



Griffin Spotlight

Students spreading positivity

A new movement of positivity is spreading through Boquet Valley CSD's schools, led by students who want to make an impact on their school community.

The High School Positive School Environment Team, or HSPSET, is a 10-member group of students grades 9 through 12 advised by Assistant Principal of Health and Wellness Kelly Zimmerman.

The team seeks to grow the positivity of the culture within our schools, creating a welcoming and warm environment where everyone feels comfortable and like they



belong.

Besides making the day more

pleasant for everyone, a positive environment has shown to be connected to data like better attendance and better performance in classes.

PSET Week

HSPSET kicked off its work with a whole week of positive

activities at Mountain View Campus.

That Monday, the week started with an assembly led by Tom Bull, a motivational speaker who works with schools to strengthen

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Committee plans recommendation

At its February meeting, the Facilities Planning Committee started developing a recommendation to the district's Board of Education. Members hope to finalize wording at its March meeting, which will be held March 27 at Mountain View Campus in Elizabethtown. The recommendation will go to the board at its April 10 meeting.

The committee reviewed costs to bring Mountain View up to code and move all elementary programs into the building. The team likely will recommend separating bus garage and athletic field updates from the building project due to uncertainties.

For more info on the committee and its work, go to boquetvalleycsd.org/facilities

Superintendent Message: Dr. Joshua R. Meyer

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,



As we plan for the next school year, we are committed to continuing to give our students a great education while also making sure we use taxpayer money in the most efficient way possible. We're looking for options to reduce spending while also exploring any potential revenue stream and how to maximize existing funds. We don't anticipate having to exceed the tax cap. We expect a limited increase in spending, largely due to rising healthcare and salary costs. As the state finalizes its budget, in the next few weeks, we will start to have a clearer idea of the full picture.

I invite you to attend our upcoming budget meetings and share what matters to you. Together, we can build a budget that fits our community's values and gives our students what they need to succeed.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joshua R. Meyer

Mountain View Top 5

1

Spreading Valentine's Love

National Junior Honor Society students visited Essex Center in Elizabethtown on Valentine's Day to share some love with elders. They painted hearts and other Valentine's Day art in the snow outside the center as elders watched from indoors. Then students went inside for a Valentine's party, and they handed out flowers to residents.



2

Harvard Model United Nations

A team of Griffins ventured to Boston to compete with thousands of students from around the world at the Harvard Model UN. Model UN Advisor Peter Castine said the delegates worked very hard in committee, often to as late as 11 p.m. BVCS delegates were able to enjoy team building activities such as team bowling challenge at Kings Bowling and a visit to the Boston Museum of Science, which was supported by the school's OASIS program.



3

Whiteface Visit

Students had the chance to go to Whiteface Mountain, and many students learned to ski for the first time. A second trip had to be postponed due to weather, and it's now scheduled for March 13. Have fun on the slopes, Griffins!

4

HSPSET

Much of the activity in February at MVC centered around the High

School Positive School Environment Team. See this month's featured story on page 1 to learn more about HSPSET and its activities.

5

Food Hub Internships

Career, college, military, oh my! Ten students are interning with the Essex Food Hub to learn about food sourcing, distribution and the role the food hub plays in the local food system. This program, a collaboration with Ready4Real, gives participants a chance to assist with packing food for distribution, assist with social media to promote the food hub's work, and other opportunities to learn about the organization. Students toured the food hub's headquarters, and they will also visit local farms to gain a deeper understanding of local resources.

Lake View Top 5

1

Neurodiversity Training

Dr. Maria Rheume led a professional development for our staff talking about neurodiversity. This session explored strength-based approaches to supporting neurodivergent students, including Autism, ADHD, and other developmental differences. Topics included understanding neurodiversity, mental health support, and effective strategies for the classroom. Organized by Building Resilience in Essex Families (BRIEF), this workshop was designed to equip school staff with valuable insights and resources.

2

CKLA Training

Our staff recently participated in coaching sessions with Amplify, the provider of our ELA curriculum, to enhance our instructional practices. These sessions included real-time feedback, lesson modeling, and collaborative planning, ensuring we are effectively supporting students with high-quality literacy instruction.

3

First Grade Field Trip to the Ticonderoga Planetarium

Our first-grade students recently visited the Ticonderoga Planetarium, where they embarked on an exciting journey through space. They learned about the stars, planets, and the wonders of our solar system through interactive exhibits and a captivating planetarium show. It was an unforgettable experience that sparked curiosity and a love for science.



4

February Reading Challenge

Our Reading Safari program was a huge success, with over 100 students in PreK–6th grade participating.



Throughout February, students logged over six hours of extracurricular reading to earn a free ticket to Enchanted Forest Water Safari for the 2025 season. We are so proud of our young readers for their dedication, and we appreciate our families for supporting literacy at home!.

5

PSET

High School PSET (Positive School Environment Team) is a student leadership group with a focus on creating a school environment that encourages love, support, encouragement, and kindness towards each other. There are four pillars of character that HSPSET focuses on. R.U.T.H. = Respect, Understanding, Trust and Honesty. It's about building community, lifting each other up, and positive actions/words towards each other. HSPSET is very excited to come to the elementary school to share R.U.T.H. with the students. They will be doing an activity with some LV classrooms and will also be a part of the PBIS assembly to reinforce the importance of being kind and positive to others and to ourselves.

Lake View Principal Message: Lee Kyler

I want to take a moment to recognize Tracy Waite, our dedicated reading interventionist, who has retired after years of service to our students. Her passion for literacy and elementary education has made a lasting impact. We are grateful for her commitment. I also want to express that as the Lake View principal, I pour everything into making the best decisions for our students. I will not always get it right, but please know my heart is in this for the long run. I remain open to meeting or speaking with a family or community members anytime. Thank you for your trust and partnership as we continue to grow together.



Mountain View Principal Message: Elaine Dixon-Cross

I want to again emphasize the critical importance of consistent attendance. During these long winter months, students who maintain regular attendance perform better academically and maintain stronger connections with peers and teachers. Each school day builds on previous learning. When students miss class, they miss essential instruction that cannot be fully recovered. While illness sometimes makes absence unavoidable, please help your child attend whenever safely possible. If you or your child needs help, please don't hesitate to reach out. The school has resources that may be able to assist. Thank you for your partnership in ensuring your child's educational success through consistent attendance this winter.



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community and inspire connections. Tom led students through several engaging activities that encouraged them to ditch negativity and connect with classmates.

Each day for the rest of the week, different uplifting actions were encouraged, like writing positive messages, giving out compliments, and showing school spirit at sports games.

Throughout the week, students were encouraged to write and submit RUTH Cards. RUTH stands for Respect, Understanding, Trust and Honesty. Students could write a shout-out to classmates when they saw them exhibiting these traits, which were passed out to recipients the following week.

Friday afternoon, PSET members blew bubbles and cheered as classmates left the building at the end of the day.

Setting an example

PSET visited Lake View Campus at the end of February, spreading positivity and smiles to their younger peers.



Positive School Environment Team

Colba Furman, grade 12

Otis Wekin, grade 12

Braden Liberi, grade 12

Amara Brugman, grade 11

Olive Stewart, grade 10

Sadie Burgess, grade 10

Keir Furman, grade 9

Marguerite Hall, grade 9

Olivia Hathaway, grade 9

Lila Kullman, grade 9

PSET members visited elementary classes and led them through exercises that Tom Bull had done with older students at the PSET assembly. They had students write down toxic behaviors they had done or experienced in the past, then had them crumple up the paper and throw it out, symbolizing getting rid of negativity.

The older students also participated in the month's PBIS assembly.

Future plans

PSET will continue to spread positivity throughout the district. They are talking about sharing self-affirmation notes on lockers, and other activities that will encourage their peers to smile and be friendly to one another. Mrs. Zimmerman is helping the students come up with ideas and then carry them out.

Look for this group to share a smile with you soon!

