



Spring 2016

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jon Hunter, Ed.D.

Dear Byron-Bergen Community Members,

I want to thank the Byron-Bergen Board of Education for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent and to be a member of your community. I have more than 40 years of experience as a teacher and school administrator. In only a few short months, I have met with faculty, staff, and the officers of the Class of 2016, and learned about the outstanding achievements and personal commitments so many have for the Byron-Bergen Schools.

Change has been the theme of the 2015-16 school year! A Principal, the Superintendent, 10 teachers, and 15 staff are new to their positions. What has not changed is a strong Board of Education, quality teachers, staff, administration, and great students. During this time of change, you can expect me to maintain a focus on collaboration, student success, and a smooth transition for our next school leaders. Our focus includes:

- **Superintendent Search**—The Board and the consultant have completed a brochure announcing our search for a Superintendent. They developed the application, an interview timeline, and an interview process that will involve all members of our school community. We began advertising for the position Feb. 1, and the Board is scheduled to make an appointment at their final meeting in April. We have a link on our website with all materials.



*Winners in the Clarkson Historical Society's Campaign for Cursive handwriting contest for grades 6-8—seventh-grader Carli*

*Kirkwood (l), who placed first, and eighth-grader Jacey Donahue (r), who received third place.*

Elimination monies. Please come to a budget presentation and complete the 2016-17 Byron-Bergen Budget

Development Survey posted on our webpage. Your input is important.

- **Principal Search**—I have reviewed with the Board of Education a timeline and process for filling our position of principal at Byron-Bergen Jr./Sr. High School. The position was posted on Jan. 25. The interview process will include teacher, student, staff, and parent interview committees. Final interviews are scheduled in April with a recommendation to the Board of Education for appointment at their May meeting.
- **Budget**—The Board of Education, staff, and I are at work developing the 2016-17 budget. The Board is committed to strong programs, small class sizes, and implementation of the *Strategic Plan*. We know that the levy limit will be at or around zero so there will be only small changes in school taxes. The Governor has shared NYS school aid recommendations. We have received about a 3 percent growth in aid. We will be working hard to influence the legislature to fully restore our Gap

- **Student Achievement**—NYS has released four-year graduation information for the Class of 2015. This cohort of Byron-Bergen students had outstanding success. The graduation rate was at 94 percent. Across NYS, the graduation rate was at 78 percent. Many of our student groups also performed at very high levels of achievement. *(continued on p. 3)*

SNOOPY!!!

will be performed  
March 3, 4, & 5

More  
on p. 4

at 7 PM and a matinee on  
Saturday, March 5 at 2 PM.





## Board President's Corner

Happy 2016, Byron-Bergen! The Board of Education started the year with an extra busy few months. On Jan. 4, Byron-Bergen welcomed Dr. Jon Hunter as our Interim Superintendent. He jumped right into work, and is fitting in well with our learning community. Thank you to all who have made him feel welcome. The Board would also like to thank both Aaron Johnson and Casey Kosiorek for their time here. They did outstanding jobs for our staff, students, and community, and we wish them well in their new positions. The Board has started our new Superintendent search, and the search for the Jr./Sr. High School Principal.

We are moving forward with the budget work, analyzing all the information coming from the State. The outlook for our District is looking brighter than in past years, but as in all of our home budgets, there will be hard decisions to make. Please consider coming to our budget sessions as we present them. We will be looking for input from the community.

At this year's Sr. High Holiday Concert, the Board of Education presented a "Friends of Byron-Bergen" plaque to the Finger Lakes Woodturners, a group of volunteers who share their time, expertise, and love of woodworking with our technology classes. We thank them and appreciate their dedication to our students.

March brings the annual school musical to our community. The

production of "Snoopy!!!" runs for three days — March 3, 4, and 5. It promises to be another entertaining showcase for our talented students. The annual NYS Troopers vs. Byron-Bergen Faculty Basketball Game will be played on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:00). This year, proceeds benefit both the NYS Troopers K-9 Unit and the Bergen Fire Department's Explorer program in memory of Barry Miller. Come out and support our staff! It is always a good time.

Byron-Bergen students do a fantastic job of representing our District. Whether it is through our sports teams, music programs, or arts and extracurricular groups—when they compete against or interact with other area and regional schools, we can be proud of our student body.

In closing, I want to note that our Board of Education is sadly saying goodbye to Dan Ireland. He has served on the Board for just shy of five years, two of those as the Vice President. His knowledge, leadership, and dedication to our learning community are just some of the qualities that made him such an asset to our District. We would like to thank him for his time and all he has done during his tenure on the Board.

*Debra List*

Debra List, President  
Byron-Bergen Board of Education

## Running for school board

The Byron-Bergen Board of Education's seven members are elected by District residents and serve unpaid, three-year terms. The board is responsible for setting policy within state and federal laws and serves as the community's communication link with the educational staff. If you are committed to education and want to make an impact on our District, consider running for school board. We are looking for folks who will always be focused on the good of schoolchildren, who are:

- Effective communicators.
- Consensus builders.
- Community participants.
- Leaders and decision-makers.
- Information processors.
- Team players.

**Board candidate petitions can be obtained from District Clerk Jadwiga Syfert in the District Office. They must be returned by 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2016.**







# Rapid Responder Program implemented

Byron-Bergen Central School District continues to value that our most important priority is keeping our students and staff safe. The District has added the New York State Sheriff's Association (NYSSA) Rapid Responder® Program to their crisis management and emergency preparedness plans. The new program uses cutting-edge technology to give school personnel and all first responders immediate access to emergency response information, enabling clear communication and quick, coordinated action.

Rapid Responder is an all-hazards site-based crisis management system that is utilized in schools nationwide and Canada. The system brings school officials and first responders from diverse agencies together on a single digital platform, giving everyone instant access to site-specific emergency response information, including floor plans, aerial views, hazardous material locations, utility shut-off information, evacuation plans, and live camera feeds.

Byron-Bergen Director of Facilities Michael List said, "We are expanding the dialogue between the District and responders from local law enforcement, fire, and medical departments. We have already found areas for improvement that will enable responders to better handle many emergency scenarios in our schools. The new Rapid Responder system helps make that possible."

List added, "We recently completed detailed site visits and are now reviewing all the data. The next step in implementation will be training and drills with local responders based on different emergency and daily security situations to test all portions of the system."

Implementation of the Rapid Responder Program is part of the District's solid commitment to safety and security in the schools. Current security for the District includes a comprehensive visitor management system, Raptor®, in both schools and the District Office, which is utilized for visitor background checks, as

well as for generating ID badges. A large security camera system oversees buildings and grounds, and will now be tied into Rapid Responder using their capability to integrate IP based cameras. The District also recently welcomed School Resource Officer Matt Butler to the staff.

In a world of seemingly increased violent incidents, we are proud to put an additional measure in place to ensure everyone's safety. The implementation team for the NYSSA Rapid Responder Program consists of Interim Superintendent Dr. Jon Hunter, Mike List, Transportation Coordinator Drew Doll, School Business Official William Snyder, the building principals, and Deputy Butler.

Rapid Responder (<http://www.preparedresponse.com/New-York-Sheriffs-Rapid-Responder-Program.html>) is currently deployed in over 16,000 facilities nationwide and is SAFETY Act Certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

*(continued from cover)*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Students with disabilities had an 83 percent graduation rate. Thirty-eight percent of all students graduated with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.

- **Pre-Merger Study**—The Byron-Bergen Board of Education completed a pre-merger evaluation. The study was a shared analysis with the LeRoy Central School District. After a careful analysis of demographics, academic and co-curricular programs, and review of financial considerations, the Board has decided to discontinue any merger planning.

- **Building Condition Survey**—The Building Condition Survey is a report that NYS Education Department requires to be completed every five years. The Board contracted with the architecture firm of Clark Patterson to provide an independent and thorough analysis of safety, infrastructure, technology, and program strengths and weaknesses of our facilities. The report gives our Maintenance and Buildings and Grounds staff good grades. It also provides the Board and Administrative Team with a clear analysis of where the facilities are aging and options of how to address needs in a timely and fiscally responsible manner. Ideas

include an energy performance contract that would enable savings from efficiencies to pay for project costs, and capital outlay projects that enable small projects to be completed using maximum NYS building aid. The Board of Education Facilities Committee will examine options and move the planning process forward.

Finally, please do not hesitate to call or send me an email. I want to learn more about our schools and community. In addition, I am interested in your ideas as we prepare the 2016-17 budget and select our future leaders. I can be reached at 494-1220 ext. 2829, or [jhunter@bbschools.org](mailto:jhunter@bbschools.org).





## School musical “SNOOPY!!!” takes the stage

*Byron-Bergen Jr./Sr. High School is proud to present  
“Snoopy!!!” as our 2016 musical.*

Based on the beloved comic strip “Peanuts” by Charles M. Schulz, it features many familiar characters as they sing, dance, and share the moments that made them famous and treasured by millions.



*“Snoopy!!!” cast for  
Thursday night and  
Saturday matinee  
performances.*



**The show will be presented on  
March 3, 4, and 5, 2016  
with evening shows starting at 7 p.m.  
(and an additional Saturday matinee  
starting at 2 p.m.)  
in the Byron-Bergen  
Jr./Sr. High School auditorium**

**Tickets are available for \$8**  
(*\$7.00 for senior citizens and students*)  
and are available in the Sr. High Office and  
at the Gillam-Grant Community Center.



This presentation is unique in that it will feature two completely different casts. Featured performers for the Thursday evening and Saturday matinee shows include students Colby Savage (Snoopy), Joelle Meister (Lucy), Nathan Knickerbocker (Charlie Brown), Esther Wilkins (Sally Brown), Anthony Calarco (Linus), Hayley Hoehn (Peppermint Patty) and Grace Pulcini (Woodstock). Featured performers for the Friday and Saturday evening shows include Celeste Brownell (Snoopy), Rose Bower (Lucy), Mason Fuller (Charlie Brown), Shannon Little (Sally Brown), Jerome Spinks (Linus), Stephanie Buell (Peppermint Patty) and Jason Hoehn (Woodstock). In addition, there are two different choirs and stage crews, along with an orchestra with more than 50 student members.

Byron-Bergen teacher Laurence Tallman directs, both dramatically and musically; the show features costumes by Teacher Aide Faline Tyler, lights and sound by community member Todd Sloat, and choreography by student Bethany Ezard.



*“Snoopy!!!” cast for Friday and  
Saturday night performances.*

.....  
“Snoopy!!!” (London Version) is presented with permission, and in arrangement with, Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022. The book is by Charles M. Schulz Create Associates, Warren Lockhart, Arthur Whitelaw and Michale Grace. The music is by Larry Grossman, with lyrics by Hal Hackady.



## Jr./Sr. High School Update

By Pat McGee, Interim Principal

It is hard to believe that we have already started the 2016-17 scheduling process with grades 7-11 students. Our counselors are meeting with students to select courses for next year. I really encourage families to take time to talk about the variety of options available to students. Your child's future is important; time spent together exploring and investigating college and career pathways is time well-spent.

Our goal is to help students narrow their interests down to two college and career pathways by their sophomore year. This understanding will help them to work with staff to better align their coursework with their future interests, resulting in greater feelings of motivation and commitment. More highly motivated, committed students equal higher rates of academic success. We encourage all students to make educated decisions and truly challenge themselves for the next chapter of their lives.

We were recently visited by 26 Byron-Bergen alumni. They met with seniors for lunch and a panel discussion—an annual event that allows our alumni to come back and report to current students about life after high school.



*(l-r) Juniors Clare Fraser and Melanie MacCowan review their 4-Year Plans with Jr./Sr. High School Counselors Andrea Feeney and Matt Walther.*

These conversations are very important and give our current students a reality check of post-secondary life. It also provides us feedback into how we can continue to improve our preparation of students for life after high school. I really appreciate that these alumni took time out of their schedules to be here.

As the building principal, I believe that it is essential that we have a nurturing and supportive environment for our students. Recently, I was walking by the weight room after school and witnessed about 30 students, teachers, and coaches doing a CrossFit workout. Broken into teams

of three, they were trying to accomplish a goal of a “school run,” 500 “thrusters,” and 500 “pull ups.” It was exciting to observe students and staff working together in a supportive environment after school hours to accomplish a task; and the comradery that came with it. When one group completed their challenge, they quickly turned to the other groups still working and pitched in to help complete that team's task. The teamwork, togetherness, support, and selflessness our students and staff are gaining from our new CrossFit program is something that has me very excited about the culture in our building.

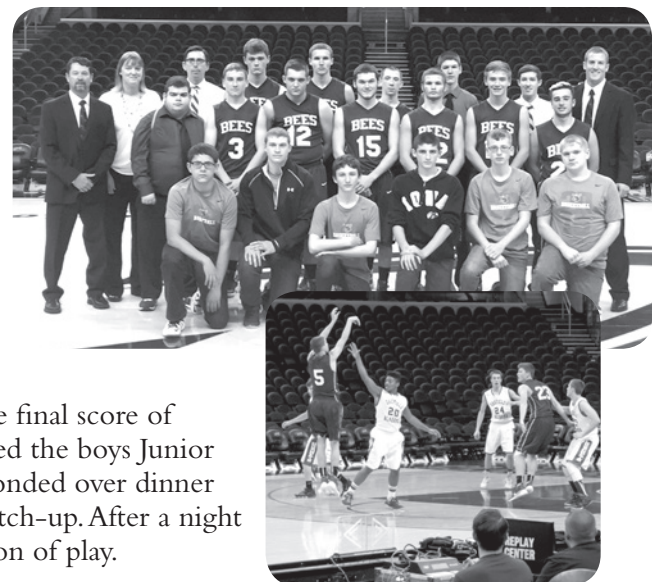
Our students' success is my #1 priority on a daily basis. I am willing to do whatever I can to help them achieve their goals. I believe that an open line of communication between home and school is essential. I encourage you to contact your child's teacher or counselor with any questions or concerns you may have. Please know that I am always available to assist you in any way possible. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 494-1220 ext. 2401, or via email [pmcgee@bbschools.org](mailto:pmcgee@bbschools.org).

## What a way to start the season!

Our Varsity Boys' Basketball Team traveled to Cleveland, late last November, for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to play in the home of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers. Competing at the Quicken Loans Arena, just hours before LeBron James and the Cavaliers met the Brooklyn Nets on the same court, was a great experience for the team members.

“We really want to thank the Oakfield-Alabama Hornets and Coach Ryan Stehler for inviting us to join them in Cleveland,” said Varsity Coach Chad Smith. “This was an incredible experience all of our kids will never forget.”

The game against the winning Hornets was well-played, ending in a close final score of 40-36. In addition to the Varsity team, the Byron-Bergen travelers included the boys Junior Varsity team, along with coaches and chaperones. Postgame, our group bonded over dinner and then returned to the arena to watch the evening's Cavaliers/Nets match-up. After a night in Cleveland, our lucky Bees returned home and continued a strong season of play.







## Art from recycled materials

Students in teacher Sandy Auer's Computer Graphics and Design (CGAD) class recently learned about Brazilian artist Vik Muniz. They were inspired by not only Muniz's work, but by the greater meaning it has. Muniz has often said he wanted to make art that changed people, made them look at the world differently, and think about who they are. Students watched the documentary movie, "Waste Land," where Muniz creates art with the garbage pickers of Jardim Gramacho, a large garbage landfill in Rio de Janeiro.

The transforming effect of the garbage to art mirrored the transformation in the pickers themselves. They became the art and artist, and saw a greater value in the objects they dealt with every day. Vik Muniz said, "What I really want to do is change the lives of a group of people with materials they use every day."

The CGAD students were challenged to create an art installation using recycled materials. They collaborated

and researched, debating the many possible options for the project. In the end, they decided on a whimsical scene depicting a giant dinosaur destroying New York City. All of the materials used in the project, with the exception of glue, tape, paint, and plaster, came from recycled materials.

Students Quinn Chapel, Kitana Maher, and Catherine Brumsted constructed Rexy, the dinosaur. They used cardboard, newspaper, plastic bags, empty kitty litter bottles, milk cartons, and a variety of other recycled materials to construct the body. They covered him in a thin layer of plaster and paint and embellished him with a variety of toys, electronics parts, and other items that would otherwise be discarded. Dominic Andres and Ben Lathan constructed the city scene. They chose areas of NYC like Central Park, Times Square, and Ellis Island for



*(l-r) Quinn Chapell, Ben Lathan, Catherine Brumsted, and Katina Maher with their recycled art project on display by the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium.*

depiction. They used milk cartons, bottles, cans, and many discarded toys to create the cityscape. The group collaborated to create the sunset backdrop on a piece of cardboard from the Maintenance Department that was from a large delivery of equipment.

## Scholar Program

The Scholar Program is Byron-Bergen Jr./Sr. High School's academic incentive program, which recognizes students for their good effort, attendance, and academics. The cards achieved are Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Special Recognition.

At the end of the year, monetary awards are presented at Academic and Athletic Recognition Night to seniors who have maintained a solid record of attaining cards throughout their high school career.

*The Scholar Program Committee is pleased to announce the 2015-16 first quarter recipients:*

### **GOLD SCHOLAR**

Larissa Ashton	Jacey Donahue
Nicholas Baubie	Elizabeth Donnelly
Sarah Bleiler	Adam Drake
Rose Bower	Bethany Ezard
Kolbi Brew	Madison Farnsworth
Bianca Brumsted	Kyle Foeller
Elizabeth Burlingame	Clare Fraser
Siomara Caballero	Sara Fraser
Grace Campbell	Eden Goff
Lydia Campbell	Sara Goodman
Leah Catalino	Margaret Graney
Benjamin Chaback	Amaya Gunther
Emily Chaback	Kaitlyn Harder
Jonah Clare	Tyler Henry
Joseph Damick	Annaliese Hersom
Richard Denson	Hope Hersom
	Kelly Ireland
	Cora Ivson

Daniel Jensen
William Johnson
Cambria Kinkelaar
Carli Kirkwood
Tyler Kota
Melanie Kulikowski
Hunter Leach
Colby Leggo
Melissa MacCowan
Kelsey Maurer
Joelle Meister
Jillian Menzie
Celia Mercovich
John Mercovich
Lily Mercovich
Ashley Montgomery
Colin Noeth
Alaura Rehwaldt

Karson Richenberg
Alexandria Rosse
MacKenzie Rosse
Chloe Shuskey
Xavier Thomas
Dana VanValkenburg
Annabella Vurraro
Devon Zinter
Michael Zwerka
Nathan Zwerka

### **SILVER SCHOLAR**

Benjamin Bowman
Lindsey Bowman
Hannah Catalino
Tylor Coats
Jeremiah DeLorme

Monica Fee
Joshua Fleming
Mackenzie Fox
Matthew Gonyea
Emma Goodman
Chad Green
Alyssa Hing
Hailey Hubbard
Alexandria Loewke
Andrew Parnapy
Hunter Parnell
Tanner Savage
Emmy Stein
Sarah Streeter
Miriam Tardy
Matthew Zwerka

### **BRONZE SCHOLAR**

Mariah Fee
Jenica Hickey
Julia Menzie
Allie Moyer
Julia Schlenker-
Stephens
Robert Yohon

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Shawn Merry
Garrett Sando



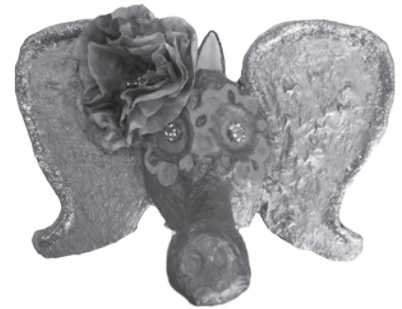
# STUDENT SHOWCASE



**“Polar Bears”**  
*Oil pastel on paper*  
By: Noah Clare, grade 3  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Coniglio



**“Bear”**  
*Oil crayon on paper*  
By: Grace Huhn, grade 6  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Coniglio



**“Elephant Mask”**  
*Plaster and paint*  
By: Sarah Streeter, grade 7  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



**“Bald Eagle”**  
*White colored pencil on paper*  
By: Riley Sadler, grade 10  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz



**“Reflections”**  
*Graphite pencil on paper*  
By: Celia Mercovich, grade 11  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Fritz



**“Slab Mug”**  
*Clay*  
By: Savannah Wolfe, grade 12  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer



**“Slab Vessel”**  
*Clay*  
By: Kelsey Maurer, grade 11  
Art Teacher: Mrs. Auer

## Varsity Club raises funds to help find a cure for paralysis

Byron-Bergen's Varsity Club members promote our athletic programs throughout the school year with many community service and fundraising projects. The Club recently held their sixth annual Lift-a-Thon to raise money for the Miami Project, which is dedicated to finding a cure for spinal paralysis and helping local community members deal with paralysis. The Ricky Palermo Foundation, a not-for-profit founded by Byron-Bergen alumnus Ricky Palermo, who suffered a serious spinal injury in 1997, supports the Miami Project.

Club members raised awareness for the organization and presented a check for \$150 to Palermo during halftime at the Boys Basketball game on Feb. 4.



(l-r) Grace Campbell, Alexandria Rosse, Ricky Palermo, Maya Benda, Mackenzie Muoio. Back row: Anthony Miraglia, Brendan Marsocci, Anna Levchuk, Alicyn Bizari, Karson Richenberg, and Lucas Stuchio.





## Byron-Bergen 2015-16 First Quarter Honor Roll

### GRADE 7

**High Honor Roll**—Mya-Lyn Albanese, Nicholas Baubie, Bianca Brumsted, Emily Chaback, Zoey Chambry, Jonah Clare, Joseph Damick, Richard Denson, Julietta Doyle, Joshua Fleming, Eden Goff, Matthew Gonyea, Mitchell Gonyea, Sara Goodman, Hope Hersom, Kelly Ireland, Carli Kirkwood, Aiden Kulikowski, Colby Leggo, Gavin Lewis, John Mercovich, Zechariah Merrell, Madison Mucha, Julia Pangrazio, Andrew Parnapy, Hunter Parnell, Jaden Pocock, Bryanne Puma, Alaura Rehwaltd, Tanner Savage, Skylar Sharpe, Emmy Stein, Sarah Streeter, Joshua Swapceinski, Xavier Thomas, Devon Zinter, Matthew Zwerka.

**Honor Roll**—Carleigh Buell, Tylor Coats, Alissa Davis, Samantha Leach, Isaiah Merrell, Matthew Rada, Mason Singer, Deacon Smith, Morgan Vincent, Angela Young.

**Effort Roll**—Mya-Lyn Albanese, Nicholas Baubie, Bianca Brumsted, Emily Chaback, Jonah Clare, Joseph Damick, Alissa Davis, Richard Denson, Julietta Doyle, Joshua Fleming, Eden Goff, Sara Goodman, Hope Hersom, Kelly Ireland, Carli Kirkwood, Colby Leggo, Gavin Lewis, John Mercovich, Madison Mucha, Julia Pangrazio, Andrew Parnapy, Hunter Parnell, Bryanne Puma, Alaura Rehwaltd, Tanner Savage, Julia Schlenker-Stephens, Skylar Sharpe, Emmy Stein, Sarah Streeter, Joshua Swapceinski, Xavier Thomas, Matthew Zwerka.

### GRADE 8

**High Honor Roll**—Julianna Amesbury, Caitlin Ashton, Alexander Brumsted, Elizabeth Burlingame, Siomara Caballero, Hannah Catalino, Alexander Dean, Jacey Donahue, Elizabeth Donnelly, Madison Farnsworth, Monica Fee, Kyle Foeller, Sara Fraser, Kelsey Fuller, Amaya Gunther, Zachary Hannan, Mikaela Hubler, Cambria Kinkelaar, Melissa MacCowan, Jillian Menzie, Auburn Schwartzmeyer, Caleb Sharpe, Chloe Shuskey, Garrett Swinter, Annabella Vurraro, Grant Williams, Nathan Zwerka.

**Honor Roll**—Megan Bogue, Sydney Brown, Alexis Calarco, Emily Gonyea, Chad Green, Coltin Henry, Rick Hubbard, Connor Kaminski, Chad Kupfer, Travis Lambert, Kyle Schramm, Hannah Seppie, Kevin Smith, Peter Smith, Brandon Stefanski, Miriam Tardy, Hannah VanSkiver, Bryce Walker, Bryce Yockel, Braeden Zimmerman.

**Effort Roll**—Caitlin Ashton, Alexander Brumsted, Elizabeth Burlingame, Siomara Caballero, Hannah Catalino, Alexander Dean, Elizabeth Donnelly, Madison Farnsworth,

Kyle Foeller, Sara Fraser, Kelsey Fuller, Chad Green, Amaya Gunther, Zachary Hannan, Cambria Kinkelaar, Jillian Menzie, Auburn Schwartzmeyer, Chloe Shuskey, Annabella Vurraro, Nathan Zwerka.

### GRADE 9

**High Honor Roll**—Sarah Bleiler, Benjamin Bowman, Kolbi Brew, Lydia Campbell, Adam Drake, Mariah Fee, Leah Gale, Emma Goodman, Annaliese Hersom, William Johnson, Hunter Leach, Erin Parnapy, Sebastian Pawlukewicz, MacKenzie Rosse, Brianna Shade.

**Honor Roll**—Stephanie Buell, Ryan Cooper, Anthony DiQuattro, Jared Fregoe, Tabitha Fuller, Donna Hinckley, Rebecca Johnson, Janae Meister, Emma Smith, Wade Thompson, Kyong-ae Yun.

**Effort Roll**—Sarah Bleiler, Benjamin Bowman, Kolbi Brew, Lydia Campbell, Cole Carlson, Adam Drake, Mariah Fee, Jared Fregoe, Leah Gale, Emma Goodman, Annaliese Hersom, William Johnson, Hunter Leach, Janae Meister, Erin Parnapy, Sebastian Pawlukewicz, MacKenzie Rosse, Brianna Shade, Wade Thompson, Shawn Turner.

### GRADE 10

**High Honor Roll**—Larissa Ashton, Cameron Brumsted, Catherine Brumsted, Lauren Burke, Benjamin Chaback, Quinn Chapell, Brionna DeMichel, Jean Denson, Timothy Ellsworth, Morgan Fuller, Margaret Graney, Justin Hannan, Tyler Henry, Hayley Hoehn, Brian Ireland, Daniel Jensen, Melanie Kulikowski, Peyton Mackey, Lily Mercovich, Makenzie Muoio, Joshua Phelps, Austin Sharpe, Leah Thompson, Dana VanValkenburg, Esther Wilkins.

**Honor Roll**—Jennifer Brew, Jacob Burlingame, Ethan Green, Alyssa Hing, Brendon Kendall, Nathan Knickerbocker, Shaun LoVerdi, Julia Menzie, Dillon Montgomery, Chaderic Toal, Nicole Welka.

**Effort Roll**—Larissa Ashton, Cameron Brumsted, Lauren Burke, Benjamin Chaback, Quinn Chapell, Jean Denson, Morgan Fuller, Margaret Graney, Justin Hannan, Tyler Henry, Alyssa Hing, Hayley Hoehn, Brian Ireland, Daniel Jensen, Melanie Kulikowski, Peyton Mackey, Lily Mercovich, Makenzie Muoio, Joshua Phelps, Garrett Sando, Austin Sharpe, Leah Thompson, Dana VanValkenburg.

### GRADE 11

**High Honor Roll**—Dominick Andres, Olivia Audsley, Rose Bower, Lindsey Bowman, Dillon Brew, Brandon Burke, Grace Campbell, Reanne Dressler, Marlaina Fee, Mackenzie Fox, Clare Fraser, Hailey Hubbard, Alexandria Loewke, Kelsey Maurer, Celia Mercovich, Colin Noeth, Grace Pulcini, Brittany Rada, Karson Richenberg, Brandon Shade, Tyler Stefanski, Adam Walter, Michael Zwerka.

**Honor Roll**—Kerri Bates, Michaela Bohn, Derek Cooper, Russell Cunningham, Chase Felton, Ryan Gonyea, Jenica Hickey, Kitana Maher, Shawn Merry, Ryan Richardson, Avery Ridder, Mary Sweeney, Victoria Welka.

**Effort Roll**—Dominick Andres, Olivia Audsley, Rose Bower, Lindsey Bowman, Dillon Brew, Brandon Burke, Russell Cunningham, Reanne Dressler, Clare Fraser, Ryan Gonyea, Jessica Holley, Hailey Hubbard, Alexandria Loewke, Kitana Maher, Kelsey Maurer, Celia Mercovich, Shawn Merry, Colin Noeth, Brittany Rada, Karson Richenberg, Avery Ridder, Brandon Shade, Adam Walter, Michael Zwerka.

### GRADE 12

**High Honor Roll**—Merrisa Bohn, Aaron Buckland, Leah Catalino, Heather Countryman, Jeremiah DeLorme, Samantha Donnelly, Bethany Ezard, Rider Farnsworth, Aaries Fitzsimmons, Brittany Goebel, Julia Hahn, Kaitlyn Harder, Ana Hubbard, Cora Ivison, Ryan Jensen, Tyler Kota, Allison Kropf, Thomas Lambert, Taylor McPherson, Joelle Meister, Ashley Montgomery, Allie Moyer, Alexandria Rosse, Alexa Strzelecki.

**Honor Roll**—Alicyn Bizari, Celeste Brownell, Bryanna D'Agostino, Andrew DiQuattro, Matthew Drake, Kyle Elliott, Matthew Foeller, Lauren Graney, Ethan Hall, Lindsay Ladley, Kyle Lewis, Vitorrio Muoio, Courtney Onderdonk, Jacob Petote, Jacob Prospero, Brandon Reiner, Colby Savage, Jordan Sloat, Aurora Zinter.

**Effort Roll**—Alicyn Bizari, Merrisa Bohn, Aaron Buckland, Leah Catalino, Heather Countryman, Jeremiah DeLorme, Matthew Drake, Bethany Ezard, Rider Farnsworth, Aaries Fitzsimmons, Brittany Goebel, Lauren Graney, Julia Hahn, Kaitlyn Harder, Ana Hubbard, Cora Ivison, Ryan Jensen, Tyler Kota, Allison Kropf, Thomas Lambert, Taylor McPherson, Joelle Meister, Ashley Montgomery, Allie Moyer, Brandon Reiner, Alexandria Rosse, Jordan Sloat, Alexa Strzelecki, Dakota Zambito.







## Spelling Bee winner named

Sixth-grader Elli Schelemanow bested 22 other participants in the annual Robert Fowler/Byron-Bergen Grades 6-8 and *Buffalo Evening News* Spelling Bee held on Dec. 22, 2015. Schelemanow now represents Byron-Bergen in the run for regional representation at The Scripps National Spelling Bee. Up next for her was a written test in early February to determine her eligibility for the regional spelling bee. That competition, The Western New York Oral Final, will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

Runners-up this year are Byron-Bergen seventh-grader Joshua Swapceinski and eighth-grader Garrett Swinter. The competition put all the students through their paces, with eight challenging rounds and scores of demanding words before a champion emerged. The competition was moderated by teacher Andrew McNeil; with instructors Charlene Kelly, Laurie Penepent, and Diana Walther acting as judges.

Byron-Bergen's exceptional spelling contestants:

- Grade 6: Corey Abdella, Madison Burke, Sadie Cook, Grace Huhn, Elli Schelemanow, Alex Toal, Ella Van Valkenburg, Hallie Wade, and Corden Zimmerman.
- Grade 7: Julietta Doyle, Josh Fleming, Gavin Lewis, John Mercovich, Alaura Rehwaldt, Sarah Streeter, and Josh Swapceinski.

- Grade 8: Siomara Caballero, Alex Dean, Cambria Kinkelaar, Ethan Ray, Garrett Swinter, Justice Towne, and Grant Williams.

Byron-Bergen's Jr./Sr. High School Interim Principal Patrick McGee congratulated Schelemanow, Swapceinski, Swinter, and all the participants. "Our schools are proud to have Elli represent us, and I'm confident she will do a great job," he said. "All our kids did impressive work with very difficult spelling challenges." McGee also wished to thank all the teachers for their support, "especially Jason Blom, Elizabeth Findlay, and the sixth-grade team."



*Robert Fowler/  
Byron-Bergen Grades  
6-8 and Buffalo  
Evening News  
Spelling Bee (l-r)  
runner-up Garrett  
Swinter, Bee  
champion Elli  
Schelemanow, and  
runner-up Joshua  
Swapceinski.*

## Around the world with some very smart Byron-Bergen Bees

This year's National Geographic Society Geography Bees for grades 7 and 8, and grades 4-6 were held on Jan. 7, 2016. All of the participants qualified after high scores on written tests taken in December.

At the Junior High, our top performers were—**Grade 8:** Caitlin Ashton, Siomara Caballero, Alex Dean, Kyle Foeller, Sara Fraser, Coltin Henry, Connor Kaminski, Cambria Kinkelaar, Garrett Swinter, Justice Towne, Hannah Van Skiver, Abby Vurraro, and Grant Williams.

**Grade 7:** Nick Baubie, Ricky Denson, Josh Fleming, Colby Leggo, John Mercovich, Isaiah Merrell, Zechariah Merrell, Andrew Parnapy, Deacon Smith, and Josh Swapceinski.

The smartest Bees on our side of the globe were Ricky Denson and Alex Dean, who competed in the Championship Round. Denson was able to answer all

three final questions correctly and was declared the Jr. High School Geography Bee Champion. He was awarded a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. As the runner-up, Dean received a \$15 Amazon.com gift card.



*(l-r) Jr. High Geography Bee  
Champion Ricky Denson, Ken  
Gropp, and runner-up Alex Dean*

The next step for Denson will be a written test. If his score is one of the 100 highest in the State, he will be invited to take part in the New York State Bee. State winners compete in the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C., hosted by Alex Trebeck from the "Jeopardy" TV show.

At the Elementary School, we had many outstanding competitors: Jared Barnum, Dayanara Caballero, Cameron Carlson, Caris Carlson, Braedyn Chambry, Sadie Cook, Evan Cuba, Gianni Ferrara, Emily Henry, Frank Hersom, Grace Huhn, Brooke Jarkiewicz, Ryan Muscarella, Stephanie Onderdonk, Madelynn Pimm, Elizabeth Piper, Carter Prinzi, Elli Schelemanow, Grace Shepard, Ella VanValkenburg, Alexandra Vurraro, Dawson Young, Corden Zimmerman, and Nicholas Zwerka. *(continued on p. 10)*



(continued from p. 9)

## Around the world with some very smart Byron-Bergen Bees

Our 2016 Champion, Corden Zimmerman, a sixth-grader, will also be taking a written exam in hopes of qualifying for the State competition. Best of luck Corden! Runner-up fifth-grader Cameron Carlson also did a great job. We're very proud of all our clever Bees.

Finally, a big thanks to our judges, moderators and coordinators. At the

Elementary School: Judges Craig Schroth, Erin Varley, and Liz Findlay; moderator Rick Merritt; and Bee Coordinator Ken Rogoyski. At the Jr. High School: Judges Rob Kaercher, Matt Walther, and Bryan Kavanaugh; moderator Debbie Slocum; event coordinator Ken Gropp; and Interim Dean of Students Aaron Clark.



*Elementary School Geography Bee Champion Corden Zimmerman*

## Elementary School News

*By Brian Meister, Principal*

On behalf of Byron-Bergen Elementary School, I would like to wish all of our families, friends, and community members a Happy New Year. This year has already been filled with many exciting and meaningful learning experiences as we continue to *challenge, engage, and nurture*.

Literacy continues to be of paramount importance here at Byron-Bergen Elementary. We want to foster children's love of reading and make it a lifelong pursuit. To reinforce this, we held our now third-annual Celebration of Reading this past November. This year's celebration centered on a farm theme in support of the strong agricultural ties we have within our community. Children and staff dressed in their favorite farmer or farm animal costumes and hit the stage to build excitement for the challenge ahead. Students laughed and cheered as teachers and their principals got "crazy" about books. Throughout the rest of the day, the entire school was immersed in books, reading, and storytelling. The day was complete when we set our reading goal for the year. Twenty-five thousand books you wonder? Our kids can do it.

Coming off an amazing year where our District was recognized as a New York State District of Character, our students and staff remain committed to maintaining high standards when it comes to positive behavior. This year's theme at the Elementary School is, "Filling Buckets One Student at a Time." The phrase is a reference from Carol McCloud's award-winning book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" According to the book, "bucket fillers" say and do nice things and help fill people's emotional buckets with positive feelings, while "bucket dippers" treat others hurtfully and leave them feeling sad and empty.



*Clean water can change the world, and we are doing our part to help. Principal Meister with a few of our young activists: Brody Baubie, Trevor Beale, Braedyn Chambry, Tyler Chapman, Colin Martin, Brendan Pimm, Ashley Schlenker-Stephens, and Sawyer Zinter.*

Throughout this year we have spent time teaching students how to treat others with kindness and to thoughtfully make an effort to make someone else's day brighter. The result has been tremendous with the students and staff expanding their influence globally with two large service learning projects.

In October, our students and staff organized and planned Socktober. In preparation for a cold winter, our students collected socks to donate to families in need. We were thrilled to find that our goal of 500 socks was easily accomplished with the generous donations of more than 700 warm pairs of socks. In the process, the students learned about the very real existence of poverty and how the loss of basic needs can negatively impact families and children.

Our most recent service learning project is taking our students across the globe to learn about the impact of low or poor water access. The Ugandan Water Project is a humanitarian organization headquartered in Bloomfield, New York, that works with communities in Africa to provide safe, accessible drinking water. After learning how precious water is to children and families in Uganda, our school community took on the challenge to help raise funds to install a rainwater collection system at a school there. The system will serve a community of almost 400 people for up to 35 years. Byron-Bergen students will change lives.

As always, I would like to thank our community, parents, and friends for their continued support of our school. Contact me at 494-1220 ext. 1005, or email [bmeister@bbschools.org](mailto:bmeister@bbschools.org).





## 2016-17 Universal Prekindergarten

The Byron-Bergen School District plans to once again offer a half-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program for the 2016-17 school year. The classes will be held at the Byron-Bergen Elementary School, located at 6971 West Bergen Road, Bergen, New York 14416.

Students eligible for the program must turn 4 years of age by Dec. 1, 2016. If you have an eligible child and are interested in having him/her attend our UPK program, please send a letter of interest with your child's name, parents' names, address, phone number, and birth date to: Elementary School Principal Brian Meister, 6971 West Bergen Rd., Bergen, New York 14416, by Friday, April 8, 2016. Parents who have already contacted the Elementary School by phone still need to send a letter to be eligible for UPK. Please note that if we receive more applications than our allowed capacity, we will select students using a lottery system.

### What are the program goals of UPK at Byron-Bergen?

- To meet the NYS learning standards by using a curriculum that is thematically-based and supported using literature, songs, and exploration.
- To foster an environment that promotes happy, confident children who are willing to take risks, make independent choices, and ask questions.
- To create an inclusive community that builds upon a student's strengths and accommodates his/her needs.

### Philosophy of UPK

The UPK program at Byron-Bergen is focused on socialization, and learning through play and self-exploration. Children learn in a hands-on learning environment, which includes activities, learning centers, concrete materials, and manipulatives. The learning environment is also nurturing, enriching, challenging, and developmentally appropriate.



## 2016-17 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years of age, on or before Dec. 1, 2016, are eligible for entrance to kindergarten in September of 2016. New families in the school district should notify the school as soon as possible if they have a child who is qualified to enter kindergarten this fall.

Please contact the Byron-Bergen Elementary School Office by calling Becky Kelly at 494-1220, ext. 1301. Parents can send the required registration information (see list below) to the Byron-Bergen Elementary School, 6971 West Bergen Road, Bergen, New York 14416.

All children registering for kindergarten will be scheduled for a screening appointment this summer. The results of this screening will be used to plan for the 2016-17 kindergarten program.

### The following items are necessary to complete the registration process:

- 1. Your child's Birth Certificate.**
- 2. Certificate of Immunization**—New York State law requires that every child entering school must have received a minimum of three doses of diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine (DPT) and three doses of polio (IPV) vaccine. It is also mandated that each child must have received one MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and a second dose by age 7; three doses of Hepatitis B; and one dose of varicella (chickenpox), and a second dose by age 7. Those children born on or after Jan. 1, 2008, must have four doses of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV). Their immunizations must be completed prior to entering school.
- 3. Proof of Residency**—If this is the first time you have a child entering Byron-Bergen CSD, please bring proof of residency to your screening appointment. This can be a copy of your mortgage statement, rental/lease agreement or a copy of your tax bill.

### For more information or to register your child, please contact:

Becky Kelly, Elementary School Secretary  
(585) 494-1220 ext. 1301

### Information may also be sent to:

Byron-Bergen Elementary School  
6971 West Bergen Road  
Bergen, New York 14416



## Athletic Department Highlights

At the end of each sport season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) honors those teams that excel in the classroom. To receive this honor, a minimum number of team members must achieve a scholastic average of 90 or above during their sport season. Congratulations to the following Byron-Bergen athletes:

<b>Girls Cross Country</b>	<b>Girls Volleyball</b>
<b>92.508 team average</b>	<b>95.550 team average</b>
Siomara Caballero	Catherine Brumsted
Reanne Dressler	Lauren Burke
Emily Gonyea	Leah Catalino
Anna Hersom	Bethany Ezard
Alexandria Loewke	Madison Farnsworth
Ashley Montgomery	Kaitlyn Harder
Brittney Rada	Cora Iverson
	Joelle Meister
	Alexa Strzelecki

<b>Girls Soccer</b>
<b>92.186 team average</b>
Melissa MacCowan
Morgan Fuller
Makenzie Muoio
Kelsey Fuller
Hailey Hubbard
Grace Campbell
Karson Richenberg
Leah Thompson
Alexandria Rosse
Allison Kropf
Olivia Audsley
Kelsey Maurer

**Individual varsity athletes carrying over a 90 grade point average (GPA):**

<b>Boys Cross Country</b>	<b>Boys Soccer</b>
Kolbi Brew	Brandon Burke
Aaron Buckland	Matt Drake
Justin Hannan	Chase Felton
Zach Hannan	Jordan Miller

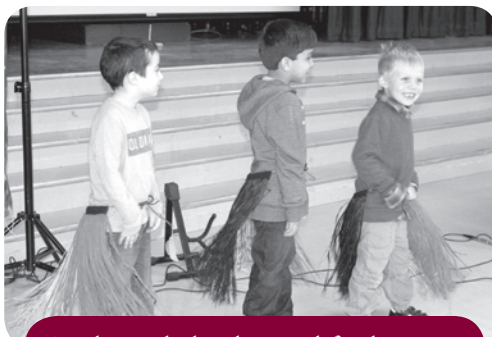
<b>Football</b>
Cameron Brumsted
Rider Farnsworth
Thomas Lambert
Adam Walter

## We have the power to change the world

Students at Byron-Bergen Elementary School recently hosted representatives from the Ugandan Water Project. A humanitarian organization headquartered in Bloomfield, N.Y., it works with communities in Africa to provide safe, accessible drinking water. The assembly began with joyful Ugandan folk music played by the Project's Executive Director James Harrington, and a chance for children to try out traditional dance steps. Students then experienced what it is like to try to carry a 40- to 50-pound container of water—a task faced by many Ugandan children who live over an hour from their water source. Harrington then spoke about their water projects, over 250 currently, and demonstrated how something as simple as a small filter can make unsanitary water safe to drink.



*Students try to imagine carrying heavy containers of water over long distances. Many Ugandan children their age face this daunting task every day.*



*Students shake their tail feathers as part of a traditional Ugandan dance.*

After learning how precious water is to children and families in Uganda, students took on the challenge to help raise funds to install a rainwater collection system at a school there. The system will serve a community of almost 400 people for up to 35 years. With their fundraising efforts, our students are helping to change lives. The connection between Byron-Bergen and Uganda began last year with a chance meeting between Harrington and third-grade teacher Lynnette Gall. Thanks to our Character Education Committee and teachers, the concept of water as a valuable resource has been incorporated into studies of world culture, geography, and science. Students are learning how water is used, where water comes from, about the water cycle, and the problems caused by unequal distribution of water around the world.

The Ugandan Water Project ([www.ugandanwaterproject.com](http://www.ugandanwaterproject.com)) works with over 200 communities in Uganda. Their water solutions include rainwater collection systems, well repair and water purification systems.

"It is just as important to us to help kids here in Byron-Bergen see how powerful they are; how every one of them is capable of changing the world, as it is to bring safe drinking water to villages in Uganda," said Harrington. "Our purpose is to help kids grow on both continents."



*Special water filters can purify otherwise undrinkable water. Students and their teachers join Ugandan Water Project Executive Director James Harrington in sampling clean, safe filtered water.*





## Harlem Globetrotter Zeus McClurkin wows young fans

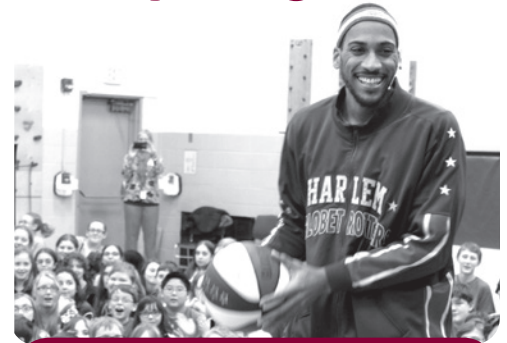
The special student/teacher jazz quintet played the familiar theme song "Sweet Georgia Brown." As Harlem Globetrotter Zeus McClurkin entered Byron-Bergen Elementary School's packed gymnasium on Jan. 28, hundreds of excited students burst into ground-shaking applause. The basketball superstar surprised everyone, including the band members, by skillfully taking over the drums to bring the Globetrotters' song to a show-stopping finale. "In my two years with the Harlem Globetrotters, this is the very first time I've had 'Sweet Georgia Brown' played live," said an impressed McClurkin. "I had to be part of it."

It was the first of many surprises during the visit. McClurkin visited the school to talk about CHEER™ for Character, the Globetrotters' character education program. The program targets young people and focuses on the character traits of cooperation, healthy mind and body, effort, enthusiasm, and responsibility. It was a perfect tie-in to the Byron-Bergen

Central School District's own emphasis on character building.

McClurkin shared a little of the Harlem Globetrotters 90-year history and his own personal story. Perseverance finally earned him a spot on his high school basketball team, after being passed over for years. He advised his youthful fans to never give up on their dreams. He shared that people often told him that he "smiled too much" and was "just too nice to succeed." Not so, he told his audience. Now he works for an organization that is all about helping people and promoting good humor and character, and he travels around the world doing it.

Students were treated to a demonstration of classic Globetrotters ball handling and slam dunks by McClurkin, who actually holds the Guinness World Record for most slam dunks in one minute (15). He invited volunteers to try a few signature moves, and in the process, proved they are not easy by any means.



*Harlem Globetrotter Zeus McClurkin encourages Byron-Bergen Elementary School students to value the character traits of cooperation, healthy mind and body, effort, enthusiasm, and responsibility.*

The Elementary School Student Council, the Byron-Bergen STEP Boosters, and teacher Ken Rogoyski arranged the Globetrotter's visit, with the support of the whole community. The band, directed by music teacher Bob Lancia, included students Angelique Heick and Corden Zimmerman, along with elementary school teacher Amber Taylor-Burns and high school teacher Kevin Bleiler.

## WNY Tech Academy News

By Tom Schulte, Principal



One of the critical goals of the WNY Tech Academy is to expose our students to as many work-based learning experiences as possible. Since our fall update in *Focal Point*, our tenth-grade team has spent time at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) learning about semiconductors. We welcomed Mike Guidash, the holder of 78 patents in the area of CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semiconductor) Image Sensors. If you have a camera on your cell phone, it is using at least one of his patents. We were also honored to host Paul Grefrath from Hunter's Landing who supported our team's physical education project on archery.

Through the efforts of Mariah LaSpina, our physical education teacher, we will be engaging in a collaborative research study with The College at Brockport. The focus will be on the development

of Student Designed Games (SDG) in a project-based learning setting. We are incredibly excited about this partnership. It not only supports our efforts to build engaging, collaborative, project-based learning experiences for our students, it will also allow the WNY Tech Academy to challenge new teachers to embrace the project-based learning model. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting work.

In our applied math course, teacher Joel May is wrapping up his projectile motion project which was designed collaboratively with LaSpina's archery project. As a final assessment, students will be expected to determine how high above the target bullseye they need to aim to allow gravity to move the arrow into the bullseye. An upcoming project will engage students in a study of wind energy.



*Our students learning about semiconductors at RIT's lab.*

Given that we have now moved into 2016, efforts are underway to identify our next cohort of students. I will be pushing into eighth-grade English classes in the coming weeks to speak to students about our program. If you know of a student who is interested in our program or wants more information, please contact me directly through email [tschulte@wnytechacademy.org](mailto:tschulte@wnytechacademy.org), or by phone at (585) 494-1220 ext. 3137. Information can also be obtained through the Jr./Sr. High School Counseling Office.



# SAVE THE DATE!

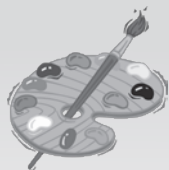
## The 2016 Buzzin' Bistro Jazz Night & Art Show

with guest artist **Johnny Cummings**

**Friday, April 22**

**6:30 p.m.**

**in the Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria**



*Sub Meals  
and light  
refreshments  
available for  
purchase.*

In addition to a performance by Johnny Cummings, the event will feature our Byron-Bergen Art Show along with performances by students in grades 5-12, faculty members, and community musicians.

*Sponsored by the Byron-Bergen Music Department,  
Art Department, & Music Boosters*

**Admission  
is  
FREE!**

## Pesticide Application Notice

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation enacted a program that requires all schools to provide you with information about pesticide product applications made throughout the school year. Under State law, the school is required to maintain a list of parents, guardians, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour advance written notice prior to a pesticide application. At this time we are informing you that there have been no applications of pesticides in the Byron-Bergen CSD since the last notification was published in the fall 2015 District newsletter *Focal Point*.

To register your name with the school to be on a 48-hour notification list, send a request to Byron-Bergen Central School District Office, 6917 W Bergen Rd., Bergen, NY 14416. A written request must be submitted annually.

## SUBSTITUTES WANTED



**Do you have an interest in helping Byron-Bergen CSD in the capacity of substitute teacher, substitute teacher aide, or substitute office aide?**

If so, please visit the employment section of our website at [www.bbschools.org](http://www.bbschools.org) and complete the non-instructional application (teacher aide or office aide), or instructional application (substitute teacher). Please submit the application (via mail or in person) to: P. Gunio - District Office, Byron-Bergen CSD, 6917 West Bergen Road, Bergen, NY 14416.

## Byron-Bergen ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Byron-Bergen Central School District is once again sponsoring an Alumni Hall of Fame, an initiative that started 12 years ago to provide our students with positive role models and to challenge their imaginations. The Hall of Fame recognizes the accomplishments of graduates of the Byron-Bergen School District or its component schools before consolidation.

The Hall of Fame is housed in the Jr./Sr. High School adjacent to the auditorium and consists of plaques honoring the inductees and their accomplishments. An induction ceremony and reception for new inductees will be held in the 2016-17 school year.

The nomination form (on page 15) should be returned to Patty Gunio, Secretary to the Superintendent, by the first Monday in April. Nominations will remain active for three years after submittal and nominees must have graduated at least 15 years ago. Up to four Hall of Fame inductees will be selected this year.

Consider nominating a worthy graduate of our system. By doing so, you honor the accomplishments of Byron-Bergen alumni and provide our students with positive role models through the personification of the outcomes provided by solid educational preparation.







Home of the Bees 15



## FOCAL POINT

### SUPERINTENDENT

Jon Hunter, Ed.D.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### EDITOR

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### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lisa Constantine

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Byron-Bergen Central School District  
Bergen, NY 14416

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## Byron-Bergen School District 2016 Voter Information

### Board of Education Petitions Available

Notice is hereby given to elect three members of the Board of Education to 3-year terms to begin on July 1, 2016 and expire on June 30, 2019 to succeed Yvonne Ace-Wagoner, Amy Philips and Jennifer VanValkenburg whose terms expire on June 30, 2016, and one member of the Board of Education to complete the 3-year term of Daniel Ireland, who resigned from the Board effective February 1, 2016, to begin on July 1, 2016 and expire on June 30, 2017.

To run for the Board of Education, you must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the District for 30 days preceding the vote, and at least 18 years of age. In order to be placed on the ballot, potential candidates must return a petition with a minimum of 25 signatures of District voters and return the petition to Jadwiga Syfert, District Clerk, by 3:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 19, 2016**. Petitions are available in the District Office and questions on this process can be directed to Ms. Syfert by calling 494-1220 ext. 2529.

### Absentee Ballots

Applications for absentee ballots will be available from the District Clerk on **Wednesday, April 20, 2016**. If an application needs to be mailed to the voter, the Clerk must receive the completed request form no later than 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10. Call (585) 494-1220 ext. 2529 with questions.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016**

Draft Budget reviewed with public input opportunity

**TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016**

Board Candidate Petitions due to the  
District Clerk by 3:30 p.m.

**APRIL, 2016**

**FINAL DRAFT BUDGET PRESENTED TO THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR ADOPTION**

Date and location to be announced.

**APRIL-MAY 2016**

Budget presentations to public groups.

**MAY 2016**

**PUBLIC BUDGET PRESENTATION AND  
MEET THE BOARD CANDIDATES**

Date and location to be announced.

**TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016**

**BUDGET AND PROPOSITION VOTE, AND  
BOARD CANDIDATE ELECTION**

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

High School Wrestling/Fitness Room

**Visit the B-B webpage to take the  
2016-17 Budget Development Survey**