



# Binghamton City School District TODAY

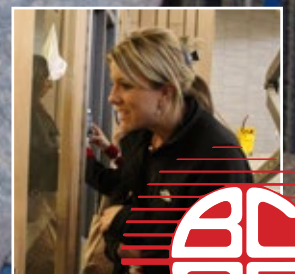
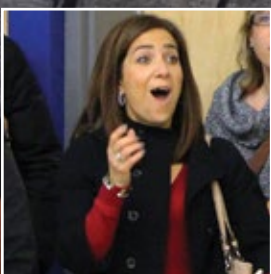
December 2015

MacArthur Principal Maria  
McIver with students at  
"home" in their new school



## We're Home!

Congratulations to all for a proud, team effort - See superintendent's message - page 2



Providing a rich environment for quality learning





**“The new MacArthur School is a jewel in our city and one that everyone can take pride in.”**

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**Binghamton City School District**

164 Hawley Street, P.O. Box 2126  
Binghamton, NY 13902-2126

### *A letter from*

## Superintendent Dr. Marion Martinez

Dear community members,

I'm sure as you were traveling up and down the Vestal Parkway you saw the new MacArthur School literally rise from the metaphoric ashes. I was as filled with excitement as I'm sure you were to see it take shape. It was impossible to travel around the city without people commenting to me about how magnificent it was to have such a beautiful new school in Binghamton.

On November 30, third-, fourth- and fifth-graders streamed into the building filling it with oohs, aahs, laughter and energy. They were greeted by a committee of retired MacArthur teachers whose smiles were as big as theirs. Those teachers never abandoned the school they loved and the memories they cherished. They provided suggestions throughout the process, served on the celebration

committee, and supported the current teachers in whatever was needed.

MacArthur's current faculty and staff have been through so much, but when they entered the building for the first time on November 18, their expressions said it all. For some, it was deeply emotional while others reveled at the open learning spaces, the vastness and the possibilities. Their principal, Maria McIver, and assistant principal, Dan Miller, were the perfect leaders to navigate the challenges that faced them.



The community residents surrounding the school were amazing. They suffered through flying dirt and debris, noise, alarms ringing in the middle of the night, and torn up roads. Never once did I hear a complaint.

The contractors were dedicated, hard-working and determined as they persisted through even the coldest February days. I'm pleased we were able to break down many of the projects so area contractors could bid on them.

The Board of Education kept a constant vigil. They requested weekly updates on the progress/possible delays, and budget, and they met at least monthly with the clerk of the works, Gene Hulbert, and architect, Ed McGraw. Very few construction projects come in under budget and on time – but this one did.

Our assistant superintendent, Karry Mullins, capably led the project with vigilance. She attended every project meeting, pushed and encouraged so as to ensure a quality building worthy of the community's pride. Her patience and determination were valuable assets.

Last, my biggest thanks goes to the community who saw value in the project and approved it. The new MacArthur School is a jewel in our city and one that everyone can take pride in.

Please put April 27 on your calendar and look to the district website for details regarding the grand opening.

Warmly,  
*Marion*



# Students test skills in crime scene investigation

Seventh-grade students from both of our middle schools learned what it takes to be a crime scene investigator as they participated in a forensic lab at SUNY Broome Community College. Nearly 80 students in the district's Challenge Enrichment Program learned how to identify hair samples, fingerprints, and markings from teeth.



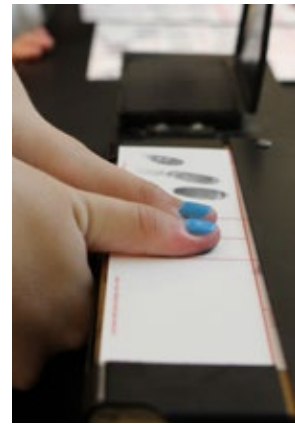
Melisha Jones, a seventh-grader from East Middle School, said the forensic lab experience has inspired her to pursue a career in law enforcement.

"It's really cool how nobody else has the same fingerprints and that different hairs look different under a microscope," Jones said. "It's really interesting to see how using those things they identify people."

The Challenge Enrichment Program offers science, technology, engineering and mathematics curriculum for students who excel and may need greater challenges. The program gives students opportunities to extend the classroom curriculum using conceptual themes, multiple media and project-based learning.



"The focus is to extend student learning by creating opportunities for students to problem solve, think creatively, apply knowledge and skills, and become self-directed learners," said seventh-grade West Middle School teacher Sarah McLachlan. "Challenge is essential to our district as it works to increase student engagement and responsibility for learning while increasing novel opportunities for students."



McLachlan said her students benefited from interacting with the materials at each lab and that they really learned a lot about the techniques behind some elements of forensic studies.

"It was great to see students exploring the context of a college level lab," McLachlan said. "My

favorite part was seeing students experience microscopic magnification for the first time."

Trinity Whitmore, a seventh-grader from East Middle School, has thought a lot about pursuing a career in science. She said she and her fellow students enjoyed getting out of the classroom for the hands-on-learning.

"It's really fun to come here and to be able to work with it and not just sit in a classroom," she said. "It's really cool to learn forensics because it's really cool to learn how police identify people when they break into houses."

The seventh-grade challenge students will engage in a culminating project in which they complete all stages of the criminal justice process for a simulated case that will include forensics work.





# Exploring careers in the construction industry

Seeing construction crews working out in the field, kids of all ages wonder what it would be like to work in the field of construction and to operate a piece of heavy equipment. Binghamton High School freshman Nick Delanoy got the chance to actually find out during the annual Southern Tier Construction Career Day on Oct. 7. Delanoy got to operate a bulldozer and excavator during the event.

“Driving the equipment was the best part,” he said. “It made me realize working the machines are harder than I expected.”

Construction Career Day took place at the Broome County Highway Department facility in Chenango Bridge and featured exhibits by a variety of organizations and schools associated with the construction industry as well as trade displays and heavy equipment demonstrations. Twenty three students from Binghamton High School participated based on their interest in construction. For many students over the age of 16, the hands-on-experience included the opportunity for supervised operation of equipment such as bulldozers,

backhoes and dump trucks.

Construction Career Day is designed to introduce high school students to the career opportunities and unlimited potential for advancement within the construction industry.

Delanoy said he may decide to go into construction if his career in the MLB doesn’t work out.

The event is organized by a consortium of groups, including the New York State Department of Transportation, the Broome County Highway Department, Broome-Tioga Workforce New York, Broome-Tioga BOCES and several local companies and trade unions involved with the construction industry.

The program is supported by the NYSDOT, IBM Endicott, Broome-Tioga BOCES’ School-to-Careers Partnership and local businesses that have provided donations to assist in covering the costs associated with this event. There is no costs to the schools.



## Young authors celebrate writing *with parties, parades and pride*



When a professional writer finishes writing a book, they sometimes celebrate the accomplishment with a party. The same can be said for elementary students in the Binghamton City School District.

As part of the new “Writer’s Workshop,” students at each of the district’s seven elementary schools celebrated their writing with publishing parties, parades and live readings.

Kindergarteners from MacArthur celebrated their works with a parade through the hallway, proudly holding up copies of their books. A few of the students

were chosen to read their stories aloud to the other kids.

Kelly Hudock, a second-grade teacher at MacArthur, invited parents and other teachers to listen to her students read their five-page personal narrative stories. Hudock said the event was part of a concerted effort within the district to teach writing in a way that is fun and engaging for students.

“The students felt very successful the whole time, they were very excited and they were very sad every time I said writer’s workshop was over,” she said.

The students were given the opportunity to write about things in their lives. They wrote stories about snow days, summer activities and other personal memories.

Amy Doolittle said her daughter wrote a story about when their family went to a swimming pool. She said her daughter would come home and eagerly tell her about what she was writing and how her narrative was progressing.

“I like the way she used her imagination because everything in the story wasn’t exactly true, she kind of stretched it and it was cute,” Doolittle said.

Her daughter, Amaya, said she wants to become a writer when she grows up.

“I like that I get to tell people about what my life is about,” Amaya said. “I think it’s pretty cool to be able to draw thought bubbles in different stories.”

The writer’s workshop model is a strength based model where each student is able to work at his or her own level and choose what they want to write about. Hudock said her students don’t even feel like they’re doing work

“I dreaded writing last year, to the point where I would stall to try to start writing that day, but now it’s the reason I wake up and come to school because it’s just so easy and fun and they like it,” Hudock said.



## Sara Norris Scholarship

A dedication ceremony was held for former Calvin Coolidge teacher’s aide Sara Norris, who died last February at 31 years of age. Norris was a graduate of Binghamton High School. In her junior year she was in a car accident that left her without the use of her arms or legs. Norris had a special bond with former Calvin Coolidge Principal Dave Constantine, who brought her back as a volunteer at the elementary school.

“The paralysis took away the use of her hands, arms, legs and feet, but it didn’t affect her beautiful smile, wonderful laugh and sense of humor, and it didn’t touch her heart,”

Constantine said.

She showed the students that people in wheelchairs are not to be feared, they just move about in a different way.

A scholarship in her name will be awarded to two fifth-grade students every year during an awards ceremony in June. To win the scholarship, students must write an essay describing the ways they portray Norris’ character traits, which include generosity, compassion, tolerance, self-reliance, integrity and community spirit.



Providing a rich  
environment  
for quality learning

**Quality Teaching & Learning**



# Harvest Dinner

Students reap the rewards of hard work ... and get to eat it, too

Sitting down in a school cafeteria to eat dinner with your family isn't something students usually get to do. So it was a special day for students at Roosevelt Elementary School when their families and other community members got together for a healthy vegetarian dinner that came right from the school's garden.



"We wanted to celebrate the hard work of the students and faculty in the school garden by having a dinner made with the vegetables grown there," said Amelia LoDolce, Healthy Initiative manager. "It's a lot of fun and

really rewarding to see the kids get excited about seeing the food turn into a meal for their families."

The free dinner included vegetable lasagna, green beans, quinoa salad, potato and pumpkin soup and pumpkin cake for dessert.

This was the second year that "Eat Well, Play Hard. Binghamton!" has put on the dinner.

Shelly Johnson, a fifth-grader at Roosevelt, participated in the garden club and helped to pick the vegetables in the school garden.

"It was really fun," she said.

The Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, United Way of Broome County and Cornell Cooperative Extension help with the Harvest dinner.

## Eat Well. Play Hard.

**Binghamton!** was started in the neighborhoods around Roosevelt Elementary School and aims to make healthy living a fun and easy choice for people of all ages while improving the overall quality of life in the community.





# Online gallery enables artists to show off, share talents

Students at Calvin Coolidge Elementary and Thomas Jefferson Elementary have started showcasing their artwork on the website Artsonia. The online gallery is the world's



largest kids' art museum. The teacher uploads their art pieces and parents and family members can view the published artwork, leave comments and even

buy keepsakes such as T-shirts or coffee mugs featuring the art. From those orders, 20 percent of the profit is returned to the school to be used for art room supplies. Sue Malejs is an art teacher at both Calvin Coolidge and Thomas Jefferson and has piloted the program with her students.



"I never imagined the confidence boost this would be for the kids," Malejs said. "They want to work harder and focus more on details because (it's going to be) online."

She said her students think they are famous artists now because of the online gallery. Another feature of the gallery

is that it enables visitors (such as a parent or relative) to easily locate the students' artwork. All artwork by the same student is linked to create an online portfolio, effectively forming an online memory album for the student and parent.

"I think the most exciting thing about Artsonia is that the student's work is displayed side by side with the work of students their own age from thousands of schools in over 100 countries," Malejs said. "This enables the children to see their artwork in the context of the creative work by a global community of students."

## IB program juniors donate time to CHOW

Eleventh-graders from the BHS full International Baccalaureate Diploma Program recently joined students from Vestal High School's International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in a day of volunteering. The two groups worked together at the CHOW warehouse to sort donations, pack food packages for local food pantries, organize orders for local soup kitchens, and help warehouse staff prepare for the busy holiday season. This day of volunteering was organized to bring IB students from the two schools together to introduce the creativity, activity, and service (CAS) component to the IB program by showing them different volunteering opportunities in our community.



Students who work toward earning a full IB diploma will regularly participate in service learning. The CAS component gives students the opportunity to work toward civic engagement by participating in community service and reflecting on their experiences. It also challenges students to develop skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, decision-making, and perseverance by initiating their own volunteer work.



# Fall fest fun

## Focus on safe streets, parks for kids

Community members from Binghamton came together to celebrate during the “Fall Festival” in Walnut Street Park. The event was a collaboration between the Binghamton City School District, the Binghamton PTA Council, Safe Streets, Binghamton University and local businesses.

Cindy O’Shea, a member of the BCSD PTA, volunteered at the event and said she was happily surprised at the amount of people who turned out for the event. She said the Fall Festival promoted safe streets and a safe place for kids to play.

“We want our community to be safe and to let people know that there are people out here who care about them and want to make

sure that they are safe and that everything is OK in their neighborhood,” she said.

Members of Binghamton High School’s Steel Drum Band performed and provided a soundtrack for the event while children participated in activities such as pumpkin and cookie decorating, arts and crafts, and games. Refreshments also were available for the kids and adults.

“It’s the first time I’ve ever done anything like this, so I didn’t know what to expect, but I think it’s going really well,” said Katherine Dillon, a Binghamton University student who volunteered at the event. “There are a lot of people here from the surrounding neighborhoods and from the school district, a lot of kids and parents so that’s good.”





# Native American history comes alive at Roberson

Fourth-grade students from the Binghamton City School District learned about the Native Americans who lived in New York through a program at Roberson Museum and Science Center.

Pat Stacconi, an educator with Roberson, said the museum hosts curriculum-aligned programs that support Common Core learning standards. The fourth-grade social studies curriculum includes learning about local history and the Native American Indians of New York state.

The students participated in three modules: one about artifacts, one in the planetarium about “Native American Sky Stories,” and one where they learned how to make Native American “pinch pots.” Stacconi said the students are intrigued to find out that the Native Americans actually inhabited the land on which the museum sits.

“When they went to put this addition on, they started digging and found artifacts and they actually had to stop digging and create an archaeological dig,” she said.

Stacconi said the students are very inquisitive and enjoy the museum’s hands-on nature. Woodrow Wilson fourth-grader Zaire Montgomery said he liked being able to go on the field trip to the museum and especially liked learning about how the Native American women made utensils, adding, “I learned what they used to make bowls to keep stuff in.”

Bruce Gregory, a fourth-grade teacher at Woodrow Wilson who brought his students to the museum, said it’s nice to get the students out of the school and out of their seats to learn.



“I think they are really excited and it fits in perfectly with the curriculum,” he said.

Roberson Museum and Science Center provides programs designed to enhance school curricula with hands-on activities.

## Author gives 500 books to BCSD third-graders

Nila J. Webster, a well-known children’s book author, wants to ensure that every third-grade student in Binghamton will have a chance to hear a magical message of anti-bullying through her book, “The Gift of You/The Gift of Me.”

This special gift was made in honor of her mom, Jani Johe Webster, who grew up in Binghamton. The author’s grandmother was also a Binghamton resident for more than 70 years.

Webster has been an active philanthropist and school supporter over the years, having donated thousands of copies of her books to schools all over New York and New England. She has made several contributions of books to the Binghamton City School District over the years. Along with the books, Webster also provided a personal letter to third-grade students and some sample lessons that librarians and teachers can use as part of the book reading. Webster’s books were distributed to students throughout the district via the elementary libraries during the week of Thanksgiving. In Coolidge Elementary, students celebrated the occasion with book talks, “read alouds” and a discussion about gratitude.



Coolidge Librarian Amy Merrill



**Patriot Pride**



# M

Manhattan School of Music

## BHS sophomore accepted into prestigious precollege music program

Not many 15-year-olds would give up their weekends to go to school, but then again Olivia Capozzi isn't just any 15-year-old. Capozzi has been accepted

she didn't get it from me or her father. She is just a very talented, unique, special person."

Capozzi dreams of becoming an opera singer and is focused on making her dreams a reality.



*Olivia Capozzi, BHS sophomore*

to the Manhattan School of Music Precollege in New York City based on her exceeding musical talent and potential. She had to audition and pass a placement test before being accepted. She travels to MSM every Saturday to participate in a full day of musical training and is studying as a classical-voice major focusing on opera and classical music.

"It is a little bit of a workload and I do give up my weekends to be there, so sometimes it can be a little stressful," she said. "I don't really feel that I miss out on much. There are certain times when I wish I could go to (this or) that, but I also really know how lucky I am to be able to go to MSM on weekends."

Students at the school come from all over the world. Two of her MSM classmates fly in every weekend from the Netherlands and Bermuda. The prestigious school is strict about attendance and students can miss only four classes.

"It's an intense program and a big commitment," her mom, Linda Capozzi, said. "My daughter has a God given talent,

**"It's an intense program and a big commitment,"**

Linda Capozzi, mother

She said that she feels Binghamton High School has prepared her very well to take on the rigors of MSM.

"Everyone here is knowledgeable, experienced and helpful. It's a great environment," Capozzi said. "We have five choirs, a chamber orchestra and so many bands, and we're lucky to have that as a school. I've also been exposed here to all different types of people; it's diverse. So I feel I have been prepared very well."

Capozzi is not sure what college she wants to attend after she graduates but says she will definitely be focused on a school with a strong music program.

"I have a lot of choices. We'll see where the next two years of high school take me," she said.

Capozzi is active with the Binghamton High School Concert Choir, Davidage Choir, Mixed Chorus, Twilight Tones and the orchestra.

## BCSD elementary students gather for STEM conference

Teams of students from Jefferson, Mann and Franklin elementary schools shared their experiences at the New York state "Project Lead the Way" conference held at the Hilton Doubletree in downtown Binghamton. Nearly 300 educators from all over New York and the nation gathered for the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) event, which included numerous sessions involving educators and students sharing implementation ideas and experiences. PLTW is a nationally recognized pre-engineering curriculum that can be integrated at any grade level.

In New York, students engaged in PLTW at the high school level can earn college credits from RIT as part of the learning experience. While PLTW is widely implemented in many school nationally at the high school levels, BCSD is one of only a handful of districts that implement the curriculum at the elementary level.





# BHS students prepare for careers with volunteer work

BHS students are pitching in to help make the holidays a little brighter by volunteering at Roberson Museum and Science Center, helping prepare the “Home for the Holidays” display. The students assisted in setting up the numerous trees at the museum and also helped dust and vacuum for the exhibit.



*10th-grader Elijah Fuller helps out at Roberson*

“We got to help with the trees, fix them and fluff them up,” 11th-grade student Brooke Elliott said. “There were a lot of trees.”

For students with disabilities who are pursuing a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential, Binghamton High School offers many vocational opportunities within the immediate community. Students can take part in a work-placement program up until they are 21 years old. The program allows the students to leave high school with a resume and real-work experience. John Sweeney and Danielle Guccia, special education teachers at Binghamton High School, said the program teaches students how to dress for work, how to follow a schedule, how to use equipment pertinent to the job, how to provide customer service and, most importantly, it teaches them responsibility. Over

the years, the program has placed students in more than 25 different businesses within the community.

“(Roberson) would be representative of a local business that understands we are here, and when a need arises they don’t hesitate to call. Then what we try to do is send the appropriate number of kids and the kids with the right abilities to handle the job,” Sweeney said, “The community is truly an extension of the classroom.”

Two or three students go out with a job coach and spend two hours per shift, three or four days a week, on the job. The job coaches work to teach



and model skills. The coaches also serve as liaisons between the school and the community. Sweeney said the program emphasizes to students that it is a job and that the program has high expectations. As students get older, they transition into the work-study program where they earn a paycheck for their work.



“When money is introduced, it opens the door for many teachable moments,” Guccia said. “It lets them learn how to manage money and become fiscally responsible.”

Cassie Fitch is a tenth grader who has worked at a number of businesses through the program.

“It feels good to get help working,” Fitch said. “My mom and dad say it’s good for me.”

Currently, there are 37 students in this program. They range in age from 15-21. “When you say goodbye to a student and they walk out with a resume, it gives you a feeling of pride,” Sweeney said. “We try to find employment for the kids and we’re pretty proud of our results.”

***Patriot Pride***



# Students enjoy hands-on activities at STEM program

Lemon volcanoes, rocket ships, and bugs. What do these three things have in common? They are all part of hands-on science activities during the annual Lights on After School event at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School.

Thirty-eight students in third, fourth and fifth grade recently had the chance to participate in the STEM learning event sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tech Wizards, 4-H, and Citizens U STEM.

Challenge Enrichment Teacher Suzy Kitchen said the students were excited to stay after school.

"It gives them an opportunity to try something that they are not usually able to do in their regular classrooms and they actually want to stay after school, which is awesome," Kitchen said.

The students rotated through seven stations that focused on different aspects of STEM. The stations included environmental science, engineering, mathematics, chemistry, physics, physical science, and computer programming. Some of the activities included the kids making volcanoes out of lemons, sifting through compost to find insects, and using a computer program to launch an animated rocket ship into space.

"We're trying to get the kids interested and excited about science and we're also teaching them about all the different fields," said Anne Glasgow, program educator and Tech Wizards coordinator at Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Fifth-grader Autumn Albrechta said she liked the physics station the best and never knew that gravity could cause vehicles to go faster or slower.

"I like learning new things," she said. "I want to be an engineer when I grow up."

Organized by the After-school Alliance, Lights on After School is a national event that looks to celebrate after school programs. It has been celebrated annually since 2000.





# A warthog, cockroaches and rat ... Oh my!

## Animal physiology provides lessons in movement at after-school program

How do cockroaches, a warthog and a hairless rat teach middle school students about STEAM? They were all part of the



Steampunk after school program put on by the Discovery Center. Jordan Patch of Animal Adventure brought in the live

creatures for the students to study their physiology so they could then engineer simple machines based on how the animals moved.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Claudia Chermak, an eighth-grader at West Middle School who took part in the Discovery STEAM program. “I am going to try to come every day.”

The Steampunk program is just one of six that the Discovery Center will offer as part of a \$150,000 grant for after-school programs that was earmarked by state Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo. The Discovery Center will present a different program each week. Some of the programs include Zombie Science, Painting with Forces, Marshmallow Engineering, Spy Academy and Caveman Inventions.

West Middle School Principal Mike Holly said that nearly 100 students have signed up for the after-school program and he expects more to sign up as the program progresses.

“We have partnered with the Discovery

Center to do the STEAM program, so we’re really excited to give the kids the opportunity to extend their learning with project-based hands-on activities,” Holly said. “Any time you engage kids in their own interests, and expose them to different curriculum and activities, it will hopefully help them in their other classes.”

Holly said in addition to taking part in the programs hosted by the Discovery Center, the students can also choose to participate in after-school programs that feature mine craft, step-dancing, basketball, videography and personal fitness. He said it is a good incentive for the kids because they have to be in good standing in school to participate.



## BHS cheer participates in the American Cancer Society's 'Making Strides for Breast Cancer' event

On Sunday, Oct. 4, the Binghamton High School football cheerleaders and coaches Anna-Marie Conley and Katie Clairmont took part in the Making Strides for Breast Cancer walk at Recreation Park.

The cheerleaders honor

were part of “Team Rozek” in of the athletic office secretary, Chris Rozek, who was diagnosed with breast cancer this

past spring. The 3-mile walk around the City of Binghamton involved more than 6,000 people. The course passed by Binghamton High School, where our cheerleaders proudly cheered, honoring Chris and celebrating their pride in Binghamton High School.



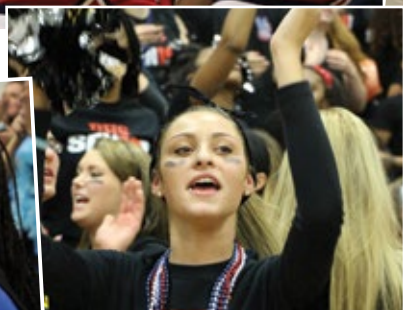


# BHS Students Prepare 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



More than 200 volunteers from Binghamton High School hosted the 20th Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

The volunteers prepared a traditional Thanksgiving feast for approximately 1,500 community members. The workers prepared more than 1,100 pounds of turkey, 420 pounds of corn, 800 pounds of stuffing, 30 gallons of gravy, and 300 pies. Students hosted the dinner, served the guests and cleaned up afterward. This year, the students also organized a book and toy giveaway for children who attended the dinner.



## PATRIOTS PEP RALLY



# Two Binghamton seniors receive Presidential Honors Scholarship

Two students from Binghamton High School were among 16 recipients of the Presidential Honors Scholarship. Ishaq Ahmad and Kathryn Wills were awarded the scholarship, which will cover all tuition for the students' first two years at SUNY Broome that is not covered by financial aid.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must attend SUNY Broome after graduating high school and be in the top 10 percent of their graduating class. The recipients had to demonstrate a commitment to community service and leadership skills and receive an official letter of recommendation from their school. In order to maintain the scholarship, students must keep a GPA of at least 3.3 and complete 20 hours of community service each year. They also must serve as ambassadors for SUNY Broome and conduct tours for perspective students, help out at campus events, and tutor their peers.

Nearly 70 students in Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Tioga counties applied for the scholarship. The number of students receiving the honor this year is the highest ever.

The scholarship was created eight years ago with the help from a startup endowment made by the Conrad and Virginia Klee Foundation.



*Binghamton High School students presented 'Barefoot in the Park' on Nov. 13 and 14 in the Helen Foley Theatre. Nearly 600 people attended the two performances. 'Barefoot in the Park' is a Neil Simon play about a conservative young lawyer and his free-spirited new bride. A montage of highlights from the two performances is available on BCSD's You Tube channel.*



## Barefoot in the Park Cast & Crew 2015

*Patriot Pride*





**Binghamton City School District**  
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# Katie Titus Tree of Life

## Ceremony reminds students to be safe

Binghamton High School students renewed their push for safety this holiday season while remembering a former student.

The Binghamton High School student organization Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) conducted the ceremony for Katie Titus, who was killed in a non-alcohol related crash in 1996. This is the 23rd year the dedication ceremony has taken place. The ceremony is especially significant to Binghamton High School Principal Roxie Oberg, as Titus was her daughter.

“Katie was on the swim team. She was not the best swimmer, but she was the number one cheerleader on the team,” Oberg said. “She was about teamwork and about community. And we heard that clearly in the messages from today. So, it’s very nice to have something that continues to resonate and continues to speak to her spirit.”

Students decorate the special tree with white bulbs. In event that someone dies this holiday season in a motor vehicle accident related to distracted or impaired driving, one of the white bulbs will be replaced with a red one.

“We have never had to replace a white bulb with a red bulb, so I do believe that the message does get out and it has had an impact,” said Oberg.



## BCSD launches Twitter account

the Binghamton City School District is pleased to announce the launch of our new Twitter account

**@Binghamton CSD,**

which we hope will be a platform for students, staff and parents to communicate and share information relevant to the BCSD community.

We will tweet information concerning news, upcoming events, closings, and delays in addition to sharing the content we regularly post on our website.



**We encourage  
everyone to follow  
us and help build  
Patriot Pride!**



**Providing a rich  
environment  
for quality learning**

**District website: [www.binghamtonschoools.org](http://www.binghamtonschoools.org)**

**Email: [info@binghamtonschoools.org](mailto:info@binghamtonschoools.org)**