

DECEMBER 2021

HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL

Home of the Golden Knights

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.HPSCHOOLS.ORG



THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY

On Oct. 14, students, faculty and staff at General William Floyd Elementary participated in a Fire Prevention Day thanks to the efforts of the Floyd, Stittville, Westernville, and Oriskany Fire Departments. The pre-k to kindergarten students started off in the gymnasium for a puppet show on fire safety. The students learned how to stop, drop and roll, when to call 911 and the importance of practicing fire drills out of the home with two ways out. They even met our guest, Sparky!

After the puppet show, the students went to the Stittville Fire Pavilion and rotated around stations learning about the different emergency vehicles, firefighter equipment and loved spraying water out of the hose. Our local fire departments also provided our students with a future firefighters hat, crayons, coloring books and stickers.

We cannot express enough gratitude to the Floyd, Stittville, Westernville and Oriskany Fire Departments for their ongoing commitment and dedication to our students. These men and women volunteer their time in order to teach our children about fire safety. They truly are our superheroes!



OUR MISSION

Holland Patent Central School will provide a safe, caring, positive environment where all students can achieve their maximum innate potential and acquire the skills, attitudes and abilities necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.



WINTER RECESS
December 23-31

*What's included
in this issue:*

Announcement of the
new Superintendent
of Schools

Fall Sports Roundup

Winter Weather School
Closing Information

National Honor
Society Induction

College Visits



Dear Holland Patent School District Community,

I would like to express my deepest thank you to this community for the warm welcome I have received as your new Superintendent. I am proud to have been an integral part of the team here at Holland Patent for the last 16 years, and I am excited to build on the traditions of excellence we have rooted here at Holland Patent CSD. It is truly an honor to lead a school with a laser focus on student success.

It is a wonderful time of year filled with holiday events and a renewed sense of purpose and energy. There is so much to be thankful for. I am thankful and have deep gratitude for the teachers and staff, as they have encountered challenges through the start of a new school year and moved through those challenges with a commitment to excellence. Every HP employee from the beginning of the day boarding the school bus, through the morning learning sessions, off to the cafeteria, and proceeding through the sports and after school activities, have contributed to the successful learning environment that makes Holland Patent so special. This school is truly a collaboration of folks who go above and beyond their regular duties to make sure that our students and families are well cared for.

As we close out 2021, I would like to share with you some of the positive news regarding our schools. Our school district received the Utica National Safe School Titanium Status Award. This is a testament to the hard work of all school staff who work to keep our students in a safe and secure environment. The transportation department has risen to the challenge each morning getting our students not only to and from school each day, but to a variety of extracurricular activities into the evenings and weekends. The high school has implemented new technology training for students after school. We also are excited to share that the high school was able to hold the first pep rally since February of 2020! In the middle school we were able to host a joint middle school and high school talent show! Thank you to our Knightly Players. It was great to see the students enjoying some of the happy moments together! Our teachers at the elementary levels have worked diligently at implementing reading and math interventions to assist with learning. The district has also partnered with the Center for Family Life and Recovery to provide support for mental health services to our students. In these challenging times we have all experienced, we know that it is important to offer assistance to our students and families as needed. We encourage you to reach out to your principals, school counselors, and social workers to let us know if we can be of any assistance to you or your children. We are here to partner with you!

As a parting thought, I want to thank all of our community for the support and patience during this challenging time in education. I am encouraged by the resiliency of our students and families. Together we work to adapt to these changing times and put the focus on our students to support and grow together.

I look forward to the coming new year together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryl J. Venettozzi
Superintendent of Schools



A Message from the Food Service Director

Free Meals for ALL children!

The USDA has extended the waiver that allows school lunch programs to offer a free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of income eligibility. This will remain in effect for the entire 2021-22 school year.

Free & Reduced School Meal Applications

While all students will receive their meals at no cost, it is still recommended that you complete a free and reduced meal application if you feel you may qualify based on household income. This is important because eligibility has more benefits than just a free meal!

Fee waivers: Student free and reduced-price meal eligibility can be shared with other programs with parental consent for the purposes of fee waivers, scholarships and more.

P-EBT benefits: If extended, households may be eligible for pandemic-EBT benefits.

School benefits: School districts receive state and local funding based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

If approved, your child's free or reduced-price benefit, based on the meal application you submitted this year, will carryover up to 30 operating days into the 2022-23 school year.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 315-865-7242 or ccasab@hpschools.org.

Cliff Casab

Food Service Director, Holland Patent CSD



WINTER WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSINGS

As the weather begins to change, we will be faced with deciding on opening, delaying or closing school due to the weather conditions. We understand the ramifications these decisions have on our families; however, our top priority is the safety of our students.

HOW THE DECISION IS MADE

- Information on road conditions from transportation staff, Town Highway Supervisors and Superintendents, neighboring School Districts and other sources.
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated.
- Whether precipitation is continuing.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat).
- Status of our buses.
- Weather predictions.
- What other districts are doing. We share information with other local districts and check whether they are opening or closing.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

The Superintendent is responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors.

HOW IS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED?

Parents of students attending the District will receive automated phone, email and /or text messages through our ParentSquare messenger Automated Notification System. **Please be sure all of your contact information is updated.** Also, tune to WKTV, WUTR, WFXV, WPNY, WIBX, WSKS, WSKU, WBGK, WBUG, WUTQ, WVTI, WTLB, WSYR, WTLB, WBRV, WLLG, WRUN, WFRG, WODZ, WLZW, WTLB, WOUR, WIXT, WTVH, WSTM and Spectrum News for information on school closings. You can also check our district website at www.hpschools.org for information.

WHEN IS THE DECISION MADE?

When possible, we make the decision by 5:30 a.m. (or earlier) so that we can activate ParentSquare, notify radio and TV stations and post the decision on our website.

WILL WE CLOSE SCHOOL IF CONDITIONS WORSEN?

If conditions worsen throughout the day, the District will decide whether to proceed with an Emergency School Closing. Please be sure your family Emergency School Closing Plans are in place and contact information is updated with the District.

WILL SPORTS STILL BE SCHEDULED?

No. Once we close, **all** afterschool and extra-curricular activities are cancelled.

We encourage our parents to always assess the situation as well and determine if their child should stay home or board the bus. We hope this information assists our families in better understanding all of the factors which go into school closings and know that your child's safety is our number one concern.

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

The boys varsity soccer team finished the season with a final score of 6-10-1. Junior Dylan McGuire received the honor of "Most Outstanding Player."

This season had its ups and downs but I am proud of how the boys handled themselves," Coach Pohl states. "Making sectionals is always our goal and we achieved it again this year. As a whole, the season was a success and I am proud of the men these players are becoming."

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

The girls varsity soccer team went 6-9 in the regular season and 1-1 in sectional play. Injuries plagued the team throughout the season but the Golden Knights still managed to compete very well in all of their games. Alaina Carro and Emery Crossley were named All-Stars. The team will greatly miss the seven seniors that will be graduating this year.

GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS

The girls varsity tennis team finished out the season with a final score of 4-5-1. Coach Parsons was ecstatic to announce that Emily Carlson and Ryah Saptto earned their spot in the sectionals this fall! Adding to her list of accomplishments, Ryah Spatto also was a first-team all-star! Congratulations to all our players, especially the seniors for finishing out a difficult season full of challenges as well as successes!

GIRLS VARSITY SWIM

The Lady AquaKnights finished the season with an overall score of 1-12. Madeline Cieslak received the awards of the team MVP and league all-star. The girls swam well during another challenging year. Their season concluded with a 7th place finish in the 400 freestyle relay at sectionals. "The lady AquaKnights were a small but mighty team this year. Although they were unable to win many meets because of their low numbers, they never lost their competitive spirit and drive to do their best each and every time they entered the pool" Coach Reilley. Awesome job, ladies!

GIRLS VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY

The Holland Patent field hockey team earned its 4th straight Section 3 Championship. Through hard work, teamwork, and pushing themselves through adversity, the Lady Knights shined on the field this season and continued to represent HP proudly. They finished the season with an overall stat of 13-5-1 and 8-0 in the league.

VARSITY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Varsity boys cross country finished the season as CSC Champions. Division record 5-0 Overall record 18-1. Richard Zielenski, Charlie Howe, Jonas Meays, Chris Kelly, David Mathewson and Carter Poland was CSC All-Stars.

The team finished 5th at sectionals overall. Richard Zielenski and Charlie Howe qualified for the state meet in Chenango Forks.

Kickin' It On the Field with Faculty and Alumni!

During the month of October, the freshman class held a "fun" draiser on Oct. 21, featuring alumni vs Holland Patent staff soccer game! Teams were made up of players of all ages and skill levels. The final result was a score of 3-0, with the alumni winning the game! The spectators enjoyed watching the players battle it out on the field. Thank you to all who participated, played, and organized the event! Special shout out to Ms. Mulvihill for running to win in the game and Mrs. Cardinal for operating the concession stand. Great teamwork, Golden Knights!



GIRLS CHEERLEADING

This year was a season of learning and growth. The Varsity Cheerleading Team was faced with much adversity this year. Between all the changes, two cold and rainy trips to Little Falls, injuries, tears and only having a full team for a handful of days this season, the girls did a great job of overcoming all the challenges they faced. However, with all the challenges came many rewards. The girls chose to come bright and early at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings, not only to practice but also to help clean up our stadium following the home games. We were also able to bring back the tradition of inviting our pop Warner cheerleaders to cheer with us during our homecoming game. Overall, the girls had so much fun cheering on our Golden Knights every Friday night. Finally, thank you to our seniors Jordan Carhart, Marissya Davis, Lauren Elderkin and Bailey Gaffey for your support and dedication to our program over the years!



NATIONAL COACHES DAY

"A good coach can change a game; a great coach can change a life." October 6 was National Coaches Day! Thank you, Coaches, for your commitment to helping the Golden Knights succeed on and off the field!

Pictured: Coach Morrison and Coach Parsons

World Teachers Day

Every day should be Teachers' Day! On Oct. 5, the world admired the dedication and love that teachers have for their students and profession! "Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world." – Malala Yousafzai

Thank You Teachers for your commitment to the Golden Knights every day. We are forever grateful!



CUSTODIAL WORKERS' RECOGNITION DAY

(October 2)

Thank you to our wonderful custodians for keeping our schools clean and keeping us safe. You make our school shine all year long!
Happy Custodial Workers' Recognition Day!



BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION

National School Bus Safety Week was captured by the elementary school during the week of Oct. 18-22! The Golden Knights recognized the outstanding work of our bus drivers with breakfast, cards and tokens of appreciation. We thank Poppy's Place, Stewart's and the Golden Knights PTA for making this possible.

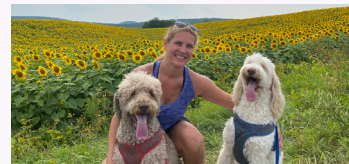


National Principals Month

October was National Principals Month! Across the Nation, schools honor principals for their hard work and dedication. Holland Patent Central School District's Facebook Page acknowledged Ms. Gentile, Mrs. Casab, Mrs. Vergis and Mr. Stevener throughout the month by sharing the following fun facts:

Mrs. Casab (GWF) hiked in the Rocky Mountain National Park! She was on a peak that was 13,005 ft. above sea level! The peak was 70 degrees at the bottom, and 35 degrees at the top!

Mrs. Vergis (HPE) loves sunflowers! In fact, they are her favorite flower, and she was sure to snap this photo when passing by a field last summer!



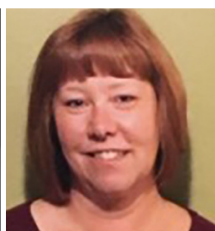
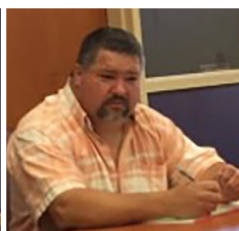
Mrs. Gentile (Middle School) enjoys CrossFit and spending time with her 9-month old son!

Mr. Stevener (High School), is welcoming his very own Golden Knight in January!



SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK

Students, faculty and staff recognized the outstanding efforts of our School Board by submitting photos and personal testimonies turned into a slideshow! Currently, the school board collaboratively brings over 20 years of experience! "May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make!" Thank you to our school board members consisting of Lydia Berez-Kelly, Mike Garrett, Dr. Noel Gaige, Kathy Smyth, William Paolozzi and student representative Kylie Vienneau.





On Oct. 3, the girls varsity cheerleading team and several staff members participated in the Out of the Darkness Suicide Awareness Walk hosted at MVCC. Thank you Golden Knights for your participation and for raising awareness!

Fifth-Graders Honored Local Veterans This Veterans Day With A Special Poster And Coloring Pages

Holland Patent fifth-graders honored local veterans this Veterans Day with a special poster and coloring pages! Mrs. Bauer, the fifth grade social studies teacher, delivered the poster and coloring pages to the Holland Patent American Legion Leon R. Roberts Post 161 on Veterans Day. There were many people at the post to receive the poster and they were very thankful to be recognized!



High School Participates in Food Drive

High school students participated in a food drive competition in partnership with the Center for Family Life and Recovery! The first-period classes competed against each other to see who could bring in the most items. The results were incredible!

3RD PLACE - Mr. Szarek's class with more than 85 items

2ND PLACE- Mrs. Morgan's class with 182 items

1ST PLACE - Mr. Ferris' class with more than 208 items

As a building the high school successfully collected 679+ items to benefit local families. Way to go, Golden Knights!

Military and First Responders Football Appreciation Game

Holland Patent Varsity Football hosted their 2nd Annual Military and First Responders Appreciation Game on Oct. 8 vs. Sherburne-Earlville. Both teams wore camo jerseys to "express our appreciation toward the military and all first responders including the fire department, EMT and police personnel," Varsity Coach Briggs states. The stands were packed with football fans and Holland Patent community members to cheer on the Golden Knights and thank the first responders for their service. Each fire department that covers the area of Holland Patent were represented by a joint color guard made up of Holland Patent, Floyd, Westernville, Stittville and Barneveld Firefighters.



Music Department Hosts First Live Performance of the Year

The high school music department was excited to present its first LIVE performance of the year on Nov. 11.

Holland Patent's annual Veterans Day concert celebrated the Veterans in our community and recognized their service and contributions to our nation.

The concert featured patriotic music by the orchestra, select choir, wind ensemble and mixed chorus.

To close out the concert, students and faculty members acknowledged the Veterans with our yearly Armed Forces Salute with all of our ensembles performing together. Special thank you to Mr. Picente, and all of our music teachers for their hard work to make this event possible!



Stuff The Bus

Students, faculty, and staff members across all four buildings were collecting new, unwrapped toys to assist local families in need. "Stuff the Bus" is an annual toy drive created to help the less fortunate in the Mohawk Valley have a happy holiday season despite any financial circumstances their families might have. It was started in 2008 by Roser Communications Network & its stations, 97.9/105.5 KISS FM, BUG Country 99.7 & 101.1, and TALK! 100.7 in conjunction with WKTV NewsChannel 2. Currently, Holland Patent Central School District has collected 132 toys! Thank you for your contribution to making spirits bright this holiday season.



Día de los Muertos

Mrs. Guerrero's 8th Grade Spanish classes have been busy learning a new language and culture. Recently, students learned about the cultural holiday "Día de los Muertos" and how it is celebrated in many Hispanic countries. Students watched a cultural video, crafted, and even had the opportunity to try a special bread "Pan de Muerto" homemade from Mrs. Guerrero's Mexican restaurant! Thank you, Mrs. Guerrero for celebrating this important holiday with the Golden Knights. We LOVE your creativity and passion for teaching!



Rockstar teachers Ms. Mancari and Mrs. Joseph created an awesome display over at the high school! The International Club and Spanish classes combined efforts to make a bulletin board for Día de los Muertos! On the bulletin board, you'll see infographics with information about Día de los Muertos and the importance of skulls and skeletons, how marigold flowers are used, the symbolism of the monarch butterfly, and an homage to Frida Kahlo created from tissue paper flowers that students added to her flower crown! Shout out to Ms. Mancari, Mrs. Joseph, and the Golden Knights for their creative participation!

Honor Societies Induct New Members

The Holland Patent Central School District Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 36 new members on October 14. The accomplishments of these students in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character were honored. All of the new members are involved in numerous clubs, sports, activities, and community service while maintaining a GPA of at least 88 percent. The new members will join with current honor society students to serve as leaders and role models in the Holland Patent High School community. They will also serve the Holland Patent community by completing at least 12 hours of community service each year.

Seniors:

Tyler Dibble
James Gillett
Kelsey Zimmerman
William Zimmerman III

Brooklyn Boshart
Briana Byers
Emily Carlson
Margaret Cummings
Matthew DePerno
Julia DeWire

Caleb Fisher
Deron Howe
Andrew Kanclerz
Zoe Kelly
Kamryn Kotary
Sierra Laguna
Matthew Lux
Jayson Masters
David Mathewson

Dylan McGuire
Alex McLaughlin
Emily Meeker
William Mills
Avery Pilatzke
Margo Pouliot
Everet Race

Julia Racha
Marissa Shuck
Isabella Stalker
Adam Stowell
Andrew Yutzler

Juniors:

Cecelia Allen
Molly Bathrick

Isabella Dobransky
Abigail Draper
Jillian Enk



On November 2, 15 outstanding 8th-grade students were inducted into the Holland Patent Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. The National Junior Honor Society was founded to recognize students who excel in the categories of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. In addition to recognizing students for their achievements, being a member of the organization also challenges students to develop themselves further through active involvement in service to the school and community. A special thank you to last year's president, Stephanie Clemons, who did a wonderful job leading the ceremony, along with last year's members: Emerson Hanna, Isabella Hobin, Aaron Lopez, Dariusz Sargent. Inductees include the following Golden Knights:

Elizabeth Buckland
Aileen Carey
Reily Cieslak
Zachary Earl
Claire Favata
Jaycee Fields

Teagyn Jones
Angelina Kuzmich
Alivia Quesnell
Sophia Rachon
Michael Santa Maria
Jesse Schreyer

Addison Snider
Madeline Snider
Tyler Tyldesley



JUNIORS ATTEND COLLEGE FAIR

Holland Patent juniors and seniors had the opportunity to go to a college fair at Utica College. There were over 60 college admissions representatives' students were able to speak with! The event is hosted annually by the Mohawk Valley Counselors Association. Thank you to our school counselors for helping the Golden Knights take this important step towards their future!

Pictured Below: Autumn Kneezele, Alex Houtaling, Natasha Smith, Molly Gage, Jacob David, Cailin Wells and school counselor Ms. Mulvihill.



Book Tasting



Seventh graders brought their appetites for reading to the library. Students participated in a "Book Tasting" hosted by Middle School Librarian, Mrs. Horwat.

Students were able to sample many "flavors" of books from a variety of genres to promote and encourage independent reading. Thank you Mrs. Horwat and Mrs. Lawson for capturing some awesome content!

OCTOBER STAR Students

Congratulations to the following selected students:

Michael R. - Grade 5
Violet S. - Grade 4
Liam W. - Grade 3

Mrs. Vergis at HPE has partnered with BOCES to create programs each month for 30 minutes. Topics include discussions about conflict, mindfulness, and internet safety to name a few! One STAR (stand together, act responsibly) student is selected per grade level as the STAR Citizen of the month!

Making Space for Creativity in Makerspace!

Students in Mr. Eberley's classroom are taking creativity to the next level during Makerspace!

Makerspace, known as a creative space for students to play and learn, tinker, explore, create, invent, build, design, code and program. Here are a few photos from the latest cup and paper stacking challenge during Mr. Eberley's Makerspace Classroom. Project completed!





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Mike Garrett, *Vice President*

Dr. Noel Gaige

William Paolozzi

Kathy Smyth

Kylie Vienneau, *Student Member*

Clerk of the Board

Valerie Marris

Postal Patron

TALENT SHOW

The Middle and High School students displayed their passion at the talent show. Students performed acts of magic, dance and musical acts.

Special thank you to Mr. China, Mr. Picente, and Ms. Colenzo for working so hard to make this exciting event happen, and for continuing to highlight our talented students.



Middle School Character Education

Character Education was recently recognized in the middle school to highlight the positive academic and social behaviors in our school building. Character Education allows our District as a whole to motivate students to strive for their very best, reinforce the values of our community, and prepare students for life. Students were given awards based on academics or citizenship.

The citizenship award was presented to students displaying the following character traits: Respectful, responsible, controlled, punctual, optimistic, self-motivated, persevering, cooperative, resourceful, kind, tolerant, honest, polite, considerate, and trustworthy.

Congratulations to the Middle School Golden Knights!

