

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a green long-sleeved t-shirt with a black dinosaur graphic and blue jeans, is climbing a blue slide on a playground. He has his arms outstretched and is looking towards the camera. The playground equipment is blue and orange. In the background, other children and trees are visible.

# WILDCAT

## NEWS

**HANCOCK** CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WINTER 2017  
VOLUME 20, NO. 2

[hancock.stier.org](http://hancock.stier.org)

***All for the Kids and Community . . .  
HCS Completes \$6.9M Capital Project  
Thank You for Your Support!***

Meeting the changing needs of our community while assuring that our children are successful and prepared to be tomorrow's leaders!

# Superintendent's Message

Hello, friends. The long, dark, cold days of winter will soon be transforming into bright, colorful and warm days of spring. Similarly, in very short order, students, faculty and staff at HCS will be preparing for check point New York State Assessments in ELA and math for grades 3-8 as well as Regents exams in June. Amazingly, another school year is flying by.

The Winter 2017 Edition of the Hancock Wildcat News highlights the recently completed \$6.9M capital project that was passed by resident voters in December of 2014. As a reminder, this project included major upgrades to the District's technology network and infrastructure, paving footprint, boiler replacement and the addition of safety vestibules in the middle/high school and elementary school buildings, ceiling and lighting upgrades to the middle/high school building, heating and air cooling upgrades to the elementary school building, and a complete resurfacing and expansion to the physical education/field hockey/

softball field. Finally, all of the equipment at the elementary school playground has been replaced with state of the art pieces and the playing surface expanded. None of this could have been accomplished without the community's support. Thank you!

The Board of Education, administrative team and I are deep into the process of developing the proposed 2017-2018 spending plan. And while all projections remain tentative at this time, we remain highly optimistic that next year's budget will continue to maintain and reinforce our continuing commitment to providing first-rate educational programs at an extremely affordable price to local taxpayers.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and please accept my very best wishes for continued happiness and prosperity as we strive to take care of our kids!

Respectfully,  
*Terrance P. Dougherty, Ph.D.*  
 Superintendent of Schools

## Call Me!

With Facebook, Twitter, texting and the countless other communication tools at our fingertips we have certainly embraced all the advantages that come with this new technology. Nonetheless, the best way to communicate within the Hancock School District is to call us.

When you need clarification, additional information, have a pressing question or any commendations or concerns, the best practice is to call the Main Office of your child's school.

Classroom or course specific questions can be directed to your

child's teacher via a call to the Main Office. Email can be effective when reaching out to school officials, but in most cases it is best to use when scheduling a phone call or face-to-face meeting.

The dialogue that can be established via a phone call cannot be duplicated via text or an email. The best place to start for all school related inquires is your child's principal.

The following communications chart is a tool we hope parents will consult when attempting to contact the School District on the following issues.

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT	1ST CONTACT	2ND CONTACT	3RD CONTACT	4TH CONTACT
<b>Academics</b>	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
<b>Athletics</b>	Coach	Athletic Director	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
<b>Behavior</b>	Teacher	Director of Pupil Personnel/ PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
<b>BOE Policies</b>	District Clerk	Superintendent	Board of Education	
<b>Budget</b>	Business Administrator	Business Manager	Superintendent	Board of Ed.
<b>Building Use</b>	PK-12 Principal	Supt. Buildings & Grounds	Supt. Secretary	Superintendent
<b>Cafeteria</b>	Café Manager	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
<b>Classroom Procedures</b>	Teacher	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
<b>Co-Curricular</b>	Advisor	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
<b>Facilities</b>	Supt. Bldg. & Gr.	Superintendent		
<b>Health Office</b>	Building Nurse	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent	
<b>Scheduling</b>	Teacher	Guidance Counselor	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
<b>Special Education</b>	Teacher	Director of Pupil Personnel	PK-12 Principal	Superintendent
<b>Transportation</b>	Bus Driver	Transportation Director	Superintendent	

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Elementary School Office .....	637-1219
Middle/High School Office .....	637-1305
CSE Office .....	637-1315
Food Service Office .....	637-1320
Superintendent's Office.....	637-1301
Elementary School Health Office.....	637-1220
Middle/High School Health Office.....	637-1310
Transportation Department .....	637-5322
Buildings and Grounds.....	637-1313

## Amber Dennis Assumes Interim HCS Director of Pupil Personnel Duties



Mrs. Amber Dennis will be serving as the Interim Director of Pupil Personnel effective February 1 through June 30, 2017. Amber is replacing Gary Williams who left HCS to accept a similar position at the Sidney Central School District. While serving as the Interim DPP, Mrs. Dennis will be completing her administrative internship and will receive no additional compensation from the District.

Most recently, Mrs. Dennis taught middle school English Language Arts. Amber earned her BS in elementary education from SUNY College at Oneonta, MSED in special education from Binghamton University, and advanced credits toward school administrator certification from Canisius College in Buffalo.

Superintendent Terrance Dougherty noted “we are thrilled to have Amber working in a leadership capacity for the District as she brings a wealth of experience, expertise and knowledge to the table.”

Mrs. Dennis and her husband, Ray, reside in Fishs Eddy. Congratulations, Amber!

# Welcome to Hancock Central School!

## Paul Bartholomew Promoted to Building Maintenance Mechanic II



Mr. Paul Bartholomew will be serving as the Building Maintenance Mechanic II, formally known as the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, effective January 30, 2017. Paul is replacing Frank Seely who retired on January 1.

Paul is a long-time resident and employee of the school district.

Superintendent Terrance Dougherty noted “we are thrilled to have Paul working in a leadership capacity for the District as he has been an outstanding employee over the course of his career.”

Mr. Bartholomew and his wife, Robin, reside in Hancock. Congratulations, Paul!

## Patrick O’Boyle Hired as Middle/High School Night Cleaner



Mr. Patrick O’Boyle will be serving as a middle/high school night cleaner, effective March 1, 2017. Patrick will be replacing Steve Miller who has moved to the elementary school day shift cleaner position.

Patrick is a 2013 HCS graduate and a graduate of SUNY-Delhi with a degree in welding.

Mr. O’Boyle is the son of Tom and Gina O’Boyle and currently resides in Hancock.

Congratulations, Patrick!

## HCS Graduate Jim Wright Inducted into the Section IV Hall of Fame



Jim Wright is a Hancock CSD graduate in 1983. Mr. Wright was a three sport varsity letterman in basketball, baseball, and track. He was an All-League performer for multiple seasons in basketball, and baseball. During all three of his basketball seasons he was elected Press and Sun Bulletin Athlete of the week posting game high’s 43 points (1981), 41 pts (1982), and 45 pts (1983). Wright averaged 24.1 ppg in his varsity basketball career from 1981-1983.

In 1982, Wright’ junior year, he led his team to the Section IV championship game and was honored by being selected the Susquenango East Division MVP. Wright averaged 23.5 ppg, and was selected for the All-Metro Team. During the spring season Wright broke the schools high jump record by clearing a mark of 6 feet 2 inches. He also participated in the 5th Annual East vs. West New York State Fair Basketball game that summer of 1982.

In 1983, Wright scored 26.5 ppg in basketball totaling his career points with 1,529 in basketball (Hancock School Record). Wright scored his 1000 point on December 14 vs Unatego. Wright’s average for the season was 25.5ppg and he broke the school record with 45 points against Harpursville. He received MVP for the Susquenango East Division and was selected for the All-Metro Team for the second consecutive year in a row. In the spring season Wright was a second team shortstop for the 1983 Section IV class D champions.

Jim Wright resides in Liverpool NY where he has three sons, Jim, Patrick, and Michael. He is also works as a Director of Insurance for Progressive.

## OLWEUS Kickoff with Brian Chevalier



To kickoff our Olweus program this year, we invited songwriter Brian Chevalier to help craft our mission statement into a memorable song. Brian was at Hancock Elementary for two days. The first day he worked with each grade level to create song lyrics about what it means to be a Koalaty kid. On the second day he sang some songs for us about character education, including the song that the students in our school created about being a Koalaty Kid.

He recorded the song and we now have a copy that we can use at morning program as well as Koalaty Kid Pep Rallies.

# Thank You Mr. Chevalier!

## Meet Brian Chevalier



Since studying Classical guitar at Keene State College in Keene, NH, Brian Chevalier has worked for over thirty years as a performer in the northeastern and southeastern United States. Since 1995 he has worked in hundreds of schools throughout the northeastern United States as a Teaching

Artist. He offers in-school performances, workshops, residencies and enrichment programs that address the Learning Standards. Brian has received intensive professional development through workshops and seminars with notable educators from The Lincoln Center Institute. Brian also facilitates training workshops for teachers and Teaching Artists. He has been trained in the Lincoln Center approach to Aesthetic Education. Brian has received numerous grants from the New York State Council on the Arts administered through LARAC for which he did many songwriting residencies in schools, composed a collection of songs that address the history and folklore of the Adirondacks and also co-wrote a 2 man musical called Adirondack Kids! Brian has also been funded through numerous other grants for his work in schools throughout the northeast.

## Elementary School Song

We're Koality Kids at Hancock.  
We're respectful every day.  
We're smiling and we're saying, "Hi!"  
(Our) kindness goes a long, long way.

(Chorus)

We stand up for each other,  
Together one and all,  
I'll use my words, I'll say "STOP"  
And be there if you fall.  
At Hancock we don't just talk the talk  
Here we walk the walk  
We live, learn and grow  
Koality Kids, rock!  
Yeah, they rock!

Treating others the way we should  
Everywhere at home and school  
No doubt we'll make it happen  
We follow the Golden Rule

(Chorus)

We stand up for each other,  
Together one and all,  
I'll use my words, I'll say "STOP"  
And be there if you fall.  
At Hancock we don't just talk the talk  
Here we walk the walk  
We live, learn and grow  
Koality Kids, rock!  
Yeah, they rock!  
At Hancock we don't just talk the talk  
Here we walk the walk  
We live, learn and grow  
Koality Kids, rock!  
Yeah, they rock!



# 2017 3-8 Grade NYS ELA and Math Assessments Update

## HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL

67 Education Lane  
Hancock, New York 13783

(607) 637-2511

Terrance P. Dougherty, Superintendent  
Brenton Taylor, PK-12 Principal  
Amber Dennis, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services

March 10, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to inform you about the upcoming New York State Education Department Assessments. These assessments are required by NYSED and are used to evaluate school district performance as well as individual student performance. These assessments measure how well students have mastered the content and skills identified in the NYSED standards. Please save and reference these dates to ensure your child is well prepared to do their best on these assessments.

Our school communities have worked all year long to prepare and ensure that every student has every opportunity to perform to the best of their ability on these assessments. We ask your support by ensuring your child:

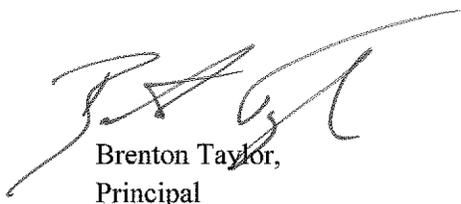
- gets a good night's sleep
- eats a nutritional breakfast
- attends school and is on time
- keeps their daily routines the same in your home
- is encouraged to give their personal best before leaving for school
- 

### Testing dates by grade levels 3-8:

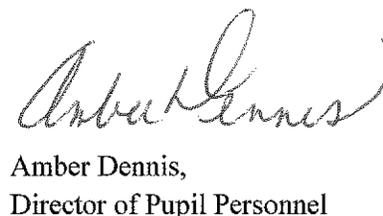
<b>English Language Arts</b>	<b>March 28-30</b>	<b>Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>May 2-4</b>	<b>Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</b>
<b>Science Performance</b>	<b>June 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grades 4 and 8 only</b>
<b>Science Written</b>	<b>June 5</b>	<b>Grades 4 and 8 only</b>

We invite you to contact your child's school directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



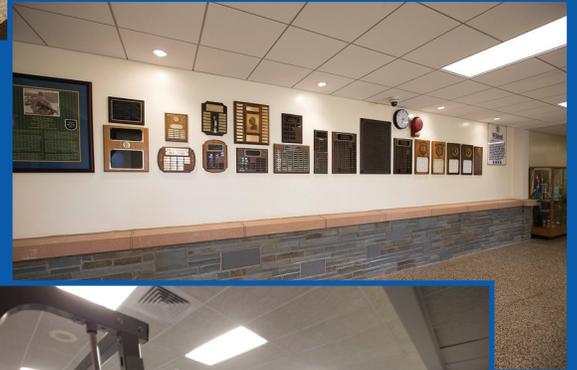
Brenton Taylor,  
Principal



Amber Dennis,  
Director of Pupil Personnel

# Capital Project Update





## HCS FIELD HOCKEY



The Hancock Field Hockey finished their season on October 18 with a 3-1 loss to Sidney in the opening round of sectionals. The team finished with an overall record of 7-10 and a 3-3 division record (tied for second). Members of the team were seniors **Brittany Adams**, **Rose Miller**, **Natasha Picozzi**, **Gina Tan**, **Bailey Van Loan** and **Andrea Wadeson**, juniors **Katelynn Bennett**, **Kaylee Gill**, **Trinity Gotthardt**, **Mikayla Kravetsky**, **Alyssa Makowski**, **Kaci Marino**, **Kaitlyn O'Boyle** and **Lauryn Sokol** and sophomore **Riley Ostrander**.

This season, seven players were chosen as Section IV, Division III All-Stars and were recognized at the Senior Classic on Tuesday, November 1st. In addition to the Division All-Stars, nine players from Section IV were recognized as All-State players. To be considered for All-State, players were nominated by coaches and were voted on by all of the Section IV field hockey coaches. This year, Hancock goalie **Andrea Wadeson** received a majority of the votes from Section IV and was chosen as one of the nine elite players. She is the second Hancock player and second Hancock goalie since **Tozhia Possemato** was selected in 2010 to have been selected as an All-State player.

### FIRST TEAM

**Alyssa Makowski** is a junior forward and fourth-year starter. She tallied a team-leading eight goals and three assists (19 points—team leader) this season. **Natasha Picozzi** is a senior forward and fourth-year starter. She tallied six goals and a team-leading four assists (16 points) and finished her high school career with 21 goals and 15 assists. She was one of the representatives for Hancock in the Senior Classic and scored two goals in the game. **Gina Tan** is a senior midfielder/halfback and second-year starter. She was productive at feeding the ball up to the offense and very stingy on defense. **Andrea Wadeson** is a senior goalie and fourth-year starter. She recorded 213 saves and a .859 save percentage, while finishing her high school career with 760 saves and a .853 save percentage. She was one of the representatives for Hancock in the Senior Classic.

## SECOND TEAM

**Trinity Gotthardt** is a junior midfielder/halfback and a second-year starter. She helped her team to transition from defense to offense and made numerous defensive saves on would-be goals. **Kaci Marino** is a junior forward/midfielder and a second-year starter. She tallied two goals and three assists this season and was strong in transitioning from defense to offense. **Rose Miller** is a senior halfback and first-year starter. She made many defensive stops on the left side of the field during the season and was able to feed the ball up to the offense.

Congratulations to the entire field hockey team on a successful season!

## D/H CROSS-COUNTRY



In Cross-Country, 1st team all stars were **Kelsey Young** and **Dylan Christ** 2nd team all star was **Brycen Burak**. Other information about Kelsey: 1st at Owego Invitational out of 88, 1st at Delhi Invitational out of 32, Course Record 1st at Whitney Point Invitational out of 41, 1st at MAC Championship out of 53, 2nd at Maine Endwell Invitational out of 53, 2nd at Marathon Invitational out of 158, 3rd at Sectional Class D Championship out of 86, going to State meet, and *Walton Reporter* Athlete of the Week. Dylan Christ is also going to States but as it was just his first and last year in Cross-Country (he is a senior), I would say that he peaked at the right time.



# Sports News

## D/H FOOTBALL



The 2016 football team started the season against the sectional class "B" runner up Windsor team. After a disappointing loss, we faced eventual class "D" Regional Champions Sidney. The team took the into overtime tied but lost by two. The team then had consecutive wins against Unadilla Valley and Bainbridge Guilford before heading into a home game against undefeated Unatego. The team suffered injuries and eventually lost to what would become the section four runner up team. During the next two contests the Eagles lost to Walton and Delhi by one score. A win was picked up in the first crossover game against Seton Catholic and a loss to Oxford ended the season with a 3-6 record. The team suffered injuries resulting in several starting players were sidelined. Although this hindered the teams fight for a playoff bid it forced them to utilize a young squad that should be adapted for the start of next season. The 2017 Deposit Hancock Eagles will return numerus starters including the entire backfield and offensive line.

Allstar selections were 1st team, **Levi Wormuth**, **Jackson Miller**, **Darrin Shaver**, **Dustin Daly** and **Cooper Hall**. Honorable Mention selections were, **Austin Lenio** and **Lucus Resti**.

## D/H GOLF



**Seth Simmons** was my only All Star recipient. He was named to 1st team All-Star Team. He was ranked number two in the MAC League. He qualified to play in the Medalist Tournament in the spring at Cornell University with an average of 2.9 overall. He was one of eight people in our league to accomplish this.

## HCS VOLLEYBALL



The Varsity Volleyball team finished their season 6-8. The team was composed of five seniors, one junior, two sophomores, two freshman and one 8th grader. After qualifying for sectionals the team lost in the first round to the later sectional champions, Candor. The team fought hard all season and kept spirits high as they took on each MAC team.

# Congratulations to All our Sports Teams!



Hancock Central School  
67 Education Lane  
Hancock, New York 13783  
Terrance P. Dougherty, Superintendent of Schools  
[tdougherty@hancock.stier.org](mailto:tdougherty@hancock.stier.org)  
(607) 637-1301

February 7, 2017

Senator Frederick Akshar  
44 Hawley Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Dear Senator Akshar:

Thank you for all you have done to support public education in upstate rural school districts. I commend your enthusiasm for maintaining viable educational programs in small, rural communities. As you are aware, the executive budget state aid runs for the 2017–18 school year were recently distributed to school districts across New York State. In this letter I would like to call your attention to three key issues—equitable and adequate state aid allocation and distribution; the Foundation Aid formula; and the property tax cap limitation—that are cause for concern as public school boards of education prepare budgets for the 2017–18 school year.

## **Equitable and Adequate State Aid Allocation and Distribution**

**Issue Overview:** The governor’s budget proposes an education funding increase of \$961 million over 2016–17, \$768 of which consists of traditional formula-based school aid. In addition to the full funding of expense-driven aid (\$333 million), the proposal includes a \$428 million increase in Foundation Aid. As part of the budgeted Foundation Aid increase, the governor would set aside \$50 million for community schools. Those set-aside funds would be directed to districts with struggling and persistently struggling schools and those with significant growth in English language learner (ELL) enrollment. Within the total proposed funding increase, the budget includes \$150 million in a “Fiscal Stabilization Fund.” This funding has been proposed for school districts, but with no specific purpose and with no defined distribution method.

**Advocacy Position:** In the years since the Wall Street crash of 2008, the state has withheld promised funding from districts in order to address its own fiscal challenges. The Foundation Aid formula, designed to provide every student with a sound basic education, was frozen for three years, followed by formula-driven increases being artificially capped in more recent state budgets. As a result, the state is billions of dollars behind the full phase-in of the formula. A significant number of school districts in New York State continue to receive less aid this year than they did in 2009–10.

A sufficient school funding increase is needed in 2017–18 and beyond, and a commitment to equitable, adequate, and stable state aid into the future is required to make sure this progress continues and is not undone.

To this end, we advocate for the following actions:

- Provide sufficient state aid to allow schools to continue current programming in 2017–18 and beyond.
- Substantially increase Foundation Aid.
- Commit to sustainable, fair, and equitably distributed Foundation Aid for the long term (please see commentary discussed below).
- Fully fund expense-based reimbursements.

**Implications for Hancock CSD:** The net increase in Foundation Aid per the executive proposal for Hancock Central School District is \$44,000. This increase is completely insufficient to support the provision of a fair and appropriate public education to our students given the obvious limitations on raising local revenue posed by the property tax cap limitation. We anticipate a significant revenue shortfall that can only be remedied by either overriding the property tax cap limitation (at best an uncertain proposition), cutting personnel and programs (we are currently providing a bare-bones program), or a combination of cutting expenses and raising revenues. Hancock is currently maximizing use of our Employee Retirement Reserve (ERS reserve).

## Foundation Aid

**Issue Overview:** The governor’s budget proposes to repeal the Foundation Aid formula language that has been law since 2007. In its place, the budget proposes an aid distribution method for the 2017–18 school year alone and no commitment to increase Foundation Aid beyond that amount in future years. For this year, the budget includes adjustments to some data points used to distribute Foundation Aid in 2017–18. These include shifting to the use of “direct certification” to measure Free and Reduced Priced Lunch (FRPL) counts, updating the 2000 census poverty count by using current Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) information, and eliminating the arbitrary floor of the Income Wealth Index (IWI), which is one of the ways the state measures district wealth.

**Advocacy Position:** Under the current formula, aid is calculated by multiplying a per-pupil amount based on the cost of providing general education in successful schools times a measure of pupil needs times a regional cost index minus an expected local contribution which varies based on district ability to raise funds locally. These calculations produce statewide total Foundation Aid now over \$4 billion greater than the current year aid. Most recent foundation aid increases have been distributed by adjusting phase-in factors which determine how far each district progresses each year toward the full formula amount.

In a nutshell, the current formula creates an ultimate funding target and essentially works backwards, distributing annual increases toward the target. The governor’s proposal would start from the 2016–17 base and decide each year how much aid to add and how to allocate it, with no permanent allocation formula and no ultimate target. The current formula holds out hope for eventual adequate funding for the poorest school districts and the possibility of more stable and predictable aid calculations for all districts. Therefore, the basic design of the 2007 Foundation Aid formula is an achievement in public policy worth keeping.

**Implications for Hancock CSD:** HCS strongly agrees with maintaining the predictable, albeit flawed, 2007 Foundation Aid formula with the expectation that state aid revenue will be equitably and adequately distributed.

## Property Tax Cap Limitation

**Issue Overview:** New York State is committed to placing some form of limit on local taxes, but the current property tax law has some significant shortcomings that create uncertainty for school districts and communities. For one, it’s not a 2 percent cap as it was advertised. The eight-part tax cap formula allows levies to grow by either 2 percent or the change in the Consumer Price Index—whichever is less—and then adjusts for a variety of other factors. For the coming year, the CPI figure will be less than the 2 percent. As a result, many districts are anticipating the prospect of being unable to raise any local revenue to help meet increased costs. Unless action is taken, this will do serious harm to student programs and services in districts across New York.

**Advocacy Position:** School superintendents support property tax relief, but not at the expense of New York’s students. We need state policies that allow for responsible fiscal planning and the sustainability of programs that are critical to our students and communities. Simple, sensible modifications to the tax cap would help balance the concerns of taxpayers and the needs of school children.

**Implications for Hancock CSD:** We would like to see swift and pronounced reform to the property tax cap limitation law. Specifically, we advocate elimination of the 60 percent supermajority vote and the implementation of a hard, 2 percent minimum cap that adjusts upwardly with inflation as tied to CPI.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss these issues in greater depth.

Sincerely,

  
Terrance P. Dougherty, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Hancock Central School District

Sources:

Berck, G., & Lowry, B. (2017, January 31). *Council advocacy update*. New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSSCOSS) [Email correspondence].

New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). (2017, January). *NYSSBA 2017 Executive budget analysis*.

## HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL

67 Education Lane  
Hancock, NY 13783

### Board Members

Terry Whitt, President  
Rebecca L. Smith, Vice-President  
Gene W. Homer  
Todd Jacobs  
Lothar Holbert, Wayne Highlands Rep.  
Scott MacDowall, District Treasurer

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Hancock Central School District believes that every child can learn and challenges all students to reach their full potential in a caring and supportive atmosphere. Our school and community partnership provides high expectations for achievement and opportunities to develop the social, emotional, physical and intellectual well-being of every student.

We are committed to excellence through ongoing assessments and revisions of programs and goals, thus continuing to meet the changing needs of our community while assuring that our children are successful and prepared to be tomorrow's leaders.

## Veterans Day Celebration

For Veterans Day our 2nd through 4th grade students sang the song *America the Beautiful* for the Veterans. To wrap up, the entire school sang *This Land is Your Land* and Veterans were invited to stay for coffee and doughnuts in the library.

