



Striving for Excellence Canastota

Central School District • 120 Roberts Street, Canastota, NY 13032 • www.canastotacsd.org

A message from the Superintendent

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year. We are off to a wonderful start and our students, at all levels, continue to shine in academics and athletics.

I was honored to be present recently when we welcomed 17 students into the Canastota Central Schools chapter of the National Honor Society.

Our district was proud to once again host the Special Olympics. More than 300 students from schools throughout the region participated in this wonderful event. In addition, we had four fall athletic teams advance to the sectional finals.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new faculty and staff. You can learn more about them by turning to Page 4 of this newsletter. As the first marking period comes to a close I could not be more pleased with how things are progressing.

If you have visited our schools recently you will know that we have changed our entrance procedures. If you wish to access our buildings at any time you must report to the buildings' main office. Once there, you will be asked to produce identification and sign in on the visitor's log. You will be issued a visitor's badge, which must be returned when you exit the building. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning this change.

As we continue to work on the second phase of our Capital Project we have made the decision to postpone the installation of the new windows at Peterboro Street Elementary School. The safety and security of our students and staff is always my top priority and I am reluctant to have a construction project of this magnitude take place while school is in session. As such, we will not be installing the windows until next summer. This decision will result in less disruption for our students, teachers and staff as they pursue their educational goals for the school year. We will continue to provide you with regular updates on the project.

Finally, we are awaiting the results of the second round of lead testing at all of our schools. Our first set of samples showed all drinking fountains and cooking outlets in our schools tested below the EPA standard of 20 parts per billion (PPB) and the New York State standard of 15 PPB. Six hand washing sinks and some sinks in our science labs at the Jr./Sr. High School tested above acceptable levels. The second set of tests were completed because there could be a margin of error with the first samples. The sinks with high levels have been disabled while we await the second set of results. Once we have results, we will post them to our Web site and, if necessary, will work with the Madison County Health Department on a remediation plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the lead testing results or our plans for remediation.

June C. Clarke

Superintendent of Schools



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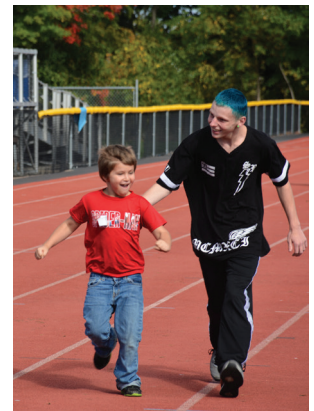


Special Olympics 2016

Hundreds of Athletes Take Part in Event

Athletes joined volunteers from school districts around the region at the Special Olympics on Oct. 5 at Canastota High School.

More than 300 students spent the day competing in a number of events including the running long jump, the standing long jump, shot put, 50-meter and 200-meter runs, softball throw and several other activities. Participating schools began the day by walking around the track in a parade of athletes that was led by the Canastota Marching Band.



Homecoming Oct. 14, 2016



Melissa Stanek Named Roberts Street Principal

Ms. Melissa Stanek is the new Roberts Street Elementary School Principal. She started her new job at Roberts Street on October 17.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Stanek served as the K-3 Assistant Principal for South Side Elementary and Peterboro Street schools for three years. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the State University College at Oneonta, and her Master of Science in Reading Education from Syracuse University. She obtained her Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership from Le Moyne College. Ms. Stanek has 15 years of elementary teaching experience.

Replacing Ms. Stanek as Assistant Principal at SSES and PSES is Mr. Jason Stefanski.

Mr. Stefanski has a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education from the State University College at Oneonta and a Master of Science degree in Literacy from the University of New England. He earned his Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership from the State University College at Cortland.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Stefanski worked for three years with the Madison-Oneida BOCES Early Childhood and Career and Technical Education programs.



Canastota Teachers Present at ECET2 Workshop

Cecile Retrosi, a 5th grade teacher at Roberts Street Elementary School and Canastota High School teachers Kristie Boisen, and Sean Dwyer shared their knowledge with teachers from surrounding schools at the Madison-Oneida BOCES Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching (ECET 2) Conference in October.

Ms. Retrosi talked about who inspired her to pursue teaching and how she maintains her passion for her profession. She shared a variety of personal anecdotes, paying tribute to the educators that have influenced her throughout her life. She also spoke about her experiences using Project-Based Learning techniques in the classroom.

Ms. Boisen and Mr. Dwyer co-presented to the group on engaging students who live in poverty. In addition, Ms. Boisen, who was on the ECET2 planning committee, had attendees paint a positive mantra for their classrooms, spoke about mindfulness in the classroom and helped the group create "mindful jars." She also taught a workshop on using Professional Learning Communities.



Welcome New Staff

We extend a warm welcome to our new faculty and staff. Joining the Canastota Central School District in 2016-17 are:

Jennifer Baggett of Manlius. Jennifer teaches Spanish in the high school. Her helping teacher is Diane Traver.

Brian Bangson of Liverpool. Brian is a Special Education teacher at South Side Elementary School. His mentor is Kate Galuski.

Amelia Berezein of Lowville. Amelia is the K-3 Social Worker at South Side Elementary School. Dana Podkowka is her mentor.

Angela Bruno of Vernon. Angela teaches Spanish in the high school.

Brian Dwyer of Chittenango. Brian is a science teacher at the high school. His helping teacher is Steve Lubey.

Cindy Gainer of Durhamville, Cindy is our new head bus driver.

John Michael Grosso Jr. of Oneida. John is a Special Education teacher at Roberts Street Elementary School. His helping teacher is Laura Blessing.

Mike Klenotiz of Wampsville. Mike is the District's new Director of Transportation.

Jane Pavone of Canastota. Jane is our new high school/junior high nurse.

Diane Schmidt of Canastota. Diane is the new Kindergarten teacher at Peterboro Street Elementary School. Her helping teacher is Tammy Moran.

Tanya Thompson of Kirkville. Tanya is teaching Mathematics at the high school. Her helping teacher is Jill Stanley.

Brianna Torres of Rome. Brianna is a new First Grade teacher at Peterboro Street Elementary School. Brianna had a mentor teacher when she was with the District for the 2015-2016 school year.

Ellen Trapp of Hamilton. Ellen is the district's new School Psychologist.

Daphne Tully of Cicero. Daphne is a Speech and Hearing specialist for Roberts Street Elementary School.

Lisa Whitman of Minoa. Lisa teaches Mathematics at the High School. Her helping teacher is Sara Badgley.

The new teachers were treated to a dinner in October that was sponsored by the Canastota Civic Club.

Capital Project Update

Crews from the Canastota Central School District have continued to work with construction workers from outside the district on the second phase of our Capital Project.

Contractors are putting the final touches on the new science and math rooms at the high school, doors at Peterboro Street and classrooms at South Side Elementary School. In addition, the Laidlaw Gym has been painted and white boards are being installed in several rooms at the high school.

Up next will be work on the mechanical rooms throughout the district. Director of Facilities John Regan said the construction in those areas will be completed by Fall 2017.

In addition, new windows will be installed at Peterboro Street Elementary School in the summer of 2017, to avoid any unnecessary disruptions for students and staff at the school.



Raider Athletics 2016-2017

Fall Highlights



Varsity Field Hockey



Cross Country



Varsity Boys Soccer



Varsity Girls Soccer



Tennis



Cheerleading



Varsity Football

The Canastota Raiders had an outstanding fall athletic season with our field hockey and football teams winning league championships and cross country runner Adam VanValkenburgh competing in the state championship meet.

We had four teams advance to sectional play – football, field hockey, boys soccer and girls tennis. Our boys soccer team and girls tennis team both had very strong seasons but unfortunately, they did not advance past the first round of sectional play.

The field hockey team won their league title by defeating Clinton but they lost to Holland Patent in the semifinal round. The team finished with an 11-4 record under first year-coach Danielle Birkhead.

Adam VanValkenburgh did very well in the boys Class C state championship race. After coming back from an injury earlier in the season, he was able to qualify for the competition and he finished 13th, with a time of 16:42.8.

Our Canastota Raiders football team won the Section 3, Class C Southeast Division title. They went on to win the quarterfinal game against Thousand Islands but were defeated in the semifinals by Lowville. The team, coached by Tom Congden, finished the season with an 8-1 record.

Students Gather to Honor Marine

Students and staff from throughout the Canastota Central School District turned out to pay tribute to Canastota native and U.S. Marine Pvt. Frank Penna when his remains were returned to his hometown in mid-September.

Pvt. Penna was 24 when he was killed in action in World War II. He died in 1943, during a battle on Tarawa Island, one of the the Gilbert Islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Pvt. Penna's bones were identified using DNA and his brother, Fred Penna, 92, along with Fred's daughter Sharon Humphries and grandsons David and Steven, attended the events in Canastota that were held to honor Pvt. Penna.

After a procession from Hancock Air Field in Syracuse to Canastota, Pvt. Penna was remembered at a funeral Mass at St. Agatha's Church. He was buried, with full military honors, in the family plot at St. Agatha's Cemetery.



Honor Society Welcomes 17 New Members

The Canastota Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 17 new members during an Induction Ceremony in early November. Current members of the group introduced the new members at the event. Joining the group are juniors Nathan Arria and Corey Evans; and sophomores Patrick Armstrong, Kacey Cashel, Kenneth Coe, Brea Curtis, Devin Denney, Jennifer Fiore, Lee Hannan, Logan Hood, Taylor Kutzuba, McKenzie Leahey, Matthew McDermott, Madalyn Milligan, MacKenzie Mitchell, JoAnna Musacchio and Antonio Rivera.

Common Core, Poverty Issues Focus of Professional Development

Staff in the Canastota Central School District has been staying up to date with the latest educational strategies by participating in a host of professional development programs.

Educators started off the year by taking part in a Community Action Poverty Simulation. The simulation, created by the Missouri Association for Community Action, was an opportunity for the group to experience the struggles of families who live in poverty.

According to information provided by the Community Action Partnership for Madison County, 11.32 percent of the population in the county lives in poverty with 16.2 percent of children under 18 living in poverty.

Seven teachers from the district went to a workshop over the summer conducted by poverty expert Eric Jensen, the author of "Teaching with Poverty in Mind." The Canastota teachers who attended had to agree to bring back the information from the workshop and share it with their colleagues. They did this by providing a training for fellow teachers on Nov. 1.

"We are working hard to foster internal leadership where the very talented people we have share their knowledge with colleagues," said Assistant Superintendent Jason Mitchell.

In addition, the 10 new probationary teachers who joined the Canastota School District this year participated in two days of professional development before the start of school. The new teachers got to work with all instructional administrators during the two days and saw a presentation on "The First Days of School," by Harry Wong and Rosemary T. Wong.

Mr. Mitchell said feedback from the participants was very positive and many of the new teachers were grateful for the training.

In previous years, the orientation included breakfast, a Canastota Teachers Association meeting and time to work with mentors/helping teachers in classrooms. The addition of district-led professional development was focused on helping teachers be successful from day one. Mr. Mitchell said.

"This year, we shared information on the first days of school, school rules and procedures and tips for building relationships with students," Mr. Mitchell said.

Once the school year started, teachers continued to learn and hone their skills with staff development programs on curriculum mapping, the New York State Teaching Standards and Common Core recommendations for using literacy across all subject areas including physical education.

"Our administrative team has led much of the professional development this year," Mr. Mitchell said.

Professional development programs will continue throughout the school year.



district

administration

Ms. June C. 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 Assistant Principal

Ms. Melissa Stanek
Roberts St. Elementary School Principal

Ms. Jennifer Carnahan
Peterboro St. and South Side Elementary School Principal

Mr. Jason Stefanski
K-3 Assistant Principal

Ms. Carolyn Ortolano
Director of Special Programs

Mr. Michael Klenotiz
Transportation Supervisor

Mr. Christopher Clancy
Director of Instructional Technology

Mr. John Regan
Director of Facilities



*Canastota Schools
Community Sharing Night
Please join us in the High School Cafeteria
on Dec. 8, 2016, starting at 3 p.m.
Browse our collection
of gently-used clothing and toys!
We will remain open until all items
are distributed!
Parents, friends and neighbors
let us help make your holidays
happy!*

All items are free

**BUY YOUR
YEARBOOK
FOR ONLY
\$50.00**

Offer ends 1/31/17. Payment can be sent to Mrs. Boisen with cash or checks made out to Canastota High School, or to set up a payment plan with a down payment or purchase online at Jostens.com

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SCHOOLS**

Ms. June C. Clarke

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