



Big Flats News

April 2019

*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,

Happy spring! I know many of us have been patiently and anxiously awaiting the arrival of the warmer temperatures, the wonderful sights, and promising growth of the spring season. In education, we share in the excitement of the season by seeing the incredible growth that our students have made since the beginning of the school year! As adult learners, our teachers continue to learn how to make their daily lessons relevant to our students and their future so that we increase student engagement and higher-level thinking and learning for our student learners. During the current school year, our teachers at Big Flats Elementary have been unpacking and becoming aware of the new Next Generation Learning Standards. Many of our teachers have also been learning the new English Language Arts curriculum that our teachers have created. We are very excited about this new curriculum that aligns with the new Next Generation Learning Standards. Our new curriculum will continue to engage and empower our students in collaborative conversations, writing, mathematical applications, as well as in their scientific experiments. It is very exciting to see our classroom instruction move from a traditional classroom of lecture and reciting new knowledge to inquiry learning, and then being able to apply that knowledge and critically think of how one can use this in solving a real community or worldwide issue. I am very appreciative of our staff and students as we move forward in our continual learning and growth as student and adult learners. May you all have a wonderful spring break! I look forward to the remaining months of the current school year and all the amazing student growth that the months ahead will continue to bring.

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

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2018-2019 school year will be:

Breakfast: \$1.25

Lunch: \$2.10

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



FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

- ***Changes in Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Numbers**

If a parent/guardian gets a new cell phone number, and had opted in to text messaging notifications with their old number, they'll need to opt in again with the new number! Please let the Main Office know of the change and we will give you the information to opt in again.

- **Changes in Dismissal Plans?**

Please remember to send in a written note with your child if you need to change their routine dismissal plan. Also, please note: *It is District policy that students cannot ride a different bus home with another student for a playdate.* Thank you for your understanding.

- **Borrowed Clothing?**

If your child borrowed clothing from our Health Office, please remember to wash and return those items as soon as possible. *We are running low on all sizes of boys' pants; we would gladly take any donations! Thank you!

- ***5th GRADE CLASS PLACEMENTS**

"The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2019-2020 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 that should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School by **Friday, April 5th**. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success! Thanks!"

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 <http://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 ELA—April 3-4, 2019

3rd and 4th grade Math—May 1-2, 2019

4th grade Science Performance Test—May 22, 2019

4th grade Science Written Test—June 3, 2019

Budget Development Calendar

The Board of Education and district are currently developing the proposed 2019-20 School Budget to be offered to voters May 21. Here is a schedule of public meetings regarding the proposed budget. All are welcome. The Multi-Media Center is located in the south wing of Horseheads High School.

Thursday, April 4	Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6pm
Wednesday, April 24	Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Budget Q&A, Big Flats Town Hall, 7 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Budget Q&A, Horseheads Town Hall, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Budget Q&A, Horseheads Village Hall, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Budget Q&A, Erin Town Hall, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	(tentative) Board of Education Candidates' Forum, Multi-Media Center, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Public Hearing, Multi-Media Center, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21	Budget Vote/Board of Education Election, High School South Gym, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

For more information on the proposed budget, including videos and presentations from the Board of Education meetings above, please visit the district website at <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/2019-20%20Budget%20Information.cfm?school=District>.

Wish List for Innovation Lab:

- ⇒ Fabric Remnants
- ⇒ Yarn
- ⇒ Toilet Paper rolls
- ⇒ Paper Towel Rolls
- ⇒ Containers (cans, Tupperware, plastic, etc.)

Our Art Room is on Instagram!

Search **#MrsVencesArtRoom** to see all of the fun and exciting projects our students have been creating all year in art class!

The Big Flats PTO Color Fun Run

Thursday, April 11, 2019
5:30 - 6:30pm (registration at 5:00pm)

Open to Big Flats Pre-K - 4th grade students only
Located at Big Flats Elementary School in the back fields behind
our school

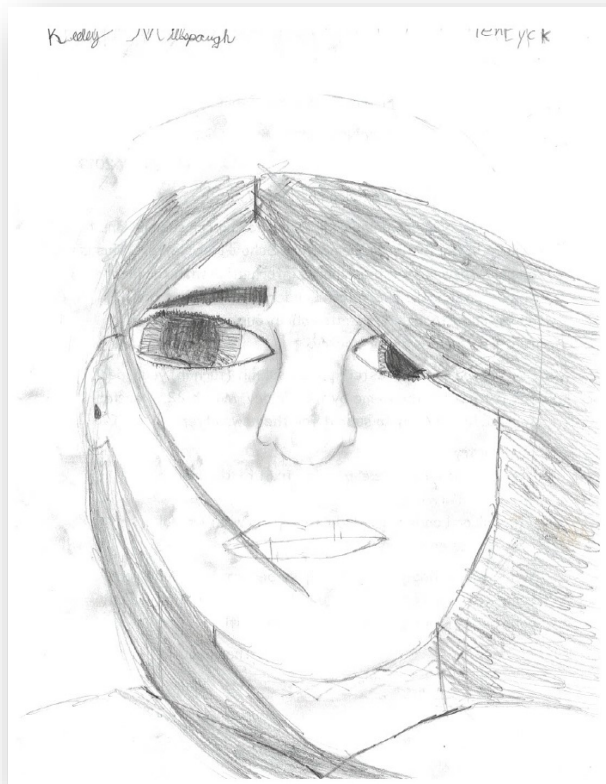


FALCONS:

By members of the Leadership Team—
S. Staats (below), K. Millspaugh (right):

Fun
awesome
learning
Caring
opportunities
nice
Smart

by Sarah
Staats



Spring photos
will be taken
May 3, 2019!



Mark Your Calendars

April 2

PTO Meeting; 6pm, BF Comm Ctr

April 3-4

NYS ELA Assessments

April 11

PTO Color Fun Run; 5:30pm, Falcon Fields

April 12

Report Cards Go Home

April 15-19

SPRING RECESS

April 22-30

PK-K Parent/Teacher Conferences

April 24

BOE Meeting; 6pm, MMC

April 26

Spirit Day—Favorite Book Character



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



Please pull tabs for Ronald McDonald!



PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com

Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities!

Tabs will be picked up mid-May.

Send in your BoxTops to earn cash for our school!

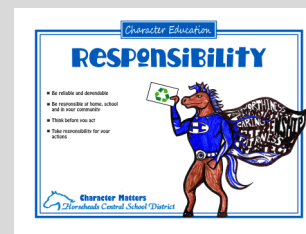


The Horseheads Central School District is looking for interested individuals for several job positions: cleaner, bus driver, food service worker, as well as substitute clerical, nurse, cleaner, and food service worker. We seek candidates who are 18 or older, including retired community members. To apply, complete our district application and submit it, along with all required documents, to Human Resources, south wing of Horseheads High School. The district application may be found here: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/uploadeddocs/application.pdf> or picked up at our Human Resources Office. Questions? Email us at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

April — The month of:

Responsibility

- Be reliable and dependable
- Be responsible 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.



Horseheads Central School District Budget Q&As

All are welcome. Sessions begin at 7pm.

Thursday, April 25:	Big Flats Town Hall
Monday, April 29:	Horseheads Town Hall
Tuesday, April 30:	Horseheads Village Hall
Thursday, May 2:	Erin Town Hall

Budget Vote:

**Tuesday, May 21, 7am-9pm,
Horseheads High School South Gym**

Questions? hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com



The 2019 Grades 3-8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know

Every spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered to students across New York State. These annual ELA and math tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with the learning standards and can support professional development for teachers. Below you will find information about the 2019 tests.

Fewer Test Sessions

- Like the 2018 tests, the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests are two sessions each.
- With fewer test sessions, each test will have substantially fewer questions than in recent years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

Untimed Tests

- Like the 2016 – 2018 tests, the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will be untimed.
- In general, this means that as long as students are working productively, they will have as much time as they need to complete each test session, within the confines of the regular school day.
- Schools and districts have discretion to allow students to read silently or quietly exit the room when they have completed their test while others continue to work.

Test Questions Reviewed and Written by New York State Teachers

- Teachers from across the State serve on committees to write, evaluate and select questions for the tests.
- Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.
- This year, most of the test questions were written by New York State teachers specifically for the annual New York State tests.

Providing Results for Teachers and Improved Resources for Parents

- Like the previous three years, the New York State Education Department plans to have instructional reports returned to teachers by the end of the school year and to release at least 75% of the test questions again.
- The 2019 Score Reports for parents will feature more information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

Computer-Based Testing

- Some schools chose to administer the 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on computers rather than by paper and pencil. The computer-based tests (CBT) will have the same questions as the paper versions. Students in those schools utilizing the CBT option have access to CBT practice tests and most have had prior experience participating in other computer-based tests in ELA and Math.
- The long-term plan is for all schools to use CBT for annual State tests. CBT has the potential to further reduce the need for stand-alone field tests and make assessments better instructional tools for students with disabilities.



Sponsored by Comprehensive
Interdisciplinary Developmental
Services (CIDS)

FLIP IT

Thursdays
April 4—May 2
(5 weeks)

10– 12 noon
**Horseheads Family
Resource Center**

Does your child or a child in your care seem to be
testing you with challenging
behaviors?

**For Parents and Caregivers
with children—Toddlers
thru School Age**

Do you feel like you've tried **EVERYTHING??**

**Don't FLIP OUT,
use FLIP IT!!**



*Flip It Training is offered at no cost,
4 Easy steps made simple!*

**Where: Horseheads Family
Resource Center**

1034 W. Broad St., Horseheads, NY

Facilitated by: Karen Sweeney, Certified FLIP IT trainer, and NYSPEP
Credentialed Senior Parenting Educator

Please pre-register by calling Karen at 607-426-4879 or e-mail
markarensweeney@gmail.com.

Children can play in the center with staff while you attend.

Sign up now since space is limited!





New York Menu Day

April, 2019

NY All Beef Hot Dog

(Slate Foods-New York)

Ranch Roasted NY Red Potatoes

(William's Farm-Marion, NY)

NY Mott's Apple Sauce

(Ontario, NY)

NY Low-Fat Milk

(Upstate Farms)



From NY Farms  to School Lunch



DAILY NEWS FLASH!

TEACHING OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP NO LONGER NECESSARY - INTERNET IS OK

INTERNET FOUND TO BE 100% SAFE AND NO DATA HAS BEEN STOLEN FOR DAYS

APRIL FOOLS! Did anyone actually believe our fake headlines above? Just to be clear there is nothing that can make the Internet totally safe. Living in our world today requires everyone to be knowledgeable about digital citizenship to keep themselves and their private data safe, and far away from the hackers and scammers that would love to exploit it.

To put a more positive spin on all of this it is our hope that our young people, the digital natives, can learn about digital citizenship and make the online world a better place. Their unique understanding of technology can lead to solutions that could put an end to identity theft, cyberbullying, catfishing, swatting, spyware, malware and many other unpleasant things that have become commonplace today due to our infatuation with computers and other digital devices.

national
roboticsweek



Put your digital skills to the test! Robotics combines STEM, coding, and lots of FUN.

Visit the website for resources, and info about events in your area.

APRIL 7-15, 2019

<http://go.gstric.org/208-robotics>



Sign Up to receive this newsletter in your email inbox

Scan this QR code with your phone, or go to <http://go.gstbooces.org/dcnews-signup> in your browser.

GEORGE LUCAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

edutopia

George Lucas, the creative mind behind the Star Wars universe, has endowed an educational foundation which encourages schools to use best practices so that students can thrive in their studies, careers, and lives.

Modeling Constructive Online Behavior
As every educator's dream digital footprint model, this guide of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and blogging to help them stand out in college admissions officers and potential employers.

By David Carter
October 10, 2015



Visit the EDUTOPIA web site for great articles about what works in education, and for great videos on many topics including digital citizenship. This article on Modeling Constructive Online Behavior looks at how teachers can use social media to model and reinforce positive behaviors. <http://go.gstric.org/208-edutopia/>

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNET SAFETY

- 1 LAWS** Many sites and web tools are 13+. Most images and work online are protected by copyright. 
- 2 TALK** Tell your parents what you're doing online. Always ask a trusted adult if you're unsure of anything. 
- 3 FRIENDS** Don't add or meet online friends without parent permission. Don't trust everything friends tell you. 
- 4 PRIVACY** Keep personal info private: Your full name, Address, Phone number, Passwords, Your plans and birthday. 
- 5 REPUTATION** Don't post anything you wouldn't want teachers, family, friends, and future employers to see. 
- 6 QUESTION** You can't believe everything you read and see online. There's a lot of incorrect and biased info. 
- 7 BULLYING** Tell someone if you think cyberbullying is happening to you or other people you know. 
- 8 ACCOUNTS** Choose sensible email addresses and usernames. Use strong passwords and don't share them with others. 
- 9 MANNERS** Be polite and respectful at all times. Treat others online how you'd like to be treated. 
- 10 UNPLUG** Balance your screen time and green time. Get outdoors, move, play, and interact face to face. 

If in doubt, **think** about and **talk** it out

WWW.KATHLEENAMORRIS.COM



WHAT ARE THESE SYMBOLS? WHAT DO THEY MEAN?



An Introduction to Creative Commons Licensing

Creative Commons licensing allows the creators of content on the Internet to specify certain conditions in which their work may be copied and shared without having to go through a formal copyright process. For example: The **BY** acronym and icon indicates that this material requires an attribution specifying who the work was created by. The **NC** indicates it must be non-commercial use, and the **ND** indicates no derivatives - the work cannot be modified without permission.



Learn more about CC licensing at
<http://go.gstric.org/208-cc>

GREAT INFORMATION FROM DOWN UNDER

Kathleen A. Morris is a primary school teacher from Geelong, Victoria, Australia. She is a well-known educational blogger who is passionate



about teaching edtech, research skills, global collaboration, and digital citizenship.

We found recent article on her website, "Teaching Digital Citizenship: 10 Internet Safety Tips for Students (With Posters)", to be chock-full of great information not only for students but for teachers and parents as well. She defines the elements of Digital Citizenship using models for Mike Ribble, ISTE, and Common Sense Education. She also discusses why Digital Citizenship is so important today. Her approach combines embedding Digital Citizenship into her curriculum and presenting students with real-life scenarios. Her students are encouraged to develop a toolkit of skills and strategies, and all of this is communicated to the parents and community.

Her article also has a lot of links to other resources and includes several links to posters that she has created which are free for you to download. A small screenshot of the first of 11 posters on Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety is provided here, but you can download the whole file at <http://go.gstric.org/208-kam-poster>.

We definitely encourage you to read the full article using the link below, and to visit her website which contains many more interesting articles on several different topics. From her site you can also choose to follow her on Twitter (@kathleen_morris) or on Pinterest (mrskmorris). Thank you, Kathleen, for giving us permission to share your information with our readers.

<http://go.gstric.org/208-kam-site>
<http://go.gstric.org/208-kam-article>



WHAT TEACHERS CAN DO ABOUT CYBERBULLYING

NOTE: FIRST AND FOREMOST, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT TEACHERS BE AWARE OF AND FOLLOW ANY BUILDING, DISTRICT, OR BOARD GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR REPORTING AND HANDLING INCIDENTS OF ONLINE BULLYING OR HARASSMENT. IF YOUR DISTRICT DOESN'T HAVE THESE POLICIES IN PLACE, GET INVOLVED IN HELPING TO DEVELOP THEM.

While online harassment and bullying doesn't necessarily happen in the classroom, it does have a profound effect on how students may behave toward each other in class. Teachers very often are told of incidents that have happened online, and they have to deal with the aftermath as it affects their classes. What things can teachers do to try to prevent these incidents?

- 1. Explicitly teach positive online behavior, explain the negative behaviors, and let students know that the negative ones will not be tolerated.**
Model the good behaviors and discuss various scenarios that the students may encounter online. Reinforce the positive solutions.
- 2. Notify parents of what the expectations are for their children.**
Keep an open dialogue about these behaviors. Let parents know what to look for, and encourage parents to discuss the positive behaviors with students.
- 3. Teach kindness and empathy.**
Create activities where students can practice being kind to each other. Expect the best in how they treat each other.
- 4. Remind students that what happens on the Internet is public and it can be permanent.**
Social media is often a group experience. Bullying and shaming behaviors often happen in public situations. Once it has occurred, it is often difficult to get the material deleted. Many adults have been embarrassed by things that occurred online during their teen years.
- 5. Use appropriate resources from outside your classroom.**
There are many good sources of videos that promote positive online behaviors. Find some, view, and discuss them with your students. Or even better, create your own videos with your students, and share them with other classes.

<http://go.gstric.org/208-prevention>

**THIS APRIL PROMOTE
LITERACY OF ALL KINDS**

Libraries=Strong
COMMUNITIES



Celebrate
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
APRIL 7-13, 2019



- **APRIL 4th IS NATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARIANS DAY**
- **APRIL 11th IS NATIONAL SUPPORT TEEN LITERATURE DAY**
- **APRIL 23rd IS NATIONAL TALK LIKE SHAKESPEARE DAY**
- **APRIL 28th IS NATIONAL GREAT POETRY READING DAY**

Our school libraries are a great place to develop our literacy skills, and our school librarians are a great source for learning search and research skills.

Visit your local school library and see what it has to offer you. Take part in some activities to support these national days of recognition.

School librarians get your **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK TOOLKIT** at <http://go.gstric.org/208-toolkit>



GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative announces a ...

Digital Citizenship Calendar Art Contest

In the next issue (May 2019) we announce the winners of our Calendar Art Contest. Stay tuned to see the art that was submitted by students.



I WILL GIVE CREDIT TO OTHERS FOR THEIR WORK

You may use images from the Internet for school projects or presentations - but do you know that **you might be breaking copyright laws?**

If an image isn't something that you created the odds are that someone else owns the copyright and that means that you may need to get their permission before using it. Even if you are able to get permission you still may need to give credit to the original owner or creator of the image.

HOW CAN I MAKE SURE THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT TO USE AN IMAGE?

1. **Get permission from the image creator or the copyright owner.** It may be difficult to locate and obtain the permission from the proper person.
2. **Create the image yourself.** Use software programs that allow you make images like MS Paint, Google Drawings, Autodraw (autodraw.com), Canva (canva.com), or Adobe Spark (spark.adobe.com). Or use your phone or a digital camera to take a digital photo. Photos of objects, and public events (as long as specific people are not recognizable) don't require special permission. You may need a photo release if people can be recognized in your image.
3. **Search for images that are licensed for your use.** Learn about Creative Commons licensing that artists can use to give other permission to use their work without having to ask for permission. There are also sites that have images that are royalty-free. Google image search tools let you specify "Usage rights" as a parameter.

Creative Commons licensing uses icons to show how an item is licensed. The first icon below shows that the item is in the public domain (free to use) and the second one shows that the item may be used as long as attribution (by) text is included.



<https://creativecommons.org/>



Sites with copyright-free images.

<https://unsplash.com>

<https://pixabay.com>

<https://www.pexels.com>

<https://stocksnap.io/>

<http://www.pics4learning.com>

<https://openclipart.org>

Screen capture showing Google usage rights search

