

# The Calais Courier

thecalaischool.org

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## The Calais School Ahead of the Trend in Education

Paul Thomas Vitaletti, Assistant Director

### The Calais School

45 Highland Avenue  
Whippany, NJ 07981  
Phone: 973-884-2030

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On November 22, 2010 a bi-partisan group of State Legislators passed the "Anti Bullying Bill of Rights," (A-3466 Vanieri Huttle). Under the new legislation, "harassment, intimidation and bullying" would be included in types of conduct that would be grounds for suspension or expulsion from public schools.

A recent survey conducted nationally revealed that thirty percent (30%) of US students in grades six through ten are involved in moderate to frequent bullying --- as bullies, as victims, or as both. The statistics showed that 1 out of every 4 students are bullied in a typical school environment.

The survey also revealed that 77% of students are bullied mentally, verbally, and physically. Furthermore, the survey revealed that 43% of students feared harassment in the bathrooms at school. This has resulted in at least 8% of students missing one day of class per month for fear of further abuse.

Most startling were the results of playground statistics where it was reported that every 7 minutes a child is bullied, and that subsequent to the event there was only 4% adult intervention, 11% peer intervention, and in most cases (85%) no intervention was initiated at all.

In 2003, The Calais School administration understood that more and more children in New Jersey were in need of a safe and protective school environment. We saw an opportunity to expand our program to those students who were in need of a supportive environment that also offered individualized educational programs. Concomitantly, we restructured our admissions process to focus on attracting students who demonstrate less aggressive behaviors and more vulnerability to bullying to better insure an appropriate fit within our behavioral programs. The major focus of the administration has been to attract students in need of a strong social skills based program. A population of students seeking to learn in a nurturing academic setting, and a no-tolerance policy on bullying behavior has been a tested formula that has made The Calais School a leader in private education.

Today, with a smaller class student-teacher ratio, and a skillfully trained teaching and therapeutic staff, The Calais School provides an unprecedented educational opportunity, in a highly supervised milieu, for children to thrive in a community setting of fairness and support.

## Calais hosts "Cyber Bullying" Presentations

On Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 the Calais Psychological Services department invited Detective Mark Castellano of the Morris County Prosecutor's Office to conduct a presentation on *Cyber-Bullying* for our Middle and High School students. The six foot, two hundred and thirty pound marshal arts trainer was surprisingly playful and interactive as he wasted no time getting his message across to the students that unkind words hurt. The one hour and fifteen minute presentation was engaging and informative. The students were encouraged to be positive and thoughtful while chatting on the internet. They were also reminded to let their parents, teachers, or police know if they are being bullied so that this hurtful behavior could be stopped immediately. Given its success we will be hosting a second presentation on "Internet Safety" for the students sometime in the spring.



Visit our websites: [thecalaischool.org](http://thecalaischool.org) and [calaisfoundation.org](http://calaisfoundation.org)

# Transition Education-Career Exploration

Cynthia Polles , Transition Education Coordinator

The Calais School Transition Education program is based on the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Standards. The program is designed to help students make a smooth transition from high school to adult life by exposing students to skills necessary to become successful in the workplace or in a continuing education environment. The Transition and Education program is composed of activities in the following areas:

- ◆ Academic instruction: Emphasis is placed on consumer education, basic skills, career exploration, and job sampling.
- ◆ In-school job placements: Students shadow library staff, maintenance department personnel, and teachers in various academic areas such as music, physical education, art, computer technology and science.
- ◆ Community based job placements: Students work part time in retail, pet care, and food services.
- ◆ Guest speakers: Guest speakers from colleges, vocational and technical schools, and businesses speak to students about the need for achieving the skills necessary to obtain and retain a job in a chosen career.
- ◆ Field trips: Field trips provide the opportunity to make practical application of classroom instruction in the areas of exploring post-secondary schools and observing the operation of corporations and businesses.



Participating students first complete an interest inventory and self-assessment and then meet with teachers, counselors, and learning consultants to discuss their interests. The goal of these meetings is to match the students' interests and talents to the appropriate job. Next, the students begin their work experience with an in-school job placement to hone the development of good work habits and job skills. Community based part-time employment begins the second half of the school year.

Counseling support is always available to students in the program. Counselors provide support by addressing issues in group and individual counseling sessions. Counselors also provide graduating seniors with adult linkages to Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR), colleges/universities, vocational schools and trade schools to promote effective movement from high school to post-secondary activities.

*Planning for Today....*

*Tomorrows Dreams...*

*Triumphs in the Future*



# Holiday Concert 2010

Robert Rucker, Music Teacher



The 2010 Student Holiday Concert featured a repertoire of holiday selections. In addition to the music curriculum, the Calais music program includes a concert band, stage band, and percussion and glockenspiel ensemble.



# Visual & Performing Arts

Chris Catalano, Art Teacher &  
Barbara Perillo, Middle School Teacher

Elementary and Middle School classes have enjoyed performing various plays for the Calais School's viewing pleasure. Mrs. Haft's elementary class performed a play titled, *The Three Little Elephants*. This tale is a parody of the "Three Little Pigs" and gives the students a positive message about facing one's own fears.

The second play, "Fairy Tale News", was performed by Class 201, Mrs. Perillo's Class. This comedic performance was another example of a parody. The premise of this play was a series of interviews by a news reporter of a variety of fairy tales.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Mark Twain's passing, Ms. Davies' class will be performing two different plays, *The Celebrated Frog of Calaveras County* and *The Glorious Whitewasher*.

Calais students have been working extremely hard in preparation for these performances. They have been diligently practicing and memorizing their parts as well as adding a creative flare to scenery and props. I am so very proud of the students dedication to making these plays a success. Their work has been truly rewarding for all of us.



The Calais sports programs have been a huge success this year. Earlier in the year, students took on the staff in a volleyball and basketball match-up. The entire Calais student population was in attendance and was led in cheers by our very own Calais Cougars cheerleading team. The cheerleading team has worked hard this year and has made our student vs. staff games extra special. They are always there to motivate the students and unite the crowd as we all cheer for one common goal. Everything in our physical education classes at Calais carries over to the volleyball and basketball games we have played. Students are taught to work on teamwork and to try as hard as they can to achieve their maximum potential. This is an important lesson not only on the volleyball or basketball court, but also in everyday life outside of school. In our most recent volleyball game played on 01/21/11, the cheerleading team showcased a brand new cheer. All their hard work during practices with their coaches was evident. The volleyball team, which was short handed due to the winter storm that day, still managed to muster out a win over the teachers 21-18. Every game played that day showcased a tremendous amount of effort and teamwork from all the players. We look forward to upcoming games.



## Occupational Therapy

Sandy Bostwick, Occupational Therapist

The Calais Occupational Therapy group is collaborating with the Physical Education instructors. The goals of the group were developed to compliment New Jersey State core curriculum content areas. Specifically, students will learn and apply movement concepts and skills that foster participation in physical activities throughout one's life.

Target goals for initial sessions include:

- ◆ Maintaining proper boundaries by remaining in personal space. This was initially accomplished with name tags taped to the floor to learn the routine of coming into the room and sitting with appropriate space. Next, the name tags were placed on the floor for the first few minutes of each session, then removed.
- ◆ Waiting turn and following directions.
- ◆ Transitioning from one place, class, or activity to another.
- ◆ Metacognitive skills to identify problem behaviors, anticipate consequences, and use sensory strategy to redirect self.
- ◆ Experiential activities to learn sensory strategies, reflect on their effect, and identify situations where the strategy could help redirect behavior.
- ◆ Hands-on training for staff in various sensory strategies including

seeing which strategies work for which students. Also, safety precautions and safe use of strategies are presented.

The class provided a real-life context where strategies were provided in a variety of situations with intent to transfer and generalize the information to other students or situations

Materials during the groups included:

- ◆ Therapy mats (for safety), therapy balls, hoops & scooters
- ◆ Various hand fidgets and sensory toys
- ◆ Music selections including the Sound Health series from Advanced Brain Technology
- ◆ Techniques from *The Alert Program*, Dianna Henry's *Sensory Toolbox*, and *Progressive Relaxation for Children*

We have seen a great deal of improvement in the group's ability to follow directions, work together as a team, and make good choices. In addition, some of the students have used the lessons and strategies to calm down or make better choices during the school day!

# Platinum Center/Managerial Lounge Opens Angela Territo, Teacher

*Yehuda, elementary...  
"It's a happy place. We are lucky we can play video games in school."*

*Carlie, high school student...  
"It's really awesome! All the games and stuff are great!"*



*Zack, middle school...  
"It's a good place to hang out with friends and relax. Very entertaining"*

*Joe, elementary... "I really like Xbox 360 because it has really cool games!"*

On Monday, January 24, 2011 The Platinum Center/Managerial Lounge opened its doors. Mrs. Perillo's middle school class hosted the ribbon cutting ceremony of the gaming center for the students. Currently the game room is equipped with Wii's, Xbox 360's, Dance Dance Revolution as well as a variety of games for the computer. A student favorite is Guitar Hero. The Platinum Center/Managerial Lounge is one of the many positive incentives used as part of our token economy system which rewards students who exhibit pro social behaviors and academic excellence.

# Family Fun Night at Hanover Lanes Angela Territo, Teacher



Bowling is a sport that can be enjoyed by the whole family. On Tuesday, November 16, 2010 the school sponsored a night of bowling at Hanover Lanes in East Hanover, New Jersey. The Calais students and their families were treated to pizza and soda. It was an opportunity for students to meet their classmates outside of school and parents to get acquainted with one another. This social event was such a huge success that another "bowling night and pizza" will be planned for sometime in late May or early June 2011.

The Calais After School Program continued its extra curricular activities with more art, music, culinary classes, and physical fitness fun. Our music time is really paying off!!! We're truly sounding like a well-oiled music machine. Our woodwind, brass, and rhythm section are stepping up to Mr. Rucker's high expectations. Students are nailing their notes and keeping great rhythm. The extra time these students have with their instruments shows! And the Spring concert is going to prove it!

We've made Macaroni and Cheese, Chicken Noodle Soup, Lemon Meringue Pie, and various assortments of cookies in our culinary class. Following the recipes and working as a team results in good food! The best part is getting to eat our finished products!

## Art



Ms. Martino's Art Therapy Group classes are showing very nice work too. I've seen beautiful works of self expression and creativity from our students. Group artwork projects and individual creativity projects have sparked their imaginations. This month we've worked as a group detailing our knowledge of city life, drawing our very own 'Coat of Arms,' and creating comic book superheroes.

In the gym, we've played some pretty intense hockey games that got everyone's hearts racing. Some good games of kickball and capture-the-flag made the time fly!

In the Platinum Lounge, students have taught me about our Wii and Xbox 360 games. If you can play these games, then getting an A+ on a math exam is not out of reach, that's for sure!

## Music



## Sports Fitness



## Culinary

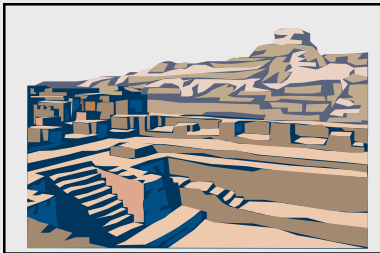


# Middle School/ High School News

## Social Studies Corner

Doreen Tronetell (Social Studies Teacher)

Our eighth grade students are having fun while continuing their studies of ancient civilizations. During the second marking period, students were challenged to integrate their knowledge of social studies concepts, ancient societies, and computer technology skills, by creating a presentation using power point software, the internet, and classroom resource materials. Their task was to create a presentation to confirmed the five features of a civilization can be found at Mohenjo-Daro, an ancient civilization site in the Indus River Valley. The students not only demonstrated their competence in researching and proving this theory, but also in their ability to design a graphic presentation and support their ideas in writing with detailed facts.



## Science Corner

John Hanson (Science Teacher)



The third-period general science class recently investigated Newton's Three Laws of Motion. The students employed a roll around container on low friction wheels to illustrate how an object in constant motion tends to stay in constant motion (Newton's First Law). Using the same container, the class demonstrated how a push or pull (a force) can cause an object to accelerate and move faster (Newton's Second Law). The class then tackled the question of Newton's Third Law, for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. By pushing the container with their foot to move themselves forward, the students watched as the container moved backwards. The whole class made observations and filled out a worksheet. We learned by this hands-on activity that science can be fun.



## High School Creative Writing

Doreen Tronetell (Social Studies Teacher)

Creative Writing students are focusing upon improving their ability to express themselves in expository, descriptive, and narrative writing. In December, they integrated narrative writing with graphic design and communication skills, when they wrote and illustrated fables for the elementary students. After reviewing Aesop, Native American, African, and Arabian fables, each student chose a moral to develop into an original story line. Then the high school students chose a medium to illustrate their fables. Some of our students modified computer graphics and others illustrated their stories with detailed pictures drawn by hand. When the projects were written and illustrated, the students realized their ability to answer to a final challenge, to present to an unknown audience of elementary students. All did extremely well and it was a pleasure to see our creative writing class engage in a project that tested each student's ability to combine written, graphic, and oral, expression.

## 2010-2011 School Year: Important Future Dates

- February 21-25: Mid-Winter Break, School Closed
- March 15: Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:20 pm School Closing
- March 16: Afternoon Parent/Teacher Conference, 1:20 pm School Closing
- March 16: 8th Grade to High School Parent Workshop, 3:30– 5:30 pm
- March 23: Family Fun Night with Dance Innovations, 7-9 pm
- April 6: Transition/Career High School Parent Workshop, 2-5 pm; 1:20 pm school closing
- April 15: 1:20 pm Closing
- April 18-22: Spring Break, School Closed
- May 30, Memorial Day, School Closed

### We want to hear from you!

Please contact us at: The Calais School, Att. Newsletter Committee or e-mail us at [Josephine.Mucciolo@thecalais.org](mailto:Josephine.Mucciolo@thecalais.org)



### .....Moving?.....Let us know your new Address.

If a duplicate mailing or you want to be removed from our list, call Jennifer Tedeschi at 973-884-2030, ext. 251. Thank you.



If you use a Target REDcard™, Target will contribute up to 1% of your purchase to The Calais School as part of their “Take Charge of Education Program.” The school is already receiving donations this way. You can register your desire to have Target donate by calling 1-800-316-6142 or registering online by entering: [https://redcard.target.com/redcard/content/rcw\\_manage](https://redcard.target.com/redcard/content/rcw_manage). Please use School ID #22646. Thank you for your consideration and support.



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