

the Hive

Achieving our full potential together.

BALDWINVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

February 2018 - Issue 158

www.bville.org



Superintendent's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is enjoying this time of year, despite the snow and cold. The days are getting longer, which means every day we are closer to spring – something to look forward to, especially if you're suffering from cabin fever.

I'm excited to announce that the Baker High School branch of Edge Federal Credit Union opened on January 9 with a special ribbon cutting ceremony. This branch provides our high school students with an opportunity to gain employment skills and real-world experience in the operation of a business. Thank you to Edge Federal Credit Union for your partnership with us on this great learning experience. You can read more about the credit union on page 5.

In January, we launched our new electronic flyer tool,

Peachjar, to send digital flyers directly to our families via email. This system will save time and money and it increases the district's efforts to be environmentally responsible since we no longer send home paper flyers from organizations. Read more about this system on page 4.

Over the next three years, some major changes are coming to our elementary school playgrounds. See page 8 for more information. We will be replacing all of our playgrounds, with the help of each school's PTA, to provide our students with safer, up to date equipment.

This issue of the "Hive" features updates from our technology, food service, and curriculum departments to keep you informed of changes in each department. An exciting change coming to the curriculum department is a shift to 3D learning in

science. You can read about this on page 11.

Don't forget to check out the "Achievement" section of the newsletter on pages 6-8. Music, art and student leadership are highlighted this month.

I wish everyone good health as we count down the days until spring!

Sincerely,

Matthew J. McDonald, Superintendent

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Around the District

At Baker High School

We will hold our annual musical in March and it is a classic - "Peter Pan." The musical will be presented on March 8, 9 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium and we will have a matinee on March 10 at 1 p.m. Our students and staff always give a fantastic performance, so you won't want to miss this show! Students are now selecting their courses for the 2018-19 school year. Baker's 2018-19 course catalog is now online and features videos in which teachers highlight course information not in the catalog. Thank you to Assistant Principal Jennifer Terpening for coordinating the online catalog. We hope the videos spark student interest in courses they might not have originally thought about taking.

Principal Donald Root

At Durgee Jr. High School

The holidays were filled with giving back to the community. The Student Council hosted a series of festive events which included our Spirit Week. They also sponsored a coin war fundraiser for the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau and raised \$450. This year Durgee participated in the Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism through Interfaith Works of CNY. We partnered with H.W. Smith Middle School in Syracuse. A group of Durgee students and H.W. Smith students shadowed each other several times at their schools to open up a conversation about stereotypes and to create an awareness among the students of all the things they have in common.

Principal Bonnie Van Benschoten

At Ray Middle School

Our Character Education Team received training in the Positivity Project, a program that focuses on working with students to help them develop a positive rapport with their peers and teachers through the identification and strengthening of positive character traits. Our staff will be taking a survey to identify their own character traits and strengths as our first step in this program. We are also planning Ray's first moving up ceremony to honor seventh-graders for their efforts over the past two years at Ray and to provide them with a positive launch for their next step at Durgee!

Interim Principal Dr. Kathleen Davis

At Elden Elementary School

Elden wraps up its PARP program at the beginning of February. Our theme this year is "Reading is Power!" Thank you to our PTA for coordinating this popular program. Elden staff are sponsoring a community event at Riverknoll the evening of February 7 to enhance the school-community connection. In January, I attended the grand opening of the Baker branch of Edge Federal Credit Union. Two Elden students made the first transactions at the branch after the ribbon cutting. Meaghan and Deeghen Weir participate in the credit union's Cub Saver program and were very excited to be a part of the branch's launch.

Principal Thomas Coughlin

At McNamara Elementary School

On January 19, we celebrated International Day of Acceptance to promote an awareness of respect and understanding of students of all abilities. We held a school wide assembly about the importance of seeing beyond a person's disability in order to embrace who they are and recognize their strengths. In February, we will celebrate the 100th day of school. Our primary students will celebrate with learning activities centered on the number 100, reinforcing students' mathematical skills. We will also have our 7th annual Wellness Day for all students with fun-filled activities that promote healthy living, from breathing and relaxation techniques to Zumba.

Principal Jane Nadolski

At Palmer Elementary School

Palmer kicked off its PARP program in January with a visit from author/illustrator Tom Watson. We followed it up with our One School One Book campaign with all staff reading *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. We also had a Reading Train, a Reading Reunion, and a Character Dress Up Day. To wrap up PARP we held a family movie night ("Mr. Popper's Penguins") and book fair. This month we will have a winter craft program after school and students will make gift bags to be donated to Golisano Children's Hospital. The bags will be full of goodies, courtesy of the Palmer PTA, and a handmade card from Mrs. Ernst's "Kind Kids Club." Students are working to produce more than 200 cards in total.

Principal Alex Ewing

At Reynolds Elementary School

In December, students and staff were excited to kick off the Positivity Project to learn about character strengths and building strong relationships. The first strength we focused on was perseverance and why it is an important character strength. With our fourth- and fifth-graders we are focusing on what our digital footprints are, and we invited McMahan/Ryan Child Advocacy Center to discuss the safe use of technology with our students.

Principal Melissa Chiodo

At Van Buren Elementary School

We started the new year learning about perseverance and hope/optimism through the Positivity Project to help us all set goals and work toward them. We also kicked off our Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) program with a visit by an author and a family fun reading night sponsored by our PTA. The Van Buren 4/5 chorus was honored to sing the National Anthem at the January 27 Syracuse Crunch hockey game.

Principal Danielle Nahorney

Student Learning

Kindergarten Registration Set for March 15

Kindergarten open registration for the 2018–2019 school year will take place at the elementary schools in the district on Thursday, March 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Families currently in the district student database will receive an informational letter in the mail in February.

Registration will take place at the elementary school of the student's current attendance area for his or her home address. The informational letter will provide details for parents regarding the school at which to register their children, as well as the requirements needed to complete the registration process.

In order to be eligible for kindergarten in September 2018, a child must turn five years of age before or on December 1, 2018. The district is unable to honor requests to make exceptions for students who "just miss" the cutoff date.

To register, a parent or guardian must provide the district with all of the following:

- ▶ Completed online census;
- ▶ Proof of residency in the form of a lease or mortgage statement, a school tax bill or a utility bill for your residence;
- ▶ Child's original birth certificate as proof of age;
- ▶ Completed health appraisal with immunization record form signed by a physician or current immunization record and the date of scheduled exam with the

physician, to be completed by September 1, 2018;

- ▶ A dental health exam form, signed by a dentist, should be submitted to the school nurse.

In addition, the district requires copies of custody documents to be on file for students whose parents share legal custody and for students that have a parent who has sole legal custody.

Anyone who has an eligible child and does not receive an informational letter by March 3 should call the District Registrar at (315) 638-6044 x1 or (315) 638-6050 to request a letter be mailed. You can find additional information regarding registration on the district website at www.bville.org.

Please Complete Non-School Age Census Before Registration

Before open registration in March, the district requests that parents of children who will be eligible for kindergarten participate in the district's online non-school age census by March 2, 2018. This *is not* online kindergarten registration, but a census to provide the district with the necessary information to establish a mailing list for sending out kindergarten registration information to parents.

The census is located on the district's website at www.bville.org. Click on the link to the Registration Office's page, on which you will find the link to

the online census. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the Registration Office at (315)638-6044 x1 for further instructions.

District Offering Get READY for Kindergarten Program

The district's Get READY for Kindergarten Program is intended to make the transition into kindergarten a pleasant experience for both child and parent. To participate, children must be eligible to attend kindergarten in September 2018.

The district is offering three sessions of the program in which your child will participate in fun activities that focus on kindergarten readiness skills. Sessions are as follows:

Session 1 - April 18, 6-7 p.m.

Session 2 - May 30, 6-7 p.m.

Session 3 - August 29, Time TBA

To register your child for this program, please contact the school your child will attend in the fall.

We're On Instagram!



**Follow us at
Baldwinsville
Central Schools**

Student Learning

Schedule for State ELA Assessments

The district will administer the state ELA assessments to students in grades 3-8 on the following dates:

- ▶ Grades 3 & 8: Tuesday & Wednesday, April 10 & 11
- ▶ Grades 4 & 7: Thursday & Friday, April 12 & 13
- ▶ Grades 5 & 6: Monday & Tuesday, April 16-17

Per the New York State Education Department's requirement, all tests will be computer based. Paper based tests will no longer be used. All students who utilize accommodations for testing will still receive these accommodations.

April 1 is Deadline to Request Transportation for Private School for 2018-19



The Baldwinsville Central School District's Transportation Department would like to remind parents that if their children will be attending a private or parochial school next school year, they must submit a transportation request form to the department by April 1. ***This form must be submitted every year.***

You can download the form from the district's website at www.bville.org. At the top of the home page, click on Departments, and then follow the link to Transportation. You can also pick up a form at the Transportation Department, located at 29 E. Oneida Street on the district's main campus.

Notification of Annual Fire Inspection

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2017-2018 of the buildings of the Baldwinsville Central School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the facilities office at 29 East Oneida Street for inspection by all interested persons during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

District Launches Electronic Flyer System

The Baldwinsville Central School District is committed to educational excellence and ensuring that parents stay informed about important activities and events in the local area that enhance their child's life. In an effort to improve parent and community engagement, the district began using Peachjar, an electronic flyer tool, in January to send digital flyers directly to our families. ***Paper flyers from organizations will no longer be sent home in backpacks.***

On January 2, 2018 all district parents should have received a Welcome email from Peachjar explaining the program and providing parents with a user



name and password to manage their accounts and flyer delivery preferences. Peachjar is a free, opt-out program, so parents automatically receive electronic flyers via email unless they opt out. You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking on the "Unsubscribe" link that is provided with every email.

Digital flyers will be emailed directly to parents. Additionally, all flyers will be available on each school specific Peachjar website. Each school has a link to its Peachjar site on its home page. All flyers are preapproved by district administration before they are emailed to parents, and your email will not be used by Peachjar for any other purpose or shared with any other company or organization.

Student Learning

Baker Cuts Ribbon on New Student-Run Credit Union

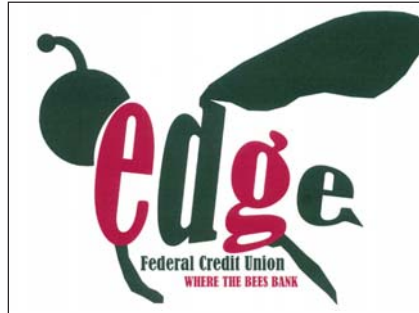
On January 9, Baker High School officially opened its student-run branch of Edge Federal Credit Union (EFCU) with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a ceremonial first deposit by two elementary students.

The Baker branch of EFCU is an expansion of the district's partnership with the credit union. The district's elementary schools have been participating in EFCU's Elementary Cub Saver program in which students learn the importance of savings and can track their accounts.

Establishing this branch has been a collaborative effort between Baker students, staff, school and district administrators and the credit union. Students were heavily involved in the entire process, from the construction of the space to the design of the branch's logo. Students participating in the operation of the branch will be engaged in learning business operations and the basic principles and practices of the financial service industry while acquiring lifelong employment skills and providing a service to the district's students and staff (the branch is not open for business with the public). Concepts that students will experience hands on will be reinforced with classroom instruction in business classes.

The school held a contest for a logo for the branch. Winners of the contest are:

Winner - Abby Manning



This is the official logo that was designed by Abby Manning for the Baker branch of EFCU.

Honorable Mentions

- ▶ Mr. Gary Pluff's 3rd Period Class
- ▶ Gregory Braun
- ▶ Ben Dwyer
- ▶ Kaili Sacco

All of the winners received a prize from EFCU. The credit union also gave Baker's technology department a grant of \$250.

The following people were instrumental in the opening of the branch. Thank you to:

- ▶ Theresa Lotito-Camerino, CEO of Edge Federal Credit Union;
- ▶ Baker's administration – Principal Donald Root, and Assistant Principals Jennifer Sawyer, Jennifer Terpening, and TJ Fraher;
- ▶ Renee Burnett, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction;
- ▶ Steve Rosenberger, Director of Facilities and his staff;

- ▶ Business teacher Meghan Titus, and her class, who will be running the credit union;
- ▶ Business teacher Gary Pluff;
- ▶ Technology teacher Jamie Cuyler and his students who built the beautiful counter in the branch;
- ▶ Technology teacher Matt Hudson who helped with the building of the counter; and
- ▶ Technology teacher Jeffrey Fortais and his graphic design students, who fabricated the branch's logo.



The ribbon is cut to officially open the credit union branch.



Elden Elementary School students Meaghan and Deeghen Weir make the first deposits at the new branch.

Achievement

Fall Teams Qualify for Academic Honors

Congratulations to our varsity fall teams that qualified for the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Team Award. To qualify, 75% of the team's roster must have a GPA of 90% or higher. The following teams have qualified:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| ▶ Girls Volleyball | GPA: 96.926 |
| ▶ Girls Cross Country | GPA: 96.472 |
| ▶ Girls Tennis | GPA: 96.159 |
| ▶ Girls Soccer | GPA: 95.978 |
| ▶ Girls Field Hockey | GPA: 95.914 |
| ▶ Girls Swimming | GPA: 95.881 |
| ▶ Boys Cross Country | GPA: 95.286 |
| ▶ Girls Gymnastics | GPA: 95.058 |
| ▶ Boys Volleyball | GPA: 93.780 |
| ▶ Boys Golf | GPA: 93.742 |
| ▶ Boys Soccer | GPA: 92.800 |
| ▶ Cheerleading | GPA: 91.124 |
| ▶ Boys Football | GPA: 90.388 |

Baker High School Musical Players Present

Peter Pan

March 8 & 9 - 7 p.m.

March 10 - 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Baker High School Auditorium

Tickets: \$8, \$10 & \$12

Seniors: \$8

Student Rush (door sale only): \$5

To purchase tickets, call the box
office at 315-638-6039

Baker Student Selected for Leadership Institute

Iham Rodriguez, a junior at Baker High School, has been selected as a participant in the 2018 Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PR/HYLI) – Syracuse/CNY Delegation.

Selection as a participant is an indication of a student's leadership potential and future achievement. Rodriguez is the first student from Baker High School to be selected for the Syracuse/CNY Delegation.



Baker Key Club Wins Grant to Start School Food Pantry



Congratulations to the Baker High School Key Club, a winner in the 2017 HALO Movement contest, sponsored by Key Club International and

Nickelodeon! Ryan Micho, a member of the Baker Key Club, entered Baker in the contest to win a grant so that the school can create a food pantry for its students.

The Bee Full pantry will enable the school to provide 50 students with groceries each weekend to supplement their household meals so that students have enough to eat before returning to school on Mondays. Many students get two meals a day at school but on weekends have no food, or not enough food, to feed them over the weekend. The Key Club is in the process of making plans for implementing the Bee Full pantry.

Thank you to everyone who voted for Baker in the online contest to win the grant!

Van Buren Elementary Awarded STEM Grant



Congratulations to Van Buren Elementary School, and its PTA, for being awarded a STEM + Families Local Science Grant through the National PTA. Van Buren PTA members Kathleen Jenne and Rebecca McClain were instrumental in applying for the grant, which will aid Van Buren with its STEM fair in the spring. The STEM fair is a new PTA-sponsored program for the school.

Achievement

Baldwinsville Students Honored with Scholastic Art Awards

Over 30 Baldwinsville students received awards in the 2018 Central New York Scholastic Art Competition, sponsored by the M&T Charitable Foundation. Their artwork was selected from over 5,000 pieces submitted by students in the CNY region. Winning pieces will be on display at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College until March 2.

Congratulations to the following students:

BAKER HIGH SCHOOL

Gold Key

- ▶ Kaitlyn Iordan, Digital Art
- ▶ Jordan Leonard, Photography – 2
- ▶ Kristen Liu, Digital Art
- ▶ Cody Neish, Photography
- ▶ Alexandria Phillips, Photography
- ▶ Jesse Pitcher, Digital Art
- ▶ Grace Skapura, Photography

Silver Key

- ▶ Morgan Arnold, Drawing and Illustration
- ▶ Peyton Fleming, Ceramics & Glass
- ▶ Katrina Hays-Peterson, Ceramics & Glass
- ▶ Kaitlyn Iordan, Digital Art
- ▶ Jordan Leonard, Photography
- ▶ Rylee Lyons, Digital Art
- ▶ Spencer Manganiello, Art Portfolio
- ▶ Abby Manning, Photography
- ▶ Marley McCard, Art Portfolio & Digital Art
- ▶ Hudson Miller, Photography
- ▶ Avery Moon, Digital Art
- ▶ Grace Skapura, Photography

Honorable Mention

- ▶ Holly Abbott, Painting
- ▶ Allysa Barnaba, Drawing and Illustration - 2
- ▶ Ramiya Berry, Fashion
- ▶ Jennie Blake, Photography – 4
- ▶ Caitlyn Bradshaw, Photography
- ▶ Gavin Burns, Digital Art
- ▶ Katrina Hays-Peterson, Photography
- ▶ Kaitlyn Iordan, Painting
- ▶ Taylor Jones, Photography
- ▶ Britney Kokesh, Digital Art
- ▶ Jordan Leonard, Digital Art and Photography
- ▶ Samantha Lucas, Mixed Media
- ▶ Spencer Manganiello, Ceramics & Glass
- ▶ Abby Manning, Photography - 6
- ▶ Marley McCard, Mixed Media & Sculpture
- ▶ Hudson Miller, Photography
- ▶ Nora Penhollow, Photography
- ▶ Kyra Phelps, Ceramics & Glass
- ▶ Jesse Pitcher, Digital Art – 2
- ▶ Grace Skapura, Photography – 2, Digital Art
- ▶ Devon VanderVoort, Digital Art

DURGEE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Silver Key

- ▶ Makenna Davis, Ceramics & Glass
- ▶ Aiden Mackey, Drawing and Illustration
- ▶ Kimberly Rivera Cotto, Film & Animation
- ▶ Molly Teska, Drawing and Illustration
- ▶ Erin Williamson, Drawing and Illustration

Honorable Mention

- ▶ Jenna Boutilier, Digital Art
- ▶ Elizabeth Wiley, Drawing & Illustration

Class Notes: Alumni News



Olivia-Paige Brown, Class of 2008, has been accepted in the Doctor of Clinical Psychology program (PsyD) at Medaille College in Buffalo, NY.

The program is a full-time, five-year, practitioner-oriented program that prepares students for careers as licensed psychologists, with APA accreditation. Olivia will also be receiving a second master's degree in 2019 in psychology.

Are you a graduate of the Baldwinsville Central School District? Want to share news with your former classmates? Send your news to kcary@bville.org. Include your class year and maiden name if applicable.

Achievement

Thirty-nine Students Selected for All-County Music Fest

Thirty-nine Baker High School students were selected for the Senior High All-County Music Festival, which was to be held in January but was cancelled due to inclement weather. Even though they didn't get to perform, we are very proud of the following students:



Band

Parker Bruce
Caleb Butchko
Cameron Cartier
William DuBois
Thomas Grindle
Allison Howard-Green
Jessica Mullin
Nora Penhollow

Chorus



Marisa Barnard
Maddie Butchko
Ryan Corsoneti
Carter Galle
Katrina Hays-Peterson
Abby Hines



Lexi Jenkins
Britney Kokesh
Kate Liu
Hanna Manning
Shannon McCarthy
Olivia Richards

Alex Samchisen
Griffin Satterlee
Ava Shore
Vanessa Vacanti
Haley Vaughn
Rachel Wittman

Orchestra

Paige Foley
Maggie Gaus
Sheng Huang
Ryan Hulchanski
Lauren Lammers
Catherine Lynch
Brianna Manning
Kacie Romano
Alivia Speight
Joshua Tapia
Sophia Vacanti



District Playgrounds to Get Facelifts

Because of a legislative grant of \$125,000 secured by Assemblyman William Magnarelli and a legislative grant of \$55,000 secured by Senator John DeFrancisco, the district will be able to begin replacing playground equipment at its elementary schools this year. The overall plan is to upgrade all of the district's playgrounds in the next three years.

Equipment replacement will begin with the Palmer Elementary School K-2 playground, the Reynolds Elementary School grades 3-5 playground, and both of Van Buren Elementary School's playgrounds. James Rodems, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services, said the district is beginning its replacement program with the oldest playgrounds and the ones most in need of rehabilitation. He expects the work to be finished over the summer so that children in those three buildings will return to school with a new and safer playground. The district plans to tackle the Elden Elementary School playground in the summer of 2019 and the McNamara Elementary School playground in the summer of 2020.

The district will work with each elementary school and its PTA to solicit volunteers to assemble and install the playground equipment in order to save money on installation costs. The total cost of a typical playground (equipment and installation) is about \$75,000. Each school will receive the same, basic playground equipment. If a school would like additional equipment, the school PTA can conduct fundraisers to pay for the associated costs.

Department Updates

Food Service Department Update

The Baldwinsville Central School District food service department provides nutritious, cost effective meals to students and staff each day. The department often receives a variety of questions related to the school meal program. Below we provide a list of the most frequently asked questions with answers to help the community better understand how the school lunch program operates.

Q: Is the food service budget part of the district's general fund budget that the community votes on each May?

A: No. The food service department is a self-sustaining business within the school district and is not part of the annual budget. Most expenses related to the department are paid for with the revenue generated from the sale of meals, USDA reimbursement, and ala carte sales. Typical expenses for the department include salaries, benefits and insurance, food cost, equipment purchases and repair and maintenance.

Q: What nutritional guidelines does Food Service follow in the creation of meals?

A: Because the district participates in the National School Lunch Program, every meal must adhere to USDA guidelines that determine such things as the amount of calories, sodium, sugar, and fat in the food we serve. Even the condiments we use, such as salad dressing, must be included in the nutrient profile of a meal. Food Service's goal is to provide a wide variety of meal choices that meet the USDA standards and are appealing to students in grades K-12. You can find a link on the Food Service webpage for the full list of USDA Guidelines for all grades. The chart at right will provide you with a better idea of what the USDA guidelines include for a typical lunch served to students in

grades K-8.

LUNCH Grades K-8

Food Components	Food Per Week (Minimum per Day)
Meat/Meat Alternate	9 oz equivalent (1 oz equivalent)
Grains	8 oz equivalent (1 oz equivalent)
Fruit	2 ½ cups (½ cup)
Vegetables	3 ¾ cup (¾ cup)
Milk	5 cups (1 cup)

Vegetable Subgroups	Minimum per Week
Red/Orange	¾ cup
Green	½ cup
Beans	½ cup
Starchy	½ cup
Other	½ cup
Additional (to reach weekly minimum)	1 cup

Weekly Averages// Calories: 600-650, Sodium: ≤1230, Saturated Fat: <10%

Q: Why does Food Service serve sugary cereal for breakfast instead of a healthy item?

A: The cereals that we serve in our schools are not the same versions of the cereals found on the shelves in the grocery store. Although they have the same names and are produced by the same company, the versions we offer are specially made for schools and follow the USDA guidelines for school meals. All of the cereals we serve are whole grain rich and the majority of them are reduced sugar varieties. Breakfast cereal can be an excellent source of nutrients because many cereals are fortified with added iron, B vitamins, and other vitamins and minerals.

Q: Why does Food Service still sell snacks such as chips and ice cream in the school cafeteria? Aren't these foods unhealthy?

A: The USDA has nutrition guidelines that we must follow for these types of foods. The snacks and ice cream that we sell in our school cafeterias are not the same versions as those in the grocery store. The federal guidelines limit the amount of calories, fat, sodium and sugar in snack foods. For example, all snack items must have no more than 200 calories, and all snacks must be whole

Continued on Page 10

Department Updates

Continued From Page 9

grain-rich.

Q: Why did the convenience fee to use a credit card with MySchoolBucks increase?

A: MySchoolBucks charges a convenience fee to pay by credit card, much like most businesses do. You may not notice this charge with most businesses because the cost is usually built into the price of goods and services. The banks charge a business a fee for each credit transaction, and a business passes it

on to the customer in some way. The district does not receive any revenue from the convenience fee that MySchoolBucks charges parents.

If you do not want to pay a convenience fee, you can still pay for school meals with cash or a check. If you would like to pay for your child's meals with cash or check, you can send your child to school with the payment and he/she can give it to the cashier in the cafeteria. The payment will be deposited

into your child's account, which you can track on MySchoolBucks.com. Please make your check out to Baldwinsville Food Service.

If you would like to pay in person, you may do so at the Food Service office, located in the district office at 29 East Oneida Street on the district's main campus. The department is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday and can only take payments of cash or check.

Technology Department Update

In 2014, New York State voters approved the Smart Schools Bond Act, giving the state permission to issue a one-time \$2 billion bond to finance educational technology capital projects, including classroom technology, high-tech security, and school internet connectivity. To be considered for funds, all schools were required to submit a Smart Schools Investment Plan to the state to outline how the Smart Schools funding would be used to improve learning. The state has approved Baldwinsville's plan to use \$1.2 million dollars of the Smart Schools Bond grant to finance upgrades to its network.

According to John Cerio, the district's network administrator, the network has not received an upgrade in about 10 years and its equipment has reached its life expectancy. The equipment is becoming obsolete, so when hardware breaks it is

harder to find a replacement part or have it fixed. The district will use Smart Bond money to purchase new network equipment that the technology department will install over the summer of 2018. The upgrades will enhance the district's internet connectivity at all of our buildings, benefiting students and instructional and non-instructional staff.

Currently the department is upgrading the district's wireless access points in the schools. RJ DeLisle, Director of Technology, explained that the wireless network has become the district's most important network service, since so many students and staff members are accessing it with their devices for technology-enabled learning and digital instruction. He expects the department to complete the wireless upgrades before beginning work on the wired network over the summer.

"Our goal is to keep our technology simple, efficient and reliable to meet our needs," DeLisle said.

Security is a top priority for the technology department as it protects the district's databases and provides students with a safe online experience. The district's firewall, managed by OCM BOCES, is equipped with robust antivirus software and anti-spyware. If someone attempts to hack into the district's system, the department will receive an alert. On district-owned devices, students can safely access what they need for instruction because the department blocks access to questionable and inappropriate sites.

The technology department is now developing plans to create a virtual desktop environment in which Windows will run from a remote server for many people to access using different devices such as Chromebooks, cell phones and tablets. This will eliminate the need to buy and maintain equipment that

Department Updates

is more expensive, such as desktop PCs, and students and staff members will be able to access their work from anywhere. DeLisle estimates that the district's virtual desktop will be ready for the 2018-2019 school year. We will be piloting the virtual desktop with a selected group of students that would benefit the most from the virtual desktop because of course curriculum requiring specialized software that is currently only available to them in computer labs. With the virtual desktop, they will be able to complete projects outside of the lab.

District Tech Stats

Did you know, the district has:

- ▶ **1,700 Desktop PCs**
- ▶ **2,600 Chromebooks**
- ▶ **1,655 iPads**
- ▶ **350 Interactive Wipeboards**

Curriculum Department Update

District Transitioning to New Science Standards

In December 2016, the New York State Board of Regents approved new science learning standards in order to increase student achievement and readiness for career and college. The spring and summer of 2017 was a period of transition for school districts to formulate a plan for implementing the state standards in their Pre K-12 science curriculum. To address this, Baldwinsville established a science transition team over the summer with representation from the elementary, middle, and secondary levels.

The new state standards require an instructional and cultural shift due to a shift to three-dimensional (3D) learning of science. 3D learning of science stresses three important dimensions:

1. Scientific and engineering practices – the behaviors that scientists and engineers engage in;
2. Cross cutting concepts – concepts that can be applied

across all areas of science and link the areas together, i.e. cause and effect;

3. Disciplinary core ideas – ideas that focus on the most important aspects of science and are grouped into one of four domains - the physical sciences; the life sciences; the earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology and applications of science.

At every grade level, students will engage in instruction that incorporates these three dimensions of science and builds upon their knowledge and skills each year. They will gain an understanding of how all three dimensions connect as they engage in real-world situations, investigations, and engineering design projects that are linked to the disciplinary core ideas.

Our transition team is working on how to integrate this type of instructional practice into the district's science curriculum. For grades K-5, the district will be

phasing out the use of OCM BOCES science kits and transitioning to the Smithsonian Science Education Center's science and technology concepts curriculum, which is aligned with the new science standards.

This year our K-6 staff is receiving training on the Smithsonian curriculum, and the transition committee is working with staff in grades 7-12 on creating science units incorporating the 3D learning model. The district's learning coaches are also helping teachers as they transition to 3D teaching.

The transition to the new state standards will be a multi-year process for all school districts, involving training for staff, building awareness of the new standards in school district communities, and the development of new local and state-level assessments.

The district will keep you updated on the transition with periodic information in this newsletter and posted on the district website.

CALENDAR

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

February 1	Baker Junior Parent Night, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium
February 2	Report Cards in Parent Portal
February 5	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Durgée Cafeteria
February 7	McNamara Beginner Band Concert, 6:30 p.m.
February 8	▶ Reynolds Beginner Band Concert, 6:30 p.m. ▶ Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent of Schools, 6 - 7 p.m., Baldwinsville Library, Room 2
February 12	Van Buren Grade 2 Concert, 6:30 p.m.
February 15	McNamara Grade 2 Concert, 6:30 p.m.
February 19-23	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
February 26	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Durgée Cafeteria
March 2	All-District String Concert, Grades 5-7 @ Ray, 6:30 p.m.
March 8	Peter Pan, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
March 9	Peter Pan, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
March 10	Peter Pan, 1 p.m. & 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
March 12	Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Durgée Cafeteria
March 13	All-District Band Concert, Grades 5 & 6, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
March 14	▶ Durgée & Baker Bands Concert, 7 p.m., Baker Auditorium
March 15	▶ Coffee & Conversation with the Superintendent of Schools, 6 - 7 p.m., Baldwinsville Library, Room 2

The Hive

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Sally Dayger
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Achieving our full potential together.

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