



The Beacon



Shining a light on the Baldwinsville Central School District

Issue 75

December 2009

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Budget Development for 2010-2011

The budget development process for 2010-2011 continues in the Baldwinsville Central School District. The Board of Education and district administrators are carefully scrutinizing all areas of the budget to determine cost-cutting measures that will not jeopardize student instruction and district programs.

Community collaboration is a vital element in the budget development process. Residents have the opportunity to express their concerns and suggestions regarding the budget by participating in budget discussions at Board of Education meetings. At Board meetings from January 25 to March 29, district administrators will present a different component of the budget to the Board. At each meeting, the budget discussion will be open to the public for questions and comments after the Board's discussion.

Board meetings usually begin at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Durgee Junior High School. To confirm a meeting location, call the Superintendent's office at 638-6043 the day of the meeting. You can access documents related to

each meeting on the district's website at www.bville.org. Under the Board of Education heading on the home page, click on BoardDocs, and look for the date of the meeting.

The schedule of Board of Education meetings and the budget components to be discussed are as follows:

- 4 January 25 - Transportation, facilities, and debt service;
- 4 February 8 - Athletics, review of transportation, facilities, and debt service;
- 4 February 22 - Special education, review of athletics;
- 4 March 1 - Instructional, review of special education;
- 4 March 15 - Review of instructional;
- 4 March 29 - Administrative recommended budget; and
- 4 April 5 - Board of Education adopts budget.

SECTION III CLASS AA 2009 CHAMPIONS

Boys' Varsity Volleyball

Boys' Varsity Soccer

Girls' Varsity Volleyball

Varsity Football

REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

Varsity Football

Girls' Varsity Volleyball

NYSPHSAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

3rd Place - Shaun Thompson

BOE President's Message



Victor Jenkins

Dear District Residents:

As is the case for every school district in New York State, the Baldwinsville Central School District expects a challenging development process for the 2010-2011 budget. We anticipate that the state's fiscal crisis will continue to affect school districts for the next three years, so the Board of Education and district administrators are keeping this in mind as we develop the 2010-2011

budget. We must do more with less without jeopardizing instruction.

Budget planning and development take many months. Creating a budget for the next school year begins in September of the current school year. We examine the actual expenditures from the previous year, as well as what was budgeted for the current academic year, in order to determine what the district will need to spend in the next year. There are numerous projections and estimations involved, including enrollment projections and staffing needs. We must also take into account the district's revenues, including sales tax revenue and state aid.

We take a conservative approach when developing the budget each year. Our goal is to present residents with a budget that enables the district to deliver all of its quality programs and maintain financial stability while remaining fiscally responsible to taxpayers. As a safeguard to ensure that the district has adequate resources to meet its financial obligations for the year, we place money (fund balance) into several reserves. This is similar to a "rainy day" fund that you might have for your household budget to cover financial emergencies.

The district must be fiscally prepared for its "rainy days" so that we can hold the tax levy down. The Board of Education has funded reserves for capital construction, tax certiorari cases, legal defense cases, and employee benefits. The Board has maintained an "unappropriated fund balance" of 4% of the total budget, as allowed by law. For 2009-2010, the Board used \$1,500,000 of the fund balance to keep the tax levy low.

As you will note from the following figures, the district has been successful in maintaining a stable tax rate for the last five years. These are the tax rates per thousand of assessed value:

2005-06.....	\$24.20
2006-07.....	\$24.12
2007-08.....	\$23.56
2008-09.....	\$23.56
2009-10.....	\$22.83

The tax rate for each of the last five years is a good indicator of the district's prudence in allocating its financial resources as well as the district's commitment to maintaining financial stability.

As the Board of Education and district administrators develop the 2010-2011 budget, I encourage you to attend the Board meetings listed

on the front page of this newsletter. Residents have an opportunity to sit in on the budget discussions as well as to ask questions and discuss their concerns regarding the district's finances.

Should you have any questions, you can contact any member of the Board through district email. Our email addresses are all listed with our biographies on the Board's website page at www.bville.org.

On behalf of the Board of Education,

Victor Jenkins, President

District Honors Board

On October 19, the Baldwinsville Central School District honored its nine Board of Education members for their dedication with a presentation of gifts during the Board's meeting. The nine community members who serve on the district's Board of Education are: Victor Jenkins, President; Lawrence Ordway, Vice President; Cynthia Cronin; James Goulet; Greg Hudson; Colin Kahl; Mark Manning; Joan Reeves; and Burrill Wells.

Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Board members for generously contributing their time and talents to serve the school district. Board members serve with no monetary compensation. On behalf of the students of the district, Ian Rucker, William Santoro, Sarah Miller, Gabriella George, James Dugan, and Melanie Ragonese, fifth-graders at McNamara Elementary School, presented each Board member with a gift. The gifts were ceramic sun designs that they, along with their classmates John Kresovich, George Kresovich and Briann Obert made under the direction of their art teacher Leslie Nicoletti.



McNamara Elementary School fifth-grader Gabriella George presents Board of Education member Greg Hudson with a gift on behalf of the students of the Baldwinsville Central School District.

Internet Safety Presentation

On January 26, the district will hold an internet safety presentation for community members from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Durgee Junior High School. School resource officers Martin Knaul and Christine Weeks, along with a representative of the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, will provide information on how children are vulnerable to internet predators as well as how to keep them safe. The presentation is free and open to adults only due to the nature of the information that will be discussed. If you have any questions, please call Kelly Cary, school information officer, at 638-6180.

District News

New Firefighter Course at Baker

Popular elective teaches students basic firefighting and first-aid skills



This fall, Baker High School, in conjunction with the Town of Lysander Public Safety Committee's Council of Department Educational Services (C.O.D.E.S.), launched a firefighter/EMS training course as an elective. The course was made possible through a grant that the Department of Homeland Security awarded the Belgium-Cold Springs Fire Department. The grant covers three years of instruction costs at the high school.

The first session of the course is full, with 20 students, male and female, learning basic firefighting skills and emergency medical training that will prepare them to join a volunteer fire/EMS agency. The class meets daily, and Paul Becker (in the above photo), lead instructor at the high school, said the students have been eager to learn. Volunteer firefighters from the Baldwinsville, Belgium-Cold Springs, Phoenix, Lakeside, and Lysander fire departments instruct students in scene support, including CPR and basic first aid. As the semester has progressed, students have received hands on

experience in raising and climbing ladders, using and maintaining fire hose and other equipment and tools, and preparing victims for transportation to the hospital. Becker explained that this course does not qualify students to fight fires from the inside of burning structures, but when they are finished with the course, they will be able to assist firefighters in support activities.

Becker noted that the course's main objectives are to serve Baldwinsville's students and to strengthen the Baldwinsville community by raising student awareness of the benefits of volunteering in community organizations and serving with a fire department or EMS group. Becker explained that as a member of a fire department, students must adhere to certain guidelines for school attendance, grades and behavior. These guidelines give them incentives to perform their best in school. Students also benefit from the advice and guidance of the seasoned firefighters. Since the firefighters are volunteers, they represent many different professions and act as mentors to the younger members.

There are other benefits for students who join a volunteer fire department. Becker said junior firefighters are eligible for awards and scholarships to help pay for college. Often qualified students can serve as firefighters in the area where they're going to college, and the fire department can provide them with room and board in what's called a bunk program, creating a substantial savings for the students as they pursue their higher education.

"This course is a big step forward and a big challenge for the fire departments and the community," Becker said. If the course is successful in training and recruiting students for the area volunteer fire departments, the Department of Homeland Security is likely to renew the Belgium-Cold Springs Fire Department's grant to continue the elective.

October Trivia Question Stumps Community

In October, the district ran its first trivia question on the digital sign located at the entrance of the main campus. It was a stumper! Congratulations to Bob Scherfling, Sr., the only person who called the district office with the correct answer to the following question:

"Where was the first school in Baldwinsville?"

Answer: The first school in Baldwinsville was at the corner of what is now West Oneida Street and Sunset Terrace. It was referred to as the "old red" school house, and was built around 1813-1814.

Thank you to local historian Bonnie Kisselstein, who supplied the trivia question.

Sign Up for Emails from Superintendent

If you would like to receive information that is sent to the district's Key Communicators' Network, please visit the district website and follow the instructions. Go to - <http://www.bville.org/emailregistration/> to sign up to receive emails with timely information from Superintendent Jeanne Dangle.

Have a Question? Here's Who to Contact

When you have a question about the district or a problem or concern, do you know whom in the district to call first to find the answer or to resolve the issue? Below is a step-by-step outline of who to contact in the various departments of the school district. When you need assistance, please contact the first individual listed in the department.

Accountability for Student Learning (NYS Assessment, Regents Exams, Local Assessments)

Step 1: Classroom Teacher - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Dawn Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction - *If not resolved...*

Step 4: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

Athletic/Sports Information

Step 1: Coach - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Bruce Quimby, Athletic Director - *If not resolved...*

Step 4: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

Breakfast/Lunch Programs

Step 1: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Brian Wright, Food Service Director - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: James Rodems, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services

Building Use Request (Scheduling Events in School Facilities)

Step 1: Building Principal (request Use of Facilities Form, complete and return) - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Bruce Quimby, Athletic Director (if request is for gym or field) - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: James Rodems, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services

Curriculum Information (Class/Course)

Step 1: Teacher and/or Guidance Counselor - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Dawn Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

District Communications/Publications

Step 1: Kelly Cary, School Information Officer - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

Graduation Requirements

Step 1: Guidance Counselor - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Dawn Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction - *If not resolved...*

Step 4: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

Medical Information

Step 1: Contact the nurse in your child's building - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Julie Carpenter, School Nurse Supervisor - *If not resolved...*

Step 4: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

School Information (Learning, Code of Conduct, Expectations, Grading, Report Cards, Classroom Behavior, etc.)

Step 1: Classroom teacher/guidance counselor. - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Dawn Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction - *If not resolved...*

Step 4: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

Guidance and Career Services

Step 1: Guidance Counselor - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Dawn Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Intervention Counseling

Step 1: Counselor - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

Special Education Information/Special Needs

Step 1: Special Education Teacher - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Rocco Nalli, Director of Special Education - *If not resolved...*

Step 4: Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent

Technology

Step 1: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: RJ DeLisle, Director of Technology - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Dawn Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Transportation Information (Pickup, Route Problems, Bus Behavior, etc.)

Step 1: Transportation Department - *If not resolved...*

Step 2: Building Principal - *If not resolved...*

Step 3: Nancy Wescott, Supervisor of Transportation - *If not resolved...*

Step 4: James Rodems, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services

The above information can also be found on the district's website at www.bville.org.

District News

District Contact Numbers

Keep the following list of district phone numbers handy for when you have a district-related question or problem.

Jeanne Dangle, Superintendent	638-6043
Dawn Wilczynski, Assist. Superintendent for Instruction	638-6044
James Rodems, Assist. Superintendent for Management Services	638-6055
Rocco Nalli, Director of Special Education	635-4570
Julie Carpenter, School Nurse Supervisor - call school nurse	
RJ DeLisle, Director of Technology	638-6103
Nancy Wescott, Supervisor of Transportation	638-6097
Bruce Quimby, Athletic Director	638-6053
Brian Wright, Food Service Director	638-6063
Kelly Cary, School Information Officer	638-6180
Baker High School	638-6008
Durgee Junior High School	638-6086
Ray Middle School	638-6106
Elden Elementary School	638-6118
McNamara Elementary School	638-6130
Palmer Elementary School	638-6127
Reynolds Elementary School	638-6124
Van Buren Elementary School	638-6121

Local Author Donates Books



Superintendent Jeanne Dangle and Steven McMahon look over a copy of McMahon's new book, "Lysander Goes to School: A History of the Rural Schools of the Town of Lysander, NY, in Images & Interviews." McMahon generously donated copies of his book to each of the eight schools in the Baldwinsville Central School District. A native of Baldwinsville, McMahon writes a local history column for the "Messenger."

Boy Scouts Spruce Up District Sign

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 71 for providing landscaping for the district's digital sign. In October, the troop planted hostas, mums, and daffodils around the sign, under the leadership of Boy Scout Scott Hudson. Hudson, a senior at Baker High School, planned, coordinated, and directed the landscaping job, as well as a car wash fundraiser to purchase the plants, for his Eagle Scout project.

Looking for historical enrollment and achievement data for the district? Visit www.bville.org and click on the link to "District Info & Data" on the left side of the home page.

Scholastic's READ 180 Program

Last year, Ray Middle School began using Scholastic's READ 180, a reading program that provides intensive intervention for students in grades 4-12 who are reading below their grade level. The program develops and strengthens phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, text comprehension, vocabulary, spelling and writing. Last year about 50 sixth-graders were in the program, and by the end of the year, approximately half of the students were reading at their grade level. The other half of the group has continued with READ 180 in seventh grade this school year, and about 25 sixth-graders are in the program as well. Students enter the program based on their state ELA assessment scores, teacher recommendations, and the results of other assessment tests.

Cherrill Scuderi, a reading teacher at Ray, says the READ 180 program, which is a daily 80-minute class for sixth-graders, replaces the students' ELA class. The students meet for READ 180 during the periods of the school day when their peers have their ELA classes. Every day, the READ 180 students have whole group direct instruction, small group instruction, computer-based instruction, and independent reading. Units, which generally last two to three weeks, are geared toward students' instructional reading levels, and the topics are of interest to the students' age group. A unit begins with a small article that introduces a particular subject. As students progress through the unit, the articles get longer, each one building progressively on the reading and comprehension skills of the previous readings. Each unit offers a different style of reading material, including fiction, narrative, expository and descriptive articles. All units fea-

ture a lesson that applies the skills the unit has been reinforcing to real world skills, such as reading maps, book reviews, and flight schedules.

Scuderi said students spend time every day working by themselves on computer-based exercises in reading, spelling and vocabulary development. As a student uses the computer for a lesson, the READ 180 software tracks his or her progress and performance and can adjust the instructional level so that the software is tailored to address each student's individual weaknesses. Scuderi can use the software to generate reports on student performance related to the accuracy of answers, response time for each question, and the types of errors he or she is making. This aids her in adapting her instruction to focus on particular reading skills.

Baker High School began using the READ 180 program this school year. Thirty-four students, in grades 10, 11 and 12 are currently in the program, which replaces their English classes. The program in the high school is similar to the one in the sixth grade, running for 80 minutes every day. Students receive 40 minutes of teacher-directed large and small group instruction, 20 minutes of computer-based instruction, and 20 minutes of independent reading time, just as the sixth-grade students do. Reading material for the course includes full-length novels, essays, articles, poetry, and short stories. Kathryn Vecchiarelli, who teaches READ 180 at the high school, said students will be evaluated in the middle of the year and at the end of the year so that the school can gauge individual progress to determine which students should remain in the program for the following year.

Spotlight on Transportation Department

This month the "Beecon" is highlighting the district's transportation department. The transportation department is dedicated to student safety, which is reflected in the department's excellent record of few injuries and accidents. Staff members spend many hours ensuring that drivers are in compliance with the many training and testing requirements of the state and federal governments. Drivers and attendants must complete rigorous training for their positions.

Did you know:

4 The district employs 158 people in the transportation department. The break down is:

- P**Drivers – 89
- P**Attendants – 30
- P**Substitute drivers – 15
- P**Substitute attendants – 5
- P**Mechanics – 8
- P**Head mechanic - 1
- P**Dispatchers – 2
- P**Secretaries – 1
- P**Safety officer – 1

PSupervisors – 1

4 The district has over 5,700 students eligible for transportation. About 4,260 students are transported daily on 89 bus routes.

4 The district services 41 locations on a daily basis:

- P**8 district schools
- P**3 in district parochial schools
- P**18 out of district parochial schools
- P**4 out of district private schools
- P**8 different BOCES locations

4 In an average run, a driver must stop about 25 times to load students.

4 Students are transported to over 1,700 athletic and field trips per year.

4 District buses travel 5,800 miles per day, or over one million miles per year.

4 Each year the department must create about 400 runs to accommodate all of the students eligi-

ble for transportation.

4 So far this year the transportation department has made almost 10,000 changes to its bus runs to accommodate students in daycare, students who have moved, to alleviate over-populated bus runs, and to increase efficiency.

4 The district has 110 buses. The average age of the buses is 8 years.

4 District mechanics service an average of 8 buses daily. Buses must be inspected by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS-DOT) every six months.

4 Baldwinsville buses have an excellent NYS-DOT out-of-service rate of 5% per year. An average of 93% of the district's buses are in excellent condition in a 12-month period.

If you have any questions about district transportation, please email Nancy Wescott, Supervisor, at nwescott@bville.org, or stop into the office at 29 East Oneida Street.

District News

B'ville Homecoming Brings Out School Spirit



On the evening of October 1, the district held a community-wide pep rally at Pelcher/Arcaro Stadium to celebrate homecoming and to recognize all of the district's fall athletic teams. Despite cold temperatures and pouring rain, the pep rally began with a parade through the village. After the parade, the Baldwinsville Marching Band began the festivities at the stadium with an informal performance of the band's award-winning show, "Pearl Harbor: December 7, 1941."

After Silk & Satin performed the national anthem and Baker High School's alma mater, the freshman, JV and varsity athletic teams marched onto the field for recognition. Captains and seniors were individually recognized, followed by a routine by the high school's cheerleaders.

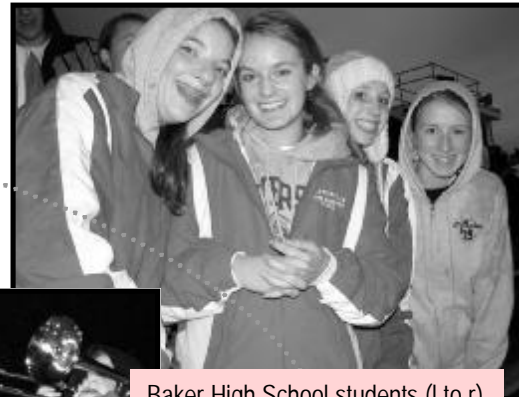
Winners of the 2009 homecoming court were:
4 Duke and Duchess – Alex Bono and Reena Brown;
4 Prince and Princess – Nick Yando and Sam Yaro ; and
4 King and Queen – Connor Bertrand and Kaitlyn Dodge.



The girls' volleyball team has the homecoming spirit!



Members of the boys' volleyball team are ready to celebrate at the district's homecoming pep rally. They are (front, l to r) Pete Cuppernull, Rob Sharfstein, Kyle Lattanzio, Zack Racha, Ryan Shelton, (back, l to r) Chris Thayer and Kevin Saintey.



Baker High School students (l to r) Danielle Petti, Mallory Warner, Abby Nelson, and Lauren O'Connor celebrate homecoming at Pelcher/Arcaro Stadium.



The marching band begins the pep rally with a performance of its award-winning show.



Juniors (l to r) Taylor Harris, Christina Kwiek, and Meghan Conway brave the cold and rain to cheer on Baldwinsville's fall athletes.

Student Achievement

Look What I Found!



Dominick Cartner holds up a shark's tooth he found while panning in a sluice at Palmer Elementary School in October. With him is his classmate Konnor Mascara. Palmer's third-graders panned for gems, fossils, and minerals in a 20-foot sluice that was set up in the school's cafeteria by Old Erie Mining Company. The children also searched the company's "mine," which was actually a trailer set up to simulate a mining experience for students. Wearing hardhats with headlamps, the third-graders entered the darkened mine to collect fossils, gems and minerals in metal buckets. They worked to identify the items they collected, using their knowledge of rocks and minerals, which they learned in the first unit of the third-grade science curriculum this fall.

4th Graders Map NYS



Claire Roberts, left, and Noah Czyz, fourth-graders at Van Buren Elementary School, make New York State maps out of homemade dough. This fall the students were studying the rivers and landforms of the state, and the map-making project reinforced their lessons.

Germy Art Project



At Reynolds Elementary School, third-graders (left to right) Corey Edwards, Emily Coon, Aden Battaglia, and Brooke Yerian stand in front of a bulletin board displaying their class' timely art project – germs! Art teacher Michael Conway encouraged students to create their interpretations of what they imagine germs look like when magnified. The artwork, located outside of the school nurse's office, became a daily reminder to the whole student body and staff of the importance of good hygiene and hand washing, particularly this flu season.

Baker's Dozen

Congratulations to the "Baker's Dozen," Baker High School seniors with the top thirteen grade point averages in the Class of 2010. The students, ranked in order, are:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Adam Pacheck | 8. Aubree Deblois |
| 2. Katrina Conklin | 9. Zachary Wolgemuth |
| 3. Abigail Johnson | 10. Kelly Novak |
| 4. Gregory Johnson | 11. Shane Rahrle |
| 5. Emily Gell | 12. Conner Emerson |
| 6. Peter Cuppernull | 13. Anthony Vecchio |
| 7. Angeline Walker | |

Student Achievement

Durgee Leadership Team Teaches Peers



To reinforce the importance of the district's dress code, ninth-graders (l to r) Mattison Maselli, Danielle Saylor, Abbey Foote, Angelica Tomasello, and Andrew Cuccaro present a skit to eighth-graders at Durgee Junior High School.

To address sensitive school issues, the Durgee Junior High School Leadership Team (DLT), a group of ninth-grade leaders, presented skits in all of the school's eighth-grade social studies classes at the end of October. The DLT members wrote skits that reinforced healthy citizenship traits while demonstrating how negative actions and attitudes can adversely affect the school environment. The skits focused on internet safety, bullying, rumors, academics, and the Baldwinsville Central School District's dress code and athletic code of conduct.

Each year a group of Durgee teachers selects the DLT members, based on each student's academic performance, interpersonal skills, and motivation. The youth leaders participate in several activities throughout the year to educate their peers on how to become leaders and how to create and maintain a positive atmosphere in the school.

This year's DLT members are: Casey Alencewicz, Elise Bevard, Weston Blasi, Jon Bovee, Cassidy Bruen, Shawn Calnan, Dan Chapman, Andrew Cuccaro, Kimmy Cushman, Erica Cutie, Nicole Damon, Anthony DeMarco, Cody Dombrowsky, John Duffy, Megan Eubank, Brittany Fahey, Lindsay Farrell, Emma Firenze, Andrew Fleming, Abbey Foote, Mayleena Holm, Mary Joncas, Erin Knaul, Emily Kott, Matt Lawrence, Morgan Marshall, Mattison Maselli, Kassey Milana, Logan Pacelli, Laura Parker, Charis Parker, Amari Pollard, Mallory Porch, Mackenzie Ross, Joshua Savacool, Danielle Saylor, Dominick Sellers, Sydney Slavik, Maggie Tarsel, Harrison Teich, Katie Timmons, Angelica Tomasello, Alyssa Tretowicz, and Rachel Valenti.

**Check out the district's
website at
www.bville.org**

Author Kicks-Off PARP



Author Matt McElligott kicked-off McNamara Elementary School's three-week PARP program with a visit to the school on October 9. He read his book, "Lion's Share," then demonstrated a math concept he highlighted in his book. Above, McElligott tries to enlist third-grader Cameron Slink to take care of his chores.

Reinforcing Science & Math Skills



Fourth-graders in teacher Aaron Bullis' class at Elden Elementary School had their math, observation, and data collecting skills put to the test in a pumpkin carving activity before Halloween. Fifteen fathers volunteered their time to help with the "dads only" activity, which Bullis designed to reinforce the skills and knowledge the students need to know for the New York State science assessment they will take in the spring.

Student Achievement

Band Wins 2009 Large School 2 Class Championship!

Marching band clinches top spot in every competition this season with tribute to the armed forces



Photo by Karen Mullarney

The Baldwinsville Marching Band ended its season on a high note, remaining undefeated for the year and winning first-place in the Large School 2 Class at the 36th Annual New York State Field Band Conference Championship Show, held at the Carrier Dome on November 1. The win was the band's seventh time placing first, having clinched the top spot at every show they competed in this year. Marching band director Casey Vanderstouw said the band's success was a result of each member's focus and determination to rise above the challenges the band faced this season, which included rain, cold temperatures, poor field conditions, and illness. Vanderstouw said that as a member of the marching band, a student learns discipline, respect and pride. "These are life lessons," he commented. He noted that students carry over these positive traits into their academic pur-

suits as well as their other daily activities.

The marching band's show, "Pearl Harbor: December 7, 1941," was a tribute to all members of the country's armed forces, past and present. The show depicted the tragic events of the attack on Pearl Harbor, using elements of music from composers Jay Bocook and Steven Reineke to recreate the peace the day began with, the horrific attack, the mournful aftermath, and finally the enduring courage and resolve of the American spirit. To enhance the show's dramatic effect, all members of the band were dressed in authentic Navy attire.

One of the highlights of the band's season was a performance on the USS Intrepid, one of the most successful ships in US history. The aircraft carrier, located in New York City, is now a premiere educational center and a monument to all who have served the country. The band performed on the ship's flight

deck on October 11, with about two hundred people in attendance, including many veterans.

Vanderstouw said that as the band was performing, he could tell that the students were connecting with the music, understanding what it and the performance meant in relation to the show's theme.

"Everybody matured at the same moment, which elevated the performance and the importance of the show," Vanderstouw explained. At the end of the band's performance, a Pearl Harbor survivor in attendance told the students, "Job well done," and explained that it is the highest compliment a captain can give his or her crew.

The band's success and dedication caught the attention of Assemblyman William Magnarelli. After learning about the theme of the band's show, he invited the Baldwinsville Marching Band to be the lead band in the Veterans Parade in downtown Syracuse on November 7.

Durgee Students Attend Area All-State Music Fest

Thirteen students from Durgee Junior High School were selected to perform in the NYSSMA Junior High Area All-State Music Festival, held November 6 and 7 in Cortland. They are: Andrea Carvalho, string bass; Antonio Martinez, cello; Michaela Ennis, viola; Della Patterson, viola; Abraham Kim, violin; Taylor Pelkie, violin; Sarah Allen, violin; Rachel Brown, violin; McKenna Curtis, violin; Julia Gorski, violin; Julianna Grabowski, violin; Mary Joncas, violin; and David Magowan, violin.



(Left to right) Della Patterson, Rachel Brown, Taylor Pelkie and Julianna Grabowski



(Left to right) Mary Joncas, Sarah Allen, McKenna Curtis and Michaela Ennis



(Left to right) Antonio Martinez, David Magowan, Abraham Kim and Andrea Carvalho. Missing is Julia Gorski.

Student Achievement

Baldwinsville's AP Scholars

Congratulations to the following students who earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams, which they took last May.

National AP Scholar with Distinction

Students qualifying for this award received an average grade of at least 4 on all exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more exams.

Alexandra Warren

AP Scholar with Distinction

Students qualifying for this award earned an average grade of at least 3.5 on all exams and grades of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

Sara Bauer
Joshua Bean
Timothy Chambers
Jessica Gaworecki
Andrew Giromini
Bradley James
Nicole Kinlock
Nolan Miles
Alison Nagle
Christopher Newman
Brendan Pitts
Danae Polsin
Jeffrey Pond

Danielle Reimer
Andres Romeu
Alexandra Warren

AP Scholar with Honor

Students qualifying for this award earned an average grade of at least 3.25 on all exams and grades of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Erin Carrino
Peter Cuppernull
Alex Gailor
Joellen Huebner
Joshua Katz
Adam Lesh
Elizabeth Magowan
Marc Tiller
Kaitlyn Wafful

AP Scholar Award

Students qualified for this award by completing three or more exams with grades of 3 or higher.

Thomas Albouy
Jessie Briggs
Ryan Brissenden

Christopher Cadwell
Michelle Chapman
Katrina Conklin
Aubree Deblois
Emily Gell
Brian Haima
Elizabeth Hoover
Casey Jabbour
Abigail Johnson
Paul Klopfer
Elizabeth Magiera
Grace Mai
Jacob Martin
Christine McBurney
Kyle McCaleb
Justin Mulvaney
Brian Niedzwecki
Adam Pacheck
Brianna Pollard
Rachel Radicello
Gretchen Reeves
Alaina Sawyer
Alyssa Starrantino
Alyson Tarney
Collin Thompson
Eric Vandervoort

Durgee Students Win 1st Place in Poster Contest



Two Durgee High School students were first-place winners in the 2009 CNY Veterans Parade Poster Contest. Ninth-grader Haley Kinnetz, left, received first-place for best depicting the "Thanking Our Veterans" theme. Eighth-grader Sarah Abraham received first-place in the Most Creative/Original Idea category of the contest.

Adding It Up

Emily Gell, left, and her teammate, Dan Mullarney, work on a problem during a math competition between Baker High School and West Genesee High School in October. Baker's math team consists of 72 students in grades 10-12. The students compete at math meets in seven smaller groups and work on problems of varying degrees of difficulty in a range of math topics. They're competing in meets once a month until February.



Calendar

December 11 Half-day for all students - Professional Dev. Day

December 24 to
January 3 No School - Holiday Break

January 18 No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 26 Internet Safety Presentation
7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Durgee Jr. High School Cafeteria

January 26-28 NYS Regents

February 4, 5, & 6 Baker High School musical - "Curtains"
Feb. 4 & 5, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$12, \$10, and \$8, and can be order as of January 13 by calling 638-6039.

February 13-21 No School - Winter Break

Author Visits Ray Middle School



Author and storyteller Joseph Bruchac visited Ray Middle School on November 10. Bruchac has written over 70 books for adults and children, many of which he has based on his Native American ancestry. His books provide students with insight into history as well as into other cultures. His lively story telling had students enthralled, and his books were in demand at the school's library after his visit.

Baldwinsville Central School District

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(315)638-6043
www.bville.org

Superintendent

Jeanne Dangle

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Dawn Wilczynski

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Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

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is an official
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Please direct comments to

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