

BRADFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE - WENDY S. FIELD

Commissioner's visit

It was a great honor to host Commissioner King at Bradford and a pleasure to see him interacting with students and staff during science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) lessons. It gave us an opportunity to demonstrate and discuss all the positive opportunities a small school environment can bring to a student's education, as well as the financial challenges that can impact a small community.

We gave the Commissioner a positive impression of our ability to respond to the state initiatives and act as a leader in the educational field both in STEM and the implementation of the Race to the Top requirements.

During the visit, Student Council officers presented the commissioner with a gift basket of locally-made goods. Thank you to Mary Jane Lucas for providing the basket, Sara Rosno for providing candle products and the Schuyler Chamber of Commerce for providing samples of items from the region.

Construction update

The scaffolding has been taken down in front of the building as the brick work for the cafeteria exterior walls has been completed. Temporary heating has been placed and the electric work is being roughed in for the cafeteria. The interior work on the cafeteria has begun. The doors and windows to the new cafeteria are in and will provide a wonderfully bright space for the students! The bus garage wash bay roof will be completed by the end of the month. The track lime stone sub-base and the new walkway sub-bases are complete and the walkway light

AUDIT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

The Bradford Central School Board of Education is looking for two community members to participate on its Financial Committee. The committee meets throughout the year to review and discuss information provided by internal and external auditors and make recommendations.

If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please submit a letter of interest to the district clerk outlining your experience with education, board or community service by January 1.

poles are being set. The floors of the home economics and art rooms are complete. The canopy off the E-wing is expected to be in place by the end of the month.



Work on the cafeteria expansion is progressing.

DECEMBER 20 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TIME CHANGE

The Board of Education will meet from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on December 20. This is a change from the regular meeting time of 7:00 p.m.

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION VISITS BCS

New York State Commissioner of Education Dr. John B. King, Jr. recently visited BCS and other nearby districts during his first trip to the region. Dr. King was appointed by the Board of Regents in July to serve as Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York.

The purpose of his trip was to see first-hand the work of the regional Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiative in the Bradford and Corning-Painted Post districts. As part of the STEM initiative, BCS is using an inquiry-based science curriculum called Full Option Science System (FOSS).

Dr. King saw STEM and FOSS lessons in action during his visit. In Mary Kelly's third-grade classroom students estimated the weight of objects and then used a balance to find the actual weight.

Sixth-graders in Sarah Newell's class constructed airplanes using straws, rubber bands and propellers. The students were asked to estimate how many times they would need to rotate the propeller in order for their planes to reach the end of a zip line.

In Scott Cole's robotics class, students constructed robots and programmed them to carry out specific tasks.

"The STEM work that's being done in this region is preparing students for jobs in the 21st Century," said Dr. King. "I'm excited about what I've seen in Bradford. Students here are not just learning from textbooks, but are involved in hands-on learning. The foundation that students are gaining here in science, technology, engineering and math will provide them with the interrelated skills they'll need to be competitive in college and the workforce."

Other highlights of the Commissioner's visit included lunch with students and staff in the library and the presentation of a gift basket of goods from local entrepreneurs by Student Council officers Nicholas Houck, Morgan Seeley and Kaylee Puralski. Items included the basket made by Mary Jane Lucas and candles made by Sara Rosno, as well as other items from the region collected by the Schuyler County Chamber of Commerce.





Above, K. Sleve, M. Bailey and S. Wilhelm work together to weigh objects on a balance as Dr. King looks on.



Above, K. Parulski and M. Seeley present New York State Commissioner of Education Dr. John B. King, Jr. with a gift basket of regional products.

Left, Dr. King watches as sixth-graders release an airplane made of straws, rubber bands and propellers down a zip line.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER – KELLY HOUCK

It's easy to tell from the change in the wind that winter is creeping up on us. The holidays are a busy, yet joyous time of year. Winter also marks the beginning of the basketball and cheerleading seasons – two community favorites!

Students were busy focusing on their school work during the first marking period and the names of those who achieved High Honor, Honor and Merit Roll status are included in this newsletter. These students put forth tremendous effort, and it certainly paid off.

Elementary students also had a successful start to the school year. Their achievements are shown in progress reports and daily assignments. I also have seen great character growth in our elementary students, as is apparent in our monthly character education assemblies.

All of this success hinges on the support our students receive from their families and caregivers at home. By ensuring that your child completes his or her nightly homework assignments and having routine discussions with them about the value of a good education, you instill the importance of school in your children. As I said many times before, it takes all of us working together for a child to succeed.

Some high school students will take Regents exams the week of January 23. These exams are required for graduation and are used to measure the

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SPORTING EVENTS

Students attending sporting events must be accompanied by an adult. They are not allowed to attend these events unsupervised. While in attendance, students should remain with their parents, follow school rules and generally be courteous to all guests. Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 19 _____ Family reading and craft night, 6:00 p.m.
 December 20 _____ Band and chorus concert, 6:30 p.m.
 December 22 _____ 21st Century Program Bugz Christmas performance, 2:00 p.m.
 December 23 _____ Winter recess begins
 January 3 _____ School resumes

school district's success. Please note that the grade 3-8 English/Language Arts and Math Assessments will be in May.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Here's hoping that all families experience a healthy, joyful holiday season. Thank you again for your continued support of your child's education. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



BCS BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

- Increase student achievement by maximizing options.
- Provide a fiscally-sound financial plan for the district.
- Fully utilize technology and continue to update to support district educational goals.

JOIN US AT BOARD MEETINGS

The public is welcome to attend Board of Education meetings at 7:00 p.m.* on the third Tuesday of the month. The board meeting schedule and meeting guideline brochure are posted on the district website or can be obtained from the district clerk.

*The December 20 meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



November Students of the Month were (front row) E. Wagner (sixth grade), A. Buckley (fifth grade), C. Williams (first grade), E. Harry (kindergarten), L. Hanes (pre-k), S. DeCamp (third grade), D. Rider (second grade), (back row) B. Leonard (eleventh grade), M. Kelly (twelfth grade), V. Wagner (tenth grade), O. Spangenberg (ninth grade), A. Wagner (seventh grade) and R. Bonning (eighth grade). Absent from the photo was J. Miller (fourth grade).

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS RECOGNIZED BY WATKINS GLEN WALMART



In recognition of all that teachers do – including spending their own money to purchase healthy snacks and school supplies for their classrooms – the Watkins Glen Walmart recently presented ten elementary teachers with \$100 gift cards through its Teacher Rewards program. According to store manager Terra Ellis, choosing to honor Bradford teachers was a unanimous decision among employees at the Watkins Glen store.

Congratulations to honorees Tracy Parker, Mary Kelly, Miranda Templar, Ashley Brown, Chris Wood, Jason Rosno, Sarah Newell and Sarah Harry. They are pictured above with Ms. Ellis and Sue O'Dell, assistant manager, (first and second from left) and Principal Kelly Houck (far right). Honorees not pictured are Cindy Oughterson and Dawn Rodabaugh.

HIGH HONOR, HONOR AND MERIT ROLLS

HIGH HONOR

Twelfth grade

Hayden Decker, Jesse Houck and Zachary Waters.

Eleventh grade

Hillary Bonning, Alexandra Goodrich, BreOnna Leonard, Mikayla Lucas, Katelyn Scott, Cheyenne Sutton and Elizabeth Wood.

Tenth grade

Nicholas Houck, Amanda Machuga, Nicholas Machuga, Melanie Meighan and Victoria Wagner.

Ninth grade

Elizabeth McIlwain, Karilyn Rutledge, Brooke Scott and Kara Waters.

Eighth grade

Rachael Bonning.

Seventh grade

Allyson Calkins, Destiny Decker, Jacob Rosno, Sara Thompson, Dallas Towner, Montana Towner and Allison Wagner.

HONOR ROLL

Twelfth grade

Benjamin Arnold, Heather Buchanan, Danica Groves, Benjamin Hamilton, Thomas Peer and Joshua Stopka.

Eleventh grade

Andrea Garrett, Carrie Melbie, Bret Rosno, Kristyn Rutledge, Morgan Seeley and Paul Simpson.

Tenth grade

Valerie Ball, Luke Campbell, Michael Kretschmann and Nisa Stopka.

Ninth grade

Olivia Spangenberg.

Eighth grade

Katara Buckley, Mia Manzer, Dustin Rogers and Austin Spina.



Seventh grade

Courtney Axtell, Jeffrey Harris, Thomas Meighan and Ryan Rogers.

MERIT ROLL

Twelfth grade

Marissa English, Jordan Keefer, Marvin Kelly and Katherine Lane.

Eleventh grade

Eric Calkins, Jordan Delaney, Ricky Gardner, Brett Kizer, Daron Rogers, Chelsey Sanford and Colton Stephens.

Tenth grade

Kelsey English, Baylee Horton, Brittany Hughes and Austin Sorber.

Ninth grade

Jacob Campbell, Jesse English, Rachel Harris, Gracie Schoffner and Derek Sorber.

Eighth grade

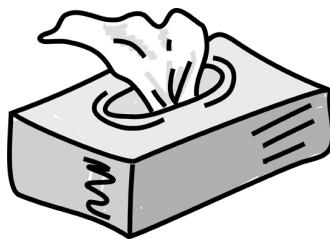
Isaac Campbell, Brandon Kizer, Austin Sanford and Johnathon Wood.

Seventh grade

Kali Horton, Kyle Orr, Jay Sanders, Amanda Simpson and Alex Youngs.

NOTES FROM NURSE PLUMLEY

- Getting adequate rest, eating a healthy diet and practicing good hand washing techniques along with tissue and cough etiquette are ways to keep everyone healthy during cold and flu season.
- The state and federal governments will not offer school-based influenza immunizations this year. Flu shots can be obtained from health care providers, pharmacies and public health agencies. The H1N1 vaccine will be included in the seasonal flu vaccine again this year. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend that everyone ages six months to adult receive a flu vaccine.
- There has been a sharp increase in the number of diagnosed cases of pertussis (whooping cough) in New York State, including Schuyler and Steuben counties. This disease can be fatal to infants who are too young to begin the immunization series. For this reason, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the New York State Department of Health strongly recommend that parents ensure their children between the ages of two months and six years receive all age-appropriate doses of DTaP (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis). More information about pertussis can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis.
- For an absence to be excused, it must be for an approved reason and parents must send or email written documentation of the absence. For a list of legal absences, please see the student handbook or the BCS Health Office web page.
- Vision and hearing screenings began at the end of November. If your child does not pass a screening, you will be notified by mail.
- Reminders: Over-the-counter medication, physical, dental and immunization forms may be turned in throughout the school year.
- I wish you a healthy and joyous holiday season. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 583-4641, ext. 232 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. or jplumley@bradfordcsd.org.



HOLIDAY PLANT SAFETY TIPS

The Upstate New York Poison Control Center reports that 20 percent of all calls to the center involve plants. Holiday plants make ideal gifts but when giving a plant to family with young children or pets, make known the name of the plant and its potential toxicity. Let us help you to prevent plant poisonings with some holiday tips. Remember, if you even think a poisoning has occurred, call us!

Poinsettia

This Christmas flower has received an unfavorable reputation through the years. Research shows that only ingestion of very large amounts of this plant may be harmful. The milky sap from the plant may however cause dermatitis.

Holly

The stiff green leaves and bright red berries are often very attractive to children. Holly berries are highly toxic. Ingestion of twenty or so berries could result in death.

Bittersweet

All parts of this plant are toxic. The unripe berry contains the highest concentration of solanine, which can cause heart rate below 60, drowsiness and headaches.

Pines

Parts of coniferous trees may be toxic if eaten in very large amounts. Small amounts may cause irritation and stomach upset, or can cause aspiration or obstruction. A skin rash may result from handling. Pine cones are not toxic but are not edible.

Boxwood

Commonly used in holiday wreaths and roping, the twigs and leaves contain a toxic alkaloid buxene. Ingestion could result in severe stomach problems, convulsions and respiratory failure.

Dialing 1-800-222-1222 will connect you to the Poison Control Center in your area.

To contact the
Upstate New York
Poison Control Center
business office call
1-315-464-7078.

Visit our website at
www.upstatepoison.org.



PARENT CORNER – RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WINTER BREAK TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE

It is never too early for your teen to start thinking about college applications. Winter break can be a productive time for all teens to plan for the future:

- **A freshman or sophomore can use this time to start looking at college websites and brochures.** If he has an idea of what he would like to study in college, he can focus on schools with strong programs in that area. He can also look at requirements for his potential course of study – that way, he can talk with his counselor in the spring about making sure he takes the appropriate classes in high school.

- **A junior can narrow down the list of colleges he'd like to visit.**

The spring is when many colleges have open houses. Make travel plans now, if necessary – booking early often means getting the best prices. If your high schooler is super-motivated, you might also suggest he write a practice college application essay or update his résumé.

- **A senior should be wrapping up his college applications – many are due in January.**

Remind him to make copies of his applications before he sends them, so he's not starting from scratch if one gets lost in the mail or if the file doesn't go through. And celebrate when he has completed all his applications!

A “PARACHUTE PARENT” REDUCES CONFIDENCE

We all want to help our children when they need it. But some parents take the help a little too far. They “parachute in” to save the day every time their child faces a bump in the road.

So instead of letting two friends work out a minor disagreement, the parents step in. The next thing you know, a small problem has grown into a big feud.

Or a forgetful child can't seem to remember to take her lunch to school. A parachute mom is there to rescue her every day. The result? She never learns to be responsible.

These “parachute” parents are really sending their kids a negative message. “You can't handle this. I have to do it for you.” Over time, that reduces a child's confidence in her ability to solve problems for herself.

Parents should always help when their child truly can't solve a problem. Otherwise, pack up the parachute and let your child figure it out!



ELEMENTARY HONOR ROLL

Kindergarten

Brady Bush, Faith Darcangelo, Emma Harry, Madison Hughes, Nicholas Jenks, Krista Miller, Serenity Miller, Timothy Miller, Aiden Monell, Carter Rosno, Madison Slocum, Meygan Thompson, Tala Warner and Kailey Yeoman.

First grade

Cameron Bates, Jayden Collins, Daniel Dailey, Rylee English, Ian Gleason, Kenndra Haight, Seth Hill, Dylan Monell, Michelle Rosno, Rowan Rosno,

Veronica Smith, Courissa Sommer, Hanna Sutryk, Kimberlynn Travis, Chelsey Williams and Jayde Wilson.

Second grade

Logan Ayers, Cameron Burke, Rileigh Burnside, Baleigh Monell, Joseph Nowicki, Nicole Peterson, Devin Rider, Gabriel Rodriguez, Sean Sellers, Izabelle Sonner, Tyler Spina, Riley Stanton and Haley Vanskiver.

Continued...

PARENT CORNER – RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

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HELP YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLER DEAL WITH SILENT PEER PRESSURE

Much of the advice kids get about dealing with peer pressure has to do with verbal situations. Perhaps your child will be given a dare – to try alcohol or cigarettes. Or he will be told, “C’mom we’re all going,” in an attempt to get him to skip school.

He may have his answers ready for these situations. But silent pressure – in which it is assumed he will go along or lose face – can be even harder to resist.

You can help your child if you:

- **Encourage friendships with students who have similar values.**

Real friends are the best guard against silent pressure. If your child has at least one supportive friend, he will be less likely to follow the crowd.

- **Teach your child “the stare.”**

Dirty looks are a big part of unspoken peer pressure. What those who try this technique don’t expect is to have the person look back. Staring back, and making eye contact, is a way for your child to silently say, “You don’t intimidate me.”

- **Encourage your child to be an individual.**

Anyone can wear or say or do the same things as the crowd. If your child has his own style, great! Praise him: “I love your creativity. I love that you’re your own person.” Confidence in yourself is the best weapon against peer pressure.”

THREE STRATEGIES CAN HELP YOU PROMOTE RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR

You want your child to respect herself and others, and you’ve told her so. After all, without respect, it’s hard to go far in life. Thankfully, there’s more you can do to promote respect.

Take these simple steps:

- **Discuss respect.**

Pose questions such as, “What is respect?” and “Why is it important?” Listen openly to your child’s opinions.

- **Set an example.**

Treat others with respect and choose relationships in which you’re treated well. Point out other role models, too – both real and fictional, such as historical figures and book characters.

- **Be a media critic.**

Teach your child to think about behavior she sees on TV, in video games and in advertising. Is it respectful? Why or why not? Does it reflect her values and beliefs? What can she learn from it?

ENJOY PARENT CORNER ARTICLES?

Look for more parenting articles on our website at www.bradfordcsd.org.

ELEMENTARY HONOR ROLL, CONTINUED

Third grade

Maxwell Bailey, Mattie Dann, Shane DeCamp, Haleigh Owens, Elijah Pierce, Dakota Rider, Theresa Rodriguez, Alex Rosno, Jillian Underhill and Hunter Williams.

Fourth grade

Dillon Bulkley, Darick Cronk, Deanna DeMonstoy, Dale Kabasta, Blaze Machuga, Joseph Miller, Megan Miller, Alivia Phenes, Cody Shaut, Lane Simpson, Steven Spina, Jordan Sutryk, Elizabeth Veley and Christina White.

Fifth grade

Derek Acor, Maria Antonio, Jesse Bray, Adrianna Buckley, Rian Darcangelo, Harley Horton and Cassandra Lang.

Sixth grade

Nicholas Bailey, Conner Brinton, Hannah Buchanan, Brooke Levesque, Rhiannon Machuga, Emily Manzer, Isaiah Muldoon, Alexis Nowicki, Brittany Rinker, Kathelyn Rutledge, Jacob Scott, Benjamin Veley, Emily Wagner and Joshua Wilhelm.

FAMILY READING/CRAFT NIGHT

Take some time out during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to spend quality time with your family in a relaxed atmosphere. Please plan to attend the Christmas Family Reading and Craft Night on Monday, December 19 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the BCS cafeteria.

Listen to some of your favorite Christmas stories then grab a Christmas craft kit to make a special keepsake to take home.

The Bradford PTO will provide pizza. The event is sponsored by the PTO and Title 1 Reading.



PARKING LOT SAFETY

Several concerns have been brought to our attention in regard to parking lot safety. Please keep in mind, whenever you are entering or exiting the school parking lot, it is very busy and at any time can be filled with children.

Also, when loading or unloading their children, parents sometimes block the handicap parking spots. These parking spots must be kept clear at all times so the individuals they are intended for can gain easy access.

Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.



SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

Bradford Central School offers a program aimed at preparing young children for pre-kindergarten.



Each month, parents and children – infants up to age three – are invited to join school staff for a morning of fun and learning. Parents and children will have the opportunity to engage in interactive stories, crafts and various hands-on activities with the pre-kindergarten teacher, school nurse and other BCS staff.

Information on health and wellness, as well community resources, also will be available.

Breakfast will be provided, along with a goody bag containing items to promote school readiness.

Monthly sessions will take place in the school library from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on January 11, February 8, March 14, April 18, May 9 and June 6.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Jo Miller, President
Stacie Ladd, Vice President
Joe Decker
Thomas Meighan
Adam Monell

SUPERINTENDENT
Wendy S. Field

www.bradfordcsd.org