

# BOLIVAR-RICHBURG Central School



March 2021

## *The New York State Teacher of the Year Award Goes to a Bolivar-Richburg Instructor!*

In this newsletter, I would like to highlight wonderful news we received a couple of months ago. Mrs. Patricia Eshelman has been honored with the Teacher of the Year Award for New York State in Agricultural Science.

This is the first time that a teacher from the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District has ever won such a prestigious award. This is not the first time Mrs. Eshelman's work in the Wolverine Environmental Education Center, also widely known as the WEE Center, has caught the eye of New York State and the Allegany Farm Bureau. In 2018 the WEE Center was awarded the Allegany Farm Bureau's Agriculture Promotion of the Year Award. The WEE Center has also received a Certificate of Recognition in 2018 from Senator Catharine Young's office, a Congressional Proclamation in 2018 from Congressman Tom Reed's office and a Citation in 2018 from New York State Assemblyman Joseph Gigilo's office.



This coming July, Mrs. Eshelman will go on to represent the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District on the national level in Des Moines, Iowa. During such a difficult school year, this announcement has added a much-needed positive highlight. I ask everyone to join with me in congratulating Mrs. Eshelman on all her hard work and creativity, which has brought such positive attention to our school district.

Go Wolverines!  
Mr. Quartley  
Secondary Principal

On January 22, the annual Bolivar- Richburg Middle School Spelling Bee was held, albeit with significant modifications due to COVID restrictions. This year's Spelling Bee followed a written format, in which students wrote all of the given words rather than pronouncing their spelling aloud. Qualifying sixth, seventh and eighth grade students competed to determine who could spell the most words correctly as Mr. Justin Thomas pronounced them. The winners won cash prizes, and all competitors received goodie bags and certificates.

Congratulations to our 2020-2021 Spelling Bee Winners:

- 1st place: Starlyn Kisel (7th grade)** (Pictured right)
- 2nd place: Karson Baker (7th grade)**
- 3rd place: Kaci Smallwood (7th grade)**

Starlyn is now eligible to participate in the next regional round of competition of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will take place virtually in March. Congratulations to all participants and winners! **We are proud of you!**



2nd and 3rd place Spelling Bee winners, Karson Baker (Left) and Kaci Smallwood

# Message from the Superintendent

Dear Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Members of the Bolivar-Richburg Community,

As I write this letter, I look back on what the past year has brought us all regarding changes. It will be one year this March that we had to close our doors to in-person learning and switch to virtual learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In September, we were happy to try to get to some sort of normalcy and welcome our students back in the classroom for in-person and hybrid instruction. Every day we are open is a sign of success for our students and families. It is because of the hard work and dedication of administration, faculty, and staff at Bolivar-Richburg CS that we were able to accomplish this important task.

Things are slowly starting to return to normal, as over the last few weeks winter sports have returned to our buildings. We are now allowing spectators to our sporting events—two people per family, and we are streaming live as many games and matches possible so you can view safely at home. Students are starting to participate in clubs, mostly virtually—but it's a start. As a District, we continue to encourage our students to work hard and excel inside and outside of the classroom and throughout our community. The Wolverine spirit is running high and as a community we have a lot to be proud of.

## School Budget Preparation:

The Board of Education and the administrative team are beginning to develop the budget for the 2021-2022 school year. The budget focuses on both balancing the academics and inter-scholastic sports, the fine arts, and after-school programs. This year we have to address this with no increase in New York State aid, while dealing with the increase in expenses related to the pandemic and virtual learning. In doing so, we are looking at the long-range financial success of the Bolivar-Richburg CSD. I'm confident we will be able to reach these goals, while minimally impacting the local taxpayers.

During this budget development process, our number one priority is to preserve a well-balanced educational experience for all of our students. This upcoming school year we will be focused on increasing academic supports and opportunities in our classrooms.

## Capital Project:

We have been working with the BOE facilities committee and representative from Clark-Patterson Lee Architects to develop the scope of our next Capital Improvement Project. This future project will focus on several key areas including repairing/improving building infrastructure needs, such as roofs, heating units, parking lot repairs.



We will also look at continuing to increase building security, and instructional technology, including the development of a “Maker-Space”/S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) lab within our buildings. We are also looking at updating other instructional areas to help improve student learning. We will be hosting a series of public forums/building walk-throughs with regards to the project proposal. If you would like to join us, please pre-register by calling the Superintendent's office at (585) 928-2937.

The Bolivar-Richburg Board of Education, faculty, staff, and administration would like to extend best wishes to you and your family; we hope everyone remains safe and healthy. We understand and appreciate the trust and support that you give our district on a daily basis. We accept this enormous responsibility by continually striving to educate all students, growing our programming (academic, curricular, character and extracurricular), and developing each and every child to be the best they can be.

Respectfully,

*Michael A. Retzlaff*

Michael A. Retzlaff  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bolivar-Richburg CSD

## OPEN INVITE TO PUBLIC Capital Improvement Project Forums/Building Walk-Throughs

We will be hosting a series of public forums/building walk-throughs with regards to the project proposal. If you would like to join us, please pre-register by calling the Superintendent's office at (585) 928-2937.

Public Forums			
Date	Time	Topic	Location
Tuesday March 9, 2021	4-6:30 p.m.	Public - Jr./Sr. High Building Condition & Walk-Through	Jr./Sr. High Auditorium
Tuesday, March 23, 2021	4-6:30 p.m.	Public - Elementary Building Condition & Walk Through	Elementary Cafeteria
Tuesday, March 30, 2021	5-6:30 p.m.	Public & Staff - Pre-K Study Review/The Facts	Jr./Sr. High Auditorium (ZOOM)

## PHONE NUMBER OR ADDRESS CHANGES?

Please contact the Guidance Office at 585-928-2986 if you or your children have phone number, e-mail address, emergency number or address changes that need to be made in our Power School student information computer system. Thank you for helping us keep our information as up to date as possible as it is especially important to have during the pandemic to stay in communication with you!





## Emergency School Closing List

When it is necessary to delay school opening, close school, or dismiss early, the following TV and Radio Stations will be contacted.

<i>Channel 2 TV</i>	<i>WGRZ-TV Buffalo</i>
<i>Channel 4 TV</i>	<i>AM Program</i>
<i>Channel 7 TV</i>	<i>WIVB-TV Buffalo</i>
	<i>AM Program</i>
<i>WJQZ, Wellsville</i>	<i>WKBW-TV Buffalo</i>
<i>WLSV, Wellsville</i>	<i>AM Program</i>
<i>WOEN, Olean</i>	<i>103.5 FM Radio</i>
<i>WMXO, Olean</i>	<i>790 AM Radio</i>
<i>WHDL, Olean</i>	<i>1360 AM Radio</i>
<i>WPIG, Olean</i>	<i>101.5 FM Radio</i>
<i>WBEN, Buffalo</i>	<i>1450 AM Radio</i>
	<i>95.7 FM Radio</i>
	<i>930 AM Radio</i>

The District will also use the automated system, School Messenger, to inform families. Please contact the guidance office to update telephone numbers. Thank you.

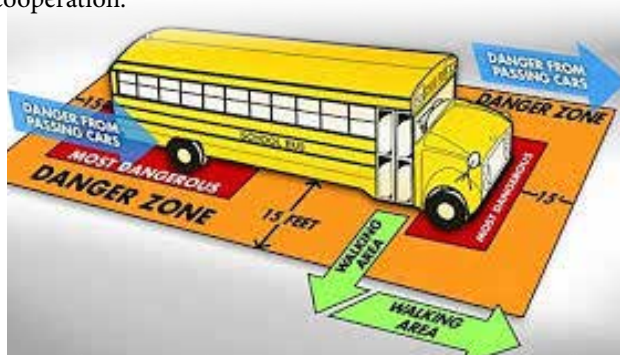
## Transportation Requests

Parents are reminded that written requests for transportation to non-public schools must be received by April 1, 2021, to be eligible for the 2021-2022 school year. Please send requests to:

**Michael Retzlaff, Superintendent**  
**Bolivar-Richburg Central School**  
**100 School Street, Bolivar, NY 14715**

## A Message From the the School Bus Safety Team

The School Bus Safety Team requires cooperation between both the Bolivar-Richburg staff, parents, and guardians. Please talk to your students about the danger zones around our buses. Bolivar-Richburg Bus Monitors and Drivers have been working diligently and dutifully to ensure students load and unload our buses safely. Also ask your students about the rules for crossing, getting on the bus, leaving the bus, and waiting and arriving for the bus. Thank you for all your help and cooperation.



## Bolivar-Richburg Central School Petitions for Board of Education Seats

Petitions may be obtained from the District Clerk, Connie Emery, by email at [cemery@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:cemery@bolivarrichburg.org). Petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk no later than 5 PM on or before April 19, 2021. Petitions will be filed for three full three-year expired terms.

1. Expired term of Erin Baldwin for three (3) years.
2. Expired term of Heather Iantorno for three (3) years.
3. Expired term of Jody McLaughlin for three (3) years.

Each petition must be signed by at least twenty five (25) qualified voters in the district and must state the name and residence of the candidate.

**Connie P. Emery**

*District Clerk*

*Bolivar-Richburg Central School*

*100 School Street*

*Bolivar, NY 14715*

## Qualifications for Membership on a School Board

- Must be able to read and write.
- Must be a qualified voter of the district; that is, a citizen of the United States; at least 18 years of age or older.
- Must be and have been a resident (but need not be a taxpayer) of the district for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately before the election.
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding year.
- May not reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family.
- May not be a current employee of the school board.
- May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office.

## Qualifications of Voters

To be a qualified voter you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- At least 18 years of age.
- A resident of the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote



# ***INFORMATION REGARDING NON-DISCRIMINATION***

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, political affiliation, race, creed or religion, color, national origin, or disability in the employment and educational opportunities it offers, including career and technical educational opportunities as required by Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

The Board of Education affirms its compliance with those sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 dealing with program accessibility.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in federally assisted programs or activities solely on the basis of disability. The District shall make its program and facilities accessible to all its students with disabilities.

The District shall also identify, evaluate and extend to every qualified student with a disability under Section 504 a free, appropriate public education, including modifications, accommodations, specialized instruction or related aids and services, as deemed necessary to meet their educational needs as adequately as the needs of non-disabled students are met.

## **Sexual Harassment of Students**

The Board of Education affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide for all District students an environment that is free of sexual harassment and intimidation. Sexual harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the Board prohibits and condemns all forms of sexual harassment by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors which occur on school grounds and at all school sponsored events, programs and activities including those that take place at locations off school premises or those that take place in another state. Generally, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- a) Submission to or rejection of such sexually harassing conduct and/or communication by a student affects decisions regarding any aspect of the student's education, including participation in school-sponsored activities;
- b) Conditions exist within the school environment that allow or foster obscene pictures, lewd jokes, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other harassing activities of a sexual nature; and
- c) Such conduct and/or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in an educational or extracurricular activity, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment and/or effectively bars the student's access to an educational opportunity or benefit.

## **Complaint Process**

Any student suspecting discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, military status, political affiliation, race, creed or religion, color, national origin, or disability may make a claim of discrimination using the procedure outlined below. Anyone who is aware of or has a complaint about sexual harassment should also follow this procedure. This claim or complaint is filed with the Superintendent/designee, who will assist with the complaint process if necessary. The following information should be included on the complaint.

- 1) The exact nature of the complaint – actions, policies, or practices believed to be discriminatory and any person believed to be responsible.
- 2) The date, time and place of the alleged discriminatory action(s).
- 3) The names of witnesses or persons who have knowledge about the complaint.
- 4) Any available written documentation or evidence that is relevant to the complaint.
- 5) The actions that could be taken to correct the complaint.



The Superintendent/designee shall cause a review of the complaint to be conducted (including necessary meetings and interviews) and a written response mailed to the complainant within ten school days after receipt of the complaint. If it is agreed that discrimination occurred, corrective action will be taken to restore denied rights.

If there is not agreement, a written appeal may be submitted to the Board of Education indicating the reasons for disagreement. The Board of Education shall consider the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting following receipt of the appeal.

A complaint of illegal discrimination may also be filed with the Federal Office for Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

Title IX Coordinator for the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District  
Susan Bokman  
Director of Special Education  
585-928-2914

## ELEMENTARY NEWS

### A MESSAGE FROM The Elementary Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we continue to move through the year, I would like to remind you and encourage you as a parent to keep reading with your child for at least 20 minutes a day. This is truly the best thing that you can do for your child as a parent. There is power in reading as it supports their academic growth; but it also can be a nice quiet time together. Whether we are read to by the teacher, parent or a sibling, the feelings of relaxation and excitement surface. These reading experiences with your children are called read alouds. These read alouds are the very foundation of reading. Reading aloud with your children supports their development as readers and writers, fosters their love of reading, improves reading skills and abilities, and encourages children to read throughout their lives.

#### Virtual Learning:

At any given time we have had students on virtual learning. Whether your child is doing virtual learning continuously or whether they are virtual for a short period of time, I would like to remind everyone of the expectations. When students are on virtual learning, please make sure your child attends their grade level virtual schedule, is on time, that their video is on, and that they are in an area free from distractions. It is very important that students use appropriate behavior and follow the rules just as they were in school. This will be key to the success of your child's virtual experience.

Currently the NYS testing has not been cancelled, Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast on these testing dates. Please remember during the winter months that students still do go outside for recess, weather permitting. Please make sure to send to school the appropriate clothing for students. Students will be dismissed at 10:45 on Friday, March 12, due to a Superintendent's Conference afternoon.

Also, our spring break begins with no school on Friday, April 2, and students return to school on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Please feel free to contact the school with any questions or concerns at 585-928-2882. School/Parent Communication is key to student's success!

Sincerely,  
Andrea McLaughlin  
Elementary Principal

## Elementary Guidance News

*Mrs. Angela Schryver, Elementary Counselor*

### State Testing Just Around the Corner!

NYS ELA Grades 3-8: April 20-22

NYS Math Grades 3-8: May 4-6

Grade 4 Science Performance Test- May 25- June 4 (exact date TBD)

Grade 4 Science Written Test- June 7

Anticipated spring testing is just around the corner! At this time, we have not received anything from the state that spring testing will be cancelled for the 2021 school year. We will continue working with our students to prepare them as much as possible! State testing often brings angst for both parents and children. All parents want to see their children perform well in school. Parents play an important part in helping their children give their best performance on a test. The tips presented below may serve as a guideline for parents when helping their children prepare for testing.

During the weeks leading up to the test, begin to talk with your child about the importance of giving their best effort during testing. Practice with them, talk to their teachers to find out what areas they need more practice in, and most importantly READ with your child. Good reading skills will help your child with reading passages and will help them feel more confident. The following are tips to help you in preparing your child to do their best.

(Continued on Page 6)





(Continued from Page 5)

### The night before:

- Help your child get to bed on time. Research shows that being well-rested helps students do better.
- Help children resolve immediate arguments before going to bed.
- Keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
- Mention the test to show you're interested, but don't dwell on it.
- Plan ahead to avoid conflicts on the morning of the test.

### The morning of the test:

- Get up early to avoid rushing. Be sure to have your child at school on time.
- Have your child eat a good breakfast but not a heavy one. Research shows that students do better if they have breakfast before they take tests.
- Be positive about the test. Acknowledge that tests can be hard and that they're designed so that no one will know all of the answers. Explain that doing your best is what counts. The important thing is to make your child comfortable and confident about the test.

After the test talk with your child about how it went. Praise them for doing their best, and reassure them that you are proud of them for giving their best effort.

### Practicing Kindness

During the month of December, we celebrated the character trait kindness! One of the activities we held was our annual door decorating contest! Classrooms were given the task to create a slogan centered around the character trait of kindness! Mrs. Bentley's classroom took 1st place with their theme "Triple dog dare you to be kind!" Then came 3rd grade's "COVID Superheroes" theme and Mrs. Hillman's "Magic Elves Spreading Kindness" theme!



## BOLIVAR-RICHBURG 3-YEAR OLD SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

In order to identify all children who will enter our 3-year old program in September 2021, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2021. Your child must be 3 years of age on or before December 1, 2021. This information is necessary when we initiate program sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_



## BOLIVAR-RICHBURG KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

In order to identify all children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2021, we are asking those parents who have eligible children who **DO NOT CURRENTLY ATTEND THE PRE-K PROGRAM** to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2021. Your child must be 5 years of age on or before December 1, 2021. This information is necessary when we initiate Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. *Students currently attending the Pre-K will automatically be sent a packet.* Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Maiden Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Child Resides With: \_\_\_\_\_

Bolivar-Richburg Elementary School  
PO Box 158  
Richburg, New York 14774

## BOLIVAR-RICHBURG PRE-KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UPS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

In order to identify all children who will enter Pre-Kindergarten in September 2021, we are asking those parents who have eligible children to complete this form and return it to the elementary school by April 1, 2021. Your child must be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2021. This information is necessary when we initiate Pre-Kindergarten sign-ups in the spring. We will use this information below to generate a mailing list for sending the actual registration packets. *Students currently attending the 3-year old program will automatically be sent a packet.* Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Maiden Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
House # Street City State Zip

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Phone Number where you can be reached between 8:00AM and 3:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Child Resides With: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer half-day program \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer full-day program

Bolivar-Richburg Elementary School  
PO Box 158  
Richburg, New York 14774





## Mrs. Auman's PE Corner

I am truly amazed at our students and the community! The Kid's Heart Challenge has been another success. Thank you to everyone for supporting our students and this great cause! All donations will be tallied over February break. After break, our top earner will get to slime Mrs. Auman or Mr. George. Look for pictures on Facebook!

In addition to the Kid's Heart Challenge, we have been working hard on our PE units. Younger students completed their striking with implements (Lollipop paddles and balloons), while the older ones practiced their tennis forehand and backhand and learned how to keep score. During the Kid's Heart Challenge, students in all grades worked on their jumping and landing skills with and without a jump rope. It was lots of fun working with the long jump rope and learning how to do run-throughs and turn the rope with a partner.

Coming up will be our Frisbee unit. Students will practice their throwing skills by participating in various games, like Horseshoe frisbee and Bocce frisbee. It may look a little different than it has in the past, but we will sure have lots of fun!

### Recess Update

Thank you to all of the families that have been making sure that their children have been bringing winter clothing for recess! We will continue to get students outside for recess as much as we possibly can. Students have had the opportunity to build snowmen, make snow forts and even slide down the side hill on the soccer field.



## 3PK News

*Mrs Johnson and Miss Julie*

We've been busy in 3PK!

Each day children explore the world around them through structured and unstructured play-based learning opportunities. Students are learning to interact with their peers, learning to use language when dealing with conflict, and most importantly—how to be a good friend.

Through the last few months, our themes have included animals, kindness, winter, and dinosaurs. Our Pre-K library helps to reinforce these themes with book choices in the classroom as well as books that students choose to "check out" each week. Thank you, Miss Julie for being our classroom librarian!

March will bring us to our spring unit where we will explore the signs of spring, weather changes, and how plants grow. We'll also sprinkle in some Dr. Seuss activities when we celebrate his birthday.



## Half Day Pre-K

*Mrs Johnson and Miss Julie*

The students in Pre-K continue to work on their kindergarten readiness skills. They are building their skills and confidence through active engagement and participation in play-based activities each day.

It has been a busy few months in Pre-K. In November and December, we enjoyed the holidays by sharing our traditions and learning about how other people celebrate at this time of year. In January, we welcomed in the New Year! We added our last names on our name plates and started printing our last name. We talked about Martin Luther King Jr., explored many groups of animals in our animal unit, completed our unit on shapes, and began working with numbers greater than 5.

February started off with a celebration of Groundhog Day! We learned many interesting facts about groundhogs, made groundhog puppets, and enjoyed popping in and out of a Pre-K child-size groundhog burrow. Valentine's Day festivities were halted due to a brief school closure. We will share love & kindness when we return after February break with a late celebration.

Throughout the months, we have enjoyed borrowing books from our own Pre-K library. Miss Julie has exposed us to many amazing children's authors and illustrators through the choices provided each week.



March will be an exciting month! We will start off by celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. We'll do several activities with a variety of his rhyming books. The students will become authors and illustrators of their own rhyming book—which they can read! We are really looking forward to our next ELA unit on Plants—a sign that spring is on its way and the snow is on its way out!





## Full Day Pre-K

*Miss Glover, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Sexton and Mrs. Adams*



Greetings from the full day Pre-K classes! We have been super busy in full day Pre-K! The students have worked hard on writing their names as well as identifying their names. They are learning to identify their classmates' names. The students are working on learning the letters in their names by building, writing, and painting their names.

In December, students learned all about "Families and Communities." We had so much fun learning all about families and how they love us and help us grow and change! Students also learned about family traditions and celebrations, communities, and community helpers. Students had the opportunity to share with the class some of their family's holiday traditions. Thank you to all the families that helped with these projects—they were fantastic! Thank you to all of our families who made a gingerbread with their child at home and sent in for the hallway decorations! It was so nice to see all the different gingerbread while we learned the Classic Tale: "The Gingerbread Man".

In January and February, your child learned all about "Animals." The students learned the name of many animals, how animals' body parts help them survive, and animal baby names and their mothers. They even took a closer look at all of the animals they have learned about and sorted them into groups of animals, such as birds, insects, fish, and mammals. Students also worked on practicing telling stories, learning nursery rhymes, rhyming, alphabet letters/sounds, drawing, and writing their names and even some animal names.

In math, students explored two- and three-dimensional shapes and objects. They learned to identify circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles. Students continue to work on counting up to 20, one-to-one correspondence, counting a set of objects to tell "how many" up to 10, and number recognition 6-10.

## Kindergarten

*Miss Hackett, Miss Perkins, Mrs. Stutzman and Mrs. Windus*

We have been working in Kindergarten! In our ELA Kings and Queens unit, we learned all about what royal kings and queens do as rulers. All of the princes and princesses dressed up for a Royal Tea Party. In our ELA Columbus and the Pilgrims unit, we learned about the adventures Columbus made to the New World.



We also learned about the pilgrimage the Pilgrims made, and the creation of the First Thanksgiving. We wrapped the unit up with a Boat Race between the kindergarten classes using the four ships: Niña, Pinta, Santa María, and the Mayflower. Each class worked so hard and made it to America. We are looking forward to our next two units: Colonial Towns and Townspeople, and Presidents and American Symbols.

We have been learning about all of the consonants, short vowels, long vowels, digraphs and vowel pairs. Knowing these sounds has helped us in reading and writing. We continue to practice writing star-worthy letters and numbers.

In math, we wrapped up comparing weight, height, length and volume. We have used our numbers to compare more, less or same. We love counting to 100 by ones and tens especially with song. We are currently learning about number bonds, adding and subtracting. It has been so much fun to add and subtract real life objects such as our food or school supplies.



## First Grade

*Mrs. Bentley, Mrs. Mallery and Miss Van Deusen*

First grade has been very busy in math this month. We have been measuring, making graphs, and then using the data to answer questions. We get to ask each other questions to make graphs like our favorite desserts or favorite colors. With measuring, we have been using cubes, rulers, paperclips, and even beans! We have measured our feet, our school supplies, and things that we can find around the room. One of the activities we were able to do was make math robots. We measured how long and wide different parts of the robots were in centimeters using centimeter cubes and a ruler! It was a lot of fun!



Our First-Grade astronauts have touched back down on Earth from their trip to space. Boys and girls learned many things during the exploration of outer space. Did you know that the sun is a star, and it would take over three months on the fastest

rocket ship to reach it? Of course, you would burn up before you made it to your destination! Our astronauts also learned about constellations, what causes night and day, rotation of our planet as it orbits the sun, and our solar system; but their favorite by far was learning about the phases of the moon and how it reflects light.



As you can see, they were eager to show off their knowledge about the phases of our moon!



## Second Grade

*Mrs. Livingston, Mrs. Clark, Miss Perrin, Miss Gerard*

Second graders continue to work hard every day!

In reading, students have heard and learned about The War of 1812 and Westward Expansion. They have also read stories about kids who excel at various activities and about a brother and sister who are in search of a summer job in New York City.



Second graders have been busy learning many new phonics sounds and spellings, including ey, the many sounds of y (short i, long i, long e), aw, augh, au, and igh. Students have been learning the difference between common and proper nouns along with verbs, including different tenses of the verb “to be” (was, is, were).

In math, students have been learning MANY different place value strategies to add and subtract two and three-digit numbers within 1,000. They also have been working very hard on solving one and TWO step word problems. Please continue to work on math facts within 20 at home—this helps them be successful when using place value strategies to add and subtract.

Happy Birthday to all those students who celebrated a birthday in December, January, and February!

## Fourth Grade

*News from Mrs. Perry*

As we head into the 3rd quarter, I am amazed at what we have accomplished so far in 4th grade! While we’ve followed the Engage NY Math Modules, we can’t help but stray from time to time to include a little fun activity. As we finished up the module for multiplication and division, we took advantage of a little informative assessment opportunity using the VersaTiles. VersaTiles are an alternative to traditional skills practice where students solve the equations, flip and check the pattern revealed on the back of the tiles, and have the opportunity for immediate self-checking and correcting of the equations. What a fun way to assess our skills!





## Fourth Grade (Cont.)

*News from Mrs. Hillman*

Wow! This school year is really flying by! The fourth graders continue to do some amazing work in science and social studies. In science, we have studied forms of energy and the students have a good understanding of all the energy around us. We have just finished up our Makin' Waves Unit and have had a lot of fun drawing many models of light and sound waves. Ask your child to share with you how we are able to see objects and hear sounds!

We have just wrapped up our Explorers Unit in Social Studies. We have studied and explored many different European Explorers. The 4th graders traveled back in time and pretended to apply for a job on Columbus' ship. They each wrote a very detailed letter explaining they should be picked for the job. These letters were excellent! Ask your child to share with you the job that he or she wrote about.



Please continue to support your child at home by checking their agendas and looking over their homework assignments each night. All 5th graders are required to read at least 25 minutes every night and mark it on their reading logs. Students are also encouraged to make corrections to math homework to increase their knowledge and understanding of math concepts. Keep up the good work 5th grade! I am very proud of you!



## Fifth Grade ELA

*Mrs. Smith*

ELA class has been filled with lots of reading and writing. We continue to read informational and literature-based texts. Our current module focuses on new or improved technologies that have been developed to meet societal needs and how those inventions have changed people's lives. Our writing focus has been responding to questions based on the articles or stories we are reading in class. Short responses are scored using a 2-point rubric. The extended response, which is an essay based on paired passages, requires an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Essays are scored using a 4-point rubric. This is helping students prepare for the upcoming state tests which will be administered April 20-22.

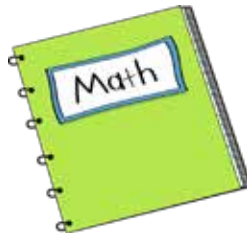
Our Wolverine Superheroes certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Kaitlyn Lutes and Paul Leone. In order to be selected as a Superhero, students must go above and beyond to help others and show good character traits. These students are truly deserving of this award!

Please continue to support your child at home each night by checking their agenda and red folder for homework assignments and important notes. All 5th graders are required to read at least 25 minutes every night, which should total 500+ minutes per month as part of the school wide reading program that has been implemented this year. Reading is knowledge!

## Fifth Grade Math

*Mrs. Dahill*

The 5th graders have just wrapped up their unit on multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers and decimals. Though it was met with some hesitation, the students rose to the challenge and completed the unit with flying colors. We have identified multiple strategies for completing some pretty tricky word problems and will continue to develop skills using CUBES. Next, we are moving into our unit on adding and subtracting fractions. If you are looking for ways to support your child's learning at home, please continue practicing those multiplication and division facts. Each student also has an iReady account on their iPad to help strengthen their math skills.



## MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### Chess Club

Ms. Renyck



Chess Club has been the highlight of my Monday evenings as a dedicated group of students join via Zoom to compete with each other. Our current front runner with the most wins is Sam Martin, but there are competitive players eager to take the lead. How long will he remain the champion? It's anyone's guess, but Sam has some advice for his fellow chess players who take a more defensive approach: "You need to be willing to sacrifice some of your pawns." Congratulations for now, Sam!

### Earth Science

Ms. Renyck



Greetings, everyone.

I know that Punxsutawney Phil's wintry forecast has disappointed many of you. To be fair, Groundhog Day is always about 6 weeks away from Spring Solstice. Did you know that Phil has a weather forecasting nemesis in Ontario? Wiarton Willie is an albino groundhog who also, apparently, holds a degree in Meteorology & Climatology.

Prior to winter break, we finished the concepts of weathering, erosion, and deposition. We will begin exploring landscapes and topographic maps after break, followed by relative and absolute age dating methods of rocks. By the end of March, we should be ready to explore the universe a bit before heading into our large weather & climate unit to finish the school year.

Zoom clarifications: When the entire school needs to be fully remote, we follow a new schedule (this is important news for those students who are always fully remote). I meet my students at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday. I meet my students at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday for remote lab. When students are in the building (when we are not fully remote), I meet with fully remote students during their regularly scheduled class period on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. EVERY SINGLE SCHOOL DAY I post a morning announcement in Teams so that students know what to each day. I include the Zoom link and other important information. I hope this clears up any confusion.

Please email or call if you would like to discuss your child's performance. This year has been difficult for us all, and I promise you that I'm trying my best for your children.

Sincerely,

Ms. Renyck  
hrenyck@bolivarrichburg.org

### Tips for parents and students to help stay on top of remote learning

These basic tasks will assist you in staying current and up to date regarding your student's grades, attendance, homework assignments, deadlines, and information sent out to students from teachers, counselors, and other staff.

- Utilize the parent portal every day to monitor your child's homework completion, attendance, and grades. The Guidance Office is glad to help set up accounts, reset passwords, etc. with the portal which is a helpful tool. You can even add it as a mobile device phone app and it is then at your fingertips to check!
- Ask your child to share with you their Microsoft Teams log in (username and password) so that you can view what assignments and messages they have inside of Teams. This is where teachers are linking students' work electronically. Teams does not currently have a parent/guardian view-only option for their software platform, unfortunately.
- Make sure your child has turned on the notifications for every Microsoft Team they are a member of to receive immediate notification messages so that they are aware when staff are sending out not only assignments, but other important messages.

#### IF NOTIFICATIONS ARE OFF, YOUR CHILD IS PROBABLY MISSING OUT ON IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL INFORMATION.

- Contact your child's teachers and counselors if you need assistance.
- Evaluate if full virtual learning is working for your child or not. If not, the door is open for them to come back to in-person hybrid learning any time this spring semester. WE TRULY MISS AND WANT YOUR CHILDREN IN OUR BUILDING IN PERSON.
- Help your child have a quiet, distraction-free learning space at home as much as it is possible.
- Assist your child in creating a school daily calendar - especially for virtual learning days. As counselors, we are glad to help design individualized calendars for students to follow.

PLEASE REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT IF YOUR CHILD IS STRUGGLING EMOTIONALLY OR ACADEMICALLY!! WE WANT TO HELP IF WE CAN. WE REALIZE THESE ARE CHALLENGING TIMES!





## COLLEGE SELECTION TIPS FOR JUNIORS

Please watch your Guidance Info for Juniors Team for a lesson coming soon entitled "Collection Selection Tips." Mrs. Bean will assist with the college search process during individual scheduling appointments and any time students need help.

## 8th THROUGH 11th GRADERS TO SELECT COURSES FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

During the months of March through May, all eighth through eleventh graders will meet in-person or virtually with their school counselor to select courses for next school year.

**Parents are required to sign the student schedule request form to show approval of the courses selected. However, parents are more than welcome to set up an appointment to be present when I schedule your child.**

Please e-mail me at [ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org) or call me at 928-2985 if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's choice of courses for next year or if you would like to come in to meet regarding course selection. Mrs. Swartwout will be meeting with current eighth and ninth graders to create their schedules. She can be reached at [cswartwout@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:cswartwout@bolivarrichburg.org) or at 585-928-2915. A course description booklet will be available on the Guidance Website soon and linked in the students' MicroSoft Teams called "Guidance Info" to assist them in making wise choices regarding their course selections.

### SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS FOR SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS VIRTUAL DUE TO PANDEMIC

This weblink has all of the information for the national college fairs and how to register to attend virtually:

<http://www.nacacfairs.org>

JUNIORS, PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REGISTER FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SPRING COLLEGE FAIRS VIRTUALLY AS HUNDREDS OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE REPRESENTED.

**The St. Bonaventure University Penn York College Fair is canceled this year due to the pandemic.**

*Coming soon!*

## FINANCIAL AID REMINDERS FOR SENIORS

Seniors have been reminded to be sure that they have filed the correct financial aid applications for the colleges to which they have applied—mainly the FAFSA and TAP applications. In addition to all colleges requiring the FAFSA, some colleges have their own application or use the CSS Profile and, more importantly, their very own filing deadlines. Students should call their college financial aid department or check the website to verify forms and deadlines. We have several good financial aid resources available for parents linked on our guidance financial aid website at <https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/Page/276>. At this link, you will find a lesson called "The Basics of Financial Aid" which provides some detailed step-by-step directions for completing financial aid.

\*Please contact Mrs. Bean in the guidance office for help. Also, any local college financial aid office will assist with questions you may have.

Senior Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Top Ten Scholars will be announced soon!



# STAR Credit and Exemption

*From the Desk of Kristin Woodhead, School Business Manager:*

## Why switch to the STAR credit from the STAR exemption

If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive a check instead. Beginning in 2019, the value of the STAR credit savings may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings cannot increase. The STAR exemption savings can never exceed the STAR credit savings.

## The STAR credit benefit can continue to grow

By switching to the STAR credit, your benefit could grow by as much as 2% each year, and it can never be lower than the STAR exemption benefit.

For example, if your STAR exemption benefit was \$800 on your 2018-2019 school tax bill, that's the most you can receive in any coming years, unless you switch to the STAR credit.

## If you switch to the STAR credit, your benefit can grow by as much as 2% each year.

- *In the first year, that could mean up to \$816—an extra \$16 in savings.*
- *Five years later, the STAR credit benefit could reach as high as \$900 due to the power of compounding,*

## STAR benefits can change each year

Whether you're receiving the STAR credit or exemption, the benefit can change each year due to a variety of factors, including school tax rates, changes in property values in your community, and local assessment practices.

As a result, the STAR credit benefit may not always increase, and when it does increase, it may do so by 2% or less. However, the STAR exemption benefit can never increase, even when the STAR credit benefit does increase. The STAR exemption benefit will never be higher than the STAR credit benefit.

## How much will I save?

To determine how much you could save by switching to the STAR credit:

1. *Find the amount of your STAR savings on your 2019-2020 school tax bill. (View sample property tax bills.)*
2. *Multiply your 2019-2020 STAR savings by 1.02 to see how high your STAR credit benefit can be this year if you switch to the credit.*

**Property owners switching from STAR Exemption to STAR credit must now do so by May 1 (previous deadline was June 15).**

Info about the STAR credit vs. STAR exemption:

[www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/switch.htm](http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/switch.htm)

Instructions to switch:

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm#switch>



Parent University is a free support and education program offered by CA BOCES aimed at providing resources and guidance as parents and caregivers navigate the COVID-19 pandemic with their students. All sessions will follow a similar format and structure. Sessions will be hosted via zoom. The beginning of the session (15 minutes) will offer connection & support. The bulk of the session will be focused on education and new learning. The closing of the session will be designated to sharing new resources and Q&A.

**6:00 - 6:15 p.m. (Welcome and Parents Connect)**

**6:15 - 6:50 p.m. (Education and Learning Focus)**

**6:50 - 7:00 p.m. (Closing)**

For more information or questions, please contact:

**Katie Mendell**

**Kathryn\_mendell@caboces.org**

**716-353-0456**

## Upcoming Sessions

Parent University: Help me Homeschool!

February 25, 2021

6:00-7:00 p.m.

This session will provide support for families regarding 'pandemic' schooling, allow parents and caregivers to discuss the challenges of shifting from virtual, hybrid & face to face learning and offer technology support/Q&A.

Parent University: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for Parents & Caregivers

March 25, 2021

6:00-7:00 p.m.

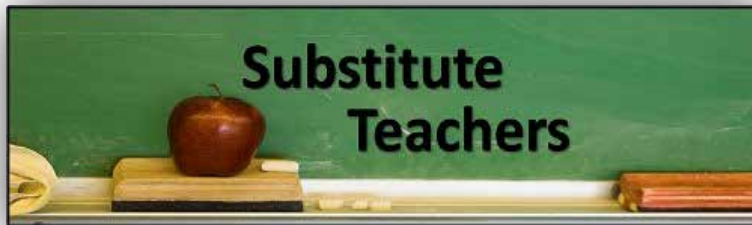
This session will provide an overview on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and the five SEL competencies. Parents and caregivers will explore the importance of SEL within their child's education, as well as in the home. Join us to learn some specific SEL strategies and resources that can support students and their wellbeing.

Learn More and Register Online

<https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/domain/173>







## ***Bolivar-Richburg Central School District Recruiting Substitute Teachers***

According to a recent study, students will spend six months of their school career learning from substitute teachers. Because the number one factor to increase student achievement is a skilled educator, the Bolivar-Richburg Central School District is recruiting motivated and responsible individuals to apply for substitute teaching positions.

### ***Substitute Teacher Responsibilities***

Provide instruction and assessment aligned with district curriculum based on lesson plans provided by the regular classroom teacher in a safe and positive learning environment.

### ***Qualifications and Expectations***

At least two years of higher education or sixty (60) credit hours and a willingness to work hard and serve as a positive role model for our students.

### ***Substitute Teacher Compensation***

\$105 a day for certified teachers, and \$95 a day for uncertified individuals.

### ***How to Apply***

Please click on "Employment Opportunities" under the "District" tab of the Bolivar-Richburg webpage (<https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/>) to fill out an on-line application to work as a substitute teacher. You can also call the District office at (585)-928-2937 and we can provide you with a paper copy of the application for you to complete. After we receive your completed application, a BRCS administrator will call you to schedule an interview and a time to learn more about our District.

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District has a proud tradition of preparing students for success down the road and around the world. If you are interested in joining the BRCS family as a substitute teacher, please consider filling out an application and helping our students become lifelong learners. If I can answer any questions you might have regarding our school, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (585) 928-2937.

Sincerely,  
Michael A. Retzlaff, Superintendent



## ***Bolivar-Richburg Central School District Recruiting Substitute Bus Drivers***

School bus drivers have one of the most important jobs in any school district. They are the first and last person to see our children each school day and are responsible for getting them to and from school safely. The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District is recruiting motivated and responsible individuals to apply for substitute school bus driver positions.

### ***Substitute School Bus Driver Responsibilities***

The most obvious responsibility of a school bus driver is to transport students to and from school or activities in a timely and safe manner. This includes showing up to each home or stop at the scheduled time and driving safely in all types of weather.

### ***Qualifications and Expectations***

- Good verbal communication skills
- At least 21 years old
- Valid License Requirements. Bus drivers must possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with a Passenger (P) endorsement and a School Bus (S) endorsement
- Be subject to a background check, fingerprinting, drug screening & physical

### ***Substitute School Bus Driver Compensation***

Starting Pay: \$15 per hour

### ***How to Apply***

Please click on "Employment Opportunities" under the "District" tab of the Bolivar-Richburg webpage (<https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/>) to fill out an on-line application to work as a substitute bus driver. You can also call the District office at (585)-928-2937 and we can provide you with a paper copy of the application for you to complete. After we receive your completed application, our Transportation Director will call you to schedule an interview and a time to learn more about our District.

If you are interested in joining the BRCS family as a substitute bus driver, please consider filling out an application. If I can answer any questions you might have regarding our school, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (585) 928-2937.

Sincerely,  
Michael A. Retzlaff, Superintendent



**Bolivar-Richburg Central School**  
**100 School Street**  
**Bolivar, NY 14715**

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**Heather Iantorno**, Vice President  
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## ***SAT AND ACT UPDATE FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS***

Due to the pandemic, many SAT and ACT tests sessions have been cancelled for safety reasons. Therefore, many colleges have gone “test optional” for current seniors and juniors who are preparing to apply to college. Test optional means you MAY submit an SAT or ACT score if you have one, but that it is not required to apply. It is recommended that juniors take at least one ACT or SAT in the spring so that you have an official test score just in case you need one.

We have given the P-SAT and PreACT already this year to any interested sophomores and juniors free of charge that wished to take these practice exams to familiarize themselves with the test time limits and style of questions. Pre-ACT score reports have just arrived and will be given to students soon.

Students should register for these tests on-line at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for the ACT and [www.sat.collegeboard.org/register](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org/register) for the SAT. I am glad to assist if students run into technical problems while trying to complete their registrations. If a student normally qualifies for free or reduced lunch or receives government financial assistance, I can give him/her a fee waiver, which waives the fees to take the SAT and the ACT exam twice during their junior or senior year. Students need to request fee waivers in person at the Guidance Office.

Students may test as many times as they would like, and colleges will consider the highest test scores.

