

Saugerties CSD  
Superintendent Search

The Saugerties Board of Education is currently searching for qualified educators to apply for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

Ulster BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Charles Khoury is leading the Superintendent Search process. Dr. Khoury has met with various constituents, including representatives from several employee groups, as well as members of the parent teacher associations and the community at large. Saugerties Board of Education President Robert Thomann said that requesting assistance from Ulster BOCES just made sense. "The Board owes it to the community to conduct a comprehensive search," he explained. "Since Board members are essentially community volunteers, many of whom have other jobs, they don't necessarily have the time or expertise to conduct the type of comprehensive search that this position deserves. It is for that reason we went to Ulster BOCES to conduct the search. They are experienced and highly professional in this field."

Dr. Khoury will consider feedback from a community forum, as well as the different roundtables and community surveys that were conducted over the last few months as he advises the Board about the relative strengths of each applicant. The Board will conduct interviews and select finalists.

The Board hopes to make a public announcement regarding its selection of the new Superintendent in March, with an anticipated starting date of July 1, 2019.

Saugerties  
Central School District

WINTER 2019



Saugerties Jr. High School  
Recognizes Heroes and  
Essay Winners During  
Veterans Day Assembly

STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 5

From the Interim Superintendent

Dear Saugerties Community Members,

Our school district is having a great year, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of the wonderful things that are happening in our schools.

Saugerties was awarded a second Expanded Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) grant in December. The grant will allow us to open two additional Pre-K classrooms in January 2019. Once they are added, we will have a total of five classrooms serving 80 four-year-old students.



Saugerties SCD PreK students

We are hoping to add a sixth Pre-K class in September 2019, which will allow us to serve an additional 16 students. Our Pre-K program has been a huge success, and we are delighted to be able to make the program available to additional children.

The District also received approval for our Smart Schools Bond Act projects, which will allow us to modernize and expand our network infrastructure, expand our wireless capacity for District devices, and upgrade and modernize our security.

Upgrades to security include adding digital surveillance cameras to both the interior and exterior of each building, and increasing the number of exterior electronic door swipe devices, which will integrate with our entry control system. The installation of a VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) Phone System is also included. These phones will be placed in classrooms and offices as well as at building access points.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Saugerties Central School District

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

Cahill Sensory Path .....	2
Cahill Collages .....	2
First Day of School at Cahill .....	2
Fire Prevention at Grant D. Morse .....	3
Morse Mustang Bowl .....	3
Morse's Green Team.....	3
National American Teddy Bear Day.....	4
Veterans, Essay Winners Celebrated at Junior High School .....	5
High School Planet Walk .....	5
Don't Be a Monster.....	5
Mt. Marion Color Run .....	6
"Day of the Dead" Festival at Mt. Marion .....	6
Mystery Reader Program at Mt. Marion .....	6
Riccardi Science Enrichment.....	7
Riccardi Students Create MasterPEACE .....	7
Riccardi Students Hold Council Elections, Learn Civics Lessons.....	7
Digitally Distracted: Presentation on Impact of Social Media .....	8
National School Lunch Week .....	8
Football Standouts.....	8





## Cahill Elementary: Sensory Path Helps Step Up Learning

**H**ave you ever heard of a sensory path? It's something that many schools are installing to help students get focused. Cahill Elementary School recently unveiled a new sensory path in the hallway outside the front office.

In November, the Cahill student body got a chance to explore this new school tool, which is designed to help students relax. Students follow a path of floor decals that have them jumping, hopping, and raising their knees up high. Along the path are activity stops where students follow simple directions that include doing wall pushes, tracing a figure eight, practicing some deep breathing, and drinking water from the school's fountain.

"Cahill's Shared Decision-Making Committee decided that the 'Pathway to Learning' would be an ideal project for this school year," explained Cahill Principal Dawn Scannapieco. "In conjunction with Cahill's PTA, this idea was made financially possible."

Special Education teacher Shawna Bruno, who spearheaded the project, said that the path will hopefully help students who feel overwhelmed or anxious in class. "The path allows students a 'movement break,' which can help them calm down and become more mindful," she explained. "It also helps to refocus students, keep them on task, and regulate emotions."

Bruno added that the path isn't just for students—it can also be helpful for adults who need a break from work. "Do you ever just need to walk away from behind your computer to get your thoughts in order? Well, that's what the path is for," she said.

Although the path is a temporary installation, Bruno is hoping it will be replaced with a permanent version in the near future. To make it permanent, the decals on the floor would need to be covered with a commercial wax to help protect and preserve them.



## Learning by Creating, Designing, and Exploring at Cahill

**T**he internet is a great tool that can help students research a wide variety of subjects at lightning speed. But sometimes it's better to slow things down and encourage students to take time to immerse themselves in a project.

That's what Cahill students in Susan McManigal's Grade 4 class did when they were asked to create a collage that showed the history of New York State. Students were encouraged to clip brochures, magazines, and newspapers. They also needed to demonstrate an understanding of the State's geography, natural resources, and historical places.

McManigal noted that every year the students' projects get more elaborate. "I think students really enjoy showing what they've learned in a project like this," she said.



## First Day of School

**T**he first day of school usually comes with some moans and groans but overall, Saugerties students braved this annual rite of passage with lots of smiles and only a few tears. Cahill students loved being reunited with friends and getting settled into their new classrooms. They were excited to put their best foot forward and kick off another awesome year!





## Fire Prevention Week at Morse

In recognition of National Fire Prevention Week, students throughout the Saugerties Central School District attended different fire safety assemblies. On October 3, Grant D. Morse students were introduced to the different sights and sounds associated with firefighting. Students also watched a simulated rescue from a second story window. Younger students learned how to navigate through a smoke house, while older students received important fire safety lessons. A special thank-you goes to the Centerville Fire District for sharing their time and knowledge with us.



## School Spirit Amped at Morse Mustang Bowl

The Patriots overpowered the Mustangs during Grant D. Morse's Mustang Bowl, a touch-football extravaganza. Each team was comprised of students in Grades 5 and 6 who vied to score the most touchdowns. The Patriots won 34-7 this year, but if school spirit had anything to do with the scoreboard, it was a win-win for both teams. This annual event is meant to rally Saugerties students and encourage them to participate in different ways. Grade 3 students held signs and cheered for their favorite team, Grade 4 students played in the band, and High School technology students brought an entourage of robots to deliver the game ball. Even though Mother Nature threatened to wash out the event, everyone dug in to see the game through. Thank you to all those who helped make this event a success, including several community sponsors. Bragging rights now belong to the Patriots until the two teams meet again next year.



## Grant D. Morse's Green Team GROWS



Last May, Grant D. Morse Elementary School students started planting seeds in the school's garden. For the remainder of the school year, the garden provided students with the opportunity to learn about growing and cultivating crops, soil science, pollinators, and organic fertilizers. In September, even though the students had grown, matured, and progressed to the next grade level, they were still able to reap the rewards of their efforts. On September 26, the entire school celebrated their yield during the 2nd Annual Harvest Day Parade. This is a day when classroom representatives offer examples of their produce and display them on the Giving Table. The Grant D. Morse PTA Green Team Committee, which sponsors this school-wide project, hopes that it will foster environmental stewardship and inspire future gardeners.





## Elementary Schools Celebrate National American Teddy Bear Day

The cuteness meter was through the roof at all four Saugerties Elementary Schools when students “pawsed” to honor National American Teddy Bear Day on November 14. Students had the opportunity to invite a fuzzy-wuzzy guest to school as part of this “bear-y” special day. Students also practiced counting and completed word searches on teddy bear worksheets, and heard some of the “bear” facts on teddy bears. Teachers also read the “bear” essentials in reading materials, such as *Winnie the Pooh*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *A Bear Called Paddington*. Every student who brought in a teddy bear or stuffed animal, or colored a teddy bear coloring sheet, received a special “bear” snack. There were no “bear” bones about it— it was a grrr-eat day.





## Saugerties Jr. High School Recognizes Heroes and Essay Winners During Veterans Day Assembly

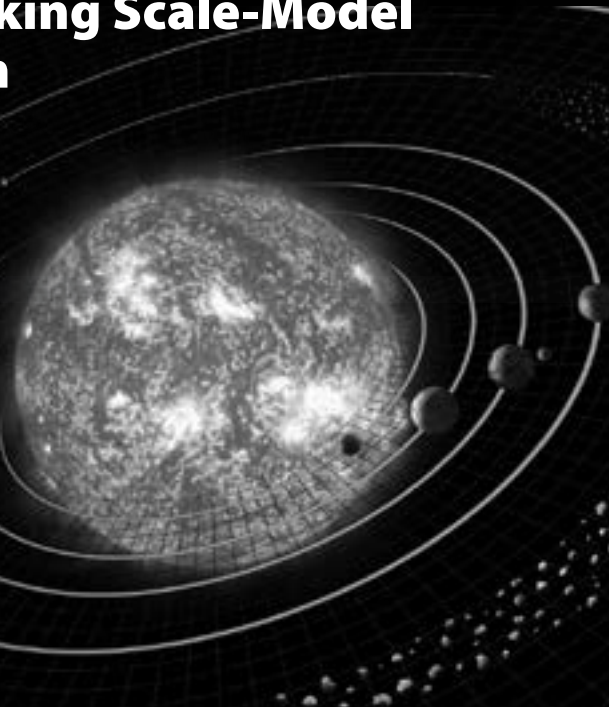
Saugerties Jr. High School students celebrated Veterans Day with an assembly honoring military veterans and their families on November 2. The inspirational program included the presentation of colors, patriotic music, an educational video on the history of Veterans Day, and the announcement of two essay winners, Jahmelia James and Jenavieve Bass.

Veterans who were related to students and faculty were in attendance for the event and were asked to share a few stories about their time served. At the conclusion of the assembly, students gave a rousing round of applause. The District expresses its thanks and gratitude to all who have served our country!



## Planet Walk: A Walking Scale-Model of the Solar System

To help Earth Science students in Grades 9-11 get an accurate perception of the solar system, students in Ara Krom's class were invited to walk the planets in miniature scale. The Planet Walk is designed to help students understand the scope and vastness of our celestial neighborhood. During this lab, the students learned about rotation, revolution, the distance between planets, and planet temperatures. They also calculated the scaled distances between the planets so that one human step equaled about 25 million kilometers. For many of the participants, this planet walk was an out-of-this-world experience!



## Anti-Bullying Assembly: Don't Be a Monster

Saugerties Jr. High School students were treated to a unique anti-bullying Assembly on October 30. The program, called "Don't be a Monster," was brought to Saugerties compliments of Headless Horseman Hayride and Haunted Houses. The presentation was part of the District's ongoing effort to spread the anti-bullying message and promote diversity and acceptance among students.





## If Life Hands You Color – Run With It!

*Mt. Marion Color Run*



What do paint-splattered shirts, crazy obstacles, and tasty treats have in common? They were all part of a PTA-sponsored fundraising event called the Color Run, held at Mt. Marion this past November. The fun event got the minds, bodies, and spirits off to the races. The course included a balance beam, tire run, maze, and belly crawl. Both the Color Run and the Black Light Run (held later in the evening) helped raise more than \$7,000 for the school.

## Mt. Marion Students Celebrate Day of the Dead

This fall, Grade 3 and 4 students in Sarah Yonnetti's class at Mt. Marion Elementary School learned about a Mexican festival celebrated from October 31 to November 2 called the Day of the Dead. During this festival, families and communities gather for vigils and parties in honor of those they've lost. It's not like Halloween where children dress up in scary outfits, but instead they pay tribute to those who have died. It's a joyful time to remember the life of the departed. Students learned the importance of different Day of the Dead symbols such as marigolds, sugar skull cookies, and Pan de Muertos (a special bread-like pastry).



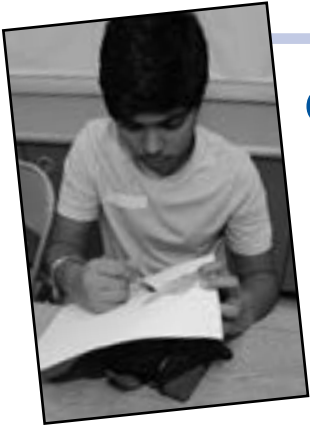
## Mt. Marion's Mystery Reader Revealed

The annual Mystery Reader Program at Mt. Marion Elementary School is a student favorite. Parents, grandparents, and friends of school families are invited to the school several times a year to share a book with the children. Students in Margaret Mullen's and Valerie Raleigh's Grade 3 classes are given clues for several days leading up to the reader's visit to see if they can figure out who the special guest might be.

On October 4, it turned out to be none other than Village of Saugerties Mayor Bill Murphy. Mayor Murphy gave a spirited reading of *The Incredible Book Eating Boy* by Oliver Jeffers. Afterwards, the class enjoyed asking him questions about his job as a mayor.







## CSI for Kids: Science Enrichment Program

This fall, the Riccardi Elementary School PTA organized an after-school enrichment program designed to spark interest in the sciences. The program was taught by instructors of Mad Science Group, Inc., a business

that has served thousands of children in our area and offers unique hands-on science learning.

Over a four-week period, registered participants investigated the science of forensics. Students learned about the different steps of the scientific method, spy tools, and why it's so important to preserve evidence. During one session, students learned about visible and near-invisible imprints such as tire tracks, shoe prints, and fingerprints. By the looks of it, they seemed well on their way to becoming crime scene investigators!



## Riccardi Students Create a

## "MasterPEACE"

Riccardi Elementary School students celebrated the International Day of Peace on September 21 by creating a giant sign—a human peace sign. The students were helping to raise awareness of the importance of global peace. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981, the day is designed to commemorate and to strengthen the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.



## Win or Lose, Riccardi Students Learn from Running for Student Council

Students at Riccardi Elementary School recently learned about civics through their own student government elections. Students running for Student Council positions had to create signs, practice public speaking, and campaign for their spots, while the rest of the student body had to keep notes and vote not for who they knew, but rather for the person

who would best represent their school.

A lot can be learned from running for Student Council, whether students win their elections or not. Candidates quickly realize that they can't run on the promise of offering free ice cream in the cafeteria (because who is going to pay for all that ice cream?) but they do have a voice in how to solve student-

centered problems.

Running for Student Council also allows students to reflect on their own strengths and weaknesses and learn how to empathize with those who may not agree with them.

Congratulations to all of our student candidates on a well-run election!





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**From the Interim Superintendent**

They will be integrated with our emergency communication systems to improve student, teacher, and community safety.

This month, the District will also be adding the Raptor Visitor Management System to all of our buildings. This technology scans a visitor's official identification and produces a unique sticker badge that includes the visitor's name, picture, and destination. The badges are printed on special paper that automatically voids after a designated period of time, so they cannot be reused. This system allows us to quickly see who is visiting our buildings at any time.

The District is continuing to expand the instructional technology available to students and staff. This year alone, the District added 19 Chromebook carts equipped with 650 Chromebooks to our schools. We also upgraded a number of desktop computers, including those in our CAD (Computer Aided Design) lab and our CVP (Computer Video Production) classroom. These devices are used daily by our teachers and students for instructional purposes.

Finally, the District takes pride in our buildings and recognizes the importance of maintenance and upkeep. We need to ensure that our facilities are safe and that our infrastructure is in strong working condition.

We have been reviewing our mandated Five-Year Building Condition Survey and are prioritizing items that need to be fixed, replaced, upgraded, or improved to keep our buildings running smoothly and efficiently and ensure they continue to be safe places of learning for our students. In addition, we are continuing to look for ways to adapt our buildings to modern instruction uses. It is important to give our students the opportunity to learn in environments that allow them to be both college ready and career ready.

We need to create learning spaces that will prepare them for the jobs of not only today, but those in the future. With these things in mind, we are beginning to investigate ways to accomplish our goals. We will be looking for community input as we move forward with the process of developing a Capital Project proposal in the near future. The school community will be invited to complete surveys, attend community forums, and share their ideas.

Sincerely,

*Lawrence R. Mautone*

*Interim Superintendent*

*Saugerties Central School District*

**Digitally Distracted**

**T**om Kersting, an educational psychotherapist, author, and nationally renowned authority in the field of mental health, visited Saugerties on October 4 to discuss the negative impacts of social media on our youth. Close to 75 parents, teachers, and community members attended the event, each wanting to learn strategies to help students start living more in the real world and less in the cyber world.

**National School Lunch Week**

**I**n October, the Saugerties Central School District celebrated National School Lunch Week by showing appreciation to our cafeteria staff. These employees consistently strive to make lunchtime the favorite part of every student's day. The weeklong celebration gave the District an opportunity to thank those who make our schools healthier and happier.

**Record Breakers**

**T**he football season may be over, but what a season it was! Coaches and District officials would like to express their gratitude to each Saugerties High School football player for giving it their all this season. Special congratulations to seniors Matt Bucci, Sean Costello, and Anthony Owen, who broke numerous school, Section 9, and State records during the 2018-2019 season.



Matt Bucci



Sean Costello



Anthony Owen

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