



Big Flats News

February 2020

*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!*

Winter Festival



2020



Friday, February 7, 2020 6-8pm

Games



Food



Basket Raffle



Prizes

The Big Flats Elementary PTO invites you to join us for our annual Winter Festival on Friday, February 7, 2020 from 6-8pm. The festival is fun for the whole family; with games, food, and prizes! The highlight of the festival is our raffle! Past raffle prizes have included themed gift baskets, gift cards to local businesses, a Nintendo Switch, and kids' bikes. Please join us to see what's in store for a fun-filled evening!



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

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

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

- **Cell Phone Use Reminder**

Cell phones and all hand-held electronic devices interfere with the educational process and are not allowed in the classroom or to be used during the school day. This also includes smart watches. It is highly recommended that these devices be left at home. If seen out and being used by a student during the school day, the device will be taken and kept in the office safe until a parent or guardian picks this item up.

- **Lost and Found**

Please remind your child(ren) to look in the lost and found bin if they are missing any items that belong to them. There are quite a few articles of clothing in our bin waiting for their owner to reclaim them!

- ***5th GRADE CLASS PLACEMENTS**

*The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2020-2021 classroom placements for students. We create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School no later than **Thursday, April 2nd**. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success! Thank you!*



We are excited to share our continued collaboration with the Black Growth Council of Corning Incorporated to participate in the Black History Month Read-In Program. The Mission of the Black History Month Read-In Program is to continue the celebration of African American literacy; a tradition of Black History Month. Corning Incorporated has purchased the books that will be read and added to each classroom library. We are excited to continue our partnership with Corning Incorporated and volunteer readers.

On February 20th and 21st, volunteers from various departments within Corning Incorporated will be visiting each of our classrooms, reading to and interacting with our students. This year, students in Pre-K will be read the book The Crayon Box That Talked by Shane Derolf and Michael Letzig. Students in Kindergarten will be read The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt. Students in grade 1 will be read Have You Thanked an Inventor Today? by Patrice McLaurin. Grade 2 students will be read The Patchwork Path "A Quilt Map to Freedom" by Bettye Stroud. Grade 3 students will be read The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson, and students in grade 4 will be read Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges.

The focus of the guided discussions will start with grade 1 on black inventors, grade 2 on slavery/civil war, grade 3 on segregation, grade 4 on integration; plus other information that is unique to each book. We greatly appreciate this opportunity and look forward to a continued partnership with Corning Incorporated.

***Attention 4th Grade Students and Parents**

The Intermediate School will host an Open House and Presentation to current 4th grade students and parents on Monday, March 23rd beginning at 6:00 PM in the Middle School cafeteria. Mr. Bostwick and Mrs. Doubrova will share information on the Intermediate School. Following the presentation, students and their families are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the school.

We look forward to meeting you!

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.

3rd and 4th grade ELA—March 25-26, 2020

3rd and 4th grade Math—April 22-23, 2020

4th grade Science Performance Test—May 19, 2020

4th grade Science Written Test—June 1, 2020

Falcon Leadership

Falcon Patrol:

1. Keep your hands to yourselves
2. Use walking feet
3. Use inside voices
4. Use kind words



Drawing by Keeley M.

Who's that in the yellow vest?

We are the *Falcon Patrol*. We are here to keep everyone safe, and remind everyone to make good choices. 3rd & 4th grade Falcon Leaders are in all the hallways between 8:00-8:15am. We are reminding students to keep their hands to themselves, use walking feet, inside voices, and kind words.

We were all trained by our School Resource Officer, Officer McGrain. We are having fun, and keeping students safe.

Just remember, we are there to remind you how to stay safe, not to boss you around!

Mark Your Calendars

Feb 4

PTO Meeting; 6pm, BF Library

Feb 6

Kindergarten Registration
(by appointment)

Feb 7

Winter Festival; 6-8pm, BF

Feb 11

Falcon Leadership Team Meeting;
2:30-3:30pm, BF

Feb 14

Valentine's Day

Feb 17-18

NO SCHOOL—President's Day
Recess

Feb 27

BOE Meeting; 6pm, HS MMC

Feb 28

Spirit Day—Trooper Sperr Day/
Wear **purple** and gray

*Learn Up-To-Date Information About
Our Schools and the District*

Facebook: The district and each of our
seven schools have pages. "Like"
them to see our information in your
news feed.

Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at
@HhdsSchools to read our tweets.
Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at
@escaptural

Instagram: The district's page—
hhdsschools

Visit our district website at:
www.horseheadsdistrict.com.
Questions about our website or social
media?

E-mail **hcsdin-**
fo@horseheadsdistrict.com



Please pull tabs for Ronald
McDonald!

PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com

Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald
Charities!

Tabs will be picked up mid-
May.



Certified Teacher Substitutes Needed Teaching Assistant Substitutes Needed

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified teacher substitutes receive a rate of \$95 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at (607)-739-5601 x 4211.

Need more Blue Notes?

By this time of year, you may be running out of blue notes. Please call the office and we will be happy to send a pad home with your child.

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.

February — The month of:

Trustworthiness

- Be honest
- Don't deceive, cheat, or steal
- Be reliable – do what you say you'll do
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Build a good reputation
- Be loyal – stand by your family, friends, and country



**Please remember to talk to your child's
teacher before bringing in birthday treats.**

There are lots of things happening in February!

Presidents Day February 17th, 2020

Explore Digital Democracy. Look up information about some of our great presidents, or read about the upcoming election next November, or follow the current events in the Senate.

Valentine's Day February 14th, 2020

Think of some new ways to celebrate Valentine's day as a Digital Citizen. Check out our Conversation Hearts poster.

DigCit Commit February 11-12th, 2020

DIGCIT COMMIT is a FREE online global gathering of students and educators committed to redefining digcit that features a line up of speakers. You'll hear inspiring keynotes; student, educator and parent presenters; and showcase stories on digcit initiatives.

For more information:

Register for the event
<http://go.gstric.org/306-commit>

Learn about DIGCIT
COMMIT competencies
<http://go.gstric.org/306-comps>

Join the conversation on
Twitter using #digcitcommit



Revisiting Familiar Topics – Spam & Phishing

Using Email is required of all Digital Citizens. Spam and Phishing continue to challenge us. Here are some more tips to help you understand and deal with Spam and Phishing.

Use these tips to minimize how much spam you receive.

- **Try determine which messages are spam and avoid opening them.** Also, avoid clicking on links in those messages.
- **Don't be tempted to reply to spam messages.** Just delete them and forget about them.
- **Don't buy anything from a spammer.** You risk comprising your security and infecting your computer and you also reward and encourage the spammers.
- **Avoid 'unsubscribe' options.** Clicking them will confirm that your address is active and probably attract even more spam.
- **Be wary about giving out your main email address.** If in doubt, it is a good idea to use a alternate (anonymous or free account) email address.
- **Set up a disposable email address.** Use some of the free email services to set up these accounts. If they start to receive a lot of spam you can just delete the account.
- **Don't reveal your email address on your website.** Use a web contact form instead.



Don't be tricked by phishing attempts. Use these tips to help.

- **Phishing scams** are messages that try to **trick you into providing sensitive information.** These often appear to come from a bank or another trusted source, and they'll usually want you to enter a password, verify a birth date, or confirm a credit card number. Phishing messages may look real enough at first glance, because it's surprisingly easy for scammers to create convincing details.
- **Scammers often create websites and email addresses that use slight variations of the real address** such as bankofamercan.com rather than bankofamerica.com.
- **Fraudulent emails often use subject lines that look important** and show concern for your safety. Who wouldn't be concerned about an alert on a bank account!
- **Be suspicious.** Just because what you are seeing looks identical to an official logo, doesn't make it authentic.
- **Phishing scams often suggest that failure to respond immediately will result in negative consequences,** like a freeze on your bank account.





Reaching Today's Readers

In today's society, it is important to recognize that our students are connecting with the world in a different way. The Educators at ECSD are embracing the power that technology can have in order to engage today's students in this digital age. Literacy has been an important initiative in the Elmira City School District. As a result, the district has invested in some new interactive technologies for engaging today's learners in the area of literacy. The newest of these programs that are being implemented throughout ECSD include: **iRead** (Grades K-2), **Read180** and **System 44** (Grades 3-10), and **Newsela** (Grades 3-12).

Teachers have been engaged in numerous trainings across the district on using computer-based programming to successfully implement **Tier 2 literacy instruction**. Teachers have been provided trainings which have provided them with access to webinars, resources, and trainings greatly expanding their understanding of the programming.

Teachers have received training in using the **Read180**, **System 44** and **iRead** platforms. These platforms provide students with individually tailored learning opportunities that specifically target their learning needs. Helping teachers understand the ways that they can effectively use this program to drive instruction and support student needs has been a paramount focus of the Elmira City School District.

Additionally, ECSD's Supervisor of School Innovation, Alicia Bubba has been working to provide professional development support with **Newsela** and its integration with the district LMS, **Schoology**. She has coordinated even more offerings and support with the utilization of BOCES Instructional Support Teachers as well as ECSD Teacher Leaders.

**"IF WE TEACH TODAY'S
STUDENTS AS WE
TAUGHT YESTERDAY'S,
WE ROB THEM OF
TOMORROW."**

JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)

20TH CENTURY AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER

	BENEFITS & OUTCOMES	TESTIMONIALS
iRead	Students often ask to go onto iRead throughout the day. iRead provides our students with individualized lessons that target skills to ensure progress to their next level of reading, and promotes a feeling of success and a positive view of learning to read!	"Kids are much more engaged with iRead than other computer programs. The lessons that are taught on iRead help to strengthen the foundational skills needed to become a fluent reader." - ECSD KDG Teacher "The more you read, the more badges you get on iRead ." - ECSD 1st Grade Student
Read180 / System 44	Reading teachers like the structure that these programs provide, and are impressed with the gains made by students immersed in the programs. At Broadway Academy, 56% of the most struggling readers showed growth in accuracy and fluency. Overall, 54% of our students who received daily reading instruction with the Read180 program exceeded average growth!	The different activities in Read180 hold the students' interest and allow me the chance to meet with them as a small group to see how they are progressing. - ECSD 7th Grade Teacher "I like Read180 because you get to watch a video on the topic you're reading about." - ECSD Student
Newsela	Teachers and students alike are loving the opportunities and benefits that this new resource is providing like increasing student background knowledge, giving students choice in reading, and providing a reliable place to access informational text. In addition to these features, this program is adaptive to students Lexile reading levels based on students responses to standards based questions within Newsela .	"I love using Newsela . My favorite part is the ability to carry on a digital, instant and formative conversation with the students as they read the article." - ECSD 6th Grade Teacher "We use Newsela often in class. I like it because we are allowed to pick an article that we are interested in and it is something I want to read." - ECSD 7th Grade Student



Digital Citizenship: A Students Perspective **

In this issue a student shares some of his knowledge about technology and digital citizenship.

Article by Josh, a student at Watkins Glen CSD



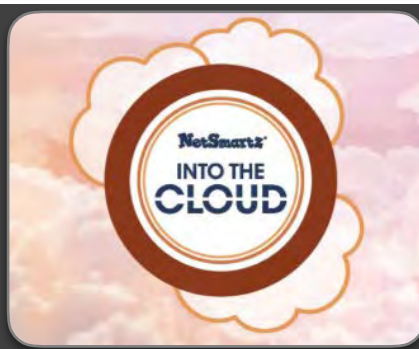
** We got permission from Josh's parents before using his name and identifying his district.

Digital citizenship refers to the responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, and digital devices to engage with society on any level. In my view digital citizenship means to make sure that when utilizing all digital equipment it is with the utmost professionalism. It is being responsible to tech, the internet and digital devices like printers and headphones.

The world of the internet is a big place and the internet has to be treated like a tool to get info on something like cats, ham or the time.

So, what is a digital device? Digital devices like headphones and mobile phones are high tech devices powered by a battery or cable and even outlets can power the devices and as the user you have to be taking care of your phone.

Take care of your devices and your safety.



From the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

NetSmartz® INTO THE CLOUD

Online Video Series

NetSmartz is NCMEC's online safety education program. It provides age-appropriate videos and activities to help teach children be safe online.

The Into the Cloud Home page
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSHome>

Into the Cloud Activities (PDF)
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSActivities>

Into the Cloud Program Resources
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSResources>

Episode Overviews
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSEpisodes>

Episode Discussion Guides
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSDiscGuides>

Classroom Educator Kit & Poster
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSPosterKit>



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP FLASHBACK

This was our poster from October 2017

What are my Digital Rights and Responsibilities?

I have a right to freedom of expression

I have a responsibility to report bullying, harassing, sexting, or identity theft

I have a right to privacy

I have a responsibility to cite works used for resources and researching

I have a right to credit for personal works

I have a responsibility to model and teach students expectations of technology use

I have a right to digital access

I have a responsibility to download music, videos, and other material legally

I have a right to my identity

I have a responsibility to keep my data/information safe from hackers

I have a responsibility to not falsify my identity in any way



Learn to be a Good Digital Citizen (DC) Ask your Parents and Teachers to help you. More DC Resources for all ages are available at <http://dc.gstbooces.org>

The GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative - October 2017

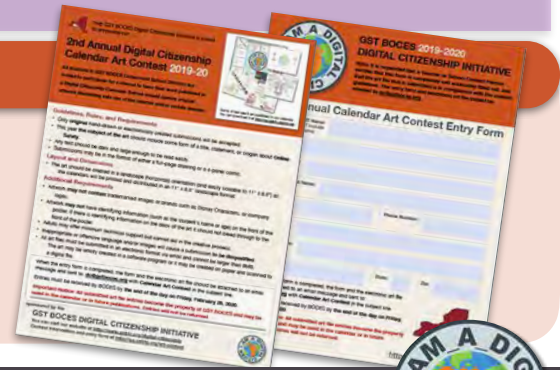
Download it from <http://go.gstric.org/306-rights>

** Calendar Art Contest Reminder

Students Artists! Create some original art on the topic of **Online Safety**. Enter it in our contest and if it is chosen - It will appear in our next Calendar. **Entries must be received by February 28th, 2020.**

Get the full details on our website. Use the shortcut below:

<http://go.gstric.org/art-contest>



If Conversation Hearts were made for Digital Citizens...

February
2020

