



Big Flats News

JANUARY 2023

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 New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful winter recess and had the opportunity to spend some quality time with family and friends. It really is hard to believe that we are already in the month of January for the 2022-2023 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new School Resource Officer, Paul Campbell! Officer Campbell is a retired New York State Trooper, and we are so thankful have him assigned to Big Flats Elementary!

The month of January brings many exciting events for students and families. This week, all students will be rescreened by our AIMS-WEB screening team to ensure that each student is making adequate progress in the areas of reading and math. This general education initiative is for all students to make sure they are on track for reaching their end of the year benchmark targets. For any students who are not making the projected benchmark, you will be contacted to advise you that you child(ren) need Response to Intervention Services (RTI). There is no school on Monday, January 16th, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. On January 24th, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm in the high school auditorium will be the annual District Wide Winter String Showcase Concert. This concert highlights an evening of wonderful string music from students in grades 4th-12th grades. Our Parent Teacher Organization will also begin their Candy Fundraiser this month and report cards will go home next week!

The staff and I will continue to teach all students the importance of having a growth mindset. I am very pleased with the stories that I am hearing from students and staff, where students themselves are embracing the mindset “That I can do this! It might take me longer to get it than my classmate, but I will get there. I just don’t have it YET!” We call this the “Power of Yet!” We will also continue to encourage students to try something new, and that it is okay if we fail. Often students get discouraged and instantly say “I can’t do this” and they give up too quickly. The staff and I will continue to encourage and teach all students that they have much to offer our school, each other and our community, so to never give up and to keep trying. We ask that you continue to support your child(ren) and encouraging them to have a positive attitude and to keep trying, especially when it is difficult, because that is when true learning occurs.

Together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura, Principal

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2020-2021 school year will be:

Offered at no cost to students.

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:

• 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!

• 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.

• 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!



Big Flats Elementary's Kindergarten registration will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, by appointment only at Big Flats Elementary. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1 of the school year and whose primary residence is in the Horseheads district, they may be registered for kindergarten. Prior to January 31st, the school will contact you with information on registration and to schedule an appointment. If you are new to the district, or you don't believe the district has your child's information, please call Big Flats Elementary at 607-739-6373. For registration, please bring the required documents. Your child will be screened in speech and hearing later on in the year.

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, 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.

April 19 and April 20, 2023—3rd and 4th grade ELA May 3 and May 4, 2023—3rd and 4th grade Math
May 23, 2023—4th Grade Science June 6, 2023—4th Grade Science

February—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.

Volunteers from various departments within Corning Incorporated will be VIRTUALLY sharing these stories and interacting with our students during a Wednesday Falcon Connection Day in February! 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 A Computer Called Katherine by Suzanne Slade. Grade 2 students will be read Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine. Grade 3 students will be read Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Alexander Ramsey, 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.

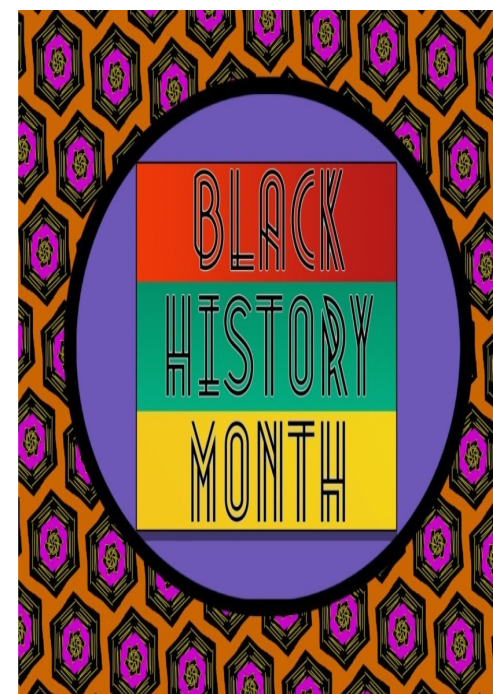
School and Emergency Closings

School closings due to inclement weather will be announced on the district website, social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and on WENY, WETM, and Spectrum News television stations and WNKI radio stations. Parents may also opt in to text messaging to receive texts when school is closed or delayed. To opt in, text Y to 67587 (standard message and data rates from your carrier may apply).

In the event of an emergency during the school day, all students will be taken by bus to the address 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 schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle ‘Day’ that the snow day would have been.



Digital News:

Dear Principals/Instructional/Parent Leaders,

Here is a link to the December 2022 issue of our Digital Citizenship newsletter. Happy Holidays to you. Click to view and download.
<http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship/docs/DCNewsVolume6-04-Dec2022-FRS.pdf>.

Please distribute it to the staff, students, and parents of your school.

Thank you for helping to spread the word about Digital Citizenship. Also, Thanks for distributing our previous newsletters for this year.

Below you will find some useful links to more information about Digital Citizenship.

[Our website - http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship](http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship)

[Our Digital Citizenship Blog](#)

[Our Newsletter Page](#)

If you, any of your staff, or any of your student's parents would like to receive the newsletters directly in their email boxes, we have set up a web page where they can enter their email addresses and sign up to receive the newsletter.

<http://go.gstric.org/dcnews-signup>

We look forward to hearing your feedback about our initiative and Digital Citizenship.

Thank you,

GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Committee

If you would like to be personally contacted by a member of the committee send an email to dc@gstboces.org and we will respond.

Mark Your Calendars

January

January 3

Return to school

Hat's off to a New Year—wear a hat to school

PTO Mtg: 6:00pm B.F. Library

January 9

Winter AIMSWEB Benchmark

Assessment Begins (1/9/23-1/20/23)

January 16

No School

Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 19

BOE Meeting 6pm HS Aud.

January 20

Winter AIMSWEB Benchmark

Assessment Ends (1/9/23-1/20/23)

January 24

String Showcase

7:00pm HS Aud.

January 26

PTO Candy Fundraiser Begins

January 27

Report Cards Go Home

January 30

No School for students.

Conference Day

January 31

Kindergarten Registration 12-3:00pm

January: Fairness

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open-minded
- Listen to others
- Treat all people fairly
- Don't take advantage of others
- Don't blame others carelessly



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.



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

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.



2022-2023 Swim Lesson Update

Registration for Session 2 of swimming lessons for students in grades K-6 will be on **Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 9am - 12pm** in the hallway outside of the Horseheads High School pool. **We will not be testing out children but will move them to appropriate levels if the level you sign up for is not meeting their needs.**

The registration fee is **\$30 for each session** and checks can be made out to "Horseheads Central School District". All information will be on our district website <http://horseheadsdistrict.com/pool.cfm>. You can also go to our district website horseheadsdistrict.com and go to the community tab and our schedule is there. Any cancelations will be posted on the district Facebook page (*search Horseheads Central School District*). If you cannot make the date(s) for registration, you may register at the next class. Please do not call to register your son or daughter because we cannot register via phone.

Sincerely,

Jared Zembek
HHSD Pool Director
jzembek@horseheadsdistrict.com

Dates for Lessons:

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Oct. 29	Jan. 21	Mar. 18
Nov. 5	Jan. 28	Mar. 25
Nov. 19	Feb. 4	Apr. 15
Dec. 3	Feb. 11	Apr. 22
Dec. 10	Feb. 18	Apr. 29
Dec. 17	Feb. 29	May 6
Jan. 7	Mar. 4	May 13
Jan. 14	Mar. 11	May 20

Time Slots (Levels I – VI)

9:00-9:35am
9:40-10:15am
10:20-10:55am
11:00-11:35am
11:40am-12:15pm
12:20-12:55pm

*Jan. 14 and March 11 are sign up days but there are also lessons that day.



HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON FROM ALL OF US!



We encourage all digital citizens to continue to learn **new technologies** and **skills**, and to continue to stand up **against fake news, intimidation, and bullying** online.

ChatGPT: Artificially Speaking

Last month we explored the application of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning applied to generating images on the fly. ChatGPT is an application from **OpenAI** that applies the same ML engine (GPT-3) to create original text and conversation. You give it a prompt and ChatGPT generates the text

About ChatGPT - <http://go.gstric.org/604-about-chatgpt>

Video: OpenAI's ChatGPT is a massive step forward - <http://go.gstric.org/604-chatgpt-video>

GPT-3 Powers the Next Generation of Apps - <http://go.gstric.org/604-gpt-3>

Write a rap about the status of ChatGPT.

Yeah, yo, what's up ChatGPT fam
A lot of people trying to jam
But don't worry, we got your back
Just check back soon, we'll get on track

ChatGPT's the place to be
For all your AI chat needs
We're working hard to keep up the pace
So hold tight, we'll be back in this space

So don't you worry, don't be mad
We're working hard, it's not so bad
Just give us time, we'll be back
ChatGPT, the future of chat, that's a fact.

ChatGPT composes a rap about itself from the prompt above.

#BE CYBER SMART POWERED BY DHS

Visit the website to learn about:



CYBERSECURITY



INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY



EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS



NATIONAL RISK
MANAGEMENT

<http://go.gstric.org/604-be-cyber-smart>

Since this is the last issue of our newsletter, we would like to let you know about an initiative from the Department of Homeland Security call #BE CYBER SMART. As you look forward take a little time to explore the materials at their site. <http://go.gstric.org/604-be-cyber-smart>



**CYBERSECURITY and
INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY AGENCY**

**PROTECT
YOUR
IDENTITY**

**600,000
ACCOUNTS
HACKED**
every single day.

47%
OF AMERICAN ADULTS
have had their personal information
exposed by cyber criminals.

**1 in 3
HOMES**
with computers are infected with
MALICIOUS SOFTWARE

Learn and share current facts <http://go.gstric.org/604-smart-facts>

**MULTI-FACTOR
AUTHENTICATION**

Double up on your login
protection.



WI-FI SAFETY

Stay protected while connected.



**OVERSHARING
& GEOTAGGING**

Never click and tell.



Quick Cyber Lessons topics <http://go.gstric.org/604-smart-lessons>

TWITTER'S GOLDEN RULE:



TWEET

Others The Way You Want To Be
TWEETED!

<http://go.gstric.org/604-tweeting>

A quote from **Peg Fitzgerald**, social
media speaker, trainer, and author

ON THE NEXT FOUR PAGES

WE PROUDLY
PRESENT
OUR FINAL

4

STUDENT
ART
POSTERS

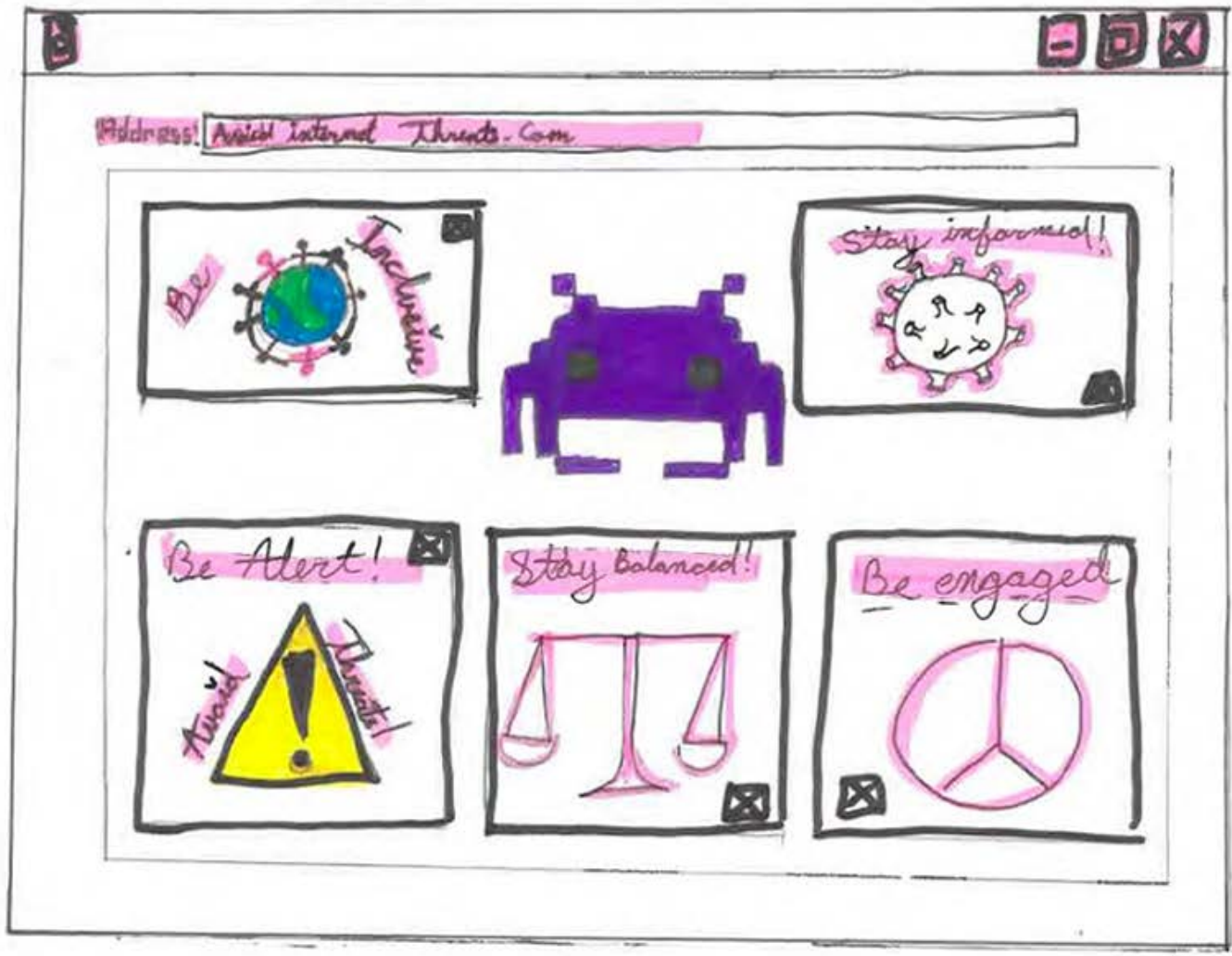


This monthly newsletter is created as part of **GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative**. Send your comments, questions, and suggestions to dc@gstboces.org. Visit our website: <http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship>.



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STAYSAFE ONLINE

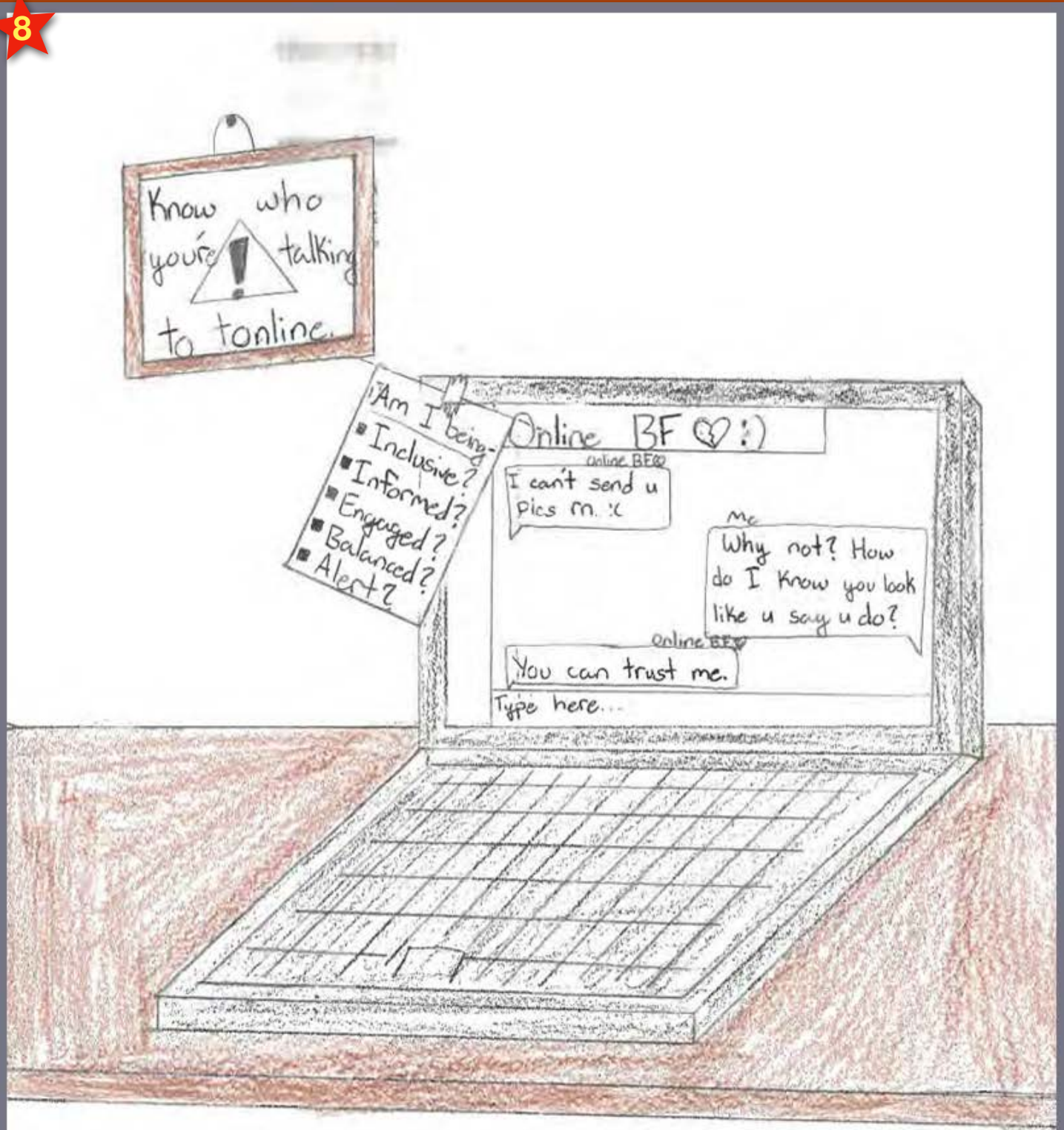


OUR POSTER WINNER
FOR MARCH 2023

“Stay Safe Online” created by Daisy
as a ninth grader

<http://go.gstric.org/510-winners>





OUR POSTER WINNER
FOR APRIL 2023

"Checklist" created by Chloe
as a ninth grader

<http://go.gstric.org/510-winners>



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BE INCLUSIVE
BE INFORMED
BE ENGAGED
BE BALANCED
BE ALERT

DIGITAL
CITIZEN
SHIP

OUR POSTER WINNER
FOR MAY 2023

"I Am Digital" created by Faith
as a ninth grader

<http://go.gstric.org/510-winners>



1) Being *inclusive*:



I am open to hearing and respectfully recognizing multiple viewpoints, and i engage with others online with respect and emapthy.

2) Being Informed:



I evaulate the accuracy ,perspective,and validity of digital media and social posts

3) Being *Engaged*:



I use technology and digital channels for civic engagement, to solve problems and be a force for good in both physical and virtual communities.

4) Being Balanced:



I make informed decisions about how to prioritize my time and activities online and off

5) Being *Alert*:




I am aware of my online actions, and know how to be safe and create safe spaces for others online

1/9/2023



January 2023

Big Flats
Elementary School
Parent Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 No school	3 Hats off to a New Year! <i>*Wear Your Hat!*</i> PTO MTG; 6pm BF Lib	4	5	6	7
8	9 WinterAIMSWEB Benchmark Assess- ments begins 1/9/23— 1/20/23 SBT 2:35, Library	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 No School Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18	19	20 2	21
22	23	24 String Showcase; 7:00pm HS Aud	25	26 PTO Candy Fundrais- er Begins	27 Report Cards go home	28
29	30 Conference Day No School for Students	31 Kindergarten Registra- tion				29