

Bolton Central School

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Collaboration And Fresh Ideas At Community Summit

On March 24, Bolton Central School District held a Community Education Summit to discuss the future of the community and school. Facilitated by Robert Hendriks of Educational Legacy Planning Group, the event was a vital step that brought together various stakeholders in the Bolton community to help look at ways in which the district can ensure its longevity and independence for years to come.

The summit was held at The Sagamore and was open to anyone in the community who registered in advance. The night's event brought out a total of 86 community members including parents, alumni, teachers, district administration and staff, local business owners, and current students.

Throughout the evening, community members worked together in what is called a "World Café" method of facilitation. Small, interdisciplinary groups of attendees brainstormed on questions related to the skills and characteristics of Bolton graduates now and in the future.

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Students Attend Youth & Gov't Conference At Capitol

Bolton CSD students recently participated in the statewide Youth & Government Conference held at the State Capitol. The program allows students to simulate the operation of various levels of state and federal government. More importantly, it prepares those students who seek a future in law and government policy to begin nurturing their leadership skills and detailed understanding of the system.

At the conference, students were given opportunities to discuss and debate important matters affecting the political policies of the state and nation. These issues included the requirement for police officers to wear vest cameras, the switch over to a popular vote in presidential elections and the abolishment of the Electoral College, and the enacting of a national balanced budget amendment.

"Each year I'm impressed with the dedication and diligence of our students,"

said Scott McCarthy, Bolton social studies teacher and Youth & Government advisor. "Not only does this experience provide them with knowledge of legislative procedure and an awareness of social issues, but they also learn valuable life skills such as respecting opposing viewpoints, effective communication, collaboration, and conflict resolution."

The March conference is the finale of the club's many months of intense preparation and instruction about the legislative process, debate, bill writing, public speaking, and parliamentary procedure.

Several Bolton CSD students were honored at the close of the conference, including Megan Stacey and Kiara Mantz. Megan was selected to attend the Conference on National Affairs this summer, where she will meet with more than 650 of her Youth & Government peers from across the country. Kiara won an award as "best delegate."



Upcoming Events

April 22 - April 26

Grades 3-8 NYS Math Assessments

April 30

Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

May 1

PK-5 Classes Not In Session
Parent Teacher Conferences

May 16

Class of 2016 Prom

May 19

Budget Vote & Board Election

May 20

Choral Concert - 7 p.m. BCS Gym

May 27

Instrumental Concert - 7 p.m. BCS Gym



A student selects a book with the help of a special friend

Exploring An Ocean of Books

At the end of March, Bolton CSD held a district-wide book fair with the theme "Explore the Ocean of Books Under the Sea."

To kick-off the annual event, the PTO sponsored a Family Event Night. Family activities included book bingo, arts and crafts projects, and a "sub" sandwich supper.

The highlight of the eve-

ning was the celebration by Pre-K students of reaching their reading initiative goal. The students read for a combined total of 10,000 minutes. Their reward for reaching this milestone was to douse the school principal, Michele French, and the school guidance counselor, Michelle Borgh, with seaweed slime. That gooey incentive has become a tradition in Bolton CSD's annual "Under The Sea" book fair.

Learning About Adirondack History

Staff members from the Adirondack Museum recently visited Bolton CSD students in grades Pre-K through 4 to teach them a bit about the history of the Adirondack region. The experience, one of the museum's school and youth programs, helped students learn about the uniqueness of Adirondack life and the people of its past.

"The kids loved it," said Steve Showers, Bolton CSD guidance counselor. "Anytime you can bring something to these students that augments the learning that happens in the classroom, it never fails to engage students; especially if it's different."

During their presentations, museum representatives discussed how the people of the not-so-distant past once lived and worked. They showed students historical artifacts including butter churns and lan-

HANDS ON!
Students examine artifacts brought in by staff members of the Adirondack Museum



terns. They also described farming techniques as well as hunting and trapping methods.

The Adirondack Museum has worked closely with Bolton CSD and offered in-school presentations for more than 15 years.

"These dynamic programs get the students thinking about everything from ecosystems and the evo-

lution of transportation methods to Adirondack logging," said Mr. Showers. "It's a learning experience that allows our students to compare Adirondack history with Adirondack life today."

For more information on the Adirondack Museum and their school and youth programs, visit www.adkmuseum.org.

Summit...

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They also discussed how the district can bridge the gap between what learning and teaching look

like now compared to the future. The night culminated with all nine groups making comprehensive presentations on their ideas and discussed how to market and implement these changes so that Bolton Central School District can endure for decades to come.

Over the course of the next three months, the core planning team – made up of teachers and administrative staff who have been working

together since November on the long range visioning and planning effort – will review the Summit findings and will make recommendations to the Board of Education on how the district can remain sustainable.

"To continue to offer as many educational opportunities for our students as possible and sustain ourselves into the future, we must think of ways that we can be unique," said Superintendent Michael Graney. "Over time, we need to grow in order to entice parents and students to be educated here at Bolton CSD. We will always offer the warm and personal community environment that so many of our families cherish. This long range planning and visioning effort is stimulating and engaging our community to think resourcefully about the future of education here in Bolton."



Community members discuss the future of Bolton CSD at the community summit held at The Sagamore

Bolton Book Lovers In Epic Book Battles

Fourth and fifth-graders show off their knowledge of books by competing in thrilling games

For the second year in a row, Bolton CSD's fourth and fifth grade students participated in the Battle of the Books, an international reading competition administered through WSWHE BOCES.

"This competition really gets kids motivated to read. Anything that can do that is awesome"

Denise Jorgensen,
school librarian

In the Battle, students answered Jeopardy-style questions about the plots, themes, characters, and settings of books that are on a master list.

Last year, Bolton's fourth-graders participated and won the competition. This year proved to be more challenging. In a three-way tie with Hartford and Lake George Schools, the fourth grade team made it to the sudden death round and

was eliminated.

After answering 60 questions, Bolton CSD's fifth grade team found itself tied with a neighboring district. The team lost in the sudden death round as well.

"The students had tons of fun and I'm so proud of them," said Denise Jorgensen, Bolton's librarian and



Battle advisor. "They competed against districts with much larger student populations, persevered, and did an outstanding job. Win or lose, I am thrilled with the way they performed."

The students worked long and diligently to prepare for the competition. Since the end of January, Ms. Jorgensen and the student teams met every other week

to assign new books and discuss the ones they had completed. In February, they began simulating the competition by quizzing each other with trivia questions.

Each of Bolton CSD's students read at least seven books on the list. Combined, more than 60 different books were read.

"This competition really gets kids motivated to read," Ms. Jorgensen said. "Anything that can do that is awesome. They also gained valuable experience about working together as a team, not just at the competition but in the entire preparation. After this year they are super excited to compete in next year's Battle."

The competition took place on Monday, March 16 at Skidmore College.



Sarah Calzada and Daniel Malone entertain at the music department's recital

Students Showcase Their Talents

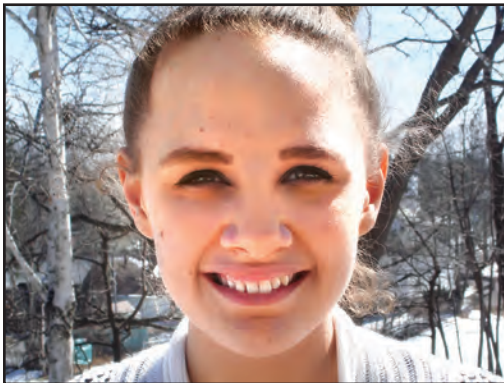
Bolton's CSD's music department recently presented its annual music recital. The March 4 show featured the vocal, instrumental, and dance talents of students in grades 6 through 12.

In addition to the student performances, the Eagles Stage Band and Bolton's faculty band, The Beagles,

performed a variety of songs from U2. These included "Beautiful Day," "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For," and "Pride in the Name of Love."

More than 40 students from grades 6-12 participated in the show, which was hosted by the night's mistress of ceremonies, Bolton senior Marya Collins.

I AM BOLTON CSD | KIARA MANTZ



Name: Kiara Mantz
Age: 13
Grade: 8th

Describe your family?

I have five other brothers and one sister. I'm one of seven and I'm right in the middle. The youngest is 5 and the oldest is 23.

What's your favorite thing about school?

At school I get to meet people and do activities.

Why do you like living in Bolton?

I grew up here my whole life. It's such a pretty place and the lake is beautiful. I enjoy doing a lot of community service work for the town too. I've picked up trash along the lake with my grandmother at times.

Who's your favorite teacher or subject?

I like science and social studies. Science is so interesting and there are always new things being learned. I love history and I love reading about the Mayans and the Egyptians and the Romans.

Do you participate in sports or recreational activities? What do you do for fun?

I do softball, basketball, chorus, and Youth & Government. I also like to read.

Do you have a favorite book, movie, or TV show?

My favorite author is J.K. Rowling. I love the Harry Potter series. I really like the movie "Titanic" too.

Who is someone that you idolize or would like to meet one day?

I idolize my grandmother. She has her own business and is a very successful strong woman. I really like what Martin Luther King, Jr. did; he stood up for what he believed in and didn't use violence.

Do you have thoughts about college?

I want to go to Cobleskill for human resources.

"I grew up here my whole life. It's such a pretty place and the lake is beautiful. I enjoy doing a lot of community service work for the town, too."

Kiara Mantz, eighth-grader

Do you know what you want to be when you grow up?

I want to be an adoption counselor. I've always wanted to help children. Being an adoption counselor you see so many kids coming in and leaving with families. I think it's a beautiful thing. I think I'd like to work in Albany or New York City because there are lots of children in those areas that don't have families and I know I could help more there than I could here.

Tell me something nobody knows about you (someone you met, an experience you had, etc.).

I have about 30 pets. I have a parrot and she is 40 years old. She'll just talk and whistle all the time. I've taken her through town. I also have chicks and chickens, two goats, ducks, a little fish that is really cute, three cats, a hamster, one rat that acts like a hamster – it's really sweet and loves being pet – two parakeets, and two dogs. We're working on getting a horse.

Book Projects Reinforce ABCs & 123s

Paula Beardell Krieg has been coming to Bolton CSD for many years now. Ms. Beardell Krieg offers a unique experience to students: She guides them in using their imagination and creative energies to design unique books and paper objects.

She usually works with older

"These four-year-olds were completely engaged in the project and I was enamored by their work."

Paula Beardell Krieg,
artist

students on books that are folded from one large piece of paper. Kids then embellish the books with colorful paper pockets, pop ups, geometric decorations, and other bright and vibrant design elements that can captivate readers.

This year, however, Ms. Beardell Krieg was invited to work with Pre-K students and engage them with paper projects that could help them remember letters and numbers. The first project was called The Name Book. Students wrote the letters of their names on pieces of paper and then decorated the backs with pictures that begin

with the first letters. Once complete, the kids strung their pieces together with beads and the projects were hung from the ceiling.

The second project focused on counting to 10. Students created visuals that connected

the numbers they are learning to the fingers they count on.

Each student folded a sheet of paper in half, traced his or her hands on each side, and labeled the fingers from 1-10. After this, crayons were distributed and that's when the real creativity set in. Students embellished their handiwork with drawings on each finger such as happy faces and stars. This helped associate a design with a number and finger.

"I want to implant an enduring visual into their mind's eye, one that reaches into their hands and



helps them remember numbers," said Ms. Beardell Krieg. "What a great image for these students to carry around in their heads – happy hands counting their numbers. These four-year-olds were completely engaged in the project and I was enamored by their work."

Ms. Beardell Krieg is a graduate of the School for Visual Arts and went on to continue her studies in bookmaking at the Center for Book Arts in New York City. She worked in the binderies at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Historical Society.

I AM BOLTON CSD | JACE HUBERT



Name: Jace Hubert
Age: 7
Grade: 1st grade

What's your favorite thing about school?

I like learning with my friends.

Who's your favorite teacher or subjects?

My favorite subjects are math and gym—math because it's fun and gym because I love playing tag and different sports.

Do you participate in sports or recreational activities? What do you do for fun?

I wrestle and play baseball and soccer. I'm wrestling now, this is my second year. I like sledding too and I ski at Gore.

Do you have a favorite book, movie, TV show, or band?

I like to watch "Looney Tunes." At night my dad tells me stories of when he was little and growing up. The last movie I watched in the theater was "Rio 2."

Who is someone that you idolize or would like to meet one day?

Derek Jeter. I really like him because he's a good player and he's nice. And I like Brett Gardner too and Ichiro Suzuki.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Maybe I'm going to be a bait and tackle shop guy. I want to own my own shop. I do a lot of fishing.

Tell me something nobody knows about you (someone you met, an experience you had, etc.).

One time on vacation I went on a shark tooth hunt and I found real shark teeth. I found about seven or eight of them. They're in a container in my room.

Senior Receives Scholar Athlete Award

Sarah Calzada, a Bolton CSD senior, was recently awarded the 2015 Capital Region Scholar Athlete Award in Girls Basketball. The honor – based on outstanding academic achievement, community service, and athletic contributions – is recognition of Sarah's tireless dedication and hard work in everything that she does.

"Sarah is very worthy of this great award," said Luke Schweickert, physical education teacher and girls varsity basketball coach. "She's a natural leader and a very selfless individual. She is one of the finest young adults that I have ever had

the good fortune of working with."

Not only is Sarah an outstanding student and a gifted athlete, but she is also a frequent volunteer for local community organizations. She has dedicated her time and energy to the American Red Cross and Up Yonda Farm, participated in breast cancer walks, helped organize Bolton CSD's senior citizens luncheon, and performed with the school's Eagles Stage Band for residents in local senior living facilities.

Sarah holds a GPA of 96.2 and has been at the top of her class throughout her entire high school career.



Engaging In Team-Building Activities

Trip to Raquette Lake helps sixth and seventh-graders develop comradery and build character

Between the Blizzard of 2015 and the Groundhog Day Nor' Easter, Bolton CSD students in sixth and seventh grades took a snowy, fun-filled field trip to Raquette

"What we hope is that the students put aside any differences they may have with each other and share fun activities together."

Steve Showers,
guidance counselor

Lake. In an effort to build comradery and prepare these students for the mentorship program that begins in the eighth grade, students spent two nights and three days together bonding through a variety

of activities. They participated in cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, animal tracking, and star-gazing, to name just a few activities. Run by SUNY Cortland and the William H. Parks Family Center for Environmental and Outdoor Education, Camp Huntington sits on Raquette Lake's Long Point.

Students have fun at SUNY Cortland's Camp Huntington



The facility is comprised of 40 buildings representing both modern conveniences and the historical legacy of the Adirondacks. The camp is open to outside groups who want to experience the rustic Adirondack amenities and nurture teamwork within their groups.

"Camp Huntington is the perfect environment to build class unity outside the traditional classroom," said Steve Showers, guidance counselor and pupil services coordinator for Bolton CSD. "What we hope is that the students put aside any differences they may

have with each other and share fun activities together."

Students were chaperoned by three Bolton CSD staff members including school psychologist Terry Begly and teachers Patrick Boire and Deb Gaddy.

"In addition to nurturing our students' character development we also hope they gain an appreciation for the beautiful Adirondacks that we live in," said Mrs. Gaddy. "Camp Huntington is a unique excursion for our students and we hope that they discovered just how special it truly is."

Key Club Hosts Grandparents Breakfast

The Bolton CSD Key Club recently had the special privilege of hosting the grandparents of children in grades PK-3 for a morning of breakfast and entertainment.

Guests were greeted and escorted into the gymnasium by Key Club members where students sat with their grandparents. They enjoyed a breakfast buffet prepared by Margaret Maranville and her professional staff who head up Bolton's food services department. Students in third, fourth and fifth grades as well as the Eagles Stage Band entertained the group with musical selections.

More than 60 grandparents attended this inaugural event on April 1.



A Musical Look At A Creepy, Kooky Clan

The Bolton CSD Drama Club presented "The Addams Family" over the weekend of March 27 and 28. The musical comedy, directed by social studies teacher Paul Weick, featured a cast of students from as young as eighth grade all the way through twelfth.

Attendance at the musical was exceptional with both nights nearly sold out.

"It was our best-attended play ever," said Mr. Weick. "There were hardly any tickets left. Last year the show was so good that I think people wanted to savor that same experience again."

Rehearsals began in November for the production, which was based on the cartoons of Charles Addams and the television series and popular movies of the same name. The cast featured Dan Dimick (Gomez), Sarah Calzada (Morticia), Colby Gibbs (Wednesday), Joe Saleh (Lucas), Marya Collins (Pugsley), Carson Courchaine (Lurch), Micaela Perrelli (Grandma), Megan Stacey (Lucas' mother), and Dan Malone (Lucas' father.)

"I'm so proud of their performances," said Mr. Weick. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of kids."



Project Combines Creativity and Logic

Since September, French teacher Leona Denne has been working with several Bolton CSD students on creative problem solving through an internationally recognized program called Odyssey of the Mind (OM).

In the program, students all over the world work in teams to develop resourceful solutions to complex challenges. At a recent regional competition held at Glens Falls High School, the Bolton CSD team competed against 66 other teams from area schools. The team performed a three-level video game simulation based on Pandora's Box.

To prepare for the competition, teams chose one of six problems to tackle. The challenges are unique in that all teams must solve the problems without the help of adults or coaches. They must even design and build their own props and scenery.

"We always go for the classic performance-oriented challenges but there are other challenges including robotics and design and construction of structures," said Mrs. Denne. "OM compels students to work together and



OM compels students to work together and to be resourceful during every step in the process

to be resourceful during every step in the process."

The challenges are designed to cultivate inventiveness, imagination, and productivity – the hallmarks of OM. Mrs. Denne, who has been coaching Odyssey of the Mind teams since 2004, has her own creativity and team-building secrets, including valuing every idea that comes along.

"When brainstorming, there are no wrong answers," said Mrs. Denne. "An idea may come up early on in the process and sometimes we have to

move it to the so-called 'parking lot.' But then two or three months later it's the perfect idea in the sequence of events. In the creative problem-solving process, you never turn away ideas because they are almost always like premonitions – they'll be needed later down the road or will be a stepping stone to the final solution."

Mrs. Denne also believes that for students that are imaginative and visual learners, OM allows them to validate that not

all thinking has to be linear. It enables them to see that thinking patterns aren't just mathematical and logistical but that they can be creative and circular, which can give students a sense of comfort and belonging.

This year, the Bolton CSD team took 4th place for their long term solution and 3rd place for the unique design of their props.

Over the past 11 years, Bolton CSD teams have won a total of seven trophies. Last year, the coveted OMER award was bestowed on Bolton's team for "creative problem solving above and beyond what is expected."