



The Calais Courier



Summer
2014

Congratulations Class of 2014!

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



On June 25th The Calais School proudly announced our graduating class of 2014. Six high school seniors and eight 8th graders participated in the commencement ceremony and celebrated their accomplishments. Proud parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, and staff joined the celebration of student achievement.

Calais School Executive Director David Leitner's opening remarks encouraged all students to find and follow their passion despite what others say. He shared his wisdom about how to lead a successful and fulfilling life—follow your passion early on and never let naysayers dictate what you can and cannot do.

Each senior gave a thoughtful speech sharing their Calais School experiences. Each student took a moment to thank the people that made a particular impact on them, including family, friends, teachers, and counselors for their support. Their stories were often funny and heartfelt. Many students shared their personal stories of struggle, growth, and achievement.

Matt B. shared, "Feeling accepted was very difficult for me in any school I was in. I've changed so much over the past year and a half.... Calais is a perfect fit for me!"

Chaz D. told the audience, "When I am anxious, I walk very slowly and when I first started here I was the slowest kid in the school. As time went by I started moving a little faster. Now I am the first person to enter my homeroom!"

Many students spoke about the workplace and social skills they cultivated. Katie M. shared, "The Calais School prepared me for the future by showing so much about my own talents. I have learned how to be more independent, to be responsible on the job, how to interact with others, and make lots of friends."

All of us at Calais are thankful for the opportunity to work with inspiring and dedicated students and look forward to working with many of them in our 12Plus program. We are so proud of what our graduates have accomplished at Calais and will accomplish in the future.



Top left: Carlie S. and her fellow graduates celebrate. Top right: Executive Director David Leitner congratulates Kal-El B. Bottom right: Mrs. Vitaletti looks on as a senior gives a moving speech.

Student Mentors Work with Canine Volunteers



This summer, Janice Wolfe and her Merlin's Kids volunteers brought a new animal experience to The Calais School. Ms. Butler and Ms. Ferment helped Merlin's Kids volunteers introduce a 5-week student mentor program to incorporate the summer theme of Community and Responsibility with our volunteer canines. Having the dogs in the classroom helped promote a calm, relaxed, and fun atmosphere for our ESY students.

Students in grades 8 through 12Plus were chosen to mentor younger students throughout the summer. They completed a course on how to foster appropriate social skills, how to be positive role models, and how to interact with younger students. The mentors also studied canine care and behavior to help them incorporate the dogs into their mentor experience.

Working with service dogs provides positive reinforcement and emotional support to students. Our service dog, Cali, is trained to adapt to the needs of each individual Calais student. She helps students with anger management, anger diffusion, and conflict resolution and gives all students unconditional love and support.

Left: Students deliver their mentorship presentations. Right: Ms. Butler introduces puppy Savannah to Calais students.



Culinary Students Prepare Summer Snacks



Mrs. Russo and our CTE culinary arts students were busy in the Calais Food Lab this summer preparing delicious, healthy snacks for our students and staff.

As part of the Hospitality and Tourism Career and Technical Education (CTE) career track, high school students prepared shopping lists and menus for the entire Calais community. They then prepared and served a lunchtime snack for their peers and teachers. The Calais community enjoyed a variety of foods, including oven-baked chicken, turkey meat tacos, ham and cheese sliders, and a Fourth of July barbecue. Students even packed brown bag lunches for our trip to the Turtle Back Zoo! Sharing meals together helped reinforce our summer theme of **Relationships and Community**.

At left: Chester and Marisa serve younger students after our healthy eating workshop. Right: Mrs. Liberato serves homemade baked ziti.



Summer Artist-In-Residence Program



Students collaborated with Calais Artist-In-Residence Kevin Brooks to create a 3D art installation near the English and Spanish classrooms. The artwork emphasizes the core values and spirit of the Calais School's ESY program. Students worked with Mr. Brooks and Calais art teacher Mr. Catalano to depict the values we strive for here at Calais: kindness, helpfulness, fairness, honesty, trust, and respect. Students designed each letter of the art installation. Every letter is unique and illustrates the unique interests and talents of our students.

Left: The letter S, illustrated by Julia M. Near right: The Calais Cares art installation. Middle right: Mr. Brooks, Mr. Catalano, and Mr. A pose with the artists. Right: Bryce P. designs his letter.

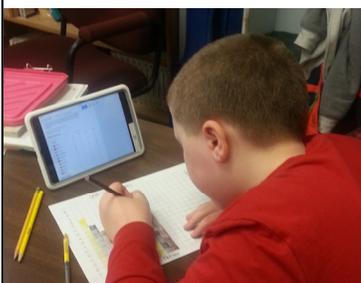


Calais Receives Grants for Chromebooks in the Classroom

The Calais School would like to thank Novartis Pharmaceuticals, the BNI Foundation & The Calais Foundation for their generous support of our newest technology initiative, which will give every high school student access to a Chromebook for classroom use.



This initiative, the Calais 9-12+ Classroom Technology Enrichment Program, will allow our high school students to hone their computer skills for standardized testing, entering the workforce, or advancing to secondary education. Our Chromebook initiative is a key component of the Common Core Standards in New Jersey, which encourage students to cultivate the creative, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.



Computer instructor Mr. Papadakis has been busy setting up our new Chromebooks. His hard work, along with financial support from our funders, will ensure that all high school students have a Chromebook to use in September.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals in East Hanover has been a longtime supporter of The Calais School. Their commitment to supporting education, science, health, and technology initiatives in our community has greatly improved the classroom experience for our students. Most recently, Novartis generously provided funding for iPads for our students in third through eighth grade.

The BNI Foundation is an international business organization committed to giving kids around the world quality education. Every year their generous donors help educators purchase the items they need in their classrooms.

On behalf of all our students and staff, thank you donors for your generous support!

Above right: Kyle C. uses his iPad to help him calculate Olympic medal statistics.

Twice Exceptional Program

The Calais School's new academic supplemental Twice Exceptional Gifted & Talented Program, CALAIS STARS (Students That Achieve, Reach, and Succeed) will begin this September! This pilot program will focus on technology. Students will take part in a well-rounded learning experience that will balance traditional and non-traditional educational opportunities.



Our Twice Exceptional program is part of The Calais School's commitment to providing our students with a comprehensive education that encourages intellectual growth, provides a sense of family and community responsibility, and offers a global perspective to the issues that affect daily experience.

Above: Our Calais STARS pilot group.

Above: Elliot D. cleans up donated stuffed animals.

Community Service



It has been very rewarding to see how much our summer Extended School Year (ESY) theme of **Relationships and Community** was embraced by students and staff.

This year's ESY program challenged everyone to develop a community service project. Our 6th-7th grade class decided to undertake a month-long toy drive in July. Students collected more than 350 toys, books, and stuffed animals for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

This community service project introduced Project-Based Learning into the classroom. Project-Based Learning incorporates activities designed to answer a question or solve a problem. It also encourages self-assessment reflection, group participation, and leadership. We are so proud of the initiative and compassion our students have shown throughout this project!



Above: Elliot D. cleans up donated stuffed animals.



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45 Highland Ave.
Whippany NJ, 07981
p: (973) 884-2030
f: (973) 884-0460



www.thecalaischool.org
www.thecalaisfoundation.org



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<http://thecalaischool.wordpress.com>

THE CALAIS COURIER

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