



# HALDANE HORIZONS

*A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District*



## ***Message from Dr. Benante***

Dear Haldane Community,

The winter months and start of the new year are a time of celebration in our community. While we have had to adapt to unique constraints - smaller gatherings, less travel, and some last-minute cancellations - our schools have done their part to celebrate our students' growth and to bring us together at this important time of the year.

As we enter the New Year we remain focused on fostering the close connections between our schools and community that make Haldane a special learning community. Please enjoy this month's issue of Haldane Horizons - full of stories and images from our campus over the past two months.

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

## **DECEMBER 2021 JANUARY 2022**

**Third Grade Economics**

**Art Club Touts a Hike**

**Singing Send-Off**

**College-Bound 4th Grader**

**Cinderella Marionettes**

**Sense and Sensibility Success**

**Haldane Authors Abound**

**Winter Concerts**

**Student EMT Course at Haldane**

**Saying Goodbye to Tony**

**BOCES Student of Distinction**

## Third Grade Economics

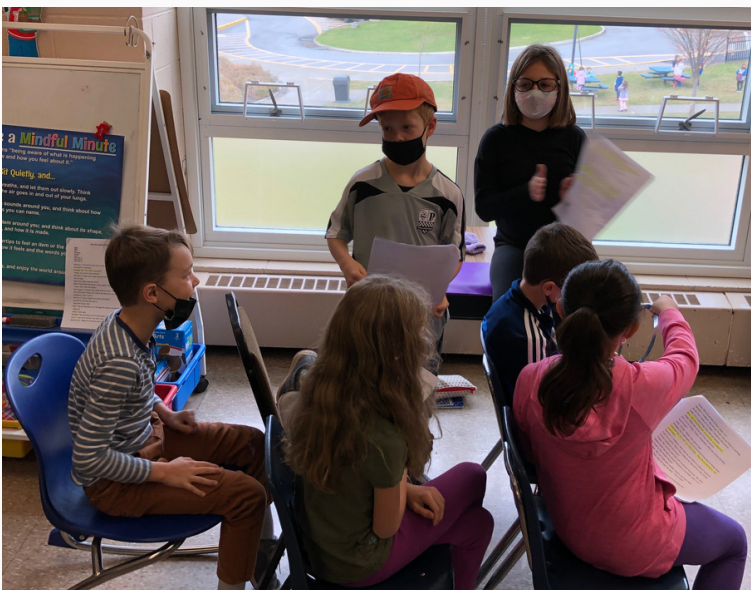
### *Haldane third graders act out tough concepts in money matters*

Our social studies unit focused on an in-depth study of the United States of America and its culture, government, and economics.

Divided into three groups, the students performed skits to display tough economic concepts that play roles in our daily third grade activities. The titles were Scarcity and Abundance, Needs and Wants, and Natural Resources. The skits included big ideas like grocery stores running out of orange juice, and families working on a budget to balance needs versus birthday splurges.

The children assigned themselves the roles, studied their lines, made props, and performed for their classmates over a four-day period.

These skits were a fun way to make tough economic concepts more understandable and memorable for the children. They still speak of them today!





## Art Club Touts a Hike

*Led by senior Stephen Robinson, Haldane's Art Club drew crowds to First Day Hike*

Haldane senior Stephen Robinson, Student Liaison for the Little Stony Point Citizens' Association, joined the talents of the Haldane Art Club with the Little Stony Point's First Day Hike event.

First Day Hikes took place all around New York State and gave people the opportunity to kick off the new year in nature. Inspired by the beauty of Little Stony Point and the Hudson River, Haldane artists used a variety of drawing, painting, and digital art materials to create original works to be featured in the posters.

The no-cost event took place on January 1 with music, fireside warmth, and short naturalist-led hikes around Little Stony Point and the Cornish Estate. The Art Club, lead by Haldane teacher, Katie Boonshoft, really enjoyed this collaboration and hopes to do more community projects like this in the future.

**Featured artists: Lorelai Luoma, Gabby Perilli, Izona Tavares, Ella Mekeel, Ashley Sousa, and Kira Drury**



## FIRST DAY HIKE



**HIKES  
COMMENCE  
at 11:30 am**

**NO FEE event**

**FREE snacks,  
coffee &  
hot cocoa**

**LEASHED PETS  
allowed**

**EASY to  
MODERATE  
terrain**

**ALL AGES  
welcome**

**DRESS warmly  
& wear proper  
trail footwear**

**RING IN THE NEW YEAR** with beautiful scenery and fresh air of the Hudson Highlands down at the Hudson River's shoreline!! Music, fireside warmth, short naturalist-led hikes around LITTLE STONY POINT (about 1 mile), or a hike to nearby historic CORNISH ESTATE (3 miles round-trip).

**JANUARY 1st - 11am**

**Little Stony Point Volunteer Center  
3011 NY-9D, Cold Spring, NY 10516**

**LSPCA - [www.littlestonypoint.org](http://www.littlestonypoint.org)**

**NYS Parks - <https://parks.ny.gov/events/first-day-hikes.aspx>**

**Pre-registration is requested, not required, here:  
<https://fb.me/e/228SbZxDP>.**

Conscientious social distancing and mask-wearing, where appropriate, recommended.



## Singing Send-Off

Fourth and fifth grade choir sent families off to holiday recess with an outdoor performance.



## College-Bound Fourth Grader

Congratulations to Zade Matthews, winner of a college scholarship at a SUNY or CUNY school given by The New York State Vaccinate, Educate, and Graduate program. Designed to encourage COVID vaccinations, the forward-looking program awards full tuition, room, books, and board to elementary students throughout the State. We can't wait to see where Zade ends up after his time at Haldane.

Zade's big win was also featured in [The Highland's Current](#).

**Way to go, Zade!**



## Cinderella Marionettes

Tanglewood Marionettes shared their unique twist on Cinderella in a series of performances for Haldane elementary students. Remote students joined the fun via Zoom.





## Sense and Sensibility Success

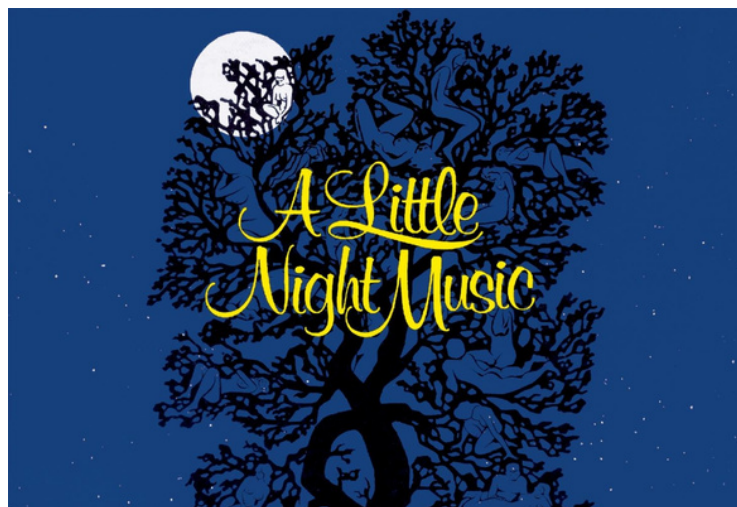
***Contributed by Percy Parker, Haldane sophomore. Percy played the shared role of Colonel Brandon in Haldane's production of Sense and Sensibility.***

To see a Haldane Drama production has, since as long as I can remember, been a magical experience. To be an audience member and see these high schoolers bring a story to life is just one of many charms of living in the Hudson Valley. This December, a new group of high schoolers, as well as many old faces, came together for a production of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. Unlike last year's Greek Trilogy, the whole cast was together, masked in the small gym.

As one of the actors, I can say that it was truly a fantastical thing to be able to go to rehearsal each evening and vanish into such a magical world that the wonderful Jane Austen creates in her novels, and that the equally wonderful Kate Hamil adapts for the stage. Standing in front of an audience of our own Haldane community members, our beloved friends and family, was truly one of the best experiences of my life in high school thus far. Yet another fabulous show directed by the amazing Ms. Mech, and a total success! ***Be sure to catch Haldane Drama's next production of Sondheim's A Little Night Music, up and coming this March!***



**Coming Soon:**  
**Haldane Drama's Spring Musical**  
**March 18 - 20, 2022**



## *Haldane Authors Abound*

### *Master Writing Workshop and Poetry Out Loud*

The advisors of the Literary Magazine sent three Haldane students to the BOCES Master Writing Workshop on Tuesday, December 7.

Juniors Sam Bates and Chase Coulson, as well as sophomore Percy Parker were asked to attend. The one-day virtual workshop was designed for young, talented writers to have some of their work read and edited by professional writers. All three students said they not only enjoyed the workshop but gathered a lot of good insights into their own writing styles.

They also enjoyed the keynote speaker, an Irish Science Fiction writer, Dave Rudden. Student participation was funded by Haldane. We look forward to having more students attend the Young Authors Conference in May with the support of the Haldane School Foundation.

This year the Poetry Out Loud Competition took place on Tuesday, January 11.

Three Haldane High School students participated: Junior Sam Bates and sophomores Camilla McDaniel and Percy Parker. The students chose poetry from the pre-approved anthology from Poetry Out Loud. All three students did an outstanding job in their inflection and emotion when reciting their poems. Their deliveries were impressive and professional.

Members of the English Department and Principal Sniffen judged the competition. During this difficult time we are very proud of our students for participating and of their wonderful recitations!



**Pictured: Camilla McDaniel, Percy Parker, and Sam Bates**



## Winter Concerts

This year's Winter Concert was delivered online to parents, friends, and the community, with the support of the Haldane Arts Alliance and the Haldane School Foundation. Featuring the Middle School Chorus, High School Chorus, Blue Notes, and Blues Devils, the hour-long performance provides a diverse sampling of the breadth of musical talent at Haldane. Jessica Stein, Instrumental Director, and Will Rich, Choral Director, lead the music program at Haldane, with special interest groups the Blue Notes, directed by Martha Mechalakos, and the Blues Devils directed by Christian Hoolan spending countless hours rehearsing after school.

### [Watch Haldane's Winter Concert](#)



## Student EMT Course at Haldane

Haldane High School students recently began an on-campus EMT course offered through a partnership between the Philipstown Ambulance Corps and Dutchess Community College (DCC). Students who successfully complete the 200-hour training course will graduate as Certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and receive nine credits at DCC. Those who go on to volunteer with a local agency may receive tuition reimbursement from New York State.





# FEBRUARY 2022

**MON-FRI  
7-11**

Kindergarten  
Registration

**MON-FRI  
7-11**

8th Grade  
Guidance  
Meetings

**MON-TUE  
21-22**

Winter  
Recess  
No School





## Saying Goodbye to Tony

Tony Stronconi, Head Groundskeeper, retired after many years of service at Haldane. An active philanthropist, Tony was regularly involved in events for Veterans, breast cancer awareness, and underprivileged children, including his annual role as Santa Claus.

***Tony, you will be missed!***



## BOCES Student of Distinction

Congrats to Haldane senior, Kylie Falloon, named BOCES Student of Distinction for success in the Veterinary Science Program. [Watch video.](#)



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

***Jen Daly, President***  
***Sean McNall, Vice President***  
***Dr. Peggy Clements, Trustee***  
***John Hedlund, Trustee***  
***Maggie Valentine, 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***  
***Josh Elder, Director of Curriculum and Human Resources***  
***Tim Walsh, Director of Facilities***  
***Dan Cowan, Athletic Director and Dean of Students***  
***Anne Dinio, Business Manager***