



# HALDANE HORIZONS

*A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District*



## ***Letter from Dr. Benante***

Dear Haldane Community,

In this issue of Horizons, you will read about our efforts to update spaces throughout campus - recent renovations have been completed to our locker rooms and bathrooms in the Athletics wing of the Main Building.

The District has also maintained its commitment to fiscal responsibility, having taken advantage of lower interest rates to refinance our existing debt. The refinancing will save taxpayers \$545,000 over the next 10 years.

Please enjoy reading about The Connected Project: A Common Thread of Hope and Love. The winter months can increase feelings of isolation, especially in these unique times.

## **DECEMBER 2020 JANUARY 2021**

**The Connected Project**

**Kindergarten Registration**

**National Honor Society Inductees**

**Fall Season I Scholar Athletes**

**The View from Craigside Drive**

**Haldane Headlines**

**Debt Refinance Saves Taxpayers**

Yet, The Connected Project served as an important reminder of our connection to one another, and Haldane's role as a center of connection in our community.

Sincerely,  
Phil Benante, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## The Connected Project

### *Haldane Middle Schoolers string a common thread of hope and love*

This year's pandemic forced the Haldane community of students, faculty, and staff to change physically and shift psychologically. In November 2020, the PTA and the District invited all Haldane learners, faculty, and staff to participate in creating a concrete, artistic representation of unity within the community. The experience was conceived to elicit thoughts about individual and community connectedness. On December 10, the Haldane campus unveiled a white and blue art installation on the knoll called, The Connected Project: A Common Thread of Hope and Love.



Conceived and spearheaded by Dr. MaryAnn Seelke, Middle School Principal, and Rebecca Pearsall, Middle School PTA Vice President, The Connected Project was constructed by Mr. Gabe Horn's Discover Create and Innovate classes. The PTA provided supplies and the Haldane DCI students collected one-word unity and connectedness submissions from students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

*"Choose a word that represents connection and unity."*

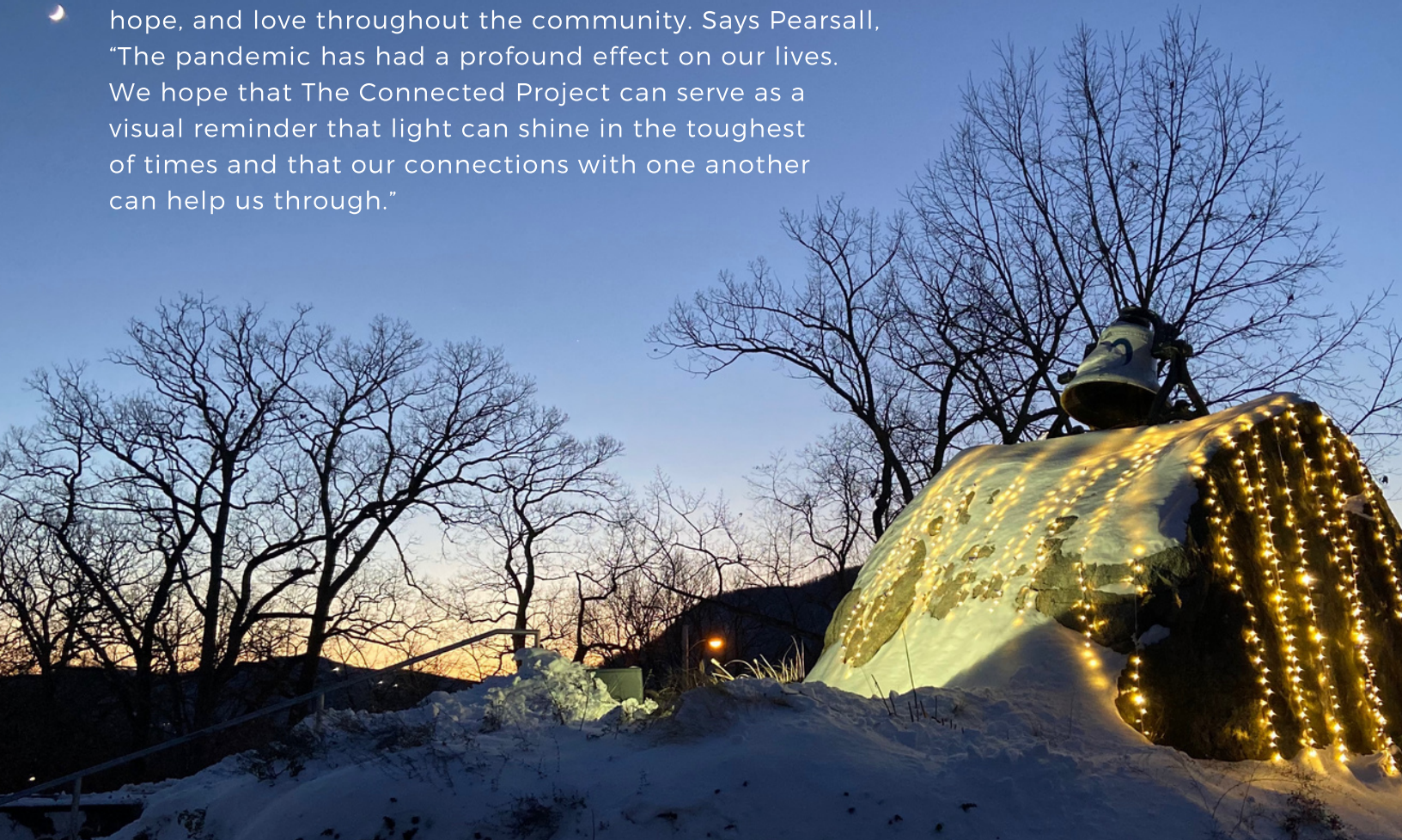


The students then worked through answers to logistical and mathematical questions like, "How many students, faculty, staff, and administrators make up the Haldane family? How many labels will we need to make? How long does the string of lights need to be to include everyone? Where is there a source of electricity around the knoll?"

Submissions were written on blue "unity" tags that were affixed to the string of lights. Kayena Pierre, a 7th grade student shared, "The white lights resemble hope and the blue resembles peace. We all have a part in keeping a little white and blue in our hearts." To her classmates Giovanni Siciliano and Carly Sussenbach, the lights symbolize hope in the dark times of COVID and hope that we can find a cure.



The Connected Project looked to help anchor students and staff during these tough times and provide a sense of unity, hope, and love throughout the community. Says Pearsall, "The pandemic has had a profound effect on our lives. We hope that The Connected Project can serve as a visual reminder that light can shine in the toughest of times and that our connections with one another can help us through."



## ***Kindergarten Registration: Class of 2034***

Haldane Elementary School is preparing to welcome new learners next year! Kindergarten registration details are now available on the [Haldane website](#), including how to schedule a registration appointment. This year, there will be a virtual Parent Orientation on February 1. To obtain the Zoom link please complete the [online registration form](#). During registration, teachers will provide an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and program, and answer parent questions. Details on the screening process will be provided later in the year. We look forward to meeting the families of the Haldane Class of 2034!



## National Honor Society Welcomes New Class

### *Haldane Juniors and Seniors recognized for academic achievement*

On January 21, the Haldane Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 41 new members. While not the traditional candlelight ceremony, the class of inductees were welcomed via Zoom by the newly installed officers: President - Doug Donaghy, Vice President - Ben Strol, Secretary - Sydney Warren, and Treasurer - Carlo Cofini. Each new member shared a quote highlighting one of the four NHS pillars: Character, Service, Leadership, and Scholarship.



Haldane students are invited to apply to the National Honor Society during Fall of their Junior or Senior year. Members must achieve and maintain a cumulative weighted GPA of 90 or higher, and must complete 20 hours of community service during each year of membership.

Congratulations to the new members and officers and thank you to advisors, Ms. Granese and Ms. Peparo.

<b><i>Ella Ashburn</i></b>	<b><i>Patrick DiNardo</i></b>	<b><i>Bianca Harmancin</i></b>	<b><i>April Ransom</i></b>
<b><i>Maya Beck</i></b>	<b><i>Kimberly Edge</i></b>	<b><i>Emily Jones</i></b>	<b><i>Joshua Reyes</i></b>
<b><i>Tim Ben-Adi</i></b>	<b><i>William Etta</i></b>	<b><i>Rose LaBarbera</i></b>	<b><i>Stephen Robinson</i></b>
<b><i>Hannah Benson</i></b>	<b><i>Kylie Falloon</i></b>	<b><i>Jaclyn Landolfi</i></b>	<b><i>Harrison Sassano</i></b>
<b><i>Blake Bolte</i></b>	<b><i>Eden Feinstein</i></b>	<b><i>Camille Maglio</i></b>	<b><i>Marisa Scanga</i></b>
<b><i>Katrine Buslovich</i></b>	<b><i>Kyle Frommer</i></b>	<b><i>Mazzie Maxwell</i></b>	<b><i>Sophia Scanga</i></b>
<b><i>Owen Carmicino</i></b>	<b><i>Sophia Giunti</i></b>	<b><i>Matthew McCoy</i></b>	<b><i>Marcel Schwartz</i></b>
<b><i>Madison Chiera</i></b>	<b><i>Ashlee Griffin</i></b>	<b><i>Elizabeth Nelson</i></b>	<b><i>Katie Shields</i></b>
<b><i>Shea DeCaro</i></b>	<b><i>Dylan Gunther</i></b>	<b><i>Jesse Osterfeld</i></b>	<b><i>Meghan Tomann</i></b>
<b><i>Mia DiLello</i></b>	<b><i>Stefano Hammond</i></b>	<b><i>Luke Parrella</i></b>	<b><i>Robert Viggiano</i></b>
			<b><i>Damian Vladimiroff</i></b>



### FALL SEASON I SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS

Congratulations to this year's Fall Scholar-Athlete teams.

All five Haldane teams that competed during

Fall Season I achieved this recognition.

In order to qualify, 75 percent of a team's members must achieve a GPA of 90 or better during the season.

**GIRLS' TENNIS**

**GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY**

**BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY**

**GIRLS' SOCCER**

**BOYS' SOCCER**



## The View from Craigside Drive

*These Haldane Middle School students were recognized by their teachers for exhibiting responsibility during the TRUE Blue Blizzard of Responsibility.*



**Una Lentz**  
6th Grade

***What does responsibility mean to you?***

*I think responsibility means completing your tasks, chores, or acts without having people to tell you to do them.*

***What's the most responsible thing you've done this year?***

*I would say turning in my school assignments and doing all my homework.*

***What was your favorite toy when you were a little kid?***

*I had a bear stuffed animal when I was little. I would bring it everywhere!*



**Ember Mahoney**  
7th Grade

***What does responsibility mean to you?***

Helping keep others safe, helping friends get through hard times, and the most important one to me is helping my mom.

***What's the most responsible thing you've done this year?***

I made dinner for my mom when she had to work late. My brother and I walked to Foodtown and picked up all the ingredients, and made lemon chicken for dinner so she didn't have to make anything.

***What was your favorite toy when you were a little kid?***

I liked stuffed animals a lot.



**Scotia Hartford**  
8th Grade

***What does responsibility mean to you?***

Responsibility means that you take care of your obligations and also own up to your actions. Being a leader and taking initiative of your actions and tasks shows responsibility.

***What's the most responsible thing you've done this year?***

Take care of my puppy. Even though she's a lot to handle, it takes a burden off of my parents and I can keep her safe. Taking care of my puppy shows how much I care for my loved ones.

***What was your favorite toy when you were a little kid?***

A little dog stuffed animal that I got from a close friend when I was first born.

## Haldane Headlines

Ten-Year Tax Savings  
for Philipstown

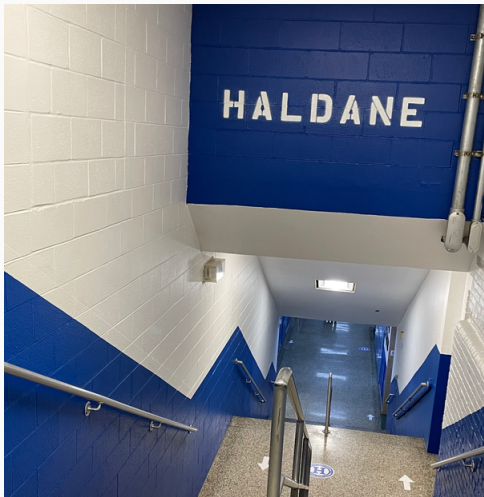
**\$545,057**

### ***District Refinances Debt to Save Taxpayer Dollars***

At the close of 2020, the Haldane Central School District refinanced debt that will result in a significant taxpayer savings over the next ten years.

### ***Campus Improvements***

Various spaces around the Haldane campus have recently gotten a facelift, including new Athletic wing bathroom floors, locker room painting, and even a thorough cleaning for James H. Haldane.



### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

*Jen Daly, President*

*John Hedlund, Vice President*

*Dr. Peggy Clements, Trustee*

*Margaret Parr, Trustee*

*Sean McNall, Trustee*

### **ADMINISTRATION**

*Philip Benante, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools*

*Christine Jamin, Elementary School Principal*

*MaryAnn Seelke, Ed. D., Middle School Principal*

*Julia Sniffen, High School Principal*

*Tara Rounds, Director of Pupil Personnel Services*

*Anne Dinio, Business Manager*

*Tim Walsh, Director of Facilities*

*Eric Romanino, Interim Athletic Director and Dean of Students*