

Saugerties School District Receives Grant for Pre-K Classes

The Saugerties Central School District will launch a Pre-Kindergarten program in January thanks to a grant from the State Education Department.

“Pre-K programs provide students with a solid foundation for Kindergarten and we’re thrilled that this grant will enable us to give our kids that advantage,” said Superintendent Seth Turner. “When I was 11 years old, I volunteered at a preschool program and my mother was the secretary at the Saratoga County Head Start, so I saw firsthand how Pre-K classes prepare students and provide long-lasting benefits.”

The District has received \$161,682 to fund the classes for the second half of this school year. The program will be a full day and will serve 48 students in three classes. Cahill will host two classes (one each for three-year-olds and four-year-olds) and Mt. Marion will host one for four-year-olds. The Cahill program will be run by Head Start and the Mt. Marion program will be run by the Children’s Workshop, both of which use a curriculum that flows seamlessly with the District’s.

Specific criteria for placement in the program are still being developed, but students with disabilities, students who are economically disadvantaged, and English Language Learners will be given first priority, Deputy Superintendent Lawrence Mautone said. Any seats that remain will be assigned by a lottery system.

The grant was secured for the District through the Ulster BOCES Grant Coordination Service and the efforts of Grant Coordinator Bonnie Meadow, who said that Mautone and the District administration and principals provided “really incredible teamwork” during the grant application process and “left no stone unturned” in their effort to find outstanding providers.

Said Mautone, “We’ve been wanting to do Pre-K for a few years and the community wanted it, too. There was definitely an interest. The grant application was a team effort and it’s exciting to have our work pay off and to be able to give kids this opportunity.”

Additional details about the Pre-K program and the application process will be publicized on the District’s website, www.saugerties.k12.ny.us, and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/saugertiescsd, as they become available.

Saugerties Central School District

FALL 2017



Students to Veterans:

“Always Know You Are Loved”

With paper poppies, handmade hearts, songs, poems, and plenty of pride, Saugerties elementary school students paid tribute to local veterans in November.

“Veterans Day gives our school the chance to honor our servicewomen and men,” said Mt. Marion Principal Carole Kelder. “It’s a great opportunity for our students to learn about the sacrifices our veterans have made and to show how much veterans mean to our community.”

The four elementary schools went all out to honor those who have served in the armed forces, from hanging paper stars with veterans’ names from the hallway ceiling at Morse to showcasing veterans’ stories in a display at Riccardi.

More than 75 local veterans attended the four assemblies, representing all branches of the armed forces and both peacetime and wartime service spanning eight decades.

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Saugerties Junior-Senior HS Students Use Science to Solve Problems at 5th Annual Fair

From energy-efficient transportation to the prevention of hurricanes, Saugerties Junior-Senior High School students explored solutions to real-world problems at the fifth annual science fair recently.

Thirty students in grades 7-12 presented projects that touched on all aspects of science, from the psychology of motivation and the physics of boat design. The majority of the projects were aimed at helping people live better, safer, healthier lives.

Hoping to keep school a safe place to learn, eighth grader Sebastian Silipo earned second place in the Junior High School division for his smart phone-operated system that can open all school lockers simultaneously in case of an emergency. Sebastian used coding, a tiny Raspberry Pi computer, and part of a 3D printer for his project.

Freshmen Donovan Barros and Clinton Stutzman directed their inquiry toward energy-efficient transportation, specifically a magnetic levitation or "mag lev" train, a pollution-free travel option that requires no electricity or fossil fuels.

"It's the train of the future," said Donovan as Clinton played a short video documenting the boys' first experiments trying to move a 20-ounce can of tomatoes down a track lined with magnets of different strengths, from a nail-finder magnet to a pacemaker magnet.

Senior high school first place winners Joseph Avena and Devon Dickson had a project guaranteed to help people stay healthier by avoiding fast food. They bought cheeseburgers from five fast food restaurants and let them sit on Devon's dining room table for three weeks to observe the growth of mold. They hypothesized that the burgers with the freshest ingredients would become moldy faster. At the end of the experiment, one burger from a well-known fast food company had no mold on it at all.

"It really shows you what you're eating," said Devon as he and Joseph held up the month-old burgers in plastic bags. Although most were green, the boys pointed out that mold can also be pink, orange, or purple.

Anna Drayer, a seventh grader with a love of dogs, used surgical tubing, a nylon web belt and other materials to create a prosthetic dog tail. She hopes to someday open her own animal rescue.

More than 150 people attended the science fair and were able to explore not only the students' projects but an area of interactive exhibits, a demonstration by the Junior-Senior High School robotics club, a reptile show by Saugerties High School alum Dan Liebel, and a display by the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association. The fair was sponsored by the Science Alliance Club and organized by teachers Ara Krom and Amy Scanlon, who expressed their pride in the quality of the projects.

The overall winner, for the second year in a row, was Abby Drayer, for her Wireless EKG project.

Winners in the seventh and eighth grade division were: First place: Molly Boek and Skyler Catalano (Hydraulics); Second place: Sebastian Silipo; Third place: Koen Buchter (Propane-powered Pop Gun); Honorable mention: Tristan Villarreal (Rising Water Experiment); and Kierstin Benson and Molly Reynolds (Solar Cooker).

In the senior high school division, winners were: First place: Joseph Avena and Devon Dickson; Second place: Justine Lenz (Can Dog Drool Kill Germs?); Third place: Seth Martin and Chad McPeck (Bilge Keel Design to Keep a Boat from Rocking); Honorable mentions went to: Ryan Scott and Libby Scott (Positive Versus Negative Motivation); Clinton Stutzman and Donovan Barros; and Liang Chu (Measuring the Speed of Light With a Microwave).



Students Get Fire Safety Lessons



Mt. Marion



Morse



Mt. Marion



Riccardi



Morse



Riccardi

Do you know what to do if there's a fire at your house? Saugerties students do, thanks to a visit from their local fire departments during Fire Prevention Week this fall.

Firefighters provided specific instructions for what to do in the event of a fire, encouraged students to work with their families on an emergency plan, and dressed in full gear so students won't be scared if they encounter the firefighters in the event of an emergency.

The students also had lots of fun spraying the fire hose, climbing inside a helicopter, trying on turnout gear, crawling through a smokehouse, watching Saugerties' bravest spray foam on one another, and looking skyward as firefighters climbed up the ladder truck.

A big thank-you to Glasco, Mt. Marion, Centerville, Washington Hook & Ladder fire departments, and 2016 Saugerties High School grad Mike Schatzel for sharing their time and expertise with us!



Cahill

Harvest Parade Celebrates Morse Garden Program

Fall may be the season of russet, orange, and gold, but for students at Grant D. Morse, it was a time to celebrate green...as in thumbs.

On October 3, students held a fruitfully festive parade to show off all the produce they harvested from the school garden this fall. Garlic, onions, potatoes, corn, squash, peas, and a bounty of other veggies and flowers were planted at the end of the last school year and this year each grade was assigned an area to tend and harvest. Students donned hand-colored hats representing what they grew and marched to the garden to present their bounty.

The garden, which was launched in 2008, provides a crop of hands-on, real-life lessons in how things grow, as well as an opportunity for students

to practice some of Morse's Six C's character traits, in this case collaboration, creativity, and citizenship.

Morse fourth grade teacher Becky Mulford, who coordinates the garden efforts at the school in collaboration with a committee led by parent Jessica Riozzi, called the garden a "place of beauty that brings such joy to our corner of the world. Happy Harvest Day! May there be many more."



Otherworldly Outfits Make Happy Halloween Parade

With some hair-raising hocus-pocus (and in some cases, help from an air pump), Saugerties students and staff brought the usual Halloween magic, which was on display at the parade in the District.

Students came dressed as bobby-soxers and Harry Potter, and video game characters, sumo wrestlers and Superheroes. Cows, cowboys, and cowgirls "mooved" alongside the usual and petrifying pirates. Students made sure the food was represented with hot dog, strawberry, and popcorn costumes. The animal kingdom showed up in fantastic force with pandas, and dinosaurs.

Staff didn't hide in the shadows either, and showed their creativity by dressing as crayons, Scrabble tiles, and a cornucopia. Kids squawked with laughter at Riccardo Osterhoudt dressed as a chicken and riding a tricycle. Students thought they'd taken a ride on the Magic Carpet. Principal Dawn Scannapieco as Ms. Frizzle.

As always, Halloween in Saugerties was more fun than ever. No shake a broomstick at!



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Junior High School Students Raise \$3,000 to Help Local Family

The weather on Veterans Day weekend was chilly, but members of the Saugerties Junior High School Builder's Club didn't notice because their hearts were so warm as they came together to help a local family in need.

The Big Give, an annual fundraiser that has provided thousands of dollars to the community since the club's inception in 2000, brought together a large crowd of students, staff, and community members for a 5K walk on the Junior-Senior High School track.

Through pledges and donations, participants raised \$3,000 for a member of the Saugerties Central School District family.

"In 17 years, I have never seen a crowd like I saw that day and we have never raised so much money," said English teacher Hope Antonelli, the Builder's Club advisor.

The Builder's Club is a junior high school community service club run in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club. The Saugerties chapter is a popular and active club that also runs a Thanksgiving food drive, a holiday toy drive, numerous bake sales, and other activities that support the community.



Green Apples Cup Goes to Patriots in Mustang Bowl 14

After weeks of training, the Mustangs and Patriots faced off on the afternoon of October 18 for the 14th annual Mustang Bowl Touch Football Classic.

The two teams, made up of fifth and sixth graders, played an action-packed game that showed off their athletic talent as well as teamwork and sportsmanship. The Mustang Bowl cheerleaders brought extra spirit to the game, and the student helpers made sure things ran smoothly. In keeping with tradition, Superintendent Seth Turner kept things lively and encouraged the teams from the announcer's booth.

The Patriots won the Green Apples Cup by a score of 15 to 7, putting them four games ahead in the history of Mustang Bowl.

Four players and a cheerleader were recognized for their efforts. Natalie Tucker received the Bruce Eymann Offensive MVP Award, Joe Karolys received the Bruce Eymann Defensive MVP Award, Jason Martin won the Seth Turner Outstanding Lineman Award, Nick Stinemire won the Patrick Buonfiglio Sportmanship Award, and Lily Richards received the Mary Cosentino Spirit Award.





Saugerties High School Spirit Shines in Fall Traditions

Nothing says fall at Saugerties High School like the annual pep rally, the crowning of the Mum Queen, and the exciting Mum Bowl football game.

As always, this year's events were filled with plenty of Sawyer spirit and lots of fun.

At the pep rally on September 29, varsity athletes were introduced amid loud cheers and a musical assist by the talented high school band. The pep rally also included the announcement of the 2017 Mum Queen, Journye MacDonald. The names of Mum Court members Camille Bronson and Julie Raleigh were also announced.

On October 7, the Sawyers took on the Franklin D. Roosevelt High School Presidents in Mum Bowl action. The Sawyers made a second half comeback to win the game 35-26. Journye MacDonald and her court were crowned at halftime and a special ceremony at the start of the game recognized senior Sawyer players and their parents.



Riccardi Rocks the Vote for Student Council

Social Studies lessons in the democratic process came alive at Riccardi in September with speeches by the fifth and sixth grade candidates for Student Council. All 16 candidates



demonstrated Riccardi's mantra of hard work and kindness by being well prepared and offering ideas for how to spend the coming year helping their fellow students, cancer patients, the elderly, and animals (while learning and having plenty of fun, too, of course). Third and fourth graders who listened to the speeches used special sheets to take notes on their reactions to each candidate and help them make their choices. Congratulations to President Raamina Chowdhury, Vice-President Brian Yang, Secretary Chloe Turner, Treasurer Tanner Barros, and Social Director Addison Costello.



School Year Starts with Visit from National Teacher of the Year

Saugerties Teachers and Staff are Lifelong Learners

The school year is only three months old, but Saugerties Central School District faculty and staff have already had two professional development days to help them learn and grow, just as they always encourage students to do.

On the day before the opening of school in September, the District hosted National Teacher of the Year Sydney Chaffee. Now a teacher at Codman Academy Charter Public School outside Boston, Chaffee is a 2001 graduate of Saugerties High School.

Chaffee delivered an inspiring keynote address that drew on the work of a famed mythologist as well as her own experiences as a student in Saugerties.

"My teachers helped me through my hero's journey," Chaffee said, highlighting

ways that teachers can do the same now. "Everything you chose to do when I was in your classroom helped shape who I am. You helped set me on my path. All of you have the power to do that for your kids."

Superintendent Seth Turner called Chaffee's address "absolutely outstanding" and his impression was shared by the teachers, many of whom said they were eager to implement some of Chaffee's wisdom this school year.

In early November, teachers and staff came together for another day of learning at more than a dozen workshops on a wide range of topics that include curriculum mapping and planning, New York State learning standards integration, disability awareness, and CPR recertification.

Veterans Honored CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At **Cahill**, Principal Dawn Scannapieco reminded students that November's character trait is thankfulness, an appropriate theme for Veterans Day because "veterans are people we are thankful for."

Cahill's assembly included poems, Veterans Day facts, and several musical performances. Each veteran was individually recognized and the Student Council presented a check to the Saugerties American Legion.

At **Morse**, students sang a variety of songs, including those representing each branch of the military. Special guests of honor were Tony Bartolotta, Harold Reynolds, and Steve Olsen, three veterans who are now bus drivers who transport District students safely to and

from school.

"On behalf of Grant D. Morse Elementary School, it's our honor that you joined us this morning," Principal Don Dieckmann told the veterans, adding that veterans are the "stars in our community."

Mt. Marion honored veterans with gifts and songs, as well as essays written by fifth and sixth grade students. Fifth grader Anya Meneses told the veterans, "Always know that you are loved."

Second graders presented the veterans with paper poppies, and other students offered a quilt that

they made in class.

Kelder said students planned and practiced for weeks to prepare for the assembly and also read and wrote about veterans, particularly those in their own families, to better understand their experiences and sacrifices.

At **Riccardi**, veterans of the Korean War were special guests and each received a Riccardi Hero medal. Members of the Student Council provided historical background on the Korean War and each branch of service, interspersed with songs and poems by each grade dressed in patriotic clothes. Veterans also received handmade paper hearts from Kindergartners and first graders.

"On behalf of the Riccardi family, thank you for your service," said Principal Sue Osterhoudt.

