



**Fort Plain Pacers:** The district is once again inviting community members to walk inside the elementary school building, from now through April 30th. District residents may walk during the hours of 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on days that school is in session. There is a \$5 fee to join the Pacers, and all walkers must be registered and sign in each time they enter the building. To sign up for the Fort Plain Pacers program, contact Becky in the district office by phoning 518-993-4000 #1000.

**Buddy Bench Campaign:** The Elementary Student Council is continuing to accept donations to their "Buddy Bench" campaign. The bench will be placed on the playground, and any student who is feeling left-out and needs a buddy to play with can sit there. This will be a universal sign to students that someone is feeling lonely and they should show compassion and kindness by going to sit or play with them. Donations may be made to "Fort Plain Elementary Student Council" and sent to Michelle Hext at Fort Plain CSD, 25 High St, Fort Plain, NY 13339

**Health Fair 2019:** The district is accepting businesses, organizations or school groups who would like to exhibit at this year's Community Health & Wellness Fair in April. Contact Lauri Broady at lauri.broady@fortplain.org to sign up, or for more information.

**Substitutes Needed:** The district is actively seeking substitutes in the areas of school bus drivers, cleaners, and food service workers. To apply, submit an application, letter of interest and three letters of recommendation. Applications are available online at [www.fortplain.org](http://www.fortplain.org).

**Students of the Month:**  
Congratulations to the Students of the Month for November:

Oliver Parkinson	Grade K
Laylah Hardett	Grade 1
Jazmain Leonard	Grade 2
Daija Suits	Grade 3
Caitlyn Stephens	Grade 4
Constance Narzynski	Grade 5
Marionna Stephens	Grade 7
Andra Fuhs	Grade 8
Erin Crouse	Grade 9
Kris Clapper	Grade 10
Michaela Stockwell	Grade 11
Quinn Jones	Grade 12

**Upcoming Events:**

Dec. 24-Jan. 1	School Closed
Jan. 16	Board of Educaton Mtg 6:00
Jan. 21	MLK Jr. Day: School Closed
Jan. 22-Jan. 25	Regents Exams
Feb. 1	Jr/Sr HS Report Cards Mailed
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day

**Public Approves Capital Project:** Residents of the Fort Plain Central School district voted on December 18th, to approve an 11.2 million dollar capital project which will address health and safety upgrades, building and site maintenance, and improvements. Some of the needed work will include a new fire alarm system, HVAC upgrades, security updates, and the installation of an emergency generator at the Jr/Sr High School. Building maintenance and enhancements will include roof reconstruction at both schools, outdated window replacement, masonry repairs, and floor refinishing in the Jr/Sr High School gym. Scheduled site improvements include permanent repair of the main water/sanitation line at the elementary campus, replacing pumps at the athletic complex, reconstruction of the deteriorating track surface, paving restoration and drainage reconstruction behind the transportation facility. Project construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2020. Of the positive vote, Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Ziskin said, "The Fort Plain community has once again demonstrated its strong support for our schools, by approving the proposed Health, Safety and Infrastructure Capital Project. The project is a wise long-term investment that will maintain our school facilities in the most fiscally advantageous manner for our local taxpayers. Thank you again to the taxpayers of the Fort Plain CSD, for your continued support of the children of Fort Plain and their schools."

**Student Council Organizes Troop Drive:** Members of the Jr/Sr High School recently collected items for military men and women stationed at Al Asad Airbase in western Iraq. The student council was contacted by SSgt. Samuel Hoffman, a member of the Fort Plain High School class of 2012. SSgt. Hoffman is a member of the Combat Christmas Party Committee, which was tasked with putting together a celebration for the 1st Expeditionary Rescue Group. The Student Council immediately began collecting donations of food and comfort items, putting together eight full boxes of items and sending them by mail to reach the airbase in time for the holidays. The student council thanks everyone who contributed toward making the holidays a bit brighter for the many soldiers stationed so far from home.

**Band Teacher Provides Holiday Spirit:** Throughout December, district Band Director, Mr. Pete DiBiase, played holiday tunes for the elementary students in the cafeteria before school in the morning. The students truly appreciated the festive breakfast atmosphere, singing along with familiar tunes, applauding with gusto, and thanking "Mr. D" for making their mornings more "merry and bright!" Thank you Mr. DiBiase!



**Holiday Events at the Jr/Sr High:** Several programs and events took place during the month of December at the Jr/Sr High School. The student council hosted Spirit Week, with students wearing themed clothing each day - including Flannel Shirt & Jeans Day, Pajama Day, and American Pride. The lobby was filled with Christmas Trees, with each class decorating their own tree with a special design of their own. A non-perishable food drive was held, with the boxed and canned goods being donated to the Fulmont Center, to be used for holiday meal baskets and other food pantry needs. The students also enjoyed sending "Candy Cane Grams" to their friends, having a pep rally to kick off the winter sports season, and experiencing their annual concert from the band "Flame". "Flame" is a touring band from the Lexington Chapter of The ARC New York, which is a private, non-for-profit agency supporting people with disabilities and their families. The band is comprised entirely of differently-abled adults, "spreading hope and inspiration through music."

**Local Students Benefit from Holiday Giving:** MVP Healthcare and United Way of Montgomery County recently distributed warm, winter coats to elementary school students in five districts, including Fort Plain. Employees and community members donated coats of all colors, styles and sizes, to benefit any student with a need for keeping warmer in the cold weather. Additionally, Harry Hoag students received hats, mittens and scarves which had been collected at the NBT Bank during October and November. Finally, Solitude Lake Management conducted a company-wide outreach program and raised money to donate ten \$25 Price Chopper gift cards, so that Fort Plain School District families could purchase some needed items to contribute towards a holiday dinner in their home. The district's students and families are grateful for all of this holiday giving, bringing some much-needed cheer at this special time of year.

**Technology Students Visit HVCC:** On Monday, November 26th, Fort Plain High School technology students traveled to Hudson Valley Community College in Troy to tour the Automotive Technology, Manufacturing Technology and Electrical Technology programs. Hudson Valley Community College offers 85 degree and certificate programs, and provides technology students with many Associates Degree opportunities, in areas such as: Agricultural Technology, Civil Engineering, Drafting, Construction, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Electrical Line Worker Technology. Fort Plain's technology students were able to witness the college classes working with hands-on projects, listen to some of the instruction, and receive an overview of the many opportunities available to them as students who are interested in the many fields of technology and engineering.

**Harry Hoag School Talented & Gifted Program:** The Elementary Talented & Gifted Program for this school year features many new and exciting activities for students in grades 3-6. A cast and crew of 22 fifth and sixth graders recently presented the play "Santa's Big Trouble" as members of the Performance Drama Club. In addition, 4th and 5th graders will have an opportunity this spring to participate in drama and acting skills activities, and perform small skits as they prepare to perform on the stage in the future. "TaG" is a program for 5th and 6th grade students, with activities focusing around STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Sessions this year include: Crystal Growing, Solve This! Technology Experiments, Fun With Math, and Young Architects. "TaG Jr." is a group of 3rd and 4th grade students, who will complete activities related to the earth and our environment. Sessions will include Recycling as Art, and Window Flower Gardens. All of the Elementary Talented & Gifted Program activities are held on select Tuesdays or Thursdays after school. Schedules and permission slips will be provided to the families of students who signed up.

**8th Grade Families Tackle the Escape Room:** The annual 8th Grade Family Math Night was held this fall, with students and their families coming together to enjoy math activities in a fun and festive atmosphere. The families were treated to dinner and desserts, before being placed into groups to tackle the "Escape Room." The groups worked to solve math clues, which would lead to their eventual "escape" from a designated classroom. The first families to successfully solve the puzzles were rewarded with freshly-baked pumpkin pies! All of the students and families had a great time putting their math skills to the test, and reminding themselves that math can indeed be fun!

