



A Letter From Interim Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Bryant

Dear Skaneateles School District Families,



I wanted to take a moment to say hello. I began my duties as Interim Superintendent of Schools for Skaneateles on January 21, and have met a host of dedicated individuals in my brief time with the district. Everyone has been amazingly helpful and supportive, and I would like to thank each of you.

Although the district is in the midst of transition related to the superintendent position, I want to reassure everyone I will do my best to maintain the good standing of the school district and attempt to address issues needing my attention.

In my short time at Skaneateles, I have learned how student-centered this district truly is. I especially enjoy watching students play and just have a good time on the hills of the elementary schools.

Again, my sincere thanks to everyone who has stopped by or sent their support. It has made my transition much more enjoyable.

All the best,
Dr. Jeffrey K. Bryant, Interim Superintendent
Skaneateles Central School District

Kindergarten Registration Opens for 2020-2021



Waterman Primary School is accepting kindergarten registration for eligible students for the 2020-2021 school year. To be eligible for kindergarten, **a child must be five years old on or before December 1, 2020.**

If you **have** received a (blue) registration form in the mail, please complete this form (along with any other forms enclosed), and send them to Waterman Primary School as soon as possible. Please include a copy of your child's birth certificate.



If you **have not** received registration information in the mail (no blue form), and you have an incoming kindergarten child, please contact Della Mazzeo at Waterman Primary School at (315) 291-2351.

If you are new to the district or are registering your oldest child, please **contact Kathy Sparrow, Registrar, at 315.291.2205.**

Fifty-Four Students Inducted into National Honor Society



Fifty-four students were recently inducted into the National Honor Society. Students were honored in a ceremony commending them for their academic excellence.

"I am very proud of our new National Honor Society members," Skaneateles Principal Greg Santoro said. "With hard work, dedication, and commitment, 40 percent of our juniors have reached this huge achievement."

The requirements for induction were based on scholarship, service, leadership and character. The students were called individually to be recognized for their amazing academic accomplishments!

Winter Fun at State Street!



Congratulations to our STEM Master Teaching Recognition Recipients!

Maureen Collier
Middle School / High School Science Teacher

Mary Fussner
STEM Lab Teacher at Waterman

Matt Slauson
Technology and Engineering Teacher at the High School

High School Chill Zones A Major Success

Skaneateles students have been de-stressing from school life in a series of High School Chill Zones being put on by the guidance department.

Students relax and create various projects during activity period. After being fed pizza, students painted pumpkins in the fall season and had a gingerbread house contest during the winter season. During the February Chill Zone, students wrote Valentine's Day cards for the children at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

"We created the Chill Zone to give the students an opportunity to unwind and relax after the school day," Counselor Brittany Manuel said. "Each Chill Zone we are getting more and more students. The response has been incredible!"



Middle School Students Donate \$15,000 in Toys For Holidays

The Skaneateles Middle School Student Council took part in the 20th annual Holiday Shopping Spree at Target in Camillus over the holidays. The students spent \$15,000 on gifts for the less fortunate thanks to fundraising from students and donations from various organizations in the community.

The gifts were donated to organizations throughout Central New York for distribution to families in need.

“The Holiday Shopping Spree’s purpose is to help brighten the holiday season for kids,” Middle School Student Council Advisor Scott Stagnitta said. “This event also opens our students’ eyes to the importance of good will with nothing in return.”

“These kids don’t have a Christmas like us every year,” Middle School Student Council President Dutch Congel said. “To be able to help give them a holiday like ours is really special.”



Emily Hanford Named Keynote Speaker at S.A.I.L. Summit



Skaneateles Schools is pleased to announce that through the support of the Skaneateles Education Foundation, **Emily Hanford** will be the keynote speaker for the 2020 S.A.I.L. Summit.

Ms. Hanford sent shockwaves across the US and around the globe when her September 2018 documentary, *Hard Words: Why Aren't Kids Being Taught to Read*, brought much needed mainstream attention to the importance of teacher knowledge of the science of reading.

The professional learning summit is designed to support the district’s professional development goals which focus on Standards-Based Curriculum Development, Response to Intervention and the Six Dimensions of Wellness to elevate learning for all. Educators will have the opportunity to collaborate and network in a conference-style venue by selecting from a menu of professional learning offerings. Sessions will be offered by Skaneateles staff members, community partners and outside experts. Staff members will receive an email in early March with additional information to register for sessions.

CNY Scholastic Art Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at the 2020 Central New York Scholastic Art Awards!

Portfolio, Gold Key

Ryan Singh

Gold Key

Ella Danforth

Ben Euto

Torri Garrett

Graeson Landsberg

Evangelia Vitsaxaki

Olivia Walker

Emma Whipple

Stella Zang

Silver Key

Hope Cross-Jaya

Nicholas Kehoe

Emma Whipple

Honorable Mention

Megan Buff

Rory Comer

Ella Danforth

Campbell Loi

Grace Peterson

Ally Sell

Sophia Wingfield



Waterman students pose for pictures in their Spirit Week gear!

Waterman Spirit Week

Students at Waterman recently celebrated spirit week!

The week included Hat Day, SU Day, Sports Team Day, Mismatched Sock Day and Laker Day!

Future Capital Project Update

On January 7, 2020, the Board of Education voted to approve November 17, 2020 as the next capital project vote date.

District administration is currently working closely with the District's architect, construction manager and fiscal advisor to plan the next round of renovations to our buildings and campus.

A Facilities' Usage Study was completed in December 2019 and the required 2020 Building Condition Survey is currently under way.

A review of the preliminary capital project plan will be presented to the Strategic Planning Committee at their next meeting on March 4. Look out for more communications about this project leading up to the vote date.

SCSD Receives More Than \$65,000 From Todd's Fund



The Skaneateles Central School District has received a donation of more than \$65,000 from Todd's Fund, charity president Gary Gerst has announced. The money will go toward covering school-related costs for struggling students and their families in the district.

Todd's Fund is named after Skaneateles native Todd Pitman, who was killed in the Sept. 11 attacks. Following his death, a charity was established in his name to help children in Central New York with financial issues.

District Staff can submit an application for a grant on a student's behalf. A committee of teachers, administrators and staff members will award the grants.

"The Skaneateles School District is truly honored that Todd's family and the Todd's Fund Board of Directors has entrusted us with

dispensing the balance of the trust established in Todd Pitman's honor," former Superintendent Lynda Quick said. "We will dispense the funds to benefit students in need, according to the spirit and purpose of the trust."

Project 2021 Update

Project 2021 continues to provide necessary updates and improvement for our schools!

Contracts for phase two of the project have been awarded and work has begun throughout the district. In the Middle School, the walls of the former wrestling room have been removed and sheetrock is being installed along with taping and finishing.

In the High School, work is underway on the gymnasium concession stand.

Later this spring and into summer, work will begin on the Middle School Gym and the High School Auditorium as well as many other areas including sidewalks, parking lots and fields for drainage systems.

We will continue to provide updates on all of the exciting work happening in our schools!





Photo Credit: Syracuse.com / The Post-Standard

Sports Update

The Lakers are having another excellent winter athletics season in 2020! EVERY varsity team qualified as Scholar-Athlete teams! In order to do so, 75% of the team must have an average of 90 or above. Here is an update on how our teams are performing this season!

Basketball

The **Boys' Basketball Team** is currently sitting with a 12-5 record and were crowned the Skaneateles Holiday Classic Tournament champions! The team has great wins on the season over both Marcellus and Cazenovia!

The **Girls' Basketball Team** has a 5-3 conference record to this point and placed third in the Chittenango Christmas Tournament. Senior **Maeve Canty** earned all-tournament honors. Canty and senior co-captain **Emma Keady** have provided excellent leadership this season!

Ice Hockey

The **Boys' Ice Hockey Team** is currently undefeated and the top ranked team in New York State! With a 16-0-1 record overall and an 8-0 league record, the Lakers look to win their second consecutive state championship. The Lakers tied Auburn to start the season and have been perfect on the ice ever since!

The **Girls' Ice Hockey Team** made their fourth consecutive Section III finals before losing to a great Clinton team. **Evie Sheridan** was named first team all-league and **Campbell Torrey** was named to second-team all-league while **Rebecca Cain, Rachelle Cain, Grace Kush** and **Lizzy Sachar** were Honorable Mentions.

Indoor Track and Field

The **Track and Field Teams** are in the middle of an excellent season with impressive records and championships for both team and individual events!

The **Boys' Track and Field** team finished second at the OHSL League Championship. **Caleb Bender** was a champion and first team all-league performer in 1600 meters. **Matt Persampieri** and **Ben Euto** were voted second team all-league in 1600 meters and shotput, respectively.



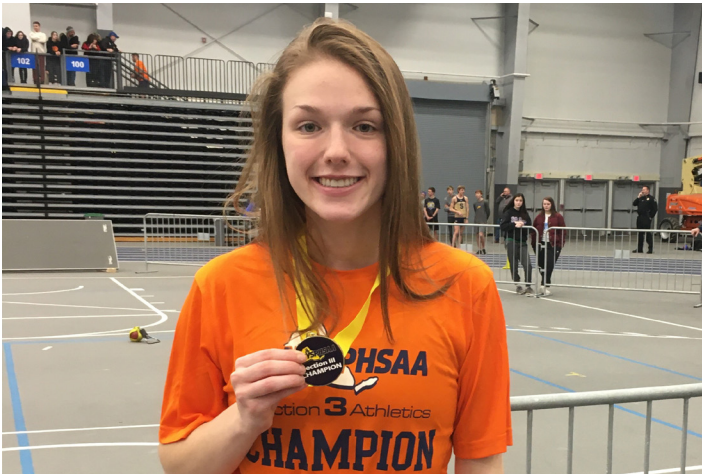
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The team of **Caleb Bender**, **Joe Norris**, **Tony DiRubbo** and **Matt Persampieri** won the league championship along with being voted first team all-league in the 4x800 relay.

Matt Persampieri and **Joe Norris** won section III championships in their events. Persampieri was a champion in the 1000 meter run and Norris in the 1600 meter run.

The **Girls' Track and Field** team placed third at the OHSL League Championship. Student-athletes **Emme Conan**, **Tess Peterson**, and **Reagan Evans** each won section III championships in the 55 meter dash, triple jump, and weight throw, respectively.

Emme Conan also broke the Lakers' school records for time in the 55 meter dash and the 200m relay split.



Congratulations!
Emme Conan
Skaneateles
School Record
55 Meter Dash
200 Meter Relay Split



High School French Class Making A Difference at SPCA



Freshman French students pose with their supply collection for the SPCA of Auburn

Students in the freshman French class recently put their minds to good use to help out our furry friends!

The students sponsored a drive to collect donations for the Finger Lakes SPCA in Auburn, NY. Officers **Rachel Hackler**, **Ali Whipple**, **Chessie Arias**, and **Kate Raddant** came up with the idea to collect supplies and research local animal shelters before selecting the Auburn SPCA as the recipient shelter.

"I am beyond proud of our students for coming up with the idea, organizing the drive, and turning it into a school-wide event," French Teacher Susie Pietsch said. "It is wonderful to see our students working hard in the classroom while simultaneously caring about the community!"

Skaneateles Central School District

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Counseling Center

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Middle School

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Michael Caraccio, Principal

State Street Elementary

315.291.2261
John Lawrence, Principal

Waterman Elementary

315.291.2351
Patrick J. Brown, Principal

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Superintendent Search Update

The Skaneateles Central School District's Board of Education is searching for the community's next Superintendent of Schools. While final hiring decisions will be made by the Board, we are pleased to engage stakeholders in a process designed to inspire community voice and inclusivity.

An initial survey was offered during the month of December to anyone affiliated with the Skaneateles community. In early January, our search consultant facilitated a total of eight focus groups that offered all interested stakeholders the opportunity to provide their opinions, insights, thoughts and concerns relative to procuring the next school district leader. The Board is happy to report that over 150 school and community members opted into this part of the process. Thank you for your input. We certainly appreciate your time.

Once the data was compiled and analyzed, the Board interviewed selected candidates on Wednesday, Jan. 22. After much deliberation and reflection, the pool was reduced and a second round of interviews was conducted by the Board on Monday, Feb. 10. Finalists have been selected and the Board of Education will have community members to serve on a representative community stakeholder interview team beginning Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020. Three stakeholder groups in all will interview each finalist.

These groups will be facilitated by our search consultant and his team. Following interviews on Feb. 26, the Board will take into consideration each candidate's collective pro and con data before making a final hiring decision. We continue to anticipate an on or about July 1 start date for our new school superintendent. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of those that opted in to the hiring process. We are confident that our yield will be a dynamic community leader for years to come.

Sincerely,
The Skaneateles Board of Education

Budget Timeline

March 1: Tax Levy Submitted to NYS Comptroller

April 14: Final Budget Presented to BOE to Adopt

April 15: Property Tax Report Card Submitted to SED

April 20: Deadline for Board Candidate Petitions

April 28: Budget Statement to Voters

May 5: Community Budget Hearing

May 19: Budget Vote, School Board Election