



Big Flats News

JANUARY 2025

*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 Students, Parents and Guardians.

Happy New Year! Our first day back to school in the new year began with a bit of excitement. This morning, the students, staff, and I were surprised when the fire alarm sounded at approximately 9:25 am. I knew it wasn't a scheduled fire drill, so we immediately followed our fire alarm safety procedures. I was promptly informed that the alarm was triggered by some soldering work being done in the new kitchen. I then immediately advised students and staff over the PA system to grab their coats as they exited the building. New York State law mandates that we evacuate the building, even if we know the alarm is false. The Big Flats Fire Department arrived swiftly, and the fire chief soon notified us that we could re-enter the building. We were outside for approximately nine minutes. If we had not received the notification to re-enter, we would have moved everyone to our off-site evacuation site, which is The Bridge Church located right next to our school. Everyone responded admirably, and I am very appreciative of the support from the Big Flats Fire Department. Sometime this week, we will also be conducting our second of four lockdown drills. This mandated drill will be announced over the PA system, as required by New York State law, to all students and staff, further supporting the principle of being "trauma-informed".

Just a friendly reminder that during the month of January, all students will be rescreened by our AIMSWEB screening team. This screening ensures that each student is making adequate progress in reading and math. This general education initiative is for all students and aims to ensure they are on track to meet their end-of-year benchmark targets.

This year, the PTO will host our annual Big Flats Elementary Spelling Bee on Thursday, January 30th at 6:00 PM in our school gym. Once again this year, our PTO has enrolled our school in the National Scripts Spelling Bee. This provides our students with the opportunity to compete at the national level. Good luck to our third and fourth-grade students who will be representing their classrooms!

Don't forget that this Wednesday is our "Hats Off to a New Year" spirit day! Please encourage your student to wear a fun and appropriate hat for the day.

I hope everyone had a wonderful winter recess and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. It really is hard to believe that we are already in the month of January for the 2024-2025 school year. Before we know it, it will be June.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura
Principal

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2024-2025 school year will be:
Breakfast: Free
Lunch: Free

School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:

8:15 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Office Hours

Our school office hours during regular school days are:

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office Phone Numbers

(607) 739-6373

(607) 795-2550

Fax: (607) 795-2555



Drill Notifications:

As you are aware, throughout the school year Big Flats Elementary will practice important emergency response procedures for our school including fire, evacuation, lockdown, and emergency dismissal drills. Families will receive notice within one week prior to drills. Please be advised we will continue practicing our mandated drills.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

•Recess

*Students continue to go outside for recess during winter months. Please be sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves/mittens, and boots so they can stay warm as they play. *Please remember that the nurse cannot provide boots for any student.*

•Changes in Going Home Routine/Bus Notes

Please remember to write a 'blue note' with your child's change in dismissal plans if he/she will not be following their normal routine. Blue notes should also be written to explain your child's tardiness, absence, or plan to leave early. This is extremely important for the safety of our students.

•Lost and Found

Please remind your child(ren) to look in the lost and found bin if they are missing any items that belong to them. There are quite a few articles of clothing in our bin waiting for their owner to reclaim them!

• Delayed Start Procedures

*As we enter 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 schools **two hours*** later than normal start time. School ends at the regular time on delayed start days. Morning buses will arrive at the bus stops 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.***

****Pre-K classes will begin at 10:30am when there is a delayed start.***



Big Flats Elementary's Kindergarten registration will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, by appointment only at Big Flats Elementary. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1st of the school year and whose primary residence is in the Horseheads district, they may be registered for kindergarten. Prior to February 4th the school will contact you with information on registration and to schedule an appointment. If you are new to the district, or you don't believe the district has your child's information, please call Big Flats Elementary at 607-739-6373. For registration, please bring the required documents. Your child will be screened in speech and hearing later on in the year.

Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data

The Horseheads Central School 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: encryptions, 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.

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 <https://www.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.

3rd and 4th grade Computer Based ELA—April 29, 2025 and April 30, 2025 3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 6, 2025 and May 7, 2025

Mark Your Calendars

January 6
Return to school

January 7
PTO Meeting; 6PM Bridge

January 8
Hat's off to a New Year—wear a hat
Winter AIMSWEB Benchmark
Assessment Begins (1/8/25-1/17/25)

January 10
Raider/Falcon Pride Day

January 16
BOE Meeting 6pm HSMCC

January 17
Winter AIMSWEB Benchmark
Assessment Ends (1/9/25-1/17/25)

January 20
No School
Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 24
2nd Marking Period Ends

January 29
No School -Chinese New Year

January 30
3rd & 4th Grade Spelling Bee BF Gym;
6PM



School and Emergency Closings



The district uses text-messaging to alert parents/guardians about school delays, closings, and safety alerts. Parents/guardians **must opt-in** to receive texts. To opt-in, text “Y” or “Yes” to 67587. Note that your standard text/data rates apply. The alerts are also posted on the district website, social media pages, and on local TV and radio stations. [Click here](#) to learn more about school delays and closings. In the event of an emergency during the school day, all students will be taken by bus to the address previously identified by parents on the “Emergency Go Home” form that was completed at the beginning of the school year. As a reminder, this location **MUST** be on one of the Big Flats Elementary bus routes.

* Valuable Items In School *

Each year over Winter Recess, many of our students will receive gifts that they will treasure. To avoid the possibility of damage or loss of any valuable items, **including electronics**, we encourage students to leave those items **at home**. Please encourage your child to follow our suggestion so that we can avoid any unfortunate situations where items disappear or get broken. *Thank you for your support!*



Snow Days Impact our Schedule

When a snow day occurs and all schools in the District are closed, it changes our six-day schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle day that the snow day would have been.



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—[hhdsschools](#)

Visit our district website at: www.horseheadsdistrict.com

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

January: Fairness

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded
- Listen to others
- Treat all people fairly
- Don’t take advantage of others
- Don’t blame others carelessly



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.



January 2025

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>No School</i> <i>Winter Break</i>	2 <i>No School</i> <i>Winter Break</i>	3 <i>No School</i> <i>Winter Break</i>	4
5	6	7 PTO Meeting 6pm Bridge	8 Hats off to the New Year– Wear your hat Aimsweb+ Screenings (1/8-1/17)	9	10 Wear Raider/Falcon Pride Spirit Wear	11
12	13 CSE/504 Mtgs; Bridge	14	15	16 AM 504 Mtgs; Bridge BOE Mtg; 6PM HSMHC	17 Aimsweb + Screenings End (1/8-1/17)	18
19	20 <i>No School</i> <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	21 Candid Yearbook Photos 3rd Grade NYS Math Simulation	22 Wizards Basketball Character Ed Assembly	23 CIM Meetings; Bridge	24 Science Show Marking Period Ends	25
26	27	28	29 <i>No School</i> <i>Chinese New Year</i>	30 3rd & 4th Grade Spelling Bee BF Gym; 6PM	31 Report Cards Go Home	

Character Trait of the Month
Fairness

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded
- Listen to others
- Treat all people fairly
- Don't take advantage of others



Fight Flu

at Home and School

Influenza (flu), spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it altogether.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Make sure people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, are also vaccinated.
- The vaccine is especially important for young children and people of all ages with certain health conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung conditions. The flu can make them even sicker.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems.
- Young children and those with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu.
- If your child gets flu symptoms, call their health care provider and ask if antiviral treatment is right for them.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

health.ny.gov/flu



Department
of Health