



FULTON INTOUCH

FULTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Oswego County educators gather within the Fulton City School District for a recent training opportunity about evidence-based reading strategies.

FCSD Hosted 700 Educators for Literacy Training

The Fulton City School District recently hosted the first-ever county-wide professional development day through the Oswego County Literacy Initiative.

Currently in its second year, the OCLI sponsored the event to further educators' knowledge of evidence-based reading strategies that help students read. Specific to pre-kindergarten to grade three teachers, teaching assistants and other school employees, the training sessions stretched throughout the Fulton Junior High School, Lanigan Elementary and Granby Elementary.

Kristen Foland, CiTi BOCES Director of Instructional Support Services, said all attendees from each of the nine component school districts in Oswego County attended a morning session about pulling weeds and planting flowers. That concept, she said, led the discussion on what things educators may want to give up in order to plant seeds and do more for students. The promotion of collaboration amongst colleagues to

improve instructional strategies is key, Foland said. Afternoon sessions about writing and comprehension also were offered for the approximate 700 attendees.

"This is year two and our focus in year two is around using data to drive instruction and continuing to learn and grow as educators," Foland said.

Heather Witter, Fulton City School District Director of Literacy, said not only was FCSD proud to host the first OCLI county-wide training, but district employees also remain focused on working through literacy as one of the main components of FCSD's Strategic Coherence Plan.

"The big piece we're participating with is in the science of reading," Witter said.

She also thanked members of the district food service department for their coordination of salads and bagged lunches for purchase, as an option for lunch if attendees did not want to seek a meal in the community.

GRB Opens Career Exploration Center

G. Ray Bodley High School has opened a Career Exploration Center (CEC) to assist students in the education of, connection to and preparation for continued learning opportunities and careers.

The center is run by Angela Ferlito, who said both she and colleagues observed additional needs of students in having knowledge of, and access to, connections to help land them interviews with local companies and assistance in beginning potential career paths.

"I'm trying to use community resources to help our kids be successful," she said.

Students may visit the center, located within GRB's library media center, during their free time, lunches or study halls. Ferlito said since employers and higher education representatives have relayed that several young adults are often not prepared for those experiences, the Fulton City School District supported the CEC because it is committed to educating the whole child.



GRB students proudly show off the new Career Exploration Center mural.



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For District information, visit: www.fultoncsd.org

From the Desk *of the Superintendent*



Dear FCSD families and community members,

Thank you for the continued honor and privilege to serve the families, students, staff and the community of Fulton! We are off to a great beginning to the 2019-2020 school year with new opportunities, renewed energy and endless possibilities for success in teaching and learning. I want to extend my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of all stakeholders to ensure our district continues to strive to provide a wide range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities, along with vital social-emotional supports for every student. Our work continues to be guided by the Fulton City School District's (FCSD) Vision and Mission:

Vision: Our vision is to create a learning organization that is the centerpiece of the community, where all are welcomed and held to standards of excellence that foster hope and resilience for the future.

Mission: The Fulton School Community will empower students to develop the knowledge and skills to become respectful, responsible, productive citizens who are committed to lifelong learning.

A key element guided by the FCSD vision and mission is the first year implementation of our 5-Year Strategic Coherence Plan. Task forces for Year 1 have been established in the following areas: parent engagement, attendance, communication and instructional priorities. Composition of the task forces includes: parents, students, teachers, administrators and community members/partners, depending on the strategic area. Stakeholder input and feedback is

essential to ensure effective design, implementation and results which can be sustained over time. I invite you to look for opportunities to participate on focus groups, surveys and task forces, as well as sharing your thoughts to individual schools or to me. Your voice is essential to our success! Our Strategic Coherence Plan is on the FCSD website in the Board of Education section for your review. We look forward to your thoughts and ideas.

The processes required for the capital improvement project are well underway. Thank you for your support of this work during the May 2019 referendum vote. Phase 1 work design is anticipated to be completed in the very near future with submission to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for

approval. Phase 1 includes capital improvement work at Fulton Junior High School, Granby Elementary and Volney Elementary. The capital outlay project for the playground upgrade and internal staircase project at Fairgrieve Elementary have been submitted to NYSED for approval. The project is anticipated to be completed in early spring.

There are so many great things happening in the district. I look forward to continued progress as we work together to prepare each and every student for success in our ever-changing world. Wishing you and your families a wonderful year!

Respectfully,
Brian T. Pulvino, Superintendent

After-School Opportunities Expand at FJHS

Students throughout the Fulton City School District now have increased access to after-school academic, social and emotional supports through expanded programming.

Formerly the Junior Raiders Opportunity Club, the newly named Raider Ed. program at the Fulton Junior High School now includes participation from the district's fifth- and sixth-grade students. Built on the success of the district's previous Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) grant opportunity, the program's expansion has provided a safe, after-school learning environment two days each week for select fifth-and sixth-graders to explore a variety of topics. Sessions are also available for the district's seventh-and eighth-grade students who seek to build upon a variety of physical, wellness, self-esteem and other life skills.

The program is free, and transportation is provided to and from FJHS. For more information, including specific days and times, families may contact Monica Kyle at mkyle@fulton.cnyric.org or Amy Kunzwiler at akunzwiler@fulton.cnyric.org.

Raider Ed. is a partnership between OCO's Education Services and the Fulton City School District. Funding is provided by grants through NYS Advantage After School and NYS Community School Initiative.



Granby Elementary fourth-grader Graclyn Hayes shows off her "Charlotte's Web"-themed pumpkin.

Storybook Pumpkin Patch Opens at Granby Elem.

Library media centers throughout the Fulton City School District's elementary schools have been transformed into storybook pumpkin patches through Halloween.

Students in grades pre-kindergarten to six had been encouraged to read books with families and select a character in one of their favorite books to create out of either a real or plastic pumpkin. The included writing component of the project has entailed the students writing a description of their pumpkin and how it relates to the book they read.

LivBits Visits Lanigan Elem.

The power of children and their ideas is something guest presenter Olivia Van Ledtje encouraged Lanigan Elementary School students to never forget. Van Ledtje is the 12-year-old star of LivBits, in which she has created an online community to share her love of books, advocacy of digital citizenship and continuously doing good and sharing good deeds.



Family Advisory Board Shares Input to Improve FCSD Schools

Administrators, staff members, parents and others have worked diligently to continuously improve the educational experience for the Fulton City School District through their participation in the FCSD Strategic Coherence Plan's Family Engagement Advisory Board. All participants have volunteered their time, after school hours, to work through the family engagement piece of the five-year Strategic Coherence Plan. Pictured are board members working through a review of district grading practices, the welcome back process and student-led conferences.



GRB Students, Staff Show Off School Spirit at Pep Rally

G. Ray Bodley High School student Alex Blaine readies to pie Principal Donna Parkhurst in the face during the school's recent pep rally. Both students and staff members participated in friendly competitions, including the tug-o-war event, in which students were crowned champions. Sports teams were introduced and GRB club members also stood in recognition of their participation in the school community. The annual pep rally served as a fun way to bring all four high school classes together ahead of the homecoming football game.

UPK Family Night Focuses on Fun with Literacy



The Fulton City School District recently celebrated a night of literacy and family engagement during its first universal pre-kindergarten family night of the 2019-2020 school year.

Students, their siblings and friends were joined by parents and guardians at Volney Elementary School for a night of stories and hands-on activities, as the district's youngest students also practiced their math, fine motor and other skills they will work on throughout the school year. UPK programs for each of the district's elementary schools offered a hands-on activity for attendees.

New this year, each UPK Family Night per quarter of the school year will rotate being hosted at one of the district's elementary buildings.

40-Book Challenge Begins

Library media specialists within each of the Fulton City School District elementary buildings have issued a literacy challenge for students in grades pre-kindergarten to six: read 40 new books throughout the 2019-2020 school year. All students have different personal challenges to help them reach outside of their literary comfort zones. Students who complete the challenge will be rewarded with a small celebration at the end of the school year.



Lanigan Elementary School sixth-grader Angus McClave spends the last 10 minutes of his library media center time reading a portion of "Lafayette!" by Nathan Hale.



Fairgrieve Elementary Celebrates Annual Harvest Festival

Fairgrieve Elementary recently transformed into Fairgrieve Farms during the school's annual Harvest Festival. The 2019 event featured several community partners who helped educate students in grades kindergarten to six about safety, where produce comes from, nutritional values of produce, animal encounters, the Storybook Pumpkin Patch in the library media center and a progressive story read at Morning Express. The school gymnasium also was transformed into Fairgrieve Farms, where students 'harvested' or selected fresh fruits and vegetables. The fresh produce was purchased, in part, with monetary donations collected during a Morning Express program. All food has been donated to the food pantry at the Catholic Charities of Oswego County.

Sundaes with the Superintendent

Sweet treats and a continuum of conversation were offered during the Fulton City School District's first-ever Sundaes with the Superintendent event.

Held recently in the FCSD administrative wing of the Fulton Junior High School, the event served up a way for FCSD students, family members and taxpayers to have open conversations with FCSD Superintendent Brian Pulvino. Sundaes with the Superintendent are free and will all take place at 6 p.m. on the following days throughout the 2019-2020 school year: Nov. 21, Jan. 16, March 19 and May 21.



All FCSD Schools Honor Local Veterans, Give Thanks for Service



Several dozen veterans from throughout the five branches of U.S. military service were recently honored during Veterans Day celebrations held at each Fulton City School District elementary school.

Fairgreive Elementary School honored that population by collecting monetary donations for sick and injured veterans who receive care at the Syracuse VA Medical Center. At Volney Elementary School, several students honored their relatives or family friends who served in the military by handing them a certificate of recognition and a hand-written note of thanks by a Volney student.

Those sentiments were echoed at Granby Elementary School, where 38 veterans were honored by students across all grade levels. Handshakes, hugs and certificates of recognition were provided to each honoree, as students and Granby staff members thanked the veterans for their service. The pride continued at Lanigan Elementary School, where Principal Jeff Hendrickson honored custodial staff member Earl Butler for his service in the Marine Corps. before several students presented their veteran guests with certificates of recognition for their dedication to their country. Lanigan welcomed veterans from WWII up to present conflicts.

Meanwhile, the Fulton Junior High School's seventh- and eighth-grade chorus took a special trip to the Syracuse VA Hospital on Veterans Day to sing songs, share laughs and deliver handmade cards. G. Ray Bodley High School's varsity wrestling team showed their thanks and support for veterans by its members participation in the annual Veterans Day run in Fulton. During the run, the teammates and coaches paid their respects to former Fulton wrestlers, and especially Ken Haines, who gave his life in the War on Terror in the Middle East.



Fulton City School District

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Postal Customer

The mission of the Fulton City School District, in cooperation with students, parents and the entire community, is to enable students to develop the knowledge and skills needed for relevant, lifelong learning and to become responsible, resourceful, respectful, and productive citizens.

Hovercraft Experience Offers More Than STEM Fun



Struggles, tears and frustration transformed into high-fives, cheers and smiles by the end of the day-long Hovercraft Project each of the Fulton City School District elementary schools recently hosted. Guided by consultant Matthew Chase, fifth-graders throughout the district were placed in groups where each team member was assigned a role. Students were challenged with science, technology, engineering and math concepts as they also experienced trial and errors of several life skills. They were asked to log data from a variety of test runs and any changes made to the hovercrafts. The teams competed, and both teachers and administrators even got in on the hovercraft ride fun. The Hovercraft Project was brought to the schools, thanks to CiTi BOCES' Arts-in-Education program.