

THE BLUE & WHITE

School News and Notes

Bainbridge-Guilford Central School District
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Superintendent's Message

One of the primary questions we received this year is, "why is the District able to implement new student programs and services given the fiscal crisis of the previous years?" The simple answer is that the Board of Education made the difficult and necessary decisions to eliminate overspending our revenue and we have also been able to settle contracts and develop systems to contain growth. Combine these District steps, with an increase in State Aid and we are on a new financial trajectory. Below I will provide more detail regarding these initiatives and changes.

Revenue: State Aid for the 2014-2015 school year increased by \$555,627 dollars over the 2013-2014 school year. Combined with an increase of \$104,912 in the tax levy and the use of \$500,000 in fund balance District revenue increased by over \$800,000 dollars for this school year. Overall, revenue increased by about \$350,000 over the previous school year allowing for the District to maintain existing programs and services.

Long Range Planning: For the 2014-2015 school year, we have switched health insurance plans. The difference in cost from our old plan to the new plan saved the District about \$500,000. We were able to use this money to settle multi-year contracts with all of our bargaining units, which has allowed us to project expenses over multiple years. Although the cost savings and contract settlements were *net neutral* we did not have to increase revenue demands on our budget or the taxpayer. Another long-term budget item that saved the District about \$50,000 a year was the refinancing of our capital bonds.

Variable Items: The items described in the previous two sections are *big ticket* items and make up the bulk of our budget. However we have been able to create additional revenue streams through some innovative approaches.

Transportation Costs: The implementation of a systematic bus replacement policy featuring propane powered busses has decreased maintenance and fueling costs. With Energy grants from NYSERTA and the increased trade-in value of our fleet, the District is experiencing positive financial returns in this category.

Title I Grant: Due to the change in our free and reduced lunch percentage totals, our projected Title I grant for 2014-2015 has increased.

Non-Resident Tuition: Funds received from the home districts of students who live outside the District.

Special Education: With a focus on abiding by the least restrictive environment guidelines, we are able to more efficiently utilize support services and staffing.

Over the past several years the Board of Education has made difficult decisions in order to provide an education that will benefit our students at a cost our tax payers can afford. Change has been difficult, but we truly believe we have turned the page with a balanced budget and long-range planning systems in place. Although we will not restore all of the items that have been cut, we will look to provide new and appropriate opportunities for our students. Whether we are ensuring pathways for our students to graduate from high school with an Associate's degree or working with regional employers to develop applied learning internships and job training programs, we are passionate about providing young people with innovative opportunities to grow and excel. The recent expansion of Bainbridge-Guilford's technology program to include elementary computer and STEM programming, along with the development of a comprehensive student support services program also reflects this passion.

The state election several weeks ago proves that public education is still the target of many politicians and private sector organizations looking to profit off our young people. Our Gap Elimination adjustment cost still exceeds \$750,000 and the push for funding charter schools will likely limit our future funding. To avoid a continuation of the cycle of cuts and additions, we will need to plan for the time when this reduction in aid occurs and we must remain vigilant balancing the desire to provide every opportunity possible to our children while offering programming and services our community can afford.

—Donald Wheeler, Superintendent

BOE “Blog”

COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT AS ONE

The Board of Education has had numerous conversations of late in regards to community involvement in our schools. For many years, many systems have been put in place to encourage this. This current Board of Education embraces this and is reaching out to inform, remind and welcome our community into our schools as volunteers. We welcome any new ideas that our community may have as well.

The Board would love to be creative with our community to find ways to increase community involvement within our school system. As has been proven time and time again, schools with a great degree of parental and general community involvement, have higher success rates with their students. This is just one of many reasons our District strives to have you, as community members, become more involved in the day to day academic and extracurricular lives of our students.

B-G Community—This is *your* school. We encourage each of you to ponder ways in which you would enjoy volunteering within our District. Some current ways one can volunteer, include, but are not limited to:

- Holding a position on one of our many committees; these committees include budget advisory, LINKS, shared decision making, health and safety
- Joining the PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization). Many wonderful programs and events can come from an active PTO
- Becoming a Booster Club member

- Volunteering to chaperone a field trip
- Being a chaperone for a class activity
- Reading to children
- Assisting in a classroom with a special project
- Volunteer as a parent helper or coach for a sports team
- Volunteer to help with a Music Department event
- Become an Odyssey of the Mind parent volunteer as a coach or a supportive role

Perhaps you would like to volunteer in some other way, such as come in and speak to a class about your trade or career choice in life. Share why you chose it, what you had to do to get there, and details of this career you chose.

We are reaching out and encouraging you to share your ideas with our District Clerk, Sue Weibel, if you are interested in volunteering. The contact number for the District Office is 967-6321. It is the Board of Education’s belief that if we all work together, our student’s lives at Bainbridge-Guilford will be greatly enhanced.

It is a personal goal of this Board to increase community involvement with our students. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions, and most of all we welcome you into our schools. You would not only benefit by being a volunteer, but you would witness first hand some of the amazing things going on within our schools, both during the school day and after the school day.

In closing, we look forward to hearing from you and working together, for the greater benefit of our students.

School Board Recognition Week

Governor Andrew Cuomo designated School Board Recognition Week for the week of October 27, 2014. This event was observed by more than 700 school boards and school districts throughout New York State.

NY State recognizes the following attributes of those who serve on the School Board of Education:

The men and women serving as members of school boards are dedicated to children, learning and community, and devote many hours of service to elementary and secondary public education as they continually strive for improvement, excellence and progress in education.

The members of New York’s local school boards are community leaders who provide an invaluable resource as local decision makers, responding not only to the respective educational needs of their communities, but also serving in the interests of schoolchildren and their future.

Please join us in thanking our school board members for their service to our District!



2014-15 B-G SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Left to right: Tina Ammon, Jeanne Shields, Charles Blincoe (VP); Emily Hall, Jason Fleming (President); Julee Hartwell and Patrick McElligott

Thank You!

January Regents Exam Notification

The January Regents examinations will be given at the Jr.-Sr. High School on the following dates January 26-29.

Only high school BOCES students and high school students' grades 9-12 who are scheduled for Regents exams or local final exams need to report to school. Buses will run on the normal schedule. Grade 7 and 8 students will NOT attend school this week.

BOCES classes will continue as usual for the entire week—BOCES students may attend their classes, however please note there will NOT be a noon bus running to take students home.

In case of a delayed opening all tests (Regents and local) will be given. For Regents exams students must be present by 10:00 a.m. to take the test. In the event of a snow day during Regents week, Regents exams for that day will not be given and local tests will be given on following Monday.

Monday, January 26

- 8:00 a.m. Living Environment; English Common Core
- 12:00 p.m. Comp. English; Integrated Algebra I Common Core; Physics

Tuesday, January 27

- 8:00 a.m. Global History and Geography
- 12:00 p.m. Integrated Algebra

Wednesday, January 28

- 8:00 a.m. U.S. History and Government; Geometry
- 12:00 p.m. Earth Science; Chemistry

Thursday, January 29

- 8:00 a.m. Algebra 2/Trigonometry

Jr. High School Guidance Corner

2014-2015 NEW YORK STATE TESTING SCHEDULE

Please be aware of the following test dates that are very important for Jr. High School students.

7th Grade Testing

- April 14-16—New York State ELA TEST
- April 22-24—New York State Math TEST

8th Grade Testing

- April 14-16—New York State ELA TEST
- April 22-24—New York State Math TEST
- May 20-21—NYS Science Performance Test
- June 1—NYS Science Written Test

Please encourage your child to do their very best on the State exams. Student scores are used to determine interventions and who may be recommended for accelerated classes. Information regarding these state assessments can be found online at Engageny.org. When we receive the results of these exams, reports will be sent home specific to your son/daughter's performance.

The testing window is much smaller this year, and it is very important to not schedule routine appointments for your child on the above scheduled testing dates.

School Cancellation/Early Dismissal

Prior to the beginning of the school day, in instances of school cancellation, parents and students will be notified by local radio and television stations, and the automated notification system. These same media sources will be used in situations where school will be dismissed early. Since phone lines must be kept open during emergencies, parents of elementary students should expect their child to follow their family emergency plan. If no one is available at the intended destination, the student will be returned to either Guilford or Greenlawn.

FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANS

At the beginning of the school year, parents will be asked to notify the school where their child should go in the event that a decision to close school early is made. It is suggested that parents stay tuned to any of the radio stations below during severe weather.

LOCAL MEDIA BROADCASTING EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION

RADIO—

Sidney

- WCDO FM 101
- WCDO AM 1490

Norwich and Oneonta

Central Radio Group

- WKXZ FM 94
- WCHN AM 97
- WBKT FM 95.3
- WZOZ FM 103.1
- WSRK FM 103.9
- WDOS AM 730

Binghamton WNBC Affiliates

- WAAL FM 99
- WKOP AM 1360
- WHWR FM 98
- WNBF AM 1290

TV—Binghamton

- WBNG—CBS
- WICZ—FOX
- WBGH—NBC
- YNN News—TW

(See your provider for channel specifications)

INTERNET (Closings and Delays)

- www.bgcsd.org
- www.wicz.com
- www.wbng.com

SCHOOL MESSENGER

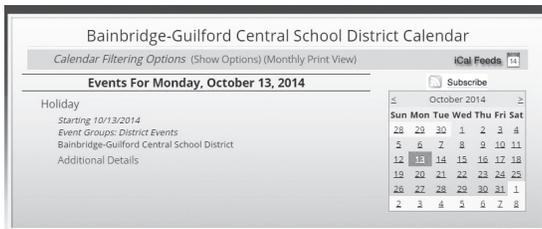
Automated phone and email system—closings, delays and announcements

Website Highlights— Calendar Features

On the District home page, in the right side window there are several calendar options. The traditional instructional calendar is a single page with holidays, staff development days and Regents testing dates highlighted.

The weekly calendar contains a list of events/activities happening in all buildings during the current week. Find scout meetings and youth sports on this calendar also.

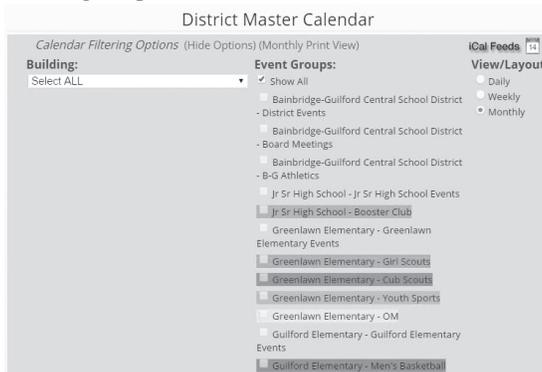
Upcoming Events is a website feature that lists the next five upcoming District events. Clicking on *View All Events* (or clicking on the small monthly calendar graphic) will open a window that looks like this:



At any time when this calendar window appears, the calendar filtering options can be accessed. Using these options, with dropdown menus, the user can filter by specific school buildings and events.

Using the drop down option under *Building*, choose a specific school. To choose a specific *Event Group*, uncheck the *Show All* box first. Choose the *View/Layout* preferred. Click *Apply Filtering* to view your choices.

The same calendar options can also be accessed from the *District Calendar* in the drop down menu under District on the navigation bar. Each school building page has a similar calendar and the same filtering options. Hard copies can be produced by clicking on print view.



Athletic practices and games are listed under the *athletics* page under weekly schedule.

Fundraisers 2014-15

Date	Group	Event
January 5-23	Grade 12	Cookie Dough
February 2-20	Grade 12	Galaxy Bowl Pizza
February 20-March 6	Grade 9	Gertrude Hawk Candy
March 2-13	Jr. Honor Society	Gertrude Hawk Candy

Substitute Personnel Needed

The Bainbridge-Guilford CSD is seeking applicants for Substitute Teachers, Teacher Aides, Food Service, Transportation and Registered Nurse positions. Applications are available under Application Forms on the *EMPLOYMENT* page on the website. Applications are also available by contacting the District Business Office, 18 Juliand Street, Bainbridge, NY 13733.

Youth Senior Football Team—UNDEFEATED!



Front row (l.-r.): Brady Sheurman, Jakob Heath, Nolin Hawkins, Damien Terrell, Damien Farberman, Trevor Ross, Cameron Clapper; middle: Conner Rowe, Dustin Collier, Jeffrey Cutting, Garrett Ives, Trent Thornton, Owen Drown, Michael Stevens, Thomas Lord, Nicholas Williams, Ashley Matthews; back: Chad Bound Jr., Brody Oleksak, Jayson Oefelein, Austin Eggleston, Parker Finch, Haiden Burns, Daniel Warner, Ethan Gregory, Cooper East, Peyton Mosher; coaches: Chris Farberman, Andy Carr, Lance Henry, Brian Warner, Marc Hawkins

The Bainbridge-Guilford Youth Senior Football team had a remarkable season this fall. This year's team started as a combination of one 4th grader, six 5th graders and twenty 6th graders. Yes—*twenty!* For some of the players, it was their first or second season. However, many of these players are finishing their fourth year playing for the youth football program.

The Senior team finished their season as undefeated! Not only did they go undefeated, they outscored their opponents this season 220-22! The only points scored against them occurred during the last two games of their regular season.

Each year the graduating 6th graders have the opportunity to play in the *Senior Bowl* as a way to celebrate the end of the season. This year, B-G's team had 19 eligible players and played a game against a team comprised of players from both Fremont and Hancock. The Bobcats also won that game to finish their season as 8-0.

This group of young athletes is an extremely talented bunch. If they continue to grow as athletes, the next few years of football should be exciting years as they get older!

Flu Clinic a Success!

Many thanks to Kristin Whitaker and Amanda Smith from Rite Aid, for coming to our school on the Staff Development day, October 24. Kristin and Amanda administered over 50 flu vaccines to staff in the Bainbridge-Guilford Central School District. Thanks for your help in keeping our staff healthy!

Distracted Driving Presentation

A special thank-you to the Chenango County Traffic Safety Committee for sponsoring Jacy Good to come to B-G High School on November 3, to speak about the dangers of distracted driving. Jacy was injured in a distracted driving accident that changed her life forever. She lost both her parents in the accident and sustained permanent injuries that she must cope with for the rest of her life.

Jacy gave a passionate presentation to student's grades 9-12 about distracted driving. She has traveled internationally for the past two years spreading her message not to use your cell phone while driving. We appreciate the support of the Traffic Safety Committee for providing our students with this very important safety message.

Join the Health and Safety Committee

Members are needed for the Health and Safety Committee. This important committee meets four times a year to discuss safety issues in the B-G District. Students, teachers, administrators and community members are welcome!

Contact the District Office at 967-6321 for more details.

Budget Advisory Committee Members Wanted

The Bainbridge-Guilford Central School District is currently seeking members for the B-G Budget Advisory Committee.

With financial resources in short supply across the New York State, the District will be forced to make important program and student service decisions this school. The Budget Advisory Committee consists of community members within our district who provide input and assistance from many different perspectives on these difficult decisions. We value your ideas and welcome the opportunity for community involvement.

If you would be interested in serving on this committee or if you would like additional information, please contact Mr. Kenneth C. Wilcox, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business, at 967-6335.

YES! LEADS

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS LEARN TO TEACH ABOUT MAKING SAFE CHOICES



More than 500 middle and high school students from 14 different school districts throughout Broome, Tioga and Chenango counties came together on Tuesday for YES! Ignites, where they learned role modeling, leadership and public speaking techniques. Students will use these skills as they participate in the peer leadership program YES! LEADS.

YES! Safe Choices for Kids is a partnership between Senator Tom Libous and Lourdes Hospital. YES! works to help kids in our area learn skills they need to resist using alcohol and drugs. YES! also provides parents with useful tips and fun activities they can use as starting points in talking about substance abuse with their kids.

Senator Libous, who developed YES!, said, "I'm very excited to kick-off another successful year of YES! LEADS. These are great kids who are committed to being leaders and improving our community. Today's training will give these YES! LEADers skills they can use in classrooms later this year as role models who've chosen to live a drug-free life."

YES! LEADers will organize dozens of group presentations for elementary school students, and sponsor poster contests, family movie nights and other school and community events.

By the end of the school year, YES! LEADers will show more than 6,000 elementary school students across three counties practical ways they can resist using alcohol and drugs.

"YES Ignites provides YES! LEADers with an important foundation," said Bainbridge-Guilford High School YES! LEADS Advisor Joanne Moxley. "For the rest of the year we'll continue to build on the leadership and presentations skills that they learned. They work hard to put together presentations that will have a positive influence on elementary students. Not only are they building great leadership skills, they're providing younger students with a drug-free role model. They're really making a difference in our community."

Attending Tuesday's training were students from Afton, Bainbridge-Guilford, Chenango Valley, Maine-Endwell, Norwich, Owego-Apalachin, Seton Catholic, Susquehanna Valley, Tioga Central, Union-Endicott, Vestal, Waverly and Windsor school districts.

For more information on YES! Safe Choices for Kids and YES! LEADS, please visit www.yessafechoices.org.

Booster Club News

In an effort to acknowledge our seniors' hard work and dedication to their sports, the Bainbridge-Guilford Booster Club provided each senior athlete that participated in fall sports with a photo collage. Each collage included an individual action shot and an image with their fellow senior athletes. We hope this gift will provide each athlete with fond memories for years to come. Below are the seniors from the Girls' Varsity Soccer team with their collages.



We would like to extend our congratulations to the Boys' Varsity Soccer team and Coach Feltham for their Division

and MAC Championship titles. In addition, congratulations to Coach Feltham for being named *Coach of the Year*. We would also like to congratulate the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team and Coach Tompkins for their runner-up finish in the MAC Championship game. Congratulations to both teams and their coaches for their fantastic seasons!

If you are looking to purchase BG merchandise, look for the Booster Club table at home games or you can purchase merchandise online. Please visit www.bgcd.org and click on the *ATHLETICS* tab, then *BOOSTER CLUB* to order your B-G Bobcats apparel and other miscellaneous items.

The B-G Booster Club meets the 3rd Monday of every month. New members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

The BG Booster Club and the student athletes appreciate your support!

Bus Safety Classes at Guilford Elementary

Mr. Dan and Mrs. Butcher conducted our annual bus safety classes for our UPK, K and 1st grade classes. First they talked with students about bus safety using Becca Bear, who is close to the size of our primary grade students, to help demonstrate safe crossing and safe positioning around buses. Students took a brief ride into town and then bus drivers conducted a bus fire drill. Bus safety is a very important aspect of school life and we very much appreciate Mr. Dan and Mrs. Butcher for helping us teach our students about bus safety.

IMPORTANT BUS SAFETY TIPS TO REINFORCE AT HOME

- Use inside voices on the bus, do not use bad language on the bus
- Keep hands and feet to self
- Stay in seat while bus is moving
- Use the handrail when boarding and exiting the bus.
- When outside, stand and walk only where the bus driver can see you
- If crossing the road after exiting the bus, take five giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the bus driver and cross when the driver indicates it is safe. Teach your child to look left, right and left again before crossing the street.
- Children should not be carrying anything when getting on or off the bus, all items should be in backpacks.
- Keep hands, head and any personal items inside the bus, do not put anything out the window.
- All food items need to remain in backpacks. There is no eating on the bus.



"Mr. Dan" Schalfer helping students off the bus during fire drill practice



Mr. Dan and Mrs. Butcher with Becca Bear



Mrs. Butcher "wrapping up" with Mrs. Blincoe's and Mrs. Christophersen's classes

Bob Kitten Corner!

Over the past month the Pre-K students have been busy working on gross and fine motor skills. They learned about Fire Prevention and took interest in the Fire Engines that were brought to school by local firefighters. In addition to October being Fire Prevention Month, the Pre-K students also welcomed their families for their 1st Parent-Crafting Day. The students were extremely excited to work with their parents and family members on authentic Fall Tasks.



Tools for Schools

With the Price Chopper Tools for Schools program, you earn points to help your school get needed equipment *free*. This year, the point earning period will run from July 27-March 28.

HOW IT WORKS

With Tools for Schools, you earn points on behalf of your favorite school every time you shop using your Price Chopper AdvantEdgeCard. The points are redeemed by the school for FREE equipment.

Register your Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card and designate a school at the Guest Services desk at your local Price Chopper, at your school, or using our online form.

All purchases using your Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card will be automatically credited to your selected school.

Every dollar spent at Price Chopper earns you one point. Purchase Price Chopper or Central Market Classics brands and receive double points!

Click on the Tools for Schools logo which can be found on the District Home Page and the School Building Home pages at www.bgcd.org for more information!

Holiday Concerts

DECEMBER

- 3 Sr. High Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Jr. High Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Greenlawn Holiday Concert
5th and 6th Grade Ensembles



Fire Prevention and Safety at the Elementary Schools

In October, students at Guilford School celebrated Fire Prevention week. On October 8, the firefighters from Guilford Station 19 came to the school to talk to the children about fire safety. The children saw firefighters dressed in their gear and air tanks. Later they saw a video on fire safety.

On October 9, the kindergarten and first grade classes walked to Guilford Station to see the fire trucks and emergency vehicles.



In the Zone

Students at Guilford Elementary School have been learning about *The Zones of Regulation*. Some students in the first grade assisted Kelly Hromada-Johnson, School Social Worker in teaching their peers about the Zones. There are four zones that are defined as different states of alertness of both the body and emotions for a specific situation. Everyone experiences all of the zones at one time or another.

The zones can be compared to a stoplight or traffic signs. When in the green zone, one is *good to go* and is given the green light. The yellow zone, a yellow light or caution sign means slow down. A red light or stop sign means stop. When in the red zone, the student will need to stop and regain control. The blue zone is compared to a blue rest area. When in the blue zone, the student will need to pull over and recharge.

Kristen Figary, Occupational Therapist and Kelly Hromada-Johnson will be working with students and staff throughout the school year to learn the *Zones of Regulation* language and encourage students to use the Zones of Regulation to assist them in getting back to the green zone so that they are ready to learn.

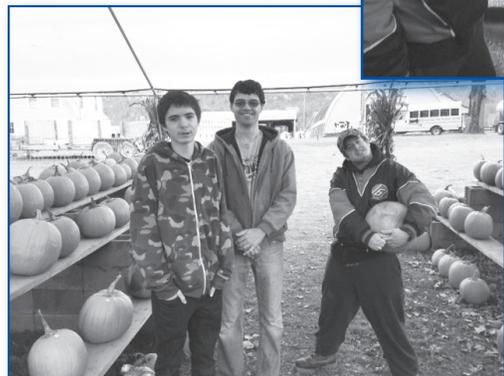
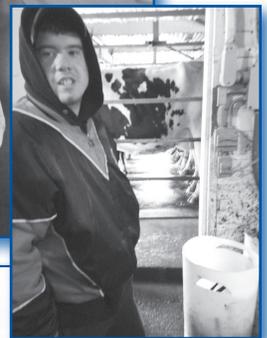
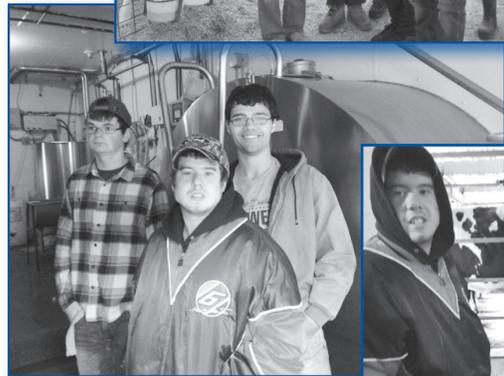
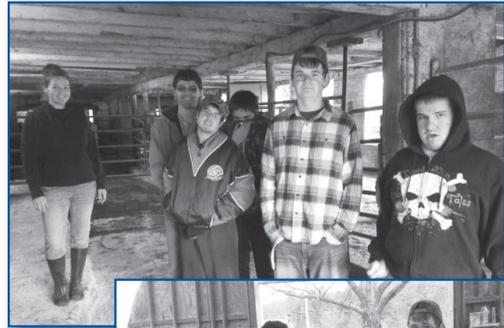
Students will be bringing more information home as they learn to use the Zones throughout the school year.



Life Skills Class Tour Hanehan Farm

On October 28, Mrs. Geiger's Life Skills class visited the Hanehan Farm in East Guilford to learn about farming life. Mrs. Rachel Hanehan gave the students a tour and explained how a dairy farm operates. One of the many things the students got to see in action was 12 cows being milked in a parlor at the same time.

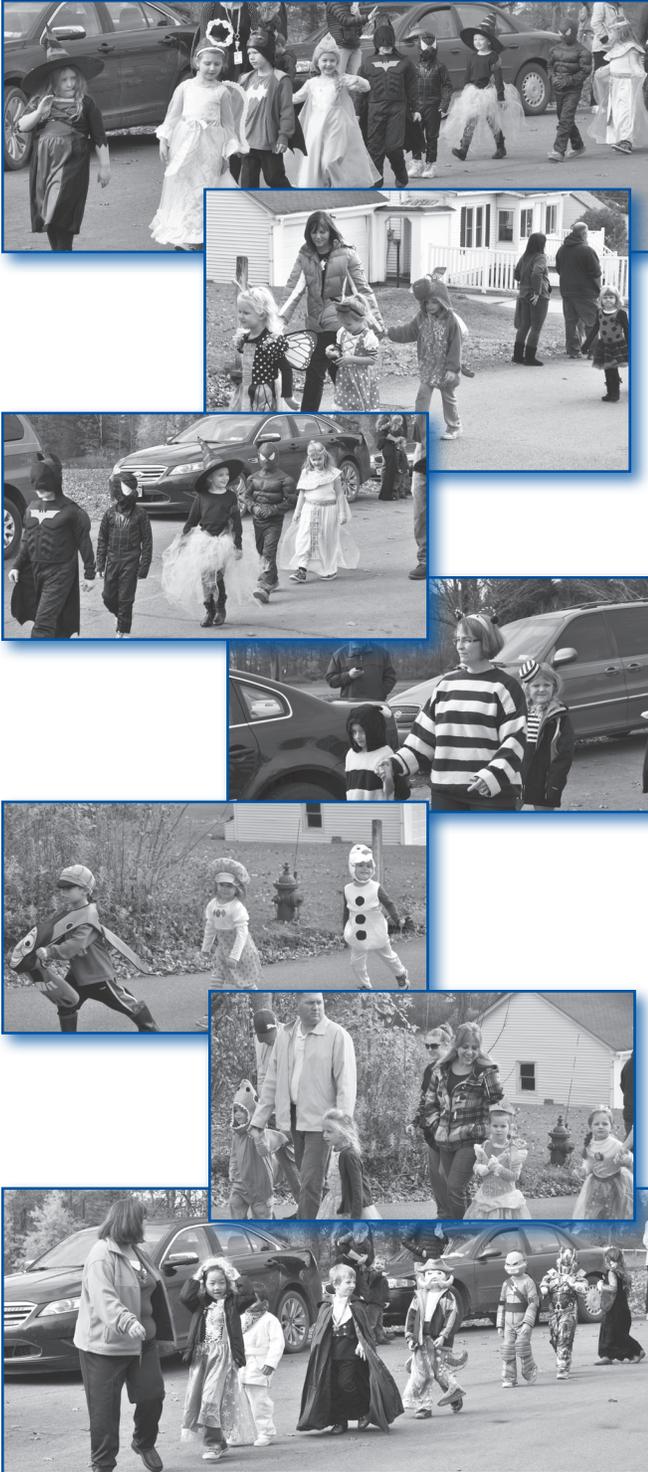
An interesting fact we learned is that baby calves are separated from their mothers shortly after they are born and fed out of a bottle with the mother's milk. The students ended their tour by picking out a pumpkin to take home from Hanehan's farm stand.



Fun Fall Parades

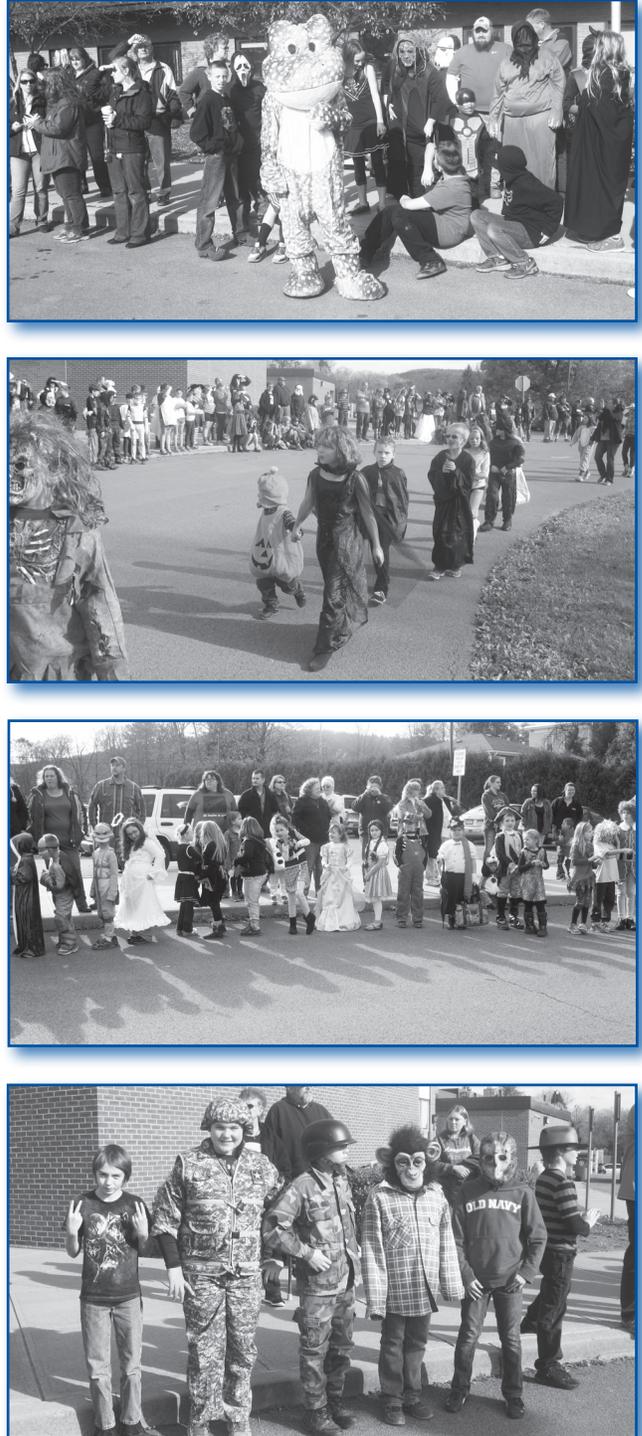
GUILFORD

As usual, Guilford Elementary School's fall parade was very well attended by parents and other family members. Children had a grand time parading down the lane and around the circle in front of the building. It was a beautiful day and the first time we have been able to parade outside in a few years!



GREENLAWN

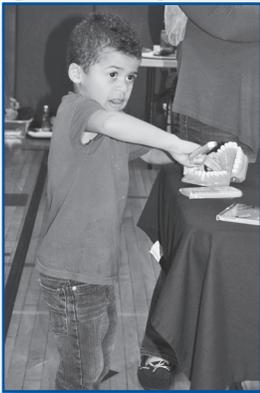
All sorts of characters and critters showed up for the annual Greenlawn Elementary fall parade. Students in grades 2-6 along with many staff members dressed up to have some fall fun by parading around the traffic circle on a beautiful fall afternoon. There were robots and super heroes, princesses and pirates, ghosts and witches, who all followed the lead frog!



Guilford Elementary Open House

Guilford Open House was the place to be October 9th. Many families came out to meet their children's teachers and to see the kinds of learning activities that are a part of Guilford Elementary School. We paired the evening with our book fair and our community night. Teresa Burnett and Leslie Cuozzi graciously ran our book fair, Guilford cafeteria staff (Billie Reigles, Fay Parsons and Shaney Stevens) provided samples of student breakfast and lunch entrees. Community organizations in attendance included: Head Start, Boy Scouts, Daisy Scouts, Chenango County Public Health, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dr. Gifford (dental exhibit), Bainbridge-Guilford Library and 4-H.

Other display tables included, Lori Pike, our school nurse, with hand washing/germ detector machine and Mrs. Seliga's and Mrs. Codington's RTI table. Members of the B-G Board of Education greeted and welcomed families at the door. There were all sorts of activities, information, and even some cool give-away items from the participants. A very hearty thank you to all of you who helped make our open house a great success!



Treytin Clark working hard at brushing some very big teeth



Alyssa Castle at the RTI table with Mrs. Seliga and Mrs. Codington

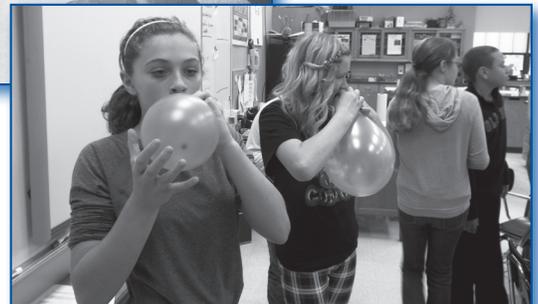
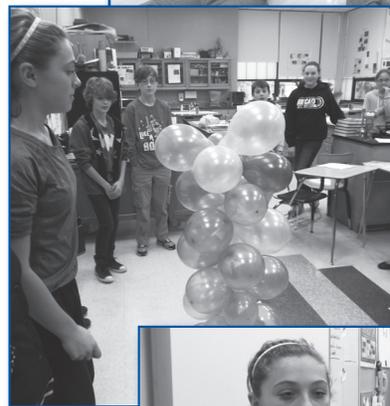


Janet Louise Pfromm and Louise Butcher

Olweus Bullying Prevention Kick-Off Day

On Wednesday, October 22, Bainbridge-Guilford Jr.-Sr. High School students participated in the annual Olweus Bullying Prevention Program kick-off. The day began with all students listening to an inspiring message from nationally known speaker, Shaun Derik. His message entitled, *Listen to Your Inner Voice* does not simply mean quiet down and lower your voice, it is a metaphor for listening to the voice within, doing what is right, standing up for others.

Class meetings were held and each group was challenged to make the tallest tower they could using only twenty-five balloons. The challenge required everyone working together, listening to each other and respecting all points of view. In the afternoon all 7th graders and new students, grades 8-12, watched the documentary *Bully*. It is hoped that the day helped energize and educate students to stand up for themselves and others if they are being bullied.



Odyssey of the Mind

B-G FIELDS SIX ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS FOR THE 2014-15 SEASON

The Odyssey of the Mind Program is in full swing at Bainbridge-Guilford for the 2014-15 season. Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving competition. This after school program is offered to all interested students at the Greenlawn Elementary School and at the Junior-Senior High School. Six teams have formed and are preparing for the competition. The teams selected their problems and started the task of creating their solutions. Their goal is to be ready for the Regional Competition, which will be held on February 14, at the DCMO BOCES Campus at Trout Creek. This is an all day event and we would welcome you to come out and support the teams. Teams finishing in first place in their problem and division will go on to the State Finals on April 11 at SUNY Binghamton.

The Odyssey program divides teams into different divisions based on the ages of team members. Our youngest team members, a team of second graders, will be tackling the Primary Problem. This division is only open to students in K-2nd grade and is a non-competitive problem. This year's Primary Problem is called *Wacky Weather Warning*. The team's challenge is to create and present a humorous performance where a meteorologist makes three predictions of *wacky weather*. The meteorologist will speak in rhymes and use a team-created forecasting device and a backdrop that serves as a weather map. The community will *tune in* to get the weather report in any creative way the team wishes. Team members are **Owen Fleming, Olivia Hall, Erinne Sullivan, Clare Sullivan, Sammy Davidson, Kayleigh Northrup** and **Myanna Dickey**. Coaching our Primary team is Mrs. Fleming.

Division I is open to students in grades K-5 and is a competitive division. Our first Division I team has selected Problem 1, *Runaway Train*. The team's problem is to design, build and operate one or more vehicles that will travel on tracks and make stops at different stations without touching the floor. While traveling between stations, the vehicles must overcome obstacles—moving uphill, towing something and more. The theme of the performance will explain the vehicle's difficulties on the track and will include a *conductor* character. Once the vehicle reaches its final destination it will display a flag or banner during a victory lap! Team members are **Noah Patton, Gabriella Cuozzo, Kaydence Brimmer, Caleb Brimmer, Jack Matthews** and **Joslyn Kopac**. Mrs. Miller is coaching this team. Mrs. Cuozzo will be assisting her.

Our next Division I team will be tackling Problem 3, *Pandora's Box*. The team's problem is to put a video game spin on the story of Pandora's Box. A gamer character will take on this multi-level game inspired by the Greek myth.

The game will include a prologue that depicts the original story of Pandora's Box, three characters representing different evils that escaped the box, and a power meter that represents the gamer character's health. To beat the game, the player will advance to the final level where it will release hope into the world. Team members include **Kira Davidson, Colby Gravelin, Valerie Haddad, Connor Harmon, Ewan Germond, Gavin Guy** and **Landon Umbra**. Mrs. Haddad is the coach of this team.

Our final Division I team has selected Problem 4, *Lose Your Marbles*. This problem requires the team to design, build, and test a structure, made only of balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. The structure will also hold five marbles that will be released during weight placement as a result of a team-created device removing a piece of the structure. After the crusher board and one additional weight are placed on top of the structure, the first marble will be released. After the next weight is supported, the team will use its device to release another marble, and so on. The team will incorporate weight placement and *losing your marbles* into the theme of the performance. Team members include **Liam Germond, Connor Vredenburg, Mason Brownell, Trent Sullivan, Austin Lockwood, Brendan DeForest** and **Cooper Sienko**. Mrs. Vredenburg and Ms. Brownell will coach this team.

Our last two teams will be competing at the Division II level open to students in grades 6-8. Mrs. Miller's team has selected Problem 5, *Silent Movie*. The team must create and present a performance depicting a Director character that produces and presents a silent movie featuring a humorous villain character that commits three silly acts of *villainy*. Characters that are in the movie may not speak as part of the presentation of the movie. Instead, like classic silent films, the team will use music played on a team-created instrument and creatively displayed subtitles to convey its story to the audience and judges. Also, teams will use a signal to indicate when the movie begins and ends. Team members include **Kaylee Miller, Andrew Miller, Alexis Matthews, Mary Rowe** and **Conner Rowe**.

Mrs. Germond-Howard and Ms. Farrell's team selected Problem 3, *Pandora's Box*. A description of this problem is listed above. Team members include **Erica Frost, Gwen Germond, Gavin Farrell, Gina Haddad, Mckeyli Decker** and **Leah Gregory**.

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Jr.-Sr. High School Students of the Month

Bainbridge-Guilford Jr.-Sr. High School is proud to announce our students of the month. To be eligible for this honor, students must be passing all subjects, demonstrate consistent kindness to others, be actively involved in school

SEPTEMBER

- 7th—Zachary Ladd
- 8th—Kori Thornton
- 9th—Jonathan Pratt
- 10th—Devyn Gaudreau
- 11th—Amanda Decker
- 12th—Darcy McElligott



or community activities, show pride in the school and community and be an upstanding student in all aspects. We would like to congratulate these students for their hard work and effort to be both good students and good citizens.

OCTOBER

- 7th—Alli Miller
- 8th—Abigail Selfridge
- 9th—Morgan McCall
- 10th—Rachel Hinkley
- 11th—Corben VanDermark
- 12th—Adam Bauerle

Many thanks to Rosa's Pizzeria for providing a gift certificate for these students!

