



# HALDANE HORIZONS

*A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District*



## *Letter from Dr. Benante*

Dear Haldane Community,

This month's issue of Haldane Horizons features Haldane High School's recent high ranking in Hudson Valley Magazine's annual issue of top high schools in our area. We are all so proud of our faculty and staff who work tirelessly to support our students. Our high school's recent notoriety is reflective of our entire school community's shared value for academic excellence.

I am afraid the near constant snow delayed our primary students' celebration of their 100th day of school, yet they still made the in-person celebration happen once we returned. I think you will appreciate the photos included in this issue.

Lastly, I want to shine a spotlight on the literary connection that our students made during Black History Month.

## FEBRUARY 2021

**Haldane High School Top in Hudson Valley**

**Black History Month**

**100 Cans of Kindness**

**The View from Craigside Drive**

**Opinions Matter**

**Basketball Fans Go Live**

**100 Days Smarter**

It's these types of connections, both in our classrooms and within our surrounding community, that help to ensure that our children understand and appreciate the inherent diversity within their communities.

Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Phil Benante, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

## Haldane High School Ranked #2 in Hudson Valley

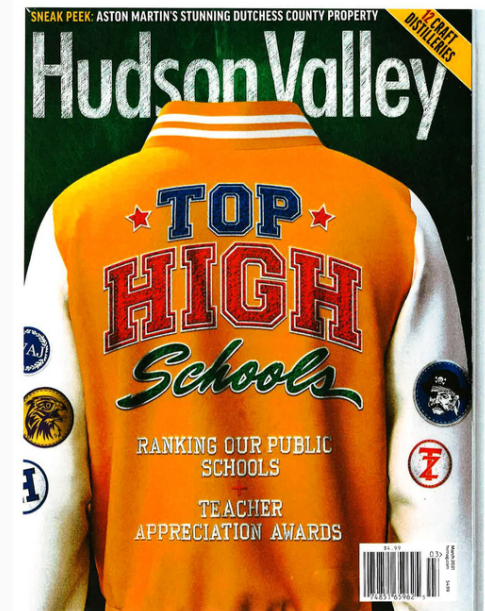
**Hudson Valley Magazine recognizes Haldane High School, plus two Haldane Elementary School teachers**

The March 2021 issue of Hudson Valley Magazine, brings exciting accolades for the Haldane Central School District. Ranked second in the Hudson Valley, Haldane High School outperformed 64 area high schools.

Using data from the New York State Department of Education and *U.S. News & World Report*, magazine analysts evaluated a series of metrics including average class size, student-to-teacher ratio, college readiness, SAT scores, and more. The full public high school rankings are available on the [Haldane website](#).

Additionally, two Haldane Elementary School faculty members received Teacher Appreciation Awards through nominations from Haldane families.

**Congratulations to Josiah Peparo and Kelly Duane-Kilpert** who were recognized for their connections with and commitments to students while navigating the unique aspects of this school year.



### Kindergarten & 2nd Grade, Special Education

**KELLY DUANE-KILPERT**

Haldane Elementary School  
Haldane Central School District  
Years teaching: 21

#### **Nomination:**

Mrs. Kilpert was instrumental in keeping my grandson focused and engaged while being homeschooled during the spring COVID lockdown. She took extra time to play games with him in addition to schoolwork. She actually met with him once a week during the entire summer! —Grandparent of a student

#### **On Teaching During the Pandemic:**

The best part has been the wonderful opportunity to strengthen the home/school connection with families. Parents and teachers have been able to celebrate student successes in real-time and create a truly collaborative learning environment. ...My students have been little heroes and their success was my reward. I'm so fortunate to have a 'village' of amazing students, families, and educators at Haldane!

### **Josiah Peparo**

Haldane Elementary School  
Haldane Central School District  
Years teaching: 20

#### **Nomination:**

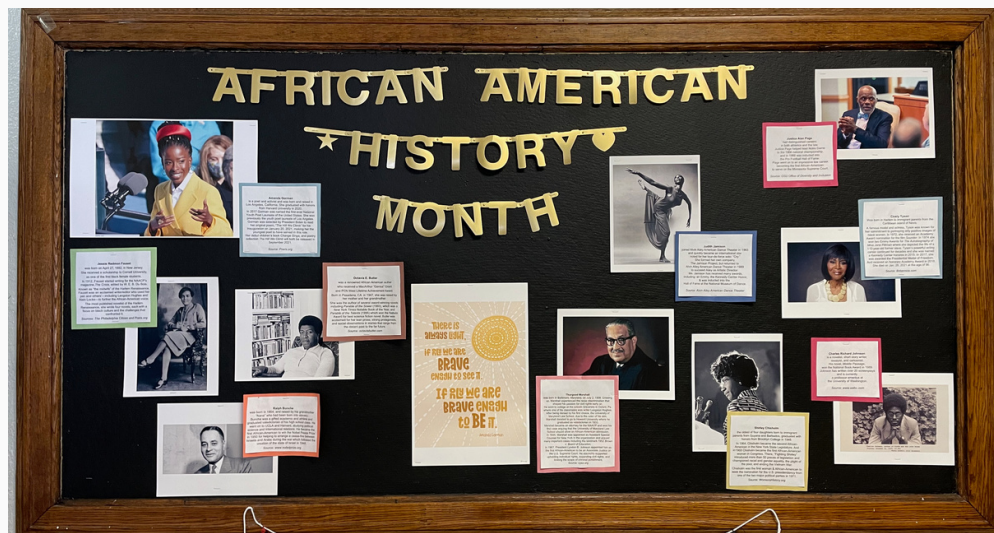
Mr. Peparo goes above and beyond expectations to make each child feel special and to create an interesting and thought-provoking school environment!

—Grandparent of a student



## *Haldane Explores Black Artists, Performers, STEAM Inventors*

In celebration of Black History Month, elementary classes are reading children's books about black artists, including singers, dancers, painters, and musicians who have made beautiful contributions to our world. At the end of the month the students shared their artist with the school community. Many classes are also participating in Zooms with a neighboring school to learn about the STEAM innovators they are exploring in their classes.

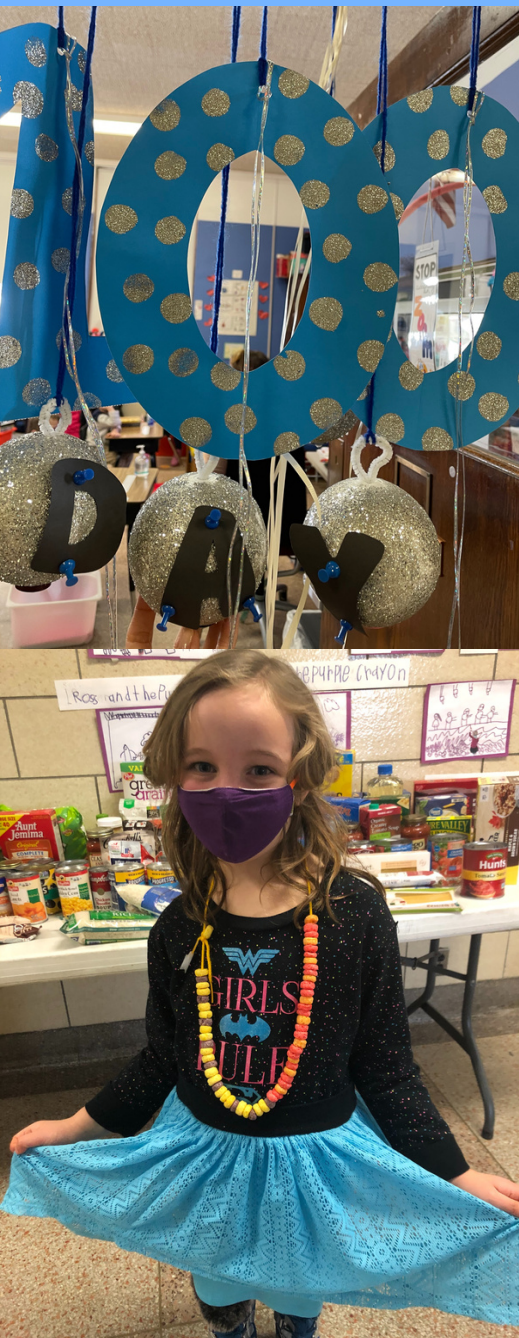


Haldane Elementary School students collaborated with Middle School DCI to collect food for the "100 Cans of Kindness" challenge. While our kindergartners practiced their growing counting skills, elementary and middle school students explored the value of kindness in celebration of the 100th day of school. All donations will go to the Philipstown Food Pantry.

## *100 Cans of Kindness*







## ***The View from Craigside Drive***

We asked our kindergartners some hard-hitting questions about the importance of kindness, donating, and the value of 100.

Here's what they had to say:

### ***Why is it important to be kind?***

"It makes people feel good." - Ally

"Because no one wants to play with you if you're not kind." - Max

"So we don't get in trouble." - Stefano

"It's super important to love each other. If you didn't love each other that would be bad."  
- Marlow

### ***What food did you donate to the Pantry?***

"I don't remember, but I hope someone can make pizza out of the ingredients." - Parker

"I brought in lots of kinds of macaroni and cheese and allergy food for allergy people." - Audrey

### ***What do you wish you had 100 of?***

"I wish I had 100 money." - Donnie

"100 coins because I want to buy a new Mario game."  
- Max

"100 fairies." - Ally

"\$100 so that I can give it to people." - Riley

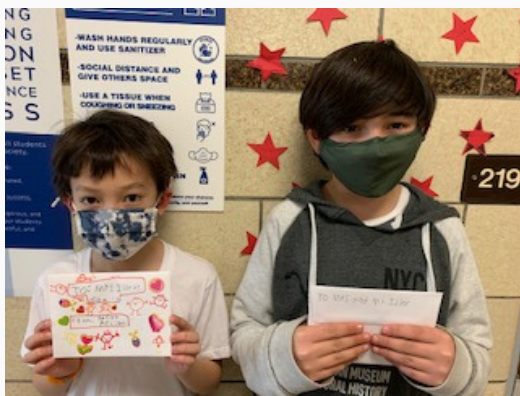
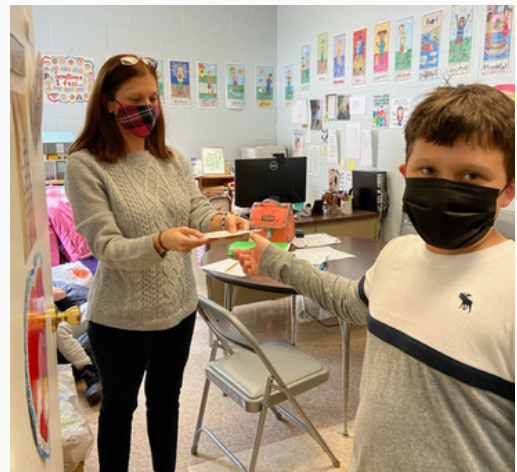
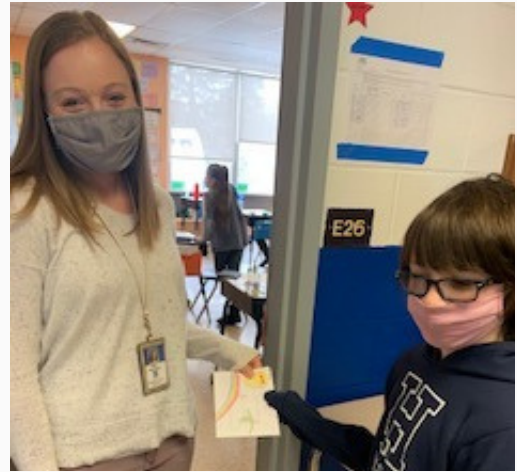
"I wish I had 100 unicorns because they can do magic!"  
- Parker

## Opinions Matter

### *5th graders touch Haldane hearts with opinion writing to their former faves*

In a recent a unit on opinion writing. Haldane 5th graders were asked to form big bold opinions and support them with reasons and evidence. They then spun those skills into letter and essay writing about former Haldane teachers who impacted their lives.

During Random Acts of Kindness Week, the last week of February, students delivered their letters to the teachers. Many students expressed how difficult it was to choose just one teacher - an incredible testament to our Haldane's faculty!



### *First grader, Charlie Crothers, on Love and Hate*



**In my opinion Love is better than hate. One reason is because Love is the best and hate is the worst.**

**The second reason is you can get hurt by hate and healed by Love.**

**The third reason is the saying, What You Put Out In the World Always Comes Back to You.**

**Finally now you know why Love is better than hate.**



## Blue Devil Basketball Fans Go Live

*LocalLive streaming from the Haldane gym brings the game to spectators*

Through LocalLive, Haldane girls' and boys' basketball games are now being live streamed from the Haldane gym. The new partnership couldn't have come at a better time, amid a season of no in-person fans. Haldane staff worked quickly to have the equipment and infrastructure up and running in time for the first home game. On February 12, 2021, Haldane Boys' Varsity took on Beacon in the second annual Battle of the Tunnel. The Blue Devils came out on top, 70 to 55, reclaiming the trophy that Beacon took home in 2020.

Both the Boys' and Girls' Varsity teams also held senior celebrations for John Bradley, Christian Pezzullo, Daniel Santos, Darrin Santos, Vincenzo Scanga, Essie Florke, and Sydney Warren.



**BLUE DEVILS  
BASKETBALL  
LIVE**

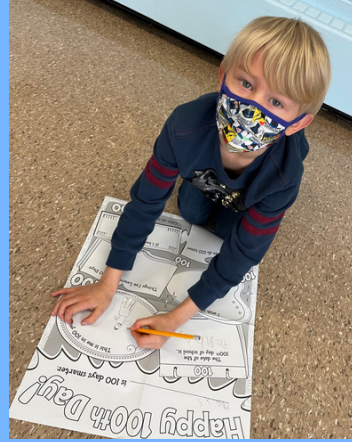
*LocalLive Streaming*





## 100 Days Smarter

*First graders counting by 10s and proudly displaying their 100 Days Smarter hats with masked smiles.*



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