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.

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.

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

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.

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!

Una Lentz
6th 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.

Ember Mahoney
7th 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.

Scotia Hartford
8th Grade
Haldane Headlines

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.

Ten-Year Tax Savings for Philipstown

$545,057

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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