



The Chief www.saranac.org **REPORTER**

News from Saranac Central School District

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Superintendent's First-Quarter Report

The 2009-2010 school year has started off well and initial progress reports on student learning are quite favorable. Administration and staff continue to work toward promoting the fullest growth of each student here at Saranac.

As promised in our last newsletter, the synopsis following each goal highlights our work progress to date. Please review and email us with comments or questions at board@saranac.org. We sincerely appreciate and value any feedback.

The 2009-2010 District goals are:

- I. Increase literacy and math achievement for all students, particularly for students in identified subgroups.
 - The District continues to focus its efforts on the improvement of literacy instruction to enhance student learning. K-5 grade level teachers are working with Literacy coaches to implement "best practices," administering reading assessments and adjusting instruction accordingly and are reviewing the 6+1 writing program to foster consistent approaches to teaching writing. Grades 6-8 English (ELA) and Social Studies teachers have attended in-service activities to increase curriculum coordination and awareness across grade levels. Remedial and special education teachers have also attended Wilson Reading workshops in Octo-

ber. Staff development for the high school faculty has concentrated on "Writing Across the Curriculum." Student growth performances on state examinations complement the efforts of our teachers. A school report card presentation relative to the students' Math and ELA performances on the State examinations is scheduled for the Nov. 16 Board of Education meeting.

- II. Establish a systematic approach for student interventions in an effort to reduce the number of classified students and to provide assistance for all struggling students.
 - A Response to Intervention (RTI) District plan is drafted and updated to include the following items: committee membership; a regulatory requirement outline; screening measures to identify student service levels for Tier I, Tier II and Tier III; RTI interventions; assessments for monitoring student progress; parent notification procedures; student progress reports and criteria for exiting RTI services. Updating intervention strategies and progress monitoring materials are on-going. A data management tool is presently under study.

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Saranac Elementary

Teacher Receives State Award

Lisa Napper has received the New York State 2009 Better Beginnings Award. She was nominated for the award through the submission of 10 letters from administrators, colleagues, parents, students and a community member. The Better Beginnings Committee narrowed the field of candidates to three out of more than 100 nominees. Mrs. Napper was interviewed by the committee during the summer and was selected as the recipient of this prestigious award.

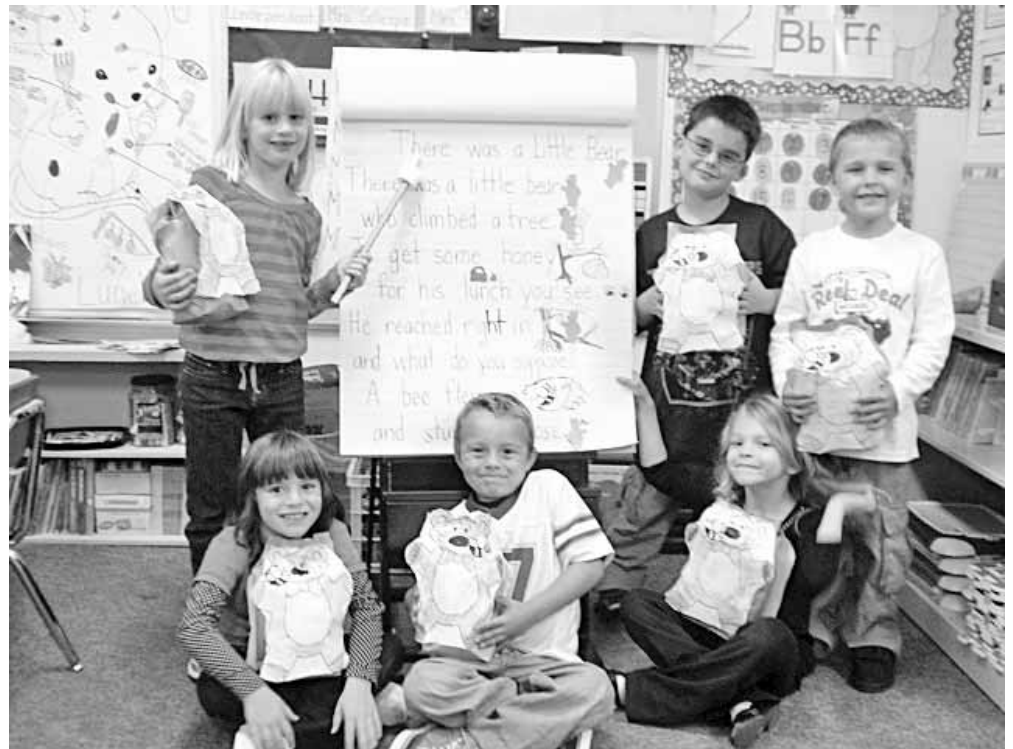
The Better Beginnings Award is part of the Helen Back Moss Memorial Fund and recognizes early childhood education as the most effective investment for long-term educational success. The award, which is sponsored by the Board of Regents, celebrates the life and career of Helen Back Moss by recognizing elementary teachers who are gifted in finding and nurturing the strengths of each student and fostering trusting relationships among pupils, parents, teachers and administrators.

Mrs. Napper exemplifies these qualities.



The Board of Education held a reception for Mrs. Napper, her family and colleagues on November 2 at the District Office. Regent Dawson and Dr. Moss presented the award.

Here are Pre-1st students from Saranac Elementary presented a shared reading assignment on bears for "Bb" week



Saranac Elementary

In October, parents and grandparents were invited to help the fifth graders at Saranac Elementary School with a tasty class project. After finishing a unit on Geography, the students became cartographers and created maps. The maps were created on cakes, graded and then consumed!



Students and grandparents enjoy a special lunch at Saranac Elementary School in celebration of Grandparents' Day

Morrisonville

Morrisonville celebrates Grandparents' Day Octoberfest

Grandparents' Day Octoberfest was a great success. Many grandparents and "grand friends" participated in student events such as making fall centerpieces, autumn magnets, nature frames, pumpkin painting and family tree activity.

Our cafeteria staff worked very hard and provided 621 wonderful lunches! One of our most popular events of the day was the hay ride for our students. Many thanks to Nina Sullivan and Banker's Orchards for supplying the tractor, wagon, and driver for the hay ride.



Kindergarten students ride on Banker's Orchards hay wagon while school mascot Morrie cheers them on.

Middle School

Sixth Grade Field Trip

Our sixth grade students participated in the annual Environmental Awareness Field Days held at the Clinton County Fairgrounds, sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension. They enjoyed learning about composting, wetlands, paper making and energy conservation. The students spent the day visiting various stations and learning new ways to protect and save our environment.



6th graders learn about the paper making process at a station of the Environmental Awareness Field Days.



Seventh and eighth grade students sign the banner, pledging that they have accepted Rachel's Challenge.

Accepting Rachel's Challenge

The Middle School Student Council along with some help from the Communities of One project was able to bring a presenter from Rachel's Challenge, a non-profit organization that works to prevent teen violence. This organization was founded by the family of Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999.

Rachel believed in being honest, compassionate and accepting of others. She believed that if you treated one person with kindness, they would do the same to others and hopefully start a "chain reaction."

The seventh and eighth grade students were able to hear the words and see the writings of Rachel Scott through the presenter, Derek Kilgore, a family friend. He challenged the Saranac students to accept Rachel's Challenge by being kind, compassionate and starting a chain reaction.

Student Council Fall Highlights

The Middle School Student Council has been busy this fall! In October, officers were elected to their positions. This year, Abby Monty and Morgan Ahern will serve as Co-Presidents. Also elected were: Rebecca Heywood - Vice President, Chris Fall - Treasurer and Emma Webster - Secretary.

Thus far, the Student Council has worked with the Communities of One project to help sponsor Rachel's Challenge, a program to inspire students to be honest, compassionate and to see the best in others.



Hiking Expedition

On Sept. 29, the seventh graders went on the fourth annual Hiking Expedition. The Middle School P.E. Staff Jen Yaeger and Chris Verkey planned the trip. The seventh graders were able to choose from one of four destinations: Silver Lake Mountain, Rattlesnake Mountain, Pok-o-Moonshine, and Lyon Mountain. The students packed their own lunch, water and whatever warm gear was necessary.



High School

Homecoming Success

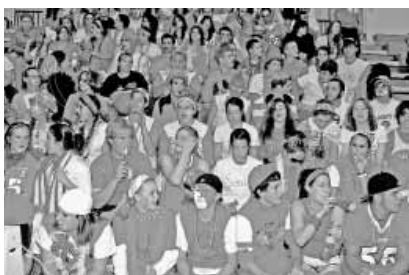
After a week of fun filled spirit days, the Saranac Central High School Student Council hosted a Pep Rally on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 16. Highlights



included the introduction of all JV and Varsity athletes to the entire student body, the student vs. faculty basketball game, and a spirited performance by our Varsity Cheerleaders.

The Student Council is advised by Ms. Castine - Terry. Seniors Robbi Bailey, Lindsey Williams, Kyle Kostyk and Zach Burgess all played significant roles organizing the Pep Rally. The week was capped off on Saturday night with a Student Council Homecoming dance in the Middle School Gymnasium.

Every varsity team used the week of school spirit to propel themselves to victory. The girls soccer team went to NAC



and came away with a 3 - 2 victory, the football team humbled PHS 48 - 7; then under the lights, the boys' soccer team defeated PHS 2 - 1 making the weekend a clean sweep for Saranac.

The whole week was a huge success thanks to the

positive behaviors displayed by the students and support by the faculty / staff. GO CHIEFS!!!

Good Sportsmanship Recognized

Saranac Central School was awarded the New York State Public High School Athletic Administrator's "Good Sports" Award on Sept. 11 in Lake Placid.

Saranac was the CVAC, Section VII school selection based on the positive actions noted as the result of an online application completed by

Athletic Director Jeffrey Durant. This year's nomination focused on the number of disqualifications received (or lack thereof) and what the district is doing to promote good sportsmanship among its student athletes.



Pictured from left to right: Matthew Hamilton, Jackie Bowen, Molly Bowen and Jake Mullady

High School Counselor's Corner

The High School has settled in to a nice rhythm. Counselors have completed all schedule changes; teachers have fixed grade books and are updating their Edline regularly.

On Sept. 30, parents of senior students attended a Senior Parent Information Night. Mrs. Pelkey and Mr. Ehrlich discussed requirements for graduation, preparing students and parents for the college application process, financial aid information and opportunities in the Armed Services. A similar evening will be held for the parents of juniors in early November. Guidance will be mailing out flyers announcing the time and place in the very near future.

College Night was a huge success, with more than 200 college representatives on hand to provide information to the many Saranac parents and students in attendance. If you missed this event there will be another next October. Contact the guidance office for more information.

On Oct. 14, Mrs. Pelkey administered the PSAT exam to 92 juniors. Although long and arduous, all survived. Juniors will be expected to take their SAT and ACT next May or June. Parents can check out the application process at collegeboard.com and actstudent.org.

Other future events sponsored by the guidance office will be an informational night for the parents of sophomores and the administration of the Harrington-Oshea Interest Inventory to all juniors.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to call the guidance office at 565-5810.

District Welcomes Technology Coordinator

I would like to introduce myself and tell everyone a little about my background. As many of you already know, my name is Kenneth Miller, and I am the new Technology Coordinator. I have recently moved to Morrisonville from Roswell, Georgia, where I was employed with Kimberly Clark (you know, the makers of Kleenex, Scott ...and a lot more) which is the largest paper product company in the world.



Kenneth Miller

I began my career with Kimberly Clark some 17 years ago, when I was hired as an electrical engineering senior designer. This entailed quite a bit of travel and spending months away from family. Therefore, at the first opportunity I made a career move into KC's Information Technology Department where I earned my Bachelors of Science in Information Technology partially from Southern Tech., and A.I. University. During my last semester I began taking business classes at A.I. University and received my MBA.

I am a family person, my dear wife Kari and I have two daughters: Leslie, 11, attends Saranac Middle School, and Darlene, 10, attends Morrisonville Elementary School. When not working on a computer, I find myself spending much of my time sketching in my sketch-book or banging on my music keyboards trying to come out with the next greatest Jazz hit.

I greatly look forward to working with each and every one of you, and to those whom I have met, thank you for making me feel at home.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Monday, Nov. 23 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There will be no school for students all day on Tuesday, Nov. 24. If unable to attend, please contact your child's respective building principal to schedule an alternative date and time.

Healthy Habits For The Flu Season

Now that we are back in school and in close contact with others, we would like to pass along these reminders for staying healthy.

Good hygiene and respiratory etiquette are the keys to maintaining good health. Hand washing continues to be the most effective way to prevent the spread of both respiratory and skin infections.

Encourage your children to wash their hands frequently, to cough or sneeze into their arm or into a tissue and to dispose of the tissue in a wastebasket. They should be taught to keep their hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth, as these are entry sites for germs. In addition, discourage sharing of food or drinks and other personal items, such as towels or washcloths. All cuts and scrapes should be cleaned well with soap and water and covered to avoid spreading infection.

The signs and symptoms of the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu are similar. These include a cough, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat and fever of 100 degrees or higher. Other symptoms may include a headache, body aches, chills, fatigue and vomiting and diarrhea. If your child exhibits the above symptoms, please keep him/her home from school and child care settings until the symptoms have subsided. Your child should not return to school until fever free for a minimum of 24 hours (without medication). Other steps to take should include separating your child from other family members as much as possible and disinfecting items that he/she uses. After your child's symptoms improve, replace his/her toothbrush or clean it with peroxide, change bed linens and replace washcloths and towels.

Skin infections can be avoided by cleaning all cuts or scrapes with soap and water. Wounds should be covered to keep them clean and to minimize exposing others. Infection is spread mainly by skin-to-skin contact or contact with a contaminated item, such as towels, razors, clothing or athletic equipment. Athletes who participate in sports where equipment is collectively used are encouraged to reduce sharing as much as possible and to regularly disinfect equipment. Athletes should shower as soon as possible after games and practices and wash their uniforms or practice clothing frequently. Students are also reminded to wash their PE clothes often.

Following these simple guidelines will help minimize your risk of infection and keep our school community healthier. Please feel free to contact your school nurse with questions or for further information.

We're counting on everyone to help keep our school a safe and healthy place!



The Saranac Teachers' Association held a fundraiser in October to raise money for the FitzPatrick Cancer Center's Treasure Chests breast cancer support group. On Oct. 22, faculty and staff throughout the District wore pink to support breast cancer awareness. Pictured: Staff at Saranac Elementary School

Holiday School Closing

All Saranac Central School buildings will be closed in commemoration of Thanksgiving from Wednesday, Nov. 25 through Friday, Nov. 27. School will resume Monday, Nov. 30.

Saranac Central will also be closed for the holidays from Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. School will resume Monday, Jan. 4.

On behalf of the Saranac Central School Board of Education, administration, faculty and staff, we wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

Superintendent's Report

- III. Review District Five Year plan for ongoing facility improvement including technology with an emphasis on "Going Green."
- The SEI Design Group presented a draft report regarding the completion of a facility, energy and technology study at the Oct. 19 Board of Education meeting. The report is currently under study by the Board, administration and facility committee. Future Board meeting discussions specific to this item are expected.
- IV. Enhance a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.
- An informational school safety guide was distributed to all par-

ents. Our school website (www.saranac.org) is in the process of being revised. Health and Safety links listing information items such as good health practices, building safety plans, student code of conduct, visitor policy, Safe Schools/Healthy Student Activities are posted on building sites to increase community awareness and information. Building safety plans are in the process of being reviewed and updated as well.

The District continues to receive marketing reports regarding the Cadyville and Dannemora properties from CDC Real Estate Inc. CDC is currently working with

potential investors. Updates will be provided by newsletter and at Board meetings. Required District policy review is on-going and on schedule for completion by January, 2010. The Board and administration continue to discuss and work on long range financial plans to meet future student program needs while sustaining the financial health of the District.

The year has started out strong which is always encouraging. To strengthen our capacity to improve, we need community input. Our contact list is posted on www.saranac.org. Please take a moment and provide us with your valued feedback.

Kenneth O, Cringle, Superintendent
565-5600

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