

# The Calais Courier

Summer 2013

LEARN.  
GROW.  
IMPROVE

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

## Congratulations Calais Class of 2013



The Calais School is proud to announce our graduating class of 2013. On June 26th, The Calais School celebrated the accomplishments of our 8th grade and high school graduates at our 43rd Commencement Ceremony. There were so many proud parents, siblings, grandparents, friends and staff cheering on as our students ended this chapter of their lives and began a new one.

Each senior had the opportunity to share their experiences and moved the audience with their personal stories about coming to The Calais School. They spoke about their favorite subjects, teachers and activities. Many told the audience how nervous they were to start at Calais and expressed how they felt before beginning here—some confused, depressed and shy, others reluctant to leave friends from their previous schools.

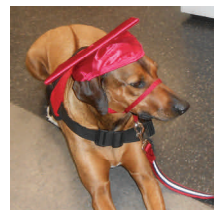


Our students then went on to tell their stories of what the Calais school helped them with—improved confidence, recognition of their personal strengths and ability to make friends. Seniors thanked their family, friends and teachers for their unwavering support and each student took a moment to thank the people that made a particular impact on them.

As our students looked back on a successful year, they expressed themselves with confidence and distinction. Mike B. shared that after coming to Calais, “I discovered that this school had something my last one didn’t... friends. I was once a guy that could barely talk to people, and had little confidence in himself. I’ve grown a lot since then, my confidence is a little higher now, and I’m not shy anymore.” Chester S. said that he now is “...able to express my feelings whether they are good or bad, and happy or sad. I made so many friends which helped me put my shield down and trust people more. For the first time ever, I go home a happy person.” David M. stated, “I may have had friends before, but it was certainly through Calais that I befriended myself and came to terms with who I am, and for that I am quite thankful.”

We are all quite thankful for the opportunity to work with truly inspiring, thoughtful and dedicated students. We are so proud of our graduates and what they have accomplished here at Calais and will accomplish in the future. Congratulations to the class of 2013 and best wishes for a bright future!

Megan LoBue



Top left: Chester S. gives a moving speech. Top right: Calais Foundation President Jim Routhier poses with his graduating daughter, Nicole. Left: Graduating seniors relax before the ceremony. Right: Service dog Zuri Ridgeback joined in the festivities. Bottom right: Calais School Executive Director David Leitner and Calais School founders Charlotte & Lionel Leitner after the ceremony.

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

# Classroom iPad Infusion Program



The Calais School is proud to announce our classroom iPad infusion program (CIIP) for September 2013! The focus of the iPad program at The Calais School is to provide tools and resources for the 21st century learner. Increasing access to technology is essential to build upon college and career readiness skills. The individual use of iPads is a way to empower students to maximize their full potential and to prepare them for college and the workplace.

Steve Sokolewicz

CIIP got off to a productive start with the formation of this year's iPad Professional Learning Community (PLC-iPad) that included Grade 1-8 teachers who were given the summer months to get themselves acquainted with the new technology. Teachers will be using the summer months to prepare for what September will bring in terms of classroom infusion activities.



Additionally, as the staff and students get to use the iPads, the school will offer workshop opportunities that will afford staff, students and parents the chance to increase personal knowledge on how the new technology will enhance the learning environment both in and out of the classroom. The overall goal is to increase the educational prospects of our students as they move forward through their schooling.

## Graduating Class of 2013 Class Trip



On June 11, 2013, our graduating seniors and 8<sup>th</sup> grade class had an amazing time on our class trip. We started the day at Funplex, where we had unlimited access to all of the rides and games. Race car driving was the biggest hit. Everything from lazer tag, crane machines, basketball hoops, air hockey, skee ball and interactive video games kept our students busy and thrilled for quite a long time. And oh yes, the chaperones had a wonderful time too!!

Marjane Vitaletti

Next we ventured to Chili's for lunch where nachos and salsa awaited our arrival at the table for 18. We enjoyed lunch which started with appetizers and then a scrumptious lunch. What a wonderful social experience for our students. They were amazing. We ended the day on our school campus, recapping our wonderful trip and enjoying ice pops.

## Welcome to the Jungle: Prom 2013

The Calais School had its annual prom held at The Hanover Manor on May 30th. Freshman to Seniors enjoyed a night of great food, dancing, and demonstrating appreciation for the wonderful friendships they have developed over the years. DJ John and MC Darrell from Powerhouse Studios had our staff and students on the dance floor all night. Some students even took the mic and showed off their singing skills. The theme for the prom was "Welcome to the Jungle" and it was a jungle out there on the dance floor!!

Marjane Vitaletti & Vincent Femia

Our annual prom gives our students a chance to dress up, get together with staff members and meet up with their friends after school. It also gives our seniors the opportunity to work all year to prepare for the prom. Seniors planned many fundraising activities throughout the year to raise money for the favors and decorations. We would like to give a huge thank you to The Calais School Administration for providing us with The Hanover Manor and Powerhouse Studios, to the senior class for all of their hard work, and to the staff who helped us get this event together year after year.





# Field Day



On May 31<sup>st</sup> we held our field day event at The Calais School. Field day was a huge success and featured every student from Pre K to our 12+ program. Every staff member had an assignment, whether it was to run a station or coach a team. It was an amazing experience because the entire student body and staff worked together towards the same goal. Our goals were to have fun, try our hardest, work together, problem solve, and practice social skills/interactions. I believe we went above and beyond reaching those goals.

*Top left: Ally D. practices her throw. At right: Jaina M. (top) and Anna C. (bottom) play in the bouncy house.*

Some of the students' favorite stations were running the bases, the slime relay race, throw the chicken, and the basketball challenge. The 200 and 300 levels students' favorite station had to be the gigantic bouncy house we had set up as part of the festivities.

Vincent Femia



After field day we were lucky enough to have a great BBQ lunch cooked for us by Mr. Sokolewicz and the custodial crew. We all enjoyed a meal together and after lunch the entire school danced the Cha-Cha Slide, Macarena, and Cotton Eye Joe together. At that point, the students were very happy to be doing the physical activity inside as it was getting very hot outside! Field day has been my favorite day of the year so far, and by all the excellent work I saw that day I can safely say it was one of the students' favorite days of the year as well.

## Speech Party



Our speech students were kind enough to invite Creature Comforts Pet Therapy volunteer Tracy and her dog Nadia to celebrate the work they did in their pet therapy speech sessions. The students really hit it off with Tracy and Nadia and had a great time relaxing and playing. Everyone enjoyed snacks and games to celebrate the end of the

school year and a job well done. Throughout their sessions, the students enjoyed their time with the dog, spoke at length about their own pets and had appropriate conversations with each other.

We look forward to continuing our speech therapy as we move forward next year. We thank Tracy, Nadia and everyone at Creature Comforts Pet Therapy for all of their help in our new animal-assisted speech therapy program.

*Above: Matthew O., Avery C. and Michael L. pet Nadia.*

## A Year in the Arts

Christopher Catalano

The Calais School had a very successful year in the arts. Many students entered contests outside of school.

Christina G. and Caroline M. had their work on display at various locations throughout New Jersey as part of the Par Excellence Tour of the VSA. They attended an artist opening reception held at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick. Six students entered ASAH's poster contest for the first time this year. Students created posters with the theme "Looking Towards the Future of Education." We are proud to announce that all Calais students received Honorable Mention certificates.

Several students participated at the Morris County Teen Arts Festival again this year and attended workshops that helped them grow as artists. Their work was displayed at the festival and received ribbons of recognition.



*Above: Chaz D. participates in a cartooning workshop.*

Once again, the school had a winner in the Fire Safety Poster Contest. All art students entered the contest and created posters with the theme "Have Two Ways Out." Timothy C. and Caroline M. won in their divisions on the county level. Each student won a certificate and a gift card to the movies.

Congratulations to all the students involved and thanks to all the teachers and parents who helped make all of our projects so successful!

# Author Visit



The Calais School was excited to welcome author Dar Hosta for a school-wide assembly this past spring!! The award-winning collage artist and children's author/illustrator, Dar Hosta provided a large group assembly presentation titled, "I Love Books: Making Books with Dar Hosta".

Pat Onore

Following the presentation, students were provided a hands-on writing and art workshop titled, "Puppy Dog Tales." Hosta

showed students how she creates her vibrant collages. First, she paints sheets of Japanese paper, or "washi," with acrylic paints and unique tools and brushes. She then arranges the cut pieces, and adheres them with a dry-glue method onto watercolor paper that she has also painted with acrylics.

All our students enjoyed getting creative with their collage books. Ms. Hosta was kind enough to share some of her books with our students, including her award-winning *Mavis and Her Marvelous Mooncakes* and *If I Were A Tree*.



Top left: Matthew O. works on his collage.  
Right: Author /illustrator Dar Hosta shares her book with students.

## Calais Cares Cancer Survivor Bags



Marjane Vitaletti & Paul Vitaletti

On June 2nd we had the pleasure of attending the annual Cancer Survivor Day celebration given by St. Clare's Hospital Cancer Care. The celebration was held at Franciscan Oaks in Denville. It is a time for cancer survivors and their families to get together and celebrate life. We enjoyed a buffet breakfast, raffles and birthday cake. Everyone at our table won a prize.

It was our pleasure to represent The Calais School and hand out the cancer survivor bags that were donated by us. We are extremely grateful to all parents/guardians and staff members who donated items to fill "Survivor Bags" that were given out at this event. The students decorated the bags and filled them with the donated items. The Staff at St. Clare's Cancer Care, the survivors and the caretakers were also extremely grateful for the gifts they have received.

Above: Karen Liberato, Lizzy A. and Marjane Vitaletti pose with survivor bags made by students.

## Firehouse Fun



The Whippany Firehouse came to The Calais School this past June. Our younger students were excited when the fire truck arrived and the firefighters were eager to teach about the importance of fire safety. After showing the students an educational video, the firefighter put on their firefighting gear and explained the importance of each piece of equipment. Students then asked important questions and interacted with our heroes. Thank you Whippany Fire Department for all you do for our community and our school!

Maryann Braen

Left: Aidan C. poses with Whippany Fire Department firefighters. Right: Rory S. shows off his new firefighter's helmet and activity book.





# Extended School Year Program 2013

Kristy Hartman & Megan LoBue



The Calais School Extended School Year provides academic and social integration through a variety of activities during the summer months. It features the same safe, nurturing environment that students experience at Calais throughout the year.

Classes are taught by certified special education teachers. Additional support services include speech classes, occupational therapy, psychological services counseling and school nurse services. Students participate in a variety of academic and social activities, including science

presentations, music and dance performances, and weekly trips to Funplex and the bowling alley.

We have so many fun and educational activities happening during our Extended School Year. Songwriter Miss Alice helped students bring out their inner musician when she helped students write and record a custom song. Everyone brainstormed lyric ideas and came together to sing and record our new Calais School song. It was a heartfelt collaboration of all the students and the song really captures the spirit of our students.



Brendan Naranjo of Mad Science NJ visited us and performed some awesome science experiments with dry ice, eggs, water and playing cards. Some of the students volunteered to help Brendan with the experiments and everyone in the audience had a blast.

Calais high school students are preparing for math and English standardized testing and working hard in their CTE classes. Our landscape design students are caring for and harvesting what they planted in the garden back in March, including eggplant, potatoes, tomatoes and green onions. And everyone in the school enjoys late snack—some days we barbecue, have pizza, or eat breakfast food! All in all, our Extended School Year program has been a big hit.



*Top left: Miss Alice collaborates with Calais students. Above right (clockwise): Jack O. and Matthew O. help our Mad Scientist. Anna C. helps with a card trick. Jake B. gets excited about bubbles. Mr. Narajo wows Caleb, Tyler, Aidan and Zuri. Left: Chester helps Mr. Bracco harvest potatoes. Bottom left: CTE students show off our produce.*



## A Note from the Main Office



We're looking forward to a new school year! Please keep a few important dates in mind:

**August 5th: Extended School Year Program Ends**

**September 6th: First Day for Students**

**Have a safe and happy summer!**



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Whippany NJ, 07981  
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f: (973) 884-0460



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# THE CALAIS COURIER

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