



The Calais Courier

Autumn 2013

Welcome New Calais Staff Members!

**MOVE
FORWARD.**

**The
Calais
School**

Providing students with the academic and behavioral skills to reach their fullest potential, becoming life-long learners and socially competent members of their communities.



45 Highland Ave
Whippany, NJ 07981
(973) 884-2030



Above: New staff members pose on our first day of orientation. Clockwise from left: Adam Maturo, Margaret Mutchler, Emilia Ciannello, Casey Butler, Angelica Spiropoulos, Jenna Del Grosso, Michelle Primiano, Dawn Heinen.

Right: Ms. Butler and Cali. Bottom: Ms. Butler and Cali bring some cheer to the preschool.

The Calais School welcomed a number of new staff members for the 2013-2014 school year. We are excited to welcome a job coach, a guidance counselor, a preschool teacher, a music teacher and a number of substitutes and one-to-one aides for our students. Two counseling interns and our own full-time service dog and handler have also joined our staff.

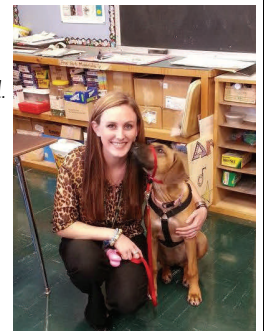
Our new staff members have already brought some new ideas to Calais and are fitting in nicely. Job coach Adam Maturo stated, "Having previously worked at a technical school in Connecticut, I am eager to apply my skills and knowledge to the CTE program at Calais." Ms. Heinen, our new preschool teacher, joined Calais during our summer program and has been making changes to the preschool all summer long. Mrs. Mutchler is making music with the band and guidance counselor Mrs. Primiano has been organizing internships for our SLE students.

Service Dog Cali and Ms. Butler Join Counseling Team

The Calais School is also happy to welcome our Rhodesian Ridgeback Cali and her handler Casey Butler to our school. Ms. Butler is a certified teacher and a Certified Natural Canine Behavior Rehabilitation Specialist.

Ms. Butler joins The Calais School through our partner, Merlin's Kids. One of the main goals at Merlin's Kids is to rescue shelter dogs, rehabilitate them behaviorally and train them as service dogs for special needs children or war veterans free of charge. Ms. Butler said, "With my teaching certification and my love for dogs, I couldn't think of anything better than to be able to train a service dog for a special needs child. It not only enhances the child's life, but the dog's life as well, giving them new purpose and an incredible bond with their human. I was in shock when I found the opportunity at the Calais School, because it is my ultimate dream job!"

Cali was trained for the specific needs of all of the students at Calais. The students in the summer program voted on her name, and we think it fits! At 6 ½ months old, she is already doing wonderful things, and as she matures she will be capable of so much more. Right now we are working on therapy and intervention strategies for the students. So far, aside from her involvement in many intervention strategies, she has been incorporated into speech, occupational, and group therapy. As she grows and matures, we will be using her for physical therapy as well many other aids for the students! There are endless possibilities in how she will be incorporated into the counseling team. Ms. Butler states, "I am honored to be a part of such a wonderful school with truly exceptional staff and AMAZING students!"



We are thrilled to have so many new faces at The Calais School. A warm welcome to all new staff members!

Brickman and Students Improve Calais Campus

Kristy Hartman

Bernard Kelly and his staff from The Brickman Group in Boonton provided their services to The Calais School as part of its annual Corporate Founder's Day service project. The team assisted with landscaping improvements to the main entrance of the parking lot and a natural boundary for our playground.

The Brickman Group worked with the teachers and students of our Floral and Landscape design classes in designing plans and choosing planting locations. Brickman staff removed and transplanted existing landscaping prior to the project and provided equipment and plants. The project was completed over the course of three days, and the newly redesigned areas now feature a variety of plants, bushes and shrubs. The students, along with Brickman horticulturists, identified the plants and will be creating labels to add in the spring.



"We are very grateful that Brickman chose The Calais School for their Founder's Day project," said school principal Dr. Diane Manno.



Founder's Day is a long-standing Brickman tradition, established to honor the memory and values of the company's founder, Theodore Brickman, Sr., who dedicated his life to being of service. **Thank you Brickman Group!**

Students worked with the Brickman team to beautify our grounds and learn about various plants, trees & shrubs.



Speech Classes Welcome Back Therapy Dog

Lauren Palmisano

Last year, The Calais School completed a pilot program for Animal Assisted Speech Therapy. Children in the third through eighth grades focused on improving our understanding of ourselves and dogs via exploring personal traits, responses to compliments, verbal and nonverbal communication, and expression of feelings, in both humans and dogs. This school year, the high school students will participate in Animal Assisted Speech Therapy, as they work towards achieving IEP goals in the areas of expressive language and pragmatics. We are looking forward to sharing our experiences in upcoming newsletters!

Left: Our speech students tired out Creature Comforts volunteer Nadia on her first day back!



Counseling Team Brings Emotional Balance to Students

Marjane Vitaletti

The members of the Psychological Services team are proud to present our innovative methods of helping our student achieve emotional balance. One of them is the emWave® Personal Stress Reliever® created by the Heartmath Institute. This computer program provides immediate feedback to our students when they feeling frustrated, anxious or stressed, and through a technique called "quick coherence" helps them to establish emotional balance.

Emotional Freedom Technique is another approach used. A combination of tapping the energy meridians and voicing positive affirmations works to clear the emotional block. EFT Tapping is a tool that can help smooth things out, calm you down and see a fresh perspective if needed. Basic yoga poses, guided meditation, and breathing exercises help to empower children and teens with confidence and a sense of peace. Guided meditation is a way to get quiet, calm, and focused. The ability to focus on your breath while listening to it helps to quiet your mind and helps you to concentrate better on areas of school and life.

We would also like to welcome Cali and Ms. Butler to our team. Cali, our service dog, provides our students with unconditional loving support.

Our counseling team welcomes Cali and Ms. Butler aboard.



Fall Fitness



The school year got off to a great start with our fitness unit. Fitness can be one of our hardest physical and mental units, but our high schoolers are finding ways to make fitness fun. Music is played throughout the stations and the students are motivated to track their improvements using pedometers. Students wore pedometers to measure movement throughout fitness week. Ms. Tacinelli's class averaged an amazing 1,580 steps during the circuit!

Vinnie Femia



Students in middle and high school have the opportunity to work on their fitness outside of gym class in cross country club. Our students are outside enjoying the fall weather on their runs. We are excited to continue fitness throughout the year!

Top left: The high school girls cross country club stretches to prepare for a long run. Top right: Ms. Tacinelli's class relaxes in their squad spots after completing the 17 station fitness circuit. Middle right: High school students work on their physical fitness. Bottom right: The high school cross country club enjoys a much deserved break after a long run. Bottom left: The middle school cross country club is feeling strong after their 1.25 mile adventure.



High School Class Elects Advisory Board

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. The students in each homeroom elect two students that they feel would best represent their homeroom.

Marjane Vitaletti

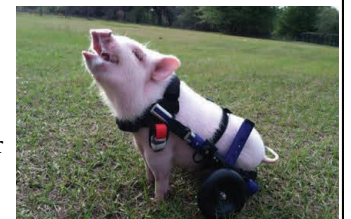
The duties of the class representatives are to plan school wide activities. Some of the activities include organizing dances, school wide contests, and school community service projects. We are excited about some of the events that are planned for October. We have announced a school-wide pumpkin painting contest, a Halloween Dance and will be filling Halloween bags with treats for St. Clares Hospital pediatrics ward.



Class 201 Adopts A Mascot: Chris P. Bacon



Mrs. Perillo's class has "adopted" a class mascot: Chris P. Bacon, a pig in a wheelchair! The students researched Chris' story and created a classroom bulletin board. They are also brainstorming ways to help support Chris.



Chris P. Bacon was born with deformed hind legs and, as Eli D. said, "His owner wanted to put him to sleep, but the vet said he saw a light in him saved his life." Chris was then adopted by veterinarian Dr. Len Lucero. Matthew C. explained that Chris "couldn't walk with his hind legs, so the vet made a wheelchair for him out of KNEX."

Left: Students pose with their bulletin board. Above: Chris tries out his new wheels.

Chris has since upgraded to a new wheelchair and has become very popular— he even has his own website, Facebook and Twitter accounts! He has inspired many handicapped people from all over the world and the students love him.



IMPORTANT DATES

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Oct. 15-17th
NO SCHOOL: Teacher In-Service Nov. 8th

Scholastic Book Fair: Oct. 15-17th
Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 28th-Dec. 1st



The Calais School

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www.thecalaischool.org
www.thecalaisfoundation.org



Learn more about our programs by scheduling a visit or attending an open house.
October 24th **November 21st** **December 19th**
Contact Admissions Coordinator Kristy Hartman at (973) 884-2030 x265 to schedule your visit.

THE CALAIS COURIER

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