

Chenango Valley Central School District December 2013

# Message from the Interim superintendent



Dear CV community,

As we head into the holiday season, it brings opportunity to reflect on our direction and purpose as individuals and as the Chenango Valley School District.

David Gill Interim Superintendent

As you are aware, the vote on December 3 will bring an important decision for our school district. Once again, I encourage you to review the information contained in this edition of our community Newscaster, revisit the postcard you recently

received, or visit our website to make the best decision possible for the future of our district.

Regardless of the outcome, the vision of the Chenango Valley district is to provide the best learning opportunities for our students. We want all of our students to be successful upon their graduation. And because we view the school and community as a partnership, we want to work together to provide and maximize those opportunities.

We appreciate the support our CV community provides – not just financial support, but the time and energy provided to support our district initiatives. Without a strong, committed community, there is no relevant school district.

I know as educators and parents, some have struggled with the curricular changes brought by our State Education Department. However, we have adapted to those changes and have our children heading in the right direction to face the rigor of this new curriculum and assessments. We are seeing deeper, more critical thinkers, which is what our world needs.

Personally, I am thankful for the support I see from our community – even in difficult situations. I appreciate the civility used to resolve conflicts, and recognize that a better solution is always realized by that approach. With so much negativity in the world, our community continues to embrace change, support one another and work toward a better tomorrow. Happy Holidays to each of you, your family, and your friends! Stay warm! Chenango Valley/Chenango Forks Consolidation Referendum

# **PUBLIC VOTE** December 3, 2013

12 - 9 p.m. Chenango Valley HS Auditorium

# **SEE VOTER INFORMATION - PAGE 23**

# French student visitors enjoy pumpkins, spiedies & new friends



Thirty French students and three teachers from Castres, France arrived in Binghamton on Oct. 11 as part of a cultural exchange that has existed between Le Lycée Borde Basse and Chenango Valley High School since the early 1990's. Castres is located in the south western region of France.

While they were here, the students stayed with host families and experienced the life of a typical American teenager. They attended high school classes, ate lunch in the school cafeteria, went to sports practices, and participated in various field trips.

The group enjoyed tours of Broome Community College and Cornell University, a visit with Binghamton Mayor Matthew Ryan, riding the Rec Park Carousel and a visit to the Binghamton police and fire stations. They gave a presentation to CV administrators and BOE member Jason Aurelio about the French education system, and learned about our American system. They especially enjoyed reading French stories to some of the students at Port Dickinson and Chenango Bridge Elementary Schools.

(continued on page 4)

# Chenango Valley High School Theatre Guild presents



# March 7-8-9

Friday & Saturday: 7:30pm Sunday: 2pm matinee **Chenango Valley HS Auditorium** \$10 adults \$8 child/student/senior (62+) All tickets are for reserved seating. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

# To reserve tickets: Complete form below & mail with payment

Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your order if you would like your paid tickets mailed to you. Otherwise, tickets will be held at the box office until 15 minutes before show time the day of the performance. We will not be honoring refunds the day of the show.

For additional information, go to http://cvtheatertkts.webs.com

Mail to: Michelle Thornton/Tickets, 15 Calgary Lane, Binghamton, NY 13901

By email: cvtheatertkts@aol.com By phone: 204-0541

# Please make checks payable to: CV SCHOOLS

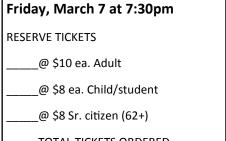
\_\_\_\_\_

Name

Phone or email

I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope

Please hold tickets for pick up by 15 minutes before show time



TOTAL TICKETS ORDERED

TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED

# Saturday, March 8 at 7:30pm RESERVE TICKETS @ \$10 ea. Adult

@ \$8 ea. Child/student

\_@ \$8 Sr. citizen (62+)

TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED

TOTAL TICKETS ORDERED

# Sunday, March 9 at 2pm matinee **RESERVE TICKETS** @ \$10 ea. Adult @ \$8 ea. Child/student

\_@ \$8 Sr. citizen (62+)

TOTAL TICKETS ORDERED

TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED

# **CV District News**

# Literacy Night makes learning fun

Fishing for words, creating your own book and playing a fast game with mittens were just a few of the many activities that filled the Middle School gymnasium for CV's first annual Literacy Night on Nov. 6. Elementary students and their parents had fun visiting the 15 activity stations designed to help build language and literacy skills.

Representatives from the Fenton Free Library, and the Chenango Bridge and Port Dickinson PTAs were part of the event, with exhibits and parent information. Each child attending was given a free book to take home.

It was a fun evening -- as seen by the smiling faces below.











**Ficket Sales** Start Jan. 1<sup>st.</sup>



# **CV** District News

(continued from cover)

# French exchange continues long-standing program

The weekends were free to travel with their American families, and many of the students went to Niagara Falls, Syracuse, Hershey P.A. and other locations. They loved carving pumpkins, going to haunted houses, seeing the beautiful change of the leaves, eating spiedies and shopping!

In the spring, our CV students will travel to France to sightsee in Paris and will stay with their new French friends. The Coordinators of the Exchange, Mrs. Amber Henyan (French HS) and Mrs. Susan Pierce (retired 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Port Dickinson) would like to thank the American families and the CV district for their hard work and their continued support of this wonderful program.



# **CV** District News

# Dinner & auction honors alumni, distinguished community members



Honorees, left to right: Carole Stanley, Eric Maruscak, James Penwell, Corinne Mastronardi, Ann Szymaniak and Barbara Stuart Laswell.

On October 19, Chenango Valley held its eighth annual Alumni Recognition Dinner and Auction at the McKinley in Endicott. Over 130 guests attended to honor our graduates and two community members. Graduates honored were Barbara Stuart Laswell, PHD, class of 1968; James W. Penwell, class of 1973; Corinne Mastronardi, class of 1968; Eric Maruscak, class of 1989. Our distinguished community members were Carole Stanley and Ann Szymaniak.

Dr. Laswell earned her PhD from Stanford University and was the technical director of the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. Mr. Penwell works for Streeter Associates as the construction division manager in Elmira. He also served the Chenango Valley community as a Board of Education member for 18 years. Ms. Mastronardi is an attorney and pports agent and is the CEO and Founder of Pro-Rep, Inc., Virginia Beach, VA. Mr. Maruscak is a cartoonist and illustrator. He has been appearing at festivals and conventions across the United States, making giant chalk murals and performance art.

Community member Carole Stanley is instrumental as the director of the CV Theatre Guild, an officer of the BaCh and former PTA member. Ann Szymaniak is the owner/director of The Dance Connection, and is a wellness instructor and theatre choreographer volunteer.

The alumni weekend started on Friday morning at the middle/high school where all the honorees visited several classrooms to address high school students. At noon, the honorees, along with past honorees, met with school administrators and Alumni Recognition Committee members for lunch. The afternoon was spent addressing the middle school students in the auditorium and taking a tour of the middle/high school building.

On behalf of the Chenango Valley Educational Loan Fund, I would like to thank all of our community sponsors who supported the evening by donating funds and auction items. More than \$8,000 was raised to support the Chenango Valley Student Educational Loan Fund. The fund is designed to assist CV students and their parents with college costs. Last year the CV Loan Fund awarded approximately (30) \$700 interest-free loans along with (7) \$250 scholarships. Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers who made this a very successful weekend.

- submitted by Charles Purce, president, CV Educational Loan Fund

# **Guidance News**

# **Financial Aid Night** December 4, 2013 - 6 p.m. High School Library

The Chenango Valley High School Guidance Department, in conjunction with Doug Lukasik, Director of Financial Aid at Broome Community College, will present an informational program on the financial aid process.

Mr. Lukasik will speak about scholarships and financial aid available from higher education institutions. Information about the deadlines and processing procedures for financial aid forms will be discussed.

# Topics to include:

- How to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Financial aid timeline & process
- Financial aid terminology
- Types of aid
- How finanical aid packages are developed
- Information on scholarships & ways to make college more affordable & accessible

# **Guidance News**

# What is the PSAT?

On October 19, approximately eighty sophomores and juniors took the PSAT/NMSQT test. What is this test? The PSAT is a preliminary or practice SAT and is one of the best ways to prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test. It provides valuable feedback to the student, their parents and the school on which academic skills are strong and which skills need to improved before taking the SAT.

Both the PSAT and SAT exams test critical reading, writing and math skills. Classroom learning is the basis for the test questions, so students can best prepare themselves by taking challenging courses and familiarizing themselves with the test format. Therefore, taking the PSAT is a great way to get some practice with not only the test questions, but also with the format of SAT.

All students who took the PSAT will receive an official score report in December. The report will include scores for critical reading, writing skills and math, and students will see how their scores compare to those of other students across the country. Students will be able to see which questions they answered correctly or incorrectly through a question-by-question review of the answers, and will receive a personalized statement on which academic skills need improvement and steps on how to improve. If students took the test as a sophomore, we encourage them to take the PSAT as a junior as well due to different scholarship opportunities that are available.

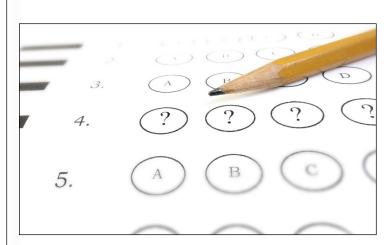
# Students explore careers in construction



On October 2, 80 students from Mr. Cass's technology classes and BOCES career and technical education programs put on hard hats and safety glasses to participate in the annual Southern Tier Construction Career Days at the Broome County Highway Department facility in the Town of Chenango.

Construction Career Day is an event created to introduce high school students to the vast career opportunities and potential for advancement within the construction industry. Students spent over three hours exploring, first-hand, career possibilities and what the construction industry has to offer.

Over 500 students from 16 school districts participated in the day's events. Today's high school students represent the pool of workers from which the construction industry will recruit its future work force. The day offered students an insight into career options they might not have previously considered or known about.



# FAFSA on the web worksheet

The number of Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) filed electronically has increased dramatically. Currently, more than 99 percent of all FAFSA's are filed online using FAFSA on the web.

Please be aware that the federal government will not be sending paper applications to guidance offices. Information on filing your financial aid paperwork was sent to seniors and their parents in the November issue of the Senior Newsletter. If you have any questions please call the guidance office at 762-6918.

# **Guidance News** Important Changes from College Board for the SAT

### Effective immediately:

- You will be required to upload a photo in order to register for the SAT and SAT Subject Tests.
- The photo will appear on your Admission Ticket.
- You MUST present your Admission Ticket with your acceptable photo ID to enter your test center. NO TICKET, NO ID, NO ADMISSION!
- · Standby test-takers will not be admitted. You no longer can come to the guidance office and request to be a stand-by or a walk-in. (On-line requests for waitlist status may be possible until 5 days before the test. See College Board website for details)
- Changes to test center, test date or test type will not be permitted on test day. Requests will have to be submitted to College Board about 2 weeks prior to test day.

\*See the College Board website or your counselor for an example of an acceptable photo.

### Acceptable Identification Documents

You are responsible for bringing a valid and acceptable form of identification each time you report to an SAT test center. It is your responsibility to ensure that your ID documents are up-todate and available on the day of the test.

### **ID documents must:**

- be issued by a governmental organization or the school which you currently attend;
- be an original document photocopied documents are not acceptable;
- be valid and current expired documents (bearing expiration dates that have passed) are not acceptable, no matter how recently they may have expired
- have the test-taker's full name, in roman English characters, exactly as it appears on the Admission Ticket (if the name is too long to fit on the Admission Ticket, the name on the ID need only match the part that appears on the ticket).
- bear a recent recognizable photograph that clearly matches the test-taker
- be in good condition, with clearly legible text and a clearly visible photograph

### **Examples of Acceptable ID**

- Government-issued driver's license or non-driver ID card
- · Official school-produced student-identification card from the school you currently attend
- Government-issued passport
- · Government-issued military or national identification card
- · College Board's Student ID Form, available from your school counselor and must be prepared by the school you currently attend
- Talent Identification Program ID or Authorization to Test form (allowed for grades seven and eight only; photo not required)

### **Examples of Unacceptable ID**

The following documents are **NOT** acceptable ID under any circumstances:

- · Any document that is photocopied or expired
- Any document that does not bear a recent recognizable photograph that clearly matches the test-taker
- Any document that does not bear your name in roman English characters exactly as it appears on the Admission Ticket
- Any document that is worn, torn, scuffed, scarred or otherwise damaged in such a manner that it renders any part of the text on the ID card illegible or renders any part of the photograph unrecognizable
- Any document that appears tampered with or altered
- Credit or debit card of any kind, even one with a photograph
- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Employee ID card
- Hunting or fishing license
- Missing Child ("ChildFind") ID card
- Any temporary ID card

# SAT vs. ACT

Colleges, universities, and scholarship programs use a student's academic record, test scores, extracurricular activities, teacher recommendations and application essays to evaluate how well prepared they are to do college-level work. Scores on standardized tests like the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and the American College Test (ACT) enables colleges to compare the academic achievements of students from different schools. This is helpful because courses and grading standards vary from school to school.

The SAT is a three hour and forty-five minute test that measures critical reading, math and writing abilities that develop over time. It includes an essay and multiple-choice questions. The ACT Assessment measures skills in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. It also includes an optional essay test that assesses writing ability. These areas are tested because they include the major areas of instruction in most high school and college programs.

Most schools accept either the SAT or ACT test results. Because each assessment tests different skills, it is a good idea to find out about both tests and see which one test your strengths the best. The School Counselors recommend that you see them to discuss the particulars of each test. It is a good idea to take the SAT and ACT in the spring of the junior year.

- submitted by Judy Hayes

# **Guidance News**

### **Upcoming SAT Test Dates** www.sat.org/register

|                  | Test Date     | Registration Deadline |  |  |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| January 25, 2014 |               | December 27, 2014     |  |  |
|                  | March 8, 2014 | February 7, 2014      |  |  |
|                  | May 3, 2014   | April 4, 2014         |  |  |
|                  | June 7, 2014  | May 9, 2014           |  |  |

### Upcoming ACT Test Dates www.actstudent.org/start

| Test Date      | <b>Registration Deadline</b> |  |  |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| April 12, 2014 | March 7, 2014                |  |  |
| June 14, 2014  | May 9, 2014                  |  |  |

# My College QuickStart

All high school students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in October of 2013 will have FREE access to My College QuickStart - the College Board's online college, major, and career exploration tool - for the duration of their high school careers. QuickStart's unique features include:

- > A personalized SAT study plan based on their results
- Personality Profiler, an online assessment that students  $\geq$ take to learn about their personality types and receive college major and career suggestions
- Profiles of academic fields 175 instructional programs  $\triangleright$ available online
- Articles covering more than 450 occupations

All students who took the PSAT were given instructions on how to set up their own accounts at collegeboard.com/ quickstart. If you have any questions regarding this college/ career planning tool or the college planning process in general, please do not hesitate to contact your child's counselor in the guidance office.

# Eighth-graders go 'Career Cruising'

In October, eighth-grade students spent time in the computer lab with Mrs. Samson, our Middle School counselor, working with a computer program called Career Cruising, an internet-based career exploration and planning tool used to explore careers and college options. Parent and guardian involvement is critical to student success in career and education planning. Parents can greatly influence their children's career choices, and have unique insight into the interests, values, and abilities that inform those choices. Please feel free to explore the Career Cruising program at any time. You can login from school, home or any place that has internet access. To find out more about Career Cruising, we encourage students and parents to login using the school's access information:

Login at: www.careercruising.com Enter CV's user name: Chenango Enter CV's password: Valley Click on "Start Career Cruising" to begin

# Tips for Parents: What to do if your child witnesses bullying

Many children are observers or "bystanders" in cases of bullying at school. It is important that even students who are bystanders in a bullying situation take action to get help, so the bullying stops. If your child talks to you about the bullying that he or she witnesses at school, you are encouraged to do the following:

• Teach your child how to get help without getting hurt. Encourage your child to verbally intervene if it is safe to do so, by saying such things as: "Cool it! This isn't going to solve anything." Tell your child not to cheer on or even quietly watch bullying. This only encourages a child who bullies who wants to be the center of attention. Encourage your child to tell a trusted adult about the bullying. Talking to an adult is not "tattling"—it is an act of courage and safety. Suggest going to an adult with a friend, if that will make it easier. • Help your child support others who tend to be bullied. • Teach your child to include these children in activities. Praise and reward "quiet acts of courage"—where your child tried to do the right thing to stop bullying, even if he or she was not successful. Work with your child to practice specific ways he or she • can help stop bullying. For example, role-play with him or her what he or she could say or do to help someone who is being bullied. This list has been adapted from a publication originally created for "Take a Stand. Lend a Hand. Stop Bullying Now!" a campaign of the Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. www. StopBullyingNow.hrsa.gov. Used with permission.

-submitted by Beth Hubenthal

# **Athletics**

# Warrior golfers finish in top form

The 2013 varsity golf team had a great season and finished in second place in the STAC East Division. They finished 10-4 and won the Southern Tier Athletic Conference East/ Central Division Wild Card, which gave them a shot to play for the STAC Title at En-Joie Golf Course. With the 10 wins this season, the Warriors won 24 of their last 30 matches dating back to last season. This is an impressive .800 win percentage. They competed in the toughest division in STAC, the East Division, with all four teams above .500 records.

The Warriors had many excellent wins, but the players would say their most thrilling victories were the two wins vs. their rival, Chenango Forks. These wins gave them a four-match winning streak against the Blue Devils. The



first match was a nail biter, with the Warriors pulling out a one-stroke victory at home at Belden Hill 212-213. Then at Genegantslet, Chenango Valley went in knowing a victory could seal a wild card berth in STACs. They defeated CF 188-192.

The Warriors played on their new home course at Belden Hill -- a tough adjustment considering it was much different from Genegantslet, where the team played for many seasons. CV also played in the Section IV Class B team tournament Oct. 8 at the Links at Hiawatha, moving. The Warriors moved up to play in Class B this season and came in fourth place in the tournament, with Charlie Kane and Zach Wyatt coming in seventh and eighth place respectively. CV was one of only six schools in STAC to compete in the team title out of 18 schools, finishing in fifth place with a score of 432.

Three players - juniors Zach Wyatt, Jake Colian and Charlie Kane, qualified for the individual medalist tournament with sub 5.00 stroke averages on the season. The tournament will be held in May 2014 at Robert Trent Jones Golf Course at Cornell. In addition to the onthe-course accomplishments, the Warriors did very well in the classroom, earning the Scholar Athlete Award with a team average of 94.34. Great season Warriors, you should all be proud of your efforts both on and off the course!

# Girls swim team earns eleventh East Division Championship



# Three school records broken

The girls swim team had a very successful year. The team repeated as East Division Champions for the eleventh time, and repeated as Runner-Up Section 4 Class B Champs.

Eighth-grader Katie Schultz was a double sectional event winner and Kelsey Smith was a sectional winner and qualified for state meets in multiple events. These two swimmers also broke three school records: Kelsey Smith lowered her own records in the 200 IM and the 100 breaststroke; Katie Schultz broke a 30-yearold record held by Teresa Sestak in the 500 freestyle.

Great job, girls!

# **Athletics**

# Varsity girls cross-country earn STAC East title



# Girls tennis team rallies in regular season, wins post-season championship

The girls tennis team rallied from a slow start (0-3) to finish 5-6, earning a solid second place in our division. The high point for the team came in the postseason when the girls won the Class C championship. Julie LeVonne won the singles championship and Becky Belo and Laura LeVonne placed second in doubles. Chantelle Judd won fourth place in singles. Julie, Becky and Laura went on to compete in the state qualifier for Section IV. Seniors Becky Belo, Miranda Currier, Chantelle Judd and Julie LeVonne were a big part of the team's success. While the team looks to become larger in the years ahead, our graduating seniors will be sorely missed.

The CV girls tennis all-stars:

All-Conference (Doubles) – Becky Belo (12) and Laura LeVonne (11) All-Division Singles – Julie LeVonne (12) All-Division Doubles - Savannah Judd (9) and Lindsay Thornton (9)



offered by Chenango Valley

Friday, December 27 - 3 to 5 p.m. \$80 per person

### Our girls cross-country team is a group of fierce competitors. The team began the season with a hard fought, one-point victory against Oneonta on their course, and followed it up with a smart race against Chenango Forks to jump out to a 2-0 record. The girls did record a loss against Windsor at Windsor, but still finished on top of the standings to earn their second consecutive STAC East Championship.

The team was led by senior captain Natalie Hawkes, and juniors Kristen Igo, Brenda Barry, and Olivia Trumino. In our final meet of the season, all six of our competitors ran their fastest race of the season to propel the team to a sixth place finish at the Section IV Championships.



# Lifeguard Training/First Aid Review Class

# **Music and Arts**

# HS Concert Band enjoys Ithaca College visit

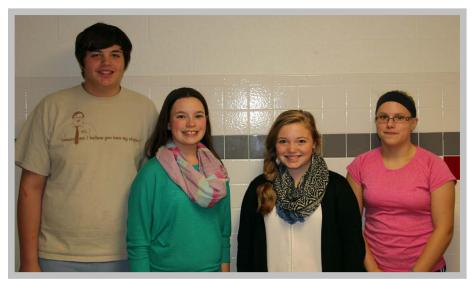


On October 24, the CV High School Concert Band traveled to Ithaca College for a clinic with Dr. Mark Fonder, conductor of the Ithaca College Concert Band. Our CV musicians worked with Dr. Fonder and listened to the Ithaca College Brass Choir. Lunch in the campus dining hall and a tour of the college rounded out the day. It was a great day of learning, music-making and fun!

# Four earn spot in Junior High All-State Chorus

Four talented CV students were recently selected for the Jr. High All-State Chorus. Ninthgraders Lindsay Thornton and Jessica Feyler, and eighth-graders Jacob Weir and Natalie Ehrensbeck were chosen to participate in the select chorus.

Congratulations!



I-r: Jacob Weir, Natalie Ehrensbeck, Lindsay Thornton, Jessica Feyler

# **Music and Arts**

Monday, December 9 CV Middle School Chorus and Concert Band 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium

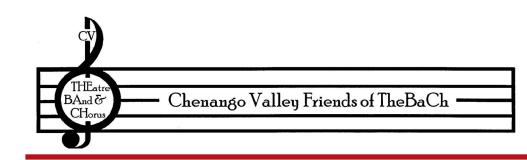
Thursday, December 12 Chenango Bridge Elementary 5th & 6th Grade Concert Bands & Combined Chorus 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium

Monday, December 16 CV High School Mixed Choir, Jazz Choir and Concert Band 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium

# Please bring your bottles for BaCH

Before heading to a Chenango Valley concert event, please gather your rinsed recycleable cans and bottles and bring them with you. Collection bins will be placed near the auditorium entrance.

Cans and bottles are being collected for the Friends of BaCH (Band and Chorus) at each of the music department concerts this year, with proceeds to benefit our music programs.





# Annual Holiday Concerts



# **Elementary - Port Dickinson**



Fire Prevention Week was in the beginning of October, and I would like to thank Fire Chief Michael Scott and the Village of Port Dickinson for coming to Port Dickinson and speaking to us about fire safety. The Village of Port Dickinson purchased fire prevention kits for students here at the school, and the children learned a great deal about what they need to do in the event of a fire.

Our Celebrate Literacy Night that was held at the high school in November and we had a nice turn out of parents and children. There were many activities for parent and children to do that help to build literacy skills. Thank you all for your participation in making the evening successful.

Jim Pritchard, principal Port Dickinson Elem.

Many parents have already had your parent-teacher conference. It is always mportant to have open communication with your child's teacher. If you have not scheduled your parent-teacher meeting, it is never too late to set up a conference. We all want the best for your child.

From the faculty and staff from Port Dickinson, we wish you all a happy holiday season.

- Jim Pritchard, PD principal

# Halloween parade brings out princesses, cowboys and super-heroes

The annual Port Dickinson Elementary School Halloween Parade was held indoors this year, to keep our ghosts, goblins and princesses from the chilly rain.

But the spirits remained high as students donned their costumes and paraded through the hallways and the multi-purpose room, where parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters gathered ready to take photos.

Following the parade, students returned to their classrooms for the traditional Halloween party.

We hope you enjoy seeing some of the many creative costumes displayed here and on the following page.











# **Elementary - Port Dickinson**

# **Halloween Scenes**





Even our voungest visitors dressed for the even



Nolan Garnar poses with his teacher, Mrs. DeBellis.







Teachers April Huyck and Holly Nelson sure love their coffee!





# **Elementary - Chenango Bridge**



Amazingly, we have already completed a quarter of the school year. That certainly went fast! The staff continues to work hard to implement all curriculums in alignment with the Common Core while also focusing on safety and social issues.

Parent conferences are being held in November and December to discuss academic concerns. If you have not yet scheduled a conference, please contact your child's teacher. With increased rigor in the curriculum and the continuing effort to help all kids learn, the staff is looking forward to working together with parents to ensure the success of all students.

Tamara Ivan, principal Chenango Bridge

Additionally, safety is always a concern at CB and we continue to have safety drills for our students. In November we will complete our required bus drills and in December we will practice an emergency weatherrelated drill.

In an effort to remind students about responsible citizenship, The Reading Promise and OLWEUS (our anti-bullying program) recently hosted a program called "Stop Bullying/Start Reading" for all students. Bud Jeffries presented an entertaining, motivational program to help support these ideals. In another fun program with a message, the Tri Cities Opera presented "The Three Little Pigs" to our students. This version of the classic story added humor to the anti-bullying theme while giving students a taste of an opera.

Chenango Bridge honored all veterans at an assembly on Nov. 8. We were treated to music from the eighth-grade CV Accelerated Instrumental Music Band and the fifth- and sixth-grade chorus. Flags placed on the school's front lawn were a nice way to show our appreciation to all veterans. We would like to thank our veteran speaker, Mr. Eric Fetterman, for his inspiring words and power point presentation. Also, thank you to Diane Keene and the CB student government for coordinating this event. They also coordinate our Thanksgiving food drive and "Holiday Giving Tree" to help families in our community. We will be having a holiday concert on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. in the High School auditorium and look forward to seeing a packed house.

The staff at Chenango Bridge Elementary would like to wish everyone a fun-filled and peaceful holiday season.

- Tamara Ivan, CBE principal

# Sixth-grader advances to NFL regional competition at Giants game

Congratulations to sixth-grader Maia Chapman on winning the Sectional Level Competition of the NFL Punt, Pass and Kick Competition in Utica last month. Maia is a student in Mrs. Fitzgerald's class.

Maia now advances to the regional competition at Met Life Stadium, home of the New York Jets and Giants, on December 15 prior to the NY Giants/Seattle Seahawks game. She also received two tickets to attend the game.

She must continue to win at each stage of the competition to be eligible for the National Championship and receive an invitation to the Super Bowl.

Good luck, Maia!



- submitted by Ted Hoffman

# **Elementary - Chenango Bridge**

# Strongman brings strong message to students



Jeffries travels the country presenting his program. Last year, he visited 320 schools in 42 states, delighting audiences and spreading his message.

Bud Jeffries lifts teacher Teri Smith into the air with one hand during his inspiring program.

# "Three Little Pigs" opera brings teamwork message



The big, bad bullying wolf is no match to these pigs in the humorous musical "The Three Little Pigs," presented by the Tri-Cities Opera. The performance teaches the value of teamwork and cooperation while promoting reading and literacy.

The moral of the story: "When you fear a thing that's scary, just take your questions to the library."

Professional strongman and motivational speaker Bud Jeffries captivated CB students recently with his "Stop Bullying Now/Start Reading" program.

He bends I-bars, lifts people with one hand and performs other amazing feats of strength. And his message is simple, yet powerful:

- reading is cool
- be a champion in life
- bullying is not cool
- obesity robs people of their potential

# **Annual Veterans' Day Assembly**



Above, I-r: Gianna LoLuolo, Alexa Willis, Jacey Hatfield celebrate Veterans' Day. The girls helped decorate the school's front lawn with small U.S. flags. Below, students give musical tribute to honor veterans at school assembly.



# **Middle School**



The first ten weeks of school has gone by very quickly. We have had an exceptional start to the school year. You should be very proud of your son or daughter for their efforts this school year. Students, keep up the good work!

The Middle School students enjoyed their first after-school Halloween Dance on Friday, November 1. Students enjoyed tunes spun by "Louie G" from Wild 104 FM. A bounce house obstacle course and snacks were provided by the Student Council, which sponsored the event along with the seventh-grade class. A special thank-you goes out to all of our chaperones and advisors, and Mrs. Lange and Mrs. Broughton. Thank you to all the students who participated and helped coordinate the event.

Eric E.Attleson, principal CV Middle School

Students should be developing effective school routines by this point in the year. It is very important that our students get enough rest by going to bed and getting up at the same time each day, whenever possible. All school materials should be ready the night before, to help make it less hectic in the morning. As a parent, I know this is easier said than done, but reminding students to organize their materials the night before makes the morning a bit easier for students to start their educational day.

Please encourage your son or daughter to use their CV Middle School student agenda on a daily basis. Teachers will always post the homework and the daily activity on one of the whiteboards in the classroom. Students should be writing down homework assignments, as well as project due dates. Please check your child's agenda periodically and remind them to get into the habit of using this important school resource. If needed, students may also call the homework hotline, where the homework is recorded for the evening. The hotline numbers are: Grey Team: 762- 6870, White Team: 762 - 6871 and Red Team: 762 - 6872.

If you have not done so, please take a few moments to sign up for the Parent Portal through the guidance office. This Parent Portal gives parents access to their individual student's grades online. If you need assistance in signing up for the service or have any difficulty, please contact the Middle School Guidance Office at 762-6918.

Please be sure to sign up for CV Alerts on the district website, under the Public Login section on the top right-hand side of the home page. This is a service that provides an email or text message, depending on your preference, with reminders of school events or closings.

I encourage you to contact me or the school if you have any questions or concerns. Your support throughout the year is crucial to your child's success.

Upcoming Events in the Middle School:

- Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> Merger Straw Vote MS/HS Auditorium Noon to 9:00pm. •
- Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> MS Holiday Concert MS/HS Auditorium 7:00 pm.
- Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 5 week reports distributed.
- Wednesday, December 18th BOE Meeting, 6:30 pm MS Café.
- Friday, December 20<sup>st</sup>-Middle School Wellness Day.
- Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> Winter Recess No School.

- Eric E. Attleson, MS principal

# Middle/ High School Book Fair Dec. 6 - 11 in the MS/HS Library



Student shopping hours during regular school day, plus special shopping event for families on Monday, Dec. 9 before and after the Middle School Concert (6:30p.m. – 8:30p.m.)

The Book Fair offers books and small gift items for school-aged children and adults. Buy something for yourself or gifts for your friends and family. The Book Fair benefits the Middle/High School Library by supplying books.

# **Middle School**

Students of the Month - October 2013



Front Row – Hannah Profit, Dylan Ferry Back Row – Jenna Hanyon, Alia Arnold, Lian McGuane, Ian Keldon



# Standing up against bullying on National Blue Shirt Day

Middle school students and staff gathered for a group picture in the gym on Oct. 7 for National Blue Shirt Day. The group posed with our school's anti-bullying banner.

Many in the crowd wore blue in solidarity of the national STOMP Out Bullying Blue Shirt World Day of Bullying Prevention. The day is observed on the first Monday of every October to create a reminder about bullying prevention. The campaign is in its fifth year and has spanned the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Israel, Germany, Portugal and Korea.

Warriors are not bullies. It's cool to be kind.

- Kim Christensen, CVSSA President & Sr. Library Clerk/Book fair chairperson, MS/HS Library Ext. 4183

Photo taken by Eric E. Attleson

**Red Team:** Lian McGuane lan Keldon

Gray Team: Hannah Profit Dylan Ferry

White Team: Alia Arnold Jenna Hanyon

Our Students of the Month "CARE" about CV

- **C** Citizenship
- **A** Attitude
- **R** Responsibility
- E Enthusiasm

# **High School**



As this article comes out, the fall season will be coming to an end and we will be moving toward the Holiday season. The High School students have been very busy contributing to the Holiday Food Drive. The students have done a fantastic job filling our food pantry while showing tremendous school and community pride!

In a very short period of time, January Regents exams will be offered to our students. As a rule, these exams are scheduled for a small number of students. Teachers and Guidance Counselors will make sure your son/ daughter is scheduled for any Regents exams. During the January Regents exam period, the High School will follow a normal bell schedule. Students will be pulled out and tested as needed. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Terry Heller, principal **CV** Senior High School

A reminder, our new Attendance Policy, as well as our entire Code of Conduct, are on-line for your perusal. Also, the Parent Portal is up and running. This gives parents the opportunity to see how their son's/daughter's grades are going at any time throughout the year.

As an administrator and taxpayer in the district, I would strongly urge you to research the facts on the CV-CF merger. Everything needed is available on the school's website. Please don't rely on media accounts on this process. The facts can be found on-line on the CV website. Vote on December 3! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

- Terry Heller, HS principal

# CV class goes to Jail

Mr. Krause escorted his Business Law students on an annual field trip to the Broome County Jail, where they were given a tour by Sergeant Carlson. The students were able to see how defendants are processed when arrested, what the medical facility looks like, where religious services are given, what an individual cell looks like, and what recreation facilities are available.

Students are often surprised to see how clean and guiet the facility is, and some think it looks more like a school than a jail. As one student commented upon arriving back at school, "We spent the morning in a jail, now we have to spend the rest of the day back in school. It's just like jail." To which Mr. Krause replied, "Wait until we visit Elmira State Prison later this month -- I'm sure he will change his mind..."



Students "in jail" include: Jaren Moss, McKenna Westgate, Nicholas Mace, Gabrielle Stevenson, Rebecca Belo, Jessica Kellam



High School yearbook sales are now in full swing. Take advantage of the early rate of \$65, as prices increase in January. Orders can be completed online at <u>www.jostens.com</u>, visit the High School web page and download an order form or contact Mr. Ruf (cruf@cvcsd.stier.org). There is a limited number of yearbooks available- so don't wait.

### Introducing ReplayIt:

ReplayIt is the premier school digital media platform that allows the school community to share its story by sending photos to CV's yearbook staff for consideration in our 2014 yearbook.

ReplayIt is a way for you to get involved in telling the story of your school year and creating your school's yearbook. Any photo you upload to ReplayIt will be available to the yearbook staff to include in the yearbook. Photos not used remain online and are accessible through a special code when you buy a yearbook.

Visit www.replayit.com for more details.

# CVNational Honor Society inducts new members

The lights were dim, candles flickered and the music sounded as thirty-four students from the classes of 2014 and 2015 were inducted into the Chenango Valley High School chapter of the National Honor Society in the annual Induction Ceremony held on October 23 in the high school auditorium.

an outstanding job hosting the evening's program.

Members, who are selected by a Faculty Council, meet especially high standards of scholarship, leadership, character, and service as outlined in the Constitution of the National Honor Society. According to the National Constitution, all four aspects should be equally weighted to determine membership. Membership is not based solely on grades. The process is extensive and takes a great deal of careful consideration and thought from the Faculty Council. NHS looks for students who are of high caliber in their schoolwork, as well as being true leaders and contributors to the community. In addition, their character should reflect high motivation, sincerity, honesty, and exemplary behavior.

National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Chapters exist in more than sixty percent of the nation's high schools, and millions of students have been selected for membership since

> Inductees from the Class of 2014 Maria Giurastante

# Class of 2014 Current Members

| Rebecca Z. Belo      | Julie LeVonne            |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| David Bremer         | Damiana Mellen           |
| Zachary Kyle Cole    | Gabrielle Mellen         |
| Caitlin Crisman      | Denae Moyer              |
| Maranda Currier      | Corrine Muccio           |
| Hannah Elliott       | Sarah C. Munson          |
| Courtney Fitzgerald  | Matthew Personius        |
| Margaret Galatioto   | Bryan Pert               |
| Eugene W. Gorman III | Victoria Pipher          |
| Rachel Guth          | Antonina Poplawski       |
| Natalie Hawkes       | Monika Roznere           |
| Emily Heifferon      | Nicholas Richard Schuldt |
| Brandy Illsley       | Kelsey Smith             |
| Samantha Johnson     | Michael Spena            |
| Cal Jones            | Madeline Staiger         |
| Chantelle Judd       | Almasa Talovic           |
| Sarah Kellogg        | Mehmed Talovic           |
| Jennifer Kipp        | Courtney Tester          |
|                      | Kayla Truxal             |
|                      |                          |

### This year's NHS officers, president Bryan Pert, vice president Jennifer Kipp, secretary Rebecca Belo, and treasurer Zachary Cole did

### Inductees from the Class of 2015

Brenda Barry Jared Cornell **Ruth Crissman Benjamin Daniels** Luke Dionne Reed Grunder **Emily Hammond Connor Harvey Tess Hatton** Kyra Heatherman Michaela Hensel Rhianna Henson **Trevor Hope** Kristen Igo Sonja Jensen Harold Jones **Charles Kane** 

Juliet King **Courtney Kushner** Rebecca Mach Caitlin Mellen **Oliver Mohr** Valerie Nguyen Breanna Nowetner Stephanie Orzelek **Julia Peters** Sarah Raichlin **Brittany Rose** Jacob Rossie Olivia Trumino Amber Wallach Zachary Wyatt Kaitlyn Yurenda

# High

# MS and HS Ski & Board Club News



Ski Club sign-ups are now due, with the final deadline in early December. Every student who joins will get a free winter jacket as a thank you gift from Greek Peak. Contact MS Advisor Mr. Ruf (cruf@ cvcsd.stier.org) or HS Advisor Mr. Mercik (jmercik@cvcsd.stier.org) for details.

Student Season Pass holders - Do you want to take advantage of the free jacket deal? No problem! Contact program director Liz Johnson, and let her know you are part of Chenango Valley's Ski and Board Club. (607)835-6300 ext 6338 or: ljohnson@greekpeakmtnresort.com.

See You on the Slopes! Think SNOW!

# Yoga sessions teach students to stretch, bend, breathe and



High school can be stressful. Yoga can help.

Relieving stress is just one of the many benefits of yoga, explained recently by Miss Ann Szymaniak of the Dance Connection and Terry Ross from the Yoga Body Shop, who spent time in CVHS physical education classes.

"Let it go," Miss Ann told the students. "Let all that anger - all that stuff -- just let it go."

Great advice for all of us. Thank you Miss Ann and Terry for volunteering in our classes and sharing the many wonderful benefits of yoga with our students.



# A refreshing use of technology

Students in Mr. Hertzog's Digital Photo class had the opportunity to add real refreshment to the class. Each student developed their own refreshing new energy drink, recorded a podcast and created a commercial for their product. The first stage of the project involved product development that included coming up with a name and eye-catching logo, as well as adding all other elements (recycle logo, bar code, etc.) needed to make the product ready to market and sell on store shelves.

The second stage of the project involved creating a voice only commercial using the Audacity program that involved recording their voices and incorporating mp3 audio files as background music. The final stage of the project involved creating a full scale commercial advertisement for their product. This incorporated the energy drink, podcast and video commercial advertisement using PhotoStory or Windows Movie Maker, to create a professional looking, quality commercial.

Pictured below are some of the students with their products.



# **VOTER INFORMATION**

# **Consolidation Proposition**



Polling location (for all voters) **Chenango Valley High School** Auditorium

### On the ballot

CV voters will decide on:

• Whether the Chenango Valley and **Chenango Forks Central School** Districts should merge.

### **Voter eligibility**

To vote, you must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- a U.S. citizen
- a resident of Chenango Valley district (proof of residency required)

If the referendum passes by a majority in each district, a second "statutatory" vote will be held in early 2014. The results of this statutatory vote will determine whether or not the districts merge.

### What if the vote doesn't pass?

If the referendum does not pass by a majority in each district, the merger process ends.

## More information:

District Office - 221 Chenango Bridge Rd. Website - www.cvcsd.stier.org **Interim Superintendent David Gill:** 762-6810; dgill@cvcsd.stier.org **School Business Executive Beth Donahue:** 762-6813; edonahue@cvcsd.stier.org

# Chenango Valley/Chenango Forks

# **December 3**, 2013

12 to 9 p.m. **CVHS** Auditorium

### What happens if the vote passes?

### **Absentee ballots**

Education Law requires that all school districts provide absentee ballots for election of Board of Education members, adoption of the annual budget, and referendums. Eligible voters may request an absentee ballot by contacting Susan Cirba, school district clerk, at 762-6812.

The application must be received by the clerk at least seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the application must be received by the day before the vote if the ballot is to be personally delivered. The application must be completed and returned, and the individual must verify that he/ she meets all voting requirements and explain the reason for his/her inability to vote in person. If you have any questions, call the district clerk at 762-6812.

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# Message from the **Board of Education President**



We're settled into another school year, yet this year is like no other. Quite possibly the most important public vote in Chenango Valley Central School district's history will be held from 12 to 9 p.m. December 3, 2013 in the CVHS auditorium. District residents will decide if Chenango Valley CSD should merge with our neighbors to the north, Chenango Forks CSD.

erald Abbey oard President

I ask all residents to participate in the vote and to reach out to any school

board member, the Interim Superintendent or our Business Official to ask any questions about the merger.

The vote on Dec. 3rd is a "straw vote," meaning that if both districts have a positive outcome by simple majority there will be a second vote, called a "Statutory Vote," sometime in late January. This vote is final. Again, both districts would need a positive outcome by simple majority to merge the districts. If at either of the votes one district votes no, the process is ended and the two districts remain independent.

Regardless of the outcome, you can rest assured that the Chenango Valley board, administration, faculty and staff will continue to work hard to deliver a quality education in a safe and positive learning environment for all our students.

Thank you in advance for your participation in these critical votes and in this very important time in our district.

tutella

Gerald Abbey **Board of Education President** Chenango Valley Central School District

### Background

A six-month consolidation study conducted by an independent consulting firm along with a Community Advisory Committee was completed in May 2013. The study reviewed this central question:

"Would instructional opportunity be enhanced for all students at a similar or reduced cost to taxpayers by merging the Chenango Forks and Chenango Valley school districts?"

In October, the Chenango Valley and Chenango Forks Boards of Education passed separate resolutions to move forward with a public vote on the proposed consolidation. This vote will be held Dec. 3, 2013.

By law, the Dec. 3 vote will be an initial vote, or "straw poll," to gauge community support for the proposal. If this vote passes in each district, a second, binding public vote is held soon after. The results of the second vote determine whether the districts merge. If the straw vote on Dec. 3 fails in one or both districts, the second vote is not held, and the merger process ends.

## **Financial Considerations**

### State Aid

State aid provided to school districts is calculated using several variables, including property values and the wealth of resident taxpayers. Chenango Valley receives less state aid per enrolled pupil than Chenango Forks. CV makes up the difference with more property tax levy per pupil:

| 2012-13             | CF       | CV      |
|---------------------|----------|---------|
| Taxes per pupil     | \$5,145  | \$8,404 |
| State aid per pupil | \$10,234 | \$7,084 |

### **Economic Conditions**

The national economic crisis in 2008 resulted in reduced state aid for school districts. From 2008-09 to 2013-14, state aid to Chenango Forks was reduced by 10% (\$9,594,257) and state aid to Chenango Valley was reduced by 13% (\$7,534,566).

### Tax Levy Limit

NYS law limits increases in property tax levy for school districts to 2% (with some exemptions) annually, unless 60% of voters approved an override. In order to fill the revenue gap, both districts have reduced staff and utilized reserve funds.

### Debt:

NYS Education Law allows school districts to incur a maximum debt of 10% of the district's full valuation of taxable real property. Currently, the debt of each district is well within this limit:

Chenango Forks - total net indebtedness: \$26,441,754 (53.8% of possible debt used) Chenango Valley - total net indebtedness: \$32,304,770 (45.52% of possible debt used)

### Timeline

- spring 2014 new board of education elected
- July 1, 2014 new district begins operations
- September 2014 students attend new merged district

| School Building Utilization   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| School                        | Years 1 & 2 of Merger                                      | Years 3 & Beyond                               |  |  |  |  |
| Port Dickinson<br>Elementary  | Pre-K through 2  | closed after<br>Year 2 of merger               |  |  |  |  |
| Chenango Bridge<br>Elementary | former CV students in grades 3-5                           | former CV & CF<br>students in grades 4 &       |  |  |  |  |
| Chenango Forks<br>Elementary  | former CF students in<br>grades Pre-K - 5                  | former CV & CF stu-<br>dents in grades Pre-K - |  |  |  |  |
| Chenango Forks<br>MS/HS       | former CV & CF<br>students in grades 6-8; district offices |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chenango Valley<br>MS/HS      | former CV & CF students in grades 9-12                     |  |  |  |  |  |

| District Size  | CF     | CV     | Combined<br>79.786* |  |  |
|--|--------|--------|---------------------|--|--|
| Square Miles   | 57.525 | 22.261 |                     |  |  |
| among 14 local districts, would be 8th largest in square miles |        |        |                     |  |  |

| Enrollment   | CF                       | CV                    | Combined            |  |  |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Current  | 1489                     | 1719                  | 3208 est.*          |  |  |
| Trend:<br>2007-08 to 2012-13                                   | declined 6.2%            | declined 4.6%         |                     |  |  |
| Projected:<br>2013-14 to 2022-23                               | expected to decline 1.2% | expected to grow 3.1% | expected to grow 1% |  |  |
| * among 14 local districts, would be 4th largest in enrollment |                          |                       |                     |  |  |

### Merger Incentive Aid

In a merger, NYS provides two types of additional aid:

- Operating Incentive Aid \$44,807,917 over 14 years: \$4.7 million per year for the first five years, then decreased by 10% per year for the following nine years. Can be used to cover costs of the merger and would reduce or delay future program cuts and staff reductions.
- Building Incentive Aid additional 30% of the higher of the two districts' building aid rate. Current rates: CF - 90.6%, CV - 82.9%. A merger would provide aid of 95% for new capital improvement projects approved within 10 years of merger. Existing or remaining capital debt becomes aided at

### Building Improvements Identified

Inspections at both districts identified an estimated \$12,108,831 in repairs and improvements needed to keep the schools and bus garages up to date. If the new board of education decides to close Port Dickinson, this amount would be reduced by \$1,889,500, bringing the new total for a merged district to \$10,218,831.

# What happens if the districts merge?

| 5 |  |
|---|--|
| 3 |  |
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# Academic Program

- Elementary & Middle School with new Common Core Learning Standards, students are now learning from similar curriculum - this would facilitate transition.
- Class Size CV & CF the Community Advisory Committee identified as a priority that class sizes in a merged district be maintained or reduced.
- · High School Course Offerings both districts offer significant course selection; students in merged district could take advantage of the strength of each. For example, CFHS offers an extensive fine arts program, particularly in ceramics. CVHS offers four years of Latin and college-level French.
- Advanced Placement (AP) and College-Level over 30 AP & college-level courses currently offered between the two high schools; a merged program would provide more opportunity to maintain under-enrolled classes and to explore new options.
- Additional Programs the study recommended creating additional program offerings, such as Mandarin Chinese, Project Lead the Way pre-engineering program, and expanded Academic Intervention Services.

# Athletics

Each district currently offers 22 sports, but in each district there are some modified, junior varsity and/or varsity teams without enough participants. CF has three teams and CV has five teams without enough participants.

## 2012-13 Participation:

CF - 932 student-athletes, 59 coaches CV - 906 student-athletes, 50 coaches Total - 1838 student-athletes, 109 coaches

### Impact of Merged Athletic Program

- Strengthened participation level to allow for full teams & possible additional teams such as field hockey;
- Increased competitive quality;
- Competition level moves to higher division in the region;
- Fewer total participation opportunities: approximately 1,483 participation slots with 74 coaches.

### Athletic Facility Considerations:

The outdoor facility at CF is located on one site, with an allweather field that can accommodate extensive use, even in bad weather. The outdoor athletic facilities at CV are located at several sites and require transportation. The potential for expanding playing fields at the middle/high school is limited.

The indoor facilities appear stronger at CV. A newer pool with a separate diving tank and a larger gymnasium were identified as positive features of the facility. The school is also air-conditioned.



# What happens if the districts merge?

### Staff Reductions

**Central office administration** - 6 central office administrative positions eliminated;

Administrative support - 3 secretarial positions eliminated;

**Building administration** - total number of positions does not change: 2 principal positions eliminated, 2 assistant principal positions added;

**Teachers & aides** - the merger plan calls for no immediate change in the number of teachers or teacher aides;

Athletics - 35 coaching positions eliminated;

**Other** - district clerk, some BOCES services, auditor & other miscellaneous expenses could be reduced

These staff reductions would save approximately \$1,092,351. However, there are significant differences in the teacher salaries and benefits that would need to be "leveled up" in order to be equitable. Total annual cost of leveling up teacher salaries and benefits is estimated to be \$414,261.

### Food Services

CF and CV both currently contract with Broome-Tioga BOCES to provide food services management. The program in both districts is self-sufficient, operating on income from sales and subsidies from the federal government. In a merger, BOCES would continue to provide efficient management. The study concluded that the proposed building use plan would adequately provide for food service needs.

### Music

- Resources could be used to establish additional performing groups based on age, experience and talent level.
- Multiple small ensemble groups (jazz band/jazz chorus) could be utilized to accommodate all interested students.
- Opportunities for all students interested in larger ensemble groups such as mixed chorus and concert band, may be more challenging.

### Extra-curricular Activities

CF and CV have a combined 49 extra-curricular activities: 30 in CF, 41 in CV, with 18 similar/duplicate offerings. A merger can provide opportunities for increased participation in activities that are currently under-enrolled. New activities would be considered by the board of education of the merged district.

### Transportation

- new board of education determines type of system: districtrun (currently at CV) or contract (currently at CF)
- new transportation director determines routes & schedules
  state transportation aid increases to the currently higher CF
- rate of 84.2%, compared with current CV rate of 72.26%.

### Technology

The goals and objectives outlined in the Technology Plans of both districts are similar and would continue in a merged district. Each district has sufficient personnel to implement the plans they have adopted. The staff for technology services in a merged district would include a mix of district employees and BOCES contracted employees.

# What happens if the districts DO NOT merge?

- CV continues operating as a public school district.
- CV projected to maintain a positive fund balance for the foreseeable future; major cuts to staff or programs unlikely.
- School tax rates would continue to change based on future tax levy increases (subject to tax cap).
- Athletic programs and extra-curricular activities will likely be maintained in the near future.
- Opportunities facilitated by merger for expanded programs are less viable.
- CV & CF explore possible shared services to enhance opportunities & efficiency.
- CV does not receive the additional \$44.8 million<sup>+</sup> in aid it would have received in a merger.

# Financial Status - 2011 to Current

|                                  | Revenues & Expenditures |            |            |                           |              |             |                           |                        |  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
|                                  | 201                     | 1-12       |            | 2012-13                   |              |             | 2013-14                   |                        |  |
| REVENUE:                         | CF                      | CV         | CF         | CV study<br>figures used* | CV actual    | CF          | CV study<br>figures used* | CV updated projection* |  |
| State/Federal Aid                | 14,838,879              | 12,223,221 | 15,420,060 | \$12,338,578              | \$12,390,459 | 16,185,269  | 12,899,660                | \$12,924,660           |  |
| Tax Levy                         | 10,086,343              | 17,832,711 | 10,286,245 | 18,187,668                | 18,278,975   | 10,697,553  | 18,574,237                | 18,636,751             |  |
| Other Rev.                       | 1,505,723               | 1,210,635  | 1,729,438  | 915,245                   | 908,067      | 1,831,285   | 930,957                   | 956,376                |  |
| Total Revenue                    | 26,430,945              | 31,266,567 | 27,435,743 | 31,441,491                | 31,557,501   | 28,714,107  | 32,404,854                | 32,497,787             |  |
| EXPENDITURES                     | 26,793,562              | 31,158,135 | 28,289,815 | 31,262,778                | 31,214,837   | 30,529,107  | 33,308,654                | 32,489,434             |  |
| Excess/Deficit                   | (362,617)               | 180,432    | (945,072)  | 178,713                   | 342,664      | (1,815,000) | (903,800)                 | 8,353                  |  |
| Transfers Out                    | 422,538                 | (17,282)   | 0          | 0                         | 0            | 0           | 0                         | 0                      |  |
| Fund Balance<br>July 1- Prior Yr | 5,126,640               | 5,223,698  | 5,186,761  | 5,314,848                 | 5,314,848    | 4,241,689   | 5,493,561                 | 5,657,512              |  |
| Fund Balance<br>June 30          | 5,186,761               | 5,314,848  | 4,241,689  | 5,493,561                 | 5,657,512    | 2,428,625   | 4,589,761                 | 5,665,865              |  |
| Tax Rate                         | 20.52                   | 25.48      | 20.41      | 25.57                     | 25.57        | 20.89       | 25.72                     | 26.15                  |  |

# **Projections - With/Without Merger**

|                                     | CV-CF Proj<br>NO N               | MERGER<br>with blended            | Chenango Valley Projection<br>NO MERGER |            |            |            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|
| REVENUE:                            | Chenango Forks<br>study figures* | Chenango Valley<br>study figures* | Chenango Valley<br>updated projection*  | tax levy   | 2015-16    | 2016-17    |
| State/Federal Aid                   | 16,685,269                       | 13,379,660                        | 13,067,390                              | 30,084,929 | 13,232,560 | 13,400,209 |
| Tax Levy                            | 10,964,992                       | 18,945,722                        | 18,945,722                              | 29,910,714 | 19,324,636 | 19,711,129 |
| Other Rev.                          | 1,831,285                        | 871,001                           | 835,723                                 | 2,702,286  | 835,723    | 835,723    |
| Merger Aid                          |                                  |                                   |   | 4,716,623  |            |            |
| Add'l Bldg Aid                      |                                  |                                   |   | 137,250    |            |            |
| Total Revenue                       | 29,481,546                       | 33,216,383                        | 32,848,835                              | 67,414,552 | 33,392,919 | 33,947,061 |
| EXPENDITURES                        | 31,824,008                       | 34,788,379                        | 32,639,365                              | 66,050,848 | 33,173,595 | 34,114,757 |
| Excess/Deficit                      | (2,342,462)                      | (1,571,996)                       | 209,470                                 | 1,363,704  | 219,324    | (167,696)  |
| Fund Balance<br>July 1 - Prior Year | 2,428,625                        | 4,589,761                         | 5,665,865                               | 7,018,386  | 5,875,335  | 6,094,659  |
| Fund Balance<br>June 30             | 86,163                           | 3,017,765                         | 5,875,335                               | 8,225,820  | 6,094,659  | 5,926,963  |
| Tax Rate                            | 21.08                            | 25.83                             |   | 23.86      |            |            |

\* Financial data used in the merger study was based on projections from 2012-13. The actual numbers for 2012-13 are shown in the tables above, along with updated projections that more accurately reflect the financial status.

# **Chenango Valley**

Central School District 221 Chenango Bridge Rd. Binghamton, NY 13901 Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 237 Binghamton, NY

# **Believe It! Achieve It! At Chenango Valley where Warriors Excel!**

# School-related professionals recognized

Tuesday, November 19 was "School Related Professionals Day" in New York -- a day to recognize and thank all of our teacher aides and assistants, secretaries, clerks, custodial workers, food service personnel, security staff and bus drivers. These people work tire-lessly every day to help schools operate efficiently so that our students have the sound education they deserve. Thank you, SRPs!

# Are you signed up for the Parent Portal?

In an effort to provide parents/guardians with up-to-date student grades and attendance information, Chenango Valley CSD grades 7-12 has a Parent Portal within PowerSchool, our student database system. PS Parent Portal is a web-based program that allows parents/guardians access to their child's grades and attendance information. If you did not sign up last year and need help with access information please call the guidance office at 762-6918.





Parents dropping off students in the morning at the Middle/High School are reminded to use extreme caution, particularly in the drop-off area at the school entrance. Please make sure to obey the parking lot stop signs, and always watch for pedestrians.

The mission of the Chenango Valley School community is to provide educational opportunities to promote maximum learning potential for personal growth and social responsibility.

### Directory

| Directory                                 |             |
|---|-------------|
| Websitewww.cvcs                           | d.stier.org |
| CV School District Main Number            | 762-6800    |
| Board of Education                        |             |
| Gerald G. Abbey Jr., Pres.                | . 722-5474  |
| Jason Aurelio                             |             |
| James DeGennaro, Vice Pres                | . 773-8078  |
| Stuart W. Elliott                         |             |
| John Hussar                               | . 773-8196  |
| Terrence M. Kane                          | . 648-4499  |
| Lynn M. Kaufman                           | . 221-6240  |
| Eric Rifenbury                            | . 348-4294  |
| Maureen A. Roberts                        | .724-3621   |
| Interim Superintendent of Schools         |             |
| David Gill                                | 762-6810    |
|   |             |
| Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schoo |             |
| Mary Beth Hammond                         | . 762-6811  |
| District Clerk                            |             |
| Susan Cirba                               | 762-6812    |
|   |             |
| Offices                                   |             |
| Athletics                                 | 762-6904    |
| Food Service                              |             |
| Guidance                                  |             |
| Special Education Department              |             |
| Transportation Department                 |             |
|   | . 702 0050  |
| Schools                                   |             |
| Port Dickinson                            | 762-6070    |
| Attendance                                |             |
| Health Office                             |             |
| DASA Coordinator, Jim Pritchard           |             |
| Chenango Bridge                           |             |
| Attendance                                |             |
| Health Office                             |             |
| DASA Coordinator, Tamara Ivan             |             |
| Middle School                             |             |
| Attendance                                |             |
| Health Office                             |             |
| Homework Hotline – Grey                   |             |
| Homework Hotline – Gley                   | 762-6872    |
| DASA Coordinator, Eric Attleson           |             |
| High School                               |             |
| Attendance                                |             |
| Health Office                             |             |
| DASA Coordinator, Terry Heller            |             |
|   | ., 02 0,00  |
|   |             |