2017 Homecoming King & Queen



Isaah Leiseur and Morgan Hamer

Watch for more pictures and sports news in next month's issue!



Old Timers' Game





"a school dedicated to excellence



This year the Old Timers game was played under the new lights on a beautiful fall night. It was great to see all of the participants. The score ended up 6 to 4. I would like to thank all of the players who came out for this game. Please spread the word for next year so we can keep improving on the numbers of participants. A special thank you to Camden Smith for being ball boy, and Dan Geyer for running the clock. ~ Coach Sullivan



Front Row: Tim Merriam ('17), Dakota Bentley ('17), Cody Barth ('17), Christina Hamer ('15), Dana Atherton ('12), Kayla Caiazza ('15), Erika (Babbitt) Jacobs ('08), Caleb Bentley ('11); Back Row: Scott Hamer ('91), Joe Merriam ('15), Matt Borden ('17), Jason Hamer ('93), Jeff Enders ('95), Jordin Fuller ('08), Jackey Cobb ('81), Steve Buchholz ('95), Coty Winchell ('10), Joe Dahill ('15)

Belfast Central School's Mission Statement

The mission of the Belfast Central School is to work together to provide a comprehensive, equitable, and quality education for all students based on the belief that all children can and will learn. The community, faculty, staff, parents, and students will cooperatively foster each individual's intellectual, moral, social, civic, and physical development so that Belfast Central School will continue to be looked upon as an example of excellence in rural education in New York State.

From the Desk of Mr. Roche

A recent study has indicated something that most of us probably already know without spending a great deal of money to find out, our children are spending an increasing amount of time on "screens". In fact, the results of the study show that children under the age of 9 are spending more than 2 hours each day on screens. Below are some screen tips that pediatricians are recommending for children:

Screen time tips for parents

Infants and young toddlers tend not to yet have the symbolic thinking or memory skills to understand two-dimensional screens until they are around 15 to 18 months old, said Dr. Jenny Radesky, an assistant professor of developmental behavioral pediatrics at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, who wrote a commentary in the new report.

Radesky was also lead author of the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations for media use released last year.

"New guidelines recommend that children under the age of 18 months don't learn anything from screen media. It's fine to Skype, but infants or toddlers probably won't be able to interact well over it until 15 months on average. Then it's fine to look at pictures or videos together. I tell parents not to stress if they want to watch a sports game now and then with their baby -- or they need to put their older infant in front of PBS for 20 minutes while they do the dishes -- but keep it short, understand the realities that media is not educational at this age, and avoid a lot of background TV when no one's watching. We talk to our kids less when it's on," she said.

A growing trend among parents is to give young children their own hand-me-down smartphone or tablet, which may only connect to wifi for games, apps and educational purposes, Radesky said. "I generally recommend that families not give their young kids total control of these devices -- in other words, keep them up high where kids have to ask permission to use them, don't store or charge them in the child's room, and have rules about where and when they can be used," she added. "Take off all the inappropriate apps and try to teach the child to use it for creative purposes, like as a camera or videorecorder, and to share

Forward Motion!

"Don't underestimate the power of your vision to change the world. Whether that world is your office, your community, an industry or global movement, you need to have a core belief that what you contribute can fundamentally change the paradigm or way of thinking about problems."—Leroy Hood

Our vision for BCS is to have a student focused District looking to create opportunities for our students now and in the future. To achieve this goal, we need to continue to collaborate to conquer challenges facing our school. This can only be accomplished through open, honest communication.

As a District, we have increased our modes of communication this year. In July, we created a Belfast Central School Facebook page, and as of October 18, we have a new District web page. Our new webpage is located at www.belfastcsd.org. Still to come will be a mass notification system and our own BCS District app. We are working to share and update information about our school as much as possible. If you have an idea about information you would like to see on our web page, please do not hesitate to contact me and share your ideas!

Dr. Wendy Butler, Superintendent

their creations with family members so that they learn that device use isn't always a solo activity," she said. Radesky also believes learning "digital manners" is important. "So that kids know it's not okay to ignore other people when they are looking at a screen ... and how to reduce distractions when we need special family time," she said

While each family needs to decide how much screen time is appropriate for their family it is important to consider supplementing screen time with some good old fashion family time and fun.

From the Desk of Mrs. Hess

Is your child having trouble handing in homework, finishing a project, remembering their instrument or gym clothes? Does their locker or bedroom look like a tornado has just blown through? Organization is not a skill that children naturally know how to do. Just like everything else your child learns, your child needs to be explicitly taught how to be organized. Managing time and learning to prioritize and plan requires memory and focus. It is not uncommon for children to need help setting up a system or cues to bring them out of the clutter and help them take control. Here are some tips that will help you get your child organized while teaching them strategies to continue on their own:

- → Bring order to your child's room. Separate ongoing projects, finished work, and school and art supplies into labeled bins, folders, file cabinets, or an under-bed box. Provide a shelf for books and a bulletin board for reminders. Give your child a stapler, a three-hole punch, and big binder clips.
- Post reminders. Give your child a pad of sticky notes and encourage your child to post special reminders on mirrors, doors, and elsewhere.
- → Give your child a daily planner to keep track of deadlines, appointments, events, and so on. Encourage your child to keep a daily to-do list, and teach them to prioritize by dividing tasks into two groups: IMPORTANT (do it now!) and LESS IMPORTANT (do it anytime). Go over the next day's schedule together every night.
- → Prepare for the next day. As your child packs his book bag each evening, make sure that homework is in its folder and that everything he'll need violin, sneakers, lunch money is ready to go. On the weekend, help your child go through their backpack to remove old work and see if they need any new supplies.
- → Buy school gear that encourages organization, such as a backpack with multiple compartments. Help your child categorize their school materials notebooks/binders, workbooks/texts, pens/pencils-and assign each category its own compartment. A three-ring binder, with colored tabs for separate subjects and inserts with pockets for notes, works well for many students. Buy paper with reinforced holes to reduce the risk of losing pages.
- Offer praise. Being organized isn't easy for your child. Let them know you're proud of their efforts.
- Avoid locker litter. Work with your child to decide what they need in their locker, and get rid of the extras. If necessary, make the space more efficient with additional shelves, hooks for sneakers and a gym bag, and a hanging organizer for small items. Plan a cleanup schedule-perhaps weekly or before a school break.
- → Make sure assignments come home. Help your child line up someone in each class who can be contacted, if necessary, to get the homework assignment.
- → Enlist the teacher. Many teachers assume that their students already have organizational skills. If your child still needs help in this department, let their teachers know which strategies have proven effective.

Legging it for Lucy!

We raised over \$11,000, and we're not done! MONEY is still coming in! Words cannot express how deeply moved we were by the outpouring of love and support for Lucy and her family. Our community is small, but we are POWERFUL! :)

Thank you to EVERYONE who was involved in our event!

Sincerely, the Belfast Volleyball team, and Coach Ross.



Allen Lake State Forest

The 10th grade living environment class went to Allen Lake State Forest to collect and learn about leaves from Nathaniel Tucker, New York State Forester. We went for a 2 mile hike on the trail off Saunders Hill Rd that follows a Glacial Esker and has a variety of interesting trees. Here the class was in a grove of black walnut trees demonstrating allelopathy. Black Walnuts release chemicals from their roots which harm other trees and give the tree a competitive advantage.





Please remind your child that they are required to be IN first period class at 8:05 a.m.

Note that excused and unexcused Absent, Tardy, and Early Dismissal dates are documented. At the end of each quarter a letter will be sent home with report cards to inform parents of attendance dates. Excuses are required in order to change "A"=(Absent) to "E"= (Absent Excused), and "T"= (Tardy) to "L"=(Tardy Excused). Excuses should be sent in within 24 hours

of returning to school. A list of excused absences is in the student handbook.

When a parent request is made for a student to be excused early for a Doctor/ Dentist/Ortho/Counseling/ Professional visit, a note from the professional's office should be turned in to the school within 24 hours of returning to school. You may also request doctor's notes be faxed to 585-365-2648. You do not have to take your child to a doctor to have an illness excused. A note stating that your child is ill, briefly tell why (symptoms), with a signature and dates of absence is still an acceptable excuse.

Please call Amy Bonning Smith 365-2646 ext. 1008, with any questions regarding school attendance.

Belfast Central School November 2017



Attendance Incentives

1) For grades K-4 monthly recognition, the class with the highest attendance percentage will receive a prize or a special privilege. In addition, an attendance banner will be given to the winning class to hang on the door to their classroom.

2) At the end of the year awards assembly, those individual students having perfect attendance (perfect attendance is defined as not being tardy for school or absent for more than a half a day while school is in attendance) will be awarded a certificate.



Best Monthly Attendance Award



Belfast Central School Salutes Our Veterans

Thursday, November 9, 2017 2:00-3:00 PM Belfast Central School Auditorium 1 King Street Belfast, NY 14711

Patriotic songs, readings, reflections by our students.
All veterans and their families are welcome.
Please spread the word.

Call the school office at 585-365-2646 for more information



Hat/Dress Down Days







On a Friday morning has your child asked you for a quarter or said they want to wear a hat in school? Maybe you've been in our school on a Friday and have noticed faculty and staff wearing jeans or students wearing hats. Every other Friday we have "hat/dress down days" where students can pay a quarter to get their hand stamped with a special designated stamp to wear a hat; faculty and staff donate money to wear jeans to school. The money we collect is donated to various worthy causes in our community. Thank you for your support as we continue our "hat/dress down days" throughout the school year.

Income Tax Code



New York State resident income tax returns IT200 and IT201 require you to enter the name and code number of the public school district where you were a resident on December 31, 2017. The Belfast Central School code number is 044.

Breakfast Reminder





If buses are late the students are welcome to take time to eat breakfast. If there is a two-hour delay, no breakfast will be served.



- To all those who purchased Great American products From the Class of 2018.
- To all those who supported the Snack Shack during the soccer games.
- To Mrs. Barber and Student Council for doing a great job organizing spirit week, homecoming festivities, the dance and the pep rally.

Lifeway's YOUTH LOCK IN FRI NOV 10 7PM - SAT NOV 11 9AM fun - food - games - friends - movie For ages 11 to 19 permission slip required info @ Lifeway fo

Family Gift Giving



It is that time of year again! Community members would like to host the 6th annual Family Gift Giving event for our students here at school. This will take place at the Belfast Town Hall Monday, Tuesday, and possibly



Wednesday December 19-20. We are asking for any donations for gently used or new gifts for any family members (brothers, sisters, parents, ect.) or even wrapping paper/gift bags. Students PreK-6 have a chance to come "shop" for their family members and get their gifts wrapped to take home for Christmas presents. Our kids enjoy this each year. If you have any items you would like to donate or if you would like to volunteer to help wrap, please contact one of the following people:

Gail DeRock (585) 307- 4171
 Ethel Denning (585) 365-2282
 Lisa Denning (585) 610-7779

Thank you for your support! We will open it up to Belfast families Tuesday evening from 4-6pm.

WANTED







2017 Christmas Tree Lighting in the Park

DECEMBER 3 AT 6:30P.M.

Followed by: Christmas Carols, Hot Chocolate and Cookies

Santa Claus will arrive at 7:00p.m.

To place a bulb on the Memorial Christmas Tree, please contact Sherree Gielow.

Parent Night in Kindergarten

October 5th was our third activity night for our families at Belfast. Mrs. Mahon and Mrs. Hamer would like to give a BIG thank you to all the parents that could come and help. We also want to thank you for

the donations of mums and fall bulbs. They look beautiful in our flowerbeds out near the playground. It was nice to get the families together and watch them get to know each other. These parents will be an extended family for the next 13 years at BCS. What a wonderful group of individuals!



First & Second Grade News

On October 19th our first and second graders were able to spend the day at Houghton College. Some of the education students at Houghton planned a day of math centers to do with our children. The games that the students participated in were aligned with our New York State Common Core Standards. The best part was that the first and second graders were having so much fun that they didn't know that they were taking part in solving higher level math problems.

All of the kids had a blast, and we would like to thank Martin Coates for inviting Belfast students to be a part of such an awesome educational opportunity. Not only did the students enjoy a fun filled day of math centers, but they also were able to see and explore a college campus. What a blast!



The Arts Corner

<u>Music Department</u> - Congratulations to Ethan Blocho! He has been accepted into this year's Senior High Area All State concert band in November.

The <u>Art Department</u> wants to thank everyone who helped the school collect 100s of bottle caps. "We now have all the caps we need, and will begin work soon."



Instrumental Department - Nine BCS students were selected to sing at the Junior High Area All-State. Seven girls and two boys in grades 7-9 were selected to sing in two choirs at this year's Junior High Area All-State Music festival on November 3-4 in Hornell, NY. Students are selected from all over NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Zone 15 which includes Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties.

Isabelle Male, Kylie Francis, Aidan Heaney, and Destiny Cantrell were selected for the Treble Chorus. Alicia Borden, Cayla Mura, Emma Sullivan, Christian Lopez and Stephen Struckmann were chosen for the Mixed Chorus.

Students are selected based on previous experiences, scores from NYSSMA solo festivals and director's recommendations. New BCS choir director, JD Struckmann said, "I couldn't be more proud of these students' accomplishments and I'm excited to see and hear what they will learn and bring back to their peers."



September's Students of the Month

Showed that they have growth mindsets by having

Eagerness to Learn



Kindergarteners: Nicholas Chamberlain, Matt Guilford, Lyndsey Howard; 1st Graders: Jessie-Joe Chamberlain, Crystal Murns; 2nd Graders: Colt Cobb, Avery Enders, Isabelle Guilford, Sarah Hazelton; 3rd Graders: Richard Elliott, George Merrell, Tye Willard Madison Yackeren; 4th Graders: Chloe Chamberlain, Logan Estabrook, Heather Padden, Mariah Patton

PLEASE CALL FOR SAFETY!

In order to better protect our children, Belfast Central School is asking PARENTS to take a very important step in helping us to keep your child safe. Please call the school if your child is at home sick or absent from school for any reason. Our policy is to account for the attendance and absence of every child. We want to make sure that every child who leaves home for school arrives here safely, therefore PLEASE call 365-2053 if your child will be absent. Thank you again for helping us to keep your children safe.

Allegany County History Awareness Program

On September 26th, the Belfast Central School 8th graders headed to the Wellsville library for the Allegany County History Awareness Program. Inside they got to see how people were dressed in the 1860s, and how the soldiers were treated, and saw hand written letters of some of the Union soldiers. One student Max Miller claimed "I really like going and seeing the letters and everything first hand. Learning about the soldiers in the Civil War from Allegany County was very interesting and I had a great time." Another student, Cayla Mura claimed "I think that this experience has really helped us [8th graders] understand the Civil War better." In March, the 8th graders are taking a trip to Washington, DC to the White House and many museums to learn even more about the Civil War.



Belfast Public Library News

We are busy with all sorts of activities at the Belfast Public Library this fall season. Visit the library and you're sure to find something that interests you.

In November, we are honoring our U.S. military veterans with a display of books and videos to commemorate Veteran's Day. The library is fortunate to have an especially large collection of items documenting World War II. A patron has contributed many of these items. The new Vietnam War video series by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick will soon be on our shelf

During the month of November, the library is pleased to welcome the York-Penn Doll Club's display. The club "promotes an interest in dolls by way of education, preservation, history, creativity and enjoyment".

Children (and grownups) are invited to visit the Annex this month to create their own decorative wall hanging using seasonal colors and natural materials.

The library now has several Kindle (e-readers) to lend. If you are not familiar with such devices, ask us to show you what they can do. Among other things, we can help you download a book from STLS's Starcat that you can read at home even if you don't have internet access.

We are seeking crochet teachers and learners to take part in Allegany County Public Library Directors Association's community crochet project, "Blanket Statement: Libraries Unite Our Community". Please call or visit the library for further information. If you are interested in learning or teaching others to make a "granny square", please tell a clerk and we will arrange a class or individual lesson.

Ghosts of Heaven by Marcus Sedgewick, is a Young Adult book that appeals to adult readers as well. Consider reading this intriguing novel and joining our group discussion.

The library's many cookbooks and magazine selection will inspire you to create new additions to your traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Many magazines are also available online at Zinio.

Adult Fiction

- Origin: A Novel by Dan Brown
- Don't Let go by Harlan Coben
- The Stolen Marriage by Diane Chamberlain
- Merry and Bright by Debbie Macomber

- Sleeping Beauties by Stephen & Owen King
- Holly and Ivy by Fern Michaels
- Sadie's Montana by Linda Byler (Donated by Wendy Davenport)-
- Wicked Deeds by Heather Graham
- The Marriage Pact by Michelle Richmond (Donated by Shari Collins)

Arriving Soon

- To Be Where You Are by Jan Karon Large Print
- Deep Freeze by John Sandford
- Fairytale by Danielle Steele

Adult Non-Fiction

- No One is Illegal by Justin Akers Chacon and Mike Davis
- On Hallowed Ground: The Story of Arlington National Cemetery by Robert M Poole
- The Buffalo Bills and the Almost-Dream Season by Vic Carucci

Arriving Soon

 Grandma Gatewood's Walk by Ben Montgomery

DVDs

- A Hole in the Head
- Baby Driver
- Blissville: An Investigation donated by Hank Linhart

Arriving Soon

 The Vietnam War: A film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick

Juvenile DVDs

Scales: Mermaids are Real

Juvenile Non-Fiction

• Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai

<u>Juvenile Books from the Brownstone Book</u> Grant

- The Queen of France by Tim Wadham
- Quiltmaker's Gift by Jeff Brumbeau
- The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
- Reading Makes You Feel Good by Todd Parr
- Real Cowboys by Kate Hoefler
- Richard Scarry's Best Storybook Ever! by Richard Scarry
- Rocket Writes a Story by Tad Hills
- Rotten Ralph Helps Out by Jack Grantos

- Ruby's Wish by Shirin Yim Bridges
- Ruff! And the Wonderfully Amazing Busy Day by Caroline Church
- Silverlicious by Victoria Kann
 - The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
- Spring is Here by Taro Gomi
- Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell
- Stella's Starliner by Rosemary Wells
- The Story About Ping by Marjorie Flack
- Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
- The Three Pigs by David Wiesner
- Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco
- Today I Feel Silly & Other Moods That Make My Day by Jamie Lee Curtis
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
- Who Will Be My Friends by Syd Hoff
- Wild About Books by Judy Sierra



Fundraiser

Decorative Sign Painting and Desserts

November 9, 2017 7 p.m. at Library Annex

\$20 fee due with registration *Includes all supplies and desserts*

Visit the library to register and choose from Fall, Winter and Holiday designs.





Library Hours

As of February 1, 2017, the Children's Annex will open the same hours as the Main building.

Monday, Wednesday & Saturday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 3 p.m to 7 p.m.

Board Meetings

3rd Tuesday of the Month 6 p.m. at Belfast Public Library

201 <i>7</i> -18
BCS District
Calendar

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	School Closed
	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	Early Dismissal
	Staff Development Day
	Regents Exams & Gr. 3-8 Testing

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Dates to Remember:

Staff Dev. Day (Teachers) Staff Dev. Day (All Staff)

Labor Day - School Closed

Early Dismissal (12:30 p.m. - Gr. K-6)

Parent/Teacher Conferences (Gr. K-6)

Columbus Day - School Closed

Veterans' Day - School Closed

First Day for Students

8/28

8/29

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11/20	Parent/Teacher Conferences
	(Gr. PreK-12) No Students
11/21	Staff Dev. Day (No Students)
11/22-24	Thanksgiving Recess
12/22	Early Dismissal (2 p.m PreK-12)
12/25-1/1	Winter Recess
1/12	Staff Dev. Day

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1/23-26	Regents Exams
2/19-23	Winter Recess
3/15	Open House
3/29	Early Dismissal (2 p.m PreK-12)
3/30-4/6	Spring Recess

Martin Luther King Day

DECEMBER										
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- 4/11-13 Grade 3-8 Testing 5/1-4 Grade 3-8 Testing 5/25 Early Dismissal (2 p.m. - PreK-12) 5/28 Memorial Day 6/12-21 Regents Exams
 - 6/21 Last Day of School (PreK - 6)
 - 6/22 Graduation



Calendar of Events November 2017





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	It's not the sthe DOG in the DOG in the It's the SIZE FIGHT in the	size of he FIGHT of the e DOG	Picture Re-takes and Club Pictures	2	3	4. Jr. High Area All-State Concert (Homell) at 2pm
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends	6	7 Election Day	8 Pre-K Night	Veteran's Day Celebration in Auditorium at 2pm National Honor Society Induction at 6pm	No School Veteran's Day	11
12	13	PTO Meeting at 5:30pm Board of Education Meeting at 6:30pm	15	16	17	18 Sr. High Area All-State Concert (Elmira) at 2pm
19	Parent/Teacher Conferences	No School	No School	Thanksgiving Day No School	No School	25
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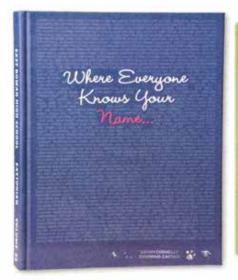








2017-2018 Yearbook Order Form



Personalized Yearbook Cover Personalize your yearbook with your name and icons printed in foil on the cover-Indicate lines of foil imprinting and up to four icons on the order form or online. lodica lineas de impresión en papel metalizado y hasta cuatro iconos en el formulario de pedido o en internet. 0 ***** 2023 EA 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2024 2025

Order online at ybpay.lifetouch.com

Note: Your school's cover design may be different than shown above. Nota: El diseño de cutierta de la escuela puede ser diferente del que se mostró anteriorment

The Belfast Central School

Our yearbook is planned to include:

- All-color pages that vibrantly capture school memories
- Durable, long-lasting hard cover that protects treasured memories for a lifetime
- Original cover design that reflects our school's spirit and uniqueness

Add on any of the following yearbook extras:

 Student's name imprinted in foil on the cover, plus the option to add foil icons that reflect each student's interests and hobbies

Schools may adjust yearbook features and the final yearbook features may vary

Don't wait - order your 2018 yearbook today !
\$35.00 - until Jan. 31, 2018
\$40.00- beginning Feb. 1, 2108
Imprinting orders should be

Imprinting orders should be submitted by Feb. 1, 2018

Imprinting prices:

Name on cover - add \$5.00 lcons (4 max) - add \$3.00/icon

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or otherwise needs to be changed, please call 585-365-9940.

IMPORTANT BCS TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

Superintendent's Office	365-9940
Principal's Office	365-8285
Business Office	365-8289
Guidance Office	365-8297
Bus Garage	365-2609
Nurse's Office	365-2053
Special Education Office	365-8847
Preschool	365-8088
Automated Attendant	365-2646
Fax	365-2648
Safe School Tip Line (lear	ve a message) 365-2053
Website	www.belfast.wnyric.org

Please remember our school safety tip line. This line remains at *365-2053* and may be used for anonymous calls for reporting student safety concerns.



Things to Look Forward To...



- NiagaraChocolate Sales
- Senior Citizen Luncheon
- PROM May 19, 2018 at Cuba VFW

Comments/
Suggestions
Suggestions

This space is available for you to share your concerns or questions. Please feel comfortable in taking advantage of the opportunity whenever you think this is appropriate.

Please return to:

Superintendent of Schools, or call 365-9940

Comments .			

Questions _____