



# Striving for Excellence Canastota

Central School District • 120 Roberts Street, Canastota, NY 13032 • [www.canastotacsd.org](http://www.canastotacsd.org)

## A message from the Superintendent

We are more than halfway through our school year and I continue to be humbled by the amazing and caring things our staff and students do on a daily basis.

I am thrilled that we have seen an increase in our graduation rate this year. Our 2015 high school graduation rate, which is an average of all students who began ninth grade in 2011 and graduated in June 2015, was at 75 percent. Our 2016 graduation rate was at 85 percent. We could not have accomplished this without the

tireless work of our faculty, staff, administrators, students and their parents. I want to thank all of them, as well as the School Board and the Canastota community, for their continued support of our educational mission and I look forward to continued improvement.

Our Future Business Leaders of America program has once again made the district proud. Under the direction of Elizabeth Garofalo this group has worked very hard this year and will be sending three students to the annual state leadership conference in Rochester in April. You can read about them on Page 2 of this newsletter.

During the holiday season students and staff at all of our schools raised money or held events that allowed them to give back to those less fortunate, proving once again that we work together to show that Canastota cares.

We have launched a program called Raider Rock Stars to put the spotlight on those junior high students who work hard academically. It has been a huge success and the students love their reward – a pizza party at the close of each marking period.

Also, in an effort to make things easier for faculty and community members, we have changed the process for reserving space in our schools. We now accept facilities use reservations online, eliminating the need for paper forms. Turn to Page 4 of this newsletter for a more detailed explanation and instructions on how the process works.

I am also happy to report that we have submitted our application for the Smart Schools Bond Act to the New York State Education Department. Smart Schools Committees consisting of students, teachers, parents, district administrators, Board of Education members, architects and engineers developed a spending plan that aligned district needs with Smart Schools funding. In order to prioritize the needs, the committees looked closely at the building conditions survey, District Technology Plan and discussed long-range facilities plans. I will keep you updated as we continue to move forward with this process.

We received the rest of the second round of water testing results for the science labs and high school showers. The majority of the second draw results for the science lab sinks were below the required levels of 15 parts per billion. Signage to not drink the water had been previously posted in the science labs and art rooms and will now become permanent. It is a normal policy to not eat or drink in science labs/art rooms due to materials/chemicals in those areas.

Throughout the lead testing process we have been in compliance with the Madison County Health Department and students and staff have been safe. You can find the results on our Web site.

Finally, I have been asked to be a part of a Steering Committee around the Madison County Success Plan. This group is working to strategically align County Departments and the entire County workforce on projects and programs in an effort to provide outstanding service and value to Madison County's citizens and taxpayers. I am honored to participate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the lead testing results or any other issues.

June C. Clarke

Superintendent of Schools



inside

## this issue

March 2017

Canastota Students Enjoy Winter .....	Page 2
Facility Reservations.....	Page 4
Winter Athletics Highlights.....	Page 5
High School Class Runs Business.....	Page 7





# Future Business Leaders Of America

## Members Headed to State Competition

The Canastota High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter attended the annual Spring District Meeting held at Morrisville State College in mid-January. Eighteen Canastota High School students and two Junior High students took part in the event. They were joined by 160 other FBLA members from 12 chapters within Madison, Oneida, and Herkimer counties. Students competed in a number of written and performance events in the areas of business and technology. Canastota High School and Junior High School members came away with several awards and three members advanced to the state level of competition. Five members will serve as alternates. District 7 is allowed three entries in each event. Lindsay Bazan, a Canastota senior, who currently serves as the New York State FBLA State Vice President for District 7 presided over the event. Julia DiVeronica, Lucas Barnello, Matt McDermott and April Dabrowski served as District Officers and assisted Lindsay during the meeting. The New York State FBLA State Leadership Conference will be held in Rochester this April.



## Winter Fun 2017



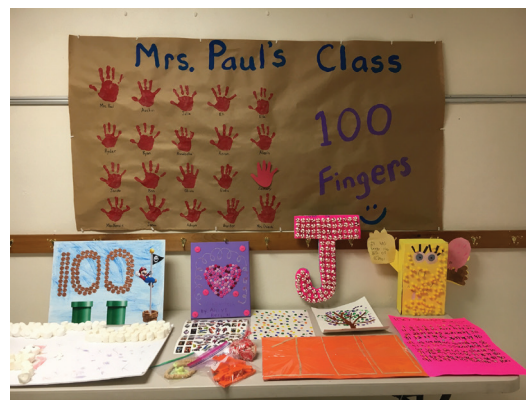
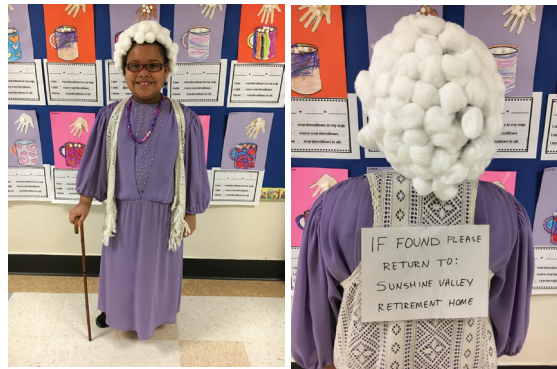
## PSES, SSES Celebrate 100th Day of School

Students in classes at Peterboro Street Elementary School and South Side Elementary School had fun celebrating the 100th day of school on Feb. 15.

The children were encouraged to dress up as if they were 100 years old.

Teachers created a variety of activities around the theme and classrooms worked to collect 100 canned goods for the event. The students counted the cans and created graphs. The canned goods were then donated to the Opportunity Shop.

The PTA and teachers also provided the students with theme-based snacks and gifts.



## South Side Students Monitor Salmon Eggs

Second grade students at South Side Elementary School are exploring the life cycle of salmon. Mr. Jack Gramlick, who did a presentation for the students, delivered salmon eggs from Saranac Lake in early January.

The children learned that not all of the eggs would survive just as they don't in nature. The eggs will be raised in a refrigerated tank until they hatch into the salmon fry stage.

Each day second graders will observe and calculate the temperature units of the eggs. The temperature units are calculated based on the water temperature in the tank.

Once the eggs have hatched they will be released in Canastota Creek. The hope is that the fish will find their way back "home" in four years to the Creek to lay their eggs.

As a part of the project, second graders are learning more specifics about salmon.



## Class Takes Research Trip to SU Library

Students in Carrie Ann Ronalds' Honors Global II class took a trip to Syracuse University's Bird Library in January to access the college's extensive research materials. The students were preparing to participate in the Regional History Day competition at Onondaga Community College in mid-March. They were researching projects around this year's theme: "Taking A Stand in History."

The students, who can compete individually or as part of a group of up to five, looked for information on John Locke, the French Revolution, Nelson Mandela, Mohandas Gandhi, Kalliroi Parren, terrorism, the Romanovs and Italian Unification. Participants can create an exhibit, documentary, web site, historical paper or performance for the competition.

While they were on campus, the class worked with Research and Scholarship Librarian Lydia Wasylenko. Ms. Wasylenko had asked for the group topics before the visit and was able to direct the students to specific areas in Bird Library. She also worked with the groups one on one, helping them to navigate the databases available at the college and giving instruction on how to use the university libraries' web site and catalog.



Canastota Central Schools

JOIN US!

# THE HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR 2017

A Community Celebration!

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Vincent V. Albanese Educational Center  
For more information:  
Contact #: 315-697-2025  
Website: [www.canastotacsd.org](http://www.canastotacsd.org)

## Reserve School Facilities Online

In order to make the reservation process for school facilities more cost-effective and efficient for the community and school employees, the District has moved to an online system. This eliminates the need for paper forms, which had to be delivered to the school.

If you are part of an organization that wants to reserve a facility go to the District webpage and follow the link to "Reserve a School Facility" under the "Calendars" menu. There, you will find information about the process, as well as the online form to make a reservation.

E-mail questions to [facilityuse@canastotacsd.org](mailto:facilityuse@canastotacsd.org)

### Calendars

District Calendar

2016-17 Program Calendar

Athletics Calendar

Events & Facility Use Calendar

[Reserve a School Facility](#)

# Raider Athletics Winter 2016-2017



**Varsity Wrestling**



**Boys Basketball**



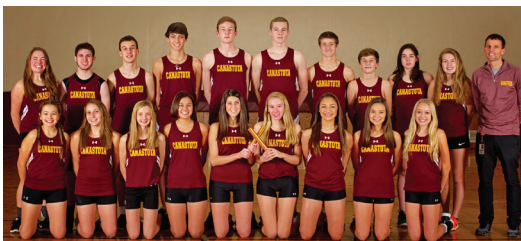
**Girls Basketball**



**Girls Volleyball**



**Boys Volleyball**



**Indoor Track**



**Bowling**

## Winter Highlights

The Canastota Raider teams had a wonderful winter season with several of our teams competing in sectional play and our wrestling team winning the Section 3 Championship!

The wrestlers, coached by John Tyler, finished their dual meet season at 17-4 overall. The group won the Cooperstown Dual tournament and also won the Fallen Heroes tournament, which is hosted by Canastota. The group qualified 11 wrestlers for the Section 3 Inter-Class Tournament at Onondaga Community College. Doug Simmons was crowned champion in his weight class at that tournament. Doug went on to win a silver medal at the NYSPHSAA championships.

The Canastota Lady Raiders basketball team finished their season with a 9-12 record. They were knocked out of sectionals in the first round by a tough Vernon-Verona-Sherrill team.

The Raider boys basketball team wound up with a 10-11 record. They defeated Westmoreland in a tough game on Senior Night and advanced to sectional play where they lost to Cazenovia in the first round.

The Lady Raiders volleyball team finished their season with a 13-2 record. The girls advanced to the sectional semifinals where they were defeated by Vernon-Verona-Sherrill.

The boys volleyball team finished the season with a 5-5 record.

Our Indoor Track Teams placed third (boys) and fifth (girls) at the Center State Conference Championships. Runner Adam VanValkenburgh qualified to run the 1,000-meter race at the State Meet on Staten Island.

## Five Win Awards at Scholastic Art Competition

Five students from Canastota won awards at the 2017 CNY Scholastic Art Competition. The artists competed against students from throughout the Central New York Region and their work is now on display at Onondaga Community College. The free exhibit will be in place until March 3.

This year there were more than 7,000 pieces entered for judging with 88 area schools represented. The pieces are judged by a group of 50 people who work as professional artists, educators or photographers.

They gave out 1,817 awards in 19 categories. The first place winners will move on to national competition. You can also see some of the winners displayed from March 11-April 2 at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse. Canastota winners are:

Alyssa DeNeve (Grade 12) received a Silver Key for her painting entitled "The Red King" and three Honorable Mentions for her paintings "Mariah," "Deja," and "Courteney."

Jennifer Fiore (Grade 10) received an Honorable Mention for her photo "Selfie Self Portrait."

Logan Hood received a Gold Key Award (the highest honor) (Grade 10) for her "Balance" photo.

Kelly Oram received an Honorable Mention for her "Space Hand" photo.

Deja Raines received an Honorable Mention for her Digital Art piece "Shatter Me."



## Raider Rock Stars Continue To Shine

We had another lunch pizza party with our 7th and 8th grade Raider Rock Stars to celebrate their success in the second marking period. The students celebrated before winter break with pizza from Mark's Pizzeria. In order to be a Raider Rock Star, students must maintain a 95 average each marking period. The students who achieved this honor for the second marking period are: Payton Alpaugh, Ryan Aumell, Katrina Austin, Alaina Bacon, Carly Becker, Richelle Brown, Rosario Brown, Alasondra Campanaro, Juliana Denney, Jessica Evans, Kendra Evans, Aidan Mascareno, Gabriel Mosley, Kyle Musachio, Jesslyn Niles, Kaitlyn O'Dell, Kyler Oster, Olivia Pistello, Carson Rowe, Ethan Sanderson, Aileen Schermerhorn, Saige Skinner, Emily Snyder, McKenzie Tolen, Maya Tucci, Laurel VanLone, Carley Wood and Nathan Wood.

## Entrepreneurship Class Teaches Valuable Skills

Working on payroll, creating a marketing plan and soliciting corporate donors. That's what it takes to run TecRaid, a virtual company created by 11 students in Robert Esposito's Entrepreneurship class at Canastota High School.

The class focuses on teaching students the complete life cycle of a business, Mr. Esposito said. "I wanted to incorporate real life business skills," he said.

Every student has an area of responsibility and a deliverable. Joe Russo, who serves as president of the Western Division, along with his Eastern Division counterpart John Sadowski, evaluate the students every two weeks. "We have staff meetings every Monday," Mr. Esposito said. "Employees get evaluated but they evaluate the president, too!"

Jade Shimer and Tomas Brychta have been working hard to create a presentation for corporate donors. Jade, who is responsible for corporate donations, tapped Tomas, the Information Technology expert, because she wanted his perspective.

"You have to figure out what's important and what's not important," Jade said.

For Tomas, who wants to get into real estate or run a company that markets products after he finishes school, the class serves as self-motivation.

"You have to make sure you present all the information about your products and services properly," Tomas said.

Zach Eberly, the vice president for human resources in TecRaid's Eastern Division, says the class has forced him to be more organized, especially when it comes to working with documents and doing research.

"This class makes me more confident to take classes in college," Zach said.

Desiree Stoddard, the vice president of marketing for TecRaid's Western Division, agrees. "It does help with organization and you really have to track stuff," she said.

John Sadowski said he has learned important lessons about work and the real world.

"The hardest thing was getting the ball rolling on selling product so that we had an income source," John said. "It really taught me the importance of teamwork. Each department needs to fulfill its duties or everyone else suffers."

Mr. Esposito says one of the biggest things students struggle with is covering for their classmates when they are not at school. "Having to cover for student employees in other departments when they are absent is tough," he said. "They have also learned not to procrastinate in completing the assigned tasks."

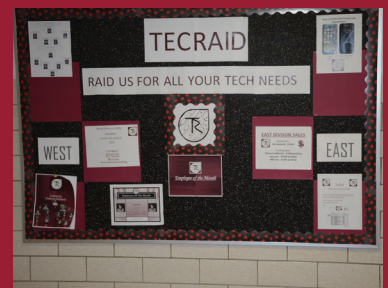
Joe Russo plans to go to college for accounting. "This is helping me to understand what I will have to deal with. It's not hard or easy it's just different. It's also fun."

Cody Gushea, who is vice president for customer service in the Eastern Division, said the amount of work students have to do for the class forces them to stay focused – and that's OK. "I would tell other kids to take the class." That sentiment was echoed by his classmates Clay West and Jacob Debrucque.

"This gives you business experience. I have an idea of what to expect," Jacob said.

Savana Harrington, the vice president of human resources for TecRaid's Western Division says the class has improved her sense of independence and her communication skills. "My favorite thing about the class is the feeling of accomplishment when I get the work done," she said.

All of the students have learned the importance of managing their time. "This really has shown them what it is like to run a business," Mr. Esposito said.



# 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



Author Tim Green visited the students of Roberts Street Elementary and Canastota Junior High School in early February. Students received copies of one of his novels, "Left Out," to read prior to his visit. Mrs. Annicharico, Mrs. Fox, and Mrs. Chrysler's fifth grade students welcomed him using sign language. Mr. Green spoke about his experiences as a reader, student, football player, writer, husband and father. He emphasized that working hard both in the classroom and on the athletic field is the key to success in life. "Reading is weightlifting for your brain," Mr. Green said. He also told students to be the best they can be at whatever they are good at. Mr. Green finished his presentation with a reading from his latest novel, "Baseball Genius," a book he co-authored with former New York Yankees player Derek Jeter.



# board of

## education

**Ms. Martha Berry**  
President

**Ms. Deborah New**  
Vice President

**Mr. Timothy Bazan**

**Mr. Loran Crosby**

**Mr. Douglas Gustin**

**Mr. Bill Haddad**

**Mr. Wesley Hood**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**Ms. June C. Clarke**

**Canastota CSD**  
120 Roberts St.  
Canastota, NY 13032

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #16  
Canastota, NY 13032

**POSTAL RESIDENT**  
**Canastota, NY 13032**

