



It's all about the purple

Seniors (from left) Mack Brown, Jordyn Morreale, Anji Hvisdak, Lauren Kazmierczak, Anjali Silverheels and Kyle Borrello proclaimed their passion for purple as they rooted for the Bulldogs at the Homecoming football game. See more photos on page five.

With new garden beds, Boston Valley students learn & grow together



As a result of a grant, Boston Valley Elementary students dug in to help build five new raised garden beds in October and to fill them with herbs and pollinators. Students also harvested from existing beds and prepped them for the next growing season. Boston Valley was one of two elementary schools to receive a Project Learning Garden grant this year through the Captain Planet Foundation, Tops Friendly Markets and Dole Packaged Foods. Complementing two existing raised gardens, the new beds will be an extension of the classroom, providing students with more opportunities to learn and grow together.





Superintendent's Column



From left: Superintendent Michael Cornell, Michael McGarry, Laura Heeter, David Yoviene, Board President Tom Flynn, Vice President Cam Hall, Robbin List, student rep Olivia Novack, Richard Schneider

School Board focused on district priorities

by Superintendent Michael Cornell

The last week in October was School Board Member Appreciation Week in New York State. I'd like to use this space to highlight just a few of the important ways that our Board's leadership benefits the schools and our community. The Board of Education in Hamburg is 100% focused on the learning and growth of the students and adults in our school district. Their commitment to both community service and to leadership is absolutely vital to achieving the vision and mission of the school district.

This Board is truly present and engaged. Their visits to our schools, requests for presentations at Board meetings and regular attendance at school-based events serve as evidence of their deep commitment to learning. In recent years, their own School Board goals have emphasized the execution of our strategic plan, the efficacy of professional learning for our teachers and our progress towards assuring modern learning for our students. The results of their efforts can be measured in a variety of ways. Our graduation rate and our Regents Exam scores are among the highest in Western New York.

Because our Board gives us the tools to make good on our commitment to help every student thrive after High School in whatever path they choose to pursue, our young people are ready to succeed. According to a recent study by the Empire Center, Hamburg graduates are more likely to graduate with their degree from college after four years than those of all but a handful of other public high schools in Western New York. Importantly, our students whose learning after High School is a two-year degree or a job-specific certificate program are thriving in the workforce, serving our country with distinction in the military, assuming leadership roles in the community, and, in some cases, already running their own businesses.

The Board's oversight and engagement in our recently completed 2016 capital project has also been extremely valuable.

By being able to tap into their insight, and combining that with the needs of the end users of the spaces that were renovated, this capital project resulted in the complete transformation of our High School Library Media Center, our Middle School Library Media Center, and our Middle School Family and Consumer Science Suite. As we progress in our planning for the 2020 Capital Project, the Board's input will continue to be a central feature.

The Board's stable presence as a key partner in leadership forms a governance team that allows us to look beyond our school district for important resources. Since 2015, we have secured over \$1 million in additional one-time state aid that has resulted in the renovation of the Library Media Centers at Boston Valley and Charlotte Avenue Elementary Schools, as well as the construction of maker spaces at the Middle School and at Boston Valley. Because our Board acts as a stable and thoughtful partner in the life and work of our school district, our state representatives have been able to extend this very important additional help to the Hamburg Schools.

Finally, the members of the Board are active in the community in ways that directly impact our schools. They serve on the Parent Child Connection, our District Safety Committee, our Strategic Planning Committee, on the Hamburg Industrial Development Agency and our PTSA. Many of them have been honored by the Erie County Association of School Boards for their commitment to professional learning and for their Board service.

An engaged, committed and thoughtful Board is absolutely essential to the success of any school district. In Hamburg, we have exactly that. If you see Board President Tom Flynn, Vice President Cam Hall, Laura Heeter, Robbin List, Michael McGarry, Richard Schneider or David Yoviene out and about over the next few weeks, please tell them "thank you" for their service to our students and to our community.



Team Craft & Cork prepared squash taco nachos with queso and tomato corn relish.

Jr. Chef Challenge connects classroom, cafeteria, community

Team Grange Community Kitchen, led by chef Brad Rowell, had the winning dish in Hamburg Farm to School's first Jr. Chef Challenge in October. Consisting of eighth graders Lauren DeMaria, Ella Sidorowicz, Lauren Holstein, Taylor Rakoski and Kay Anderson, the team was one of four coached by local chefs who cooked up palette pleasing entrees using NY beef and squash plus locally grown produce. The winning "ground beef arypa with butternut squash soup" will be featured for lunch in November. Also participating in this event that connected community, classroom and cafeteria were chefs from Alchemy, Butera's, and Craft and Cork.

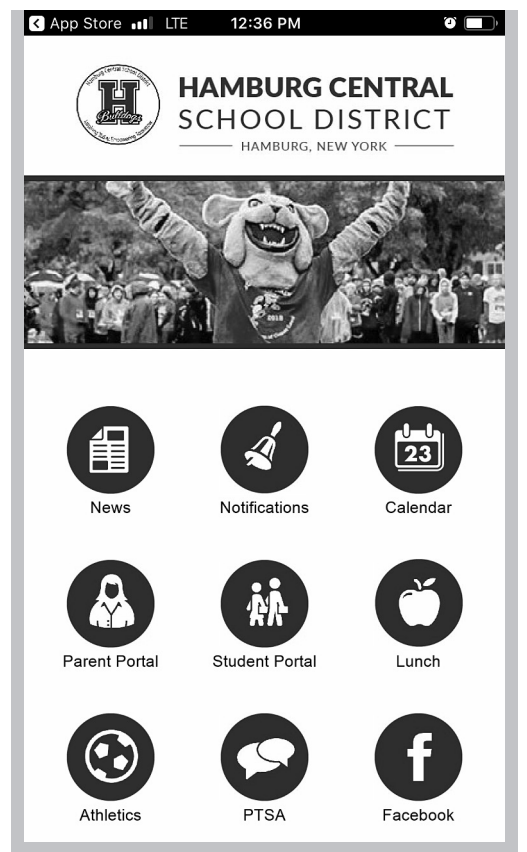


Judges sampled the entrees.



Top chefs: Team Grange

Judges were Superintendent Michael Cornell, Hamburg Village Mayor Tom Moses, Assemblyman Sean Ryan, meteorologist Patrick Hammer, Lynoaken apple farmer Wendy Wilson and High School Student Government President Olivia Novack.



App puts school information at your fingertips

Hamburg Central now has its own app, providing a centralized site on your mobile device for information pertaining to the school community. Families can customize this app to display only the school information relevant to them.

The Hamburg CSD app is available for download via Google Play and the App Store.

This app is one of the many ways in which the district makes school information readily available to families.

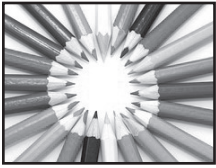
Elementary playground upgrades swing toward completion

Three down, one to go. In September, new playground pieces were added at Charlotte Avenue and Union Pleasant Elementary Schools, followed by an October installation at Armor Elementary. Community volunteers assisted on the Saturday installations, guided by Parkitects, a playground design and build company.

The district has been working toward transforming its elementary school playgrounds into areas where children of all physical abilities can enjoy activities together.

At Charlotte Avenue, a new PreK play unit was installed. Union Pleasant gained two new play pieces: a climber unit and multi-seat seesaw. Armor also gained a new inclusive play piece: a wheelchair-accessible glider. Boston Valley Elementary will be revamping its outdoor play space in the near future.

In addition to district funding, grants from Sen. Chris Jacobs, the Hamburg Alumni Foundation, KOMPAN, Hamburg Music Festival and M&T Bank are helping to propel the projects.



November/December Calendar

Check hamburgschools.org
for the most up-to-date information.

Saturday, Nov. 2

8:30-10:30 a.m. — Bottle/can drive for athletics, High School

Monday, Nov. 4

6:30 p.m. — PTSA Executive Board, High School

7:30 p.m. — High School PTSA

Tuesday, Nov. 5

Charlotte Avenue Elementary Book Fair
6 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary PTSA
6:30 p.m. — Middle School PTSA

Wednesday, Nov. 6

Boston Valley Elementary picture retakes

Thursday, Nov. 7

Armor Elementary picture retakes
Charlotte Avenue Elementary Grades K-5 picture retakes
7 p.m. — High School fall band concert
(*snowdate: Nov. 14*)

Monday, Nov. 11

Veterans' Day/No school

Tuesday, Nov. 12

6:30 p.m. — School Board, High School LMC

Wednesday, Nov. 13

3:15 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary PTSA

Friday, Nov. 15

No school for Grades 6-12 students

Monday, Nov. 18

7 p.m. — Winter sports parent meeting, High School

Tuesday, Nov. 19

7:30 p.m. — High School orchestra/choral concert
(*snowdate: Nov. 25*)

Wednesday, Nov. 20

3:15 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA
7 p.m. — Armor Elementary PTSA
7 p.m. — Grade 7 band/chorus/orchestra concert, Middle School

Thursday, Nov. 21

PreK picture retakes
7 p.m. — Grade 8 band/chorus concert, Middle School

Wednesday, Nov. 27 through Friday, Nov. 29

Thanksgiving recess/No school

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Boston Valley Elementary Christmas Bazaar

6 p.m. — Book Fair Family Night, Middle School

7 p.m. — Middle School/High School jazz concert, High School (*snowdate: Dec. 11*)

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Boston Valley Elementary Christmas Bazaar
Armor Elementary winter concerts:
6 p.m. — Grade 4
7 p.m. — Grade 5

Thursday, Dec. 5

11:30 a.m. — *Early dismissal for Grades K-5 due to parent-teacher conferences*
Charlotte Avenue Elementary winter concerts:

6 p.m. — Grade 3 chorus
7 p.m. — Grades 4/5 orchestra & chorus, Grade 5 band & beginning band

Saturday, Dec. 7

8:30-10:30 a.m. — Bottle/can drive for athletics, High School

Monday, Dec. 9

7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary Grades 4/5 orchestra & Grade 4 chorus concert

Tuesday, Dec. 10

6:30 p.m. — School Board, Charlotte Avenue Elementary LMC

Thursday, Dec. 12

Boston Valley Elementary winter concerts:
6 p.m. — Grade 4
7:15 p.m. — Grade 5
7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary Grade 5 chorus & band concert

Friday, Dec. 13

11:30 a.m. — *Early dismissal for Grades K-5 due to parent-teacher conferences*

Saturday, Dec. 14

8 a.m. — ACT exam, High School

Monday, Dec. 16

6 p.m. — Grade 6 band/orchestra/chorus concert, Middle School

Tuesday, Dec. 17

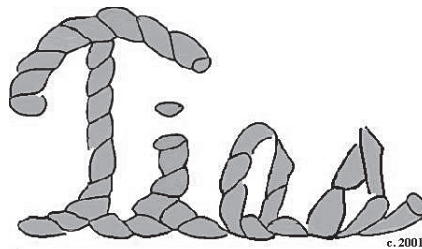
6:30 p.m. — Middle School PTSA
7 p.m. — Middle School select ensemble concert

Monday, Dec. 23 through Wednesday, Jan. 1

Winter recess/No school

TIES brings students together for activities, friendship

Hamburg Central Families: Would you like your child to join in an after school program, community sponsored activity or pursue a hobby? The TIES Program provides trained volunteers to support students with developmental disabilities from Grade 3 to age 21 so that they can successfully participate. The district participates and supports this program for students.



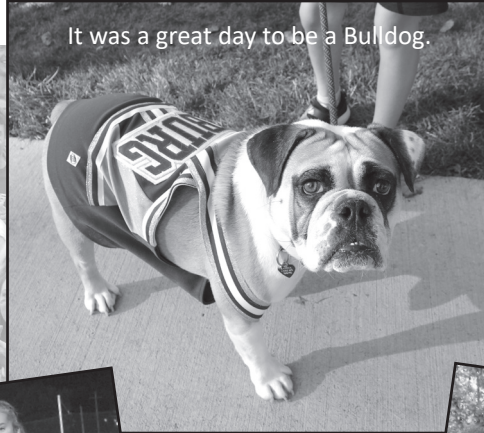
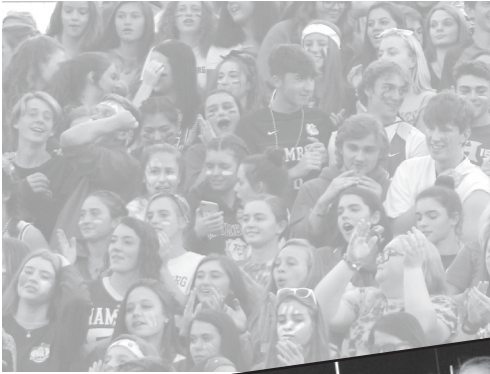
Volunteers are students within the school district in Grades 8-12, who attend a workshop that presents valuable information about the importance of belonging, disability awareness, friendship building and effective support strategies. Participants are paired with volunteers based on similar interests and desired abilities. The volunteer attends the activity with your child and provides support with physical, social and/or language needs.

For further information, please contact: Nancy Hawes, TIES Coordinator, Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075 or (716) 225-4247.

HOMECOMING 2019

Hamburg High School's Spirit Week and Homecoming in September had a little bit of everything to celebrate the purple and white, from theme days, pep rally activities, a dance and a Buffalo Sports themed parade to the big game itself, with all eyes on football. It's a Bulldog tradition like no other!

Photos courtesy of Wendy Winters



Cheerleaders Grace Grogan and Grace Gregoire escorted King and Queen Ryan Forrest and Abbey Beres during half-time at the Homecoming game.



The seniors' Buffalo Bills float scored a win.



The band entertained at half-time.



Tug-o-war (left) and student vs. faculty basketball (right) brought out the competitive spirit at the pep rally.





Armor's cafe gathers colleagues in lasting tribute to teacher

Armor Elementary School's staff gathered in September over blueberry scones and coffee to dedicate a new employee lounge in honor of the late Elaine Nowak, a teacher, cherished friend and colleague who encouraged all to come together over a meal. A former music room was renovated into what is now known as the Blueberry Scone Café, a cheerful gathering place and lasting daily tribute to Mrs. Nowak. In remarks by Principal Leslie Bennett and teachers Rose Kowalski and Rebecca Buczak, Mrs. Nowak was remembered as a gatherer of people, relentlessly optimistic, patient, kind and accepting. Colleagues wore "hug me through it" T-shirts to celebrate her life. An oak tree, symbolizing her strength and courage, will be planted in the outdoor classroom next spring.



Charlotte Ave. deemed School of Excellence for family-school partnership

National PTA has recognized Charlotte Avenue Elementary School (CAS) and its PTSA as a 2019-2021 School of Excellence for their accomplishments in building a strong, effective family-school partnership that is enriching the educational experience and overall well-being for students. They are one of only 326 PTAs and schools nationwide to receive the designation and it shows an ongoing commitment, as they also were a 2018-20 School of Excellence.

Throughout the year, CAS has focused on communicating effectively with families, with two-way communication as a priority, said Candace Ditkowski, Hamburg Central PTSA President. This includes providing families with the information they need to support their children.

"Families have always been encouraged to come to teachers and

to Principal Danielle Lango with their questions and concerns, and this became a priority to ensure that new families to the school, whether in PreK or new to the district, were encouraged to engage in the conversation about student learning at Charlotte," Mrs. Ditkowski said.

A strong partnership with families is known to improve the educational experience and school environment for children.

"Students are successful when we bridge the gap between home and school," Mrs. Lango said. "Family engagement is not an event; it is an essential aspect to student achievement."

To celebrate the designation, CAS received a National PTA School of Excellence banner to display.



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

LEARNING BY DOING — Boston Valley Elementary School fourth grader Evan Graham and first grader Blake Whiting were among the students who led a modern learning STEM activity for Hamburg School Board members at their October meeting. This hands-on experience aligned with the district's vision, mission and core values. Guided by teachers Dara McFadden and Beth Knodel, they used craft sticks, cardboard, paper rolls and clothespins to construct fences sturdy enough to hold pumpkins on top. Superintendent Michael Cornell noted that this "learning by doing" was an example of shaping modern thinkers who create, care, solve and discover.



Congratulations to 25-year employees

At its staff opening day assembly in September, the district honored employees who have completed 25 years of continuous service (as of July 30).

Congratulations were extended to the following employees for reaching that career milestone: Mary Lou Crawford, High School, teacher aide; Cheryl Ehlers, Charlotte Avenue Elementary, school nurse; Pamela Lazarus, Charlotte Avenue Elementary, teacher; Tim Nyhart, Union Pleasant Elementary, physical education teacher; Jennifer Richter, Charlotte Avenue Elementary, PreK teacher.

Hamburg Central PTSA

Membership Form



The Hamburg Central PTSA is committed to making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Your membership dues go toward funding our local programs and advocacy efforts, as well as the advocacy work that our State and National PTA carries out on behalf of *all* children.

To pay with a credit card, use our online store at hamburgptsa.memberhub.store or use the QR code above. MemberHub is the Hamburg Central PTSA membership and communication tool. Your login to MemberHub can be done with the email address used to join the PTSA.

Additional Ways to support the Hamburg Central PTSA:

- Register your **Tops Bonus Card** with the Hamburg School of your choice at www.topsmarkets.com/education/ – This number can be stored in your MemberHub profile.
- Shop at smile.amazon.com... On your first visit – choose Hamburg Central PTSA as your non-profit of choice. The Hamburg Central PTSA will then earn a % of every dollar that you spend with smile.amazon.com.
- Make a **donation with your application**. See Application Total section below.

To submit this application: Checks should be made out to **Hamburg Central PTSA**.

- Send this completed form and payment to school with your child.
- Or mail this completed application with payment to Candy Ditkowski, 90 Sandra Place, Hamburg, NY 14075

Member #1 Information		COST: \$8.00
First Name:	Last Name:	Email (required):
Mobile Number:	Tops Bonus Number:	Select All to Receive Information On: <input type="checkbox"/> Hamburg High School <input type="checkbox"/> Hamburg Middle School <input type="checkbox"/> Armor Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Boston Valley Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Avenue Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Union Pleasant Elem. <input type="checkbox"/> Hamburg Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/> Western Region PTSA <input type="checkbox"/> PTSA Special Education <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Opportunities
Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Prefer Not To Answer	Select Role: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member	

Member #2 Information		For additional members – please use an additional form	COST: \$8.00
First Name:	Last Name:	Email (required):	
Mobile Number:	Tops Bonus Number:	Select All to Receive Information On: <input type="checkbox"/> Hamburg High School <input type="checkbox"/> Hamburg Middle School <input type="checkbox"/> Armor Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Boston Valley Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Avenue Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Union Pleasant Elem. <input type="checkbox"/> Hamburg Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/> Western Region PTSA <input type="checkbox"/> PTSA Special Education <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Opportunities	
Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Prefer Not To Answer	Select Role: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member		

Application Total

Please consider including a **donation with your application**. Please know that any donation made above and beyond the \$8.00 per person membership fee will go directly to the Hamburg Central PTSA.

Number of Members: _____ X \$8.00 = Total Membership Dues: _____ + Additional Donation: _____ = Application Total: _____

For PTSA Use Only

_____ X \$8.00 = _____	Payment Method <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____
# of Members Membership Due	
_____ + _____ = _____	Entered in Online Membership System Date: _____ By: _____
Membership Due Donation Total Received	



Administration Building
5305 Abbott Rd.
Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

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Armor Elementary 646-3350
Boston Valley Elementary..... 646-3240
Charlotte Avenue Elementary 646-3370
Union Pleasant Elementary..... 646-3280
Hamburg Middle School..... 646-3250
Hamburg High School 646-3300
General Information..... 646-3200

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Thanksgiving Drive collecting donations

Can you help? Hamburg High School's annual Thanksgiving Drive is seeking turkeys, food and financial donations so that dinners can be provided to local families in need. The drive is aiming to collect at least 275 turkeys to continue the tradition of holiday meals for the less fortunate in the school community. There is also an option to "adopt-a-family" for \$100. The donation deadline is Friday, Nov. 22.

Checks should be made payable to "HHS Character Committee" and sent to the attention of Kathy Battin at the High School, 4111 Legion Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075. Questions: Contact the High School Counseling Center at 646-3300, option #4.



NEVER FORGET — In October, sixth graders on Hamburg Middle School Team 3 heard a Holocaust survivor's firsthand account of life in concentration camps, based on his imprisonment during the last year of World War II. An electrician by trade living in Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Cor Feenstra was arrested as a 21-year-old and held as a Dutch political prisoner until liberation in 1945. The great-grandfather of Hamburg student Miles Liebenow, he spoke about inhumane conditions and loss of life as the norm in the camps. His daughter Nancy Feenstra assisted with the narration.

Early dismissal for K-5 on Dec. 5 & 13

Parent teacher conferences will bring two early dismissal days for Grades K-5 students in December.

Elementary students Grades K-5 will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 13. PreK will be in session as normal on these days.

There is also no school for Grades 6-12 on Friday, Nov. 15 due to a Professional Learning Day for High School/Middle School staff.

Enrollment opens Jan. 15 for full and half-day PreKindergarten

Enrollment for the district's PreKindergarten (PreK) 2020-21 program at Charlotte Avenue Elementary School will open on Jan. 15 with registrations being accepted through April 8. There are both full-day and half-day PreK class options. Placement in the full day classroom is by lottery, which will take place on May 1. Registrations will be accepted after this date for the half-day session only, based on availability.

The program is available to children who will be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2020. There is no cost to families who reside in the Hamburg Central School District and no income eligibility restrictions. The full-day classroom is a UPK classroom that is run in collaboration with the YMCA, and falls under the same New York State standards and guidelines as the half-day UPK classrooms.

The full-day class offers before and after-school extended hours

on-site at the participant's expense. The program provides meals and transportation to students Monday-Friday (one way transportation for full-day).

PreK provides children with opportunities for experimentation, exploration, discovery, challenge and interaction. It helps them become independent, self-confident, enthusiastic learners through spontaneous activity, play, carefully prepared materials and guided experiences. For more information on the program, please visit the district website or call the PreK office at 646-3370, ext. 3410.

The PreK registration form is available in the student registration section of the school district website: hamburgschools.org. To enroll a child, contact the Central Registration Office for an appointment at 646-3200, ext. 7217 or email centralreg@hcsdk12.org.