



Big Flats News

February 2026

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,

We are so appreciative of our partnership with the Black Growth Council of Corning Incorporated for our annual Black History Month Read-In Program. This program is a wonderful way to celebrate African American literacy, a key tradition of Black History Month. Thanks to the generosity and support of Corning Incorporated.

Last week, volunteers from Corning Incorporated visited our classrooms to read to and engage with our students. This year's selections were *We're Different, We're the Same* by Bobbi Jane Kates for Pre-K; *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt for Kindergarten; *A Computer Called Katherine* by Suzanne Slade for 1st Grade; *Granddaddy's Turn* by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein for 2nd Grade; *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney for 3rd Grade; and *Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass* by Doreen Rappaport for 4th Grade.

Guided classroom discussions complemented the readings, focusing on age-appropriate themes related to each book. These discussions begin with Prek & K celebrating diversity, 1st grade exploring Black Inventors, 2nd grade discussing slavery and the Civil War, 3rd grade learning about segregation, and 4th grade focusing on integration, in addition to other topics relevant to each book.

We deeply appreciate this enriching opportunity and value our ongoing collaboration with Corning Incorporated. We believe this program provides an important and engaging way for our students to learn about and celebrate Black history.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura, Principal

Important Reminders:

February 16th - 20th No School, February Break

February 27th - Trooper Sperr Day

School Food Services for 2025-2026:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch Free

School Office Hours During Regular

School Days:

7:45AM to 3:45PM

School Hours:

8:35AM to 3:20PM

Office Phone Numbers:

607-739-6373

607-795-2550

Drill Notifications:

As you are aware, throughout the school year, Big Flats Elementary will practice important emergency response procedures for our school including fire, evacuation, lockdown, and emergency dismissal drills. Families will receive notice within one week prior to drills. Please be advised we will continue practicing our mandated drills.

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:

- **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.

***K-4 will begin at 10:35 a.m. when there is a delayed start. Pre-K will begin at 11:00 a.m. •**

- **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.



Big Flats Elementary's Kindergarten registration will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, by appointment only at Big Flats Elementary. If you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 1st of the school year and whose primary residence is in the Horseheads district, they may be registered for kindergarten. Prior to February 3rd, 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 does not need to be with you at registration. Your child will be screened in speech and hearing at a later date.

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,**
- 3. Regulation 5500-R; 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.

3rd and 4th grade Computer Based ELA—April 29, 2025 and April 30, 2025 3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 6, 2025 and May 7, 2025

Mark Your Calendars

February 2nd:

504 Meetings; Bridge

February 3rd:

Kindergarten Registration; 10A-2P
3rd Grade NYS Math Simulations

February 5th and 6th:

Black History Read-In Program

February 6th:

Spring Candy Fundraiser Starts
PTO Movie Night; BFE Cafe 5:30

February 10th:

4th Grade Iroquois Presentation;
BFE Cafe

February 11th:

String Showcase Concert - IS
Cafetorium 7PM

February 12th:

3rd Grade Water Cycle Presentation

February 13th:

Valentine's Day! Wear **Red** or **Pink!**

February 16th -20th:

No School - Presidents Day Recess

February 24th:

100th Day of School!

February 27th:

Spring Fundraiser Ends

Trooper Sperr Day - Wear **Purple**
or **Grey!**



Our School Health Office is looking for gently used pants and coats in good condition. All sizes are welcome! We are also in need of new or unused socks and underwear. If you have any items to donate, please send them in with your child or drop them off at the nurse's office. Thank you for your support!

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

Instagram: The district’s page—hhdschools Visit our district website at: www.horseheadsdistrict.com.



February is 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





February 2026



Big Flats

Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2 504 Meetings; Bridge	3 Kindergarten Registration 3rd Grade NYS Math Assessment Simulation	4	5 Black History Read-In Day 1 SRO Day	6 Spring Candy Fundraiser Black History Read Day 2 PTO Movie Night; BFE Cafe 5:30 PM	7	
8	9 CSE Meetings; Bridge	10 4th Gr. Iroquois Presentation; BFE Cafe 9:30 AM	11	12 3rd Gr. Water Cycle Presentation	13 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Spirit Day Wear red & pink	14	
15	16 HAPPY Presidents DAY	17 HAPPY Lunar NEW YEAR	February Break!				21
22	23	24 100 Days of School	25	26	27 Trooper Sperr Day Wear Purple and Grey! Spring Candy Fundraiser Ends	28	

Character Trait of the Month 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