



# Big Flats News

## December 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,*

The month of December brings many fun and exciting events! Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, will be our annual Winter Choral Concert beginning promptly at 7:00pm. Due to the construction at the high school, we will be having our concert here in our school gymnasium this year instead of at the high school. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade choral students have been working hard to present this very short choral concert for their parents, families, and friends. Each year, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students also do a community project where they collect donations for a charitable foundation. This year's charitable donations will be collected to support the Horseheads Animal Shelter. Please consider joining us this week for our Winter Choral Concert.

Also this month, our PTO brings to life our annual Spirit of Giving project, where the PTO organizes a community project to support a local charitable foundation. This year, our PTO will be collecting items for The Chemung County Foster Care System, by collecting items to provide comfort care packages to children who are placed in foster care. The following donations are currently being collected until Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019:

*Pre-K and Kindergarten students:* Coloring books and crayons

*First Grade Students:* Fuzzy Socks

*Second Grade Students:* Playdough

*Third Grade Students:* Stuffed Animals

*Fourth Grade Students:* Blankets

Other suggested donations that could be sent in include: books, shampoo/conditioner (child/adult), t-shirts (newborn-adult XL), body wash, toothpaste (child and adult), journals, pens, baby wipes, underwear (toddler, child, adult), toothbrushes (child and adult), deodorant, bar soap.

The items above are suggested by grade level so that we are able to provide variety of each item. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. The PTO asks that any item that is donated is new. There will be collection boxes in our main foyer at the school. We are collecting from December 2<sup>nd</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

May you all have a wonderful holiday season with your family, friends, and loved ones!

*Sincerely,*

*Elizabeth M. Scaptura*

Elizabeth Scaptura  
Principal

### Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2019-2020 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:

### • 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.** The announcements can be found on our Facebook page, on our District website [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com), or on the local media stations. Radio and television stations that will be announcing the delayed starts and/or school closings are listed on page 5 of the District Calendar. **\*Pre-K classes will begin at 10:30am when there is a delayed start.***

### • 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.*

## School and Emergency Closings

School closings due to inclement weather will be announced via text, phone, and various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Magic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner Cable News on TV. 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.

### *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.

## 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](http://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.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA—March 25-26, 2020

4<sup>th</sup> grade Science Performance Test—May 19, 2020

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Math—April 22-23, 2020

4<sup>th</sup> grade Science Written Test—June 1, 2020

# *Big Flats Falcons*

1.) Follow #MrsVencesArtRoom on Instagram this year to keep up with all of the fun, creative projects our students make each week! Also, be sure to visit the Big Flats Public Library to check out student art work displayed each month!

2.) Our Innovation Lab is up and running, and our students have been VERY busy creating, collaborating, problem-solving, and innovating each week. Some items we could use for donations are: cardboard pieces, cardboard tubes (paper towel, toilet paper), craft items. Thank you!

## **Winter Concert**

**Our 4th grade Winter Choral Concert will be held on  
Wednesday, December 11, 2019  
at 7pm in the Big Flats  
Elementary Gymnasium**



\*\*Mrs. Vence's Art Room is in need of donations of holiday wrapping paper and tissue paper (any sizes, remnants, leftover rolls), as well as \*thin\* ribbon in all colors. Students and staff members are working on a school-wide project that will be completed and sent home in the month of December. Thank you for any and all donations! ~ Mrs. Vence

**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*



## Mark Your Calendars

**Dec 2-20**

Spirit of Giving

**Dec 3**

PTO Meeting; 6pm, BF Library

**Dec 11**

Winter Choral Concert; 7pm, BF Gym

**Dec 19**

BOE Meeting; 6pm, GR Café

**Dec 20**

Spirit Day—Holiday Sweaters

**Dec 23-Jan 3**

\*Winter Recess

~Please remember to talk to your child's teacher before bringing treats in for parties.~



### 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](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com).

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail

[hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)




Please pull tabs for Ronald McDonald!

[PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com](mailto:PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com)

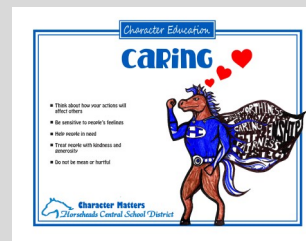
Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities!

Tabs will be picked up mid-May.

## December—The month of:

### Caring

- ⇒ BE KIND
- ⇒ EXPRESS GRATITUDE
- ⇒ FORGIVE OTHERS
- ⇒ HELP PEOPLE IN NEED
- ⇒ BE CHARITABLE



## \*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!*

### 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.



# Digital Citizen News

## December 2019



Volume 3 : Issue 4 - December 2019

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Our Digital Citizenship team wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

This time of year, many of us start to think about celebrations and gift-giving. We thought it might be good to mention a few tips to keep you safe if you are purchasing things online.

**Do business with reputable vendors** - Some attackers may try to trick you by creating malicious websites that appear to be legitimate, so you should avoid using sites that you can't verify.

**Make sure your information is being encrypted** - Look for URLs that begin with "https:" instead of "http:" and display a padlock icon. If the padlock is closed, the information is encrypted.

**Use a credit card** - There are laws to limit your liability for fraudulent credit card charges, but you may not have the same level of protection for your debit cards.

**Check your shopping app settings** - Look for apps that tell you what they do with your data and how they keep it secure.

**Check your statements** - Keep a record of your purchases and copies of confirmation pages, and compare them to your bank statements. If there is a discrepancy, report it immediately.

**Protect your privacy** - Before providing personal or financial information, check the website's privacy policy.

Source: <http://go.gstric.org/304-shopping>



## Taking Care of Your 1-to-1 Device

### Our Best Tips and Practices

So your district has provided a 1:1 device for you to take care of? While this is a big responsibility, you can do it!

Here are some tips to help you keep your device in top shape!

1. Transport the device with care.
2. Always support a device from its bottom with lid closed.
3. Devices should always be closed and tightly secured when moving about the building.
4. Heavy objects should never be placed on top of your device.
5. No food or drink should be next to your device at any time.
6. Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the device.
7. Never leave your device in an unlocked locker or any unsupervised area.
8. Take care to protect your password. Do not share your password.

Taking care of your screen deserves some extra special tips because screens can be easily damaged!

To protect your screen:

1. Do not lean or put pressure on the top of the device when it is closed.
2. Do not store the device with the screen in the open position.
3. Do not place anything near the device that could put pressure on the screen.
4. Do not place anything in a carrying case or backpack that will press against the cover.
5. Do not poke the screen with anything that will mark or scratch the screen surface.
6. Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens, pencils, or disks).
7. Clean the screen with a soft dry cloth only.

These tips should help you in taking care of your 1:1 device. Also, remember that if you ever have trouble with your 1:1 device, make sure you report it to the school's IT Help Team.

**TIPS FOR BATTERY LIFE** - <http://go.gstric.org/304-battery>



Sign Up to receive this newsletter in your email inbox

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



FATHER TIME SAYS

## MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP RESOLUTION NOW!!

Send comments, suggestions, and questions to [dc@gstboces.org](mailto:dc@gstboces.org)

Visit <http://dc.gstboces.org>

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**Waverly  
Central Schools**

# Creating a Student Help Desk

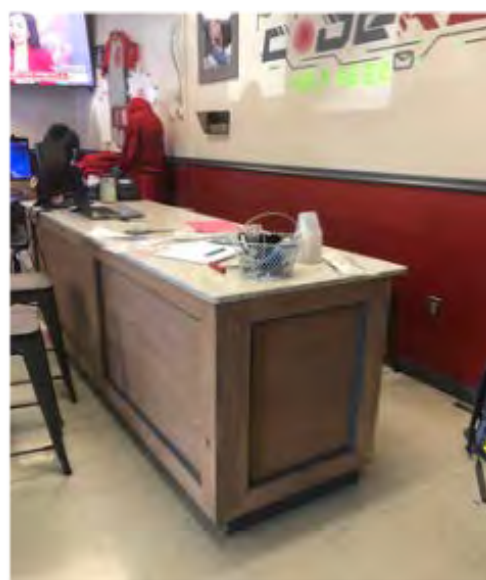
When Waverly CSD rolled out their 1-1 Device initiative for grades 3-12 in September they found that with more technology devices come more technology issues. Students in grades 9-12 have each been assigned a laptop which they are responsible for the entire school year. They have the option to take them home as needed and are required to bring them to each of their classes daily. Because of this major increase in device use the Waverly Student Help Desk was created.

**Ryan Alo**, the Director of Work-Based Learning at Waverly oversees the students who work the help desk. He and the Director of Technology, **Kyle Ackland**, worked together to create the help desk and get it up and running. To help the students with troubleshooting, Kyle created a flowchart of common issues that students may have with their devices.

The help desk's main goal is to get students in and out as quickly as possible. Loaner laptops are given to students so they can quickly return to class while the help desk works on troubleshooting problems. Loaner laptops are also available for students who may have forgotten a device at home or whose laptop is not charged. The help desk team uses a form to keep track of all devices that come in and out.

The students who run the help desk completed an interview process with Ryan and receive credit for a work-based learning program with the goal being that they will earn an internship in a tech-related field outside the school day. One student has been placed in a manager position and he oversees the other 9 students working the help desk. The manager meets with Ryan regularly to discuss any issues that may arise. The help desk has been scheduled into each student's day up to 2-3 times a day. It is scheduled as a class and replaces study halls to allow for coverage throughout the school day.

Kyle has a couple of long-term goals for the help desk as the year progresses. One goal he has is that the help desk team will be able to provide password help for students who may have forgotten a password or need help changing one. He is also hoping that the help desk team will begin troubleshooting in classrooms. He would like to see teachers calling the help desk to come to the classroom to help students rather than sending them out and missing instruction time.








**Do you have a hard time keeping up with the newest movies, tv shows, games, books and apps? New things are literally coming out every day.**

The good news is that <https://www.common sense media.org> is a great resource where you can go and see how other parents, teachers, and children have rated all of these items. They also provide other great resources for parents on topics such as cellphones, screen time, and social media. With the winter recess coming up this is a great tool to use!



# Some Popular Apps That Parents Should Know About

Do you what apps your children are using? Chances are that your children have used one or more of these apps. Know what apps are on your kids' phones, what they do, and how they work.

 <p><b>SNAPCHAT</b></p> <p>One of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features, including "stories", allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. It also allows users to see your location.</p>	 <p><b>TIKTOK</b></p> <p>A new mobile device app popular with kids. It's used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content</p>	 <p><b>WHATSAPP</b></p> <p>This app is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, and make calls and video chats.</p>	 <p><b>MEETME</b></p> <p>This is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. App users are encouraged to meet in person.</p>
 <p><b>BUMBLE</b></p> <p>Similar to "Tinder." The dating app requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to create fake Bumble accounts that falsify their age.</p>	 <p><b>LIVE.ME</b></p> <p>A live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.</p>	 <p><b>ASK.FM</b></p> <p>This app is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions and make comments.</p>	 <p><b>GRINDR</b></p> <p>A dating app geared towards the LGBT community. The app gives users options to chat, share photos, and meet up based on a phone's GPS.</p>
 <p><b>KIK</b></p> <p>Allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.</p>	 <p><b>WHISPER</b></p> <p>An anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.</p>	 <p><b>HOLLA</b></p> <p>An "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Users say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content and more.</p>	 <p><b>CALCULATOR%</b></p> <p>Only one of several secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.</p>

Source: <http://go.gstric.org/304-apps>

The original presentation of this information was created by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department but many other sites have links or modified versions available. A quick Google search will offer many choices.





This Holiday Season . . .



# What gifts will you bring?

**59**

% of parents feel their teens are addicted to their mobile devices

**77**

% of parents feel their teens get distracted by devices and don't pay attention when they are together

**28**

% of teens feel their parents are addicted to their mobile devices

**41**

% of teens feel their parents get distracted by devices and don't pay attention when they are together



**#UnpluggedTime**

**#Respect**

**#PayingAttention**

**#BeingPresent**

**#Understanding**

**#DeviceFreeDinner**

**#OpenConversation**

**#HonestyMatters**

Statistics from: <https://www.common sense media.org/technology-addiction-concern-controversy-and-finding-balance-infographic>

**GST BOCES DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE**

Poster for December 2019 - "What gifts will you bring?"

<http://dc.gstboces.org>

