



FALL 2011

Eagle Eye



IN THIS ISSUE

WHAT'S NEW?

Read about new technology, new courses, and new people at BCS.

EXIT POLL RESULTS ARE IN

Discover what voters had to say on the exit poll taken after the school budget vote in May.

I AM BOLTON

Find out what's on the minds of three randomly-selected BCS students.

"We strive for academic excellence and remarkable experiences in a supportive community, which will exceed all expectations."

The iPad 2 Cometh

What is bigger than a smartphone, smaller than a laptop computer, connects to the Internet and offers audio-visual media including books, periodicals, movies, and music, and will be used by students in grades 4-7 at Bolton Central School this year?

It's the iPad 2 (pronounced eye-pad), designed by Apple Inc., offering PC-style computing in a handheld device called a tablet. However, having students use tablets is not a new idea.

Historically, children wrote on clay tablets with a pointed bone stylus in Ancient Greece times.



Is that what Steve Jobs, the late Apple CEO who recently passed away, had in mind when he envisioned the iPad?

This new tablet is connected to a web of endless information available at one's fingertips. It's a 7.31-inch by 9.5-inch mini library weighing in at a little more than a pound providing countless opportunities for students.

The days of students going to the library and pulling out a heavy encyclopedia and looking

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up information are long gone. Even the days of students going to the computer lab to do research are numbered because students will have their iPads with them throughout the day.

For example, fourth graders in Mrs. Margot Hens' class (pictured on the cover), who were the first students to receive their iPads, gathered in a circle for their morning meeting with their iPads in hand.

Mrs. Hens asked them to log in and go to a page about Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman who was an interpreter and guide for Lewis and Clark as they explored the western part of the United States. Not only were students honing their technology skills on their tablet, but they were taking turns reading about Sacagawea, discussing what an interpreter was, integrating their English Language Arts skills, spelling words, and critical thinking skills.

For teachers, the iPad is opening a new way of teaching and interacting with technology and the students.

Mrs. Hens commented, "If the students go to 'Dictionary.com' they can find the spelling and the meaning of a word. We do a lot of research in fourth grade and the iPad is a wonderful tool that the students can use right at their desks."

2 She said that her students have been using the iPad for multiplication and they have found it to be more rewarding than flash cards or other teaching methods



A student in Mrs. Margot Hens fourth grade class researches Sacagawea on the iPad.

and are advancing to the next level quicker.

As students acclimate to the new technology, they are discovering that it's rewarding and fun.

Fourth grader Jordan Robertson said, "It's easy to search for letters in the dictionary on the iPad. It's easier, more fun and exciting to learn."

Michael Baker, another student in Mrs. Hens' class added, "I like the iPad because if I'm stuck on a word, I can search for it. I can also find facts. Mrs. Field (Bolton's media library specialist) showed us lots of cool stuff to read."

When it comes to reading, the iPads open up a whole new world for students that Mrs. Kathy Field finds exciting. She plans to instruct students in how to download e-books so that they will always have a book of their choice on their iPad.

The older students are just being introduced to the iPad as the logistics are

being honed on how they'll transport the device from class to class.

Secondary social studies teacher Mr. Patrick Morency said he's looking forward to helping his adolescent students become familiar with the 21st Century classroom and likes the idea of lightening his students' backpacks by replacing traditional textbooks with the new technology as many digital textbooks are now available online.

He envisions using the iPads as a way to help supplement his social studies classes by having online resources available at that students' fingertips.

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"There are many applications, such as National Geographic's World Atlas, that will allow students quick and easy access to a huge database of modern and historical maps through the use of their iPads," said Mr. Morency.

If reliable databases offering valuable resources are at our fingertips, do we need to keep that information in our brain?

Even Albert Einstein didn't think so. Although Einstein was talking about books, the same concept could be applied today when he said, "I do not carry such information in my mind since it is readily available in books. ...The value of a college education is not the learning of many facts, but the training of the mind to think."

Einstein is also referring to critical thinking when he talks about training the mind.

Critical thinking is part of the Common Core Standards that are imbedded in the 21st century skills; two topics that were presented at the October Staff Development Day and are the focus of the current educational landscape. (See page 4 for a more in-depth explanation of these educational initiatives.)

"Preparing students for both college, and a career means teaching students how to think critically and how to be problem solvers," added PK-12 Principal Damian Switzer. "We're teaching students to be more resourceful and efficient. The iPad is the technological piece that ties it altogether."

As with any introduction of new technology, there



Storing and charging the new iPads are logistics that are also being developed.

are hardware and software challenges to consider.

Business/computer education teacher Mrs. Jen Trowbridge orchestrated the rolling out of the iPads resolving issues as they surfaced, such as housing and recharging the devices, updating the acceptable-use policy for students, and creating a procedure for how teachers would request applications.

One challenge was the topic of how students were going to easily access the Internet on their iPad without the cumbersome task of plugging each one into the Internet connection in the classroom.

Going wireless throughout the school was the answer.

Therefore, one of the new features added to the building for this school year was wireless fidelity or Wi-Fi, a system of wirelessly connecting electronic devices to the Internet.

The introduction of iPads to the classroom is relatively new to this region, according to Mrs. Trowbridge. Over the summer, she trained the teachers how to use the new technology and explored ways to integrate the iPad into the 21st century classroom.



I am Bolton Central School

William Persons is a 3rd Grader in Mrs. Andersen's Class

My favorite time of day in school is gym and recess because you get to play. I love going outside, too. I like math because you have to think. I also like going to the library and picking out new books and I like keyboarding on the computer. I want to be a logger when I grow up. The name of my business will be Northwoods Logging. I know about cutting, skidding and loading logs. I'm used to lifting wood. I do it every morning and evening. I know how to run every machine. The loader is the ultimate. My favorite food is Jacobs and Toney's steak.

Two favorite shows are "Ice Road Truckers" and "Ax Men." Tony Hawk is the person I'd like to meet. Elmer Fudd makes me laugh, especially when he says, "Be vevy vevy quiet, I'm hunting wabbits." The last book I read was the last one in the "Diary of a Whimpy Kid" series.





I am **Bolton** Central School

Joshua Curri-Brimhall is an 8th Grader

What I like best about school is playing sports and seeing friends I haven't seen all summer. Math is my favorite subject, probably because I'm good at it and it's really easy for me. I'd like to be a professional baseball player when I grow up. I'm a Yankee fan and Derek Jeter is the person I'd most like to meet. Even my dog's name is Jeter. I play baseball and basketball and hopefully will play JV this year. I also play baseball video games. The last book I read for pleasure was Derek Jeter's autobiography.

I like to cook and plan on attending the culinary arts program at BOCES when I'm in 11th grade. I watch Guy (Fieri on the Food Network). My favorite food is spaghetti and meatballs. My grandmother taught me how to make meatballs.

Currently my favorite movie is "Grown Ups."

I like to listen to Maroon 5 and an old band Valencia on my iPod.

When people say that the Red Sox are the best, that's what makes me laugh.



Educational Acronyms 101

RTTT...CCSS...P21

Have any idea what those letters mean?

Education is well-known for its acronyms and these are the latest three:

Race to the Top (RTTT), Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21).

But, what are they and what do they mean for students at Bolton Central School?

Basically 21st century skills is a framework for 21st century learning designed to prepare students to compete in a global economy. The world has changed and so must the skills we learn in order to survive and succeed.

It fuses the basic 3Rs: Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic, with the 4Cs: Critical thinking and problem solving, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity and innovation.

The P21 is an acronym for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, which is a national organization that is advocating for 21st century readiness for every student. It's website (<http://www.p21.org>) graphically depicts the rainbow of different focus areas: Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes, Learning and Innovation, Information, Media and Technology, Life and Career.

Within that national effort of the rainbow of 21st century skills, are the Common Core State Standards that each state expects from its students. Each state already

had standards, i.e. the New York State Learning Standards, however the CCSS raised the bar.

Taking the most effective models from all the states across the country and around the world, the Common Core State Standards provides a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what knowledge and skills will help our students succeed.

The CCSS website (<http://www.corestandards.org/>) explains that local teachers, principals, superintendents and others will decide how the standards are to be met. Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms.

In addition, the 4Cs from the 21st Century Skills are also imbedded in the Common Core State Standards.

Finally, Race to the Top, is a federal reform effort that includes adopting new standards and assessments, building data systems to support instruction, creating great teachers and leaders, which includes revising teacher and principal evaluations, and turning around the lowest-achieving schools.

PK-12 Principal Damian Switzer said, "Ultimately, these new initiatives are in keeping with our school philosophy, by promoting academic excellence, remarkable experiences and the on-going professional growth of our staff."

Two New Courses Offered

Mr. Scott McCarthy, secondary social studies teacher, is teaching two new classes this year; one gives students an opportunity to earn three college credits.

Now certified as a SUNY Adirondack adjunct professor for Principles of Economics 1 (Macro) or ECO 201, Mr. McCarthy is teaching the one semester, college credit-bearing course to high school seniors.

This course is an introduction to both the principles of this discipline and basic economic forces currently prevailing in the United States. According to the SUNY Adirondack course description, this course is an examination of the current mixed American economic system; an introduction to economic theories and methods; the macroeconomic theory of national income analysis and fiscal policy; the nature of money and banking in the U.S.; the Federal Reserve system and monetary policy; and economic growth.

Mr. McCarthy explained that the students who are taking the first semester ECO 201 course, will take Latin Studies in the second semester and could graduate with six college credits.

Bolton Superintendent Ray Ciccarelli said, "This is an existing course that we've offered for many years, but this past summer we partnered with SUNY Adirondack and arranged our curriculum to offer the



Mr. Scott McCarthy teaches high school seniors Principles of Economics, a college-level course through SUNY Adirondack.

college-level course. We are continually enhancing our efforts to provide more college credit-bearing courses, adding to our impressive list of 30 college credits available to BCS students."

Also, new this year is a course called Media. It is an elective course offered to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The purpose of the course is to give students exposure to all facets of our high-tech, 24/7 media world. The students will engage in various projects and activities ranging from film editing of music videos, athletic events, and interviews to investigative journalism. Students will have to conduct face-to-face interviews and research to develop stories pertinent to the school, community, state, nation, and world. The course will introduce students to a variety of computer programs and technology, which will further their knowledge of media in the 21st century.



I am **Bolton** Central School

Valerie Jensen is an 11th Grader

I love learning and exploring different ideas and getting involved in different activities at school. French is my favorite subject. In my fourth year of French we are exploring the world and studying cultural differences.

In the future I'd like to do something in science, probably meteorology.

I love to sing and dance. I'm in chorus and have been in the Drama Club since eighth grade. I've been on the Academic Bowl.

Italian food is my favorite food. My mom makes a good sauce.

President Barack Obama is the person I'd most like to meet.

"Inception" is my favorite current movie. I like to read and "Dear John" was the latest book I read for pleasure. I listen to Maroon 5 and Train on my iPod. I laugh at pretty much anything.





Welcome Two New Members to the Bolton School Family

Mr. Chad Shippee is the new 5-12 music teacher replacing Mr. Stan Walkanowski, who retired after 20 years at BCS.

With two years of teaching under his baton, Mr. Shippee taught the summer band program at Queensbury Union Free School District and was the Instrumental Music Director at Fort Ann Central School.

He holds a bachelor of music degree in music education from the State University of New York at Potsdam's Crane School.

Mr. Shippee explained that the goal for his first year at Bolton Central School is to produce a strong band program with good fundamentals and develop students' love for music.

"Having grown up in the Adirondacks," Mr. Shippee said, "I know how great this district is and always thought it would be an excellent place to work."

Mr. Shippee is married and resides in Glens Falls.



Mr. Chad Shippee is the new 5-12 music teacher.

Mr. Ryan Volkmann

This is Mr. Ryan Volkmann's first year as a teaching assistant in first, second and fifth grades at BCS.

He is a Bolton resident and a 2004 Bolton Central School graduate making him the ninth alum to be hired to work at the school.

"We are proud that another BCS alum was talented in the specific requirements for the job and has filled one of our openings," commented Superintendent Ray Ciccarelli. "We needed to hire a teaching assistant to accommodate the special needs of our current elementary program."

Mr. Volkmann student taught in the Ticonderoga Elementary School and has been a substitute teacher in area schools for two years. He worked in those settings with high-needs students.

He earned an associate's degree in liberal arts from North Country Community College and a bachelor's in childhood education from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

Mr. Volkmann said his goal is "to create a rich, fun and safe learning environment where students succeed." He will continue his education in the area of high-needs students.

He said he chose to work at BCS because of its family-type atmosphere with a low student-to-teacher ratio.



Mr. Ryan Volkmann is a new teaching assistant for grades 1, 2 and 5.

Survey Says!



During the annual school budget vote on May 17, the Bolton Central School District Board of Education conducted an exit poll to collect demographic data about who voted on the budget and to gather feedback on the quality of education at BCS and find out what the program priorities are for voters.

Bolton's Senior Seminar students asked voters to complete the totally anonymous and voluntary exit poll.

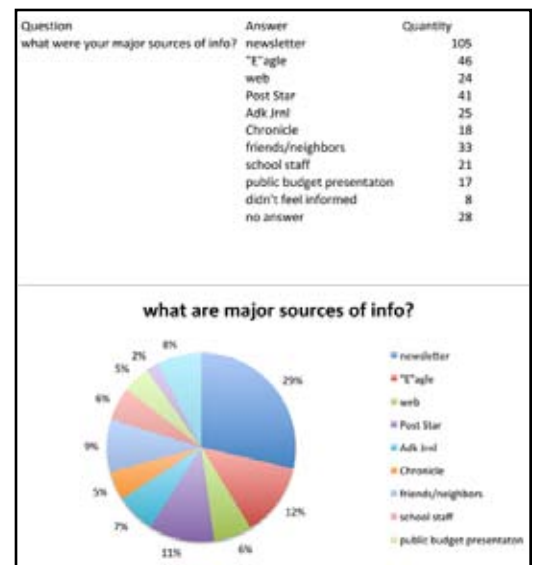
Please note that the results do not represent the opinions of all voters, however, they do provide the perception data of nearly 200 residents.

The Communications Department of the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES compiled the following data.

The summary below highlights responses from the majority of voters.

- Out of the total of 311 people who voted in May, 183 people completed the exit poll.
- A total of 220 people voted yes and 91 voted no on the \$8.36 million proposed budget that represented a 0.4 percent spending increase.
- 80 percent of voters live in the 12814 zip code area.
- 70 percent do not have any children in school.
- 41 percent fall in the 45-60 years old age range followed closely by 40 percent who are 61 years old or older.
- 78 percent voted yes on the proposed budget because as 32 percent said they are happy with the way the school is run and 26 percent said despite the difficult financial times, they support the school.
- Voters were split on how they would grade BCS education: 41 percent said Grade A and 41 percent said Grade B.
- 41 percent gave the school a "good" rating of value per dollar spent on education while 33 percent gave an "excellent" rating.
- Out of what programs to preserve in the 2012-13 budget, 23 percent said to preserve college-level courses, 11 percent said elective courses.
- 29 percent of voters get their information from the district's newsletter, *Eagle Eye*, 12 percent from the *Eagle*, 11 percent *The Post-Star*, 7 percent the *Adirondack Journal*.
- 44 percent supported attrition, 35 percent did not.

For a more specific breakdown of information, visit BCS's website at www.boltoncsd.org.

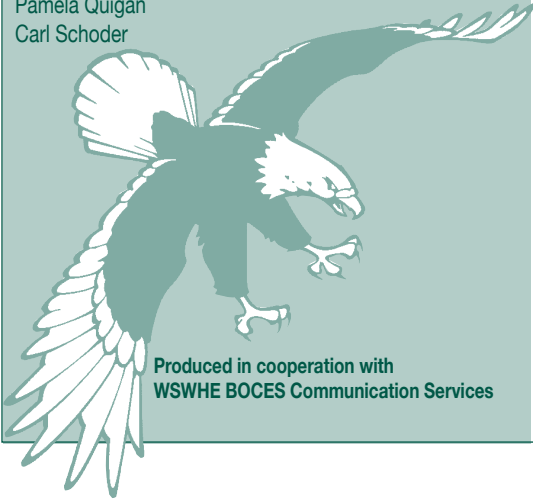


An example of the graphic representation of the exit poll results that are available on the BCS website.

Bolton Central School District
Horicon Avenue
Bolton Landing, NY 12814

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What Time Is It?

No matter what time it is, it's now the same time throughout the Bolton Central School building, and the planet.

During the summer, a new Visiplex GPS time- synchronized wireless clock system was installed in the building. Powered by batteries, the clocks are synchronized through a Global Positioning System (GPS) technology via a transmitter that provides campus-wide coverage.

The system also uses less electrical energy than the system it replaces.

On The Inside...

IPADS ARE HERE!
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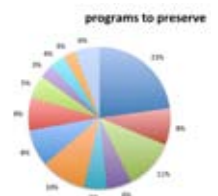


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