



Washington Academy Salem Central School

Winter 2011

Superintendent's Message

GREETINGS

It is hard to believe that November has almost past. The year is flying by and I am just starting to get used to the shorter days. This weather will sure fool you though; it doesn't feel like late November. If the precipitation we have had earlier this fall is anything like what is coming, we are in for another good winter. *Be safe and enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.*

SALEM CSD SCORES IN THE TOP 100

Out of 431 school districts in 48 counties across upstate New York we were ranked 88th based on academic performance in grades K-12. The rankings included performance measures from 2007 to 2010 from elementary and middle school assessments, Regents exams, and the percentage of students earning Regents and advanced diplomas. This is a testament to the quality of education that students receive here at Salem Central School District. I would like to thank the students, teachers, staff, parents, administration and the Board of Education for working together to make education the number one priority.

COMMUNITY MEETING

Please join me at my next community meeting on Friday, January 27, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in the Salem CSD Cafeteria. We will have refreshments and share conversation. I will provide you with information on how you can be a part of developing a common goal with the school board. I will also be interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas for the 2012-2013 school budget.

THE TRACK IS NOW OPEN!

We are excited to announce that the track is now open to the community. Lace up your sneakers and enjoy walking or running on the District's new track. It is open from dawn to dusk as long as it is not being used for school events, physical education classes or athletics.

SUNY ADIRONDACK College Credit Offered At Salem Central School District

The Salem Central School District has formed a partnership with SUNY ADIRONDACK. This is a fantastic opportunity for **adults** and **students in eleventh or twelfth grade** to achieve college credit locally. **Home School Students are welcome** and receive the discounted student rate. We will be offering the following classes this winter:

ENG 101 - Introduction to College Writing

Instruction and practice in the process of writing, including revision, careful analysis, and the sharing of each other's writing. Assignments may include reflection on experience, exposition, and interpretation of a text. Information literacy, in the form of research and documentation, will be presented. The classes will be offered here at Salem CSD on Wednesday nights from 5:45 - p.m.-8:35 p.m. Registration begins on November 28th!

The tuition is \$149.00 per credit hour for adults and \$50.00 per credit hour for eleventh and twelfth grade students. The courses are three credit hours each. A seventy is considered to be a passing grade that would earn college credit.

This opportunity enables students to take three credit hours for the price of one.

This is the same price adults would pay if they took the class at SUNY ADK.

Now you can take college credit without the time and expense of traveling.

Save money and time while you sharpen your mind.

To register log on to: www.sunyacc.edu/

If you need assistance e-mail the registrar at: levins@sunyacc.edu

Office of the Registrar: (518)743-2280

The Salem School Community has been hard at work this fall gearing up for the implementation of the new Common Core Standards, as well as working to find creative ways to challenge and excite our learners. In October, each grade and department used student data to identify strengths in the curriculum, and target areas for change over the course of the year. Also in October, Teacher aides joined staff from Argyle, Fort Edward, and Fort Ann to learn about preventing bullying, managing student behavior, and creating a positive school climate on our regional Superintendent's Conference Day. Teachers used this opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from Saratoga Springs, and Common Core experts Sam Jovelle and Jack Costello to learn more about what impact the Common Core Standards will have on our curriculum. Teachers integrated the new standards into a lesson over the course of the day, and will be creating two common core aligned units this school year. For more information on the Common Core Standards, visit the Curriculum webpage on the Salem School District website, under the Common Core heading.

We have begun working on our curriculum goals within each grade level and department this fall. Teachers have been learning and sharing practices to assess student knowledge and performance, shape student writing, and engage students in learning using technology to make the content meaningful for students. Highlights from these activities may be found on the AIS page, as well as the Instructional Strategies heading of the Curriculum website. I look forward to continuing our work over the course of the year, as we continue our focus on enhancing student engagement as we shift our curriculum to incorporate the new Common Core Standards.

Dr. Kate Abbott, Curriculum Director



Reminder: Salem CSD is a smoke-free campus. This includes all school buildings and grounds, athletic fields, parking lots and sidewalks.

Working Toward a Common Goal

The Board of Education is interested in forming a panel/committee to develop strategies that would aid in assuring the sustainability of the Salem CSD over the next five years and beyond.

Key focal points will include:

- Salem CSD as a leading academic institute of learning that advances along with ever changing technologies and the pressures of global influence.
- Providing and maintaining a campus, administration, faculty and staff that is suitable and supports this goal.

The panel/committee will be formed in the next two months for the sole purpose of developing a common goal. The panel/committee would be approved by and report to the BOE bi-monthly or as deemed most effective by the panel/committee and BOE collectively. The panel/committee will be made up of representatives from the BOE, Administration, Faculty, Staff, Student Body and General Public. The number of representatives from each group will be decided by the BOE.

If you are interested in working toward a common goal, call (518) 854-7855 and let us know that you are interested or attend the next Community Meeting held by the Superintendent which will be held on Friday, January 27, 2012 at 8:30 am in the cafeteria.

Board Members

Shelley Dean - 854-9715

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Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972: The Salem Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin in the employment and education opportunities it offers, including vocational educational opportunities. The designated Title IX Officer is Charles Kremer, District Superintendent.

A Reminder About School Closings

From time-to-time, it is necessary to close or delay schools due to weather, or other unforeseen circumstances. When situations arise that necessitate delaying the start of school, or closing school, we will post the information on the places listed below. We ask that you do not call the school. If school is closed or delayed, there probably won't be anyone at the school to take your call. Since the media is very good about posting our information as soon as we notify them, it is easier for you to find out about school delays or closings from listening to or watching the media than it is to try to call the school.

Television Stations

WRGB—Channel 6

WTEN—Channel 10

WNYT—Channel 13

Each of these stations also has an internet site that can link you to the school closings network.

Radio Stations

WFLY 92.3 FM

WGY 810 AM

WRVE

WYJB 95.5 FM

STAR 101.3

WUAM—900 AM

WFFG

WNYU

WCKM 98.5 FM

WCQL 95.9 FM

WWSC 1450 AM

WEQX

WHTR 107.1

WMML

WKLI 100.9 FM

WGNA 107.7
FM

WGNA 1460

Internet

www.schoolclosingsnetwork.com

From the Transportation Department

It is that time of year when weather can play a major role in the lives of our transportation department and the lives of the people who depend upon them. When weather affects transportation, it does not affect just the buses; rather, the significant effects can be on people.

Every year during the winter, we see children coming to school not dressed for weather conditions. Children ride our buses wearing a light jacket or no jacket. We have even seen children come to school in shorts on days when the temperature is well below the freezing mark. Whereas the students will often say that the bus and the school are warm and there is no need for heavier clothing, we know that problems can arise. A bus could be in an accident, get stuck in the snow, on the ice, or, they breakdown. If any of these conditions occur and if the children are not dressed appropriately for the weather, there could be some severe consequences. Frostbite does not pick and choose who it will and will not attack. Hypothermia is not held back by someone's fashion sense. Although we hope that no unfortunate circumstances occur, we must be prepared for them.

Please check on your children each day when they leave for school. Please make sure that they are dressed for the weather. Don't rely on the idea that the bus and the school are warm places. Unforeseen circumstances just might make it not true.

Parents of Bus Riders

Please have students at the bus stop on time. When the bus driver has to wait at each stop for students to come out of the house or from a parked car it does not take long for the bus to get off its regular schedule.

Nanoscience at Salem Central School

Students in "Introduction to Nanoscience", an elective offered by the high school science department, are busy exploring the world of the very small as they learn about size and scale at the nano level. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter - it is hard to imagine distances this small. One way to gain an appreciation of the size of a nanometer is to try to imagine how large a number one billion is. For example, we calculated that one would need a building ten times the size of our entire K12 school in order to store one billion golf balls, and a billion 3 x 5 cards stacked together would stretch from Salem to NYC.

Separately, students have investigated career opportunities associated with nanotechnology, especially in relation to AMD/Global Foundaries. One of our students visited HVCC and learned first hand about degree programs designed to train one for a career in nanotechnology. Our student is applying to HVCC and will likely be taking courses at the Tech Smart campus (located at the AMD campus in Malta) next fall.

Nanotechnology will impact all of our lives in a major way. Big things are happening in the nano world!

New and Notes from Jane Lourie, K-12 Principal

Veteran's Day Celebration

It was an honor and a privilege to host our first "Take a Veteran to School Day". A K-12 assembly was held to honor veterans in the area for their service to our country. We had approximately 30 veterans who attended. The procession of veterans as they entered the assembly was very emotional with the audience on their feet clapping offering their gratitude to those who are serving and have served our country.

The assembly was a school wide effort with participation by every grade level in the event. The Boy Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance, while chorus members sang the Star Spangled banner. The 4th-6th grade chorus, High school band, and Junior and Senior High Chorus also participated in the special event. Students were also featured as speakers in the assembly – providing information about our flag and reciting a poem in honor of our veterans.

The assembly included participation by Superintendent Kerri Zappala-Piemme, K-12 Principal Jane Lourie, Mayor Anne Dunigan, Supervisor Seth Pitts, Historian Al Cormier, and George Christian from Congressman Chris Gibson's office.

"Stuff The Bus"

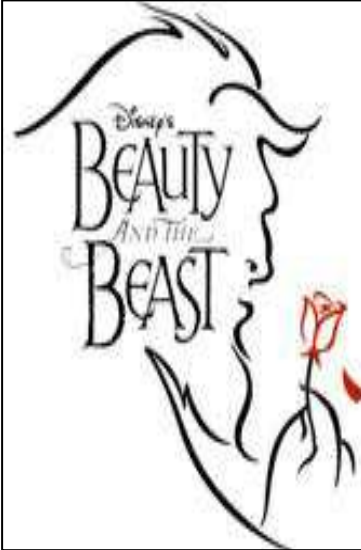
In response to the devastation our local food pantry experienced as a result of Tropical Storm Irene, the entire K-12 student body worked together to "STUFF THE BUS" for the Salem Food Pantry. All classes from Kindergarten to 12th grade competed in a "STUFF THE BUS" challenge in September. The elementary class and the secondary class that donated the most items per pupil was treated to a special breakfast of chocolate chip pancakes, bacon, juice, and milk provided by Mrs. Jane Lourie, our K-12 principal! Our school donated over 2,000 items to the Salem Food Pantry.

Book Fair Coming to Salem CSD

The Elementary Scholastic Book Fair will be starting on December 8th and will go until December 14th. We will also be opened for business after the 4th-6th grade Holiday Concert. The book fair is a wonderful place to buy a good book for your child and it helps support the school.

School Building Open For Walking

Beginning Monday, November 28th the school building will be open from 6:30 –8:30 pm Mondays—Thursdays for community member who wish walk. A custodian will let the walkers in at 6:30; if walkers are not at the door at 6:30 they will be let in by one of the other walkers as they do their laps.



The Salem Drama Club is proud to present their 2011-2012 winter production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. This well loved classic comes to life on stage on Friday, December 9th at 7:00 pm, Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 pm and a Sunday, December 11th Matinee at 1:00 pm. The Drama Club is over 70 students strong working both on and back stage. Students have helped with set building and painting, light design, and costume assembly, along with performing family favorites such as Beauty and The Beast, Gaston, and the ever popular extravaganza Be Our Guest. Ticket prices are \$5 for students and seniors and \$8 for adults. Partial proceeds are going to be donated to **Books in Kids Hands**, and the **Lunch and Learn** program at the Salem Courthouse. Produced by Lori Stokem, Musical Direction by Richard Butler and Kathleen Payne, Choreography by Suzi Trombley, Costumes by Cindy Rogers, and directed by Mary Skelly, this promises to be an evening of family fun.

News and Notes from the Music Department

Congratulations to the following students, who sang in the All-County Chorus in Lake George on November 4-5:

Junior All-County Chorus: Hannah Falk, Anna Fronhofer, Fiona Gallagher, Dan DiBlasi, Nick Holmes, Remi LeBlanc, Amelia Trybendis, Rebecca Butler, Robbie Skelly, Channa Goldman
Senior All-County Chorus: Daniel Van Dyk, Stephen Butler, Austin Durrin, William Linendoll, Katie Myler, Hannah DeGarmo, Arden Rishell, Samantha Skelly, Jessie Gibb.

Congratulations to the following students, who played in the Northeast Music Festival in Lake Placid, November 17-20, 2011:

Acadia Leblanc, Rebecca Butler, Katie Manktelow, Jessica Batchelder, Ben Phillips, Jessie Gibb, Daniel Van Dyk, Wyatt Greth, Austin Durrin, Rebecca Rogers, Jana Broderick, Amanda Davis, Taylor Brandt, Sam Skelly, Hannah DeGarmo, Julianne DeMarco, Arden Rishell, Mackenie Dumas, Stephen Butler.

Congratulations to William Linendoll, who sang in the Area All-State Chorus in Saratoga, November 18-19, 2011!

Congratulations to Rebecca Rogers, who was accepted to sing in the Conference All-State Women's Chorus and Stephen Butler, who was accepted to sing in the Conference All-State Mixed Chorus in Rochester, December 1 -4, 2011! They are the 12th and 13th students from Salem in the last 25 years to be accepted to this event.

Concert Dates

December 14th @ 7:00 PM Grades 4-6 Holiday Concert

December 15th @ 7:00 PM Jr/Sr High School Holiday Concert

December 22nd @ 9:00 AM K-3 Holiday Revue

Who To Contact

Superintendent's Office: 854-7855

Kerri Zappala-Piemme, Superintendent

Maura Rapp, Secretary

Business Office: 854-7532

Karen MacGregor, Business Manager

Tina Beattie, Treasurer

High School Office: 854-7600

Jane Lourie, Principal

Jackie White, Secretary

Special Education Office: 854-6020

Richard Phaneuf, Coordinator of Special Education

Regina Eastman, Secretary

Guidance Office: 854-6010

Donald Zarzycki, Guidance Counselor

Lori Linendoll, Secretary

Elementary Office: 854-9505

Jane Lourie, Principal

Amy Tifft, Secretary

Transportation: 854-7419

Scott Cameron, Transportation Supervisor

Health Office: 854-6023

Sheryl Chambers, Nurse

Cafeteria Manager: 854-6040

Rodney Moore

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