

Principals' BOE Report for January 2019

Mad City Money

All 8th grade students participated in an event on January 17 sponsored by Northern Federal Credit Union and hosted by Cornell Cooperative titled Mad City Money. The students are provided with paperwork describing their current lifestyle (job, family, salary, etc.) and are instructed to balance a budget with everyday expenses and stay within their means. Staff acted as merchants "selling" cars, homes, baby items, and a variety of other storefronts as students interacted with us purchasing these items. The activity was a full afternoon of fun with many students expressing shock at the prices of everyday items, "Diapers costs that much!" was heard frequently at my table. Staff and students all agreed to continue offering this opportunity each year! Each student left with a certificate for a \$25 deposit into a savings account opened up at Northern Federal.

Regents Exams

During the week of January 22-25, New York State Regents exams were scheduled but Mother Nature had other plans. With a delay Tuesday, an early dismissal Wednesday, and a closure Thursday, our thoughtfully-planned testing schedule was added to the recycling bin. Again, another year for our superhero, Brandi Graham, saving the day by rescheduling substitutes, multiple times, over those days; and we successfully tested 50 students within the timeframe, but not without some challenging moments. Math exam scoring occurred in our building with the other three content areas dispersed to Clifton-Fine, Harrisville, and Hermon-DeKalb for the remaining joint scoring efforts with our neighbors.

Geography Bee

The contestants for this Bee consist of 30 students, 6 per grade level in grades 4-8. Classroom teachers determine contestants in a combination of interest, and if necessary, individual classrooms can hold contests or have students take a test. Typically the Bee consists of conducting four rounds of questions in the preliminary competition. Up to 10 contestants will then move on to the "final round." In the final round of questions, contestants are eliminated after two incorrect responses until there are two "Finalists" who advance to the "Championship." The two finalists are asked to write the answer to three questions. The person that gets the most correct is the winner. There are tiebreaker questions available and previous round questions are allowed to be used until a winner is determined. The winner takes an online qualifying test. The results of the test are sent in March.

This year the Bee was held on January 25 in the auditorium, led by Mrs. Melanie Morgan and questions read by Ms. Shannon DeSellems. After a gruelling 1½ hours, Gabriela Ornelas (7th grade) came in first place, Myles LaPoint (6th grade) took second, and Caleb Robinson (4th grade) was the third place winner!

The winner of the E-K Geography Bee does get their name on a plaque, and there are prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. All participants get a certificate and the winners an award at the end-of-the-year awards assembly.

Character Ed/Cougar Club Assembly

The week of January 21 was interestingly disrupted due to a delay, an early dismissal, and a closing due to weather! The fifth PK-6 Character Education/Cougar Club assembly originally scheduled for January 25 was, therefore, rescheduled to February 1. Eagerly on

the 1st, all of the students and staff gathered in the auditorium to recognize 22 new Kit Club, Cougar Club, and medal winners! Eighteen students were then celebrated as stand-out representatives, one from each class, of the character trait of 'acceptance.' A special display was crafted by Nicole LaPlant and presented at the assembly, to be hung near our Kindness Tree as a reminder that 'life is about using the whole box of crayons.'

Titus Mountain Ski Trips

At the end of January both the 9th and 12th grade classes were slated to travel to Malone and enjoy a full day of downhill skiing complete with a lesson. The trip was rescheduled twice for the 12th grade and once for the 9th grade due to the wild weather we have been experiencing. Hopefully, the students will hit the slopes next week on February 4!

Upcoming Events:

February 1 - Elementary report cards go home
January 31 & February 1 - 8th-11th grade Elective Presentation in auditorium
February 4 - 11th grade to Higley Flow
February 5 - 10 grade to Higley Flow
February 5 - Interested juniors to SWT - Allied Health
February 5 - Grades 4-6 to OCP in Ogdensburg
February 11 - 7th grade to Higley Flow
February 12 - 8th grade to Higley Flow
February 15 - PK-3 Dental Visits
February 15 - 11:10 a.m. - students dismissed early
February 18-22 - No school - Mid-Winter Break
February 26 - Elementary Food For Thought
February 28 - Character Ed Assembly

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African Drumming Field Trip by Kristen Wilman

On Tuesday, December 4, several students from Edwards-Knox Sr. High Chorus attended a workshop with Kwasi Dunyo, master Ghanaian drummer and educator. The students learned a variety of ways to experience African drumming. The students learned through hands-on activities that involved traditional African drumming, dancing, and singing. Not only did they learn a lot about the instruments and music of Ghana, but they all left commenting on the wonderful experience that they had. Dr. Caron Collin, thank you for your continued support. This was truly a rich experience for the students.

10th Graders Visit Southwest Tech and Participate in the ASVAB by Linda Alford

Interested 10th grade students visited Southwest Technical Center during the morning session on December 5 to preview programs of their choice as they decide on a possible vocational curriculum for next year. The sophomores also had the opportunity to take the ASVAB exam that afternoon. The results of this assessment can be insightful for students, along with their parents and school counselors, to assist students when making future career choices.

Winter Concert

The first 5th-12th grade Winter Concert was on December 13 featuring our 5/6 chorus, 6th grade band, JH band, JH chorus, SH band, and SH chorus. Each group shared two pieces of holiday/seasonal performances directed by our music department teachers, Nicholas Tate and Kristen Willman. It was their first concert as teachers and everyone was impressed with the student performances.

Economics Projects by Sean McGrath

The students in our Economics classes prepared presentations on a variety of important topics including health care, immigration, gun violence, and more. They looked at the economic causes and effects of these issues and then created plans for what can be done to help solve these problems at a local, state, and national level. We invited a variety of community leaders to hear the students' ideas and to share their own thoughts, including NYS Regent Beverly Ouder Kirk, Larry Denesha from the St. Lawrence County Legislature, and two Economics professors from Clarkson University. It was a great experience for the students, and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Elementary Holiday Program

Grades PK-4 presented a variety of holiday-themed songs and performances for packed audiences during their annual Holiday Program on December 17 at both 8:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Each group had their own chance to entertain the audience with renditions of "Must Be Santa," "Frosty the Snowman," "Santa Shark," and "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas," to name a few. The excitement and joy of the season was reflected in these fantastic performances!

The finale for each show was an energetic PK version of "Run Run Rudolph!"

Character Education/Cougar Club Celebration

December 21 marked the 4th celebration of our elementary students' character education superpowers, reminding the students of the character traits that make them stronger. During the month of December, all students worked to fill the 'Kindness Tree' in the hallway, with leaves and hearts representing the completion of kind acts, and thereby growing our representative tree throughout the month (It's quite a beautiful sight!). Eighteen students were recognized at the assembly with certificates and green glow-in-the-dark bracelets with our school's motto ("Our Character is Our Superpower"). Additionally, we continue to strive to build our Cougar Club membership, and eight more students were recognized this month at the assembly for their success at achieving either Kit Club, Cougar Club, or medal status!

Santa Visit

Santa made his annual appearance Friday afternoon, meeting and greeting primary students in their classrooms. Each of the groups were delighted to see him! While visiting, one group gave him a brief example of their song from Monday's performance, another group of students gave him pictures they had colored, while other groups were just eager to have questions answered and to visit with the jolly old elf! Santa visited classrooms on the second floor as well, and well-wishes were shared by all.

Winter Olympics

The afternoon before break, the 7th-12th grade students and faculty participated in our annual Winter Olympics games! Activities leading up to this big event hosted by Student Government included Spirit Week and the Winter Olympic games. During Spirit Week, students are encouraged to wear attire that is identified for each day, such as tourist day, twin day, cougar spirit day, etc.. At the beginning of the Olympic festivities the grand

senior entrance was trumped by energetic pre-K classes storming the gym!!! We also continued our special contest between our PK students and the seniors in a tug-of-war competition. And again, the PK students won!!!!!! The Student Government group does a wonderful job planning this huge event that is enjoyed by the entire 7th-12th grade population.

Upcoming Events:

January 1-4 - Holiday Break
January 12 - All-County Performance at Crane
January 15 - Allied Health, Ag Academy & Education Academy Pres. - Juniors
January 17 - Mad City Money - 8th graders
January 18 - 11:10 early dismissal for students
January 21 - No school - Martin Luther King., Jr., Day
January 22 - 25 - Regents Exam week
January 25 - Character Ed Assembly
January 28 - 12th grade Titus ski trip
January 30 - 9th grade Titus ski trip
January 30 & 31 - 8th-11th grade Elective Presentation in auditorium
January 31 - 4th grade ski trip