

Bolton Central School

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Upcoming Events

March 11 - 16

PTO Book Fair
BCS Library

March 16

NHS Honor Society
Induction Ceremony
7:00 p.m. -BCS Gym

March 19

PTO March Madness Community
Basketball Tournament
Noon - BCS Gym

March 25

Good Friday
PK-12 Classes Not in Session
Offices Closed

April 5 - 7

Grades 3 - 8
ELA Assessments

April 8 - 9

BCS Drama Club Presents
"Bonnie & Clyde"
7 p.m. BCS Gym

April 13 - 15

Grades 3 - 8
Math Assessments



The Class of 2029 took a moment from their busy day for a class photo

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration is Right Around the Corner!

Attention all Bolton Central School District residents who have children ready for Pre Kindergarten or Kindergarten registration; please call the school at 644-2400 to ensure that we have your name and mailing address so that you can receive information about registering and round up for Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten for the 2016 - 2017 school year. **Children who turn four years old by December 1, 2016 are eligible for Pre- K. Children who turn five years old by December 1, 2016 are eligible for Kindergarten.**

Bolton Central School's Pre-Kindergarten program runs Monday-Friday on all days when school is in session.

Bus transportation is provided. At registration, parents will learn more about the program and be able to ask questions. During the registration children will be evaluated in the areas of cognitive ability, speech and language skills, and fine and gross motor skills. Evaluations will be conducted by the school's speech pathologist Mrs. Laurie Blanchard, occupational therapist, Mrs. Yvonne Powers and school psychologist, Mrs. Terry Begly.

The date for registration round up appointments will be Wednesday, May 11th .

We look forward to hearing from you!



Eagle

Winter 2016

a publication of the Bolton CSD

eye

Community Educational Summit

The Bolton Central School District will hold their second Community Education Summit on Tuesday, March 29th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. to present the progress made on our Strategic Planning Initiative.

A light dinner will be offered before the 2015-2016 presentation, which will be followed by a discussion about potential focus areas as we turn our planning to the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Focus areas for the 2015 – 2016 school year are:

- Increase Academic Achievement and High Expectations
- Maximize Small
- Maximize Stem/Steam
- Facilities
- Community Engagement

Included in the presentation will be specific action steps that support the focus areas.

If you would like to attend, pre registration is required. To sign up, please call Christina in the Superintendent's office at (518) 644- 2400 or simply send an email to cd101@boltoncsd.org.

At Bolton Central School we value input from the community and value the developed partnerships as we work together towards a common goal as defined by our mission:

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



Mr. Gaddy & Mrs. Williams demonstrate the power of magnets to elementary students.

Photo courtesy of: C. Duggan

From Elementary To High School - BCS Students Are Collaborative Problem Solvers!

STEM/STEAM As An Ongoing Resource For Bolton Students

What is STEM/STEAM? STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. A variation of STEM is STEAM, which includes an "A" for Art and Design. This type of learning is based on finding a solution to a problem and tends to focus on project-based learning. These are not new teaching methods for BCS staff and students. All our students are encouraged to develop the knowledge and skills to creatively solve problems, gather and evaluate evidence, make sense of information and apply their experience to become the innovators, educators, researchers and leaders needed to sustain our future.

The common thread in all levels of study is that any idea can be developed, finalized and evaluated following a set of logical steps.

From Pre- Kindergarten and lessons of observation, to elementary students and hands on experience leading to understanding, to the conceptual and experimental experiences utilized by the upper grade levels, STEM/STEAM are concepts that are present in many activities at BCS.

In Mrs. Soper and Mrs. Wysocki's Pre Kindergarten class, students participated in a "pumpkin lab." During the lesson observations were made on the pumpkin's color and shape. A comparison was done to understand the similarities and differences between a pumpkin and an apple. To further the lesson, the pumpkins were examined further so students were able to smell the inside of the pumpkin and handle the seeds. Each student was able to use a magnifying glass and were encouraged to take a closer look at their pumpkins beyond the use of an autumn decoration.

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Community Connections Highlight: The Sagamore Resort

Demonstrating a Commitment to BCS Students for Decades

The connection The Sagamore Resort shares with Bolton Central School students is a demonstrated link between the school and the community. The Sagamore is well known for welcoming guests to the shores of Bolton Landing. This welcoming nature is a way of life for the staff and administration of the resort. What started as requests for donations for school fundraisers rapidly grew into a working relationship that offers countless opportunities to our BCS students.

This past holiday season our Pre Kindergarten students took a trip to the Sagamore to view the large gingerbread house on display in the resort's lobby. They met pastry chef Lori Desorcie to learn about how the house was made. The on-site visit was rounded out with a snack of fresh baked cookies. The following day our Pre K students were the proud recipients of gingerbread house kits



to share and enjoy with their families over the holiday season; again, compliments of The Sagamore.

Many a memory has been created at the fundraisers, proms, after prom parties and sports banquets that have been held in The Sagamore Resort's breathtakingly beautiful event space. But the generosity doesn't stop there. Food donations to PTO Carnivals, Thanksgiving turkeys for this year's 1st inaugural PTO Turkey Trot and too many donations to mention; from spa gift cards, yearbook ads and even a family resort membership as a

prize for a Booster Club fundraising event. The generosity of our friends at the Sagamore really is remarkable.

Our elementary students enjoy the use of the recreation center and swimming pool as part of the PTO Best program. Students can swim in the indoor pool and enjoy a variety of

indoor activities at the Rec Center. Included in this 10,000 square foot space is a miniature golf course, an indoor wiffle ball area, indoor basketball and table games.

PTO President Melaine Persons says it best; "The PTO would not be able to successfully undertake



the large school and community events without the continued support and generosity of The Sagamore and its staff. We are very fortunate to have a local business care so much about seeing the students of our District have access to so many opportunities and do all that they do to contribute to our community."

The BCS Golf team is also a group who directly benefits from The Sagamore's willingness to support our District. Golf Digest rated The Sagamore Golf Course as the "5th Best Public Course in New York State." This is the location our Varsity golfers call home. They use the facility for practice and matches.

In the past, the resort has hosted high school students in a variety of career oriented presentations, highlighting the many service learning opportunities that are made possible by having a resort of this caliber in one's own backyard. Tom Guay, General Manager feels that, "as a local business, BCS came to us for support in a variety of ways. From the very start The Sagamore has always been willing to support the District and over the years Bolton Central School has become part of our extended family. The resort as a whole, appreciates the ongoing successes of BCS students, both independently growing into community members themselves and even as part of The Sagamore family of employees."

This coming spring BCS 3rd graders will be traveling to the Sagamore to participate in an "On the Job" day and our freshman high school students will be participating in a "Career Exploration" day. This experience will allow our students a glimpse at the day-to-day operations of this cornerstone of the Bolton Landing community.

The fellowship of both of these decades old regional institutions is a testament to the opportunities that are possible when we come together as a community.

Left Photo: Pre K students speak to Sagamore Pastry Chef Lori Desorcie about building a life size gingerbread house **Top Photo:** BCS Pre K students and General Manager Tom Guay share a visit.



PTO BEST students head to "The Rec" Center for a variety of activities such as , mini golf, an indoor ball field and a wide variety of table games.. No matter the weather outside, students are assured fun at The Sagamore Resort

BCS Elementary Students Think the PTO BEST Program is THE BEST!

The Parent Teacher Organization's mission is to promote, maintain and support a connection between the students, parents and staff of Bolton Central School. The efforts of all these volunteers serve to enhance and maximize the educational opportunities for every student while aiding them in achieving their highest potential.

The PTO holds several events throughout the year to raise funds for other events including: the fall festival, after-prom party, and the Bolton Extra Special Time or BEST program, which is a program that runs for four weeks in the fall and four weeks in the winter. Students in grades K-6 can choose from several different programs offered, including a variety of modules such as science, holiday crafts around the world, sign language, cheerleading, fitness and swimming and outdoor learning modules such as snowshoeing and animal tracking through UpYonda Farms.

As part of this winter's BEST Program students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 were able to "Explore Science" with Mrs. Williams and Mr. Gaddy. The group could hardly wait to make slime! The exploration began by looking at a variety of rocks and observing their different colors and textures and how these differences came about through chemistry. Legos were used as a comparison for

atoms and how they could be combined in different ways to become different things, further demonstrating chemistry at work. Hands on experience with the 1st chemical in slime allowed this inquisitive group to better understand the properties of glue. Borax, water and food coloring were the remaining ingredients. The discussion quickly turned to the understanding of polymers and the nature of molecules all while playing with slime!

These activities allow elementary students time to focus on an activity of their choosing and hopefully spark interest in new fields.



It was standing room only during a recent visit from The Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York. Executive Director, Trish Marki and several of her rescued raptors spent the afternoon with our BCS elementary students. Faculty, staff and even some high school science students gathered in the hall outside the classroom door. Students were able to see the birds up close, learn about their adaptations and better understand the important place these fascinating creatures hold in our ecosystem.



Students were able to ask questions and learn how to recognize raptors in wild. Thanks to the generosity of the Stewart's Foundation our students now have a better understanding of the raptors unique behaviors and the conservation issues that impact them including natural selection and the "human" impact on species survival.

I AM BOLTON CSD | CAITLYN JOHNSON



Name: Caitlyn Johnson

Age: 16

Grade: Junior

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 | VASILY POPOV-TEKMITCHOV



Name: Vasily Popov-Tekmitchov

Age: 5

Grade: Kindergarten

Vasily lives with his Mom and his cat Malchik. He likes winter and making snowballs to throw at his mom.

He speaks three languages, English Russian and Greek. Vasily speaks Russian when he visits with his grandparents in Russia. When he visits his grandparents he has to climb up lots of stairs and ride a lift (elevator). Vasily likes to use the stairs because he gets big muscles from all the exercise.

Vasily likes Mrs. Egloff's class. He liked the stories they read about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln this week. Both inside and outside recess are Vasily's favorite times in school. During indoor recess he likes to use the iPad and during outdoor recess Vasily likes that he can around with his friends.

Vasily likes puppet shows. He has seen puppet shows with hand and string puppets.

When Vasily grows up he would like to be an FBI agent.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: Jonathon DeLappa

District role: Instrumental Teacher

Background: For as long as I can remember, I have always been excited and drawn to music of all genres. My earliest memories are listening to music with my mom in the car. Prior to graduating from high school, I performed professionally with local musicians and large group ensembles in area venues. During college I performed and toured with many music groups while practicing and honing my craft. I have since taught at Johnsbury Central School for the past 7 years, as well as spending two years being the ACC jazz ensemble director.



College/Degree: I received my undergraduate degree in Music Education from Hartwick College and my Masters in Jazz Studies from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

Why did you decide to become a teacher? Music to me is a lifelong journey that I enjoy working towards everyday. When I was introduced to improvisational techniques and jazz studies during middle school, I then realized I wanted to be both a high quality performer and teacher.

What attracted you to BCS? Being from the Lake George area, I have long regarded Bolton as an amazing community and an exceptional school. Having the chance to teach at Bolton gives me the opportunity to individualize small group instruction within our instrumental curriculum.

Describe your teaching style. Interactive and energetic. I find that playing the same instruments being utilized during the specific lesson groups helps the students develop a deeper appreciation for both the music and practice.

What's your greatest strength? Creativity. I believe that my creativity allows me to think "outside the box" when it comes to maintaining a successful music program.

What keeps you enthusiastic or motivated about your role? The students and community. I've always felt that both the Memorial Day parade and annual concerts showcase the students' talent and growth throughout the school year. I have always found inspiration in seeing the community and school come together to support each other as a collective entity.

What goals do you have for your first year at Bolton Central School? I am currently working very hard to program music that both excites and motivates the Bolton students' music interest. I have also been working on choosing music literature that will spotlight our students in both our spring concert, and Memorial Day parade event.

What do you think the biggest challenges are in education right now? Although there are many outstanding benefits dealing with technology in our classrooms, I feel at times that social media and phone applications can sometimes block out the clarity of our educational goals. I believe both as a musician and educator that we need to at times "un-plug" in order to create a quiet environment that is conducive for study, practice, and communication.

Describe your family. My family includes my wife Marissa, our 15 month old son Wyatt, and our two cats. My wife Marissa is a local Yoga instructor and enjoys teaching students about health and nutrition. My son Wyatt likes to barbecue and go for boat rides on the lake with mom and dad.

Please tell us about places you have been or would like to travel to. Prior to my public school career, I was able to teach music theory in Anguilla British West Indies. I had the opportunity to live in St. Martin for a short stint while professionally performing, recording, and traveling with local Reggae and Jazz musicians. I have always wanted the opportunity to play a jazz gig in Paris. I have never been to Europe but would love the opportunity to go some day.

What do you like to do in your spare time? When I am not spending time with family, I am usually engaged in music rehearsals for upcoming gigs, holding jam sessions with friends, teaching private lessons, or trying to convince my wife to let me ride my motorcycle.

Tell us something about yourself that might surprise us. One of my very best friends, mentors, and music colleagues named Mr. Greg Mason taught instrumental music at Bolton Central School from 1975-1980. It was he who inspired me to become a public school music director.

If you could ask anyone in school a question, who would it be and what would ask? Because I haven't met many of the faculty yet, I would probably like to ask Mr. Graney if he uses hybrid golf clubs or standard irons in his golf game. I have heard through the grapevine he is a talented golfer, and as I am continuously trying to improve my game, I enjoy asking suggestions of other golfers that could help lower my handicap.



In Mrs. Ostberg's 5th grade class, a candy cane lab was used to explore the properties of candy canes. Students were asked to first describe the candy cane in terms of shape and colors during their initial observation. Throughout the experiment students were encouraged to document their findings clearly on paper. Then the group discussed the three liquid substances that the candy canes were to be immersed in and guess (or infer) the changes that might occur. Once the experiment was underway students were able to observe the changes first hand, as they occurred and were able to be part of the experiment. The excitement of seeing an everyday object change right there in the classroom inspired students to wonder if those same changes would happen using different objects or different methods.



Students in Mr. Boire's Technology 8 class faced the challenge of building a Mouse Trap Powered Vehicle. The objective was to build a vehicle solely powered by the energy of one standard sized mousetrap that would travel the greatest distance in the least amount of time. Using "tech-no dollars" students were to purchase parts to build their vehicle with the cost of the car and the accuracy of their expense report factoring into the challenge.

There were a dozen regulations to follow and expectations to be met. Students were encouraged to utilize all aspects of STEAM in order to achieve their goal. In order to move from the abstract idea and the expected function of their vehicle, students were to create a thumbnail sketch, followed by a working drawing. Then came the actual construction of the car and exploring what changes worked towards the goal and what did not. The safe use of tools and their effects were understood. The performance of the materials and the process created opportunities for trial, error and adjustment. In the end students were able to see that collaboration often contributed to success.

This year, seniors in Mr. Boire's World of Technology class completed a "Pallet Chair Activity." The goal was to design an ergonomically correct chair based on statistical class data. Some of the criteria and constraints for this activity were that the chair have a seat and a back (arms were optional), have no fewer than three legs, the back tilt needed to fall between 70 and 80 degrees and the seat lift under the legs needed to be 10 degrees. The completed chair needed to support a person weighing 200 pounds and must be comfortable to sit in. The chair was to be made from two pallets, glue and mechanical fasteners and be completed within three weeks. The class had a very busy three weeks. From research, numerous sketches and drawings and building a prototype, it all culminated with the testing and evaluation of the projects. Through this assignment and additional aspects in World of Technology curriculum, students are provided with opportunities to become engaged in critical thinking as they develop solutions to real world problems while working in a hands on/ minds on laboratory setting. This same group has tackled the task of building a rollercoaster. Physics students are using the finished coaster to measure and study forces in motion.

The Darrin Fresh Water Institute, as a multidisciplinary environmental research center of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, partnering with IBM, and The Fund for Lake George, is creating a revolutionary new model in environmental monitoring and, ultimately, remediation. The Jefferson Project at Lake George is combining smart technology and scientific experimentation to turn Lake George into the world's "smartest lake." Through a network of sensors being installed in and around the lake and its tributaries, data is being collected to measure many physical, chemical and biological parameters including the movement of the water and the presence and amounts of organic markers and contaminants. The

Bottom Photo: Pre K students (L to R) Austin Bliss and Jaden Nieves use magnifying glasses to investigate pumpkin seeds.

Top Photo: 1st grader Jaxon Egloff works on an owl drawing as part of a science unit that included a winged visitors from the Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York.

collection of data in this project is an important part of a more comprehensive understanding of Lake George. BCS students will be collecting snow core samples in the Bolton area of the Lake George watershed to be incorporated with cumulative data. The opportunity for BCS students to be a part of a project of this magnitude, in conjunction leaders in the fields of a wide variety of the sciences and data analytics, is truly an inspiring prospect.

Administration and staff are always looking forward in order to insure BCS students have the access they need to be successful. A small group of staff recently visited two locations to get a sense of what Maker Space is and how it can be arranged for different grade levels. They reviewed Maker Space areas that vary in amount need for funding from relatively no cost to high cost for larger high tech equipment. Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent as they deeply engage in science, engineering and tinkering.

A makerspace is not solely a science lab, woodshop, computer lab or art room, but it may contain elements found in all of these familiar spaces. Therefore, it must be designed to accommodate a wide range of activities, tools and materials.

Throughout their academic careers, BCS students are constantly sharpening their problem solving skills and learning to work together to creatively tackle challenges. This sort of education has the potential to fuel success on many fronts, but most importantly it creates a lasting passion for the process of innovation and a competence that builds confidence and shapes young learners to be life long imaginative, creative and critical thinkers.



Mr. Boire's World of Technology class works on sections of a roller coaster to improve performance



As part of her World of Technology class, senior Brittany Cannizzaro begins the construction of a chair made from two wood pallets. X weeks later, Mr. Hull was more than willing to be a part of the team that tested the finished product in a variety of categories including craftsmanship, stability and comfort.