



# Griffin Spotlight

## Mr. Fiegl takes class outdoors

Being situated in the Adirondack Mountains, nature is prevalent all around. All five senses can be elevated when outdoors: the sounds of a rushing stream, the smell of a cold morning, the feeling of heat from the sun, and the touch of a soft birch tree.

For science teacher Jason Fiegl, he's seen the need for students to connect with nature. He taught an Adirondacks Science Course to high schoolers, where they hiked, surveyed the woods and visited local farms. But he wanted to find a way for young students to connect with Adirondacks – the place they live.

"Last year I was out with a hand injury, and I spent a lot of time in the woods healing," Fiegl said. "Hiking, walking and running helped me a lot. So, it came to me, that everything that's gone on COVID and kids on devices, that I should expand my outdoor course district-wide."

At the start of the 2023-24 school year, Fiegl started visiting the Lake View Campus every other day to bring K-5 students out into nature. His goal is not to impede on classroom routine

but help teachers when he can. He lets teachers know he's on campus, so sometimes only certain students will go outside or whole classes will take some time to learn with



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### Superintendent of Schools Message: Joshua R. Meyer

*Dear Parents, Students, and  
Community Members,*

It's hard to believe the end of 2023 is a few weeks away. It has been a great start to the 2023-24 School Year, and I am so proud of all the hard work BVCS students, staff and community members have contributed to making it great.

I hope the everyone enjoys the holiday season with loved ones and friends. May this time bring warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with family and friends.

Thank you to all of the community members who have attended the Capital Project forums and coffee hour. It is incredibly important to me to hear the concerns and questions of the community, and I hope for those who attended had their questions answered thoroughly. There will be another Coffee & Capital Project session on December 13 and January 9 from 9-10 a.m. at the Mountain View Campus. There will be a final presentation on the Capital Project on February 1 before the vote on February 15.

As we welcome the new year, let's embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. May the coming year be filled with success, growth, and new achievements for our students, educators, and the entire BVCS community.

Sincerely,  
Joshua R. Meyer



# Mountain View Top 5

## Grow a Griffin Turkey

1. During the month of November, students had the opportunity to earn “Griffin Feathers.” Students could earn feathers by demonstrating the following attributes: leadership, goal setting, perseverance, agility and networking. Feathers were added to the Griffin mural in the MVC hallway. Feathers will be drawn in December from each attribute, and that student’s feather will win them a prize.



## Winter Activities

2. The start of winter activities has begun. After an amazing fall season, students are revved up to continue working hard throughout the winter months. Basketball and indoor track have started practicing in preparation for the start of the competitive season. Winter Clubs, like archery and weightlifting, are also great afterschool activities for students to participate in.

## Getting Festive

3. During a community service event, students decorated wreaths for the Essex Center. Students had a great time providing festive flair to the beautiful wreaths. Also, a big thank you to the

Cornell Cooperative Extension for helping with this event! We are so grateful to have students and local partnerships to give back to the community.

## Clinton County Manufacturing Day

4. Students in 9-12 grades went to North Country Manufacturing Day at Clinton Community College on

November 8. They met with representatives of a variety of local manufacturing companies. They also had fun attempting virtual welding and flight simulators, competing in challenges and participating in an escape room.



## Opera

5. College, Career, Military, oh my! Fifth graders and middle school chorus & band students attended the opera “Lucinda y la Flores de la Nochebuena,” written by Evan Mack. Mr. Mack is one of the co-founders of the organization “We Are Instrumental” and has played a huge role in equipping north country students with instruments and providing music teachers with instrumental repair experience. WAI also gives students the opportunity to attend performances. Our students saw a 45-minute opera, based on the traditional latin story of Lucinda, where they heard professional opera singers from Seagle Colony, as well as the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra. After the opera, the day finished with a picnic lunch and a short stop at a local park before heading home.





# Lake View Top 5



## **NYSSMA Award**

1. Kerry Mero, our esteemed music teacher, was honored with the 2023 Established Educator Award by the New York State School Music Association. The prestigious accolade recognizes her outstanding contributions and dedication to music education. NYSSMA's mission is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

## **Learn-To-Bike Program**

2. Adele Jesmer, our LVC physical education teacher, achieved success by completing a comprehensive learn-to-bike program facilitated by OASIS. She worked with a large group of students to work on biking. Adele equipped students with the skills to bike confidently, and our students had a great time learning.



## **Parent-Teacher Organization**

3. The Parent-Teacher Organization had its first meeting. The collective energy and passion exhibited has set the stage for exciting collaborative initiatives that the organization is keen to pursue. As the group looks forward to future endeavors, the spirit of unity and commitment among its members promises a positive impact on the school's overall environment.

## **Social Emotional Learning**

4. Our students have begun their SEL classes using the Second Step curriculum. This helps students build social-emotional skills, like nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions, and setting goals. This curriculum is to help students thrive in school and in life.



## **CFES Brilliant Pathways Global Conference**

5. Mountain View Campus Principal Elaine Dixon-Cross and Lake View Campus Principal Lee Kyler attended CFES Brilliant Pathways Global Conference. Through the conference, they have begun brainstorming ways to incorporate mentoring at the elementary level.



## Lake View Principal Message: Lee Kyler

November swiftly passed, didn't it? During the month, our dedicated Lake View staff delved deeply into data, exploring avenues to bolster our students' proficiency in reading, mathematics, and addressing their social/emotional needs. If you've received your child's test scores from last school year or their iReady scores from this year and have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We were delighted to host numerous families for conferences with our teachers, and rest assured, our staff is readily available for follow-up meetings to address any concerns you may have.

As we slip into December at the Lake View Campus, anticipate a month brimming with joy. While we remain committed to providing rigorous academic programming, we've also curated a range of activities aligned with the holiday spirit to uplift the morale of both students and staff. Thank you to all families and the great community for your continued support in making our school one that enriches our students.



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## Mountain View Principal Message: Elaine Dixon-Cross

As we come back from Thanksgiving Break, I hope students, families and staff were able to enjoy rest, relaxation and good food. I am so grateful for the commitment and dedication our staff, students and community put into making BVCSD a great place to learn and grow.

The rest from break will hopefully give students a strong push to continue working hard before Winter Break at the end of this month. The first quarter of the year is complete, and I trust to see students continue excelling in the second. Parent/Teacher Conferences have gone underway, and students' state test scores will be included in their report cards.

As a reminder, our teachers, counselors and administrative team are available to provide assistance.



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Fiegl.

"I've had groups of 20 or 30 kids doing nature observations or a scavenger hunt with leaves, trees and pinecones," Fiegl said. "I've shown kids different animal hides or how to clear a trail."

He's also prepared to teach students through the seasons. He plans on snowshoeing, animal tracking in the snow, building snow shelters and making maple syrup.

Some students know how to identify trees or make maple syrup and some students have never hiked before. Regardless of what they know, students get to expand their knowledge on what they can do in the outdoors.

"I just want kids to go outside, play and adventure," Fiegl said. "You learn so much, you heal, and you get a different connection with

nature. So as an Adirondack school, I wanted this to be part of identity, where these kids know how to be outside to learn."

That's Fiegl's whole vision – to get kids to connect with nature. Whether it's playing in the snow or walking in a 90-degree day, it's a way to get students off their devices and change their routine.

