

Connection

Winter 2018

Upcoming events

Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope

January 10

5-8 p.m.

CPP High School

A short movie (1 hour) with guided conversation to follow. Dinner will be provided.

My Kid is Stressed

Keynote Speaker:

Keith Greer ASCW, LCSW-R, PCC

January 31

6:30-8:30 p.m.

CPP Middle School

A training event with an expert panel to discuss the short- and long-term consequences of stress, anxiety and high risk behaviors for youth.

Unguarded: A Conversation with Chris Herren

February 27

7-8 p.m.

CPP High School

Former NBA draft choice and Boston Celtics player Chris Herren shares his journey from drug addiction to sobriety.

Message from Mike Ginalski, Superintendent:

District Forms Student Mental Health Action Team

As we all are aware, this is a very difficult era for children to grow up in and the stress level in kids is higher than ever. As a result, the school district is attempting to take a proactive effort in working with the greater C-PP community to begin to address these issues.

We have formed the Student Mental Health Action Team in an effort to continue the discussion around supporting our students' mental health needs. This team, made up of district staff, parents, community members and service agency staff, will work to bring the issues to the forefront and create a master plan for how we will work with parents and the community going forward in order to support children who are growing up in a very rough world. As a district, we will be looking at everything we are doing and identify areas of need to support our students' mental health. This includes looking at ways we can provide education and support to all of you, knowing that collectively we all play a role.

With this in mind, we have scheduled programs for parents and students. Mike Veny presented Transforming the Stigma of Mental Health in November. On January 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at C-PP Middle School we will host a training event with an expert panel for parents and community members focusing on the stressors affecting our students, the short- and long-term consequences of stress and anxiety, and high-risk behaviors for youth. Attendees will be provided with both resources and support to assist youth.

In late February, Chris Herren, who was the focus of an ESPN "30 for 30" documentary, will be at C-PP. Herren is a former NBA draft pick who struggled mightily with substance abuse and destroyed his life as a result. Herren will be in C-PP on Tuesday, February 27 and we invite you to his 7 p.m. community session in our High School Theater to discuss his journey from addiction to sobriety. This powerful event is sponsored by the School District, C-PP High School and the Hawks Sports Boosters.

There will be more to share going forward. I feel strongly that it is time to begin discussing the issues our children are dealing with in an effort to support all kids. The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" has never been more true or necessary than it is today. We look forward to partnering with all of you. This is the most important thing we will ever do.



Winfield teacher Erin Merrill said, "Winfield Street School is very excited to have been chosen to pilot a reading program with the Tail Waggin' Tutors therapy dogs, a local chapter of Therapy Dogs International. Our first-grade students had such a positive experience in November that we are thrilled to share the opportunity with all our students throughout the school year! This is an amazing chance to partner with our community to promote reading... thanks to the district for supporting this pilot."



**CORNING-PAINTED POST
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Students are the center of all we do

CPP High School Announces Students Selected For All-State Ensembles

The Corning-Painted Post Music Department is proud to recognize five students who were selected for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Conference All-State. These students traveled to Rochester on November 30 for approximately 24 hours of rehearsal over two and a half days and then performed in concert in the acclaimed Kodak Hall of the Eastman Theatre complex.

Sarah Schmidlin, a senior at CPPHS, was selected to play First French Horn with the All-State Wind Ensemble. She has been in the CPP band program since fourth grade. Last December, she played in the All-State Symphonic Band. She also plays mellophone in the CPPHS Competition Band and this past summer, performed with The White Sabers Drum and Bugle Corp from Dansville and was a featured soloist. Sarah enjoys playing piano and is an active member in several other musical groups at school. Next year, she plans to attend college and study Chemical Engineering as well as continue with performing and her musical studies. She would like to thank her mentor, Mary Beth Costantino, for the many years of private lessons. Sarah also would like to thank her parents for their support.

Natalia Alonzo, a junior at CPPHS, was selected to play First Violin with the All-State Symphonic Orchestra as well as sing with the All-State Mixed Chorus. It is extremely rare that a high school student makes two different All-State ensembles in the same year. She has been performing violin since age three and studies privately with Augusto Diemecke. She is currently concertmaster of the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, of which she has been a member of for four years. In 2014, she attended Junior Area-All State as concertmaster of the String Ensemble. Natalia also is an avid singer in Choristers and recently went to Area All-State as a soprano in the Mixed Chorus.

Michelle Nishimoto, a junior at CPPHS, was selected to play First Violin with the All-State Symphonic Orchestra. She has been playing the violin for 10 years. She has participated in several school musicals as a member in the pit and has attended several Area All-State festivals. She also has previously been a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and has participated in the New York State Summer School of the Arts' School of Orchestral Studies for two years, where she was appointed co-concert mistress for the second year. She would like to thank her family for their support.

Conner Lin, a senior at CPPHS, was selected to play alto saxophone in the All-State Symphonic Band. He has been involved in band for nine years. He has participated in All-County and Area All-States as 1st Chair Alto Saxophonist for the past seven years. He has studied privately with Duvid Smering for seven years. Conner would like to give special thanks to Duvid for his musical achievements. He also has played piano since the age of four, and studied with Eleanor Perry for ten years. Through her teaching, he feels he has been able to build a foundation that has propelled him musically. Lastly, he would like to thank his parents and grandparents for immersing him into the world of music. He plans to study health-related sciences in college.

Stephen Thomas, a junior at CPPHS, was selected to sing in the All-State Mixed Chorus. He said he is proud and excited to have this unique opportunity. He has been

continued



*From left to right:
Michelle Nishimoto (11th);
Natalia Alonzo (11th);
Stephen Thomas (11th);
Conner Lin (12th);
Sarah Schmidlin (12th)*

All-State participants, continued

singing since sixth grade and has been involved in both band and chorus for the past six years. Stephen is a member of the CPPHS competition and performance bands. He has attended several All-County festivals for voice, as well as achieving high seating in Area All-State for Clarinet. He is in Choristers, and said he is looking forward to singing with this group. He is planning a career in microbiology.

More than 6000 students from around the state auditioned for this honor last spring at NYSSMA Spring Solo Festivals, with only 877 selected. To audition for Conference All-State students had to perform a Level 6 NYSSMA Solo (the highest level of difficulty) and earn a perfect or nearly perfect score. Once selected, students had to prepare music chosen by some of the most illustrious conductors in the country. Students were expected to be well-prepared prior to their arrival in Rochester.

"We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments," said Robin Sheehan, CPPHS Executive Principal. She added, "The hard work and dedication demanded by their craft is evident. They are excellent representatives of our music department."



Congratulations to the Corning-Painted Post Competition Band which won the New York State Field Band Conference state championship, Large School Division 3, at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse in October! (photo submitted)



Rockwell Museum educators partnered with the High School Learning Center to create another stunning student-designed and

painted "alley art" mural in downtown Corning. Students worked under the direction of Rockwell Museum Education staff and HSLC graduate and professional artist, Brad Leiby, in the creation and painting of the mural.

“Wildlife Rockstars” teach about TBI



Bridges for Brain Injuries works with individuals with traumatic brain injuries as well as other disabilities. As part of their Connections Day program, they have the option to participate in a program called Wildlife Rockstars, where the participants learn about different animals that they actually have in house. They go out into the community and do presentations about the animals and wildlife conservation and they also raise awareness about TBIs by sharing some of their own stories.

A group of individuals from Wildlife Rockstars presented to the 6th Grade Gold House Science classes last month at CPPMS. These individuals shared information about eight different animals, including a Virginia Opossum, Short-Tailed Opossum, American Alligator, Tegu, African Bullfrog, Marine Toad, Kookaburra and a Tenrec. During each class, one of the individuals shared their personal

story about how they received their TBI and encouraged the students to always use proper safety equipment to protect their head.

Tesserae Staff Attends Journalism Convention



Corning–Painted Post High School Tesserae Yearbook students recently attended the National Journalism Education Association Convention in Dallas. Pictured: Adviser Mr. Mike Simons, Meena Thirumurti, Editor-in-Chief Megan Pesansky, Editor-in-Chief Elia Warner, CPPHS Executive Principal Ms. Robin Sheehan, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Ms. Michelle Caulfield, Peyton Spring, Monica Fadul, Tessa Neukirch, Lindsay Bagley, Adviser Ms. Katie Paulison-Harris, Gautam Vemury, Connie Hou, Brooke Yorio, Nick Jubilee and Editor-in-Chief Karleigh Corliss. Superintendent Mike Ginalski, Ms. Sheehan and Ms. Caulfield were recognized by the Journalism Education Association as Administrators of the Year.

Mark Your Calendar!

29th Annual Science Fair!
March 10, 2018
CPP High School
Questions related to the CPP Science Fair should be directed to your child's classroom teacher.
For more information, please visit the district website.

CPP Music Students Selected for Area All-State Honor Festivals



Above: Students in Mr. Ellison's seventh grade Discovering Music classes have been exploring new ways to make music. Twenty-three Ableton Push units were donated to the Discovering Music program through the Ableton Push Initiative. Corning-Painted Post Middle School was one of about 450 institutions from around the world awarded the units.

This fall, the Corning-Painted Post Area School District had 68 students selected to perform in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Zone 15 Area All-State Festivals. Students earned the honor to perform in honors ensembles with top caliber student musicians from Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties. This honor represents months of hard work by the students, including performing a qualifying solo at NYSSMA adjudication festivals last spring. The CPP Music Department is incredibly proud of these students for their hard work, excellence and commitment to the arts.

The Junior High Area All-State Festival was held at Hornell High School on November 3-4. Students in grades 7-9 performed in concert as members of the honor ensembles as listed below.

Students performing with the Concert Band included Abby Chang, Benjamin Ehemann, Jolina Fajardo, Brielle Friends, Jairam Hathwar, Jaden Hurley, Alivia Jiang, Ryan Kang, Nikhil Lahiri, Robin Liu, Charles Marshall, Hailey Morse, Tyler Palm, Torey Thompson and Vanessa Turner.

Students performing with the Mixed Chorus included Surav Amin, Rhyleigh Arnold, Daniel Casper, Brennan Frost, Madeline Gill, Alexis Hawkins, Karter Hooey, Jessie Jones, Cooper Lyon, Matthew MacDougall, Megan Slater, Zachary Stephens and Benjamin Sterbenk.

Students performing with the Treble Chorus included Alexa Cates, Katelyn Drake, Sydney Hewit, Mckenna Hill, Taylor Hurd, Kathryn Larrabee, Aleksandra Marjanovic and Anastasia Nicholson.

November 17-18 was the Senior High Area All-State Festival at Elmira High School. Students in grades 10-12 performed in concert as members of the honor ensembles.

Students performing with the Concert Band included Mattie Edinger-VanAtta, Saege Holleran, Jerry Hou, Dennis Jacob, Ethan Kang, Conner Lin, Belinda Lint, Derek Liu, Kyle Nguyen, Avery Pambianchi, Niki Reddy, Angela Schmidlin, Sarah Schmidlin, Stephen Thomas, Elizabeth Tucker and Max Urban.

Students performing with the Mixed Chorus included Natalia Alonzo, Abbey Bartenstein, Emily Curreri, Jonathan Hodge, Nik Nickerson, Leah Palmesano, John Ryan, Olivia Smaldone, Brandon Spaugh and Silas Wieland.

Students performing with the Treble Chorus included Olivia Brand, Seika Dingel, Ashley Halm, Morgan Hurd, Josephine Schelling and Quinnlynn Spencer.

In February, Albert Song and Julienne Tsang will travel to Ithaca to perform in the Zone 3 Area All-State Band.

Left: Calvin U. Smith Elementary School students donated their Halloween candy again this year for Operation Gratitude. They collected a total of 94 pounds of candy. The candy was presented to local veterans at the school's annual Veterans Day ceremony.



Please Note:

Reliability of district-to-parent digital communication (School Messenger, social media and website) is subject to the district having electricity, internet access and cellular service available at the time. Localized or wide-scale power outages and/or cellular/internet outages may affect district communications and your ability to receive them. In the event of this type of situation, our primary focus is to attempt to contact local TV and radio media to get messages out. We recommend having a battery powered radio on hand to receive announcements from us via local media.

Visit our website:
www.corningareaschools.com

How the C-PP District Makes Weather-Related School Closing Decisions

Q. Who makes the decision to close schools or call a two-hour delay?

A: The Transportation Director provides the Superintendent of Schools with input. The decision to close the schools or call a two-hour delay due to inclement weather is then made by the Superintendent of Schools.

Q. What steps do you use to arrive at a decision?

A: This is a lengthy and detailed process. It usually starts 24 hours in advance when the district is alerted to potential weather problems by the "Accu-Weather" weather service. The service provides information frequently, keeping the district apprised of changes in the forecast. This information is updated as the forecast changes and the district is provided with the most current information. We also utilize the National Weather Service in Binghamton as well as several other weather information tools. Generally, the Transportation Director and the Superintendent of Schools discuss the possibility of needing to close school the night before, depending on the forecast.

Q. What time do you make a decision?

A: The morning of school, the Transportation Director starts the process at 3:30 a.m. by driving on several rural roads before proceeding to the district's transportation garage in East Corning. Upon arrival, he receives the most current information from "Accu-Weather" and then calls various surrounding school districts to gather information about their road conditions. Several other calls may be made to local bus contractors and various other agencies located within the district to include but not limited to police agencies and town and county garages to ascertain conditions. Between 4:45 a.m. and 5:15 a.m. a call is placed to the Superintendent of Schools and weather conditions are discussed and recommendations are made.

Q. What happens if you decide to close school or have a two-hour delay?

A: If the decision is made to close school or call a two-hour delay, the Transportation Director calls local bus contractors, several school districts in surrounding areas, various other agencies and other personnel who need early notification. Calls also are placed to radio and TV stations from the Corning-Painted Post area to Rochester and Binghamton. All stations have code words to identify that the right person is calling. Our Public Information Coordinator also will notify families through Facebook, Twitter and the district website.

Q. Why does it seem we are the last district to declare a snow day or two-hour delay?

A: Sometimes reaching the radio and TV stations is difficult, as many other districts, various other agencies and parents are calling in, creating a high volume of phone calls. Most calling is usually accomplished before 5:30 a.m. The local stations are the



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Fire Inspection Notice:

Notice is hereby given that the annual fire inspection for 2017 of the school buildings of the Corning-Painted Post Area School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers and employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the office of the school Director of Facilities at 165 Charles Street for inspection by all interested persons.

Weather-related closings, continued...

first to be called. We always try to make a decision well before 5:30 a.m. as the first buses are leaving the garage between 5:30 a.m. and 5:45 a.m.

Q. Should more snow days be set aside by the district?

A. The number of snow days set aside is only for planning purposes. At no time will the fact that the district has or does not have snow days affect the closing of school. The key fact to keep in mind is...can buses travel the roads? Buses are more than capable of dealing with several inches of snow safely because of their weight, as well as the capability of the bus drivers. If the district needs more snow days, arrangements will be made to make up days.

As of December 12, the district has four snow days for the 2017-18 school year.

Q. How cold does it have to get to close or delay school?

A. The general rule of thumb is -20 degrees including the wind chill temperature. We have a number of students who walk to school or wait at bus stops and we have to take into consideration that frostbite can occur on exposed skin in about 30 minutes at wind chills of -20 or lower. We also review the forecast for later in the morning to determine whether or not we should call a two-hour delay or close school for the day.

Q. What is the most challenging aspect of closing or delaying school in Corning-Painted Post?

A. It is truly a multi-faceted problem. First, our district is 238 square miles, with many of our students living in rural areas. Often times the weather is different in the various communities that make up the district, so decisions can be determined based on the conditions of rural roads. Just because it appears okay in the City of Corning, Town of Erwin or Village of Painted Post, you should not assume the conditions are identical in all parts of the district. In addition, we have to consider visibility and that can vary based on the weather in a particular area.

News About School Closings

During this season we are faced with ice and snow that may cause hazardous road conditions. If these conditions exist please:

Listen to area radio or TV stations. If schools are closed, or their opening is delayed, an announcement will be made shortly after 5:30 a.m.

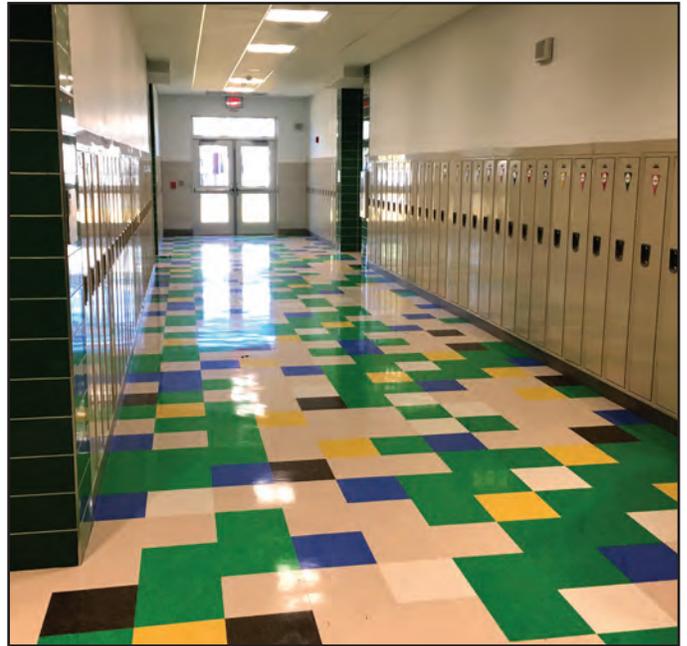
Do not call the Superintendent of Schools or Director of Transportation. Telephone lines need to stay open in order to give or receive vital information.

Do not call radio or TV stations. Watch or listen for announcements. It is essential that their telephone lines be kept open so school officials can contact them if necessary (or go to their websites where many will publish closings online).

On some days, schools may be open and the roads generally safe, but you may feel that conditions near your home are hazardous. Know that the final decision on sending your child to school on a snowy, icy, or extremely cold morning is yours and would be treated as an excused absence.

Know that all activities, including community use of school facilities are cancelled for that day and evening when schools are closed.

A Look at the New Hugh Gregg



New six classroom wing at Hugh Gregg



New Hugh Gregg Elementary entrance.

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Students are the center of all we do

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Hudson is a rescue dog who tours schools across the country with his owner, Richard Nash. Mr. Nash talks about kindness to others and visited several of our schools, including Carder Elementary, for a Kindness Assembly.



Here are Winfield teachers and staff wearing their shirts with the school's 2017-18 theme, "Give Love."