



Striving for Excellence
Canastota

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A message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,
Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! I want to thank our instructional staff, administrators, clerical staff, buildings and grounds crews, food service workers, nurses, technicians, custodians, cleaners, maintenance crew and bus drivers for helping to ensure a smooth start during these first few weeks. It is wonderful to hear the joyful laughter of students and staff as I travel the hallways of our school buildings.

Please welcome our new High School Principal, Jay Altobello, and our new Assistant Principal, Stan Congden, as well as all of the new teachers and support staff we hired over the summer months, including Fonzie, the district's first trained therapy dog!

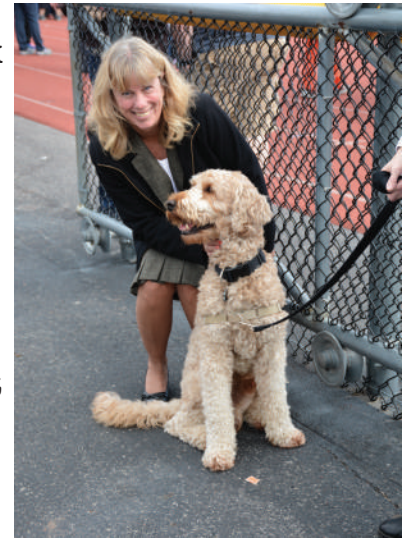
We have been very busy in recent weeks unveiling a new scoreboard, hosting the Autumn Special Olympics and enjoying homecoming festivities, including the induction ceremony for the 2015 Wall of Distinction honorees.

This summer, crews were able to complete the first phase of the District's Capital Project. This work included replacing the roofs on the bus garage/educational annex and the high school media center. The District has submitted designs for the second phase of the project to the New York State Education Department and we are awaiting approval to move forward. If approved, work on the second phase of the project will begin next summer and will include replacing windows and upgrading floors at Peterboro Street Elementary School; replacing some windows, upgrading floors, plumbing and ventilation at South Side Elementary School; performing ventilation upgrades at Roberts Street Elementary School; and upgrading the science wing and doing renovations on rest rooms in the gym lobby area of the Junior-Senior High School.

I am excited to share information about all of the amazing things that have been happening in our District. On the pages that follow you will learn a bit more about our new staff, read about how our Fall sports teams fared this season, read about the curriculum work some of our Mathematics teachers did over the summer months and find out what our high school science students will be doing with a \$10,000 grant we received from the Monsanto Fund.

As always, your continued support of our efforts to provide a quality public education to all students in the Canastota Schools is very much appreciated.

Best,
June C. Clarke
Superintendent of Schools



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Mathematics MAGIC

Atlas lets district staff collaborate on curriculum, share best practices

Fifth-graders at Roberts Street Elementary School are learning mathematics, getting some exercise and having fun, thanks to the work of teachers and instructional staff during the summer months.

The Roberts Street teachers, along with mathematics teachers across the district, began working with Rubicon Atlas, a web-based curriculum-mapping program that allows teachers to be invested in the curriculum they are teaching.

Jessica Fox, who teaches fifth grade at RSES, said using Atlas makes it easy for teachers to collaborate.



“We pooled our resources and then took five days to talk about what we do. Everyone shared ideas and strategies. Doing that has given us more tools for teaching,” Mrs. Fox said.

Atlas lets teachers post lessons, modules, ideas and includes a teaching calendar.

“That allows us to stay with each other across the grade so students in one class are not way ahead or way behind,” Mrs. Fox said.

She and her fellow teachers meet once a week to discuss what is working and what isn’t but that doesn’t mean they wait to share ideas.

“We can share what we find with each other right away on Rubicon,” Mrs. Fox said.

Jason Mitchell, Canastota’s Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, said English Language Arts teachers are the next group that will start using the Rubicon system.

“We wanted teachers to be invested in, and, feel like they had ownership of the curriculum,” Mr. Mitchell said. “This does that because it gives them a long-term, viable document to work from and creates consistency.”

Mrs. Fox believes that teaching mathematics this way is good for her students.

“It will have a positive effect for students in future years,” she said. “Students are seeing that there is more than one way to learn something.”

Mr. Mitchell said that the system allows teachers to use their professional judgment when it comes to creating lessons, while still ensuring that what they teach aligns with the required state standards.

“Teachers populate the system using modules from the New York State Education Department as a starting point,” Mr. Mitchell said.

He said one of the greatest benefits of this system is that it allows for adaptability and change.

“Teachers can be more nimble. This makes adjustments year to year much easier,” he said.

The plan is to review student performance each year and make sure the curriculum is in alignment with what the students need to learn to be prepared to move to the next grade level, Mr. Mitchell said.

“Ultimately we want to use this in all subject areas.”



Therapy Dog Comes to School

Canastota Junior/Senior High School has a new, four-legged staff member!

Fonzie, a three-year-old Australian labradoodle, will work with School Psychologist Brenda Jenkins as part of the new PAWS PACK program (Pets Assisting Willing Students Positively Affecting Canastota Kids).

Fonzie has a fleece coat, which means he has hair, not fur. He sheds very little, making him a good dog to have around for those with allergies to dog dander. Last November, Fonzie earned his Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate, which shows he has a high level of obedience and behavior training. While in school, he will be on a leash at all times and under the direction of his handler, Mrs. Jenkins.

The PAWS PACK program, which was approved by the Board of Education, allows Fonzie to work with students in grades 8-12. As a therapy dog, Fonzie gives unconditional, nonjudgmental support and comfort to students in need. This can include: comfort in school counseling services, calming during tests, student conflicts and crisis situations; listening to students read books aloud; and acting as a positive incentive for improved behavior and attendance in school.

Working with Fonzie is strictly voluntary. He and Mrs. Jenkins will only work with students and staff members who have expressed an interest. Students who have ongoing contact with Fonzie need signed parental consent to do so. Parents who have additional questions or concerns can call Mrs. Jenkins in the PPS Office at 697-8805.



Capital Project Work Continues

This summer, crews were able to complete the first phase of Canastota Central School's Capital Project. Work done during this phase included replacing the roofs on the bus garage/educational annex as well as the high school media center.

We have submitted designs for the second phase of the project to the New York State Education Department for approval. This work will begin next summer and will include replacing windows and upgrading floors at Peterboro Street Elementary School; replacing some windows, upgrading floors, plumbing and ventilation at South Side Elementary School; performing ventilation upgrades at Roberts Street Elementary School; upgrading the science wing and renovating rest rooms at the Junior-Senior High School.

Please be advised that the Community Facilities Committee will start to meet again soon to consider our future facility needs. The committee will have input as decisions are made about the future use of Peterboro Street Elementary School. If you are interested in serving on the Community Facilities Committee please contact Cara Stevens, School District Business Leader, at 697-2025.



CHS Students Share Stories

Students in Kelley Brenon's Creative Writing class started the school year off by writing children's books. They then took the time to share them with some first graders at Peterboro Street Elementary School.

Ms. Brenon said her students worked on the books during class for a few weeks. Some chose to illustrate their writing, others got help from some art students who worked under the direction of art teacher Kristie Boisen. Once they finished their work, the 10-12th graders shared it with students in Mrs. Stockbridge's first grade class at Peterboro Street.

During the readings, Mrs. Stockbridge's students listened intently and made predictions about how the stories would end. Mrs. Stockbridge encouraged her students to try writing their own books. The teachers say they plan to collaborate again.



Autumn Special Olympics

More than 250 athletes from 11 school districts, along with hundreds of volunteers, came to the Canastota High School campus for the 2015 Special Olympics Autumn Games.

The day opened with the Parade of Athletes, which was led by the Canastota Drum Line. The Canastota Select Choir performed the National Anthem and Canastota Superintendent June C. Clarke welcomed students, staff and fans to the Canastota Athletic Complex. Once participants recited the Special Olympics oath, the games were under way.

Students from throughout the region took part in track and field events, including the 50-meter and 400-meter dash, the running long jump, standing long jump and shot put. There were several adapted activities for athletes requiring additional assistance including a bean bag toss, a bowling game and hula hoop event. Student athletes were treated to lunch, donated by Panera Bread.

School districts represented at the Autumn Games included: Camden, Canastota, Cazenovia, Chittenango, Hamilton, Madison, Morrisville-Eaton, Oneida, Stockbridge Valley, Vernon-Verona-Sherrill and Madison-Oneida BOCES.



Homecoming 2015

The Canastota community turned out to enjoy this year's Homecoming Parade and festivities, including a chicken barbecue, sponsored by Smile Solutions, that benefited the school district. The Homecoming Court was crowned at the Homecoming Dance on Saturday. King and Queen are Mike Zupan and Autumn Mitchell, Prince and Princess were Robert Burbank and Emily Galton.



Fall Sports Roundup

Girls Soccer: Led by Coach Stacey Snow the girls finished with an overall record of 4-11-1 and enjoyed their best season in more than a decade.

Boys Soccer: Coach Rollin Reed guided the Raiders to a 10-8 season. The Raiders opened Section III competition with a 4-0 win against Adirondack but were defeated by No. 1 seed Lowville in the quarterfinals.

Girls Tennis: The varsity girls tennis team had a rebuilding year with an overall record of 4-12 and a league record of 4-10. The highlight of the year was a 4-1 victory over defending league co-champion Clinton. The singles line-up of Cristina Damiano, Dominique Cesario, and Crystal VanOrnam had a winning record in singles matches. The doubles players, Kaileigh Becker, Julianna McQuaid, Makayla Larue, Skyler Donley, and Payton Shirley, showed great improvement over the course of the season.

Field Hockey: The Field Hockey team finished second behind Morrisville-Eaton-Hamilton in the Class C West Division. Under the direction of coach Marcia Laidlaw, the girls enjoyed an outstanding season going 12-2-1. They were seeded No. 2 in Class C Sectional competition losing to Little Falls 4-1 in the semifinals. The Raiders were led by Josey Sgarlata and Shelby Kilts.

Gross Country: The boys team finished fourth and the girls were third in the league. Adam VanValkenburgh had a strong year, taking first in races at Rome Free Academy and at the Adirondack Championships. He is currently ranked among the top 10 runners in Class C in NYS. Adam, along with runners Emily Galton and Emily Seale were named Center State All-Stars this season.



Raiders Win Class C West

The hard work in the off-season has paid off for the Canastota varsity football team. The Canastota Raiders have had an amazing 2015 season and are ranked #13 in Class C by the New York State Sportswriters Association.

The Raiders were crowned Class C West Champions and on Nov. 7th will compete for the Section III Championship against Notre Dame in the Carrier Dome. This will only be the second time in school history that Canastota football has made it to the sectional finals.

Leading the way for the Raiders has been Ryan Zophy who has rushed for 1302 yards scoring 16 touchdowns while passing for 764 yards. Running back Cameron Bellino has also performed well, scoring nine touchdowns and leading a stout Raider defense in tackles.

Mike Zupan is Canastota's top receiver with 25 receptions for 425 yards. He has also scored on both kickoff and punt returns and has had several interceptions this season.

A brand new scoreboard was installed for the team earlier this season.



Important Yearbook Reminders

Yearbooks are on sale now for \$50.00.

Order using the link on the CHS website or bring an order form to Mrs. Boisen in Room 147 or Mrs. Whalen in Room 158.

After January 4, 2016 the price will be \$60.00.

Parents of Seniors

Yearbook ads are a great way to congratulate your Seniors.

The yearbook staff needs the information for the ad and a 50% deposit as soon as possible to make sure that your ad makes it into the yearbook!





South Side Students Learn About India

Students in Ms. Galuski's and Mrs. Malbouf's second grade classes at South Side Elementary School learned about India during a visit from Mrs. Neeraj Modgil.

Mrs. Modgil is a native of New Delhi. She talked the students about growing up in India and explained to them that education is very valued in India, as are teachers. She told the students that it is very important for children to show respect in India and shared some facts about the country, including telling them that the peacock is the country's national bird. The students learned about the Hindu religion and customs associated with it and talked about Indian holidays and traditions including

Diwali, a holiday that is celebrated in November. The students were working on a unit on Asian cultures when Mrs. Modgil came to visit. .

Children's Council News

The Canastota Children's Council has started planning for an upcoming drama production.

The group will present "Into the Woods Jr.," on Friday, April 15, 2016 and Saturday, April 16, 2016. Auditions for roles will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Jan. 6, 2016. Students in grades 4-8 are encouraged to try out for parts in the musical.

According to Music Theatre International, "Into the Woods, Jr.," features "All of your favorite characters - Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk), and the Witch - meet and interact in this whimsical original story. The musical centers on a baker and his wife who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the king's festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse and wind up changed forever."

Students chosen for roles in the musical will be expected to rehearse at least twice a week, with more rehearsals scheduled as the opening for the show gets closer.

Look for more information about the musical on the Canastota Central Schools Facebook page and on our Web site, www.canastotacsd.org

Canastota Awarded \$10,000 Grant

The Monsanto Fund has given the Canastota Central School District a \$10,000 grant for an aquaponics project at the high school.



Thanks to Jim Mason, a local farmer, Assistant Superintendent Jason Mitchell, teachers Paula Burnor, Liz Garafolo and Joe Lasnicki, and Madison-Oneida

BOCES grant writer, Lisa Seitz, Canastota students will have access to a new aquaponics system in the greenhouse. This system will provide hands-on learning opportunities that enhance math and science curriculum for students across all grade levels in the district.

The project will allow our students to monitor, care for and maintain an aquaponics system that will use fish, in our case tilapia, to produce a number of edible plants for harvest. The system will expand and enhance existing greenhouse and agricultural resources at our school. It will also serve to enhance hands-on, practical learning experiences in several disciplines, including agriculture science, technology and business.

The project will give Canastota students a chance to put their mathematics skills to use by designing the system's layout. As the year progresses, the students will collect data, take digital pictures and use water-quality test kits to document the progress of the system. Students enrolled in business classes will support the aquaponics operation and gain agribusiness management experience.



Welcome to Our New Staff

Jay Altobello is the new principal of Canastota Junior/Senior High School. Mr. Altobello received his Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from Ithaca College and his Master of Science degree in Education from the University of New England. His Certificate of Advanced Study in Education Administration was obtained from the State University of New York at Brockport.

Stanley Congden is the new assistant principal of Canastota Junior/Senior High School. Mr. Congden received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Physical Education from the State University of New York at Cortland and his Certificate of Advanced Study from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Cassandra Alexander is a second grade Special Education Teacher at South Side Elementary School. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from SUNY Oswego and a Master's degree in Students with Disabilities from Le Moyne College.

Emily Annicharico is a special education teacher at Roberts Street. She received her bachelor's degree in Sociology from William Smith College and her Master's degree in Inclusive Special Education, Severe/Multiple Disabilities from Syracuse University.

Gabe Byron is an English teacher at Canastota High School. He received his bachelor's degree in English from SUNY Cortland and my master's degree in Adolescent Education from Utica College.

John Copp is a physical education teacher for grades 4-6 at Roberts Street. He received his bachelor's degree in Physical Education and his Master's degree in Adapted Physical Education from the State University College at Cortland. He has served the district as a coach for Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track since 2012.

Robert Esposito is a Business teacher at CHS. He received his bachelor's degree in Business Public Management from SUNYIT and his Master's degree in Childhood Education and Special Education Grades 1-6 from Touro College.

Tania Gebo is an AIS Math Teacher at Peterboro Street Elementary School. She has a Bachelor's degree in Childhood Education from the State University College at Cortland and is pursuing a Master's degree in Elementary Mathematics from Walden University.

Kimberly Hughes is a third grade teacher at South Side Elementary School. Mrs. Hughes has a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education from Utica College and a Master's degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Literacy from the State University at Cortland.

Ashley Karp is a Special Education teacher at Canastota High School. Ashley received her Bachelor of Science degree in Adolescent Education from the State University College at Oswego and her Master's degree in Inclusive Special Education from Syracuse University.

Jennifer Nolan is a Special Education K-3 Resource Teacher for Peterboro Street Elementary and South Side Elementary. She holds certifications in both General Education and Special Education and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the State University at Oswego and her Master's degree in Special Education from Utica College.

Stephany Roback is a first grade teacher in the integrated co-teaching classroom at Peterboro Street Elementary School. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education from the State University College at Cortland, where she is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Literacy Education.

Janelle Rozzano is working with second grade students at South Side Elementary School as a long-term substitute for AIS Reading. She has a bachelor's degree in Childhood Education from the State University at Oswego and a Master's degree in Literacy Education, also from Oswego.

Brianna Torres is a long-term substitute who is teaching first grade at Peterboro Street Elementary School. She has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from the State University College at Cortland, where she is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Literacy Education.

Leah Turner is a third grade teacher at South Side Elementary School. She has a bachelor's degree in Childhood/Early Childhood education from the State University College at Cortland and is pursuing her Master's degree in Literacy at Cortland as well.

Bridget Williams, a new morning Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Peterboro Street Elementary School, has a Master of Science for Teachers degree from LeMoyne College and is certified to teach birth - grade 6.



Jay Altobello



Kimberly Hughes



Stanley Congden



Ashley Karp



Cassandra Alexander



Jennifer Nolan



Emily Annicharico



Stephany Roback



Gabe Byron



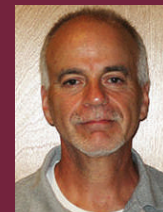
Janelle Rozzano



John Copp



Brianna Torres



Robert Esposito



Leah Turner



Tania Gebo



Bridget Williams

district

administration

Ms. June Clarke
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jason Mitchell
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Ms. Cara Stevens
School District Business Leader

Mr. Jay Altobello
Jr./Sr. High School Principal

Mr. Stanley Congden
Jr./Sr. High School Vice-Principal

Ms. Jennifer Carnahan
Peterboro and South Side Elementary School Principal

Ms. Melissa Stanek
K-3 Assistant Principal

Ms. Andrea Centro
Roberts St. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Carolyn Rose
Director of Special Programs

Ms. Roberta Borek
Director of Transportation

Mr. Christopher Clancy
Director of Instructional Technology

Mr. John Regan
Director of Facilities



Grandparents Visit RSES

Students at Roberts Street Elementary School welcomed some special guests to their school in mid-September.

The fourth graders celebrated the day by inviting their grandparents, or other special adults in their life, to come to school and spend some time with them.

The grandparents heard special memories from their grandchildren and saw a slide show presentation about the importance of having older adults in a child's life.

There were lots of smiles as the students and staff shared some of their favorite memories with those who attended!

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