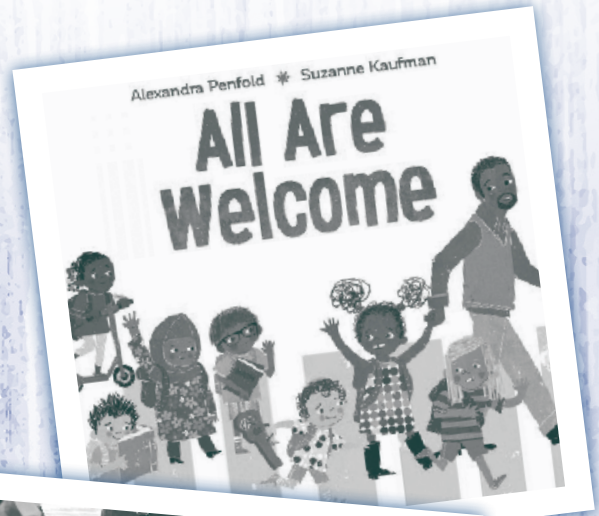


ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

All four elementary schools participated in activities to celebrate culture, race, diversity, and acceptance on Jan. 17, as part of the district's work with Culturally Responsive Education and Social Emotional Learning. Students all listened to the book, All are Welcome, by Alexandra Penfold, then celebrated differences through activities, hand paint and art.

An update from our first Equity Committee meeting may be found on page 3



Superintendent's Message

Dear Community,

February proves to be a busy month around our district, with so many great examples of instruction, gratitude, caring and school spirit.

February is also Black History Month. Celebrating the culture, history and contributions of African Americans is important throughout the year, and this month in particular gives us an opportunity to honor diversity, build awareness, and continue to challenge ourselves as individuals and as a community to ensure equity and social change. I am very proud of the work taking place around Culturally Responsive Education, and encourage everyone to stay updated on our progress through *Cornerstone* and on our website.

I'd also like to specifically recognize the efforts of our high school students involved in DASH2Change, a club that embraces diversity and advocates for

change. The students have planned and led numerous opportunities throughout the month to engage staff and classmates, through such efforts as Kente cloth ribbons, World Hijab Day, wear black Wednesdays, open mic sessions, doorway decorating, learning segments during morning announcements, and presentations to our elementary and middle school students. I have been so impressed with the passion and dedication of these young leaders. #RangerPride

Speaking of pride, this edition of *Cornerstone* contains a feature on two of our alumni, the Buckner brothers. This year we've been building upon our alumni relations through Soup with the Superintendent lunches, connecting with the Alumni Association, and featuring stories on our alumni. The next Soup is scheduled for graduates from 2000-09 on Wed., Mar. 11, 12 p.m. in our District Office building.



Please RSVP to Marcy Clapper at mclapper@spencerportschools.org if you can join us.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, and I hope you enjoy the remaining weeks of winter!

Dan

Dan Milgate
Superintendent



Preparation for Munn Pre-K pilot continues for 2020-21 launch

The planning and preparation for the Munn Pre-Kindergarten program are in full swing! Below are a few updates on our progress:

- **Hiring:** Dana Campbell has been selected as the Pre-K Teacher
- **Transportation:** Plans are being finalized for purchase of a bus with car seats, hiring of driver and bus attendant
- **Location:** Plans for the furnishing of the Pre-K room are underway
- **Curriculum:** Working with NYC Department of Education's Pre-K for All curriculum, aligning instruction to the NYS Pre-Kindergarten Learning Standards
- **Registration:** Identifying a date for Pre-K Registration, Health Office paperwork
- **Applications:** Collecting applications through February 28th
- **Communication:** We are spreading the word through Social Media, Cornerstone publications, letters to eligible families, the District Website, and Munn Social Events

Applications for the Munn Pre-K program can be found on the District's website are due by February 28th. Use the link below to access the application today. Or, contact our Director of Curriculum, Kristen Paolini at 585-349-5156, to have an application sent directly to you.

Link to the Application:

http://munnschools.org/munn_pre_k_program.

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 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 - o Afternoon: 12:45 p.m. - 3:15 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://munnschools.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.

Positive dialogue begins around Culturally Responsive Education

A diverse group of parents, community residents, board of education members, students and staff came together on Jan. 29 for the first of three Equity Committee meetings to discuss Culturally Responsive Education.

Outlined in our December edition of Cornerstone, Culturally Responsive Education is a framework established by the New York State Department of Education to ensure school districts provide 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 Spencerport Central School District has embraced a multi-tiered approach to CRE – the latest of which is community engagement. Approximately 45 volunteers attended this first equity meeting and, under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Ty Zinkiewich, started to open the dialogue and address “why” this work is so important.

Zinkiewich said, “We were really pleased with the passion and candid dialogue shared among the members. There was a great deal of positive energy and a strong commitment from this group, and we are truly appreciative of their willingness to help and guide us during this process.”



Equity member feedback from first meeting:

Why is this work important to you?

“I would love to see my community, especially the schools my children are and will attend embrace differences. I would like to see a culture with in our community that isn’t afraid to ask questions or have conversations that are uncomfortable with the intent to educate one another on our differences.”

“It’s important to me as a teacher and as a parent. I want to help educate my own children and be more proactive in the classroom.”

What are three things that you would like district leadership to take into consideration when it comes to equity?

“How can we create an environment in our district that is welcoming to all regardless of race or culture? How can we celebrate the beauty in our diversity? What can we do to ensure that staff and administration reflect the diversity in population?”

“Needs of students, education of faculty, community awareness”

“How to involve children at a young age when they are more open minded and racism is typically less of an issue.”

District announces teacher for Munn pre-K

Spencerport Central School District is excited to announce that Dana Campbell will be the teacher for Munn Elementary School’s pre-kindergarten program. Campbell currently teaches kindergarten at Bernabi, and has a wealth of experience in early childhood education.



Is Your Child in our Census?

If you are a Spencerport Central School District resident and have children (birth through 18 years of age) not currently enrolled in our district, we would like to hear from you.

Why is it important that you contact us?

- It helps us plan for future enrollment in our district.
- It enables the district to send you timely, school-related information about enrollment.

Is this the same as registration?

The Census is different from registration. The benefit to you is if you fill out the census, you are in our system, and we are able to contact you with school or district related information.

Alumni Spotlight on the Buckner Brothers

"If you run into my former guidance counselor, tell her I wasn't squandering my potential, I was conserving it," said Class of 1989 Spencerport graduate Elliott Buckner. Elliott has been practicing law for 20 years in Virginia where he is President-Elect of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association and a Board Member of Community Brain Injury Services. He annually cooks hundreds of pounds of pork for a barbecue event that has raised over \$100,000 for the organization. Which brings us to barbecue.

"In 2008, my brother Elliott bought me a large smoker as a wedding gift," said Class of 1995 Spencerport graduate Brian Buckner. "We both love to barbecue, it was a way for us to reconnect. So, we entered the very first Roc City Rib Fest and we won." "After doing Roc City Rib Fest the whole thing took off," said Brian. "What started out as my brother and I doing these competitions as a way to hang out and an excuse to get together, ballooned into an eleven-member team, tons of equipment, and has led to a lot of different opportunities."

When he is not barbecuing, Brian teaches Social Studies and Participation in Government at



Spencerport High School. After leaving New York State to attend Ohio State University, he returned to the Rochester area to complete his master's degree and teaching certification at Roberts Wesleyan. He was hired as a full-time teacher by the District after completing his student teaching.

"I've lived in other states, and I've lived in other towns, but there was always something about Spencerport that drew me back in," said Brian. "It's home. I loved growing up here and going through Spencerport schools. I want my kids to be able to have those same kinds of experiences that I had."

"I lived in Spencerport for 16 years, and I've lived in Richmond, Virginia for 30 years. Richmond is home now, but Spencerport is still very special to me," said Elliott. "I have wonderful memories growing up there. However, a lot has changed in and around Spencerport over the last 30 years. During a visit this past summer I went to watch my niece play soccer on the same fields I played on as a kid, and we went out for ice cream after like I did as a kid, and we went back to the same house I grew up in, which my brother and his family are making memories in now. It was a nice reminder of the old adage that the more things change, the more they stay the same, and I think for Spencerport, that is a very good thing."

"The town motto for Spencerport is 'Someplace special'," said Brian. "I joke with my students about that, but I tell them, you get away from this for a little while and you're going to understand that this really is truly someplace special."

Do you know of an alumni we should spotlight? Please submit your suggestions to info@spencerportschools.org

Snow days and emergency notifications

Please find a quick overview of the methods in which our district communicates school or afternoon closings due to inclement weather.

- Closings and/or cancellations will be announced by 6:30 a.m.
- Families and staff will be contacted through the district's automated phone system, eNews distribution list, and social media. The alert will also be posted through traditional, media outlets.

- When school is closed or after-school/evening activities are canceled, this includes the cancellation of all sports practices/games, student activities, continuing education, community programs or external community group events.

If you have changes in your contact information during the year, please notify your child's school with the updates.

Have you accessed your **child's report card**?

Parents and guardians have hopefully been able to digitally access their student(s) report cards through the Campus Backpack module of Infinite Campus.

Video tutorials and printed instructions are still available on our website and, for your convenience, may be found here.

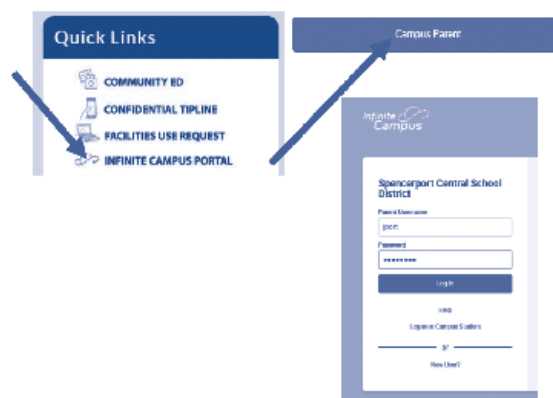


Campus Backpack Parent Access

-Existing User-

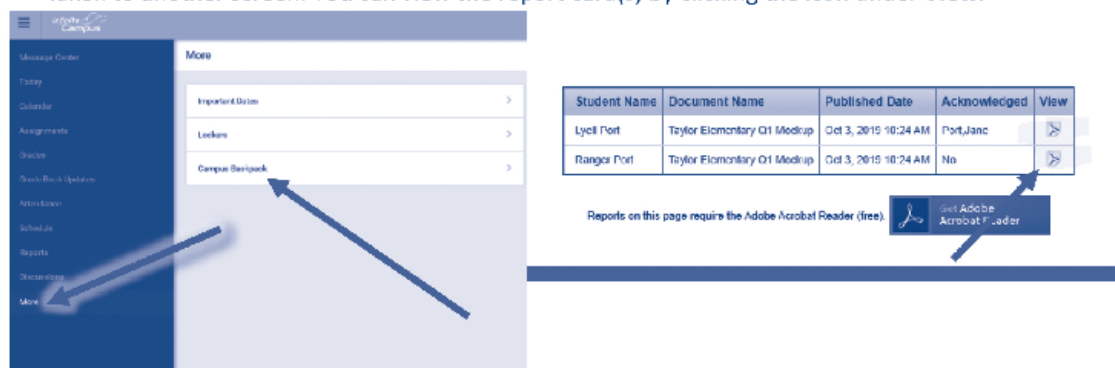
Campus Backpack grants parents access to their student's digital report card. Please follow the steps below.

1. Go to www.Spencerportschools.org and click on **Infinite Campus Portal**. Select **Campus Parent**.



2. Log on using your existing username and password.

3. To view your student(s) report cards, click **More** then **Campus Backpack**. You will be taken to another screen. You can view the report card(s) by clicking the icon under **View**.



4. Lastly, you will see a prompt on the top of the screen which states "Please check this box to acknowledge this document and then click Save." Click the check box then **Save**. Click **OK**.



For any questions, please contact one of the Infinite Campus Coordinators.

Elementary: Charles Ocasio – 585-349-5152

Middle School: Linda Sauter – 585-349-5324

High School: Lori McSorley – 585-349-5247

Cosgrove students learn what CTE has to offer

Seventh graders from Cosgrove Middle School visited Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES Career and Technical Education classes on Jan. 24, to explore a variety of interests and career options.

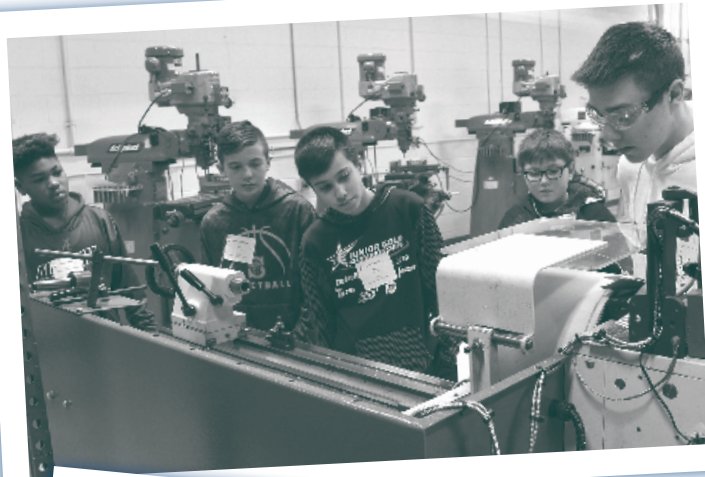
Cosgrove Principal Jim Centola said, “WEMOCO is a state-of-the-art facility that exposes students to numerous career and technical careers that are available to them post high school.”

This is the fourth year for this field trip to WEMOCO, and it is part of Cosgrove’s initiative to introduce students to professional options after high school. In sixth grade, students attend a career day and in eighth grade, students tour a local college.

Thank you to the BOCES 2 Career and Technical Education Department for hosting our students.

Counselor Lisa McConville added, “We love inviting middle school students to WEMOCO and providing them the opportunity to explore careers related to their interests. CTE staff and students are able to share multiple career options and pathways with students to assist them with career development and planning as they continue their education. We value our relationships with district personnel to make these opportunities happen!”

Students spent half hour periods visiting any two classes of their choice, ranging from Phlebotomy and Lab Science to Cosmetology to Exercise Science to Welding and Machining. They were able to meet with current CTE students and teachers to ask questions about the programs they were interested in.



Senior Paige Pohleven creates video to stress social media safety

Check out the third Public Service Announcement in our social media series, focusing on student security and well-being.

Like the first PSA we launched last year, we asked the experts, our @shsrangers students in the Principles of Marketing class, to create videos on the use of social media and making smart choices.

Many thanks to all the students in Mr. Kanaley’s marketing class, especially senior Paige Pohleven whose winning video appears on our YouTube channel at this link, <https://youtu.be/mEbq4ruwhnc>



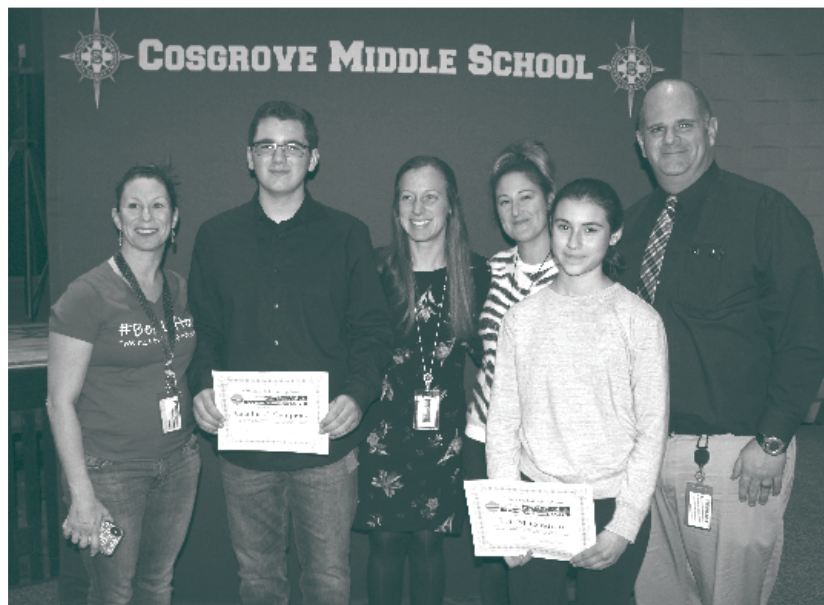
Spencerport Nature Center

DEC scholarship recipients selected

The Spencerport Nature Center Committee awarded two students from Cosgrove Middle School with full, one-week scholarships to attend a summer camp sponsored by the by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Congratulations to seventh grader Gianluca Campione and eighth grader Lola Gendrou, who were selected based on their outstanding applications and essays.

The Cosgrove Middle School team celebrated the DEC Scholarship winners on Jan. 8. From left, Erin Bell, school counselor; Gianluca Campione, scholarship recipient; Tracey D'Alonzo, Nature Center committee chair and assistant principal; Jacquelyn Woodard, school counselor; Lola Gendrou, scholarship recipient; and Jim Centola, principal.



Spencerport's Maple Sugarfest on Feb. 29

The Spencerport Central School District Nature Center will host its annual Maple SugarFest on Sat., Feb. 29, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event will include indoor and outdoor activities, including a maple sugar demonstration, geocaching, snow shoeing (weather permitting), and children's crafts and activities.

The pancake breakfast runs from 9 -10:30 a.m. at the high school's east cafeteria. Cost of the breakfast is \$6 per person and free for children 5 and under. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Proceeds from the breakfast, along with any donations, fund the nature center's DEC Summer Camp Scholarship and Instructional Pavilion Fund. More information and an event schedule for the **Maple SugarFest** may be found at http://www.spencerportschools.org/parents_community/nature_center



Nature Center Committee Chair and Cosgrove Assistant Principal, Tracey D'Alonzo, enjoyed the pancake breakfast with her family in 2019.

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



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 585-349-5000

MARCH 2020

2	SSBC, D.O.	6:30 p.m.
2-6	Bernabi Reads	
3	BPA	6 p.m.
3	MSPA	7 p.m.
4	Escape the Vape, HS PAC	6:30 p.m.
4	Kindergarten Registration Night, All Elem.	7 p.m.
6	HS/CMS 25-week progress reports, parent portal	
9	1st day V/JV spring practices	
10	Board of Education meeting	7 p.m.
10	HS Music in our Schools Month, HS PAC	7 p.m.
11	Taylor Beginning Band Concert	7 p.m.
12	HS Parent/Teacher Confs.	
13	Taylor Mother/Son Dance	6 p.m.
14	Evening of Jazz, HS West cafe	6:30 p.m.
13-14	Jr High All County festival	
18	Senior 100-day celebration	
18	CVA	
20	K-8 Half Day Release (grs 9-12 full day of instruction)	
20-21	Shrek, Cosgrove	
20-21	Sr. High All County Festival	
24	Board of Education, DO	7 p.m.
24	Districtwide Instrumental Concert, HS PAC	7 p.m.
24-25	Bernabi/CV 3-5 NYS ELA	
24-25	Cosgrove 6-8 NYS ELA	
26-27	Munn/Taylor 3-5 NYS ELA	
27-28	Elem. All County Festival	

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020

SPENCERPORT HIGH SCHOOL CARE TEAM PRESENTS:

ESCAPE THE VAPE

Monroe County Commissioner of Health Michael Mendoza and Alexandra Popovici from the American Lung Association will facilitate a community forum on the dangers of vaping and addiction

6:30PM HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME