

November 2020



# THE B'VILLE BUZZ

Hello District Team,

We are approaching the end of the first Marking Period and I'm so proud of the work that you have done to get us to this point. It hasn't been easy. Plans have been adjusted and readjusted and adjusted again. There's been ups and downs, but we are still moving forward thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff.

Thank you for your creativity and positive attitudes. As always we are putting our students first -- not just their education, but their social and emotional health and well-being.

If you take a walk around our school buildings you'll see that things sure look different, but what I'm impressed with is how much has been able to stay the same. Students are still engaged in the fun activities that have become a rite of passage in our District. I love watching students launch rockets and make race cars. Teachers and staff members across the District are adapting traditional activities to fit our new safety protocols. Our special area teachers are getting creative on how they keep students engaged in music, art, physical education and more. I'm excited to see what's to come!

As the holiday season approaches, I hope you all find time to safely spend time with your loved ones. Take care of yourselves and each other!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. J. McDonald".

Matthew J. McDonald  
Superintendent of Schools



# News From Our Principals

## Principal Denton C.W. Baker High School

C.W. Baker remains laser focused on providing positive learning experiences for students both in-person and remotely. The staff here at Baker has been phenomenal in doing whatever is necessary to engage students and we have been fortunate to be able to provide students with opportunities,

including fall sports and marching band. Student class elections were held last month and clubs and activities are functioning virtually at this time. We continue to explore ways to phase in new opportunities, activities and support for students. Soon we will be going “live” with our extracurricular activity website and we will also be promoting this website as a virtual activity fair this year to offer more opportunities for students to be involved as they explore new interests. We are grateful for the efforts of the students and staff, and for the support of the families and the entire school community. During these challenging times, it has never been a better time to be a BEE!



## Principal Fraher Durgee Junior High School

October has been an exciting month at Durgee Junior High School. Miss New York of America, Emily Mahan graciously donated 25 art kits to our Art department to help students who are in need. Thank you, Emily! Many of our after school clubs have gone virtual and have started to meet.

Assistant Principal, Ms. Przybylski has been working with our English department to plan this year’s Spelling Bee, which will be held virtually. More details will be given at a later

date. Finally, in an attempt to get back to normal school pictures have been scheduled and details have been sent home. We have also opened up our cafeteria serving line for students who receive their lunch from school and we’ve been reminding families that lunch is FREE for ALL students.

# News From Our Principals

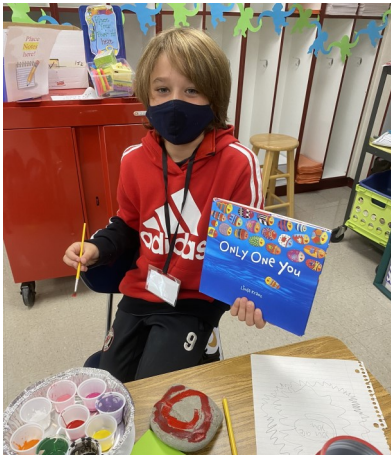
## Principal Morgan Ray Middle School

We have had a great month at Ray Middle School. Some of our 6th grade students performed a variety of percussion pieces using rubber-tipped drumsticks and their desk. It was a great show by all! If you missed it, be sure to check out the video clip shared on [Twitter](#). Our virtual yearbook club is also up and running! School pictures have been scheduled for this month for both cohorts and remote students. Lastly, as we continue through the year, each week we will be recognizing students who are displaying P2 character strengths throughout the school and community. Be sure to check out the slideshow on the [Ray webpage](#) on the District's website each week to see the new students who are recognized!



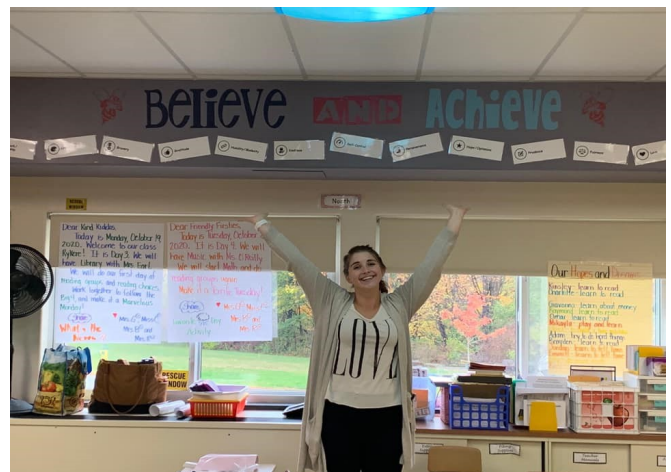
## Principal Coughlin Elden Elementary School

We are so excited as the year is progressing. Our Elden eagles have been soaring. We have really listened to our students to ensure their basic needs have been met. As we all are aware, this is a trying time for everyone. Students have been focused on relating to the Positivity Project weekly character strengths such as teamwork, open-mindedness and creativity. We created a [P2 kickoff video](#) for all students, including the students who are 100% remote. We are looking forward to making the videos for our 3 Bees: Bee Respectful, Bee Responsible and Bee Safe!



## Principal Homeyer McNamara Elementary School

The McNamara Bees are in full swing right now! Students have been doing an amazing job working on learning and developing the character strengths associated with the Positivity Project and BEES Deeds. We are looking at having our first VIRTUAL Bees Deeds Event at the end of November to celebrate ALL our students! I've started REMOTE LUNCH GROUPS with our remote students. There will be several guest visitors over the next two months. If you haven't had the opportunity to join, please consider coming to our next lunch! Also, please follow us on Facebook - [McNamara Elementary School Principal Page](#). On the page, we share weekly updates and photos of fun and exciting events that are happening at McNamara Elementary.



# News From Our Principals

## Principal Ewing Palmer Elementary School

While damp and rainy has been the recent weather, the sun ALWAYS shines inside the walls of Palmer Elementary School. In true Palmer fashion we looked to support others this month through a school-wide PINK OUT to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and our very own Mrs. Metott (fifth grade special education teacher) and raised over \$800 to be donated to the efforts to fight this disease. Thank you to the Palmer community for all of your support. We also continue to honor and recognize our students exhibiting Positivity Project character traits and would like to shout out those individuals that have been bestowed with Excellence Team honors up to this point. We are extremely proud of you for being wonderful young people.



## Principal Chiodo Reynolds Elementary School

With the leaves changing on the trees and the crisp mornings we have been having, we all can tell that fall is certainly here. Our students from both cohorts are well used to the routines of school and it is exciting to see the learning going on in our classrooms. This year, we are planning a Fall Festival for our students in lieu of the Trunk or Treat that we held during the past two years. Our teachers are busy planning activities for all of our students that provides time to celebrate the fall season while maintaining our safety protocols. Please check the District's website and Twitter feed often for updates on all of the great things going on at Reynolds.

## Principal Cronin Van Buren Elementary School

The Van Buren campus is bursting with the color of the amazing fall foliage! Now that our playscapes are open again (with COVID-safe protocols in place) students are fully enjoying our outdoor spaces. I've started dropping into remote morning meetings, and I've been reading and posting stories for all students to enjoy. Our morning announcements are also accessible to all students on our webpage. Kinders learned about fire safety during Fire Prevention Week in October. We missed the annual visit from our local fire station, but we look forward to their visit next year. This year our school-wide meetings will highlight the Positivity Project. In November, our student council will lead the way as Roving Reporters to capture their peers exhibiting these positive character traits. Remote students are encouraged to send in their photos and videos too.



# Student Achievements

## Congratulations to the Baker's Dozen

Each year Baker High School recognizes the academic accomplishments of all students, including the top 13 students (Baker's Dozen) of the senior class. The Class of 2021 is led in academic achievement by the following students, listed in order by weighted GPA. Congratulations to these students and the Class of 2021.

### The Baker's Dozen for the Class of 2021:

1. Calista Winders
2. Geoffrey Tse
3. Andrew Panos
4. Bianca Gascon
5. Aidan Micho
6. Nathaniel Hahn
7. Jack McManus
8. Lindsey Demer
9. Colin DeLaney
10. Kyle Rogers
11. Tristan Miranda
12. Tiffany Natoli
13. Jenna Boutilier



## 3 Baker Seniors Selected for NYSSMA All-State Music Ensembles

The Baldwinsville Central School District is pleased to announce that three C.W. Baker High School seniors were selected for New York State School Music Association All-State Winter Conference.

Congratulations:

**Sofia D'Andrea** -- All State Treble Chorus (Alto Alternate)

**Christopher Felong** -- All State Mixed Chorus (Tenor)

**Kyle Rogers** -- All State Symphonic Band (Trumpet)

Unfortunately, NYSSMA will be unable to assemble these students to rehearse and perform, as the December Winter Conference in Rochester has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All-state groups will be done in a virtual format this year where students will collaborate with a conductor and their peers from around the state through digital submissions.

# Board Spotlights

## Honoring Jamie Rodems

Superintendent McDonald and the Board of Education honored James Rodems on October 6, 2020 at the school board meeting.

Jamie, assistant superintendent for management services, recently retired after 11 years of service to the District. Jamie started with the District on July 1, 2009. Prior to his time here, Jamie worked in the Tully and Clyde Savannah school districts.



Jamie has been instrumental with securing voter approval for multiple capital projects, including:

- C. W. Baker High School Auditorium Renovation (Performing Arts)
- C. W. Baker High School Kitchen Remodel; Renovation of Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium
- New Energy Efficient LED Lighting at Pelcher-Arcaro Stadium (First stadium in an upstate school district to have LED lights)
- Construction of the New BCSD Transportation Center
- Roofing Projects for School Buildings and the Baldwinsville Public Library
- Smart Bond Initiative - BCSD's Award-\$3,697,360 (Phase 1-Upgraded the District's Network Infrastructure) (Phase 2-Safety & Security for All School Buildings)

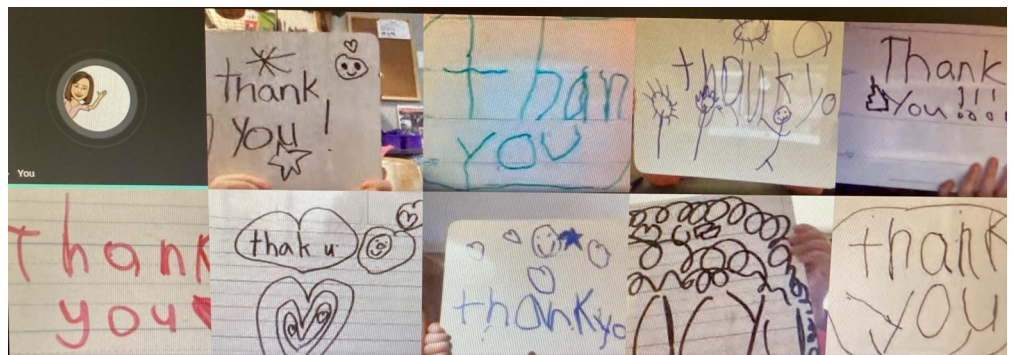
We are grateful for Jamie's dedication to the BCSD and his commitment to our families.

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## Honoring the Board of Education

The Board of Education was recognized on October 19, 2020 for their leadership and commitment to the Baldwinsville

Central School District in observance of School Board Recognition Week. School Board Recognition Week is sponsored by the New York State School Boards Association. In a special video, students across the District say "thank you" to the board members for their dedication to the District and the education of all students. School board members give Baldwinsville community members a voice in education decision-making. Even though we make a special effort last month to show our appreciation, the board's work deserve a year-round celebration.



[Click Here to Watch Video](#)