NYSSD Mural Gets a Makeover
Submitted by: Erika Furbeck

The longstanding Trojan mural that covers a part of our high school hallways underwent a bit of a makeover. Under the artful expertise and guidance of art teacher, Mr. Tom Karpe, students Cody Sharpsteen, Evan Hawkins, and Grace Benham worked daily for a month or so transforming the old NYSSD Trojan into a modern day warrior. The finished product turned out amazing and has added a real sense of NYSSD pride to our hallways. A big thank you to Mr. Karpe and his crew for a job very well done and for brightening up our hallways here at NYSSD.

Meet our Student Teachers
Submitted by: Brooke Erickson

My name is Rachel Frank. I am a student teacher here at NYSSD, working with Holly. I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am attending The National Technical Institute of the Deaf, a college of The Rochester Institute of Technology, to get my Masters of Secondary Education. I am expected to graduate in May. Some of my favorite things are my rabbits, Lola and Benny, and traveling. So far I have been to South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Russia, Luxemburg, Belgium and The Netherlands. I really want to go back to The Netherlands. I am happy to be here at NYSSD, and to meet so many new students!

My name is Gina Soto and I grew up in Highland, CA. I went to school at California State University, Northridge and I obtained my Bachelor’s degree in Deaf Studies. Currently, I am attending the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and pursuing my Master’s degree in Secondary Education for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MSSE). I am working with Amy as her student teacher. Some of my favorite things to do is to play soccer, go to the gym, and knit.
Pen Pals From All Around the World  
Submitted by: Heather Northey

Our class started writing to pen pals from all over the country and now the world, through a program called, Pen Pal Schools. Every session is 6 weeks long with a new topic every week. We have a lesson plan, videos and vocabulary to help us write. We get to use our Surface Pros to write back and forth to our pen pals. We learn about the subject from videos and written text given to us from our pen pals schools. We get to learn about each other’s culture, environment, family, and interests. It helps improve our writing skills and we love it! It’s fun to look everyday and see what someone has written to us! Write on!!!

In the Library  
Submitted by: Ellen Dupree, Librarian

As a librarian, I am constantly reminded of what an exciting time we live in as our children grow up comfortable with technology and we transition away from paper based resources. Students are naturally inquisitive and it has been a pleasure for me to get to know them and see them engaged in a story and activity.

A challenge for libraries is to maintain a robust and interesting print reading collection while developing resources and open plan spaces that support digital and group learning. With help from maintenance staff, space was developed for teaching digital content, meetings, story times and activities, Surface Pro and iPad classes and group projects.

I look forward to working with teachers to integrate inquiry based learning and curriculum goals while acclimating as SLS coordinator. We are participating in a pilot project from the Defined Learning Company with STEM performance based learning tasks. In November, I attended a Coding.org workshop and during library classes in December, students learned the basics of computer language with un-plugged activities and beginner coding courses. Several high school classes also took up the Hour of Code challenge.

I started here in July so let me share some things about myself. Librarianship is my second career and I have enjoyed it for 18 years while raising two children in Fayetteville. Audio books have become my driving companion and in free time, I enjoy golf, hiking, paddle boarding, and walking my Alabama rescue dog. Feel free to drop in the Library anytime.

Dorm Life  
Submitted by: Erika Furbeck

Residential life is on the upswing with some fun activities planned in the upcoming weeks. The winter months prove to be long and cabin fever tends to set in for our students. Some fun activities we have planned for the month of March includes bowling, tubing, our annual NYSSD anniversary dinner/dance, and signing the National Anthem at the Syracuse Crunch game.

Feel free to stop by on our dorms anytime! We would love to have you!
Lion’s Club Presentation  
Submitted by: David Hubman

On Tuesday, January 24th a small group attended the Rome Lions Club meeting to share with the Lions all the different programs and opportunities we provide for our students. Each of the representatives represents a different aspect of our program. Pictured above are: Lion President Victor Fariello, Ka Dil, student, Dr. Nancy Benham, work study program, Vinnie Page, elementary Instruction, and Susan Sharpsteen, dormitory child care aide.

All of the representatives talk about different aspects of student life both on and off campus. This group and the presentation itself resulted from an action plan developed by the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee, who has for a 2016-2017 goal to increase exposure of the school. This was our first group presentation and it was really well received.

Do you know of a group in your area that might allow us to come and talk to them? We would like to reach out to as many communities as possible in order to showcase our school. If you know of a group that might allow us to come and speak, please let Mr. Hubman know by emailing him at david.hubman@nysed.gov or call him at 315-227-8400.

Happy 100th Day of School!  
Submitted by: Cathy Lee

In classrooms all over the nation, elementary school students celebrated the 100th day of school. By the 100th day of school students are 100 days smarter, 100 days older, and many have learned more than 100 new things. All week, the students prepared for the day with counting games, stories and projects around the theme. On February 10, 2017 the Little Listeners students culminated the week with some 100 day fun! We made and presented collections of 100 items. The students played games on our 100 math and movement mat, we danced the Macarena to 100, and read stories about 100 days of school. The day ended when the students had a 100 day cookie snack, and dressed up as 100 year old people. The students had a balloon release to conclude the day! Hip Hip Hooray for the 100th day!

Little Listeners Pre-K, K, and First Grade students

Girl Scouting Fun  
Submitted by: Ruby Pedde

Our girl scouts have been very busy this year with many activities. We have had many crafts that we have worked on and sent home including our wonderful Christmas ornaments and glasses that the girls worked very hard on. They have been working on teamwork and cooperation during our many projects and activities. The girls have done some reading along with book reports on the stories they have read. We did some baking in teams of two where the girls had to follow directions and measure everything for themselves to create Smores cookies, which were a big hit! Lastly, in January we kicked off our annual Cookie Campaign with the girls selling their Girl Scout Cookies. The girls love doing Girls Scouts and it is a wonderful way to teach them good values, teamwork and cooperation, along with community involvement.
The New York State School for the Deaf crowned their new King and Queen during our January 26, 2017 Winter Festival. The event took place during half-time of the basketball game in which the NYSSD Trojans were playing the boys team from River Valley of Castorland. The coronation was cheered on by the staff, students, and family members as well as the opposition. NYSSD's Superintendent, Mr. David Hubman, crowned the new King and Queen.

The students who attend NYSSD come from various towns and cities throughout New York State. The newly appointed King, Ka Dil, is from Utica. He is a sophomore with an 87.89 grade point average and his future plans include becoming a carpenter. His interests include basketball and soccer. The newly appointed Queen, Christina Burns is from Oneida. She is a junior with a GPA of 90 and her future plans include working and college. Her interests include basketball, soccer, and reading books. In addition to the King and Queen, the court includes Tommy Cowin from Moriah, NY who enjoys sports and playing video games with his brother. Tommy has an 88.7 grade point average and his future plans include going to college at Gallaudet. Alexis Beckwith from Rome, NY enjoys soccer, basketball, and restaurant outings with her family. Alexis has a 90 GPA and plans to go to college for graphic art and design. Jonathan Allen is from Little Falls, NY and likes to play soccer and basketball. Jonathan has an 87 GPA and wants to become a mechanic. Mariah Sherman from Utica, NY likes arts and crafts, has a 93.63 GPA and wants to be a teacher. Cody Sharpsteen from Rome, NY likes to play basketball, has a 92 GPA and is as of yet undecided regarding his future plans. Grace Benham from Rome, NY enjoys playing sports, has a 95 GPA and plans to go to college.

The students celebrated after the game and into the evening with staff and family at a casual function in NYSSD's dormitory snack bar with games, food, and refreshments.