

Grade 3 Students Make 'Sense' of Science at Annual Fair



Gabby Staby tests the hearing of a classmate.

Science smelled like cinnamon and sounded as sweet as a bell at Grant D. Morse Elementary School in February as students demonstrated their mastery of key science concepts at the annual Grade 3 science fair.

"The projects are amazing," said teacher Hilarie Wiacek, whose students, along with those of teachers Brooke Ryan and Hope Kraft, put in three weeks of hard work on their projects.

The purpose of the lesson was for students to practice the scientific method: asking a question, researching it, forming a hypothesis and testing it, then recording the results. Each student was asked to create a display board to show their findings.

Those findings included the fact that shorter people can lean farther without falling over, baseball players can hit a ball farther with a metal bat than a wooden one, and that taking a bath uses less water than taking a shower.

The students erupted with excitement for earth science and volcanoes, became scientific detectives to study fingerprints, and explored the mysteries of everything from the insect world to sugar crystals and floating eggs.

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Saugerties

Central School District

WINTER 2016

Saugerties G·R·O·W·S' Program is Launched with \$744,520 in State Grant Funds



Saugerties Central School District Transition Coordinator Deb Nuzzo, left, and Ulster BOCES Grant Coordinator Bonnie Meadow celebrate the District's receipt of a \$744,520 state grant to help students with disabilities build career skills.

Students with disabilities at Saugerties High School will sow the seeds of career success in the coming years, thanks to a \$744,520 grant from the New York State Education Department.

The "Program Grant to Prepare Students with Disabilities to Exit School with Work Readiness Skills" will fund the Saugerties G.R.O.W.S.

(Graduation Requirements through Occupational Work Study) program from the current school year through the 2017-2018 school year.

The grant is intended to help districts expand their career and technical education course offerings and provide hands-on work experience to students with disabilities so that they may earn the Career

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Saugerties G.R.O.W.S. Program is Launched CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential approved by New York State in 2013. The CDOS credential recognizes a student's preparation and training for post-secondary employment.

Saugerties G.R.O.W.S. will give students with mild to moderate disabilities greater exposure to career clusters in areas such as environmental science, technology, family and consumer science, economics, web development, advertising, art, and others.

The focal point of the program will be the construction of a greenhouse, vegetable garden, and farm stand on the Saugerties High School campus. Students will learn to grow organic vegetables and other produce and create products such as pies, jams, maple syrup, and seasonal wreaths, all of which will be sold at the farm stand. In addition, students will gain practical experience in customer service, sales, accounting, marketing, and other areas.

The students eligible to participate are the largest population of students with disabilities at Saugerties High School. They are part of the mainstream general education population and are pursuing Regents diplomas, but many are considered at risk for graduation and need opportunities to gain work skills in order to earn the CDOS credential.

Saugerties G.R.O.W.S. will give them those opportunities.

"This grant gives us the financial means to create a school-based enterprise," said Deborah Nuzzo, the District's Transition Coordinator, who first envisioned the greenhouse and farm stand idea and put a tremendous amount of time and energy into filing the grant application on short notice, in close collaboration with Ulster BOCES Grant Coordinator Bonnie Meadow.

Superintendent Seth Turner said the grant will allow students to grow and flourish, even if their gifts don't lie in the traditional academic disciplines.

"Through this grant, we will be tapping into students with outstanding levels of intelligence that might not be demonstrated in our established classrooms," Turner said. "It's extremely exciting."

Turner added that the various agricultural festivals held in Saugerties each year prove that there is a market for the homemade and home-grown products the program will offer to the community.

"This has the potential to turn into something very unique," he said.

Saugerties Junior-Senior High School Principal Thomas Averill said the grant is "one of the most exciting things I've seen. To see almost \$750,000 is just amazing. This is definitely going to benefit our students. I can't wait."

Ulster BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Charles Khoury said that Saugerties G.R.O.W.S. will create a rich educational harvest for other

schools in Ulster County as well.

"We will all benefit from the lessons, ideas, and programs that will be offered in Saugerties," Khoury said. "Congratulations. It is thrilling for the students and teachers in Saugerties to be so recognized."

Saugerties Board of Education President Robert Thomann said that the grant is "something that's good for kids" that will not impact the taxpayers.

"This is the way things are supposed to work, everyone coming together for the good of our students."

In addition to the greenhouse, farm stand, and gardens, grant funds will also be used for staffing and infrastructure for the new CDOS curriculum, and for professional development for key staff involved in its implementation.

District officials also plan to work closely with local and state businesses that are owned and run by women or minorities to receive feedback and input to ensure that the program gives students the skills they need to be successful in the world of work. Nuzzo said this will include owners of local farms and agricultural businesses presenting workshops to students to enrich their CDOS experience.

Turner said the District will spend the remainder of the school year planning the specific details of how the grant will be used.



"Through this grant, we will be tapping into students with outstanding levels of intelligence that might not be demonstrated in our established classrooms. It's extremely exciting."

—Superintendent Seth Turner

Kayleigh Dolan is Ambassador of Kindness at Morse

Being kind and generous is important "because it makes other people feel happy," according to Morse student Kayleigh Dolan.

And Kayleigh should know. She was selected as the school's Ambassador of Kindness during the annual Show You Care Assembly in December.

The assembly is the culmination of a school-wide effort to raise money and collect non-perishable food for those in need in the Saugerties community. The tradition began many years ago when a Morse student, Matthew Judge, purchased a chocolate snowman and raffled it off to raise money for charity.

During the 2014-2015 school year, the school started a new tradition, honoring the winner of the snowman with the title of Ambassador of Kindness for the rest of the school year.

"I was really surprised that I won," said Kayleigh, who added that she was also pretty happy to win the snowman. In a gesture that demonstrates her natural generosity, she shared the snowman with her friends.

When she's not busy spreading kindness, Kayleigh is a busy student in Heather Fanelli's Grade 5 class. She likes to read, particularly the Warriors fantasy series about a clan of wild cats, and also especially enjoys her homework assignments when they involve writing.

Kayleigh and her fellow students at Morse collected a total of almost \$350 during the Show You Care program, as well as several full boxes of non-perishable food that was donated to food pantries in Saugerties.



Ambassador of Kindness Kayleigh Dolan shares a moment of friendship with Eli Bowers.

Mt. Marion Students Get Positive Message from Morris Brothers

Students at Mt. Marion recently learned that they all have the power to be superheroes. All they need is a little confidence.

That message, and others designed to make Mt. Marion the friendliest, most inclusive school around, was the focus of the Morris Brothers character education assembly in December. The high-energy, interactive show featured rock music, humor, plenty of student participation, and reminders of what bullying looks like and how to stop it.

The Emmy Award-winning Morris Brothers, who hosted their own show on the Fox network and now travel the country performing in schools, selected students from the audience to take part in role-playing activities that reinforced messages about inclusiveness, respect, and standing up for others who are being bullied.

The assembly was one of many fun and enriching activities funded by the Mt. Marion PTA. After the show, students were very clear about what part they enjoyed the most: all of it.



The Morris Brothers take a selfie with Mt. Marion's superheroes.

Spellers Show Skill and Resilience at Annual Bee



Cahill student Brendan Honzik was dedicated to studying for the bee, working with his mom until moments before the event began.

Antonino Tuccillo didn't have to spell the word "perseverance" at the Saugerties spelling bee on January 14, but he certainly knows what it means.

A three-time participant in the annual District-wide bee, Antonino emerged as this year's champ from a field of ten talented spellers from each of the four elementary schools and Saugerties Junior High School.

"I studied every day, 50 words a day," said Antonino, a Cahill Grade 6 student who goes by the nickname Nino and is the son of Anthony and Amanda Tuccillo, both District teachers.

The bee, which was well attended by families and District staff, lasted for 14 rounds and tested students' skills with more than 50 words like "spherical," "evocative," "hypothermia," and "intonation."

"I was nervous," said Nino. "I was just hoping to get past the first round."

Also making it to the final round was runner-up Samuel Cushman, a Grade 4 student from Riccardi who studied Grade 8 spelling words to prepare for the bee.

Nino and Samuel's performance at the bee earned them each a trip to the 34th Annual Capital Region Spelling Bee in Schenectady on February 2.

In addition to top-notch spelling skills, the students displayed good sportsmanship. Spellers comforted those who were eliminated with a pat on the back or some kind words.

Superintendent Seth Turner congratulated all the participants and urged them to follow Nino's example and keep doing their best in hopes of returning to the spelling bee and winning. Joining Nino as a repeat participant were last year's champ, Donovan Barros of Saugerties Junior High School, and Gracelyn VonAhnen of Morse.

The District bee was organized by Director of Elementary Education Susan Gies, who reminded the students that they are all winners, having won their school bees in order to participate in the District event.

"You set an example for others and are role models," Gies said, noting that all the students who took part in the bee are avid readers.

Perhaps no one is a more dedicated reader than Samuel, who at the time of the bee had read 35 books since the start of the school year and was leading Riccardi in the Accelerated Reader program.

"I want to read *War and Peace*," Samuel said. Then, thinking a moment, he added, "Maybe next year."



Saugerties spelling bee participants. Front row, Nino Tuccillo (right) of Cahill and Samuel Cushman of Riccardi. Back row, from left: Mason Hagen of Mt. Marion; Xavier Craven of Morse; Samantha Pineiro of Riccardi; Gracelyn Von Ahnen of Morse; Marlo Rothe of Mt. Marion; Brendan Honzik of Cahill; Donovan Barros and Clinton Stutzman, both of Saugerties Junior High School.



Spelling bee winner Nino Tuccillo, right, and runner-up Samuel Cushman.

Mt. Marion Students Get Creative to Protect the Planet

When you “up-cycle,” or turn discarded items into something new and useful, said Mt. Marion Elementary School Grade 3 student Jonathan MacNamara, you get to paint, “use stuff you had before, and add cool stuff.”

And Jonathan would know. He crafted a “Snow Meter Bird Feeder Man” entirely out of recycled materials for the annual Up-cycle Art Show sponsored by Mt. Marion’s environmental club, The Green Team.

The show, held during the holiday season, featured an array of clever, creative projects made from items like empty raisin boxes, K-Cups, seashells, puzzle pieces, and parts of a broken computer keyboard. All students at Mt. Marion were invited to participate, and the ideas that sprang from their imaginations ran the gamut from the practical (Cameron France’s portable checker set made from an old DVD case and bottle caps) to the fanciful (Chylie Persico’s garden made of PVC pipe, sand paper, and empty fruit cups, presided over by a resident fairy named Cale).

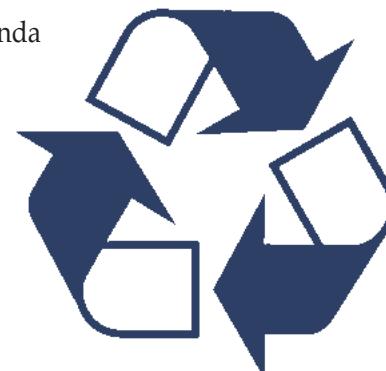
Jonathan’s up-cycled outdoorsy superhero had can tab eyes, a yardstick body to measure snowfall, a hat crocheted by an elderly friend, and “magnificent arms” to hold several small birdfeeders.

Other projects included: Zoe Hartrum’s colorful desk organizer made of pet food cans, emptied compliments of her dog, Biscuit; Tallulah Ashton’s jewelry holder made of toe separators, foam, and candleholders; and Gianna Maloney’s full-size dollhouse, constructed and furnished with materials found around her real-life home.

Visitors to the art show had the opportunity to create an environmentally friendly project of their own by decorating discarded compact discs with help from members of the Saugerties High School Key Club.

The Green Team, which is led by parent Melinda France and is in its third year, currently has 59 members in Grades 2 to 6. Jonathan, who has been a member for three years, said he likes being part of the club because it gives him a chance to help the world.

Anyone who missed the Up-cycle Art Show at the school also had a chance to see the students’ projects at Mt. Marion’s book fair in early December at Barnes & Noble in Kingston.



Cameron France sets up his checkerboard, which was made from an old DVD case and bottle caps.



Zoe Hartrum displays her up-cycled desk organizer.



Imagination and creativity were plentiful at the Up-Cycle Art Show.

American History Comes Alive at Riccardi



Riccardi students Tanner Barros and Makenzie Below follow Kitty Jones as they pretend to creep aboard ships during the Boston Tea Party.

Kaitlyn Bucci, Jenavieve Bass, and Dylan Buley depict the sailing of the ships Dartmouth, Eleanor, and Beaver into Boston Harbor in 1773.

Virginia Lewellyn and Chad Bellanca perform a Colonial dance.

Students at Riccardi Elementary School took a break from language arts and math on a recent morning to creep aboard tea-laden ships in Boston Harbor, ride with Paul Revere, and rub elbows with the Founding Fathers.

The events leading up to the American Revolution sprang to life as students enjoyed a presentation by Kit's Interactive Theatre.

Students in Grades 3 to 6 had no idea they were soaking up key Common Core Learning Standards for social studies as they sat enthralled by a fast-paced journey through the founding of our nation, complete with visits by George Washington, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, and others, all played by students and teachers. With simple props, music,

humor, and improvisation, presenter Kitty Jones turned history into a fun and memorable story.

Prior to the start of the Revolution, younger Riccardi students in Grades K to 2 embarked on their own adventure as they journeyed to Colonial Jamestown to meet Pochontas and John Smith and learn about Native American life and customs in the 1600s.

This is the second year in a row that Jones has brought her participatory history lesson to Riccardi, thanks to the support of the school's PTA.

Jones thanked the fine young patriots for their willingness to play along and for their exemplary Colonial manners while watching the show.



Kitty Jones offers some advice to Paul Revere (John Candlin, right) and William Dawes (Kylie Rifenburgh) before their midnight ride to announce the coming of the British.



Kitty Jones re-enacts a scene from Colonial America with help from students Arielle O'Donnell, Hannah Hoyt, Alexis Gonzales, and Sydney Sidorous.

Learning Takes Wing at Cahill Assembly on Birds of Prey



Sarah Mangione and Peter Yuan hold a king snake.

Cahill Elementary School students paid rapt attention to a lesson on raptors in December when popular wildlife educator Bill Robinson visited the school with some of his feathered friends.

Robinson, who has captivated students at all four Saugerties elementary schools in recent years, combined education with entertainment as he explained how birds of prey hunt, eat, and protect themselves in the wild.

To illustrate his talk, Robinson brought along a turkey vulture, a red-tailed hawk, a falcon, an owl, an eel, and a king snake. He fed the owl, allowed the falcon to fly around the gym, and let students feel the breeze from the vulture's powerful wings. Some students also had the opportunity to hold the snake (a job not too many volunteered for).

Learning how animals live is a key elementary school science concept and Robinson encourages students to take their studies further by visiting the school library for books about birds or any other type of animal that interests them.



Cahill students get up close and personal with a turkey vulture.

Science Fair CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Matthew Dolan, Logan Procak, and Kylee Hommel watch a volcano erupt at the science fair.



Aidan Polston, Shade'ja Florence, and Jonathan Snyder experiment with the sense of smell.

Projects that focused on the human senses were among the most popular. Student Jonathan Snyder placed 10 items, ranging from garlic to cinnamon, in paper bags and asked visitors to identify them by sniffing each with their eyes closed. While Jonathan was focused on the sense of smell, Gabby Staby tuned in to visitors' hearing. She blindfolded them, rang a small bell from several spots nearby, and asked them to identify where the sound was coming from.

"If you get it wrong, you know that you need a hearing aid," Gabby said. "If you get it right, you know you're okay for a few more weeks."

The entire Morse student body and the young scientists' families got a chance to view the projects and see how much the students had learned.

A younger student who visited the fair with her class was inspired by not just one project, but all of them.

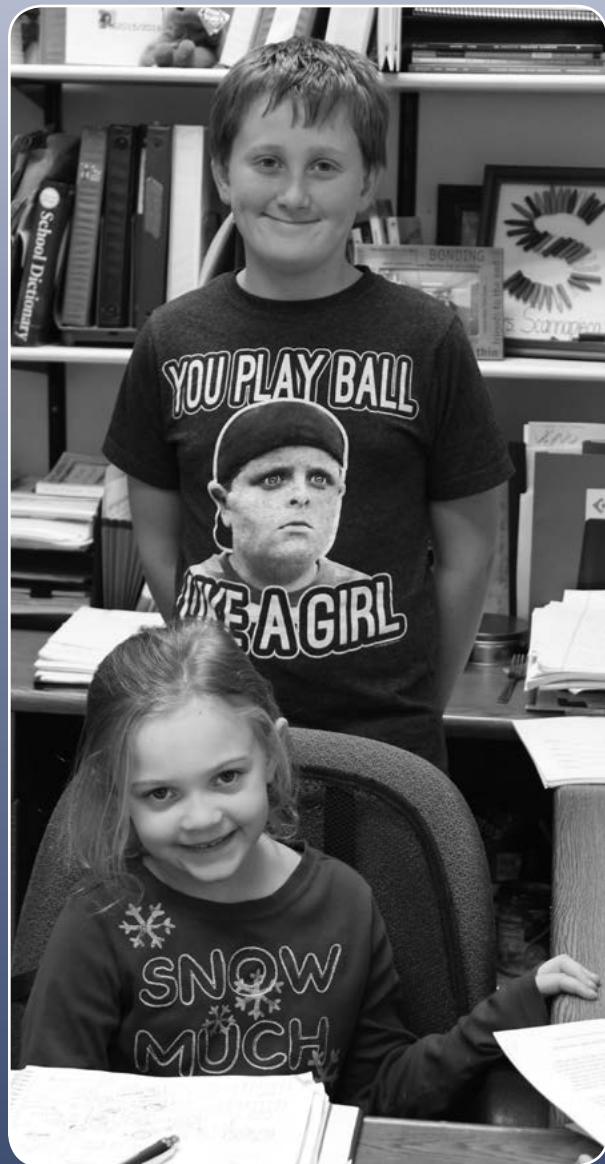
"My favorite is everything," she said.

Practicing Being Principal

When Cahill students Hailey Toole and Casey DeCelle were called to the principal's office this winter, it wasn't because they had done anything wrong. In fact, they both did something quite right.

Hailey, 6, and Casey, 11, each raised the most money in their age groups during the school's Cahill Classic 1K and 5K races in the fall. In recognition of their efforts, they were both treated to being Principal for the Morning.

Although they didn't get to do everything that real-life Cahill Principal Dawn Scannapieco does, the two young administrators-in-training learned firsthand how principals are responsible for juggling many varied tasks in a single day. Casey, whose career ambition is to be a baseball player, did the morning announcements, sorted out books for a rewards program, and led the Pledge of Allegiance at an assembly. Hailey, who hopes to become a teacher, counted out pins and organized certificates for the school's monthly Spirit Assembly, and helped keep everything neat, a skill that will serve her well if she does ultimately become a teacher.



Hailey and Casey, pictured in Principal Dawn Scannapieco's office, both enjoyed their out-of-the-ordinary morning, but were happy to get back to the job of learning, and, of course, recess!

New Riccardi Drama Club Stages First Play

The talents of 29 Riccardi Elementary School students took center stage – literally – when the school's brand new drama club presented its first production, an adaptation of Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.

The fun, colorful play, presented to the entire student body on January 29, showcased about two months of hard work by students and grownups alike.

The drama club was first envisioned by Principal Sue Osterhoudt during a renovation project that added sound, lighting, new curtains, and audio equipment to the school stage in recent years, allowing the school to host its own concerts, variety shows, and other events in-house. Osterhoudt and parent Emily Trotter-Bodie outlined plans for the drama club last summer and were joined in September by Grade 3 teacher Renee O'Donnell and teaching assistant Celeste Lukaszewski.

Under the four women's guidance, students in Grades 4-6 learned all aspects of stagecraft, from blocking and learning their lines to building props from scratch, making costumes, and operating the sound board and lights. Whether on the stage or behind the scenes, everybody had a job that contributed to the success of the show.

"They're doing wonderfully. They're doing a really good job," said Trotter-Bodie, who directed the production and helped the students develop their acting skills with traditional theatre activities like impromptu games and warmup exercises.

Osterhoudt said the students have benefited from the club in a variety of ways. Not only have students been learning to be comfortable performing in front of an audience, they've been improving their listening and attention skills, learning about timing, and getting experience with collaboration.

"It really gives them an opportunity to work together as a team," Osterhoudt said. "It helps them come together."



Skylar Catalano and Nicholas Sawchuck learn the craft of stage lighting from Principal Sue Osterhoudt.

The students themselves may not realize they're learning because they're having so much fun.

Grade 5 student Hailey Fehring-Cocks said she joined the club because she likes to "be in plays and make stuff." Her favorite part of *Where the Wild Things Are* was creating an arbor with tangled vines for the jungle scene.

Arielle O'Donnell, a Grade 6 student, said the show was "real fun" because of the chance to "pretend to be someone you're not and act out anything you want."

Osterhoudt also praised the drama club members for their commitment to the show.

"They are so into this, showing up and taking it so seriously," she said. "They wanted to do it and they're following through and doing their best."



The cast and crew of Riccardi's first drama production.

Putting Technology in Students' Hands at Saugerties Junior High School

Twenty-first century technology is making class time and homework easier for students with special needs at Saugerties Junior High School (SJHS).

Approximately 20 tablet computers are available to students in Resource Room and the Basic Skills classroom at SJHS. The tablets were purchased within the past year and reflect the District's ongoing commitment to helping all students become college and career ready by giving them up-to-date technological tools.

Special education teacher Carole Stopczynski explained that the tablets have been especially helpful for students who have difficulty with writing. Because the devices are portable, students can borrow them and use them for taking notes in class. At the end of the day, they can return to the Resource Room, upload their notes to a desktop computer, then edit and print them to stay organized and reinforce concepts discussed in the classroom.

Stopczynski, who attended professional development at Ulster BOCES to explore the many ways the tablets can be used, said the students have enjoyed working with the devices and she hopes to broaden their use with a wide variety of educational apps.



E.J. Marshall, right, a Grade 8 student, and Kevin Jones, a Grade 7 student, work with tablet computers.



Grade 8 student Kane Losurdo gets guidance from special education teacher Carole Stopczynski as he works on a tablet.

Saugerties High School Student Artwork on Display at Gallery

More than 50 works of art by Saugerties High School students in Amy Frolich and Patty Mooney's Studio Art, Studio in Design, and Drawing and Painting classes are on display at the YES Gallery at the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum. The works include tempera paintings, and drawings in both pen and ink and charcoal, all done by students in Grades 9-11. The gallery is located at 28 Tinker St, Woodstock. The Saugerties exhibit will run through March 27.



Saugerties High School freshman Brooke Stade stands next to her tempera painting in the YES Gallery art exhibit.

The Play's The Thing, Even in 1926

Shakespeare famously said that all the world's a stage and these Saugerties High School (SHS) seniors from 90 years ago certainly must have agreed. They're the cast of a suspenseful romantic comedy called *Just Like Percy* that was staged at SHS (now Cahill Elementary School) on March 11 and 12, 1926. In the Sawyer yearbook, the show, directed by English teacher Ruth Kimmey, was hailed as "ridiculously funny" and the school's dramatic season "particularly brilliant." Pictured, front row, from left: Wilma Ryer, Herbert Cutler, and Catherine Snyder; back row, from left: Nelson Kramer, Elmira Lane, Adele Jeghers, Ethel Grundhofer, and Frank Hunt.



THE CAST OF "JUST LIKE PERCY"

For more modern but still "particularly brilliant" theatre, mark your calendar for this year's Saugerties Junior-Senior High School musical, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, which will be staged on April 29 and 30.