

The Hive



Newsletter of the Forestville Central School District

Superintendent's Winter Update:

Capital Project, Budget Planning, and Academic Focus

Dear Forestville School Community,

As we embrace the winter season, I want to take a moment to update you on the latest developments in our school district and the exciting initiatives we have in store for 2024.

Capital Project Priorities:

Addressing the ongoing needs of our school facilities is a top priority for us. To ensure we are addressing the right priorities, we've engaged our school community in discussions about a capital project. The committee, comprising faculty, staff, board members, and community representatives, has diligently assessed our buildings' needs. We're pleased to share that we are working towards an \$11,875,000 project without any additional taxes for our community. All related documents, including meeting details, can be accessed on our website under the "District" tab.

Budget Planning:

Kerrie Pelletter, our School Business Executive, and I are actively collaborating with various departments to shape next year's budget. Our efforts extend beyond internal discussions; we are also working closely with local and Albany officials to understand and enhance our revenue picture. This comprehensive approach aims to address the needs of our students, faculty, and staff while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our school community.

Academic and Social-Emotional Focus:

Although there are many exciting things happening in our district that relate to curriculum and social emotional needs of students, I want highlight a few of them. Our dedicated elementary school faculty is immersed in implementing new reading series and crafting interventions to support our students. Simultaneously, the middle/high school faculty is actively engaged in department meetings, ensuring a cohesive alignment of curriculum. These collective efforts underscore our commitment to fostering the needs of our students.

Continued on page 2



The Hive - Newsletter of the Forestville Central School District

As we approach spring, stay tuned for more detailed newsletters on the capital project and school budget, leading up to the voting date on Tuesday, May 21st. Your continued support is invaluable, and I encourage you to reach out with any questions or comments at joconnor@forestville.com.

Thank you for being an essential part of our school community.

Sincerely,

John O'Connor, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Forestville School District

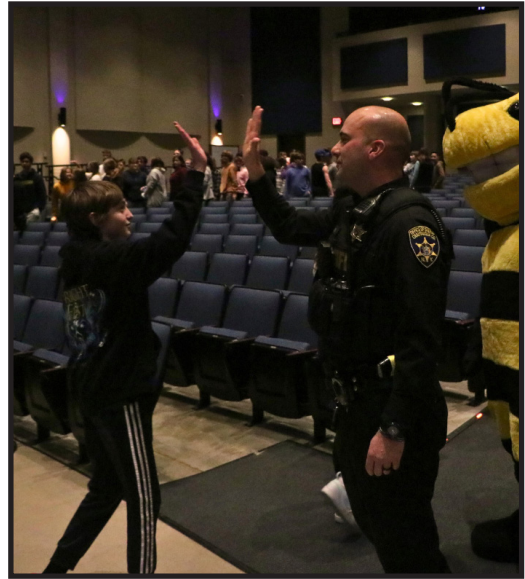
Friendly Faces Around Forestville



Congratulations Deputy Hanner

Forestville Central School District held an assembly to recognize their school's School Resource Officer, Deputy Brian Hanner. The middle and high school students gathered to celebrate Deputy Hanner being awarded the School Resource Officer of the Year by the New York Sheriff's Institute. This is the first time this award was presented in New York State.

Deputy Brian Hanner, School Resource Officer of Forestville Central School District, was honored with the prestigious School Resource Officer of the Year Award: The Sheriff Ronald Spike School Resource Officer of the Year. The award, established in 2023, was presented for the first time by the New York Sheriff's Institute at the 2024 Annual Winter Training Conference in Albany. The School Resource Officer of the Year Award recognizes a sworn school resource officer in New York State who has demonstrated exceptional valor or made a significant contribution to the advancement of education at either the elementary or high school level.



"I am extremely honored and humbled to receive the first-ever Sheriff Ronald G. Spike Award for School Resource Officer of the Year. Learning that Sheriff Spike is highly respected and has been a mentor to our very own Sheriff, Sheriff Quattrone, makes receiving the Ronald G. Spike SRO of the Year Award that much more of an honor," said Deputy Hanner. "I cannot thank Forestville Central School's Board of Education enough for their continued support, along with Superintendent Dr. John O'Connor and Principals Dan Grande and Shauna McMahon. I look forward to continuing to be Forestville's School Resource Officer for years to come."

Dr. John O'Connor, Superintendent of Forestville Central School District, commented, "Deputy Hanner has enhanced our district's security and exceptional personal connections with students, staff, and the community, which have been commendable. His dedication and commitment to fostering relationships with everyone have truly set him apart. His efforts have not only made our school safer but have also contributed significantly to the positive atmosphere within our community,"

The New York State Sheriffs Institute (NYSSI) is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1979. It comprises all the Sheriffs of New York State. The NYSSI bridges community and law enforcement by fostering positive relationships with our state's youth, supporting crime victims, and providing the latest training and education to officers to help keep people safe.

A Letter from Principal McMahon



Dear Forestville Elementary School Families and Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and cozy as we embrace the winter season at Forestville Elementary School. Here are some exciting updates on the wonderful happenings in our school:

1. **Literacy Training with LETRS:** Our dedicated teachers have been immersed in valuable literacy training through LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling). This program equips our educators with the latest strategies to enhance literacy instruction. We're thrilled to see the positive impact on our students' reading and writing skills.
2. **Intervention Services in Action:** Forestville Elementary is committed to providing personalized support for each student. Our intervention services are in full swing, ensuring that each child receives the assistance they need to thrive academically. Our Title 1 services for Reading and Math are helping students to make growth and build confidence.
3. **Appreciating Deputy Hanner:** On Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, our students came together to express gratitude to Deputy Hanner, who plays a crucial role in keeping our school community safe. The students showcased their artistic talents by creating a colorful banner as a heartfelt gesture of appreciation. Thank you, Deputy Hanner, for your dedicated service!
4. **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS):** Our staff has been carrying on exceptional work in implementing PBIS, fostering a positive and respectful school environment. Students are earning Hornet Bucks for demonstrating qualities of respect, responsibility, safety, and kindness in all areas of the school. We are proud to witness our students embody these values.
5. **Dismissal Procedures:** I'm delighted to share the fantastic news about our dismissal process at Forestville Elementary School! Thanks to the exceptional dedication of our office staff and the vigilant efforts of our floater monitor aides, students are now being dismissed to parents quicker than ever before. The efficiency and smooth operation of our dismissal process are a testament to the hard work and commitment of our team. We understand the importance of a seamless transition from school to home, and I'm thrilled to witness the positive impact our collective efforts have had on this crucial aspect of our school day. A big thank you to everyone involved in making our dismissal process a resounding success!

As we navigate through the winter months, let's continue to support each other and celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. Your involvement and partnership are invaluable to the success of Forestville Elementary School.

Wishing you warmth, joy, and a fantastic winter season!

Warm regards,

Shauna McMahon
Principal
Forestville Elementary

Elementary Updates

Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

Students who will be age four (for Pre-K) by December 1, 2024 can sign up for our UPK program. Students who will be age five (for kindergarten) by December 1, 2024 can sign up for our Kindergarten program. Please contact the main office at (716) 965-2742 or email Elementary Office Secretary Brenda Schneider at bschneider@forestville.com for further information. A packet needs to be completed in full in order to register.

Our Kindergarten Informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2024. The UPK Orientation will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024. It is important to register for UPK early, as the program does fill. When we exceed 18 UPK student registrants, those exceeding that number will be placed on a waiting list.

School Messenger All Call & Text Notifications

Forestville Central School District uses several reliable methods to communicate important information in a timely fashion to parents and other members of the community. Our first mode of communication will be our automated calling system. This system automatically calls all parents of students within the district and staff members, notifying them of closings/cancellations. The system will also be used whenever there is an important announcement from the district.

If you want to receive text message notifications, send a text message to 67587. When you receive a confirmation message, respond with a Y.

To be added to the All Call list to receive automated phone calls, please call the District Office 716-965-6539 or email Kristin Irwin at kirwin@forestville.com.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



A Letter from Principal Grande:

Celebrating Progress, Looking to the Future



Hello Forestville Central School District Families,

As we find ourselves at the midpoint of the school year, I'm thrilled to share the tremendous progress and achievements within our close-knit community.

Celebrating a Successful Midpoint:

We've reached the halfway mark of the school year, and I'm delighted to report that things have been going well. Academic achievements, student successes, and the vibrant school spirit are making this academic year truly special.

Footloose - The Musical:

Get ready to kick off your Sunday shoes! Our students are dedicating themselves to daily rehearsals with Mr. Prinzi for the upcoming musical, "Footloose." This classic story follows the actions of Ren McCormack, a teenager who moves to a small town where dancing is banned. Ren challenges the conservative views of the community and leads a movement to lift the dance ban. It's a lively mix of drama, romance, and, of course, dance.

Mark your calendars for March 21st to the 23rd, and be prepared for a spectacular show filled with talent and enthusiasm.

Rising Scholars on the Horizon:

Let's give a round of applause for about a dozen juniors who have completed their high school coursework in English and seamlessly transitioned to JCC college coursework. Their commitment to advanced studies is commendable and aligns with our commitment to fostering academic excellence.

Charting Paths for the Future: Course Selections Ahead:

As we approach spring, it's time to have those crucial conversations about course selections for the 2024-25 school year. We offer a diverse array of courses in almost every subject area, including opportunities for advanced placement and JCC college-level classes. Parents, let's encourage our students to explore these challenging avenues for their academic growth.

Solar Eclipse on April 8th: A Rare Celestial Event:

Mark your calendars for another celestial event! On April 8th, a solar eclipse will occur. This rare and special event offers a unique opportunity for our students to witness the beauty of the cosmos. The school district is committed to the safety of our students and will provide special viewing glasses for all students to ensure their well-being during this extraordinary occurrence.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Upcoming State Assessments for 7th and 8th Grade:

In April and May, our 7th and 8th grade students will participate in the English, Math, and Science (grade 8 only) State assessments. Informational letters detailing the specifics of these assessments will be sent home sometime in March. Your support in preparing our students for these important assessments is greatly appreciated.

Gratitude for a Supportive Community:

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our parents and community members for their unwavering support. As we gear up for Regents exams and graduation, your continued involvement is invaluable. Together, we've built a community that thrives on collaboration and shared dedication to our students' success.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's finish this school year strong!

Warm regards,

Mr. Daniel J. Grande
Principal
Forestville Middle/High School

The Polar Bear English 12 Class Returns

Braving the elements, this year's English 12 class took it outdoors on January 10. Here they are after completing a reading of various summertime poetry in some quite chilly temperatures. Sometimes literary warmth is the best medicine against winter.

Poets from left to right: Nick Fetterick, Michael Thornton, Mason Tenamore, Jordyn Heidel, Mikayla Vezina, Piper Miller-Shifflett.



Reading Sparks Novel Ideas

Our 7th and 8th grade students have been working really hard to show what they have learned from reading our novels! Students really dove in, creating writing pieces and art pieces expressing the world issues and emotions that stuck with them from their reading!

7th graders read *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park. These students learned about tribal traditions, war in Sudan, severe need for clean water, and the perseverance to never give up. (As seen daily in our students!)

Our 8th graders read *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick. These students learned about Morquio Syndrome, Gigantism, loss, bullying, love, and most importantly, friendship. The emotional response given by the students on our last day of reading showed the true compassion and empathy each and every student carries within them.

And last but not least, 8th grade also tackled a pretty famous and seriously hard writer named William Shakespeare! They read their way through *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, acting out parts and reading through this difficult language with ease! I could not have been more proud, and bragged more, that these 8th graders accomplished such a challenging play!

Students showed not only resilience throughout the play, but also that they learned a difficult language, about the plague, about Shakespeare's life, and that they are extremely intelligent! I could not be more proud of the Forestville Middle School students, expressing their love for reading, writing, and the power of books!



7th Grade Seminar



This year in Seminar, 7th graders are learning about stress and time management, and implementing these skills into Outdoor Survival. Students learned important skills such as S.T.O.P and the 4-7-8 breathing techniques that can be used in everyday life, but also if ever lost in the wilderness. While studying equipment, students learned about the importance of knots and paracord. Students then completed a project where they made their own paracord bracelets and keychains, and knotted them off! Next, students will be constructing their own compass as well as a mini shelter! There will be much more to come!





Art Field Trip

On December 8th, 2023, Mrs. Britz took 17 high school art students, from Independent Study, Painting and Drawing, and Graphic Design, on a field trip to SUNY Fredonia. They viewed the senior art show in the gallery. They listened to the students talk about their work and were able to ask the artists questions. They then toured the ceramics studios, the Visual Arts and New Media rooms, and the theater design area including the costume shop. The Forestville students participated in a cyanotype workshop creating “sun photos”. They were treated to lunch with the gallery director.

They will be traveling to the new AKG (Albright-Knox Art Gallery) in the spring.



Congratulations to our Senior Athletes

Boys Varsity Basketball

David Barrett
Connor Connolly
Ethan Ecker
Nicholas Fetterick
Benjamin Mescall
Jackson Rebmann



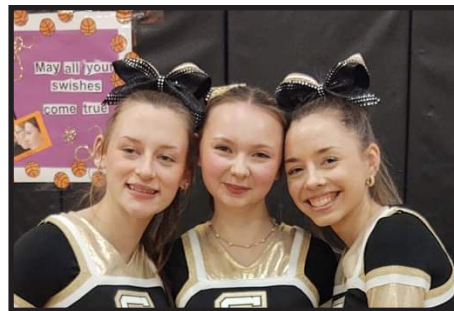
Girls Varsity Basketball

Jillian Grupa
Autumn Whitcomb



Competitive Cheer

Ruthie Butcher
Sophia Drozdziel
Kaytlynn Franklin



Boys Varsity Swim

David Barrett
Matthew Dunn



Congratulations, Girls Wrestler Leah Waite

Leah has a 18-6 record. She is currently ranked 2nd in Section VI - 107lb weight class.

2023-2024 Season Accomplishments:

- 1st place Eden Tournament
- 1st place Gowanda Tournament
- 2nd place North Tonawanda Tournament
- 2nd place Linda Knutilla Memorial Tournament
- 4th place Dame of Thrones Tournament
- 2-2 record at 2023 NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling State Invitational
- Participant at 2024 NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling State Invitational



Forestville Central School District
4 Academy Street
Forestville, NY 14062

Elementary School - 12 Water St.
Middle/High School - 4 Academy St.
Forestville, NY 14062

Board of Education

Amy Drozdziel, President 716-467-7694
Andrea Spengler, Vice President 716-725-4978
Derek Case 716-785-8959
Jamie Gruber 716-785-7876
Jamie Hebner 716-785-8149
Michelle Merritt 716-467-2469
Lindsey Ellis 716-338-8292

Central Administration

John O'Connor, Superintendent 716-965-6539
Kristin Irwin, Superintendent Secretary/District Clerk
716-965-6539
Kerriann Pelletier, School Business Executive
716-965-6533
James Knoop, Director of Facilities 716-965-6531
Sarah LoManto, Cafeteria Manager 716-965-6530
Wesley Wright, Director of Technology &
Communications 716-965-6565
Kris Richter, Head Bus Driver 716-965-6550

Secondary School 716-965-2711

Daniel Grande, Middle/High School Principal
Melody Voigt, Middle/High School Secretary
Brianne Hazelton, School Counselor
Heather Jackson, School Counselor Secretary
Melissa Press, Technology Integration Specialist
Ashley Cross, School Nurse

Elementary School 716-965-2742

Shauna McMahon, Elementary Principal
Brenda Schneider, Elementary Secretary
Carla Wienke, CSE and CPSE Chairperson/School
Psychologist
Christine Bowker, CSE and CPSE Secretary
Nadine Donovan, School Nurse



Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

March 14, 2024

Budget Workshop 5:40 p.m.

Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

April 16, 2024

Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

May 9, 2024

Budget Hearing 5:40 p.m.

Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.