



# BCeNews <http://bethlehemschools.org>

November 2013



Mark your  
**CALENDAR**

- **November 5, 2013**  
1/2 day - Grades K-12  
High School - 10:23 a.m.  
Middle School - 11:10 a.m.  
Elementary - 12:10 p.m.
- **November 6, 2013**  
Board of Education Meeting  
Board Recognition Night
- **November 11, 2013**  
Veterans Day-No school
- **November 13, 2013**  
BOU Parent Workshop  
"How to Talk to Your Teen"  
7 p.m., BCMS \*originally  
11/12
- **November 14, 2013**  
BCHS & BCMS 1st quarter  
report cards posted
- **November 20, 2013**  
Board of Education meeting
- **November 27-29, 2013**  
Thanksgiving Break-No school



FROM the desk of  
**DR. DOUGLAS**

*A note from the Superintendent*

Welcome to Bethlehem's new parent and community E-newsletter. The E-news will show up in your email approximately once a month, providing a brief look at some of the stories that have made news in recent weeks and give you a glimpse at what's ahead for our schools and the district at large.

Many parents attended our October Common Core meeting, where teachers and

## top STORIES

### **Bethlehem schools win top honors for academics**

In September, Elsmere Elementary School was notified it had been selected as a [2013 National Blue Ribbon School](#) and Principal Kate Kloss will travel to Washington on November 18 to receive the award in a ceremony honoring the top schools in the country. And recently, Buffalo-based publication Business First ranked the Bethlehem Central School District one of the Top 10 School Districts in Upstate New York and the number one school district in the Capital Region. [More](#)

### **Common Core resources for parents**

The Bethlehem Central School District has been working for two years to integrate the Common Core standards into classroom curriculum. To help parents better understand the changes, the district held a Common Core information night in October and will be scheduling another for January. In the meantime, parents can learn much more about the Common Core by visiting the district website [here](#).



### **Loud and clear: Be a part of the BC advocacy team!**

The Bethlehem Central School District is asking parents and residents to join in a community advocacy effort to let state leaders and area legislators know that our schools and property taxpayers can no longer absorb huge losses in state aid created by the state's Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). Learn what the GEA is and how you can help. [More](#)

### **BC board member elected president of NYSSBA**

Lynne Lenhardt, a 25-year member of the BC Board of Education has been elected president of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). NYSSBA serves 5,000 local elected officials throughout New York state. [More](#)

### **Count 'em: 7 National Merit semifinalists at BCHS**

administrators had the opportunity to describe how the state's move to the Common Core standards is impacting students in the classroom and influencing state test results.

The feedback was quite positive, with parents feeling the open dialogue was reassuring and that staff at each school, from elementary through high school, were working diligently to help students navigate these changes. For those who were unable to attend, we have posted a detailed recap of the information [here](#) and we will be scheduling a follow-up meeting in January.

While the Common Core remains a hot button issue for education leaders in Albany, there is an issue of equal importance on the horizon -- the state budget. Last year, Bethlehem stakeholders worked hard to advocate on behalf of our district and I am asking that you, as some of our most important stakeholders, take an early stand on an issue of greatest importance to our district: eliminating the [Gap Elimination Adjustment \(GFA\)](#).

To begin our advocacy efforts, we have posted a [sample letter](#) you can use to contact Governor Cuomo and state legislators about this issue. We have also scheduled a conversation for parents with Assemblymember Patricia Fahy and Senator Neil Breslin on December 4. It will be a brief, informal meeting that will take place from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the BCHS library, prior to our scheduled Board of Education meeting.

As always, I thank you for your support of the Bethlehem schools and I look forward to seeing you at one of upcoming events. Go Eagles!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools



Congratulations to seniors James Barriere, Julia Champagne, Elizabeth Cultrara, Katherine Kolodziej, Max Rosenberg, Seth Schoenhaus and Aria Shi on being named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. [More](#)

### Peace out: schools promote global harmony



Teachers and staff in the Bethlehem Central School District are committed to showing students the importance of being good global neighbors and helping them build a humanitarian spirit. From a [human peace sign](#) at Slingerlands Elementary to a project by BCMS teacher Mr. Reilly that recently caught the attention of local media. [More](#)

### Healthy menu choices made easier

The school district is making it easier for parents and families to make healthy choices when students visit our school cafeterias. [More](#)

### Meet the new administrative deans at BCHS

One is a familiar face who comes from the classroom and the other is new: meet Anthony Malizia and David Doemel, Jr., administrative deans at Bethlehem Central High School. [More](#)

### SESS November 2013 newsletter

The Special Education and Student Services (SESS) department wants to share important dates, upcoming

events and important resources for parents. It is all in a newsletter that can be found [here](#).

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**Trending now: BC alumni add to legacy of success**

They are making their own unique mark on the world...only a few of many. Take a look at some recent examples of BC alumni success [here](#).

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Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent