

the Hive

Achieving our full potential together.

BALDWINVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

December 2017 - Issue 157

www.bville.org



Superintendent's Message

In the last issue of the *Hive*, I wrote about how I asked all staff members to practice student-centered decision making in everything that they do. We've rolled up our sleeves and have gotten down to work. This issue of the *Hive* highlights some of the activities in our schools, in our departments, and district-wide that reflect this objective.

Page 4 features an article detailing the district's partnership with Liberty Resources to provide a mental health counseling site in each of our secondary buildings. Our goal is to reduce some typical barriers to care, such as time and transportation issues, for our students and families.

The special education department has provided an update on page 11 on how it is working to increase student and parent engagement in the

department's programs. This year the department is piloting a new self-directed IEP process for students in the secondary schools. The goal is to give our students a larger role in their education plans.

On October 19 we officially reopened the Baker High School auditorium with a ribbon cutting and a student-centered celebration of music. Every school in the district was represented with chorus, band and orchestra performances.

I received a lot of comments on how great our students sounded that evening. We have some extremely talented musicians in Baldwinsville. Thank you to our students and staff members who made the evening a success! You'll find photos from the event on page 10.

This is an extremely busy time of year for our students and staff. In addition to the teaching

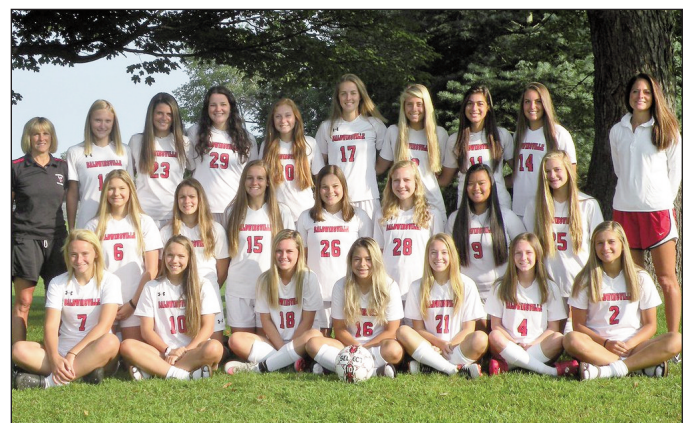
and learning that occurs each day, our bands, orchestras, and choruses at all levels are performing in their winter concerts this month and our winter teams are in the thick of competition (GO BEES!). I hope you can catch a concert or a game during the holiday frenzy.

On behalf of our staff, students, and the Board of Education, I'd like to wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Matthew J. McDonald
Superintendent of Schools

Girls Varsity Soccer Wins State Championship!!!



Congratulations to the girls varsity soccer team and Coach Kathy Morse on winning the 2017 Class AA NYSPHAA Girls Soccer Championships!

Around the District



At Baker High School



One of our big events for the fall was our health and wellness day on October 13 and our pep rally that afternoon. This day capped off Homecoming week. During the day students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of wellness activities, including

badminton, Zumba, and board games. The Baker gym was a sea of red and white for the pep rally as students and staff displayed their school pride and spirit.

Principal Donald Root



At Durgee Jr. High School

Durgee has been very busy this fall. The creative art classes worked with Mrs. DeCaro and Mrs. Arigo on a mask project to portray images of mental health issues. The Counseling Office and library media specialist Lindsey Cesari began a monthly Career Speaking Series for students to provide them with an understanding of the careers available in career cluster plus hands on demonstrations. We began the series exploring health career occupations. Our student council sponsored a pennies for Puerto Rico drive to help assist the communities impacted by Hurricane Maria.



Principal Bonnie Van Benschoten



At Ray Middle School

In October the Ray library held a Literary Luncheon. Special guest readers, including Kate Thornton and Dan Cummings from Channel 9 read to students as they ate their lunches in the library. Darlene St. John, Ray's library media specialist, began the Literary Luncheon 12 years ago. Reading to middle school students is a great way to introduce them to new genres and to books they might not read themselves due to the level of difficulty. Our Techonics Club had its first harvest in the fall. With the club's aquaponics system, students grew 50 kale plants and 30 basil plants.



Interim Principal Dr. Kathleen Davis



At Elden Elementary School

At Elden Elementary, we had a wonderful fall. Some of the highlights were our parent-guardian breakfast and our PTA walk-a-thon. Our Principal's Council organized a fundraiser for hurricane relief for a school in Texas. We had a "Favorite Hat" day and raised \$383.37 in October. It was so successful we did it a second time in November to raise money for hurricane relief for Puerto Rico.

Principal Thomas Coughlin



At McNamara Elementary School

We've enjoyed many activities, including PARP, a visit by a children's author, and fire safety instruction by our local volunteer fire departments. We also held our annual Veterans Day assembly. We invite family and friends who are veterans to the school each year so that we can honor them for their service. We are fortunate to have so many brave men and women visit us for the assembly each year. They usually fill up the stage and several rows of seats on the floor as well.

Principal Jane Nadolski



At Palmer Elementary School

Palmer has been extremely busy with events and activities. We enjoyed our PTA sponsored Fall Book Fair and want to offer SPECIAL thanks to the over 400 people who visited Palmer for our Special Persons' Breakfasts in October. Our Palmer chorus provided its own rendition of the Thriller dance for our Halloween Parade – something students and staff always look forward to!



Principal Alex Ewing



At Reynolds Elementary School

Reynolds Raccoons had a busy and fun-filled fall season! Fifth graders spent a day at the Orenda Springs rope course in Marcellus, using their life skills to solve challenges. We had fourth- and fifth-grade girls and boys represent the school at the elementary cross country meet in October. Our band, chorus and orchestra students helped to reopen the Baker auditorium with performances in the official reopening celebration held on October 19. It's always a great day to be a Reynolds Raccoon and a B'ville Bee!

Principal Melissa Chiodo



At Van Buren Elementary School

In October we collected school supplies for a Texas elementary school that was affected by Hurricane Harvey. Due to the generosity of the Van Buren school



community we were able to send down five boxes of supplies that our student council members helped to pack. Our second annual fun run was a success! Students set goals for themselves based on how many laps they ran last year and tried to improve this year. The total number of laps students ran was 2,833 or 944 miles!

Principal Danielle Nahorney

Around the District

Baker to Open Student-Run Branch of Credit Union

On January 9, 2018 Baker High School will hold a ribbon cutting to open its student-run branch of the Edge Federal Credit Union. The branch will be located off of the lobby of the second floor. Students participating in the operation of the branch will be engaged in learning the basic principles and practices of the financial service industry and business operations while acquiring lifelong employment skills and providing a service to the district's students and staff (the branch is not open to business with the public).

Concepts that students will experience hands on, such as consumer lending, will be reinforced with classroom instruction in business classes. The branch and its operational expenses are of no cost to the school district. The Edge Federal Credit Union will assume the costs involved in the launch of and running of the school branch.

The Baker branch of the credit union is an expansion of the district's partnership with the credit union. The district's elementary schools have been participating in the Edge's Elementary Cub Saver program in which students learn the importance of savings and can track their accounts.

B'ville Resident's Donation Will Aid in Mental Health Training for Staff

At its November 6 meeting, the Board of Education recognized Baldwinsville resident Michelle Green for her donation of \$10,000 to the district to be used for its mental health initiatives. The Board of Education and the district publicly thanked Green for her caring and commitment to the mental wellbeing of Baldwinsville's students.

In 2013 Green lost her son, Eric, to suicide. She said she does not want another mother to endure "the searing pain of losing their child to suicide."

In an email she explained, "I believe it takes just one person to notice and say something, and then a difference is made in a young person's life. Administrator, band or choir director, brother or sister, bus

driver, cafeteria lady, clerk, coach, custodian, friend, librarian, parent, secretary, teacher, teacher's aide, teacher's assistant, and many more. There are resources at Baldwinsville schools to "take it from there" when someone notices something about a student and shares their concerns with a school psychologist."

Superintendent Matthew McDonald noted that, because of Green's generous donation, a great deal of assistance will be afforded to many students. "Ms. Green's generosity is an example of how, as a community, we are collaborating to put our students' mental wellbeing on par with their physical health so that they may achieve their full potential," McDonald said.

Attention Future Kindergarten Parents: District Conducting Online Census

The Baldwinsville Central School District is requesting that parents of children who will be eligible for kindergarten in September 2018 participate in the district's online non-school age census by February 28, 2018. In order to be eligible for kindergarten in September 2018, a child must be five years old by December 1, 2018.

This *is not* online kindergarten registration, but a census process to provide the district with the necessary information to establish a mailing list for

sending out kindergarten registration information to parents in February. The census will close on February 28, 2018.

The census is located on the district's website at www.bville.org. Click on the link to the Registration Office's page, on which you will find the link to the online census. You will also find directions for filling out the census on this page. If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, please call the Registration Office at 315-638-6044 x1 for further instructions.

Student Learning

District Welcomes School-Based Mental Health Program to Secondary Schools

This fall the district welcomed the Liberty Resources School-Based Mental Health Program to Ray Middle School, Durgee Junior High School, and Baker High School. This partnership enables the district to address the increasing need for mental health supports for students and their families by hosting a licensed therapist's office in each of the secondary schools.

The office in each school is private and solely dedicated to Liberty Resources and its mental health services for students and their families. The clinic staff are employees of Liberty Resources, not of the school district. Each school has established a system in its guidance office enabling students to discreetly sign in when they have appointments with the therapist.

Some of the resources offered through the school-based mental health therapist's office are:

- ▶ Individual therapy;
- ▶ Family counseling – at school, in the student's home, or at a clinic;
- ▶ Psychiatric evaluation and medication management; and
- ▶ Crisis consultation/intervention.

Alicia Clifford, LCSW-R, the clinical team leader and school-based mental health program supervisor with Liberty Resources, said the program is designed to increase the accessibility of mental health care for Baldwinville's students and families by reducing barriers to care, including time and transportation issues. A student does not have to leave his or her school for an appointment, and flexible scheduling allows students to work their appointments around study halls and lunch so that instruction time is not disrupted.

In order for a student to see a Liberty Resources therapist, the therapist must receive a referral from parents/guardians or school staff. The therapist meets with the parents/guardians initially to receive their approval for the services.

All of the student's information and mental health records remain confidential and are not shared with the school unless parents have given Liberty Resources the permission to do so. The program bills a student's health insurance, and if any co-pays are necessary, a bill is sent by regular mail to the student's home so that no payment is necessary at the time of service.

Clifford said that she is impressed with the district's strong commitment to the well-being of its students and families and its intentional focus on mental health. The district's partnership with Liberty Resources is the result of Superintendent Matthew McDonald initiating a conversation with Liberty Resources about housing a school-based mental health clinic in a district school. Clifford noted that Baldwinville's creation of an active mental wellness committee and the establishment of school-based mental health clinics in its secondary schools puts Baldwinville "ahead of the curve" in comparison to many other school districts.

"Mental well-being is an important component of a child's overall health, happiness and ability to grow. ..."

***Superintendent
Matthew McDonald***

"We are putting our students' mental health on par with their physical health because we are committed, as a school district, to aiding our students in finding the resources they need to be healthy," said Superintendent McDonald. "Mental wellbeing is an important component of a child's overall health, happiness and ability to learn and grow to his or her full potential."

If you are interested in more information on Liberty Resources and the services that are offered at Ray, Durgee and Baker, please call Liberty Resources at 315-472-4471.

**MORE NEWS AT
www.bville.org**

Student Learning

Signs and Symptoms of Possible Mental Health Issues

- ▶ Persistent sadness and hopelessness
- ▶ Excessive worry and anxiety
- ▶ Frequent irritability or anger
- ▶ Feeling of worthlessness and guilt
- ▶ Low self-esteem
- ▶ Grief and loss
- ▶ Aggression or frequent temper tantrums
- ▶ Impulsivity, hyperactivity, inattentiveness
- ▶ Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- ▶ Skipping school, missing classes, or a decline in grades
- ▶ Difficulty in getting along with family, friends, or school personnel
- ▶ Erratic mood changes or often appearing “down”
- ▶ Often preferring to be alone
- ▶ Family conflict or multiple stressors in the home
- ▶ Not sleeping or sleeping too much
- ▶ Talking about death or hurting oneself or others
- ▶ Loss of interest in activities/hobbies
- ▶ Change in eating habits
- ▶ Avoiding social situations
- ▶ Trouble paying attention
- ▶ Disruptive behavior

Virtual Reality Goggles Are a New Tool for Instruction at Ray

A teacher's persistence and determination, student support, and \$8,000 worth of cookie dough have given Baldwinsville middle school students a new tool for learning.

Ray Middle School recently purchased virtual (VR) reality goggles so that teachers can use Google Expeditions to take their students on virtual field trips all around the world.

Students are traveling to places such as the inside of a volcano, outer space, and the Louvre in France without leaving their classrooms.

MaryEllen Allen, who teaches sixth grade, made raising money to purchase the glasses her project for



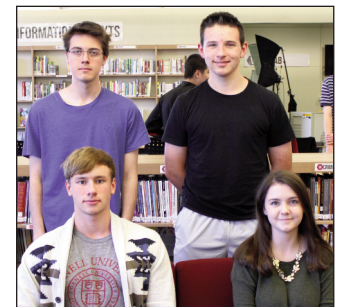
the 2016-2017 school year. She enlisted the help of the entire 2016-2017 sixth grade to hold a cookie dough fund raiser that brought in roughly \$8,000! The school's yearbook provided the balance of the necessary funds. Allen said one class set of 30 VR goggles costs about \$11,000.

Allen became interested in acquiring a class set of the goggles after she tried a pair. She realized the goggles were a great tool for instruction, regardless of the subject. They spark student curiosity and interest while adding an element of fun to a lesson in any subject. Every teacher in the building can use the goggles with his or her students. Allen hopes to raise more money with the help of Ray's students in order to purchase additional VR goggles.



Baker Seniors Named Commended Students

Four students from Baker High School have been named Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Competition. They are (back, l to r) Alexander Milewski, Sean Micho, (front, l to r) Benjamin Iven and Madeline Gaus. They placed among the top 50,000 scorers in the nation on the 2016 PSAT. More than 1.6 million students took the test.



Achievement

Fall Athletic Achievements

The following achievements were provided by the fall coaches. Some information is missing because it was not available at the time of the printing deadline.

Boys Varsity Cross Country

- ▶ 2nd Place, SCAC Metro Conference
- ▶ 2nd Place, SCAC Tournament
- ▶ All-League: Garrett Vannatta, Adam Davis, Benjamin Timmons and Joe Licameli
- ▶ All-Division: Garrett Vannatta, Adam Davis, Benjamin Timmons, Joe Licameli, and Conor McManus
- ▶ All-Conference: Conor McManus
- ▶ State Championship Qualifiers - Garrett Vannatta, Joe Licameli, Conor McManus

Girls Varsity Cross Country

- ▶ #15 in the State
- ▶ Record: 3-3
- ▶ 3rd Place, Section III Class A
- ▶ State Qualifier - Justus Holden-Betts, placed 15th overall and part of winning intersectional team
- ▶ All-League:
 - 1st Team - Justus Holden-Betts
 - 2nd Team - AnnaBelle Horan
- ▶ All-CNY - Justus Holden-Betts

Girls Varsity Field Hockey

- ▶ Regular Season Record: 11-4
- ▶ Final Record: 14-4
- ▶ League Champions
- ▶ Section III Class A Champions
- ▶ Class A Regional Champions
- ▶ State Semifinalist
- ▶ All-League:
 - 1st Team - Emma Brushingham, Lauren Brushingham, Megan Doyle, Amanda Strenk, Olivia Wachob
 - 2nd Team - Hailey Boda, Mary Cate McKee, Hannah Norton, Talia Scarfino, Mackenzie Wodka
 - Honorable Mention - Madison Ascioti
 - Sportsmanship Award in Sectional Finals: Olivia Wachob

Varsity Football

- ▶ Record: 8-2
- ▶ Coach Carl Sanfilippo achieved 200 wins

Boys Varsity Golf

- ▶ Overall Record: 12-2
- ▶ League Record: 10-2
- ▶ Co-SCAC Metro Conference Champions
- ▶ Sectional Qualifiers: Ben Donohue, Max Dec, Ryan Fecco, Matt Shipman, Dan Reiser, Trevor Tooke, Anthony Petragrani, Ryan Conley, Jarrett Phinney, Vic Ianno, Tanner Glavin, and Carter Nichols
- ▶ State Qualifiers: Ben Donohue, Max Dec, Trevor Tooke, and Ryan Fecco
- ▶ SCAC All-League:
 - Co-Player of the Year - Ben Donohue
 - 1st Team - Max Dec
 - 2nd Team - Ryan Fecco, Matt Shipman, Trevor Tooke, and Dan Reiser

Girls Varsity Gymnastics

- ▶ Overall Record: 4-3
- ▶ State Qualifier: Maddie Brooks
- ▶ Sectional Awards:
 - 3rd Place - Team Competition, Large Schools
 - Level 1 - Maddie Brooks, Bars, 6th Place
 - Level 2 - Abbie Donahue, Vault, 6th Place
 - Level 3 - Kaye Lawton, Bars, 3rd place; Lauren Millard, Bars, 4th Place; Lauren McIlroy, Floor Ex, 6th Place; Lauren McIlroy, All-Around, 6th Place
- ▶ Section 3 All-Star Recognition:
 - Level 3 - Lauren Addario - Vault & Floor Ex; Lauren Millard - Vault; Lauren McIlroy- Bars, Beam, & Floor Ex; Kaye Lawton - Vault, Bars, Beam; Maggie Walikis - Beam; Mackenzie Teachout - Beam

Boys Varsity Soccer

- ▶ Overall Record: 15 - 3 - 1
- ▶ League Co-Player of the year - Brandon Mimas
- ▶ All-League
 - 1st Team - DJ Taylor, Ben Kinslow, DJ Moore
 - 2nd Team - Frank Levanti, Ryan Downes, Jason Hahn
 - 3rd Team - Alex Charest, Mike Allen

Achievement

- ▶ Brandon Mimas tied the school record for most goals in a single season (26)
- ▶ Coach Timothy Scheemaker achieved 300 wins

Girls Varsity Soccer

- ▶ Record: 17-2, League Record: 7-1
- ▶ League Champions
- ▶ Section III Class AA Champions
- ▶ Class AA Regional Champions
- ▶ Class AA NYS Champions
- ▶ All-League:
 - 1st Team - Simone Neivel, Leah Burrer, Carolyn Brussel, Gabby Piontkowski, Kelsey Delola
 - 2nd Team - Graisa Madden, Hannah Mimas, Katie Pascale
 - Honorable Mention - Laura Kick, Meaghan Wilson, Fallon Morris
- ▶ All Section 3 - Simone Neivel, Carolyn Brussel, Gabby Piontkowski, Kelsey Delola
- ▶ Player of the Year SCAC Conference: Gabby Piontkowski
- ▶ Coach of the Year SCAC Conference: Kathy Morse
- ▶ Sportsmanship Award Finals Class AA Sectionals - Gabby Piontkowski
- ▶ Golden Gloves Award Finals Class AA Sectionals - Meaghan Wilson
- ▶ MVP Finals Class AA Sectionals - Kelsey Delola

Girls Varsity Swimming

Every member of the team had several best times throughout the season. Eight swimmers qualified for sectionals.

Girls Varsity Tennis

- ▶ Record: 5-5
- ▶ Team competed in the sectional semifinals. Brooke Tutor, Alina Minkova, Taylor Tripodi and Hannah Gould led the team in singles.
- ▶ Key contributors in doubles were Lauren Devine/Paige Tromblee and Liz Delaney/Emily Falardeau.
- ▶ Brooke Tutor competed in the state qualifier quarterfinals.

Boys Varsity Volleyball

Record: 9-7

- ▶ The Bees defeated number two seeded

Fayetteville-Manlius in four sets to earn a spot in the Section III Championship. In the final match, the Bees took the first set 25-23 before falling 24-26, 17-25, 18-25 to the number one seeded Cicero-North Syracuse Northstars. The Bees were led this season by seniors Tyler Aiello, Dan Cerqua, Nate Johns, Cole Zsemlye, Greg Porceng, John Naprawa, and graduating junior Keegan Stan. All league selections were not yet available as of this writing.

Girls Varsity Volleyball

- ▶ Record: Undefeated
- ▶ SCAC Metro League Champions
- ▶ Section III Class AA Champions
- ▶ Regional Finalists

This is the team's 21st league championship and 20th sectional championship (10th one in a row). Thank you to all of the athletes, parents, families and fans. Congratulations especially to these student-athletes that have set a great example for our school and community.

Seniors Named Wendy's High School Heisman Winners



Congratulations to Baker seniors Ben Dwyer and Lauren Brushingham! They have been named winners of the 2017 Wendy's High School Heisman. Dwyer, a member of the varsity football team, is a state winner. Brushingham, a member of the girls varsity field hockey team, is a school winner. The Wendy's High School Heisman is a joint program between Wendy's and the Heisman Trophy Trust. Every year high school seniors around the country are recognized with the award for being role models in the classroom, in their community, and on the field.

Achievement

Baldwinsville Jr. High Students Selected for Music Festival

Ten Baldwinsville students were selected to perform in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Junior High School Area All-State Music Festival, held in Cortland on November 3 & 4.

Ray Middle School student Lauren Gascon performed with the orchestra.



Durgee students selected for the Area All-State Orchestra are (l to r) Christopher Tapia, Bianca Gascon, Tristan Miranda, Annalisa Arostegui, and Rebecca Mantione.



Durgee students selected for the Area All-State Band are (l to r) Olivia Ransiear, Kyle Rogers, Andrew Millard and Trevor Stoyer.

Baker High School Library Honored for Innovation

The Baker High School library has been named the 2017 School Library of the Year by the Central New York Library Resources Council! The library, headed by teacher librarian Leslie Cartier, has been recognized for its creative and innovative resources and databases and its use of digital media. The library promotes exploration and collaboration, important components for learning.

The library features a range of technical resources to aid students with their studies and individual and group projects. Its stop motion studio is a popular tool with students who use it to create short films using the stop motion technique.

With the library's green screen lab, students can choose from a variety of backgrounds, such as a famous landmark, when filming a video.

The library even features its own Genius Bar, modeled after the one that Apple runs in its brick and mortar stores. The Baker Genius Bar is staffed by student volunteers who provide technology support for Apple, Windows, and Android to their peers and to staff.

The library's newest resource is a collaboration pod. Students use the pod when working in a group so they can all work on the same document, at the same time.

The library's Genius Bar volunteers hold a meeting and use the library's new collaboration pod.



Students use the library's green screen to make a video.



Achievement

Class of 2018 Baker's Dozen



Baker High School has announced its Baker's Dozen for the Class of 2018. These are the students with the top 13 GPAs of their graduating class. Congratulations to the following, ranked in GPA order:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Benjamin Dwyer | 8. Zachary Hahn |
| 2. Matthew King | 9. Alec Williams |
| 3. Amanda Strenk | 10. Sydney Tse |
| 4. Madeline Gaus | 11. Alexis Huff |
| 5. Benjamin Iven | 12. Lauren Brushingham |
| 6. Laura Adams | 13. Makayla Spicer |
| 7. Alina Minkova | |

Class Notes: Alumni News

Class of 1967 - 50th Reunion



On September 22 & 23, the Class of 1967 held its 50th reunion, which included a tour of Baker to see all the changes to the building since graduation. One faculty member and 95 students attended the reunion.

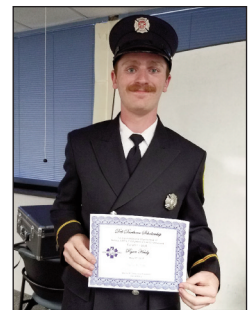
-Barbara (Disinger) Stowe, '67

Class of 1986 - Scott Mautz

Scott Mautz is the CEO of Profound Performance and is the author of two books regarding business. He also teaches leadership employee engagement/motivation at Indiana University. You can catch up with him at scottmautz.com.

Class of 2016 - Ryan Healy

Ryan Healy recently received the Deb Duethorn Scholarship from the CNY Emergency Medical Services. The scholarship is awarded to those currently serving in the fields of EMS, law enforcement, nursing and fire fighting. Ryan is a full time student in the Fire Protection Technology Program at OCC, an EMT with TLC Ambulance and the Carrier Dome and is a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Plainville Fire Department.



Class of 1972 - Linda (Dembowski) Ortola

Linda (Dembowski) Ortola is a career counselor and has counseled many Baker High School grads. She has fond memories of mentors and favorite teachers from Baker. Get in touch with her at 315-751-2279 or ldortola@gmail.com.

Are you a graduate of the Baldwinsville Central School District? Want to share news with your former classmates? Send your news to kcary@bville.org. Include your class year and maiden name if applicable.

Department Updates

Facilities Department Update

District Celebrates Auditorium Reopening with Ribbon Cutting and Music Celebration

On October 19, the district held the official ribbon cutting for the reopening of the Baker High School auditorium. Students from all of the district's schools participated in the celebration with chorus, band and orchestra performances in the auditorium as well as in the music rooms surrounding the auditorium. Ted Long, from radio station 93Q, was the night's master of ceremonies.

The auditorium renovation was part of the 2014 Capital Project that the community approved in February 2014. The auditorium was closed for two years as everything from the ceiling to the floor was updated or replaced. Creating this state of the art performance center required the removal of all existing mechanical, electrical, plumbing and architectural features.

Reconstruction included new foundations, seating risers, seating, catwalks, mezzanines, stage flooring, and theatrical rigging, lighting, and a sound system. The lobby also received a face lift with new flooring, a ticket

booth and new breakout spaces for students to use for study and collaboration.

The auditorium can seat 809 people comfortably with no obstructed views. Two screens on each side of the stage provide a live feed of the stage and can be used for presentations as well. The new sound booth is located in the middle of the auditorium. This is the control hub for the sound and lights, projectors and screens. There is also an intercom system for communicating with technicians in 19 different locations around the theater and in surrounding rooms.



President Jeffrey Marier cuts the ribbon with members of the Board of Education to officially reopen the renovated auditorium.



Ray Riffers



Master of Ceremonies Ted Long



Baker High School Orchestra

Department Updates

Special Education Department Update

The district's special education department is committed to providing the supports and resources needed to foster each student's full potential. Part of that commitment is to explore and implement new methods of delivering curriculum and to engage parents in the educational process.

About eight years ago the department made the establishment of co-teaching classrooms in all district schools a priority to provide students with the least restrictive educational environment. Today each school has co-teaching services at all grade levels, and the department continues to train more teachers for the co-teaching setting.

Rocco Nalli, Director of Special Education, said the department's goal is to offer as many co-teaching classrooms in the district's eight schools as possible. "The co-teaching classroom is the most inclusive environment for students," said Nalli. Although it is not required by New York State, Baldwinsville has integrated it into all of its schools because it is an effective practice that gives all students equal access to the curriculum being taught at every level.

This year the special education department is piloting a new IEP process in the secondary schools. The state education department asked the district to pilot a self-directed IEP process. IEP stands for Individualized Education Program. This is a written plan that specifies the programs and services to be provided to a pupil with special needs.

A school district must review each student's IEP with parents on an annual basis. Typically, a student has little input in this process. With this new state pilot program, students have a greater voice in their education plans from kindergarten through their senior year in high school. They will be actively involved in creating their educational program, leading discussions during their annual review meetings. "It's evidence-based," Nalli said of the program. "There are better outcomes when kids have more say in their IEPs." The district is initially piloting the program with two students in Ray Middle School, Durgee Junior High School and Baker High School.

Nalli noted that the special education department is increasing its communication with parents and the community as well as its efforts to engage parents in the program. The department established a Facebook page this fall. Look for Baldwinsville School District Special Education Department. The department will be posting notices of activities and meetings here as well as posts regarding information relevant to students with special needs and their families. Special education is also revamping its webpage.

The department has established a parent engagement committee, the goal of which is to build reciprocal relationships with parents in order to better communicate with them. If you would like to be a part of the committee, contact the special education department at 315-635-4500.

District Hosting Series on Special Education Process

Effective communication is essential between the special education department and families. In recognition of this, the district is hosting a four-part family engagement series, presented by the Syracuse University Parent Assistance Center (SUPAC). Each session will provide strategies and information to help families to navigate and participate in the special education process.

The sessions will be held in the large group instruction room of Ray Middle School, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- ▶ Dec. 6 - The Special Education Process
- ▶ Jan. 16 - Effective Communication Between Schools and Families
- ▶ March 6 - Preparing for Your CSE Meetings
- ▶ April 18 - Understanding the IEP

Registration is required. Call 315-443-4336 or go to <http://supac.org/training/register-supac-trainings/>.

CALENDAR

All events are subject to change and cancellation.
Please check with your school for the most current information.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Dec. 6 | ▶ Baker Band, Chorus & Orchestra Concert 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium |
| Dec. 7 | Elden Grades 4 & 5 Concert, 6:30 p.m., Gym |
| Dec. 10 | Marching Band at Buffalo Bills vs. Indianapolis Pre-game and Halftime Performances |
| Dec. 11 | Van Buren Holiday Concert, 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 12 | Palmer Winter Concert, Grades 4 & 5, 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | Durgee Band & Chorus Concert, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium |
| Dec. 14 | ▶ Reynolds Winter Concert Grade 2 - 6 p.m., Intermediate - 6:45 p.m. ▶ Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent of Schools, 6 - 7 p.m., Baldwinsville Library, Room 2 |
| Dec. 18 | ▶ Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Durgee Cafeteria ▶ Jingle Jam, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium |
| Dec. 19 | Ray Grade 6 Concert, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium |
| Dec. 20 | Ray Grade 7 Concert, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium |
| Dec. 21 | McNamara Concert, 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 25- Jan 1 | NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break |
| Jan. 8 | ▶ Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Durgee Cafeteria |
| Jan. 15 | NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday |
| Jan. 11 | ▶ Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent of Schools, 6 - 7 p.m., Baldwinsville Library, Room 2 |

The Hive

Baldwinsville Central
School District
29 E. Oneida St.
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
(315) 638-6043
www.bville.org

Matthew J. McDonald
Superintendent

Joseph DeBarbieri
Deputy Superintendent

James Rodems
Assistant Superintendent for
Management Services

Eric Wilson
Director of Staff
Relations/School Attorney

School Board Members:
Jeff Marier, President
Christy Bond, Vice-President
Sally Dayger
James Goulet
Victor Jenkins
Jennifer Patruno
Joan Reeves
Steven Schweitzer
Matthew Yager
Julian Spencer
Ex-officio Student Member

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Baldwinsville
Central School District

Achieving our full potential together.

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