

The Reader

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

Fall 2017

Continuing Our Commitment to Academic Excellence

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year, and a special welcome to our 300+ new kindergarten students and to all who are new to our school community! The district is off to a great start, and programs in the schools, sports competitions, meet the teacher nights, PTA events and all of the student activities are well underway. It is truly an exciting time to be in the Ballston Spa school community. Parents and community members are invited to join us and be an active part of our school district as we continue our commitment to educational excellence and supporting the academic achievement of all students.

We have so much to be proud of and so much more to look forward to. Our students, staff and schools continue to receive honors and accolades at all levels and the pride in our work can be seen throughout the district every day. Please read more about all of the district happenings in this newsletter and visit the website for additional information.

As a district, we are proud of the incredible opportunities we provide for all of our students. Whether in the classroom, on the field, on the stage, at an art gallery, on a college campus or anywhere else, we never cease to be amazed by the work of our talented students and staff.

We are also pleased to be completing the final phase of an extensive facilities renovation and improvement plan which began in 2010. As we begin the new school year, final site work has been completed at the Middle School complex including a new parking lot and new public bathrooms near the athletic fields, along with several athletic facilities renovations.

Parents should be aware of and inform their children to be prepared for additional safety drills that will be held in the schools again this fall. Although we had been conducting lockdown drills in our schools for many years, new regulations started last year that require schools to have four of these drills in addition to four fire drills prior to December 31. Dates for the lockdown drills in each of our schools have been established, and additional building specific information will be coming home from the school principals. Please also note that students will not have classes on October 20, 2017 while staff participate in professional development activities.

Please take a minute and confirm your contact information in our student database SchoolTool and your communication preferences in our SchoolMessenger system; both can be found in the Parent Resources section on our webpage. Be sure to visit our website often for information updates and to learn more about district and school events. For up to the minute information and frequent district announcements, you are encouraged to follow us on Twitter @BSCSD or #BSCSD. Please know that all of our schools, many departments and grade levels also have Twitter accounts and you are encouraged to follow them for timely classroom/building level information and announcements.

We invite you to enjoy this school year with us – please join us at a PTA meeting, stop out to catch a home game, concert, theatre production, art show or participate in the Community Spirit Parade. Plan to join us at our Fall Family Festival on October 21, 2017, or attend School Pride Week events, the Robot Rumble, a Code-A-Thon, the High School fall play, a concert, Super Science Saturday, and enjoy the wide range of opportunities we are proud to provide for our students. Above all, please get to know your child's teacher(s) and principal so we can work together to support student success.

Best wishes to everyone for a great school year!

Ballston Spa Central School District Leadership Transition

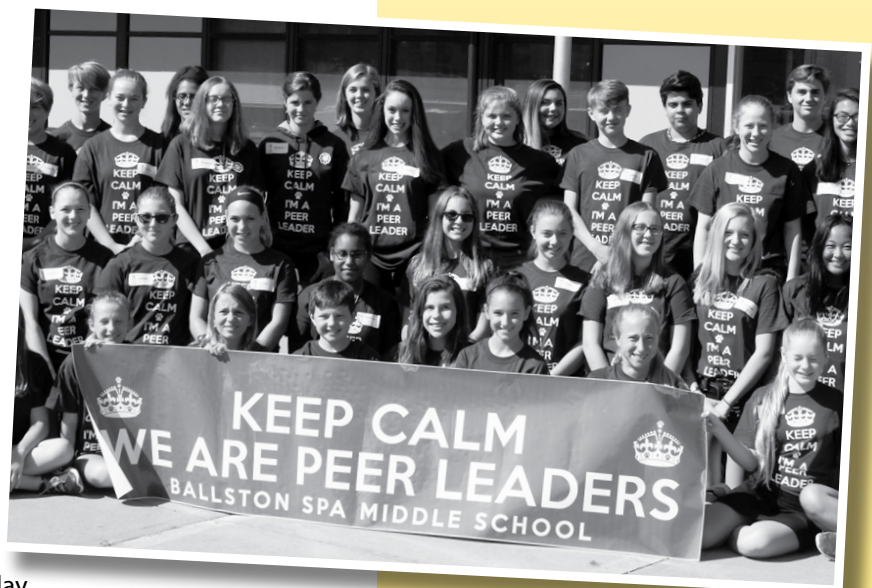
At its September 6, 2017 meeting, the Board of Education accepted the resignation of Superintendent of Schools Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D. who has been with the district since 2008. Dr. Dragone was recently selected as the Senior Executive Officer at Capital Region BOCES and will begin on October 30, 2017.

Board of Education President Kevin Schaefer indicated that "Ballston Spa students, families and the entire school community certainly appreciate all of Joe's efforts to increase opportunities for all students, build partnerships with business and higher education and in bringing our facilities in line with teaching and learning in the 21st century. We wish him all the best in his new leadership role."

Dr. Dragone has led the Ballston Spa Central School District through significant program growth during his tenure with the district. His work in the implementation of the Clean Tech Early College High School, International Baccalaureate Program, Artist-in-Residency Programs, School Based Mental Health Clinics, Robotics and other areas has expanded many academic and support opportunities for students. He also organized and led major facilities improvement projects that were approved by district voters and implemented since his appointment, including the historic renovation at the Malta Avenue school facility and the construction of the new Gordon Creek Elementary School.



Ballston Spa students returned to the classrooms as they began the new school year on September 5, 2017.



Peer Leaders returned early to help provide orientation for the incoming students and welcome them to the Middle School.

The Ballston Spa Central School District

Follow us on Twitter @BSCSD

Gordon Creek Elementary School
518-884-7270

Milton Terrace Elementary School
518-884-7210

Wood Road Elementary School
518-884-7290

Malta Avenue Elementary School
518-884-7250

Ballston Spa Middle School
518-884-7200

Ballston Spa High School
518-884-7150

Ballston Spa District Office
518-884-7195

Transportation Facility
518-884-7140

www.bscsd.org

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District Accomplishments

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“It was a privilege to work with all of the dedicated faculty, staff and administrators at Ballston Spa and to serve the entire school community during the past nine years,” said Superintendent Dragone. He continued, “I am really proud of all of our collective efforts to develop and provide an extensive array of programs for students in Ballston Spa.” While he continues to lead the district into a new school year, he will be preparing to assume his new leadership role at the Capital Region BOCES.

The Board of Education has selected Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Professional Development Ms. Denise Jones to serve as Interim Superintendent upon Dr. Dragone’s departure in late October. She has been with the district since 1996, serving in a variety of roles including Guidance Counselor, Human Resources Director and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Professional Development.

The Board will be retaining Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex (WSWHE) BOCES under the leadership of District Superintendent Mr. James Dexter to conduct an extensive search over the coming months for a new Superintendent to lead the district. It is anticipated that the new Superintendent will be in place for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. More information regarding the search process will be available later this fall.

Ballston Spa Schools Nationally Recognized as Schools of Excellence

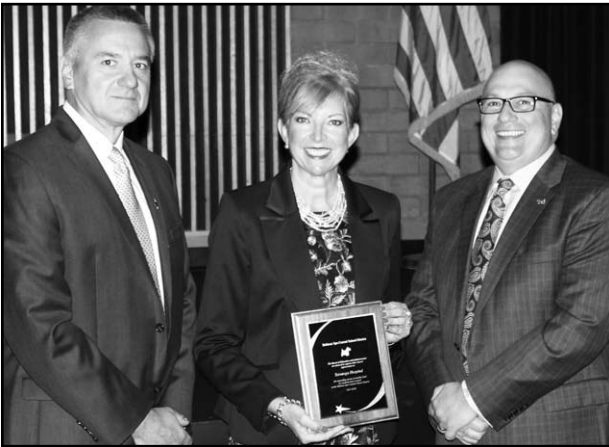
The National PTA® has designated both the Ballston Spa Middle School and the Gordon Creek Elementary School as National PTA Schools of Excellence for their achievement in building effective family-school partnerships. This past summer, applications were reviewed from PTAs and schools across the country, and the Middle School and Gordon Creek applications demonstrated how they stood out as nationwide leaders in developing partnerships with families in the school community. Ballston Spa schools received two of the six awards that were given in New York State. These schools join Milton Terrace Elementary School which was awarded the same designation twice, most recently in September 2016.

“This national recognition exemplifies our school district’s Core Value of Involvement,” indicated Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D., Superintendent of the Ballston Spa CSD. Further, “We are proud to have the work of our school communities recognized by the National PTA.”

Research shows that when families and schools work together, student achievement increases, schools improve and communities grow stronger. Being recognized as a National PTA School of Excellence demonstrates the school’s leadership and commitment to partnering to support student success and continuous school improvement. The National PTA launched its School of Excellence program to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety, and arts and cultural exploration. As a National PTA School of Excellence, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.



Extra Mile Award Presented to District Partners



The district presented an Extra Mile Award to three community organizations for their support for innovative programs and involvement in the district at the 2017 opening ceremonies. The district recognized Saratoga Hospital for their leadership and commitment to supporting the Scottie’s Backpack Program at Milton Terrace Elementary School. Shown in the photo is Board of Education President Kevin Schaefer, Vice President of Community Engagement at Saratoga Hospital Amy V. Raimo, and Superintendent Dragone.

The Saratoga Performing Arts Center was also presented an award for the dance residency partnership that was established in Malta Avenue Elementary School and that will expand to include Wood Road Elementary School this year. National Grid was recognized for their continual involvement with STEM programs in the district, including the Clean Tech ECHS and support for the Robotics program.

MBPA Donates \$4K to Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund

The Malta Business & Professional Association (MBPA) recently hosted the 9th annual Taste of Malta at Hudson Valley Community College’s TEC-SMART in Malta. The evening featured a variety of area restaurants who served samples of their best fare to over 200 attendees. As they have for the past seven years, the MBPA donated event proceeds to the Ballston Spa Central School District to support educational enrichment programs and initiatives. This year’s event raised \$4,000 for the Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region. The funding will be used to support the district’s Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School, implemented at TEC-SMART in partnership with Hudson Valley Community College and NYSERDA.



Board of Education President Kevin Schaefer, MBPA President Brendon Ketcham, Taste of Malta Chairperson Karen McGowan, and Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, are shown in the photo at the check presentation celebration held during the opening ceremonies of the new school year.



Education Exhibit Receives First Place Award at the Saratoga County Fair

Saratoga County Fair officials awarded the Ballston Spa Central School District’s display of student artwork and projects the first place school exhibit in this year’s countywide competition! Student artwork and academic projects were entered from all six schools in the district, producing an outstanding exhibit. Student projects ranged from individual artwork to photography. Additional awards were also given to individual students for their artwork and projects that were on display in the exhibit. This year’s award winners include Jamie Mackin and Mary Grace Driver from Gordon Creek Elementary School; Christine Jiang from Malta Avenue Elementary School; Paul Hunter from Milton Terrace Elementary School; Victoria Vandish and Julia Amarianos from Ballston Spa High School as well as Melina Bain and Mackenzie Rickson from Ballston Spa Middle School. The Middle School also received an award for the group project they displayed focusing on the Middle School Healthy Choices Project and Malta Avenue Elementary School was recognized for the 5th Grade Cactus Art Project.



Ballston Spa Sponsor-A-Scholar Program Celebrates Student Success

The Ballston Spa High School Class of 2017 included thirteen students that participated in the Ballston Spa Sponsor-A-Scholar program, starting as sophomores. The students were congratulated at a ceremony held at the end of the year. The program is designed to provide the extra supports necessary for students to successfully complete high school and pursue post-secondary education. The students in this year’s class were excited to graduate and begin the next step in their education.

The program is coordinated by Ballston Spa High School staff members Marissa Bongo, Cathy Roy and Kevin Flores. Support for the program is provided by area corporations including Stewart’s Shops, Technical Building Services, The Ballston Spa Rotary, BSTA, The National Guard, Skidmore College, Specialty Silicone Products, Saratoga’s Community FCU, Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar, Inc. and individual donors. Contributions to provide resources for the next class of students can be sent to *The Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund*, Office of District Advancement, BSCSD, 70 Malta Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Additional information is available on the guidance webpage via the Ballston Spa High School website or by contacting the Guidance Office at 884-7150 ext. 2362.

and Happenings

Class of 2017 IB Diploma Candidates Honored for Achievements

The Board of Education recognized 21 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidates from the class of 2017 for their achievements before their graduation from BSHS in June. The IB students had completed this very demanding two year program of study which is offered at the High School and is internationally known for its rigor and quality. In addition to taking IB courses these students all finished a demanding 4,000 word essay on the topic of their choice and engaged in a range of extracurricular activities that encourage creativity, physical activity and community service. These students will continue to be life-long learners and are prepared to effectively participate in an increasingly global society. This year will bring a variety of different experiences for these students and whether it's pursuing a college education, joining the military or participating in an international rotary exchange program, they will all continue to truly amaze us as BSHS alumni.



The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidates were recognized by the Board of Education and awarded the IB cord to wear at graduation.

Ballston Spa Students Earn New York State Seal of Biliteracy

Over 65 graduating students in the Ballston Spa High School Class of 2017 recently qualified for the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) and received the seal on their diploma at the graduation ceremony in June. The NY State Education Department established the NYSSB in 2012 to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages, in addition to English. It is the second year the Ballston Spa High School has provided the opportunity for students to earn the NYSSB with over 70 students qualifying in the Class of 2016.

The NYSSB is awarded by the Commissioner of Education to students who meet criteria established by the Board of Regents and who attend schools in districts that voluntarily agree to participate in the program. Starting in 2016, the NYSSB seal is affixed to the high school diploma and transcript of graduating students attaining the NYSSB. The recognition of attaining biliteracy becomes part of the high school transcript and diploma for qualifying students and is a statement of their accomplishment for future employers and college admission. Additional information on the NYSSB is located on the New York State Seal of Biliteracy website at <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/new-york>.



Ballston Spa Students Create Memorial Tiles for Military Base

Ballston Spa High School students in the International Baccalaureate Visual Arts class recently painted beautiful ceiling tiles in remembrance of fallen soldiers and airmen. The artwork on these tiles will now be displayed by and incorporated into the ceilings of the 109th Airlift Wing at Stratton Air National Guard Base and local Veterans of Foreign War halls for all to see. The students were very proud of the work that they had accomplished and were pleased to donate them to representatives from the Air National Guard at a ceremony held recently at the school. For additional information, please visit the school's website via www.bsbsd.org or call 884-7150.

Ride for Missing Children Visits Malta Avenue Elementary School

The students and staff at Malta Avenue recently welcomed the 10th Annual Ride for Missing Children Greater Capital District. The bicycle riders shared information on safety with the students as they were raising awareness of the Child Abduction Prevention Education Program with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Additional information is on the district website on the student safety page.



BSTA Continues to Provide Support for Students

The Ballston Spa Teachers' Association (BSTA) awarded scholarships to graduating students Kelly Collins, Cetera Moore, and Thomas Sheffield. Each one-time award is for \$1,500 and is funded solely through donations from BSTA members and fundraisers. The awards are specifically given to students who plan to pursue a career in education or a related field. BSTA President Kim Pusatere indicated that a total of 35 applications were submitted by members of the Class of 2017. The three recipients selected were dedicated students who had taken full advantage of the available academic opportunities in BSHS. In addition, the BSTA continues to provide items for students during back-to-school orientations including water bottles for the ninth graders, locker magnets and bookmarks for the sixth graders and reading books for the incoming Kindergarten students. Thanks to the BSTA!

Ballston Spa Rotary Club Donates Backpacks... Again!

The Ballston Spa Rotary Club recently donated backpacks full of school supplies for students in the district after conducting their annual school supply drive. Shown in the photo are members of the Rotary Club, Principals and staff as well as members of the Saratoga BRIDGES program who help organize the collection of school supplies each summer.



Ballston Spa Athletes Commit to College Teams

The Athletic Department congratulates the 2017 graduating athletes who continued their participation on Division 1 or 2 teams this year in college. The athletes include (L-R) Megan Miller, University of Hartford (DI-Lacrosse); Clayton Bennice, Bentley University (DII-Swimming); Emily Barno, Bentley University (DII-Swimming); Margaret Allen, Northeastern University (DI-Rowing); Cetera Moore, Roberts Wesleyan College (DII-Soccer); and Mercedes Planavsky, U. of New Haven (DII-Track & Field).



Athletic Department Staff Receive Recognition

Ballston Spa Athletic Department Secretary Laura Waldinger was recently presented with the Judith A. Martens Secretarial Award of Excellence from the New York State Athletic Administrators Association based on her professionalism and dedication to the athletic department. She is shown in the photo with Ballston Spa Athletic Director Dave Sunkes who nominated her for the award.

Please visit the Athletic Department Webpages for updated information about the current sports season, including teams, schedules, directions and student achievements. Look for the link under the Departments Tab on the front page of the district site at www.bsbsd.org.



Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School (Clean Tech ECHS)

A NYS Pathways in Technology Early College High School (NYS P-TECH) Program



Early College High School Students Begin the 2017-18 School Year

During this past summer, the students in the P-TECH program continued to explore STEM topics and prepared for the upcoming school year. Both ninth and tenth graders attended an ECHS Summer Bridge Program in July. Ninth graders took an exciting trip to the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, where they created videos to demonstrate their understanding of how the Wild Center was designed and is modeling sustainability. The tenth graders spent their week exploring different career pathways via hands on workshops and activities. They also worked together to create wind turbines and mechanical cars.

Students in the ninth grade program are now deep in their coursework for the online 21st Century Skills class. They are collaborating with Clean Tech ECHS students from other school districts and creating a STEM based activity for the Girls in STEM event hosted at TEC-SMART in the spring.

In this NYS P-TECH program, students begin to accrue college credits in grade ten and are matched up with mentors from various business partners who help to guide them through their career planning. In addition to online coursework and mentoring, the students in the ninth and tenth grade programs also participate in a monthly on-site visit during the school year.

Students in the tenth grade program are taking the online high school course 21st Century College and Workplace Readiness. In the high school course, students begin to explore the different career pathways: Clean Energy; Computer Science & Information Systems; Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Innovation; and Mechatronics, that they will pursue in their junior year. Tenth grade students also take two online college courses in their sophomore year, Communications and Introduction to Psychology. By the end of their sophomore year, students have the opportunity to earn up to seven college credits, including the one credit from their ninth grade year.

Students in the eleventh and twelfth grade program are on-site for half of each school day, taking both high school and college course work simultaneously. The eleventh grade students began their work on research based innovative solutions to address the environment and sustainability. The twelfth grade students are working on solving real world problems using nanotechnology. There are also many upcoming field trips that provide students with additional information on their area of study and real world experiences. The students throughout the Clean Tech ECHS are off to a great start to the school year!

Join us for
Information Night
November 8, 2017 at 6:30 pm
HVCC's TEC-SMART
345 Hermes Road, Malta, NY

Juniors Participate in Field Experiences with Business & Industry

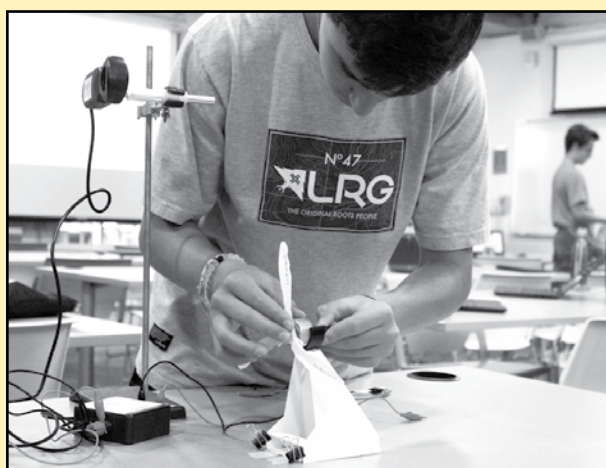
Juniors spent their summer gaining valuable workforce skills and experience alongside our business partners for the P-TECH field experience program. Students continued to explore their career pathway, Clean Energy, Computer Science, Entrepreneurship, and Mechatronics, through hands-on work experiences. Students contributed to real world projects at companies and learned about career options within their field of interest. Students gained valuable insights from their time at Applied Robotics, Braathe Enterprises, Commerce Hub, Hedley & Co., Major Buzz LLC, The Business Council of New York State, QuadGraphics, Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable Energy Solutions, Tech Valley Center of Gravity, and TRC Solutions. For more information on business engagement opportunities, please contact Madeleine Petraglia, Coordinator of District Advancement, at mpetraglia@bscsd.org.



Clean Tech ECHS Celebrates 2017 Graduation & Student Project Exhibition

The Clean Tech ECHS celebrated the Class of 2017 Graduation and the annual Capstone Project Exhibition at the end of the school year. Community members, partners, faculty and staff congratulated the 51 graduates from 16 high schools throughout the region on their successful completion of this rigorous program. The Society for Information Management's Albany Chapter presented a \$2000 scholarship to senior Madeline Putman. Annual scholarship presentations were also made by Siena College and The Sage Colleges to Clean Tech ECHS graduating seniors at the ceremony.

The event concluded with the Junior and Senior Capstone Project Exhibition where students shared their innovative solutions to real world problems with over 300 partners and attendees. They discussed the innovative technology they used to engineer their products and presented their business plans to partners. More information on the students' innovative projects and their future plans can be found on the website in the Graduation Program.



Learn More at an Upcoming Information Night

The Clean Tech ECHS will also host an information night for current 8th grade students from across the Capital Region on November 8, 2017 at 6:30 pm. School district leaders, parents and high school students interested in learning more about the program are invited to attend the information session, followed by optional tours of the facility. The agenda for the evening includes presentations from current students and program staff. The information session and program is located at HVCC's TEC-SMART at 345 Hermes Road in Malta, NY. Please plan to join us to learn more about the programs, how to enroll students and/or the business partnership opportunities that support the students in the program. For more information, please visit the Clean Tech ECHS website at <http://www.bscsd.org/cleanTech.cfm> or contact ECHS Coordinator Adrienne Snow at asnow@bscsd.org.

The district, along with our higher education and business partners, continues to operate the highly successful Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School (Clean Tech ECHS) at TEC-SMART in Malta. The program prepares students from throughout the region for college and careers in the fields of renewable energy, computer science and advanced technologies including semiconductor manufacturing. The mission of the program is to develop and support pathways to higher education that lead to careers in STEM fields through rigorous academic programming and a collaborative approach to learning. The regional program now serves 248 students in grades 9-12 from over 15 school districts in 10 counties. Students complete the program simultaneously as they graduate from high school with up to 30 college credits.

The Clean Tech ECHS was developed by the Ballston Spa Central School District in partnership with Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in 2011. It now has over 50 partners from business and industry, higher education, and non-profit and government agencies. The Clean Tech ECHS was awarded a NYS P-TECH grant by Governor Cuomo which expanded opportunities for students in the program to take college coursework in one of four career pathways: Clean Energy; Computer Science & Information Systems; Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Innovation; and Mechatronics. The program is hosted in HVCC's Training and Education Center for Semiconductor Manufacturing and Alternative and Renewable Technologies (TEC-SMART).

Office of District Advancement Continues to Secure Support for Student Enrichment

The Office of District Advancement provides a framework for building resource capacity by cultivating strong community support, private and public partnerships and viable individual giving and grants programs. The Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, supports the district programs and initiatives such as Sponsor-A-Scholar, STEM & Robotics, Performing & Fine Arts, and The Clean Tech Early College High School. For more information about the program or how to partner with the district, please contact the Office of District Advancement at (518) 884-7195, ext. 1369.



Fall Family Festival Hosted by Ballston Spa Schools

Everyone throughout the school community is invited to Ballston Spa Central School District’s Fall Family Festival presented by Ballston Spa National Bank on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 10 am-3 pm at Ellms Family Farm located at 448 Charlton Road in Ballston Spa. Over 35 activities for children will be available, including the giant jumping pillow, a corn maze, zip lines, and much more. Information and exhibits will also be provided by the Ballston Spa schools, students and related organizations. Thank you to our Title Sponsor Ballston Spa National Bank. Partial proceeds from the event will benefit the Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region.



Robotics Teams Prepare for New Season

The Ballston Spa High School’s FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC) Team 3044 is once again helping to organize and mentor the younger students and teams that participate in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) and FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) competitions. Members of the FIRST Robotics Team 3044 will share their experiences with robotics, help celebrate the release of the 2017-18 Robotics Challenge and help the students develop some strategies for the regional contest.

Ballston Spa students in grades 4-7 are eligible to participate on the FLL teams in their respective schools. Through the donations of corporate sponsors,

the district will be fielding five FLL teams for the 2017-18 season with Gordon Creek, Milton Terrace, and Wood Road schools each having a team and the Middle School having two teams. The regional FLL tournament is scheduled for December 2, 2017 in the Ballston Spa Middle School.

The district also has formed two FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams, which include a 7th & 8th grade team along with a 9th grade team. Their 2017-18 challenge is Relic Recovery and they are already busy preparing for their competition in January.

High school FRC teams from throughout the Capital Region and the Northeast will be convening at Ballston Spa High School on Saturday, November 4, 2017 for the annual Robot Rumble Off-Season Robotics Competition. Off-season competitions provide an opportunity for teams to have fun and to recruit new students, industry mentors and sponsors as they begin preparing for the Regional FRC Competition in March 2018.



The district’s Robotics initiative received generous support from the Ballston Spa National Bank, title sponsor of the Robotics team since its rookie year, to fund the team’s participation in the annual US FIRST Robotics competition. In addition, Bechtel has generously donated support this year to also help the team design and construct a robot, participate in competitions, and continue to expand the Robotics initiatives to additional students in the district. For more information on the district’s Robotics initiative, please email K-12 Science Coordinator Diane Irwin at dirwin@bscsd.org or call 518-884-7150.



Students from the Milton Terrace Elementary School Penny Harvest Roundtable presented their grant award at the Penny Harvest Awards Celebration in May. They are shown in the photo with the representatives from SEFCU, sponsor of the program, as well as their Principal, Dr. Chaucer, and Dr. Dragone, Superintendent.

Student Donations to Community Charities Surpass \$80,000

Ballston Spa students have successfully donated \$80,347 to local non-profit organizations during the past ten years through participation in an annual Penny Harvest program. This past year, students collected over \$7,200 in pennies during the SEFCU Penny Harvest and donated the funds to eight local non-profit organizations. Over 80 students were chosen as leaders in their schools and were responsible for researching local community issues and the non-profit organizations that address them. Members of the student roundtable in each school interviewed representatives from local organizations and discussed how their funds could be used to further support these non-profits.

SEFCU Penny Harvest is implemented in grades K-12 and has proven to be successful in educating students in service learning, financial literacy, and 21st Century learning skills. This program teaches students about the importance of philanthropy and service as well as teaching math, communication, and team building skills.

The Malta Avenue Elementary School students donated to two organizations, Make-A-Wish Foundation (\$800) and CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services (\$646). The Make-A-Wish Foundation and The Saratoga County Animal Shelter both received \$1,225 from Gordon Creek Elementary School students and the Tears Foundation received \$1,046 from Milton Terrace Elementary School students. Students at Wood Road Elementary School chose to donate their \$1312, to the 11th Hour Canine Rescue.

The Ballston Spa Middle School chose to give funds to the American Diabetes Association (\$391) and Double H Ranch (\$391). Ballston Spa High School students donated their funds to the BSHS Peer Mentoring Club (\$204).

The program is implemented in the fall of each school year and the monetary awards are presented to local charities in May. The district is very grateful to SEFCU for sponsoring the program and processing over 724,000 pennies. Pennies will now be collected in each of the district’s six buildings as students again “harvest” them during the fall. Student roundtables will be formed in the next few months and community grants will be awarded in the spring of 2018.

Staff News and Notes



Staff Members Receive Tenure

Teachers and Teaching Assistants were recognized for receiving tenure at a Board of Education meeting before the end of the school year. Twelve staff members in the Ballston Spa Central School District received their tenure appointment from the Board of Education. The principals from each school presented their staff members and noted their commitment to supporting the students in the district.

Board of Education President Kevin Schaefer expressed appreciation and congratulations to the tenured educators on behalf of the Board. They are shown in the photo with administrators and Board members.

Staff members receiving tenure this spring include:

- Gordon Creek: *Janice Anatriello*
- High School: *Colleen Abbale, Rachel Jeffers, Wendy Matte, and Annetta O'Connor*
- Middle School: *Kimberly Hathaway and Angela Johanning*
- Milton Terrace: *Stephanie Morcone*
- Wood Road: *Dania Bianchi, Courtney Mancini, Susan Penman, and Tyler Williamson*

Teachers Receive Grants From Ballston Spa Education Foundation

The Ballston Spa Education Foundation (BSEF) presented over \$5000 in grant awards this spring to educators in the Ballston Spa Central School District. The 2016-17 school year included two rounds of granting (Fall and Spring) totaling over \$13,000. The recent spring cycle included the following grants: \$500 to the Ballston Spa Middle School (BSMS) for flexible seating options, \$500 to the Gordon Creek Elementary School for flexible seating options, \$1,000 to the Ballston Spa High School (BSHS) for group problem-solving Breakout Boxes, \$1,194 to the BSMS for Alternative Energy Powerhouse Kits, \$1,619 to the BSHS and BSMS for six trinocular microscopes, and \$510 to Gordon Creek Elementary School for twelve STEM Educational Kits.



With these latest grant awards, the BSEF has, since its inception in 1996, funded over \$350,000 in enrichment grants to the school district. The Ballston Spa Education Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with an all-volunteer board made up of community members whose mission is to raise and distribute resources for educational enrichment opportunities outside the realm of the daily operational needs of the Ballston Spa Central School District. For more information, please contact the BSEF at P.O. Box 276, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, or visit the website at: www.ballstonspaeducationfoundation.com/.

New Faces On Our Leadership Team

Matthew Wright was recently appointed as the Director of Special Education, replacing Kerri Canzone-Ball who left for a similar position in an area school district. He had joined the district last year as the Secondary Supervisor for Special Education, grades 6-12. Previously, he was at the Guilderland Central School District where he was a School Social Worker. He received his Master's in Social Work from the University at Albany, State University of New York and completed his Building and District Leadership certifications through University at Stony Brook, State University of New York.

Daniella Lans has joined the district as the Secondary Supervisor for Special Education, grades 6-12. She was most recently the Supervisor for Special Education in the Newburgh City School District. Prior to becoming an administrator she was a Special Education School Improvement Specialist with the Regional Special Education-Technical Assistance and Support Center at Questar III. She started her career as a Special Educator in New York City.



District Retirees Honored by Board of Education

The Ballston Spa Board of Education and staff recognized the retirement of 12 staff members that left the district at a ceremony and reception at the end of the school year. The dedication and service that they brought to the district during their collective 275+ years of service will definitely be missed by the school community. Please join in expressing appreciation to all of them for their commitment to the students of Ballston Spa during their many years of service, including: Debra Bondi, Sandra Catricala, Lisa Efraimson, Christine Fort, James Gula, Don Halliday, Margaret Lance, Janine Lasker, Patrick McGann, Andrew Rendo, Kathleen Simkins, and Daniel Vickery.

Staff Member Spotlights and Recognition

The district is proud of the talented and diverse staff that we have working in the Ballston Spa Central School District. The Human Resources Office has created two new features on the district website for school community members to learn more about the people who work in the district as well as a spot to recognize those that go above and beyond. Please visit the Human Resources webpage and the Staff Spotlight section monthly to learn more about our staff. Also, please let us know about any of our staff who deserves praise by sending them a **Scottie Shout-Out** or a formal recognition by filling out a **Cause for Applause** form.



Extra Mile Awards Presented to Staff

The district recently recognized staff and school community members that are making a significant positive contribution to the school community. Announced annually at the beginning of the school year, the Extra Mile awards program formally honors those staff members who exemplify the district's core values of commitment and involvement.

People are acknowledged based on several criteria, including those who act as a positive change agent, demonstrate leadership, motivate others in the pursuit of excellence, and/or develop creative and innovative solutions that have benefited members of the school community.

Additional criteria include recognizing those who attain significant achievements that are recognized by the community and the people who create and demonstrate a belief and commitment to the district's motto that *Educating Everyone Takes Everyone*.

"The goal is to acknowledge people for their efforts to go beyond regular job demands and responsibilities in an effort to significantly help the district realize its vision as an educational organization," stated Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D., Superintendent.

Complete information on the award recipients is located on the Superintendent's webpage. Staff members recognized this year include:

- **Ballston Spa High School:**
Cathy Roy & Dawn Petry
- **Ballston Spa Middle School:**
Dorinda LeVan
- **Gordon Creek Elementary School:**
Vicki Hartman and Kimberly Kelsey
- **Wood Road Elementary School:**
Kevin Dayton
- **Malta Avenue Elementary School:**
Naomi Barnwell
- **Milton Terrace Elementary School:**
Helen Christopher and Pam Rosetti

For more information on the Extra Mile awards please visit www.bscsd.org or call the District Office at 884-7195.

Community Opportunities

Ballston Spa Community Spirit Week

The Ballston Spa school community celebrates school and community pride during the annual Community Spirit Week, this year from October 10-14, 2017. The High School students have planned several activities, including a Powderpuff game on Wednesday evening, a Community Spirit Parade before the annual Friday night Homecoming football game and the annual fall dance on Saturday. Ballston Spa students also volunteered to paint windows of businesses throughout the village with purple and gold spirit week themes. Organizations from throughout the area and members of various school groups participate in the annual Community Spirit parade through town, with this year's theme focusing on "Dr. Seuss". The parade is organized as a collaboration of the Mayor and Village of Ballston Spa, the Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association, the Ballston Spa High School Student Council and interested community members.

Scottie's Closet Offers Clothing to Families

The Middle School will host a Scottie's Closet on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. This school community event provides free gently used clothing, books, coats, and shoes annually to about 300 students, families and individuals. It is organized by Middle School social workers Gaylen Wichrowski and Christine Jones, along with numerous parent representatives, school and community volunteers. All of the items donated by the school community are provided free to students, families and members of the community. This annual community event would not be possible without the tireless efforts of school and community volunteers who donate, sort and merchandise all of the items in the cafeteria. Please contact the Middle School for additional information at 884-7200.



Ballston Spa Offers Community Swim Opportunities

The Aquatics Program is currently offering opportunities for public use of the pool during adult lap swimming sessions, from 6:00-7:00 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and on Tuesday & Thursday evenings (times vary). A family/open swim is also offered on Saturday afternoons from 12:30-2:30 pm. The community swim program is open to district students, families and community members who pay a \$1.00 entrance fee to utilize the pool. Additional opportunities are offered throughout the year, including adult Zumba & Aqua Cardio classes and a Learn-To-Swim program, offered in partnership with the Saratoga YMCA. Information is available on the website by clicking on the aquatics/pool button on the left side of the homepage or contacting the pool office directly at 884-7150 ext. 2324.



Walking Program Offers Adults Fitness Opportunity

The district's Walk About program provides a safe, indoor walking course within the Middle and High Schools for those interested in a low impact fitness activity. The program runs from October through the annual spring recess, Monday through Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm, when school is in session. Registration is required by utilizing the forms available on the website, or by calling the District Office at 884-7195 ext. 1329.

District Continues Community Recycling Program

The district is now a zero sort recycling facility. We are encouraging the community to recycle their paper, cans, bottles, plastics and cardboard by utilizing the recycling bins at the Transportation Facility on Route 50. Any proceeds are returned to the school district and shared amongst the schools to support recycling efforts.

Community Information and Flyers Now Online

Information from local, non-profit organizations and/or partners of the district is now being posted on the district and school websites for informational purposes. Flyers formerly sent home with students are now available as a pdf file for easy access by parents and community members. This will reduce the amount of paper being sent home with students and is a more efficient manner to distribute information.



BSHS Students Restore Canal Boat for Community

Students in the Basic Principles of Construction class at Ballston Spa High School recently completed a restorative construction job for the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce. They were primarily responsible for repairing the stern of the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center Canal Boat, the Minnie Matton. It is a working scale model barge that allows classes of elementary students to learn more about the Erie Canal.

In addition to repairs to the stern of the boat, students in the Digital Electronics class at Ballston Spa High School created a remote controlled, servo operated rudder for the vessel. This new addition to the boat allows the operators of the boat to actually mimic the 19th Century operation of the boat much better, with one person acting as the "mule" to pull the boat and the other steering the rudder.

The Minnie Matton is a component of the CanalWays School Program run by the Waterford Canal and Towpath Society and the Waterford Harbor Visitors Center. The CanalWays School Program is a unique hands-on history experience, based on New York State Social Studies Standards for the fourth grade.

The district values the opportunity to partner with community organizations to offer service learning opportunities for students. Providing students with the experience of working on a project for an actual client allows them to truly understand the importance of the skills that they are learning in the technology classes at Ballston Spa High School.



High School Troupe Receives Four Nominations in Musical Theatre Awards Program

Our High School theatre program received four nominations in the inaugural High School Musical Theatre Awards for the Capital Region, sponsored by Proctors and the Albany Times Union. The nominations were received for the school's musical production of The Addams Family this past spring. The district was nominated for Best Ensemble/Chorus, Best Set Construction, Best Choreography Execution, and Best Actress for the performance by Abby Yettru in her role as Wednesday Addams.

The Troupe produced a crowd pleasing production of The Addams Family musical comedy that was fun for the entire school community. The musical was performed by a cast of 36 students during six shows over two weekends with a full complement of musicians including 22 students, staff and community members. The production staff included Director Matt Lopez, Producer Catrina Kohl, Music Director Brian Retersdorf, Choreographer Anastasia Welsh, Set Designer Tony Pino, Costume Coordinator Carol Brown and Hair/Makeup Coordinator Kim Pino.



Halloween Concert

Presented by the
Ballston Spa Community Band
on **October 25, 7:00 pm**
at **Wood Road Elementary School**



Ballston Spa Central School District

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Boxholder
Ballston Spa Central
School District

WELCOME TO THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR



The High School launched the B-Spa Connected Chromebook Initiative, providing every incoming 9th grader a Chromebook at the beginning of the school year to support and enrich their academic experience at BSHS.

Students and teachers returned to the classrooms in early September and over 4,200 students are now busy learning and getting involved in many academic and extracurricular activities. Please read about some of the happenings in this newsletter, including information on district initiatives, community opportunities, student activities, and staff members. Additional information is updated often on the school and district webpages, as well as the events calendar, so be sure to check for the latest details or call the school offices directly. Also, follow the district on Twitter @BSCSD or Instagram @BallstonSpaCSD for frequent updates and information.



Volunteers from the Ballston Spa National Bank once again provided assistance with students at the elementary schools during the first days of school.

Join Us at Our Upcoming School Community Events

OCTOBER

- 10 Walk About Program Begins, Middle School Lobby, 6:00-7:30 pm
- 13 Ballston Spa Community Spirit Parade, 6:00 pm
- 13 Homecoming Football Game vs. Niskayuna, High School, 7:00 pm
- 14 Homecoming Dance, High School, 8:00 pm
- 19 K-3 Math Movement Night, 6:00-8:00 pm
- 21 Fall Family Festival, Ellms Family Farm, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
- 25 Community Band Halloween Concert, Wood Road Cafetorium, 7:00 pm

NOVEMBER

- 2 FAFSA Workshop, High School Library, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 4 Robot Rumble, High School, 8:30 am-5:30 pm
- 4 Scottie's Closet, Middle School Cafeteria, 9:00 am-12:30 pm
- 8 Clean Tech ECHS Information Night, TEC-SMART, 6:30 pm
- 16 Fall Production of "Done to Death", High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 17 Fall Production of "Done to Death", High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 18 Fall Production of "Done to Death", High School Auditorium, 1:00 & 7:00 pm
- 18 Wood Road Hosts a Code-A-Thon, Wood Road Elementary School, 9:00 am
- 30 High School Foreign Language Lip Sync Night, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm

DECEMBER

- 1 Ballston Spa Holiday Parade, Village, 6:30 pm
- 2 FIRST LEGO League Tournament, Middle School, 8:00 am-4:30 pm
- 7 College Athletics Information Night, High School Library, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 7 High School Winter Concert, Part I, High School Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 11 High School Winter Concert, Part II, High School Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 12 8th Grade Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 14 Milton Terrace Winter Concert, 7:00 pm
- 18 High School Winter Concert, Part III, High School Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 19 Gordon Creek Winter Concert, 7:00 pm
- 21 Middle School Winter Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 pm

JANUARY

- 3 IB Information Night, High School Library, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 9 Malta Avenue Winter Concert, Malta Avenue Auditorium, 7:00 pm
- 11 Wood Road Winter Concert, 7:00 pm
- 16 IB Meet the Team, High School Library, 2:30-3:30 pm
- 17 Clean Tech ECHS Business & Education Breakfast, TEC-SMART, 7:30 am
- 20 Super Science Saturday, Wood Road/Milton Terrace Cafeteria, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Complete event information is located on the district website's events calendar.
All school specific events are listed on school sites and updated frequently.
Please check often for the latest information, or call the appropriate school office.