

Bolton Central School

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Strategic Planning Initiative Update

In the spring of 2013, the Bolton Central School Board of Education developed the Strategic Planning Committee. The initial steps involved the defining of our District's mission, values and strategic goals. This process involved the gathering of information and facts from the District, as well as opinions and ideas from over 70 people in seven focus groups who were directly involved with the District.

The planning brought together school and community members to develop a blueprint for the future that included strategic objectives, action plans and the measurement tools needed to chart progress.

The results of these efforts were the production of two promotional videos. The first was created to highlight all the opportunities Bolton Central School offers to the community and its children. The second is solely focused on the Bolton experience and the District's ability to "Maximize Small". As a result of this research, five new focus areas have been developed for the 2015-2016 school year.

1. Increase Academic Achievement/High Expectation
2. Maximize Small
3. Maximize STEM/STEAM Opportunities
4. Facility Development
5. Community Engagement

We look forward to continuing to work with the community to ensure the future success of our students in an ever-changing world.

Eagle

Fall 2015

a publication of the Bolton CSD

eye



The Peer Mentoring Program held a Fall Leadership Training at Camp Echo Lake at the beginning of the school year.

BCS Students Out In Their Community!

Ongoing Community Service is vital to sustaining a supportive community. Bolton Students are fortunate to have many opportunities to serve as positive contributors in their immediate community as well as in the surrounding area. Here are highlights of just some of the initiatives that BCS students have been a part of since the start of the school year.

The Key Club is an organization that has a chapter at BCS. Key Club is an international student-led organization, which provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character and develop leadership. Students involved in this organization are caring and competent volunteer leaders helping to transform communities worldwide.

BCS Key Club members are spearheading a new program in our District. Working in conjunction with Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York,

the Key Club has brought the Backpack Program to Bolton Central School.

School age children can benefit from supplemental food when school is not in session. The Backpack Program discreetly provides children with backpacks full of easy-to-prepare food on Friday afternoons to eat throughout the weekend.

Once a month Bolton Central School staff pick up food to be distributed. Key Club members help with the unloading of cartons and the distribution of child friendly, shelf stable food.

"Our hope with the Backpack Program is not only to foster additional peace of mind to families involved, but also to allow Key Club members the opportunity to have a direct impact on their community," explained Key Club Advisor Michelle Borgh.

See pages 4-5 for more about Community Service.

Upcoming Events

November 17

Grades 3 - 5
Orff Concert
7 p.m. -BCS Gym

November 20

NHS Senior Citizen Luncheon
12:30 p.m. -BCS Gym

November 23-24

PK-5 Parent/Teacher
Conference Days

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Recess

December 9

K-2 Holiday Play
1:30 p.m. BCS Gym

December 16

Grades 6-12 Holiday Concert
7 p.m. BCS Gym

December 24 - January 1

Holiday Recess

January 5

Winter Best Programs Begins
Runs Every Tuesday in January
at 2:50 p.m.

January 18

PK-12 Classes Not in Session
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



"Grandma Rose" talks to our Kindergarten class; below, students sign a banner to encourage respect.

"Act With Respect Always!"

Respect has been the resounding message at BCS. As part of the Olweus Program started last year, Rich Johns or "Coach Johns" and Judy Rosebrook or "Grandma Rose" spoke in presentations to students of all ages throughout the day.

Grandma Rose had a simple message for elementary students "We really want to treat people the way we want to be treated." Grandma Rose shared a story, Do Unto Otters, which helped demonstrate the ideas of gratitude, honesty and kindness.

Coach Johns' presentation titled, Act With Respect Always, is designed to build respect and leadership, teach positive and constructive behavior, and stop bullying before it starts.

Students in grades 4 - 12 and faculty joined Coach Johns' team of respect by signing his "Act with Respect Always"

banner pledging to work toward having a 99 Percent Day. The banner is on display across from the Entry Office.

Learn more about this inspiring program at www.actwithrespectalways.com.



Community Connections Highlight: Up Yonda Farm

Alice's Sensory Garden - Collaboration At It's Finest!

At Bolton Central School, we recognize the importance of community partnerships. The entire school district benefits tremendously from the working relationships we have with the many businesses and organizations within our community. Not only are there more opportunities for hands on experiences open to our students, they also get to know and better understand the contributions of our neighbors and how a community works.

Up Yonda and BCS have shared a mutually cooperative relationship for 18 years. During this time our students



have been immersed in hands on learning via frequent field trips to the facility. The students and staff at BCS have benefited tremendously from Up Yonda Farm and their willingness to include us in their ongoing mission of fostering a love and appreciation for the natural world.

This past summer community spirit was in full swing thanks to the teamwork of Up

Yonda Farm, BCS, the Town of Bolton, the Westmount Health Facility and Warren County. Thanks to the combined efforts of all involved, the grand opening of Alice's Sensory Garden

was a great experience for all in attendance. This project was generously supported through a grant from The Glens Falls Foundation. Any project of this scope would not be possible without the diligence of volunteers. In this case, about 40 volunteers from the school and Bolton community



contributed over 140 hours of their time. Up Yonda and other County staff also contributed another 160+ hours to make this garden a reality.

BCS students and staff played a significant role in the project. Mr. Patrick Boire and his

technology students helped create some of the structures on site and a large bell that will contribute to visitors' sense of hearing. Mrs. Amie Sawyer and her art students painted wooden percussion instruments to contribute to the sense of hearing and, for the sense of touch, a variety of glazed leaf and plant pressing tiles have been added to the site.

BCS Superintendent Michael Graney and Principal Michele French attended the ceremonial ribbon cutting hosted by Up Yonda and were on hand to welcome visitors. Mr. Graney was proud to see the combined community effort come to fruition. "The opportunity to work with Up Yonda Farm in developing Alice's Sensory Garden continues to foster our partnership while developing an exciting new learning environment for members of our community and visitors alike."

The completion of a project is frequently an inspiration for future collaboration. "Working together with BCS students and staff to create Alice's Sensory Garden has been an amazing opportunity for Up Yonda Farm. It has strengthened our relationship and we look forward to sharing our hard work with the community who come to visit this amazing garden space," said Peter Olesheski.

Bolton Central School, through its ongoing partnership with Up Yonda Farm, hope to nurture the next generation of land and lake stewards that will carry on the value of community connections in the future.



BCS Students Celebrate Unity Day!



What are your true colors when it comes to bullying? If you care about safe and supportive schools and communities, make your color **ORANGE** on Unity Day. Students at Bolton Central School did just that! Students, Teachers and Staff ALL came together to send one large **ORANGE** message of support, hope, and unity!

Sportsmanship Matters - "Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive!"

At Bolton CSD, we want to set good examples for our students and be supportive of our teams.

As part of this mission, BCS encourages Spectators to enjoy the competition between our student-athletes.

In conjunction with New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), BCS has turned their focus to an initiative aimed at the promotion of good sportsmanship entitled Sportsmanship Matters.

The goal of NYSPHSAA is to promote participation and sportsmanship, to develop good citizens through interscholastic activities, provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals. Both NYSPHSAA and BCS wish to encourage all in attendance at sporting events to enjoy the competition between our student-athletes and cheer for their teams in a positive manner. We are working with our chaperones to develop consistency with our expectations. We have formed a Sportsmanship Review committee to address inappropriate behavior of spectators, should it arise. Spectators should "Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive" towards all players, coaches, officials and spectators.

We want to encourage students of all ages to think about sportsmanship. Earlier this fall, during Computer time

with grades 2-6, Mrs. Trowbridge invited discussion of sportsmanship. Students visited the website dictionary.com for an official definition of the word. The students keyboarded their own answer to "What does sportsmanship mean to you?" 5th grader Kaitlyn shared, "Sportsmanship to me means being nice to your teammates and the other team. Also having good words when you talk. Talk nicely, not mean!" 6th grader Sam had a clear idea of sportsmanship, "The definition of sportsmanship means to play fair and respect the winning or losing opposing team. It also means to respect the players, officials and spectators with the same or opposing feeling on either team."

"Students were very compassionate about the topic and gave me several examples of when they have experienced good and bad sportsmanship both as athletes and as spectators," said Mrs. Trowbridge.

Good sportsmanship has a nice ring to it, but the things we've been discussing here

give meaning to the competition and make the goals of the individual competitor meaningful. Good sportsmanship is a sort of pact that we enter into when we compete. An occasional friendly reminder ensures that we are all on the same page.

Please join us in our effort to be a model school and leader in the NYSPHSAA's Campaign. BE LOUD, BE PROUD, and most importantly, BE POSITIVE! Thank you for your support and we look forward to a fantastic 2015 - 2016 season!



Nature's Classroom- A 5th Grade Adventure

During the fall, fifth grade BCS students and their teachers head to Silver Bay Conference & Retreat Center to participate in a Nature's Classroom program. This three-day trip away from home promises a variety of experiences for our students. Clearly there are many academic objectives for this program in the areas of science, social studies, and language arts. Yet some of the other lessons the children learn are equally important: respect, trust, cooperation, independence, and responsibility. The Outdoor Education program provided by Nature's Classroom is considered by many students to be a highlight of their fifth grade year. Together, they return to the classroom united in this shared experience to achieve the common goal of the pursuit of knowledge.



I AM BOLTON CSD | JOSHUA BAKER



Name: Joshua Baker
Age: 14
Grade: Freshman

Describe your family.

I have an older brother who is out of school and my older sister Michaela. We have two cats and a dog.

What's your favorite thing about school?

I like learning new things and being with friends.

What do you like about living in your community? Living in Bolton?

I like Bolton because it is easy to get around. I never have to travel far to hang out with friends or go down to the beach and play basketball. All my friends are nearby.

Who is your favorite teacher and/or favorite subject?

I don't really have a favorite class or subject. I like all my classes and the school day goes really quick.

Do you participate in sports or extra curricular activities?

What do you like to do for fun?
I play Basketball, Soccer and Baseball. I am in Chorus, Drama and Youth & Government. I am really busy with these activities. I also play piano and take lessons. I have been playing since kindergarten. When I do have time, I like to play video games.

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

My favorite movie is **Pacific Rim**. I like science fiction, adventure and comedy.

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

I think Mark Edward Fishchbach is a really interesting person. He does what he loves and makes good money doing it. He seems like a nice guy and he gives to charity.

"I like Bolton because it's easy to get around. I never have to travel far to hang out with friends or go down to the beach and play basketball. All my friends are nearby."

Joshua Baker, 9th Grader

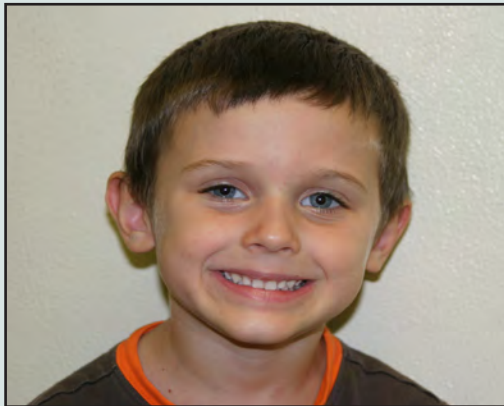
Do you know what you want to do when you get older?

There are a few things I am thinking about, a computer programmer, aeronautical engineer, forensic scientist or a lawyer.

Tell us something that you think is interesting.

We have a 20-year-old cat named Tiger. She's a strange cat because she acts more like a dog than our dog does. She comes when called just like a dog.

I AM BOLTON CSD | LANCE COREY



Name: Lance Corey
Age: 5
Grade: Kindergarten

Lance lives with his family and has three brothers and a cat named Zeppelin. His cat is not very big. He and his family like to paint together. Lance is the second oldest brother.

In school Lance likes to color and read stories. His favorite book is **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle. He loves to play on the playground and at the beach by the lake.

Lance really liked being outside and learning about the leaves changing colors when he and his class went on a field trip to UpYonda Farm.

Outside of school Lance likes to play basketball and run. He runs very fast and thinks it might be because of his Spiderman sneakers that light up. They are his favorite shoes. Superman is one of Lance's favorite superheroes too. When Lance runs, he likes to chase orange lizards called salamanders.

Lance likes to visit with Grandma Crystal and Grandpa Todd. When Lance grows up he would like to be a construction worker who builds houses and maybe robots too!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: Margaret Lawrence

District role: PK-12 Physical Education & Health Teacher

Background: I've always been involved in coaching and swim lessons from high school on. I lived in Queensland, Australia where I completed my student teaching in Physical Education. I taught in Edwards-Knox, NY for one year prior to receiving my master's degree. I taught and coached in Rutland, VT for five years.

College/Degree: SUNY Cortland, 2008, BSED Physical Education, Health Education, Adapted Physical Education University of Wisconsin, 2010 - MSED Adapted Physical Education, Adventure Education, Castleton State College, 2012, Educational Leadership



Why did you decide to become a teacher? I wanted to be a physical education teacher to make physical education a positive experience for all students, regardless of their athletic ability. I want students to find their "niche" in the physical activity world and appreciate some form of physical activity throughout their lifetime.

What attracted you to BCS? BCS is a gem. Prior to working here, I heard nothing but great things about BCS. I wanted to work

in a district and surround myself with other educators who had high expectations and created opportunities beyond the classroom for their students. I researched Bolton and felt it would be a very strong fit for me based on the programs that were in place for physical education. The PE curriculum here is impressive and I truly feel fortunate to be here!

Describe your teaching style. I use a variety of teaching styles depending on what I'm teaching. I try to create a classroom environment that fosters intrinsic motivation and genuine interest in learning.

What's your greatest strength? I have two strengths: I'm understanding and organized.

What keeps you enthusiastic or motivated about your role? I love physical education and health because they are hot topics in our society. There is always something new to be learned and each class is different. There is room for creativity and innovation in how we teach physical education and health.

What goals do you have for your first year at Bolton Central School? I am working hard to get to know the faculty and student body. Making connections is important to me!

Describe your family. I am married with two children and our puppy. I met my husband during our college days through ice hockey. My daughter Paige is 20 months old and Patrick is 8 months old! We are a pretty busy crew. We get outside every day and travel as often as possible. We laugh a lot. I have a younger brother who is a lawyer in New Hampshire.

Please tell us about places you have been or would like to travel to. I lived in Queensland, Australia for a year. I have been to Fiji, England, Germany, Poland, Mexico, Turks and Caicos, and Canada. I've traveled to almost every state in the US. I want to go everywhere. I love traveling!

What do you like to do in your spare time? Having two kids under the age of two, I don't have a lot of spare time. My time is with them. If I do get a free moment I try to go hiking, swimming, or do something physically active outside. I play in a women's ice hockey league which is pretty cool.

Floating Classroom - Ecologists for a Day!

For the last 20 years BCS students have been participating in The Darrin Freshwater Institute and Lake George Association's Floating Classroom Program. This program helps to instill lake stewardship and foster interests in both ecology and conservation.

During this two-hour program students learn the basics about Lake George and its history. This year Mr. Gaddy and his 6th grade science class were ecologists for the day. Lake George is a unique resource, one that we are proud to protect and share. The Floating Classroom educates BCS students on how they can help keep Lake George water clean for the future and what kind of impact the world around us has on our natural resources.





Over a dozen Key Club members were quick to offer a helping hand to parents of our younger students and their families at BCS's recent Open House Night. The group provided free childcare for 64 students during the PK - 5 Open House program.

Not only did Key Club provide a much-needed service for parents, they spent time getting to know the younger students and, best of all, set fine examples for future Key Club members.

Naturally this group has no problem taking their show on the road and was excited to be a part of the recent Taste of the North Country, hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls on Sunday, September 27th. BCS Key Club members Abbie Persons, Zoe Gavin, Madeline DeLorenzo and Mackenzie Roberts, with advisor, Mrs. Borgh volunteered alongside Glens Falls Kiwanis members helping with the logistics of running an event of this size.

With Bolton Central School's history of service, it was no surprise that our Class of 2016 and 2017 were invited to host a Ragnar exchange site for the Ragnar Race on Friday,



September 25th into the early morning hours of Saturday, September 26th. In exchange for their service, the groups will receive a donation to their class fund. This race is a 200-mile relay from Saratoga to Lake Placid. The race spans a great distance. Therefore volunteers are the backbone of the event. They provide the support at exchanges and make sure runners have the safest, best organized races. This event brings thousands of people through our area and volunteering in this way allows our students to demonstrate the service-oriented nature of our community.

Last year's success of the BCS Peer Mentoring Program set the foundation for year two of this groundbreaking program. This initiative sets the stage for our 12th grade student volunteer mentors to meet with their mentees twice a month in a supervised group setting led by School Psychologist, Mrs. Terry Begly. During each mentoring session, the students participate in three activities that focus on nurturing a variety of developmental skills including building self-esteem and confidence, improving grades, study skills and academic achievement, setting achievable goals, respecting individual differences, and working cooperatively to resolve conflict.

"The wonderful thing about this program is that each year we continue to build on what we accomplished the year before. The eventual result is a school full of kids who have been exposed to positive role models across nearly every grade. The result of this will be a culture of desirable student behaviors which will perpetuate itself," said Mrs. Begly.

Bottom Photo: Key Club members Abbie Persons and Zoe Gavin.

Top Photo: From left to right- Chris Daken, Lindsay Markham, Michael Smith, Michael Morey, Caroline Clesceri

“Being a part of the Key Club is humbling; it gives us a chance to give back to our community in so many different ways”

Megan Stacey,
Senior, Key Club President

These are just a few service opportunities for Bolton students, and it's only a few months into the new school year! In the coming months, the Bolton Central School chapter of the National Honor Society will host several events for our community.

On Friday, November 20, 2015 the Bolton Central School District's National Honor Society will again be hosting the Senior Citizen Luncheon open to all senior community members. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm by the NHS students with entertainment beginning shortly thereafter by the music department. NHS students will personally escort arriving guests to the gymnasium. If interested, please RSVP to Hope or

Diane at 644-2400 by Friday, November 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Humiston, NHS Advisor at 644.2400 ext. 409 or email at lh409@boltoncsd.org

On Friday March 4th, the National Honor Society will host a Middle School Dance for BCS students. This event is in its third year and is a highly anticipated happening for middle school students.

As students volunteer within their community, they learn that they can be responsible for making great things happen. This helps to build a sense of responsibility and sense of pride when they see what they've done is truly helping others. As students participate in service initiatives, they'll learn how to better work in teams. Often, as part of these opportunities, participants will be faced with challenges and tough problems to tackle. By working through them, they learn how to better solve problems and enjoy the satisfaction of overcoming challenges. These experiences help students

better understand their own competence, leading to more self-confidence and a can-do attitude that can spread to any task our students choose to tackle. Often, students will learn to develop leadership skills as well. These ongoing experiences will help Bolton Central School sustain the goals of excellence and remarkable experiences in a supportive community, in the hope of exceeding all expectations.



Mrs. Hens' 2nd grade class enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Up Yonda Farm to learn more about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. As summer comes to an end, millions of monarchs begin their annual journey to Mexico. Our young scientists were able to see some of our migrating friends before their journey southward.



Key Club members help carry cartons for the Backpack Program