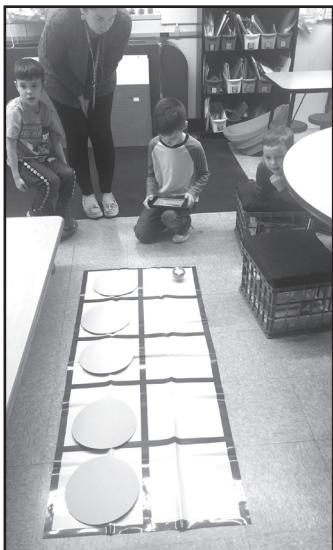




First graders from two schools connect as “grid pals”

First graders in two classrooms miles apart may not have ever met in-person but they’re collaborating, learning from each other and becoming friends. It’s the result of their two teachers teaming up and using technology in a modern version of “pen pals.” Instead of writing back and forth, the 23 students in Mindy Wolf’s class at Union Pleasant Elementary and 20 in Dara McFadden’s class at Boston Valley are sharing their thoughts, problem solving and having fun with each other via short videos.



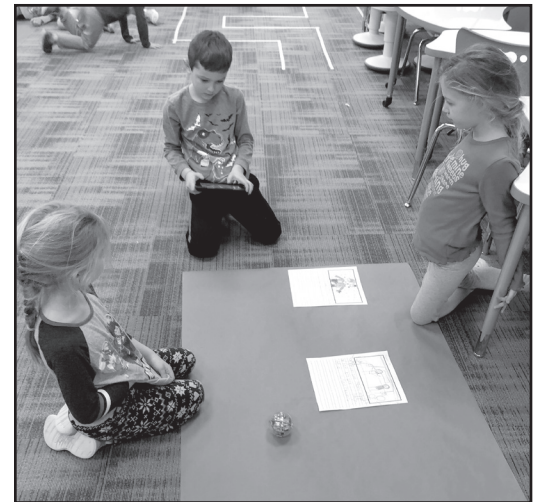
Mrs. Wolf’s students work on block coding to prepare for the St. Patrick’s extravaganza.

They call themselves “grid pals” as they use the Flipgrid social learning platform to virtually connect. Since the beginning of the school year, they’ve used technology to record introductory videos for each other, talking about their favorite part of first grade; create and solve math word problems; and discuss their activities during the February recess. At some point, they’ll do a Writer’s Workshop activity to share with their buddy.

They’ll finally meet face-to-face on March 16 during a St. Patrick’s Day-themed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) learning experience in the Axis technology room at Union Pleasant. As partners, they’ll construct mazes, code decorated Sphero robotic balls to navigate the paths toward “pots of gold” and get to know each other better over lunch.

“The social interaction piece is huge and so is the collaboration piece, especially because they’re doing it across buildings,” Mrs. McFadden said of this project. She added that the prospect of creating

(Please turn to page five)



Practicing Sphero basics, from left: Cecelia Buczkowski, Logan Smolinski and Mikayla Nowakowski, students in Mrs. McFadden’s class.

Boston Valley fifth grader leads peers in kindness

Kids are taking kindness to heart at Boston Valley Elementary School. As a way to keep a culture of kindness spreading in the school, fifth grader Sydney Sega recently approached Principal Nicole Lauer with a detailed plan of things students could do to promote the concept. One of expectations within Boston Valley’s learning community is that the school will be a good place for everyone to live and learn.

“We talk about, model and encourage kindness every chance we get,” Mrs. Lauer said. “This shows that the work we do with kindness in our building is catching on with kids.”



Sydney Sega, left, talks to fifth graders about the Kindness Club.

“What’s better than a student-driven idea?”

Sydney, a student in Margaret Ryan’s class, pitched her “Kindness Club Plan” to fellow fifth graders during a lunch period and they kicked off the initiative in February by writing kindness messages on paper hearts that were then displayed around the building. A monthly project will continue to promote the kindness theme to the end of the school year. And, in order to keep it going strong, this year’s fourth graders are being coached so they can carry on the work when they become fifth graders next year.



Superintendent's Column

District Strategic Plan is roadmap that drives learning opportunities

I have used this space recently to write about our instructional model that promotes deep and modern learning, the many contributions of our Board of Education, the productive partnerships we have forged throughout the community, and our long-term facilities planning. Each of these elements, on their own, significantly impacts the learning experiences enjoyed by our students each day. However, while each of them, individually, has great impact on our students, none of them operates independently of the others. We are very proud of our robust and thoughtful long-term strategic planning process that helps us align our initiatives with one another and then assures that all of them together support the Hamburg Central School District's vision, mission and core values.

Our District Strategic Plan is revised each year in collaboration with our Strategic Planning Committee. This team comprises nearly 60 stakeholders from every school and job description, and includes parents and business leaders. We meet twice each year for a full day and our meetings are facilitated by myself and our senior leadership team. The plan, itself, has three Strategic Priorities — one that emphasizes the quality of our educational opportunities for students and staff, one that is focused on effective communication with internal and external audiences, and one that addresses finance, facilities and safety.



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

Each of our Strategic Priorities is accompanied by the Commitments that we make as a district to assure that we actually *prioritize* each Strategic Priority, and the Commitments are each supported by a series of Action Steps. In Strategic Priority #1 – Educational Opportunities, we have a set of “look fors” which serve as evidence that our Action Steps are effective in forming the learning experiences that the research and our experience tell us will lead to deep and modern learning for each student.

It has been the development of our “look fors” — which are the things that our students will say, see, feel and do when we are keeping the six Commit-

ments —that has been the focus of our most recent efforts. In short, by knowing what we are looking for in every classroom, they help us answer the question, “How will we know when we are actually walking our talk?”

Our “Look Fors”

All students in PK – 12 should:

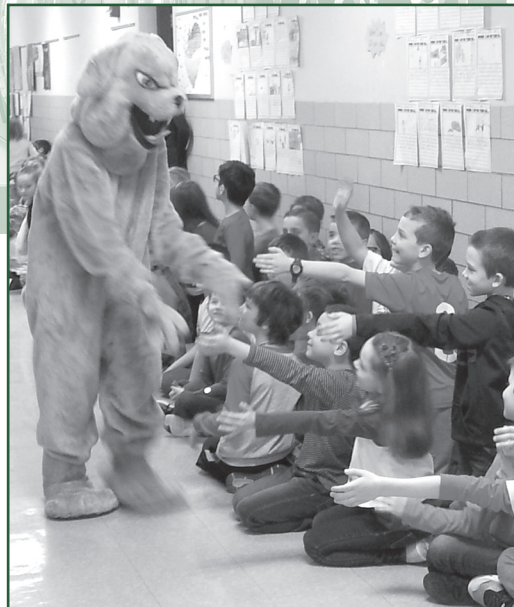
- Benefit from Purposefully Designed Instruction
- Exercise Agency
- Develop and Demonstrate Self-Efficacy
- Enjoy Productive Relationships

“ Our “look fors” represent a continuum of transportable skills and dispositions that, when we see our students exhibit them, we know that they possess the skills that will help them thrive in a mid-century world that is increasingly influenced by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. ”

While Regents Exams grades, standardized tests scores and the SAT help pave the way to high school graduation, they, alone, do not prepare students for the world that awaits them after they have actually graduated. Our “look fors” represent a continuum of transportable skills and dispositions that, when we see our students exhibit them, we know that they possess the skills that will help them thrive in a mid-century world that is increasingly influenced by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity.

By optimizing the positive impact of our Strategic Plan, we assure that the educational opportunities we offer students and staff, our partnerships, our budget and facilities, our safety measures, our communication, and all of the essential functions of the school district support the District's mission of assuring that we are “engaging all students in learning experiences that inspire lifelong learning and empower each for their future.”

Charlotte Avenue fetes 100 days of school



Charlotte Avenue Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school in February with the popping of as many balloons, a robotic ball parade and “high fives” from Spike, the bulldog mascot. Fifth graders, who marked their 1,000th day of school, navigated the decorated robotic ball floats down a hallway lined with students and staff for this schoolwide event. The floats had school spirit, 1,000 days and Valentine’s themes. The grand finale had students counting along as 100 balloons were popped.

Kindergarten & PreK registering for 2020-21

Enrollment is underway for Hamburg Central’s Kindergarten and PreKindergarten (PreK) programs for the 2020-21 school year.

The district offers full-day kindergarten for children who are legal residents on the opening day of school and who are or will be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 2020.

The PreK program, housed at Charlotte Avenue Elementary School, is for children who will be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2020. There is no cost to families who reside in the school district and no income eligibility restrictions. There are both full-day and half-day PreK class options. For more information on the program, see the PreK section of the school district website (hamburgschools.org).

Registration forms for both Kindergarten and PreK are also available on the district website. Registration is by appointment only. Contact the Central Registration Office for an appointment at 646-3200, ext. 7217 or email centralreg@hcsdk12.org.



Armor auctions student art

An auction of student art at Armor Elementary’s Family Fun Night in January raised \$1,248 towards the cost of a new kiln for the school. Under the direction of art teacher Kaitlin Allen, each class at Armor came up with an idea for pieces to be made for the auction. There were wind chimes, ceramic flower bowls, fingerprint skylines and more.

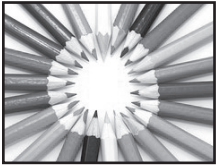
Pictured: Sophia Emmerling, a second grader in Kelly Reading’s class, with the ceramic flower bowl she created for the auction.

Garden Walk poster features student’s art

Future graphic artist John Carroccia, a junior at Hamburg High School, designed the winning poster for Hamburg Village Garden Walk 2020. He is a student in Michael Edwards’ Illustration and Graphic Design class. The design will be used on Garden Walk posters and map brochures.

Runners-up were other talented Hamburg student artists Sean Hoelscher, Meredith Georger, Cordell Reynolds and Sydney Gartley.

The walk takes place July 11-12 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and features some of the area’s noteworthy gardens.



March/April Calendar

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

Monday, March 2

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

7:30 p.m. — High School PTSA in LMC

Tuesday, March 3

6 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary PTSA

7 p.m. — High School Guest Artist Concert

Thursday, March 5

6 p.m. — National Honor Society induction, High School

Friday, March 6

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast - art & business/technology

5 p.m. — Hamburg vs. Frontier dodgeball to benefit Luca S. Callani Foundation, Frontier High School - cancelled

Saturday, March 7

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

Tuesday, March 10

6 p.m. — School Board budget session; meeting at 6:30 p.m., Middle School LMC

Wednesday, March 11

Elementary report cards issued

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

7 p.m. — Armor Elementary PTSA

Thursday, March 12

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast - health, phys. ed & EMT

7 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary Mother & Son Activity Night

Friday, March 13

*Superintendent Conference Day/
No student attendance*

Wednesday, March 18

3:15 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA

7 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary Grade 5 musical

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary musical

Thursday, March 19

4-7 p.m. — Hamburg Baseball spaghetti dinner, High School cafeteria

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary musical

Friday, March 20

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast - math & social studies

Tuesday, March 24

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

Friday, March 27

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast - science & English

6:30 p.m. — Districtwide Family Reading Night at Middle School

Tuesday, March 31

7 p.m. — Spectrum Band Concert Grades 5-12, High School

Thursday, April 2

6:30 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA Learning Fair

7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary Grade 3 chorus & recorders concert

Friday, April 3

7 a.m. — High School Student of the Year Breakfast - world languages

Saturday, April 4

8 a.m. — ACT Exam, High School

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

4:30 p.m. — High School's "Big Band Jazz Gala," Fairgrounds Event Center

Monday, April 6

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

7:30 p.m. — High School PTSA in LMC

Tuesday, April 7

3:15 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary PTSA

6 p.m. — School Board budget session; meeting at 6:30 p.m., Union Pleasant Elementary Axis Room

7 p.m. — High School Percussion Ensemble concert

Wednesday, April 8

7 p.m. — Armor Elementary PTSA

Thursday, April 9 through Friday, April 17

Spring recess/No school

Tuesday, April 21

6:30 p.m. — School Board, Administration Building

Wednesday, April 22

7 p.m. — Charlotte Avenue Elementary PTSA

Monday, April 27

7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary musical

Tuesday, April 28

6:30 p.m. — Middle School PTSA

7 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary musical

Wednesday, April 29

6:30 p.m. — Union Pleasant Elementary PTSA

7 p.m. — Boston Valley Elementary Grade 3 chorus & recorder concert

Thursday, April 30

PreK concerts at Charlotte Avenue Elementary:

6 p.m. — AM class

7 p.m. — PM class

Family Reading Night will be magical

You're invited to Hamburg Central's Districtwide Family Reading Night on Friday, March 27 from 6:30-9 p.m. at Hamburg Middle School, 360 Division St. The theme is "Reading is Magic."

This free event will kick off with Hawk Creek's Harry Potter Owl program.

There will be activities for every age, including Kano Coding, karaoke, mail a postcard, story walk, bouyant foil boats, Harry Potter Kahoot, family board games, coloring contest and happenings hosted by the public library. There will also be a book swap, door prizes, refreshments and live music by students.



Spaghetti dinner to benefit High School baseball

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Hamburg High School baseball will be held on Thursday, March 19 from 4-7 p.m. in the High School cafeteria, 4111 Legion Dr.

Dine-in or take-out meals will be available. The cost is \$10 presale; \$12 at the door. For tickets, contact coach Derek Hill (dhill@hcsdk12.org) or see a ballplayer.



High School students shine as Stars of character

Nine Hamburg High School students who actively demonstrate good character were among the honorees at the 2020 Student Star Awards Dinner sponsored by the Southtowns Regional Chamber of Commerce in February. The event celebrates students from six local high schools for such qualities as citizenship, communication, courage, fairness, generosity, honesty, leadership, respect, responsibility, patriotism and volunteerism. Hamburg's honorees, *seated from left: Alaina Brinkerhoff, Dana Bacher, Olivia Novack, Anjuly Hvidak. Standing: Principal Michael Gallagher, Sienna Becker, Ella Nasca, Anthony Zogaib, Madeline Ferro, Elizabeth Dunford, Superintendent Michael Cornell.*



FOOD COLLECTION — It was a day on, not a day off, for 150 students from Hamburg High School's Academy of Finance (AOF) who volunteered in January at the annual MLK Day of Service Hamburg Food Drive. Students braved the cold collecting bags from community doorsteps, then sorting and packaging more than 14,000 pounds of food. The donated food equates to more than 11,730 meals for area families and individuals in need through FeedMore WNY. AOF is a partner in this service project with the Village of Hamburg Recreation Department and The Service Collaborative of Western New York.

High School marks partnership with Junior Achievement

Hamburg High School students Nevada Pohlman and Danner Leyonmark were recently interviewed by WYRK radio about their experience with Junior Achievement (JA) of WNY. The High School is a partner with the organization, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The interview included Laurie Mahoney, JA President.

JA programs are incorporated into sophomore Academy of Finance (AOF) and work readiness classes at the High School. AOF also participates in the annual JA WNY Stock Market Challenge at the Buffalo Convention Center. Last year, Hamburg students won two out of the three scholarships awarded by JA.

Benefit dodgeball game pits Bulldogs-Falcons

A Hamburg vs. Frontier dodgeball game is planned to benefit the Luca S. Callani Foundation. The game will be held at Hamburg High School Student Government, 1100 Hamburg Rd., March 6 from 5-8 p.m. at Frontier High School, 4432 Bayview Rd. Spectator admission is \$2.

Grid pals

(Continued from page one)

and sharing work with a wider audience has been a great motivator for the students.

Mrs. Wolf agreed, "They're taking ownership of their learning. They're sharing and getting feedback from their peers and making adjustments. The modern learning skills that they're acquiring are transferrable across content areas."

The teachers say that technology has opened up different types of learning opportunities for students as they work through missteps and frustrations together to reach a goal.

"Failure is a learning opportunity," Mrs. Wolf said. "Sometimes it's messy and chaotic but when they finally find success, they're so excited and happy about it."

Integrating technology into the instruction has also allowed the teachers to see a different side of some students and their communication abilities.

"They can be so quiet in class but when they have an iPad in their hands and they're recording themselves, they're a whole different person," Mrs. Wolf said.

The Hamburg High School Bands Presents:



TICKETS:
GENERAL:
\$35
VIP:
\$45
(PREFERRED SEATING)

GALA
Dinner/Music/Raffles

PERFORMANCES BY THE HHS JAZZ ENSEMBLE, HHS STRINGS, HHS ALUMNI JAZZ GROUP, AND SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS.

Saturday, April 4th, 2020
Erie County Fairgrounds Event Center.
A benefit event for the Hamburg High School's Jazz Ensemble's tour to Japan.
Tickets: Call 646-3300 ext. 6420 or email MMCarthy@hcsdk12.org

“Big Band Jazz Gala”

Dinner/Music Event

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Doors open at 4:30 pm

Benefit for The Hamburg High School Jazz Ensemble’s upcoming tour to Japan.

Join us for a wonderful night of music making, good food, basket prizes, and fun! The event is catered, with big band music, a studio string orchestra, and vocalists!

Special guests include the Augie Bates Jazz Trio. This will be a special jazz club style event that will have limited seats available.

Tickets are only available via presale. There will not be any tickets sold at the door.

VIP admission: \$45 This includes preferred seating within the first few rows of the stage.

General admission: \$35

Presale ends March 27th (all orders must be received by this date.)

All ticket sales are non-refundable.

Name _____ Street _____

Town _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

*VIP tickets @ \$45: _____ x \$45 = \$ _____ (It is encouraged to call/email before sending this form to make sure VIP tickets are still available as there are limited VIP tickets available and these will sell out.)
(# of Tickets) (VIP Subtotal)

*General Admission @ \$35: _____ x \$35 = \$ _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____
(# of Tickets) (GA Subtotal)

*Make checks payable to: “Hamburg High School Bands”

Mail to: Larry Dubill, Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075

Mail order deadline: received by March 27th. *VIP seating is first-come first-serve within the VIP rows.

General Admission tickets are first-come, first-serve within the GA rows.



CHOPPED CHALLENGE — *In the photo at left*, a one-pot rigatoni alfredo chicken with kale recipe cooked up by Hamburg Middle School students Max Snyder, *right*, and Gray Goble, *center*, was the winning dish when eighth graders from Sheri Gund's culinary class participated in a Chopped Challenge sponsored by Erie 1 BOCES. They're pictured with Lauren Sikora, culinary teacher at Potter Career and Technical Center. Each student team partnered with a culinary senior from Harkness Career and Technical Center. Their task was to make a dish in one hour that included a chicken, starch and vegetable, researched beforehand by the Middle School students. Also pictured whipping up a dish in the competition are Abby Pares, *left*, and Ally Munro.

F2S connected with Hamburg Middle School sixth graders during social studies to make hand operated irrigation devices.

State award recognizes Hamburg's partnerships in Farm to School program

Hamburg Central is one of four school districts selected by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and New York School Nutrition Association (NYSNA) to receive a 2020 Farm to School Partnership Award. Anne Rich, Hamburg's Director of Food & Nutrition Services, accepted the award on behalf of the district in January at the annual NYSNA Legislative Action Conference in Albany.

Hamburg was chosen because of partnerships with farmers and local entrepreneurs, like Produce Peddlers, that bring more fresh, local foods into the Child Nutrition program through the NY Thursdays and Harvest of the Month programs. The honor also recognizes classroom and community connections that continue to strengthen each year.

Some of the features that make Hamburg's Farm to School (F2S) program stand out are:

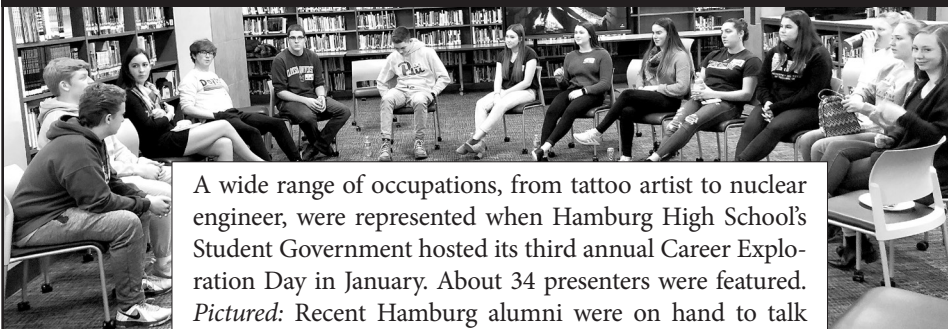
- Partnering with other local districts for grants
- Participating in and hosting F2S events
- Staff participation in F2S professional development workshops, like Teaching From Farm To Fork
- Local agriculture conferences with Katie Carpenter from NY Ag in the Classroom

Middle School grows green with new rack

Hamburg Middle School is growing green with the help of a 4-tier grow rack in the culinary classroom donated by community partner Produce Peddlers. The rack is being used to grow produce indoors. In January, Anne Rich, Hamburg's Director of Food & Nutrition Services, and Sheri Gund, Family & Consumer Science teacher, introduced students to Gina and Gary Wiczorek, Produce Peddlers owners, and farmer Brendan Monaco of Goodman Farm, who demonstrated how to use the rack.



High School's Career Day explores professions



A wide range of occupations, from tattoo artist to nuclear engineer, were represented when Hamburg High School's Student Government hosted its third annual Career Exploration Day in January. About 34 presenters were featured. *Pictured:* Recent Hamburg alumni were on hand to talk about college and life out of high school. All students had the opportunity to select a presentation on a career of interest to attend during their math, business or health classes.



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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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2020 Wall of Fame seeks nominations

The Hamburg Alumni Foundation is seeking nominations for its 2020 Wall of Fame awards event. There are three categories of nominees: Sports Legends, Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Educator(s). Submissions should be received by Friday, May 1 in order to be considered for the 2020 class. This year's event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Michael's Catering and Banquets, 4885 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg.

Sports Legends

Any former Hamburg athlete (should have been graduated from Hamburg for at least 10 years), coach or athletic director is eligible for nomination. In addition to individual inductees, the Foundation will honor a "Team of Distinction." Teams eligible for this honor should have at least 10 years after the completion of their season. Teams considered for the award have won a conference, sectional or state championship, or been undefeated over the course of their season, or considered to be one of the "very best Hamburg teams ever" in their respective sports.

Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni Award honors Hamburg High School alumni who have achieved outstanding success in their chosen careers, have made outstanding contributions to the community, country or society, and who have a reputation that serves as a positive example to Hamburg High School students.

Distinguished Teacher/Educator

The Distinguished Teacher/Educator Award will honor educators who have a history of outstanding contributions to the Hamburg Central School District, which includes the ability to inspire, promote and sustain the intellectual development of students, demonstrate scholarly/professional contributions that foster critical thinking and challenge students to independent inquiry, and have advised/mentored students both in and outside the classroom.

Nomination forms can be found at www.hamburgalumnifoundation.org. Click on Events at the top of the home page and then Wall of Fame Ceremonies. Please include any additional details you may have on the nominee. Email the information to info@hamburgalumnifoundation.org or mail to Hamburg Alumni Foundation, P.O. Box 174, Hamburg, NY 14075.

Students share joy of reading at Charlotte Avenue



Third graders in Jeneane Brown's class made a book to read to first graders from Kristy Brayman's class. They also read picture books to one another. *From left:* Mara Migliaccio, Penny Boland and Claire Tirone.



Gathering to read together, *from left*, are PreK students Gabriella Truisi and Penelope Campisi, fourth grader Riley Flynn, and PreK student Reagan Cannan.

Older students at Charlotte Avenue Elementary School took younger students under their wings to celebrate the joy of reading and share stories on World Read Aloud Day in February. Throughout the school, students teamed up to read to each other. Door decorating and a kickoff video featuring Principal Danielle Lango reading "Some Pig!" by E.B. White provided a backdrop for the day's activities.