



Fourth Graders Become Hudson River Stewards

STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 2

Saugerties

Central School District

SUMMER 2016

“This is Our Time”



Thank You, Voters!

The Board of Education and Administration of the Saugerties Central School District appreciate the community’s support of the 2016-2017 budget in May.

“I would like to thank the Saugerties community for its continued support of our students,” said Superintendent Seth Turner.

In addition to approving the budget, voters selected three new members to serve on the Board of Education. The Board welcomes Katie Emerson-Hoss, Elena Maskell, and Paul VanSchaack. All three were sworn in and began their terms in early July.

“I would like to thank the Saugerties community for its continued support of our students.”

—Superintendent Seth Turner

With proud family and friends looking on, the Saugerties High School (SHS) Class of 2016 completed what Board of Education member Krista Barringer called an “unforgettable and amazing journey” on June 25, becoming the District’s 120th graduating class.

“It’s a great day to be principal of these 172 impressive graduates of Saugerties High School,” said Principal Thomas Averill as he looked out over a sea of blue caps, many decorated with flowers, glitter, toys, and celebratory messages.

Welcomed to the familiar sounds of “Pomp and Circumstance” and treated to performances by the SHS choir, the graduates received words of advice from their fellow students as well as the administrators who guided them through their educational journey in Saugerties.

Both Barringer and Superintendent Seth Turner reminded the students of how much all the adults in their lives were invested in their success during

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Fourth Graders Become Hudson River Stewards

Fourth graders at all four Saugerties elementary schools became young Hudson River historians and ecologists this spring through the Hudson River Maritime Museum's Hudson River Stewards program.

Launched in 2014, the program is aimed at providing Grade 4 students with an in-depth and enjoyable learning experience about the Hudson River.

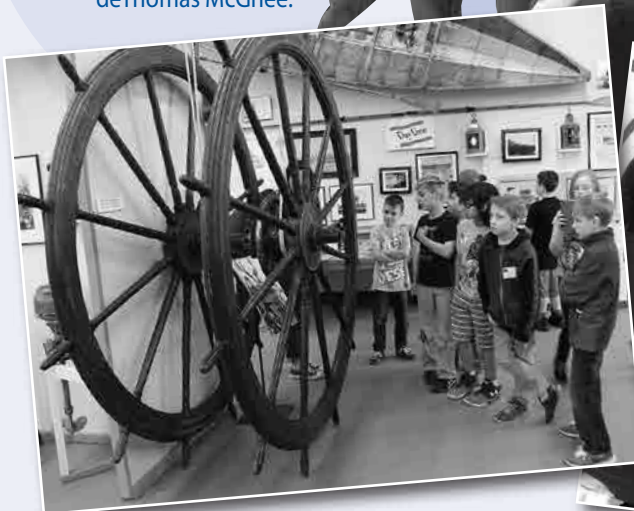
Maritime Museum staff visited fourth grade classes at Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi in April for an interactive workshop that used an 1810 travelogue by British author John Lambert to help students learn more about travel in New York State two centuries ago.

In May, the students visited the Maritime Museum on the Rondout waterfront, where they spent the day immersed in the life of the river at eight distinct stations that incorporated science, history, geography, math, writing, and music. They explored galleries with memorabilia from historic boats, learned about invasive species that threaten the river, studied the geography of the Hudson, wrote poetry based on historic documents, and experienced the life of a 17th century sailor aboard the *Onrust*, a replica of a 1600s Dutch fur-trading yacht.

Students and teachers alike enjoyed the day at the museum and came away with a greater appreciation for the Hudson River and its preservation.

Mt. Marion students prepare to tour the Maritime Museum.

From left: David Morris, Steven Marin III, and Gabriella deThomas McGhee.



Mt. Marion students examine the backup steering wheels of the Hudson River Dayliner Alexander Hamilton, built in 1924.



Cahill students practice being 17th century sailors aboard the *Onrust*.

Class of 2020 Moves Up to High School



With laughter, memories, and lots of advice for the future, Saugerties eighth graders bid farewell to junior high school at the annual moving up ceremony on June 10.

"Now is the time to take your life and your future in your hands," Saugerties High School (SHS) valedictorian Mason Rothe told the incoming freshmen.

In addition to Rothe, the class of approximately 200 eighth graders and their parents heard from SHS salutatorian Nathaniel Lukaszewski, and senior Matt Vigna. All three young men urged the students to work hard, keep a positive attitude, and surround themselves with friends who make positive decisions.

"High school is much more than an arbitrary migration to a different hallway," Lukaszewski said. Sharing his own personal experience of not be-

ing accepted into some honors courses when he first started high school, but ultimately finishing second in his graduating class, Lukaszewski reminded the younger students that "it's not too late to do better."

Four members of the Class of 2020 shared memories of some of the high points of their two years in junior high school, including class trips and activities, lighter moments in the classroom, and "lessons that will last a lifetime," according to student MacKenzie Feeney.

"All of it was a blast," said student Matthew Morgan. "We had a lot of adventures together."

Following the remarks and musical performance by Vigna and the senior high school choir, the students and their families were treated to a Power Point presentation highlighting memories from their junior high school years.

Cahill Sixth Graders Create Colorful Mural



Clockwise, from top left:
A spirit of cooperation was an important part of the project.

A student expresses her creativity during the mural project.

A student paints a flower on the mural.

Artist Kelli Bickman, center, guides students as the mural nears completion.



The student artists pose with the nearly completed mural.

A talented group of young artists at Cahill Elementary School was hard at work creating a colorful mural during the month of June.

Under the guidance of local artist Kelli Bickman, sixth graders have created a vibrant piece of art that will hang on the back wall of the school near the playground. Complete with shooting stars, animals, hearts, and flowers, the mural honors the students' time at Cahill and reflects their perspective on those years as they prepare to move on to junior high school.

Designing, sketching and painting after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three weeks, the students expressed their creativity while learning about art techniques, color, design, and collaboration.

Mason Rothe, Nathaniel Lukaszewski Are Top Two at SHS

A young man who values hard work and dreams of being an investment banker, and a self-described “tinkerer” with aspirations in electrical engineering are the top two academic achievers in the Saugerties High School (SHS) Class of 2106.

Valedictorian Mason Rothe and salutatorian Nathaniel Lukaszewski led their class with averages of 101.5 and 100.5, respectively.

Mason is the son of Jill and Rich Rothe.

A graduate of Mt. Marion Elementary School, Mason said that being valedictorian was something that was always in the back of his mind and he’s proud to have achieved it.

“It’s nice to plan something and get it,” he said.

During his high school years, Mason focused on working hard and playing hard. In addition to maintaining his high honor roll standing, he took part in Tech Club, Key Club, and student government.

“I tried a lot of stuff,” he said, adding that the clubs provided an opportunity to do something he really enjoys, coordinating activities.

When he wasn’t studying or taking part in afterschool clubs, Mason was building his strong work ethic by getting hands-on experience in construction at his father’s company, Rothe Engineering.

The SHS faculty who had the biggest impact on Mason were English teacher Steve Stellavato, social studies teacher Michael Riley, and technology teacher Shawn Christensen. Mason said that Stellavato gave him a “more worldly point of view,” while Riley is a “smart man with a great attitude.” Christensen’s classroom became a hangout and a place for Mason to indulge his love of wood-working.

Mason, who excelled at math and science at SHS, will attend Hofstra University this fall. He plans to major in finance and hopes to pursue a career as an investment banker.

He chose Hofstra not only for its excellent business program, but for the opportunities its proximity to New York City provides.

“It’s the happiest city on the planet,” Mason said of the Big Apple. “It’s fast-paced and cutting-edge and that excites me. It will have me feeling on top of the world.”

Salutatorian Nathaniel Lukaszewski is the son of Celeste and Raymond Lukaszewski and graduated from Riccardi Elementary School.

Although he admits to being “really happy” about being salutatorian of his class, his attitude about his success is humble.

“I just did my best,” he said. “I just did the work.”

During his senior year, Nathaniel was the editor of the Sawyer yearbook, and has also been a member of Key Club, science club, and the Dream Team that organizes the annual lip sync.

Academically, Nathaniel particularly enjoyed his business classes with teachers Scott Wickham and Jacqueline Hayes.

Nathaniel enjoys math and science and has always enjoyed tinkering and building.

“I enjoy learning more about things that interest me,” he said.

He will be able to do plenty of that this fall while attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy. He plans to major in electrical engineering.

Both Mason and Nathaniel are looking forward to the many new experiences and challenges they will face in college.

“I’ve enjoyed myself here [at SHS],” Mason said. “But I’ve tapped into all the opportunities. It’s time for something new.”



Valedictorian Mason Rothe, right, and salutatorian Nathaniel Lukaszewski.



high school. Barringer, whose son Garrett Simera was among the graduates, spoke about the support parents provided for academics, clubs, sports, and activities. "Every day, we were there," she said.

Turner said, "You were not just a name. You were not just someone who walked the halls. You were not just a number on a piece of paper. You were somebody we cared about."

Turner went on to say that as he planned his speech for commencement, he realized that the best words of wisdom he could share with the graduates were "right there in front of me" in the 2016 Sawyer yearbook, among the quotes students chose to include with their senior photos. Turner read many of them aloud, sharing the words of everyone from Marilyn Monroe and Dr. Seuss to Abraham Lincoln and Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The officers of the Class of 2016 shared their own personal experiences and left their fellow graduates with inspiring thoughts about the future.

Class secretary Jessica Miller reminded her classmates that graduation "is not the closing of a book, but the end of a chapter," while class social director Jenna Hans said, "This is our time."

Kellyann Averill, the class treasurer, recalled her final event as a runner on the Sawyer track team and the encouraging advice from Coach Steve Buonfiglio to remember that she was not running alone, but with everyone who had helped and supported her through the years.

"It was very soon after I crossed the finish line that I realized how we, as graduating seniors and the class of 2016, can face any obstacle that life throws at us knowing we are not alone," Averill said.

Valedictorian Mason Rothe emphasized the importance of hard work in his speech, while salutarian Nathaniel Lukaszewski spoke of the meaning of the word "success," noting that the Class of 2016 had already achieved it.

"Everybody here has a different story," Lukaszewski said. "And yet, here we are today to celebrate the same thing. That is success."

Barringer and Principal Thomas Averill presented diplomas to the graduates, more than 40 percent of whom were Gold Cord and Silver Cord recipients.

Averill urged the graduates to "continue to be flexible learners" and to appreciate their many blessings.

"Make us all proud," he said.

The Class of 2016 earned nearly \$500,000 in scholarships, and 80 percent of the graduates will attend college to study business, the arts, engineering, teaching, science, nursing, and communications.

Barringer urged the graduates to return to Saugerties with what they learn in college and the workforce.

"Come back and visit," she said.

"Bring back your skills and your energy. We are so proud of you."

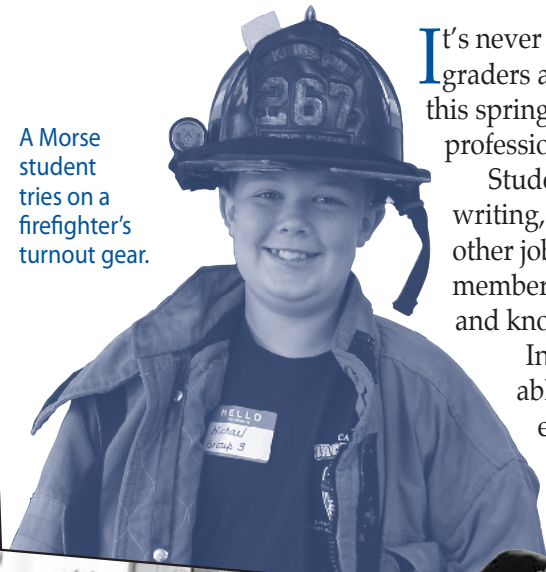


Morse Sixth Grade Career Day Offers Peek into Professions

Alex Feinberg, an IBM software engineer, talks to Morse sixth graders about the many career options in engineering.



A Morse student tries on a firefighter's turnout gear.



It's never too early to explore career possibilities and sixth graders at Morse Elementary School had a chance to do just that this spring at a career fair that spotlighted a variety of different professions.

Students learned more about engineering, law enforcement, writing, teaching, firefighting, mechanics, government, and other jobs during the fair with the help of local community members who volunteered their time to share their experiences and knowledge.

In addition to asking in-depth questions, students were able to enjoy a hands-on experience as they tried out equipment ranging from a surveyor's total station to a firefighter's turnout gear. They also made friends with Saugerties Police Department K-9 Miky while learning more about law enforcement from Miky's handler, Patrolman Jeremy Rushkoski, and Police Chief Joseph Sinagra.

Principal Don Dieckmann, a former guidance counselor, said that even though the sixth graders have some years to go before starting their professional lives, the career fair was an excellent opportunity for them to begin exploring jobs they might be interested in.

"It's important to get that spark going," Dieckmann said.

Caroline Johansen peers through a surveying device during Career Day.



A group of sixth graders was ready with lots of questions for Saugerties Chief of Police Joseph Sinagra.



Morse Students Salute Veterans on Flag Day

On June 14, the morning meeting in Cathy Averill's second grade class at Grant D. Morse Elementary School included not just attendance and show and tell, but plenty of patriotism and a dash of history.

In honor of Flag Day, the class hosted World War II veteran Walter Hackett and Korean War veteran Bob Howe. Hackett came to thank the students for the letters they wrote to him in May while he was in Washington D.C. as part of an Honor Flight, a no-cost trip provided to World War II and Korean War veterans to honor them for their service and allow them to visit the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. At the end of the trip, Hackett was presented with a packet of letters that included heart-shaped notes from Averill's students, decorated in red, white, and blue and expressing messages of thanks for his service.

During their visit to Morse, Hackett and Howe joined Averill's students in the Pledge of Allegiance and were treated to patriotic songs and journal readings in which students shared their excitement about the visit from the two veterans.

Students also had a chance to ask questions, which included how old Hackett was during the war and whether or not he got seasick while serving on a destroyer in the Pacific.



World War II veteran Walter Hackett (center, holding photo) and Korean War veteran Bob Howe pose with Cathy Averill's second grade class on Flag Day.

Hackett presented the class with a photo of all the veterans who participated in his Honor Flight. He said that receiving the letters from the Morse students during "mail call" at the end of the trip was a very emotional moment.

"I had a big lump in my throat," he said.



A second grader shows her patriotism during the visit from the veterans.

Riccardi Sixth Graders Create Cool, Colorful Science Projects



Kelly Lenahan demonstrates her "Walking Water" project.

Above, Josh Oyola tests the effects of static electricity.

Below, Joey Garcia poses with his self-inflating balloon experiment.

From a Venus fly trap to magnetic slime to "walking water," the Riccardi sixth grade science fair in June overflowed with interesting, creative projects.

Teacher Robert Rea said the school's 51 sixth graders spent a month working on their projects, from original inception to testing and presentation.

Using everything from food coloring and balloons to eggs, raisins, and a patch of sod, students delved into every branch of a science with projects that questioned whether raw eggs soaked in vinegar would bounce higher than hard-boiled eggs, how a baking soda and vinegar volcano inflates a balloon, and how static electricity works.

"It's cool," Rea said of the projects. "There are lots of classics. A lot of the students took great care. They wanted their projects to look really good."

Student Josh Oyola, who explored electricity in the classic way, by rubbing an inflated balloon across his hair, said he thought his project would be fun when he first learned about it.

"I tested it last night but the balloon popped," he said.

Kelly Lenahan's "Walking Water" project was equal parts fascinating and colorful. Using just water, paper towels, and food coloring, Kelly demonstrated the concept of capillary action, in which water can defy gravity by moving upward through a narrow tube without pressure.

The sixth graders' projects were on display in the school hallway throughout the day on June 15, so the entire student body, faculty, staff, and visitors could enjoy the results of the students' scientific inquiry.



Riccardi students admire the new Buddy Bench.

Riccardi Dedicates Buddy Bench

An idea first imagined by students became reality at Riccardi Elementary School on June 22 as the school dedicated its new Buddy Bench.

The bench, located at the edge of the playground, is designed to create a sense of friendship and belonging,

according to members of the Student Government. Students who are shy or don't have a friend to play with at recess are invited to sit on the bench as a signal to their classmates to invite them to take part in games and activities.

The idea for the bench came from the Student Government and blossomed into reality with the help of many members of the school family. Student Government co-advisors Sue Rinaldi and Stephanie Duvernoy-Pettit shepherded the plan from its inception. The bench was custom-made by Principal Sue Osterhoudt's husband, Roger, and cemented into place by the Riccardi maintenance staff. Students planted a small garden of perennials and painted stepping stones with guidance from Teaching Assistant Pat Giordano.

The bench is painted in the school colors, bright blue with white handprints from students in all grades, and bears a stainless steel plaque fashioned by Keith Michaels, a Riccardi alumnus and owner of Methods Tooling & Manufacturing in Mt. Marion. The plaque reads "Find a Friend, Be a Friend."

Osterhoudt told students, "When you see this bench, see it as a reminder to be kind."



Riccardi Student Government representatives gather around the Buddy Bench.

Elementary Students Find Fun in the Sun on Field Day

Students at all four Saugerties elementary schools enjoyed annual field day fun in May and June. Whether they were jumping in potato sacks, climbing a cargo net, leaping hurdles in a single bound, or getting soaked during water activities, the students got heart-healthy exercise and demonstrated plenty of teamwork and encouragement for their classmates as they made the most of a day in the sun with friends.



▲ Cahill

◀ Morse



▲ Mt. Marion ▲

▲ Riccardi