



# Panama Central School Newsletter

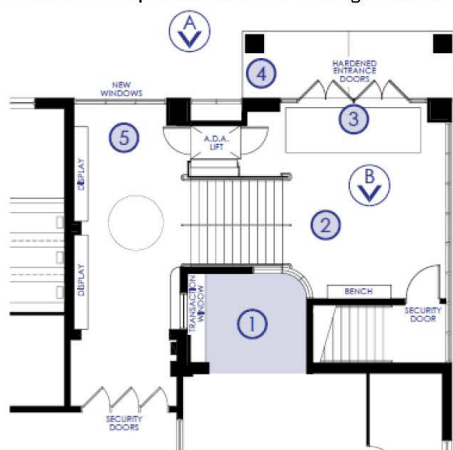
**November 2023**

**2023 Capital Project Vote: November 21, 2023!**

Dear Panama Community,

We are excited to announce that our next capital project is a tax neutral project that will focus on the following key building improvements in the areas of safety/security & food preparation/service for Panama Central School:

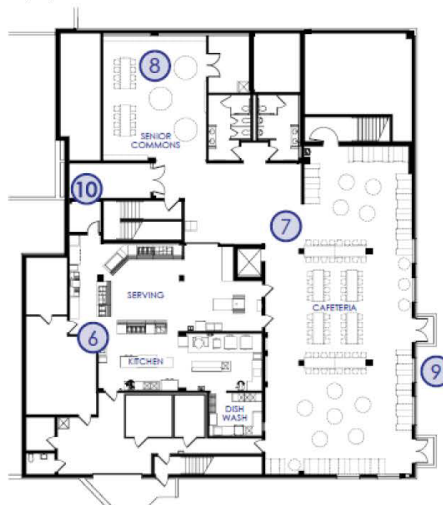
- Secure Main Entrance with Double Secure Entry Door & Credential Verification
- Renovated & Updated Cafeteria Area with New Layout & Seating
- Renovated & Updated Kitchen & Serving Area with New Layout & Equipment



**PROPOSED MAIN ENTRY**

**NEW SECURE MAIN ENTRANCE:**

1. CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SECURED RECEPTION OFFICE INCLUDING VISITOR CREDENTIAL VERIFICATION SYSTEM & MAIN ENTRY LINE OF SIGHT.
2. SECURED LOBBY RECONSTRUCTION TO INCLUDE MAIN STAIR & A.D.A. LIFT RECONFIGURATION WITH LOCKED BASEMENT ACCESS DOOR.
3. NEW HARDENED ENTRANCE DOOR & WINDOW SYSTEMS WITH SECURITY FILM.
4. EXTERIOR CANOPY RECONSTRUCTION.
5. INFILL OF EXISTING EXTERIOR STAIR FOR 2ND FLOOR DISPLAYS & GATHERING SPACE.



**PROPOSED KITCHEN & CAFETERIA**

**KITCHEN & CAFETERIA RECONSTRUCTION:**

6. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING KITCHEN & SERVING AREAS. REPLACEMENT OF SELECT KITCHEN & SERVING EQUIPMENT.
7. RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING CAFETERIA TO CREATE DEFINED SEATING AREAS WITH VARIOUS SEATING ARRANGEMENTS & ALL NEW INTERIOR FINISHES.
8. NEW SENIOR COMMONS RECONSTRUCTION TO INCLUDE VARIOUS SEATING OPTIONS & POWERED WORK SPACES.
9. SECURITY FILM ON EXISTING WINDOWS.
10. CREATION OF ADDITIONAL DISTRICT STORAGE.

By adding these security updates and the increased ability to provide an enhanced warm & welcoming food experience for our students, our students will be able to focus on their school day more fully. The facility will be a safer place for all with a dual secure entrance. The cafeteria and kitchen have served the district very well and is simply in need of important updates and new equipment. Voting will take place on November 21st from 12:00-8:00 in the North Gym Lobby. Should you need an absentee ballot, please contact Genevieve Jordan at (716) 782-2455 or [districtclerk@pancent.org](mailto:districtclerk@pancent.org).

Thanks for all you do to support our students!

Sincerely,

*Aaron W. Wolfe*



## SPECIAL VOTE: NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> Noon-8pm in the North Gym Lobby

### PROPOSITION NO. 1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, 2023

#### Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:

RESOLVED, that (a) the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Panama Central School District, Chautauqua County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to undertake a proposed Capital Improvements Project, 2023 (the "Project") consisting of the partial reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements and upgrades to the District's main school building and the site thereof, to implement various health, safety, accessibility and Code compliance measures and various other measures that are included and generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$7,200,000; (b) the Board is hereby authorized to partially finance the Project by utilizing \$300,000 from the District's Capital Improvements Reserve Fund, 2020; (c) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$6,900,000 to finance the balance of the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (d) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$6,900,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and (e) New York State Building Aid funds expected to be received by the District in connection with the Project are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.



### Financial Aid Night

Mr. Simmons will be hosting a virtual Financial Aid Night on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 7:00pm. Your son or daughter will receive a zoom invite in their school email. If you would like a separate email sent to your email, please contact Mr. Simmons at [dsimmons@pancent.org](mailto:dsimmons@pancent.org). Additional information will be sent out closer to the meeting.

### JCC Leadership Engagement Class Helen Keefe

Mrs. Keefe's JCC Leadership Engagement Class is required to do a service project every semester. This semester's class chose to help UCAN Men's Shelter in Jamestown by sponsoring a collection drive for needed items. After talking with Billy Witherspoon, assistant director at UCAN, the students got a better idea of what the shelter needed. Students developed a plan and reached out to local businesses, asking if they would be willing to be a site for item drop-offs. Several businesses helped, including The Ashville General Store, Don's Car Wash, Ashville Dollar General, Lakewood Cinema 8, and the Panama Diner. Donations were also accepted by staff and students in grades K-12, with 8th graders collecting the most items. Much-needed items such as hats, toiletries, clothes, and non-perishable items were collected. On October 26th, the JCC Leadership Engagement Class delivered the donations to UCAN and had the opportunity to meet Aaron Wadin, executive director at UCAN. These students also received a tour of the facility and got a better understanding of how their collection efforts positively impact the lives of so many men in the shelter. UCAN is always taking donations and is currently in need of gift cards to local grocery stores so perishable food and dairy items can be purchased on an as-needed basis. For more information on how you can help this local organization, please contact Billy Witherspoon or Aaron Wadin at 716-488-7480.



*Pictured L to R are Billy Witherspoon of UCAN, Lilly Devine, Clarissa Bouge, Haleigh Cooper, John Watson, and Aaron Wadin of UCAN.*

## Happy Fall!

As we get ready to head into the Winter season, I am happy to report that good things are happening in the high school! Our Juniors and Seniors have been on college tours to Gannon and Mercyhurst. Mrs. Keefe's JCC Leadership class's project of collecting items for the UCAN Men's shelter in Jamestown was a great success. Our students taking part in Science Olympiad have begun practicing for their contest in February and our 7/8th R.O.A.R. program, led by Mrs. Warner and Ms. Jones had its first kick off meeting this past month. The goal of the program is to help students be responsible decision-makers, promote open-mindedness, be accountable for their actions, and develop healthy and supportive relationships.

The R.O.A.R. Program breaks students into small advisory groups based on their grade level. Each group is then assigned a staff member as an advisor. The advisor then leads each group of students through a list of activities that are designed to increase students' social, emotional, and career skills.

Our fall sports programs are all heading towards sectionals and/or playoffs! I am incredibly proud of all of our athletes and coaches and how much they have grown in this short time. Go Panthers and Go Wolfpack!

In other news, our winter sports sign-ups are open and will be accessible until November 15th. Morning Swim begins on October 30th and runs from 6:15-7:15 am five days a week. Community members welcome! Last but not least, the Panther Claw after school program for students from grades 3rd-12th will start on November 7th and will run every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3-4pm. The program will run until the beginning of March and bussing will be provided.

As always thank you for your continued support of us, our students, and of our community!

Thanks,

Scott Costantini  
7-12 Principal



## FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

**It is important that you apply for admission to the school of your choice before you apply for financial aid.**

In order to obtain any financial aid, student loans and/or scholarships please follow these important steps:

1. \*Colleges will require the FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be filed by paper application or online at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). The Federal Government prefers online applications. If you need a paper application, you must call 1-800-4FEDAID. \*\*If you are planning to attend a school within New York State, you will be directed to the New York State TAP - Tuition Assistance Program application after filing the FAFSA online.
2. File your FAFSA as soon as possible after December 1st. Use your 2022 tax return when filling out the FAFSA.
3. Apply for financial aid, **EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU ARE ELIGIBLE**. With a little effort, the results may be worthwhile. In addition, you must apply in order to receive student loans and most scholarships.
4. Wait to receive Financial Aid Packages from the colleges to which you have applied. You may then compare financial aid packages to determine the best deal.

Any questions, please contact the Guidance Office for an appointment at 716-782-4448.

## Little Free Library

Mrs. Sard

The Village of Panama has added a second Little Free Library. The newest addition is located on the PCS playground and is dedicated to Linda Scotty, a beloved wife, mother, teacher, and friend. Linda was a retired PCS elementary teacher who passed away unexpectedly in December 2022. Family, friends, and staff gathered on the last day of school this past June for the official dedication ceremony.



Linda recognized the power of literature and the transformative effect it can have on young minds. This vision would not have become a reality without the support and generosity of the faculty and staff of our school. Their contributions and dedication to the cause of education have made this library possible.

Linda's Little Free Library offers books for adults and children. Both libraries in the Village are registered with the nonprofit organization Little Library and are added to the Google map on their website, which pinpoints little libraries all over the world. Anyone who passes is encouraged to "take book or leave a book." No library card is needed, and books do not have to be returned. Linda's Little Free Library serves as a living testament to her passion for education and her unwavering belief in the power of literature to

transform lives. If you are interested in donating books to Linda's Little Library, please contact Dawn Sard at

[dsard@pancent.org](mailto:dsard@pancent.org).

Panama Central School  
41 North Street  
Panama, New York 14767

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### **Mission Statement**

Panama Central School...where we learn and grow together through shared effort and support.

### **We Believe . . .**

- Every individual is important and deserves respect.
- Learning occurs at home, in school, in the community and through many resources
- Education includes intellectual, emotional, and social learning
- Learning is a continuing life-long process
- Every individual is entitled to opportunities to reach his/her potential
- In a safe, supportive, and productive environment
- Every individual is responsible for his/her own choices
- Communication within the educational community is vital to success of the system.

To email a faculty or staff member at Panama:  
First initial of first name + last name + @pancent.org  
Example: Jane Doe – jdoe@pancent.org

### **Board of Education**

Gregory Hudson, *President*  
Carrie Munsee, *Vice President*  
Robert Delahoy  
Kyle Rhoades  
Steven Morgan  
Gregory Bullaro  
Sophie Horner  
Genevieve Jordan, *District Clerk*  
BoardofEd@pancent.org

### **Administration**

Aaron W. Wolfe, *Superintendent*  
awolfe@pancent.org EXT: 4446  
Emily Harvey, *Director of Instruction&Spec.Ed.*  
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Leah Hayes, *UPK-6 Principal*  
lhayes@pancent.org EXT: 4166  
Scott Costantini, *7-12 Principal*  
scostantini@pancent.org EXT: 4413  
Amanda Kolstee, *District Treasurer*  
akolstee@pancent.org EXT: 4455  
Brynne Hinsdale, *Director of Technology*  
bhinsdale@pancent.org EXT: 4456  
Shaun Hummel, *Supervisor of Bldg. & Gr.*  
shummel@pancent.org EXT: 4470

**WEBSITE:** [www.pancent.org](http://www.pancent.org)