



The Beacon



Shining a light on the Baldwinsville Central School District

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District Rewarded for Wellness Efforts

The American Dairy Association and Dairy Council (ADADC) has awarded a \$1,000 grant to the district's Wellness Council in recognition of the district's efforts to increase breakfast participation in the schools. A healthy breakfast each morning helps students to focus in the classroom for optimal academic performance. According to Brian Wright, the district's food service director, breakfast purchases district-wide increased for the 2009-2010 school year. In April 2009, there were 180 breakfast purchases in the district each day at the district's non-secondary schools. This past April there were 220 purchases each day.

Wright said food service worked collaboratively with staff and administrators at Ray Middle School to increase the number of students purchasing breakfast in the school cafeteria. Students who were bussed to school were encouraged to obtain a special pass from the main office so that they could enter school to purchase breakfast before all the buses were unloaded. This gave students the opportunity to eat before they were required to report to their homerooms. Wright said the number of students purchasing breakfast at Ray for the 2009-2010 school year was roughly double the amount of students who purchased breakfast in 2008-2009.

The district's Wellness Council will be meeting to discuss how to use the ADADC's grant to further the district's efforts to promote physical activity and nutrition education to Baldwinsville's students and staff.

District Earns EPA's ENERGY STAR

Six schools in the Baldwinsville Central School District have earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR designation for superior energy efficiency. The ENERGY STAR distinguishes Durgee Junior High School, Ray Middle School, McNamara Elementary School, Palmer Elementary School, Reynolds Elementary School and Van Buren Elementary School as six of the top 25 percent of buildings in the nation in terms of energy efficiency. Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR use an average of 40 percent less energy than typical buildings. Superintendent Jeanne Dangle stated, "The district is pleased to accept the EPA's ENERGY STAR in recognition of our energy efficiency efforts. Through this achievement, we have demonstrated our commitment to environmental stewardship and lowering our energy costs."

Ray's First Wellness Fair

At the end of May, Ray Middle School held its first wellness fair to educate sixth- and seventh-graders in practices that promote a healthy lifestyle for the body and mind. The fair, made possible with a grant from the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council (ADADC), highlighted nutrition, exercise and stress reduction. Students were able to choose three activities from 22 that Ray offered, inside and outside of the building, including healthy food sampling, sidewalk art, and yoga.

In the school cafeteria, Melanie Hubert, a registered dietician with OCM BOCES, had bottles of popular soft drinks and juice beverages, filled with the amount of sugar each one contains, on display for students to examine. At right, Hubert surprises Tyler Johnson when she shows him a juice beverage that contains as much sugar as two and a half chocolate candy bars. To emphasize that eating healthy can also be tasty, the school offered students nutritious food choices to sample, including yogurt, orange juice, and milk.



Social Studies Teachers Honored for Dedication

The Central New York Council for the Social Studies (CNYCSS) has honored two teachers from Baker High School for their leadership, professional standards, and activity in social studies. Congratulations to Ericka Garcia, who received the Outstanding Secondary Social Studies Educator Award at the council's awards banquet on May 17. Her colleague, Kathryn Weagraff, received the Roger Sipher Beginning Teacher Award, which CNYCSS awards to an outstanding teacher who has five years or less in the teaching profession.

Elden Student Wins Poster Contest

Megan Brecht, a student at Elden Elementary School, received first place in Division 1 (grades K-2) of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation school bus safety poster contest. Her poster has advanced to the state portion of the competition.

Hatching Eggs at Durgee

Ed Rigdon-Boysuk (left) and Kristin Hartle hold baby chicks that they and their classmates hatched in teacher Wendi Hitchcock's class at Durgee Junior High School. Students were responsible for monitoring and charting temperature and humidity in the incubator for three weeks until the eggs hatched in May. They also researched the development and care of chicks. The project incorporated elements from the math and science curriculums.



28th Annual Colonial Fest

The district's 465 fourth-graders took a step back in time to colonial New York at the annual Colonial Festival in June. The festival ran for two days to accommodate all of the students. They rotated through hands-on activities, experiencing colonial tasks and crafts, including tin smithing, spinning, and weaving. The festival is part of the fourth-grade social studies curriculum. At top right, Jack Gramlich helps MacKenzie Bruen with a tin smithing activity. At bottom right, volunteer Christina Stolp explains to Alexis Ashby, left, and Alex Panos how colonists spun wool in order to make clothing.



Reynolds Students Awarded for Compassion

Teacher Julia Sennett's second-grade class at Reynolds Elementary School was awarded a 2010 Caring Class Award from Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Central New York (FEAT of CNY). The class was one of only seven in the Central New York area to receive the award for their exemplary behavior in striving to treat each member of the class fairly and for including every classmate in all activities.



McNamara Student is Winner in Writing Contest

Rati Saini, a fourth-grader at McNamara Elementary School, won second place in the 3rd through 5th grade category of the Oz-Stravaganza Short Story Ending Contest, held as part of Chittenango's Oz-Stravaganza, an annual event that celebrates the life and works of L. Frank Baum, author of "Wonderful Wizard of Oz."



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