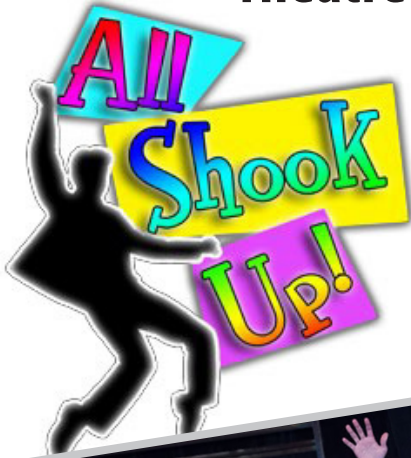




# Newscaster

February 2016

## Theatre Guild to present Elvis musical Feb. 19 - 21



It's the summer of 1955, and into a square little town rides a guitar-playing roustabout who changes everything and everyone he meets in this musical production that will have you jumpin' out of your blue suede shoes with such classics as "Heartbreak Hotel," "Jailhouse Rock," and "Don't Be Cruel."

The story is new, but the songs are all Elvis in the Chenango Valley Theatre Guild's production of *All Shook Up* on February 19, 20 and 21. Don't miss it!



### Need Tickets?

See the ticket information on page 15.





to

# MATH NIGHT



For PreK - Grade 5 students & families

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

6:30 to 8 p.m.

CV Middle School gym & cafeteria



**MATH FUN**

for the whole family,  
plus parent resources  
& information



# District News

## Message from the superintendent

Dear CV community,

As with new school years, new calendar years invite a time of renewal - new inspirations, new challenges, and new celebrations. We just completed the first half of our school year, making it a good time to reflect and regroup if needed. I hope you feel comfortable reaching out to any of us within the school setting to answer questions and offer you support. It is vital for a school community to embrace and promote our schools and all the positive things we do well! We have dedicated staff members who work hard to make Chenango Valley shine! I have been at CV for a number of years, and I continue to be proud and amazed to work with such a dedicated group of people who put children first. Let's never lose sight of that amongst our frustrations and let's continue to communicate in order to arrive at the best possible solutions.

We will be getting heavily into our budget season this month to prepare a budget for our CV community that supports our programs and educational vision while keeping our taxpayers financial concerns as a priority. We will begin our budget workshops in March.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, or you want to share a positive message about our district, please feel free to contact me. My priority has, and will always be, to make CV a premier educational institution.

All the best for a great 2016,

Sincerely,



David P. Gill  
Superintendent of Schools



David P. Gill  
Superintendent

## Property Tax Rebate update

The New York State property tax freeze credit is a tax relief program that reimburses qualifying homeowners for increases in local property taxes on their primary residences provided that school districts comply with the NYS property tax cap.

**Since Chenango Valley has held tax increases below the tax cap, eligible homeowners in the district will receive this credit.**

Please note that Chenango Valley does not issue the rebate checks. The NYS Department of Taxation will mail checks to eligible homeowners. If you're eligible, you do not need to do anything to receive the check. The Tax Department will review eligibility data and calculate the credit.

To be eligible, homeowners must receive the STAR property tax exemption, the property must be the homeowner's primary residence, and total household income must be \$500,000 or less. .

A status update from the NYS Department of Taxation indicates that all rebate checks should be mailed by the end of February.

For more information, visit:  
[https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/property\\_tax\\_freeze.htm](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/property_tax_freeze.htm)  
[https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/rp5301fs\\_prop\\_tax\\_facts.pdf](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/rp5301fs_prop_tax_facts.pdf)



## Holiday Thank You

The district extends a special "thank you" to everyone who donated to our annual Holiday Program. Thanks to all who donated generous gifts, personal time, and non-perishable food items, we were able to help many families this year. We couldn't have done it without you! "Thank you" also to:

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, "Singles" Above 70 Club, Ms. Heller and CB Student Council, Beal Family, American Legion Post 1194, Hillcrest Rotary, High School Student Council, Middle School Student Council, Inter-Active Group, PTA, Big Gifted Give Program and Organizers, CV Custodial and Maintenance Staff, Mrs. Staiger's students for moving all those food boxes! CV Students, CV Faculty and Staff, and CV Community, who were all kind enough to take a tag from the "Giving Wreath/Tree".

This program would not exist without all of you and your generosity.

# District News

## Board of Education President's message

No other phrase in education today stirs up so much emotion and angst as “Common Core.” Personally, I have always liked the idea of higher standards but there are some elements of the Common Core system which have troubled me as a parent and as an eighth-grade social studies teacher.

Last month, I was fortunate enough to attend a local event which featured a talk by the newly appointed New York State Commissioner of Education, Maryellen Elia. Ms. Elia has been travelling all over the state listening and gathering information about the Common Core. And it appears that she is indeed carefully listening and initiating needed changes.

“We have a lot of work to do,” she remarked, and she’s right. But it looks like she’s off to a good start. Among the more important “take-aways” from her talk include:

- Most New York State residents desire higher standards to insure that all graduates are college or career ready. According to one survey, 71 percent wanted this.
- About 45% of all NYS graduates require some form of remediation when they enter college. This is troubling.
- Common Core standards are reviewed every five years by committees of teachers, parents, and early childhood experts. Since this will be the fifth year, this review has already begun.
- A new publishing company has been selected to produce the assessments. The Pearson Co. has been replaced, and the new publisher is required to work with teachers to develop new questions.
- Teachers should be knowledgeable regarding the standards but they are free to develop their own curriculum. There has been much confusion in the past concerning this point. There has never been a requirement to follow a state-prepared script.
- All assessments have been shortened. In other words, there will be fewer questions.
- Time constraints have been removed. If a child is “working productively,” he or she may continue to work until finished.
- There is a moratorium of five years for linking test results to the evaluations of teachers and principals. These assessments will not be part of teachers’ APPR until at least the year 2020.

Commissioner Elia noted that eliminating the tests altogether is not an option. They are required by Federal law. All in all, she seems sincerely committed to “shifting away from the negative” and moving forward “as a group” for continual improvement.

Finally.... this is where I’m headed with all of this: Please think twice if you are considering having your child “opt-out.” For those who don’t like the test, your voices have been heard, changes have been made and will continue to be made. Of course, our children are much more than “data” or “a number.” However, feedback is always needed to improve instruction. Until next time, I am Stuart Elliott, President of the Chenango Valley Board of Education.



Stuart Elliott  
Board President

## STEM classes learning robotics at an early age

Elementary STEM teacher Mrs. Mika has been working with her fifth-grade students on the Project Lead the Way “Robotics and Automation” unit. For several weeks, the students have been learning to use VEX IQ kits that will eventually lead to building their very own robots!





## District News

# County's downtown library renamed to honor Jeffrey Kraham CV graduate was instrumental in project

The Broome County Public Library at 185 Court St. in Binghamton will be renamed the "Jeffrey P. Kraham Broome County Public Library" to honor former Broome County Executive and Chenango Valley High School graduate Jeffrey P. Kraham. Kraham was instrumental in making the new library, which opened in 2000, a reality.

Kraham served on the Broome County Legislature from 1977 to 1990, and in 1981, at age 31, became the youngest county legislative chairman in New York State history. In As chairman, he championed taking over operations at the Carnegie Library from the City of Binghamton. Soon, county officials identified the need for a new, larger library.

From 1997 to 2004, Kraham served as Broome County Executive. On Nov. 5, 2000, Broome County, under Kraham's leadership, opened the state-of-the-art, 72,000 square-foot new library.

"The library serves not only as the Southern Tier's hub for education and lifetime learning, but as an anchor for Downtown Binghamton's revitalization, and for it to bear my name is an incredible honor," said Kraham.



## Pre-K & Kindergarten Sign-up for 2016-2017 School Year

If you have a child who will be four or five years old by December 1, 2016, please call:

762-6975 for four year olds (Pre-Kindergarten)  
762-6970 for five year olds (Kindergarten)

You will be placed on a mailing list to receive information about Pre-K registration (four-year-olds) or about Kindergarten registration (five-year-olds.) Parent Information Nights and registration for both will take place in March and April 2016.

**Please note: If your child is currently enrolled in the Pre-Kindergarten program at Port Dickinson for the 2016-2017 school year, your child will automatically be enrolled for Kindergarten beginning in September 2016.**

## Community Night Friday, March 11



Mark your calendars for this year's Community Night, a Chenango Valley tradition that provides a an evening of family fun. There will be bounce houses, games, face painting, food and so much more! It will take place on Friday, March 11 from 6-8 p.m.

\$10 admission includes unlimited inflatables, games and more. Proceeds from Community Night benefit SADD and helps to support CV's post prom event.



## Charity Bears will comfort children in need

Students in Mrs. Shaddock's eighth-grade Family and Consumer Science class made "charity bears" to donate to a local police department. The soft, cuddly toys will be used for children who need comforting in an emergency situation or family distress.

The students made patterns, sewed, stuffed and decorated the bears as a service learning project.

## District to participate in Promise Zone initiative

The Chenango Valley Central School District is pleased to announce its collaboration with the Broome County Promise Zone Initiative along with Binghamton, BOCES, Johnson City, Union Endicott, Windsor and Whitney Point School Districts, all of which are building on a community school approach in their schools to support success for all students and families. The Broome County Promise Zone is the fifth New York State designated effort, focused on creating environments that engage and support school children so that are prepared to learn. The NYS Promise Zone Initiative is funded through NYS Office of Mental Health. The Broome County Promise Zone is a joint effort among Binghamton University – College of Community and Public Affairs, Broome County Mental Health Department, and Broome Tioga BOCES, with a \$416,000 annual budget. The state funding offers districts opportunities to develop programs to support students to improve attendance, increase family engagement in school programs, and increase access to services to create improved academic achievement through a variety of programs.

All community schools are designed according to local needs assessments so that they meet needs as defined by school professionals and community members. As a starting point of this effort, we ask that you consider responding to the survey linked below which asks your opinion to assist in completing an assessment to guide future service needs. This survey is confidential but does ask that you note if you are a student, family, staff, or community member, as well as, which school building you are referencing Port Dickinson Elementary, Chenango Bridge Elementary, CV Middle or High School. This effort will focus on the Chenango Bridge Elementary school building in its first year. Your views are important as we move forward to design services, programs, initiatives, and relationships which are crucial for children’s success in school and life under the Promize Zone grant along with the mission of the Chenango Valley School District – to inspire, engage, and empower all students to achieve their full potential.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PromiseZoneNeedsAssessment>

## Warrior Fund report shows impact

The Chenango Valley Warrior Fund provides assistance to district students and families in need. Last year, (September 2014 – June 2015) the Warrior Fund made a tremendous impact in our community by providing assistance that included:

- School supplies for 81 students
- Aldi gift cards for 210 families for food at home and school
- 5 Medical prescriptions
- BOCES class materials for 5 students
- Scientific calculators for 15 students
- Regents books for 27 students
- Donations to cover lunch bills for 8 students
- 21 clothing/sneaker purchases for physical education class
- 10 winter coats and 9 other winter clothing purchases
- Eye glasses for 2 students
- 14 gas cards for families transporting students to appointments
- Yearbooks for 6 seniors
- 1 college application fee
- 2 NYSSMA fees for students
- 5 caps and gowns
- 6 packs of bus passes to help students with transportation to work or medical appointments
- 2 college Spanish books
- Helped a family to heat their home for 2 weeks until HEAP was activated
- 50 families assisted with CV holiday program

## CHOW CV Food Pantry

From September 2014 through June 2015, the pantry provided assistance for a total of 817 CV residents - 216 families, 611 children and 187 adults and 19 seniors.

A special thank you to our community for their generous donations to assist our friends and neighbors.

- Jackie Arnold

## Fast Forward seniors learn about SUNY Broome admission

Approximately 40 students took advantage of an Instant Admission Day offered to seniors in the SUNY Broome Fast Forward program. This was a great opportunity for the students to get information and advice from the SUNY Broome Admissions Office.

Representatives from SUNY Broome met with the students to offer advice on choosing a college major, and how to best meet their goals and educational aspirations. Students applying for competitive programs learned whether they meet pre-requisite requirements or if an alternate program is advised. They also learned about instant admission, which allows qualified prospective students to apply for admission and be accepted to SUNY Broome on the same day.

Special thank you to Katie McGowan Bucci, Staff Associate, Fast Forward & Early College and Jenae Norris, Director of Admissions.

- Charles Purce, Director of Guidance

## SUNY Broome Financial Aid Day

Do you need help with the college financial aid/FAFSA form?

Free Financial Aid Information Day

**Saturday, Feb. 20**  
beginning at 10 a.m.  
Titchener Building, Room 101



# Guidance

## Wellness Day gives middle school students healthy, fun opportunities



The 9th annual CV Middle School Wellness Day, held on the last school day before winter break, gave students the opportunity to have fun, try new activities and learn about healthy lifestyle choices. The day began for all students with an inspiring keynote presentation by former professional baseball player Luis “Machete” Rodriguez, who urged the students to work hard, live respectfully and follow your dreams. The students then rotated in groups through several workshops and activity sessions throughout the day.

For 6th-graders, session topics included:

- Cybersafety by School Resource Officer Bob Stapleton, Broome Co. Sheriff’s Department
- Nutrition by middle school FACS teacher Mrs. Shadduck
- Self-Esteem by Marilyn Hess of Family Planning of South Central NY
- Fitness Training by Trent Patterson of CV & Training for Life
- Motivation by high school teacher Bill Clark
- Chemistry Lab by high school teacher Mrs. Ginalski and her chemistry students

For students in grades 7 and 8, sessions included:

- Yoga by Ann Szymaniak of the Dance Connection and Cassandra Fisher
- Social Media & Technology by Sarah Lister & Tiffany Vandermark of Family Planning of South Central NY
- Following Your Dreams by CV alumni Taylor Lange, Chelsea Henige, Evan Lally and Eric Yonda
- Drums Alive by Chenango Bridge physical education teacher Mrs. Price
- Nutrition and Yogurt Making by Don Brown of Chobani
- Drug & Alcohol Prevention by Erin Monroe and Shelby Smith of ADEPT
- Zumba by C.J. Michalak, Jamie Stulir and MS physical education teacher Mrs. Lyons

An Olweus classroom meeting was also part of the day’s activities. During the meeting, students wrote out cards with positive messages about each other. A total of 14 quality sessions given by 22 presenters made Wellness Day 2015 a tremendous success.

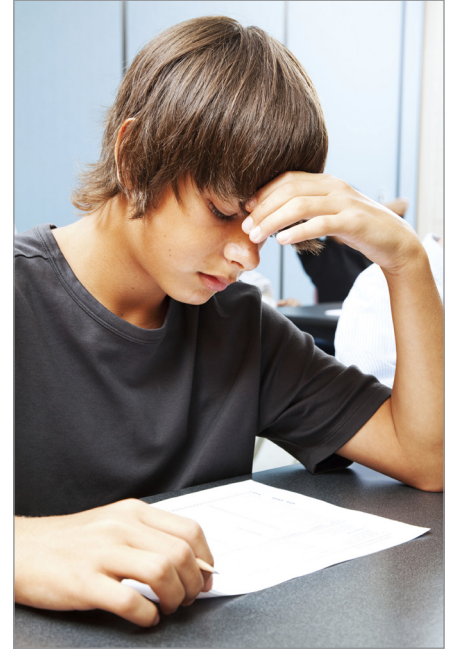


# Guidance

## Tips for Test Anxiety

Test anxiety is a reality for students in middle school today. As a parent, you want to help your child succeed in school and life. It's important to help students identify what they are feeling and give them the tools that will help them manage the emotions such as anxiety, self-doubt, anger or frustration. Here are some general tips to help your child decrease their stress and test anxiety.

1. Reinforce the idea with your child that no one is perfect. No student will know all the answers to every test they take. The desire to be perfect can be a big part of test anxiety. When a child starts trying to be perfect it can lead to guilt or panic.
2. A powerful stress buster for test taking anxiety is positive self-talk. Anxiety can be lowered and confidence boosted with this simple technique. Encourage your child to use these statements before and during tests.
  - I am calm and focused
  - I am relaxed and alert
  - I know the answer to this question and I will look at it again in a few minutes
  - I remember to breathe deeply during my tests
  - I have enough time
  - I have studied and I am prepared
  - Being calm helps me to remember more
3. Make sure your child gets enough rest the night before the test. Big tests require a lot of energy and stamina to be able to focus for several hours. Make sure they get at least 8-10 hours of sleep the night before the test.
4. Do something fun the night before to take their mind off the test, like watch a movie, play a board game or participate in a sports activity. Your child's mind and emotions will be more relaxed in the time leading up to the test.
5. Try to eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the test. A child's brain needs a lot of energy to maintain focus on a big test for several hours. Eat a hearty and healthy breakfast, including complex carbohydrates and protein to make your energy last as long as possible. Foods such as eggs, cereal and whole-wheat toast help energize your brain to think more clearly.



Standardized tests, Mid-terms, Final Exams and other tests will be part of your child's life throughout school. Learning to successfully deal with test anxiety early is a valuable skill for your child to possess. Practicing these tools in advance can help students limit test anxiety and perform even better on their school work.

If your child is experiencing an increased level of anxiety before and during tests, please call your child's school counselor. We are here to help!

Middle School Counselors: Deb Lally (Grades 6 & 7) email: [dlally@cvcasd.stier.org](mailto:dlally@cvcasd.stier.org) / phone: 762-6918  
Shelby Samson (Grade 8) email: [ssamson@cvcasd.stier.org](mailto:ssamson@cvcasd.stier.org) / phone: 762-6918

## Notice regarding Honor Roll

As of press time, the second quarter Honor Roll results were not yet available. The full Honor Roll list will be printed in the next issue of the Newscaster. The list will also be published on the district website as soon as it is available.



# Guidance

## New SAT coming in March 2016

The SAT is changing in some ways, but these things will stay the same:

- The SAT is accepted by almost all U.S. colleges.
- SAT scores and high school GPA are a powerful combination. Used together, there's nothing better at predicting potential college success.

### What's changed?

You might be surprised by everything that is new on the SAT:

- All-new essay - and it's optional
- No penalty for guessing
- No vocabulary that you'll never use again

One of the biggest goals in changing the SAT is to make sure it's highly relevant to your future success. The new test will be more focused on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education. It will measure:

- What you learn in high school
- What you need to succeed in college

If you think the key to a high score is memorizing words and facts you'll never use in the real world, think again. You don't have to discover secret tricks or cram the night before. The same habits and choices that lead to success in school will help you get ready for the SAT.

The best way to prepare for the test is to:

- Take challenging courses.
- Do your homework.
- Prepare for tests and quizzes.
- Ask and answer lots of questions.

In short, take charge of your education and learn as much as you can. The first chance to take the new SAT is March 5, 2016.

### Quick Facts About the New SAT

- 4 parts: Reading, Writing and Language, Math, and the optional SAT Essay
- 400–1600 score scale
- 3 hours and 50 minutes with the SAT Essay — or 3 hours without it
- 4 answer choices

### Skills Aren't Bought

They're learned — so brush up on your skills with these free resources:

- Personalized practice from Khan Academy®
- The app, Daily Practice for the New SAT, that makes it easy to try questions and scores practice tests instantly

Seriously, they're free and they're official.

### One More Thing

Know what to expect. Find out what kinds of questions you'll see on the new SAT and what the test will measure.

Where do you want to start? Go to <https://student.collegeboard.org/> for practice tests and more information on:

- Reading Test
- Writing and Language Test
- Math Test
- SAT Essay
- Key Content Changes

### Register

Wondering about dates and deadlines, fees and fee waivers, colleges that require the SAT Essay, photo ID policies?

Get answers to all your questions at: <https://student.collegeboard.org/> or call the CVHS guidance office: 607-762-6918.

# Athletics

## Boys varsity wins STOP-DWI tourney

Congratulations to the boys varsity basketball team, winners of the STOP-DWI tournament in December. The team beat Seton Catholic Central 57-47 in the championship game.

Mark Mullins and Caleb Hertzog were named to the all-tourney team.

On November 14, the team held a youth clinic for 50 boys in grades 3-8.



## Wrestlers take STAC East

The CV wrestling team had an outstanding season, ending as the STAC East division champion. The team won the Bulldog Invitational on Dec. 5 and took second place at the Matt Fedish Memorial Dual Meet Tournament on Dec. 12.

The team finished its dual meet season with an 18-8 record and ranked #7 in Section IV. The team was also selected to compete in the Section IV Dual Meet Tournament, as one of the top 12 teams in Section IV.



## Lehr is Outstanding Wrestler at Matt Fedish Memorial



Jacob Lehr with Mike and Laurie Fedish, parents of Matt Fedish.

Jacob Lehr was selected as the Most Outstanding Wrestler at the tournament. The award was given to the wrestler who most represented the qualities of former wrestler Matt Fedish: character, leadership, effort on the mat, love of competition.

Jake is a senior at CV and three-year captain. He will continue his athlete and academic career in the fall at Cornell University.

## Caleb Wiggins wins STAC title



Caleb Wiggins is the 2016 STAC Champion, 120 lbs, winning the title with an 8-6 overtime victory over 2015 Section IV champion Noah Carpenter of Elmira.

Also earning All-STAC honors by placing in the top 6 in the STAC tournament were:

Nathan Lehr 4th, 99lbs.  
Cameron Lockwood 5th, 113lbs.  
Jake Lehr 3rd @ 126lbs.  
Steve Aylward 4th @ 145lbs.  
Jack Riegal 5th @ 182lbs.  
Nate Aurelio 5th @ 195lbs



Follow CV Athletics on Twitter!  
[@CV\\_Athletics](https://twitter.com/CV_Athletics)



# Athletics

## Karl Grunder breaks 3 school records

Karl Grunder a junior has broken three school records so far this boys swim season. He broke the 50 free-style, 100 freestyle & the 100 breast-stroke. The 50 free record was 33 years old and was held by his uncle Eric Grunder who graduated in 1983.

Karl has also qualified for the boys state swim meet in the 100 breast-stroke, which will be held March 4th & 5th at Erie Community College in Buffalo.

The boys team were Class C Champs at Elmira swimming and diving invitational on January 9.



## New registration process to begin with spring sport signups

The athletic department has changed the paper system for sport sign-ups to a computerized system called Rank One Sport. This will be helpful in streamlining the process and improving the communication among students, parents, coaches, the athletic office and the health office. The new system is now in place and must be used for the spring 2016 and beyond.

Please visit <https://chenangovalley.rankonesport.com> to register your athlete. The sign-up process will be open 2/8/16-2/19/16 for JV and varsity sports and 2/29/16-3/11/16 for modified sports.

The link and instructions are available on our website. An instruction sheet is also available in the athletic office, health office or from any CV physical education teacher. Please contact the athletic office at 762-6904 or the health office 762-6911 with any questions.

## Varsity cheer takes first in division



Our varsity cheerleaders placed first in their division at a competition Jan. 30 at Elmira High School. The team performed a near-perfect routine.

This is just one of the five competitions they will participate in this season.

## “Hoop the Holiday”

The girls basketball program hosted its first annual 3-3 “Hoop the Holiday” tournament. With 17 teams across three age brackets, students got a great opportunity for some basketball fun. Brackets were grades 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8, and teams had to be a mixture of boys and girls.



The girls basketball players helped run the tournament -- officiating, keeping score, and manning the concession stand. It was a great tournament and the girls are excited about next year's event.

## Boys & girls JV bowlers win consecutive STAC titles



The JV boys bowling team captured their second consecutive STAC East Division title, while the JV Girls won their 5th consecutive STAC East Division title. Congratulations to all of our JV bowlers -- fantastic job!



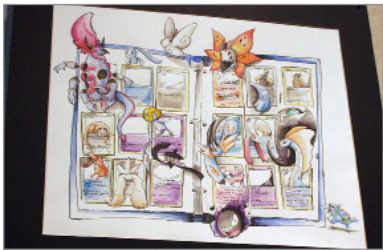
# Music & Art

## 14 win a total of 26 awards in Scholastic Art competition

Chenango Valley was extremely well-represented at the Scholastic Art Awards competition, which held an awards ceremony Jan. 31 at the Clemens Center in Elmira. CV had 14 students winning a total of 26 awards. The Scholastics Art & Writing Awards is a national juried competition for students in grades 7-12. Work selected as Scholastics Art Competition winners from among students attending school in the Twin Tiers region is displayed in the Arnot Art Museum in Elmira through March 5.



Mug by Mark Gallo, Gold Key Award



Childhood by Lea Kochis, Hon. Mention



Jack! by Allen Doan, Silver Key Award



Series of 5 Mugs by Kerri Kunkel, Silver Key Award

### Kyle Briggs -

Honorable Mention, Ceramics & Glass - *Bowl*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Alaina Carman -

Silver Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Tall Container*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Allen Doan -

Silver Key, Sculpture - *Jack!* Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Honorable Mention, Mixed Media - *Faces*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Kayla Ferris -

Gold Key, Drawing and Illustration - *Emerging*, Robert Zanut, teacher

Silver Key, Drawing and Illustration - *Teddy Bear*, Robert Zanut, teacher

### Mark Gallo -

Gold Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Mug*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Gold Key, Art Portfolio - *Mark Gallo: Ceramic Portfolio*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Honorable Mention, Ceramics & Glass - *Back To The Start*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Gold Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Textured Pitcher*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Gold Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Blue Neck Striped Vessel*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Gold Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Metallic Neck With Two Handles Series*, A. Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Samantha Giordano -

Honorable Mention, Ceramics & Glass - *Twisted Vessel*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Karl Grunder -

Gold Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Bowl*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Mia Hause -

Honorable Mention, Drawing and Illustration - *Thistle*, Robert Zanut, teacher

### Lea Kochis -

Silver Key, Sculpture - *Raptor*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Honorable Mention, Drawing and Illustration - *Childhood*, Robert Zanut, teacher

Gold Key, Sculpture - *Dragon*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Silver Key, Drawing and Illustration - *The Bling Bird*, Robert Zanut, teacher

Honorable Mention, Drawing and Illustration - *Impending*, Robert Zanut, teacher

### Kerri Kunkel -

Silver Key, Sculpture - *Creative Drop: Trunk*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

Silver Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Series Of 5 Mugs*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Isaac Mercincavage -

Honorable Mention, Sculpture - *Creative Drop: Bottom Of The Sea*, A. Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Abigail Pavelski -

Silver Key, Sculpture - *Octa Brawl*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Elizabeth Selby -

Silver Key, Ceramics & Glass - *Bowl*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher

### Matt Slezak -

Silver Key, Ceramics & Glass - *2 Handled Vase*, Andrew Fitzsimmons, teacher



Raptor by Lea Kochis, Silver Key Award



Bowl by Elizabeth Selby, Silver Key Award



## Music & Art

### Lea Kochis wins Arnot Creativity Award

Lea Kochis, a senior, was honored with the Matthias H. Arnot Society Creativity Award during the Scholastic Art Awards ceremony at the Clemens Center Jan. 31. The award is typically given to a Scholastic Art Award recipient who works in a variety of mediums, making Lea - who won awards in drawing/illustration and sculpture - a perfect choice!



Lea won a total of five awards: one Gold Key, two Silver Key and two Honorable Mention awards. Congratulations!



### Gallo portfolio earns Gold Key honor

Senior Mark Gallo is shown above with his ceramics portfolio on display at the Arnot Art Museum. Mark's portfolio won a Gold Key Award, and several of his individual pieces were also awarded. He won a total of five Gold Key and one Honorable Mention awards.



Kayla Ferris with her Gold Key piece, *Emerging*.



Several Scholastic Art Award recipients attended the awards ceremony and the exhibition opening at the Arnot Art Museum. CVHS art teachers Mr. Fitzsimmons and Mr. Zanot. also attended the event, in proud support of their students.



Abby Pavelski with her sculpture, *Octa Brawl*, which won a Silver Key.



# Music & Art

Congratulations to the students pictured below and the following page, who were each selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-County performance groups.



**Elementary School All-County Band**  
 I-r: Maddie Stento, Emily Goodstal, Ainsley Staub, Sophia Giglio, Mikayla Bucci



**Elementary School All-County Chorus**  
 front, I-r: Sadie Graham, Laini Wood. Back, I-r: Chloe Osteen, Celia Trumino, Sophia Giglio, Emily Goodstal, Fisher Sullivan



**Jr. High All-County Band**  
 I-r: Carter Wilson, John Paul Webster, Katy Wood, Marrissa Rogers, James Hart. missing: Grace Harrington



**Jr. High All-County Chorus**  
 I-r: Vincent Tatich, Owen Staub, Bridgette Turner, Lilly Shelley, Leann Mulligan, Melanie Nelson



**High School All-County Jazz Band**  
 I-r: Katie Schultz, Morgan Odgers, Peter Jensen, Grace McManus, Rusty Nelson



**High School All-County Band**  
 I-r: Katie Schultz, Morgan Odgers, Jessica Feyler, Grace McManus, Rusty Nelson



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**Chenango Valley High School Theatre Guild presents**



**February 19-20-21**

**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 PURCHASE TICKETS:**

Email: [cvtheatertkts@aol.com](mailto:cvtheatertkts@aol.com) Phone: 204-0541

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**High School All-County Chorus**

front, l-r: Hollis Krisko, Natalie Ehrensbeck, Greg Harlow, Abbey Lane, Leah Chamberlain; back, l-r: Gavin Jackowski, Jake Weir, Nate Hopper, Stephen Gehn.



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**Student artwork on display at County Office Building**

Several CVHS students have artwork currently on display in the Office of Broome County Executive Debra A. Preston, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, 60 Hawley Street, sixth floor, in downtown Binghamton. The artwork will be exhibited through February. Participating students include:

Jontay Card  
Chandler Courtright  
Nick Ehrensbeck  
Kayle Ferris  
Mark Gallo  
Hannah Grunder

Trevor Hayes  
Mia Hause  
Lea Kochis  
Lauren Marble  
Connie Nguyen  
Abby Pavelski

Meagan Prouty  
Jocelyn Schell  
Elizabeth Selby  
Jenna Simons  
Austin Smith  
Jamie Smith

# Port Dickinson Elementary

I would like to thank the Lions Club of Broome County for doing vision screenings on our Pre-K students. The Lions Club has a national program known as "Screening Eyes Early." This year, club members came to Port Dickinson and screened 77 of our Pre-K students. Out of those screenings, 12 students were referred to eye doctors. This can otherwise be a long process for our school nurse, but with the help of the Lions Club it took less than a day.

We have also had our annual sock drive at Port Dickinson. Over the past fourteen years, we have collected over 5,000 pairs of socks. These socks go to children in our school as well as children and adults in our community.

February is our "Heart" month at Port Dickinson. Over the last five years we have been the top school in the Southern Tier for raising money for the Jump Rope for Heart program. Over the last two years we have raised over 15 thousand dollars a year for a total of \$48,000 going to the American Heart Association. This year, due to losing third grade to Chenango Bridge, the children have set their goal at ten thousand dollars. Again we could not do this without the caring folks of Chenango Valley. We wish the children the best of luck.



Jim Pritchard, principal,  
Port Dickinson Elem.

## Students say thanks to Dr. King

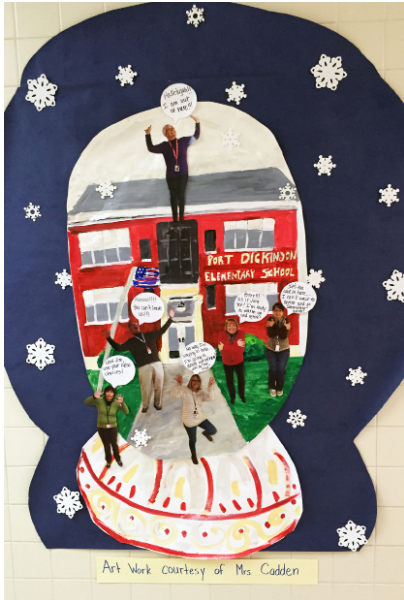
Mrs. Hartman's first-grader learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and wrote beautiful thank-you letters that are on display in the hallway. The students used their best writing skills and thanked Dr. King for helping the country and the world.



## Snow globe shows school staffers

A snow globe creation in the Kindergarten Hall shows Port Dickinson's four retiring support staff members Debbie Wheeler, Cindy Cook, Judy Daniels and Bev Frappier counting the days, with Mr. Pritchard telling them they cannot go.

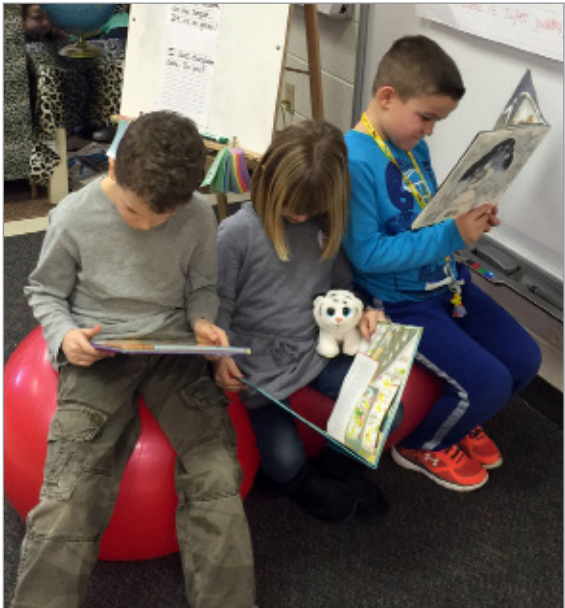
School Social Worker Mrs. Peters is shown making sure Mr. Pritchard is making good Kelso choices.



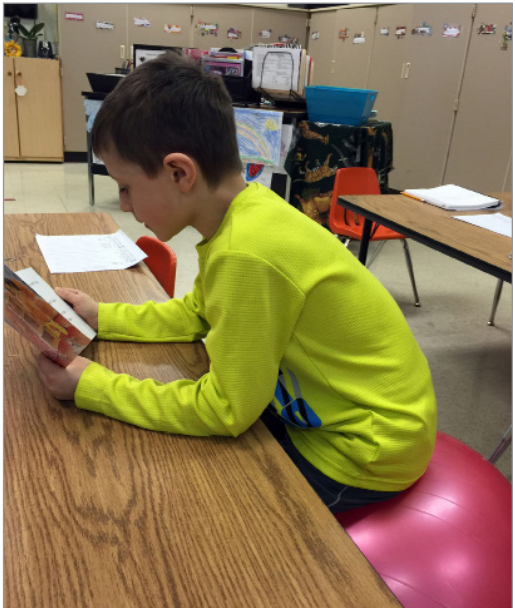
## Mrs. Skinner's class is on the ball

Students in Mrs. Skinner's first grade class are engaging their minds by moving their bodies.

Research shows that engaging your core and moving helps to keep your brain stimulated. The students have been reading while sitting on exercise balls in the classroom.



l-r: Sydney Shelley, Sydney Keough, Nathan Giammarino



Robbie Matson reads while on the exercise ball



# Port Dickinson Elementary

## Building library skills

The second grade Enrichment groups have been busy using their creative minds in the library. Each group comes every other day for a total of six times to build library skills and have fun learning.

Students read a fiction book then made a Book Report House to display in the library. The students have also enjoyed Mad Libs Junior, a Book Scavenger Hunt and expanding their minds through family word searches and acrostic poems about winter.



## Holiday time at Roberson Museum

Mrs. Shelepak's second grade class enjoyed a wonderful Holiday field trip today to Roberson Museum in December. There were so many beautiful trees and decorations to see!





# Chenango Bridge Elementary

The faculty, staff and students at Chenango Bridge Elementary are engaged in the many facets of learning. Learning takes time, effort, and a positive, energetic attitude.

We continue to focus on our building goals, developed through the work of many people on the Strategic Planning Team. These items are:

- Data meetings with staff to look at strengths and needs of our students in English Language Arts and math.
- Administration of our Benchmark Assessments (AIMSweb) and our Common Periodic Assessments (CPA's) for English Language Arts and mathematics.
- Integration of math, ELA, science, social studies skills into physical education, music, library, and art.
- Collaborative meetings between both Port Dickinson and Chenango Bridge Teams to discuss Academic Intervention Services (AIS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) and how we continue to meet the needs of our students.



Mary Beth Hammond,  
principal, Chenango  
Bridge Elementary

We work every day to develop our students' skills, while giving strategies to expand their ability to take on challenges and problem-solve. In the month of April, we will be administering the NYS ELA and math assessments to grades 3, 4, and 5. In May, students in grade 4 will take the NYS science assessment. We will share more details soon.

Our students have had time to explore space, planets, and constellations through the use of the Digital Dome. We have also made Accelerated Reader a part of our school for all students. Our students also attended an assembly entitled "Show of Love" to teach the importance of positive peer relationships and character education through OLWEUS.

The success of our students is directly related to the positive connections we have between home and school. The faculty/staff is dedicated to making each day academically challenging, positive, and fun.

Enjoy some quality time with your families! Stay warm and think spring!!

## Artists at work



Mrs. Vesce's fourth-grade class created special tree paintings before the holiday break.

## All aboard the Polar Express



The entire third grade posed in the train (hallway) during a Polar Express Day celebration.

# Chenango Bridge Elementary

## Alaina Hamilton selected as poster contest winner

### Poster to be displayed in Sen. Ashkar’s Albany office

Alaina Hamilton, a third-grade student in Mrs. Shafer’s class, created an anti-drug poster that was a winning entry in the Red Ribbon Week poster contest.

In support of Yes! Safe Choices for kids and in coordination with Mr. Stanton’s high school program, Chenango Bridge art teacher Mrs. Spencer had third-graders participate in the contest during Art Club. Students from school in the Broome County were eligible to participate.

As a winner, Alaina received a certificate and a gift certificate for Toys R Us. She was also invited to attend a Binghamton Senators game and beforehand celebration with her family, though her family was out of town and unable to attend.

Alaina’s poster will be on display at Senator Akshars office in Albany on rotation with the other winning posters during the upcoming year.

Great job, Alaina, and a great poster message!



Third-grader Alaina Hamilton and her winning poster.

## Teacher, family members and students create holiday card happiness

Fifth-grade teacher Ms. Smith, her sister Sally Spalik, a Physical Therapist at Lourdes Hospital and niece Danielle Spalik, and ICU nurse, decided to pull their careers together to make a difference during the holidays.

Students in Ms. Smith’s class wrote letters and poems and illustrated them for patients to help them feel better during this difficult time. Some of the cards went to patients recovering surgery and some were given to patients in ICU. The patients were filled with joy and happiness when they received these cards. The students saw photographs of the patients receiving the cards, and were all smiles knowing that they made a difference in someone’s life.





# Middle School

With the second half of the school year now in full gear, CV Middle School is bustling with activity. The teachers and staff have been working very hard with your children to provide the best educational experience possible.

On December 23, the day before winter recess, we held our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Wellness Day. This was a day of non-traditional education that addressed the whole student -- their character and overall wellness. It was important for our students to take a break from assessments, and take some time to learn about and experience the many aspects of health and wellness necessary to achieve success.

The keynote speaker was Luis Rodriguez, who is now the manager of the Bridgeport Bluefish professional baseball team. Luis played triple-A level baseball with the Blue Jays, Red Sox, Cardinals and Tigers organizations. Over his minor league career, Luis appeared in 1,720 games, recording a .253 batting average with 106 home runs and 733 RBI. He was originally signed as a non-drafted free agent at the age of 17 by the Los Angeles Dodgers on July 1, 1991. His message encouraged students to follow their passion and dreams, always work hard and maintain strong family values.



Eric E. Attleson, principal  
CV Middle School

The students then attended classes/sessions in Yoga, Follow Your Dreams, Drumming, NYS Police K-9 Unit, Chobani, Zumba, Social Media, Self Esteem, Training for Life, and Motivation. Thank you to Mrs. Hubenthal, Mrs. Samson, Mrs. Lally, Mr. Purce Mrs. Riquier, the entire Middle School faculty, and staff for making Wellness Day an overwhelming success for our Middle School students.

Our students, teachers, and staff are looking forward to the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Middle School Cardboard Boat Race on Friday, March 4, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The boat line-up will be in the pool hallway. More information can be found on our website. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Chenango Valley Community Night, Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you at the boat race and Community Night. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the school if you have any questions.

- Friday, Feb. 19 - Sunday, Feb. 21 – CV Musical – *All Shook Up*
- Thursday, Feb. 24 – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip Information Meeting – 6:30 pm MS cafeteria
- Thursday, Feb. 25 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Math Night – 6:30 to 8 p.m., MS gym
- Friday, March 4 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardboard Boat Race 4:30 pm – line up in pool hallway
- Friday, March 4 – End of the 5-week marking period
- Thursday, March 10 – Report cards sent home with students
- Friday, March 11 – Community Night – 6 to 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 16 – Board of Education meeting 7 p.m., library
- Monday, March 21 – modified sports begin

Eric E. Attleson

## Spell-Off ends in 3-way tie

It was a great success, with an admirable turnout, nail-biting moments, and plenty of “oohs” and “ahs” from the audience. Our students did a stellar job preparing and accomplished the feat of attempting – and in most cases spelling – words difficult for most adults (“triumvirate,” “soliloquy,” “cephalopod,” just to name a few), while following procedures standardized by the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Seventh-grader Isaiah Keldon and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders Jessica Serafini and Siya Parekh took turns vying for the championship title. As a result of an extraordinary battle of spelling acumen among the three in the final rounds, all were crowned “Spell-Off Champions.”

In addition, our other nine participants performed admirably throughout the competition:

Mikayla Bucci, grade 6; Jacob Irons, grade 6; Owen O’Brien, grade 6; Maddie Stento, grade 6; Brian Chong, grade 7; Matthew Hensel, grade 7; Mary Kate Doyle, grade 7; Zach Stanton, grade 7, and Logan Fetterman, grade 8.



# Middle School

## Student and Good Citizen of the Month November 2015



Front, l-r: Maxwell Bigelow, Madeline Selby, Jessica Serafini, Emily Goodstal  
Back, l-r: Zachariah Stanton, Alannah Stenta, Madison Aswad, Colin Perney, Damien Hardy

### Students of the Month- November

**6th Grade Team**  
Colin Perney  
Emily Goodstal  
Good Citizen: Maxwell Bigelow

**7th Grade Team**  
Zachariah Stanton  
Alannah Stenta  
Good Citizen: Madeline Selby

**8th Grade Team**  
Jessica Serafini  
Madison Aswad  
Good Citizen: Damien Hardy

## Student and Good Citizen of the Month December 2015



Front, l-r: Madison Allen, Maddox Hogan, Edward Barber, Jr.  
Back, l-r: William Banger, Nicola DiLuzio, Amelia DeRienzo, Caleb Schwarz, Emma Trumino, Christian Allen

### Students of the Month- December

**6th Grade Team**  
Maadison Jackson  
Christian Allen  
Good Citizen: Maddox Hogan

**7th Grade Team**  
Nicola DiLuzio  
William Banger  
Good Citizen: Edward Barber, Jr.

**8th Grade Team**  
Emma Trumino  
Amelia DeRienzo  
Good Citizen: Caleb Schwarz

### Our Students of the Month CARE about CV

C - Commitment A - Attitude R - Responsibility E - Enthusiasm



Bridgette Turner and Lilly Shelly look over a first grader's letter to Santa.

## Getting into the Christmas Spirit

Students in Mr. Krause's Computer 6 and 7 classes have fun while practicing their computer skills by helping Santa reply to some of his many letters during the holiday season.

Each year, students at Port Dickinson Elementary write letters to Santa Claus and the letters get forward to Mr. Krause's classes. Using a letter template, the older students write a letter back to the younger ones. The process is fun for Santa's helpers -- the middle school students -- and for the Port Dickinson children who receive a letter from the North Pole!

Thank you to Mrs. Dupre, Sweeney, Shelepak, DeBellis, and Skinner for participating in this project.



# High School

Second semester is upon us. The High School recently completed our mid-year assessments and Regents exams, and half of the 2016 school year is now complete. It won't be long before we are talking about graduation!

Second semester is broken up by our long weekend in February and then our spring recess. When we return from spring recess, there will be approximately ten (10) weeks of school left before regents' and final exams begin. It is extremely important that your child stay focused and keep up with their work. Students can get extra help from their teachers during 10<sup>th</sup> period, Mondays-Thursdays.

The CV Drama Club will present "All Shook Up" February 19, 20, and 21. Students have been practicing and rehearsing for the past few months. Come out and see the play. You'll be impressed with the final product of all their hard work.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



Terry Heller, principal  
CV Senior High School

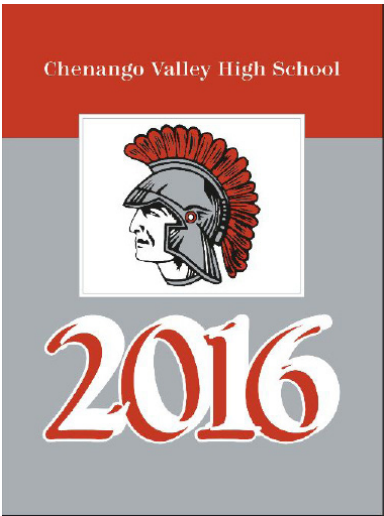
## Order your yearbook now!

Yearbook prices will soon increase, so be sure to save by ordering your 2016 yearbook now.

The price will increase in late February. If you plan to order a yearbook for your son/daughter, please do so at this time. There is a limited number of books available.

Orders can be placed online by visiting [www.yearbooksonsale.com](http://www.yearbooksonsale.com) and selecting Chenango Valley High School.

**Personalized yearbook sales end February 28.** If you plan to order a personalized yearbook, the absolute deadline is February 28. Yearbooks can still be ordered after that date but the Josten's plant will not accept any further orders for customized books. Don't delay!



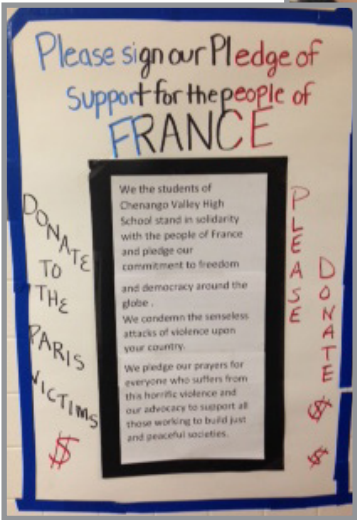
## Interact Club makes a difference

The Interact Club at CVHS is a very active group of students interested in volunteer projects and other efforts to help in their school and community. Interact is part of Rotary, and the CVHS club is sponsored by the Hillcrest Rotary. Mrs. Karla Jensen is the club advisor.

Members of the Interact Club encouraged students to sign a pledge of solidarity with the people of France and collected donations for the French Red Cross. A total of \$331 was raised and many students signed our pledge. The funds will be distributed to a high school in Paris.

The club also collected 162 pairs of socks in their "Socktober" sock drive. The socks were donated to the health offices and school clothing closet to help provide for those in need.

On February 11, Interact Club members participated in a Day of Caring, and volunteered to help at several community non-profit agencies.



## High School

### Fast Forward Spanish students visit Roberson for international holiday sights



The Fast Forward Spanish class, taught by Mr. DiRusso, visited the Roberson Mansion & Museum to see the Picasso & Dali Prints and the celebratory Christmas Trees in the International Tree Forest, featuring trees from Spanish-speaking countries including Mexico and Columbia.

### Students attend driver safety event

Approximately 150 CVHS students attended a Teen Driver Safety event at the Broome County Arena, where they heard presentations from victims of drunk driver accidents and visited driver safety displays.



They also participated in a fast and fun competition called "Battle of the Belts," which involved teams of four students racing to get into a car and fasten their seatbelts while being timed by referees.



### World History class studies landmarks

The AP World History 9 class, taught by Mr. Tiddick, recently studied the major landmarks in the world. The students worked with Librarian Mr. Ruf, who helped them use many of the library's online database features such as ABC-CLIO.

After thorough research, the students worked diligently on presentations, working in the computer lab to create a Power Point presentation. Mrs. Baxter, computer lab aide, helped the students with their presentations, which were then uploaded them in a PDF format to iTunesU. The students then presented their presentations in class.

Congratulations to all 29 students in the AP World History 9 class for outstanding preparation, work, and dedication. The presentations were very well done, and students learned about the different art, architecture, and cultural aspects of various places around the world.





**Chenango Valley Central School District**  
**221 Chenango Bridge Rd.**  
**Binghamton, NY 13901**

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# Kids' Night Out 2016

Open to children in grades PreK - 2

Kids' Night Out is a recreational program offering children the opportunity to participate in contests, games and activities that encourage teamwork and sportsmanship.

## Thursdays, February 18 - March 17

PreK-K - 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Grades 1-2 - 6 to 7 p.m.

Port Dickinson gymnasium

suggested donation: \$30 per child

Coaching and team-building will be provided by  
Chenango Valley varsity softball players.

Each participant will receive a t-shirt at the final party,  
to be held on St. Patrick's Day.

### For more information or to register:

email: [ecoleman@cvcgsd.stier.org](mailto:ecoleman@cvcgsd.stier.org)

Chenango Valley Softball on Facebook



*All proceeds benefit CV Softball*

## DIRECTORY

Website .....	<a href="http://www.cvcgsd.stier.org">www.cvcgsd.stier.org</a>
CV School District Main Number .....	762-6800
Board of Education	
Jason Aurelio.....	237-0263
Stephen Carr.....	760-9605
Stuart W. Elliott, President.....	648-6061
John Hussar.....	773-8196
Christine Lomonaco.....	772-8539
Joel Luchun, Vice President.....	722-1589
Kelly Warwick.....	621-6357
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Superintendent of Schools	
David Gill .....	762-6810
Assistant Superintendent of Schools	
Elizabeth DiCosimo.....	762-6811
Business Executive	
Elizabeth Donahue.....	762-6803
District Clerk	
Susan Cirba.....	762-6812
Newsletter & Website	
Linda Snyder.....	762-6804
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Athletics, Brad Tomm.....	762-6904
Curriculum, Tamara Ivan.....	762-6805
Food Service, John Marino.....	762-6840
Guidance, Charles Purce.....	762-6918
Special Education, Tara Whittaker.....	762-6830
Technology, Sarah Latimer.....	762-6820
Transportation Department, Sue Ticknor.....	762-6850
Schools	
Port Dickinson.....	762-6970
Attendance .....	762-6977
Health Office.....	762-6976
DASA Coordinator, Jim Pritchard .....	762-6970
Chenango Bridge.....	762-6950
Attendance .....	762-6954
Health Office.....	762-6952
DASA Coord., Mary Beth Hammond.....	762-6950
Middle School.....	762-6902
Attendance .....	762-6931
Health Office.....	762-6911
Homework Hotline: 6th.....	762-6870
Homework Hotline: 7th.....	762-6871
Homework Hotline: 8th.....	762-6872
DASA Coordinator, Eric Attleson .....	762-6902
High School .....	762-6900
Attendance .....	762-6931
Health Office.....	762-6911
DASA Coordinator, Terry Heller.....	762-6900

## OUR MISSION

**We inspire, engage and empower all students to achieve their full potential.**