Volume 50 / Number 2 • Nov/Dec 2025

JozLynn's Journey

Once again, a small town with a big heart comes together to share love and hope for those who need it most.

JozLynn Allen was a sweet 6-year-old girl who loved unicorns, princesses, animals, family, and Jesus. In May, she was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain tumor. JozLynn loved deeply and gained her angel wings on October 8th.

On Sunday, October 26, volunteers and walkers gathered to participate in JozLynn's Journey, a walk of remembrance. Joanne Ross, Ashley Moore, and countless hosted a donation walk, bake sale/basket raffle, and concession stand, all proceeds to support JozLynn's family during this challenging time.

Smiles, laughter, stories, and hugs were shared throughout the afternoon. JozLynn's parents and brothers were touched by all of those who gathered, for her, for them. It was a beautiful day! Angela, JozLynn's mom, expressed her gratitude, "God knew what we needed! God always knows."

Belfast Ski Club

Join Ski Club this year! BCS Ski Club sign-ups have started. Sign-ups close as of December 1st so don't delay. Swain is requiring parents to fill out all paperwork online this year. We will not be collecting any forms or money as in years past. Each child will need to purchase lift tickets and rentals (unless they have their own skis). There are four steps to follow on the website:

Step 1: Student information

Step 2: Medical Authorization

Step 3: Rentals

Step 4: Helmet Policy.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Miller (smmiller@belfastcsd.org) or Liz Hamer (ehamer@belfastcsd.org).

Armstrong Fall Festival Coloring Contest

Kindergarten-
Karter Worthington

1st grade-
McKenna Miller

2nd grade-
Kinsley Jaycox

3rd grade-
Willow Dixon

Miss Shephard's class-
Madelyn Terwilliger

Belfast Welcomes Children Book and Music Author!

January 5, 2026, Kindergarten through 6th grade will have the opportunity to meet Daryl Cobb. Mr. Cobb is not only an author of children's books and music, but he is also a professional performer, which makes him one of the most dynamic and imaginative author presenters in the field today. With over 35 years' experience on stage-- actor, singer, musician, author visits performer, storyteller, Daryl takes students on an incredible interactive journey through the creative writing process. His use of creative arts (live performance, storytelling, music, reader's theatre, live action readings and interactive activities) to teach and entertain is not only amazing to watch, but it ties into the show's powerful literacy message.

Elementary Drama Club Presents: Aladdin Jr.

The BCS stage came alive once again this fall as our talented Elementary Drama Club students whisked audiences away to the bustling streets of Agrabah in their enchanting production of Disney's Aladdin, Jr. From the first note, the cast dazzled family and friends with colorful costumes, energetic dance numbers, and unforgettable performances that brought Disney's beloved story to life.

Under the co-direction of Mrs. Rebekah Brennan & Mrs. Jessica Romance, students worked for seven weeks to learn their lines, songs, and choreography. Their hard work paid off in a show filled with laughter, heart, and a touch of magic. Highlights included show-stopping performances by the talented cast, stunning costumes, and unique scenic design that transformed our stage into a world of adventure and wonder.

This production was a showcase of our students' creativity, talent, teamwork, their growing confidence, and their love for the performing arts, as well as the dedication of our staff and several community members. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, it took an extraordinary group effort to make Aladdin, Jr. a success.

Thank you to all who made this show possible and congratulations to the entire cast and crew for an unforgettable journey "to a whole new world"!

New Staff Members

Becca Ellsessor

Hi! I'm Becca Ellsessor and I am so excited to be at BCS. I grew up and graduated right here in Belfast! I am a teachers aide. I am married with 2 kids who attend school here at Belfast too! We have 2 dogs, 1 cat, and a chinchilla. We spend a lot of time loving on our fur babies. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family, playing outside with the kids (going for bike rides, riding the four wheeler and going for walks) reading books, listening to music and traveling. Thank you for welcoming me to Belfast!

Brianna Burgess

Hi! My name is Brianna Burgess, and I am the new 4th grade teacher. I grew up in Houghton, NY and currently live in Olean, NY. I attended St. Bonaventure University for my teaching degree in Physical Education and then pursued a certification in Elementary Education. I am so excited to be a part of the Belfast community. I look forward to getting to know all the students, staff, parents, and community members who are involved with the school. I'm looking forward to many years at Belfast Central School. Thank you!

not pictured
Davina Cotton

I was born and raised in Belfast and went to Alfred State with a Business Administration degree in mind. I got my associates degree and moved back to Belfast deciding that I would much rather pursue a career working with children instead. I am happy to be back here with some of my favorite teachers from my own youth, along with the new faces that are here! Glad to again be a part of the bulldog family.

Casey Bishop

Hello BCS community! My name is Casey Bishop and I am the 3rd/4th grade Reading/ELA teacher. I grew up in the Buffalo area and graduated from Depew High School. I then went on to receive my BA and Master's from the University at Buffalo- my BA is in Early Childhood Studies and my Ed.M. Is in Early Childhood and Childhood Education. I also have a minor in French. I moved to Alfred last year for my previous teaching job. In my many travels home, I always pass through Belfast and the town has always intrigued me. I absolutely love how close-knit the community is and how everyone is welcomed in no matter where you come from. When I'm not teaching my awesome students reading and writing skills, you can find me drawing, knitting or crocheting, making friendship bracelets, or taking ballet classes. I also enjoy baking. Lastly, year-round I am a performer with two color guards-- in the summer, I march with the White Sabers Drum and Bugle Corps out of Rochester, and in the winter I spend my weekends with Luminosa Winterguard out of Buffalo. I have so far loved how warm and welcoming the BCS community has been and I am so excited to get to know everyone more this year!

Mackenzi Adams

Hi Belfast! I'm so excited to join the district as your new School Social Worker! I grew up in Hinsdale and continued my education at SUNY Fredonia, where I earned dual bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and psychology. My passion for helping others led me to pursue my master's in social work from the University at Buffalo.

I have a strong interest in how animals can support emotional well-being and hope to one day have a therapy dog join me in my work. Outside of school, I enjoy camping with my family, reading thrillers and murder mysteries, and spending time with my dog, Bella.

I'm thrilled to be part of the Belfast community and look forward to supporting students and families throughout the year!

New Staff Members

Sabrina Wesche

Hi Everyone! I'm Sabrina Wesche. I am from Belmont, Ny and I currently reside in Belmont still! I went to high school at GV so Belfast feels like another home to me! I enjoy being involved in such a close community that will do whatever they can to help our members! I already feel so welcome here and have enjoyed every minute of my days here! I completed my associates degree at Jamestown Community College in education and then pursued my bachelor's and master's degree from Grand Canyon University in general education and special education. I hope to help every student that I teach feel safe and valued. When I am not at school or thinking about school, I enjoy being with my family, going for walks, and watching TV! Thank you all for welcoming me to the bulldog fam!

Skyler Stephen

Hello! My name is Skyler Stephen, and I am so excited to be Belfast's new School Psychologist/CSE Chair! I am from Wellsville, NY where I still live with my husband and two pugs (Beans and Ralph). I received my bachelor's degree from SUNY Oswego, and I am finishing up my doctorate degree from Alfred University. I chose to work at BCS because of its strong commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. I am passionate about helping students thrive both academically and emotionally, and I look forward to collaborating with this wonderful community to make a positive impact! Thank you for welcoming me Belfast!

Tina Loucks

Hello fellow Bulldogs! My name is Tina Loucks, and I am so excited to be joining the Belfast Central School community as the Primary Reading Teacher! I bring with me over 20 years of experience in education, and I feel fortunate to continue my journey here with such a supportive and welcoming district.

I began my studies at SUNY Alfred State and later earned my bachelor's degree from Ashford University. I then continued my education by completing my master's degree in Early Childhood Education, at the American College of Education.

I live in Bolivar, NY, with my two teenage daughters, who keep me busy and bring lots of joy to my life. When I have free time, I love walking my dog, golfing, and attending as many concerts as possible! I am passionate about helping students build a strong foundation in reading and a lifelong love of learning.

In my short time at Belfast so far, I have been inspired by the kindness of the faculty and staff and the enthusiasm of the students. I am truly looking forward to being part of the Belfast Bulldog family and contributing to the positive learning environment here.

Calendar of Events

November

18 – BOE meeting
24 – Parent Teacher Conference
25 – Superintendent's Day
26-28 – Thanksgiving recess – ***No School***

December

3 – Senior Citizens' Dinner
6 – Jr. Class Basket Raffle
9 – BOE Meeting
9, 10, & 11 – Winter Concerts
11– Senior Pictures and Fall Retakes
15 – Pre-K Tea
18 – Vex Tournament
Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 – Holiday Recess

Belfast Central School 2025-26 Calendar

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

	Prof. Dev. Days (No students)
	Graduation
	Parent/ Teacher Conference

	Holidays (Offices Closed)
	Open House
	12:00 Dismissal

	Breaks (No Students or Faculty)
	Regents Exam Dates

Jul	4	Independence Day
Aug	25,26	Superintendent's Days
Aug	26	Back to School Picnic (5-7)
Sept	1	Labor Day
Sept	2	1st Day for Students
Oct	13	Indigenous People Day
Nov	11	Veterans' Day

Nov	24	Conferences (12-8)
Nov	25	Superintendent's Day
Nov	26-28	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec/Jan	24-2	Christmas Recess
Jan	1	New Year's Day
Jan	19	Martin Luther King Day
Feb	16-20	Pres. Day/ Lunar New Year/ February Break

Mar.	12	Open House (**1:00 dismissal**)
Mar.	13	Superintendent's Day
April	3	Good Friday
April	6-10	Spring Recess
May	25	Memorial Day Break
Jun	22-25	12:00 dismissal
Jun	25	Rating Day/ Last Day of School

Teacher Days: 188

Student Attendance Days: 183

3- Make-up days built into the calendar

Mrs. Ross Retirement

Hello BCS Community!

As I am preparing to officially retire in November, please allow me to share my most sincere thank you for the years we have had together. I am forever grateful to have called BCS home for 13 years as a student and the 30 years teaching. I began my professional career in 1995 as an Even Start Parent Educator and SADD Advisor. Starting in 1999 I taught Kindergarten, K-2 Multiage (many configurations), and the last 15 years in our beloved preschool program. I coached Varsity Volleyball for 10 years, including the Beagles (a Belfast-Friendship team), and supported our musical theater department in several productions. Every role has brought me immense joy, opportunities to gain experience and grow, and so many valued relationships with students, colleagues, and families.

Our school is far more than a building and place of employment for me. BCS has been my home, often more than my house on W. Hughes St, true story! I would not trade the years and countless hours for anything! I often wonder if other people realize how truly special our school has been and still is today. BCS has always had the most dedicated, creative, sometimes eccentric, educators and staff who strive to make a real difference in the lives of our kids and the community. To be part of this history has been a dream come true.

Thank you to all the students, families, staff, and community who have been part of my journey. You are among the memories I will cherish long after I leave. I genuinely LOVE all my students/athletes, known as "my kids." I am passionate about teaching, providing meaningful experiences, connecting to the bigger community, and doing works of service for those in need. I hope the impression left behind will be "She deeply loved all she did at BCS!" I leave you with two of my favorite quotes and photo memories.

"Keep walking along singing your song, because it's all good!"

"Once a bulldog, always a bulldog!"

Love ya all,

Mrs. Ross

Belfast Central School
Class of 2026 Yearbook!…on sale now!!

Send in a completed order form plus cash, check or money order payable to Belfast Yearbook Club…or…*order online!*

Online orders only provide special offers to personalize your yearbook. See details below…

Walsworth yearbooks yearbookforever.com

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE MEMORIES!

Online orders end 4/30/2026. In School orders continue while supplies last. Delivery approximately 6/5/2026

1 ORDER YOUR 2026 Belfast Central School YEARBOOK!

- For **online orders**, go to **yearbookforever.com** to pay with credit card, debit card or PayPal.
  - Yearbook Orders with Name Stamps and Plastic Cover due by 3/15/2026
- For **in school orders**, bring this form along with cash, check or money order, made payable to Belfast Yearbook Club to the BCS main office.

2 COMPLETE YOUR ORDER

Details	Cost
Yearbook order by December 31	$40..00
Yearbook order after January 1	$45.00
Additional Yearbook Personalization and Options available online with purchase of a yearbook)	

3 ENTER YOUR PURCHASE INFORMATION

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Homeroom: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____

Walsworth yearbooks yearbookforever.com

Paul H. Vienna Scholarship Moves to Allegany County Area Foundation

The Paul H. Vienna Scholarship, established in 1975 and sustained by local volunteers ever since, will be managed by ACAF starting this fall with the application and awarding process for the 2026-2027 academic year.

A beloved and highly respected educator, coach, and administrator, Mr. Vienna built a remarkable track record during his 16 years of service to Belfast Central School before passing away at age 38 from a heart attack.

From 1959 – 1974, Mr. Vienna served BCS as physical education teacher, athletic director, and boys' soccer and basketball coach. He was BCS superintendent from 1974-75. His accomplishments and honors include 63 consecutive league wins and five league championships in basketball; four Section V soccer titles; Service as Secretary of Section V Athletic Association and President of the Allegany County Athletic Association, and recognition as Thomas Oakley Memorial Big 30 Basketball Coach of the Year.

After Paul Vienna passed away, family and friends established a scholarship fund with a September golf outing set up as the initial fundraiser. Thus began the Paul H. Vienna scholarship golf tournament, which enjoyed a fifty-year run thanks to dedicated volunteers and significant support from area schools, the Belfast community, and the larger athletic community that so appreciated Mr. Vienna and his legacy. The tournament grew in popularity throughout its history, generating funds that have provided college scholarships to over one hundred Belfast Central School graduates. This summer the Paul H. Vienna Scholarship Committee moved its unused scholarship funds to ACAF to endow the award, ensuring that the program will continue in perpetuity.

The Paul H. Vienna Scholarship predates the founding of the Allegany County Area Foundation (1983), making the scholarship uniquely ACAF's newest and oldest. It is also the Foundation's 100th active fund.

The Allegany County Area Foundation holds and manages one hundred grant and scholarship funds that support local students and charities. To contribute to the Paul H. Vienna Scholarship or to find out about establishing a grant or scholarship fund, contact Bruce Campbell at the Allegany County Area Foundation at director@acafny.org or 585-296-5616.

National Wreaths Across America

Help the Belfast American Legion honor local heroes!
Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on Veterans' graves this December at our local cemeteries. We welcome volunteers to place the wreaths on the graves and everyone to attend the ceremony at the Town park.

Wreaths are $17.00

Checks made out to WAA can be mailed to Cecy Curcio. 6976 Murray Hill Rd. Belfast, NY 14711 - Cash, Venmo @cecycurcio

For more info, please call or text Cecy Curcio 585 610 7535 or Chris Lentz 716 482 4767

Christmas 2025

2025 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
IN THE PARK
DECEMBER 7 @ 6:30 PM

INCLUDING CAROLING, HOT CHOCOLATE AND COOKIES
SERVED BY THE LIONS, AND
SANTA CLAUS IN THE TOWN PARK AS WELL

TO PLACE AN ORNAMENT ON THE MEMORIAL TREE AND HAVE YOUR LOVED ONE COMMEMORATED DURING THE CEREMONY, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT 716-777-1021 BY DECEMBER 4.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE:
NAME OF PERSON(S) MEMORIAL ORNAMENT HONORS
NAME OF PERSON(S) GIVING ORNAMENT

(REMOVE ORNAMENTS FROM THE TREE OR RETRIEVE FROM THE TOWN HALL BY JANUARY 4.)

Belfast Central School Winter Concerts

Grades 9 - 12
December 9, 2025
at 6:30pm

Kindergarten - 4th Grade
December 10, 2025
at 6:00pm

Grades 5 - 8
December 11, 2025 at 6:30pm

Annual Senior Citizen's Luncheon
Tuesday, December 3, 2025

The Belfast Central School Board of Education and Administration would like to invite Senior Citizens from our school district to a holiday luncheon.

RSVP by November 14 by calling 365-8297.

Belfast students will provide entertainment while we celebrate the holiday season as a community.

Hors D'oeuvres served at 12:30 PM
Lunch served at 1:00 PM
Please park in the Sherman Street Lot, and enter at the Auditorium door.

Belfast Children's Christmas Fund Application

Please MAIL this application to the address listed below. All requests need to be postmarked BY 11/15/25. This application cannot be processed by the Belfast Central School. Your application cannot be processed if mailed later than 11/15/25. Please do not delay!

Mail all applications on or before 11/15/25 to:

Belfast Children's Fund
7708 County Road 26
Belfast, NY 14711

Name of parent or guardian_____

Address for physical delivery of items_____

Primary telephone number_____

Best time to call_____

Alternate telephone number for a message _____

Number of adults living in the home_____

Number of children under age 18 living in the home_____

*Annual income from all persons residing in the home (please include employment, unemployment benefits, SSI, SSDI, child support, other income sources)

$_____per year. ***Income must be filled out to be considered for this program.**

Please tell us why you would like help at Christmas.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Belfast Children's Christmas Fund Application

First and last name of child_____ age_____
gender ____Relationship to you _____

First and last name of child_____ age_____
gender ____Relationship to you _____

First and last name of child ___ age_____
gender ____Relationship to you _____

First and last name of child_____ age_____
gender ____Relationship to you _____

First and last name of child_____ age_____
gender ____Relationship to you _____

First and last name of child_____ age_____
gender ____Relationship to you _____

Please complete one section for *each* child listed above.

First name of child listed above_____
Circle three items that your child needs most and list the size, and style or color preferred.

Pajamas Socks Underwear Shoes Sneakers Boots
Winter Coat Pants Shirts Books Toys Other item

First name of child listed above_____
Circle three items that your child needs most and list the size, and style or color preferred.

Pajamas Socks Underwear Shoes Sneakers Boots
Winter Coat Pants Shirts Books Toys Other item

First name of child listed above_____
Circle three items that your child needs most and list the size, and style or color preferred.

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First name of child listed above_____
Circle three items that your child needs most and list the size, and style or color preferred.

Pajamas Socks Underwear Shoes Sneakers Boots
Winter Coat Pants Shirts Books Toys Other item

_____

Belfast Central School District

1 King Street
Belfast, NY 14711

www.BelfastCSD.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Josie Preston, President
Randa Harrington, Vice President
Becky Backer
Jonathan Barney
Russ Calanni
Chris Enders
Ashley Moore

Or Current Resident

Boxholder
Belfast, NY 14711

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1825
Olean, NY 14760
ECRWSS

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.....365-8297

Preschool.....365-8088

Automated Attendant 365-2646

Fax.....365-2648

Website.....www.Belfastcsd.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.

CABOCES Design & Print Publication

Teaching and Non-Teaching substitutes needed!

Check out the Belfast Central School website under District Information/Employment. Or go to: https://www.applitrack.com/caboces/onlineapp/ to complete an application.

Board of Education Meetings

Belfast Central School
Board of Education Meetings
2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30

Catch a Basketball Game!!

Check the BCS website for GV/BC Basketball game schedules!

GENESEE VALLEY BELFAST CENTRAL UNIFIED ATHLETICS EST. 2021
GV BC