

# BOLIVAR-RICHBURG Central School



December 2023

## *Mark Your Calendar*

**Christmas/New Year's Holiday Recess**  
*December 22-January 1*

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**  
*January 15*

**Mid-Winter Recess**  
*February 19-23*

**Superintendent's Conference**  
*March 15*

**Spring Recess**  
*April 1-8*



## *BRCS Holiday Dinner*

The Bolivar-Richburg Central School District  
will be hosting a  
Senior Citizen Holiday Dinner  
at the Bolivar Building Cafeteria on  
**Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.**

To make reservations, please contact the Superintendent's  
office at 585-928-2937 by **November 30, 2023**.

## *"DAR" Daughters of the American Revolution Award Winner*



Congratulations go out to senior Nebula Wilson-Smith, who has been selected as the 2023-24 BRCS DAR Award winner. The Daughters of the American Revolution organization sponsors this annual award recognizing individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities.

Nebula is a member of the BRCS National Honor Society, the Varsity Tennis team, and the school Travel Club. She is a wonderful friend and classmate who gives back to her community by volunteering her time at the Little Genesee Library. Nebula plans to attend Edinboro University next fall where she will study animation, as she has a great passion and talent for visual art.

Local political representatives will honor her this spring at a DAR ceremony.

**Bolivar-Richburg Central School**

# Message from the Superintendent

*Hello BRCS Family and Friends,*

I hope this fall has been a pleasant one for you and your family—and while I can't believe we are already approaching the end of November—it has been a great start to the school year for our students, faculty, and staff! The team here at BRCS has been working hard to provide our students with a positive and productive school experience and we appreciate the support you provide as we work together to make that possible. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many members of the school community and am grateful to be a part of this District.

One of the School Board's goals for this year is to "consistently communicate important information and to promote district events to community residents," and we have been working in the District Office to be sure we do that! Thank you for your positive response to our communication efforts so far this year. We appreciate the support we have in the community and we will continue to provide you with up to date information about the great things happening here at school! If there is anything I can do to help support your children please feel free to reach out to my office. I'm always interested in what our kids are experiencing here and it helps to improve the overall work of the school when we hear from families. Thanks again for your ongoing support and please stay in touch!

Sincerely,

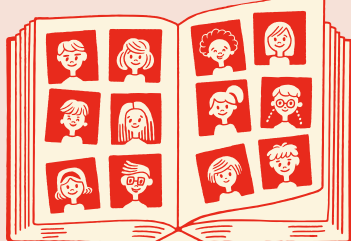
*Charles Leichner*

Interim Superintendent of Schools

Bolivar-Richburg Central School District

## Yearbook News

*The Claw* staff is working hard to produce a sensational 2024 Bolivar-Richburg yearbook. Our yearbook will include grades 6 through 12. This year *The Claw* will feature some new and interesting ideas. Do you like Spotify? Do you have a favorite playlist? Then you will definitely want to grab your copy of this year's book! It is guaranteed to be a best seller.



Parent ad letters were mailed out in early November. These ads will be due by January 31, 2024. As always, we thank our families and our local businesses for their support. Your ads help us to continue to maintain yearbook prices and help make it affordable for all of our students. New this year, family ads will be sent to Jostens for completion. This will make the process much more efficient and will ensure the photos are of a high resolution and the ads are of the best quality. More information will come concerning the procedure to follow to ensure your family ad is sent in on time.

Remember to purchase your yearbook through [JostensYearbooks.com](http://JostensYearbooks.com) or see Ms. Schena or Mrs. Donahue – 585-928-2561, ext. 4207 or 4222. The price of the yearbook is \$55.00. Personalization is also available for an additional cost.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SNOWBALL DANCE

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN!  
THERE WILL BE MUSIC, DANCING, AND  
REFRESHMENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

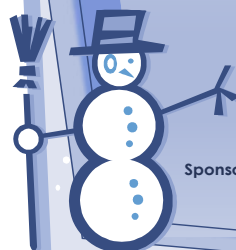
7PM TO 9PM

BRCS HIGH SCHOOL GYM

\$5/TICKET

SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE

Sponsored by SADD Club and YMCA After School Program





Hello, BRES Families!

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we typically take time to reflect on all that we've accomplished this year and set resolutions for the future.

During this calendar year, we rolled out some changes at BRES that have positively impacted our students and their school day.

- The intervention block that we created during the 2022-23 school year is still working wonders for our students. This time allows teachers to meet with small groups of students, addressing academic and behavioral deficits they wouldn't be able to do during whole-group instruction.
- We've continued our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. With it being year two, the expectations and common language have become a part of our everyday culture. Students are frequently being praised and rewarded for their good behavior!
- **New This Year!** In hopes of further improving our phonics instruction at grades K-3, we adopted a new research based program called "From Phonics to Reading" by Blevins. With this program, we hope to close some academic gaps found within our current curriculum.
- **New This Year!** We've adopted a new Social-Emotional curriculum called "Wayfinder." These brief lessons teach students how to regulate their own emotions, show empathy towards others, and to be an active member in their class community.

With these changes, we continue to be pleased with our improvements at BRES. Recently, our NYS 3-8 test data results were released to us. In five out of our six assessment areas, we improved our school's ranking within the CA BOCES region again! Teachers and students put in hard work each and every day and we are excited to see that hard work be recognized.

### Important Reminders:

- December 14: Holiday Concert, Grades PK-2 at 9:30 a.m. Grades 3-5 at 6:00 p.m.
- December 22-January 1: No School, Holiday Recess
- January 15: No School, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

I am wishing you the most delightful holiday and hope you can find time to spend with loved ones this season!

Go Wolverines!

**Mrs. Duke**  
Elementary Principal, BRES



## Elementary Physical Education

The Elementary PE department would like to send a huge "Thank You" to Mr. Piatt for joining us again this year for our Halloween unit! It is because of his help that students are able to brave the Haunted House on the stage. This year, Mr. Piatt shared his "Spirits of Timbercrest" photos, as well as told some very convincing spooky stories. As he reminded students, "it is up to you to determine what is real, not real, and in-between." Thank you, Mr. Piatt, for going above and beyond to make this such a memorable event!

In other Elementary PE news, Mrs. Auman and Mr. Pettit have been working on practicing tying shoes with grades K-2. Any student that is able to show us they can tie earns a sneaker for their class. The class with the most sneakers will win a prize. Please continue to work with your children to learn to tie their shoes.



Coming soon, volleying skills and basketball skills. We can't wait!

## BRCS Reading Challenge

*Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Mallery and Mrs. Scott*

The BRCS Reading Challenge has begun! From October to May, the Reading Department is encouraging students to read and log their minutes to reach their grade level goal. Students are to color in the days that they read on their calendars (grades Pre-K-3) or in Microsoft Teams (grades 4 and 5). Every child that reaches their grade level goal will be allowed to choose a book from the Reading Challenge vending machine. Please return the reading logs at the end of every month for your free book.





## Full Day Pre-K News

*Miss Glover and Mrs. Mitchell*

We had a great start to the school year in full day pre-k! In September, we did a lot of name activities as well as “getting to know” each other activities. It was so much fun getting to know all the students. Our first reading unit was about the five senses and all about me. The students learned about naming the five senses as well as the corresponding body part. The students had so much fun painting and creating life sized cut outs of themselves! This month, the 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. In the next couple of months, we will be working on Classic Tales such as “The Lion and the Mouse,” “The Elves and the Shoemaker,” and “The Gingerbread Man.” In math we have been working on numbers 1-5, sorting objects by color, shape, size, and we have been identifying groups that are the same and different. Thank you, Mr. Mitchell, for talking to our classes about construction and road work! The students loved being able to see and watch the new road behind the school.



## Kindergarten News

*Mrs. Broughton, Mrs. Kasperski,  
and Mrs. Stutzman*

In kindergarten, we have been having a lot of fun learning. We have been getting to know each other and playing with friends. We’ve been making fall crafts and doing fun fall activities. We started off the year listening to and singing nursery rhymes. We heard fables that taught us life lessons such as “slow and steady wins the race.” We heard some of our favorite stories and learned about characters, setting, and plots. Then we learned all about our five senses. We enjoyed investigating the world around us using our senses. We used our five senses to investigate pumpkins and then took our experience a little further by visiting Pumpkinville! We have learned about Christopher Columbus and the Pilgrims, as well as Native Americans. We learned about their feast and even had one of our own! We look forward to more events where we can all grow, explore, and have fun together this year!





## First Grade

*Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Ordway, Miss Gerard, and Miss Johnston*



Happy fall! First graders have had a busy start to the year!

In Math, they have been learning more about how addition and subtraction are related and how to write correct number sentences. They also learned about the value of the equal sign and how to balance equations! (ex.  $5 + 1 = 4 + 2$ )

In Reading, they have been reviewing all their letters and sounds and learning new tricky words. Tricky words are words that have parts in them that do not follow the rules, so we have to learn that part by heart. They have been working hard at breaking words up by their sounds and then blending them back together to say the word. They have also heard many fables and learned what a moral or lesson is. In addition, students

have been busy learning about different body systems such as the circulatory, skeletal, nervous, digestive, and muscular systems. They have learned the importance of eating healthy and washing their hands!

Lastly, students got to investigate apples. They learned about the life cycle of an apple tree, tasted foods made with apples, weighed and measured apples, made applesauce, and tasted 3 different kinds of apples.

We are looking forward to more fun and learning in first grade!



## Third Grade

*Mrs. Hackett*

We have really hit the ground running in third grade! In math we have quickly learned strategies to multiply and divide. We've been able to tell time on a number line and round to the nearest ten and hundred. In ELA we are learning all about cultures around the world and some great strategies to use when reading any type of text.

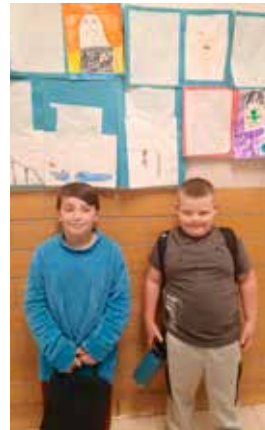
Keep doing those Zearn lessons and reading to earn a new book and a personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut!!



## Fourth Grade ELA

*Mrs. Bell*

Fourth Graders have been busy in ELA! We've already completed our first module about Native Americans and moved on to Module 2, Colonial America. They've been working hard on many comprehension skills and writing. We have already completed a couple writing projects. They also spent some time working on symbolism in past cultures. Students made their own Wampum Belts that showed symbols about things important to them in their lives. They also made a quilt square to make a large classroom quilt. Then they wrote about their symbolism, and how it contributes to our class community. On Halloween, students went down and spent time reading with the younger grades. They really enjoyed this! Both younger students and 4th graders enjoyed this experience.





## Fourth Grade Science & Social Studies

*Mrs. Bentley*

Boy, have we been busy in Science and Social Studies! In Social Studies, we have been learning about Native Americans. We made masks, dreamcatchers, longhouses, animal hide carvings, and created mosaics from the three sisters (ask your child what those are). Our next unit will focus on Europeans coming to North America to set up the 13 colonies. In Science, we are just about finished with our Earth Process unit. We made the rock cycle out of Starbursts and learned about weathering, erosion, and deposition through a Skittles lab. We have been doing a lot of hands-on activities to really understand what changes our earth goes through. It has been a lot of work, but a lot of fun too. Next, in Science, we will be focusing on the structure and functions of plants and animals...which is where we get the live crayfish sent to the room. I cannot wait to keep exploring with these 4th graders!

## Fifth Grade Science & Social Studies

*Mrs. Hillman*

We have had a busy, productive, and fun start to this school year. 5th graders have been hard at work in science learning about matter with our science unit, "Chemistry in the Kitchen." We have conducted many exciting experiments to find evidence to prove matter is made of particles too small to be seen. We will soon be exploring if mixing two or more substances will result in a new substance. Ask your child to share with you some of the experiments we have done in class!

In social studies, we have been flying through our geography unit. We started by identifying the continents of the world and then the Western Hemisphere. The students all worked hard to conduct research and present to the class information about a country in the Western Hemisphere. These projects turned out amazing! We continued to explore different cultures by learning about Day of the Dead with a virtual field trip from the Quick Arts Center. The students are hard at work designing their own ofrendas. Ask your child to share with you different elements of an ofrenda.

Congratulations to Aspen Peters who was our PAWS recipient! Keep up that PAWS worthy behavior!



## Fifth Grade ELA

*Mrs. Smith*

ELA class has been filled with lots of reading and writing! Our guided reading groups are running smoothly, as we focus on fiction and nonfiction texts. We have been reading the novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Set in the early 1930s, twenty years after the Mexican Revolution and during the Great Depression, *Esperanza Rising* tells the story of a young Mexican girl's courage and resourcefulness when at the age of thirteen she finds herself living in a strange new world. Esperanza, whose name means "hope" in Spanish, must rise again, into a resourceful and responsible young woman. My hope is that this novel teaches us the value of human rights, to persevere when faced with obstacles, and to treat others with dignity and respect!

Our "Wolverine PAWS" recipients certainly make us proud! Congratulations to Bailey Garrey and Eivin Elling. In order to be selected, students must go above and beyond to help others and show good character traits.



# PAWS



## Elementary Art News

*Mrs. Morris*

The Community Bank in Bolivar has asked the students at BRES to make a "Woodland" themed display inside the bank. Mrs. Morris' art students are eager to show off their clay creations. The art display will be set up and ready for you to admire from November 21st through the end of December. Please stop by and enjoy their artistic creations.





Gratitude.

We recently wrapped up our Thanksgiving holiday, and before we book-end the season with the resolutions of a new year, I'd like to take this upcoming holiday time to focus on gratitude. Many of us are gearing up for the sights and sounds of Christmas, but here at Bolivar-Richburg, this time of year is surrounded with our wonderful faculty and staff teaching gratitude to all of our students.

So, what is gratitude? Well, if you were to ask my friend Ms. Siri, she would say, "Gratitude is the quality of being thankful, and a readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness." Simply put, it's the thankfulness that you have for all the good in your life. In fact, in a recent Stanford study, psychologists agreed that "nothing did more to promote happiness in humans than a strong sense of gratitude."

Is gratitude the secret to happiness? I'm not sure that I'm smart enough to weigh in on that answer, but I do feel the need to share my thanks and gratitude to a few people!

I thank the Board of Education for working hard behind the scenes to keep our school ever-evolving. I thank the District Office for the leadership they provide on a daily basis. I thank the Business Office for making sure we don't run out of money, and the patience when I try to spend that money! I thank our Technology Department for keeping the students digitally equipped. I thank our CSE Office for meeting the needs of all our students, our Guidance Office and counselors for keeping the train on the tracks, and our nurses for keeping everyone healthy. I thank our bus drivers for their commitment before, during, and after school, our custodians for keeping our building and grounds so beautiful, and our Cafeteria crew for keeping our bellies warm and full! I thank our Athletic Office for keeping our students well-rounded, our safety advisors for keeping our kids safe, and our Main Office for keeping this crazy man sane!

I thank our faculty and staff who put countless hours into their daily jobs. So much of that work is thankless and underappreciated. They battle everyday with state standards, ever-changing legislation, and a fair-to-midland boss! They have little room for more desks, added duties to fill gaps, and families of their own to keep in mind. I truly appreciate all that they do for our students and our community.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, our parents, guardians, and community members. You have graciously entrusted our school district to do the best for our kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. It is not a job we take lightly, and everyone that I mentioned above knows full well that the success of our future is being molded in our hands today.

By showing gratitude, we express thanks and call attention to the good things in our lives. Unfortunately, those things are things we typically overlook, take for granted, or forget. I challenge you during this holiday season to practice gratitude, and remember, when we offer thanks—when we express our thanks to someone or something—we're instantly reminded of the happiness in our own lives.

Respectfully,

**Jeff Margeson**  
Secondary Principal

## 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 PowerSchool student information computer system. Thank you for helping us keep our information as up-to-date as possible.

## Websites for College and Career Exploration

Need help exploring colleges? Do you need to find out more about the financial aid process, finding a career, or touring a college virtually? Here are a few fantastic websites that will surely help both students and parents

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <a href="http://www.mappingyourfuture.org">www.mappingyourfuture.org</a> | <a href="http://www.knowhow2go.org">www.knowhow2go.org</a>         |
| <a href="http://www.hesc.com">www.hesc.com</a>                           | <a href="http://www.careercruising.com">www.careercruising.com</a> |
| <a href="http://www.nymmentor.edu">www.nymmentor.edu</a>                 | <a href="http://www.finaid.com">www.finaid.com</a>                 |
| <a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov">www.studentaid.ed.gov</a>         |  |

We also will be utilizing our K-12 guidance software system called Xello to work on college and career planning.



## *Tips For Parents to Help Stay on Top of Your Child's Schooling*

These basic tasks will assist you in staying current and up to date regarding your student's grades, attendance, homework assignments, deadlines, social-emotional state, 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! You can email teachers directly through the portal.
- Ask your child to share with you their Microsoft Teams login (username and password) so that you can view what assignments and messages they have inside of Teams. This is where teachers may link 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 A GREAT AMOUNT OF IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL INFORMATION.**
- Monitor your child's use of the Teams Chat feature to make sure they are utilizing it respectfully and responsibly.
- Contact your child's teachers and counselors if you need assistance.
- Help your child have a quiet, distraction-free learning space at home as much as it is possible.
- Assist your child in creating a daily school calendar with their paper planners or electronically in Teams
- "ROSES AND THORNS" DAILY CHECK-IN: Every day, check in and ask your child how their day was. What was the "rose" or best part of the day? What was the low point or "thorn" of their day? As counselors, we are currently flooded with students coming in needing to speak about stressors, anxiety, and depression this year. Family members taking some time each day to check in with your child about their day is a critical support that all students need. Do not assume that your child is coping well if they are quiet. Please talk openly and often about their school days.

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

Email address: [ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org)

Guidance Office: 585-928-2985

---

## *JANUARY REGENTS EXAMS SCHEDULED*

January Regents exams will be given throughout the state on January 23-26, 2024. For those seeking to retake a Regents examination to either achieve a passing score or enhance their previous results, parents and guardians can contact the Guidance Office at 928-2986. Students can also contact Mrs. Crandall-Bean to ensure their name is added to the test roster. There is no charge for a student to retake a regents exam in January. Please note that New York State regulations do not allow students to be admitted to a morning exam after 10:00 a.m. or to an afternoon exam after 2:00 p.m. In addition, no student may leave an exam before those same times. This regulation is in place to prevent students from sharing information about an exam.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "SNACKS AND APPS DAY" For Seniors

On October 7, interested seniors attended the Second Annual "Snacks and Apps Day" in the lecture hall. Staff Sergeant Frietas, our Army recruiter, presented on military enlistment; Susan Day from the Allegany County Employment and Training Center in Belmont presented on finding jobs; and Alfred State College's Assistant Director, John Lewis, presented on how to select and apply to colleges. Students were treated to snacks while they worked on college applications and resumes, wrote college essays, and explored college websites.



## PowerSchool Parent Portal

Parents of 6-12th grade students who have not yet set up a PowerSchool parent portal account or who need assistance resetting their current accounts, please feel free to contact your child's counselor at 928-2406 (Mrs. Robinson, grades 6-9) or 928-2985 (Mrs. Crandall-Bean, grades 10-12) to obtain directions along with your child's portal codes. The portal allows you to view online, 24-7, your child's current grades, attendance, and lunch account balances. Parents have the ability to add all of their students to one single portal account. Students are all given their own student account when they begin grade 6 and are encouraged to self-monitor their own academic progress. Our goal this year is to have 100% of our 6-12 students and parents using portal accounts. We hope you will take advantage of this great tool that can be very helpful to stay up to date on grades, attendance, and homework assignments. By clicking on a teacher's name in blue print in the portal, parents can email teachers questions that they may have.

There is also a PowerSchool phone app that parents and students can use. The free app can be obtained through the App Store or the Google Play store. **The BRCS school code is CRKT.** Many students and parents use the portal phone app to stay on top of their academic information, as it is a wonderful communication tool!



## Alfred State College Campus Visit For Juniors and Seniors

On November 2, thirty four juniors and seniors visited Alfred State College. They sat through an admissions overview providing them basic information about applying and selecting colleges, toured campus, and ate lunch in the leadership building. Several students spent the day on the Wellsville campus shadowing in their classrooms of interest such as automotive technology, carpentry, and heavy equipment operations. Alfred State offers numerous degrees and programs and is close enough for our B-R students to commute to and from and obtain a quality education at an affordable price. 77% of Alfred State's current students qualify for the Excelsior Scholarship and obtain free tuition!

## Schedules

The drop period is now over and students will remain in their current courses for the remainder of the year. The only drops that may be allowed will now require a parent/student/teacher discussion and must be approved by the building principal and teachers.



## Library Club

Our Library Club has been busy! We learned about “Banned Book Month” and the differences between a school library and a public library during our meetings in October. We also got to take a tour of the Buffalo Central Library and visited WNY Art Works where we were able to learn about printing and bookmaking. Then we each made our own screen-printed tote to keep. We are currently raising money for our club through our fundraiser. We use the money we raise to provide new books to all the Pre-K and Kindergarten students and treat bags to every elementary student during “Read Across America Week” in March. We also use the money we raise for our field trips and the one book we vote to purchase for each member of our group.

The month of November is the International Gaming Month initiative started by volunteers who are trying to reconnect communities through their libraries around the educational, recreational, and social value of all types of games. We played board games, card games, and video games during our meetings in the month of November, building our own small community within our club. We also had the opportunity to visit Adventure Landing to enjoy a “Day of Play”!

This December we are collecting donations for the SPCA, and then plan to visit the SPCA to read to the animals and drop off our donations. Please consider bringing a donation of animal food, leashes, collars, beds, etc. to the school, and the Library Club will bring your donation along with ours when we visit the SPCA in December. And as Bob Barker used to say, “Remember to spay and neuter your pets.” We will also hold a “Secret Santa” within our group during December, with homemade or \$5 and under gifts for the exchange. Our second semester is looking pretty busy too. There is always something to do in the library!

*Margaret Werner*



## Gourmet Food

For the Gourmet Foods class, we were asked to make some baked goods for the Board of Education Meeting. We decided to make some fall treats for the board. We made cut out cookies, pumpkin muffins, carrot cake cupcakes, and apple cinnamon oatmeal cookies. We used carrots from the WEE Center for the carrot cake cupcakes. Here in Gourmet Foods we are trying to use every available resource. The WEE Center has also donated some squash to the class to experiment with. This group of students is always willing to try something new. They were more than willing to put on their aprons and help make some goodies for the Board of Education. Pictured L to R: Natasha Metz, Gabrielle Mitchell, Emily Usselman, Jerri Pastor, Claire Pangburn, David Abdo, Aydin Sisson, Caden Giardini, Cayden Gaines and Aiden Smith.



## Ecology Club

*Ms. Renyck and Mr. Thornton*

The Ecology Club took its first outing after school in October. We hiked around the Pfeiffer Nature Center property in Portville, NY. Our second outing was a Saturday hike in Letchworth State Park in mid-November. Stay tuned for upcoming outings.





## PSAT, ACT, and SAT Testing

We gave the first-ever digital PSAT practice exam for interested sophomores and juniors on October 24. **College-bound juniors are encouraged to consider taking the SAT and/or the ACT in the spring. Seniors are encouraged to take one of these exams this fall.** Many counselors feel the ACT is a fairer exam for many students as it is based on student achievement. Colleges accept ACT scores equal to SAT scores. Registration documents for both tests are available in the Guidance Office and on the Guidance website to assist students with the online registration process. Registering online is relatively simple and convenient and will allow students to receive their test scores quickly. Students with financial needs that would normally qualify for free or reduced lunch can be given two fee waivers for junior and senior year for both tests to cover the testing fees. These can be requested in the Guidance Office and are limited in the number available.

**Test optional – What does that mean?** Due to COVID's indoor large-group gathering restrictions, many SAT and ACT exams were canceled or limited in test seats. **Therefore, 84% of colleges have remained “test-optional,” meaning that no SAT or ACT is required for college applications to their institutions.** To be safe, it does not hurt to check college websites for their specific testing requirement and take at least one SAT or ACT exam in case it is needed in the future for college acceptance and scholarship contests.



## College Reps, Fairs, and Visits

This year we were able to hold our annual ACCA College Fair at Houghton University on September 26. BR Juniors and seniors were able to speak with around 50 college representatives.

The Guidance Office is hosting many individual college reps in person in our office and some also virtually this fall. The list is available in Teams and on our Guidance webpage for students and parents and is shared during morning announcements. Mrs. Crandall-Bean is glad to help students with college exploration applications and setting up in-person and virtual visits.

## Seniors Make Future Plans

I have met with all seniors individually to review transcripts and make corrections if needed, determine what specific courses and regents exams still need to be passed for graduation, discuss post-high school plans, and map out the tasks they need to complete for their college, military and career plans. Each student was given an individualized folder of tasks to complete for their specific post-secondary career, military, or college plan. Those students who are interested in college may have been given handouts about selecting and applying to colleges. **It is highly recommended that seniors try to complete their college application(s) by the end of Thanksgiving recess.** Students are welcome to have their applications proofread in the Guidance Office prior to submitting them. Also, since most students are now applying online, it is vitally important that they let me or my secretary know each time they apply so that we mail or upload the student's official transcript. Colleges require an official transcript of high school grades and will not process a student's college application until they have received one

Any parent who would like more information about the college selection process or financial aid can call Mrs. Crandall-Bean at school at 928-2985 or send an email to [ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org).

The “Senior Fall To-Do List,” “Basics of Financial Aid,” and “Scholarship Searches” presentations can be found electronically on the high school guidance website and will be pushed out to students in grades 11 & 12 in Microsoft Teams labeled “Guidance Info for Junior and Seniors.”



## Important Financial Aid Information

In the past, the FAFSA application portal (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opened on October 1. This portal is how students qualify for free federal grant money and federal student loans. However, this year the FAFSA application has been completely overhauled and shortened from 100 to 36 questions. We as college and high school counselors are anxiously awaiting the details of the "NEW FAFSA." The December/January launch date has not yet been released.

**As soon as the changes are finalized, we will present this important info to students and parents. Please watch for upcoming winter lessons and presentations on financial aid applications and scholarship searches.**

Two of the best resources for parents to find more information on the financial aid process are the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) website: [www.hesc.org](http://www.hesc.org) and Federal Student Aid at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org). These two sites are loaded with information for parents and are two of the very best and easiest to navigate. These sites are not just for parents of seniors but also for parents of any students who are considering college.

Parents (or students) should not feel the need to pay for help with a financial aid form or for scholarship searches. Oftentimes the services that advertise to help you with these are frauds or, at the very least, a rip-off. They often promise students thousands of dollars in financial aid. The rule of thumb is, "If you have to pay, stay away!" We have provided the best free resources on our scholarship webpage for you to utilize. If you have very complicated finances, you may want your personal financial planner to assist with the financial aid process. But those are not typical instances for most people.

**Also, do not forget to complete the NYS TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) Grant financial aid application online. The HESC portal to apply is now open at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/apply-for-aid-start-here.html>.** TAP money is available for eligible New York State residents who plan to attend college within New York State.

**The New York State Excelsior Grant**, which covers SUNY tuition costs for families earning less than \$125,000 per year will have its application released next spring.

## Parents - Beware of Scholarship and Financial Aid "Scams"

In years past several students and parents have called about information they have received in the mail or phone calls they have received regarding college scholarships and financial aid. Usually, the sales pitch starts something like this, "Do you know that over two million dollars in college scholarships went unclaimed last year? We can guarantee you a scholarship for college!" Often times the e-mails or envelopes and the letters look like they have been sent from an official agency with words like "national," "exclusive," and "education" in their title. I say, buyer beware!

Quite often the scholarships and the financial aid assistance these companies offer as part of their service are routinely available for **free** right here at school or on many websites. Furthermore, no one can **promise** you a scholarship because a legitimate scholarship is **always** competitive. Lastly, most financial aid that students receive for college will be generated from the FAFSA form or directly from the student's college.

My advice to parents is to exercise caution and call me before signing on to one of these "financial aid" businesses. A call or search online to the Better Business Bureau (703-276-0100) or the Attorney General (through the Consumer Protection Board, 1-800-697-1220 is another way to verify a company's reputation. More than likely, high schools and colleges can do just as much for you as one of these companies—the only difference is that we don't charge a thing. We in the Guidance Office can provide you with excellent resources for doing high-quality scholarship searches and have an abundance of information linked on the Guidance website on the scholarship page.

## ASVAB CEP Career Exploration Program for Juniors

On Monday, November 27, interested juniors and seniors can take the ASVAB exam at 11:45 a.m. in the Lecture Hall, which will allow students to learn more about their academic strengths and weaknesses and how their aptitudes can affect their future career paths. The ASVAB can also be used as an entrance exam for enlisting in the military.

On Thursday, December 7, all interested students will participate in a career exploration lesson. The ASVAB presenter will interpret test results for students. Students will also complete the FYI (Find Your Interests) career interest inventory. This is an excellent career exploration program, which is free to schools.

We give the ASVAB on school laptops, which allows students to proceed with testing at their own pace and be dismissed as soon as they are done testing.

Parents of juniors, please be aware that the **ASVAB test results will be released at the end of the school year to military recruiters** because the ASVAB is the entrance exam used by military branches. Please realize that the primary purpose of this program is for juniors to explore future career paths. This program's intention is not to lead students in any way shape or form necessarily toward a military career. These ASVAB scores, however, are active scores for students wishing to enlist in the future. If you have questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Bean at 928-2985.





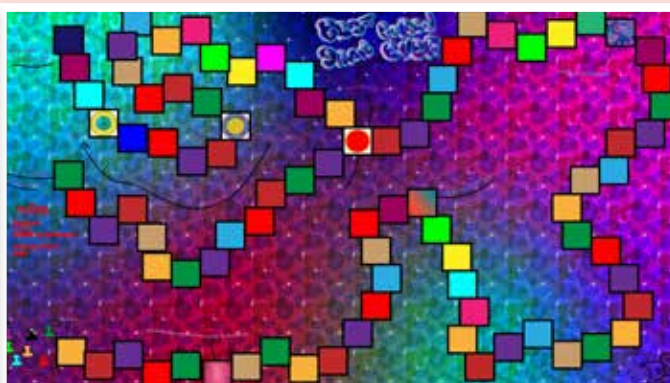
## High School Art



In art this year we have been covering the fundamentals of drawing in several drawing classes. We have been working on drawing what we see. We have also been discussing how to design a dynamic image when drawing. The students have been doing self-portrait drawings, still-life drawings, sketchbook work, and drawing statues that can be found around the school.

In Digital Media I class students are learning how to use Adobe illustrator. They have done character tracing, type maps, and they designed their own gameboards. They are exploring their own expressions through their works of art creating projects that include tattoo designs, comic books, comedic instructions graphics, and statement pieces.

We have been discussing stepping outside of our comfort zones and trusting the process. Sometimes when making art, one can get lost in the process and the techniques. On the other hand, an artist might not even know where to start. Sometimes we need to just trust ourselves and jump in. When was the last time you stepped out of your comfort zone to find that life worked out better that you could have ever imagined?



## Powder Puff Football Games

On the evening of Thursday, October 19 our high school girls participated in two very competitive Powder Puff Football games! First the Juniors played the Seniors and following that the Freshman class played the Sophomores. Members of the varsity football team provided their expertise as coaches and a good time was had by all! We want to thank our School Safety Advisors, Jared Zeigler and Steve Austin, for coordinating and officiating the event. We also want to thank Mr. Thomas and his crew in the booth for announcing the game. It was definitely a fun night and it's an event we hope will become a tradition here at BRCS!



*Freshman vs. Sophomore  
Highlight Video*



*Junior vs. Senior  
Highlight Video*



## Sentinel News

The Sentinel, our electronic school newspaper, needs you! Please consider joining this club and help to spread the word about the amazing things BRCS students and staff are doing every single day. Come showcase your talents in creating and developing interesting stories, polls/surveys, opinion pieces, etc. Your participation is welcomed and appreciated. For more information, please contact Ms. Lasnick and Ms. Schena.

Congratulations to Lillie Kreamer. Lillie was the winner of the Sentinel logo and name contest. Look for the new name and logo soon!



## Earth Science - The Physical Setting

Ms. Renyck

Dear parents and guardians,

It's hard to believe that quarter 1 is over already. In Earth science class, we covered topics such as the nature of science, finding locations on Earth, Earth materials (elements, minerals, rocks), igneous processes, Earth's interior, and earthquakes. We will continue our path through the geology topics well into March. Then we will hit our Meteorology, Oceanography, and Astronomy sections.

Please keep in mind that students need to acquire 1200 successful lab minutes to sit for their Regents exam in June (a graduation requirement). Chronic absences can overwhelm the student and should be avoided when possible, but we have many interventions to assist. Such interventions include: Advisement, Homework Cafe, and after school Study Center.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Heather Renyck  
Earth Science  
hrenyck@bolivarrichburg.org

## Top Scholars

On Saturday, October 28, Senior Natasha Metz and Junior Sam Martin were honored as Top Scholar recipients at a Recognition Ceremony at JCC in Olean. These two are in the top 20% academically in their grades at Bolivar-Richburg Central School. Congratulations to both students!



## National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society

**This year's NHS and NJHS ceremony dates are scheduled as follows:**

NHS ceremony  
Monday, January 22, 2024

NJHS ceremony  
February 15, 2024

Inclement weather date  
March 6, 2024

This year all NHS and NJHS students will be expected to complete 10 hours of community service. Numerous opportunities will be provided to the students, but students are also encouraged to look for and complete community service activities that are important to them. A letter will be sent home and updates will be added to our website so stay tuned for more information. Please reach out to Ms. Schena with any questions at [mschena@bolivarrichburg.org](mailto:mschena@bolivarrichburg.org). Thank you!

## 8th Grade Math

Mr. Hyson

We are continuing to work on our 8th grade content. Please remember to be checking your student's grades through PowerSchool, and if you don't have access, please reach out to the school to assist you. Have a safe and happy holiday.

## Circus News

Save the date! On January 17, 2024 the Circus is coming to Bolivar. You won't want to miss this fun time. Ticket information will be sent home and posted on the website closer to the event.

## Athletic Department News

Mr. Allen

Our fall sports season has come to a close. All of our teams showed improvement throughout the season. Our boys soccer and volleyball teams advanced to the semi-finals. The football team made an incredible run that ended in the sectional finals. The following teams are New York State Scholar Athlete teams: Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Girls' Volleyball, and Football.

I would personally like to thank all of our coaches and volunteers for their time and dedication. Also, a huge thank you to our extremely loyal fans who show up to support our athletes no matter where the games are being played. Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate our athletes whose dedication and long hours of hard work are clearly paying off.

In closing, I am looking forward to an exciting Winter Sports season. Come out and support your Wolverines! We are BR!

For complete schedules please check out the Athletic Calendar on the school's website. You can also sign up to receive text or e-mail notification on all of your favorite Wolverine sports teams.

**Athletic Schedule posted on  
Pgs. 15 & 16.**





## Athletic Schedules

### Boys' JV Basketball

11/20/2023	Scrimmage At Hornell	6:00 p.m.
11/24/2023	Cuba Rushford Tournament	4:00 p.m.
11/25/2023	Cuba Rushford Tournament	TBD
12/05/2023	Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00 p.m.
12/06/2023	At Friendship	6:00 p.m.
12/12/2023	Portville Central	6:00 p.m.
12/20/2023	Haverling	6:00 p.m.
12/22/2023	At Fillmore	6:00 p.m.
01/02/2024	At Canisteo-Greenwood	5:45 p.m.
01/04/2024	At Cuba Rushford	6:00 p.m.
01/05/2024	At Portville	5:30 p.m.
01/10/2024	At Hinsdale	7:30 p.m.
01/18/2024	Friendship-Scio	6:00 p.m.
01/24/2024	Fillmore Central	6:00 p.m.
01/26/2024	Andover-Whitesville	6:00 p.m.
01/30/2024	Cuba-Rushford	6:00 p.m.
02/01/2024	Hinsdale Central	7:30 p.m.
02/02/2024	Wellsville	6:00 p.m.
02/09/2024	At Belfast	6:00 p.m.
02/13/2024	At Andover	6:00 p.m.

### Boys' Varsity Basketball

11/20/2023	Scrimmage At Hornell	6:00 p.m.
11/24/2023	Scrimmage JT at Greenwood Campus	11:00 a.m.
11/30/2023	At Portville Tournament	7:30 p.m.
12/02/2023	At Portville Tournament	TBD
12/05/2023	Genesee Valley-Belfast	7:30 p.m.
12/08/2023	At Scio	6:00 p.m.
12/12/2023	Portville Central	7:30 p.m.
12/16/2023	Cuba-Rushford	10:30 p.m.
12/20/2023	Haverling	7:30 p.m.
12/22/2023	At Fillmore	7:30 p.m.
01/02/2024	AT Canisteo Greenwood	7:15 p.m.
01/04/2024	At Cuba Rushford	7:30 p.m.
01/08/2024	Charles G Finney	6:00 p.m.
01/13/2024	At Addison Tournament	6:00 p.m.
01/18/2024	Friendship-Scio	7:30 p.m.
01/24/2024	Fillmore Central	7:30 p.m.
01/26/2024	Andover-Whitesville	7:30 p.m.
02/02/2024	Wellsville	7:30 p.m.
02/07/2024	At Houghton Academy	7:30 p.m.
02/08/2024	Hinsdale Central	6:30 p.m.
02/09/2024	At Belfast	7:30 p.m.
02/13/2024	At Andover	7:30 p.m.

### Cheer Events- INCOMPLETE

12/19/2023	TBD	At Canisteo
01/09/2024	TBD	At Fillmore
01/22/2024	TBD	Home/Bolivar

### Boys' Modified Basketball

12/09/2023	Genesee Valley-Belfast	11:15 a.m.
12/13/2023	Friendship-Scio	7:15 p.m.
12/16/2023	Andover-Whitesville	11:15 a.m.
12/19/2023	Cuba-Rushford	7:15 p.m.
01/03/2024	Hinsdale Central	7:15 p.m.
01/06/2024	Fillmore Central	TBD
01/11/2024	Wellsville	7:15 p.m.
01/13/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	11:15 a.m.
01/17/2024	Friendship-Scio	7:15 p.m.
01/20/2024	Andover-Whitesville	11:15 a.m.
01/24/2024	Cuba-Rushford	TBD
01/29/2024	Hinsdale Central	7:15 p.m.
01/31/2024	Fillmore Central	7:15 p.m.
02/03/2024	Wellsville	11:15 p.m.

### Boys' Volleyball

12/04/2023	At Genesee Valley	6:00 p.m.
12/05/2023	Cuba-Rushford	6:00 p.m.
12/07/2023	At Scio	6:00 p.m.
12/11/2023	At Wellsville	6:00 p.m.
12/15/2023	Fillmore Central	6:00 p.m.
12/18/2023	At Arkport-Canaseraga	6:00 p.m.
12/20/2023	Portville Central	6:00 p.m.
01/02/2024	Allegany-Limestone Central	6:00 p.m.
01/04/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00 p.m.
01/05/2024	At Portville	7:00 p.m.
01/08/2024	At Cuba Rushford	6:00 p.m.
01/10/2024	Friendship-Scio	6:00 p.m.
01/16/2024	Wellsville	6:00 p.m.
01/19/2024	At Fillmore	6:00 p.m.
01/22/2024	Arkport-Canaseraga	6:00 p.m.
01/25/2024	At Allegany Limestone	6:00 p.m.

### Girls' Modified Basketball

12/4/23	5:30 p.m.	At Portville
12/09/2023	10:00 a.m.	At Genesee Valley
12/13/2023	6:00 p.m.	At Friendship
12/16/2023	10:00 a.m.	Andover-Whitesville
12/19/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cuba-Rushford
01/03/2024	6:00 p.m.	Hinsdale Central
01/06/2024	TBD	At Fillmore
01/11/2024	6:00 p.m.	Wellsville
01/13/2024	10:00 a.m.	Genesee Valley-Belfast
01/17/2024	6:00 p.m.	Friendship-Scio
01/20/2024	10:00 a.m.	At Whitesville
01/24/2024	TBD	At Cuba Rushford
01/29/2024	6:00 p.m.	At Hinsdale
01/31/2024	6:00 p.m.	Fillmore Central
02/03/2024	10:00 a.m.	At Wellsville

### Girls' Varsity Basketball

11/24/2023	Scrimmage JT at Greenwood Campus	11:00 a.m.
11/29/2023	Campbell-Savona	7:30 p.m.
12/01/2023	Oswayo Valley	7:30 p.m.
12/05/2023	At Friendship	7:30 p.m.
12/07/2023	At Fillmore	7:30 p.m.
12/14/2023	At Scio Tournament	TBD
12/16/2023	At Scio Tournament	TBD
12/19/2023	At Whitesville	7:30 p.m.
01/03/2024	At Cuba Rushford	TBD
01/08/2024	At Oswayo Valley	7:30 p.m.
01/11/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	7:30 p.m.
01/17/2024	At Campbell Savona	7:30 p.m.
01/19/2024	Friendship-Scio	7:30 p.m.
01/23/2024	Fillmore Central	7:30 p.m.
01/25/2024	Andover-Whitesville	7:30 p.m.
01/29/2024	At Wellsville	7:30 p.m.
01/31/2024	Cuba-Rushford	7:30 p.m.
02/08/2024	At Belfast	7:30 p.m.

### Girls' JV Basketball

11/29/2023	Campbell-Savona	6:00 p.m.
12/01/2023	Oswayo Valley	6:00 p.m.
12/05/2023	At Friendship	6:00 p.m.
12/07/2023	At Fillmore	6:00 p.m.
12/19/2023	At Whitesville	6:00 p.m.
01/03/2024	At Cuba Rushford	TBD
01/08/2024	At Oswayo Valley	6:00 p.m.
01/10/2024	At Hinsdale	6:00 p.m.
01/11/2024	Genesee Valley-Belfast	6:00 p.m.
01/16/2024	Houghton Academy	6:00 p.m.
01/17/2024	At Campbell Savona	6:00 p.m.
01/19/2024	Friendship-Scio	6:00 p.m.
01/23/2024	Fillmore Central	6:00 p.m.
01/25/2024	Andover-Whitesville	6:00 p.m.
01/29/2024	At Wellsville	6:00 p.m.
01/31/2024	Cuba-Rushford	6:00 p.m.
02/01/2024	Hinsdale Central	6:00 p.m.
02/07/2024	At Houghton Academy	6:00 p.m.
02/08/2024	At Belfast	6:00 p.m.

For most up-to-date schedules, please refer to the BRCS athletics calendar.



*Varsity Wrestling on Pg. 16*



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

**Board of Education:**

Amanda McDonnell, President  
 Aaron Duell, Vice President  
 Jude Auman  
 Erin Baldwin  
 Jarrod Bell  
 Michelle Clark  
 Kami Doane

**Administration:**

Charles Lechner, Interim Superintendent  
 Susan Bokman, Director of Special Education  
 Megan Duke, Elementary Principal  
 Jeffrey Margeson, Secondary Principal  
 Mary Snyder, Assistant Principal  
 Sarah Cartmill, Director of Curriculum  
 Jessica Mitchell, School Business Administrator

NON PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Permit No. 1825  
 Olean, NY  
 14760

**Current Resident**

**or Local Postal Patron**



***Bolivar-Richburg Central School  
 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.*

**Channel 2 TV**      **WGRZ-TV Buffalo**

**AM Program**

**Channel 4 TV**      **WIVB-TV Buffalo**

**AM Program**

**Channel 7 TV**      **WKBW-TV Buffalo**

**AM Program**

**WJQZ, Wellsville**      **103.5 FM Radio**

**WLSV, Wellsville**      **790 AM Radio**

**WOEN, Olean**      **1360 AM Radio**

**WMXO, Olean**      **101.5 FM Radio**

**WHDL, Olean**      **1450 AM Radio**

**WPIG, Olean**      **95.7 FM Radio**

**WBEN, Buffalo**      **930 AM Radio**

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

***Athletic Schedules Continued.***

**Varsity Wrestling**

12/01/2023	At Horseheads Tournament	TBD
12/02/2023	At Horseheads Tournament	TBD
12/05/2023	Avoca-Prattsburgh/Hammondsport	TBD
12/08/2023	At Jamestown Tournament	TBD
12/09/2023	At Jamestown Tournament	TBD
12/12/2023	At Canisteo-Greenwood	6:00 p.m.
12/14/2023	At Letchworth	6:30 p.m.
12/19/2023	At Wellsville	6:00 p.m.
12/28/2023	BR SCUFFLE Tournament	1:00 p.m.
12/29/2023	BR SCUFFLE Tournament	11:00 a.m.
01/04/2024	Arkport-Canaseraga	TBD
01/09/2024	Campbell-Savona	TBD
01/11/2024	At Addison	TBD
01/16/2024	Fillmore Central	TBD
01/23/2024	At Alfred Almond	6:00 p.m.
01/27/2024	At Avoca Tournament	9:00 a.m.

***BRCS Fitness Center***

**Open for Community Use**

**Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday from  
 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

The Fitness Center will be closed whenever school is closed (for holidays, snow days, etc.)