

The Reader

Educating Everyone Takes Everyone

Winter 2017

Continuing Our Commitment to Academic Excellence: A Superintendent's Perspective

By Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D.

The first half of the school year proved to be another very busy and productive time throughout the district. The opening of the newly redesigned bus loop and parking areas at our Wood Road and Milton Terrace Elementary Schools this fall was very exciting for all of us. I am very proud that all of the facilities work over the past 7 years has been completed on time and under budget. With the public's support last May, we will now invest this savings into additional site work at the Middle School and make needed improvements to our athletic facilities. (See more info on page 2.)

Several new and exciting initiatives are underway this school year as we implement our goals and priorities for 2016-2017. This fall, in expanding our current partnership with Schenectady County Community College (SCCC), we were able to offer more courses to our students that are eligible for college credit than any school district in the region. High School coursework must lead to opportunity, and in collaboration with all of our partners in higher education, all students can enroll in college aligned courses across disciplines prior to graduating from Ballston Spa. With SCCC alone, we now have over 1000 enrollments in coursework that is eligible for college credit, and that will continue to expand next year. Furthermore, our coursework in Technology now leads to national certification opportunities in the building trades, and this is an area we will continue to grow as we look to 2017-2018. Through our current partnership with Proctors we now offer digital media coursework in the High School, and we have launched a new partnership with SPAC to bring a dance artist-in-residency program to our elementary schools.

We are proud of the partnerships and support that we have with many businesses in our region. Our new partnership with Quad Graphics is allowing students to experience workforce opportunities, and furthering our partnership with Saratoga Hospital is providing nutritional support for our elementary students. Support and resources provided by Ballston Spa National Bank along with several other partners continue to fund our award winning Robotics teams as we prepare for the spring competition season. Our staff and programs have also received direct funding from the Ballston Spa Education Foundation, The Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund and the GLOBALFOUNDRIES-Town of Malta Foundation, totaling over \$30,000 in support of student enrichment throughout the district.

Congratulations to all of our student athletes who participated in individual and team post season competitions and those that continued on in New York State Public High School Athletic Association Championships. I am especially proud to note that all nine of the fall varsity teams qualified for recognition as NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Teams, and to announce the district has been awarded the Safe Sports School Award from the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Please also join me in congratulating all of our fine and performing arts students from across the district who are representing us in Honor Music Groups at the County, Suburban Council, Area and Conference All State and juried regional Art Shows. Please see the district calendar for upcoming performances of the Middle and High

School musicals along with many other concerts and exhibits throughout our schools and the community.

Please read through the information in this newsletter, review the district website for additional information, visit one of our schools for an activity or event and see our talented students and staff in action. I welcome and encourage everyone to stay involved and help contribute to the success of our students – Educating Everyone Takes Everyone. Please follow me on Twitter at @BSpaSupt for the latest in district news, education and notifications, and contact me with questions or concerns at jdragone@bscsd.org or call the District Office at 884-7195 x1310.



Students at Milton Terrace discover local history at an in-school Brookside Museum presentation.



Wood Road students celebrate success while shooting hoops at an annual fundraiser for the local food pantry.

School District Budget Planning for 2017-2018

The budget goals for the next school year were adopted by the Board of Education in late fall. The district staff is now preparing the initial budget and expenditure projections as we continue through the budget process and receive additional information from NY State. The Governor's recent budget proposal does not address the significant gap in Foundation Aid for schools that has been delayed since 2007. For us, that is approximately \$2.5 million in aid that has not been realized. We also continue to see a significant decrease in the GLOBALFOUNDRIES assessment, which will result in a \$775,000 +/- revenue loss for the district.

As always, we will continue to look for efficiencies and align resources to support the educational program for our students. The district appreciates everyone's efforts in participating in the budgeting process over the next few months leading up to the statewide budget vote in May. The Board will adopt the budget proposal in April so please stay tuned to the development of the budget plan, attend upcoming Board of Education meetings on February 15, March 1 & 15 and April 5 & 12, and/or contact us for more information. This year's final Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 4 and the statewide school budget vote is on May 16, 2017.

The Ballston Spa Central School District

Follow us on Twitter @BSCSD

Gordon Creek Elementary School
884-7270

Milton Terrace Elementary School
884-7210

Wood Road Elementary School
884-7290

Malta Avenue Elementary School
884-7250

Ballston Spa Middle School
884-7200

Ballston Spa High School
884-7150

Ballston Spa District Office
884-7195

Transportation Facility
884-7140

www.bscsd.org

Facilities Improvement
Project Update

The district has been undergoing facilities renovations and upgrades over the past 7 years and completed the projects on time and under budget. A proposal was approved by voters last May to invest savings into additional site work and renovations. Plans were developed and are in the final approval stages with SED to install public restrooms in the old bus garage next to the stadium field for use during outdoor events and to complete related site work in the adjacent area including drainage, fencing, blacktop, lighting and minor demolition to accommodate maintenance vehicles. The Middle School north parking area will be completely rebuilt with a new subsurface, base, top coat and striping. The Middle School Weight Room will be renovated to create a new cardiovascular Physical Education station, including new equipment, floor, electrical upgrades, lighting and painting. New equipment has also been secured for the High School Weight Room and dugouts are planned to be installed at the Varsity Softball Field.



The Board of Education for 2016-2017 includes, standing in top row, Dottie Sellers, Mike O'Donnell, Tony Leva, and Jeanne Obermayer. Sitting in front row are Nancy Fodera, Kevin Schaefer, President, and Susan M. Filburn, Vice President.

Board of Education Welcomes
New Member

Mike O'Donnell was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education in October 2016. He is a 16 year resident of Milton and he and his wife Michelle have 2 daughters attending the Ballston Spa High School, a senior and a freshman. The Board will now seek candidates to fill this seat through the Budget Vote and Board Election on May 16, 2017, at which time the remainder of the existing term will be filled via the annual election.



Instructional Technology
in Our Schools

The mission of the school district's Instructional Technology Department is to assure that all members of our school community will have access to a technology-rich learning environment. They will be educated to skillfully explore, evaluate, manage, and share information and outcomes.

The district has continued to expand the current blended learning program, including wide-spread use of Schoology and new this year, use of Google Docs for all students in the Middle and High Schools. Students

no longer have access to Microsoft Office or the network storage they've been allocated in previous school years.

The use of Schoology, a Learning Management System (LMS), and Google Docs has brought a dramatic increase in collaboration, increased the efficiency of assignment submission and editing and reduced software licensing and infrastructure support costs to the district. Schoology has also been vital to the district's professional development program, as we have seen a dramatic increase in online offerings. These offerings provide faculty and staff the opportunity to further enhance their knowledge outside of the normal school day.

In December, we successfully delivered the "Hour of Code" (code.org/learn) to every student in grades K-5. Using the code.org platform, every student spent at least one hour coding. To assist our primary students, each elementary school used older students as mentors, including members of Robotics teams, 5th grade buddies and ambassadors.

We continue to evaluate our program and look forward to announcing several other new ventures this spring. Additional information on the district's Instructional Technology can be found on the website or by contacting Jim Lovett, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, at jlovett@bscsd.org or 884-7270 x3369.



Work Based Learning Program
Launched at High School

The Ballston Spa Work Based Learning Program offers opportunities for students to gain hands on experience in the world of work. In conjunction with their high school coursework, this program promotes the development of employability skills so that students are better prepared to enter the workforce upon graduating from high school.

Students in the 11th and 12th grades participate in 3-4 worksites each year, typically for 10 weeks at a time, while taking a companion Career and Technical Education (CTE) course through Ballston Spa's business department. Coursework closely follows the NYS Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) curriculum with a focus on workforce skill development. Students are also piloting an online learning platform through a partnership between Ballston Spa Central School District and Metrix Learning. This is an exciting enhancement to our program's instructional resources.

The work based learning program's dual pronged approach of classroom instruction and worksite application allows for students to learn skills in the classroom and quickly apply them on their job site. There are currently 6-8 students placed in the Ballston Spa community. They are being supervised by a certified job coach who provides real time feedback on their performance at each site.

The district is currently partnering with four organizations that serve as worksite hubs, having the ability to host multiple students across their organization. As the program continues to expand, we will look to increase our partnerships in order to ensure we have a variety of options for students to explore. Please contact Matthew Wright, Supervisor of Special Education, at the Ballston Spa High School for additional information.



Ballston Spa Teachers Provide
Books for Students

The Ballston Spa Teachers' Association (BSTA) is participating in a statewide NYSUT/AFT's Leaders for Literacy program which provides brand new, high quality books to at-risk students in our community. As part of this program, community members complete registration forms which generate brand-new books for the students in our community. Through the completed registration forms by members of the BSCSD community, the Ballston Spa Teachers' Association has now distributed over 1,600 brand new books to students in our community. The books have been provided directly to Head Start students; Gordon Creek, Malta Avenue, Wood Road and Milton Terrace elementary students as part of BSTA's Gift of Reading program; and to students at the Ballston Spa Middle School for the Greek Mythology Unit, Strive for 25 book baskets, and as part of BSTA's Gift of Reading program.

The BSTA will continue to collaborate with other community organizations and set up registration tables at their events in order to qualify to receive additional books for students. The district extends its appreciation to the BSTA for their commitment to supporting literacy and putting books in the hands of students who will benefit the most. Please contact Kim Pusatere, BSTA president, at the Ballston Spa Middle School for additional information at kpusatere@bscsd.org or 884-7200.



The BSTA plans to distribute additional free books to all the students who attend the district's Health and Wellness Expo on March 4, 2017 at the Wood Road Elementary School.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme Continues to Inspire

IB Visual Arts students Emilie McClymonds, Blade Osborn and Jon Straight were chosen to exhibit their artwork in *All Stars, an exhibition of High School Artists in Saratoga, Fulton & Montgomery Counties*. The show is open until February 25th at Saratoga Arts in Saratoga. Visual Arts is one of the fifteen IB courses offered at Ballston Spa High School.



Students in this course develop a comprehensive portfolio of work with a variety of self-selected artistic mediums. Over 100 high school juniors and seniors are currently enrolled in at least one IB course at Ballston Spa High School, including IB Visual Arts. The program continues to grow due to passionate teachers and students who enjoy educating and learning from one another on a daily basis.

The purpose of the IB Programme is to develop life-long learners who are committed to serving their communities through intercultural understanding and respect. Students who pursue the full IB diploma are involved in Creativity, Activity

& Service (CAS). Through CAS students initiate extracurricular activities that promote personal growth while often giving back both locally and globally. This marks the 2nd year IB students have brought The Warriors Project to the Ballston Spa community. It is an opportunity for teens to raise money for their less fortunate peers from across the nation who are unable to pursue their dreams because of circumstances that are



beyond their control, by completing sponsored monthly challenges. CAS provides an opportunity for all students to work together for a common cause outside of the classroom.

Recently over 140 individuals attended the IB Information Session where they learned about CAS and our IB course offerings. Current IB Diploma Programme students, teachers and admissions officers from the University at Albany and Union College spoke about what the program has to offer. These representatives similarly vocalized what Stanford University Assistant Dean of Admissions, Debra Von Bargen, shared on www.ibo.org, "Anything that challenges a student beyond the standard high school setting, that gets them closer and closer to the level of college work, that's something that we really value in the admissions process and once students get to school as well."

Interested students and families attended our Meet the IB Team session in January to inquire about individual courses that could make up the seven required to be an IB Diploma Programme Candidate. IB alumnus Stephan Washburn shared with prospective students, "It is challenging, but worth it." Senior Madi Amico is enrolled in two AP and two IB courses and shared that the workload for both are relatively similar, but for IB there are mostly long-term assignments that culminate with a classroom discussion or a writing piece, while AP is traditionally followed up by a test or quiz.



To continue to learn more about current happenings, please visit "IB in Action" on the IB section of the BSHS webpage. There you will also find more details regarding the requirements of the IB Diploma Programme at Ballston Spa High School.

For the most current IB information, everyone is encouraged to follow along with us on Twitter @BSpaIBCAS.

Clean Tech ECHS Expanding Opportunities for Students

Students Participate in Manufacturing Events

Clean Tech ECHS students participated in a variety of related events during National Manufacturing Month in October. The Clean Tech ECHS program hosted a Business & Education Breakfast focusing on Millennials in Manufacturing on October 5, 2016 for business partners, students and educators. The event was sponsored by the Workforce Development Institute.



Teams of 10th grade students presented their integrated circuit projects at the GLOBALFOUNDRIES MFG Day Challenge on October 14, 2016. They received a first place award for the most creative solution and were presented with the Innovation Award. Students also participated in tours at area manufacturers all month long to get a closer look at the diversity of careers available in advanced manufacturing.



Clean Tech ECHS Enrolling Students for 2017-18

The Clean Tech ECHS is currently enrolling 8th grade students from across the Capital Region to join the program for 2017-18 as they enter the 9th grade. School district leaders, parents and high school students interested in the program were recently invited to attend an information session to learn more about the program, hear directly from current students and tour the facility. There are limited spots open for incoming 10-12th graders for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications for applying to the program are due by March 3, 2017.

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. The program has grown regionally from originally serving 25 students from two school districts, to now serving almost 300 students from over 20 school districts in ten counties. Juniors and seniors in the program earn up to 24 college credits from HVCC in this ECHS model. It now has over 50 partners from business and industry, higher education, and non-profit and government agencies.

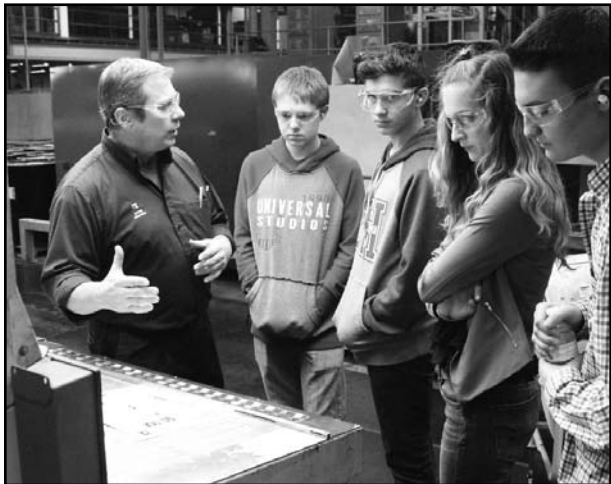
The Clean Tech ECHS was awarded a NYS P-TECH grant by Governor Cuomo which expanded opportunities for students in the program to take college coursework in one of four career pathways: Clean Energy; Computer Science & Information Systems; Entrepreneurship, Leadership & Innovation; and Mechatronics. The program is held in Hudson Valley Community College's TEC-SMART at 345 Hermes Road in Malta, NY. For more information, please contact ECHS Program Coordinator Adrienne Snow for the Ballston Spa Central School District at asnow@bscsd.org or (518) 629-4981.





Respect Day at the Ballston Spa High School

Students at Ballston Spa High School participated in a school wide Respect Day earlier this fall. By dedicating a day to learning more about their peers and the world around them, students learned how they can bring an end to the mistreatment of others. NCBI teacher leaders and senior leaders conducted mini-workshops for all freshmen on Respect Day. Students took part in activities raising awareness about diversity and embracing differences. The workshops emphasized the importance of not judging each other and being allies for one another. NCBI stands for the National Coalition Building Institute, which is an international leadership group dedicated to the elimination of racism and other forms of oppression.



Sophomores and juniors participated in the PSAT exam during the morning while seniors attended workshops that focused on the college application process. In addition to the workshops, the seniors also had guest speakers throughout the morning. Career and Technical Education classes took a field trip to the Quad Graphics facilities in Saratoga where they learned about the printing process, the multitude of local job opportunities ranging from printing to production, storage, distribution, manufacturing, marketing, customer service, billing and photography. Lastly, Ballston Spa High School has been an active participant in the “No Place for Hate” movement since 2013 which originated from the Anti-Defamation League. The movement’s purpose is to end hatred, promote respect and to encourage individuals to speak out against prejudice and discrimination of any kind. Our students had the opportunity to add ideas to the “Ballston Spa High School Wall” that would make our school culture a more positive one.



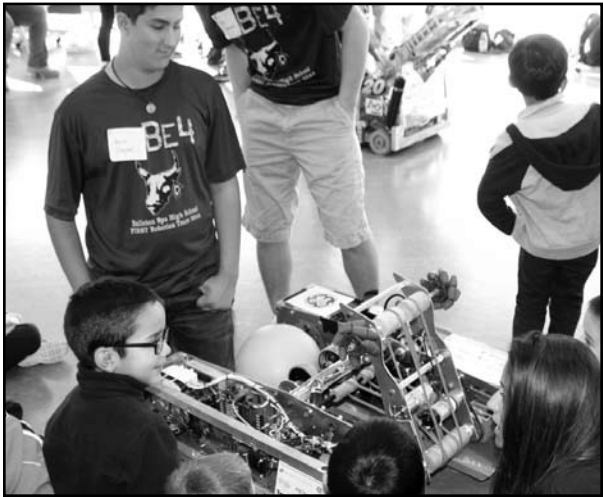
Ballston Spa Robotics Team Prepares for Competition Season

The Ballston Spa FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team 3044 has entered into the build season as they begin to design the robot for this coming spring’s competitions. The 2017 robotics challenge FIRST STEAMWORKS invites two adventurer clubs from an era in which technology relied on steam power to prepare their airships for the ultimate long-distance race. Each three-team alliance scores points and prepares to take flight by building steam pressure, gathering materials to start the rotors, and boarding robots onto their airships. The adventurer club with the highest score at the end of the match is the best prepared for the race and wins.

FIRST Robotics Competitions combine the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources, and time limits, teams of 25 students or more are challenged to raise funds, design a team “brand”, hone teamwork skills, and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It’s as close to “real-world engineering” as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team. Through the program students get to learn 21st Century skills from professional mentors; build and compete with a robot of their own design; learn to use sophisticated software and hardware; and compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments.

The district’s Robotics initiative is possible based on the generous support from the Ballston Spa National Bank to fund \$6,000 towards the team’s participation in the annual US FIRST® Robotics competition. In addition, Bechtel has donated \$5,000 this year to also help the team design and construct a robot, participate in regional competitions, and continue to expand the Robotics initiatives to additional students in the district.

FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC) Team 3044 will enter into their first competition at the New York Tech Valley FIRST Robotics tournament at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute East Campus Athletic Village (ECAV) on March 16 to 18, 2017. Additional information is available by contacting Ballston Spa K-12 Science Coordinator Diane Irwin, dirwin@bscsd.org, or at the High School by calling 884-7150. Please visit the High School Team 3044 Robotics website at <http://team3044.com/> or the FIRST® Robotics website directly at <http://www.usfirst.org/> for additional details.



Robotics Teams Compete in Regional Qualifying Tournament

The Ballston Spa High School’s FIRST Robotics Team #3044 hosted a Hudson Valley FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Qualifying Tournament for the younger students participating on teams from throughout the region. Teams participated in the December event to vie for the opportunity to advance to the upcoming semi-final tournament at NYSUT in February 2017. Teams from the semi-finals will then advance to the championship tournament at Dutchess Community College during February.

This year’s FLL challenge, Animal Allies, requires students to design a LEGO robot that can be programmed to operate independently on the



The Motors in Action FLL Robotics Team from Wood Road Elementary School competed in the regional tournament and qualified for the semi-final tournament.

competition table and accomplish several tasks related to human and animal interactions. The teams are judged based on the robot’s performance, design, core values and on a project that asks them to redesign how we manage our waste.

Twelve FLL teams from throughout the region competed in the FLL tournament as well as three Jr. FLL teams. Ballston Spa fielded seven FLL teams for the 2016 season from the Gordon Creek, Malta Avenue, Milton Terrace and Wood Road Elementary Schools, as well as teams from the Ballston Spa Middle School, participating in the competition. Additional teams joining in the competition traveled from Burnt Hills, Clifton Park, Queensbury, and Broadalbin.

The overall top three teams moving on in competition included Motors in Action from Wood Road Elementary School in Ballston Spa. The 1st Place Core Values Award was also presented to the Motors in Action Team while the 1st Place Project Award went to the Cyborg Unicorns from Milton Terrace Elementary School.

The tournament is sponsored by the Hudson Valley FLL, Dutchess Community College, FRC Team 3044 and the New York Tech Valley FIRST Sponsors. Additional information is available at <http://www.sunydutchess.edu/legoleague/> or by contacting Ballston Spa K-12 Science Coordinator Diane Irwin, dirwin@bscsd.org, or at the High School by calling 884-7150.

Sponsor-A-Scholar Program Receives Community Support

The district’s Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund was awarded support from the Saratoga Casino Hotel Foundation Grant that is distributed annually by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors. The \$1,000 in grant funding was used to purchase graphing calculators for the students in the district’s Sponsor-A-Scholar (S-A-S) program.

The Sponsor-A-Scholar program, designed to provide the extra supports necessary to successfully complete high school and pursue post-secondary education, has grown from 30 to 50 students. The program is coordinated by guidance counselors Cathy Roy and Kevin Flores with mentors provided by area organizations and businesses. It is supported by generous donations from Stewart’s Shops, Gerome Technologies, Technical Building Services, Specialty Silicone Products, Saratoga’s Community Federal Credit Union, Rotary of Ballston Spa & individual donors. Contributions to provide resources for the S-A-S 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.





Interact Students Assist Rotary Club

The students in the High School Interact Club and representatives from Saratoga Bridges joined The Rotary Club of Ballston Spa just before Thanksgiving to unload and set up over 800 Christmas trees for their annual sale during the holiday season. The Christmas tree project has been an annual fundraiser for the club for over 40 years. All proceeds go to benefit other Ballston Spa non-profit groups, school scholarships and more. Interact is a service club at the High School with students joining together from all classes to provide community service and assist with Rotary projects. Chartered in 1922, The Rotary Club of Ballston Spa has a long, long history of service to the community, sponsoring the Interact club at BSHS. The tree sale was very successful and is their big fundraiser of the year.

Students Explore Science & Engineering with RPI Ambassadors

The Ballston Spa Middle School welcomed the *Rensselaer Engineering Ambassadors* into the school to inspire the students about the role of engineering and technology in society again this year. They visited the science and technology classes to share exploratory activities and lessons that they have developed at RPI. Over 500 Middle School students participated in the science and engineering program during classes where the college aged ambassadors taught the students an

engineering or science lesson as well as facilitated a related demonstration or a hands-on design activity. This year’s topics that were presented to the different classes included chemical reactions, bio-manufacturing, lighting research, structures and jet engines. In addition to learning about science and engineering, the Ballston Spa students also had the opportunity to learn from the college students about their first-hand experiences with college academics and life. “These opportunities can be fun and motivate students to learn more about careers in STEM fields as well as what they will need to do over the next several years to achieve their goals,” indicated Diane Irwin, K-12 Science Coordinator for the Ballston Spa Central School District. Further, “The ambassadors provide invaluable perspectives and serve as great role models for our students.”



The Rensselaer Ambassadors are an assembly of highly motivated students focused on inspiring a younger audience to explore the role of engineers and scientists in society. The ambassadors offer hands-on demonstrations and short presentations at no cost to the school districts on topics to encourage the interest of students in careers in the areas of science, technology and engineering. The program is available at no cost due to the generosity of Rensselaer Schools of Engineering and Science and corporate sponsors such as United Technology Corporation.



Girls’ Summit Provides STEM Activities

Over 70 Middle School girls were given the opportunity to explore, ask questions, and begin to build the skills they need to become the problem solvers of tomorrow at the 9th Annual Girls’ Summit held at TEC-SMART. Working to address the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields by exposing girls to fun hands-on STEM based workshops, Time Warner Cable as part of its Connect a Million Minds initiative in partnership with Girls Incorporated offered this unique opportunity for Ballston Spa Middle School girls. The district was previously awarded a \$2,500 Lend-A-Hand Grant from the Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund (ATCCF) to support the 2016 Girls’ Summit.



Super Science Saturday A Smashing Success!

The district’s four elementary school PTAs hosted the annual Super Science Saturday recently and provided elementary students the opportunity to participate in many exciting hands-on science experiments. Students toured various stations at their own pace to learn about a variety of science topic areas, including biology, chemistry, physics, natural science, nanotechnology, forensic science, and more. The Winter 2017 Super Science Saturday event also presented several programs for students and parents to enjoy, including: *Wildlife Encounters* where kids learned about a variety of animals and their habitats through a live animal presentation; *Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory* experiments where students learned about different kinds of power; *StarLab Learning Dome* where participants took a planetarium adventure learning about stars and galaxies; and *Edwards Vacuum* where kids learned about vacuum technology. The district also provided a sneak peek and details about the Elementary Science and Engineering Fair, which is

scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2017. The Science Fair is open to grades K-5 and teaches students about the Scientific Method by asking them to do a scientific investigation on a topic area of their choice and prepare a display board to present their findings. Super Science Saturday is more than a day of science fun – it is also a day of giving back to the community. Super Science Saturday made it a “wild” good time for the Saratoga County Animal Shelter as families were asked to donate gently-used blankets, towels, collars, leashes, or dog and cat food in lieu of admission. The Super Science Saturday PTA chair members would like to extend their appreciation to all the parent and student volunteers who make the experiments possible as well as all the local businesses who donated items. **Thank you** to all the **PTA leaders and volunteers** and to the organizations who participated – another great event for the students in BSpa!



Scottie’s Closet Distributes Clothing to Hundreds

The Middle School held the 8th annual Scottie’s Closet event in October and provided free gently used clothing, books, coats, and shoes to nearly 300 students, families and individuals. This annual event 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 to Scottie’s Closet are provided free to students, families and members of the community. This annual community event would not be possible without the tireless efforts of districtwide school and community volunteers who donate, sort and merchandise all of the items in the cafeteria.



Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund Supports District Program

The district was awarded a \$2,500 Lend-A-Hand Grant from the Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund (ATCCF) to support the 2017 Girls’ Summit, a full-day, STEM-based forum for and about girls. The event is designed to empower, inspire and inform girls to lead healthy lives and better prepare for their futures.

District Enrolling for UPK Program

The Ballston Spa Central School District is currently enrolling students for its Universal Prekindergarten Program for the 2017-2018 school year. An eligible child is a child who resides within the school district and who is four years of age on or before December 1, 2017. A child who is age-eligible to attend kindergarten is not eligible for the UPK program. Agencies that provide the Universal Prekindergarten Program for the district are the YMCA Malta Childcare Center at Malta Commons, the Saratoga County Equal Opportunity Center Head Start program, and the Ballston Area Community Center. To obtain an application to enroll your preschool child, please contact one of the providers. For any other questions regarding the program, please contact the district’s Office of Curriculum, Assessment and Pupil Services at (518) 884-7195 x1336 or visit the district’s Universal Prekindergarten Program webpage.

Incoming Kindergarten Student Registration Events

The annual Kindergarten registration process for all incoming Kindergarten students is held in the district’s elementary schools (ES) during the spring. Parents are invited to attend an orientation session in the appropriate school starting on February 28, 2017 at Milton Terrace ES. Wood Road ES, Malta Avenue ES and Gordon Creek ES are on March 2, 2017. The four elementary schools have also established the following schedule for screening and registration appointments: Wood Road ES on April 10-12, Milton Terrace ES & Malta Avenue ES on April 25-27 and Gordon Creek ES on May 17-19. Specific information will be sent directly from the elementary schools to parents during the winter months. Anyone with an incoming Kindergarten student who is not already in contact with the school is asked to call the Registration Office at 602-0256.



Middle School Students Compete in National Geographic Bee

In December, over 700 Ballston Spa Middle School students participated in the first stage of the National Geographic Bee in their social studies classes to prepare for the upcoming schoolwide competition. In January, over 50 students competed in the next stages of the Geography Bee and winners were identified at each grade level, including Emily Dudka, Sarah Holmes, Sean O’Rourke, Sophia Rust, Nathan Sheehan, and Jake Taylor.

After answering a series of tie breaker questions, Sophia Rust earned the top spot as the BSMS Geography Bee Champion of 2017. As winner of the Ballston Spa Middle School Geography Bee, Sophia advances to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine state competitors. An examination score in the top 100 will qualify her for the state level competition which will be held in April in Albany, NY. All state champions will advance to the national championship and compete for the first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition in May in Washington, D.C.



Scotties Backpack Program Begins in Ballston Spa School

In collaboration with the Regional FoodBank of Northeastern New York, the Ballston Spa Central School District will launch the Scotties Backpack Program at Milton Terrace Elementary School during the coming weeks. The Backpack Program provides a backpack of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food to each selected child every Friday afternoon for him or her to eat throughout the weekend. The empty backpack is then returned to the school every Monday morning so that it can be filled again for Friday.

The program will serve 30 students who have been selected to receive the weekly backpack during the remainder of the school year. Volunteers from the Living Hope Christian Church and Milton Terrace PTA will be organizing and distributing the backpacks to the students on a weekly basis.

The Scotties Backpack Program is being sponsored by Saratoga Hospital this year. Additional information on the program is available on the Regional FoodBank’s webpage at <http://www.regionalfoodbank.net/backpack-program/>.



Students Give Back to Community with SEFCU Penny Harvest

Each of the six schools in the district recently collected pennies, and other cash donations, as part of the district’s initiative that teaches youth to give back to their local community. Students throughout the district collected over \$7,200 during the annual fall coin collection. Currently, students have formed Roundtables where they work as a group to learn what the local community organizations’ needs are, discuss issues and select recipients of the funds that will be awarded in May. Students have now gathered over \$80,300 that has been given back to the community through the program during the past ten years.



The 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 program, now in its tenth year, is implemented in the fall of each school year and the funding presented to the local charities in May. The district is very grateful to SEFCU for sponsoring the program and for processing all of the pennies. For more information, please contact the BSCSD Office of District Advancement at 518-884-7195 x1369.



Join us at BSHS on May 16th
 For the Annual
Penny Harvest Awards Ceremony
 And see who the students choose...



GLOBALFOUNDRIES - Town of Malta Foundation Supports School Projects

The Ballston Spa schools were among the community organizations selected to receive funding from the GLOBALFOUNDRIES-Town of Malta Foundation as they announced their awards for 2016. The district was selected to receive \$5,500 in funding for the annual Tech Valley Robot Rumble Off-Season Robotics Competition held in the fall. The district’s Middle and High School Technology Department received \$5,375 in funding to support the purchase of robotics kits. The Ballston Spa High School PTSA was also awarded a \$3,500 grant to help with the annual After-Prom activities implemented by the parent organization each spring.

Additional organizations in the district receiving grants include the Malta Avenue and Gordon Creek Elementary School PTAs, which were selected to each receive a \$2,000 grant to provide Arts in Education programs for the students. The High School’s Student Book Club received \$1,563 to purchase books and support club activities. The students in the Clean Tech Early College High School also received a grant for

\$2,500 to fund a Free Charge with Solar Energy project. Best Buddies of New York was awarded \$1,000 for the Saratoga County Friendship Project that implements activities in both the Middle and High Schools.

The GLOBALFOUNDRIES-Town of Malta Foundation recently presented its 2016 slate of grants totaling over \$146,500, benefiting 35 local organizations and community projects. The Foundation was developed to fund organizations, programs and projects that provide tangible benefits of a public nature to diverse groups serving the citizens of the Town of Malta, including not-for-profit corporations, charitable organizations, community arts and theater groups, community historical sites, special events, education programs, and sports and recreation activities.

Ballston Spa Teachers Receive BSEF Enrichment Grants

The Ballston Spa Education Foundation (BSEF) recently presented grant awards to educators in the Ballston Spa Central School District. This year’s grant awards, which totaled over \$7,900, included \$646 to Milton Terrace Elementary School for LEGO Architecture Kits, \$865 to the Ballston Spa High School (BSHS) for an Electric Vinyl Cutter for the Technology Dept., \$5,743 to the Ballston Spa Middle School (BSMS) and BSHS for Genetics Biotechnology Lab Equipment, \$349 to the BSMS and BSHS Environmental Club for tools to build and maintain trails and \$366 to BSMS for a Safeco Refreshment Cart for the Gateway Program.

This organization’s success is due to the dedicated group of volunteers that donate their time, energy and skills to raising and distributing funds for educational enrichment outside the realm of the daily operational needs of the Ballston Spa Central School District. To date, the foundation has awarded over \$347,000 in

enrichment grants directly back to the Ballston Spa Central School District. The BSEF will host their major fundraiser, the annual Taste of Ballston Spa, on April 3, 2017 at the Ballston Spa High School. Among other raffles and door prizes, there will be an opportunity to participate in a drawing for a trip for two to Europe.

The BSEF is a volunteer, not-for-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of New York and registered with the Office of the New York State Attorney General, Bureau of Charities and has a 501(c)(3) designation by the IRS. For more information, please visit the BSEF website at www.bsapedfoundation.com or contact them via info@bsapedfoundation.com or PO Box 276, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.



Ballston Spa teachers receive grant awards from the BSEF for classroom enrichment projects.

Don't Miss the Annual Taste of Ballston Spa
April 3, 2017
BSHS

Get Ready for the BSCSD Science and Engineering Fair

The district’s elementary school students are all invited to participate in the annual Science and Engineering Fair on Saturday, March 11, 2017. The Science and Engineering Fair is open to all students in grades K-5. After learning about the Scientific Method or Engineering Design Process, students will do their own project and prepare a display board to present their findings at the Science and Engineering Fair. Additional information is available on the website, including the registration details.



Fine and Performing Arts

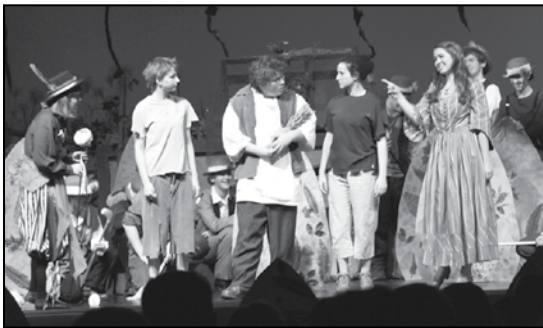
High School Artists Selected for Saratoga Arts Center Exhibit

An exhibition showcasing the work of high school artists is currently on display at The Arts Center Gallery at Saratoga Arts. The exhibition will continue through February 25, 2017. Area high school art teachers selected work in all media from their students to exhibit in the gallery. This is an exclusive opportunity for art students to exhibit their art in a professional gallery setting and gain recognition for their artistic and creative accomplishments. The Ballston Spa High School students exhibiting and their artwork are listed below along with their instructors at BSHS. Congratulations to all!

Name	Grade	Art Media	Teacher
Caleb Carter	12	Silver Gelatin Print	Mrs. Masto
Tanner Damico	12	Cut Paper	Mr. Damico
Emilie McClymonds	12	Paper Quilling	Mr. Belknap
Blade Osborn	11	Electric Current through Wood	Mr. Belknap
Samantha Rovetto	12	Soft Pastel	Mrs. DeBenedetti
Alexa Rovetto	12	Colored Pencil	Mrs. DeBenedetti
Caitlin Smith	12	Colored Pencil	Mr. Damico
Jonathan Straight	12	Laser Cut on Wood	Mr. Belknap

Peter and the Starcatcher Presented at Ballston Spa HS

The students in the Ballston Spa High School's Troupe presented *Peter and the Starcatcher*, written by Rick Elice, during five performances in November. *Peter and the Starcatcher* is a play with music, which provides the humorous backstory to the original story of Peter Pan. The story of orphans, pirates, treasure and wishes came alive on the stage. The orphan boy (Mira Jaeger), Molly (Jacqueline Frederick), the wicked Blackstache (Jake Rogan), his sidekick Smee (Maeve Wroblewski) and the rest of the cast and crew did a great job presenting the story of Peter during this adventure. The matinees also included a costume parade for the younger patrons who came dressed in their favorite pirate or Peter Pan costumes.



High School Troupe Presents The Addams Family Musical

The Ballston Spa High School Troupe is proud to present a musical comedy, *The Addams Family Musical*, for their annual spring production. The students in the Troupe will perform the musical on March 31, April 1, 7, 8, at 7:00 pm and April 1 & 8 at 1:00 pm in the Ballston Spa High School Auditorium. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens/students. This is a family friendly show. Please visit the BSHS website for more information or call the school at 884-7150.

Willy Wonka Presented by Middle School's Launching Pad Productions

Launching Pad Productions, the Ballston Spa Middle School drama club, presented Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* as this year's annual production. With 60 kids in the cast and another 60 working behind the scenes, this was a show not to miss! It was perfect for families of all shapes and sizes. *Willy Wonka* is the story of young Charlie Bucket and his love of chocolate and family.

The performance featured Peter Evans in the title role of Willy Wonka, John Murphy as Charlie Bucket, and Anthony D'Annibale as Grandpa Joe. The show also included performances by Jack Whalen as Augustus Gloop, Emma Rask as Veruca Salt, Molly Filburn as Violet Beauregard, and Andrew Paster as Mike Teavee. The show was directed and produced by teacher Joseph Shaver, music directed by Elizabeth Sears, choreographed by Jim Meyer, set design by Pat Ferlo and special effects provided by ZFX Flying.



Congratulations to Our Students Performing with Music Honor Groups

Many Middle and High School students represented our school district in Honor Music Groups at the County, Suburban Council, Area All State and State level earlier this school year. Congratulations to all the students on your achievements, and thank you for representing our district so well with your effort and talent! The students will be recognized by the Board of Education at the March 15, 2017 meeting in honor of Music in Our Schools Month at 7:00 pm in the Ballston Spa High School Library.



Congratulations to our Honor Music Groups

The following Middle and High School students represented our school district in Honor Music Groups at the County, Suburban Council, Area All State and State level earlier this school year, including:

- All County Band**
6-7 Zachary Baskin, Tingwen Zhang
8-9 Katelyn Hilko, Harrison Martinez
10-12 PJ Briele, Jamey Briele, James D'Annibale, Alice DeRagon, Pierce Doud, Katielyn Evans, Alex Hodge, Veronika Hughes, Rachel Murphy, Samantha Paley, Reagan Pieniazek, Laura West

- All County Orchestra**
6-7 Paige Dubiac, Jillian Fernau, Ryan Mullin
8-9 Kiana Pearson, Nicholas Wright, Alyssa Baker, Lela Hughes, Kayla Barbera, Caitlin Doyle, Jenna Gold-Wienk, Abigael Burke, Madison Franco, Kathy Kim
10-12 Symphonic Orchestra: Emma Benson, Twila McGlynn, Nathaniel Zink, Samantha DeRagon, Heather Aldous, Logan Scholer, Whitney Wright, Madelyn Robyck, Savannah Miller, Taylor Poitras, Alexandra Franco, Samantha Paley, Reagan Pieniazek

- All County Jazz Band** PJ Briele, Alice DeRagon, Laura West

- All County Chorus**
10-12 Mixed Chorus Olivia Faul, Lily Armer, Jairo Gonzales, Kelly Collins, Morgan McGrath, Evan Gori
7-10 Women's Choir Taylyn Markham, Mallory Cox, Sophia Faul, Lilian Viscusi, Molly Filburn, Angela Capuano, Josephine Hostetter, Hannah Hughes, Grace Glastetter
7-10 Men's Choir Juan Perez, Tristan Bishop
5/6 Chorus Andrew Peet, Liam Manion, Maddie Burns, Lillian Greenspan, Rebecca Bywater, Jenna Sweet, Jocelyn Sherman, Sofia Rust

- Suburban Council Music Festival**
MS Band Tingwen Zhang
MS Orchestra Kathy Kim, Thomas McClean, Nicholas Wright, Jillian Fernau
MS Chorus Molly Filburn
HS Jazz Band Alice DeRagon, PJ Briele

- Area All State Music Festival**
Band PJ Briele, Veronika Hughes, Rachel Murphy, Samantha Paley, Reagan Pieniazek
Orchestra Heather Aldous, Samantha DeRagon, Logan Scholer, Thomas Sheffield, Whitney Wright
Chorus Olivia DeRagon
Jazz Band Alice DeRagon

- Melodies of Christmas Chorale** Olivia DeRagon, Eric Croucier
Empire State Youth Orchestra Performing Groups Heather Aldous, Logan Scholer, Alice DeRagon
NYSBDA High School Honor Band Alice DeRagon, Reagan Pieniazek
NYSSMA Conference All State Heather Aldous, Thomas Sheffield

Athletic Happenings

All nine of the Ballston Spa fall varsity teams qualified for recognition as a NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team based on the academic accomplishments of 122 student athletes (combined GPA of 94.511). #GoScotties



The **Girls Swim & Diving Team** had five athletes qualify for the NY State Championships including the 200 Medley Relay team of Emma Hoffman, Corinne Pepper, Tierra Damico, Annalise Pepper and in Diving, Emma Swistak.

The **Boys Soccer Team** had two athletes selected for the Suburban Council All-Star teams including Peter DiStefano (2nd team) and Schuyler Mann (1st team). Schuyler was also selected for the All State team.

The **Girls Soccer Team** also had two athletes selected for the Suburban Council All-Star teams including Caitlin Wania (1st team) and Alexa Mahserjian (2nd team).

The **Girls Volleyball Team** was the Section 2 Class AA Runner-Up and had two athletes selected for the Suburban Council All-Star teams. Laiken Fox was selected for the 1st team Suburban Council All-Star, Madison Amico for the 2nd team Suburban Council All-Star and for the Suburban Council All-Star Honorable Mention team Samantha Loud, Lauren Kersch and Megan McMahon.

The **Varsity Football Team** had two team members nominated to the Empire Division All-Star 1st team, Elijah Washington and Jake Cook, and four team members selected for the 2nd team Empire Division All-Star: Tyler Barnes, Ryan Couchman, Vinnie Miczek, Jason Kavanaugh and Mark Gallo.



The Ballston Spa High School organized an alpine ski team to provide the opportunity for students to participate in a unique and challenging sport during the winter season. Students began practice earlier this season and are now in competition with other school teams in the region.

Learn to Swim Program at BSHS

The Saratoga Region YMCA, in partnership with the Ballston Spa Central School District, will be offering preschool and youth swim lessons again this spring. Lessons will run for seven weeks and be held in the pool at the Ballston Spa High School beginning Saturday, March 4. Registration is required by calling the YMCA at 583-9622 x0.

Information on the Learn to Swim program, as well as additional offerings at the pool, are available on the Aquatics Program pages on the district website.

Get Ready for the Scotties Stampede

Our Own Ballston Spa 5k for Education



Everyone in the Ballston Spa school community is invited to join together for the 2nd annual 5k for Education Walk/Run, the Scotties Stampede. It will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at 9:00 am, starting at the district's tennis courts on Garrett Road. The primary goal of the 5k is to bring our community together for a fun, fitness event and encourage students and families to participate in healthy and active lifestyles. The event is open to students, families and the entire school community is encouraged to participate.

Financially, the event will support the district's Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region. The field of interest fund is used to support the various innovative and mission-related programs throughout the district including: Sponsor-A-Scholar, Robotics, the Performing & Fine Arts, STEM enrichment initiatives, and the Clean Technologies & Sustainable Industries Early College High School. Please mark your calendars and watch for registration details for the event on the website or call 518-884-7195 x1369.



Additional information on student athlete achievements as well as all athletic team information is posted on the athletic department page of the district website.

Also, follow us on Twitter @B_Spa_Athletics or on our Live Twitter Feed on the website.

Staff Members in the News



Board of Education Honors Wood Road Principal

The New York State English Council honored Wood Road ES Principal Valarie Karas with an Educator of Excellence Award earlier this school year. She was nominated because she inspires excellence in students as well as teachers. She is shown in photo (l-r) with Sharon D'Agostino, Principal of Malta Avenue ES, Valarie Karas and Assistant Superintendent Denise Jones.

Teachers Congratulated by Board of Education

Three teachers from the Ballston Spa High School were recognized by the Board of Education after being selected for the New York State Master Teacher Program. The program is offered to the highest performing science, technology, engineering and math teachers. The program creates a network of teachers and offers a number of professional development experiences to deepen teachers' understanding of STEM content and the best methods of teaching their students in their particular communities. The ultimate goal of the program is to attract students to STEM related careers. The three teachers named to the Master Teacher Program this year include **John Balet**, **Matthew Glogowski** and **Ank Meuwissen**.

High School teacher **Marissa Bongo** was recognized for her innovative teaching methods and her willingness to utilize technology to impact learning. Bongo was recently asked to give a presentation to Master's students on the subject.

Elementary teacher **Cailin Rabideau** from Milton Terrace ES was recognized for planning and organizing the annual Veterans' Day Assembly hosted at the school. Many veterans from all branches of the military and their families attended and participated in the event.

Megan Haessig, also an elementary teacher at Milton Terrace ES, was recognized for her work supporting her colleagues with professional development. During the first half of the year, Haessig organized 14 professional development opportunities for over 200 teachers.



Staff Members Support Cancer Awareness

Staff members at both the High School and Middle School supported Breast Cancer Awareness again this fall by wearing pink during awareness days in their respective schools. Over 65 Middle School staff members showed their support by wearing pink and denim clothing to school and contributing donations over \$400.00 to National Denim Day (American Cancer Society) as a result of this year's event.

Jana Miller, Wood Road ES Psychologist, was recognized for her work supporting students, families and staff members on a day to day basis and in times of crisis. Miller helps teachers develop behavior plans, discusses strategies to help students succeed in the classroom and supports teachers when needed.



Jesse Santonastaso, a 7th grade science instructor at the Middle School, was recently selected as a TOP TEACHER by News Channel 13 (WNYT). The purpose of News Channel 13's TOP TEACHER program is to reward educators (grades K-12) in the Capital Region for outstanding achievements in a learning environment. The annual program sponsored by the television station seeks out nominations from students and families and then identifies the top 13 teachers to recognize. His students nominated him in appreciation for his innovative, hands-on approach that makes learning science interesting for 7th graders. He was featured in a news clip with the 7th grade students on January 18, 2017 (the video clip is on the WNYT website).

School Nurse of the Year!

The March of Dimes - New York announced Janice McPhee, RN, MSN, NCSN as a School Nurse of the Year winner earlier this school year. Mrs. McPhee is our school district Health Leader. She received her BS in Nursing from Hartwick College and her MSN from Walden University with a specialization in nursing education. Her favorite part of being a nurse is her relationship with children and teaching them how to effectively manage their health, including chronic conditions, which ultimately advances their academic success.

New Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator Joins District

Stacey Wranesh-Roberts joined the district this fall as the Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction. Her experience includes roles as a school principal, instructional supervisor, literacy coach and an elementary literacy specialist. She received her Advanced Graduate Certificate in School Administration and Master's degree in Reading from the University at Albany. Now with a few months in the district, she indicated that "It is a privilege to be working with the dedicated staff at BSCSD. The teachers and administrators are continually working to learn and grow as professionals in order to provide each student with innovative opportunities and successful learning experiences."

Staff Member Spotlights and Recognition

The district is proud of the talented and diverse staff that we have working at 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.

District/Community Opportunities

Taste of Ballston Spa Hosted by the Ballston Spa Education Foundation

The Ballston Spa Education Foundation (BSEF) will host the annual Taste of Ballston Spa on April 3, 2017 in the Ballston Spa High School from 6-8 pm. The dinner offers participants a chance to sample foods from a variety of local restaurants while providing support for the foundation. There will also be basket raffles and tickets available for a chance to win a trip to Europe (drawing May 5). Additional information is on the BSEF website at www.bspeafoundation.com.

District’s WeatherBug Station Adds VideoCam

A local WeatherBug station was installed on the roof of Gordon Creek Elementary School in 2014 to provide access to live weather data right from our own community. Students, parents and community members are able to access and utilize the local data via a convenient link on the district website or by downloading the WeatherBug App to a mobile device. Classrooms have also been utilizing the weather data from the station within the math and science curriculum. A video camera was installed on the WeatherBug station and streams a live view from the rooftop facing southeast. It also takes time-lapsed photos in order to observe the weather happening throughout the day. Visit the district website for more information or in the Live Cams section on the WeatherBug App.

Community Swim Program Open to All

The Ballston Spa Aquatics Program is currently offering opportunities for public use of the district swimming pool during adult lap swimming sessions, in the early morning and late evening hours. A family/open swim is also offered on Saturday afternoons. Additional opportunities include an adult Aqua Cardio program and a Learn-To-Swim program offered periodically throughout the year (next sessions start after February break). Information and registration forms are available on the aquatics pages of the district website or by contacting the pool office directly at 884-7150 x2324. The district pool is located in the Ballston Spa High School at 220 Ballston Avenue.



Indoor Walking Program Continues

The district’s popular Walk About program provides an opportunity for those interested in a low impact fitness activity on a safe, indoor walking course. The program continues Monday through Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm, when school is in session, until April 13, 2017. Registration forms and information may be obtained on the district website or by calling 884-7195 x1329.

Community Information and Flyers Online

Information from local, non-profit organizations and district partners is being posted in the community section on the district and school websites for easy access in lieu of distributing copies for students to carry home.

Community Recycling Program

The district’s recycling efforts include the collection of recyclables from community businesses and residents. Community members are encouraged to bring their clean recyclables to containers at the Transportation Facility on Route 50, just south of the Janet V corners.



SchoolMessenger System Enhances District-Home Communications

The district is utilizing an electronic based communication tool to keep parents and community members up-to-date with district happenings as well as school level announcements and information. The system provides multiple ways of sending out messages about school events and emergency information to parents and others as an automated telephone message, text message or by email. Parents are able to determine which method they prefer to receive various messages by contacting their school office. Please visit the website for additional information on the system, located via a quick link on the left side of the homepage.

Saratoga County Sex Offender Information System

The Saratoga County Sheriff’s Department is using an online system to provide the most up-to-date information to the local community. Please visit the OffenderWatch® registry on the Saratoga County Sheriff’s Department sex offender webpage to learn more about the registry. Additional information is also on the district’s Student Safety page in the parent resources section of the website.

Upcoming Community Events Winter/Spring 2017

FEBRUARY

- 11 All County Concert, High School Auditorium, 2 pm
- 13 PTA Founders’ Day and Reflections Recognition, Gordon Creek Cafeteria, 6:30 pm
- 13 SPAC 5th Grade Dance Performance, Malta Ave., 7 pm
- 20-24 Mid-Winter Recess – No Classes

MARCH

- 2 Incoming 9th Grade & AP World History Parent Night, High School, 6:30-8:30 pm
- 4 Health and Wellness Expo, Wood Road/Milton Terrace Gymnasium, 10 am-1 pm
- 11 Elementary Science Fair, Wood Road Cafeteria/Gymnasium, 9:30-11:30 am
- 11 High School POPS Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 20 Spring Sports Meet the Coaches Night, High School Auditorium, 6:15 pm
- 21 Middle School/High School Jazz Night, Malta Ave. Auditorium, 7 pm
- 23 College Jumpstart Evening, High School Auditorium, 6-8 pm
- 31 *The Addams Family Musical*, High School Auditorium, 7 pm

APRIL

- 1 *The Addams Family Musical*, High School Auditorium, 1 & 7 pm
- 3 Taste of Ballston Spa, Ballston Spa Education Foundation, High School, 6-8 pm
- 7 *The Addams Family Musical*, High School Auditorium, 7 pm
- 8 *The Addams Family Musical*, High School Auditorium, 1 & 7 pm
- 13 Gordon Creek Drama Club Performance, 6:30 pm
- 17-21 Spring Recess – No Classes

MAY

- 2 National Honor Society Induction/Junior Awards Ceremony, High School Auditorium, 7 pm
- 4 National Junior Honor Society Induction, High School Auditorium, 5 pm
- 5 Student Art Exhibits, First Friday, Village of Ballston Spa, 6-9 pm
- 9 High School Spring Concert, Part I, High School Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 11 Senior Awards Night, High School Auditorium, 7 pm
- 11 Gordon Creek Spring Concert, 7 pm
- 15 Middle School Spring Concert, 7th Grade, High School Auditorium, 7 pm
- 16 Budget Vote/School Pride Day
- 16 Middle School/High School Art Show, High School Art Wing, 5 pm
- 16 Middle School/High School Spring Concert, Grades 8-9, High School Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 18 High School Spring Concert, Part II, High School Auditorium, 7:30 pm
- 20 Scotties Stampede 5K, Middle School, 9 am
- 23 Malta Avenue Spring Concert, 7 pm
- 24-25 NYS Capital Region Youth Climate Summit, TEC-SMART
- 25 Milton Terrace Spring Concert, 7 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.

Ballston Spa Central School District

70 Malta Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 41
Ballston Spa, NY

Board of Education

Kevin Schaefer, *President*
Susan Filburn
Nancy L. Fodera
Tony Leva
Jeanne Obermayer
Mike O'Donnell
Dottie Sellers
Joseph P. Dragone, Ph.D., *Superintendent of Schools*
Written by Stuart J. Williams, *Coordinator of Community Relations*

Boxholder
Ballston Spa Central
School District

The Reader

Winter 2017

District Offers 5th Annual
Health and Wellness Expo
for Families



A district-wide expo focused on health and wellness will be held on March 4, 2017 from 10 am-1 pm in the Wood Road/Milton Terrace Elementary School gymnasium. This FREE family friendly event is open to all residents of the district. Each school building will be showcasing service learning projects and educational activities that have taken place throughout the school year. Last year, over forty area health and wellness professionals from throughout our community and around the region exhibited and provided educational information on fitness, healthy eating, and related health and wellness topics. Over 200 bicycle helmets will be given away this year to students by the Ballston Spa Community Emergency Corps and Saratoga County Sheriff's Department. Additional drawings are also held throughout the day and many giveaways provided by vendors and local businesses.



In This Issue...

Instructional Technology in Our Schools	2
Ballston Spa Teachers Provide Books for Students	2
International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme Continues to Inspire	3
Clean Tech ECHS Expanding Opportunities for Students	3
Respect Day at Ballston Spa High School	4
Super Science Saturday	5
SEFCU Penny Harvest	6
Get Ready for the BSCSD Science and Engineering Fair	7
Fine and Performing Arts	8
Athletic Happenings	9
Staff Members in the News	10
District/Community Opportunites	11



Join us in the schools for:

Health &
Wellness
Expo
March 4

BSHS Spring
Play
March 31
April 1, 7, 8

Taste
of
Ballston Spa
April 3