



The Beacon



Shining a light on the Baldwinsville Central School District

Issue 73

October 2009

What's Inside

BOE News.....2

H1N1.....3

Communicating Student Achievement.....6

Key Communicators....7

Department Spotlight.....8

Calendar.....12

Financial Aid Night

Baker High School will hold Financial Aid Night on December 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the school. The meeting will guide parents step by step through the FAFSA form and provide information on financial aid packages, scholarships and loans. Parents of seniors are encouraged to attend this important presentation.

Meet Our New Teaching Staff

The 2009-2010 school year began with several new faces in administrative and teaching positions in the district. Welcome to the following staff members who joined the Baldwinsville Central School District this fall:

District Office

4 **Lynda Bookman** – Ms. Bookman is a physical therapist who is primarily working in the elementary schools this year. She most recently worked in the Liverpool Central School District. She earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree at Ithaca College.

4 **James Rodems** – Mr. Rodems joins the district in the business office as the new assistant superintendent for management services. He was previously the school business administrator for the Tully Central School District. Mr. Rodems received his bachelor's degree as well as his MBA from Syracuse

University. He received his certificate of advanced study in educational leadership from SUNY Cortland.

Baker High School

4 **Ashleigh Green** – Ms. Green joins the school as a long term sub as the school psychologist. She previously worked for the Liverpool Central School District. She received her bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and her master's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology.

4 **Peter Morgan** – Mr. Morgan teaches chemistry and physics at the high school. He most recently taught in the Binghamton City School District. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics from SUNY Potsdam and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Clarkson University. He earned his master's degree from SUNY Cortland.

4 *Continued on p. 4*

New staff

Baldwinsville's new teaching staff members include: (back, l to r) Stephanie Neidl, Casey Vanderstouw, Matthew Eils, Michelle Welcher, Kristina DuBois, Jeffrey Seltzer, (front, l to r) Kimberly Garvey, Kristin Brennan, Andrea Willis, Sara Oaks, Lisa D'Andreano, and Peter Morgan.



BOE President's Message



Victor Jenkins

Dear District Residents:

In August, the Board of Education adopted goals for 2009-2010. These goals will guide the Board and district administrators in maintaining current priorities and identifying new ones related to student achievement, safety, the stewardship of the district's financial and physical resources, and communication with all stakeholders. As the year progresses, district staff and administrators will develop strategies to achieve these goals.

Regarding student achievement, the district will continue to provide staff and students with feedback that is specific and focused on continuous improvement. Communicating student achievement to families is a top priority. We will continue to explore district-wide criteria for K-12 for homework and grading. Administrators and staff members are currently developing a report card prototype for grades K-5 and for grades 6-12 to create district-wide consistency in reporting student achievement. They're also exploring how to create consistency in the grading of homework. See page 6 of this newsletter for more information.

A safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff is a priority every year. The district's Facilities Committee will continue to review and prioritize the needs of facilities and grounds, and it will provide a recommendation to the Board regarding a capital project. Our Green Schools Sustainability Committee will work to identify opportunities for energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. We have five district buildings that are considered to be five of the top 25% of buildings in the nation in terms of energy performance. Durguee Junior High School, Ray Middle School, McNamara Elementary School, Palmer Elementary School, and Van Buren Elementary School earned the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR designation in the 2008-2009 school year.

To remain good stewards of the district's financial and physical resources, we will continue evaluating cost saving strategies and implementing those that are achievable. We will maintain the district's financial stability while remaining compliant with state and federal regulations. Last school year we initiated a Six Sigma study in the district. Six Sigma is a business management strategy that measures quality in an organization and identifies areas for improvement. Once these areas are identified cost-savings strategies can be implemented.

The district is committed to candor with the community in its communications. In order to keep the community informed of the many successes and accomplishments in our schools, the district will continue to disseminate information in its monthly newsletter, on its website, and in the local papers. A

Key Communicators' Network has been established to strengthen district communications. This group is made up of community members, parents, staff, local leaders and representatives from local businesses and organizations. The group will aid the district in maintaining and strengthening a dialogue with the community. The network will present community ideas, questions and concerns to the superintendent, and it will aid the district in addressing rumors and misinformation circulating in the community. You can find more information about this group on page 7 of this newsletter and on the district's website, www.bville.org. Look for the link to District Information on the home page.

You can read the full details of the district's goals on the Board of Education's page on the district's website. Should you have any questions regarding the goals, please contact me at vjenkins@bville.org, or contact any Board member. All Board members' emails are listed with their biographies on the Board's page on the website.

On behalf of the Board of Education,

Victor Jenkins, President

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
October 19, 2009	January 4, 2010
November 2, 2009	January 25, 2010
November 16, 2009	February 8, 2010
December 7, 2009	February 22, 2010
December 21, 2009	March 1, 2010

Board of Education meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. The location may vary, but is frequently in the cafeteria of Durguee Junior High School. To confirm the location of a meeting and to view the agenda and documents related to the meeting, visit the district website, www.bville.org. Under Board of Education, follow the link to BoardDocs.

District News

District Monitoring H1N1

The H1N1 virus (swine flu) continues to spread nationwide and worldwide. Parents, students and staff members are understandably concerned about this virus and the procedures the district has in place to curb its spread in our school community.



The district is working closely with the Onondaga County Health Department to monitor the virus in our schools and to mitigate its spread in the school community. The health department has issued the following guidelines that the district is following:

4 Separate ill students and staff. Immediately quarantine anyone who is ill and provide him or her with a mask.

4 The school nurse will send home anyone exhibiting flu symptoms. Early identification of the H1N1 virus includes the following symptoms:

- 8 Fever of 100 degrees or higher;
- 8 Cough;
- 8 Sore throat;
- 8 Runny nose.

4 Ill students and staff should remain home until at least 24 hours after they are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine, such as Tylenol, Motrin, and ibuprofen.

Stop the spread

To reduce the spread of the virus, practice good hygiene.

4 Wash hands frequently with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

4 Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers to clean hands when soap and water are not available.

4 Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw the tissue in the trash immediately. If no tissues are available, cough or sneeze into your arm or your sleeve – not your hand.

4 Contact your health care provider if you have any questions or concerns.

The district will continue to work closely with the health department and will keep the school community informed through the district website and newsletter, the district's telephone messaging service, letters home to parents when necessary, and the local radio and television stations.

Online Payment Option for School Meals

Baldwinsville parents have the option to pay for school meals online by creating online school meal accounts for their children and depositing money into them, as needed, through the website MyNutrikids.com. You can access this site from a link on the district's food service webpage.

1. Go to www.bville.org, and click on the link to Food Services.

2. Click on the MyNutrikids.com link. To create an account for your child on this site you'll need your child's student ID number, which you can find on your child's schedule. The number should begin with 610. If you can't find the number, contact your child's school or call Food Services at 638-6063

3. After setting up an account, deposit money into it by clicking on Deposit Money, and pay with a PayPal account if you have one or with a debit card or a credit card. This is a secure site.

You can make a deposit into your child's account at anytime through this website, as well as check your balance and review a history of what your child has purchased in the cafeteria. If you don't want to use the online payment service, you can still pay for school meals in advance with cash or a check made out to Baldwinsville Food Service.

For more detailed information on using the MyNutrikids website, please visit the Food Service page on the district website.

Nov. 25 Sheltering Drill

Please note that a sheltering drill will be conducted in all of the district's schools on November 25.

This is a half-day for students in grades K- 5 for parent-teacher conferences. AM kindergarten attends. Dismissal for K-5 is 11:15 a.m. for the state-required sheltering drill.

The day is a full day of school for grades 6-12. These grades will be dismissed 15 minutes earlier than normal dismissal time for the sheltering drill.

District News

4 *New Staff, continued from p. 1*

4 **Casey Vanderstouw** – Mr. Vanderstouw is the district's new marching band director and the high school's new band director. He previously taught high school concert band, middle school concert band, field band, parade band, pep band, jazz band and drumline in the Wellsville Central School District. He received his bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and is currently working on his master's degree through Boston University.

Durgee Junior High School

4 **John Birmingham** – Mr. Birmingham joins the school as an assistant principal. He previously taught in the Marcellus School District. He received his bachelor's degree from SUNY-ESF, and his master's degree and his certificate of advanced study from SUNY Cortland.

4 **Kristin Brennan** – Ms. Brennan is a 9th grade English teacher at the junior high school. She was most recently an ELA teacher in the East Syracuse – Minoa School District. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at SUNY Cortland.

4 **Kristina DuBois** – Ms. Dubois is teaching instrumental music at the junior high school. She previously worked for the Schalmont Central School District. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Ithaca College.

4 **Kimberly Garvey** – Ms. Garvey is teaching 8th grade English. She most recently taught in the Fayetteville-Manlius school district and in Virginia. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Syracuse University.

4 **Stephanie Neidl** – Ms. Neidl has joined the district as an 8th grade English teacher. Prior to coming to Baldwinsville she taught high school English in Stafford, VA. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Elmira College.

4 **Dee Sherb** – Ms. Sherb joins Durgee as an assistant principal. She previously taught in the North Syracuse Central School District. She received her bachelor's degree, her master's degree and a certificate of advanced study from Syracuse University.

Ray Middle School

4 **Michelle Welcher** – Ms. Welcher is a long-term sub for 7th grade science. She most recently taught biology at Fayetteville-Manlius High School. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and her master's degree from LeMoyne College.

4 **Tammy Williams** – Mrs. Williams is a music teacher at Ray. Before joining the district she taught music for five years at St. Matthew's School in East Syracuse, directed the school's two choirs, and taught concert band. She earned her bachelor's degree at Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and she received her master's degree from Syracuse University.

Elden Elementary School

4 **Mary Jane McCarey** – Ms. McCarey is a speech and language therapist with the school. She was previously a speech therapist with the Liverpool Central School District. She received her bachelor's degree from SUNY Geneseo and her master's degree from SUNY Oswego.

4 **Sara Oaks** – Ms. Oaks is teaching developmental kindergarten. She previously taught inclusion kindergarten in New York City. She received her bachelor's degree from St. Bonaventure University and her master's degree from University at Buffalo.

McNamara Elementary School

4 **Lisa D'Andreano** – Mrs. D'Andreano joins McNamara as a developmental kindergarten teacher. She previously taught first grade and kindergarten in the Auburn City School District. She received her bachelor's degree from SUNY Albany and her master's degree from Syracuse University.

4 **Jeffrey Seltzer** – Mr. Seltzer joins McNamara as the school's social worker. He was previously a community school coordinator in the Syracuse City School District. He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree from Syracuse University.

4 **Andrea Willis** – Mrs. Willis joins McNamara as a speech teacher. She will also be teaching speech at Reynolds Elementary School. She was previously with the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District. She earned her bachelor's degree at Bowling Green State University and her master's at the University at Buffalo.

Palmer Elementary School

4 **Amy Davis** – Ms. Davis is a long-term 1st grade substitute teacher with the school. She most recently taught 1st–3rd grades in Cincinnati, OH, and 3rd and 4th grades in the Liverpool Central School District. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati and her master's degree from Miami University in Ohio. She is a national board certified teacher.

District News

Reynolds Elementary School

4 **Matthew Ells** – Mr. Ells is the new strings teacher at the school. Before joining Baldwinsville he was a substitute teacher in several districts in Western New York. He received his bachelor's degree from SUNY Fredonia.

Administrative Changes

This school year there are some staffing changes at the administrative level.

At the district office:

4 **Rocco Nalli** is now the district's director of special education. He was previously the assistant director of special education.

4 **Eileen Lutz**, a special education teacher in the district, has joined the special education department in the district office as a teacher on special assignment.

4 **R.J. DeLisle**, previously Baldwinsville's director of curriculum and instruction, grades K-7, has assumed the post of director of technology.

4 **Matthew McDonald** joins the district office as assistant to the superintendent. He was previously an assistant principal at Durgee Junior High School.

At Baker High School:

4 **Joseph DeBarbieri** is now the principal. He had previously been an assistant principal at the high school.

4 **Michelle Crisafulli** is one of the school's new assistant principals. She was formerly a teacher at Reynolds Elementary School before completing her administrative internship at the high school in June.

4 **Christopher Campolieta** is the high school's other new assistant principal. He moves over to the high school from his position as assistant principal at Ray Middle School.

At Ray Middle School:

4 **Matthew Motala** joins the school as an assistant principal. He was previously an assistant principal at the junior high school.

District Technology Update

The Baldwinsville Central School District remains committed to providing its students and staff with the technology they need for optimal instruction. To standardize the computing environment district-wide, district technology spent the summer months finishing the replacement of Macintosh computers in the schools with PCs running Windows. This standardization reduces staffing needs and hardware costs. District technology has also installed a Unified Threat Manager (UTM), a firewall that will better protect the district from outside attacks to its network. A new web firewall was installed to protect internal web sites, such as e-mail and the library catalog systems.

The technology department is now busy upgrading network equipment in the buildings to provide 10 Gigabit connections between each building. This is a multi-year project. The department has also begun implementing a new desktop security and anti-virus suite that will provide state-of-the-art protection for desktops and laptops, as well as save the district over \$80,000 in software licensing costs over the next four years. As the role of technology in education continues to evolve, the district technology department will continue to strive to meet the needs of students and staff with cost-effective and appropriate solutions.

Food Service Staff Attend Training Workshop



(Left to right) Diane Elsmore, Carol Lang, Rozanne Garcia, and Sangita Verma, food service staff members, recently attended a four-day workshop on safe food handling and preparation. The New York State Education Department sponsored the training. The women were able to meet their peers from around the state to discuss food service issues and to learn from master instructors.

Communicating Student Achievement

District reviewing grading, reporting and homework to create district-wide consistency in these areas

The Baldwinsville Central School District is committed to maintaining high standards to ensure that all students meet or exceed state and local criteria in all areas of the curriculum.

Communicating student achievement to parents is an essential component in maintaining curriculum standards. Last year the district began an exploration of grading, reporting and homework to establish district-wide consistency in these areas as well as to improve communication in reporting achievement to parents.

The report card is the primary tool by which teachers inform parents of student achievement. Over 100 staff members, including district team leaders, department coordinators and administrators, are reviewing Baldwinsville's report cards and grading system. They've been attending workshops and conferences to gain a fresh perspective on reporting student achievement. Six staff members attended an extensive conference this past summer to continue this exploration – Gail Goff, Jason Glashauser, Dan Young, Patricia Glisson, Kate Weagraff, and Lynda Barry – along with three administrators – Dawn

Wilczynski, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Linda Law, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Michelle Crisafulli, Assistant Principal at Baker High School.

Staff members initially worked with national educational consultant Thomas Guskey, Ph.D., as they began evaluating Baldwinsville's grading system. Dr. Guskey provided the group with several issues to consider when reporting achievement, including if a letter grade or number grade should be assigned, how homework should be graded and reported, and how the report card might evolve in design. He indicated that Baldwinsville is ahead of many school districts in report card revision and development, and he believes the district may become a model district for this work, particularly due to the cooperation and collaboration of Baldwinsville's staff.

According to Dawn Wilczynski, staff members are researching the pros and cons of an ABC grading system versus the current percentage model (grade based on 0 -100%), and the criteria necessary to define what an "A" is, a "B" is, and so forth. They're also developing

prototypes for report cards for grades K-5 and 6-12, so a similar format can be used for all grades in the two groups. Wilczynski said that the committee is working to incorporate grade level curriculum indicators into the report card to communicate how well a student is meeting the expectations of that grade. Wilczynski said the kindergarten report card will be slightly different from the 1-5 report card due to the nature of the kindergarten curriculum.

The committee expects to have report card prototypes ready to view by late spring. A date to implement new report cards will not be determined until the Board of Education has thoroughly reviewed them.

Wilczynski said the committee has also been examining how homework is graded and weighted at each grade level to develop a district-wide philosophy and practice of assigning homework. The philosophy will define the purpose of homework, how much time is allotted for homework each day per grade level, how teachers assign a grade to it, and how or if it will figure into a grade for each marking period.

Looking for curriculum information and NYS Report Card information?

You can find the district's standards and benchmarks for each subject in each grade on the website, www.bville.org. From the home page, follow the link to Curriculum, then click on Curriculum Documents.

For more specific information on what your child will be learning this school year, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher (s).

Many district teachers also maintain their own websites to keep parents informed. To check and see if your child's teacher(s) has a website, go to the school's homepage and follow the link to the staff directory where all of the building's staff members are listed with their email addresses and websites, if they have one.

NYS Report Card

To access the district's NYS Report Card, follow the link on the home page to District Information, and click on the link to NYS Report Card. You can also access this information on the home page of each school.

District Forms Key Communicators' Network

Group will aid district in enhancing communication with the community

Because the Baldwinsville Central School District is committed to candid communications with community members, the district has established the Key Communicators' Network. Key communicators are community members, parents, staff members, representatives from local businesses and organizations, and representatives from local government. They have volunteered their time to aid the district in improving and enhancing communication in the community by acting as a conduit between the district and the community. Key communicators actively share information with community members to dispel rumors. They keep Superintendent Jeanne Dangle informed of questions, concerns, and rumors they have heard in the community.

The goals of the group are:

- 4 To bridge the connection between the district and the community;
- 4 To communicate student and staff accomplishments;
- 4 To provide an opportunity for key communicators to share community concerns, questions and ideas with the superintendent;
- 4 To provide key communicators with accurate information regarding district programs and initiatives that they share with other community members; and
- 4 To proactively manage issues, particularly rumors and misinformation circulating in the community.

The Key Communicators' Network met for the first time on September 14. You can find the minutes from this meeting on the Key Communicators' page on the district's website. Go to www.bville.org, and follow the link to District Information on the left side of the homepage. On the District Information page click on the link to Key Communicators' Network. Here you will find the minutes as well as an overview of the group. The superintendent is posting a Q & A on this page on a regular basis to provide district residents with the most accurate information on issues of concern to them.

At the first meeting, the group discussed how community members get information about the district. Many members mentioned the district newsletter, the "Messenger," friends, and the PTA newsletters. Superintendent Dangle showed the group data from a community perception survey that the district conducted in January 2008 in conjunction with Research & Marketing Strategies, Inc. (RMS). According to the survey, 81% of respondents agreed that the district communicates well with the community, and 77% said they receive their information about the district from the district newsletter, "The Beacon."

Superintendent Dangle discussed the boundaries that constrain the district when disseminating information. These boundaries are:

- 4 Cost – Is the method of communication cost-effective?
- 4 Legal – There are instances when the district cannot release information

to the public for legal reasons;

4 Contracts – There are clauses in staff contracts that prohibit the district from releasing certain information until a specified time;

4 Personnel issues – There are certain issues that the district does not have the right to share with the community;

4 Student privacy; and

4 Board of Education action – The district cannot release information until the Board of Education has acted on an item or issue.

The group broke into five smaller groups to discuss the following questions:

1. What are currently the most relevant issues in the community?
2. How can the district get accurate information out to the community?

The groups named issues such as the H1N1 virus and safety and security. They also cited making the district's website more user friendly and creating more interactive communication, such as community meetings, as the top two methods to provide the community with information. All of the groups' responses to the two questions can be found in the meeting minutes on the website.

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Key Communicators' Network, please contact Kelly Cary, school information officer, at kcary@bville.org or 638-6180.

Department Spotlight - Facilities

This issue of the "Beecon" begins a new feature highlighting district departments

The Baldwinsville Central School District is the third largest suburban public school district in the county, serving about 6,000 students. The district employs about 1,000 people in order to provide students with a safe and healthy learning environment. About half of these staff members are support staff, working in the various departments responsible for such areas as maintenance, food service and transportation. To give community members a better perspective of all the necessary work and duties staff perform to keep a district this large and complex running efficiently, "The Beecon" will spotlight a district department every other month. This month we are highlighting the Facilities Department and its 65 staff members.

Did you know:

4 The value of our school facilities is more than \$68 million dollars. The facilities department works hard to protect and maintain these assets.

4 The district has eight school buildings.

3 Five elementary schools (K-5)

- * Elden - built in 1957
- * McNamara - built in 1963
- * Palmer - built in 1963
- * Reynolds - built in 1965
- * Van Buren - built in 1956

3 Ray Middle School (6th & 7th) - built in 1974

3 Durgee Junior High (8th & 9th) - built in 1959

3 Baker High School (10th - 12th) - built in 1952

4 The total square footage of the district's school buildings is 858,784 sq. ft. Every night during the school year the custodial staff cleans the equivalent of 429 - 2,000 sq. ft. homes.

4 Facilities maintains and prepares 26 multi-use athletic fields for over 300 home athletic contests, as well as daily

athletic practices, physical education classes and community use throughout the school year.

4 230 acres of lawn, asphalt, sidewalks, wooded areas and wetlands are maintained annually.

4 Snow and ice are removed from 21 acres of blacktop in the winter. This is the equivalent of 919 two car driveways.

4 Each maintenance technician maintains and repairs 171,756 sq. ft. of building infrastructure.

4 1,906 facilities work orders were completed during the 2008-2009 school year.

4 Community groups and organizations are welcomed to use the Baldwinsville Central School District facilities. In the 2008-2009 school year, several hundred reservations were processed through our buildings for community events, meetings, and activities.

4 The district has a Green Schools Sustainability Committee that meets regularly to identify opportunities for energy efficiency and environmental responsibility.

4 Due to an effective energy conservation program, the district has avoided over \$1.5 million in energy costs since 2000.

4 Durgee Junior High School, Ray Middle School, McNamara Elementary School, Palmer Elementary School, and Van Buren Elementary School earned the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR designation in the 2008-2009 school year, distinguishing these buildings as five of the top 25% of buildings in the nation in terms of energy performance.

Update Emergency Contact Info

If your child's school needed to contact you in an emergency, would they have the correct phone number? If any of the phone numbers you have provided to the school as emergency contact numbers should change during the school year, please contact the school *immediately* with your new number(s). In the case of an emergency precious time will be lost if staff members cannot locate a parent or guardian. Do not assume that your child will remember a change in phone number or will be in any condition to provide a phone number. Correct emergency contact information is essential for all students in grades K-12.

Performance Expert Addresses District Staff

Staff encouraged to adopt health-related goals to increase personal and student achievement

On September 8, national performance improvement expert Fred Schafer addressed staff members, outlining how they can perform better, live stronger, and dream bigger to maximize their potential as well as the potential of Baldwinsville's students. The district's Wellness Council invited Schafer to speak to energize staff for a new school year, as well as to promote the district's wellness policy. The American Dairy Association and Dairy Council (ADADC) sponsored Schafer's presentation.

The Wellness Council, headed by co-chairs Shannon Cavedine, R.N., and Brian Wright, food service director, developed the district's wellness policy, which the district adopted in 2006. The policy emphasizes creating and maintaining a learning environment that models and encourages healthy eating and physical activity habits to protect students' health, well being, and ability to learn. You can

read the policy in its entirety on the district's website at www.bville.org. On the home page, follow the link to District Information.

Schafer's humorous presentation emphasized the importance of setting goals in an individual's professional and personal life rather than drifting through life with no plan for the future. He told staff to "boldly declare their intentions," by writing them down and reviewing them every day, being sure to include wellness and physical activity in their goals. Schafer's talk focused on how improving one's physical and mental condition results in personal and professional achievement. Staff members can positively model healthy choices for nutrition and physical activity, promoting the connection between health and students' well-being in every area of their lives, including academic performance.



National performance improvement expert Fred Schafer (third from left) is shown here with (l to r) Beth Mahon, a member of the district's Wellness Council, Shannon Cavedine, R.N., Wellness Council co-chair, Florence Selin, a representative from the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, and Brian Wright, food service director and Wellness Council co-chair.

Read the district's wellness policy at www.bville.org



District Fitness Trail Another option for exercise

Elden Elementary School fifth-grader Victoria Norton does sit ups on the district's fitness trail while her classmates (l to r) Elyn Freeley, Cameron Cardinal, and Shacore Cooper wait their turn. Their teacher, Donald Rindfuss, takes the class out two to three times a week during good weather to provide them with an opportunity to burn off energy and stress while they're at school, as well as to squeeze in some exercise.

The fitness trail loops around the district's main campus at 29 E. Oneida St. and has ten stations to work different parts of the body. It's open for use to everyone in the school district community.

Student Achievement

Seniors Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists



The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named two seniors from Baker High School as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. Katrina Conklin and Adam Pacheck are two of the 16,000 semifinalists nationwide who have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,200 National Merit Scholarships. Congratulations Katrina and Adam!

Five Students Selected for NYSSMA All-State



Five students from Baker High School have been selected to attend the NYSSMA All-State Music Conference, to be held in Rochester on December 3 - 6. Thousands of students auditioned for this honor last spring at solo and ensemble festivals throughout the state.

Students selected for the symphony orchestra are:
Hannah Coburn - violin; and
Katherine Klapheke – double bass, alternate.

Students selected for the symphonic band are:
Ryan Sparkes - clarinet; and
Kaitlyn Allen – clarinet, alternate.

Students selected for the mixed chorus are:
Ryan Sparkes – bass I; and
Brian Scott – bass I, alternate.

Students selected for the NYSSMA All-State Music Conference are (l to r) Ryan Sparkes, Hannah Coburn, Katherine Klapheke, Brian Scott, and Kaitlyn Allen.

Palmer Student Artwork on Exhibit in NYC

Three fifth-graders from Palmer Elementary School will have their artwork on display at the New York State School Boards Association's annual convention in New York City, October 15-18. (Left to right) Nicole Harry, Adam Tretowicz, and Selina Medina created incising prints under the direction of art teacher Karen Schunck, who submitted their work for the exhibition.



Staff Achievement

Brunetti a NYS Teacher of the Year Finalist

In September, the State Board of Regents announced that Rockette Brunetti, an English teacher at Baker High School, was one of five finalists for the 2010 New York State Teacher of the Year. She was the only finalist from the Central New York Area. As part of the selection process Mrs. Brunetti had to submit a portfolio to the State Teacher of the Year Program, including letters of recommendation from current and former colleagues, administrators, parents and students. The most common adjectives letter writers used to describe her were outstanding and enthusiastic.

Mrs. Brunetti has been teaching in the Baldwinsville Central School District for over 30 years. In January 2008 her colleagues recog-

nized her with Baker High School's Above and Beyond Award. In 2002 she was awarded the school's Charles R. Coon Chair of Excellence in Teaching. In 1986 her peers at the high school named her Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Brunetti is as energetic and enthusiastic in the local community as she is in the school community. She lends her time and talents to several organizations, including the Baldwinsville Community Scholarship Foundation, Hope for the Bereaved, and she acted as the New York State Fair Parade Director, a volunteer position, for 11 years.



Coach Celebrates 25 Years with District

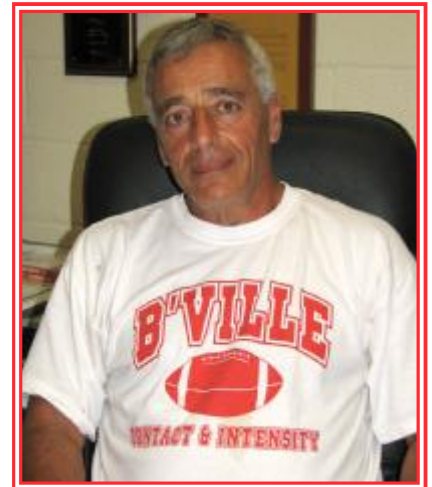
Coach Carl Sanfillipo loves his job. He must, because this year he's celebrating his 25th year as head coach of the Baldwinsville football program. His motto for his players has always been commitment and family. These are two words you might not usually associate with football, but if you're a fan of B'ville football, you know how important they are to the program. Coach Sanfillipo noted that it's the commitment and support of the players, coaching staff, parents and district administration that create a family atmosphere.

Under his and his staff's tutelage, players learn more than strategies to win a game. Coach Sanfillipo teaches his players that football is a "little tool" to help them achieve success in academics and later in life as professionals, husbands and fathers. "If you can't take care of your family, you can't perform for us," he tells them. "It's where you end up down the road," Coach Sanfillipo said, noting that what his players do now is essential for shaping their futures. He and his staff prepare players for what happens in life off the field. He said that through football, players strengthen their self-discipline, confidence, and time management skills and carry these traits with them through the rest of their lives.

Coach Sanfillipo still hears from many of the players he's coached over the years. His doctor and lawyer once played for him, and there are currently over ten players in the program whose fathers once played under his direction. His most memorable coaching year is 1989, when the varsity team won the state regional championships.

Coach Sanfillipo said the win energized the whole community, and community support that season was incredible.

Coach Sanfillipo has observed that over the last 25 years students haven't changed much. They're still full of energy and determination. "I love coming to work," he said. "There's constant energy."



Calendar

October 17	PSAT - Baker H.S., 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
October 23	1/2 day for all - Professional Development Day AM Kindergarten attends
October 24	ACT - Baker H.S., 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
October 29	1/2 day for K- 5: Parent-Teacher Conferences PM Kindergarten attends
October 30	1/2 day for K- 5: Parent-Teacher Conferences AM Kindergarten attends
November 16 & 17	5th grade state social studies assessment
November 24	1/2 day for K- 5: Parent-Teacher Conferences PM Kindergarten attends
November 25	1/2 day for K- 5: Parent-Teacher Conferences AM Kindergarten attends. Dismissal for K-5 is 11:15 a.m. for a state-required sheltering drill. <i>Please note: This is a full day of school for grades 6-12 . They will be dismissed 15 minutes earlier than normal dismissal time for a state required sheltering drill.</i>

Baker High School's 2010 Musical

Please note, on the district calendar, the February 6 evening performance of the Baker High School musical was inadvertently omitted. There will be an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. in the school's auditorium. This year's show is "Curtains," a musical mystery. Performances will also be February 4 & 5 at 7:30 p.m. and February 6 at 1:00 p.m.

BALDWINVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Baldwinsville Central School District

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