



Campbell-Savona Central School District Newsletter

Building project

Perhaps you've noticed that lately almost every school district around is planning a capital project. That's because last year the state budget set aside money for each school district to spend on capital (or building) projects, *if* local voters approve a project. This money, called "Excel Aid" can be used to pay the local share of the costs. Here's how it works.

Currently the Campbell-Savona School District is entitled to 98 percent state aid on capital projects. That means for every dollar spent on a project, the state picks up 98 cents and the cost to local taxpayers is two cents. So for every million dollars for a project, the state will pay \$980,000 and the local share is \$20,000. But with the "Excel" money, also available, the \$20,000 local share can be picked up by the state too, leaving no cost to local taxpayers.

If used wisely, the \$895,000 in Excel aid allocated for the Campbell Savona School District could conceivably enable a project of more than 40 million dollars and there would still be no local tax impact.

Instead, our school board is considering a \$4 to \$5 million capital project. It would basically be confined to nuts and bolts items and health and safety needs, like repairing leaks and broken sidewalks; replacing old, inefficient electrical fixtures; updating the district's communications system; and bringing both buildings up to current building code requirements for those who have handicapping conditions, etc.

Maintaining the investment in our buildings is vital. That means keeping them in good, safe and secure condition. Since EXCEL aid is a special

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Superintendent's note

As we grow older we become wiser. At least that's what I want to believe. Think about it – as kids we were rash and daring and invincible, ready to take any and all challenges, sometimes to our own demise. But age brings wisdom, thoughtfulness and seeing the world from a larger perspective.

As I grow older (with grayer hair and more and more wrinkles), I believe that I can appreciate the challenges that life brings us. Mind you, I don't always enjoy those challenges, but I surely understand their importance to personal growth and understanding. As my grandmother use to say, "I'm not getting older, I'm getting better!"

Our school district also is maturing and getting better. As the district and community matures, I think we are seeing our school, community and world from a wiser and more thoughtful point of view. We recognize the problems we've encountered and in many ways they have made us stronger, better, more thoughtful. We also recognize that we have created some of the very problems we face today – both locally and internationally.

As we reflect on the world, we know in our hearts that today's kids and the world they know is so much different than the one we grew up in. So as I watch the children run and play, study and learn, or laugh and cry, I know that as an older, wiser, "better" person, our community needs to provide this next generation the education they will need for a world we can't even imagine. We need to provide them the tools that will make them successful as they become the future leaders of our community and responsible caretakers of our nation. Our district touches children's lives every single day, giving them the opportunity to grow, learn and succeed and, as they grow older, to become better!

Lynn Lyndes

Superintendent of Schools

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CSCS 2020 Vision into the Future

Preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the world they will grow into – the future world of 2020 and beyond – is the goal of our school. Presently the Board of Education, administrative team and educational staff have begun two projects which are part of our long-term planning process within the district.

CSCS has recently formed a committee to study the facility needs of the district. The goal of the Building Committee is to ensure that our facilities are well-maintained and can support future instructional needs for our students.

CSCS is also beginning a process to revisit the **District Vision** which was developed years ago. The District's Vision has guided us for a number of years and has served as a foundation for the achievement of many goals including high graduation rates at the high school, and our elementary school being named by the Commissioner of Education as a "High Performing School" for the last two school years.

But since the CSCS vision was developed, numerous things have changed in our school community – students have graduated, staff members have retired and younger families with children have joined our school community. Change has not been limited to CSCS. The world beyond the walls of our school has changed dramatically as well. Think of the advances in technology alone which the last five years have seen. Additionally, No Child Left Behind and new state accountability standards have created new changes that our district now faces.

It is now time to develop a new District Vision and to work together as a school community to identify shared hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the future of our children. Together we will develop a compelling and attainable "Vision" of what we hope our district will become, to ensure that programs for our students are exemplary and that students graduate from CSCS prepared to be productive citizens of our community, state and nation.

As we begin this vision-building journey, we would like to invite members of the larger school community – parents, community members and business people to join this project. The perspective of individuals outside of the school is important to ensure that our vision and the future we aspire to includes the values and beliefs of our community. If you are interested in working with our staff and students on a "Vision-Building Journey," please contact Kathy Hagenbuch at 527-4550 ext. 401 or via e-mail at khagen@cscs.wnyric.org for further information.

To quote the great Yankee philosopher, Yogi Berra, "If you don't know where you are going, you probably aren't going to get there." And at CSCS, we intend "to get there!"

The Governor's budget proposal

by Tim Allard, Business Administrator

On January 31, Governor Spitzer presented his proposal for the 2007-08 state budget. The Governor is proposing a total of \$19.16 billion in state support for public schools. This represents a total increase of \$1.4 billion above 2006-07 or 7.96 percent.

What does this mean for Campbell-Savona? The initial estimate of our state aid based on the Governor's proposal shows an increase of \$757,876 or 6.12 percent over this year's aid. It is important to keep in mind that these figures are based on estimates of expenses that were submitted back in September at the very beginning of the school year, so we should take the Governor's proposal as a rough estimate. Also, when the legislature is through making their adjustments and the final budget is passed, the figures may change again. Regardless, the Governor's proposal has sent a wave of optimism through the school community that reform and appropriate funding may be on the horizon.

Closer to home, the Governor is proposing a three-year phase-in increase in STAR exemptions. In year one, the Basic STAR recipients with incomes at or below \$60,000 will receive an 80 percent increase in their full value STAR exemption. In 2007-08, homeowners with incomes between \$60,000 and \$235,000 will see increases in exemptions on a sliding scale between 80 percent and 30 percent. The Enhanced STAR exemption for qualifying senior citizens will increase by 30 percent. Remember, though, that the legislature will have to act on this to make it official; this is just a proposal at this point. Also, the Property Tax Rebate program has been discontinued, as expected.

If you qualify for the STAR exemption and have not applied yet, it is easy to do. Applications can be downloaded at www.orps.state.ny.us/star/star_forms.cfm or picked up from your local assessor or from the school district business office in Campbell. When the application is completed, it must be submitted to the assessor for processing. Please be aware that there is a deadline for submitting applications each year; contact the assessor to get this date.



Freshman-sophomore college planning calendar

What should be accomplished during the freshman/sophomore year to stay on track for college?

There are three areas to consider during these years:

- Course selection
- Transcript development
- Development of skills, interests and experiences

What should I keep in mind when selecting my classes?

There are three areas to keep in mind when selecting your courses for the following year: college entrance requirements, basic skills and interests.

· While entrance requirements vary, most schools require core college preparation courses. Planning your high school curriculum early will ensure that these requirements are met.

· Master the basics. If you are lacking basic skills, you may have to take remedial courses in college or develop your study skills. Remedial courses in college do not give credit for these required classes, but you will have to pay full tuition fees nonetheless.

· Explore your interests via your classes. Self-evaluate! Whether it is science, history, English, business, math, home economics, technology, art or foreign language, your classes give you a chance to find out what you like. That will help you determine your major (or a realistic starting point once you get to college.)

What do I need to understand about developing my transcript?

Remember you begin developing your transcript as soon as you begin taking high school courses. The transcript contains the following: completed courses, final grades, regents exam grades, credit awarded, class rank, cumulative grade average, college entrance exam scores (ACT/SAT) and Advanced Placement scores. The cumulative grade average and class rank are key factors in college admissions decisions. Your day-to-day work is the most important factor. A good work ethic is key to success in life. Therefore, doing your best is vital! Furthermore, grades are important, but so is the difficulty of the courses you take. Instead of going for the easy 'A', choose tougher more rigorous courses. Students who accept the challenge of academically stimulating classes make a statement that learning is important.

How should I incorporate the development of skills, interests and experiences?

Keep in mind that the development of these three areas is not limited to the classroom. Explore the following: volunteering,

extra-curricular activities or a part-time job, leadership, independent intellectual pursuits and computer literacy.

· Volunteer! The experience adds valuable information as you choose a career. Also, many scholarships require community service. Moreover, many colleges look favorably upon community service activities.

· Pursue extra-curricular activities or a part-time job. These activities prove you are a well-rounded individual who will bring a lot to a college community. Moreover, a variety of activities also indicates that you know how to manage your time efficiently.

· Pursue leadership roles.

· Further your own intellectual pursuits independently. Read and study on your own. Develop your own intellectual interests outside of class. Improve your language skills and test scores by reading.

· Become computer literate. Take computer science courses, go to computer camp or work to learn at home or school. Knowing your way around a computer will definitely come in handy in college and in the working world.

What other areas should I think about to stay on track for college?

· Develop a student resume as you begin to progress through high school.

· Attend College Information Day at the Arnot Mall in October of each year.

· Prepare for the fall PSAT test in the spring of the sophomore year by taking a practice PSAT.

This class is FIRST!

For the past fifteen years Mr. Cotter has presented his classes with a challenge: if every student completed every assignment and handed them in on time for an entire marking period, he would treat them to a pizza and wings party.

During the years, Mr. Cotter has never had a class win that challenge. This year that changed. The 8A class took his challenge and won! It is the first class ever to win Mr. Cotter's challenge.

Students who achieved this awesome accomplishment were: Curtis Berleue, Alysia Black, Wyatt Eldridge, Matthew Gleason, Mackenzie Gwinner, Joshua Keeseey, Penny Landon, Calum Lewis, Matthew Marvin, Zachary McCann, Alex McInroy, Isaac Oman, Brittany Osborn, Nick Pearl, Nick Pike, Alex Schweiger, Trevor Scott, Stephanie Stark, and Cassie Thompson.

Great job and keep up the good work!

Sending children home during emergencies

Every year we are required to perform an Emergency Release Drill. This drill helps us prepare for an unexpected emergency when we may have to close school early. Unfortunately, the drill isn't always as effective as we wish it could be, since it is announced beforehand and everyone, including parents, is aware of when it takes place. Many parents write notes ahead of time and instruct the school to send their child to an entirely different location from the one on our emergency card.

Last month we experienced an electrical outage, making it impossible to continue school at the Jr./Sr. High School. Since the district only has one afternoon bus run which includes both schools, we needed to send all students home. With more than 500 children in the Savona building, it was impossible to contact every parent for instructions about where to deliver their child. We knew that many children would have no adult waiting for them at home. This is the very reason we have emergency plans in place. Therefore, we knew we had to send the children to their emergency release location.

Unfortunately, our phone lines became snarled with parents requesting, sometimes demanding, that their child be sent to an alternate location from the one on the emergency card. Although we tried to accommodate each request, it soon became obvious that we could not get children onto a different bus to go to a new location with a bus driver who may not even know the child or the location of the house. Indeed, if there were noxious fumes or imminent danger in the emergency, we would not have had the time to make any of these adjustments to our emergency plan. The practice of our Emergency Release Drill allows bus drivers to get to know

children they normally do not know, and they become familiar with homes where they normally do not stop. Last minute changes – to rush small children onto busses where no one knows them, or the homes they are to be dropped off at is simply not feasible. We need to ensure that every child is quickly moved out of harm's way and is in a safe location designated by parents.

Please, do not call the school to make last minute changes to your child's emergency release location during an emergency. We simply cannot make accommodations for each child. Further, all the calls to the school only tie up phone lines needed to expedite our emergency evacuation. Please help us keep your child's records up-to-date. If your alternate emergency release address changes, let the school know immediately so we can update our records. Only in an absolutely dire emergency, should you call the school to make any last-minute changes to your child's emergency release location.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please avoid calling the school during an emergency evacuation

During any future emergency release events, the school will send all children to the prescribed location indicated by parents on the emergency card. Please avoid calling the school to make last-minute changes, as it becomes impossible to accommodate these requests and ties up phone lines needed to accomplish the evacuation.

See the accompanying article for more details

Spring sports approaching fast

Spring sports are just around the corner and coaches are making plans as the winter season winds down. Any athlete going out for a spring sport who needs a physical should see Mrs. Fleet in the nurse's office. The last opportunity to have a sports physical will be in the morning of February 28 in the nurse's office.

Coaches are set for spring: boys varsity baseball, J.V. baseball, modified baseball, varsity softball, J.V. softball, modified softball, boys varsity track, girls varsity track, modified track, varsity golf and varsity tennis. Teams are signing up now. It is important to get your name on the list in order to participate. Sign-ups will also determine if there is enough interest to keep the sport open or to drop it, so sign up soon.

The athlete and parent athletic handbook meeting is scheduled for March 5 at 6:30 pm in the High School auditorium. If your child has not yet participated in a sport this year, then both the parent and the child must attend the meeting starting at 6:30 pm. If your child has already participated in a sport this year, then the parent need only attend the coaches meeting at 7:00 pm.

Board meeting summaries

November 27, 2006

- Approved minutes
- Accepted donation
- Approved the 2007-2008 GST BOCES Cost Allocation Methodology
- Accepted financial reports
- Accepted bids & authorization for sale of school buses
- Approved the 2006-2007 tax collectors report
- Approved adjustments to the 2006-2007 tax warrant
- Approved Third Party Custody Agreement & Authorization to Sign
- Acknowledged receipt of the fire safety report
- Authorized non-board members of the Audit Committee to receive monthly financial reports
- Approved the special education minutes
- Approved the special education recommendations
- Approved the resignation of Jonathan Schmidt, Grade 8 modified baseball coach
- Approved the resignation of Rick Damore, varsity soccer coach
- Approved the resignation of Jen McKeown, diving coach
- Approved the list of 2006-2007 coaching recommendations
- Approved the contract for Miranda Potter, Grade 7-9 guidance counselor
- Approved the list of 2006-2007 extra curricular appointments
- Approved additions to the 2006-2007 substitute list
- Approved creation of position/appointment of Sandy Bulkley, one-on-one aide

December 18, 2006

- Approved minutes
- Accepted financial reports
- Approved the 2006-2007 senior trip
- Approved the External Auditor
- Approved the Internal Auditor
- Approved the hourly rates for substitute cleaners/food service workers
- Approved the Budget Development Calendar
- Approved the transfer of business office functions to GST BOCES
- Accepted donation
- Acknowledged receipt of the special education minutes
- Approved the special education recommendations
- Recognized CSEA as the exclusive bargaining representative for non-teaching employees
- Approved additions to the 2006-2007 substitute list
- Approved additions to the High School fitness center supervisors
- Approved the appointment of Rick Watson, teacher's aide (ISS monitor)

- Approved the resignation of Jennifer Morse, long-term (PT) substitute art teacher
- Approved the appointment of Laura Gugliotta, Grade 7-12 math teacher
- Approved the appointment of Destiny Taft, Grade 9-12 Student Council co-advisor
- Approved the list of extra-curricular appointments
- Approved the resignation of Stephen Dersham, school bus driver
- Approved the appointment of Michael Seeley, school bus driver
- Approved the appointment of Dale Dates, school bus driver
- Approved abolishment of position, Kim Dykes, senior account clerk
- Approved reimbursement of unused vacation days

January 22, 2007

- Approved minutes
- Accepted financial reports
- Approved repairs to the gym floor
- Accepted extra-curricular classroom account balance report
- Accepted donation
- Approved the contract with Hunt Engineers, Architects, & Land Surveyors, PC
- Acknowledged receipt of special education minutes
- Approved special education recommendations
- Approved additions to the 2006-2007 substitute list
- Approved the resignation of Stephanie Cleveland, one-to-one aide
- Approved the appointment of Barbara Hughes, one-to-one aide
- Approved the resignation of Cindy Buck, food service helper
- Approved the appointment of Ryan McGee, part-time art teacher
- Recognized the Campbell-Savona Teachers' Association as the exclusive bargaining representative for the teaching assistants

Building project, continued...

grant from the state and may be available for only a few years, the district needs to seize the moment and plan a project which will assure 100 percent state funding. A planning committee, including community members, has been formed to put together the components of the project. When this committee completes its work, community presentations will be scheduled and announced in both the newsletter and *The Leader*. Please join us when we present their findings in the district project proposal.

We need to secure our investments, maximize our state aid, and keep our buildings and our investments secure. The Excel aid will enable us to do a capital project which is 100 percent state-funded.

Students contribute to local charity

A big thank-you goes out to all of Mrs. Fishbaugh's and Mrs. Knapp's UPK students and families who contributed to a local charity. In lieu of exchanging gifts with one another in the classroom, they opted to donate to a local charity - the Steuben Church People Against Poverty, which plans to use the items in their local shelters. Donations included everything from sheets, blankets and toiletries to pots and pans and more. Their efforts truly made the local shelters a warm place to be. Thanks again!

SAVE Legislation

In compliance with Federal SAVE Legislation and NYS Commissioner's Regulations, we will continue to notify parents/guardians of your child's classroom attendance. In compliance with this legislation, we request that you continue to provide us with written verification from medical personnel when your child is dismissed from school and/or absent due to a medical appointment.

Home/emergency numbers

It is very important that the school is able to contact parents/guardians in the course of routine business or in cases of an emergency. Consequently, please provide us with home, work, and emergency phone numbers if you have not done so or if there have been any changes. Also, if you have had a change of address, please notify the school of that as well. Thank you.

Kids Adventure Club

The Savona Kids Adventure Club recently raised \$65 dollars for the Children's Miracle Network. Children did this by collecting pop cans and bringing in spare change. The children were also busy making quilts for the neonatal unit at Arnot Ogden Medical Center, making a total of 17 quilts! They had a great time doing these projects and were pleased to do such nice things for such great causes. Kids Adventure has also been doing many other projects, with kids especially enjoying sewing projects such as scarves and pillows.

Children are always welcome to join our Kid Adventure Club family. If you are interested contact Pathway's Kids' Adventure Club at 937-3200 or get an information packet from the school office.

Students get stranded on schoolisland.com!

The district is piloting an interactive website called schoolisland.com. The benefits of this website are endless and the results are priceless!

Not only can students practice difficult concepts from their classes on their own time and at their own pace, but they can also increase their vocabulary, ultimately leading to a better understanding of those difficult Regents exam questions.

For example: if a student is struggling in Chemistry with the topic of oxidation and reduction they can log on to schoolisland.com and construct their own practice exercises. As students complete questions, they get explanations as to why answers are correct or hints if they get an answer incorrect.

How else does this website benefit our students? Teachers can log on and view reports as to what students have been doing. If there seems to be a recurring topic that students are struggling with the teacher can go back and review that topic. Teachers can also assign worksheets, vocabulary, and other activities for specific topics. The teacher can then view the reports to see what questions were most commonly missed. This is extremely beneficial when it comes time to review for Regents exams. Rather than spending time reviewing an entire year's course, a teacher can focus a review on those topics that are most problematic. This review can then be catered to each individual class rather than every class receiving the same review. In a nutshell, students review only those concepts that they need to.

Last month Mr. Dick introduced schoolisland to ninth graders. He had them logon, create a password and explore the site. Then he gave two review assignments to complete to get familiar with the site. The students found it to be very useful and focused and were helping and guiding each other, excited and disappointed when they got questions right or wrong. Earth Science students have been instructed to use schoolisland to define their words at the beginning of each unit, since this is where Mr. Dick gets definitions for quizzes. Also, Mr. Dick plans on using schoolisland for review periodically through the second half of the year and especially for Regents review.

Please encourage your son or daughter to use schoolisland.com. It has never been more fun and beneficial to be stranded on an island!



Budget development calendar

Tim Allard, Business Administrator

During the next three months, the Board of Education will be analyzing and fine tuning the district's budget for the 07-08 school year. Since this is a complicated process which cannot be completed in one night, there will be several budget meetings and workshops at which the different sections of the budget will be examined. At the December 18, 2006 meeting, the following calendar was adopted.

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|-------------|---|
| February 26 | Preliminary budget forecast and budget assumptions presented at regular board meeting |
| March 12 | BOCES, operations & maintenance, transportation, and general support budget workshop |
| March 19 | Debt service and employee benefits budget workshop |
| March 26 | Instructional and special education budget workshop |
| April 9 | Final draft of budget workshop |
| April 16 | Final budget adoption |
| May 7 | Budget hearing |
| May 15 | Statewide annual meeting / board election / budget vote day |

These are all open to the public, but please be aware that workshops are not regular board meetings. No official business will be transacted at workshops. The purpose of the workshops is for the board to give the business administrator guidance in the development of the budget. These are the best opportunities to have your voice heard.

The final budget will be presented to the public at the budget hearing on May 7 with the budget vote scheduled for May 15.

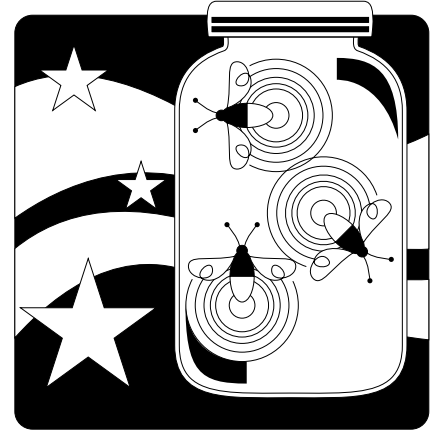
Project SAVE

The Campbell Savona District-wide safety plan has been updated and is available for public review. Please contact Yvonne Erway in the district office if you are interested in reviewing the document.

Second grade play

The second grades are busily preparing for another musical play. The heart-warming musical play entitled "Glow" is scheduled for performance on Wednesday, April 4 at 7:00 pm.

The story takes place in a lovely meadow where a family of fireflies lives. Flier, the youngest member of the family, is carried away after birth by a windy storm. He lands far away from his home and meets a Ladybug who becomes his friend. Flier meets many different animals of the meadow while searching for his purpose in life. He learns many wonderful lessons as the animals sing to him.



Don't miss this presentation which will leave you "glowing!" Plan to join us in the Savona cafeteria/stage April 4.

Spelling bee winners

Alexis Jones (grade 6) performed exceedingly well against eight other spellers and was awarded first place in the local spelling bee. Heather Cook (grade 7) took second place after a tie breaker with Amanda Fuller (grade 8). Both Alexis and Heather will be competing at the upcoming regional spelling bee.

The regional spelling bee encompasses students from approximately nine other school districts and organizations (two students from each school). It will be held at the Campbell-Savona auditorium on the evening of March 15. The winner from this competition will go to Washington, DC to compete in the national spelling bee in late spring. This winner will receive a stipend to help pay for the expenses for the trip.

The Leader and Kraft are the sponsors for the local and regional spelling bees.

Congratulations, Alexis and Heather!

Upcoming Dates

March

- 2-3 All County Music Festival
- 3 Winter Ball
- 5 Spring sports parent meeting
- 5-9 State math tests (grades 3-5)
- 8 Impressionists Concert
- 12 Winter Sports Awards
- 12-16 State Math Tests (grades 6-8)
- 14 Jr/Sr HS Shared Decision Making meeting
- 14 Jr/Sr HS PTSO meeting
- 16-17 All County Music Festival
- 20 Jr/Sr HS Chorus Concert
- 22 ½ Day of school (Teacher in-service)
- 26 Board of Education meeting
- 27 Jr/Sr HS Band Concert
- 30 Teacher In-Service Day – (no school)

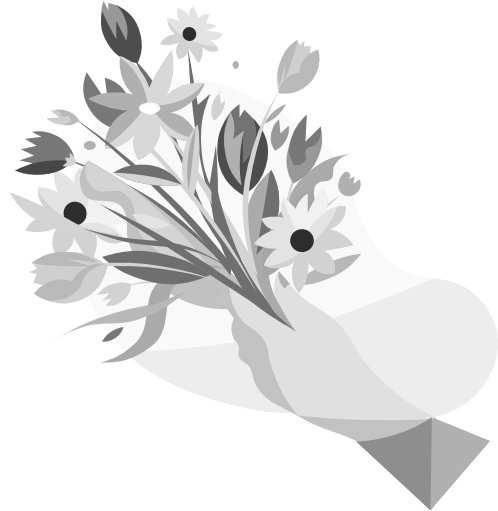
April

- 5 Marking period ends
- 13-13 Spring Recess (no school)
- 20 Report cards go home
- 23 Board of Education meeting
- 24 Kindergarten Information Night

Income tax number

New York State resident income tax returns IT200 and IT201 require you to enter the name and code number of the public school district where you were a resident on December 31, 2006.

The Campbell Savona School code number is 080.



Campbell-Savona Central School District

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