



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

Canastota

Striving for Excellence

New Clubs Help Boost Student Engagement

RSES has partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension this year to bring two new afterschool programs to its students that focus on physical and emotional wellness.

The new programs, a cooking club and a 4-H club, expand on work begun last year when the Wellness Club launched as a way to increase student engagement and address some of their mental health and emotional needs.



“By fourth grade, they are more verbal so they are able to express anxiety, fears, what’s going on in their home life, and they don’t really know what to do with all of it,” said RSES Social Worker Dana Podkowka, who is coordinating the programs. “Having a Wellness Club just shows different outlets, different ways to get out some of that frustration.”

The first group to launch, in the fall, was Cooking Matters for Teens. Geared toward 6th graders, CCE Nutritionist Whitney Kmetz would bring ingredients for a quick, easy and healthy meal that students prepare as a team. She shared the recipes for students to take home and talks with students about healthy eating habits.

During the day, she would push into classrooms to work through the CATCH curriculum, which helps students identify healthy foods, engage in physical activity and think more about positive lifestyle choices. The program will start again in the spring.

“We started the program to offer something different to hook more kids into staying

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A Message From The Superintendent

As we head full steam into the second half of the school year, we have many things to be excited about in Canastota. Thanks to the support of the Canastota taxpayers, a \$25.89 million capital project passed in December. The passage of this project allows for significant work to be completed on the infrastructure of our buildings – roofs, plumbing, masonry, paving, and a host of other items needing attention. Our facilities serve as the hub of countless school and community events, and it’s imperative that we maintain these structures in the long-term interest of our community. This project will allow us to do just that.

We are now working with our architect to complete the design phase of the project, with a goal of submitting the final plan to the State Education Department by early summer. This means we could be ready to put the project out to bid by the fall of this year. I will continue to update you as we work through the process. Once again, we are so thankful for the support the community gave us for this project.

Last year, we learned that our district was identified by the State Education Department as a Target District due to our state assessment results. This designation requires us

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PRESENTATION ADDRESSES CYBERBULLYING



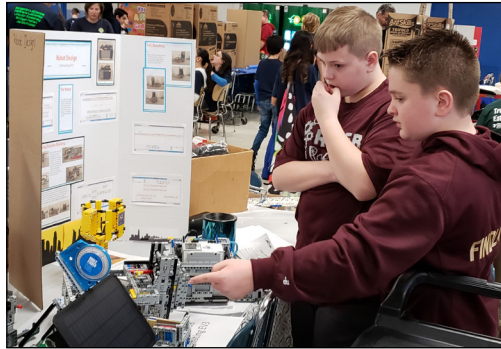
Parents and community members heard from Canastota Police Department leaders during a January presentation about issues related to bullying and cyberbullying, and strategies they can adopt to help keep students safer online.

Chief James Zophy and Officer Andrew DeGirolamo led the discussion, focusing on signs of bullying behavior, the difference between bullying and cyberbullying and ways parents can increase Internet safety in their homes.

The presentation was the second in the “Setting Higher Expectations” speaker series, an initiative co-sponsored by Engage Canastota and the Canastota Academic Committee. The February presentation will address goal-setting and study skills.

For additional information on the cyberbullying presentation and dates and topics of future presentations, visit the district website or Facebook page.

RSES Launches Lego Team



Roberts Street Elementary is excited to announce that our First LEGO League (FLL) team, Raider Robotics, is fully assembled and under way! Team members are: Catherine Campbell, Carter Crosby, Joshua DeZalia, Carsen Findlay, Andrew Hood, Evan Kaplan, Barrett O’Mara, Daniel Sadowski, and Layla Swan. Coaches are Loran Crosby and Karen Henner.

Students on the FLL team will be working together to not only build a LEGO robot, but program the robot to carry out very specific missions focused on solving real-world scenarios. Additionally, the team will select a problem that exists within our community and

will be expected to research the problem, design a solution to the problem involving STEM (science-technology-engineering-math) and present their design to a panel of expert judges. Throughout the season, the students will demonstrate FLL’s Core Values in everything they do: discovery, inclusion, teamwork, innovation, impact and fun!

The team recently visited a qualifying competition at Bishop Grimes to learn more about how competitions operate. They met with FLL experts, gained local mentorship, watched teams practice robot matches, and brought back a lot of knowledge to help the team move forward. The Raider Robotics team will showcase their hard work at an end of the year celebration event.

PSES Visits Hospital Land

PSES first graders took their annual field trip to Hospital Land! Crouse Health offers the free mini-course specifically for first graders in the region to learn more about the hospital and help decrease fears of doctors, nurses and technicians! When they leave, students receive a goodie bag of band-aids and surgical masks, gloves and hats.



Hale Becomes State's First Maple King

JSHS senior Kyle Hale has been named New York State's first-ever Maple King! Kyle received the honor during the Mid-Winter Maple Classic annual state conference in January. The conference is hosted jointly by the New York State Maple Producers Association and the New York FFA Alumni.

For the remainder of the year, Kyle will serve as an ambassador for the state's maple industry, appearing, speaking and presenting during fairs, parades, festivals, conferences and other events.



Several counties around the state have had maple kings before, but no males have applied before for the title at the state level, said Laurie Jean Britton, coordinator of the NYS Maple King/Queen Contest. Once the written application is accepted, candidates complete a private panel interview, a prepared speech and answer spontaneous questions during the competition.

Kyle said one of his passions is promoting the agriculture industry.

"I love advocating for agriculture and FFA" he said. "I am extremely lucky to have this position and be able to do something I love."

Kyle developed an interest in maple as a sophomore. He began learning as much as he could about the industry and tapped five trees to see if he enjoyed the work. As a junior, he enrolled in the Conservation program at MOBOCES and eventually grew to tapping 50 trees. He plans to earn a bachelor's degree in agriculture business and a master's degree in agriculture education, with a goal of becoming an agriculture teacher.

He has been active with FFA for five years and has served as Canastota's chapter president for the past four years. JSHS Agriculture Teacher and FFA Adviser Paula Burnor said Kyle will be a great representative for the industry.

"Kyle's biggest strength as Maple King will be his ability to relate to people and advocate for the maple industry, which is such a big part of Kyle's life," she said. "He is a great spokesperson and an even better advocate when he truly is passionate about something."

FFA BRINGS MAPLE EXHIBIT TO CAMDEN

Five members of the Canastota FFA visited two elementary schools, Camden Elementary and McConnellsville Elementary, in December to give presentations on maple syrup production through the NYS Maple Experience Program. They taught more than 400 elementary students about the history and process of producing maple syrup.

The Maple Experience Program is a mobile educational exhibit sponsored by the New York State Maple Producers Association. State maple representatives take the trailer to different schools and events around the state to raise awareness of the industry.

FFA members who went to Camden were: Kyle Hale, Bailey Doxtater, Jessica Kimball, Konnor Stokes and Kayden Hale.



FFA Chapter Receives Donation



Farm Credit East-Cooperstown recently made a \$300 donation to Canastota's FFA Chapter. For the past several years, Farm Credit East has used proceeds from its annual golf tournament to support local FFA chapters in its service area.

REGISTRATION DATES

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten registration will be held on **Friday, March 6, 2020**, at PSES. Snow date is March 10 if needed.

Children must be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2020.

Parents should call the PSES main office at 315-697-2027 to set up an **in-person registration appointment**. Children do not need to attend.

Please complete the registration packet in advance. Packets may be downloaded from the district website, picked up at the PSES main office or mailed home - please contact the Registrar's Office at 315-697-6326 for assistance. Packets were sent home to all current pre-k families in early February.

On March 6, please bring: completed registration packet, parent photo ID, original birth certificate, immunization record from doctor, proof of residency, and other relevant documents as needed (custody orders, IEPs, etc.)

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Pre-K registration will be held on **Thursday, February 27, 2020, from 8am-6pm** at PSES.

Children must be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2020.

Application packets may be picked up at the PSES main office or downloaded from the Madison-Oneida BOCES website.

Please bring to registration: completed application packets, birth certificate, immunization record and proof of residency.

Call MOBOCES at 315-361-5903 with questions.

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New RSES Clubs Promote Engagement

after school and working with their peers," Podkowka said. "Every kid needs their reason to want to be here, so I feel like this is reaching a certain group that may have just taken off and gone home. Now we have them a little longer."

Later in the fall, 4-H educators began meeting with students for a variety of fun, hands-on activities that supported team-building, character-building and STEAM skills. Students decorated pumpkins for Halloween and tie-dyed t-shirts during their first two meetings. Other ideas include building and launching paper rockets, experimenting with dry ice and completing a community service project.

"Everything that we do is just really trying to target what the students are interested in and what's fun as well," said Craig Brown, 4-H Youth Development Educator.

Last year's Wellness Club picked up again in the winter, with a different activity each week – yoga, pet therapy, drumming. In addition to community agency representatives, RSES staff members have often led sessions.

Podkowka said the new programs have been another way to connect students to school, their peers and their academics, and they provide students with some unique hands-on learning experiences. She plans to launch a Girls Circle to provide students with a safe place to talk and process their feelings.

"It's definitely been positive. It's a good incentive to get your work done all week and meet behavioral expectations," she said. "You can see some of the personalities coming out, some are taking leadership roles and starting to blossom. It's neat that I'm already seeing growth."



Page 1: Cooking Club making fried rice; this page: Drumming circle during Wellness Club (top); 4-H Club tie-dyeing t-shirts (bottom)



Girls Basketball Teams Honor Former Coach

The girls basketball teams honored longtime former coach Vinny Salamone at their January 21 home games in recognition for more than 30 years of service to the teams and the district.

Art Students Earn Regional Awards

Eight Canastota students received awards in this year's CNY Scholastic Art Awards competition. High school students from across the region submit their best works in a variety of visual art categories to be judged by professional artists from Central New York. This year, more than 6,500 pieces were submitted for consideration.

All award-winning work will be on display at Onondaga Community College through February 29. All Gold Key and Special Award winners were recognized individually during a ceremony opening the exhibit, and Silver Key and Honorable Mention recipients were recognized as a group.

Canastota's 14 award-winning pieces can be found on Facebook (Canastota CSD and Canastota Art Department pages).

- Senior Cody Gushea: Gold Key for a drawing "Sara Bean," and two Honorable Mentions for photographs "Honey, Where's My Bat" and "Jonny Boy"
- Senior Sara Shaver: two Gold Keys for paintings "Banana Sock" and "Feet in North Sky," Silver Key for a painting "Apple Bite," and an Honorable Mention for a painting "Family Portrait in Shoes"
- Junior Kaitlyn O'Dell: two Honorable Mentions for paintings "Americana" and "Questioning"
- Junior Carly Becker: Honorable Mention for mixed media artwork "The Beauty of Emma Watson"
- Freshman Kayliana Betz: Silver Key for a photograph "Comfort in Isolation"
- Freshman Mattingly Clarke: Silver Key for a photograph "Insecure"
- Freshman Adelyn Ward: Silver Key for a photograph "Isolation"
- Freshman Clay Roberts: Honorable Mention for a photograph "Idol"



Top: "Family Portrait in Shoes"; Middle: "Idol"; Bottom: "Questioning"



Teachers Present During NYSATA Conference

The Canastota Art Department attended the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) conference in Binghamton in the fall, attending a variety of workshops including a session on Trauma Based Art Education.

JSHS art teachers Kristie Boisen and Denise Whalen presented three workshops during the conference to their colleagues from across the state: "Mindfulness in the Art Classroom," "Subject Equality," and "Google Arts and Culture." Boisen also served as a guest speaker at the YAM (National Youth Art Month) workshop, where she was recognized as a YAM supporter for five consecutive years.

SSES SUPPORTS OPPORTUNITY SHOP

Congratulations to all South Side Elementary Students - they raised \$1,040 for the Opportunity Shop in Canastota! They presented their donations to the shop before leaving for December break.



MATHLETICS TEAM EXCELS IN REGION

Congratulations to the JSHS Mathletics team for their hard work this season! As they headed into their final meet, they were in 4th place. That included a 2nd place finish in December in Whitesboro and a 3rd place finish in January in Clinton.



DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP

Canastota's free mobile app is available in the Apple and Android stores. The app gives users quick access to the popular information from our website. Users can also customize the app to receive news, building and School Messenger alerts from the district.

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Superintendent's Message

to make improvements in our district related to performance and participation on those state assessments, particularly at Roberts Street.

I am pleased to inform you that we are making great strides to address the items identified by the state. While there are no easy solutions to the challenges we face, the district is creating processes and structures that will pave the way for continuous improvement as we move ahead – not just for Roberts Street, but for our entire district. Our expectation is not only to be removed from the list by the end of 2021, but to become a model school in our region. We are well on our way to making this a reality.

In an effort to place a spotlight on some of the great initiatives we have underway, we have created a variety of avenues for people to become involved in our school. Our weekly “Engage Canastota” meetings continue to attract new people. The primary purpose of this initiative is to bring together people dedicated to making Canastota the best it can possibly be, to share ideas and create action plans in support of that mission. The group meets Wednesdays at 8:30 am in the high school. Please consider joining us and becoming part of the movement, and join our e-mail list to receive agendas and meeting minutes.

In a joint venture with the district Academic Committee, we are also hosting monthly evening presentations on topics that have a direct impact on the learning that occurs within our schools. Our “Setting Higher Expectations” series features topics like the safe use of technology/internet safety and goal-setting and academic expectations, particularly related to our CSI designation. Please check our website and Facebook page for updates on this initiative.

While we face many challenges, we are so fortunate to be a part of such a supportive and close-knit school community. I look forward to continuing our partnership with you to make Canastota Central Schools the very best in our region. With a focus on the fundamentals along with a willingness to make the extra effort to make positive things happen, I have no doubt that we will achieve our goals. Thank you for your continued support of our students.

Sincerely,

Shawn Bissetta, Superintendent



Pole Vaulter Meets Super Standard

Congratulations to Laura Suppa, who met the super standard of 10 feet on pole vault! We will be anxiously awaiting the list of state qualifiers for indoor track and field later this month - several Raiders are contenders!

FBLA Students Excel at District Meet



Eight FBLA students earned Top 5 places in their competitions at this year's District 7 Spring Meeting on January 10 at Morrisville State College. Their achievements qualified them for the FBLA statewide competition in April.

The District 7 meet featured more than 150 different contests in a variety of business topics, including accounting, communication, technology, leadership, public speaking and job interview.

- Bryson DeMott: Introduction to Business Communication, grades 9-10 (1st place), Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure, grades 9-10 (2nd place), Management Decision Making, grades 9-10 (2nd place)
- Colin Edwards: Advertising (3rd place), Introduction to Business Procedures, grades 9-10 (2nd place), Introduction to FBLA, grades 9-10 (1st place)
- Eden LaRonde: Political Science (2nd place), Impromptu Speaking (1st place)
- Ella DiVeronica: Introduction to Technology Concepts, grades 9-10 (1st place), Introduction to Word Processing-Written, grades 9-10 (1st place)
- Emily Case: Accounting I (3rd place), Business Communications, grades 11-12 (4th place), Parliamentary Procedure – Non Elimination (1st place)
- Haley Michels: Business Calculations, grades 11-12 (2nd place), Business Communications, grades 11-12 (2nd place), Management Decision Making, grades 11-12 (3rd place)
- Hayley Patane: Job Interview (1st place)
- Laurel VanLone: Business Communications, grades 9-10 (1st place), Introduction to Business Procedures, grades 9-10 (1st place), Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure, grades 9-10 (1st place)

Smart Schools Project Adds New Safety, Technology Measures

The district has completed work on a \$1.36 million state-funded Smart Schools facilities project, aimed at improving school safety and technology infrastructure.

One of the most noticeable changes is the installation of a new emergency notification system in all buildings with visual strobe, audio announcement, digital messaging and door-locking capabilities, as well as new blue light strobes to notify anyone outside that the building is currently in lockdown and no entrance or exit is allowed. The project also funded replacement security cameras, upgraded wifi access and increased network coverage in all buildings.

SPEAKERS VISIT BUSINESS CLASSES

JSHS Business Department students had some special guests visit their classes to help connect their curriculum to the real world.

Ted Briggs, an MBA student at Cornell University, visited the Entrepreneurship class to provide feedback to the students who run Virtual Enterprise TECRAID, Inc. Briggs discussed the business model and ideal work-flow process for a business technology products company. He interned at Google last summer and said the experiences students gain from the Entrepreneurship class are beneficial to learning how a business such as Google operates.

Credit Care Counselors of Central New York also spoke with Entrepreneurship class as well as the Career and Financial Management classes. Attorney Amanada Shaw and Syracuse Law Professor Greg Germain gave students an overview of credit, student load debt, return on college investment and other financial basics, including practical dos and don'ts.



district

administration

Mr. Shawn Bissetta
Superintendent

Mr. Christopher Clancy
Assistant Superintendent for
Special Education, RTI &
Technology

Mr. Nicholas Panuccio Jr.
School Business Leader

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

Mr. Andrew Kennedy
Jr./Sr. High School
Assistant Principal

Mr. Stanley Congden
Athletic Director & Jr./Sr. High
School Assistant Principal

Mr. Michael Faustino
Roberts Street Elementary
School Principal

Ms. Jennifer Carnahan
Peterboro Street Elementary
School Principal

Mr. Robert Taube
South Side Elementary
School Principal

Ms. Cynthia Clark
Transportation Supervisor

Mr. Nick Campbell
Facilities Leader



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Ms. Kathleen Niles
Ms. Tracey Quinn

Gov't Students Watch Courtroom Trial

Participation in Government and Economics classes had an opportunity to sit in the audience of a criminal trial at the Madison County Courthouse in Wampsville, with Judge Donald Cerio, a Canastota High School alumnus, presiding. Students observed the first portion of a multi-day trial during which the judge explained the "rules" to the jurors, and the district attorney and defense lawyer made opening statements, questioned witnesses and presented evidence.



After returning to school, students discussed the experience in their respective classes. Many students noted that the reality was quite different from the high-intensity courtroom dramas on television. However, they said seeing the judicial process in action gave them better insight into what really happens in a courtroom and they found the process quite interesting.

Youth Summit Students Plan Activities



JSHS student leaders are again participating in the Regional Youth Leadership Summit, a youth development initiative at MOBOCES. This year's theme is "Cultural Responsiveness Across Communities."

District teams met in November, where they heard from solo artist Tim Collins about healthy relationships. Teams are now creating activities in their communities to enhance positive relationships and build acceptance of others. They will meet again this spring to present their work.

Canastota CSD

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