

Tapping Into the Sweet Side of Learning

At Saugerties High School (SHS), learning isn't always found in books. Sometimes, it's found in the shadow of a giant silver maple tree when the ground is still hard with winter's chill.

For the past two years, SHS teachers Brian Robinson and Mike Cooper have led a group of dedicated students in a program that taps the sweet side of science: maple syrup production.

Students in Mr. Robinson's and Mr. Cooper's environmental science classes, as well as members of the SHS ECO Club, have been tapping trees on the high school campus and collecting hundreds of gallons of sap that they transform into syrup.

Every few days, students walk the campus, checking on the fullness of about 70 blue plastic bags hanging from 30 maple trees. When the bags are full, they're emptied into a holding tank and transported to the sugar shack near the north end of the athletic field. The students use a hydrometer to determine the sugar content before placing the sap, which is clear, in the 40-gallon wood-fired evaporator. The evaporator boils away most of the water, eventually changing the color of the sap and creating sweet syrup.

Saugerties Central School District

BUDGET 2016

Programs Maintained with Some Enhancements

District Presents Budget with 0.12 Percent Tax Levy Increase

The Saugerties Central School District's proposed budget for 2016-2017 maintains all its academic programs and launches several new initiatives, yet holds the tax levy increase to a fraction of a percent.

The Board of Education adopted the \$61,046,873 proposed budget on April 12. The tax levy, which is the amount of local taxes collected to fund the budget, would increase by 0.12 percent. Under the New York State tax levy limit calculation, the District's maximum allowable limit for simple majority voter approval was 0.21 percent.

New Staff & New Sports Team

The District will hire two new teachers for 2016-2017 as a result of increased enrollments in the incoming Kindergarten class.

The Sawyer athletic program will also be enriched this coming year with the addition of a boys' and girls' varsity bowling team at Saugerties High School.

District Continues to Expand Technology

Putting technology in the hands of students and teachers to create innovative 21st century learning opportunities has been a priority in the District for several years and continues in 2016-2017 as well. A budget priority was to keep the District's technology "current and up to date," according to Mautone.

Partially funded by the Smart Schools Bond Act, the District's effort to expand technology includes teacher training in using online resources, such as online textbooks and reading programs, virtual field trips, and other learning tools.

Many Saugerties teachers are becoming experts with instructional technology and have been able to share their knowledge by teaching their colleagues. Several have also begun using the "flipped classroom" model, a cutting-edge instructional technique that uses screen-casting technology to create short videos that students watch as homework before completing an assignment in class with teacher support.

The District also plans to have its schools rewired within the next year to accommodate a telephone, security, and technology upgrade.

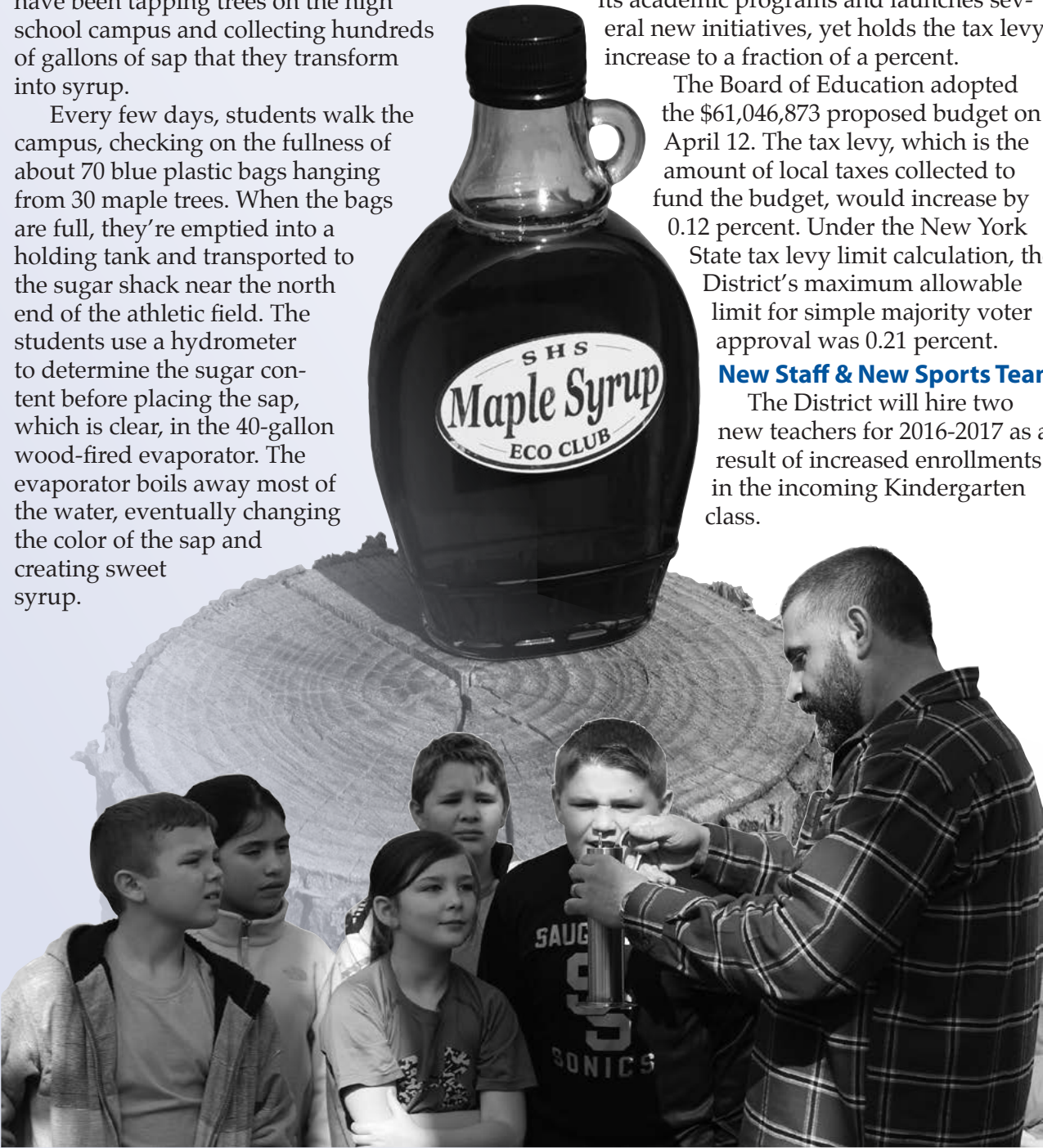
Summer Support

In addition to maintaining all its existing courses and programs during the coming school year, the District will offer two programs to assist students this summer.

Saugerties students in Grades 7 and 8, and Grade 9 students taking certain courses, will be able to attend summer school in their own district for the first time in almost 10 years. Eliminated in 2007 for financial reasons, summer school will be restored in the coming year's proposed budget. It would run for about five weeks leading up to the August Regents exams, and would require some additional staff at a cost of about \$56,000.

The summer months will also provide additional learning opportunities for students whose first language isn't English. An English Language Learner (ELL) Academy, similar to one run by the District in years past, would be offered to the elementary and junior high school levels, and possibly high school students as well. It would be funded with grant money the District receives through its participation in a statewide consortium.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Teacher Brian Robinson shows Morse fourth graders how to use a hydrometer to determine the sugar content of sap.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday, May 17

6 AM-9 PM

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Water, Water, Everywhere...

Students and staff at all six Saugerties schools are staying well hydrated and doing their part to protect the planet at the same time, thanks to the brand new water fountains that were installed in every building this spring.

The new fountains provide fresh-tasting filtered water and also reduce plastic waste because they include a sensor-activated water bottle refill station.

"Everyone loves to use the new fountain," said Mt. Marion Principal Carole Kelder. "It encourages them to drink water and it cuts down on waste."

Mt. Marion third grader Aiden Cerul said he enjoys filling his water bottle at the new fountain, as opposed to the old style, which was "super hard" because the bottle had to be held at an angle.

The new fountains also feature a counter, which adds up the number of plastic bottles



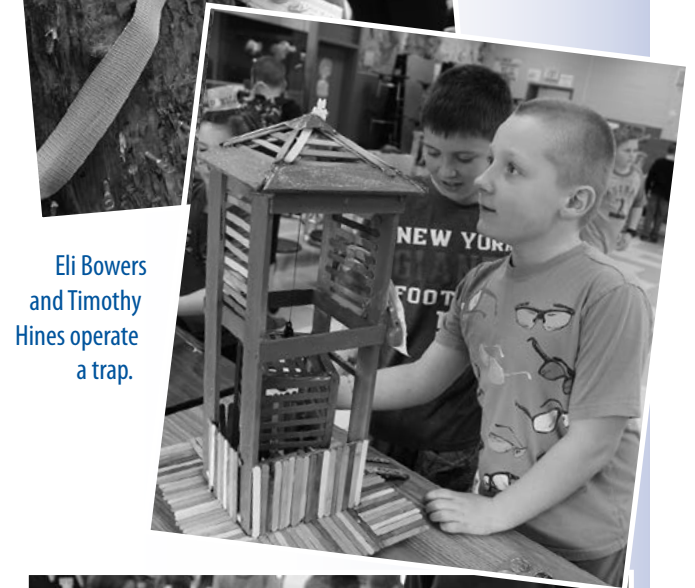
Aiden Cerul uses the refill station at Mt. Marion's new water fountain.

saved by the use of the refill station. The fountains in Saugerties have already kept about 1,000 bottles out of landfills in just a few weeks.

With nearly that number of plastic bottles used across the United States every second, adding up to 50 billion in a year, Mt. Marion third grader Oliver Ashton had it right when he said, "It's cool that you can save bottles."



Jacob Zicot makes an adjustment to his trap, which was fashioned out of a tree stump.



Eli Bowers and Timothy Hines operate a trap.

Tapping into the Sweet Side of Learning CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Senior Anthony Fabiano checks one of the sap collection bags.

"We bottle it, label it, and sell it to students and faculty. It's a self-sustaining endeavor," said Mr. Robinson.

But the final product isn't just syrup. It's hands-on learning. In addition to tapping the trees and collecting and boiling the sap, students engage in a process called phenology, the tracking of naturally occurring weather phenomena.

The students also recently had an opportunity to be teachers and share their knowledge with the next generation of tree-tappers, two fourth grade classes from Grant D. Morse Elementary School who visited to watch sap being collected and transformed into syrup.

Under the direction of their expert high school guides, the younger students measured the circumference of several large trees (one measured 12 feet around), watched the hydrometer and evaporator in use, learned about the history of maple sap collection, and tasted sap straight from the tap. They concluded their visit with a blind taste test pitting the homemade SHS syrup against two commercial brands. Not surprisingly, the school's pure, all-natural syrup won.

Morse fourth grade teacher Rebecca Mulford said the visit provided learning opportunities across the curriculum.

"It ties in very well," she said. "In fourth grade we talk about the use of natural resources and conservation of energy, food chains, and the life cycle." In addition, the history of maple sugaring relates to the students' study of the Iroquois and Algonquin tribes, the tools used to tap the trees highlight the simple machines student explore in fourth grade, and the sap measurement and hydrometer use touch on the topic of capacity. Beyond that, Mrs. Mulford said, it's important to simply teach students to enjoy the outdoors and preserve centuries-old traditions.

Mr. Robinson, who taught a food science class at SHS last year, also reminded students that "food used to come from our own communities and that can still happen."



Teacher Brian Robinson guides Morse student Addie Kotsol in drilling a hole for a tap.

Each Morse student was given a packet to help them identify local trees and Mrs. Mulford said the students would use their English Language Arts skills by writing in a journal about their experience at SHS.

Morse student Michele Loebbaka said that watching the maple sugaring firsthand was an "exciting experience." She particularly liked seeing how much sap is required to make syrup.

The Morse visit marked the final boil of this maple sugaring season, but the blue bags will be back next year, as sure as the return of spring.



SHS junior Rachel Morgan and Morse fourth grader Kayleigh Dolan measure the circumference of a tree on the SHS campus. The old silver maple was 12 feet around.



Senior Dylan Eusepi skims foam from the sap boiling in the evaporator.



Morse students Michele Loebbaka, foreground, and Elizabeth Lee taste sap straight from the tap as high school students Megan Adorno and Kyla Watson look on.



Patrick Bennett shows Avani Knox how his trap works.

Morse Students' Creativity Shines at Leprechaun Trap Museum

Leprechauns might be clever and creative, but they're no match for the fourth grade students at Grant D. Morse who used their science skills to trap the wee folk recently.

On March 18, the students presented their annual Leprechaun Trap Museum, the culmination of a month of study about simple machines. After learning about pulleys, levers, inclined planes and other devices, students were asked to use their knowledge to construct mechanisms that would ensnare a leprechaun. As always, their fanciful creations were over the rainbow of resourcefulness and ingenuity.

"Every year tops the last," said teacher Rebecca Mulford.

Students were asked to use mostly recycled objects and to keep their traps no larger than a pizza box. These constraints put no limit on their creativity, however. Materials included everything from cracker boxes and carabiners to a trophy and a tree stump.

"I put a Polly Pocket doll head on a LEGO body," student Natalie Miller said of her makeshift leprechaun. Natalie's trap relied on ropes and pulleys, and a trick of the eye, to capture her wily woman in green.

Prior to displaying their traps, students conducted research, created posters, enjoyed a scavenger hunt for simple machines around the school, and worked on their public speaking skills by presenting a "how-to" about their trap to their class. Mulford said the assignment was also timely because it took place during the same week as Engineers Day, which focuses on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills.

Saugerties 2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

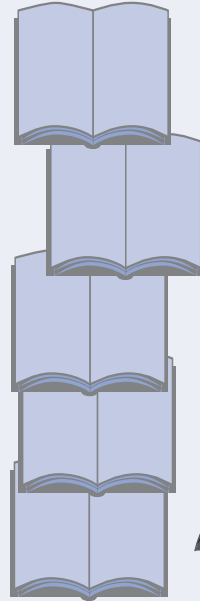
Three Part Budget

The legislation that requires New York State school districts to have a public budget vote includes the requirement that the budget be divided up into three sections: Administration, Program, and Capital.

	2015-2016	2016-2017	INCREASE / (DECREASE)
	7.07%	7.69%	11.96%
Administration	\$4,193,971	\$4,695,515	\$501,544
	81.92%	81.60%	2.54%
Program	\$48,582,055	\$49,816,840	\$1,234,785
	11.01%	10.70%	0.06%
Capital	\$6,530,482	\$6,534,516	\$ 4,034
TOTAL	\$59,306,508	\$61,046,871	\$1,740,363
2016-2017 Proposed Budget: \$61,046,871			

Budget Components

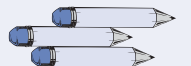
81.60 CENTS



10.70 CENTS



7.69 CENTS



Program

Capital

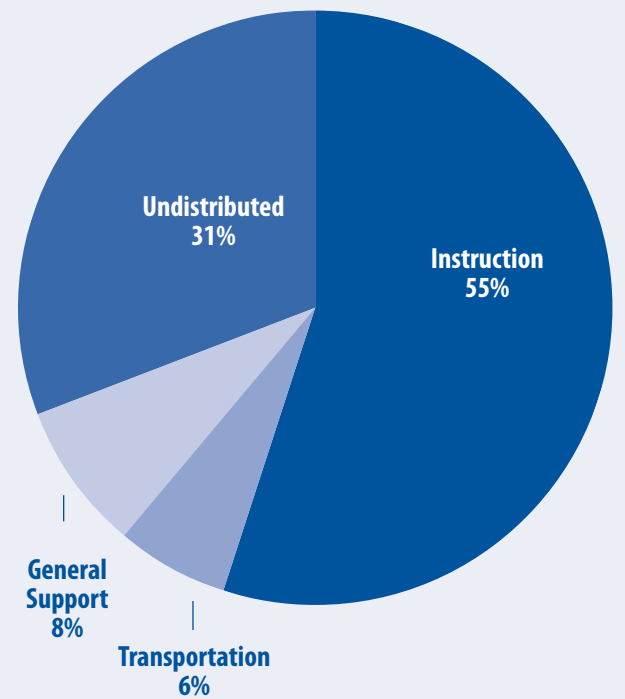
Administration

For each dollar spent on education, the majority goes towards program, with just about \$0.82 related to students and the classroom. Just about \$0.11 of every dollar is invested in maintaining our facilities. Administrative costs account for about \$0.07 of each dollar.

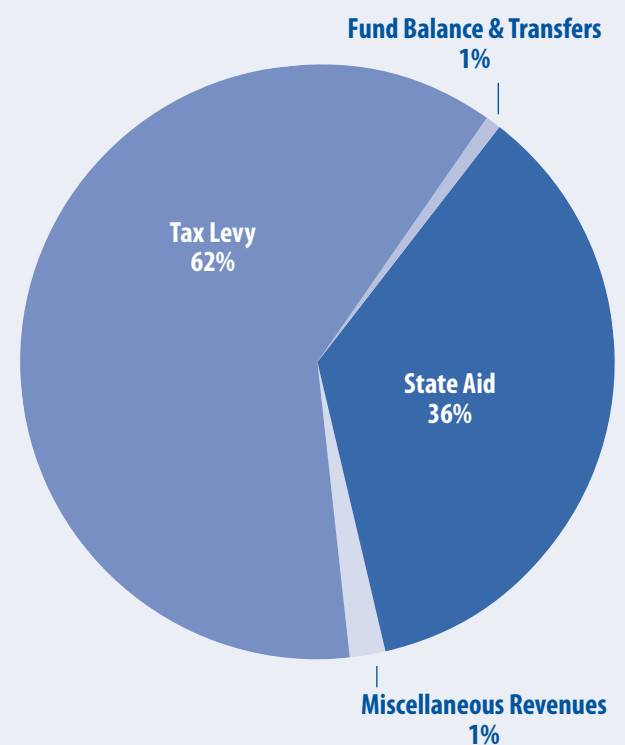
Expenditure Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2015-2016	PROPOSED BUDGET 2016-2017	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
GENERAL SUPPORT			
Board of Education	\$36,001	\$45,851	\$9,850
Central Administration	\$246,537	\$252,622	\$6,085
Finance	\$412,264	\$426,075	\$13,811
Staff	\$282,261	\$282,455	\$194
Central Services	\$2,876,821	\$2,959,696	\$82,875
Special Items	\$787,120	\$922,369	\$135,249
Total General Support	\$4,641,004	\$4,889,068	\$248,064
INSTRUCTION			
Administration & Improvement	\$1,360,977	\$1,585,420	\$224,443
Instruction - Teaching	\$26,978,120	\$28,130,905	\$1,152,785
Instructional Media	\$1,262,951	\$1,381,486	\$118,535
Pupil Services	\$2,230,147	\$2,370,058	\$139,911
Total Instruction	\$31,832,195	\$33,467,869	\$1,635,674
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION			
District-Owned Transportation	\$210,526	\$220,996	\$10,470
Contract Transportation	\$3,630,443	\$3,638,738	\$8,295
Total Transportation	\$3,840,969	\$3,859,734	\$18,765
UNDISTRIBUTED			
Employee Benefits	\$16,223,452	\$16,090,151	(\$133,301)
Debt Service	\$2,518,888	\$2,490,051	(\$28,837)
Interfund Transfers	\$250,000	\$250,000	-
Total Undistributed	\$18,992,340	\$18,830,202	(\$162,138)
TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES	\$59,306,508	\$61,046,873	\$1,740,365

How the Money Will Be Spent



Where the Money Comes From



Revenue Summary

	ADOPTED BUDGET 2015-2016	PROPOSED BUDGET 2016-2017	\$ INCREASE (\$ DECREASE)
Total Miscellaneous	\$825,573	\$825,573	-
Total State Aid w/o STAR	\$20,566,002	\$22,303,171	\$1,737,169
Total Other Than Property Tax/STAR	\$21,391,575	\$23,128,744	\$1,737,169
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$450,000	\$450,000	-
Property Tax	\$37,148,061	\$37,191,264	\$43,203
PILOT Reimbursement	\$316,872	\$276,865	(\$40,007)
Total Property Tax/STAR	\$37,914,933	\$37,918,129	\$3,196
TOTAL ALL REVENUES	\$59,306,508	\$61,046,873	\$1,740,365

Saugerties

Central School District

2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

Voting Information

Who May Vote?

In order to vote you must be:

- ★ Registered to vote
- ★ A citizen of the United States
- ★ 18 years of age or older
- ★ A resident of Saugerties Central School District for at least 30 days, immediately before the election

When and Where is the Vote?

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, from 6 AM to 9 PM. Polls are open in each of the Saugerties Central School District’s Elementary Schools (Grant D. Morse, Mt. Marion, Cahill, and Riccardi) by School District voting areas.

Where Can I Get An Absentee Ballot?

Absentee ballot applications are available for pick-up at the Hildebrandt Building on weekdays from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. The completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Hildebrandt Building in a sealed envelope no later than 4:30 PM on May 16.

How Do I Register?

If you are already registered to vote in the general governmental elections in November, then you are registered to vote in the School District vote. If you are not registered, you may do so by obtaining a registration form available at the following locations:

- ★ Ulster County Board of Elections, 284 Wall Street, Kingston (phone: 334-5470)
- ★ Ulster County Department of Motor Vehicles, 244 Fair Street, Kingston (phone: 340-3700)
- ★ any United States Post Office

Where Do I Vote?

District A: Grant D. Morse Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 6, 9, 15, and 16, and contains that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the New York State Thruway, north of Route 212 and east of the west boundary of the town of Saugerties located between Palenville and Zena.

District B: Mt. Marion Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 5 and 10 of the town of Saugerties and those parts of 3, 6, and 7 of the town of Woodstock. It is within that geographical area south of Route 212, west of the NYS Thruway (north of Glasco Turnpike), west of Snyder Road and Schoolhouse Road, north of the southern boundary of the town of Saugerties, with the exception of that area of the town of Saugerties located in the Kingston Consolidated School District and east of the School District boundary near the area of Plochmann Lane in the town of Woodstock.

District C: Cahill Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 14 of the town of Saugerties and is within that geographical area south of the Greene County line, west of the Hudson River, east of the New York State Thruway and north of the area commonly referred to as Barclay Heights.

District D: Riccardi Elementary School

The district will encompass General Municipal Election Districts 8, 11, 12 (including Mt. Marion Park), and 13 located in the Town of Saugerties and parts of 7, 9, and 12 located in the town of Ulster. Geographically, it is bounded north by the south boundary of Election District 3, on the east by the Hudson River, on the west by the New York State Thruway (north of Glasco Turnpike), then south of Glasco Turnpike to the east of Snyder Road and School House Road and on the south by the town of Ulster.

Facts & Figures About the Proposed Budget

What are the estimated 2016-2017 equalization rates?

Estimated rates are based on the preliminary assessment rolls for the three towns comprising the Saugerties Central School District.

The estimated tax bills are for a property in Saugerties with an assessed value of \$175,000. (Since the estimated equalization rate for Saugerties is 1.00, the assessed value will equal the true value.)

Town	Equalization Rate
Saugerties	1.00
Ulster	0.83
Woodstock	1.00

Star Exemption Program Updates

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program that was passed by the Legislature in 1997 to provide Basic and Enhanced school tax relief for owner-occupied primary residences is continued under the New York State budget, but has some changes for new homeowners and those who move.

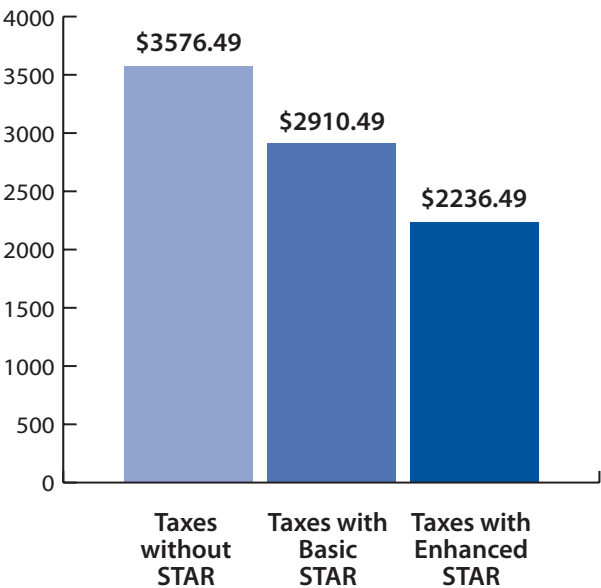
Existing homeowners will continue to see the relief in the form of an actual reduction in their property tax bills. New homeowners, or those who have recently moved, will pay their full tax bill and receive a refund check directly from New York State.

Owner-occupied primary residences where the owners’ total income is less than \$500,000 are eligible for STAR.

The Basic STAR exemption is offered to all property owners on their owner-occupied primary residences. Homeowners who are aged 65 or older who meet income criteria are eligible for even greater tax savings through the Enhanced STAR exemption. Seniors must apply for Enhanced STAR each year.

For more information, contact your local assessor or visit www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/index.htm

2016–2017 Estimated Taxes (\$175,000 Home: Saugerties)



How do I get more detailed information about the budget?

You can stop by the District Offices in the Hildebrandt Building or any of the six schools for a copy of the complete Budget document. Please contact Superintendent Seth Turner at (845) 247-6551, or School Business Manager Lissa Jilek at (845) 247-6520, if you have specific questions.

Questions and Answers About the Tax Levy

Here are answers to some common questions people ask about school taxes. The community is encouraged to vote on the budget on May 17, 2016. Board of Education members will also be elected.

What is the “tax cap”?

New York State has implemented a law that changes the way budgets are approved. The changes went into effect beginning with the 2012 vote. Under the law, a school district must now plan its budget around a complex State formula that calculates a baseline tax levy increase. Budgets that carry a tax levy increase at or below this calculation will need the approval of a simple majority (50 percent plus one) of voters. Any proposal higher than this calculation will require a supermajority approval (60 percent).

The Board of Education has adopted a budget that is less than the allowable levy level under the State’s formula and therefore will need a simple majority voter approval of 50 percent plus one.

How is the tax levy increase calculated?

Although this law has been commonly referred to as the two percent tax cap, it is important to understand that it is not a cap, nor does it limit the levy increase to just two percent. That number may be above or below two percent, and it will vary each year. While the formula is influenced by the lesser of CPI (consumer price index) or two percent, it then allows for specific exemptions and the application of other factors in the formula. After applying the allowable exemptions, the Saugerties Central School District is permitted to increase the tax levy a maximum of 0.21 percent and still meet the criteria of the tax cap formula for a simple majority vote.

Holding the tax levy increase below the allowable levy limit of 0.21 percent was possible in part due to the restoration of State Aid that had previously been withheld as part of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), as well as reductions in some expenditures.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Tuesday, May 17
6 AM–9 PM

Cahill Elementary School

Morse Elementary School

Mt. Marion Elementary School

Riccardi Elementary School

Saugerties2016-2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

Central School District

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Programs Maintained with Some Enhancements

District Presents Budget with 0.12 Percent Tax Levy Increase

Assistant Superintendent Lawrence Mautone said specific plans are still being developed, but that recent meetings with other districts that run similar programs have produced “phenomenal ideas.”

“I’m very excited about the program,” Mautone said.

End of GEA Helps District Increase Programs

The budget includes an increase of 2.93 percent, or about \$1.7 million, over the current year. The District’s ability to keep the tax levy increase to 0.12 percent while introducing new programs is due in part to the restoration of State Aid that had previously been withheld as

“We’re pleased with the restoration of the GEA, which has allowed the District to grow its program offerings and expand technology and other educational initiatives for the children of Saugerties.”

—Superintendent Seth Turner

School District Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$59,306,508	\$61,046,873	\$61,003,670
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$1,740,365	\$1,697,162
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.93%	2.8%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$37,148,061	\$37,191,264	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	-0-	-0-	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	-0-	-0-	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	-0-	-0-	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C – D)	\$37,148,061	\$37,191,264	\$37,148,061
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$710,992	\$650,716	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$36,437,069	\$36,574,866	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$36,437,069	\$36,540,548	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-0-	\$34,318	
Administrative component	\$4,193,971	\$4,695,515	\$4,691,195
Program component	\$48,582,055	\$49,816,842	\$49,781,416
Capital component	\$6,530,482	\$6,534,516	\$6,531,059

* Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2016-17 school year:
Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, a contingency budget for 2016 – 2017 requires that the tax levy increase by 0.00%. Therefore, a budget gap of \$43,203 would need to be addressed to reach the contingency level. The anticipated changes in order to meet the contingency level would possibly include the following:

- Potential cuts to Instructional and non-instructional positions
- Potential cuts to interscholastic sports programs
- Eliminating equipment spending unrelated to safety and security, and
- Reducing BOCES services.

There are no separate propositions for 2016 – 2017.



Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-2017 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption savings ¹ —————→ \$666

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the Saugerties Central School District, Ulster County, New York, will be held at the Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi Elementary Schools in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM prevailing time, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

Sample Ballot

The wording on the proposition will appear as shown in this example and you will have a choice of either YES or NO:

Proposition 12016-2017 Budget

Shall the Board of Education of the Saugerties Central School District be authorized to expend the sums of money which will be required for School District purposes for the 2016-2017 school year in the total amount of \$61,046,873 (the budget), and to levy the necessary sum against the taxable real property in the District?

Election of Board of Education Members

Three (3) 3-year term vacancies are available at this time. Voters may select no more than THREE candidates. The following five candidates filed petitions to run for the Board of Education:

Florence Hyatt

Angie Minew

Katie Emerson-Hoss

Paul Van Schaack

Elena Maskell

part of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). The GEA, introduced in the 2009-2010 school year, was a measure intended to help New York State close its budget gap by withholding aid to school districts. The GEA ended this year and districts saw a restoration of aid money.

Saugerties received a total of \$1,039,286 in restored aid for this coming year, although the total amount the District lost since the start of the GEA is approximately \$13.5 million.

Saugerties Business Administrator Lissa Jilek said that some of the typical costs that drive school budget increases have also gone down this year. Benefit costs were reduced and required contributions to the state Teachers Retirement System and Employees Retirement System have also decreased. Successful negotiations with the Saugerties Teachers Association have also resulted in a decrease in health insurance costs.

What if the Budget Fails?

If the budget is defeated at the polls on May 17, the Board of Education will have the option of holding a second vote on either the same budget or a modified one, or implementing a contingency budget. If a second vote is held and the budget fails again, the District must implement a contingency budget.

A contingency budget would mean a zero percent tax levy increase and would require \$43,203 in cuts. To achieve those cuts, the Board of Education would make reductions to non-mandated programs.

Superintendent of Schools Seth Turner says the restoration of State Aid provided an opportunity to develop a budget that places focus on the needs of both students and the taxpayer.

“We’re pleased with the restoration of the GEA, which has allowed the District to grow its program offerings and expand technology and other educational initiatives for the children of Saugerties,” Turner said.

The community will vote on the budget, and elect three members to the Board of Education, on Tuesday, May 17 from 6 AM to 9 PM at the District’s four elementary schools. As in the past, a Superintendent’s Conference Day has been scheduled on the day of the vote to alleviate safety concerns about having buildings open to the public while classes are in session.

Engineer's Day Projects Put Students' STEM Skills to the Test

At Mt. Marion Elementary School in February, a fragile "egg-stronaut" named Hubert survived a 10-foot free fall without a crack, in a Styrofoam and tissue-paper parachute constructed for \$157.50 in fake money.

Keeping Hubert from getting scrambled was a challenge that gave students a hands-on lesson in basic aerospace engineering.

Similar lessons took place across the District this spring as students in grades 5 and 6 at Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi got fired up about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) during the annual celebration of Engineer's Day. A nationwide program that brings real engineers into the classroom to talk about STEM-based career opportunities, Engineer's Day also includes a hands-on project that teaches students something about what it takes to be an engineer.

At Mt. Marion, retired IBM computer programmer Steve Wehr offered his expertise as fifth graders built a paper structure that would hold up a book and sixth graders constructed their parachutes.

"I think they're going to be challenged," Wehr said of the sixth graders, who got only one shot at making a safe chute and had to stay within a budget while they were at it.

Lisa Case, an IBM software engineer, oversaw the design of air-powered "puffmobiles" by fifth graders at Cahill. The cars were made of Popsicle stick cars and ran on air expelled by a balloon as it deflated. The students were encouraged to sketch out a design before beginning construction, and to test their vehicles multiple times. Before they began, Case reminded them about the many kinds of engineering they could pursue.

"There are as many types of engineering as there are things to make," Case said.

Engineer's Day projects at Morse and Riccardi had the power to create energy all by themselves.

Under the guidance of engineers Mike MacIsaac and Mike DeAngelis, students constructed simple wind turbines using a few basic parts. When placed in front of a fan, the turbines were supposed to spin hard enough to lift a small metal weight.

Excitement ran high at all four schools as the young engineers tested their designs. And that, according to Wehr, is the point of Engineer's Day.

"The key is to get them working together and get them excited," he said.

Mt. Marion student Savannah Scarpa-Meade, part of the winning design team, holds Hubert the "egg-stronaut."



Top: Cahill students watched in anticipation as a balloon-powered car was tested under the guidance of engineer Lisa Case, left.

Bottom: Engineer Mike DeAngelis provided guidance on wind turbine design to a group of potential future engineers at Riccardi.



Top: Morse students cheered when they discovered that their wind turbine worked.

Bottom: The tension mounted at Mt. Marion as students watched engineer Steve Wehr prepare to test what turned out to be the winning "parachute."

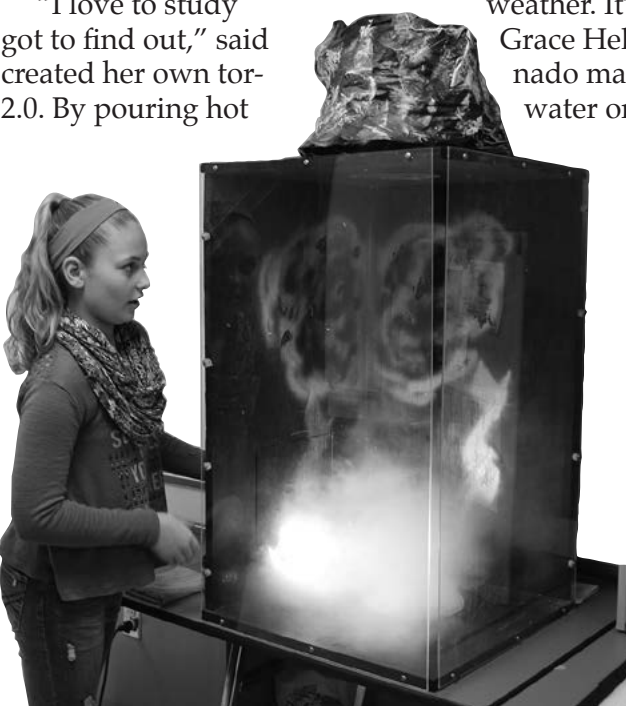
~ Cahill Students Are Inspired by Science ~

Several tiny tornados touched down in the first floor hallway of Cahill Elementary School on March 3, but they didn't affect the water balls or the glowing pickles.

In an atmosphere charged with excitement, 33 young scientists in Grades 4 through 6 displayed their projects at Cahill's second annual science fair.

Projects ranged from the practical to the futuristic and reflected the students' learning, social and environmental awareness, and interests.

"I love to study weather. It's like a mystery you've got to find out," said Grace Heller, a sixth grader who created her own tornado machine, nicknamed Dorothy 2.0. By pouring hot water on a plate of dry ice and then



blowing the resulting cloud with a fan, Grace was able to whip up small-scale twisters. She said she hopes to become a meteorologist and learn how to stop devastating real tornadoes.

Learning about animals getting trapped in the large amount of plastic waste in the world's oceans inspired Liam Dowdall, also a sixth grader, to create his "water ball" project. Using sodium alginate and calcium lactate in a process called spherification, Liam created soft, edible "balls" of water.

"It starts out goopy," Liam said, illustrating his point by holding up a serving spoon full of jelly-like water. "Then it forms a shell with water inside."

While Liam was busy with goopy water, Robert Freer focused his attention on the frozen kind, namely the ice rink. Combining physics and a passion for hockey, Robert hypothesized that the amount of flex in a hockey stick would affect the speed of a slapshot. He performed a total of 30 slapshots, 10 each with three sticks. To accurately determine the speed, Robert turned to Saugerties' finest and got some help from Police Officer Jonathan Tiernan and his radar gun.

Fiona Horvath may have a bright future in fashion engineering after coming up with her "idea for an invention": an all-in-one sturdy strap to hold textbooks, notebooks, pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, and even a water bottle. Fiona, a Grade 5 student, devised the idea after struggling with her textbooks and supplies in the hallways and trying to avoid dropping them on her classmates' toes.

Although children are often warned not to play with their food, Grade 5 student Dalton Reynolds wanted to see what would happen if the salt in a large dill pickle got "excited" by electrical current. Dalton hypothesized that the pickle would glow, and it did.

"I wanted to do something with electricity and I like pickles," Dalton said, explaining the motivation behind his project.

Although Grade 4 student Sarah Mangione said she didn't feel she would win a prize for her pint-sized generator made of nails, magnets, and copper wire, she summed up the spirit of the day quite nicely.

"I learned a lot and it's fun," she said.

Clockwise, from top left: Grace Heller creates a tornado in Dorothy 2.0. Fourth grader Hannah Mills likes "cool science stuff" like growing crystals. Dalton Reynolds made pickles glow at the science fair. Liam Dowdall, right, and Josh Swart with Liam's "water ball" project.



Building Young Leaders at Saugerties Junior High School

The Saugerties Junior High School Builder's Club had the opportunity to attend a meeting of their parent organization, Kiwanis International, in March. Students enjoyed breakfast with Kiwanis members, learned more about how the organization works, and honed their public speaking skills with a presentation about the many service activities they take part in throughout the year. The Builder's Club is a community service organization designed to build leadership and life skills among middle school students. The Saugerties Junior High School Builder's Club takes part in many service projects throughout the year, including food drives, Toys for Tots, Jump Rope for Heart, The Big Give, and others.

Mt. Marion Students 'Discover' Fun and Learning

The classrooms at Mt. Marion Elementary School were buzzing with activity during the month of March...even after school had let out for the day.

More than 150 students participated in the Discover program, an after-school enrichment activity designed to let kids explore their interests.

Principal Carole Kelder said that a survey was sent to parents and teachers earlier in the

From top: Sixth grader Hailey Gerace works with plastic canvas. Second grader Alyvia Albright makes friends with Sky under the watchful eye of Samantha Gooler

Samantha Fasano, a second grader, practices sign language.

Kindergartners and Discover program truck builders Luke Decker, Kai Liu, Jackson Liu, and Alexander Gooler.

year, asking them what types of classes they would like to see offered. As a result of that survey, 15 classes were launched, ranging from jewelry making and sign language to karate and cake decorating.

The hour-long classes were taught by school staff and parents and provided plenty of hands-on and interactive learning experiences. While students were conversing in basic Italian in one classroom, their friends in another were hammering away to create small wooden trucks, and the sounds of basketballs bouncing in the gym mingled with the barking of a dog named Sky in the "How to Shake Paws" class, which helped students learn how to interact with canines.

Kelder said that students enjoyed the activities so much that several classes were extended for a week or two into April.

"That's nice to see," Kelder said.

Discovering Kindness

For one group of Mt. Marion students who took part in the school's Discover program, their class provided an opportunity to be creative and help others at the same time.

Students Grace Grant, Alivia Dyke, Riley Naccarato, Dakota DeGroat, and Savannah Scarpa-Meade spent some of their after-school hours in March creating dresses for school children in Haiti. The dresses will be delivered this summer during a 10-day visit by a contingent of Saugerties staff led by Mt. Marion teacher Cyn Kendall.

Kendall serves on the Board of Directors of Opportunities for Communities (OfC), a Massachusetts-based non-profit launched by a former high school classmate. She first traveled to Haiti with OfC in 2011 to assist with relief efforts following the catastrophic 2010 earthquake.

"We were blown away by the trip," Kendall said of the experience she and her daughter had in Haiti.

Rather than simply providing aid, OfC is dedicated to creating sustainable communities and as part of that effort, the organization recently built a school in the Les Cayes region on Haiti's southern coast for some of the country's 300,000 "restavek" children, who are indentured servants.

The restavek children, and other youngsters in the small village of Bellabe, near Les Cayes, will be the recipients of 50 pretty and colorful dresses created from pillowcases by the Mt. Marion Discover group.

In addition to Kendall, the Saugerties group will include Principal Carole Kelder and her daughter, Randi, Riccardi teacher Marissa Maglio-Kohler, and Cahill teachers Sandra Smith and Sue Kleinke.



Discover program participants (from left) Alivia Dyke, Savannah Scarpa-Meade, Dakota DeGroat, Riley Naccarato, and Grace Grant created dresses for children in Haiti.

Riccardi Second Graders Clown Around in 'Circus, Circus'



Above: Lono Nakapaahu introduces the next act in "Circus, Circus."

Near right: Emma French as a tightrope walker. Far right: Jacob Pettit offers refreshments to the crowd.

Riccardi students and their families were invited to step right up and enjoy an evening under the big top during the school's annual second grade play on April 14.

Lion tamers, tightrope walkers, fire-eaters, and jugglers in Frances Murphy's and Sue Rinaldi's classes presented "Circus, Circus," a fun and laughter-filled show about a group of performers who work together to find a substitute ringmaster and cheer up a sad clown. Throughout the play they were reminded that there's nothing they can't learn if they work hard.

The play was presented twice during the school day and once at night, with the magical help of many school staff and parents.

The students deserve a tip of the top hat for several weeks of hard work learning songs and lines and putting on a cracker-jack production!

Below: Lions Billy Williams, left, and Alivia Pilz with their "tamer," Hayden Barros, and candy seller Diego Lopez in the background. Right: Caleb Nelson transforms his frown into a smile.



Cinderella Enchants Saugerties

Students at Saugerties Junior-Senior High School presented an evening of enchanted theater on April 29 and 30 when they staged their production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*.

The show, written by Douglas Carter Beane, was based on a 1950s live television adaptation of the classic fairy tale, the only Rodgers and Hammerstein musical written for TV.

The Saugerties production was directed by Alex Hayes, a 2010 Saugerties High School (SHS) graduate, and her mother, SHS business teacher Jackie Hayes.

"*Cinderella* is one of my favorite musicals," said Alex, who has a self-described "wicked passion" for theater and studied it in London's famed West End before graduating from Syracuse University in 2014 with a major in TV, radio, and film. After seeing the Broadway production of *Cinderella*, she envisioned how she could bring it to life on the stage in Saugerties.

For almost a century, the spring play at SHS has been an activity reserved solely for the members of the senior class. Two years ago, underclassmen took the stage as well. This year represented another first, combining the talents of both high school and junior high students, about 37 in all.

Taking part in theater at Saugerties was one of Alex's fondest memories and after the former drama club director Theresa Hogan left the District, Alex decided to step up and share her skills and passion because "I couldn't imagine these kids not having a play."

For four and a half months, students practiced songs, committed lines to memory, and learned a lot about themselves and theatre in the process.

"It's been really fun," said senior Sam Waldron, who played Sebastian, a selfish lord. "I generally consider myself a decent person and it's interesting to be evil."

Sam, who will attend SUNY Oswego this fall and major in chemistry, has helped out on stage crew for previous shows and only got his role as Sebastian somewhat by accident when he started to sing while sweeping up the stage after vocal auditions and got an unexpected call-back. Acting, he said, "opened a lot of doors in my mind that I can accomplish anything," including memorizing lines.

While Sam may be nothing like Sebastian, senior Nick Perpetua saw himself in his role, Jean-Michel, a revolutionary peasant with a crush on Cinderella's stepsister Gabrielle.

Evelyn Agar, center, as the evil stepmother, Madame, and her daughters, Sondra Rauschendorfer as Gabrielle, right, and Amalia Martinez as Charlotte.

Dan Caffrey as Lord Pinkleton

Senior Sam Waldron as Sebastian.

SHS seniors Victoria Robyck and Tim Quesnell as Cinderella and the Prince.



The cast of *Cinderella*.

"It's very fun," Nick said. "One minute he's spitting out facts and the next he's babbling. It's very entertaining."

Nick has appeared on the SHS stage before, in "Little Shop of Horrors" two years ago. He will study nano-scale engineering at SUNY Polytechnic Institute.

The title role of Cinderella was played by senior Victoria Robyck.

"I've never been in a play before," she said. Describing herself as naturally "shy and quiet," she said that being in the show "opened me up and allowed me to express myself differently."

Fond of dancing, singing, and volleyball, Victoria will pursue her nursing degree at SUNY Brockport.

Unlike the fairy tale story, Saugerties' Cinderella and one of her evil stepsisters get along just fine. Victoria has been best friends with Sondra Rauschendorfer, who played Gabrielle,

since elementary school.

Like Victoria, Sondra has never acted before but figured she "wanted to give it a whirl." She liked her character, whom she described as "an airhead" and "kind of sometimes maybe" like herself.

When she's not acting, Sondra, who plans to attend St. John's University and study marketing, can be found doing her calculus homework and working at the Jolly Cow. "I make a good banana split," she said.

Alex Hayes said that the students were "incredible" in rising to the challenge of putting on a musical production.

Recalling a rehearsal when a group of the young men in the cast spent more than half an hour practicing cartwheels to get them down perfectly, she said, "It's amazing. They're so willing to do anything, so willing to push themselves."

SHS Key Club Provides Food for Kids Over Spring Break



Eighty-five Saugerties elementary school students went home for spring break with plenty of non-perishable food to eat thanks to the efforts of the Saugerties High School Key Club and the generosity of District faculty and staff.

The Key Club, a service club sponsored by Kiwanis of Saugerties, launched a program to

provide backpacks full of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare foods for District elementary school students in need. Similar programs have been established across the country in recent years to give food to children who may otherwise have little or nothing to eat on weekends and school breaks.

Food for the packs included cereal, apple-sauce, granola bars, soup, macaroni and cheese, and pasta. The food was donated by staff at Cahill, Morse, Mt. Marion, and Riccardi during a food drive in March, then sorted and packed into the backpacks by Key Club members.