



The Boys Varsity Volleyball Team and their Coach Nicholas Penberthy assembled glue packs for The Teacher's Desk.

## A Focus on Giving Back

### Fundraisers, Volunteering and Collections at Frontier High School

Helping those in need is the cornerstone of what brings together the Frontier Community. Since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, students at Frontier High School have been devising ways that they can give back to the community.

In October, the varsity and JV volleyball teams volunteered at The Teacher's Desk, a local organization that provides supplies to teachers. Under the direction of Coach Nicholas Penberthy, the JV team assembled 500 binders with school supplies and the varsity team assembled over 2,500 glue packs! Their volunteer efforts will impact over 3,000 students in the City of Buffalo and greater Western New York area.

In addition to learning about global cultures, the International Club also held a collection to help Afghanistan evacuees. They received donations of household items and toiletries as well as fundraised for needed supplies. Club members were humbled by the support and happy to help families in need through the International Institute of Buffalo.

Kicking off the giving season, Frontier High School began organizing its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive in late October to be bigger than ever. This year, the drive set out to help 100 families from across the district. In addition, they needed to meet their annual contribution of 60 turkeys for the Blasdell Food Pantry.

Another change this year was that only cash donations were accepted. About \$50 was needed to feed each family on the list. The Frontier School Community was very generous as they donated the funds needed to feed local families during the Thanksgiving holiday.

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## New Administrators



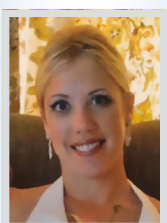
*Christopher Swiatek*  
Superintendent of Schools



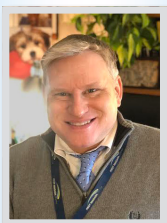
*Robert McDow*  
Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance & Operations



*Colleen Schaefer*  
Director of Pupil Services  
& Special Education



*Shawna Gugino*  
Assistant Director of Pupil Services  
& Special Education



*David Smaczniak*  
Assistant Director of Operational Services

# Message from the Superintendent

Hello Frontier Families:

As I write this message, I am very encouraged by how the 2021-22 school year has begun. Prior to the first day, I felt the same trepidation that many of you did when the time came to make the decision to re-open our doors for the benefit of all. As I review the first seven weeks of school, many of those concerns have been addressed and handled appropriately. Frontier Central School District maintains a healthy respect for the potential volatility of the COVID-19 virus, but we also fully understand the importance of educating our children in-person on a daily basis.

All of our students from grades PK-12 have been respectful, responsible and courteous to the rules in place regarding social distancing and mask wearing. The staff at FCSD understands that our protocols will be challenged and adjusted as we learn how to function within our new norm. I look forward to the remainder of the year and maintaining our high quality of education for our students.

A few highlights within our first couple of weeks:

- **Athletics:** Congratulations to all of our athletic teams who competed in the Section VI finals. Our Girls Varsity Volleyball team has won back-to-back Section VI titles. Boys Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Football put in great effort at the sectional championships and our Girls Varsity Gymnastics earned Section VI runner up. We are looking forward to the winter sports season!
- **Capital Project Update:** Over the summer voters approved a \$ 70 million capital project which targets improvements to all of our buildings. The work is going to be accomplished in phases 1a through phase 4 with completion in 2027-28.
- **Emergency Closures:** For the 2021-22 school calendar, the District has built in five available weather emergencies days. In the event of a school closure due to weather conditions, the District will be closed for students as per typical "snow days" of the past. In the event of a closure for reasons other than snow or road conditions (I.E. cold days/ wind days/building mechanical) the District will shift into a student remote day for instruction. Families will be notified in advance of these days in order for students and their teachers to be prepared for remote instruction.

In closing, I would be remiss not to thank each and every person in the District for working through our difficulties with transportation. As you are well aware, this is not a unique situation to Frontier, however that does not relieve the stress it places on all of our families. Our transportation staff has worked tirelessly to provide the services as expected under tremendous stress of understaffing due to driver shortages. Mid-way through November we are on the verge of hiring nine new drivers and adding routes. In addition, we upgraded our Versatrans My Stop App tracking system to assist families. Thank you for your patience and willingness to work with us.

Best wishes to all,

Christopher Swiatek  
Superintendent

## District News

# Falcon Community Update

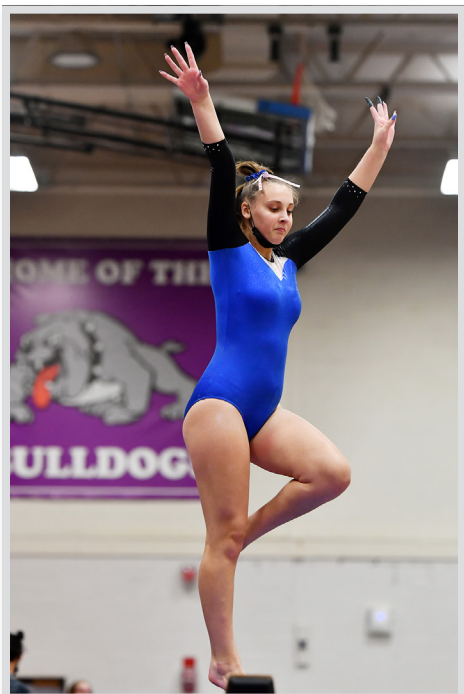


In order for the Frontier Central School District to share news and positive announcements with the school community, we have developed the Falcon Community Update. This weekly newsletter will share brief snippets from each of our schools and PTAs about recent activities and upcoming events. In addition, the district will provide updates on any important information.

Read the weekly Falcon Community update at <https://www.frontiercsd.org/falcon-community-update>.



# SPORTS GALLERY





# Seen Around Falcon Nation

*This was the first live show at Frontier in over a year and half, and it felt great to perform in front of an audience again. Rehearsing with friends was always a highlight of my day. This musical required hard work and dedication from everyone in the cast, and we are really proud of the show we put on."*

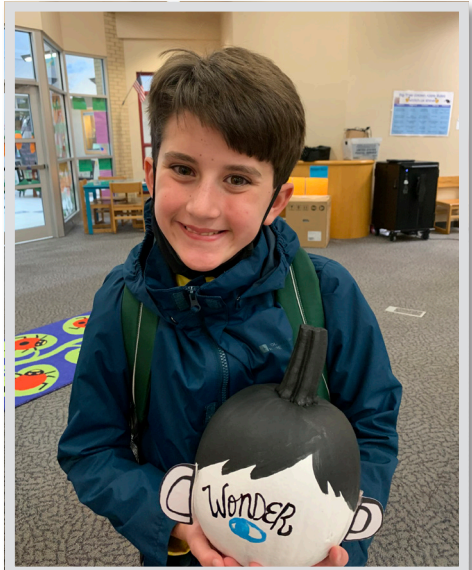
- Cameron Jones, junior in the production of "The Theory of Relativity"



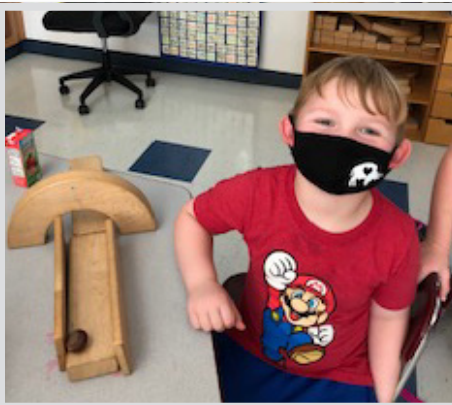
Blasdell fourth graders Cody and Addison Frank decorate sugar skulls in Ms. Juron's class for a Pop-up Art Show inspired by Día De Los Muertos. In addition to sugar skulls, students made papel picado, a traditional cut-out paper art. A surprise black-light show featured a piece of art from every student in the building!



Third graders in Ms. Kowalczyk's class enjoyed meeting author Andrea Beaty during a virtual author seminar in the library with Mrs. Kick. The students had a blast learning about force and motion after listening to the author read from her book.



The annual Big Tree Character Pumpkin Contest was a success! Students across all grade levels decorated pumpkins in the likeness of their favorite book characters and shopped the Book Fair! Pictured is fifth grader Evan Bratcher who made a pumpkin for the book, "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio.



Mrs. Buss' kindergarten class at Cloverbank built bridges and ramps to investigate how a chestnut might roll or slide faster or slower by adjusting how much push and pull force was applied. Pictured is Elliott Lukaszek.



The students in Ms. Suranyi's fifth-grade class enjoyed exploring their local ecosystem. During this hands-on learning lesson, students searched the area surrounding Cloverbank Elementary for macroinvertebrates. Pictured is Kayden Oyer.

*"Everyone saying their wishes helped us add feeling to our art because it expressed how everyone felt, what the problems are in the world and what we can try to fix."*

- Jackson Duszkiwicz, Pinehurst 5th grader on the Wish Drips Art Installation





The Lake View Volunteer Fire Department came to Pinehurst to celebrate Fire Prevention Month with kindergarten, first and second grade students. Pictured from left, Tristan Gatti, Colson Spina, Haily Hepinstall, Brayden Cwynar, and Gabriella Vasquez from Mrs. Rogers' classroom.



Fifth graders at Pinehurst studied the work of Jen Stark and created their interpretation of one of her famous "drips" with a meaningful art installation that incorporated students' wishes. Pictured are Dominic Diaz and Asher Tardif from Mrs. Marong's first grade class.



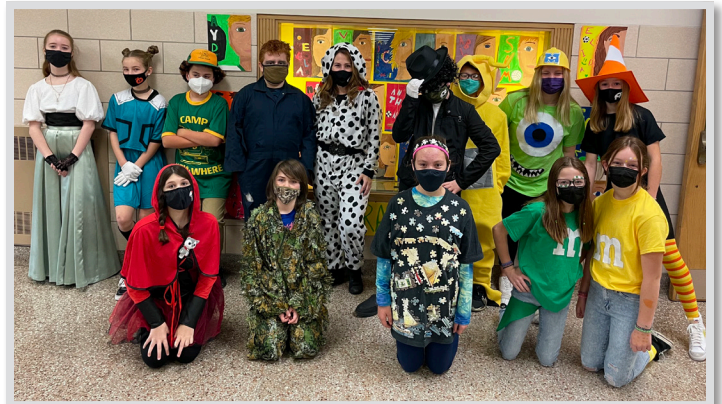
The high school German Club celebrated Oktoberfest by learning about the origins of the original Munich "Oktoberfest". They discussed family-friendly activities that are offered at Oktoberfest, listened to traditional music and tasted an array of German foods. Pictured are Ryan Dunlavey, Zachary Bigaj, Nathalia Cadiz-Cruz and Santiago Ward.



Blasdell students in third through fifth grade have enjoyed a calm start to their day in the new Morning Yoga Club. Mrs. Hennigan leads students through some poses that help stretch and focus the mind.



The Frontier Middle School Student Council and Physical Education Department coordinated a Pep Parade in support of all FMS Fall Sports teams. It was a great way to inspire some school spirit during Homecoming week.



Mrs. Simoncelli's sixth grade homeroom celebrated the final day of Red Ribbon Week by dressing up for Halloween!



## Big Tree Students Succeed with Flexible Seating

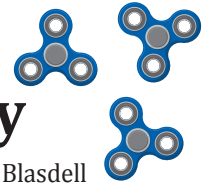
Flexible seating is an option for students in Big Tree Elementary classrooms. Flexible seating is about more than simply having a variety of different, fun seats in the classroom. It's about utilizing student voice, heightening collaborative learning, and prioritizing students' needs concerning the environment in which they learn.

Traditional seating charts have been replaced with seating arrangements that allow the students to sit and learn where they choose. Even with our youngest learners, this practice has been embraced and found to be very successful.



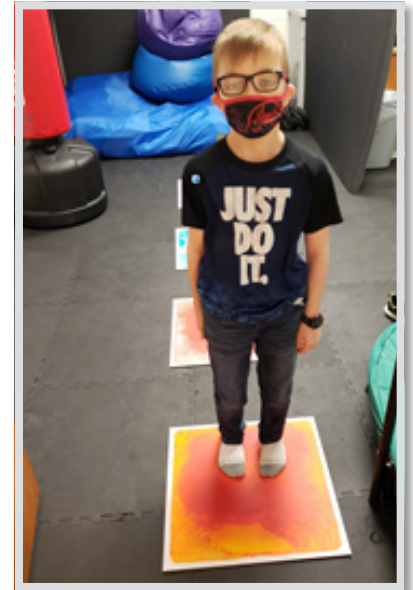
Students in Mrs. Mattioli's kindergarten class enjoy flexible seating.

## Blasdell Students Enjoy Sensory Play



This is the second school year that students at Blasdell Elementary have had access to the Sensory Room! All Blasdell students can take advantage of the Sensory Room to destress or have some relaxing time with many fun and engaging activities.

The Sensory Room was designed to include different zones, such as an active zone, a calming zone, and an interactive zone so that different skills can be addressed. Students in need of a movement break can jump on a trampoline, crash into the crash pad, hit a punching bag, or bounce around on exercise balls. Students that are looking for some time to relax can touch the tactile wall, rock in a rocking chair with a weighted blanket, play with themed sensory boxes, or fidget with fidget toys.



Pictured is fourth grader Todd Walter.

The Blasdell Sensory Room is giving our students the tools they need to focus and be ready to learn throughout the school day!

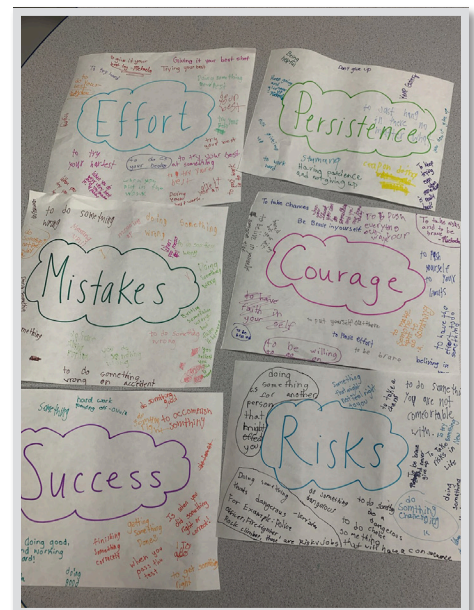
## Cloverbank Students Learn About Growth Mindset

Fourth and fifth grade students at Cloverbank Elementary recently learned what it means to have a "Growth Mindset."

In a circle, School Counselor, Ms. Woods asked, "What is a goal that you want to achieve?" After listening to everyone's goals, each student received a different colored marker.

They were asked to write what they thought was the meaning of the words "Mistakes," "Effort," "Success," "Courage," "Risks," and "Persistence". At the end, Ms. Woods read aloud what they wrote and discussed how all of these words and their goals make up a Growth Mindset.

"We need to have courage, we are going to need to take risks, make mistakes, put in some effort and be persistent to be successful in reaching our goals and having a Growth Mindset in everything we do!" she explained.



Pictured are the mini posters the students made to define what contributes to a growth mindset.



# STEAM in the Pinehurst Library

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) has been a key part of teaching and learning at Pinehurst Elementary for several years. When students engage in STEAM experiences their natural curiosity for problem solving and cooperative learning is enhanced. STEAM activities foster creativity and inquiry learning while students are having fun!

In the Pinehurst Library, Mrs. Calanni, provides students with activities like



building a structure. Given materials like straw, gears, magnetic tiles and Legos and along with their open minds, the students develop inventive creations of their imaginations. In the library, students have also worked cooperatively to design marble mazes and have used iPads to code DASH robots and race them in the hallway. Mrs. Calanni plans to bring new materials and explore new concepts throughout the year, creating endless possibilities for students!

# Frontier Middle School Collects for Socktober

The Frontier Middle School Student Council sponsored the annual Socktober collection, where students were asked to bring in new socks for all ages to school in the month of October. The school put forth an amazing effort to collect a total of 697 pairs of socks to benefit Buffalo Peace House, a local nonprofit that helps refugees and asylum seekers find safe housing. Half of the socks collected this year were thanks to the friendly competition between Mrs. Evans' Spanish classes!



*"I like to help other people that are in need and that do not have as much wealth or are struggling right now."*

- Jane Wrinn, 7th grade student on contributing to Socktober



## Frontier Central District News

Published by the  
**Board of Education**  
**Frontier Central Schools**  
5120 Orchard Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075

### Superintendent of Schools

Christopher Swiatek

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# Welcome New Faculty

New members of the Frontier Schools' Faculty include:

## Big Tree

- Sarah Ciesielski, Grade 1
- Caroline Franz, School Counselor
- Katherine Gorczyca, Grade 5
- Jessica Jurusik, Special Education
- Magdalen Maloney, Reading
- Grace McMahon, Grade 1
- Melanie White, Grade 1

## Blasdell

- Kelsey Boyce, Music
- Alicia Ebeling, Kindergarten
- Rebekah Emerling, Special Education
- Rachel Kraatz, Social Worker
- Rebecca McGovern, School Counselor
- Alexandra O'Hara, Grade 1
- Kristin Rensel, School Psychologist
- Amanda Steiger, Grade 2
- Alexandra Strach, Grade 5
- Jenna Watson, Grade 1
- Erin Young, Grade 5

## Cloverbank

- Lauren Arcadipane, Reading
- Nicholas Gallardo, Art
- Amy Redmond, AIS
- Melissa Woods, School Counselor

## Pinehurst

- Tracy Brunner, Grade 2
- Andrea Heater, Grade 3
- Amber Kras, Math Specialist
- Kara Schanbacher, Grade 1

## Middle School

- Amanda Allaire, Social Worker
- Kelly Beller, Special Education
- Kathryn Bone, Special Education
- Daniel Buck, Special Education
- Erin Cole, Special Education
- Nicole Coolican, AIS English
- Kaleigh Creeden, School Counselor
- Amanda Dorsey, Special Education
- Amanda Gerwitz, Math
- Michelle Kaczmarek, Special Education
- Renee Kazukiewicz, Science
- Kelsey McGowan, AIS Math
- Melissa Minorczyk, Business
- Goodson Philippe, Foreign Language
- Jennifer Ruggieri, Health
- Danielle Schaefer, Art

## High School

- Courtney Annese, Social Worker
- Paula Eisenberger, Science
- Sandra Gawlak, Business
- Shannon Lafferty, ESL (shared with Big Tree)
- Joshua LoCicero, Math
- Emmy Siminski, Special Education
- Leanne Walker, Science
- Marie Wilcott, AIS Math
- Lindsay Wright, AIS English

## Immediate Openings

- Bus Driver
- Bus Attendant
- Auto Mechanic
- Cleaner
- Laborer
- Groundworkers
- Clerk Typists
- Coaches
- Teacher Aide
- Food Service Helper
- School Lunch Monitor
- Substitute LPN/RN
- Substitute Teachers (certified and uncertified)

For more information, go to [www.frontiercsd.org/employment](http://www.frontiercsd.org/employment)

# Frontier Jobs Expo

**December 2, 2021**  
**5:30-7pm**

Cloverbank Elementary School  
2761 Cloverbank Rd., Hamburg

*Information, applications and interviews available at the event.*