



Chenango Forks Central Schools

Newsletter

September 2010

A community where learners excel!

Vol. XI, No. 1

Spending an enriching summer at the Forks

Once again, students had the opportunity to enjoy some summer fun as part of the Chenango Forks Elementary Summer Enrichment Program. Summer Enrichment is for students in grades K-5. This year approximately 300 students participated, with each able to choose from 29 courses, including Beginning Guitar, Kid Concoctions, Racket Sports and Trash to Treasure, to name just a few. The students could also take classes in reading, math, music, foreign language, sports, drama and science.

Summer Enrichment principal Nicole Knapp said the program is a great way for students to continue learning and still have fun, adding "Summer should be fun for students, yet it's important they keep learning. Summer Enrichment strives to meet both those goals."

A thank you goes out to the students, parents and teachers for their support during this program. It benefits a large number of our elementary students and continues to be popular. We look forward to seeing the students next summer. ■

-Linda Myers, communications coordinator



District newsletter and menu

With school district budgets getting tighter and tighter, the Chenango Forks School District Board of Education is continually searching for ways to trim costs. One of those options is to change the way we distribute the district newsletter and menu.

District newsletter

Starting in October, the district newsletter will no longer be automatically mailed home to all district residents. Instead, residents who wish to receive a "hard" copy of the newsletter in the mail will need to fill out the opt-in form inserted in this edition of the newsletter or the electronic form posted

on our website, www.cforks.org. The newsletter will arrive on the first or second day of the month. The newsletter will also be posted on the website. If you would like to receive an automatic e-mail notification of when the newest edition is posted, please go to the website to sign up for this option. **Note this exception:** Each year, the September and May/Financial editions of the newsletter will be mailed home to all district residents. These are the only two editions that will automatically be mailed to all district residents.

Menu/sports schedule

In the past, the monthly menu/sports schedule was inserted into each monthly edition of the newsletter. The menu/ ▶

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Board of Education: Don Edwards-President; Jack Sines-Vice President; Melissa Stephens; Donald Vredenburg; Judy Warner.
Superintendent of Schools-Robert Bundy; Assistant Superintendent of Schools-Kathleen Keir.

Welcome back

Simplicity is efficient, enduring, and unifying. It's satisfying. It's rewarding. We start by simply saying, "Welcome."

Simply stated, the 2010-11 school year will present unique challenges. We have a lot to do: align to higher standards in grades 3-8 testing, do more with less resources and, as always, do what it takes to have every student walk across the graduation stage when it is their time.

However, we would like to take a moment to share some things we have been busy doing over the summer.

June 2010

On June 2 our district Comprehensive District Education Plan team (CDEP) met to revise our district's long-range plan of priorities and strategies for 2010-2013. Simple to do when we have the data to point us ahead. At this meeting the CDEP team looked at the data and it showed us where we have been and helped us make some decisions about where we need to go. We decided it's time to consolidate our priorities into two items:

1. Implement multiple, essential literacy skills and strategies across all Pre-K-12 curriculum and subject areas.
2. Identify the academic and nonacademic needs of our Pre-K-12 students to provide interventions that improve their performance (Response to Intervention) with emphasis on dropout prevention.

The 2010-2013 plan also indicates we will do this by focusing on the following strategies:

1. Integrate technology effectively to increase achievement and to promote 21st-century skills for students, staff and parents.
2. Implement Pre-K-12 professional development initiatives that align with our strategic plan's priorities and meet teachers' needs.
3. Maximize student achievement by using the Professional Learning Communities (DuFour) model of collaboration.



*Front, l to r: Shelly Callan, secretary, Kathleen Keir, assistant superintendent.
Back: Bob Bundy, superintendent.*

4. Continue to develop and implement frequent assessments to benchmark student academic progress and to use data to inform instruction.
5. Develop consensus maps to align content and skill to state syllabi, curriculum and assessments in Pre-K-12.
6. Implement effective, collaborative communication among administrators, staff, students, parents and the Board of Education.

Each building site-based CDEP team met in August to begin the planning process and determine how to accomplish priorities and strategies in the upcoming year.

Can we simplify this for you? All of this means we:

- ◆ Value that ALL of our students can be successful.
- ◆ Believe it's our job to make this happen.
- ◆ Will use technology wisely to help us keep progress up and costs down.

July 2010

Summer fun and enrichment began before many of our students, their parents and their teachers even had a chance to realize that summer vacation started. We started on July 5, 2010. Nicole Knapp, our summer enrichment principal, and a team of 36 teachers and support staff, along with 33 student volunteers, offered 29 different courses to 328 students in a three-week time period. Simple is busy.

July and August 2010

While some of the students and their teachers were enjoying "summer fun," other district employees were adjusting to new responsibilities, a result of doing more with less.

Here is a simple list:

- ◆ Lori Pourby's expertise with AIS/RTI and staff development in her roll as math coordinator will be missed at Kenyon as this position was eliminated. Her expertise and abilities as an effective instructional leader will serve her well in her new position as Harshaw principal.
- ◆ Nicole Knapp's effectiveness as an English language arts staff development specialist and teacher, substitute Harshaw principal, member of the district literacy and CDEP teams and administrative intern in the High School will support John Hillis's efforts at the High School as she takes on his former role as assistant principal at the High School.
- ◆ Emily Regan served as an English language arts staff developer and teacher. She left the district to take on the role of an elementary principal in the Union Endicott School District. Her position, along with Nicole Knapp's position, has been combined into one position. Anne ▶

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Marie Martino has agreed to take both positions into her daily schedule. Along with her duties as Harshaw/Kenyon English literacy specialist, she will also lead the district's efforts with Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and Response to Intervention (RtI), while coordinating the implementation of the NYS S3tair Grant...simply stated.

- ◆ Anne Marie Martino's Reading Recovery responsibilities have been taken over by Ann Saroka. This was due to the elimination of a first-grade position.
- ◆ The elimination of the Harshaw math coordinator allowed Sue Johnson to return to fourth grade to fill Chelsea Stankevich's one-year leave of absence.
- ◆ As a matter of economy, a second-grade position was eliminated, allowing Christina Germano to return to third grade, an opening that occurred through Beth Beach's retirement.
- ◆ The special education needs in Kenyon school lessened as the staff is better able to differentiate instruction. This allowed Mike LoPiccolo to return to the Middle School to help keep pace with the current needs in the High School and Middle School due to the retirements of Sue Green and Barbara Tronovitch.
- ◆ A section of fourth grade was eliminated, allowing Heather Vasina to serve as a replacement for the retirements in the Middle School special education department.
- ◆ Vicki Hamlin brings many years of special education instructional experience to the High School to help meet those increasing needs.
- ◆ Our Middle and High School social studies, science and fine arts teaching staffs wish Patricia Griffiths, Tim Conner and Diane Sheehan the very best in their retirements.

Classes will be covered by current department members, as all of these positions were eliminated.

- ◆ Karen Shapiro brings her expertise and knowledge about staying healthy to a wider range of students as she will be providing all Middle and High School health instruction in the 2010-2011 school year due to the retirement of Shelley Deuel.

We join together to support these changes and to do our best to provide our students with achievement opportunities and keep our costs down. Simple is embracing change.

Also, in July and August, we continued with our professional development initiatives. Because Chenango Forks is a distinguished recipient of the S3TAIR (Supporting Successful Strategies to Achieve Improved Results) Grant, we were awarded grant funding to continue implementation of best practices in the areas of literacy alignment, our K-12 writing curriculum, building-level site-based council academic improvement planning, and AIS/RtI development and implementation. We also concentrated our summer professional development hours working with teachers from K-12 in the areas of website enhancement, curriculum mapping in fine arts, Nova Net and Credit Recovery Investigation, RtI assistive technology development, and participation in regional EETT planning for at-risk Middle and High School students. Simple is always growing.

In closing, as we continue to work on our district goals this year, we invite you to check in on us frequently to see how things are going by visiting our district Web page (www.cforks.org). It's simple to find our monthly newsletters, calendar, cafeteria menus, sporting schedules, field locations, policies and practices, current events, news about our students and staff, and emergency announcements and postings all right there. We look forward to another great year at the Forks. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent & Kathleen Keir, assistant superintendent

Trash to treasures

It is said that "one man's trash is another man's treasure" and that was found to be true in Jessica Russell's Summer Enrichment class called 'Environmental Art and Visual Thinking Strategies.'

In this class, students were given the opportunity create works of art from a variety of recycled materials as well as natural materials. Students created their own paper from scraps as well as collage mosaic pictures from scraps and recycled magazines. Rocks found outside were transformed into beautiful painted garden sculptures. Class discussions consisted of animal habitats, recycling and nature followed by drawings that expressed each. The class also explored visual thinking strategies where the students looked at, talked about, and analyzed works of art. ■

-Jessica Russell, Summer Enrichment art teacher



Recycled materials help make a collage mosaic picture.

2010 CF retirees

Carol Denz

On September 1, 1974, the New York State Education Department issued a nursery through sixth-grade teaching certificate to Carol.

In September 1985, Carol joined the Chenango Forks staff as a third-grade teacher with eight years of teaching experience. In 1988, Carol left Kenyon and became a member of the John R. Harshaw Primary staff, providing gifted and talented education to the students. Then, as now, Carol believes that all students have gifts, and as the gifted and talented teacher, provided enrichment experiences to the entire student body. She was a strong supporter and continues to be actively involved in the Odyssey of the Mind.

In September 2000, she took over the reins in Harshaw as the principal and remained in that role until February 2005, when she was appointed assistant superintendent of schools.

At the June 2010 meeting, the Board of Education recognized her dedicated years of service by creating an Odyssey of the Mind coaching position in each of the district's four buildings and invited her to serve as "advisor emeritus for the Chenango Forks Central Schools Odyssey of the Mind program in perpetuity."

In retirement, Carol and her husband plan to travel and spend more time with their children and their families, along with their extended family. The district is most appreciative of the leadership that she provided with K-12 literacy and the effective and efficient day-to-day operation of the district.

Frances Pierson

After 20 years of dedicated service to the district as the food service director, Fran Pierson is retiring. Fran is a former CF graduate and came to the district with over 15 years of experience working in nursing homes in four states.

Fran has served on many of the district wellness committees and has worked tirelessly to provide healthy food alternatives to our students.

Fran is looking forward to spending time with her family and friends, especially her grand children. She also plans to keep busy volunteering as an advocate for others.



Patricia Griffiths

Patricia Griffiths taught for over 30 years, the past 24 years at the Chenango Forks Middle School. For more than two decades, she has set and taught the seventh-grade social studies curriculum to our students. Our New York State Middle School social studies test scores are a testament to her effectiveness. In addition to teaching the social studies curriculum, she always insisted that our students received specific instruction in organization.

As all middle school teachers and parents know, seventh-graders can often be described as the world's most disorganized creatures. Patricia made it her mission to ensure that every student had an agenda and a binder, and that both were kept organized. Worksheets would be numbered and placed in the notebook and in order. Assignments would be listed weekly and daily. Due to her efforts, students learned skills that not only benefited them in learning her classes, but also in all of their other classes.

Despite her insistence on responsibility and organization, Patricia was always student-friendly and well-liked by her students. She will be missed by her students and the faculty. We wish her good luck in her well-deserved years of retirement.

Shelley Deuel

For over 30 years Shelley Deuel has been our Middle School health teacher. In addition to health classes, she occasionally taught High School health and Middle School computer classes. All of her classes were designed with the goal of good decision making. Her health classes were valuable and covered fire safety to the most socially sensitive subjects. Most importantly, her lessons were done with class and dignity. Her goal was always to impart to our students that they must learn to think about the importance and impacts of their decisions.

Shelley was always active in faculty discussions. She annually organized the "Worth the Wait" field trip, and regularly participated in our eighth-grade Washington tour. Students appreciated her lessons and parents were thankful for her efforts. Most importantly, many dangerous and ugly situations were surely avoided because a young person made the right decision due to the lessons learned in her health class. ▶



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Retirement, from previous page.

Students will miss her because she taught with a smile and an acceptance of students as themselves. Parents will miss her because she taught the sensitive topics with class and dignity. Our faculty and staff will miss her because of her consistent and important contributions to the school culture. We wish her good fortune and many years of good luck in her well-deserved retirement.

Diane Sheehan

Diane Sheehan joined the Chenango Forks faculty in 1977. She taught in Harshaw Primary and the High School. Since coming to CF, she has been nominated eight times for Who's Who in American Teachers. She has taught just about every type of art class there is and has loved all of them. She's submitted countless newsletter articles and has always been at the forefront of giving accolades to her students. She estimates that her students participated in more than 600 art shows and contests over the years and she considers every bit of it "Priceless!" After Chenango Forks, she will enjoy "Me time with my family, my art, my wellness and health, my faith and my journey."



Tim Conner

In 1985, Tim Conner joined the Chenango Forks faculty after several years teaching in the Binghamton City School District. He taught Regents earth science and a great number of science electives for more than twenty years. Since coming to CF, he has mentored many students and has been involved in countless student-centered activities. Tim has been a hard-working and tireless advocate for his students and department. As the science department chairman, he's submitted several dozens newsletter articles and conducted and facilitated countless press interviews. The fond memories he will take with him center on "hard-working students with great personalities, science competitions and field trips." Tim will spend some of his time next year teaching education classes and geology at SUNY Cortland. His advice to students is to take more advanced courses.



Sue Green

At the end of the school year, Sue Green mentioned to "The Devil's Advocate" that some of her favorite memories of Chenango Forks have been when some of "her students walk across the stage at graduation." For more than thirty years, Sue has been a mainstay in the Chenango Forks High School faculty. She began her career teaching special education in 1976 and has been a great student advocate ever since. Consequently, she has been an integral part of our success in servicing students with special needs and has been a great supporter of Chenango Forks extra-curricular activities and athletics. She is looking forward to doing some traveling and getting far away from the bell schedule in the high school. Her advice for everybody out there, "Life is short – trust your instincts and don't ever give up."



Barbara Tronovitch

Barbara has been in the Chenango Forks Central School District for more than thirty years. She started in 1977 and has been teaching special education to students with varying needs ever since. She is best known as a teacher who cares deeply for the welfare of her students and was always there to support them. She has been an avid voice of assurance for the students in the high school and has been an important role model for all of them. Barbara is looking forward to her first September vacation in over thirty years and is also considering some volunteer work. Her advice for all those that follow: "Teachers are a great resource and will always try to help you reach your goals."



Beth Beach

Beth started her teaching career with the Catholic Schools of Broome County in 1973, coming to CF in 1985. She taught kindergarten, second, third, fourth, and fifth grades. Her favorite memories are all the children she taught over the years, the special projects she did with her students, and getting to know many families. She will spend retirement relaxing, traveling, taking classes and learning new skills. Beth would like to be remembered for being a kind, effective teacher who inspired children to believe in themselves. ▶



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Newsletter, from page 1.

sports schedule will be inserted only in the September edition. **Starting this October, the monthly menu/sports schedule will no longer be inserted in any other editions of the district newsletter, even if you opt-in to receive the newsletter in the mail.**

In the elementary buildings, the menu will be sent home with students during the last week of each month. The menu/sports schedule will also be available online and copies will be

available in the main offices of each building, including the Middle and High school offices.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Superintendent Bob Bundy at 648-7543. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent & Kathy Blackman, business executive

Retirement, from previous page.

Steve Oleniacz

For 28 years, Steve has worked in the Chenango Forks School District maintenance department. The first 21 years were at the old Charlotte Kenyon Elementary building and the last seven in the new building. After retirement, he and his wife, Judy, (see bio below) plan to travel to Utah to visit their daughter and granddaughter. They hope to possibly move there in the future.

Judy Oleniacz

Judy worked in the elementary library for 23 years under five different Kenyon and two different Harshaw librarians. She has no idea how many books she put away over those years, but she is sure it was in the thousands. She says working in the library is like straightening up after a few hundred kids. You just get the books put away and the shelves all in order and then a class comes in...time to start all over again. She and her husband Steve (see bio above) plan to hook up their camper and go to Gettysburg and then to Utah. ■



PTA at the Forks

The Chenango Forks Parent Teacher Association (PTA) works alongside our school's administration to ensure a quality education and nurturing environment for every child. Our purpose is to promote the welfare of our children at school, at home and in the community. In particular, we seek to strengthen the relationship between parents, teachers and school administrators to foster a consistent and positive learning experience for our children.

Join the PTA and make a difference. Joining the PTA allows you to get connected with the school and your children's education, and to meet and share concerns with other parents and teachers alike. Being part of the PTA not only gives you a voice on important school issues, but sets an example for your child by demonstrating the importance you place on their education. And without your active support, the PTA cannot sponsor and manage the range of activities and programs that make a difference in the quality of your children's education. If you'd like to join, call our membership chair, Laurie Forker at 648-9715. Our membership form is also online at www.cforks.org, on the PTA page.

We are also looking for committed and energetic parents who would like to lead important initiatives on behalf of the PTA, such as fundraising, program leadership and school Site Council representation. If you want to be a part of our team, please call or e-mail PTA president, Jim Wachter.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Call or e-mail any of our 2010-2011 PTA officers and we'd be glad to hear from you:

President: Jim Wachter, jlwj@att.net, 656-8831

Vice-President: Heather Lake, HLake28@yahoo.com
206-4559

Treasurer: Christine Webb, duffy-webb_c@sunybroome.edu
222-7520

Secretary: Theresa Callahan Collier, callahant@cforks.org
648-8985

Membership Chair: Laurie Forker, 648-9715. ■

-Jim Wachter, PTA president

Wellness Policy Annual Review

The Chenango Forks Central Schools Wellness Policy requires a yearly review by the District Health Advisory Council (DHAC). The DHAC met throughout the 2009-2010 school year to implement, monitor and review the district's wellness policy. The council also makes decisions in regard to grant resources available to support implementation of the wellness policy. The information below indicates the areas in which the committee has worked to provide activities and resources to accomplish this during the 2009-2010 school year. In addition, the council also has taken on the additional multi-year task of assisting in district implementation of the S.H.A.R.E. Project.

S.H.A.R.E. Project

The Chenango Forks School District successfully partnered with 10 school districts, including Broome-Tioga BOCES and several community agencies, to receive a grant from the Federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. The SHARE grant is a four-year grant totalling \$5.6 million. Community partnerships include Binghamton University, Lourdes Hospital, Broome County Mental Health, the Broome County Sheriff's Office, and the Broome County Department of Probation. The project focus is to work together to reduce risk factors that can come between our children and their ability to learn, both at home and in school. The project will provide students with safer, healthier schools and provide supports to parents and our community. The initiative will address student needs in the areas of violence prevention, substance abuse prevention and intervention, social, emotional, and behavioral supports, mental health services, and early childhood development. BOCES Project Coordinator Jessica Frederick presented the SHARE project to our Board of Education at the December meeting. District administrators and pupil personnel service providers also recently met with Frederick to discuss the needs of students, parents, staff and the community. SHARE project agencies also presented to the DHAC at the February meeting. Implementation of grant activities is planned for September, 2010.

KYDS Coalition

The district continues a partnership with the KYDS Coalition through participation on the executive board and the school committee. The "School Mapping Project," which identifies resources, programs and activities we have in place to provide for a safe school environment and is updated annually, is an outcome of the district partnership with KYDS. The complete map is available on the district website. We participate in the KYDS "Parents Who Host, Lose the Most" campaign. The district provides a letter to our students and parents and the

information is posted on the district website. We continue bi-annual participation in the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Survey to improve our understanding of our children's strengths (protective factors), our community supports, and also the risks they face for problems like smoking, underage drinking and drug use. The regional data from the PNA surveys has been instrumental in bringing grant dollars to the region. We also, on an annual basis, have HS students participate in the KYDS TV Commercial Contest. This year's commercial topic is underage drinking.

Broome County School and Family Enrichment Project (S.A.F.E.)

The district is in its second year of collaboration with the School and Family Enrichment (SAFE) Program to promote early identification of the strengths and difficulties that children in K-8 may be experiencing. Parents have been provided the opportunity to complete a questionnaire to identify emotional issues that can affect family relationships, how well a child does in school, and their ability to make friends.

Lourdes Youth Services

The FAST (Families and Schools Together) program will be provided for a second year to MS families and students with funding through a Title I ARRA grant. The FAST program is a student and family outreach program with the following goals:

- ◆ Improve family relationships
- ◆ Prevent children from experiencing school failure
- ◆ Reduce everyday stresses that parents and youth experience
- ◆ Prevent potentially risky behaviors for children

The district has agreed to collaborate with Lourdes Youth Services in its request to the United Way for funding of FASTWORKS to maintain and enhance connections between families and the school. The proposal outcome is pending.

Underage Drinking Tip Line from the NYS Police

The DHAC reviewed the information and discussed the benefits to the district and to the community in promoting the underage drinking tip line. To encourage student involvement, the information was provided to SADD advisor Vicki Moschak. A newsletter article and posting on the district website provided the information to the community. A SADD student member designed a poster that has been posted throughout the HS. Thank you to Vicki Moschak and the students of SADD for their involvement. We may never know the success of the promotion of the hot line, as it is ►

Continued on next page.

Wellness, from previous page.

hoped that it serves as a deterrent to underage drinking before the situations occur that could lead to involvement by law enforcement.

District Physical Education Plan

The State Education Department requires annual review of the district Physical Education Plan. During the 2008-2009 school year, the P.E. department began an extensive revision of the plan based upon information from SED of required components of the plan. The plan was submitted and reviewed by SED. In August 2009, the district received comments back as a result of this review. The concerns have been addressed and the revised plan was brought to the Board of Education for its approval in July 2010. The approved plan will be provided to SED. The P.E. department submitted a proposal for summer staff development to create a physical education website, computer activities that are interactive in health and fitness, and a literacy component. The Web page will become part of the district P.E. plan.

Nutritional update

- ◆ The elementary food service is continuing with “Rock on Café.” The group has a sub group that works on trying products and recipes, especially recipes using fresh vegetables. They prepare the recipes in school kitchens and taste test with students.
 - ◆ We are continuing to work toward meeting the recommendations of the “Institute of Medicine” (IOM). You can access the report of almost 400 pages at www.nap.ed/catalog/12751.htm/. The report asks for more money for healthier meals. Congress is willing to give some additional money for students that qualify for free meals. In exchange, they want students who pay to be charged what a meal actually costs (now same as adult price \$3). IOM submitted its recommendations to the USDA,
- being realistic that the changes should be gradually started so that they would be better accepted by students:
 - ◆ We limit the amount of condiments that are given to students; helping to lower both sodium and fat intake.
 - ◆ We are now meeting the recommendations for milk in the elementary buildings.
 - ◆ We have continued to increase the whole wheat used in the elementary kitchen. The acceptance in the High School is increasing and some students prefer the multi-grain breads to white.
 - ◆ A variety of fresh fruit is offered daily. We hope the variety of fresh fruit will encourage students to eat it at least weekly.
 - ◆ We have increased fresh vegetables, including broccoli drizzled with ranch dressing, broccoli salad and coleslaw. We have served winter squash, sweet potatoes and black beans with slightly increasing acceptance by students. The IOM Report recommends serving high carbohydrate vegetables (potatoes, corn) only once per week. They also are looking for the orange and dark green vegetables.
 - ◆ We are now using brown rice (acceptance is increasing at the High School) and whole wheat pasta (acceptance is poor with High School students).
 - ◆ We continued to purchase water, flavored waters, diet drinks and 100 percent juice per agreement between beverage companies and the federal government-sponsored group for healthier U.S. children.
 - ◆ The snack vending machine is at least 90 percent stocked with foods that meet the “Sensible Snacks” guidelines.
 - ◆ Retired food director Fran Pierson fulfilled the continuing education requirements to renew certification as a School Nutrition Specialist (SNS). ■

-DHAC members

S.A.F.E. at the Forks

Coming this fall, the S.A.F.E. (School and Family Enrichment) Project will again be offering free, confidential emotional health screenings for students in grades K-8. As parents and educators, we all want our children to be successful. As children develop, emotional and behavioral issues can affect their ability to achieve and succeed, both academically and socially.

The S.A.F.E. Project will help to identify challenges students face and help connect them to the support they need to be successful at school, home and in the community. Parents have found that they are able to keep an eye on their children’s well-being by

participating in the screening on a yearly basis, just like having yearly physical check-ups. If a change in screening scores occurs, they are able to respond to their child’s needs right away.

Look for the consent letters and screening forms to be sent home later this fall. If you have questions about the project, contact Joyce Kelly, project ICM/screener, at 778-1109 or jkelly@co.broome.ny.us. You can also contact your child’s building administrator with any questions.

This opportunity is provided through grant funding and the district’s partnership with the S.A.F.E. Project. ■

-Kathleen Keir, assistant superintendent

The FASTWORKS program

Ourdes Youth Services will be running a FASTWORKS program starting in the fall of 2010 and continuing through this school year. This opportunity is made possible through a Broome County United Way Venture Grant. Families and Schools Together (FAST) is a nonprofit agency that designs and distributes family strengthening and parent involvement programs to help kids succeed in school and in life. The FAST programs help families all across the world improve parenting skills and connect families to their schools.

FASTWORKS is an extension of the FAST program, which is empowered by FAST parents. The program will begin this fall for the FAST family graduates and can continue for one year or more after graduation. With the assistance and support of the FAST team, FAST families gather monthly for fun and interactive activities. FASTWORKS gives the parents and families opportunities to create and maintain connections with their child, the school and one another.

FASTWORKS activities can take many different shapes. Informational nights on topics such as Internet safety, staying drug free and teen brain development are balanced with fun family activity nights such as game night, arts and crafts and buddy time. Whether the FASTWORKS program is formal, informal, or somewhere in between, the goal is to empower parents to be their child's best advocate, and to become leaders in their community and school.

We encourage parents to get involved with the program. For more information, please contact Kathleen Keir at 648-7540. ■

-Kathleen Keir, assistant superintendent

New attendance policy

The district office, principals, teachers and Board of Education are currently working on strategies and a new policy designed to improve student attendance.

Generally, attendance rates at Chenango Forks are very good. However, we do have what appears to be a growing number of students who have poor attendance rates. The new policy and procedures will be designed to minimize the issue of chronic absenteeism.

According to researchers from Columbia University, chronic absenteeism is defined as the missing of more than 10 percent of the school year, or 18 days. The researchers note that absenteeism decreases when schools and communities actively communicate, and when schools reach out to families whose children show patterns of excessive absence. The report, "Present, Engaged, and Accounted For," produced by the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, is aiding in the development of the policy along with attorneys from the law firm of Hogan, Sarzynski, Lynch, Surowka & DeWind, LLP. This report is available for review on our district website. The strategies and policy are expected to start before the end of the first marking period. If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Bob Bundy at 648-7543. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent

Asbestos notice

The Chenango Forks School District completed the inspection of the district buildings on May 14, 2010, to determine if asbestos is present and if any action is needed to avoid potential health hazards to students.

A management plan has been developed in accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act to ensure the continued provision and maintenance of a safe environment for students, employees and visitors. The plan includes training maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos, periodic inspections, surveillance, and abatement activities by trained personnel.

A copy of the school's management plan is available in the principal's office of each building. If you would like further information, please contact Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Jim Munley at 648-7545. ■

-Jim Munley, buildings & grounds supervisor

Substitute teachers needed

The Chenango Forks School District has openings for substitute teachers. New York State Teaching Certification is preferred. Applicants who can provide documentation that they are attending an approved and registered NYS teacher education program and have fingerprint clearance for employment will be accepted.

If interested, please send a resume, CF teaching application and copy of teaching certificate or documentation of attendance in an approved and registered NYS teacher education program to:

Kathleen Keir, Assistant Superintendent
Chenango Forks CSD
1 Gordon Drive
Binghamton, NY 13901

E-mail: callans@cforks.org. ■

-Kathleen Keir, assistant superintendent

Dear Harshaw families

Hil! My name is Lori Pourby and I am the new principal at Harshaw Primary. I am excited to begin the new school year and I look forward to welcoming all of our students, some new to the district and some returning.

I am a mother of three daughters. I worked at Kenyon Intermediate for 18 years as a classroom teacher, an Academic Intervention Services provider, and a math coordinator prior to becoming Harshaw's "new" principal. Each of these positions provided me with wonderful opportunities and I know being the principal at Harshaw will prove to be the same.

We have a lot to offer our students. Programs that build a strong academic foundation as well as promote good character and positive self-esteem. We also have a talented and dedicated staff and a caring learning community. Our goal is to teach our children to have curiosity, understanding, and to gain knowledge and confidence. We firmly believe each of our students can and will achieve.

We appreciate your continued support and ongoing communication. We look forward to working hand-in-hand with you to help our children have a wonderful school year. ■

-Lori Pourby, HP principal



Left to r: Terri McCall, building secretary, Lori Pourby, principal, Lynne Rosko, attendance clerk.

Internet safety at Harshaw

In October, second-grade students and their parents will have the opportunity to attend the first of three special morning program presentations dedicated to Internet safety, which will be provided throughout the coming school year. The October presentation will feature a review of the FBI Internet Safety Tips by a New York State trooper.

Students will also learn about ways to be safe while using technology (computers, cell phones and other internet capable devices). All students will be asked to sign an Acceptable Use Policy form before using the computers in the library. A copy of the form is available online at www.cforks.org/K3library. Below are some FBI Internet safety tips:

- ◆ Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you meet online.
- ◆ Never upload (post) pictures of yourself onto the internet or send them to people you do not personally know.
- ◆ Never give out identifying information. This means your name, age, address, school name, phone number or anything else that gives information about who you are and where you live.
- ◆ Never respond to messages that are mean or make you feel uncomfortable. If someone says something that makes you feel uncomfortable, find a grown-up right away.

Adapted from FBI Publications: A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>. ■

-Mona Wysocki, HP speech/language pathologist

Dollars for Scholars

Through the generosity of the Coughlin and Gerhart law firm, the Chenango Forks Central School District was invited to participate in the firm's 10th Annual Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament.

The team of Gail Wrighter, retired CF teacher and former BOE vice president; Bob Bundy, CF superintendent; and Gary Kline and Carl Kieper, Coughlin and Gerhart, captured \$1,020 of the \$16,520 awarded to the 16 teams representing area school districts that participated in the tournament.

Since the inception of the tournament and through the tireless efforts of Carl Kieper and his staff and sponsors, \$123,000 has been awarded to local area schools. The \$1,020 will be used to assist in the support the Chenango Forks Chapter of Dollars for Scholars. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent



Gail Wrighter, retired CF teacher and BOE member, accepts a check from Carl Kieper of Coughlin and Gerhart.

Volunteers welcome

We cordially invite all parents, guardians and grandparents to join the Parent Volunteer Program for the current school year. There is a variety of tasks that may be done in or out of the school by our volunteers.

Anyone interested in volunteering at Kenyon may obtain a sign-up form in the Kenyon main office or request it from your child's teacher. For those interested in volunteering at Harshaw, please remember to return the Parent Volunteer form from your August mailing. If you have any questions, please contact the Kenyon main office at 648-7520 or the Harshaw main office at 648-7580. ■

-Lori Pourby, HP principal & Bernie McDermott, KI principal

Harshaw foster grandparents

A hug, a smile and a helping hand...that is just some of the things foster grandparents offer to our students in Harshaw.

Foster grandparents are classroom grandmas and grandpas. They volunteer 20 hours per week at schools, daycare centers and Head Start Programs throughout Broome County. Foster Grandparents work directly with children: listening, reading stories and helping with academic work. They give the extra one-on-one attention, love and encouragement that children need.

The Foster Grandparent Program is currently recruiting more classroom grandparent volunteers. Volunteers must be 55 or over and within income guidelines. Foster Grandparents receive a tax-free stipend that will not affect eligibility for other government programs. They also receive travel reimbursement and a free meal at their volunteer site. If you would like to volunteer as a foster grandparent, please call 778-2089. ■

-Lori Pourby, HP principal

Harshaw Sept. dates

- 9/8 Morning pre-k Open House @ 5:30 p.m.
Afternoon pre-k Open House @ 6 p.m.
Kindergarten Open House @ 6:30 p.m.
AIS parent mtg., @ 6 p.m.
- 9/16 Parent volunteer orientation @ 3:30 p.m.
- 9/21 Site Council mtg., @ 2:45 p.m.
- 9/28 AIS parent mtg., @ 6 p.m.
1st- & 2nd-grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.

Welcome to Kenyon

At Kenyon we have seen growth in student achievement over the past few years. This is a result of a deliberate look at what we teach and how we work at increasing our understanding of how students learn best. How does this look on the home front? Many parents have voiced their pleasure with how much their child reads and the level of interest in reading they now have. This is one visual example of our work.



Bernie McDermott, principal, Laura Snyder, building secretary, Ruth McClure, attendance clerk.

This summer, the NY State Education Department (SED) officials decided to change the "cut score" on the ELA and math exams that students took last April and May. Students are leveled into four areas of performance by these exams; Level 1 is "below standard," Level 2 is "meets basic standard," Level 3 is "meets proficiency standard," and Level 4 is "exceeds proficiency standard." In the past, the "cut score" was 650, which fell between Level 2 and Level 3 for all students in grades 3-8. It was designed to measure a student's progress toward successfully completing requirements for graduation. The new Level 2 will be a predictor of passing high school exams and the new direction for Levels 3 and 4 are a measure of college-readiness to "ensure that every child has access to a complete and competitive education." The new cut scores are established on an increasing scale so that if a student makes a year's worth of developmental growth they will be on track for a college-ready Regents score by the end of eighth grade.

So what does this mean for Kenyon students? On the surface our scores will not be as good as in the past: perhaps there is some good news for teachers and parents, as the scores will help more clearly show a student's individual growth over time. What are we going to do about this? We ▶

Continued on next page.

Open house changes

To help alleviate parking problems, the parent night/open house will be split this year. Third grade will be on September 23 at 6:30 p.m., and fourth and fifth grade will be on September 30 at 6:30 p.m. Specific details on format and time schedule will be sent home with students in September and posted on the KI webpage. ■

Kenyon Sept. dates

- 9/2 New student tours @ 10 a.m.
3rd-grade student tours @ 9 a.m & 1 p.m.
- 9/9 First day for students
- 9/21 Site Council @ 2:30
- 9/23 3rd-grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.
- 9/30 School photos
AIS parent meeting
4th- & 5th-grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.



STAYING GREEN

Once again, Chenango Forks had student representation at Binghamton University's Go Green Institute, a summer science program designed to excite students about science, math and engineering. This was the program's third year.

Sydney Slottje, Nicholas Hurd and Carley Church participated in The Go Green Institute in July, which brought together about 50 of the Southern Tier's brightest seventh-graders for an intensive 10-day, hands-on learning experience centered on the theme of a greener living environment.

Through Go Green, students explored issues of science, math and engineering as they relate to creating a sustainable living environment. They experimented in the lab and took field trips to the BU Nature Preserve and BAE Systems, working with Binghamton University faculty members and graduate students as well as teachers from local school districts. Students worked in small groups in their chosen area of research and at the end of the two weeks, they conducted a Socratic Seminar about what they learned.

Sydney's area of research was "Recycling Technology: Computer Monitors." Nicholas explored how Ipods, along with their packing and shipping, can be made more environmentally friendly. Carley investigated how the average family's water and energy consumption from doing laundry affects the environment.

CF Middle School Principal Bill Burke said, "The Go Green showcase has been a great opportunity for our students. They did an excellent job presenting their research and the adults were very impressed with the work. The Go Green Institute is a great way to encourage our students to learn more about life and physical sciences and how they can create a greener lifestyle."

The institute culminated in a poster session and celebration where students showed what they learned through interactive displays of their solutions to self-selected environmental issues.

The University's Center of Excellence in Small Scale Systems Integration and Packaging (S3IP) co-sponsored the program with Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and a grant from the STNY-13 Work Force New York Program. ■

-Linda Myers, communications coordinator



Carley Church with her presentation.



Left to r: Carley Church, Nicholas Hurd and Sydney Slottje.

Kenyon, from page 11.

will continue on the path we started a few years go of tracking students progress and providing targeted interventions through the Response to Intervention (RtI) model. This new state scoring system should better match our own local assessments used to track student progress, such as the literacy benchmarks we administer three times a year and report on the report card in the first and fourth marking periods. We will also continue to review the curriculum taught to make sure it aligns with national and state standards.

Overall, the good news many of you already know is that Chenango Forks provides a quality education PreK-12 and we have an established track record of success in high school and beyond. I look forward to another great year with all of you at Kenyon. ■

-Bernie McDermott, KI principal

MS September dates

- 9/7 PowerSchool portal access parent orientation @ 5 p.m.
6th-grade Open House, 6-7:30 p.m.
PowerSchool portal access parent orientation @ 7:30 p.m.
- 9/22 School photos
- 9/23 School photos



Welcome back

The Middle School has been made ready: floors have been polished, walls have been painted, and schedules have been posted. We are now ready to welcome all new and returning students to the 2010-2011 Middle School experience. You should know Middle School really is an experience.

Sixth-graders will experience new and exciting subjects such as the Technical Education and the Home and Career Skills classes. Returning seventh-graders will get to experience modified interscholastic athletics for the first time, and eighth-graders will all of sudden become the oldest, biggest, and, in their minds, the most mature people in the building. It will be an experience, an exciting year, and we fully expect a good and successful year.

Parents, you may also find your child's Middle School years as a special experience. Pre-adolescent and adolescent children have the ability to amaze you one minute and antagonize you the next. Right before your eyes they will change physically, psychologically and socially. We may not want these changes, but we have no choice. They are designed that way and it will be our job to support and guide them as they change. However, you can have confidence that our school is ready for the 2010 – 2011 Middle School year.

Our students performed well on their New York State assessments last year and generally did well on their report cards. One hundred percent of our eighth-graders who took the foreign language proficiency exam received High School credit. We expect similar results this year.



Front, l to r: Kathryn Knapp, building secretary, Vicki Mikeska, attendance clerk. Back: Bill Burke, principal.

As always the Middle School teachers are committed to continually developing strategies that will support increased student achievement. This summer Middle School teachers took classes in Starboard training, assistive technology, and website support. Other teachers participated in intervention and curriculum workshops. All Middle School teachers have reviewed and are ready for the new year.

In some organizations, each new year is similar to the previous ten or twenty. Not so in the Middle School. It is the start of another school year, but it isn't just another year. It is your child's sixth-grade year, or seventh, or eighth. It is a new experience for every student and every teacher. The students are different, the personalities are new, and the chemistry of every class has unique elements of energy and character. Every class has its attributes and its challenges.

Middle School teachers and staff understand this and they are ready. They are ready to enjoy the success of their students and the challenges they will present.

As always, we ask that you join us in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration as, together, we support and guide your child through this exciting time; this experience. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I have the privilege and honor to say welcome to the 2010-11 experience, welcome to the excitement of the Chenango Forks Middle School! ■

-Bill Burke, MS principal

Student receives award

She stayed calm, she stayed focused, all while her mother was unconscious at the wheel of their van on I-81 last spring. Seventh-grader Elizabeth Canniff knows what it means to keep it together under pressure.

While driving, her mother loss consciousness. After unsuccessfully trying to wake her mother, Elizabeth took the wheel of the van and kept it in its lane, gradually slowing it down enough so that a passing driver was able to leave his own car and run alongside the van. Elizabeth unlocked the driver side door and the passing driver was able to get in and bring the van to a complete stop.

For her actions, she received the Youth Good Samaritan Award from the American Red Cross. The award is given to an ordinary citizen (youth) who used life-saving skills to save the life of another. ■



Elizabeth Canniff and Principal Bill Burke.

-Linda Myers, communications coordinator

Assistant principal named

In June, the Chenango Forks Board of Education approved the appointment of Nicole Knapp to assistant principal at the High School.

Knapp began her teaching career in the Schenectady area as a kindergarten and reading teacher before coming to Chenango Forks in 2004, where she taught kindergarten, first and second grades. She was a member of the Harshaw Report Card committee, which developed a report that correlated with NYS standards and incorporated literacy frameworks in a way to include parents in educational discussions about their child.

In 2008, she became the primary literacy coordinator at Harshaw. Her responsibilities included facilitating building literacy team meetings, staff development for teachers in the literacy framework, and coach in kindergarten through second-grade classrooms.

Her administrative internship included experiences in the

elementary and high schools as well as the district office. Her leadership experiences included evaluation of instructional processes in grades kindergarten through 12, becoming familiar with board of education policies, assisting with planning and adjusting a building and district budget and working with technologies to provide more up to date and productive technologies in the classroom.



Nicole Knapp.

Knapp received her BS in elementary education from SUNY Oneonta and her MS as a literacy specialist, birth-12, from SUNY Albany. She received her primary literacy coordinator certification from Lesley University and her administrative certification from SUNY Cortland. ■

-Linda Myers, communications coordinator

District receives award

The Chenango Forks School District was recently recognized by the Broome County Health Department for outstanding efforts and commitment to preserving, protecting and promoting the health of our community during the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic. A certificate was presented to the district in appreciation for the district's contributions to the health of the Broome County community. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent

CF receives determination from state

Chenango Forks School District was recently informed of the school district's results for students with disabilities and provided with important information regarding our school district's annual determination and reporting requirements under the federally required State Performance Plan (SPP) for 2010-2011. The information was received from VESIDCAR (Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities Comprehensive Annual Report.)

The United States Education Department (USED) requires the state to annually report to the public on each school district's performance and/or compliance on 14 indicator areas

relating to three priority areas: free appropriate public education, placement in the least restrictive environment, and disproportionality by race/ethnicity.

In addition, the state must notify each school district of its determination as to whether the district's performance, measured against the targets established in the SPP meets requirements, needs assistance, needs intervention or needs substantial intervention. Chenango Forks determination status for 2010-11 "Meets Requirements."

The state has determined that our school district "Meets Requirements" in accordance with the criteria that New York state has established for IDEA determinations as described at www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/

[spp/2010annualcriteria.htm](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/spp/2010annualcriteria.htm). The district's publicly reported "Special Education School District Data Profile," which was updated June 1, can be accessed at <http://eservices.nysed.gov/sepubrep/>.

Please note that this is reflective of the 2007-08 school year. Collecting this data is a huge, time consuming task supported by Cheri Panko, Maggie Nugent and their staffs. The information will be reviewed by Maggie Nugent, Carol Denz and Kathleen Keir, along with the CDEP Team to help plan our goals for the 2010-11 school year to insure we see continuous improvement in the achievement of our special education population. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent

It's more than just books

The Sputnik era of the late 1950's shocked the American system of education into action. The United States was in danger of losing its mathematical, scientific and technological edge over the Soviet Union in a number of sensitive areas. The only solution was to overhaul education quickly, efficiently and effectively. Thus, high schools responded.

Today we have new challenges. It's not surprising that the fundamental role of high schools in the 21st century has not changed since the days of Sputnik. And although our tools may have changed, and the methodologies may have changed, the goals have always remained consistent. High schools like Chenango Forks must ensure the best educational opportunities possible to the communities they serve. To provide anything but the best would be akin to passively watching Sputnik fly over.

To that end, we must always remember that there will be challenges in any era. And, to that end, we'd like to continue to call upon our diverse pools of talent to help strengthen our goals and clear the hurdles set by them.

We're motivated to begin the new school year and welcome some new faces. We have a new High School assistant principal, Nicole Knapp, a teacher and coach from Harshaw. Additionally, Margarita Gorman will be covering for Mandy Black to begin the school year, and Sydelle Fratangelo will

temporarily fill in for Alison Sheridan. Special education teacher Vicky Hamlin will bring with her years of experience from her days in Kenyon, and teacher aide Brittany Hall, from Harshaw, will handle an array of activities in order to support student achievement.

And although, as parents, you will not be attending our school every day, you are an integral part of our team.

Our collective efforts cannot succeed without the consistent

participation and support on both the home-front and in the school. In addition to state curriculum, we are also charged with teaching things such as responsibility and accountability, communication and integrity, citizenry and respect. These have many different applications in school and in life. And, when we succeed, the opportunities for our students will be endless.

Attendance is always the first goal. If you get them here, and on time, we'll continue to do our absolute best to help educate them. Communication is next. Effective communication between everyone involved

will go a long way in being proactive with our students and their needs. Last, there's commitment. We'd like everyone, including parents, to experience some level of success in the educational experience of our children. To do this, we all need to be committed. We need to be committed to our children, committed to our school community and committed to never experience another Sputnik. Welcome to the team. ■

-John Hillis, HS principal



Front, l to r: John Hillis, principal, Nicole Knapp, assistant principal. Back, l to r: Colleen Kresge, building secretary, Gigi Snow, guidance secretary.

HS September dates

9/1	PowerSchool portal access parent orientation @ 5:30 p.m. Freshmen orientation @ 6:30 p.m. PowerSchool portal access parent orientation @ 7:30 p.m.	9/13	Site Council mtg., @ 2:15 p.m.
9/8	BOCES classes start.	9/14	9th-grade Personal Best day
9/9	First day for students	9/15	9th-grade Personal Best day
		9/16	9th-grade Personal Best day, rain date





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Superintendent of Schools
Bob Bundy

Assistant Superintendent
Kathleen Keir

Business Executive
Kathy Blackman

Communications Coordinator
Linda Myers

ECRWSS
Postal Patron

Below is a phone list to cut out and place in a convenient location so it is handy throughout the school year.

CF offices and schools

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

Harshaw Primary (HP)

- Office.....648-7580
- Attendance.....648-7579
- Nurse.....648-7531
- Counselor.....648-7525

Kenyon Intermediate (KI)

- Office.....648-7520
- Attendance.....648-7529
- Nurse.....648-7522
- Counselor.....648-7525

Middle School (MS)

- Office.....648-7576
- Guidance.....648-7553
- Attendance.....648-7551
- Nurse.....648-7551

High School (HS)

- Office.....648-7544
- Guidance.....648-7528
- Attendance.....648-7542
- Nurse.....648-7521

Fire inspection

The Chenango Forks School District fire inspection was conducted on October 16, 2009. Nonconformance items were corrected and the fire report has been sent to the State Education Department. The certificates of occupancy are on display in each of the school main offices. ■

-Jim Munley, buildings & grounds supervisor

Meetings & reminders

- 9/6 Labor Day. No school.
- 9/7 Teacher in-service. No school for students.
- 9/8 BOCES classes start.
Teacher in-service. No school for all other students.
- 9/9 First day. Welcome back.
BOE mtg., @ 7 p.m., MS library
- 9/13 CFCA Board mtg., @ 7 p.m., HS lecture 1

Emergency Locator Card

Each year Chenango Forks Schools sends home a preprinted Emergency Locator Card at the end of summer. Parents are asked to correct any necessary contact information on the front of the card. The back of the card contains medical information that is important for nurses and in times of emergencies. Please fill in both sides of the Emergency Locator Card completely and return it to your child's school within the first week of classes. ■

-Cheri Panko, CIO/educational communications specialist

Free dental care

“Doctor’s With a Heart Day” will be held on
Saturday, September 18, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Those with urgent dental needs who have no money, job, means of welfare health care or health insurance are invited to visit Chenango Bridge Dental, 528 Main St., Chenango Bridge (648-4113).

Locations in Conklin, Endwell and Norwich are also available. Please contact Michelle Roberts at 754-2273 for more information. ■