

Spencerport names high school venue "John Pelin East Gymnasium"

The Spencerport Central School District officially dedicated the high school east gymnasium to retired athletic director, John Pelin, on Friday, Dec. 6.



The Board of Education approved the naming of the John Pelin East Gymnasium to recognize Pelin's exemplary service, commitment, and dedication during his 30-year career in Spencerport. The celebration included a welcome by the Ranger cheerleaders and drum line, as well as remarks from Greg Kincaid, Board of Education vice president; Dr. Harv Peris, former SCSD superintendent; Ty Zinkiewich, assistant superintendent for instruction; Greg Burke, student council president; Dan Milgate, superintendent; and Jennifer Placito, athletic director. Pelin also offered closing remarks.

Kincaid said, "When John Pelin was hired 30 years ago, he took a very basic program and transformed it into an enterprise that supports and promotes Rangers Athletics for students and community. Under his leadership, the Rangers won

more than 100 Monroe County Divisional Championships, 54 Section V Championships, 9 team and 8 individual state championships. His vision and leadership went beyond Ranger Nation here in

Spencerport, and has

been highly recognized at the county, state and national level."

Teacher/coaches Jackie Nentarz and Jamie Schneider nominated Pelin for the honor, which the board approved Aug. 6. The official name of "John Pelin East Gymnasium" has now been placed under the "Home of the Rangers" at the outside entrance, and a plaque has been posted next to the Ranger scoreboard in the gym itself.

Pelin said, "I am so appreciative to the Spencerport Board of Education and school community for this recognition. I feel very honored and fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside incredible students, support staff, teachers, coaches and administrators."

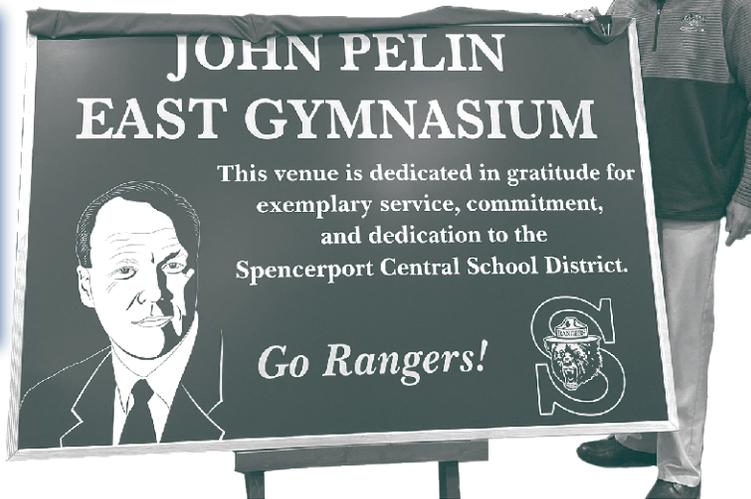


"I feel very honored and fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside incredible students, support staff, teachers, coaches and administrators."

- John Pelin



Superintendent Dan Milgate, Student Council President Greg Burke, Athletic Director Jennifer Placito, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Ty Zinkiewich, Board Vice President Greg Kincaid, former Superintendent Dr. Harv Peris, retired Athletic Director John Pelin, his wife Linda Pelin, and son Scott Pelin.



Superintendent's Message

This edition of Cornerstone arrives just in time for the holiday break, and I want to wish you all the best this season and a Happy New Year!

Traveling around the schools, there's certainly a great deal of fun and excitement with concerts, ceremonies, and assemblies. The spirit of giving, kindness, and my favorite of course, gratitude is something I hope we can all continue into the new decade.

In this edition of Cornerstone, we want to bring awareness on the important work we are doing as a district with Culturally Responsive Education. This effort engages students, staff, parents and community, and we are committed to creating an inclusive, welcoming, and equitable environment for all of our students. CRE is an approach we will be focused on for now and years to come, and we hope you take time to review our work so far.

I am also very excited about our efforts around alumni relations. Meeting with the Alumni Association

officers last month, and graduates from the 70s on Dec. 11 has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to connect and brainstorm ways to partner in the future. To all our graduates, you are invited to an upcoming Soup with the Superintendent (by decade). Simply RSVP to mclapper@spencerportschools.org. I'd love to hear from you!

Jan. 22: 1980-89

Feb. 12: 1990-99

Mar. 11: 2000-09

Apr. 15: 2010-19

I hope all the photos, news, and updates from our schools serve as an inspiration for you as much as it is for me. Again, all the best to you this holiday!

Dan



Dan Milgate
Superintendent of Schools

Please consider volunteering for the 2020-21 Spencerport Budget Focus Group.

The volunteer group, made up of senior citizens, parents, staff, civic leaders, administrators and students, meets six times during the course of the budget development process and provides feedback to the district on such areas as revenues, expenses, state aid, tax levy, and tax rate.

The Budget Focus Group meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, just prior to the board of education meetings in the District Office building. The BFG meeting dates are as follows:

- Jan. 21
- Feb. 11
- Feb. 25
- Mar. 10
- Mar. 24
- Apr. 14

If interested in serving on this committee, please email Marcy Clapper, mclapper@spencerportschools.org with your name and stating your interest.

Reminder: report cards moved to digital only

With the completion of the first marking period, parents and guardians should only expect report cards to be accessed digitally moving forward.

As previously communicated, this change offers quick access to report cards, in a more cost-effective and eco-friendly way. Video tutorials and printed instructions on how to use the Campus Backpack module have been posted on our website, social media, and enclosed with the first

marking period report cards. If you do not know your account access, please contact your building's registrar:

- Spencerport High School - Lori McSorley at 585-349-5247
- Cosgrove Middle School - Linda Sauter at 585-349-5324
- Elementary Schools - Charles Ocasio at 585-349-5152

For your convenience, please find the dates of the second marking period according to our primary and secondary grades:

- Cosgrove/HS: 2nd marking period Fri., Jan. 31
- Elementary Schools: 2nd marking period: Fri., March 27

What is Culturally Responsive Education?

Culture. Race. Diversity. Inclusion. Equity. Access. Every individual reflects on these words differently, with personal viewpoints, beliefs and experiences. As a nation and even in our own communities, addressing these differences often has become uncomfortable and divisive. School districts – including Spencerport – understand the potential of these conversations; yet we also understand the responsibility we have as parents, community and educators to ensure all students receive equal access to a quality education in a learning environment that is safe, welcoming, and free of discrimination.

The words, Culturally Responsive Education (CRE), are being used more and more in New York State Education as a framework to create student-centered learning environments that:

- Affirm racial, linguistic and cultural identities;
- Prepare students for rigor and independent learning;
- Develop students' abilities to connect across lines of difference;
- Elevate historically marginalized voices; and
- Empower students as agents of social change.

The framework itself is grounded in four principles:

- Welcoming and Affirming Environment
- High Expectations and Rigorous Instruction
- Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment
- Ongoing Professional Learning

The 64-page framework, which may be found on the NYS website at <http://www.nysed.gov/crs/framework>, goes into more depth on each principle and its intended outcomes.

Locally, the Spencerport Central School District initiated work around CRE last school year with a multi-tiered approach. This approach, which is outlined on these pages, engaged different stakeholders in a series of conversations in the area of CRE.

Student summits

Spencerport held a series of five summits so far to gain student perspectives on diversity and CRE in our district. Led by Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Ty Zinkiewich, students from Cosgrove and the high school have offered insight and personal experiences on race, culture, equity, instruction, and curriculum. The group has also helped to define the following terms as we move forward with this work: Equal Learning Opportunity (much like an Equal Employment statement); and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) statements. These definitions may be found on our website at http://www.spencerportschools.org/district/culturally_responsive_education



Professional Learning

Spencerport's Board of Education, superintendent and leadership have committed to ongoing professional learning and support around CRE. Last summer, administrators focused on social emotional learning, as well as CRE, during their annual retreat.



Twenty-four SCS D teachers, counselors, principals and administrators are also attending a six-part training to further develop CRE competency within our district. The training:

- examines what it means to be culturally responsive;
- helps to assess and develop CRE practices; and
- provides a reflective framework to shift beliefs, policies and practices to support students and their families to address inequities.

The October Superintendent's Conference Day focused on building awareness around CRE for our teachers and staff. This day included breakout sessions and a student-led panel to encourage open dialogue, invite change, and embrace more culturally diverse curriculum.

Community Engagement

Community engagement will be another key area in Spencerport's work with CRE. The district held a meeting with one stakeholder group so far - the Spencerport/Urban Suburban parents. Zinkiewich and building principals provided an update on our work and obtained feedback and suggestions.

To extend this effort, Spencerport has created an Equity Committee, and would like representation from our parents and community. Information on this committee may be found in the sidebar below.

Equity Committee members sought

The Spencerport Central School District has created an Equity Committee, and would like representation from our parents and community. Interested volunteers are asked to send an email of interest to info@spencerportschools.org. The goal of this committee is to gain insight and guidance on our CRE efforts. The meetings will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in our District Office building, 71 Lyell Ave., on the

following dates:

- Wed., Jan. 29, 2020
- Wed., March 25, 2020
- Wed, May 20, 2020

Please continue to check our website for updates on our CRE work, and feel free to contact Ty Zinkiewich, assistant superintendent for instruction, at tzinkiewich@spencerportschools.org with any questions or suggestions.

New principal of Spencerport's Canal View Elementary School appointed



Canal View Elementary School will welcome Denise Lemcke as its new principal, starting Monday, Jan. 6, 2020.

Lemcke currently serves as assistant principal for Klem Road North Elementary School in Webster, and has more than 16 years of experience in education. She previously taught at the elementary level for the Guilderland and Victor Central School Districts, then spent 11 years in the Penfield Central

School District, as a classroom teacher and K-6 humanities teacher on special assignment. In her position in Webster, Lemcke provided building and managerial leadership, and proactively sought communication among all stakeholders.

“We are very pleased to welcome Ms. Lemcke to Canal View,” Superintendent Dan Milgate said. “I feel she will be a great fit as our new principal, with her leadership style, instructional expertise, and engaging approach with students, staff and school community.”

Her appointment culminates a search process which included surveys of staff and families, and interviews by a committee made up of parents, faculty, staff, administrators and board members.

“I am deeply committed to building connections with students, staff, and families,” Lemcke said. “I am also incredibly passionate about high quality instruction and student engagement, and I am eager to begin collaborating with and learning alongside the Canal View staff.”

Lemcke earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in education from SUNY College at Geneseo. She also obtained her certificate of advanced study in educational administration from the University of Rochester.

She and her husband, Brett, have three children, Anna, Brooks and Tessa, and in their free time enjoy summer hiking in the Adirondacks and winter skiing and snowboarding. They also have a Bernese mountain dog named Regis.

Welcome, Mrs. Lemcke!

Calling all alumni (update): Once a Ranger, always a Ranger

The Spencerport Alumni Association invites all Ranger alum to mark their calendars for the Annual Alumni Banquet taking place Friday, June 5, 2020. This event is a great way to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

“The Alumni Association is a great way to connect with other graduates and give back by supporting current students with scholarships,” JoAnne Maier, an association officer, said. “We have members as far back as 1949, and it’s wonderful how all the different classes learn and share Spencerport memories with each other.”

In addition to the Alumni Banquet, there is still time to RSVP for “Soup with the Superintendent.” Superintendent Dan Milgate is hosting monthly luncheons coordinated by graduation year. This initiative is designed to reengage alumni with the district and build upon the work of the Alumni Association. All interested alum please RSVP to Mary Clapper at mclapper@spencerportschools.org.

Lunch Dates	Year of Graduation
Jan. 22	1980-1989
Feb. 12	1990-1999
Mar. 11	2000-2009
Apr. 15	2010-2019

A recent survey of our alumni indicated that 70% of respondents did not know that Spencerport has an Alumni Association, however, 85% of alumni are still in contact

with other alum. Our graduates are an important resource to the district and this community, so please help us grow this partnership. Anyone interested in joining the Alumni Association should contact JoAnne Maier at (585) 352-1287 for more information.



Pilot pre-k applications for Munn now available

We are excited to share that the Spencerport School District will be offering a pre-kindergarten program for eligible students in the Munn community during the 2020-21 school year. This program is part of a two-year pilot to assist students with academic readiness and a supportive transition to kindergarten.

Any child who resides within the Munn Elementary School boundaries and will be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 2020 is eligible for application.

Spencerport's pre-k program details

- Spencerport pre-k is a no-cost program for students who live in the Munn Elementary School boundaries.
- It is strongly encouraged that students are potty-trained before attending pre-k.
- Pre-K classes will be taught by a certified teacher with the assistance of a teacher's aide.
- Class size will be capped at 18 students per class.
- There will be a morning and an afternoon session:
 - o Morning: 8:30 - 11 a.m.
 - o Afternoon: 1 - 3:30 p.m.
- Transportation to and from the program will be provided on a Spencerport bus. The bus is equipped with car seats and will be staffed with a bus driver and bus attendant. Pick up and drop off locations must be within the Munn Elementary School boundaries. It is not required that families use the provided transportation.
- To be considered, families must complete and return a pre-k application by Feb. 28, 2020. Applications for pre-k will be sent to eligible families and available on the district's website, http://munn.spencerportschools.org/munn_pre_k_program.
- Should more students apply than spots are available, the district will use a lottery system to determine acceptance into the program.
- Families will be notified of acceptance status no later than April 15, 2020.

2 HS students inducted into NTHS

The Monroe 2 BOCES Career and Technical Education program held its National Technical Honor Society induction on Nov. 20, to recognize CTE students who have distinguished themselves in scholarship, leadership, service and character.

Two Spencerport High School students were among the 26 newly inducted WEMOCO NTHS students.

Congratulations to Carter Budziszewski (HVAC/ Plumbing II) and Nura Ibrahim (Certified Nurse Assisting II)



Ogden PD introduced new DARE officer

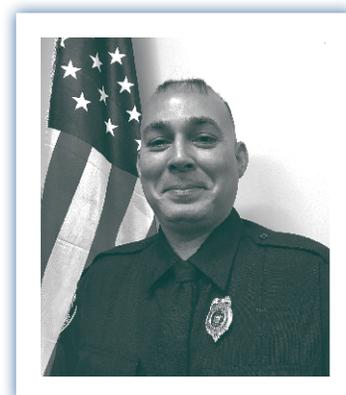
The Ogden Police Department announced the appointment of Officer Erique Gomez as the new DARE program coordinator for Spencerport.

Gomez is a retired officer from the Rochester Police Department, where he served since 2004. His background also includes working as a Crime Prevention Officer, and as an instructor at the Public Safety Training Facility. He is fluent in Spanish, and has worked extensively with neighborhood groups

and in school settings. Prior to 2004, Gomez was a NYPD police officer and also served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The DARE Officer Training is scheduled for January, after which Gomez will begin teaching in our elementary schools.

Our district would like to welcome Gomez, and extend our appreciation and best wishes to retired DARE officer Debbie Rath.



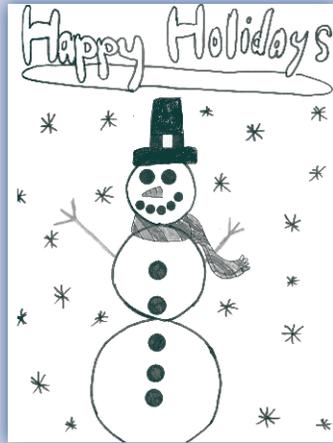
Holiday art winners

Spencerport art teachers at the high school and Cosgrove submitted holiday-themed art from their students to be considered by Superintendent Dan Milgate for his annual greeting card. Congratulations to the following students and their teachers:

- Emily Sugar, SHS sophomore, Ms. Prusik
- Lindsay Mallon, Cosgrove eighth grader, Mrs. Zona
- Antonia Panella, SHS junior, Ms. Prusik
- Tommy Amann, SHS sophomore, Ms. Prusik
- Abigail Case, SHS junior, Ms. Prusik
- Sophia Sushko, SHS sophomore, Ms. Prusik



Sophia Sushko
SHS sophomore, Ms. Prusik



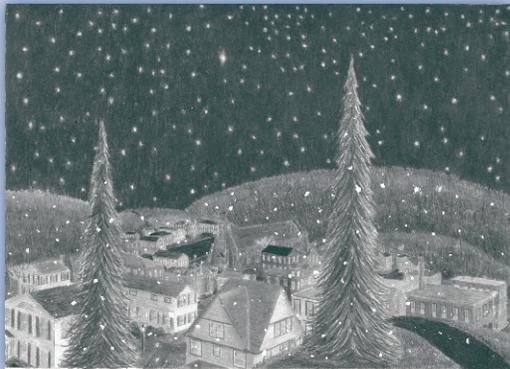
Lyndsay Mallon
Cosgrove eighth grader, Mrs. Zona



Emily Sugar
SHS sophomore, Ms. Prusik



Abigail Case
SHS junior, Ms. Prusik



Tommy Amann
SHS sophomore, Ms Prusik



Antonia Panella
SHS junior, Ms. Prusik

Bernabi 2nd grade connects virtually with students in Oswego

Students in Mrs. Christine Kincaid's class connected with a class in Oswego on Nov. 15, as part of an exchange project that BOCES 2 sponsors called Turkey Disguises. Centered around a Thanksgiving theme, students disguise turkeys and then participate in a virtual "Guess Who"-style game with a distant class. Classes are also encouraged to share a little bit about their community.



ATHLETIC NEWS

Section V held its 2019 Varsity Girls Soccer banquet on Nov. 15, and our Rangers earned the following awards:

#1 Seed for the Class A division; and Catherine Wall won Monroe County Division 2 Player of the Year.

Wall also received 1st Team All-State honors, and Maddie Tortora won 2nd team All-State honors. Spencerport achieved a 15 – 3 – 2 record. In addition, our Girls Soccer team won the Section V Championship for the fourth year in a row, and finished the season ranked No. 25 in the nation according to the USA Today Super 25 Expert Rankings. The girls team is coached by Jamie Schneider.



Parent nominates son's class (& wins) **school supplies**

Kindergarten students in Mrs. Dana Campbell's class received an early holiday, when J.B. Hunt Transport Services, Inc. donated \$500 in school supplies as part of its "Adopt-a-Class" contest! Delivery truck drivers nominate their children's classes for this opportunity, & driver David Martin nominated his son's class. The special delivery arrived on Dec. 5!



Giving thanks through a **"Booksgiving"** at Taylor

Students celebrated Thanksgiving across our district with special events, including a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, "Booksgiving" and turkey carving. Pictured here are fifth grade students in Miss Commanzo's class at Taylor, donating books to the outside reading library.



Board of Education:

- Mr. Kevin Hutton, *President*
- Mr. Greg Kincaid, *Vice President*
- Mr. Gary Bracken
- Ms. Kate Czarnecki
- Mr. David Gibbardo
- Ms. Jody Gillette
- Mr. Michael Miceli

School Board members are elected to three-year terms and serve without pay.

Superintendent of Schools

Dan Milgate

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www.SpencerportSchools.org

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Designed and printed at
Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES

*Cornerstone, NYSRA award winner
for 2015 and 2018 budget newsletters*



December

23-3 Holiday Recess: no school

January

6	School reopens	
6	SSBC meeting, D.O.	6:30 p.m.
7	Board of Education, D.O.	7 p.m.
9	Cosgrove Jazz Concert	7 p.m.
14	BPA	6 p.m.
15	Bernabi Parent/Teacher Confs	3:45-6:45 p.m.
15	CVA	6:30 p.m.
15	Taylor PTO	6:30 p.m.
17	K-8 Half Day Release (Grs. 9-12 Full day of instruction)	
20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day: no school	
21	Board of Education	7 p.m.
21	HS ELA Regents Exam (students attend by exam only)	
22-24	Regents Exams	
23	CVES Parent/Teacher Confs.	3:45-6:45 p.m.
23	Taylor Parent/Teacher Confs.	3:45-6:45 p.m.
24	Munn Mungo	6:30 p.m.
29	Taylor Parent/Teacher Confs.	3:45-6:45 p.m.
30	CVES Parent/Teacher Confs.	3:45-6:45 p.m.
31	HS/CMS second quarter reports available	

Fourth annual Festival of Nations

Cosgrove Middle School celebrated its fourth annual Festival of Nations on Friday, Nov. 15, when students, families and staff come together to:

- Enjoy multicultural performances
- Explore countries and cultures from all over the world, and
- Sample international foods

The Festival is coordinated by teacher Jenn Mongold. Thank you to all who participated and attended.

