

A MESSAGE FROM THE FCS BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT

THE VISION

Forestville Central School continues to move forward in our quest to provide the best basic education possible for the students in our district, while being cognizant of every dollar our taxpayers provide for us to do the job.

We are gaining a reputation throughout Chautauqua County and New York State as a district pushing the envelope creatively, to enhance the learning experience of our students, while continuing professional development for our staff, and engaging our community. Financially we are not a wealthy community, but we continue to better the educational experience of our students through the efforts of a dedicated team of board of education members, administrators, teachers, office personnel, cafeteria workers, transportation employees, maintenance workers, local businesses, parents, grandparents, and our community at large.

Make no mistake, every member of our community is a part of this team. The upward mobility, starting with a sound basic education of our students, rests on our shoulders. They say, it takes a village to raise a child but it takes a team to educate one. Together, we are that team.

In 2014, we saw many positives in the educational experience at Forestville. From a number of new courses being offered, two students recognized nationally for their musical talents and abilities, our faith community acknowledging students for their outstanding character traits, two students winning first place in a gingerbread house cook off...our list goes on and on. When I walk the halls of our elementary school and I see the bright eyes and smiling little faces eager to absorb and learn anything they can, I feel blessed that I am in the right place doing all I can to inspire these young minds and hearts.

The vision continues in the New Year with the addition of our new superintendent, Renee Garrett. She brings professionalism, years of educational experience, outstanding communication skills, academic skills, administrative experience, and a proven track record of success. Although there will be challenges, Renee will bring the plan and the day to day operation to reach the vision of "Student Excellence." Let us all welcome Renee with open arms and cooperation, as she is moving in the Forestville area to become a part of our Forestville family.

- Sylvester Cleary

FCSD BOE President

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. GARRETT



Meet Renee Garrett, Forestville Central School District's New Superintendent

It is a great honor for me to be chosen as your superintendent. My career in education began in the classroom teaching students with disabilities. I was also a first grade teacher. I became an elementary principal and took on the role of Director of Curriculum and Instruction. This inspired me to pursue greater challenges as a superintendent. I served four years in Mount Morris and four years with the Wayne Central School District before coming to Forestville. I have already found that Forestville is a wonderful place to be with a great sense of

community and family. Though I just started in my new position, I already feel as if I have been here a long time. Thank you for the warm welcome.

As your superintendent, I feel it is important to reside in the district. My husband Mike and I have found a home in Forestville and look forward to becoming part of the community.



Mike is a graphic designer in the Marketing Communications Department at SUNY Genesee and loves to paint and draw in his spare time. We have been together for 22 years. We enjoy the great outdoors and look forward to getting to know this region. Our dog, Tess, will enjoy our new yard. She is a wonderful rescue animal who has brought so much joy to our lives over the last three years.



In my spare time I enjoy working on all kinds of home improvement projects—from electrical to plumbing work, carpentry, drywall and painting. I also like to quilt. The one shown here is made with Civil War reproduction fabric. It will be hanging in my office and I look forward to showing it to you when you stop in to see me.



FROM THE DESK OF MR. MOSES

I continue to be impressed with the teachers' level of adaptability as we navigate through the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards and their level of professionalism as we continue with our development of more dynamic and effective instructional strategies. I am equally impressed and inspired by our students' ability to step up to the challenge of more rigorous standards and expectations to produce artifacts of learning that have exceeded initial expectations. Even more inspiring is the students' enthusiasm and excitement exhibited when they are engaged in authentic learning experiences.

The Middle-High School faculties continue to develop their working knowledge of student data and relate it to student understanding and performance on assessments. The development of knowledge in our teaching staff comes from the implementation of a data-driven instructional model as well as by evaluating historical data of our students over time. I am extremely proud to report that our Math and English 3-8 NYS assessment proficiency rates (level 3 or 4) have increased by 7% from 2013 to 2014. The 7% increase in proficiency rates ranks Forestville second among the twenty-seven (27) districts in our BOCES region.

From June 2013 to June 2014 our High School Regents results have also shown a rather positive trend. NYS Regents Exam results showed a 6% increase in proficiency rates (65%+) while our mastery rates (85%+) have increased by 4% in one year. The High School's proficiency and mastery rates have shown a steady increase over the last four years (pictured below).

2012-2013 % Proficient	2013-2014 % Proficient
79%	85%
	6%

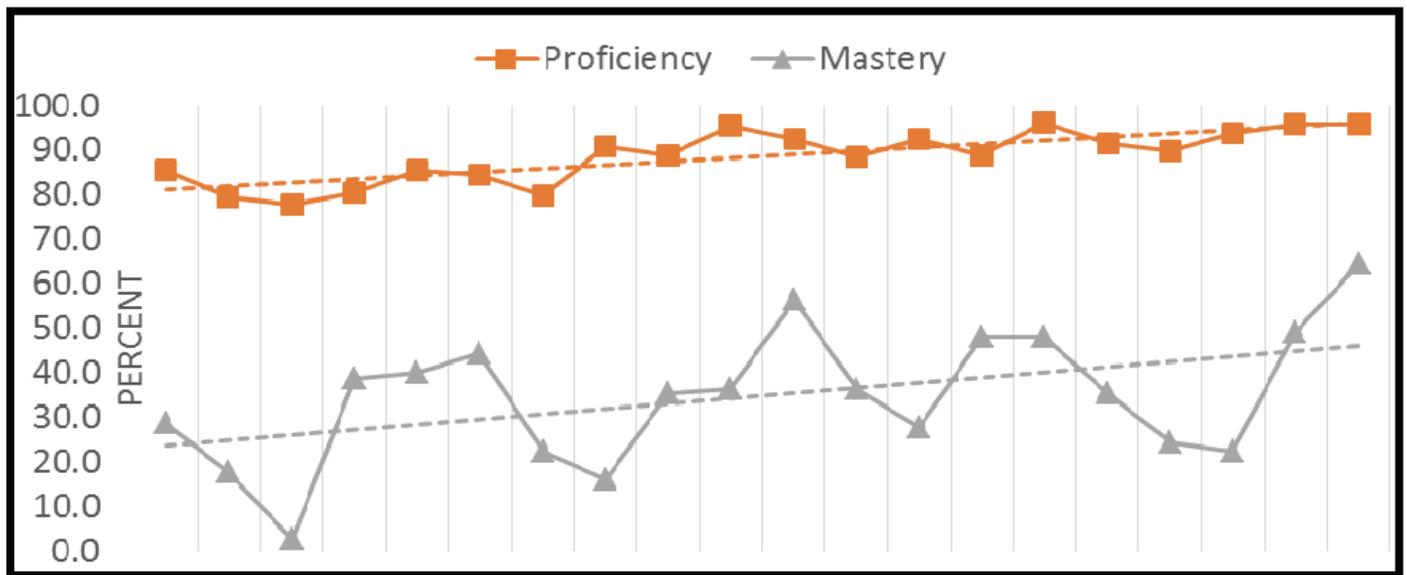
Forestville Regents Exam Proficiency Rates

2012 - 2013 % Mastery	2013 - 2014 % Mastery
27%	31%
	4%

Forestville Regents Exam Mastery Rates

Although we continue to be very encouraged by the assessment data and the trends that we see, we also realize that our work is nowhere complete. The Common Core Standards with matching assessments are now being implemented at the High School level (Algebra I - 2014, Geometry - 2015, Comprehensive English, Algebra II - 2016). The Common Core Social Studies standards and assessments are in the final stages of approval while the State is expected to make a decision regarding the development of new Science standards.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. MOSES CONT'D



As Forestville continues to make progress in student achievement scores, we also continue to search for additional opportunities in programming for our students which will aid in the process of preparing them for their futures. Two such programs are the P-TECH STEM College and Career Academy in conjunction with Erie II BOCES and the HURI SURI (BAMA) molecular biology program in partnership with Jamestown Community College. Both programs are early in the planning stages - but please stay tuned as more information will become available as details are finalized in each program.

“The **P-TECH WNY STEM College & Career Academy** will offer a place-based differentiated learning culture with specialized educators working in tandem with higher education, business partners and component school districts to support students as they obtain a NYS Regents Diploma and AAS in Mechanical Technology (with specializations available in pre-engineering design or precision machining) or Welding in addition to several certifications through CTE.”

“The **High School Undergraduate Research Initiative/Science Undergraduate Research Initiative (HURI SURI)** provides equipment and supplies to high schools so that they can teach an innovative college level first semester biology course called Biology: A Molecular Approach (BAMA). The focus will be on helping students understand science as a process. They will be able to perform real world research and witness firsthand the interdisciplinary nature of science.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. MOSES CONT'D

We will continue to reach out to neighboring districts, to work closely with our BOCES partners and work to develop alternative means of offering high-quality programming for the students and families of the Forestville School District. This is a district and community that is known for its small-town feel, a caring and supportive community and a group of hard-working families who will do what it takes to get the job done. Although we are facing several new challenges in education today (as in other fields), I am confident that through the continued hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff and students, in collaboration with families and the greater community, we will be able to provide a sustainable and thriving local educational program which will establish the foundation necessary for our students' next step in their life journey. This foundation will enable our students to become true competitors in today's global market.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and programs.

- Patrick Moses

<i>2nd Semester FCS Middle/High School Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>
January Regents Exams	Jan 26-29
February Break	Feb 16-20
Talent Show	Mar 5
Spring Recess	Mar 27-Apr 6
3rd Quarter Report Cards Avail*	Apr 17
NYS ELA Exams (3-8)	Apr 14-16
NYS Math Exams (3-8)	Apr 22-24
Budget Vote	May 19
NYS 8th Grade Science Performance Exam	May 20
Prom	May 30
NYS 8th Grade Science Written Exam	June 1
June Regents Exams	June 2, 16-24
MS & HS Academic Awards	June 12
Class Night	June 12
Baccalaureate	June 14
Alumni Banquet	June 20
Graduation	June 27

FROM THE DESK OF MR. GRANDE

Now that most of the winter weather is behind us, or at least we hope that it is, we draw our attention to the NYS Assessments coming up in April. Our students in grades 3-8 have a rich history of doing well on these assessments. In the Spring of 2013, all students across New York State participated in the newly developed assessment program. The new assessments were made more rigorous and aligned to the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Commissioner of Education for NYS encouraged all schools to review the results and to regard them as a baseline to compare future years' results.

Forestville CSD is proud to announce that in the second year of this new assessment, our 3-8 students scored the second most growth out of the 27 schools in Erie 2 BOCES! When averaging all 3-8 students who scored proficient in both ELA and Math, our scores increased by 7% over last year's results. That is an amazing accomplishment! We are so proud of our students and teachers! However, as you can well imagine, we are not resting on these results and saying that we cannot do better. In fact, we know that we can do even better this year! With another year of teaching aligned to the CCSS, our students will have more tools and exercise greater proficiency as they participate this year.

Upcoming Test Dates	
English Language Arts (ELA)	April 14, 15, and 16
Math	April 22, 23, and 24

This is my 11th year as principal and those of you who know me well, know that I do not believe in pressuring students or placing unrealistic expectations on them. I have always encouraged students to "do their best" and to be proud of their results! This year is no different. I will visit classrooms, talk to students about the tests, answer any questions they may have, and reassure them we will be proud of them as long as they try to do their best.

So, please support your children by encouraging them to do their best. Talk with them before each test day and talk with them after they come home on those days. If they say that the tests are difficult, let them know that you believe in them and that you are proud of them! This encouragement from you is invaluable! Children want to please their parents and know that they will be proud of their efforts.

- Mr. Grande

FCS Elementary Principal



GUIDANCE NEWS



* Further information/assistance will be available in the High School Guidance office if needed.

Upcoming SAT Exams (Registration Deadline)	Upcoming ACT Exams (Registration Deadline)
March 14th (February 13th)	April 18th (March 13th)
May 2nd (April 6th)	June 13th (May 8th)
June 6th (May 8th)	
Register at www.sat.org/register	Register at www.actstudent.org/start

College Action Plan

Senior Winter Checklist

- Work together to apply for financial aid. Have your child contact the financial aid offices at the colleges he or she is interested in to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure he or she applies for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- Fill out the FAFSA to apply for aid. The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA.
- Learn about college loan options together. Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice — especially if your high schooler gets a low-interest federal loan. Learn more about the parent's role in borrowing money.

Junior Winter Checklist

- Review PSAT/NMSQT results together. Your child's score report comes with a free SAT study plan. This online, customized plan is based on your child's test scores and can help him or her work on areas that need improvement. Learn more about this individualized SAT study plan.
- Help your child prepare for college admission tests. Many juniors take college admission tests, such as the SAT and the ACT, in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. See which tests your high school junior may need to take.
- Discuss taking challenging courses next year. Taking college-level or honors courses as a senior can help your child prepare for college work — and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see. Learn more about advanced classes.

Sophomore Winter Checklist

- Review PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN results together. Your child's score report indicates his or her academic strengths and weaknesses. Review the report together and talk about ways to improve in areas that need attention. If your child took the PSAT/NMSQT, help him or her log in to My College QuickStart to get personalized feedback based on his or her PSAT/NMSQT score report.
- Read about majors and careers on www.collegeboard.org

GUIDANCE NEWS CONTINUED

Financial Aid Checklist for Students and Parents of the Class of 2015

Use this checklist as a personal record and as a reminder of the steps to take to obtain financial aid.

If you are in doubt as to whether or not to apply for aid, apply! Do not wait for college acceptance letters before filing for aid. File in January or February —the earlier the better. You do not need to have completed your 2014 tax returns prior to filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ---use the information from your 2013 tax return. An estimate of income and/or income tax information is adequate. You cannot file the FAFSA until after Jan. 1, but complete it before Feb. 1 if at all possible.

- Get worksheets to fill out prior to filing the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You and your parents will both need a PIN, or electronic password, before completing the form — available at www.pin.ed.gov. It's a good idea to get your PIN in advance, although PINs can still be obtained during the FAFSA sign-up process.
- Complete income tax forms as soon as possible in order to provide accurate data on financial aid forms. Some colleges have early February deadlines.
- Make a list of the financial aid priority dates and deadlines at the colleges to which you are applying. Ask each college if it requires supplemental forms, and obtain them as needed.
- Apply for federal and state funds by answering the appropriate questions on the FAFSA.
- Check for scholarships for which you might be eligible:
 - Each college/postsecondary institution (your best source)
 - Those posted in the counseling office
 - Local and state scholarships

For more college planning tools and guidance, visit the College Board on the Web:
www.collegeboard.org.

Details to remember:

- In all written communications to financial aid offices, put your name, address, and date of birth on every page.
- Keep your financial aid worksheets.
- Always make photocopies of your financial aid forms for your records.
- If you have questions about an item, do not guess. See your counselor or speak with the college financial aid officer directly.
- Do not leave blank spaces on the forms. Use zeros instead.
- Proofread!
- And again, make photocopies of everything!

If you properly complete the FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) that will provide your eligibility index for federal and state aid. If there are errors or incorrect information on the SAR, you can make corrections online. Financial aid offers are sent by colleges either with, or shortly after you receive, a letter of acceptance. You will be asked to sign an acceptance of the amount received, and the money will be sent to the college/postsecondary institution. Stop by or call the guidance office if you have any questions.

A NOTE FROM DR. VANTINE

Dear Forestville School Community:

During the past six months, I have had the distinct pleasure to serve as your Interim School Superintendent. As the saying goes, “time flies when you’re having fun!” Well, this statement has certainly proven true for me.

I have enjoyed meeting and working with so many dedicated individuals and finding such enthusiasm for working towards achieving success for the students who attend your schools.

Forestville Central School has much to be proud of. You are building off of a strong foundation, while experiencing current positive advancements in academic performance that will surely provide a platform to maintain and exceed expectations moving forward.

I wish the best for the District, staff and students in the future.

Respectfully,

Dr. Whitney Keith Vantine - Interim Superintendent of Schools



Community Bulletin Board ~ VITA Date Set



Saturday, February 14, 2015 - 10:00am ~ 2:00pm / FCS HS Library

The *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program* will host a walk-in site at Forestville Central School on Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 10AM - 2PM. Bring valid photo ID, Social Security cards for all on the return, wage statements, any 1099s you receive, 1095-A, B or C Health Insurance verification, and all other tax forms with you.

The *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program* helps income-eligible people file their federal and New York State tax returns for free, and claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. If you worked in 2014, but earned less than \$53,000, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit - even if you are not required to file an income tax return! IRS-certified volunteers can help you file your tax returns for free, and help you claim the refund that you are entitled to.

For further information, visit www.unitedwayncc.org or contact the United Way office at (716) 366-5424.

FCS WELCOMES NEW FACES

My name is Ashley Cross and I have been an RN since 2012. In addition to my nursing degree, I have a Bachelors in Psychology and Health and Human Services, with a concentration in Early Childhood Development. I have worked at Lakeshore hospital in the ER as a triage nurse, and also the medical/surgical unit as the supervisor. I am no longer a full time employee there, but plan to stay per diem to keep up my nursing skills.

I am a 2001 graduate of FCS, and currently live in the district with my husband Nate (2000 graduate of FCS) and our 3 children (Anderson - 2nd grade, Eliana- kindergarten, & Nolan - 23 months old). I am honored to be here, and look forward to many more years at FCS!



The High School Special Education department has a new addition with Lisa Emke as a long-term substitute teacher. Lisa is no stranger to Forestville Central School, as she was a part time Math AIS teacher in 2013-2014.

Lisa is a graduate of Jamestown Community College and SUNY Fredonia, where she earned degrees in Math Education. Her Students with Disabilities 7-12 certification was earned with additional hours at SUNY Fredonia. Lisa taught Math and Special Education classes at West Valley Central School and Randolph Central School, where she had self-contained classes and was a Consultant Teacher.

Lisa resides in Cherry Creek with her husband Jeff and son Jaxson. In her spare time, Lisa enjoys traveling to see new places and to visit family members. She also enjoys watching her niece and nephew's extracurricular activities at Pine Valley.

My name is Simone Klubek and I am the newest addition to the Forestville team. In May of 2012, I completed my Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education: English. During my time in college, I spent a summer working with a summer school program that catered to students living in a highly impoverished neighborhood in the city of San Francisco. It was here that I learned that all students need teachers with an enthusiasm for learning and a passion for education in order to be successful. When my time came to an end in San Francisco, I knew that I wanted to gain as much experience as possible teaching a variety of students so that I could better understand a child's learning process. After I graduated, I spent a year teaching at Summit Educational Resources, a school for students with severe disabilities. My time there was spent focusing on unconventional and original avenues for education. I apply much of what I learned to my teaching practices today. Before I became a part of the Forestville staff, I taught with Buffalo Public Schools in their alternative high school education program. Currently, I am enrolled at Buffalo State College on track to receive my Master's degree in Students with Disabilities: 7-12. Besides attending graduate classes and teaching, I enjoy cooking, reading, and spending time with my dog and my husband! I am so excited to grow with the Forestville Community for years to come!



FCS WELCOMES NEW FACES

My name is Kendelle Sutton. I grew up in the small town of Eden, NY and I have learned to love small town atmospheres like Forestville's. I received both my undergraduate and my graduate degrees from SUNY Fredonia with honors. I have my certification in Mathematics Education grades 7-12 along with Special Education grades 7-12 through the State of New York. Teaching has always been a passion of mine and one I hope to continue for a long time.



Other than teaching, I enjoy being outdoors with my two dogs and spending time with my family. If I'm not with them, you can catch me reading a book or out on our family boat.



HIGH SCHOOL ART NEWS



On October 2014, Mrs. Britz took 13 high school art students, from Independent Study, Painting and Drawing and Graphic Design, on a field trip to SUNY Fredonia. They toured the College of Visual and Performing Arts visiting the Rockefeller Arts Department, Photography Studios, Marvel Theater set design, and the Visual Arts and



New Media departments. The Forestville students were able to view an art exhibit in the main gallery and listened to professors describing the courses they taught at the college. They were also treated to lunch from the Dean of CVPA, Dr. Ralph Blasting.

The senior art students' legacy boards, from 2014, will be hung soon in the high school. Senior art students graduating this year will begin to create their paintings to be hung for the senior art show.



Legacy board samples by: Lizzy Gilman (left) and Shamus O'Connor (right) - Class of 2014.



FCS SENIOR EARNS TOP AWARD



Forestville Senior Culinary Arts student, Faith Mierzwa, recently took first place in the ACF Gingerbread House Competition held at the Niagara Falls Culinary Arts Institute in December. Faith received a "blue ribbon" as well as a \$100.00 check! Congratulations Faith!



YEARBOOK NEWS



The 2014-15 FCS Yearbook is currently offered for a cost of \$65.00. Usually we order 180 copies, this year we have only 125 copies for sale. We also offer a layaway plan. \$20 cash or check will reserve a yearbook and the remaining balance can be paid any time before the yearbooks are distributed in the spring.



Please reserve your
copy ASAP!

Please contact Mr. O'Leary for further information.



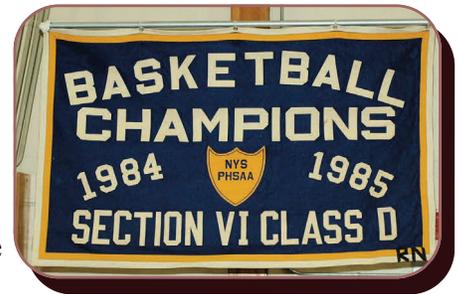
Hornets Help to Strike Out Cancer



On January 14, 2015, the Forestville Hornet Bowling program hosted its Fourth Annual Strike Out Cancer charity match against the Silver Creek Black Knights at Lucky Lanes in Fredonia. The event featured specially designed t-shirts, a 50/50 raffle, and a Chinese Auction. The night was supported by many local businesses, family members, and community members from both Forestville and Silver Creek. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Marci Waterman, who directed the event along with several other team moms. A grand total of \$2,211.00 was raised for the teams' chosen charity, Carly's Club/Roswell Park Cancer Institute! Thank you to all that were involved and helped to make this a memorable night!

1984-1985 Champion Hornets Relive the Magic

It was a night 30 years in the making as the 1984-1985 Hornet Boys Varsity basketball team took to the court in celebration of the team's Section VI; Class D championship campaign. Alumni teams from FCS and Panama Central came together again in this 30th anniversary rematch held at Forestville Central High School on



January 17, 2015. Over thirty combined original participants from that season relived their memories, greeted old friends, and reminisced about the "glory days" in what turned out to be a spirited game on the hardwood. The original game was played at the famed Buffalo Memorial Auditorium. Hornet Coach, Tom Herring, and Panama Coach, Ray Fashano, guided their respective teams during two, twenty minute halves; which included original game rules (no shot clock and no 3-point line). In the end, it was the

visiting Panthers who avenged their loss. Congratulations to the Players of the Game, Forestville's Marv Cummings and Panama's Chris Dole. In addition, the FCS Sports Boosters conducted a 50/50 raffle to benefit a local Forestville family and also provided concessions. Thank you to Rod Spears, Bob Howard, the sponsors, the officials, the fans, and the alumni who participated in this very special event!



FCS HONOR SOCIETY EVENTS



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



On Friday, November 7th and Saturday, November 8th, Student Council and the National Honor Society paired together to help sponsor a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to help raise money for a local Forestville Family. Students and their families were able to enjoy a dinner before attending the school's musical "South Pacific." There was a 50/50 raffle each night as well as a baked goods sale. Thank you to the following organizations for their generous donations...The Carriage House, Tops Friendly Markets, The Cheesecake Factory, and Bro's Family Restaurant-The Clubhouse. Thank you to the following students who helped to coordinate and work both nights of this event: Melissa Fiebelkorn, Jackson Egan, Bradley Dillenburg, Kessiah Johnson, Rhianna Nasal, Rachael Goodrich, Troy Torsell, Jacob Lugen, Mackenzie VanZile, Mikala Lugen, Kyle Goodrich, Austin Pierce, Lucas Young, Emily Nasal, Julia Burgos, Karissa Klusek, Caroline Kaicher and Dakota Espersen. A HUGE thank you goes out to Karen Giardina for all of her time she dedicated in the kitchen to help cook. It's heartwarming to see our students, staff, and community members come together at the last minute to help benefit a local family!

Fun Holiday Activities

The MS/HS competed in a "Deck the Halls" contest. Each grade level was assigned a specific hallway in the school and had 3 days to decorate it with a theme of their choice. All of the hallways looked great, were very creative, and really helped to spread the Holiday cheer!! Mr. Moses was invited to judge each hallway. The following grade levels were declared winners - 1st place- 11th Grade, 2nd place -10th Grade, and 3rd place - 7th Grade. Students also participated in an "Ugly Sweater" day. Students and Staff wore their best Christmas ensemble that really screamed "I love the Holidays!"



Food Drive

Did you know that a \$1.00 donation can feed as many as 5 people? The National Honor Society wanted to help support families in Chautauqua County during the Holidays by sponsoring a food drive at the MS/HS. All students and staff were encouraged to bring their food and/or monetary donations each day to their homeroom teacher. To motivate students to bring in as many food donations as possible...we decided to turn this into a contest for each grade level. The grade that brought in the most donations won a pizza party for their entire grade. Homeroom teachers counted donations daily from November through December. Congratulations to the 7th graders who won the contest with over 250 different food items collected! Over 600 different food items were collected in total. The National Honor Society also presented the Food Bank with a check for \$70.00. Thank you so much to those that donated and participated in this great cause! Your generosity went a long way and reached MANY families within our community.



Open Mic Begins at FCS

"Open Mic" is a newly added activity that began in January and will run throughout the spring. Students will have the opportunity to perform each Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-4:00 pm in the HS Auditorium. Students should contact Mr. Murphy or any members of the Stage Crew Club if interested in performing. Spectators are welcome!

An "Open Mic Night" was held on January 28th from 2:30-5:00 pm in the HS Auditorium. Students had the opportunity to show off their talents by performing on stage in a variety of ways: singing karaoke, dancing, reading poetry, playing "Just Dance" on the Wii, singing, etc. This was all for a great cause to help raise money for a local Forestville family. Pizza, snacks, drinks, and baked goods were also sold during the event.

Teachers competed in a "Change Wars" contest for this event. Students had 2 weeks to raise money on behalf of a specific teacher that they wanted to see participate in Open Mic Night. The top 3 teachers that received the most money collected "in their name," performed on stage that night! This money was also donated to a local Forestville Family!





TITLE 1 READING TIPS



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
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3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year
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1,800,000 words



90th percentile



282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Middle and High School Reading: Tips for Students

The keys to becoming a successful reader in middle and high school include learning organization skills and sophisticated reading strategies.

1. Create an organization system at home. Keep binders neat and have a file for completed papers.

2. Practice reading. Read every day and particularly during the summer - the more practice the better; it doesn't matter what genre you read, just make sure you are reading.

3. Reading tips for textbooks: Read questions at the end of the chapter first; use headings and subheadings as cues.

4. Spend time in middle school developing good reading strategies. When you get to high school, teachers are more likely to concentrate on the content rather than on developing reading skills.



Blood Drive!!

Every three seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion! 20 percent of recipients are children – many are cancer patients! One pint of blood from one donor can save up to three lives. The Forestville MS/HS Student Council will sponsor their second blood drive this school year in April at the High School auditorium. The first blood drive was a huge success, reaching our goal of 30 donors. Thank you so much to all students, staff, and community members that took the time to donate. There were over 90 people's lives that were changed because of you!



SPANISH CELEBRATIONS



Hispanic Awareness Month

The Spanish Club hosted its Third Annual Club la Luna Event. Each fall, Forestville opens its doors to Spanish Clubs across Chautauqua County to provide cultural enrichment to High School Students. This unique occasion brings authentic culture into Forestville, an opportunity that is beyond the constraints of the classroom. Over 50 students from Cassadaga, Chautauqua Lake, Pine Valley, and Panama joined Forestville to taste homemade Puerto Rican foods and enjoy a night of Spanish music and dance.



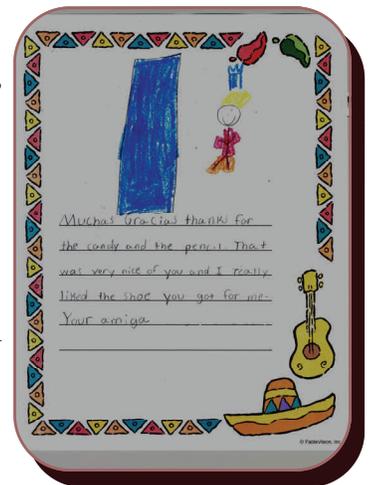
In Honor of Hispanic Awareness Month, The Spanish Department traveled to Orchard Park High School to see a production of Hispanic Flamenco Ballet. Students in grades 7-12 enjoyed an afternoon of authentic Spanish music and dance.

3 Kings Day



Over the last 3 years, the Spanish Club has been working to create a partnership with the Elementary School with the goal of providing global appreciation and cultural enrichment. Seniors, Jade Ferneza and Fabi Logan, taught elementary students about the celebration of Three Kings Day in Spanish speaking countries around the world. Spanish Club

members assembled traditional cardstock shoes and delivered them to the 8 classrooms that participated. As may have been expected, when the students arrived to school on January 6th, 3 Kings Day, they found the shoes filled with little gifts and treats. Some elementary students responded by writing thank you letters to the Three Kings.



Conecciones

Last year the Spanish Club teamed up with the Guidance Department to pilot a mentoring program called “Conecciones.” Advanced Spanish students volunteered to mentor middle school students in Spanish. The program was such a success that it is continuing this year and expanding to other subject areas. Upper level Spanish students are connecting with middle school students both academically and socially, which has been a rewarding experience for all involved.



4TH GRADE MAPS SUCCESS

Mrs. Prince's 4th grade class finished their New York State Geography unit with a fun activity. The culinary arts students at BOCES made us New York State shaped cookies and we decorated them with several of New York's notable landforms. Not only was it educational, but they were edible, too!



FCS DISTRICT INFORMATION

School Closing Information

As we head into another western NY winter, we all need to be prepared for the potential of a school closing based on inclement weather. We will use several reliable methods to communicate this important information in a timely fashion. Our first mode of communication will be our "Global Connect Broadcasting System." This system automatically calls all parents of students within the district, as well as staff members, notifying them of the closing/cancellation. The Global Connect system will not only be used in the case of closing/cancellations, but also whenever there is an important announcement from the District. After the Global Connect call is made, we will then contact the following Buffalo Television Stations so that the announcement will be made available for anyone watching:



WGRZ TV Channel 2
WIVB TV Channel 4
WKBW TV Channel 7



If you are not currently on the automated call system, and would like to be included, please send an e-mail request to Mr. Murphy at mmurphy@forestville.com

FCS DISTRICT INFORMATION

Change To This Year's School Calendar

A change to the 2014-2015 school calendar has been made in order to recover one of the instructional days lost due to emergency school closings. **Friday, March 6, 2015 has been designated as a half day of student attendance for the Elementary School only.** Dismissal will be at 11:30 at the Elementary School. This day was previously designated as a full-day Superintendent's Conference Day with no student attendance. There will still be no student attendance at the Middle/High School on March 6th.

At this time, the remainder of the 2014-2015 school calendar remains the same. Depending on future weather circumstances, the calendar may be subject to additional changes.

Are you receiving the STAR credit on your school taxes?

If you own property and it is your primary residence, you are probably eligible for a STAR school property tax exemption. To receive your exemption all you have to do is complete an application which you may obtain from your local assessor's office or download from www.tax.ny.gov. Return the completed form to your local assessor **by March 1st**. The assessor may require proof of residency and ownership.

2 TYPES OF STAR EXEMPTION:

1) The **Basic STAR** exemption is available for owner-occupied, primary residences for owners who are 64 years old or younger. Basic STAR works by exempting the first \$30,000 of the full market value of a home from school taxes. To be eligible for the Basic STAR, the maximum adjustable gross income limit is \$500,000.

You may need to re-apply for the basic STAR exemption. All taxpayers eligible for the Basic STAR exemption were required to complete a registration with the NYS Tax Department to continue to receive STAR exemptions in 2014 and subsequent years. If you did not complete this registration, then you must complete the application referred to above and return it to your local assessor by March 1st. You can look on your 2014 tax bill to verify if you are currently receiving the Basic STAR exemption or if you need to re-apply.

2) The **Enhanced (Senior) STAR** exemption is available for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with yearly household incomes not exceeding the statewide standard. For qualifying senior citizens, the Enhanced STAR program works by exempting a portion of the full market value of their home from property taxes (\$64,200 for the 2014-2015 school year). For property owned by a husband and wife, or by siblings, only one of them must be at least 65 years of age as of December 31st of the year in which the exemption will begin to qualify for the Enhanced exemption. Their combined annual income, however, must not exceed the STAR income standard (currently \$83,300).

Seniors must re-apply annually or participate in the Income Verification Program. The assessor's office suggests that senior citizens apply for, or renew, your application when you receive your school tax bill each year. That will ensure that you will continue to receive your Enhanced STAR exemption for the following year.

FORESTVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CENSUS

The Forestville CSD updates annually school census information. It is very important that we keep an up-to-date record of all children from birth to age 18 who reside in the district. In addition we need to identify children with disabilities from birth through age 21. It is our responsibility to ensure that all school-age children in our district are receiving approved instruction in a public, private or parochial school or are home taught. The information required on the form below will aid the District in numerous ways, including planning for transportation routes, school attendance areas, and future enrollment projections. Please return the census if you meet any of the following conditions:

- **You are a new District resident with young children NOT currently attending school**
- **You have recently had a baby or adopted a child**
- **Your children attend school in another district, attend a private school or are home taught.**

Please return the census form to June Prince at 12 Water Street, Forestville, NY 14062 as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call June Prince at 965-6539.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CENSUS FORM

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Last) (First)

Spouse/Other: _____
(Last) (First)

Residence Location: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

Telephone: _____

Children in Household: _____
(Last) (First) (Date of Birth)

(Last) (First) (Date of Birth)

Does a child with a handicapping condition or suspected disability live in your household?

Yes: _____ No: _____

*If yes please state nature of disability or suspected disability:

Child's Information: _____
(Last) (First) (Date of Birth)

Forestville Central District Newsletter

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ELEMENTARY ART SHOWCASE

