Wellness fair and open house draw hundreds to EJD

Emerson J. Dillon Middle School was bustling with excitement recently, as families, students and community members filed into the building for open house and the annual wellness fair.

Hundreds of fifth through eighth-grade students brought their family members into classrooms, showed off their work and interacted with faculty and staff as part of the open house. The event served as an opportunity for parents to engage in conversation with teachers and learn about the curriculum.

While many families occupied the hallways and classrooms, hundreds more shuffled into the gymnasium for the wellness fair. Thirty-eight vendors from various community agencies were on hand to talk about emotional and physical health. They distributed information and pamphlets promoting overall wellness.

“It’s a great way to make the community aware of the many resources available to them,” said Phoenix Central School District’s director of special education, Kathie Palladino.

MAM students showcase work, knowledge at open house

Artwork, journals and other student projects were on display at Michael A. Maroun Elementary School recently during the fall open house.

Students took their families on a tour of the building, popping into the library, art room, music room, the gymnasium and individual classrooms along the way. In the hallways, families perused bulletin boards and stopped to take photos of students alongside their various projects.

“We always have a great turnout at open house,” said MAM Principal Brett Doody. “Families really support students in our schools, and that’s important. We’re looking forward to a great year.”
From the superintendent’s desk: Capital project updates and more

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for the start of the 2019-2020 school year! Phoenix Central Schools is always striving to improve and provide the best educational experiences for our students. This year we also find ourselves striving to improve our facilities so our students have the absolute best and highest quality learning environments possible.

If you happened to drive by any of our schools this summer, I am sure you noticed a significant amount of construction. Roof work was completed at Emerson J. Dillon Middle School and a new primary playground was installed at Michael A. Maroun Elementary School.

The majority of summer construction took place at John C. Birdlebough High School. The work included extensive renovations of several classrooms and hallways, roof work and window replacements. In the next couple of months, the new high school music addition, several more classrooms and the new turf field and stadium will be completed. Over the course of the school year, the old band and chorus rooms will be transformed into a new multipurpose gymnasium and the high school auditorium will be completely modernized.

Work will continue next summer and into the fall with additional classrooms being renovated at the high school. The art rooms at the middle school will be renovated and the elementary school will undergo roof work, classroom flooring and some bathroom upgrades. The back section of the elementary school will also be updated and converted into the new district office. All buildings will undergo mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades.

We are very excited about the work being done in our buildings and cannot wait for you to see firsthand the progress we have made so far. You are always welcome and encouraged to visit our schools. You can also view our capital project update video on our district website at phoenixcsd.org/capitalproject.

Feel free to follow me on Twitter (@cbyrnepcsd) to see all the great things happening in our school district this year. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My email is cbyrne@phoenixcsd.org and my office phone number is 315-695-1555.

I am very excited and looking forward to another wonderful school year full of student achievements and accomplishments. Together, we will help our students reach high levels of success. As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the Phoenix Central Schools!

Sincerely,
Christopher J. Byrne
Superintendent

Phoenix schools welcome new teachers to Firebird family

Administrators and current faculty members recently welcomed a dozen new teachers to the Phoenix Central School District for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The new employees attended an orientation over the summer at Emerson J. Dillon Middle School, where they learned about district policies, procedures and best practices. Desiree Moore, an instructional specialist with the district, led the orientation and provided information to help the teachers get acclimated to their new roles.

The new teachers, pictured seated at right, include Michelle Baroody (kindergarten); Jordan Lidell (fourth grade); Laura Woznica (fourth grade); Carolyn Scanlon (third grade); Joanna Damiano (first grade); and Nikki Guzman (occupational therapist). Standing, from left, are Carrie Wilson (music at EJD); Chelsea Cool (special education); Shannon Vazquez (special education); Matt Amidon (science at EJD); Emily Werner (special education); and Katelin Clark (first grade).
Senior receives national recognition

A John C. Birdlebough High School senior was commended recently by a national organization after successfully finishing in the top 3 percent of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying exam nationwide.

Savanah Neupert received a letter of commendation recognizing her accomplishment from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) and was celebrated during Phoenix’s homecoming by JCB High School Principal Thomas Bailer at a pep rally in front of her fellow students.

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” said a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation.”

Neupert placed among the top 50,000 scorers out of more than 1.5 million who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 examination.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise, according to a release from NMSC.

School supplies distributed to PCSD students

A countywide school supply collection effort culminated in a successful distribution day prior to the start of the school year.

In conjunction with United Way of Greater Oswego County, the Phoenix Central School District was able to provide its families with the needed supplies to begin the year. The annual Stuff-a-Bus event, which serves families throughout the county, was well-received by PCSD families.

Hundreds of Phoenix students and parents lined the hallways of Michael A. Maroun Elementary for the supply giveaway. Retired and current staff members handed out pens, pencils, folders, backpacks, binders, erasers, rules, markers and everything in between.

According to PCSD teaching assistant Marla Leitner, who helps coordinate the distribution effort every year, the success of the event is due to the generosity of community members and volunteers.

“We try to help families as much as we can, and we wouldn’t be able to do it without donations or the folks who help sort and distribute the supplies,” Leitner said. “Our community supports this great cause every year.”

JCB welcomes families to annual open house

High school parents and guardians recently had a chance to experience a day in the life of their child’s schedule during the September open house.

“Open house is an opportunity for you to meet your child’s teachers and to experience your child’s typical daily schedule, all in an abbreviated amount of time,” Principal Thomas Bailer said to attendees.

With their child’s daily schedule in hand, parents and guardians stopped into the designated classrooms and talked about the curriculum and expectations. They also were able to tour the building to see some of the completed capital project renovations.

Parents, students, teachers, administrators and JCB alumni recently came together for the high school open house.
Mission Statement

The Phoenix Central School District is committed to a challenging educational program that promotes academic and personal growth for all students. Each student will become a confident, productive, responsible individual with a strong academic foundation, and the ability to make positive ethical choices. Our goal is to cultivate a sense of pride, character, and accountability in our students and community. The Board of Education, staff, parents, students, and community share responsibility for this mission.