



Chenango Forks Central Schools Newsletter

September 2011

A community where learners excel!

Vol. XII, No. 1

Take a walk on the wild side ... take a walk at Casey Swamp

What was once a polluted wetland area has become a beautiful environmental gem, a now diverse wetland area full of native plants and wildlife. It's the Casey Swamp, and it has blossomed into a wonderful natural habitat thanks to the efforts of many in the Chenango Forks School District and the surrounding community.

This school year will mark the seventh year of the Casey Swamp Wetland Restoration Project. It started with now retired high school science teacher Tim Conner and includes a nursery behind the science wing of the high school with a shallow pool to acclimate new plants to the local weather. Students and staff continue to plant new plants and grasses and maintain the area. Last year, 2011 graduate James Pietrosanti completed a trail expansion as part of his Eagle Scout project. This included laying bark chips along the path to the swamp,

clearing brush, and making the path easier to walk on.

Most recently, students and staff have nearly completed a walkway along the edge of one side of the swamp. This is being coordinated by Gray Reid, high school technology teacher.

Last fall, Reid's residential construction class began assembling the walkway. Students, along with teachers and fellow classmates as well as members of the maintenance department worked on building the walkway. In the spring, Reid's class returned to the job while many science students planted more native water plants, cleaned up trash and debris, and cleared brush. Some more railings need to be added and the walkway will be complete.

Reid said, "It is truly amazing to see how much work can be accomplished by the

students when they are called upon on behalf of the environment."

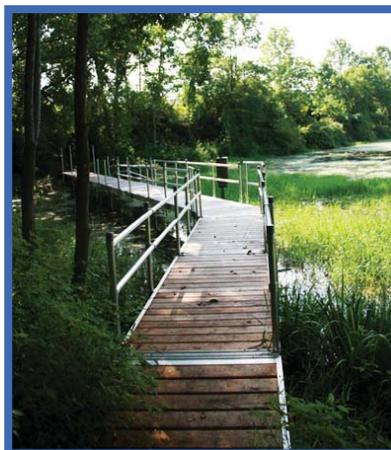
Special thanks to Rockwell Collins for its monetary donation and assistance in constructing our walkway, and to Great Northern Docks for their generosity and assistance in fabricating our custom trail. Also, thanks to the district for allowing us to complete a project like this. Individual contributions and cooperation are what make projects like these possible.

This project is spearheaded by the National Aquarium in Baltimore to help restore wetland plant diversity in the Susquehanna River Basin. It is sponsored by the National Aquarium, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and the Triad Foundation. We invite you to take a walk through the Casey Swamp and enjoy the beauty that nature has to offer. ■

-Linda Myers, communications coordinator



A flock of geese land on the water.



The walkway along the edge of Casey Swamp.



Wild flowers are now flourishing at Casey Swamp.

Board of Education: Don Edwards-President; Jack Sines-Vice President; Spyros Dimatos, Melissa Stephens, Judy Warner
Superintendent of Schools-Robert Bundy
Associate Superintendent for Curriculum/Instruction, Health/Safety Matters & Special Education-Kathleen Dixon

Welcome back

The 2011-12 school year will embrace many changes as a result of the Regent's reform agenda to align New York state with the federal Race to the Top initiative. At this writing, early August, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is providing nearly daily guidance regarding implementation of the reform. The reform can be broken into three major areas: core curriculum, teacher and principal evaluation and student evaluation. The reform is intended to ensure that our students will possess 21st century learning skills, which will allow our graduates to successfully pursue and complete post high school education in the trades or at a higher education institution. Future editions of the newsletter will contain additional information on the district's implementation of these initiatives. Below please find a snapshot of our efforts so far.



Front, l to r: Shelly Callan, secretary, Kathleen Dixon, associate superintendent for curriculum/ instruction, health/safety matters and special education. Back: Bob Bundy, superintendent.

Advanced Professional Development Initiative: On June 27 and 28, a K-12 team of teachers started the summer by working together to finalize the district's K-12 common core writing curriculum. This team worked on the curriculum throughout the 2010-11 school year under the guidance of Binghamton University professor Jacqueline Visser and Associate Superintendent Kathleen Dixon. The next step in the process will be for building-level teams to share this curriculum with all teachers during the 2011-12 school year. This work sets the stage for all of our students and staff to increase the opportunities to bring quality writing and critical thinking into the school day and ensure alignment to the new core standards.

Regents Reform Agenda: In July, our Comprehensive District Education Plan team (CDEP) began organizing expectations for implementing the New York State Regents Reform Agenda. The team met with Sean Brady, Prism Decisions Systems, to align our district's Race to the Top student outcomes and work plan with our district data to create a 2011-14 Strategic Plan. In 2011-12 the Forks plan will be focus on:

- ▶ Implementing the NYS common core learning standards
- ▶ Implementing K-12 data-driven instruction
- ▶ Implementing effective student and staff evaluation systems

These are all key pieces to making sure that Chenango Forks students are college- and career-ready at graduation. ▶

Changes in the Forks administrative team

During last year's budget season, the Chenango Forks Board of Education authorized a leadership study of the district. The study was conducted by Dr. Gregory Vogt, Advisory Solutions, in conjunction with the New York State School Boards Associations (NYSSBA).

Vogt's study compared Chenango Forks with 19 other school districts in New York state, all having similar demographics and achievement results as Chenango Forks. His study resulted in several recommendations and stated, "Based on the data gathered in this study, it is also clear that the district would not be considered top heavy in its administrative arrangement."

He offered five recommendations to the board which directed the superintendent to formulate recommendations regarding the district's leadership structure based on his findings. At the BOE's April 17 meeting, the board accepted the superintendent's recommendations. Those recommendations resulted in the elimination of some leadership positions and created a restructured administrative team with fewer overall positions and, in most cases, additional responsibilities. Although the study indicated that nine administrative positions should be retained, the board accepted the superintendent's recommendation to reduce the overall administrative staff by one position, resulting in eight positions. These positions are listed below with all new titles in italics. The name of the administrator holding the title this school year appears below or next to the title.

Superintendent, Robert Bundy

Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Health & Safety Matters & Special Education
Kathleen Dixon

Business Official, Kathy Blackman

High School Principal, John Hillis

Director of Athletics & Associate High School Principal
David Hogan

Middle School Principal, Lori Pourby

PK-5 Elementary Principal, Nicole Knapp

Director of Technology & Associate Elementary Principal
Bernie McDermott ▶

Comprehensive district education plan (CDEP)

Race to the top (RTTT) has arrived in full force. School districts across the country are beginning to feel its impact and New York state is no exception. RTTT is driving the Board of Regents reform agenda with a focus on three areas:

- ◆ Common core standards.
- ◆ Data driven instruction, including school-based inquiry teams.
- ◆ New teacher/leader evaluation systems based, in part, on student performance.

For the last seven years, the Forks Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP) team followed a disciplined comprehensive educational planning process that includes a set of strategic performance targets, rolling priorities and long-term strategies. With the Regents reform, a new challenge was

posed: How does the district incorporate the work required by RTTT while still maintaining our distinct local character and priorities? Under Associate Superintendent for curriculum/instruction, health/safety matters and special education Kathleen Dixon, the team looked at how to accommodate the RTTT requirements while making the plan uniquely Forks.

Sean Brady, Prism Decision Systems, LLC, who facilitated the CDEP planning process, posted on his blog the work the team did. It is hoped that the district's action to meeting the Regents reform will be helpful to other districts. You can read his blog at www.prismdecision.com/school-planning-in-the-era-of-rttt.

A special thanks to the district CDEP team for its efforts. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent

Broome County Child and Family Clinic

Broome County Child and Family Clinic Plus (formerly the SAFE Project)

Check in with your child's social and emotional strengths every step along the way. As parents and educators are aware, a child's emotional health can affect their school performance, their connections with friends and family, and their ability to bounce back when faced with life's setbacks. The Broome County Child and Family Clinic Plus (formerly named the SAFE Project) offers a free, voluntary and confidential social-emotional health screening to all students in grades K through 8. The screening can help parents/guardians identify the emerging strengths and any difficulties that your child may be experiencing.

This is the fifth year of this innovative New York state grant-funded program. Across the state, parents are becoming active participants in tracking their children's emotional development. Parents and communities both benefit from the early identification of children's strengths and difficulties and the prevention of difficulties from becoming problems. Last year, Broome County Child and Family Clinic Plus screened more than 1,500 Broome County children and provided feedback to their parents/guardians.

The packets will be sent home with the students. All parents should receive a packet containing information on the screening, a two-sided consent/ screening form and a return envelop. The



25-question screening should be completed by the parent of children enrolled in grades K-4 and by the child enrolled in grades 5-8. Screenings can be returned to the school where they will be picked up by Clinic Plus staff or mailed directly to Clinic Plus. Parents/guardians will receive their child's actual scores along with any recommendations. If you participated in the past, we encourage you to participate again this year as a way to better track the continued development of your child. Screenings will be scored throughout the school year. If you did not receive a packet, would like additional packets or have questions about the screening, please contact Joyce Kelly at 778-1109 or jkelly@co.broome.ny.us. ■

-Kathleen Dixon, associate superintendent for curriculum/instruction, health/safety matters and special education

2011 CF retirees

Bill Burke

Flagship headed for a new destination

The now infamous “flagship,” was the creation for which Bill Burke served as the inspiration for its creation. According to the 2006 edition of Webster’s Dictionary and Thesaurus for Home School and Office, “flagship” is defined as “the chief or leading items of a group or collection.”

As a former Navy man, Bill certainly has the background to be the commander of the “flagship.” As principal of the Middle School, he was responsible for raising the achievement of the Middle School students through his efforts with literacy, academic intervention services (AIS), Response to Intervention (RtI), and, most importantly, instilling efficacy in the students and staff.

The concept of the “flagship” was framed by former High School principal Mike Flynn. The inspiration occurred during an administrators’ meeting when he referred to Bill’s implementation of “RtI” as a “flagship effort.” It wasn’t long after that, through the efforts of Mike, Keith Rosko and Gray Reid, that the “flagship” sailed into Chenango Forks.

Since its arrival, the ship has visited many administrator’s offices in recognition of individual leadership in their area of responsibility. The holder of the “flagship” recognizes a colleague by passing the ship on to them for their efforts to improve student achievement.

Along with Bill’s leadership and motivational abilities, he is also an accomplished teacher. In the fall of 1978, he arrived at the Middle School as an industrial arts teacher, where he remained for the next 20 years. During that time, he also coached boys’ and girls’ modified basketball, served on numerous committees

and demonstrated to the students, staff and parents his belief that all students can achieve.

In the summer of 1998, Bill accepted the position of High School assistant principal. During this phase of his career he again touched the lives of many students as he helped them better understand themselves and navigate the waters to graduation.

In the summer of 2002, he was named Middle School principal. At the seventh annual sixth-grade Morning of Poetry, he was recognized with the statement below, which appeared on the front cover of the program.

“Thank you to Mr. Burke for teaching us the 3 R’s. You’ve encouraged all of us to be the best we can be! Be Responsible. Be Respectful. Be Reasonable.”

An unknown sixth-grade author summed up what all of us who have had the pleasure to know and work with Bill know about him:

Mr. Burke is...
The Principal
He lays down the law.
He doesn’t mess around.
He is awesome and cool.
He is my hero.

In retirement, we all wish him and his family good health and fulfillment in exploring the new activities that the demands of a career and raising a family did not allow for. ■



Linda Robi

Linda Robi joined Chenango Forks in March 1976 as a reading teacher. During that time she worked at the Middle, Harshaw and Kenyon elementary schools. She was instrumental in the implementation of the PSEN/Title I Reading program at the primary level and was on the literacy collaborative leadership team that attended training at Lesley University. During that collaborative first year, she was part of the initial group of teachers trained. During her time at CF she participated on various committees including the assessment and K-12 language arts committees, the Kenyon site council, serving as chairperson, the building health and

safety committee, and the literacy leadership team.

Linda will be remembered for her passion for teaching students to be readers and writers, and for always stressing to them that “thinking” is an important part of that process.

She leaves with an immense amount of respect from students, parents and fellow staff members for her knowledge and willingness to share strategies to improve reading. We wish her the best of luck in her retirement. ■



Pat Swartout

Pat Swartout began her career in 1978. At that time, all of her special education students stayed with her in one room all day. She taught them every academic subject and every social subject. She taught them how to read, write and do arithmetic. She also taught her students how to speak with manners, eat with manners and the importance of please and thank you.



Later, as education evolved, Pat became the “learning support teacher,” the teacher who supported the special education students as they were integrated (main-streamed) into the classrooms. Now students with disabilities would be expected to move from class to class, participate in class discussions with the general population, and even do the homework and tests along with the “regular” students. It was quite a challenge for those students and for Pat. She more than met the challenge. In the last decade, our seventh-grade faculty has come to expect the advice and collaboration that Pat provided to ensure that all of their children will learn.

For over thirty years, she has been a source of energy for the students and the teachers. Her dedication to the students with learning problems was unsurpassed. The concern for her students could be seen in her facial expressions—expressions of joy when they did well and uneasy concern when expectations weren’t met. She had a heartfelt concern for her students and a genuine commitment to supporting other teachers. To the last day she worked hard. She will be an impossible act to follow and, for sure, will be missed. We wish her the best of luck. ■

Kirkland Darling

Kirkland Darling joined the Chenango Forks faculty in 1987. Throughout his career he taught ninth-grade global studies, eleventh-grade American history and twelfth-grade participation in government and economics. He was the founding advisor of the Chenango Forks Yorkers Club. Kirk remarks that his fondest memories of Chenango Forks will be the students, who, in the face of many challenges, always tried their best to achieve. He will be fondly remembered as a teacher who inspired his students with his humor and love of history. His advice to students is to never give up their quest for learning. In retirement, Kirk is looking forward to relaxing times with his friends and family on his boat at his lake cottage. ■



Martin (Marty) Olsa

Marty started his teaching career at Chenango Forks 30 years ago as an aide in the preschool program. Since then he has been a special education teacher in the middle and high schools. In addition to being a teacher, he has held many other responsibilities, including sophomore class advisor, peer mediator advisor, principal of the Summer Enrichment Program, and the voice of Forks football. He has shared in many memorable teaching moments over the years, but his most memorable was having the opportunity to help students be successful in their school work and beyond.



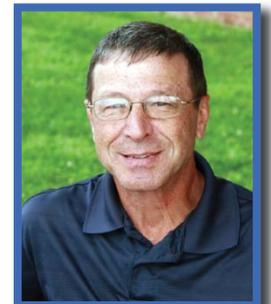
He also enjoyed spending many years coaching pee wee football, modified football, modified and JV basketball and modified and JV softball. His most memorable coaching moments were taking the JV boys basketball team to the STAC playoffs at the Binghamton Arena and preparing athletes at the JV and modified levels to succeed at the varsity level. He also took great pride in coaching his own children.

Marty would like to be remembered as a teacher and a coach who was able to have students and athletes succeed in whatever they did, knowing he was able to help them in some little way.

Marty is looking forward to his retirement and spending more time with his family. He is also looking forward to visiting and attending a game in every major league baseball stadium and perhaps every national hockey rink as well. ■

Dennis Hovancik

After 28 years of dedicated service as a teacher aide, Dennis Hovancik is retiring. Dennis also served as our district’s extracurricular treasurer and has coached a variety of sports, primarily at the middle school level.



He has been a modified football and softball coach for more than 25 years and a modified basketball coach for nearly 20 years.

Dennis says he’ll miss being around kids and watching them grow and develop into young adults. He will remain in the area but plans to visit his four grandchildren in North Carolina and downstate New York regularly. ■

Patricia Dykeman

Patricia Dykeman started teaching at Chenango Forks in September 1978. Since that time she has taught at every level of public school education. She taught kickball to the elementary students, softball to the middle school students and indoor lacrosse to the high school students. She taught groups of 13 and classes of more than 45. She has been a coach, mentor, teacher, and also a friend to her students.

Every year, either by her own design or by accident, she became the teacher whom girls liked to talk to. Maybe because she opened her locker room office early and welcomed any girl to her sanctuary. She ate lunch in her locker room. Students would invite themselves and they were always welcome.

Many don't know that Pat did much more than teach the

children; she taught the teachers, administrators and coaches. She was our certified American Red Cross trainer for first aid and CPR. The coaches, some teachers and staff, and the administrators, were trained and tested every year by her. She was a good teacher and children were made safer because of her.



We know that she will be busy in the next chapter of her life. She completed a course that certifies her as a nutritional advisor. She will be advising and counseling. She will be doing what she has always done: teaching and supporting. She will also have more time to do whatever retirees do. She will enjoy it, she deserves it, and we wish her well. ■

Valerie Winters

Valerie Winters retired in February 2011 after 24 years at Chenango Forks. Prior to coming here, she worked at Broome-Tioga BOCES and Windsor School District. Many of her years here at CF were focused on helping students with disabilities. She first taught in a resource room, then worked as a consultant teacher pushing into classrooms. She taught as a classroom teacher for six years, five in fourth grade and one in third grade. In her final year, she returned to her role as a special education and Response to Intervention teacher with fifth-graders.

Val was committed to promoting literacy. During the summer in 1990 she completed a sabbatical along with fellow teacher Roseanne Lapham. Together they implemented a plan to address reading needs of fourth- and fifth-graders, and in November 1990, presented to the New York State Reading Association conference on "Collaborative Planning: The Key to Congruence." In her report following the conference

she stated, "The progressive role Chenango Forks assumes in mainstreaming learning-disabled and emotionally disturbed children is the wave of the future." This certainly guided her work as she provided assistance to students and support to fellow teachers in teaching all students to be readers and writers. She later joined the literacy collaborative leadership team that traveled to Lesley University for training and was part of the initial training class the following year.



Val will be remembered for her love of reading and for sharing that love with all she came in contact with—from her own children, to her students, fellow staff and parents. We wish her and her husband Ron an enjoyable retirement together. ■

Bonnie Pokorak

Bonnie Pokorak has provided social work services to Chenango Forks schools and the community for 33 years. She helped coordinate and manage the Community Christmas Basket and Thanksgiving donation programs, which are very well received by the families of Chenango Forks. The partnerships with parents, faculty and former students to support these community projects have reminded us all that the Chenango Forks schools are the community center of the area.

In her role as school social worker, Bonnie trained numerous area social workers through the Marywood University social work intern program.

She is looking forward to walking her dogs "anytime of the day" and assisting extracurricular school projects with her daughter, Chenango Forks special education teacher Kayla Pokorak. ■



Rose Faughnan

Rose Faughnan, a SUNY Cortland graduate, joined the Chenango Forks Central School District in 1984 as a teacher aide in our pre-kindergarten program. She started teaching at Chenango Forks in 1987, and has taught numerous grades, including developmental kindergarten, kindergarten, first grade and, this past year, pre-kindergarten and academic support in the area of mathematics. Rose has dedicated her educational career to nurturing primary-age children. She has a love for education, especially mathematics, and has even taught several years of math at the elementary summer enrichment program. Her hands-on math-related activities have made many past and present CF students creative problem solvers and critical thinkers.



We wish Rose the best in her retirement. We know she will be listening to Irish music, do a little substitute teaching at Chenango Forks, spend more time with her son, daughter-in-law and her two grandchildren, travel to Arkansas and continue to take care of those around her. Thank you, Rose, for your service to CF these past 27 years. We wish you health and happiness in your retirement. ■

Steve Busch

For nearly 35 years, Steve Busch has been a physical education teacher for the Forks. Steve has been extremely influential in promoting and introducing a number of lifetime physical fitness activities, including our wilderness adventure course (ropes course). One of the things Steve will miss most is teaching students on the ropes course who are truly terrified of heights to “keep their butterflies in formation and conquer the challenge.”



Steve feels the most important program he taught while at Chenango Forks was K-5 swimming. As a result of this feeling, he thinks districts should consider building their pools in elementary buildings.

Steve's fondest memory of CF will be coaching and watching his daughter, Stephanie, compete and excel in swimming and track.

Steve plans to continue his work in aquatics as a water safety coordinator for New York state parks and in outdoor education as an adjunct at Binghamton University teaching kayaking, canoeing and skiing. He also plans to make some personal time for paddling and skiing with his wife Lucille. ■

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 relationships among 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 children by demonstrating the importance you place on their education. 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 email PTA president Henry Arciolla.

We'd be glad to hear from you. Call or email any of our 2011-2012 PTA officers:

President:

Henry Arciolla, henry.arciolla@gmail.com, 648-2258

Vice-President:

Christine Duffy-Webb, duffy-web@sunybroome.com, 222-7520

Treasurer:

Candace Madison, candiemaddie@yahoo.com, 648-4399

Secretary:

Kerri Vail, dkvail@frontier.com, 648-8010 ■

-Kerri Vail, PTA secretary

2011 Outstanding Workplace Contribution Award

Dawn Phoenix, Chenango Forks district clerk and business office secretary, was recently awarded the 2011 Outstanding Workplace Contribution Award from the NYS Association of School Business Officials. The following is the nomination letter submitted by Business Executive Kathy Blackman:

“Dawn Phoenix has worked in the Chenango Forks business office since 1994. She has also served as the district clerk since 2000. Dawn consistently exceeds regular job performance measures and is deserving of the formal recognition this award provides. Dawn’s accomplishments as the district’s records management officer include establishing district-wide procedures for records management. Her thorough approach began with participation in several trainings by the New York State Archives. During this time she created a system that models the State Education Department’s Records Retention and Disposition Schedule ED-1.

This process included updating and organizing the record-keeping process by generating forms for use by staff to request documents. Furthermore, she conducted training sessions for staff to ensure they have a full understanding of how to make requests. She expanded the request system through the use of automated help desk tickets to insure adequate monitoring and response to requests.

Dawn has also been instrumental in establishing and implementing an electronic document management system for the district. She established indexing procedures and oversees every aspect of the implementation to ensure a smooth transition from paper records to electronic records. The district’s personnel files are no longer in paper form; they are all electronic. In order to provide a thorough process for the district, Dawn created and implemented an electronic



Dawn, third from left, receives her award at the NYS Association of School Business Officials annual conference.

filing process for student records. Special education files and records for inactive students are currently being converted.

Dawn has also automated the records inventory for both active and inactive records through the development of interactive spreadsheets. As a result of Dawn’s effort and ingenuity, it is certain that if a record exists at Chenango Forks Schools, we can easily identify the electronic location of the record.

In addition to the extraordinary work Dawn performs in relation to her assigned duties, Dawn’s positive attitude is refreshing. She is always willing to listen to co-workers concerns and answer questions when needed. She routinely places the needs of others above her own. Both staff and colleagues seek her support when they need reliable and up-to-date information because she has earned a reputation for being thorough, patient, reliable, attendant to details, and giving of herself to others. For example, the district provides two employee recognition luncheons for our support staff during the year. Dawn facilitates every detail of the luncheons, from the purchase of plates down to the preparation of a majority of the food. This is just one example of her generosity and genuine interest in improving our workplace and improving employee morale.

Dawn is truly an outstanding and rare employee. She is conscientious, self motivated and caring. Dawn’s achievements have greatly improved the efficiency and operations of the business office as well as the workplace for her co-workers.”

As a recipient of this award, Dawn received \$250 and a \$750 scholarship will be awarded in her name next year. Congratulations to Dawn. ■

-Kathy Blackman, business executive

Asbestos notice

The Chenango Forks School District completed the inspection of the district buildings on December 28, 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

Wellness Policy annual review

The Chenango Forks Central Schools District Wellness Policy requires a yearly review of the policy by the District Health Advisory Council (DHAC). The DHAC has met throughout the 2010-2011 school year to monitor and review the district wellness services and the district wellness policy. The information below indicates the areas in which the committee has working to provide services and resources in 2010-2011 school year.

S.H.A.R.E Project: The district continues to partner with 10 school districts and several community agencies to receive a grant from the Federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. Community partnerships include Binghamton University, Lourdes Hospital, Broome County Mental Health, the Broome County Sheriff's Office, and the Broome County Department of Probation.

BOCES S.H.A.R.E. project coordinator Jessica Frederick and a team of representatives from other local agencies attended the September 7, 2010 Superintendent's Conference Day and delivered an overview of S.H.A.R.E. services to all district staff members and employees. Frederick and agency representatives also attended all school building open house sessions to present information to parents and students. In September, active consent letters and S.H.A.R.E. flyers were sent home to all students in grades five through twelve. On October 20, students whose parents returned the active consent forms participated in the grades five through twelve student survey. In November, social workers from Binghamton University began services for students in all four buildings throughout the 2010-2011 school year. In October of 2010, Frederick attended a DHAC meeting to review services available to students and staff members and our DHAC completed the Chenango Forks Central School District School mapping project. This was submitted for regional review. The school climate survey was reviewed by the district administrative team and each building site council and/or building level safety team to identify perceived areas of strengths and/or weaknesses in our school climate.

In January of 2011, Kathleen Dixon attended the National S.H.A.R.E. Project Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. as one of two representatives for our 10 participating districts. For the 2011-2012 school year, the S.H.A.R.E project will continue to focus on student health and safety support systems with Binghamton University counseling services as well as implementation of a Middle School project youth mentoring program. Dixon will attend a three-day OLWEUS facilitator training in July to certify the Chenango Forks Central School District is in compliance to be prepared to implement the "dignity for all" act beginning in July 2012.

Dignity for All Implementation will begin in 2011-2012 under the guidance of the DHAC and through support of the S.H.A.R.E Grant services.

KYDS Coalition: Chenango Forks Central School District conducted the Preventative Needs Assessment (PNA) student survey in 2010-2011. Our district results for this survey will be available in late May, early June of 2011. It will be shared with the DHAC and building level safety teams and committees in the fall of 2011, to plan for needs in the next school year. The PNA Survey is administered to students every other year. Other programs sponsored by the KYDS Coalition this year have been for grades one through eight "After-School Fuel Recipe Contest," the "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" parent outreach letters, and "KYDS Spring Break" community activity. Kathleen Dixon serves on the KYDS Coalition regional executive board to foster community contacts and levels of support for our district.

Lourdes Youth Services: The district receives funding from the Broome-County United Way for funding of FASTWORKS. Six (6) parent and student sessions have taken place for students that have participated in the FAST program. The goal of FASTWORKS is to maintain and enhance connections between families and the school.

Nutrition Update, provided by Jill LaBar

- ◆ The elementary food service program continues to participate in the "Rock on Café" program through BOCES, which currently 15 school districts participate in from the Broome-Tioga region.
- ◆ The elementary menus are now planned to meet the Healthier US Challenge guidelines. Menus planned now include more dark leafy green vegetables, orange vegetables, fresh fruit is offered daily, skim and one percent low fat milk offered and includes a serving of legumes each week.
- ◆ The Middle School had a state education department school meals initiative review conducted this school year. The previous review had indicated that the meals were high in fat and saturated fat and the current review now shows that the meals are now in compliance in this area. The last review was conducted five years ago.
- ◆ Effective this school year, the High School had the deep fryer removed and all items such as French fries that required deep frying are now oven baked.
- ◆ Snacks offered at the High School in the vending machine are now items such as baked chips, pretzels, yogurt, fresh fruit, etc. Most items meet the "choose sensible" guidelines. ▶

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- ◆ New menu items introduced this school year that have been very well accepted are the fruit and yogurt munchable lunch, yogurt parfaits and the newest item that will soon be offered is a hummus and fruit munchable lunch.
- ◆ By participating in the “Rock on Café” program through BOCES we have partnered with many community members such as Cornell University, Food Bank of the Southern Tier, United Health Services, and Lourdes Hospital. All of our partners work with us to help promote our efforts in child nutrition.

Broome County School and Family Enrichment Project

(S.A.F.E): The district will enter into the third 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.

“Changes”, from page 2.

The new administrative team worked closely with staff during the end of the 2010-11 school year to ensure a smooth transition for this coming school year.

Dr. Vogt’s credentials, as well as the study he completed for the

Readiness and emergency management for schools (REMS):

The following services were provided and/or purchased through availability of funds from the REMS Grant. For the 2011-2012 school year the following will be purchased: equipment and supplies for all buildings, nurses emergency equipment, ID badge printer and software sign engraver (reflective & ADA compliant room number signs), “Gotta Go Supplies,” emergency radios and battery chargers, 20 additional video cameras, two digital video recorders, and cable and installation supplies.

In addition, to support our district compliance with health and safety measures, incident management training was provided in the Incident Command System for Schools and National Incident Management System to 37 staff members (completed 256 hours of training), Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI) for 90 faculty and staff members who received certification through a total of 879 hours of training. Also, 28 bus drivers each received two hours of training. These measures will support our effective and immediate response in the event of an emergency situation. ■

-District Health Advisory Council members

district, are available by contacting district clerk Dawn Phoenix at 648-7564 or phoenixd@cforks.org. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent & Kathleen Dixon, associate superintendent for curriculum/instruction, health/safety matters and special education

CF Informational Services

As part of the re-organizational study the CF Board of Education conducted this past spring, I was appointed director of informational services and associate elementary principal. The computer services department has moved from the middle school to the elementary building, occupying the former Kenyon office and some first floor classrooms. It is now called Informational Services. The move allows for a much-needed consolidation of staff and space for equipment, while allowing me to supervise the staff and assist Nicole Knapp, CFE principal, with her role in running the CF Elementary School.

While a big part of our mission is keeping the network and computers running, an increasing amount of time will be dedicated to data management. This will continue to increase as changes take place in student assessments and teacher evaluations, which is based, in part, on student performance as part of the Race to the Top initiative that the state has joined.

The department now includes Linda Myers, communications

coordinator. This will allow for a more unified way of communicating to our community, including new ways to deliver information about events and news happening in the district with expanded electronic technologies, as well as the monthly printed district newsletter.



The tablet computers are rapidly changing how people work and access information. CF Informational Services will be working with the building principals as we start using Apple Ipads with students this year, a move that puts us on the cutting edge of this technology. I predict that in the next five to seven years students will have very few desktop computers to use in the classrooms. As I write this, I fondly recall that a mere 30 years ago, I used a black and white screened Tandy computer that had a cassette tape to record data. I look forward to working in this new capacity and welcome any comments or suggestions on how we can better serve the CF community. ■

-Bernie McDermott, director of informational services

Principal's message

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year. Things are very busy getting ready for a great year at Chenango Forks Elementary. I'm excited to be starting my first year as principal of the Elementary school. I look forward to getting reacquainted with students and their families.

I say reacquainted with the students AND their families for a very important reason. It's that home/school connection that can have the largest impact on student success. As William Bennett said, "Not every teacher is a parent, but every parent is a teacher. The most important thing a parent can give a child is the sense of the importance of education."

So as we open the school year let's look at some ways we can help to build the bridge between home and school.

- ◆ Know what's going on in the classroom. Many of our teachers use

many different ways to keep parents informed about the learning occurring in classrooms. It may be a weekly newsletter, monthly calendar, website, blog or email. The key is to know what they do so you can keep up to date. Teachers always share this information during open house in September and October. Please check the district calendar for dates.

- ◆ Become an active partner in learning. Every parent wants to help their student be successful but often don't know the right steps. It may be reading to or with your child, or checking their agenda daily to ensure homework has been done. If the school year kicks off and you're stuck, ask the teacher for ways you can contribute at home.
- ◆ Talk, talk, talk. Parents often become discouraged when they ask their child what they did at school today and the response is, "Nothing." Parents can help this brain block

by trying to pick a topic that comes from your child's experiences at school. Don't give up. If you keep asking they'll start sharing.



And don't just talk with your child. Be in contact with their teacher when needed. Letting them know about a concern early can help keep it from turning into a problem.

There are many other ways to help our students be successful this school year, but working together is a great step in the right direction. I look forward to a new school year and the new challenges it will bring. Working together we can help ensure that at Chenango Forks Elementary we are "A Community Where Learners Excel!" ■

-Nicole Knapp, CFE principal

A season for change

To get you ready for this school year, it's important you know there have been some changes to the structure of the building. Beginning this year the main office for CFE is what was the old Harshaw main office, located upstairs in the Harshaw wing. Please enter here when picking up or dropping off your child during the school day.

Bernie McDermott will be joining us, splitting his duties as associate principal and director of informational

services. Also in the office will be our building secretary, Laura Smyder. You will be able to reach her at 648-7580. Attendance and transportation calls can be made through Lynne Rosko or Ruth McClure at 648-7579.

Student drop off in the morning will be at the crosswalk in the large upper lot. Students should enter the building through the ramp. Third- through fifth-graders can get their breakfast before going to their classrooms while prekindergarten through second-grade students will need to report to their classrooms first.

Parent pick up this school year will be in the cafeteria for all students. Please park in the lower lot and enter through the informational services (the old Kenyon entrance.) On nice days we will have direct access to the cafeteria through the side door.

We understand that with these changes we can expect some growing pains. Please be patient as we are certain that these changes will eventually be beneficial to all. ■

-Nicole Knapp, CFE principal

Fire inspection

The Chenango Forks School District fire inspection was conducted on September 17, 2010. 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

HP and KI are now Chenango Forks Elementary

In the spring, a leadership study was completed and accepted by the CF Board of Education. The study recommended a number of changes to the district administrative structure. These recommendations led to the appointment of Nicole Knapp as principal for grades kindergarten through five, which is now the Chenango Forks Elementary School.

In June, the board adopted a resolution that states, "Recommend that the Chenango Forks Board of Education authorize the superintendent to seek permission from the Board of Regents to establish the Chenango Forks Elementary School. (Grades PreK-5)." An application was sent to the New York State Education Department requesting the Charlotte Kenyon Elementary and John Harshaw Primary be merged into one school, Chenango Forks Elementary.

At the July NYS Board of Regents meeting, this merger was approved. The Harshaw office will now be the main office for CF Elementary. The Kenyon office is now the new home for the CF Informational Services and is no longer a main entrance. Parents and students will now enter through the main lobby of CFE (the old Harshaw main entrance.) ■

-Bernie McDermott, CFE associate principal



CFE office staff, l to r: Lynne Rosko and Ruth McClure-attendance, Nicole Knapp-principal, Laura Smyder-secretary, Bernie McDermott-associate principal.

CFE September dates

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|--|
| 9/1 | New student orientation @ 10 a.m.
Building open to walk through @ 1 p.m. | 9/8 | First day for students |
| 9/5 | Labor Day. No school. | 9/12 | 1st-grade Parent Tea @ 3 p.m. |
| 9/6 | Teacher in-service. No school for students. | 9/14 | 2nd-grade Parent Tea @ 3 p.m. |
| 9/7 | Teacher in-service. No school for students | 9/15 | Parent volunteer orientation @ 3:30 p.m. |
| 9/7 | Open Houses
- AM Prek, 5:30 p.m.
-PM Prek, 6 p.m.
-K, 6:30 p.m.
-RtI parent mtg., 7 p.m. | 9/20 | Site council mtg., @ 2:35 p.m., library |
| | | 9/26 | Open House, Grades 1, 2, 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
RtI mtg., @ 6 p.m. |
| | | 9/29 | School photos |



"Welcome", from page 2.

21st Century Learning Skills at Chenango Forks: During July and August, teams of teachers continued to work under the direction of teachers Cheri Panko and Keith Rosko to design and implement strategic lessons and instruction for students and staff using 21st Century Learning Skills in the coming school year. Teams of teachers submitted proposals to their building principals in June and were approved to meet on a wide range of initiatives. In all, more than 40 teachers and staff members participated in more than 300 hours of professional development. During the 2011-12 school year, our teachers, staff and administrative team will concentrate on offering instruction based on the following summer sessions: podcasting/book talks & trailers; collaborative learning experiences; using enhanced audio to storytelling, avatars, and multimedia posters; journeys with storytelling; Smartboard/Starboard- basic and advanced;

student response systems K-12; teachers utility-professional learning communities; Web page development-basic & advanced; Response to Intervention & CORE writing curriculum K-12 at the classroom, building, and district levels.

As we continue to implement the Regents Reform Agenda, we invite you to check on us frequently to learn how we are progressing by visiting the district website (www.cforks.org). There you will find our monthly newsletters, calendar, cafeteria menus, sporting schedules, field locations, policies and practices, current events and emergency announcements and postings. Best wishes to the students, parents and staff for a successful year. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent, & Kathleen Dixon, associate superintendent for curriculum/instruction, health/safety matters and special education

Principal's message

Euripides, an ancient Greek philosopher, was quoted as saying "There is just one life for each of us: our own." This short, yet profound proverb is one that resonates in the halls of Chenango Forks Middle School as we continue to teach each student to "be yourself" and to take charge of their destiny.

Just having this empowering belief is not enough. Middle-schoolers need to set goals and, with this goal setting, they must create positive habits to reach their goals.

Coming to school on time each day is one positive habit that students should set for themselves. Consistent attendance and being conscientious while at school will equate to success. Many have heard that the middle school years can be trying, but by having open communication with our children, reinforcing positive behaviors, and having our children create effective habits, we have a better chance of ensuring they will get through these years successfully.

I look forward to working with the middle school community



Sitting: Kara Zimmerman-nurse, Kathy Knapp-secretary, Vicki Mikeska-attendance. Standing: Lori Pourby-principal.

to continue building positive self-images and reassuring students that hard work does pay off. ■

-Lori Pourby, MS principal

Middle School September dates

9/5 Labor Day. No school.
9/6 Teacher in-service. No school for students.
9/7 Teacher in-service. No school for students
6th-grade orientation @ 6 p.m.

9/8 First day for students
9/12 Site council mtg., @ 2:15 p.m.
9/22 School photos
9/23 School photos



Musicians perform at game

On June 22, the Middle School Jazz band performed the national anthem at NYSEG stadium to kick off the Binghamton Mets baseball game.



Middle School students are shown on the jumbo tron at the B-Mets baseball game.

After the performance, the students enjoyed watching the game. Everyone had a great time, including the B-Mets, who won the game over the Akron Aeros 3-2. ■

-Jamie Dybas, MS band director

Students donate pillows

At the end of the school year, the Modified Girls Lacrosse team created pillows as a community service project. They cut, tied and stuffed pillows to donate to open-heart surgery patients at UHS. The girls had a lot of fun creating the pillows and felt good about doing something for others outside of their school community.

Tricia Alamo, UHS volunteer services coordinator, said, "The pillows will be given to heart patients and patients who have had abdominal surgery as well." ■

-Jessica Russell, MS art teacher & varsity girls lacrosse coach



McKenna Gill and Kelly Saroka with Tricia Alamo, UHS volunteer services coordinator.

Incoming freshmen learn about high school

The Chenango Forks High School SADD chapter hosted an assembly in June for eighth-graders who will be freshmen this fall to help prepare them for high school.

The SADD students conducted a role play activity to demonstrate the negative impact of acting out in anger. Students who do not have the skills to manage anger will likely cause trouble for themselves and those around them. They may experience social withdrawal, academic underachievement, bullying, fighting and suicidal behaviors.

Anger can result from fear, stress or lack of self-acceptance. It can become exaggerated when not dealt with. Tips such as talking with a trusted person, peer support, time management and early recognition of anger were highlighted during the role-playing sessions. Different scenarios were acted out by the SADD students, highlighting negative behavior and how to deal with it effectively.

Each SADD member also offered a few tips on how to be successful in high school. Some of their strategies included joining clubs or sports, making new friends, being responsible with more free time, telling the truth because lying will always make things worse, the importance of good grades starting in ninth grade, and, of course, avoiding destructive decisions such as using drugs and alcohol.

SADD students welcomed the incoming freshmen to high school and encouraged them to come prepared for a great academic and social experience. ■



Cairo Amador and Lyndsey Church act out a scene during the SADD role playing activity for incoming freshmen.

-Victoria Moschak, HS RN & SADD advisor

Stephanie Zdimal autographing her design label

As part of the Roberson Museum's annual Two Rivers Fine Arts and Crafts Festival, scheduled for September 25-25, senior Stephanie Zdimal will be there autographing her winning design for the Heinz ketchup bottle label.

Roberson will have a booth set up for her on Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Her national award and a poster of her design will be on display as well.

Please come out to see Stephanie and get an autograph on her award-winning design. ■

-John Hill, HS principal



Welcome to another year of learning at CF High School

After a very busy spring and an equally busy summer, school is ready to begin once again. The high school staff has undergone great change in the past several months and many of our teachers are no longer with us. Some are teaching elsewhere and others have retired.

Nicole Knapp, last year's High School assistant principal, has become the new Chenango Forks elementary principal. Dave Hogan, the district's athletic director, will also become the new High School associate principal. Eric Sutton, part of Kenyon's staff last year, has moved over to High School guidance.

During the spring and summer, we spent considerable time working diligently to keep our program offerings as diverse and as strong as ever. We have many electives that students can choose and we have a wide range of extra-curricular activities to supplement classroom instruction. As always, we take great pride in being able to offer something for everyone.

Although change is sometimes difficult, it also tends to make

us stronger. Our high school has changed significantly, but we will continue to grow and we will adapt and we will continue to provide the best education possible for all students. I leave you with the following quotes and wish you and your students the best for a

successful and rewarding school year. ■



John Hillis-principal, Gigi Snow-guidance secretary, Dave Hogan-associate principal. Unavailable for photo: Colleen Kresge-secretary.

-John Hillis, HS principal

"The important thing is to not stop questioning."

-Albert Einstein

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."

-Chinese proverb

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

-Abigail Adams

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

-Nelson Mandela

"When you're finished changing, you're finished."

Benjamin Franklin

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

-John F. Kennedy

High School September dates

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|--------------------------------|
| 9/1 | PowerSchool parent access presentation @ 5:30 p.m.
Freshmen orientation @ 6:30 p.m.
PowerSchool parent access presentation after orientation | 9/8 | First day for students |
| 9/5 | Labor Day. No school. | 9/12 | Site council mtg., @ 2:20 p.m. |
| 9/6 | Teacher in-service. No school for students. | 9/13 | Freshmen Personal Best Day |
| 9/7 | Teacher in-service. No school for students.
BOCES classes start. | 9/14 | Freshmen Personal Best Day |
| | | 9/23 | Senior portrait day |
| | | 9/28 | School photos |
| | | 9/29 | School photos |



Regents exams will be given in January

In August, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott announced that they have secured \$1.5 million in private funding that will allow students across the state to take the New York State Education Department (SED)

Regents exams in January. The exams will be given January 24-27, 2012.

Previously, SED said that it would not offer the January exams for high school students beginning in 2012, after the Board of Regents voted to eliminate

them due to budget cuts. With funding from private donors, SED will be able to administer these exams. The district is waiting to hear what exams will be offered. ■

-Bob Bundy, superintendent



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Binghamton, NY 13901

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Superintendent of Schools
Bob Bundy

Associate Superintendent
Kathleen Dixon

Business Executive
Kathy Blackman

Communications Coordinator
Linda Myers

ECRWSS
Postal Patron

Clip and save CF phone list

Administration & offices

Superintendent.....	648-7543
Associate Superintendent for curriculum/instruction, health/safety matters and special education.....	648-7540
Athletics.....	648-7515
Information 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

Chenango Forks Elementary (CFE)

Office.....	648-7580
Attendance.....	648-7579
Nurse (K-2).....	648-7531
Nurse (3-5).....	648-7522

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

Band Boosters

Band Booster bottle drive

9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, September 10, outside the HS band room.

Band Booster meeting

6 p.m., Thursday, September 22, HS band room.
All MS/HS band parents are encouraged to attend.

-CF Band boosters

Meetings & Reminders

- 9/5 Labor Day. No school.
- 9/6 Teacher in-service. No school for students.
- 9/7 Teacher in-service. No school for students. BOCES classes start.
- 9/8 First day for students
BOE mtg., @ 7 p.m., MS library
- 9/12 CFCA Board mtg., @ 7 p.m., HS lecture 1

Free dental care

“Doctor’s With a Heart Day” will be held on
Saturday, September 10, 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. ■

Substitutes needed

The Chenango Forks School District has openings for substitute teacher aides and substitute school nurses. If interested, please send a resume, CF application and copy of appropriate certifications to:

Kathleen Dixon
Chenango Forks CSD
1 Gordon Drive
Binghamton, NY 13901

E-mail: callans@cforks.org. ■

-Kathleen Dixon, associate superintendent for curriculum/instruction, health/safety matters and special education