

March 2016

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Dates to Remember

March 10 -
Conversation on
Education: State of the
District, 7pm, HS
Library

March 15- PACE
Meeting - Helping
Students Deal with
Stress, 7pm, Bay Trail
Library

March 23-
Board of Ed Mtg, 7pm,
HS Library

March 25 - April
1Spring Recess
NO SCHOOL

Letter from the Principal



Dear Bay Trail Community,

March has finally arrived with Spring just a matter of days from now. As we move into Spring, our students and staff are focusing on many events at Bay Trail. You can keep current with information posted under the Schools tab on Penfield's website at www.penfield.edu. The following are some events to add to your calendars:

- **Willy Wonka Jr. - Bay Trail Musical - March 4, 5, 6**
- **Bay Trail Arts in Education - March 4, 5, 6**
- **Grades 6 to 8 ELA State Assessment - April 5, 6, 7**
- **Grades 6 to 8 Math State Assessment - April 13, 14, 15**
- **5th to 6th Grade Parent Evening for Houses A, B and C - May 4**

As a follow-up to Blue Ribbon Week in February, we are fortunate to have Sweethearts and Heroes come back to Bay Trail to present assemblies for our students on March 18. They are a one-of-a-kind anti-bullying organization that believes in educating society toward the impact bullying has on all of our schools, neighborhoods, and individuals. Their presentation incorporates important messages about tolerance, acceptance, empathy and awareness.

The character trait for March and April is Responsibility. We work with Bay Trail students to understand their responsibility as learners and to take responsibility for themselves, for others, and for Bay Trail. Responsibility combines aspects of respect, caring and integrity, which have been the character traits we have focused on since the beginning of the school year.

Our Bay Trail students develop a greater sense of their responsibility as they progress from Grade 6 through Grade 8. Our Spirit Cup challenge for March will support students demonstrating their responsibility by focusing on being prepared for class by having and using their planners.

Thank you for being responsible parents and community members!

Winton Buddington
Bay Trail Principal

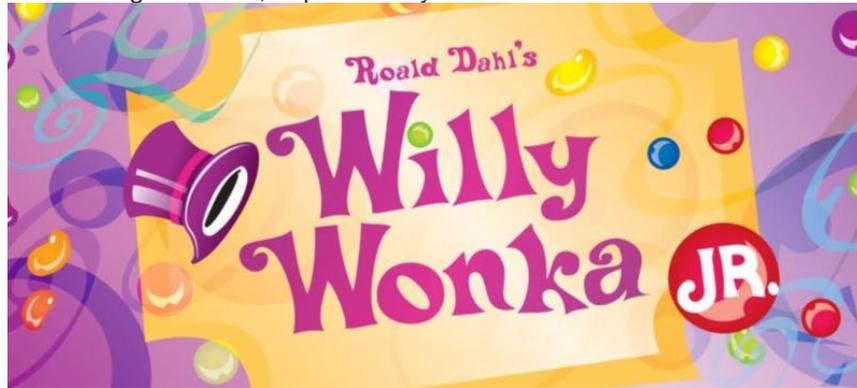
[>>Our Mission](#)



Willy Wonka Jr - This Weekend!

Bay Trail's Drama Club will present Willy Wonka Jr. on Friday, March 4th, Sat. March 5th at 7:00 PM, and Sunday March 6th at 2:00 PM.

It will be a great show, hope to see you there!!



Classroom Round Up

This month's topic came to me by way of a parent inquiry and another misguided question from a student, who was wondering one day if the teachers were in trouble. I answered his question with a question: "Why on Earth would you ask that??" This student went on to explain that he had been in several classrooms that week where Mr. Buddington or a house principal was there watching and typing notes on a laptop. Ah...misguided student was referring to the observation process that is part of the teacher evaluation system. This is also the same subject a parent had inquired about - what exactly do the principals look for when they do a formal observation? The short answer is evidence of good teaching. The long answer would take a 192 page book, and some complicated explanations from the NYS Ed. Dept. For the purposes of this article, and our sanity, I will give you the Reader's Digest condensed version.

The Penfield School District uses a Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson that many districts across the country have embraced. Taken from the overview of this book, "The Framework for teaching...identifies those aspects of a teacher's responsibilities that have been documented through empirical studies and theoretical research as promoting improved student learning." The framework is broken into four domains, with two to five components listed in each domain that describe a specific element of teaching.

The Domains are as follows:

- Domain 1: Planning and Preparation
- Domain 2: The Classroom Environment
- Domain 3: Instruction
- Domain 4: Professional Responsibilities

Some examples of the specific components listed are, under Domain 1: Demonstrating knowledge of content and pedagogy, under Domain 2: Teacher interaction with students. There are 22 components altogether.

So, an observation is all about documenting evidence of this framework as demonstrated by the teacher in a given lesson. The district determines four of the 22 components administrators will look for evidence of, and the teacher chooses another four. Each tenured teacher is observed twice a year, once scheduled ahead of time, and once unannounced. At each step of the process, the teacher has an opportunity to meet with the principal to discuss the lesson and feedback that becomes part of the teacher's overall performance review.

Don't fret for that poor misguided student - I did not share this Reader's Digest condensed version of the teacher observation process with him. I simply explained that the principals like to take note of how much our students learn through their hard work in class.

Got questions? Send them in! Call, email, or even send snail mail: kgraham@penfield.edu, 249-6412.

Submitted by Karen Graham
PTA Faculty Liaison

Whole School Project Enrichment Opportunities

It's easy to beat the winter blues with so many whole-school Project Enrichment opportunities to choose from:

- The ten-week Zoom exploration has just taken off. Explorations are mini units of study taking place on Fridays during Home Base. Students are exploring Zoom books, examining perspectives and creating their own Zoom-type book.
- Some students also chose to sign up to learn more about careers in Computer Science. Mr. Kinsman, a Bay Trail parent, volunteered his time for two-week exploration to

show students the many computer science careers that go beyond programming and coding.

- Independent Projects can be started any time! An independent project is an opportunity for students to explore any area of interest their own pace. Independent projects take place in the enrichment rooms on Mondays and/or Fridays during Home Base. See your House Enrichment Teacher for an Independent Project Form or download one from their teacher pages.

Mrs. Salsedo, House A, room 501
Mrs. Graham, House B, room 504
Ms. Young, House C, room 213

Conversation on Education: State of the District

Thursday, March 10, 2016, 7:00 pm
Penfield High School Library

Please join us for a discussion focused on the following topics:

- Educating the Whole Student
- 2016-17 Budget
- 2016 Capital Project
- Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)

Disability-Friendly Camp Options

Wednesday., March 16 @ 7pm - 8pm

Bay Trail Library

Presenters:

Representatives from AutismUp, Camp Haccamo, Mountain High Adventure Camp, Rotary Sunshine Camp, and The Family Autism Center

Summer will be here before we know it! Come and learn about different camp options in our community designed for children with disabilities. Learn about what kind of supports each of the camps has to offer, what activities each camp has to offer its campers and registration requirements

for each camp. Representatives from local agencies will come and speak about the different camp options available for children.

Camp Arrowhead

Camp Bay View

Camp Haccamo

Camp Puzzle Peace

Mountain High Adventure Camp

Rotary Sunshine Camp

*****All are Welcome to Attend*****



<http://penfield-septa.org> Find us on Facebook

This program is offered for informational purposes only and does not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the PTA or the Penfield Central School District.

Cyberbullying

An article from our Counselors

The internet and new technology are very valuable tools that generate positive opportunities. However, they also create some risks because many students do not know how to properly use them. Specifically, the issue of Cyberbullying is becoming a growing concern for Middle School students. Cyberbullying happens when a child, preteen, or teen uses the internet, cellphones, or other devices to send or post text messages or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This also includes spreading lies and rumors about someone, pretending to be someone else, and sending or forwarding mean text messages. With the internet and new technology becoming such a major factor in our students' education and lifestyles, we hope that they learn the necessary strategies and skills to be able to communicate appropriately.

Tips For Middle School Students:

Cyberbullying

1. **Don't Be Cruel.** You might not like the new kid, but that doesn't mean it's okay to spread rumors about him or her to everyone you

know.

2. **Ignore. Block. Tell.** Ignore mean or threatening messages, block the sender, and tell a trusted adult who can help you report them.
3. **Speak up.** If your friends are cyberbullying someone and you stay silent, you're just as guilty as they are. Speak up and keep your friends in check.

Online Predators

1. **Recognize the difference between cute and creepy.** Think about it - an older guy who wants to date someone much younger is just creepy. Ask yourself, what does he really want?
2. **Don't just sit there - REPORT!** You shouldn't have to deal with creeps on- or offline. If someone asks to meet you in person, report them to the police and www.cybertipline.com.

Sharing Too Much

1. **Avoid TMI.** Don't post anything too personal or embarrassing. That screenname you thought was funny is not going to look so good when your grandma sees it.
2. **Don't be that kid.** We've all heard stories like the kid who got suspended for posting a YouTube video of how to cheat on a test; just don't be that kid!
3. **Protect your space.** Use privacy settings and don't accept just anyone as a friend. Do some investigating - Who are they? Why would you hang out with them?

Trusted Adults

1. **Talk to your parents or guardians...they're not as bad as you think.** Sometimes adults freak out about what you're doing online because you never tell them anything. Keep them in the loop so that they know they can trust you.

The deadline for submissions to the next Trailblazer is **March 31st.**

Please email submissions to trailblazer@baytrailpta.org