

Bolton Central School

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www.boltoncsd.org

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Upcoming Events

February 5

Coffee With The Principal
8 a.m. BCS Conference Room

February 12

5th Grade Play
12:30 p.m. BCS Gym

February 16-20

Mid-Winter Recess

February 25

Junior Parent & Student
Information Night
6:30 p.m. BCS Library

March 4

Music Department Recital
7 p.m. BCS Gym

March 7

PTO March Madness
Basketball Tournament
12 p.m. BCS Gym

March 23

Budget Workshop
6 p.m. BCS Library

March 25-April 1

PTO Book Fair

March 27 & 28

BCS Drama Club Presents
"The Addams Family"
7 p.m. BCS Gym



Bolton seniors about to start their lunch; below, NHS members escort seniors into the gym

NHS Holds Senior Luncheon

The Bolton CSD National Honor Society recently had the special privilege of hosting senior members of the community for an afternoon of food and fun.

More than 40 seniors attended the luncheon – the most recent of what may become a new Bolton CSD tradition. The guests were escorted into the cafeteria by members of the NHS who mingled with the seniors throughout the day. Entertainment was provided by the music department which performed folk songs including "This Land is My Land" and "Scarborough Fair."

"The seniors are so important to our school and

community," said Lori Humiston, NHS advisor. "Our students truly enjoyed spending time with them and thanking them for their support through the years."

Plans are being made to host the seniors again next year.



Community Summit

The Bolton Central School District will hold a Community Education Summit on Tuesday, March 24 from 5:30 to 9:15 p.m. to discuss the future of the community and school. A light dinner will be offered before three hours of intense planning. This important event will help map out a vision for the next decade as the school looks to maintain and augment the powerful impact it has on the lives of Bolton's children.

While anyone can sign up for the special event, it will be opened to registered guests only. If you would like to sign up, feel free to call Christina in the superintendent's office at (518) 644-2400, ext. 101 or simply send an email to the following address: cd101@boltoncsd.org.

This visioning and planning process – a direct result of the strategic plan adopted by the Board of Education – is focusing on three primary areas:

- Creating a long-range educational vision for maintaining the district's high standards well into the future.
- Rebranding the district to become even more desirable to prospective homeowners.
- Generating a plan for possibly attracting tuition-

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Eagle

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eye



Elementary students learn to work together in a team building exercise

Anti-bullying Program Introduced

An internationally renowned program recently introduced here at Bolton CSD is encouraging students to support one another and become healthy, confident role models.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program provides a holistic approach to prevent school bullying by changing the perceptions and behaviors of students. Named after a Norwegian research professor who was a pioneer in bullying research and intervention, Olweus (pronounced OL-VAY-US) is used throughout the world. The program nurtures long-term understanding and includes components to engage and involve not just students but parents and the entire school community as well.

The district formally kicked off Olweus with a three-day commencement event held from January 7-9.

"These three days were filled with a variety of workshops and engaging presentations for the entire student body," said guidance counselor Michelle Borgh. "We're excited and proud to start our very own Olweus program focused on creating awareness of bullying and improving the

skills needed to address this important issue."

Regular classroom meetings are integral to Olweus and work to build respect, trust, and empathy among students. Launched districtwide in September, the class meetings are held twice a month. They explore a variety of topics and teach skills aimed at building supportive student relationships.

"The program molds students in each class into a strong cohesive unit," said Mrs. Borgh. "That's so important. And while it does provide curriculum ideas, Olweus is not a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. All schools and students are different, with different needs. Olweus recognizes that fact and encourages autonomy. We choose what will work best with our kids."

Another Olweus keystone is the establishment of clear behavioral and anti-bullying rules. All students were encouraged to sign a set of these rules, which were then exhibited throughout the school.

Funding for Olweus at Bolton CSD comes entirely from grant money provided to the Council for Prevention by State Senator Betty Little.

See pages 4-5 for more about Olweus.

Meet Jesse Foy, Newest BOE Member

Local businessman and parent of two Bolton CSD students began his three-year term in July

Jesse Foy, Bolton CSD's newest Board of Education member, knows the district inside and out. Not only is he a Bolton CSD alumnus, but his two school-aged children are now walking in his footsteps and attend school here.

Mr. Foy, the son of Cate's Italian Garden owners Cate and Buddy Foy, grew up in Bolton and went through the school system from kindergarten until his graduation in 1996. He went on to earn a degree in advertising and marketing from Iona

"Early intervention is so important for students who are struggling academically or have learning issues."

Jesse Foy, board member

College and then moved to Manhattan, combining his passion for fine food with his marketing skills to help a well-known restaurateur open several eateries throughout New York City.

Eventually he found his way back home to Bolton, like so many graduates do. He's now a co-owner at Cate's and helps run the day-to-day operations of the business.

Mr. Foy's experience going through Bolton CSD and his close ties with the community were the driving factors that led him to run for the school board in May. "I struggled in elementary school and it wasn't until fifth grade that we figured out I had dyslexia," Mr. Foy said. "I had to work harder than everyone else but I eventually succeeded. Early intervention is so important for students who are struggling academically or have

learning issues. If these kids can be diagnosed early on then they can be more successful in life. If they're struggling, we need to work on bringing more resources in that directly help to improve the challenges they're facing."

Mr. Foy plans to be a strong advocate for all students and parents. He looks forward to bringing his very personal perspective to the BOE to set educational policies that support students in need and that encourage innovation and high student achievement for all Bolton students.

An essential part of being a Board of Education member is listening and Mr. Foy has the wisdom to realize just how important it really is. He values the opinions, insight, and experiences of his fellow board members and also has an ear to the community and its needs.

"I'm out in the community every day so I hear people's concerns and ideas," he said. "I have a close connection with them because I'm a home grown kid and we try to make everyone feel like they're family at the restaurant. People feel like they can talk to me. I think that gives me the ability to represent them in a very special way."

Mr. Foy has been a board member for about seven months. Over that time, Bolton CSD has taken bold steps to grow and evolve – and to nurture its relationship with the Bolton community. It's a process that is working, Mr. Foy believes, because of the strong and dedicated team in place.

"Working with my six other colleagues on the board and hearing their opinions and views has been a great experience. It helps you look at things differently, it opens your mind to new perspectives. We work well together and work well with [Superintendent of Schools] Mike Graney. He's a great leader and incredibly committed to seeing Bolton CSD become as good as it can be. Together we're moving the district in the right direction. I'm excited to be a part of it."



Triple Partnership For Alpine Skiers

Bolton CSD forms joint ski team with Lake George and North Warren student athletes

Alpine skiing season has begun at Bolton CSD, with new partners Lake George and North Warren. Because of the larger roster formed by combining students from the three districts, the team can now compete in more events.

"The addition of the new skiers will allow the team to compete in both the men's and women's divisions," said Francisco Roca, Bolton CSD's athletic director. "To compete there needs to be a minimum of three skiers in each division. Without this partnership, each of these schools would not be able to compete, so it's beneficial to all. Our philosophy here at Bolton has always been to give as many opportunities as we can to students. This is a win-win for all of us."

Kandi Kelley, the team's head coach, has been training Bolton's skiers for nine years and is no stranger to athletic partnerships. In two prior years, students at Warrensburg and Bolton skied together. When that partnership ended, Lake George and Bolton agreed that a collaboration would benefit both programs. The addition of North Warren was unprecedented



but eagerly accepted. Coach Kelley gladly welcomed this opportunity to include new teammates.

"Opportunity is the underlying spirit behind high school athletics," said Ms. Kelley. "The three-way partnership will require more time organizing and coordinating, but it will be a valuable experience for everyone involved."

Practices are held at West Mountain. While the first official race was held January 7, the skiers have been training on and off the hill since

mid-November. In a new alliance with the Sagamore, dry land training was held in the resort's fitness center along with some hikes and outdoor training drills at the Lake George Elementary field.

"This is going to be a very competitive year," said Ms. Kelley. "The athletes are excited to train and compete with each other. The students from the various districts have formed very strong relationships in just a short time and the adjustment has been seamless."

Building Homes For Feral Cats

When Patrick Boire, technology teacher, was recently asked by a former student to help make homes for feral cats, he pounced on the chance.

Bolton graduate Andrea Henkel is a member of the Community Animal Action Project (CAAP), an organization that works with local communities to find solutions to animal over-population and help find new homes for pets. She approached Mr. Boire at the beginning of the school year with the idea to provide shelter for the community's feral cat population. "I thought this was a

great way to make a difference and get students involved in the community in a fulfilling and meaningful way," said Mr. Boire. "Students generally have a love of animals and most have pets themselves."

Ms. Henkel and CAAP provide the raw materials to build the all-weather shelters, which vary in design. All have a waterproof outdoor shell, an insulated foam inner layer, and straw bedding. Mr. Boire enlisted the aid of his technology students who volunteered to provide the labor.

The students work from cat shelter designs provided from Alley Cat Allies at www.alleycat.org.

A total of 20 all-season cat homes are scheduled to be completed by the end of January.



Summit...

continued from front page

based students from outside the district to augment declining student enrollment.

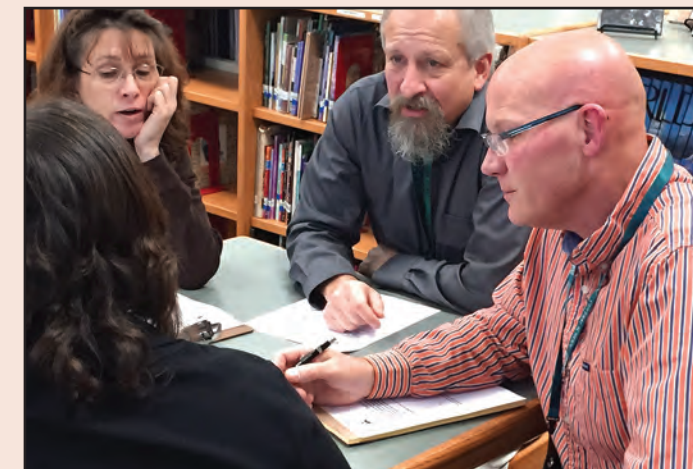
The ultimate goal is to ensure that Bolton CSD maintains its independence and viability for decades to come.

The district is working with an educational planning consultant who is facilitating a core planning team made up of diverse teachers, along with the administrative group. The teachers volunteering for the intense work are: Deb Anderson, Dan Hull, Denise Jorgensen, Chad Shippee, Tammy Soper, Jen Trowbridge and Ryan Volkman. The planning team is steering the process and will ultimately make recommendations to the Board of Education regarding vision,

program, and the long-range plan.

A half-day session with all teachers was held in November to generate ideas about the future of Bolton CSD and how to improve the program for future generations of students. The facilitator has also worked with both graduates and present students to discuss how well the district prepares its students for life after graduation.

Ongoing research will involve more students, graduates, community members, and administrators. The summit will play a pivotal role in informing the



Teachers participate in a planning session

process as it moves toward establishing recommendations for the Board of Education.

If you have any questions on the process, email Kelly Klopfer at: kelly@educationallegacyplanning.com.

I AM BOLTON CSD | CHRIS DAKEN



Name: Chris Daken
Age: 16
Grade: Junior

Describe your family?

I have five siblings. I have an older brother and older sister, and two younger sisters and a younger brother.

What's your favorite thing about school?

I'm new to the district and moved here over the summer from New Jersey. I do like how it's small. I was at a larger school that had 400-500 students in each grade. To go to 20 kids is a lot nicer.

Why do you like living in Bolton?

I've been vacationing up here during the summers for the last three years and I liked it so much that I wanted to move here. I can walk in town to any stores and I couldn't do that in my old town.

Everything is convenient. Over the summer I worked at the Sagamore as a recreational counselor. I really enjoy meeting new people.

Who's your favorite teacher or favorite subject?

I'm not taking an art class this year but I love art. I like being creative in different ways. I particularly enjoy sketching and painting.

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

I'm on the varsity cheer squad and at my old school I was on the varsity cross country and track teams. When I have the chance, I like to go to my cabin in Chestertown or to Lake George Village and Great Escape.

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

My favorite movie is "The Other Woman." I love the Redwall book series which includes a lot of different tales where animals are communicating as humans; it's very mythological.

Do you have any college plans?

I want to study marine biology. I am

"I've been vacationing up here during the summers for the last three years and I liked it so much that I wanted to move here."

Chris Daken, 11th Grader

looking at a college in South Carolina that is starting a program where they integrate marine biology and art, which are two of my passions. Part of the program includes underwater photography of marine life and then creating paintings or sculptures based on them.

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

Cher Lloyd, she's a British pop singer. Her first CD came out when she was 16. She was on the UK's "X Factor" and came in second place.

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

Recently Jordan Sparks has been talking to me on Twitter and re-tweeting me. Jordan and Alicia Keys came to my elementary school and taught singing in my music class in fourth grade.

I AM BOLTON CSD | NORA MACINNIS



Name: Nora MacInnis
Age: 9
Grade: 4th

What's your favorite thing about school?

My favorite thing about school is reading. I love how the stories take me into different worlds.

Who's your favorite teacher or favorite subject?

My favorite teacher is Mrs. Ostberg because she is really nice. She always dresses in different outfits and I like her fun personality.

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

I participate in gymnastics two times per week and I'm also in a book club.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I'd like to be a children's author. I want to be able to tell a story and show kids what a story is about. I want to make them fun but still educational.

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

My favorite book is "Ever After High: The Storybook of Legends." It was really long and it took me three months to complete.

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

I kind of want to be like George Washington Carver. He never gave up and was very smart. He also invented peanut butter, which is one of my favorite foods.

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

I walked through the Grand Canyon on vacation last year. It was fun. The view was amazing. Also we saw this really big bird's nest.

Kindergarteners Head To The Polls

Bolton CSD kindergarteners recently had a chance to participate in the voting process and have their voices heard.

Leading up to Election Day, kindergarten teacher Janell Egloff wanted students to understand the importance of elections and experience democracy in action. Mrs. Egloff and aide Melanie Persons staged an election and had the class vote on the animal to be the kindergarten mascot for the rest of the school year.

"It showed students in an engaging and memorable way just how important it is to exercise your right and have your vote counted."

Janell Egloff, teacher

Every kindergartener nominated an animal that he or she would like to have represent the grade level. The two most popular candidates, Penguin and Wolf, were placed on the official election ballot. The class created its own ballot box then asked all the elementary students, Pre-K through grade 5, to vote on the candidate they thought would be the best kindergarten mascot.

Then kindergarteners used their counting skills to tally the ballots and determine the winner. Once the Penguin was officially announced as mascot, the students visited Cedar Graphics in town to create mascot tee-shirts.

"By having them participate in an election geared to their own level, students learned how the voting process

works and got an idea of what their parents and other adults would be doing on Election Day," said Mrs. Egloff, who has done the project in years past. "It showed students in an engaging and memorable way just how important it is to exercise your right and have your vote counted. When the kindergarteners embark on the voting process, the older students look forward to it and they remember fondly what they chose when they were kindergarteners; it really resonates with them."



PENGUIN WINS! Kindergarteners pose in their Penguin mascot tee-shirts, with teacher Janell Egloff and aide Melanie Persons

As part of the election project, the kindergarteners also visited Town Hall and spoke with Ron Conover, Bolton Town Supervisor, to learn more about how he was elected.



Soccer Team Honored As Scholar Athletes

The Bolton-Warrensburg girls soccer team excelled both on the field and in the classroom this fall. Not only did the team have a record-breaking season and make it to the state semifinals, the team recently received scholar athlete honors.

The prestigious recognition, awarded by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, acknowledges student athletes and teams that stand out academically. The girls soccer team earned the scholar athlete distinction because 12 of the athletes have a grade point average of 90 percent or above. (The team's overall GPA is 91.28.)

kicking off Olweus

Bolton CSD introduced the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program with a three-day event held on January 7-9. Here's a look at some of the activities:

Working together as a team

As part of the Olweus kick-off, all students participated in team building exercises. The activities, which were metaphoric and reinforced the Olweus principles, were facilitated by Joe San Antonio and Allison Reynolds from the Council for Prevention, a local non-profit whose mission is to promote the health and well-being of individuals in our area.

In one session, eleventh and twelfth-graders were given a task that encouraged them to work together. Students were given "gutters" (similar to the trays in Scrabble) and a marble. The goal was to use the gutters to transport the marble to the opposite side of the room without letting it fall. However, not every student was given a gutter tray. This encouraged the students to figure out how each person could make a meaningful contribution to successfully complete the mission.

"The Olweus program is meant to create a culture shift," said Katherine Chambers, Bolton CSD's Olweus consultant with the Council for Prevention. "It's meant to engender and nurture a school community where everyone belongs."

Once the exercises were complete, the students were asked to discuss and reflect upon the outcomes.

"You can do just the activity but then it's just an activity," said Mr. San Antonio. "If you debrief afterward



High school students meet to build respect, trust, and empathy

then it becomes a powerful learning experience. The kids really made the connection between these activities and real life. They saw how by staying positive and working together, they could overcome a challenging obstacle."

Embracing individuality

Brian Chevalier has been living and breathing music his entire life. He studied classical guitar at Keene State College and has played extensively throughout the East Coast as both a performer and a teaching artist. Over the past 20 years Mr. Chevalier has collaborated with dozens of schools, providing music and songwriting workshops that promote diversity and unity among students.

At a songwriting workshop that was part of the Olweus kick-off, Mr. Chevalier helped Bolton CSD students create a unique song that they could call their own.

He met with every elementary class and guided each one through a process to write a verse of poetry about togetherness and how students can support each other. Mr. Chevalier then took the verses home to his recording studio and that night combined them all into a single song that he performed the next day at a schoolwide assembly.

"The kids just love the process and the discussions," said Mr. Chevalier. "These school songs stay with students for years and years. It's just something that becomes a part of them."

Mr. Chevalier ended the assembly with a "birthday song" that celebrated the uniqueness of all of us.

Taking responsibility for your online life

John Kelly, a retired Investigator for the Saratoga Springs City Police, delivered an important message to Bolton CSD students: Take responsibility for your online life.

In an engaging and intense seminar on cyberbullying and online predators, Mr. Kelly addressed the challenges of being an adolescent in an online world.

"Use the Internet wisely," Mr. Kelly cautioned. "Digital citizenship is about making good online

decisions and understanding that one bad move can be detrimental to your credibility. Posting negative or harmful comments, pictures, etc., can ruin your reputation, not to mention be hurtful to others."

Mr. Kelly also described ways to recognize predatory behavior and shared some very poignant stories that he has investigated. He stressed that students always use their radar and be vigilant about their surroundings.

"On the Internet, you can't see things like odd behaviors," Mr. Kelly said. "People seem normal. That's what makes you vulnerable and that's what predators look for. Listen to your gut – that alarm system that tells you when something is not right."

Mr. Kelly is currently a community educator at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Saratoga Springs and also serves as a law enforcement coordinator for Saratoga Center for the Family.

Understanding bullying

On the final day of the Olweus kick-off, nationally renowned youth advocate Dr. Felicia Watson gave an energetic presentation to help students understand the tenets of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). During her workshop, Dr. Watson used music and activities to facilitate a greater understanding of bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

Students participated in training that included self-analysis, assessment, and role-playing, which taught them how they can help create a positive school culture. Students walked away with a better understanding of how to face bullying and intimidation head-on and be a part of the solution.

"The Olweus program is meant to create a culture shift. It's meant to engender and nurture a school community where everyone belongs."

Katherine Chambers,
Council for Prevention



Above, songwriter Brian Chevalier works with kindergarten students to write a song of their own; right, high school students participate in team building exercises



Olweus Committee:

- Michelle Borgh
- Michele French
- Terry Begley
- Laurie Blanchard
- Denise Clark
- Leona Denne
- Donna DiPietro
- Lori Humiston
- Cindy Purdy
- Melanie Persons
- Francisco Roca
- Chad Shippee
- Jennifer Trowbridge
- Ryan Volkman
- Amy Clesceri
- Katherine Chambers