

SPENCER-VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Heat and Eat

Dear Spencer-Van Etten Residents,

As temperatures drop, heating costs rise for all New Yorkers. This rise in heating costs forces some to make an impossible choice—pay to keep their homes at a safe temperature or buy the groceries they need to stay healthy. For New Yorkers facing this decision, SNAP could make it possible to do both.

SNAP is a monthly supplement to one's food budget. People who participate in the program are given a special debit card called an EBT card that is used to buy groceries. Because SNAP dollars are spent at local grocery stores, SNAP is helping both the residents of our community *and* the businesses that serve them.

With SNAP, lower income families, children, veterans, college students and older adults will be able to buy the nutritious foods they need to stay strong and healthy through the winter months while keeping the heat on.

Anyone in Tioga County interested in getting more information about SNAP or getting a free and confidential prescreening to find out if they may be eligible to participate should contact the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP).

Sincerely,

**Kathi Latson – Tioga County NOEP Coordinator**

**Family Enrichment Network – Tioga County**

**1277 Taylor Road Suite 18, Owego, NY 13827**

**(607) 687-6721 x1190**



# SPENCER - VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

February 2016

## A Note from the Superintendent

### Combining Sports Teams

The Spencer-Van Etten and Candor administrators and coaches have been discussing ways to preserve our athletic teams in the face of declining enrollments and participation in sports at the high school level. Last year both of the Spencer-Van Etten Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer Teams finished the season with only one or two substitutes. Both teams also had a significant number of underclassman playing on the varsity squad.

Coaches for both soccer teams are concerned they will not have enough players to field a team next year. Last year the Candor Varsity Football Team cancelled one game and ended another early because of a lack of players. They started the season with twenty one players. The Spencer-Van Etten Varsity Football Team started the season with twenty three players and did not cancel any games, but with low numbers, injuries and concussions can end a season early.

The Spencer-Van Etten Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team ended the season with only two subs and two of the players on the team were foreign exchange students. The Spencer-Van Etten Cross Country Team has not fielded Girls Varsity Team in recent memory and although a single runner can compete in a cross country meet as an individual, five runners are required for a team to score in a meet.

We have preserved our varsity athletic teams by having younger players play-up to the varsity level. These young players are required to meet certain developmental standards and are evaluated by a medical professional. Although younger students may meet the minimum qualifications to play on a varsity team, it is not always an ideal situation for these young players to compete against significantly older players. With low numbers on a team and very few substitutes, players are often required to play well past exhaustion. When players are tired, they are more susceptible to injury and are not able to perform at their peak ability.

Both school districts want to maintain opportunities for student athletes and make sure that when our youngest students reach the high school level they will have a team to play on in their chosen sport. At this point, given the enrollment numbers, we are concerned that we may not have enough players to field teams in soccer, football and field hockey in the future. If the Spencer-Van Etten and Candor school districts were to combine teams in these sports at the varsity level, we anticipate having enough players to form junior varsity teams. At this time our modified teams include ninth graders but with a combined team, the modified teams would include only seventh and eighth grade students. The benefit of this would be that students would have the opportunity to compete at their age appropriate level of competition. These student athletes would have time to develop their skills and then eventually have the opportunity to play on a more competitive team at the varsity level.

At this time, basketball and girls volley ball teams are not being considered for combining because both schools have enough players to maintain teams. To combine athletic teams from two separate school districts, it is required that each year, both school boards pass a resolution allowing it and then it must be approved by both the IAC League and Section IV. The Board of Education will discuss this topic at its February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Respectfully,

Joe Morgan, Superintendent



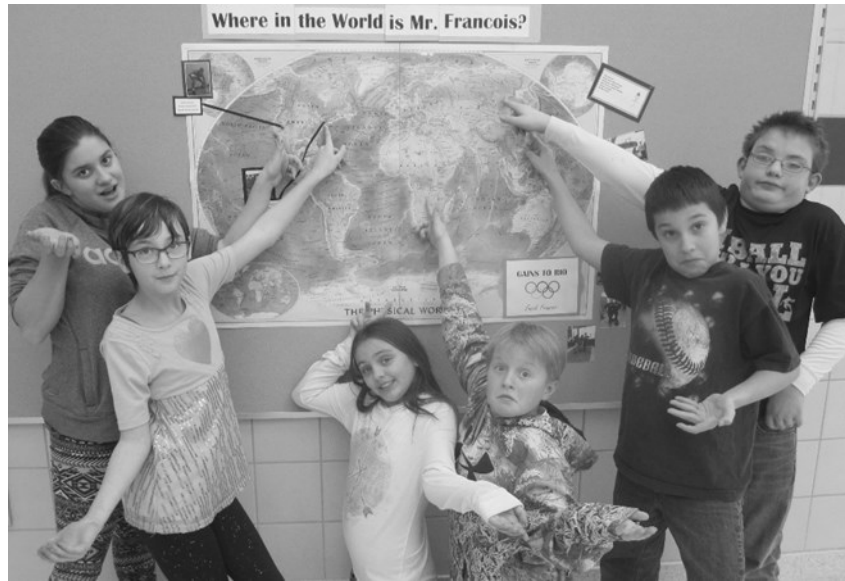
## Elementary School News

On Wednesday, January 20th, the 3rd and 4th grade chorus' performed "This Old Gingerbread House" to a packed audience. The students committed a lot of time and effort to learning their roles and the musical numbers. The audience responded with a rousing round of applause at the end of the final act and the curtain calls created a standing ovation. A special congratulations goes out to all of the performers, director Mrs. Kay Brown and assistant director Ms. Lisa Gould.

This year, we are focusing on improving our attendance. Please ensure that your child has a safe plan to get to school in bad weather and please monitor your child's health. We strongly encourage washing your child's hands frequently in and out of school. If your child is going to be absent or tardy, please use our Safe Arrival program. If you need assistance in becoming fluent with Safe Arrival, please feel free to call the Elementary School Office at 589-7110.



## Middle School News

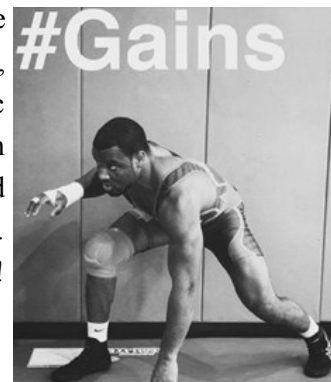


### Where in the World???

Every Christmas, children follow Santa's trip around the globe, keeping track of where he is throughout the night. Students and staff at the middle school are doing the same thing, but with a different celebrity! 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher, Mr. Enock Francois is the man who is being tracked. Mr. Francois has taken a leave from his teaching responsibilities to train for the 2016 Olympics. On Friday, January 22, a sendoff rally was held to wish him good luck. The entire school came together in the gym to cheer him on and wish him the best! A bulletin board in the gym lobby has been decorated to show where Mr. Francois has been,

where he is, and where he is going. Currently he is in Colorado Springs, CO at the Olympic Training Center. He was in California last week and will be traveling to the eastern European country Belarus. In Belarus he will be in training competitions against top US and world wrestlers. Some upcoming stops on his journey for the gold are Ithaca, New Jersey and NY City. April is a big month for him as he travels to Iowa City, IA to compete to qualify for Team USA!! Everyone at the middle school is cheering him on!!

Submitted by: Mrs. Sandy Holmes and Mr. Mark Fontana



## Athletic Hall of Fame

Spencer-Van Etten Central School District established an Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015, honoring James Cronkhite as our first inductee. The selection committee is now accepting nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame for 2016!

Our purpose is to honor eminent individuals, enhance a sense of school and community pride and preserve the tradition and excellence of Spencer-Van Etten athletics. A member of the Athletic Hall of Fame can be either a prior student, coach, team or contributor to the S-VE athletic program. A complete listing of requirements for selection, as well as the nomination form can be found online at [www.svecsd.org](http://www.svecsd.org). You may also stop in any of the school offices to receive a nomination packet. Nominations must be received no later than March 1, 2016 to be considered for selection this year.

## High School News

English 10 + Global II + Library Research = Inquiry!

When one hears the word "inquiry", often research isn't far behind. After all, inquiry should lead to questioning which in turn leads to more questions, etc. Student motivation to know more is a goal of teachers and librarians alike! That's why understanding absolute monarchs for Global II and different revolutions for English 10 led to a collaborative project with the district librarian. After attending an amazingly informative workshop held by BOCES, Elizabeth Peters, Katherine Manion and Allison Farmer came back to the high school ready to start students on the inquiry path. Classroom discussions revolved around understanding new vocabulary while inquiring with "I wonder..." questions. Armed with their topic and questions, students proceeded to search the library databases in order to gather supporting evidence.

For English 10, students had to answer the essential question: if you lived during the Revolution, which side would you support and why? The end product was a simple infographic using the free program Piktochart. We are often inundated with information in the form of pictures, graphs, and charts through the media and marketing campaigns. Students had to whittle down the immense information they gathered in order to choose a side with three pieces of evidence for their claim along with pictures to help show their choice. Interestingly, many students found it difficult to write less and show more.

For Global II, students chose an absolute monarch to inquire about and then create a fake Match.com profile page. There were lots of laughs and excitement answering questions like: what is the first thing people notice about you?

Inquiry and research can be fun and collaborative. Forcing students out of their comfort zone where they solely rely on Google to answer any and all inquiries is pushing them towards higher order thinking skills which will lead them to effectively navigate the world after high school.

## Panther Pantry

Community member and school volunteer, Anni Ryan, recently presented the idea of establishing an anonymous closet where donated non-perishable food could be accessible to high school students in need, as there is already an existing program for the younger grades. This idea stemmed from an article Mrs. Ryan read on [www.theroot.com](http://www.theroot.com) titled "NC High School Students Start Food Pantry to Help Out Classmates in Need". Furthering this idea, a group of staff members met to decide location, responsibilities shared and sustainability ideas to start the "Panther Pantry". Students, with encouragement from staff if applicable, are able to discretely go to the "Panther Pantry" and take non-perishable food items as many times as they need, no questions asked.

To establish the "Panther Pantry", students donated non-perishable food items in December, along with donations from community members. Keeping this pantry discrete for those in need, we are not publicizing this among the students. However, if you are interested in donating to our Panther Pantry, you can drop items off at the High School Office! Items we are collecting include soups, tuna fish, canned fruit, boxed meals, cereal, oatmeal, individual serving fruit or pudding cups, nutrition bars, crackers, peanut butter and jelly.

As always, we continue to support the Community Food Cupboard and hope you donate to them as well.

## S-VE High School Music Department Presents...

Our musically talented high school students have been continuously practicing their upcoming performance of *Rodger's and Hammerstein's production of Cinderella* (Broadway Version)! There will be three opportunities for the community to come enjoy the musical! This production is led by Mr. Dan Miller and his musical team. Performances will be held in the S-VE High School Auditorium. Come support our students!

### Performance Times

Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM  
Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM  
Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00PM

### Tickets

\$8 in advance  
(can purchase in any school office)  
\$10 at the door