

News

March/April 2013

...of the Horseheads Central School District

Energy program saves district 43%

The district has achieved a 43% savings on energy use in the last year through the energy management program.

The district's "savings year" is from February 1 to January 31.

Energy costs from February 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013 would have been more than \$1.15 million without the management program. The district actually spent just under \$654,000.

Additionally, the district spent \$157,000 less during the current savings year than spent in the last year.

"The reports show that the program is going strong based on both usage and cost avoidance," said Dan Delorme, energy program manager and High School science teacher.



Our Mission "Quality Education for All"

The Mission of the Horseheads Central School Community is to provide a quality education for all within a nurturing environment which promotes excellence, growth, and a sense of civic responsibility.

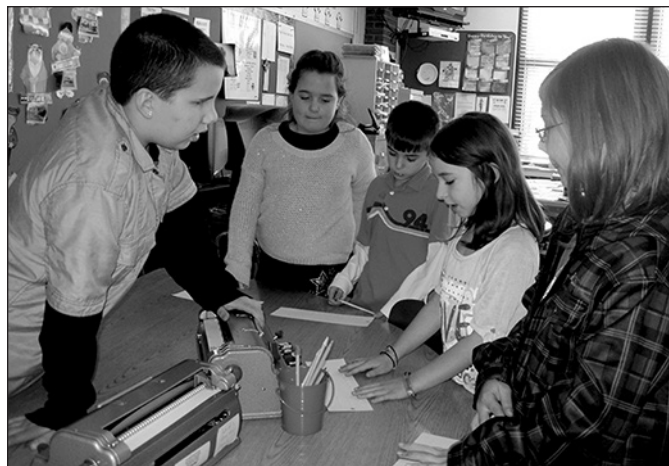
'Fun, brave, intelligent'

When students in her third-grade class at Ridge Road Elementary School started learning about Helen Keller, teacher Kelly Murray remembered that student Adrianna Reeves' mother works with blind students. What better way to bring their learning to life than to invite the students in to the classroom, she thought.

On February 7, Michelle Reeves brought Calvin and Kylan Allington, seventh-graders at Broadway Middle School, to Murray's classroom to talk about what it's like to be blind. They told the students how they navigate through the world, what technology helps them, and how they're not that different from the students themselves. Kylan showed them how he plays trumpet. Calvin shared his artwork.

The students then broke into groups to try their hand at writing, reading, and multiplying numbers in Braille. At the end of the session, Calvin and Kylan answered students' questions, such as how they get to class on time, how they tell time, and how they play sports.

"It is so powerful for kids to see their peers dealing with a disability and still maintaining such a wonderful attitude, showing what hard work and perseverance do," said Murray. "What fun, brave, intelligent teenagers they are."



Above: Calvin Allington shows Kaden Morse (left) and Jimmy Haberstroh how to use a slate and stylus to punch Braille onto paper. Right: Kylan Allington shows students how to use the Braille to type in Braille. From left to right: Kylan, McKenna Baker, Joey Mucci, Gracelin Geinitz, and Sydney Kuhnel.



Our Vision

We, the Horseheads School Community, want a district that:

- is nurturing and responsive;
- strives for balance in a supportive, safe, encouraging environment;
- recognizes the need for continual improvement in an ever-changing world;
- has a clearly defined focus on learning outcomes, collaboration, and support systems; and
- creates an environment within which everyone can thrive and achieve his/her highest potential.



Our Beliefs

We believe:

- everyone can achieve his/her highest potential;
- trust is essential for growth;
- learning is cooperative;
- programs are inclusive;
- success will be nurtured and expected;
- learning is performance-based;
- decisions are data-based; and
- responsibility, respect and results guide our every effort.



Exit Outcomes

The Horseheads Central School graduate will be...

- a life-long learner;
- a caring, productive citizen;
- an effective communicator;
- a creative problem-solver;
- a quality decision-maker;
- a healthy, well-rounded person.

From the superintendent

Dear Community Members,

As spring approaches, we focus much of our attention on budget development for next school year, but let's take a moment to celebrate the many achievements in our district.

Congratulations to seniors Sean Bassler, Emily Jay, and Tianyi Zhang on earning finalist status in the National Merit Scholarship competition. What a high honor, and to have three senior finalists in the same year - what a year. Congratulations also to our winter sports teams on a terrific season. A special note goes to the Girls Indoor Track Team for earning the State Scholar Athlete Team Award. This means the team had the highest combined average in the state for their sport (98.388).

And to Tess Wicks on earning the Sportsmanship Award from the Southern New York Basketball Officials Association. Teammate Jennifer Chalk was a nominee for the award, so of the five nominees, two were from the same Horseheads team.

Congratulations as well to sixth-grader Bryce Derick. While not yet old enough to compete in interscholastic sports, he is the National Champion for his age group in the 1500-meter run and an All-American in the 3000-meter distance. Bryce really excelled at the US Track and Field Indoor Youth Championships in Maryland in early March.

Hats off to Center Street fourth-grader Meredith Masker on achieving fifth place in the Corning Rotary Regional Spelling Bee, and to Center Street third-grader Tyler Stone and sixth-graders Selina Liu and Belinda Zhang on competing well at the bee. Bravo to the High School Greenroom Players on their spring musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, which will likely have taken place by the time you read this. I know they will do a stellar job. Bravo as well to future Greenroom Players - the Middle School's *Guys and Dolls, Jr.* was terrific, as was the Ridge Road fourth-grade play *Harmony High*.

And to our students who give their best each and every day, and to our staff, parents, and community who support our children, thank you. We have so many reasons to be proud.

We also have so much to do to ensure our students continue to receive the best education possible. Our study of facilities use and grade configuration continues, as we ask consultants to find ways to save the millions of dollars we need to bridge our budget gap. We expect to hear a report from Hunt Engineers and Dr. Paul Seversky this summer.

We're also working with the Elmira Heights Central School District to determine if a consolidation is beneficial to both districts. We recently applied for a grant to help pay for the feasibility study, which can take up to 18 months to complete. District consolidations must be approved by their communities.

Our budget development continues. As of the printing of this newsletter, we await the passage of the state budget, which we expect to happen prior to the April 1 deadline. We are currently facing a deficit

continued on page 3

Gap Elimination Adjustment is four-year reduction in state aid

In 2009, then-Governor Paterson and lawmakers enacted the Gap Elimination Adjustment in response to the economic downturn, eliminating a portion of state aid allotted to districts.

The GEA then eliminated some \$2.14 billion in state aid to schools state-wide in the 2010-11 school year, and continues to reduce aid through the GEA.

In his 2013-14 budget proposal, Governor Andrew Cuomo set state aid to Horseheads at \$27,131,033, an increase of just

over \$406,000, or 1.52%, over the current year. However, it is also a \$4.6 million loss in aid through the GEA.

In 2007-08, the district received \$28,436,680 in total state aid. In spite of the increase next year, we are still receiving less state aid than six years ago.

“The GEA is one of the reasons our district, and so many across the states, have had to deal with deficits the last several years,” said Superintendent Ralph Marino, Jr. “And as

a result, we’ve had to reduce and eliminate programs and positions, raise taxes, and use reserves.”

Education advocacy groups, like the Statewide School Finance Consortium, are working to persuade legislators to restore the state aid taken from districts through the GEA. Visit the consortium’s website at www.statewideonline.org.

Reduction in state aid through the GEA:

Year	Statewide	Horseheads
2010-2011	\$2.14 billion	\$6,143,975
2011-2012	\$2.56 billion	\$5,822,295
2012-2013	\$2.16 billion	\$5,048,275
2013-2014*	\$1.83 billion	\$4,630,744
Total	\$8.69 billion	\$21,645,289

*Governor’s Proposal

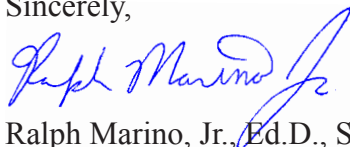
From the superintendent, continued from page 2

of \$7.5 million. Additional state aid monies will go a long way to help us close this deficit. Our board is looking at further ways to bridge the gap, and, unfortunately, program and staff reductions are something we must consider.

The board is considering an approximate 3.5% property tax levy increase, which is at the level of the tax cap and would require a simple majority vote. We already plan to use several million dollars in reserve funds; we cannot continue to go that route and deplete our reserves. Future budget dates are included on page 3 of this newsletter. Please continue to learn about our budget development and join in the discussion of what we want education in Horseheads to look like. Please visit our website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com and click on the “2013-14 Budget Information” button at the right of the page to learn more.

Please also continue to support our students and congratulate them on their achievements. As I said, we have so many reasons to be proud.

Sincerely,



Ralph Marino, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Budget dates

Board Budget Workshop

- Thursday, April 11, Broad Street Building, Broad St, Horseheads, 6pm

Budget Q&A Sessions

Meetings begin at 7pm.

- Monday, April 22, Millport Village Hall, 4246 Main St, Millport
- Monday, April 29, Horseheads American Legion, 71 Old Ithaca Rd, Horseheads
- Monday, May 6, Erin Town Hall, 1138 Breesport Rd, Erin
- Thursday, May 16, Big Flats Community Center, Maple St, Big Flats

Public Hearing

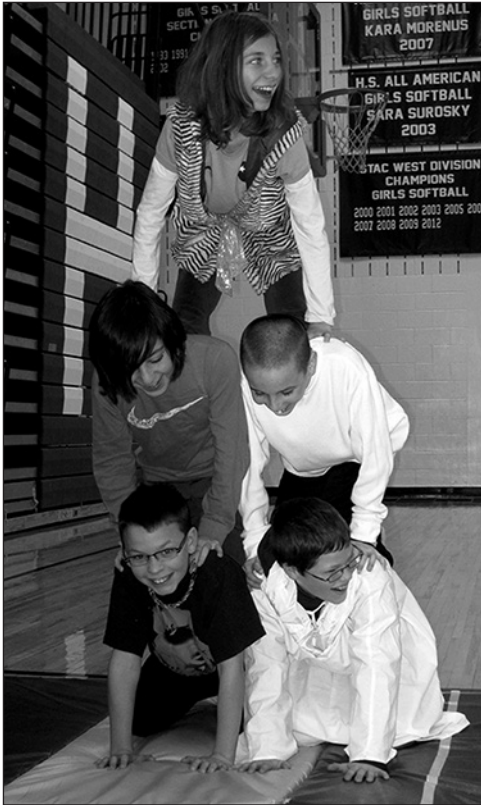
- Thursday, May 9, Multi-Media Center, 6pm

Budget Vote/School Board Election

- Tuesday, May 21, 7am to 8pm, Big Flats, Ridge Road, High School

Visit www.horseheadsdistrict.com for budget information.

Snapshots...



Sixth-graders marked their study of ancient Egypt with Egypt Day January 28. Students rotated through various rooms to experience ancient Egypt. They played games for tokens, purchased Egyptian artifacts with their tokens, enjoyed an Egyptian feast, tried their hand at human pyramid-building, and brought their mummies to the catacombs. Completing their human pyramid, clockwise, from top, are Leanna Scott, Joshua Ayers, Parker Hilfiger, Connor Davis, and Daniel Rizk.



Students in Kelly Schrage's first-grade class at Big Flats Elementary School marked the 100th day of school February 15 by participating in a variety of activities. They weighed the bag of 100 items each student brought to school, sorted 100 blocks and graphed their calculations, stamped coins on paper and counted what 100 of each coin equals, found different words using the letters O-N-E H-U-N-D-R-E-D, and exercised their bodies and minds by doing 100 exercises (including 10 jumping jacks, 5 hops on the right, 5 hops on the left, balancing on each foot for 10 seconds, and more). They also did 100 subtraction problems and 100 addition problems. Parent volunteers assisted in the learning fun. Finding words above are, from left to right, Brady Kelly, Anna Waters, Andrew Potter, and Mercedes Aranda.



Horseheads Middle School staged a free production of *Guys and Dolls Jr.* January 31 and February 1. Above, the 'guys' warm up before the show. Left to right are James Parker, Josh Samodal, Dominic Magistro, and Elliott Tuazon.



Fourth-graders at Gardner Road, Center Street, and Big Flats are participating in the Chemung River School, a cross-curricular project that immerses them in the study of the Chemung River. They'll study all facets of the river, from science to history to art. In January, students worked with Jessica DeJoseph, artist-in-residence at the Arnot Art Museum, to learn about watercolor painting. Students sketched and painted their own watercolor landscapes, which will be on display later this year at the Arnot Art Museum. Students will also participate in a river walk, visit Tanglewood Nature Center, and work with a local poet. Above, left to right, are Gardner Road fourth-graders Ty McCall, Hannah Hubbell, and Evan Keister.

Congratulations...



Three seniors have earned Finalist status in the National Merit Scholarship competition. Congratulations to Tianyi Zhang (front), Sean Bassler, and Emily Jay.

Sophomore Nidhi Shah won first place at the Zone Level of the American Legion Oratorical Competition February 16 in Mohawk, NY. She went on to place fourth out of 300 competitors at the state level March 2. Nidhi won the local contest in January.



Fifth-grader Jake Klossner won the Horseheads Schools' Raider Nation Community-Wide Character Education Program Logo Contest. Voters chose his design at the 2013 Village of Horseheads Art Show. Congratulations to Jake, and to the other finalists, sixth-grader Emily Austin and seventh-grader Rileigh Moag. Hats off to sixth-grader Jason Liang, on winning first place in the Kids Category at the art show, and to fifth-grader Kara Six, on winning second place.

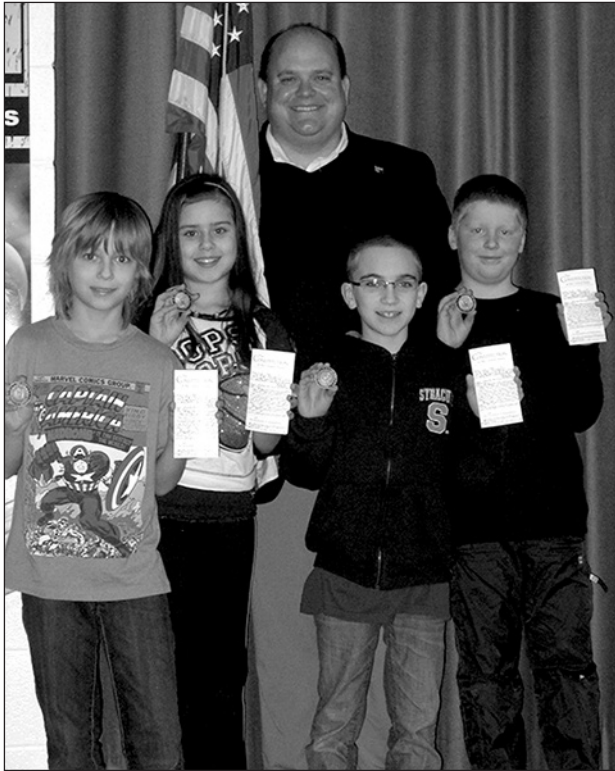


Several of our students won awards at the Trinity of Chemung County Third Annual Art for Awareness Contest: Kendyl Tokar, grade 9, first place; Alex Lee, grade 8, first place; Emily Knowlton, grade 10, second place; Samantha Nowaczyk, grade 9, honorable mention; John Deines, grade 11, honorable mention; and Lauren Lucht, grade 8, honorable mention. Students were asked to create artwork depicting the consequences of underage drinking. Above are Emily (left) and Kendyl holding their winning work.

Center Street fourth-grader Meredith Masker (far right) placed fifth at the Corning Rotary Regional Spelling Bee March 7, after winning the bee at her school. Sixth-grader Selina Liu (left) took the top prize in the Intermediate School's spelling bee February 2. Belinda Zhang earned second place. The two placed 7th at the regional bee. Center Street third-grader Tyler Stone placed tenth.



Snapshots, continued...



US Congressman Tom Reed visited Big Flats January 29 to talk with fourth-graders about Congress and the government. He asked the students questions about Washington and the government. When he asked them what they think Congress should focus on, suggestions included safety, respect, citizenship, and littering. He also gave each student a copy of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. Above is Congressman Reed with (left to right) Michael Testone, Abby Christmas, Tyler Blitz, and Matthew McDougall. The four students answered tough questions, so the congressman gave them commemorative coins.



February was Dental Awareness Month, and area dentists graciously visited elementary schools to talk to students about the importance of good dental health. Dr. Melissa Brown and her staff visited Elisabeth Bostwick's second-grade class at Big Flats on February 13. Students looked at the bacteria that lives in plaque (sample taken from a student volunteer). Dr. Brown and her staff demonstrated how to brush properly, explained the importance of eating healthily, and gave each student a toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss. Above are Kelly Keefer, dental assistant in Dr. Brown's office, and students Olivia Audinwood (center) and Sarah Charlery (right).



Gardner Road held their annual food drive in February. Each class had a goal of 100 cans. Fourth-grader Zoie Miller used her own money to buy 50 cans to help her class meet the goal.



Chemung County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Black visited Dora Leland's seventh-grade social studies classes February 5 to talk about the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Later in the month, Horseheads Youth Bureau Director Bruce May visited the class to talk about juvenile rights and responsibilities.

Please send us information

If you live in the district and have a young child, please share your child's information with us so that we'll be prepared to contact you when your child is eligible for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Please send your child's name, birthdate, parent(s)' name(s), address, and phone number to hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

If your child was born between December 2, 2007 and December 1, 2008, your child is age-eligible for kindergarten. If your child was born between December 2, 2008 and December 1, 2009, your child is age-eligible for pre-kindergarten. Parents of children eligible for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten will receive information about pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in the spring.

Questions? E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call 739-5601, x4251.

Sign up for our on-line newsletter

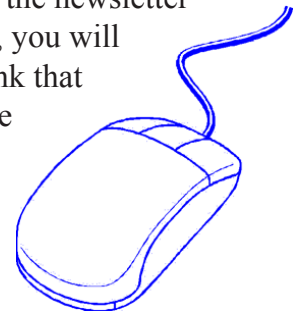
To save costs, the district will soon stop printing and mailing paper newsletters.

Please sign up to receive the district newsletter on-line instead of through postal mail by going to www.horseheadsdistrict.com/newslettersignup.cfm to sign up.

You may also access the sign-up page at www.horseheadsdistrict.com. Click on the blue button titled "E-Newsletter Sign-Up" on the right side of the page.

When a new edition of the newsletter is uploaded to our website, you will receive an e-mail with a link that will take you directly to the newsletter.

Thank you for helping us save costs and resources.



Safe Schools Line

To report a concern, rumor, or other safety issue anonymously and confidentially 24 hours a day, call

**795-2044 or
1-800-305-4984**

Did you know?

Horseheads Music Advocates



The Horseheads Music Advocates (HMA) is an organization of parents and music educators dedicated to promoting a quality music education program in the Horseheads Central School District.

HMA meets monthly. Find out more at www.horseheadsmusic.com or visit the HMA page on Facebook. Join the HMA contact list by e-mailing smithcollint@gmail.com.

For alumni...

All former Horseheads students are invited to join the Alumni Association.

Members receive newsletters and information about the annual gathering, which is the third Saturday in July (July 20 this year, 1 to 4pm).

To join, send a check for \$5 to the Horseheads Alumni Association, PO Box 285, Horseheads, NY 14845.

For more information, contact Joyce Arms at 739-3272 or Pat Gross at 739-7334.

If you'd like to have the association's fiberglass horse at your reunion or other school-related event, please contact Arland Phillips at 739-1865. A donation of \$25 is requested.

Planning a reunion?

Contact Susan Pirozzolo at supirozz@horseheadsdistrict.com or 739-5601, x4295 to get your information listed here.

No school March 28, May 24

The Horseheads Central School District scheduled four extra days into the calendar this year for emergency closings. The district has used two emergency closings this year, leaving two days remaining.

If there are no emergency closings before March 28, there will be no school Thursday, March 28, and Friday, May 24.

Please note: If there is an emergency closing before March 28, that day will revert back to a regular day in session. (If there are two more emergency closing days before May 24, there will also be school on May 24.)

Events

March 28-April 5	No School - Spring Recess
March 28	Board of Education, Intermediate School, 6pm
April 8-12	Center Street Kindergarten Screening and Registration
April 8	Prospective Board of Education Member Information Session, Multi-Media Center, 7pm
April 9	High School Parent Advisory Council, 9am; Big Flats Principal Chat, 6pm; Big Flats PTO, 6:30pm; Center Street PTO, 6:30pm
April 10	Gardner Road PTO, 6:30pm; High School Choir Concert, Auditorium, 7:30pm
April 11	Board of Education Budget Workshop, Broad Street, 6pm
April 15	Intermediate School Parent/Principal Chat, Cafeteria, 9am; Library, 6pm
April 16	Ridge Road Carnival Planning 6pm
April 17	Middle/High School Report Cards; Board of Education, Multi-Media Center, 6pm
April 18	Big Flats Spelling Bee, 7pm
April 19	Elementary/Intermediate Report Cards; Gardner Rd Ice Cream Social, 6pm

“Like” us on Facebook

The district and each of our seven schools have Facebook pages. See up-to-date information about our schools and district by “liking” our pages. Search for the school or district name, and click the “like” button when the page comes up. Thank you!



Horseheads Central School District
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Superintendent

Ralph Marino, Jr., Ed.D.

Contact

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