Have you heard the buzz?
Welcome to Byron-Bergen Central School’s eNewsletter! Stay in the loop of school news and updates.

Character Ed Assembly celebrates students and retirees

The final Character Education assembly of the school year took place on May 31. The Students of the Month were honored by their teachers and peers for their great work capping off a great academic year.

Then, a visit from Mercedes, Mr. Broccoli, and Carol introduced a special tribute to this year’s Elementary School retirees. We thank them all for their years of service and wish them the best!

Ninth grader Alayna Streeter received honorable mention in the Geneseo Valley Educational Partnership 2019 Literary Contest. This is Streeter’s first published work. Her contest submission is a short story about loss and self-blame as her main character tries to cope with the loss of a sibling.

“It’s a story I had been thinking about for a while,” said Streeter. “When I heard about the contest I decided it was time to write it.”

Streeter learned about the contest from her English Language Arts Teacher, Laurie Penepent. “Alayna is a conscientious student and this contest was a great opportunity for her to share her creative writing skills,” said Penepent.

Streeter’s story is published in the GVEP 2019 Literary Contest anthology.

The B-B Olympic Torch

The Byron-Bergen Olympic Torch toured the two communities before the official hand-off to a fourth grade student at the Annual Spring Concert.
Paranormal High

On June 7, the Byron-Bergen Adapted Arts class premiered their original movie, Paranormal High. Taught by Sandy Auer, the class incorporates visual and performing arts for special education students.

“This class traditionally puts on a play, but some of the students were nervous about performing before a live audience,” said Auer. “The project evolved into a movie. Everyone had a really fun time and we had 100% participation.”

The students developed the movie concept and wrote the script in which a specter is accidently released into the Jr./Sr. High School as a result of the ongoing construction projects. The students worked on the props and costumes and acted the major roles. They were joined in front of the camera by other Byron-Bergen students and staff including a cameo by Byron-Bergen Jr./Sr. High School Principal Pat McGee.

The Adapted Arts classs hosted Byron-Bergen students and faculty in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium for the premiere. After an introduction from Auer, the 12-minute film screened to tumultuous applause. A reception followed with refreshments and the opportunity to congratulate the cast members.

“Watching the movie was fun and it was great to see smiling faces in the audience,” said senior Adapted Arts student Kae Yun.

SADD speaks out against vaping

SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) joined forces with GCASA on May 30 to spread the knowledge that vaping is not safer than traditional cigarettes. The club created informational signs and spoke with their peers during lunch periods on May 30th.
**Junior High Spring Concert**

On May 30, the Junior High musicians took to the stage for their Spring Concert.

The 7th and 8th Grade Chorus performed oldie and show tune classics along with a classic TV theme song. For their finale, student Sage Johnson joined Mr. Tallman in accompanying the chorus in a lively rendition of Journey’s classic anthem *Don’t Stop Believin’.*

The Concert Band delighted the audience with *Under an Irish Sky, Don’t Feed the Drummers* and closed out the evening with the theme song to *Hawaii 5-0.* Great job, everyone!

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**5th & 6th Grade Spring Concert**

On June 6, the 5th & 6th Grade Band and Chorus played to a packed house. Under the direction of Karen Tischer and Bob Lancia, they celebrated the 60s, 70s, 80s, show tunes, and camaraderie. The band kicked off the night with a memorable performance including a rocking rendition of *Born To Be Wild.* The chorus then took to the stage with two Broadway anthems and two iconic 80s pop songs that kept the audience’s feet tapping. Each piece was researched and introduced by a chorus member.

The Jazz Choir tackled the Theme from Spiderman and the Jazz Band rocked Queen before all the musicians returned to the stage for a combined band and chorus version of *Lean on Me.* Bravo, everyone!
English 8 gets inside The Outsiders

English 8 students went back to the 60's! Students dressed up as a greaser or a soc based on the novel *The Outsiders*. They were able to get into character for their Socratic Seminar. A lot of the students decided to be the "tuff" greasers.

Fourth Grade Spring Concert

With only one academic year of instrumental experience, the fourth grade band demonstrated their hard work in three musical selections including Queen’s *We Will Rock You* arranged by Music Teacher and Band Director Bob Lancia.

The chorus followed with a moving performance of oldies and a contemporary ballad. The chorus stayed in place as the Byron-Bergen Olympic torch was escorted into the auditorium by members of the Varsity track team and American Legion representatives. The young musicians completed the ceremony by singing *God Bless the USA* arranged by Music Teacher and Chorus Director Karen Tischer.

Junior trains to become EMT

Junior Jillian Menzie is working her way through the Bergen Fire Department Explorer program. It is the first step to becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

“I have family that works in the health field,” said Jillian. “And it feels good to help people.”

She plans to complete the EMT program when she turns 18.