



# BCeNews http://bethlehemschools.org

May/June 2014



Mark your  
**CALENDAR**

- **May 20, 2014**  
School Budget Vote Day & BOE Election, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., BCHS Upper Gym
- **May 21, 2014**  
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., BCHS
- **May 23, 2014**  
Regular school day for all students
- **May 26, 2014**  
No School, Memorial Day



FROM the desk of  
**DR. DOUGLAS**  
*A note from the Superintendent*

Dear Neighbor:

On Tuesday, May 20, voters of the Bethlehem Central School District will decide on a \$92.6 million budget for the 2014-15 school year, choose three members of the Board of Education, and vote on a plan to replace eight buses.

School Budget Vote Day is the only opportunity New Yorkers have to cast a vote on a budget at any level of government. From 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday, in the high school's upper gym, you will be able to share in this important community decision-making with your neighbors.

You can learn more [here](#) about details of the budget and candidates for the Board of Education. On Tuesday, you will also be asked to answer a brief,

## top STORIES

### What will I be voting on May 20?

Residents of the Bethlehem Central School District will decide on a \$92.6 million budget for the 2014-15 school year. The proposed budget increases spending by \$1.8 million – or 2.45 percent – over the current year and, if approved, would increase the district's property tax levy by 2.99 percent. This would result in an estimated tax rate decrease (-3.57 percent) due to an increase in the total taxable assessed value of property in the district. Voters will also be asked to decide on three members of the Board of Education and vote on a bus replacement plan. [Read more](#)  
[Click here to estimate your 2014-15 tax amount with our online calculator](#)



### Kids Vote, Too, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Elementary students who accompany their parents to the high school Tuesday will have a vote of their own. In its third year, Kids Vote, Too! will ask students to vote on the kind of recess equipment would like to see at their schools in 2014-15. In past years, students voted on their favorite snack, with the winner being served at all elementary schools post-election. Kids Vote, Too! will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. [Learn more](#)

### Friday, May 23 is a regular school day

Friday, May 23 will be a regular school day for all students in the district. This "contingency day" was added back into the school calendar to make up for a snow day.

### Fifth graders introduced to middle school

Fifth grader students from each of the district's five elementary schools got a closer look at BCMS on Friday, May 16 as they were formally introduced to the school for the first time. Escorted by their teachers, they enjoyed a tour of the school, information about core subjects and offerings like Academic Technology Management, and



nine-question exit survey that will help us with future budget development. It is voluntary and entirely anonymous.

Here in Bethlehem and across the state, our high school seniors are required to take a Participation in Government course that helps them practice and learn the skills necessary for active citizenship. There is no better way to prepare our young people for this role than to share our own enthusiasm and respect for the privilege of voting. I hope you will join me in doing so.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools

got to experience everything from changing classes to lunch in the cafeteria. [View photos](#)

### **Project Playground nears goal**

Glenmont's [Project Playground](#) is closing in on its goal of raising \$100,000 to aid the district in constructing a new playground at the school. According to project co-chairs Amy Scharf and Annemarie Farrell, funds raised and collected by the PTA so far total \$96,580. A June fundraiser, sponsored by the new Cumberland Farms in Glenmont, will get underway next week. [View flyer](#)

Elsmere Elementary School and its PTA has also raised more than \$75,000 to help fund a new playground. The Elsmere Elementary PTA will host its Community Day on Saturday, June 7. [Learn more here](#)

### **Olympic luger's journey offers thrill ride for students**

A chance meeting last summer between a teacher and her family turned into a year-long lesson in perseverance, passion and pursuing an Olympic dream. [Read more here](#)

### **BCHS Final Exam Schedule**

Final exams for students at Bethlehem Central High School begin Tuesday, June 17 and continue through Thursday, June 26. [Click here for full schedule](#)



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Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent