

Chenango Forks Central Schools Newsletter

Middle School

A community where learners excel!

CF junior attends leadership conference

Matthew Kane (CF '10) was chosen to spend 10 days at the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) in Washington, D.C. over the summer. NYLC gives high-achieving students a greater understanding of their roles in a democracy and the responsibilities of leadership. During the conference, Matt participated with other students from across the nation in four simulations:

1) *If I Were President...*

Matt represented a board of advisers and had to devise a statement for the President on a future crisis between China and Taiwan.

2) *Global Challenge*

Each student was a member of a country (with the exception of Matt who was the secretary general) and had to create peace in the Sudan between the government and the "rebels." Following the peace talks, a peace treaty was drafted.

3) *Supreme Court*

The students had to determine if the EPA was acting within its legal rights in denying to limit the use of four carbon compounds that were linked to global warming.

4) *Model Congress*

The students were presented with two bills, one on the Telecommunications Act and one on gang activity and criminal justice. They split into Democrats and Republicans and had to amend the bills to fit the guidelines as a caucus. As chairperson, Matt oversaw the processes of lobbying, writing the amendments, and writing the testimonies to be given in front of a committee. Matt also acted as part of the "House of Representatives," voting on the amendments as well as the amended bills.

Matthew was able to spend a day on Capitol Hill and went into the senate and house buildings where he met with some of our senators and representatives. He visited many of the city's memorials, monuments, and museums. The conference also had many other activities such as karaoke night, a variety show where many of the students showed off their talents, and fireworks.

We are very proud of Matt and wish him continued success in his future endeavors!



Matthew (right) and fellow young leaders at the Lincoln Memorial.

-Alison Sheridan-Brennan, HS Chemistry

Celebrating the BOE

Governor Eliot Spitzer has designated October 22-26, 2007 as School Board Recognition Week to commend school board members for their dedicated service to the children of New York State. This is the sixteenth year the event has been celebrated.

At CF, we thank our school board members for their outstanding service to our district and for their focus on and commitment to our students' well-being and advancement.

Photo

Front, L-R: Carol Denz (assistant superintendent); Dawn Phoenix (district clerk); Kathy Blackman (school business executive). Back, L-R: Don Faith; Jack Sines; Don Edwards (president); Gail Wrighter (vice-president); Bob Bundy (superintendent); Donald Vredenburgh



Harshaw October Dates	
10/7	Fire Prevention Week Begins
10/9	Fire Prevention Assemblies PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
10/10 & 11	School Photographs
10/12	Count on Me Assembly, HS, 1:00 pm
10/22 - 26	School Bus Safety Week
10/16/	Harshaw Site Council Mtg, 2:45 pm
10/31	Happy Halloween

Caring



Enter Harshaw's "Kingdom of Caring" in 2007 - 2008

Caring Bears, Crowns of Recognition, and a Kingdom full of children and adults ready to grow strong in character education will fill our Morning Program agenda in the upcoming year. Under the direction of Nancy Wildoner, music teacher, and Eric Sutton, school counselor, the faculty and staff at Harshaw Primary welcome you to our Harshaw "Kingdom of Caring" on every day 2, 4, or 6 during the school year. Each month we will focus on important character education. We know you care...please come and share.

Visitors are always welcome!



Knowledge

Early Literacy Corner

Every month, please look for some early literacy tips in this section called "Early Literary Corner." For more information about early literacy and *Building Brighter Futures for Broome*, please go to www.brighterbroome.org. After all, we are not ever too young, or too old, to learn new things.



Infant Tip: Talk, Talk, Talk! Always talk and sing around an infant. Explain what you see and hear, for example, "I hear a bird. Do you hear it? It sounds like, cheep, cheep, cheep."

Toddler Tip: Play rhyming games with words. Start with a word like "cat." Then start adding rhyming words like "sat," "mat," "bat." Repeat the words and encourage the toddler to play along. Play this rhyming game with the beginning sound of the child's name: "Timmy, Vimmy, Jimmy."

Early language and word games are important to later school success. For more activities to do with infants and toddlers, go to www.bornlearning.org.

How sweet it is: dental sealants are sticky business

The Broome County Dental Sealant team once again provided dental screening and sealants for our Harshaw students during the 2006-2007 school year. We recently received a report informing us that oral health presentations were made to 122 second grade students. A total of 100 teeth were sealed on 33 students.

Thank you to the parents, teachers, and the B. C. Dental Sealant team for providing this important service for our children.

Second grade students show off their beautiful smiles.



Reading Recovery and IDEA Legislation

Recently, the United States Department of Education's "What Works Clearinghouse" (WWC) verified the effectiveness of Reading Recovery based on scientific research (www.whatworks.ed.gov). This means that districts are now looking at Reading Recovery as an option for schools that are designing responses to intervention models for struggling readers and writers.



At Chenango Forks Central Schools, we have been implementing Reading Recovery for nearly ten years. This year we have three Reading Recovery teachers working with our primary students: Chris Gill, Lorraine Hulbert, and Ann Saroka. They are always available to share information and strategies with parents and students alike. For more information about Reading Recovery, please visit www.readingrecovery.org.

Understanding

Volunteers to the Rescue...

This year, Harshaw Primary School is fortunate to have helpful and reliable volunteers returning from several different organizations.

Foster Grandparent Program



Grandma Shirley & Grandpa Dave pose with students.

The Broome County Foster Grandparent Parent Program sponsored by the Broome County Office for Aging has arranged for **Shirley Haven and David Denny** to continue to come and work as foster grandparents in our building. Our foster grandparents work directly with the children: listening, reading stories, and helping with academic work. We are very pleased to have Grandma Shirley and Grandpa Dave with us every day for the 2007-2008 school year. If you would like

more information about the Foster Grandparent program, please contact Kathleen Keir at 648-7580 or the Deborah Steward, the Foster Parent project coordinator, at 778-2089.

Harshaw Volunteers

Every year, many parents and other responsible adults volunteer to support our school as a member of our Chenango Forks Central School Volunteer Program. If you served as a parent volunteer in 2006-2007 and would like to continue to volunteer again this year, it is not necessary to complete another application - simply contact the Harshaw office at 648-7580. If you are interested in joining our parent volunteer program for the first time, we welcome you and invite you to contact Kathleen Keir at 648-7580.

Broome-Chenango Paws to Read Program

Last school year, the Chenango Forks Elementary School was offered an opportunity to participate in the Broome-Chenango Paws to Read program. This program, which is designed to improve reading skills of children using pet therapy teams as literacy mentors, proved to be extremely beneficial to our students in the Harshaw Primary and Kenyon Intermediate buildings. Our very dedicated therapy team of **Nancy and Jeff Holtzmaster** and their English mastiff **Thor** provided a consistent source of excitement amongst our students. A total of 25 students in grades 2, 3, and 4 became more confident and enthusiastic readers, with many of these students making strong academic growth in their English Language Arts development as well. We welcome the Holtzmaster/Thor team back as they continue to provide this outstanding support to our students!



We also wish to welcome an additional therapy team to our buildings: **Roxanna McGovern** and her rottweiler **IceMann**. By joining us this year, Roxanna and IceMann will allow even more students to benefit from this excellent program!

-Kathleen Keir, HP Principal, and Melanie Rosen-Valent, School Psychologist

Harshaw Site Council

Harshaw Site Council welcomes some new members for the 2007- 2008 school year. Joining our team are Mrs.



Abbey, Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Gilroy, Ms. Johnson and Mrs. Regan. We extend our sincere thanks to **Mrs. Dalke, Mrs. Diamond, and Mr. Sterling** for serving on the 2006-2007 Harshaw Site Council.

The Harshaw Site Council team meets monthly from 2:45- 3:20 p.m. in the Harshaw Office conference room. Site Council's task as a school-based planning and shared decision-making team is to improve the educational performance of all students in the school. Our current Site Council membership includes the building principal, teachers, and parents representing many areas of our school and educational community. If you would like more information about the Harshaw Site Council, please contact **Kathleen Keir, Harshaw Primary Principal, at 648-7580.**

The first task of this year's Site Council will be to review the District Priorities and Strategies as outlined in the 2007-2010 district-wide strategic plan. We also will review the 2007 - 2008 professional development initiatives, set goals, and formulate an action plan to continue to improve student achievement.

Site Council meetings are subject to the NYS open meetings law and are scheduled as follows for the 2007-2008 school year: **September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18, 2007, and January 15, February 12, March 18, April 22, and May 20, 2008.**

-Kathleen Keir, HP Principal

Fire Prevention Week:

October 7 - 14, 2007



Each year, Harshaw and Kenyon schools are fortunate to have the members of the Chenango Bridge Fire Company come and share important fire prevention ideas and information with our children. These dedicated men and women help the students and the community understand the importance of fire prevention and safety in a clear and meaningful way. Often the fire engine is available for the children to visit and see up close. We thank **Brian Curtis** for coordinating this yearly event for us. This year's fire prevention theme is: Practice Your Escape Plan.

Harshaw Primary invites parents/guardians to join them on Tuesday, October 9th, anytime from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. if you wish to attend one of the fire prevention assemblies.

For more information on fire safety and activities, go to <http://www.nfpa.org>.

-Bernie McDermott, KI Principal & Kathleen Keir, HP Principal



Welcome

Jennifer L. Edwards

Kenyon Intermediate - 5th Grade

Jennifer L. Edwards has a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY College at Oneonta and is currently enrolled in the Masters program at the school. She distinguished herself in the program by receiving Educa-

tion Department Honors in Childhood Education and was Magna Cum Laud.

Principal's message

Let's begin by celebrating our successes: Last year we saw some positive growth in student achievement as measured by the NYS Exams. Below is the percent of students at proficiency (passing) and our rank compared to the 15 schools in the Broome-Tioga BOCES region.

GR 3 ELA: 80% - 5th out of 15 schools in the region.

GR 3 Math: 92% - 3rd out of 15 schools in the region.

GR 4 ELA: 72% - 7th out of 15 schools in the region.

GR 4 Math: 87% - 5th out of 15 schools in the region.

GR 5 ELA: 86% - 3rd out of 15 schools in the region.

GR 5 Math: 97% - **#1 in the region.**

GR 5 Social Studies: 97% - **#1 in the region.**

I am proud of what the students accomplished and congratulate the teaching staff for all their dedicated work in helping the students reach these high levels.

New Faces

The Kenyon staff welcomes Mrs. **Laura Smyder** to the office as building secretary. We also welcome Miss **Jennifer Edwards** to our teaching staff in 5th Grade. We also have two teachers new to us in the classrooms operated by BOCES: **Sharon Mannix** and **Kelly LaPorte**.

-Bernie McDermott, KI Principal

PTA news

Your Chenango Forks PTA will be very active in October. In particular, we will be sponsoring the annual "Fall Festival" on **October 19th**, where Forks families and teachers can gather at the school to enjoy games, activities, live entertainment, face-painting and refreshments. The **Kenyon Book Fair** will be held **October 4 - 11**, and the **Middle School Book Fair** will be held **October 18 - 24**. Look for more information on all these activities coming home in your child's agenda.

And don't forget! **Our October PTA meeting will be held on October 9th at 6:30 pm in the Kenyon/Harshaw Library.** We are always looking to welcome new members and new ideas, and to build our volunteer ranks to manage and staff our programs in support of our children and our school. Please join us!

Finally, our sincere thanks go out to PTA members **Janet Bubniak, Noreen Catanuto, Tina Everett, Missy Gaworecki, Diane Pierson, Jennifer Thrall** and **Chris Watrous** for helping new Harshaw students navigate from the bus to their school and lunch rooms for the first few days of school. Also assisting was a woman named **Vickie**, whose last name was not available at press time. We'll find out and give her the proper credit next month!

Questions? Call **Chris** or **Shari Sterling** (co-presidents) at **204-0086**; **Lisa Kumpon** (vice-president) at **648-7110**; **Jane Fett** (treasurer) at **204-0307**; or **Barry** or **Deborah Arnold** (co-secretaries) at **648-2071**.

-Barry Arnold, PTA Co-Secretary

Kenyon October Dates



Thur, Oct 4	Kenyon Parent Night – Details to be Sent Home With Students.
Tue, Oct 16	Kenyon Site Council, KI Office, 2:30 pm
Fri, Oct 12	Motivational Productions' "Count on Me" sponsored by the PTA. http://www.motivationalpro.org/index.htm
Wed, Oct 31	Kenyon Halloween Parties

Middle School Athletics: *Just fun and games or are they important?*

Approximately 75% of CF Middle School students are involved in modified athletics this fall. When compared to many other schools, that is a phenomenal number. It should also be noted that sports today have a lot of competition. The video games, computer connections, and cable television lures are attractive time consumers for middle level students.

So, how do we develop such an interest in sports? We work at it. Much credit should be given to physical education department head **David Hogan**. Mr. Hogan works at encouraging kids to get involved. He also encourages the physical education teachers to promote the enlistment of athletes (and non-athletes). It involves more than simply tacking a signup sheet to a door and waiting to see who shows up. We are not above approaching kids and selling them on a sport. Many individual coaches also work hard at recruitment. Cross-country coach **Larry Brooks** is often seen prowling the lunch room for any signs of potential runners. Additionally, the school is indebted to the dozens of volunteer coaches and parents who have sparked the interest of so many in their elementary years. The youth organizations that feed the modified programs have done an incredible job. We thank all involved for their efforts.

Modified sports are not always easy on the student or the parent. The middle school athlete will often forget or lose his or her uniform. Lacrosse sticks, tennis rackets, and baseball gloves are often left on the fields. Cleats are misplaced and schedules are lost. Middle schoolers will often forget to tell their parents about a game, and often have no idea where an away game is to be played. We will do our best to keep you informed; however, issues will arise.

So does it really matter? The chances of becoming a pro athlete are minuscule. Athletic scholarships are also much scarcer than most people believe. Many middle school athletes will not even become varsity athletes. Additionally, athletics are not always for every single kid; many can do fine without sports. So why do we bother?

We bother because research shows that kids need a connection to school. The more they are involved with school the better they do with their grades. The myth of the "dumb athlete" is, in reality, just that - a myth. In

general, kids in sports do much better academically than kids who are not involved in extracurricular activities. The side benefits are plentiful. Modified athletes learn that practice does indeed make perfect, that concentration is important, and that hard work pays off. Not to mention the social factor: getting along with team mates, working together, achieving a common goal, and how about making friends. There is not room in this article to discuss the many health benefits.

We bother with modified sports because it is important. A school where large numbers of kids are involved in sports is most likely a school where academic scores are up and violent incidents are down. That is our school, and we are proud of it.

One other thing on the modified level, it really is not important whether the team wins or loses. As far as the specific sport is involved, modified athletes should be learning the basic skills and developing an appreciation of the game. Parents, please do your best to model good sportsmanship and show positive fan behavior.

Believe it or not, seventh and eighth graders do not see the end of the world in the loss of a contest. They are very resilient. They will quickly forget the loss of a game; they won't forget a parental argument with a referee or a coach. They are kids and they still are little kids. What is important is that they are involved, that they learn lessons, and that they have fun.

Middle school sports are really just additional tools that help our children academically achieve. Modified athletics can help our children become future players; maybe not future pro sports players, but players in their academic school life now, and players as productive contributors to society as adults.

Modified sports are fun and games – and they are important.

-**William Burke, Middle School Principal**



Middle School October Dates

Monday, Oct. 1	SBC Meeting, 2:15 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 5	End 5 Week Marking Period
Tuesday, Oct. 16	8th Grade Teen Summit
Thursday, Oct. 18	7th & 8th Grade Open House 7 p.m.



Math forum participant



Mr. Rullo gives math handouts to students following a class session.

On August 13 and 14, **Mike Rullo**, Middle School math teacher and math department chair, attended a NYS Mathematics Resource Center leadership development opportunity. Mr. Rullo has distinguished himself in the Broome-Tioga BOCES region as a teacher leader and was selected from among math educators in the

area to participate in this two-day forum. The New York State Education Department has established the Mathematics Resource Center for the purpose of improving the quality of mathematics education through a system of state and regional mathematics leadership that builds the capacity of district and building level leadership to continually improve student mathematics performance. The forum focused on the following:

- Understanding various initiatives and activities occurring at the national level
- Reviewing and understanding NYS Core Competencies in math and curriculum implications
- A preK-12 overview of the geometry strand with what teaching and student learning looks like at each level

Through Mr. Rullo's efforts and participation at the state and regional level, the district's teaching staff will continue to be well-informed. District math staff development will focus on the on-going development of a strong curriculum with quality math instruction.

-Carol Denz, Assistant Superintendent

Measuring up!

Sixth graders learn to measure length, mass, and volume in Mr. Vermaat's science class (photo). The students will use this skill throughout their middle and high school years. We hope the skills will follow them the rest of their lives!



-Tim Vermaat, MS Science

College Reps

During the fall semester, college admissions officers from institutions throughout the Northeast will be visiting the guidance office to meet with perspective students. The date and times of these visits will be announced over the school's public address system and posted on the White Board in the guidance office. Students need to obtain a presigned pass from the guidance office if they want to meet with a college representative.

Numbers

There are currently 630 students in the high school-167 of them are freshmen. That class does not have the highest number of students, however; that distinction goes to the junior class with 168. The sophomore class is composed of 151 students, while the seniors total 144. At a month into the new school year, I find myself amazed by the scheduling "numbers" made possible by the new eight period plus lunch school day adopted by the high school this year. The 630 students in the high school have the opportunity between our course offerings and BOCES to access over 150 different courses this school year. The high school is offering 18 college or credit bearing classes on our campus with a total of 383 students enrolled! Seventy four students are enrolled in band and 300 students are taking art classes. Finally, 332 students are enrolled in a foreign language this year.

I have been asked by many to reflect upon the implementation of the eight period plus lunch (nine period) day and to those I offer the aforementioned numbers as a bit of illustration. I am also reminded of a quote attributed to Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University: "I found(ed) an institution where any person can find instruction in any study." In adopting an additional period of instruction each day for students this year, the hope was to allow students to further pursue the particular course of study they need to catch up, to get ahead, or to diversify their academic experience. I believe this is not unlike what Mr. Cornell intended at his fine institution.

-Michael Flynn, High School Principal

High School October Dates

October 10, 2007: HS Open House, 6:30 pm

October 17, 2007: All juniors have the opportunity to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). The test will be given in the **High School Auditorium from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Students may register for the test in the guidance office up to **Friday, October 5th.** The cost of the test is \$11. This test measures skills in verbal reasoning, critical reasoning, math problem solving, and writing. It serves as practice for the SAT, and is the qualifying test for entry to National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for 2008 college scholarships. For information: www.collegeboard.com.

October 17, 2007: The annual Broome County College Day will be held at the B.C. Arena. CF guidance staff will accompany seniors to the event during the day. Seniors interested in attending must return a signed permission slip to the guidance office. See your guidance counselor for further information or visit www.greaterbinghamtoncollegeday.org/.



Comprehensive District Education Plan



It wasn't a very quiet summer around here. Amidst our elementary and middle school summer programs that ran through July and the regional HS summer school that went into August, we also had professional staff here for a variety of activities: technology training, literacy and math leaders reviewing data and planning staff development, district and building level teams planning, and curriculum mapping. Approximately 80 teachers working with colleagues continued curriculum mapping efforts, working a total of 1,100 plus hours.

The Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP) team of **Laura Chestnut, Karyn Church, Mary Emm, John Hillis, AnneMarie Martino, Maggie Nugent, Dan Palmer, Lori Pourby, Emily Regan, Diane Sheehan, Barb Slocum, Patty Sweeney**, along with the administrative team began the planning process early in May with a review and evaluation of last year's district comprehensive education plan and data available in evaluating last year's performance targets. This year is, in essence, a continuation of initiatives from last year's plan, as the team felt that we are on the right track.

The CDEP team and building-level Site Councils (totaling 35 plus teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents) continued to meet during the summer to review the most current data, establish performance targets, and identify the actions needed to continue improvement. Through their hard work and highly substantive discussions, consensus was reached and plans agreed upon.

We began Comprehensive District Educational Planning in 2003. CDEP is a continuous planning process that focuses our district's energy and resources on improving student achievement. It is Chenango Forks at its best:

- Teacher leaders and administrators working together committed to continual comprehensive planning
- The leadership using data as a powerful tool
- From the district level to the building level, we have a significant involvement of professional staff; we have high performing teams of professionals.
- We have the strength of collaborative efforts

The district plan provides a framework that respects the work of the individual building-level Site Councils as they work to identify priorities and implement strategies that will keep the district moving towards the long range performance targets identified.

Our greatest district resource is our staff:

- Focused on the learning of our students
- Focused on the timing of interventions for our students at the point that they begin experiencing difficulties
- Focused on results that are measurable and attainable
- Focused and committed to finding ways to make a difference with each and every students - whatever it takes

Further details of the plan, along with the individual building-level improvement plans, are on the district website at www.cforks.org. I encourage anyone who has questions or would like additional information on any of the district's initiatives to contact me at 648-7540, or any of our building principals or CDEP members.

-Carol Denz, Assistant Superintendent

New staff orientation

The Chenango Forks District welcomes ten new members to our teaching staff. Each of these new staff members went through a very competitive process that lead to their successful appointments. All attended three days of orientation in August, allowing them the opportunity to become acquainted with various aspects of the district. They met with district administration, teachers' association leadership, district librarians, and technology staff. They were introduced to the district's staff development priorities and the available resources from our libraries and technology instructional supports. To really get to see the district, the group went on a bus tour provided by Jerry Hartman, transportation director.

Each new teacher has a veteran teacher as a mentor. During orientation, this group met to review the purpose and structure of the district mentoring program. Mentors will support their mentees in planning and preparation; professional responsibilities; instruction and curriculum; and establishing a supportive learning environment for their students.

These three days were just the beginning of the help and support that will be there throughout their entire first year with the district and beyond.



Mrs. Denz and mentors introduce CF's new teachers to the mentoring program.

-Carol Denz, Assistant Superintendent

Chenango Forks Central School District 2007 - 2010 Strategic Plan

Performance measure	2005-06	'10 target
Grade 2: Students scoring ≥ 28 on DRA (%)	68	85
Grade 3 – 8: ELA & math: performance index score	164	188
Grade 3 – 8: Subgroups meeting AYP targets (%)	100	100
Regents “gate” exams: % cohort passing (≥ 65)	85	95
Regents “gate” exams: % cohort at mastery (≥ 85)	50	60
Gr. 10- 12: students enrolled in one or more AP or college credit bearing courses (%)	41	50
AP: average score	2.54	3.5
5-year cohort dropout rate (%)	5	0
4-year cohort exiting with local or Regents diploma or a GED or IEP certificate (%)	86	100
SWD receiving Regents diplomas (%)	67	72
Graduates attending college or other post-secondary (%)	90	92
Average daily attendance (%)	96	98
Suspension (%)	2	1

We are a community that believes all learners will succeed!

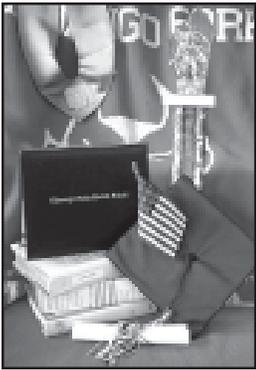
District Priorities

- Begin to use the DuFour collaboration model to maximize student achievement.
- Identify the academic and nonacademic needs of pre-K to grade 12 students to target interventions that improve their performance. Emphasis during 2007-08 will be on the middle school Academic Intervention Services and special education service and potential high school dropouts.

2007 – 2010 District Strategies

- Implement pre-K to grade 12 professional development initiatives that align with this strategic plan's priorities and meet teachers' needs.
- Use curriculum mapping to align content and skills to state syllabi, curriculum and assessments in pre-K to grade 12.
- Continue to develop and implement frequent assessments to benchmark student academic progress and to use data to inform instruction.
- Provide regular achievement information to parents to enable collaboration between parents and the school.

CF Scholarship Foundation



The Chenango Forks Scholarship Foundation is looking for adult volunteers to serve on the Foundation Board. The Chenango Forks Scholarship Foundation is affiliated with the National Dollars for Scholars program and is dedicated to raising scholarship funds to be distributed to graduating CF High School seniors.

The Foundation conducts three principal fundraisers: the annual Homecoming Pancake Breakfast held on Homecoming Saturday (generally in

October of each year); the Phone-A-Thon (generally held in early February of each year); and the Student Car Wash (generally held in May of each year). Adults assist in the fundraising activities and provide coordination and governance for the organization.

Additionally, the adults participate in the scholarship selection procedure to determine distribution of scholarships. Although the Chenango Forks Scholarship Foundation is not limited to parents who have students, we do encourage the parents of students to participate in the organization.

The Foundation routinely meets in the **High School guidance office at 7:15 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month from September through June.**

The Foundation's Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, October 6, 2007 from 7:30 to 11 a.m. in the High School cafeteria.** Adult volunteers are needed - please consider helping out.

Interested parties should contact Robert Wedlake at 648-3205 or via e-mail at rwedlake@hkh.com.

-Robert Wedlake, Scholarship Foundation

Coughlin & Gerhart's 7th annual "Golf for Scholars"

The team of **Gail Wrighter**, vice president of the CF Board of Education; **Joe Steflik**, an attorney with Coughlin and Gerhart; **Wayne Howard**, with Louis N. Piccano Corporation; and **Bob Bundy**, CF Superintendent of Schools, bested a field of 25 teams and secured \$840 for the Chenango Forks Dollars for Scholars chapter.

A special thank you goes out to Joe Steflik and the Coughlin and Gerhart law firm for extending an invitation to the Chenango Forks School District and providing \$13,000 in scholarship money for this year's event.

-District Administration



Back to school with Foster Grandparents



As children return to school this fall, so do many senior citizens. Foster Grandparent Carol Pease is entering her tenth year in Kindergarten at W. A. Olmstead Elementary School in Harpursville. Why does she do it? It's because she loves the kids. Mrs. Pease had been a stay at home mom, but then she saw the ad for Foster Grandparents. She said, "It

clicked in my mind that maybe that was my calling." Foster Grandparent volunteers engage in many important activities with children in their classrooms, including listening, reading, and helping with academic work. Mrs. Pease said, "Some children might not be able to go to the next grade without the extra help."

Soo Eng Khoo, a retired attorney from Malaysia, felt "life was so down, endless days of doing nothing" before he started volunteering in first grade at Horace Mann Elementary School in Binghamton. Now life is much more exciting. Mr. Khoo says the teacher gives him lots of encouragement; they work together as a team and the children enjoy having a man help them with their work.

Foster Grandparents are low income seniors, age 60 and over, who volunteer 20 hours per week. The program is designed to provide children with special needs with the extra help they need to succeed by matching them with a caring volunteer - the Foster Grandparent. Currently there are 59 seniors in the local Foster Grandparent Program run by Broome County Office for Aging.

The benefits for Foster Grandparent volunteers are numerous and include non-taxable pay, regular in-service training, reimbursement for travel costs, and, most importantly, the joy of making a difference in children's lives. "It's a great opportunity for seniors. It's very rewarding when kids from previous years come up and give you a hug," said Mrs. Pease. "Of course the extra money helps too." The greatest gain in being a Foster Grandparent according to Khoo and echoed by many other Foster Grandparents is "You have a purpose in life. You have the opportunity to give to the community once more."

The Foster Grandparent Program can always use more volunteers and children can always use more help. If you are interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent volunteer, please call 778-2089.

Construction documents submitted to SED



For the past six months we have been working with our architects on the design work for the capital project. We are happy to report that the construction drawings were submitted to the State Education Department (SED) in early September. The work on the design phase of the project included meetings with faculty, staff, and parents to identify the needs of the individuals occupying each space.

The project has actually been broken down into three separate phases. The first phase will replace the two bus lifts in our bus garage. Due to the deterioration of the existing lifts, these will be replaced this winter. The second phase relates to the sitework which includes the resurfacing of the track, installation of artificial turf in the stadium, new bleachers on the home side, and other sitework such as asphalt pavement and field irrigation and upgrades. We expect approval from the SED toward the end of the calendar year with construction beginning in early spring. The third phase includes the infrastructure work such as roofing, new heating and ventilation equipment, security and fire alarm upgrades, and other interior reconstruction throughout the district. We expect construction under this phase to begin after graduation in 2008. The third phase is broken down into the two summers of 2008 and 2009.

Should you have any questions regarding the capital project, please feel free to contact either Robert Bundy @ 648-7543 or bundyr@cforks.org or Kathy Blackman at 607-648-7564 or blackmank@cforks.org.

-Bob Bundy, Superintendent & Kathy Blackman, Business Executive

NYS STAR 2007 NYS homeowners apply now for your 2007 STAR Rebate. It's fast, free and secure. www.nystax.gov or 1(877)6STARNY for more information

The New York State Department of Taxation & Finance has launched a public outreach initiative to provide information to taxpayers on the 2007 Middle Class STAR Rebate Program.

To receive a STAR rebate this year, property owners with a basic STAR exemption on their 2007-2008 school tax bills must complete and submit an application. Eligible homeowners must wait to receive their applications from the Tax Department to apply. Applications were mailed by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance in mid to late August. Applications are due to the department by **November 30, 2007**.

Senior citizens please note: Senior citizens who are property owners and receive an enhanced STAR exemption on their 2007-2008 tax bill will receive a rebate check automatically. For seniors with enhanced STAR, no application is required.

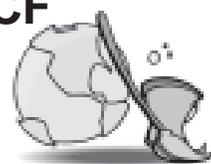
Additional information on the 2007 Middle Class STAR Rebate Program, including a set of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, is available on the Web at <http://www.nystax.gov/>.

-Kathy Blackman, School Business Executive

"Green" cleaning at CF

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe school environment, we have completed making the shift to "green certified" cleaning products. All cleaning products we purchase in the future will be more environmentally friendly ("green"), and we'll continue to explore additional "green" products in the hopes of finding the most effective ones.

-Jim Munley, Building & Grounds Director



Homework Hotline

Need a little help with your homework? Check out Homework Hotline, a live television call-in show where master teachers help kids in grades four through 12 with homework problems right on the air.

Teachers from Rochester and New York City Dial-A-Teacher take calls and send them to WXXI studios where host teachers who are experts in subjects across the curriculum help kids work through their homework problems. The show airs in Binghamton on WSKG, Monday through Thursday. Check local listings for times.

New this year is the Homework Hotline website: homework-hotline.org. The site features a video player where visitors can search by subject matter segments shown on the television show. The site also presents two interactive video games, homework help tips, and plenty of educational and entertaining features.

Internet Safety: i-Safe

(www.isafe.org)

This school year the i-Safe committee will focus on teacher/staff awareness of the i-Safe curriculum. An i-Mentor group will be formed from students in grades 9-12 to help promote the message of safe use of the internet to students in grades K-8. After the group is formed and trained, members will visit classrooms and morning programs throughout the district. The committee also will present district residents with some "Did You Know Facts" each month to help inform and enlighten both parents and students on the need for internet safety.



Did you know?

The family computer should be in an open area, never in your child's bedroom, because according to i-Safe's National Assessment Center:

- 42% of 5-12 graders spend anywhere between 1 to 4 hours on the Internet per week.
- 20% spend between 5 to 9 hours on the Internet per week.
- Internet gaming (13% of all responses) was indicated as the number one activity of children in grades 5-8.

If you would like more information, there will be a short presentation at the October 11th Board of Education meeting.

-Cheri Panko, Educational Communications Specialist



**October 2007
Elementary Menu/Sports Calendar**

**Available Daily @ Breakfast
Assorted Cereals OR 2 Slices of Toast**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Assorted Muffins, Bread, Juice 1 or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Nuggets, Choice of Sauce, Brown Rice Pilaf, NY Broccoli, Lite Ranch Dressing, NY Fruits, NY Milk</p> <p>Golf(Soaring Eagles), Section IV V.Tennis(H)SV, 4:00 G.V.Soccer(H)WP, 4:30 G.JV.Soccer(A)SV, 4:30</p>	<p>School Biscuit, Juice or Fresh 2 Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Taco, Tortilla or Italian Bread, NY Beans, NY Corn, NY Fruits, NY Milk</p> <p>Golf(A)SV, 4:00 X-Country(H)CV, 4:30 B.V.Soccer(H)CV, 4:30 B.JV.Soccer(A)CV, 4:30 V.Swim(A)Binghamton, 5:30 V.VB(A)Owego, 6 pm</p>	<p>Cinnamon Roll, Vanilla Frosting, 3 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Fajita, Tortilla or Italian Bread, Pasta, Tossed Salad, Italian Fat Free Dressing, NY Fruits, NY Milk</p>	<p>Breakfast Pizza, Juice or Fresh 4 Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Pancakes w/Syrup, Sausage Breakfast Link, Scrambled Egg, NY Fruits, NY Milk</p> <p>G.V.Soccer(A)SV-Donnelly, 4:30 G.JV.Soccer(H)SV, 4:30 J.V.VB(A)Bing, 5:30</p>	<p>Bagel, Cream Cheese, Juice or 5 Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Stuffed Crust Pizza, White Pizza, Tossed Salad, NY Fruits, NY Milk</p> <p>B.V.Soccer(A)Seton-BCUnit., 4:30 B.JV.Soccer(H)Seton, 4:30 V.Swim(H)Windsor, 5:30</p>	<p>Average Lunch Nutrients 6 Calories 761 Total Fat 23.0 G Saturated Fat 6.1 G Cholesterol 123.9 Mg Sodium 1459.25 Mg Carbs 109.26 G Fiber 5.4 G</p> <p>HOMECOMING</p> <p>X-Country Inv.(A)Arnold Pk, 9:30 am JVFootball(A)Norwich, 10 am V.Football(H)Norwich, 2:30</p>
<p>No School Columbus Day</p>	<p>School Muffin, Juice or 9 Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Club/Roll, Brown Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p> <p>Golf(A)Windsor-Belden Hill, 4:00 G.V.Soccer(H)Seton, 4:30 G.JV.Soccer(A)Seton BCUnited, 4:30 V.VB(H)Windsor, 6:00</p>	<p>Cinnamon Roll, Vanilla Frosting, 10 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Build a Sub, Turkey or Ham, Broccoli Salad, Peaches, Milk</p> <p>B.V.Soccer(H)SV, 4:30 B.JV.Soccer(A)SVMS, 4:30</p>	<p>Breakfast Pizza, Juice or Fresh 11 Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Pasta, Meat Sauce, Roll, Tossed Salad, Fruit Sherbet, Milk</p> <p>Golf(H)WP, 4:00 G.V.Soccer(A)CVHS, 4:30 G.JV.Soccer(H)CV, 4:30 V.VB(A)WP, 6:00</p>	<p>Bagel, Cream Cheese, Juice 12 or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>French Bread Pizza, Baby Carrots, Tossed Salad w/ Croutons, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p> <p>B.V.Soccer(A)WP, 4:30 V.Swim(A)WP, 5:30</p>	<p>Average Lunch Nutrients 13 Calories 725 Total Fat 20.91 G Saturated Fat 6.4 G Cholesterol 50.8 Mg Sodium 1233.94 Mg Carbs 104.76 G Fiber 4.9 G</p> <p>X-Country(A)Ely Park, 9:30 am JVFootball(H)Windsor, 10 am B.JV.Soccer(H)JC, 11 am G.JV.Soccer(A)Oneonta, 1:00 V.Football(A)Windsor, 1:30</p>
<p>Assorted Muffins, Bread, 15 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Poppers, Choice of Sauce, Fresh Apple, W.W. Roll, Milk</p> <p>B.V.Soccer(H)Windsor, 4:30 B.JV.Soccer(H)Oneonta, 4:30 G.V.Soccer(A)Windsor, 4:30 G.JV.Soccer(H)Windsor, 4:30</p>	<p>School Biscuit, Juice or Fresh 16 Fruit, Milk</p> <p>French Toast w/Syrup, Sausage Breakfast Link, Baked Potatoes, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p> <p>Golf(A)CV, 4:00 X-Country(A)WP-Adams Elem, 4:30 V.Swim(H)Owego, 5:30 V.VB(H)SV, 6:00</p>	<p>Cinnamon Roll, Vanilla Frosting, 17 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Ham, Cheese Slice, Pretzel Bun, Celery Sticks, Carrot Sticks, Lite Ranch Dressing, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p>	<p>Breakfast Pizza, Juice or Fresh 18 Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Alfredo, Bread, Pasta, Tossed Salad, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p> <p>V.VB(H)CV, 6:00</p>	<p>Sky Blue Breakfast Bar, 19 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Individual Pizza, White Pizza, Pasta Salad, Green Beans, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p> <p>V.Swim(A)Norwich, 5:30</p>	<p>Average Lunch Nutrients 20 Calories 752 Total Fat 25.26 G Saturated Fat 7.5 G Cholesterol 130.3 Mg Sodium 1518.05 Mg Carbs 103.33 G Fiber 5.5 G</p> <p>V.VB(A)JC, 9:00 am X-Country(A)Marathon, 9:30 am JVFootball(H)SV, 10 a.m. V.Football(A)SV, 1:30</p>
<p>Bagel, Cream Cheese, Juice 22 or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Cheeseburger/Roll, Potato Wedges, Vegetables, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p>	<p>School Muffin, Juice or Fresh 23 Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Stir Fry, Rice, Orange Slice, Fortune Cookie, Milk</p> <p>X-Country(A)NV, 4:30</p>	<p>Cinnamon Roll, Vanilla Frosting, 24 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Fresh Broccoli, Applesauce, Milk</p>	<p>Breakfast Pizza, Juice or Fresh 25 Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Pasta, Meat Sauce, Bread Stix, Tossed Salad, Apple, Milk</p>	<p>Assorted Muffins, Bread, 26 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Red Pizza, Baby Carrots, Lite Ranch Dressing, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p>	<p>Average Lunch Nutrients 27 Calories 710 Total Fat 21.79 G Saturated Fat 7.7 G Cholesterol 62.4 Mg Sodium 1208.41 Mg Carbs 94.76 G Fiber 4.9 G</p> <p>X-Country@Owego, 9:30 am V.Football Section Semi-Final</p>
<p>Sky Blue Breakfast Bar, 29 Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Club/Roll, Brown Rice, Green Beans, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p>	<p>School Biscuit, Juice or 30 Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Chicken Fajita, Tortilla or Italian Bread, Pasta, Tossed Salad, Assorted Fruits, Milk</p>	<p>Cinnamon Roll, Vanilla 31 Frosting, Juice or Fresh Fruit, Milk</p> <p>Meatball Sub, Broccoli Salad, Applesauce, Icee Juice, Milk</p>		<p>DAILY ALTERNATES Yogurt, Carrots, Fruit, Milk OR Munchable Lunch OR Uncrustable P.B. & Jelly OR Choice Turkey or Ham Sand. OR Lunch Box Magic OR Chef's Salad (K Only) MENU ALTERNATES (K-5) Monday: Macaroni & Cheese Tuesday: Grilled Cheese Wed.: Hamburger on Roll Thursday: Pasta (Bread Stix, Cheese Stix) Friday: Cook's Surprise</p>	<p>Average Lunch Nutrients Calories 772 Total Fat 17.72 G Saturated Fat 4.8 G Cholesterol 66.5 Mg Sodium 1478.39 Mg Carbs 117.15 G Fiber 6.4 G</p> <p>BREAKFAST MEAL PRICES All Schools: \$.95 LUNCH MEAL PRICES Elementary: \$1.70 MS/HS: \$1.85 Milk Varieties: \$.50 Skim, 1% Choc., 1/2% Straw.</p>



Home of the Blue Devils



FUNDRAISERS

Early dismissal drill

The CF School District will conduct a mandatory Early Dismissal Drill on **Thursday, October 4, 2007**. Students in all buildings will be dismissed 10 minutes early.

Halloween supervision & curfew

It has come to our attention that a number of MS/HS age students congregate in the neighborhoods near the school complex on Halloween night. Residents are concerned about vandalism and intimidation of younger children. We ask that you be aware of where your children are on Halloween night to prevent any potential problems.

The Town of Chenango has a curfew law in affect from **8 p.m. to 6 a.m. for Halloween night, as well as the night before and the night after**. Anyone under 18 unless accompanied by a parent or guardian must abide by the curfew. Exceptions are as follows: 1)Authorized school event; 2)Work; 3)Routine activity authorized by a parent or guardian. Thank you for your cooperation.

Empire United Soccer Sign Ups

The Empire United Soccer Club will register players in the CF High School Cafeteria from **7-8:30 p.m. on October 1st & 2nd**. The registration fee is \$65 per player which covers player insurance, league registration, and club fees.

Empire United Soccer is a non-profit competitive youth soccer club serving the greater Binghamton area. Empire strives to teach good sportsmanship and develop individual skills and athletic discipline through a trained coaching staff, while promoting a love for the game.

Club players compete in age appropriate groups against players from other local and regional clubs. Teams are divided based on gender as well as by age groups. Age groups are generally formed on a 2-year separation; for example: U10B, U12G, U14, etc.

Visit us at our website: <http://www.empireunited.org>.

Cross Country Team: Wendy's Night

The CF Cross Country team will hold a Wendy's Night on **October 3, 2007 at Wendy's on Upper Front Street from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Just mention the CF cross country and a percentage of the sales will benefit the team. Eat in sales only will be credited.

CF Band Boosters: Wendy's Night

The CF Band Boosters will hold a Wendy's Night on **October 16, 2007 at Wendy's on Upper Front Street from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Just mention the Boosters and a percentage of the sales will benefit the club. Eat in sales only will be credited to the organization.

CF Band: Fruit Sale

The CF Band will be selling citrus fruit from **October 29 to November 9, 2007** (hurricanes allowing). You may order a variety of citrus fruit from band members. Contact Carol Butkiewicz at **648-7096** if you have not been contacted by a band member for fruit purchase. The expected delivery date is December 3-7.

CF Band Boosters and band members thank you in advance for your support with both fundraisers!

CF Scholarship Foundation: Annual Homecoming Pancake Breakfast

The Chenango Forks Scholarship Foundation will conduct its annual Homecoming Pancake Breakfast on the morning of Homecoming: **October 6, 2007, High School cafeteria, 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Adults: \$5; students: \$3; children under 5 eat for free.

All proceeds from the pancake breakfast will go to fund scholarships for graduating Chenango Forks High School seniors.

Certified substitute teachers needed

If you are interested in being a substitute teacher in the Chenango Forks School District, please contact **Carol Denz, Assistant Superintendent, 1 Gordon Drive, Binghamton, NY 13901 or 648-7540**. *Applicants must be certified teachers.*

CF weight room open to public

Community members may use the CF weight room on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning on October 2nd**. Questions? Contact Dave Hogan, athletic director, at **648-7515**.

MEETINGS

CF PTA	10/9, 6:30 pm	CFE Library
Board of Education	10/11, 7:15 pm	MS Library

Offices . . .

Superintendent	648-7543	Bus Garage	648-7573
Asst. Superintendent	648-7540	Special Education	648-7589
Athletics	648-7515	Nutrition	648-7524
Computer Services	648-7578	Tax Collector	648-7561
Business Office	648-7564	Building & Grounds	648-7545
		After Sch. Child Care	648-8067

Schools . . .

Harshaw Primary (HP)	Kenyon Intermediate (KI)	Middle School (MS)	High School (HS)
Office 648-7580	Office 648-7520	Office 648-7576	Office 648-7544
Attend. 648-7579	Attend. 648-7529	Guidance 648-7553	Guidance 648-7528
Nurse 648-7531	Nurse 648-7522	Attend. 648-7551	Attend. 648-7542
	Counselor 648-7525	Nurse 648-7551	Nurse 648-7521



**1 Gordon Drive
Binghamton, NY 13901**

**Nonprofit Organization
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**ECRWSS
Or Current Resident**