February Thoughts
By
Bert Lictus, Superintendent

I would like to thank the Panama community for their positive vote on the “Maintenance Project”. Your support of the school and the students of the district is appreciated. Together we can achieve anything!

We are confident that the work we are doing on the school can be completed with no impact on the tax levy. We have saved our money and budgeted appropriately over the years.

The work that will be done is primarily meant to maintain the facility that we have. We will be replacing roofs, updating the high school science labs, resurfacing the front parking lot, resurfacing the north gym lot and associated driveways, utilizing the milled pavement to resurface roadways to the baseball/softball fields, resurfacing the old tennis courts and installing fencing, upgrading the pool mechanicals and lights, and updating some minor HVAC issues. Like a house, our school needs regular maintenance as well. We are confident you’ll be happy with the results. The expected completion date is the fall of 2022.

As always, we are now beginning to build the spending plan for next year. As the budget process unfolds, please do not hesitate to speak to your elected board members or myself about your concerns. I believe that together we can develop a spending plan that meets the needs of our students. I’ll see you at the school.

Panama Central School
February 2020

Panama Central School presents
Roald Dahl's
Matilda
THE MUSICAL
Matilda is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International, 47 West 5th Street, New York, NY 10012

April 3rd
7:00 PM
April 4th
7:00 PM
Admission
Adults - $8
Students - $6
Panama Central School Auditorium
41 North Street, Panama, NY 14767

Class of 2022 Pasta Dinner
Worried about what you will eat before the Saturday night performance of Matilda? The Class of 2022 will be holding a Pasta Fundraising Dinner, April 4th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm in the Panama School Cafeteria! Come and enjoy delicious pasta and salad prepared by Sandee's Bakery. Sophomore students will be waiting to serve you. They will also be providing desserts!

More details will be available as the date gets closer. We hope to see you there!

2020-2021 Budget
Public Hearing
May 11th, 7 PM in the Auditorium
Annual Vote & Election
May 19th, Noon – 8 PM in the N. Gym Lobby
Absentee Ballots may be requested at the District Office beginning May 1st.
School Board candidate nominating petitions may be requested beginning March 1st.
Students of the First Quarter

Cassandra Lyon was named Student of the First Quarter for her 7th grade class. Cassie is the daughter of Joe and Darcy Lyon of Panama. Cassie is on the Honor Roll, a member of the Service Club, Student Council and Chautauqua Fusion. She enjoys swimming, softball, basketball, collecting American Girl dolls and hatching monarch butterflies. Cassie is also the manager for the JV/V girls’ basketball teams, plays in the school band and sings in the chorus. Her favorite subjects in school are English and math. Cassie’s favorite singer is Thomas Rhett and her favorite TV show is *Friends*.

Sarah Harvey is in 8th grade. She is the daughter of Wayne and Emily Harvey of Falconer. Sarah is an Honor Roll student. Sarah plays the flute in the school band. She is a member of Student Council, the JV girls’ volleyball and softball teams, and is a member of the Buffalo Volleyball Academy. Sarah enjoys spending time with her family, painting and drawing. Her favorite subject in school is algebra, her favorite singer is Shawn Mendes and she enjoys watching *Grey’s Anatomy*.

The 9th grade Student of the First Quarter is Hannah Schauman. Hannah is the daughter of Corey and Danielle Schauman of Ashville. Hannah is a member of the CSP Cross Country and Track teams, and a member of the girls’ basketball team; she is also involved in 4-H. Hannah is a member of the school band, chorus, IMPACT and Student Council. Hannah’s favorite subject in school is math, her favorite singer is Thomas Rhett and favorite TV show is *Grey’s Anatomy*.

Halle Karlson is the 10th grade Student of the First Quarter for Panama. Halle is the daughter of Benjamin and Jennifer Karlson of Ashville. Halle is on the Honor Roll, she is a member of Student Council and the Service Club. She is a member of IMPACT and is an IMPACT Leader. Halle enjoys painting, singing, performing in the school musicals and walking outside. Halle’s favorite subject in school is art, her favorite music group is Press Play and her favorite TV show is *The Flash*.

The 11th grade Student of the First Quarter is Isabel Bailey. Izzi is the daughter of Nate and Deb Bailey of Sinclairville. Izzi is a member of National Honor Society, SADD, Student Council and is on the Honor Roll. Izzi was on the Panama girls’ swim team and is on the girls’ basketball team. She enjoys playing the guitar and hanging out with her friends. Izzi’s favorite subject in school is public speaking, her favorite singer is Quinn XCII and favorite TV show is *Pretty Little Liars*.

The 12th grade Student of the First Quarter is Summer Dracup. Summer is the daughter of Michael and Jolene Dracup of Ashville. Summer is a member of SADD, Envirothon, National Honor Society, High School Bowl and is on the Honor Roll. Summer represented Panama in the Chautauqua Area Scholarship program, placing in many categories. Summer enjoys, art, music, makeup, fashion and playing tennis. Her favorite subjects in school are art and English, her favorite singer is The Weeknd and her favorite TV show is *The Office*. 
A Framework for Understanding Poverty

Mrs. Harvey, Director of Instruction

On January 27th, professional staff developer, Jim Littlejohn, from aha! Process, Inc. A Ruby Payne Company came to Panama to work with our staff. This workshop gave in-depth information to help our staff understand class differences, mental models and student struggles to pick up some strategies that can be implemented in the classroom to achieve impact. Mr. Littlejohn has been a professional educator since 1976, he taught at the middle school, high school, and graduate school level and has served as department chair, athletic director, and coach. He has been a professional development specialist with aha! Process since 2001. Topics discussed included recognizing what resources our students have and/or lack and the effects in the classroom. Understanding family structure and language patterns allows for educators to plan and develop effective ways to communicate and develop relationships with students and families to increase student achievement.

Elementary News

Mrs. Harper, UPK-6 Principal

Panama Families,

It is hard to believe that we have already reached February. This year is going so quickly and spring will be here before we know it! Spring brings State Testing for our students in grades 3-8. All of our students and teachers at PCS work extremely hard, preparing for these assessments. Last year, PCS was ranked as one of the top performing schools in the county. That is something to be proud of! As a district, it is vital that our students are prepared for the state assessments. We not only use the results to monitor student progress, but it also helps our teachers to make informed decisions in regards to their instruction. Here are a few tips to help your child be successful.

Test Taking Strategies:

- Adequate rest
- Healthy Breakfast
- Speak positively about tests
- Take your time
- Be confident

The week of March 23rd, grades 3-5 will be taking the English Language Arts Computer-Based Test, while grades 6-8 will continue to do Paper-Based Testing. Beginning April 21st, grades 3-4 will complete the Paper-Based Math test, while grades 5-8 will take part in Computer-Based Testing. In the weeks leading up to the test, your child will begin preparing by reviewing material and taking practice tests. Encouragement and positive reinforcement is a key piece to your child’s success.

ATTENTION!

Seniors Planning to Attend Jamestown Community College:

In order to be considered for the Unified Student Assistance, Katherine Jackson-Carnahan, and Holmberg scholarships, as well as 70 other Jamestown Community College specific scholarships, you must apply for admission and complete your FAFSA application by March 1, 2020. You may apply to JCC for free on their website at www.sunyjcc.edu.

Parents of Seniors:

Don’t forget to get the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) filed ASAP!

Seniors:

Don’t forget to keep checking for new scholarship listings in the Guidance Office. Applications are available in the Guidance Office. Please pay careful attention to deadlines.
Homework Club  
Mrs. Cook, 7-12 Principal

Ask any student if they “want to do homework” and you’re likely to get a response of “no.” Homework can be a battle and a struggle for students and parents. However, if done correctly, it can provide meaningful practice for students to become proficient with a skill. It also provides students with instruction beyond the content area and gives them an opportunity to learn time management, planning, and organizational skills, which will be valuable in their post-secondary lives. With supported assistance, we have noted an increase in student achievement. This opportunity not only provides time for practice and instruction on how to be successful with homework, but also gives students a collaborative work environment with access to technology needs, so that we continue to educate students for today’s workforce. Students are also provided a snack and have access to the late bus for transportation home. If you feel this would be a good fit for your student and are looking for strategies for the never ending “homework battle,” consider having your student attend Homework Club. Students in Grades 3-6 can sign up for Wednesdays with Mrs. Myers. Students in grades 7-12 can sign up with Mrs. Keefe for Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Hope to see you at Homework Club!

Thank you to Panama Parents/Guardians!

Thank you for being diligent in calling the school to let us know when your child is absent. Please remember to send in written excuses. Thank you for making attendance to school a top priority. Working together will only help our students succeed.

It’s That Time of Year Again!

The Guidance Department began course selection for the 2020-2021 school year. All students in grades 8-11 have met or will meet with their counselor Dane Simmons to review course options and graduation requirements. The 8th grade students began meeting with Mr. Simmons in January to develop a four-year plan, as well as select courses for their first year of High School. A copy of each 8th grade student’s four-year plan will be mailed home for parents to review. It is crucial that students and parents have a thorough understanding of the graduation requirements. The current curriculum guide including Class of 2021 graduation requirements and all high school course descriptions is available to you at www.pancent.org under the guidance link. If there are any questions or concerns please contact the Guidance Office at 782-4448.

Trip to the Chautauqua Humane Society  
Mrs. Ring

On December 20th, students from Mrs. Richardson’s, Mrs. Schneider’s and Mrs. Ring’s classes took a trip to the Chautauqua Humane Society on Strunk Road in Jamestown. Students made and donated over 30 tie fleece blankets for the cats and dogs at the Humane Society. During the trip, students were able to take a tour of the facility, interact with the cats in the “Cat Cove” and read Christmas books to the dogs in the kennels. The most amazing part of this trip was when the students read Christmas books to the dogs, and watched the dogs go from barking and jumping to being completely calm, and even sleeping within minutes. Everyone enjoyed being able to bring some Christmas cheer to the animals at the Humane Society.
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Registration Day at PCS
May 2020

Registration for all students entering the 2020-2021 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program at Panama Central School is planned for
May 2020

Children living in the Panama district who will be four years old by December 1, 2020, are eligible to attend the UPK Program.

There will be a morning class and an afternoon class – each class will be 2 ½ hours.

Transportation for all students will be provided.

A registration packet containing more information will be mailed to parents known to be in the district in late April 2020.

If you are NEW to the Panama Central School District, or have lived in the district and have a preschool child, please contact Mrs. Sperry in the Elementary office at (716) 782-4414. The district does not take a census every year and we need this information for our Universal Pre-Kindergarten class and our Kindergarten class for September and also for our projected enrollments. Thank you, and we greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Please call Mrs. Sperry in the UPK-6 Office at 782-4414 or email msperry@pancent.org, if you have any questions.

40 Book Challenge
Mrs. Myers

At the beginning of the school year, way back in September, our 5th & 6th grade students started on a journey of a 40 Book Challenge. The goal is to read 40 books throughout the year, from a variety of Genres. While one of the main purposes of this project is to get our students reading, it is also to introduce them to different types of books in hopes that they will start to choose books that they normally would not consider. In addition to paper books, students have access to digital books through Sora and MackinVIA, which have both been installed on their ipads. As students complete books there are several different activities they may take part in. Pictured are both our 5th and 6th grade classes holding flags with the number of books they have read during the first semester. Please encourage your children to read and to step out of their comfort zone on their way to becoming lifelong readers.

April 3
30-Week Marking Period Ends
SAT Reg. Deadline-May Test

April 4
ACT Test
Pasta Dinner

April 6
Board of Education Meeting

April 9
Report Cards
Panther Pride Assembly

April 10-17
Spring Recess

April 19-25
National Volunteer Appreciation Week
National Library Week

April 21-27
NYS Grades 3-8 Math Exams

April 24
PFP Spring Family Dance

DATES TO REMEMBER
March 1-7
Foreign Language Week
March 8
Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14
SAT Test
March 16
Board of Education Meeting
March 20
Vacation Day-No School
March 25-31
NYS Grades 3-8 ELA Exams
April 2
Musical Dress Rehearsal for Senior Citizens, 6 PM
April 3-4
Musical
Community Thanksgiving Dinner
Mrs. Keefe

On November 25th, 2019, the Inaugural Community Thanksgiving Dinner was held at the Panama United Methodist Church. The event was sponsored by the Panama Central School National Honor Society and was supported by the Panama School Community Service Group and the Panama School High School Student Council. Food items for the dinner were collected throughout the month of November by students in the school and were prepared at the church on the day of the dinner. Members from the National Honor Society, Community Service Club, and Student Council peeled, boiled, and mashed over 200 pounds of potatoes, mixed over 100 boxes of stuffing, and opened over 100 cans of corn and 50 cans of cranberry sauces. Students also made rolls and gravy and put over 300 desserts on plates. Art students in grades K-7 made the table placemats and entertainment was provided by Panama's chorus students. It was truly an event that involved students in every grade level. The evening was a huge success with over 345 free dinners being served to community members. National Honor Society members said, "We are very excited to be serving our community in what we hope will become a long-lasting tradition." One of the four chapters of NHS is "Service." Panama NHS students realize that service builds character, lends itself to learning opportunities, and really does make the world a better place. Plans for next year's dinner are already being discussed.

Volleyball Seniors
Tammy Hosier, Coach

The volleyball team and coaches would like to thank our seniors, Natalie Angeletti, Alexis Finnerty, Ally Finnerty, Jasmine Markham and Kylie Schnars for all the FUN they brought to our volleyball program. The SUCCESS you have had on the volleyball court is INCREDIBLE and the MEMORIES you have made with your teammates and coaches will last a lifetime. A special thanks to Karleen Dash for joining us this year as a manager! We wish you all continued success and WE WILL MISS YOU!!! Remember to ALWAYS BELIEVE!!! Once a PANTHER, always a PANTHER!!!
The Lady Panther’s varsity volleyball team ended their 2019 season with an overall record of 24-2 and a fourth consecutive trip to Glens Falls to compete in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class D Championship. What an amazing accomplishment! Every season a new team is formed with returning players – starters, role players and 1st year varsity players. There are so many variables … will the individuals become TEAMmates, will ALL players accept their roles and will they be able to play at the level needed at the varsity level, and most importantly will this team have the chemistry needed to be successful?

The 2019 team far exceeded my expectations – from the first day of practice it was obvious this group would become a TEAM and had what it took to get to the next level. Each and every player not only accepted their new role, but also upped their game to become a TEAM that other teams feared playing. The girls WON the CCAA Central League with an undefeated record of 14-0, and won both the Falconer and Panama tournament.

In post season, the Lady Panther’s breezed through the semifinal game against Pine Valley and earned the right to play at JCC for the sectional title against North Collins. North Collins always has a strong program and once again came out ready to play but so were we! We beat North Collins in 4 games and would now face Randolph in the crossover game. Again, Randolph historically has been a strong program and played a much stronger game than we expected but the Lady Panthers played their game and beat them in 3 sets. The win advanced the Lady Panthers to the Far West Regional Game where they beat HAC from Section 5 at Daemen College to advance to the state championships.

At the State tournament, Natalie Angeletti and Kylie Schnars were named to the all-Western NY 1st tournament team, and senior Ally Finnerty received honorable mention. What a great group of STUDENT-ATHLETES!

The awards earned by our team have been numerous! Starting with the most important, the girls were presented with the Scholar Athlete TEAM Award. This means as a team their grade point average is over 90%! Ashlyn Harvey had the top average of the team with a 99.89! Natalie Angeletti was named to the all-Western NY academic team, and Kylie Schnars was named to the honorable mention team. What a great group of STUDENT-ATHLETES!

Several individual players have been recognized by our league and throughout the state. In League, Seniors, Natalie Angeletti & Kylie Schnars, and Junior, Maddie Johnson were named to the 1st team all stars. Junior Marra Hovey was named to the 2nd team, and senior Ally Finnerty received honorable mention.

At the State tournament, Natalie Angeletti and Kylie Schnars were named to the all-tournament team, and Ally Finnerty was recognized as a sportsmanship winner. The recognition did not stop there. Natalie and Kylie were two of twelve players from all classes named to the All Western NY 1st Team, and Maddie Johnson was named to the 2nd team!

For the fourth year in a row we were honored to have players named to the CLASS D ALL STATE TEAMS. Natalie Angeletti and Kylie Schnars were selected to the CLASS D 1ST TEAM ALL STATE TEAM and will join fellow teammates Tara Sweeney and Madalyn Bowen in having their jerseys retired. Maddie Johnson was named to the CLASS D 2ND TEAM ALL STATE TEAM. What an honor for so many of our individual players to be recognized throughout the state! It goes without saying; these individual awards would not be possible without our TEAM success. Congratulations girls on another awesome season!
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 learning environment.
• every individual is responsible for his/her own choices.
• communication within the educational community is vital to success of the system.

To e-mail a faculty or staff member at Panama:
First initial of first name, last name @pancent.org
Example: Jane Doe jdoe@pancent.org

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