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

The Bees Go Orange

"One of the most important steps of the college admissions process is stepping foot on a campus. We had a great group of students visit Syracuse University," - College and Career Counselor Rob Kaercher

A celebration of Haudenosaunee culture

A big niá:wen (thank you) to guest visitors Michelle and Siomara Caballero, Richard Hamell, Rick Merritt, and Laurence Tallman for sharing Haudenosaunee culture with our fourth grade students. The event reinforces their ongoing studies of Native American culture and the community ties to the Haudenosaunee people.

Congratulations, Bees!

The B-B Girls Volleyball team finished a fantastic season with only one loss! They are the Section V Class C Champions.

“It was an awesome season,” said Coach D’Errico. “The team had great chemistry and really came together. The seniors were great and they will be missed.”
Comfortable bodies, focused minds

Lynnette Gall teaches sixth grade mathematics and health in a classroom with flexible seating. Over the last three years, she has been transitioning traditional school desks out of her classroom. As of this school year, her room includes only one traditional school desk. It does, however, have work tables, café tables, counter-height tables, standing desks, stools, lounge chairs, rocking chairs, floor pillows, stadium seats, outdoor furniture, yoga mats, sensory cushions, carpet space, and the recent addition of a Nugget Comfort couch that was donated to Gall’s classroom through DonorsChoose.org. Students have a choice in where they are most comfortable learning.

“It’s more of a coffee shop space,” said Gall. “You could equate it to going to Starbucks to work and sitting where you are most comfortable. The students are more engaged and therefore learning more, because they’re comfortable.”

“The flexible seating is good because you can get comfortable,” said sixth grade student Libby Starowitz. “You don’t just sit at a desk all day.”

“You have the option of sitting at a desk,” added Paige O’Brien, “but most people like the other options like the rocking chairs or high stools.”

Gall’s overarching goal is for students to feel comfortable in their learning. Her efforts span beyond flexible seating to include fish tanks, plants, a student curated photo collage, and a sound machine that plays calming music throughout the day.

“My goal is to provide a safe, happy, and healthy place where my students feel at home to learn,” said Gall. “It’s more than just flexible seating, but making the whole child feel comfortable — mind, heart, and body.”

BOCES Field Trip

The 10th grade students explored BOCES to see what program they may want to attend next year.

Red Ribbon Day

On October 30th, the Elementary students celebrated Red Ribbon Day by pledging to be Drug-Free!
The Keeper’s Voice

On November 1st, the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre visited fourth grade classes with a special presentation for Native American Heritage Month. *The Keeper’s Voice* is an experiential theatre production in which the students act as the Haudenosaunee people to educate two fictional visitors on the lives and cultural traditions of the five nations in the mid-1800s. During the presentation, the students discussed Haudenosaunee cultural beliefs such as the advantages of peace among the nations, having an active role in government, and equality.

Local chapter attends 92nd National FFA Convention

Six Byron-Bergen students journeyed to Indianapolis, IN for the 92nd National FFA Convention. Rachel Best, Jacey Donahue, Maddie Pimm, Logan Pocock, Jaden Pocock, and Isabelle Stevens joined up with nine other Western New York FFA chapters to head west.

The group stopped along the way for some sight-seeing. Outside of Columbus, OH, they toured the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and an urban farm in Franklinton, OH. The farm’s mission is to combat hunger and increase access to fresh vegetables in a “food desert”. The group also visited the National Museum of the US Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH.

The 92nd National FFA Convention included a tribute to 50 years of FFA membership for young women. Students toured the FFA career expo and agricultural college career fair and attended a Brett Young concert and a rodeo.
Eat Smart Month

The Elementary School received some very special guests on November 1, 2019. Representatives from the American Heart Association and Bonduelle USA kicked off Eat Smart Month by visiting every classroom and delivering vegetable seeds and a message about the importance of eating and living healthily.

Marc Natale and Robin Swan from the American Heart Association were joined by Janette Bonstead, Diane Cholowsky, Kortney Connell, April Fox, Michelle Hoffman, and Beth Scroger from Bonduelle USA to greet the Elementary students as they entered the school, each of whom went home with vegetable seeds and an informational brochure about eating healthy including a recipe for Simple Chicken Pot Pie.

“It’s important for us to be involved in the community,” said one of the Bonduelle participants. “We are located right here and it’s exciting to share information on healthy eating with our families and neighbors.”

As the guests visited classrooms, students became very excited to grow their own vegetables to eat. “We want to inspire families and kids to talk about what it means to eat healthy, offer healthy meal options and seeds to start their own garden,” said Lorri Harkins, IT Service Desk Manager, Bonduelle Americas Long Life.

The message of eating healthy was reinforced in the lunchroom where Friday’s lunches included a special side dish. “We are serving peas and carrots in the cafeteria today,” said Byron-Bergen Food Service Director Mary DellaPenna. “This is a very nice community outreach project and we’re happy to participate.”

Byron-Bergen was one of three districts chosen for a November visit. Bonduelle provided over 1500 seed packets of peas and carrots for distribution to Byron-Bergen, Fyle Elementary, and Lakeshore Elementary school during the first week of November.