

Forestville

Forestville Central School District Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 1

Ringin In A New School Year

September is a time to ring in the new school year! As part of the Annual Bell Ringing Ceremony, students, staff, parents and administration gather on the front lawn of the Middle School/High School. Students are inspired by the Senior Class President, Caroline Kaicher, to do their best! Words of wisdom are also shared with all by Mr. Grande, MS/HS Principal, Mrs. Garrett, Superintendent, and Mrs. Woodward, Board of Education, President. Our seniors are reminded that the first day of school marks the first of many lasts.

As the band plays the school alma mater, the words highlight how important our beloved bell is. It is so fitting that the song reminds students, "The old bell is just a token of classes gone before tis' a mem'ry of words well spoken in the days that are no more."

The ceremony is then concluded with the senior class officers ringing the school bell. This is met with loud cheers from the student body. Amy Drozdziel, Board of Education, Vice President, notes, "The bell ringing ceremony is a long-standing tradition that brings the students together in a positive setting at the beginning of each school year to remind them that we are all in this together."

Our school history is so important to all of us. The bell is an integral part of that history. Our Superintendent, Renee Garrett remarks, "Forestville is steeped in tradition and has a rich history. It is vital that we continue to save and honor that history." The school bell was dedicated to Agnes Howard in September of 2014. The plaque reads, "This Bell Tower is dedicated to Agnes B. Howard 1916-2014 in grateful recognition of a life well lived and a legacy worthy of remembering. Thank you for your commitment to our school."

Agnes Howard graduated from the former Forestville Free Academy and High School in 1933. In 1936, she became the first Secretary to the Principal that Forestville ever had. In 1946, her job included Clerk of the Board of Education. Mrs. Howard retired from Forestville Central in 2006 at the age of 90. Anyone that knows Agnes remembers how she appreciated school history. She served as the Historian of the Forestville Central School Alumni Association.

Truth be told, Mrs. Howard saved the Forestville Central Bell. This 172 year-old relic was slated to be destroyed, until Agnes intervened. She realized what most had forgotten, the ladies of the village purchased the school bell in 1845. This bell was used on a daily basis to remind the children that school was starting. These days, the bell is used as part of several rites of passage for all Forestville students (opening day, alumni banquet, and graduation). Thanks to Agnes B. Howard, the school bell will forever be a part of our school history.



Top Photo: Class of 2018 Officers (Alison Mierzwa, Makenzie Press, Evan Weaver, Ben Gould, and Caroline Kaicher)

Center Photo: Agnes Howard

Bottom Photo: Bell tower photo, circa 1934



Excellence in Education

Superintendent's Message



Renee Garrett
Superintendent

Welcome back to school!

We are so excited to begin the 2017-2018 school year! It takes an entire team – principals, buildings and grounds staff, bus drivers, teachers, clerical, floater monitor aides, cafeteria staff – working together to help students succeed. In the weeks leading up to the start of school, our teams prepared our facilities and received training so we can best support our families and students. We are proud to have such a caring and committed staff.

We have had a lot of positive feedback about our newly designed district calendar. I hope you enjoy our newly designed newsletter too. Redesigning these two pieces of communication is essential for several reasons. We know the importance of keeping you informed. We are really working hard to best represent Forestville. If you feel at any time you need more information, have a question or comment, please reach out to us and let us know your need.

We also appreciate the positive feedback regarding our facilities upgrades. We want to make sure our facilities are being well taken care of. We are working on a long-range plan that will address the needs of our facilities over time. Once that plan is complete we will use it as a guide in taking care of our facilities. We are taking a thoughtful approach to working on the areas of our facilities that are in most need first. Mr. Hart, our Director of Facilities, has an update in this newsletter that outlines our projects and the planning that has taken place.

Academically, we continue to show steady improvements and gains in several areas. One measure that helps us see how we are doing is the annual Business First publication that ranks districts and schools in relation to their academics. Below is a chart that shows our progress. You can clearly see that over time we have shown marked improvement in the ranking.

Business First Ranking

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
District	97	90	88	84	70	68	61
High School	115	113	112	108	99	84	79
Middle School	151	138	137	100	63	66	45
Elementary	179	151	148	122	116	113	108

We very much appreciate our parents, community members, and local leaders for their support of our schools. Together these improvements are possible!

For the Love of Art

Mrs. Garrett is not just a Superintendent, she also loves meeting with students after school in an informal setting to find an outlet for creativity. After school is a wonderful time to develop important creativity skills. She decided one day to work on an art project with the children of teachers, as she noticed they were still in the school after hours. The art club as the students call it, was formed.

It started with a little Christmas art scene as a way to appreciate these students' parents. She recognizes the fact that teachers do so much for our students on a daily basis. Students in the "art club" are allowed to express themselves in an environment free of judgment. At the same time, they can build their confidence and sense of accomplishment.

This talented group of students has created several paintings and drawings. When complete, instead of keeping them these students decide to give them to others as a way to brighten someone else's day. "We should thank someone and give them our paintings," said Giugi. Each time they get together this small but brilliant group decides what their project will be and who to give it to. It is their way of giving back and helping others feel appreciated.

This amazing group loves to collaborate. Any student does not own the artwork that is created instead, students share in the creative process. Students learn to think outside the box.



New Faces at FCS



Samantha Chau

Special Education Teacher

Samantha is our new HS Special Education teacher. Samantha has taught in Franklinville and was married just before the start of the school year. She resides in Cheektowaga with her husband and a pet dog.



Jennifer Russell

Math Teacher

Jennifer was hired to take the place of Math teacher Mrs. Bird, who retired at the end of last year. She is teaching HS Geometry and Algebra II. She previously taught at West Seneca HS and the Global Concepts Charter School. Jennifer lives in North Collins with her 4 foster children and 3 pet dogs.



Faith Leone

Music Teacher

Faith was hired to become our new Instrumental Music teacher. She will be working alongside Mr. Geblein, who will be retiring at the end of the school year. Faith is a recent graduate of SUNY Fredonia, and has taught 1 year at St Gregory the Great school. Her home is in Orchard Park and she lives with her pet dog, Bosco.



Theresa Brown

Shared Cook Manager

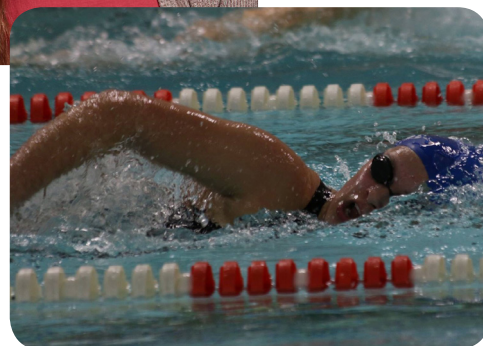
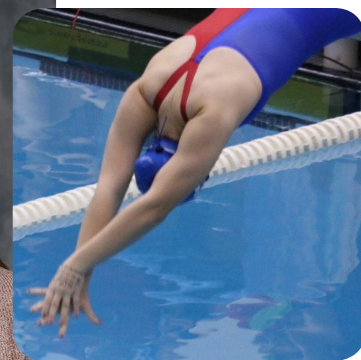
Theresa (Terry) started with us in August as our new Cook Manager. She is being shared with Pine Valley. Terry has worked in the Pine Valley cafeteria since 1988 and became their manager in 2005. She lives in the town of Villenova and has 3 adult children and a pet dog.

Making a Splash!



Over the last few years, Forestville has had the opportunity to combine with other area interscholastic athletic programs. Through these combinations, we have seen some amazing team and individual accomplishments that have given many athletes a chance to experience being a part of programs that could never be offered at FCS. One such sport is Girls' Swimming. The Hornets are proudly represented by, sophomore, Lillie Gould, who is making waves in the sport. Entering year three in the Fredonia/Dunkirk/Forestville/Silver Creek/ Brocton program, Gould has proven she belongs. As a member of the 2016 undefeated league champions, she won multiple events at several meets and was a qualifying member on the Section 6 level, narrowly missing a chance to swim in the NYS Championships.

Fast forward to 2017, Lillie has been a multiple event winner three times in their first few meets, has already met the qualifying time standards for two Section 6 races and is poised to become a member of the qualifying relay team. During the team's unbeaten start to the season, Gould has also smashed her personal record in the 100 freestyle with a time of 59.09 seconds! Stay tuned for more achievements from this FCS standout!



Board President's Message



Carol Woodward
Board President

Below are some updates from our committees:

- As part of the long-range planning committee, we have been working on projects for our facilities. There are many areas that need improvement, but I feel we are making great strides in our facilities. There is a lot of planning and prioritizing in order to make a decision on what needs to be fixed. This is not always an easy task.
- The policy committee has been busy updating our entire policy manual. We have met with leaders in our school to collect their input and make sure our policies align with what we are doing.
- The cafeteria committee continues to meet and work with the cafeteria staff to find ways to improve the quality of the food being served in our cafeterias. At the same time, we are working on strategies to be more cost effective.
- The legislative committee has been working on building our relationships with our legislators. We will be inviting our legislators to our schools to experience what we have to offer our students.
- The negotiations committee will be negotiating with the Forestville Teachers' Association to gain consensus on a new contract.
- The audit committee has been analyzing our spending and creating a reserve plan that looks long-term to ensure the proper funding of each reserve. It is through their recommendations; the board considers the re-alignment of reserves.
- The staff recognition committee continues to find ways to recognize and honor our staff in all that they do. This committee is also looking at ways to enrich the school environment.

Another part of our role as board members is to listen and understand the needs of our school staff and community. We encourage communication. We are always available and look forward to seeing you at Open House, sports, special activities and other events.

School events have a positive impact on our community. Together, we make a big difference. Our school and community have so much to be proud of. The board constantly monitors results and focuses on improvements. Our students are progressing and our test scores and graduation rates continue to improve.

New Staff, New Sounds

The Instrumental Music Program has had a very busy start to the school year. We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Faith Leone as our new Instrumental Music Teacher. Ms. Leone comes to us from West Seneca and SUNY Fredonia. She is looking forward to working with Mr. Geblein this year before taking over the instrumental department portion of the music program next year.

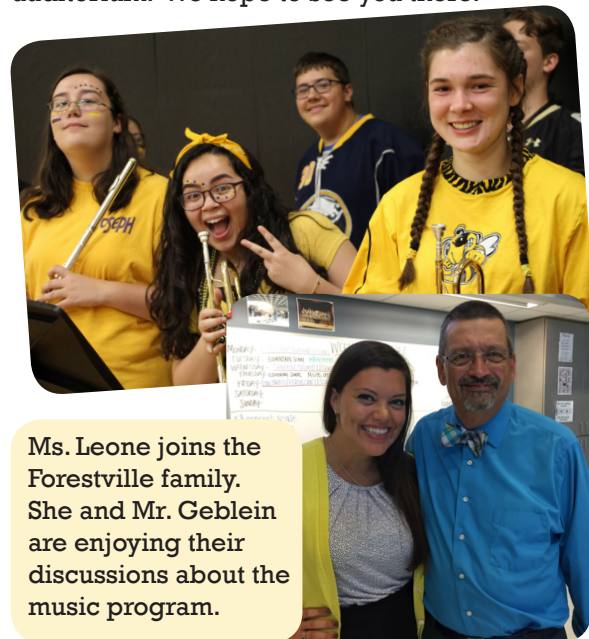
The year has gotten off to a fast start with many performances already by the Hornet Marching Band.

The Marching Band has performed at halftime for four home football games and parades for the Seneca Nation of Indians Fall Festival, the Silver Creek Grape Festival and the Forestville Fall Festival Parade. We are very pleased to welcome seven students from Silver Creek along with their teachers; Ms. Kiersten Roetzer and Ms. Brianna Hoige to the group.

Once again this year, a student led Pep Band performed at the Homecoming Pep Rally. Drum Major, Brandy Schroeder organized this group.

The Intermediate Band, Middle School Band, and Concert Band are busy preparing for the Fall Concert on Thursday, October 19th. Both Ms. Leone and Mr. Geblein are very pleased with the progress the groups have made.

Interested students have begun Pit Orchestra rehearsals for this year's musical, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. The musical will take place November 9 – 11 in our high school auditorium. We hope to see you there!



Ms. Leone joins the Forestville family. She and Mr. Geblein are enjoying their discussions about the music program.

Alumni Spotlight

Nancy Adams Fry – Class of 1965

The first person that we are honoring in the Alumni Spotlight is now a resident of one of the most prominent homes in Forestville, the historic Lee Towne Adams house on Pearl Street. More about that later...

Nancy grew up in Forestville, and was one of 57 graduates in the Class of '65. She was a very active student in school taking part in different clubs, with her favorites being the Spanish Club and Student Council. She enjoyed Spanish so much that she became a Foreign Exchange Student. Also notable in her career at Forestville, she was one of six students that had accelerated their studies, completing their coursework before 12th grade, and was able to attend SUNY Fredonia for half the day taking college classes.

Following graduation from Forestville, she attended Vassar College in the town of Poughkeepsie, New York, majoring in History with a minor in Spanish. During her senior year, she did her studies abroad in Portugal, where she met her husband, Merv.

Following college, Nancy taught History at the Harvey School located in the downstate town of Katonah, NY. After 4 years of teaching, Nancy put her career on hold and started raising a family. Later on, Nancy went back to work, but this time started down a different path. She became involved with Health Care planning, and then eventually moved on to Pharmaceutical Marketing for a company in NJ. She excelled in this field and eventually became President of the Peer Group, a company that helps pharmaceutical companies with their marketing. Under her guidance, the company grew to over 500 employees. From there, she went on to develop two other companies, also dealing with marketing research and pharmaceutical marketing.

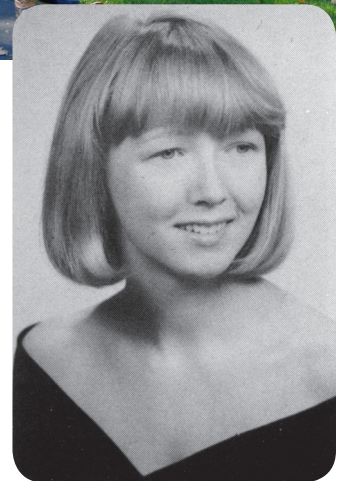
Upon her retirement, Nancy could not stay idle, and started working with different committees, with the most important being the Un-met Committee, which was formed to help people recover from the floods caused by super storm Sandy, by filling in gaps left from FEMA and other support organizations.

Shortly afterwards, she and her husband made the decision to move back to Forestville. They had owned a dwelling in Arkwright that they would use as a getaway, but following the death of her notable father, Lee Towne Adams, the house she grew up in was now vacant, and in need of repair. The couple has since taken on the huge, but very rewarding task of renovating the home, and restoring many of the rooms back to the early 1900's décor.

Nancy has also become involved with many organizations in our area, including being on the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation board, a Forestville Fire Department Commissioner, a member of the Hanover Planning Board, and a Deacon at the First United Church in Silver Creek. Nancy also writes a daily posting about life in Forestville on the website, www.medium.com, which is a conglomeration of articles on a variety of topics by authors around the world.

When asked about her memories while attending FCS, Nancy commented that she believes that growing up in a small town is an excellent way to prepare students for a career. It exposes them to many types of people who come from different styles of life, who have different points of view. As a student, Nancy said that her teachers were always encouraging her, telling her that she was good enough, and smart enough to be very successful in life, of which she sometimes doubted herself. It was with this encouragement that she feels helped her become the person she is today. She feels that the personal attention that our students get from being in a small school will greatly impact their future. She also stated that there is a very strong history that our students are building upon, and that they are becoming part of that history. This is the biggest reason she and her husband are restoring the house they now call home, a way to preserve history in our small community.

Nancy and Merv, her husband of 48 years, have two daughters, three sons, and 11 grandchildren, some of which are currently in college. They also have a dog named "Judge." Go figure...



Nancy Adams Fry
Class of 1965

Principal's Message



Daniel Grande
MS/HS Principal

Welcome back to a new school year! Hopefully, everyone enjoyed a fun and safe summer break. As I sit and type, I realize that September is almost over and we are preparing for the 2nd month of school. It is amazing how fast time flies by!

If you came to Open House, hopefully, you noticed the renovations that have taken place in our school over the last six months. To just name a few: the front of the building received a much-needed facelift; Mr. Wisniewski's technology room has been reconstructed to allow more STEM activities in the classroom; a new display area on the

2nd floor, and carpeting in a few rooms. Over the next few years, expect to see a lot more being done to breathe new life into our school!

The work that is being done in our District is amazing, and we are so grateful for the vision our Superintendent and BOE have to make the Forestville MS/HS building a better place for learning! Along these lines, I would like to thank our buildings and grounds staff headed up by Mr. Hart. They continue to impress us with high-quality work done at a rapid pace! Also, Mr. Wisniewski and his Design, Drawing, and Production (DDP) students have finished the 2nd-floor display area and will now focus some attention on building organizational compartments for our music room. Well done by all!

Over the summer, our hiring committees were busy finding candidates to fill vacancies in the Math, Music, and Special Education Departments. I am happy to report that each position has been filled. We began the new school year with Ms. Faith Leone (Music), Ms. Jennifer Russell (Math), and Mrs. Samantha Chau (Special Education). Each of these ladies is an excellent addition to our school, and we welcome them into the Forestville family!

It's hard to believe that this is the start of my 3rd year in the Middle/High School Building! For those of you who are wondering, I could not be happier in this position! Making the choice to leave the elementary school after 11 years was not an easy choice to make. However, as I look back on that decision, I realize that it was the right decision for me. The staff has been so supportive of the move and have proven in a short amount of time to be true professionals who care about students and their learning! What more could an administrator ask for! The other reason why I'm so happy in this position is that I get another opportunity to work with your children as they transition to young adults! I look forward to many more years working with you, your children, and amazing faculty and staff at Forestville CSD.

Kaichers Score High

Forestville Central School would like to announce that a member of the Class of 2018 has been named a semifinalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Caroline Kaicher, the daughter of Catherine and the late James Kaicher, has been named a 2018 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. A total of 16,000 U.S. semifinalists have been chosen to compete for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million, and Caroline joins only one other Chautauqua County student on this prestigious list. They were winnowed from the initial pool of 1.6 million U.S. students who took last year's PSAT (a qualifying test). This year's semifinalists scored in the top 1 percent nationally on the exam. Winners of National Merit Scholarships will be named next spring.



Luke Kaicher, the son of Catherine and the late James Kaicher, has been named a Commended Student in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Although Luke will not continue in the 2018 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students place among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2018 competition by taking the PSAT.

Spanish Club Senior Spotlight on Community Service

One of the aims of Spanish Club is to provide seniors with an opportunity to see the needs of our community and give back. Being a small town requires that we travel for situations of specialized medical care. With this in mind, we have chosen the Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo as our community service project. This house has served as a home away from home for our own students, teachers, and community members.

The purpose of the Ronald McDonald House of Buffalo is to provide affordable and comfortable lodging for families that live far from Buffalo, whose children are receiving medical treatment at Buffalo hospitals. In times of medical crisis, the commute to and from Buffalo can be impossible. This home is a quiet sanctuary for rest and relaxation after a day at the hospital, a place where family members can meet and share experiences, concerns, joys and grief.

The seniors planned and prepared brunch for the families currently staying at the house and hosted a collection of items to be donated. The items on the house wish list help keep the house clean and stocked so that the families can focus all their energy on the health of their loved ones. Thanks to Spanish Club, Mrs. Buehler's 6th grade class, and Mr. Dempsey, we were able to donate items for basic kitchen and laundry needs.

Our bus drivers also collected pull-tabs from aluminum cans to be donated. The house staff takes these tabs to a redemption center and makes a great profit to help pay the household bills. We will gladly continue to collect pull-tabs for our next visit!



Middle/High School Physical Education Expansions



Students in the MS/HS will have opportunities to partake in a variety of new sports this year in their Physical Education classes. We have purchased Lacrosse equipment in response to student interest in this sport after the Buffalo Bandits visited the MS/HS this past spring. Pickle Ball equipment was also acquired over the summer. Pickle Ball is played similarly to tennis, but uses wooden paddles and a wiffle-ball. In addition, we were fortunate to have obtained archery equipment through a grant co-funded by the National Archery in Schools Program and the Department of Environmental Conservation. All of these purchases will be used throughout the year to expose students to new and exciting ways to stay fit and enjoy physical activity.



Principal's Message



Lindsay Marcinelli
Elementary Principal

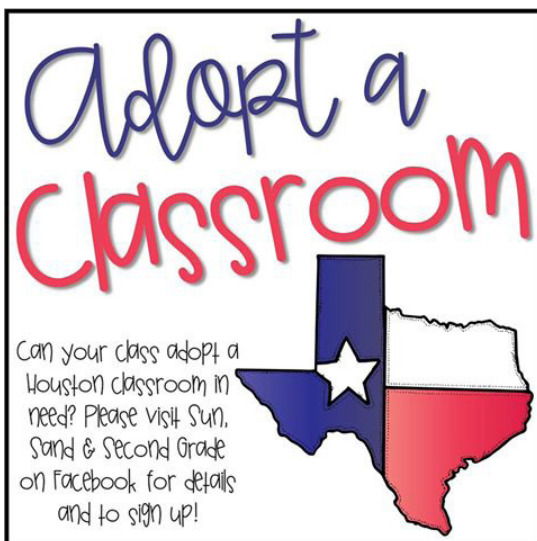
The start of the 2017-18 school year is here! If you are new to Forestville, welcome to our wonderful community! If you are a returning family, you already know what makes us so special. I know I speak for the entire staff when I say we are all eager and excited for a great school year.

At Forestville Elementary, we look to create an educational environment that will help children grow intellectually, socially and emotionally. A major component that makes Forestville a wonderful place to work/learn is the overwhelming community support. The partnership between school and home is the most important component to ensure your child's success. Research indicates that student success is achieved at a greater rate the more involved parents are in their child's education.

As with any new school year, transition can be difficult. Encourage your children to develop routines for homework and ensure their book bags are packed and ready to go the night before. Having a set bed-time routine will help your children get a great night's sleep and be well-rested for the next day.

I can be reached at 965-2742 to speak with you about any questions you may have about our Forestville family! Please know that each child is incredibly special and important. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or myself at any time.

Elementary Students Helping Those in Need



As you know, September has been a month fraught with natural disasters. In true Forestville fashion, our elementary school wanted to do something to help some of those people affected. In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, there was an opportunity, offered on Facebook, to adopt a Texas classroom. The mission is to help with replacement of supplies and children's school needs. After inquiring to collect more information, Forestville Elementary was matched with a 3rd grade classroom in Houston (Robinson Elementary). Their school is closed for several months, and they've been told that the contents of the school are a complete loss. At this point, teachers aren't allowed to enter the building.

Our students, staff and teachers have taken on this project with enthusiasm. Rather than collecting actual items, we decided to take up a collection of loose change - both the silvery kind that jingles, and the green paper kind. We will be sending an Amazon gift card to the teacher, Mrs. Potts, to purchase items that her classroom needs when they reopen. We feel this will be the best use of our donations as it will eliminate costly shipping and she will be able to get exactly what she needs.

This is a great opportunity for our children and our families to help school-age children who have been directly and severely affected by Hurricane Harvey.

On behalf of our elementary staff and teachers, thank you for your support!



Forestville Elementary Head Lice Guidelines

Head lice are a recurring infestation that requires a collaborative effort at home, school and community to keep it under control. If you suspect or know that your child has lice, please notify the school nurse so that others may be screened. When the school's nurse confirms that a student has lice, he or she is sent home for treatment. Only after successful treatment and the school nurse clearance, will a child be allowed to return to school. Your child cannot come back to school until he or she has been treated and is free of all nits (eggs). Parental accompaniment is required during re-entry inspection by school personnel.

Head lice are tiny insects about the size of a sesame seed. They can only move from one person to another by head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. They cannot jump to another person's head. Head lice lay eggs which hatch after 7-10 days. It takes about 10 days for a recently hatched louse to grow into an adult and start to lay eggs.

Children who get head lice may feel embarrassed or ashamed, but they shouldn't. Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with being dirty or clean. Lice do not spread disease or illness.

The following guidelines will be implemented at the Elementary School for students identified during

school hours to have an active case of head lice (live lice or nits):

- The parent will be notified, provided with written information about lice treatment, and the student will be sent home.
 - Upon returning to school following the diagnosis, the student will be permitted to return to the classroom only after treatment confirmation and a lice check by the nurse. A parent or designated adult must accompany their child to the school and confirm that treatment was provided.
 - In the elementary school, when a one child is identified to have an active case of lice, all other children in the classroom will be checked.
 - In the elementary school, when more than one child is identified to have an active case of lice, written notification will be sent home with all children in the classroom to alert parents/guardians to be vigilant in monitoring for lice in their own children.
 - Siblings of students identified with lice will be checked.
- Unfortunately, mass screenings of all pupils in a classroom and/or school does not control the spread of head lice. Rather, the spread of head lice can be minimized with routine inspection for live head lice and nits by all parents and full treatment of those pupils with live head lice. Encourage children to avoid sharing personal items, such as combs, hats and scarves. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Fiebelkorn our school nurse with any questions.

Trick-Or-Treat for UNICEF

As is our annual tradition, the Elementary school will be trick-or-treating for UNICEF once again this Halloween. UNICEF is a very highly-rated charity (see www.charitynavigator.com) and money collected through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF is used solely for children in disaster areas all over the world. Specifically, it is used to provide kids with needed medicine, nutrition, clean water, emergency relief, and education.



Director of Facilities's Message



James Hart
Director of Facilities

In 2015, the District conducted a Building Conditions Survey (BCS). This is a tool that is required by the State Education Department every five years. This report helps us create a plan for improving our facilities.

We have several needs to address in our buildings. We are on the right track as we tackle the needs a few at the time. This schedule is heavily dependent on funding. We were fortunate to have been awarded funding from Senator Young's office. This funding is known as Bullet Aid. We also build money in our budget for general maintenance and what is known as Capital Outlay Projects. Capital Outlay Projects are highly regulated by the State Education Department and provide us with about 80% state aid. My message for you includes updates on all of the facilities, the projects that we are tackling and some of our plans for the future.

We feel it is important to maintain the investment that you have made into our buildings. We will continue to do our best to keep up with the maintenance.

Bullet Aid Project

As you have noticed, the funding through Senator Young's Office has helped tremendously with the student drop off/pick up in front of the MS/HS building. Specifically, we were able to address the left side as you are facing the front of the building. We have been getting questions about when the right front side will be complete. We have that answer for you.

2017-2018 Capital Outlay Project

We will be completing our 2017-2018 Capital Outlay Project, using funding from the State Education Department and our local school budget to complete the right front side of the MS/HS building. This area is scheduled to have the same look (two pull off/parking spots, curbing, a new sidewalk, a retaining wall, and a black metal fence). This should ease the traffic congestion during drop off/pick up times. This Capital Outlay Project will also include the replacement of approximately 50 lockers on the third floor (main hallway north side). We will phase-in the replacement of the remaining lockers over time.

Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee

Our Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee has been meeting to review our Building Conditions Survey (BCS). The BCS is a requirement of all school districts. It must be completed every five years and submitted to the State Education Department. It is through this list we are able to plan out how we will address our facility needs. The Long-Range Planning Committee has been working on prioritizing the list. This important work will help preserve our facilities. We have also begun working with our architect to begin a budget and scope of work for a possible capital project.





General Maintenance Projects

As a part of our annual budget, we have general maintenance projects. As you have noticed, we have been able to complete the resurfacing of part of the MS/HS parking lot. You may have also noticed that the entrance has not been completed yet. This is a strategic decision we made. This will once again be used as a staging area for the contractor's material during the Capital Outlay Project. Once the project is finished the entryway will be completed.



Heaters for the MS/HS Building

We have completed the installation of five heaters for classrooms in the MS/HS building. In general, the heaters in our schools are beginning to move past their useful life. The Elementary and MS/HS buildings are from the 1950's and 60's. It is becoming increasingly difficult to repair and get parts for these units. We are also having issues controlling the temperatures in these rooms because they are so old.



Technology Classroom Makeover

For those of you that have attended our school, you may remember the room formerly known as the "Home Economics Classroom." Back in the 50's, 60's and 70's it was where cooking, sewing, and other homemaking skills were taught. For many years now, Mr. Wisniewski has used the room for technology instruction. Although the front of the room was renovated 10 years ago with new walls and whiteboards, the back of the room still had the countertops, refrigerators, stoves, vent hoods, and kitchen cabinets. The decision was made to renovate the room. Our summer crew turned it in to an open workspace for technology classes. This required much demolition work to remove the countertops, cabinets, ventilation hoods, ceiling tile, un-used door, and tile flooring. After the demolition was complete, a new sub-floor was laid, new drywall applied to the walls, new ceiling installed, new floor tiles, and a fresh coat of paint. Wall cabinets that had been purchased at a recent auction were also installed on the back wall for needed storage.

The room is now a very bright workspace, allowing students to work on technology projects freely as well as robotics, 3D printers, and plenty of S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) projects!

Director of Technology's Message



Michael Murphy
Director of Technology

This year marked a special year for the Technology Department at FCS. For the past six years, students in 7th and 8th grades were assigned iPads, which were used for digital textbooks, writing assignments, e-mail, and other classwork. Although they were a great tool when they were new, as time went on they became slower and non-compatible with the latest Apple operating systems.

We started researching different types of devices that could be used to replace the iPads, including the new iPads, Windows laptops, Android tablets, and Chromebooks. Based on trials by staff and students, and trends set by many other school districts, we decided to move forward with Chromebooks.

Chromebooks are small, basic laptops that connect to the Internet using Google's Chrome operating system. In late 2014, sales of Chromebooks to schools surpassed sales of iPads for the first time, signifying a shift toward keyboard-based technologies, especially for older students.

Why? Educators cite Chromebooks' convenience, ease of use, and relatively low cost of about \$300, compared to about \$500 for an iPad or laptop. With a Chromebook, students can easily perform research quickly with the power of the Internet.

Every 7th and 8th student has been assigned a Chromebook with take-home privilege to read the e-textbooks provided in Social Studies and Science classes, reading books for ELA using the Nook app, and filling out Math worksheets, using the electronic pens and the touch-sensitive screens.

In talking with students that previously had iPads, we have heard that they really enjoy working with these devices. The feature mentioned the most was the keyboard is much easier to use to compose essays and papers. They appreciate the special nylon "Always-On" case, in which the units are better protected and easier to carry, and have pockets for pens and such. In addition, they are much faster for working on tasks.

We will be using this year as a pilot for the units. If this pilot is successful, as we believe it will be, we look forward to expanding the program to more grade levels.

Yearbooks for Sale!

Welcome back to school, and say "Cheese" Forestville! FCS during the fall season is packed with great times! The 2018 edition of the ECHO Yearbook is already in development. You may have noticed several shutterbugs walking around events taking pictures. Order forms are available with a fall discounted price of \$59 plus tax. Save money and purchase your yearbook by December 22nd. Make sure you reserve your copy now for spring delivery. Ordering information will be included in the progress reports to be mailed out in the next few weeks. Don't forget you can save money by placing a patron or business ad in the yearbook!

If you have any questions please call Mike O'Leary or Kristen Marvin at 965-2711.



Citizen Science and the FCS Science Club

Members of the FCS Science Club will spend the last weeks of summer and first weeks of autumn participating in the Citizen Science Project Monarch Watch through the University of Kansas. Students are learning about insect life cycles by raising Monarch butterfly caterpillars to tag and release. Members of the Science Club will also go afield to capture and tag migrating wild butterflies, collect and record data, and participate in a study that monitors Monarch butterfly populations across the continent. Students are learning how the effects of habitat destruction, the introduction of GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) crops, and the use of pesticides can affect native populations of insects across the country.

Students will come away from this experience with a better appreciation of nature and the outdoors, a realization that they can contribute meaningful information to scientific studies, and that what we do as humans can affect the environment and the organisms that we share it with.



Randolph Fish Hatchery Field Trip



Students in the Fish and Wildlife and Environmental Science classes attended a field trip on September 26 to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Fish Hatchery in Randolph, New York. Students participated in spawning brook trout and experienced some of the actual duties performed by fisheries biologists and technicians. Students were encouraged to ask questions relating to hatchery operations, fish stocking, and careers with the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation.

Prior to the trip students were required to complete species accounts and descriptions of the trout raised at the Randolph Hatchery. Returning from the trip students researched and wrote a paper on the importance of fish hatcheries in New York State.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Forestville Central School District does not discriminate in its employment and admission to programs and activities as applicable, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, veterans' status, political affiliation, domestic victim status, use of a guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, disability, or other classifications protected under federal or state law, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The designated district compliance officers will coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, and the New York State Human Rights Law.

The Forestville Central School District Compliance Officers are: Superintendent, 12 Water Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-6539, MS/HS Principal, 4 Academy Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-2711, Elementary Principal, 12 Water Street, Forestville, NY 14062 (716) 965-2742. Complaints may also be filed with the Office for Civil Rights, New York Office, U.S. Department of Education, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005-2500, phone (646) 428-3800, fax (646) 428-3843, email: OCR.NewYork@ed.gov.

First Place Winners

Forestville Central School was well represented at the Chautauqua County Fair, which took place July 24 – 30, 2017. Every year, all schools in Chautauqua County are offered the opportunity to showcase their students' artwork. For many years, Forestville students have done an exceptional job in this art show. This year, first prizes were awarded to both the Forestville Middle/High School and Forestville Elementary School. Students' artwork in grades 7 and 9 – 11 were featured in the MS/HS booth. The Elementary booth included highlights from grades K-6. We are very proud of all of our talented students!



First Face of the District



For many of our students, our bus drivers are the first face of the District. Our bus drivers are highly trained professionals dedicated to making sure that our students are transported to and from school each day. These staff members take the extra care to go above and beyond to place students first. Many of our drivers have been with the District for many years; know our roads, students, and families.

Don't forget to thank a bus driver for all that they do!

My School Bucks

There's an app for that! My School Bucks is an electronic program you can use to pay for your child(ren)'s lunch and/or breakfast. Besides having an online way to access your child(ren)'s account, you can also use the My School Bucks app. Check your app store using your phone.

Either online or through the app, you can receive low balance alerts (email or text), set auto payments, and/or pay with a check. This system allows you to monitor your child(ren)'s lunch and/or breakfast transactions. What a great way to stay connected. Learn more online at www.myschoolbucks.com or through the app store using your smart phone.



Design, Drawing, and Production (DDP)



Students from Mr. Wisniewski's Design, Drawing, and Production (DDP) classes have completed a very remarkable project that provided many lessons. Over a two-year period, students were able to make their vision a reality. From design to development to construction to completion, an impressive task was completed. Beginning two years ago, when the DDP students were juniors they designed a new display area on the second floor that highlights their talent. When the students became seniors, they created a display area using the designs created the year before. In the construction phase, students learned how to apply ceramic tile, grout, run LED lights, apply molding, and paint. With the project complete the academic and art teachers are able to proudly display student work!

Spirit Week 2017

Forestville Middle/High School recently celebrated Spirit Week to get excited for the highly anticipated homecoming weekend. Student Council and their advisors, Mrs. Klubek and Mrs. Elersic Henry put together a fun week of activities for students and staff alike. Daily themes included class color day, dress as your favorite movie character, around the world, dress to impress and black and gold.

The week concluded on Friday with a spirited pep rally to commend our fall sports teams and to recognize the Varsity Football team before their big homecoming game. Many students took part in the grade level challenges at the pep rally.

The donut-eating contest was a new addition this year. seniors, Cece Egan and Owen Becker, dominated the task of eating a donut off a string with no hands.

When Mr. Grande showed up to the pep rally in the rival school colors, he had the unfortunate surprise of getting his hair spray painted yellow by Senior Cece Egan. He was a great sport and even took a selfie with the senior pranksters!

The homecoming festivities ended with a win at the homecoming football game on Friday and a wonderful jungle themed dance Saturday night, where Ben Gould and Cece Egan were crowned homecoming king and queen. Kudos to the advisors and students who helped coordinate the events!



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Coming to FCS This November



Rediscover a tale as old as time. The Forestville Central School Music Department proudly presents Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" School Musical to be held Veteran's Day weekend.

This musical is based on the well-known animated Disney film. "Beauty and the Beast" is the journey of Belle, an intelligent, beautiful and independent young woman who is taken prisoner by a beast in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the Beast's hideous exterior and realize the kind heart and soul of the true Prince within.

The cast, pit orchestra, and crew of over 60 students and staff will be holding 4 performances! Dates, times and ticket information will be posted on our website. Once again this year, you will be able to purchase your reserved seating tickets online.

Please join us and enjoy the talented students of Forestville as they bring this classic tale to life.