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BALDWINSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Baldwinsville to co-host Special Olympics Track & Field Event

The Baldwinsville Central School District is proud to announce an exciting partnership to co-host this year's Special Olympic Games.

On Thursday, May 21, 2020, Special Olympics Track & Field Event will take place simultaneously for the first time ever at both Cicero-North Syracuse (C-NS) High School in Cicero and at C.W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville.

"We are very excited to partner with the North Syracuse this year and bring the Special Olympics to Baldwinsville," said Baldwinsville Director of Special Education Rocco Nalli. "This is always such an amazing event for students and we feel we can make it even greater by splitting it between the two districts. We hope that by having the Special Olympics both in Baldwinsville and North Syracuse we will be able to have even more opportunities for family engagement and provide more individual attention and recognition of the athletes. It is truly an honor to be able to hold such an incredible event here in our district."

Skip Clark, program director and radio host on 92.1 The Wolf, will be the master of ceremonies. Clark is also the podcast host of "Skip Happens" and a popular CNY wedding and event DJ.

"The Special Olympics is very dear to my heart," Clark said. His son Zachary has Down syndrome and Clark is active with many different organizations, including the Down Syndrome Association of CNY.

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COVID-19 NEWS & UPDATES

For up-to-date information on the suspension of all in-person sessions, please visit our website at www.bville.org. You will find messages from Acting Superintendent Joseph M. DeBarbieri. The District has also created a webpage with information for parents and students.

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DISTRICT NEWS

Come support the Special Olympics athletes

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Clark said he's looking forward to taking part in the event.

Students from the Baldwinsville, Liverpool, Marcellus and West Genesee school districts will participate in the event at Baker High School and students from Chittenango, Cortland, East Syracuse Minoa, Fayetteville-Manlius, Homer, Jamesville-DeWitt, Lyncourt, North Syracuse, OCM BOCES and Solvay will participate in the event at C-NS.

Students will arrive at the schools at about 9:30 a.m. with a Parade of Athletes taking place to kick off the day's events, followed by athletic competitions until about 1:30 p.m. The rain date for the event is May 28.

Everyone is welcome to attend this fun-filled day. Special Olympics games promote fitness, coordination and cardiovascular improvement. Additional benefits include self-confidence, discipline and self-esteem.

(Please note: Visit our website for up to date information on cancellations due to COVID-19. As of March 26, the games have not been canceled.)

Come Support the Athletes!

Baker café opens for business

The aroma of fresh brewed coffee fills the air as students gather at the tables outside the newly opened café at C.W. Baker High School.

"Everyone is pretty thrilled about it," said Brian Wright, director of Food Service. "I think just the vibe when you walk in the front door has everyone excited."

The Baker café opened on March 2. It's been under construction since the summer but the project has been in the works since 2016. It was approved by voters as part of the 2016 Capital Project.

Wright said the Baker kitchen was in need for a remodel and he believed the addition of a café would be well received. He was right.



The line for customers continues to grow each morning and afternoon. When school is in session, the café is open to district staff and students from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m.

The café offers Recess Coffee, tea, cold brew, iced coffee and cappuccino.

From diverse flavor shots to a variety of pastries, Wright said he's excited to see what the future holds for the café.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Baker students learn financial literacy through Mad City Money

C.W. Baker High School students tested their financial literacy earlier this month with Mad City Money, a hands-on simulation.

Mad City Money gives youth a taste of the real world complete with occupation, salary, spouse, student loan debt, credit card debt and more. The students take on an adult role as they navigate Mad City and distinguish the difference between wants and needs.

Mad City Money is sponsored by Edge Federal Credit Union, which has a branch inside the school.

Corey Sherwood, a loan officer with the credit union, said the goal of the event to teach financial literacy and to help develop good financial habits in young adults.

In Mad City Money, students receive a profile that includes a virtual budget, career and family situations. Using their profile, they had to visit “vendors” that were set up in the school library to “purchase” items they need, such as housing, transportation,

groceries, childcare and more, basing their purchasing decisions on their budgets.

Gabby Carr, a sophomore, said the exercise is helping her realize that she needs to be more financially responsible.

“It’s really setting me up for my future because I spend way too much money,” Carr said. “So having this and seeing what I have to spend my money on each month will help me not buy pointless things.”

Business students took part in the exercise. Meghan Titus, a business teacher, said the students enjoy the activity and the lessons are priceless.

“They are learning realistic budgeting scenarios that are going to help them later in life,” Titus said.



Pride shines at Culture Festival at Baker

The hallways of C.W. Baker High School were alive with excitement earlier this month as more than 30 cultures were highlighted at the second annual Culture Festival.

Guests sampled empanadas from Venezuela, soda from Jamaica and strawberry drink from the Haudenosaunee. Irish dancers and African drummers performed and the sound of bagpipes echoed through the halls.

Students, staff and members of the community attended. “This is amazing,” several guests commented.

Aidan Priest, a senior, wants the District to express and embrace its diversity.

“I’m very happy with the turnout,” he said.

Last year, Aidan organized the inaugural Culture Festival to shine a spotlight on the various cultures represented in the BCSD community. Aidan said he was impressed with the tables this year.

“People really stepped up their game,” he said.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



Baldwinsville students were amazing in Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella! Hard work, dedication and mountains of talent! Great job, students!



How do you spell impressed?

Durgee eighth graders Dan Fenzl and Liam Carver scored in the top 35 spellers in the regional written spelling bee in January and competed in the oral spelling bee on February 29, 2020.

During the oral spelling bee, Fenzl finished in second-place as the runner-up.

"We are very proud of both Dan and Liam," said Durgee Principal T.J. Fraher.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Durgee, Baker students shine during VEX Robotics competition season

From hosting a competition to shining at the state championships, Durgee and Baker students had a very successful VEX Robotics season.

Thirty-three teams competed in February at the VEX Robotics Competition held at C.W. Baker High School.

VEX releases a different competition and course every year. This year's course was "tower takeover." Students worked for months to code, design and build a robot that scores as many points as possible in head-to-head competition.

Many Baldwinsville teams shined during the Baker competition and two teams went home with trophies.

Team 7323X, which includes Baker students Brea Murdock, Bryce Murdock, Ally Hunt, Josie Libbon and Elyssa Adams, was awarded the Excellence Award after making it to the final round of competition. This award is presented to a team that exemplifies overall excellence in creating a high quality VEX Robotics program.

Team 7323E, which includes 9th graders

from Durgee, was awarded the Design Award at the Baker competition. The team includes William Castellino, Cam Conger, Caley Gee, Erin Gee, Connor Hays, Olivia Popielarski, Olivia Wafer, Paige Bohman and Connor Tutor.

Matt Hudson, the robotics club advisor, said it was a very successful tournament that ran smoothly due to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers.

"I can't thank the volunteers enough," Hudson said. "We couldn't do this without them."

Team 7323X and Team 7323A both competed in the state competition, which was held February 29 at the Oncenter in Syracuse.

Team 7323X received the Create Award, which is presented to a team whose robot design incorporates a creative engineering solution to the design challenges of this season's game.

Team 7323E received the Future Award, which is given to a team who has shown promise for the future in their development of their robot, their design process and the design notebook.



Art Club students at Ray MS create Hearts of Hope

How can a palm-sized, heart-shaped piece of ceramic spread hope to those in need? When it's decorated with beautiful artwork, filled with inspirational words and made with love.

Hearts of Hope is a national pay-it-forward organization that started in response to the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Since 2001, nearly 125,000 Hearts of Hope gifts have been delivered worldwide. The gifts are painted ceramic hearts that are

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AROUND THE DISTRICT

'I hope that they will cherish it forever'

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decorated by various groups, including school clubs, classrooms, community groups, churches and other service projects.

Volunteers decorate the hearts with inspirational pictures and messages. The hearts are returned to the Hearts of Hope organization and are delivered to individuals or groups accompanied by a personal message of hope. The hearts are given to people who experience trauma, life-altering illness and loss.

Art Club students at Ray Middle School recently created Hearts of Hope at the inspiration of sixth-grade teacher MaryEllen Jurista. Jurista's mother received a heart gift during her cancer battle.

"I think it's important to remember that there

is not a person who hasn't been touched by cancer," Jurista said. "I know it meant a lot to my mother to receive one."

The students created their hearts to go to people battling cancer or other life-threatening illnesses.

Mya Huntington, 12, said she wanted the person who received the heart she created to be inspired.

"I wanted to include inspiring words, like hopeful and be proud," she said. "I want them to be proud that they made it through treatment."

Claire Christenson, 12, said she hopes the hearts are special to whoever receives them.

"I hope that they will cherish it forever," she said.

Art Club is organized by Ray art teachers, Debra Lynch and Audrey Wilson.

Spotlight on Elden Elementary

Elden Principal Coughlin said students have been working on life skills that turn into professional skills. This has included students greeting staff and other students with appropriate eye contact, voice level and parts of speech.

"We have made videos of proper etiquette for the students to watch during the morning announcements," he said. "Our staff demonstrated these behaviors and then we held a 'Show What You Know Day' in February to see if it made a difference."

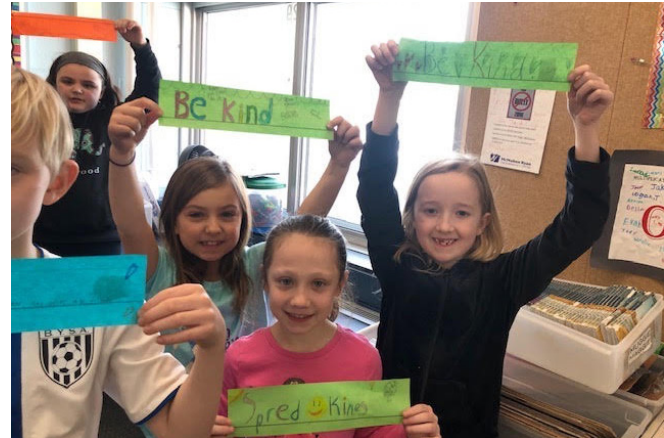
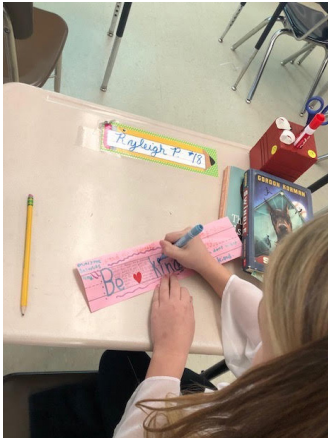
The goal was to get students more aware of showing respect for one another. The staff plans on making more videos that include other presentation skills so students can learn how to turn these skills into professional skills as they grow and eventually have to present more for class assignments and ultimately for the workplace.

"Our end goal with this is that students improve their communication skills overall," Coughlin said.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Spotlight on Van Buren Elementary



Third graders made signs in January and hung them around the school to spread messages of kindness.

Spotlight on Reynolds Elementary

What is your favorite food?
What do you like to do? Do you like other horses?

These are just some of the questions, Reynolds Elementary School students have asked the horses at Sunshine Horses, an organization that works to rehabilitate, retrain and rehome horses in Central New York.

Reynolds and Sunshine Horses have teamed up to offer a unique writing project. Each grade level is writing letters to a different horse: Huck, Clos, Leggs, Gypsy, Firefly and Dawn. The classes receive photos of their horses and have been writing letters to their horses since the beginning of the school year.



More than 1,100 letters have been written and with each letter, the students receive a letter back with the answers to their questions. The letters are displayed in the barn and Sunshine Horses volunteers read the letters to the horses.

The program helps students improve their writing skills and it increases exposure to horses to the community. The program also helps the students learn about community service. Recently, the students fundraised and purchased a new halter for each of the six horses.

The halters were distributed at Reynold's February Positivity Project assembly. Chris Rowland, the program organizer, Katie Starr, the president of Sunshine Horses, and board member Beth Smart attended the assembly.

Rowland is a retired Reynolds teacher and is piloting the writing program with the school. "It's an amazing partnership," she said.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Spotlight on Palmer Elementary

Students conquered a ninja warrior obstacle course, learned karate skills, frosted cupcakes and so much more at the Palmer PTA Enrichment Day.



The Enrichment Day was held on March 3 for Palmer Elementary School students. Students signed up to stay after school from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The afternoon was split into three sessions and students signed up for three different activities.

Local business owners, C.W. Baker High School students, teachers, parents and community members volunteered to lead a variety of activities.

Palmer Principal Alex Ewing said the event was a huge success.

“We have the best PTA,” Ewing said. “Everyone is having a blast.”

Palmer PTA Co-President and Enrichment Day Chair Meghan Addario said she loved how the event turned out and she was very grateful for all the volunteers.

“The kids get so much out of it, it’s awesome to see,” Addario said.

Spotlight on McNamara Elementary

McNamara Elementary School held a Positivity Project assembly to talk about the character strength of kindness.

The assembly featured special guest “Professor Kindness” played by Jeffrey Seltzer, social worker. An unruly, unkind guest, played by Principal Jennifer Homeyer showed up and interrupted the assembly. But Professor Kindness showed the guest kindness and invited her to join in on a special experiment.



Professor Kindness invited teachers to the front of the room to take part in the experiment. He asked them to squeeze out all of the toothpaste from a tube. Then he asked them all to put the toothpaste back in the tube.

It was hard.
It was messy.
It was impossible.

Professor Kindness explained that when we say or do unkind things it’s hard to take those things back, just like it’s hard to put toothpaste back into its tube.

He says that we should all choose kindness.

Achievements



11 Baker students earn Academic Excellence Scholarships

C.W. Baker High School has 11 students receiving Academic Excellence Scholarship this year. Congratulations to the following students:

\$1,500 recipients

Jacqueline Boutilier
Allison Harry

\$500 recipients:

Samantha Lucas
Jack Michaels
Rose Mercer
Nicholas Schultz
John Burns
Elyssa Adams
Kathryn Nice
Julia Guidone
Nora Penhollow

Baker's Science Olympiad Team places in the top 10

The C.W. Baker High School's Science Olympiad Team placed 7th out of 37 teams at the Mid-State Regional Science Olympiad Competition held on Saturday, January 25.

Science Olympiad is a competition where teams of students work in small groups (2-3) and compete in 25 various events related to STEM. Some events are learning and taking a test on topics that are outside of the normal school curriculum, such as astronomy, optics and genetics.

Other events are based on engineering where students build something beforehand and test it against a certain criteria, such as bridge building, gravity powered vehicles, compound machines.

The team's 7th place finish is the 4th straight Top 10 team finish. There were 13 Top 10 individual event finishes.

The team is comprised of 9-12 graders: Tyler Blum, Myles Garcia, Emily Gorgievski, Allison Harry, Sheng Huang, Ryan Hulchanski, Allison Hunt, Josie Libbon, Samantha Lucas, Bailey Ludden, Cesar Perez-Marino, Jose Perez-Marino, Owen Penhollow, Rachel Ragonese, Amelia Rhoades and Ethan Viviano.

The coaches are Rebecca Humphrey and Peter Morgan.

2 Baker students named National Merit Scholarship finalists

Two C.W. Baker High School students have been recognized as National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Seniors Jacqueline Boutilier and Nora Penhollow were initially recognized in September as Semifinalists because of excellent scores on the PSAT/NMSQT exams.

They then completed a rigorous application process in which they demonstrated their continued successful commitment to academic and personal excellence.

Jacqueline and Nora were recently presented with their National Merit Scholarship Finalist Certificates. As finalists, they are now eligible for nationally awarded scholarships to assist in pursuing their college/university education.

Achievements

Baker students receive 62 Scholastic Writing Awards

Twenty-four C.W. Baker High School students have received a total of 62 awards in the Northeast region of the 2020 Scholastic Writing Awards competition.

Gold Key:

Marisa Barnard	Rose Mercer
Rachel Blake (10)	Kristof Pawelek
Meredith Jemola	

Silver Key:

Marisa Barnard (2)	Rachel Blake (8)
Madi Chetney	Nathalie Erwin
Rose Mercer	Nora Penhollow
Mariana Rinaldo	Paige Rocker
Dillon Taylor	Alex Walls
Farrah Zalla	

Honorable Mention:

Milo Austin	Marisa Barnard (2)
Rachel Blake (11)	Jack Byrne (2)
Madi Chetney	Logan Henning
Alex Jacobson	Lexi Jenkins
Alexis Kohut	Madison Manning
Simone Neivel	Nora O'Grady
Kristof Pawelek	Mal Rickman
Paige Rocker	Dillon Taylor
Blake Tripodi	

Gold Key winners are automatically considered for national-level recognition. Senior Rachel Blake was awarded two National Silver Medals for her writing.

Her memoir entitled "Ally" and her science fiction/fantasy piece entitled "Upgrade" both earned National Silver Medals.

Baker, Durgee students earn CNY Scholastic Art Awards

Twenty-six C.W. Baker High School students and one Durgee Junior High School student earned a total of 51 awards in the CNY Scholastic Art Awards competition.

Gold Key:

Samantha Lucas	Julia Rodgers
Alexandra Baghdadi	Anthony Bowden
Natalie Doback	Jordyn Grady (2)
Jesse Pitcher	

Silver Key:

Natalie Doback	Trinity Hensley
Kathryn Nice	Caitlin Sacco
Anthony Bowden	Cameron Cartier
Natalie Doback (2)	Jordyn Grady (4)
Corrie Youker	Raleigh Kimball

Honorable Mention:

Julia Rodgers	Ella Smith (3)
Cathryn Stanton	Phoenix Swasey
Molly Teska (2)	Sara Roe (4)
Alexandra Baghdadi (3)	Cameron Cartier
Madison Chetney	Natalie Doback
Ryan Dupra	Hannah Gottlieb
Lexi Jenkins	Taylor Jones
Jesse Pitcher	Maddy Stone
Sophia Vacanti	Corrie Youker
Trinity Hensley	Riley Toscano
Caley Gee	

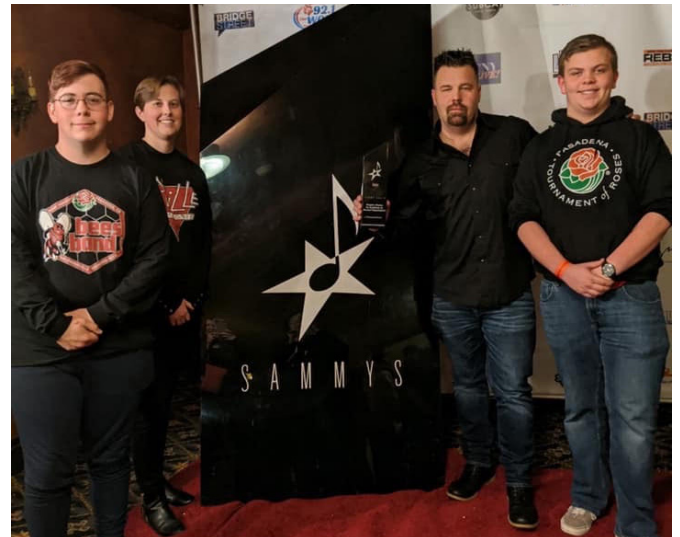
Gold Key winners are automatically considered for national-level recognition. Senior Samantha Lucas was awarded a Scholastic Art & Writing National Silver Key for her painting "Respite"

This is Baker's second year in a row with students earning National Medals.

Achievements

Congratulations to our Marching Band for winning the People's Choice Award for an Academic or Musical Organization at the Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMYS).

Congratulations to Band Director Casey Vanderstouw for being inducted into the SAMMYS Hall of Fame for Music Educator of the Year!



Board of Education



Van Buren Elementary School fifth graders enjoyed their annual spaghetti dinner with the Board of Education in January. The dinner is a time to thank the board members for their service to the District and for the students to ask them questions.



Board of Education Spotlight



The Board of Education honored fall athletes last month who participated in state competitions.

The Girls Varsity Volleyball team, which is coached by Mary Jo Cerqua, was honored. The team won the 2019 Section III Class AA Championship and was a finalist in the state championships.

Cross country runner Jack Michaels was also honored for competing in the state championships in November. Jack finished 36th overall.

Madison Brooks was honored for competing in the gymnastics state championships.

Superintendent Matthew McDonald told the spotlight recipients that he was very proud of their hard work and dedication. He also took time to thank their parents.

“Thank you to the parents for your commitment,” McDonald said.

The board also recognized Boys Varsity Baseball coach Tim Scheemaker. United Soccer Coaches named Scheemaker the large school “Coach of the Year” for New York State. Scheemaker led the No. 6 state-ranked Bees to a record of 18-1-1, while capturing a second consecutive Class AA sectional championship.

The Board of Education honored Calvin Christman last month for earning the Boy Scout rank of Eagle.

Calvin, a junior at C.W. Baker High School, has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 114 in Baldwinsville since fifth grade. He is also a member of the Order of Arrow, the Scouting Honor Society.

Calvin completed his service project last spring at Van Buren Elementary School by redoing the welcome sign at the school. Calvin and 10 scouts expanded the existing bed, and added new plants and mulch. They created edging for the new bed using river stones decorated with positive messages painted by students.

“We are very proud of your hard work and dedication,” Superintendent Matthew McDonald said.



The Baldwinsville Marching Band was honored earlier this month with the Board of Education Spotlight for an outstanding performance at the 131st annual Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1,

2020 in Pasadena, California.

Joseph DeBarbieri, acting superintendent, presented the band with the district’s Excellence Award.

“This group represented our District, our state and our country in an unbelievable event,” DeBarbieri said at the meeting. “One hundred and thirty-three students participated in the parade. They fundraised, they practiced ... unbelievable time, energy and effort was put forth in making this a reality.”

To read more about our Board of Education Spotlights, visit our website at www.bville.org.