Dec. 23 - Jan. 3, 2014
No School, Winter Break

January 8, 2014
- Board of Education Meeting
- BOU’s “Life After BC” @BCHS, 7 p.m.

January 13, 2014
Coffee w/Dr. Cale, “Managing Technology”, 9:30 a.m. at Eagle Elementary

January 20, 2014
No School, MLK Jr. Day

January 22, 2014
Board of Education Meeting

January 27-30, 2014
 Regents Exams

February 4, 2014
Parent/Teacher Conferences, 11:45 a.m. Elem. Dismissal

BC food drive reflects spirit of the season
The Bethlehem Central High School community donated and collected 84 full dinner boxes this year for the Holiday Food Drive. The annual charitable drive was sponsored by the Student Senate and Senior Council. Food boxes, gift cards and turkeys were distributed at the Town Park on Wednesday, December 18 to nearly 120 families in the Bethlehem community. View photos

How we communicate weather-related closures
January in the Northeast is nothing if not unpredictable. Be prepared for school closures or delays by reviewing the various ways the district communicates this important information. Read more

Free access to e-Books through BC library
With two weeks of winter break, there is no better time to curl up with a good book. Students of all ages can find plenty to choose from thanks to the BCSD library and Capital Region BOCES, which offers free access to e-Books through its OverDrive system. Classics, current fiction and popular nonfiction titles can be accessed 24/7 by visiting OverDrive. Use your library pin number (on the back of your student ID) to read in a browser or download to your device.
This success is a collective effort of an educational community that strives to support the district's pledge to deliver Knowledge, Character and Value to the families of Bethlehem Central. Much of that success is easy to quantify. Every fall, for example, data reflecting student achievement at BC is packaged for admissions representatives in a brochure that accompanies students’ college applications. Prepared by the counseling center, the annual High School Profile is impressive. Test scores, class rigor and more point to a graduating student body that possesses considerable knowledge.

Less easy to sum up, but certainly just as important is reinforcing strength of character among our students. Acts of kindness and respect, especially when (students think) no one is watching are being rewarded on a regular basis at the middle school as part of the school’s character education and at every level, I am pleased to report that the spirit of giving is alive and well. Look no further than recent Holiday Food Drives that have helped feed nearly 200 local families or the fact that we will have a number of graduates, home from college on break, who will come to the high school on January 7 to help high school students know what to expect in "Life After BC."

We are certainly fortunate to live in a community where even our youngest students understand what it means to give back. Embrace that feeling this holiday season as you gather with family and friends. I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Sincerely,
Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools

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**Kindergarten registration underway**

Kindergarten registration information will be mailed to all eligible families currently in the Bethlehem Central database. If you do not receive a kindergarten registration packet, by January 6, please fill out a [Preschool Student Information Form](#) for your child. If you had not previously done this, your child would not be in the BCSD database. Please complete the electronic form so that registration materials can be mailed to you. Contact District Registrar Melissa Haas at (518) 439-2442 if you have any questions.

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**Week of Champions honors dozens of athletes**

Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy visited BCHS on Tuesday, December 10, to honor several Bethlehem student athletes for their achievements in reaching state-level competitions during the fall season. [Link to article](#)

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**January concert schedule**

Our student musicians -- from the smallest to the tallest -- have been hard at work preparing for upcoming performances. Several schools will host winter concerts during the month of January that you won’t want to miss! Check out the schedule [here](#).

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**SESS transition meetings set for Jan/Feb**

Parents of students who receive Special Education services and who will be transitioning from preschool to elementary; elementary to middle school; or middle to high school will want to take note of the following transition meeting dates:
- Fifth grade to sixth grade transition: January 15, 2014, 6:30-7:30 PM at BCMS;
- Eighth grade to ninth grade transition: January 22, 2014, 6:30-7:30 PM at BCHS;
- Preschool to Kindergarten, February 12, 2014, 6:30-7:30 PM at Eagle Elementary.

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**Parent Today: 12 gifts that don't come from a store**

If you subscribe to [Parent Today](#) (it’s free to BC families), you may have already seen this. If not, [here is a list](#) of 12 gifts you can give to your children which don’t come from a store. They are simple and timeless. Happy holidays and best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

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Ricky the Robot makes BC debut
This year for the first time, students in Glenmont teacher Peter Rawitsch's class are being introduced to robotics and programming with the help of a humanoid robot named Ricky. Ricky the Robot, owned and operated by the Northeast Regional Information Center (NERIC), has been visiting Mr. Rawitsch's class once a month -- along with a NERIC technician -- bringing grade-specific lessons designed to help the students become comfortable with the technology that makes Ricky "come alive." More