



The Calais Courier

www.thecalaischool.org

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A Day at Lincoln Center with Jazz Great Wynton Marsalis Mr. Robert Rucker, music teacher

The Calais School

45 Highland Avenue
Whippany, NJ 07981

Phone: 973-884-2030

Administration

David F. Leitner
MSSW, LCSW
Executive Director

Joseph M. Orlando, EdD
Principal

Diane Manno, EdD, LCSW
Assistant Principal

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The Calais School Band under the direction of Mr. Robert Rucker, recently visited the Jazz at Lincoln Center (JALC). The students were special guests and had the opportunity to directly discuss "how music works" with Wynton Marsalis and his band. Mr. Marsalis, who along with his father and brothers comprise New Orleans venerable "first family of Jazz", took our students on a guided tour of JALC and answered questions as they moved from room to room. One special moment occurred when Mr. Marsalis told them about his younger brother who is autistic. He went on to explain that during the years his brother was growing up, no one knew the meaning of Autism but music played a vital role in his brother's life. In addition to the tour, students had the unique opportunity to be a part of a rehearsal with the

band. Under the leadership and direction of Mr. Marsalis, The Jazz is comprised of fifteen of the finest jazz soloists and ensemble players today. JALC endorses a unique vision for the continued advancement of the art of jazz by generating a year round schedule of education and performance for audiences of all ages. Here at the Calais School, music education is a vital component of the instructional curriculum. It is the school's mission that all students receive the best education possible, regardless of their learning capability.

After School Program at Calais

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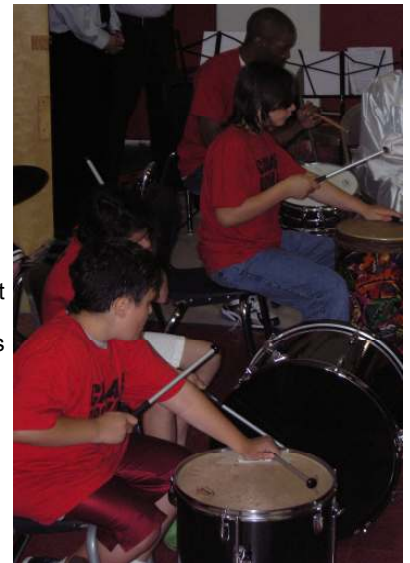
The Calais After School Program offers children additional academic and skill building activities that enhance their social and behavioral abilities. The students in the After School Program participate in Culinary Arts, Music, Theatre, Art, and Physical Fitness activities. They also get to spend time in the Calais Platinum Center playing various video games on the Nintendo Wii, Xbox 360, Play Station and computers.

The Culinary Arts class is a huge hit with the students. So far, the students have made cheesecake, sugar cookies, and cupcakes. They have also made pasta, pizza sauce, and pizza from scratch! Every Tuesday, students are excited to learn what they will be making in the vocational room. They have demonstrated a great deal in responsibilities that come with properly using kitchen utensils and appliances, ingredients, recipes, and measurements. They have enjoyed the food that they have made and the parents have been excited to see their child's face when they go home with a little extra to share with their family.

The music class is taking off with flying colors. The students are expanding upon their abilities to read and play music. Mr. Rucker and I are teaching orchestra and rhythm instruments to all of the students. We are excited and looking forward to showcasing their new skills in the upcoming winter concert.

Mrs. Stephens and the students are having fun with performing arts. It's a great way to learn acting skills that performers use everyday. Our students are creating characters and using learned improvisation skills to keep their performances interesting and amusing. Creativity and imagination abound in this class! As a school counselor, Mrs. Stephens integrates social skills in all the activities.

To close out the day, thirty minutes of exciting physical activities in the gym, Platinum Center or outside on the playground, keep the kids on their toes. Teamwork, exercise, and individual accomplishments make playing sports enjoyable.



Visit our Websites: www.thecalaischool.org and www.calaisfoundation.org

Elementary School Happenings



October is Fire Prevention Month

On October 13th, the elementary classes took a walking field trip to the Whippany Firehouse. Firefighters Josh and Paul showed us their equipment and all they wear to help keep them safe when fighting fires. We watched a movie that detailed the importance of having smoke alarms in our homes and about making sure we had a "meeting place" in case of an emergency. We all had a chance to squirt the fire hose and sit in a fire truck. It was a fun and informative trip.

Celebrating our American Indian Culture

The 3rd and 4th grade classes completed a unit on American Indians. We studied facts about what life was like for various tribes, including what the Indians wore, what they hunted, where they settled, and the kinds of homes they lived in. We made a display outside our classroom for everyone to see. We hope you will stop by to see some examples of what we have learned.

Middle School Happenings

Middle School students are participating in a number of activities. They visited the school library and will continue to do so twice each month. In Social Studies class they built models of different landforms found in the United States. They are learning about similarities and differences of living organisms in Science. Cell specimens are observed with a microscope and various parts can be identified. In addition, they dissected an earthworm. Did you that an earthworm has five hearts? Establishing an ant farm will be the next project in store for the students.

Thoughts on our Adopt-A-Trail Trip by Andrew B.

On Thursday, October 28th, we went to a trail that The Calais School adopted. While we were there, we saw trees, plants, and leaves. We didn't see many animals. I think we all had fun at the Adopt-A-Trail.

I like to walk in the forest and pick up leaves.

Yesterday, we went on the Adopt-A-Trail walk. We looked for trash and counted wildlife. It was a nice walk.

I found many varieties of plants and saw a river that had crystal clear water. I grabbed many colorful leaves. I even learned to follow the blue squares on the trees to find the path.



Computer Technology for Life Skills Program Mr. George Papadakis, technology teacher

It has been my pleasure to teach middle and high school students at The Calais School. The middle school students have two semesters of Computer Applications & Technology using a range of software from Microsoft Word for typing lessons and creative writing assignments to using Microsoft PowerPoint for classroom presentations for assigned research topics. Other applications include Print Shop Deluxe for creating publications such as calendars and greeting cards.

High school students have a full year of Computer Technology covering computer hardware, software, and troubleshooting. Students are also assigned in-class tasks related to the school technology infrastructure, such as reinstalling Windows and troubleshooting printer problems. The students began the year learning about the typical PC (personal computer) gaining experience in the major components in computer hardware such as internal components and the various types of ports. Students will soon learn to install operating systems like Windows and anti-virus software. Future classes include understanding the fundamentals of troubleshooting computer problems that plague so many users. By the end of the year students will have a strong grasp of upgrading hardware and software, researching computers issues, and networking basics. It is my hope, that after high school many of these students will either pursue careers in technology or be able to take care of their own computers.



Calais Student thoughts.....

In computer class I learned how to make calendars, create power point presentations and how to take pictures from websites for my Print Shop Deluxe calendars. Corbin O.

I learned many new things including a fair amount of history.... I think this class has helped us all. Eamon R.

I feel very proud of myself for accomplishing my typing. Everybody should practice their typing everyday. Joy C.

Typing stories is so much fun to do that I could end up being an author who likes to write stories on the computer. It is really cool to type properly because it has a "make your fingers talk" section at the end of each lesson. Sometimes I like to write stories for a magazine contest. If there is a contest for those who like to write stories, I'm in for that contest!... I love typing!... My parents are so proud of me that they will give me a typing computer game. Cami D.



Teaching Resiliency in the High School Program

Mrs. Marjane Vitaletti, Counseling Resource Room Teacher and Ms. Karen Liberato, Social Worker

Resiliency is the capacity of people to cope with stress and adversity. All students may be exposed to significant stress and adversity in their social, emotional, and/or academic aspects of their lives. An objective of the psychological services team is to teach our students strategies to increase resiliency attributes and help them overcome, avoid, or minimize risk factors. Some of the risk factors may include difficulty in academic success, social competence, and physical and emotional well being. The goal is to help students gain the skills to face life's difficulties with courage and patience.

At The Calais School, we strive to assist our students to be resilient by teaching social competence. Every staff member contributes to this goal by constantly working with students on issues relating to improved self-awareness, including how their behavior is perceived by others.

In our Social Skills Groups, an emphasis is directed on improving self-awareness. Students are placed in groups based on their current level of social competence and individual goals are worked on through group activities. Some groups are working on understanding how to "read" social cues, while other groups may be working on assertiveness skills. Whatever the need, *the goal of the group leader is to teach problem solving skills so that students are able to identify problems, consider possible solutions, select the best solution to the problem and re-evaluate when necessary.* Students who are adept at solving problems effectively feel empowered.



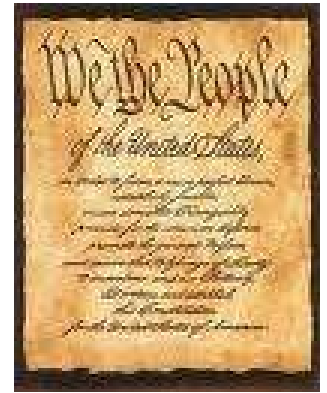
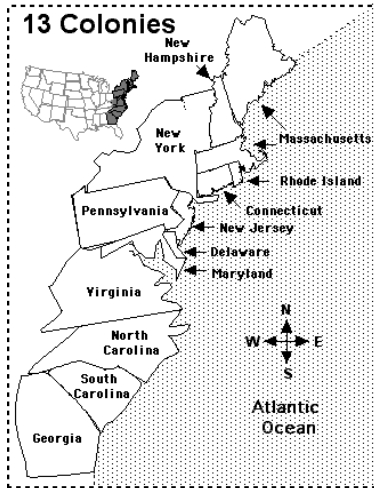
High School Class Representative Program

Mrs. Marjane Vitaletti, Counseling Resource Room Teacher

The Calais High School Class Advisory Board was formulated to ensure that every high school student has the opportunity to be an important part of the student body. This program was started in 2008 and is a continued success as part of the High School program at The Calais School. The students in each homeroom nominate and elect the students that they feel would best represent their homeroom. The representatives write proposals to present school wide activities with a plan of action. Some of the activities organized by the students include dances, school wide contests, and school community service projects. The first event for this school year was the Halloween Dance for the middle and high school classes and the elementary classes had their annual costume parade. Congratulations to the 2010-2011 high school student representatives on their first successful event. We look forward to an eventful year.



High School Happenings



Students in Mrs. Trontell's middle school and high school world history classes are engaged in the exploration of world civilizations and cultures. During the first marking period classes studied ancient events of early civilizations using pictographs. This system eventually evolved into a system that used symbols to express concepts. The students also learned that the Phoenicians continued to improve upon this system until they developed the first alphabet, which is very similar to the alphabet we use today. Continuing on this theme, classes are presently studying Ancient Egyptian civilization. The eighth grade class was delighted to discover that it is possible to express complex thoughts using symbols when they wrote short stories employing Egyptian hieroglyphs. High School students are gaining an appreciation for the achievements of Ancient Egyptians as they design and build models of this ancient culture complete with the Nile River, desert, fertile land, farms, canals, pyramids, and details depicting specialized skills.

During first marking period, Students in civics class expanded their understanding of United States History as they studied the events leading to the writing of the United States Constitution. After several weeks of study, the students challenged their knowledge by designing a power point presentation illustrating a constitutional timeline depicting events from the signing of the Magna Carta to Shays Rebellion. Civics students are now moving on to explore the contents of the constitution and how it effects our individual lives, communities, state, and nation. Students in this class are also learning citizenship brings responsibilities such as voting and involvement in community. The students decided to complete the service component of this course by volunteering to broadcast The Calais School Radio Station on FM 88.1 with Mrs. Polles' career development class on Thursday mornings.

United States History I and II students started the year by completing poster and power point presentations on an area of study. The students responded to the challenge with super enthusiasm. The finished reports were excellent and gave the students the opportunity to add depth to class discussions through the peer learning process.

United States History I students are currently investigating European exploration and colonization. By connecting prior events to our modern world they are learning how events three hundred years ago are still effecting our lives today.

United States History II students are in the midst of American industrialization and have taken on the roll of corporate leaders. Using the interactive learning method students have chosen a product, decided what their next vertical acquisition will be, written press releases, and have sold shares on the New York Stock Exchange. One hot selling stock had an A+ rating and was issued to raise capital for the purchase of freight cars to ship ipods to retail stores. According to students this purchase would reduce costs by eliminating the middle man and the need to pay rental fees.



2010-2011 School Year: Important Future Dates

- Thursday-December 23,2010: 1:20 pm dismissal
- Friday, December 24– Friday, December 31, 2010: School Closed/Winter Recess.
- Monday, January 3, 2011– School resumes– full day session
- Monday, January 17, 2011: Martin Luther King Day, Students off; Teacher In-Service

We want to hear from you!

Please contact us at: The Calais School, Att. Newsletter Committee or
e-mail us at jennifer.tedeschi@thecalaischool.org or josephine.mucciolo@thecalaischool.org



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Email Jennifer Tedeschi @Jennifer.tedeschi@thecalaischool.org. Thank you.



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Lincoln Center Music Trip