



Griffin Spotlight

Winter Solstice Festivities

On the first day of winter, December 21, 2023, Mountain View students participated in a day of fun-filled challenges and activities. It was an opportunity for students and teachers to celebrate the start of winter and a great way to enjoy the last few days before break.

The highlight of the day was the winter-themed challenges hosted in the gymnasium. The first half of the day, high schoolers competed against each other and their teachers to win the most points. Grades 9 through 11 competed against each other, and seniors versus teachers duked it out for No. 1. It was an intense afternoon, but ultimately, the seniors and juniors won.

High schoolers started off the assembly with a dance competition. Teachers scored them out of 10. Seniors won with their Christmas rendition of Holiday Baby Shark.

The middle school took over the gymnasium the second half of the day. Grades 6 through 8 and teachers fought to be victors. It came down to a tie between 8th grade and the teachers, but the 8th graders won.

There were so many laughs and competitive-filled moments.

Some great games were *Hungry, Hungry Snowmen*, where students tried to collect the most "snowballs" while riding with their bellies on a scooter and a partner



Superintendent of Schools Message: Joshua R. Meyer

*Dear Parents, Students, and
Community Members,*

Happy New Year! I hope everyone in our community had a wonderful holiday season.

With the start of the new year, we are closing in on our Capital Project referendum, where voters will be asked to vote on the new building project at Thrall Dam.



There have been two public forums and three Coffee with the Superintendent events, where community members could ask their questions about the project. For those still looking to find information about the Capital Project, please visit our website [here](#).

There will be a final forum on February 1. Then, qualified voters of the Boquet Valley Central School District will be able to vote on Thursday, February 15, 2024. Voting will be held at the Lake View Campus. Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

Absentee ballots for voting may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk, 7530 Court Street PO Box 158 Elizabethtown, NY 12932. Absentee ballots must be received in the office of the District Clerk not later than 5 p.m. on February 15, 2024.

This is an important decision for our community. I strongly encourage every eligible voter in our community to vote.

Sincerely,
Joshua R. Meyer

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Mountain View Top 5

Winter Literacy Family Night

1. Lake View Campus hosted Winter Literacy Family Night, but the night was filled with fun for all ages. There was a puppet show in the library for families to enjoy. The big goal was connecting guardians and children together. Several Mountain View students attended with their younger siblings, and it was an evening of fun for everyone involved.

Winter Concerts

2. Chorus and band performed for families, friends and the community on December 19, 2023. Our music teachers Heather Olsen and Danielle Criss worked with their students to perfect their



songs, and our students put on a great performance.

Boquet Valley All-Time Squat Record

3. Philip Armitage recently squatted 405lbs. One year ago, Philip joined our weightlifting team and had some pain in his knees that kept him from moving the large weights. Philip kept working on his mechanics, and he chose to grow stronger slowly. He stayed with light weights for quite some time developing the proper range of motion for a record lift. His knees improved and so did his strength. He now owns the Boquet Valley All-Time squat record.



Spelling Bee Champion

4. Can you spell "wisdom?" Because 6th grader Tatum Brearton can! She was Mountain View's Spelling Bee overall winner. Students first participated in a classroom bee in December before receiving an invitation to the school bee. Approximately eighteen students in grades 6-8 participated. Cora Egglefield was our overall runner-up respectively. Congratulations to the following students, who will represent their grade level at the regional bee in March.

6th grade- Tatum Brearton (winner), Cora Egglefield (alternate)

7th grade- Lucy Burgess (winner), Jacob Thompson (alternate)

8th grade- Keir Furman (winner), Margot Hall (alternate)



OASIS Starts Up

5. College, Career, Military, oh my! The fourth session of OASIS starts the week of January 8. There are so many amazing clubs for students to get involved with. Session 4 will have Conversation Club, where students partner with the Cornell Cooperative Extension to create an oral history of agriculture and the Essex County Fair. Students will get to write interview questions, learn how to interview people of different generations, and then conduct one to two interviews. There are also clubs like swimming and World Cultures. On the academic side, there are opportunities for students to receive extra homework help and Regent Reviews.



Lake View Top 5

Holiday Caroling at Essex Center

1. Our music teacher Kerry Mero, students and teachers visited the Essex Center nursing home in Elizabethtown on December 13 to visit with residents, share gifts and sing carols. It was a great event for students to interact with community members. The partnership with the Essex Center has been mutually beneficial, and we look forward to many more events in the future.

Kindergarten Gingerbread Activity

2. On December 7, our kindergarten teachers planned a family activity.

Students were read a story in the auditorium by a friendly elf, and after, we were able to make gingerbread houses with the families. We had 100% family participation in this fun and sweet event.



Holiday Spirit Week

3. Fah-who foris, dah-who doris! The final week before break students dressed in the holiday spirit, candy comes, grinchers, elves, and Cindy Lou Who too! Staff got

into the spirit and decorated their classroom doors and participated in a Decemba' to Rememba.' It was a fun and magical experience for Lake View.

Champlain National Bank Partnership

4. The Lake View Campus partnered with the Westport Branch of Champlain National Bank for Project We Care, which provided toys, gifts, and food for families across the North Country and Adirondacks. Bank employees donated money, bought gifts, wrapped presents, and delivered gifts to the school, making sure

everyone had a special holiday this year. We greatly appreciate the giving spirit brought through this partnership.

Continued Staff Professional Development

5. On December 13, teachers were provided staff development to better understand state testing results for math, ELA, science, and social studies. Other teaching assistants were provided training on special education including to help better understand IEP's and special education compliance.



Lake View Principal Message: Lee Kyler

I want to thank students, parents, families, staff, and the community for a successful first trimester. Our school has faced struggles, but I have been comforted by the school community's commitment to helping our students feel safe and successful. Please know that our staff works tirelessly to improve the Lake View Campus each day. Our committed educators placed students' needs at the epicenter of their priorities.

As a school, we have restructured our behavioral expectations and seen a sharp decrease in disciplinary referrals. We have focused heavily on helping students feel welcome at school, and have seen a rise in attendance. Into the new year, we will continue these efforts, supporting our educators and students equally. We are making forward progress, all while acknowledging there is much work still to be done.

I value you as partners in education and I wish you and your families a happy holiday season, and here's to a bright 2024!



Mountain View Principal Message: Elaine Dixon-Cross

Welcome 2024! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and start to the new year. As we dive into 2024, there's so many exciting opportunities and events to look forward. Before we all left to celebrate the holidays, Mountain View students and teachers had a fun-filled day on Winter Solstice. It was such an amazing time to watch everyone's smiling faces as they participated in games and competitions.

Now back on campus, our students are not only embracing the promise of a new year but are channeling their energy toward the upcoming Regents Exams and iReady Testing. I encourage student to utilize the many review opportunities to help prepare for the exam.

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



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steering their legs.

Another great challenge was *Don't Touch My Toque*, where volunteers had to balance a plastic cup on their head while trying to knock off opponents' cup.

There were other games where you had to eat a suspended donut off a string, and another one where participants had to catch cotton balls in a cup while their partner threw them.

Students also played Knock-Out, a basketball game, and turned one of their classmates into a snowman with toilet paper and hats.

It was a great time to watch everyone work together and share laughs together before the end of the year.

