



# Big Flats News

## March 2024

*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,

Thank you to our Big Flats Falcons, who wore grey and purple today in memory of Trooper Andrew Sperr. We are so appreciative of the New York State Police, for their annual support in honoring a true fallen hero. Today, our students will be going home with a free ice cream coupon from the NYS Troopers! Please be looking for those coupons in your child(ren)’s backpacks! We also appreciate the NYS Troopers for coming early in the morning to our school campus each year to welcome our students and their families. Thank you NYS Troopers!

Below is a list of many important reminders for the remaining month of March and all of April!

- Capital Project Presentation Update- Horseheads High School Cafeteria, Tuesday, March 12, 2024 6:00pm
- Spring Pictures Thursday, March 14th, 2024. Flyers will go home next Friday!
- Superintendents Conference Day Monday, March 18th, 2024 **NO SCHOOL for Students!**
- Good Friday Recess Friday, March 29th, 2024 **NO SCHOOL**
- Day After Easter Recess Monday, April 1st, 2024 **NO SCHOOL**
- 4th Grade Student/Parent Information Night and Self-Guided Tour of the Intermediate School April 4th, 2024 6:00pm. 3rd & 4th Grade New York State Computer Based ELA Assessments April 10th & 11th, 2024
- PTO Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Order picks up will be at the end of March. Look for a letter from PTO for specific dates and times.
- Solar Eclipse Half Day- **Early Dismissal 12:00pm NOON**
- Spring Recess- **No School Monday, April 22nd – Friday April 26th, 2024**
- Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Conferences April 16th- May 3rd, 2024

Lastly, our construction project continues to make GREAT gains! The new addition is beginning to resemble a school. New classrooms are framed, and dry wall has begun! Roofing is completed on the new classrooms and near completion on the gymnasium. Fiberoptic cabling work will soon begin by connecting the current data closets to the new addition. It is really beginning to take shape and becoming even more exciting as we begin to see the vision of our new additions! Please consider attending the district’s Construction Presentation on March 12th, 2024, in the high school cafeteria at 6:00pm, to learn more about the capital project.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura, Big Flats Elementary Principal

### Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2023-2024 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



**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*

### Teacher Placements for the upcoming 2024-2025 School Year:

It's that time of year, when we begin to prepare for next year! If you have any concerns regarding your child(ren's) next year's teacher placement please put your concerns in writing to Mrs. Saptura, no later than Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Per BOE policy parents can NOT request a specific teacher.

### Parent Morning Drop Off Times:

K-4: 7:40am - 8:15am

PK: 8:50am - 9:05am

### Parent Afternoon Pick Up Times:

PK: 1:50 pm - 2:00 pm

K-4: 2:05 pm - 2:20 pm

Please be punctual! We are running on a very tight schedule. We appreciate your support!

## Important Dropoff/Pickup Reminders!



- ◆ The earliest you may arrive on campus to line up is 2:10pm. We begin dismissal at approximately 2:23pm. Please do not arrive any earlier than 2:10pm as we are dismissing our PK students until approximately 2:05pm.
- ◆ Please pull up as close as you can to the car in front of you. We need to get as many vehicles off Maple Street as possible.
- ◆ Please be as quick as you can with assisting children with car seats and seatbelts. Please be sure that every child is properly restrained before pulling forward. Please continue to build independence!
- ◆ Please do NOT pass any vehicles, please stay in line!
- ◆ Please do NOT BLOCK the entrance/exit of our school campus to get in line. Obstructing the view on Maple Street is very dangerous for parents trying to pull out. Please be patient and wait your turn. If your vehicle cannot fit straight at the end of the line when entering our school campus, please wait!
- ◆ Please be courteous and take turns alternating east and west bound traffic when entering our campus.
- ◆ Please do NOT block the entrance of our neighbors' driveways. Please leave each driveway accessible so that our neighbors may enter and exit their homes safely. We appreciate our neighbors and want to always be respectful!
- ◆ If the fire siren goes off, please pull off the road immediately!
- ◆ Please continue to be patient and appreciative of our staff who do their

### Monday, April 8 - Half Day for All Students

As you may know, a total solar eclipse affecting much of New York will take place on Monday, April 8. Like many districts along the eclipse's path throughout New York and the nation, the district will alter the school day to accommodate the conditions created by this event. **Monday, April 8 will now be a half day of school. We will dismiss grades 7-12 at 10:40am and grades K-6 at noon that day. PreK dismissal will be at 11:45am.**

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the sun and Earth. During this time, the sun is completely covered by the moon for a brief time. In our area, the partial eclipse will begin just after 2pm, reaching its maximum coverage around 3:20pm, and ending after 4:30pm. Eclipses to this extent occur rarely. Such a unique event can also draw additional people to our area.

**We remind everyone that the only safe way to view a partially eclipsed sun is with special purpose solar filters such as eclipse glasses.** Regular sunglasses are not safe to use to view an eclipse. Significant sight damage will occur without proper protection. For more information on eclipses and how to safely view them, [click here](#).

**FRIENDLY REMINDERS:**

**PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR 5th GRADE**

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2024-2025 classroom placements for students. We create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School no later than April 8th. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success! Thank you!

Please join us for the  
**Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade!**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

**The Parade will start at 2:00pm on March 9th.**

Parents must walk or ride with students and staff.



**Prekindergarten Registration for 2024-2025**

Parents of PreK eligible children should have already received registration packets. They were mailed out on February 21st to parents of all eligible children in our database. Completed registration packets may be returned on the following dates by appointment only: March 5, 6, 19 or 20. If you have a student who will be eligible for PreK for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year and did not receive a packet, or have questions about PreK registration, please contact us at [kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:kmclain@horseheadsdistrict.com) or (607)-739-5601, x4251.

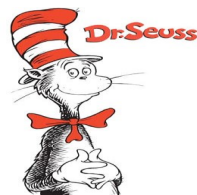
**Grade 4 Intermediate School Presentation and Self-Guided Tour**

The Intermediate School will be hosting a presentation and self-guided tour for all current 4th graders. The presentation will be held on Thursday, April 4th in the Intermediate School cafeteria beginning at 6:00 PM. Immediately following, students and families will have the opportunity to take a self-guided tour around the Intermediate School. Should you have any questions, please contact the Intermediate School office at 607-739-6366.

**Spirit Days:**



Trooper Sperr Day  
Wear Purple and Gray  
Friday, March 1



Pajama Day  
Monday, March 4



St. Patrick's Day  
Wear your Green  
Friday, March 15

## 2024-25 Budget Development

Budget development for the following school year begins early in the calendar year. Regular board meetings and budget workshops are held from February to April until the final adoption of the budget to be offered to voters May 21. All meetings begin at 6pm and are open to the public. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, March 14 – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Wednesday, March 27 – Budget Workshop, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, April 11 – Budget Meeting (if needed), High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Wednesday, April 17 – Special Meeting (Board Vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget), 7:30am, District Offices at Hibbard Road
- Thursday, April 18 – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, May 9 – Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm

Meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstboces.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2024-25 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

## Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is **Tuesday, May 21, 7am-9pm**, in the High School South Gym.

All district residents are eligible to vote, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
  - Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
  - Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
  - Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- OR
- Are registered to vote in general elections

For information on absentee ballots or other questions about the budget or vote, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or mail [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## REMAINING SPIRIT DAYS:

Friday, March 1—Trooper Sperr Day – wear purple and gray

Monday, March 4—Wear your pajamas or comfy clothes, and read Dr.Seuss books/Read Across America Day

Friday, March 15 – St. Patrick's Day -Wear your green

Friday, April 5 – Raider/Falcon Pride Day– Wear your grade level color or blue and white

Friday, April 19– Shine Bright Day!- Wear a bright color

Friday, May 3 – Raider/Falcon Pride Day– Wear your grade level color or blue and white

Thursday, May 23– Mismatch Day! Wear mismatched clothes

Friday, June 7– Raider/Falcon Pride Day– Wear your grade level color or blue and white

Thursday, June 23– Too Cool for School Day—Wear your Hawaiian clothes and/or sunglasses

## 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.



## Mark Your Calendars

### March 1

Trooper Sperr Day—Wear purple and gray

### March 4

Dr. Seuss Day—Wear pajamas

### March 5

PTO Mtg; 6pm

### March 8

Author Visit: Brian Yanish

### March 14

Spring Pictures

BOE Mtg 6PM HSMCC

### March 15

St. Patrick's Day—Wear green

### March 18

No School— Conference Day

### March 29-April 1

No school— Good Friday Recess



## March —The month of:

### RESPECT

- Follow the Golden Rule
- Be tolerant and accepting
- Deal peacefully with anger and insults
- Use good manners, not bad language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone

### 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 [@escaptural](#)



**Instagram:** The district's page—[hhdsschools](#)



Visit our district website at: [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com).

Questions about our website or social media? E-mail [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

### 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](mailto: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.



# March 2024

Big Flats  
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Trooper Sperr Day wear Purple &amp; Gray</i>	2
3	4 <i>CSE Mtgs</i>  <i>Read Across America Day— wear PJs or comfy clothes &amp; read</i>	5  <i>PTO Mtg 6PM</i>	6	7	8  <i>Author Visit: Brian Yanish</i>	9  Hhds. St. Patrick's Day Parade 2:00 PM
10	11 <i>CSE/504 Mtgs</i>	12	13	14  <i>Spring Pictures</i>  <i>BOE 6:00pm At HSMMC</i>	15 <i>St. Patrick's Day— Wear Green</i> 3rd Grade Chemung County Stormwater Presentation PTO Swim Night 6PM	16  Regional Scripp Spelling Bee 9:00 AM CPPHS
17  <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  	18 No School— Conference Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27 <i>CSE Mtgs</i>	28	29 No School- Good Friday Recess	30

## Character Trait of the Month Respect

- Follow the Golden Rule
- Be tolerant and accepting
- Deal peacefully with anger and insults
- Use good manners, not bad language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone

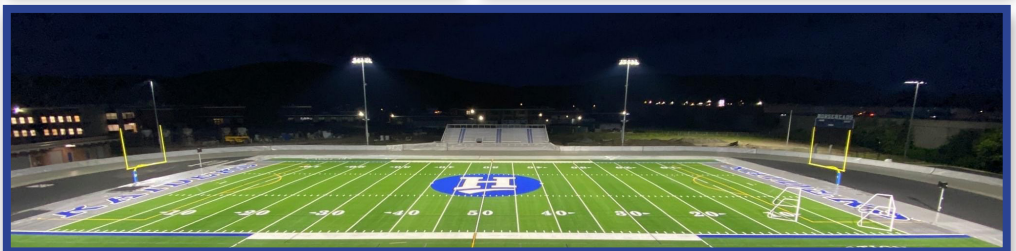
# **H**orseheads Central School District

## *Capital Project Community Update*

Parents, guardians, and community members are invited to an update on our districtwide capital project.

**Tuesday, March 12 | 6pm**  
**Horseheads High School Cafeteria**

- Updates on second referendum
- Tour of finished High School projects
- Third referendum plans
- Q&A



# Join the Horseheads Central School District as a School Bus Driver

**UPDATE: Pay rate is now \$23.15/hour with required CDL (\$15.50/hr for drivers in training)**



- **Paid training**
- **Benefits package including health insurance**
- **No weekends, holidays, summers**

To apply, call 607-739-6338 or pick up an application at our Transportation Department, 601 Sayre Street Extension, weekdays from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Our application may also be found at [www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/employment). (Both the district application and the supplemental transportation application are required.)

Applicants must be at least 21 years old.  
Fingerprint/background check and drug testing are required.

## **Questions?**

Call 607-739-6338 or email [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).







# Fight Flu

## at Home and School

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

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### 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.

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### 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 people with certain medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, because the flu can make them even sicker.

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### 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 for children and teens.
- 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 and is younger than 5 or has a medical condition, call their health care provider and ask about antiviral treatment.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

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### Don't spread flu!

- 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](http://health.ny.gov/flu)

