

New Administrator Impressed

Potsdam High School Principal Hopeful

BY DAN WILLIAMS
As a newcomer to the school and one of its hardest workers, Douglas W. Huntley, new Potsdam High School principal, is impressed with what he's seen and has high hopes for the future.
"I feel really good about the things that have been happening since I've been here," said Huntley, who joined the administration last July.
"The student involvement and school spirit is incredible. The kids are involved in many different areas."
Much of the increased spirit and involvement is because of programs initiated by Huntley. The school has had four assemblies so far this year, a pep rally, and many new clubs are being formed to attract students with various interests.
"Our assemblies are designed to enrich cultural awareness and provide educational opportunities for the students. While other schools are doing away with the assemblies because of negative student input

or behavior, we're increasing ours. The student behavior has been really good," said Huntley.
"I'm also impressed with the high maturity level of the students. They're friendly, open, easy to get along with, and enjoyable to work with."
But of course, everything is not rosy at Potsdam, according to Huntley. "There are some thorns — there is a certain, small percentage of students who have developed a disruptive pattern. They know who they are and they are being dealt with firmly."
Huntley says the method of discipline being used is responsibility and a no-nonsense approach. "We teach responsibility as a means of discipline. We're not punishing or intimidating. Instead, we hold them responsible for their actions and behavior. We get results."
The principal is impressed with the general atmosphere of the school. He says it is a relaxed, orderly atmosphere which "is conducive to teaching, learning, and

having fun."
Huntley said students are either in study halls or classes. When they are in the halls, they are armed with a pass, he said. "We feel it's in the best interest of the students to not have an open campus. We've also required each student to take at least six classes a day. We average seven and some students are taking eight, which we think is excellent for a nine-period school day," said Huntley.
Faculty plays large role
The Potsdam High faculty is a big reason why things operate so smoothly at the school, according to Huntley. He said, "The smoothness of the school day is a direct result of the faculty's experience. They basically take care of the daily operation. They put in a lot of time and hard work to make for a better school."
The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) has been active in many areas said Huntley. "All our open houses, alumni return day, and senior return day have been set up by the PTO and organized very effectively."
He points out that 52 percent of the students were represented by at least one parent at their last open house, a number he thinks is very high. "Usually, a 25-30 percent representation is expected at a high school open house. But, here, the parent interest is high, and that's good," said Huntley, a Colton native and a graduate of the Canton School District.
Huntley also pointed out that his transition into the Potsdam district has been aided greatly by Superintendent of Schools Kenneth Daniels and Assistant Superintendent Gary Snell. "The support from both Ken and Gary has been exceptional. The orientation was very smooth and they continue to help me in my transition."
Building Improvements Needed
Huntley praised the work done by the school's maintenance staff for their upkeep of the school grounds. He added that the school is in "dire" need of renovations and they expect to begin the changes in the future.
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more work on drug and alcohol awareness, the curriculum development needs further attention and a program for professional development of faculty is being looked into," said Huntley.
The administration also has plans to evaluate a need for athletic eligibility. The state has eligibility requirement for student/athletes, but Huntley would like to investigate whether Potsdam's could be stricter.
As a summary of his first half year at Potsdam, Huntley feels, "My view of Potsdam is that it's an excellent school striving to become better."



PUBLIC SERVICE — Inmates at the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility have donated their services on a host of community projects. They built this sign for the Norfolk Housing Authority's Riverview Apartments last year.

Morning Star Homes Celebrates 30 Years

This March, Morning Star Homes, Inc. will celebrate 30 years of serving the housing needs of North Country residents. In 1956, James and Margaret Sandburg started the business as a mobile home community. Since then, it has grown to become one of the largest manufactured housing retailers in the state.
According to David Sandburg, the firm's president, one of the keys to the company's success is its commitment to customer service and satisfaction. In 1984 a full time service manager was employed to coordinate customer service. This has greatly improved the efficiency of the service department, and helped the company respond more quickly to customer service requests.
In addition to expanding its selection of new homes, sectional homes and reconditioned used homes, Morning Star has recently expanded its parts and accessories department. Repair parts for older mobile homes, as well as the new models are carried in stock, or are readily available. Awnings, carpets, air conditioners and foundation skirting are also offered.
Morning Star Homes has recently announced plans to construct a manufactured housing community near Ogdensburg. This proposed development would have spaces for approximately 50 homes. While the exact location has not been disclosed, it is expected to be in the Town of Lisbon or in the City of Ogdensburg.
Manufactured homes have become more appealing to a greater cross section of Americans because of the lower initial investment, lower maintenance costs, lower heating costs and greater acceptance by government financing agencies, such as FHA, VA and HUD.
As the cost of conventional site-built homes has skyrocketed, fewer people are able to afford their own

home. The American dream of home ownership has become a nightmare for all but the most affluent. But the cost of a single section, factory-built home makes it an affordable and desirable alternative. With an average cost of less than \$20,000 the monthly payments compare very favorably with rent. In many cases they are even lower than apartment rent.
Many of the new designs have shingle roofs and standard residential siding. These, and other features, make the modern manufactured home more attractive and more compatible with conventional site-built homes. In fact, many factory-built homes look exactly like homes built on site.
Morning Star Homes is committed to making the dream of home ownership become a reality for North Country residents by keeping abreast of new financing plans, product developments and other changes effecting the industry.

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Rug Doctor Still Going Strong Here

John Gardner, "The Rug Doctor", has been in business for eight years as a one man operation. Gardner's Carpets is located at 700 Cedars, Ogdensburg. He now employs five men who operate out of two carpet vans and one cleaning van. Gardner specializes in professional installation of vinyls, carpets, inlays and other floor coverings.
The business has expanded enough to be direct from the carpet mills, which enables them to give the north country additional services. In the past two years, "The Rug Doctor" has gotten into ceramic work. "I've based the whole business on all of my men, doing the very best job that they can do," Gardner said. "We can say that we are truly proud of our work."
Gardner feels they are big enough to handle the larger contract jobs that most stores stay away from. However, their bread and butter comes from the residential customer.
"I've always believed in the theory, one must grow or the business will mildew," Gardner said. "This year we've added a second warehouse which makes the cutting and displaying process a lot easier."
Gardner has also expanded their professional cleaning company, known as "The Rug Doctor." Gardner bought the most powerful machine made. The truck mount cleans faster and generates its own heat and power. They still offer the Rug Doctor rental machine for the do-it-yourself. Gardner wants the home owner to keep their carpets and vinyls in the best condition possible. "Our job is to educate the public on the easiest cleaning methods," replied Gardner.
"1986 looks to me to be a very good year for the north country. I hope everyone has a good year," commented John Gardner.

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