, and blogs. Put positive messages out there in this time.