



The Calais Courier

Spring 2014

Maryann Braen Named Regional Finalist for ASAH's "Teacher of the Year" Award

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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
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We are happy to announce that Kindergarten-2nd grade teacher Mrs. Maryann Braen is a regional finalist for the "Teacher of the Year" Award! The award, given by ASAH, a not-for-profit organization of private schools and agencies in New Jersey, identifies and rewards staff who have exhibited outstanding professional expertise and accomplishment in the field of special education.

Megan LoBue

Mrs. Braen has worked at The Calais School since 2000. You can find her teaching Class 301 and the Career & Technical Education (CTE) child care classes. She has a song for every occasion and her enthusiasm is contagious to everyone who works with her.

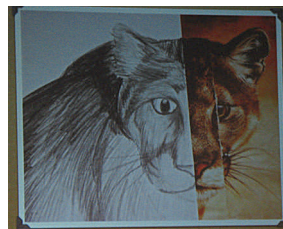


Three staff members at The Calais School were nominated in their fields—Maryann Braen, Marjane Vitaletti, and Sue Ramos. Marjane Vitaletti was nominated for "Related Services Provider of the Year" for her work as the high school CRC counselor. You can often find Mrs. Vitaletti planning a school event, whether it is the prom, a dance, or a fundraising project for the American Cancer Society. She also teaches yoga and organizes the Calais Student Council. Sue Ramos, assistant teacher, was nominated for the "Paraprofessional of the Year" award for her work in the lower school. Nominator Pat Onore stated, "Sue models for her students how to be courteous, ethical, active learners who learn to take on respect for themselves and others." Mrs. Ramos is always enthusiastic and ready with a smile in Mrs. Tacinelli's class.



Each one of the nominees bring so much of themselves to our students and staff and are model representatives of our Calais family. They are compassionate, hard-working, dedicated women who brighten everyone's day. We are so happy they have been recognized for their contributions!

Calais Artists Receive Honors



The Calais School would like to congratulate Christina G. and Caroline M. for their accomplishments in the fine arts. Both students won the *Arts Excellence Award in Visual Arts*, presented at the 2014 Governor's Awards in Arts Education on May 1st. The Governor's Awards are a venture between a number of arts organizations, including VSA New Jersey & the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Christopher Catalano

We are also happy to announce that Caroline is also the recipient of the 2014 Kids for Kids Fine Arts Scholarship from the Dance Innovations Performance Foundation for continued art study during the summer months. The students have a special display of their artwork hanging by the art room and will be showcased at this year's Touchdown For Success.



All of our students put a tremendous amount of hard work into their art this year. We would like to congratulate all of our school's art students on a job well done. You can see all this beautiful art displayed throughout the school.

Students Celebrate Arbor Day

Megan LoBue



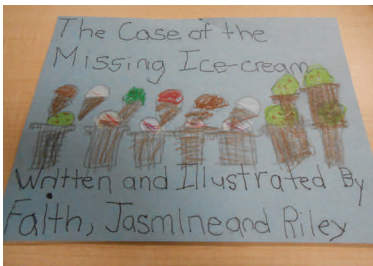
Hanover Township Arborist Lorraine Konopka helped Calais Lower School students celebrate Arbor Day by planting a young river birch (*Betula nigra*) on our campus. Ms. Konopka, a Licensed Tree Expert and Certified Arborist, brought her golden shovels for students, who planted the tree near our playground and outdoor classroom area. She showed students how to care for our tree and reminded them that although trees need sunlight, water, and soil to grow, they also need love!

Ms. Konopka even brought seedlings for students to take home and instructions on how to care for and plant their trees. An annual springtime tradition, Hanover Township generously purchases and pays for the installation of a native tree on school grounds using funds from the township's Tree Fund. Last year, Lorraine and her team planted a beautiful sweetbay magnolia on our campus. Thank you Ms. Konopka for generously donating your time and expertise each and every year!!



Ms. Heinen's Authors Pen "The Case of the Missing Ice Cream"

Dawn Heinen



The Preschool and Kindergarten reading class have been busy the past few weeks with their new jobs as authors and illustrators! Ms. Heinen pretested her students to see how well they could write a story on their own and then taught lessons on story book writing. The class made their own class story book titled "The Case of the Missing Ice-Cream."

Students collaborated and came up with the topic, setting, characters, and key details. The next step was for each student to come up with an idea and write their own stories. They each wrote a draft using phonetic spelling, for those who were ready with sight words. They then corrected their edited work using the correct spelling, punctuation and capitalization. The next step will be to illustrate their stories as well as make their covers for their original story books. They are quite proud of their hard work and all they have learned. They are looking forward to reading their books to our students, staff, and of course our school dog, Cali!

Our Garden is Growing!



Rene Bellott
The students in floral and landscape design class began refreshing their garden with new soil in the raised beds of their vegetable garden. After the soil was prepared, they began planting tomatoes, eggplants,

peppers, lettuce, peas, and many more! All of the plants were grown from seeds and maintained by the class.

Students also helped spruce up the front of our building. In the front barrels along the driveway, students planted colorful marigold plants. They are also very excited that the plants in the perennial garden that were planted in the front of the school in the Fall are coming up.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Betty Sermeño



Spanish classes got to enjoy tastes of Spanish and Mexican culture during their Cinco de Mayo fiesta. The goal for the celebration was that our students experience

Mexican cooking & customs and the objective was for students recognize a few common gestures and cultural practices associated with Spanish culture.

Cinco de Mayo is NOT Mexico's Independence Day—that's September 16. Nor is it the one day where suddenly it's socially acceptable for anyone and everyone to FiestA around in sombreros! Cinco de Mayo began as a way to commemorate Mexico's victory against the French in Puebla in 1862. Spanish classes celebrated Cinco de Mayo with salsa, tacos, tortillas, sombreros, and a piñata.



Softball Is a Hit in Gym Class



Vincent Femia

Our students continue to improve their fitness levels and teamwork through our sports program. Recently, we have taken advantage of the beautiful weather by going outside to play softball. Softball is one of our students' favorite sports and it shows through their effort and passion while playing. We are nearing towards the end of the softball unit, and each class has made outstanding progress! We will continue to go outside for some fun spring and summer activities such as Frisbee, lacrosse, and backyard games.

Our students are patiently waiting for one of their favorite days of the year, "Calais Day." Calais Day will be even more exciting this year as we have collaborated with the Gridiron Gang for this year's event. The Gridiron Gang is a non-profit organization which includes retired NFL football players. I recently met with Damian Gregory and we went over all the fun activities we have planned!



Music Notes

Margaret Mutchler

Hello to all from the Music Department! It is hard to believe that the year is coming to a close. The Symphonic Band is working very hard on their Spring Concert material and the Jazz Band has worked very hard on their selected pieces.



The lower school has been learning many things in class. Some of these activities have included learning about Opera by listening to and acting out scenes from "Hansel and Gretel." We also learned about the four families of instruments from "Peter and the Wolf." Mrs. Davies' class is working very hard on their percussion piece and this should prove to be an exciting addition to our Spring Concert. All in all it has been a year of hard work but well worth the effort!

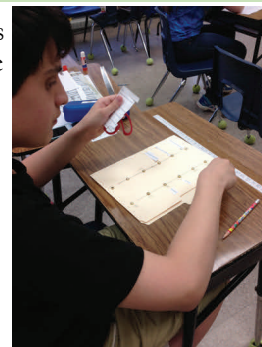
Electrifying Science Projects in Middle School



Wendy Davies

Middle school students in Class 202 have studied many interesting topics in science this year. They learned about various systems in the human anatomy. As a culminating activity the class dissected frogs, since the anatomy of the frog is very similar to the anatomy of a human being. The class also learned about the connection between magnetism and electricity. Each student wired his or her own circuit board to demonstrate the flow of electricity.

As part of our year-long Trout in the Classroom program, Class 202 also observed and photographed the growth of the trout from embryo to fingerling. They participated in releasing the trout into the Whippany River. Our final science unit will focus on motion and flight.



Reading Class Report

James Rosocha

Mr. Rosocha's 3rd grade reading class has made impressive progress since the beginning of the year. All students have completed various projects including book reports, original story compositions, short stories composed from picture prompts, personal narratives, and persuasive letters to the editor. They have also written about their unique interests, behaviors that are unique to animals, and foods from different cultures.

The class uses Reading Street materials and software, which allow students to work with the lesson material in an interactive fashion. All activities, test scores, and student progress are available for parents to view and keep track of.

Writer's Corner

Jake B., Class 202

Walt Disney once said, "All of our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them." This is a very meaningful quote because it encourages people to follow their dreams and to do what you really want to do. Here are three other ways to help support your dreams.

The first way is to be a leader not a follower, because followers go nowhere, but leaders get to do what they want. Also leaders end up having much better careers than followers. The next way is to remind yourself that there is no such thing as an obscure dream. This little quote will help you stick with your dreams because then you'll know that your dream is not stupid or obscure. Finally, you have to have the courage to pursue your dreams because your dreams will not grow without courage. Dreams are like flowers and courage is the water, sun, and soil for the dream. So in order for your dream to become reality you need to have the courage.



In conclusion, Walt Disney's quote is a very meaningful and true quote because it encourages people to follow their dreams. Believe me, I would know.



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