

BOBCAT TALES

WINTER 2015

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Superintendent's Message

Dear parents, guardians, and caregivers,

Welcome to the new "Bobcat Tales", the new periodic newsletter of the NYSSB. Bobcat Tales will cover several subject areas in every issue along with unique features in each issue. We hope you find "Bobcat Tales" informative, educational and maybe occasionally entertaining! Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Enjoy!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**FROM ALL OF US
AT NYSSB !**

**BE SAFE AND
ENJOY THE
SEASON!**

CAMPUS-WIDE WI-FI COMING SOON

We are excited and very fortunate to be the recipients of a Microsoft grant that will enable us to install Wi-Fi throughout our campus. The plan details are still being worked and, therefore, are not available for this issue. However, I can report

some high-level schedule details. The first step is a technology analysis. The grant includes consultation services to determine the best technology needs for our students. Working with BOCES, we anticipate hardware installation during the

January/February timeframe. We are looking forward to giving our students new opportunities to use technology. More to come!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECYCLE FOR SIGHT

Help "Recycle for Sight"! The Batavia Lions Club is accepting donations of your used and/or unwanted eyeglasses. Feel free to send glasses in with your son or daughter marked "Recycle for Sight." If you would like to drop the donation off yourself, there is a collection box in the mail-room of Severne Hall.



PBIS

NYSSB has a school-wide system of supports that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create a positive school environment. Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a program that focuses on building character qualities and positive

relationships between all individuals in our school. The character qualities we will focus on this winter are as follows:

January 2016 **Availability** vs. Self-centeredness

Availability is making my own schedule and priorities secondary to the wishes of those I serve.

February 2016 **Deference** vs. Rudeness

Deference is limiting my freedom so that I do not offend the tastes of those around me.

March 2016 **Compassion** vs. Indifference

Compassion is investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.

THE BEYOND SHOP

The Beyond Shop would like to send a special thank you to all who ordered Christmas cards this holiday season! We have been working daily since the beginning of the school year to create hand-made Christmas cards for you. We greatly appreciate your support. Thank you again!!

Happy Holidays!

Austin A., Amanda D., Jenna L., Mariah O., Alexis P., and Shelbi S.



WELLNESS COMMITTEE

NYSSB believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, we need to create positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environments at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year. In the near future, a Wellness Committee that focuses on promoting and enhancing healthy habits for both students and employees will be established. More information about the Committee and its goals will be shared with you as we progress.

BRAILLE CHALLENGE

The Western NY Braille Challenge will take place on Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM at the New York State School for the Blind. February 6, 2015 is the snow date. The Braille Challenge is a unique event exclusively for students who are blind and read and write braille. This academic competition supports and rewards students for their hard work and achievement in reading comprehension; proofreading; braille spelling; chart and graph reading; and braille speed and accuracy.

ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION (APE)

The APE Department is pleased to announce a couple upcoming events. Feel free to attend any event that is provided by our school. Our students love to have your support!

- Bowling Tournament at Mancuso Lanes, Batavia – **Wednesday, March 16th at 9am**



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- Swim Meet at the NYSSB Pool – **Monday, April 18th at 9am**



EDUCATIONAL NEWS

This section will highlight a classroom in each publication of “Bobcat Tales.” Our first classroom is room 102 with Melody Fava, Special Education Teacher and Jill Harkness and Kim Hilburger, Special Education Assistants.

This classroom is all about the functionality of academics and the curriculum. Transition is a focus. Instruction is designed to teach skills which allow each student to succeed in real-life situations at home, school, work and in the community. Basic math skills, money and time as well as reading and writing are all addressed. Current events and history are focused on with informational text such as Scholastic News and News2You. Students’ strengths with emphasize on daily



living skills, community skills, recreation and leisure and employment needs are incorporated into the daily curriculum.

Career readiness and vocational training is a big part of the classroom. In addition, the class runs a business, The Beyond Shop. The Beyond Shop allows students to participate in the business plan - make, market and sell the product. Students also have opportunities to work in the kitchen, measuring different food items and wash dishes; work in the laundry department organizing and folding

laundry; and work in the dorms cleaning which includes vacuuming, wiping down tables and chairs, dusting, and cleaning bathrooms.

To further student’s readiness skills for transition and the workforce, the classroom students prepare and pack their lunches once a week. In addition, they hold cooking classes in the dorms once a week where they prepare food items that are easy yet healthy. Reading skills for the recipe’s, math skills such as measuring and science skills are all involved during cooking sessions to interpret the recipe. And last but not least, students go out into the community at least twice a month to put all of the skills they have learned into effect including self-care skills and communication/social interactions.

RESIDENTIAL NEWS

The dorms have been keeping themselves very busy lately. The students and staff have decorated all the dorms for Christmas, and Santa even came for a visit at the Christmas Party on December 8th. Many of the students attended the Christmas dance at the Byron Fire Hall and also participated in holiday shopping trips to local stores. In addition, many students have been involved with our local Genesee Community College (GCC) Recreation Program which has ended for the semester.



This winter promises to be a fun one...

between sledding outside, snow play to Indoor Soccer with peers at Challenger Soccer. Pet Therapy will be starting during the winter as well. The GCC Recreation and Leisure Program will begin again around March. The NYSSB Bowling League will wrap up its season at the end of March, and garden work may begin as early as February. Students will continue to go off campus to the movies and local stores on a rotating basis. Looking forward to a busy yet fun winter!!



HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Seasonal Flu:

Winter is the time for the flu season here in the Northeast part of our country. The flu is a contagious viral respiratory infection that is easily spread to others mainly by droplets made when people infected with the flu cough, sneeze, or even talk. These droplets can land in the mouth or noses of people nearby or possibly inhaled into the lungs. A person can also get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then by touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.

The flu usually comes on suddenly, which makes it different than the common cold. Symptoms of the flu may include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills

- Cough

- Sore throat

- Runny or stuffy nose

- Muscle or body aches

- Headaches

- Fatigue (tiredness)

- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults)

Preventative measures that can be taken to help reduce your risk and protect others from getting the flu include:

- Receive the seasonal flu vaccine.

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers if no soap and water available.

- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose because germs can spread in this way.

- **MOST IMPORTANTLY**** If your child gets sick with a respiratory illness such as the flu, **DO NOT** send them to school **AND** limit their contact with others. Students need to be fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school. In addition, students must not exhibit any flu symptoms at the time of return.

STAFF PROFILE INTERVIEW

This section “shines the light” on a staff member in each publication of “Bobcat Tales,” in order to enrich our relationships with those who make up our NYSSB family. Mariah had the pleasure of interviewing Deb Hilton our Speech Therapist for this issue.

Mariah: “What is your favorite food?”

Deb: “Rice crispy treats.”

Mariah: “What is your favorite restaurant to go to?”

Deb: “Cippolina Italian Restaurant in Akron, NY.”

Mariah: “What is your favorite color?”

Deb: “Blue.”

Mariah: “Do you have any hobbies?”

Deb: “Crochet and sell on e-Bay.”

Mariah: “How many children do you have? What are their names?”

Deb: “Three: Christopher, Rachael, Jennifer.”

Mariah: “If you could go on a vacation anywhere, where would you go?”

Deb: “North Carolina to see my mom, dad and sister.”

Mariah: “How many years have you worked here at the school?”

Deb: “Five years.”

Mariah: “What is your favorite movie?”

Deb: “Spirited Away.”

Mariah: “What different places have you visited or vacationed at?”

Deb: “Columbia, South America and Salt Lake City, Utah.”

Mariah: “What’s your favorite part about working here?”

Deb: “I like to see all the great changes the students can make.”



DEB HILTON

HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS



HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS



Holiday
Door
Decorating
contest



HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS



DOOR CONTEST WINNERS

↓ 1st ↓



↑
2nd



↑
3rd

HOLIDAY SHOWCASE PARTY

