Superintendent’s Message

Dear District Residents,

At the end of February, Baker High School held its first culture festival, and it was a great success due to the hard work of juniors Aidan Priest and Dante Campagna. It was Aidan’s idea to create the festival in order to celebrate the many cultures that make up our school community. You can read about the festival on page 4. The culture festival is an important event that we will likely expand upon and make an annual tradition in our district as we explore ways to promote diversity in our schools.

The district is in the process of exploring options for providing our students and staff with diversity training. We anticipate beginning this training in the next school year.

Please mark your calendars for the annual budget vote, to be held on May 21 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Besides the proposed budget, there will be four propositions to vote on - one for bus purchases, one for the establishment of a capital reserve, one for the purchase of equipment using funds from the 2014 capital reserve, and the annual school board elections. At the beginning of May you should receive our special budget newsletter that will provide you with more details on the proposed budget and these propositions.

You can also learn more information at the public budget hearing on May 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Durgee Junior High School cafeteria. Before the hearing begins you will have a chance to meet the community members who will be running for the Board.

According to the calendar, it’s finally spring, a time of great activity for our students and staff. We have many events scheduled over the next three months, so be sure to review our online calendar for information on all of the great things going on!

Happy spring!

Matthew J. McDonald
Superintendent of Schools
Around the District

Young Van Buren Staff Member is a “Paw-sitive” Influence

Although he’s the youngest staff member at Van Buren Elementary School (and in the whole school district), this one-year-old has become the go-to-guy for comfort when students are feeling down or anxious. When he enters a classroom, Frankie lifts students’ spirits. In return, he receives lots of hugs and, if he’s lucky, sometimes a treat or two.

Frankie is a therapy dog. The lovable golden doodle has been accompanying his owner, school social worker Kristin Fabbri, to Van Buren, Monday - Thursday, since last school year when he was still a pup learning the ropes. Frankie is part of the district’s proactive efforts to address students’ mental health needs.

Baldwinsville is only one of a handful of districts in the local area with a therapy dog in a school. The district is exploring the possibility of adding a therapy dog to more schools in the future.

It was Fabbri’s idea to add a therapy dog to Van Buren’s counseling team. She believes therapy dogs are beneficial to students who are coping with issues such as stress and anxiety. She commented that when Frankie is with a child in crisis, he is “kind of magic to watch.” The patient pooch creates a calming effect as he connects with students and provides emotional support.

Fabbri dresses Frankie in a special harness when he is at Van Buren. The harness is Frankie’s cue that it’s time to work and he can’t do some of the usual doggy behaviors he might do at home, such as jump on the furniture or steal food.

You can find Frankie with Fabbri in the school lobby most mornings. He receives plenty of hugs as he greets students entering the building. At Van Buren, time with Frankie has become an incentive for good behavior and academic effort. Fabbri said staff, and even some Van Buren parents, enjoy a little “Frankie time” as well.

Reynolds’ Students Wear PJ’s to Raise $$$ for Sick Children

The good word around Reynolds Elementary School has been LOVE! At the school’s February Positivity Project community meeting, students announced that the school raised $700 for Paige’s Butterfly Run, founded by guest speaker Chris Arnold. The organization raises money to support sick children in the community. Reynolds’ student council organized a school-wide pajamarama, encouraging students and staff to donate to Paige’s Butterfly Run in order to wear their pajamas to school for a day. Students are continuing to show their support and demonstrate the Other People Matter mindset by volunteering their time to put together comfort kits for local families of sick children.
Elden Promotes Theme “Other People Matter”

There has been so much taking place at Elden Elementary recently. The PTA sponsored family fun night and PARP (Pick a Reading Partner). This year’s theme was Other People Matter. The school participated in several community service projects including Paige’s Pajamarama and collecting non-perishable food items for the Baldwinsville Food Pantry. The district pep band, Plan Bee, performed for the whole school to support the Positivity Project and to promote the character trait of love. On March 1, students and staff celebrated Read Across America Day with help from guest readers – students from Durgee Junior High School.

Ray Students Have SMART Goals

Ray Middle School sixth-graders have been learning about SMART goals and how to create them to achieve success. SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound. Students selected goals, such as improving their math grades or building up their running speed. They each made a goal kite to outline and help them visualize the steps they will take to achieve their goals.

The next time you’re in Ray, check out the colorful posters in the lobby. Each month student volunteers create posters to highlight Positivity Project characteristics of that month.

McNamara Celebrates Health & Wellness

McNamara Elementary School held its annual wellness day recently to provide students with knowledge, skills & experiences to encourage lifelong healthy eating & activity. Students got their hearts pumping with Zumba, karate (above), & snowshoeing. They also learned about the circulatory system, healthy food options, and how to create a healthy lifestyle.
Baker Culture Festival Takes Guests on Trip Around the World

At the end of February, Baker High School held its first culture festival. The festival was the idea of junior Aidan Priest, who wanted to showcase the diversity of the school district. He coordinated the festival with the help of Dante Campagna, also a junior. Festival guests were able to take a virtual tour around the world to experience over 20 different cultures that make up the Baldwinsville school community. Parents, students, staff and community members lined the school hallways to display clothing and other items related to their cultures. Food samples were a big hit and included dishes and desserts from Jamaica, Poland, Italy, and Palestine. A roving bagpiper as well as Irish dancers entertained guests.

Durree Students Explore Diversity

Derrick Dorsey, a support specialist with the Onondaga County Reentry Task Force, worked with teacher Beth Chetney’s ninth-grade English classes to create a dialogue with them about diversity, empathy, and cultural appreciation. He met with students three times in March. Mr. Dorsey is the former head of Interfaith Community Wide Dialogue, a program students at Baker and Durree participate in yearly. His visits to Mrs. Chetney’s classroom were a bridge between student readings of “Of Mice and Men” and “All-American Boys.”

An Enriching Afternoon for Palmer Students

Palmer Elementary School held its enrichment day in March, and it was a huge success! Over 200 students in grades K-5 participated in activities including karate, yoga, chess and finger knitting. The after-school event was sponsored by the PTA to provide students with new opportunities to explore their skills and talents in activities that are not normally taught during the typical school day.
Andrea Atcheson (Scala) - Class of 1991

**Degrees/Certifications:** BA in Psychology and minor in Health And Society-1995 (University of Rochester); BS and certificate in Physician Assistant-1999 from RIT

**What are you doing now?** I work at the VA Hospital as a physician assistant in anticoagulation (blood thinners) and also own my own business called Heart Health Academy, where I am a wellness coach with aims to reduce heart disease and help people lead healthier lives.

**Where do you live?** Radisson

**If you still live in the B’ville school district, why?** After graduation from RIT, I moved to San Diego for several years. When I had my first child in 2012, my husband and I moved back home to be near family. I grew up in Radisson and loved it there, so it was a natural move/fit for us. My six-year-old son is at McNamara in first grade and my five-year-old son will enter kindergarten in the fall at McNamara.

**Which B’ville teachers made a difference in your life?** Al Jenner, former WBXL teacher. He was not only a very intelligent, articulate man and teacher, but he became a close friend to my family. In fact, my dad and I recently went for coffee with him. And...till this day, I pronounce my "Ws" perfectly ("double-you"), as we had to do when on the air!

**How did B’ville prepare you for college/career?** Baldwinsville was a great district in that the course work was excellent with great teachers who cared. Also, I played many sports year round, and this was an integral part of my social and personal development. I am happy to have gone to B’ville since first grade!

**Favorite memory of school:** This is a hard one since there are so many, but probably going to the football games with my friends on Friday nights. The fall weather was beautiful and I always thought I was "cool" walking around in front of the bleachers!

**Would you like to be featured in the Alumni Profiles section of this newsletter and the district website?**

If you would, please send a current photo of yourself, as well as the answers to the following questions, to kcary@bville.org:

1. Year of graduation
2. Degrees/certifications/licenses
3. What are you doing now?
4. Where do you live?
5. If you still live in the Baldwinsville school district, why?
6. Which Baldwinsville teacher(s) made a difference in your life and why?
7. How did Baldwinsville prepare you for college/career?
8. Favorite memory of school

**Is Your Info Up to Date in the Student Database?**

PARENTS, if your contact information changes during the school year, please provide your child's school with your new information, such as address, phone number, and email, so that we have the correct information to contact you for routine matters and in an emergency situation.
Baker Students’ Writing Talents Awarded

Nineteen Baker High School students received a total of 32 awards in the Northeast region of the 2019 Scholastic Writing Awards competition. The competition is open to students in grades 7-12. Gold Key winners are automatically considered for national-level recognition (see story at right for Baldwinsville’s Gold Key winner). Congratulations to the following Baldwinsville students:

**Gold Key**
- Rachel Blake
- John Byrne
- Madison Chetney
- Sophia Simone

**Silver Key**
- Rachel Blake
- Nina Fichera
- Conor McManus
- Olivia Richards
- Emily Spaulding
- Cara Weaver - 2

**Honorable Mention**
- Rachel Blake - 2
- Emma Brushingham
- Sophia Cali
- Abby Contello
- Lexi Jenkins
- Rory Mastine
- Elizabeth Mautz
- Jessica McKenzie
- Conor McManus - 4
- Ryan Micho
- Olivia Richards - 2
- Mariana Rinaldo
- Sophia Simone
- Becki Wittman - 3
- Mariana Rinaldo
- Sophia Simone
- Becki Wittman - 3

Baker Students Receive NYS Academic Excellence Scholarships

Eleven Baker High School seniors have been awarded NYS Academic Excellence Scholarships in recognition of their outstanding grades on NYS Regents exams. Congratulations to (back, l to r) Lauren Lammers, David Teska, Meghan Volcko, Katherine Welcher, Maya Hewitt, Madison Ascioti, Abigail Christman, (front, l to r) Michael Carni, Sophia Simone, Ryan Micho, and Abigail Wiegand.

Simone Wins National Medal

Senior Sophia Simone was awarded the Gold Medal in the 2019 National Scholastic Writing Awards competition. She has been invited to Carnegie Hall in New York City in June to accept her award.

Sweeney is Phys Ed Teacher of the Year

The NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Inc. (AHPERD) has named Candace Sweeney its 2019 Central North Zone Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Sweeney teaches at Baker High School.
Artistic Students Awarded in Scholastic Competition

Over 30 Baldwinsville students received awards in the 2019 Central New York Scholastic Art Awards competition. Their artwork was selected from over 5,000 pieces submitted by students in the CNY region. Winning pieces were on display at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College from January 22 until March 1. Congratulations to the following students:

Baker High School
Gold Key
Jazmine Compagni
Abbie Donahue - 2
Abby Manning - 3
Madison Murphy
Katrina Hays-Peterson
Abby Scherfling
Claire Siddall

Silver Key
Alexandra Baghdadi
Gavin Burns - 2
Natalie Doback
Samantha Lucas
Hannah Lynch
Abby Manning - 2
Dana Prokop
Julia Rodgers
Abby Scherfling

Honorable Mention
Allysa Barnaba
Allison Boisey - 2
Anna Cutie
Gavin Burns - 3
Dawson Carbonaro - 9
Abbie Donahue
Katrina Hays-Peterson
Trinity Hensley
Abby Manning - 2
Noah Marketta
Jesse Pitcher - 4
Sara Roe - 2
August Samchisen
Abby Scherfling
Grace Skapura
Ella Smith
Stephanie Stroup
Molly Teska
Sophia Vacanti - 3

Durgee Junior High School
Gold Key
Olivia Wafer

Honorable Mention
Madison Hass
Emma Smith

Silver Key
Makayla Nadzadi
Troy Volcko

Senior Awarded Silver Medal for Artwork

Congratulations to Katrina Hays-Peterson, who was awarded a Silver Medal in the 2019 National Art Award competition!

Baker Student Honored for Establishing Food Pantry

Ryan Micho, a senior at Baker High School, is this year’s winner of the Wegmans Health & Wellness Award, which is part of the 2019 CNY Young and Amazing Awards.

The Health & Wellness Award is presented to an individual who has created a healthier community or living environment. Micho is being recognized for creating a food pantry at the high school to help fellow students with groceries to supplement their household meals over the weekend.

Micho has also been honored for his service to the community with a Certificate of Excellence from The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.
Achievement

Winter Athletic Achievements

The following achievements were provided by the varsity winter coaches. Some information may be missing because it was not available at the time of the printing deadline.

Boys Basketball
Coach: Michael Lewis
- Record: 11-10
- Freshman JJ Starling and senior Jacob Marshall led the team in scoring all season. The highlight of the season was a first-round sectional win against Utica Proctor.

Girls Basketball
Coach: Kathy Morse
- Record: 9 -11
- All-League Honorable Mention: Alexandra Bednarczyk and Katie Pascale

Cheerleading
Coach: Michelle Dautrich
- SCAC Leagues: 4th Place
- Bling it On Competition: 1st Place
- 2018 -19 Winter Sectionals: 7th Place
- Section III All-Star Award: Myranda Dautrich and Sarah Paul

Boys Wrestling
Coach: Tony Burkinshaw
- Record: 9 -11
- Placed 10th out of 18 at Section III Division 1 Tournament
- Section III Division 1 Place Finish/Weight Class
  - Aidan Cali - 4th at 99
  - Dom Sposato - 5th at 182
  - Luke Eberl - 2nd at 182
- 2019 Class AA Championships
  - Mike Letizia - 5th at 195
  - Billy Loadwick - 4th at 285

Boys Indoor Track
Coach: Bill Spicer
- 4x400 team of Jonathan Formoza, Nicholas Kruger, Michael Lawrence, Conor McManus, Garrett Selover, Connor Waldron and Spencer Wirtheim competed in state championships
  - Samuel Kellner - finished 25th in 1000m in state championships
  - Garrett Selover - competed in 300m in state championships

Girls Indoor Track
Coach: Bill Spicer
- Lauren Addario - finished 11th in the triple jump at state championships and competed in the 55m
- Justus Holden-Betts - finished 22nd in the 600m at state championships
- Danielle Marsell - finished 16th in the weight throw at the state championships

Boys Swimming
Coach: Christopher Ludden
- Record: 10-1
- Alex Hiltbrand
  - *Byrne Dairy & Deli News Channel 9 Athlete of the Week for 1/23/19
  - *Qualified for state championships in 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 100 Butterfly.
  - *School Record in 50 Freestyle (21.65)
  - *Pool Record in 100 Freestyle (48.52)
  - *Pool Record in 50 Freestyle (21.65)
  - *Pool Record in 100 Butterfly (53.30)
  - *Finished 14th at states in the 50 Freestyle and 27th in the 100 Freestyle
- Nick Schultz
  - *Qualified for state championships in 100 Breast Stroke, 200 Individual Medley.
  - *School Record in 100 Breast Stroke (58.22)
  - *Pool Record in 100 Breast Stroke (1:01.14)
  - *Finished 15th at states in the 100 Breast Stroke
- Relay team of John Licciardello, Nick Schultz, Alex Hiltbrand, and Bailey Ludden
  - *Qualified for states in 200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle Relay and 400 Freestyle Relay
  - *Pool Record in 200 Medley Relay (1:41.39)
  - *Pool Record in 400 Freestyle Relay (3:22.04)
  - *School Record in 200 Medley Relay (1:39.25)
  - *School Record in 200 Freestyle Relay (1:29.61)
  - *School Record in 400 Freestyle Relay (3:16.17)
  - *Finished 26th at states in 200 Freestyle Relay and 29th in the 400 Freestyle Relay
Achievement

Boys Bowling
Coach: Gary Peterson
- Record: 12-4
- 2nd in SCAC Metro League
- 7th overall in sectionals and 4th in Class A
- The Bees were led in sectionals by Luke Marketta, who finished 22nd, and Dylan Love, who finished 23rd.

Girls Bowling
Coach: Gary Peterson
- Record: 14-2
- Finished 3rd overall in sectionals and 3rd in Class A
- The team was led in sectionals by Amelia Ponto, who finished 22nd
- Brooke Flask qualified for the league shootout where she finished 15th
- 1st Team All-League - Brooke Flask and Amelia Ponto
- 2nd Team All-League - Julia Speich

Boys Ice Hockey
Coach: Mark Lloyd
- Record: 10-12
- Defeated RFA in sectional quarter finals
- Conklin Classic Tournament Winner
- Other highlights - Defeating Liverpool, CBA, Mohawk Valley, Fulton, Ontario Bay, Watertown and Cazenovia; Mite Night; Teacher Appreciation Night; Autism Awareness game and Beads of Courage for Maureen’s Hope.
- Parker Schroeder named to 2nd team of Section III Division 1 All-Star team.

Spotlight on Career and Technical Education

Justin Jennings will open his own restaurant in the Central New York area. Zachary Kline will be working in construction, specifically in the masonry field. These Baker High School students know what they want to do after high school, and they are attending career and technical education (CTE) programs at OCM BOCES to prepare themselves for their future endeavors.

A visit to Baker from Peter Hunn, principal of the CTE program at BOCES’ Thompson Road location, sparked Jennings interest in BOCES’ programs. A senior, he is enrolled in the Culinary and Pastry Arts program. “I think this program will help me to get a job in the real world,” he explained. “It shows how the real world works.” The program provides students with hands-on experience in food production as well as customer service, food safety and sanitation. After graduation in June, Jennings plans to attend Tompkins Community College in order to prepare himself further to be a restaurant entrepreneur.

Jennings feels the culinary arts program, coupled with what he has learned at Baker, are preparing him for his future success. He said Baker offers “good electives,” particularly in Business.

Senior Named National Merit Finalist

Baker High School Principal Donald Root, left, presents Thomas Grindle, a senior at Baker High School, with a certificate of merit. Grindle has been named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. His standing in the competition is based on his score on last year’s PSAT.
The following are highlights from Board of Education regular meetings held in January 2019 and February 2019. You can access meeting agendas, minutes and related documents on our website at http://boarddocs.cnyric.org/bville/Board.nsf/Public.

January 7, 2019

The Board honored students who were selected to perform at the NYSSMA All-State Music Conference.

Dr. Jody Manning, Superintendent of OCM BOCES, provided the Board with an update on BOCES services available to districts. For the evening’s leadership report, Eric Wilson, Director of Staff Relations/School Attorney, discussed researching character education programs to be used by the district’s athletic teams.

The Board reviewed the debt service and transportation components of the proposed 2019-2020 budget. Christopher Campolieta, Director of Athletics, gave a presentation on the athletic portion of the 2019-2020 budget, and James Rodems, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services, gave a presentation on the administrative component.

The Board approved: a resolution appointing Tiffany Turner to fill duties of the prior deputy purchasing agent; the appointment of a parent member to the CSE and CPSE committees; trip requests for Baker musicians, the girls softball team, and the girls lacrosse team; and disposal of surplus instructional material from Ray and Reynolds.

January 28, 2019

The meeting began with a public hearing on Phase Two of the district’s Smart Schools plan, followed by a performance by the pep band.

Deputy Superintendent Joseph DeBarbieri gave a report on the district’s and Syracuse University’s partnership to offer tuition assistance to district staff for a Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) Program (in Educational Leadership) at SU.

The Board reviewed the athletics and administrative components of the proposed 2019-2020 budget, and Rocco Nalli, Director of Special Education, gave a presentation on the Special Education component.

The Board heard two trip requests and had a first reading of revised policies. The Board approved the following: reaffirmation of the district’s senior citizen property tax exemption; the single audit report for the period ending June 30, 2018; the ECA audit and corrective action plan; the authorization of the Superintendent of Schools to execute on its behalf the collective bargaining agreement between the district and the Baldwinsville Substitute Teachers’ Association; a transfer of funds from reserves to general fund revenues; King & King Architects change order No. GC-001; and the designation of Eric Wilson and Tiffany Turner as the Civil Rights Compliance Officers for the district.

February 11, 2019

The Board honored five students at the beginning of the meeting with the Board Spotlight.

Rocco Nalli, Director of Special Education, gave a review of the special education budget for 2019-2020.

A student gave a presentation on the Baker Culture Festival, which was followed by a presentation on the district’s mentoring program. Joseph DeBarbieri reviewed January Regents data and progress on the district’s 2018-2019 academic goals.

Steven Rosenberger, Director of Facilities, presented the proposed facilities budget for 2019-2020.

The Board approved several trip requests, policy changes, disposal of surplus instructional equipment, and a resolution to approve a contract with King & King Architects.
Deadline for Daycare Transportation for 2019-2020 is August 23

Daycare/sitter transportation request forms for the 2019-2020 school year must be submitted to the transportation department by August 23, 2019. You must submit a request form every year, even if your daycare/sitter is the same as the previous year. Requests for transportation received from August 26 to September 13 will not be processed until after the 13th. You can download a transportation request form from the district’s website, www.bville.org. If you have any questions, please call Transportation at 315-638-6097.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING and MEET THE BOARD CANDIDATES
May 14, 2019 - 6:30 P.M.
Durgee Jr. High Cafeteria

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE
May 21, 2019
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Baker High School Auditorium

Baldwinsville Kiwanis Supports District’s Get READy for Kindergarten

At the March 4, 2019 Board of Education meeting, representatives from the Baldwinsville Kiwanis Club presented the district with a donation of $3,500 dollars to be used for the district’s Get READY for Kindergarten program. Kiwanis President Anthony Saraceni and Vice-President Peter Moore presented the donation to Board member Kim Sullivan-Dec and Tony Cardamone, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction. Thank you, Kiwanis Club!

Zachary Kline, also a senior at Baker, is enrolled in the BOCES Construction Technology program. Like Jennings’ training, Kline’s is hands on, which suits him because he said he has always wanted to work with his hands, and he couldn’t envision himself attending college. He feels the construction program has provided him with the training and education he needs to be employed in his chosen field.

With his classmates, Kline is building a house that BOCES will sell at auction. “I really like coming here a lot,” he said of the program. Kline likes that his instructor acts like a boss, and he’s impressed with the work ethic his instructor displays and is instilling in him.

Students interested in obtaining information regarding the CTE programs that OCM BOCES offers should speak to their counselors.
School News For
POSTAL PATRON
(dated material)

CALENDAR

April 1-8  NYS ELA Assessments, Grades 3-8
April 8    Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Durgee Cafeteria
April 9    Beginner Strings & Baker Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m., Baker Auditorium
April 11   Coffee & Conversation With the Superintendent
            7 - 8:30 p.m., Baldwinsville Public Library
            Topic: Special Education
April 12   NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
April 12   Report cards in parent portal.
April 15 -19 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
April 22   Due to snow days, this is now a full day of school.
April 24   Get READY for Kindergarten, All Elementary Schools 6-7 p.m.
April 27   Junior Prom, 8-11 p.m., Baker High School
April 29   Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Durgee Cafeteria
April 30 - May 7 NYS Math Assessments, Grades 3-8
May 2      Company B Spring Fling, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
May 6 - 17 AP Exams
May 6      Baker Vocal Recital, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
May 7      Baker Instrumental Honors, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
May 8      Elden Spring Concert, Grades 4 & 5
            6:30 p.m., Baker Auditorium

All events are subject to change and cancellation.
Please check with your school for the most current information.

The Hive
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Joseph DeBarbieri
Deputy Superintendent
James Rodems
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Joan Reeves, Vice-President
Christy Pavetto Bond
James Goulet
Jeffrey Marier
Jennifer Patruno
Steven Schweitzer
Kim Sullivan-Dec
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Sophia Simone
Ex-officio Student Member

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