



Saugerties

Central School District

FALL 2022

Walk with Confidence



Bullies feed off fear, but when someone walks with confidence and feels good about who they are, it makes it hard for a bully to target them.

However, having confidence is just one part of preventing bullying. Other anti-bullying measures include telling the bully to stop, walking away, and seeking help from friends, teachers, school staff, police, or other trusted adults.

This was the message advisors of the Strength in Numbers club wanted students to walk away with during the Junior/Senior High School's inaugural "Walk with Confidence!" event, which was held on October 14 on the school's newly resurfaced running track. Students, administrators, teachers, staff, and athletic teams participated in the walk, showing their support for the anti-bullying message.

Strength in Numbers aims to make Saugerties Senior High School a more inclusive, welcoming, aware, and positive place by forging connections, sharing experiences, and promoting meaningful conversations.

Saugerties Student-Teacher Duo Start Free Store to Meet Student Needs

Saugerties senior Marin Musgrave and Social Studies teacher Denyse Ortlieb are making a huge impact on students in the District. How? By setting up a "Free Store" called SCORE (Saugerties Community Offering Resources for Everyone). The store offers an array of non-perishable foods, household and personal-care items, and clothes—all for free.

Ortlieb first came up with the idea of the store last year, when she read about a school in Chicago that was making headlines for helping students in need through its newly created free store. That article became part of a classroom discussion in Ortlieb's Sociology class, where Musgrave was a student. Ortlieb thought that Saugerties could benefit from something like this, but knew that she couldn't create it all on her own.

Ortlieb reached out to Musgrave, a hardworking student who has a heart of gold, to see if she would be interested in helping create the first "Free Store" at Saugerties. Musgrave was a little apprehensive, but after many conversations, she agreed, and this venture has become a passion project. "Knowing how much work was going to be involved, I didn't want to do it, if it wasn't going to be done right," Musgrave admitted. "I didn't want anyone to say, 'Well, that was a big failure.'"

In addition, Musgrave wondered if there truly was a need for such a store. She originally thought that there would be maybe 10 or so people in the District who would need something like this. She was wrong, however. Ortlieb said that since the store opened on November 1, 65 students have come through its doors.

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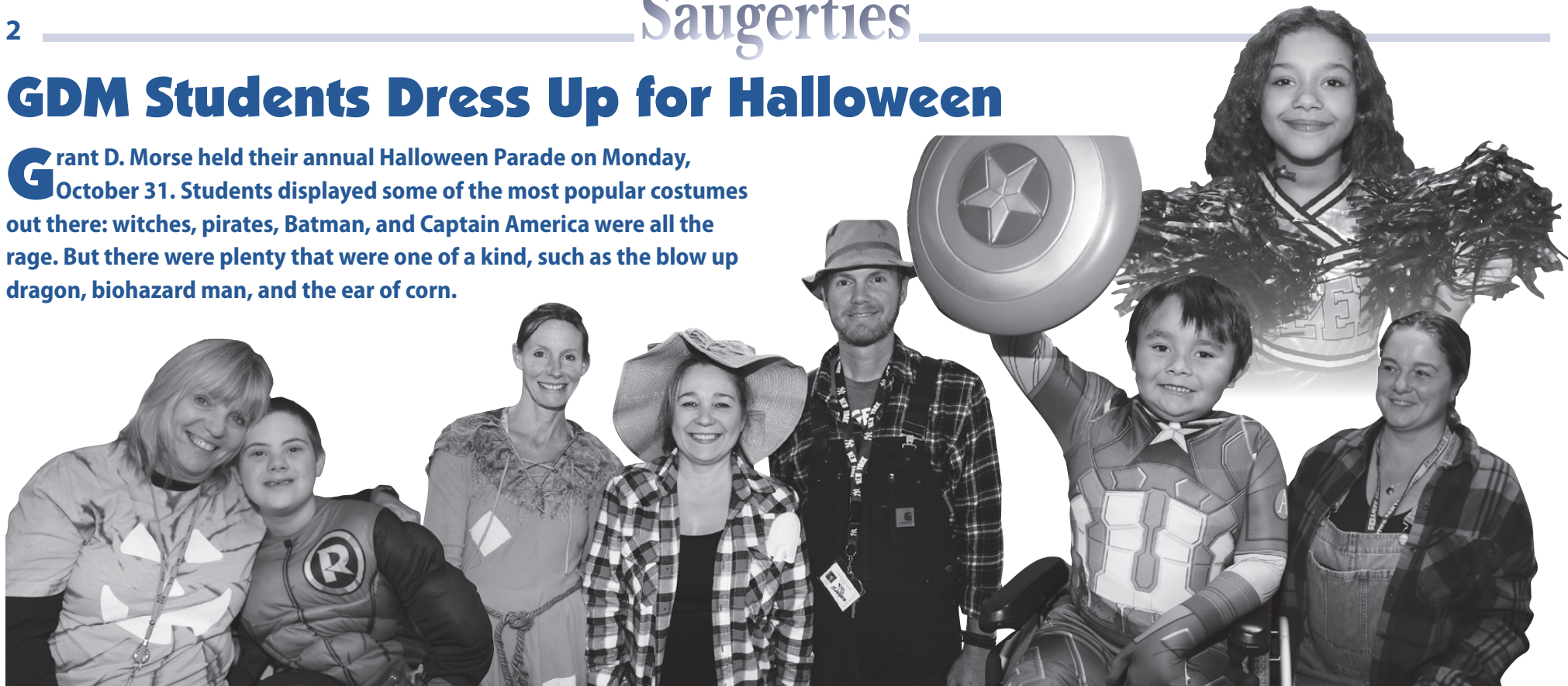
Saugerties Central School District

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Newsletter produced/designed by Ulster BOCES

GDM Students Dress Up for Halloween

Grant D. Morse held their annual Halloween Parade on Monday, October 31. Students displayed some of the most popular costumes out there: witches, pirates, Batman, and Captain America were all the rage. But there were plenty that were one of a kind, such as the blow up dragon, biohazard man, and the ear of corn.

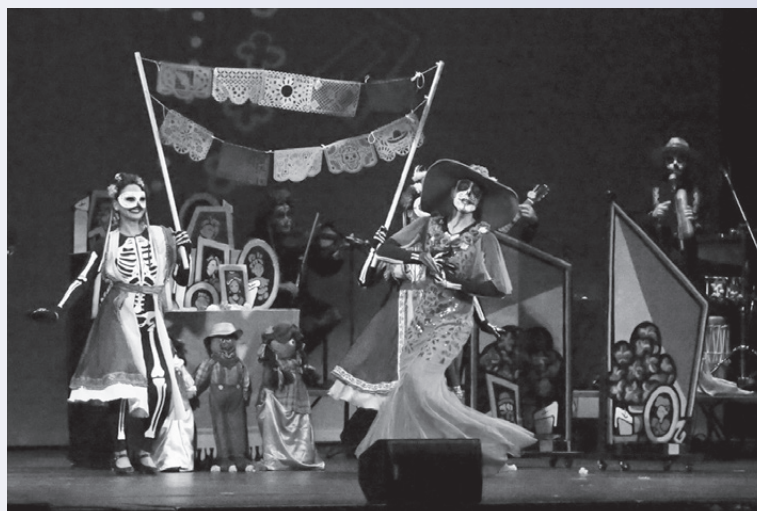


Day of the Dead Comes to Life

Not everyone understands the rich tradition of Día de los Muertos, a Mexican holiday at the start of November which honors deceased loved ones. But Grant D. Morse Grade 5 students had the opportunity to learn all about it when they took a field trip to see the musical called “Sugar Skulls” at the Ulster Performing Arts Center in Kingston, on November 9.

The touring bilingual/bicultural musical used traditional regional music and dance from Mexico to explain why a party is thrown for the dead. Mexicans don’t typically view the dead as being scary, but instead see death as part of life and choose this celebration to honor their deceased. The performance explained different aspects related to the holiday, such as building an ofrendas (a home altar with photos of departed family members), using marigold flowers and incense, and the importance of remembering your heritage.

Students really enjoyed the production and many gave it two-thumbs up.



Spanish Club Celebrates Día de los Muertos

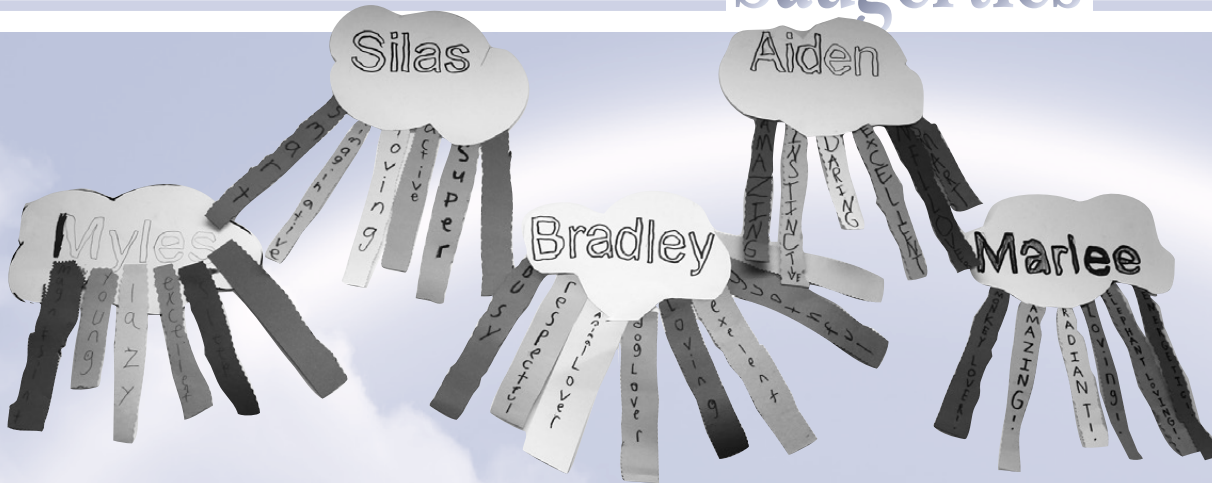
Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a celebration widely observed in Mexico, but is also celebrated in other Latin American countries, usually on November 1 and 2. The Day of the Dead is a time for families and friends to gather and remember joyful memories of those close to them who have passed away. Senior High School Spanish Club members celebrated the day by watching videos explaining the tradition, making and decorating

sugar skulls called calaveras, and painting each other’s faces with makeup to resemble a skull. It was a great way for Saugerties students—regardless of their heritage—to experience a bit of the Latinex culture.



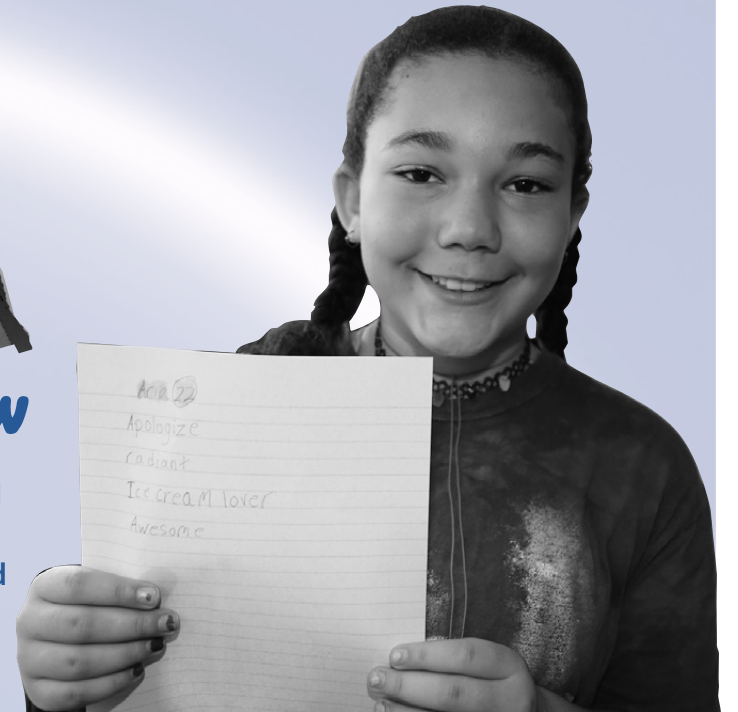
DIA DE LOS
MUERTOS





Adjectives as Colorful as the Rainbow

“M” is for magical. “A” is for awesome. “S” is for smart. “O” is for open-minded. And “N” is for (National Football League) NFL lover. These are the adjectives that best represent M-A-S-O-N. Grade 4 students in Bonnie Brown’s class at Riccardi Elementary School worked on an innovative literacy and craft activity to better understand adjectives. Brown said that in addition to being a fun learning activity, this project also added a splash of color to the classroom.



All Types of Students Find Typing Fun

Back in the day, typing class was all about students sitting straight in their chairs with their eyes forward and their fingers at the ready on the middle row of their typewriter. But as technology expanded, it seemed as though typing had become a lost art. Nowadays, students use a different style of typing. They use their two thumbs to rhythmically tap out words on their smartphones or one finger to type each letter on a keyboard.

But Saugerties Junior Senior High School is bringing typing back with its new Desktop Publishing class. Teacher Ian Cooper spends a portion of the curriculum having students practice typing through games and repetition. Much like playing an instrument, typists must develop muscle memory, which is the ability to move fingers to the required keys without conscious thought. Recently, Cooper had his students participate in a Keyboarding Contest where proficiency reigned supreme.



Remembrance Tree honors Beloved Staff Member

Saugerties High School honored the life of Computer Lab Teaching Assistant Don Yacullo on October 26 with a special tree planting ceremony. Yacullo worked for the District for 21 years and retired in June of 2021. Shortly after his retirement he passed away. The Saugerties school community was heartbroken and colleagues wanted to do something in his honor.

Through a collection of private donations and a \$200 check from the Eco Club, a maple tree was purchased and planted on the grounds of the High School campus. The tree planting was attended by students, staff, and administration.

Friend and colleague Catherine Davis said in the future the school will place benches around the tree to give students and staff a chance to admire the tree and remember Mr. Yacullo.

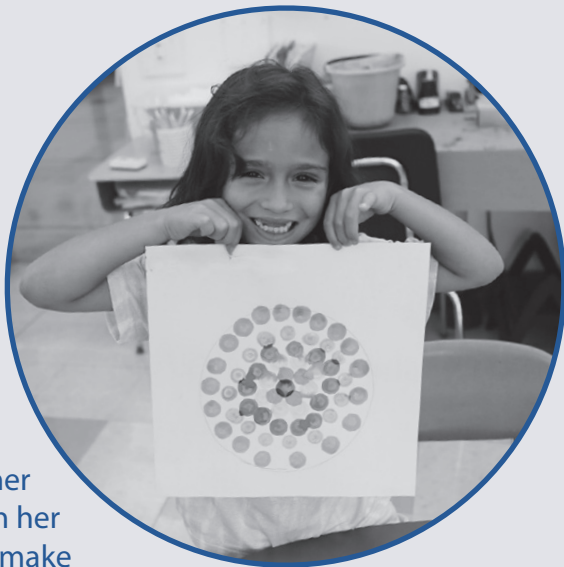


Cahill Students Are Seeing Spots

Usually held on or around September 15 is International Dot Day, a global celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration. Cahill's Art Teacher Rebecca Black kicked off her curriculum by reading Peter Reynolds' classic book, "The Dot".

The Dot is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to make her mark. What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing.

Black encouraged her students to do the same by painting, coloring, or gluing their best dot ever.



Saugerties Student-Teacher Duo Start Free Store to Meet Student Needs

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Musgrave has come to realize that, "People really don't know what other people are going through. I think food insecurity is really under-recognized in many communities."

The school's free store is different from a food bank because it really is geared towards students. "It was important to us that we had items students like," Musgrave said. As part of her research, Musgrave surveyed fellow students to find out what types of items they would like to see in the store. The results of the survey helped the store decide what to stock their shelves with. "It feels good to know that students are getting an opportunity to pick out items they enjoy eating, like mac and cheese, Pop-tarts, or ramen noodles," Musgrave explained. "Times are tough, and many families are struggling to put food on the table, and 'fun' items that students like to eat don't often make it onto the grocery list."

The items in the store were purchased through monetary donations, with additional items being provided through a "necessities drive" held at the beginning of the school year. Musgrave and student volunteers help to stock the shelves.

While the majority of the work involves keeping the shelves well-stocked, there is a bigger challenge: convincing students who need items to go and visit the store. "We know that if a student is hungry, academics will be the last thing on their mind," said Ortlieb. She is hoping the electronic ordering form will make it easier to serve more students. "The store is vital to ensuring that every student has the best opportunity to be successful," she declared.

It is important to Musgrave that students feel comfortable while shopping for items. She wants it to be a judgment-free zone. Therefore, students do not run the store. Instead, it is run after school by staff and teachers who volunteer their time.

Musgrave said that this project has helped her solidify her aspirations to study social work after graduating from high school. She will also be using this experience to apply for the Seal of Civic Readiness, a fairly new initiative supported by the New York State Department of Education. In order to earn a civics seal, one must identify a civic issue, analyze the issue, design and execute a solution to the problem, reflect on what they have learned, and make a presentation. If Musgrave completes everything for this project, she will be the first person from Saugerties to receive this seal at graduation.

"I've learned a great deal about myself through this project," Musgrave said. "I'm a pretty quiet person who doesn't like to do things outside of my comfort zone. But since the start of this project, I've learned I have a voice, that staying in your comfort zone is not very challenging or exciting, and it feels really good to help others, even if I don't know who they are."

So as not to let this grassroots effort die, Musgrave is already planning to help mentor her replacement for next year. "My hope is that the free store will be around for as long as people need it."



Saugerties Crowns Their Queen

The annual Mum Bowl, held this year on October 8, featured a football match against Port Jervis, as well as plenty of school spirit. Although the Sawyers lost to the Raiders by a score of 39-0, the hometown crowd never stopped cheering. Another highlight came during halftime, when the Mum Queen, Lucia Vazquez, and her Court, Ava Arehart and Jenna Wormell, were crowned.



SAUGERTIES BAND TEACHER WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE: Moves Forward with His Best Self

When Saugerties band teacher Bernhard Spirig stands in front of an audience filled with parents and guardians of his Band students, most would never know what he is going through. Spirig, who has been living with Parkinson's disease for the last three years, said that he's not going to let this disease take away his love of teaching music.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder that affects the nervous system and different parts of the body controlled by nerves. Symptoms can include tremors, slowed movement, rigid muscles, impaired posture, speech changes, and loss of automatic movements.

Despite Spirig's challenges with movement and rhythmic shaking, he still enjoys sharing his musical talents. He realizes that every day is a gift—a hard-earned, life-affirming, take-nothing-for-granted opportunity to keep doing the thing he's loved since he first started playing an instrument.

"Music is all about building relationships and making connections," Spirig said. "It's about having students feel, hear, connect, and perform the music." He went on to say, "Music is such a powerful thing; it enriches our lives and helps foster intelligence."

"Whenever we're faced with a hardship — our first instinct is to avoid it, fight it, or be angry," Spirig confessed. "But I've learned to be more accepting of my capabilities and the capabilities of others." He explained that acceptance is not about "getting over it" or putting on rose-colored glasses; rather, it is about making peace with the situation and moving forward with your best self. He hopes that his students will learn from this mindset.

"I was nervous in the beginning about how my students would respond to my tremors," Spirig admitted. "But they have been incredibly compassionate about it." His students, he said, are very patient, especially when he has to say or do something at a slower pace.

Spirig has learned how to stop judging himself on what he can't do and to start focusing on what he can do. He now plays the bass and the tuba, which are more tremor-friendly, and he performs and practices with numerous bands several times a week. "Parkinson's won't define me," he declared.



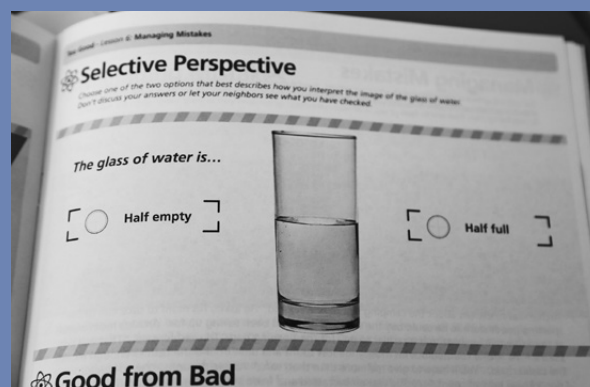
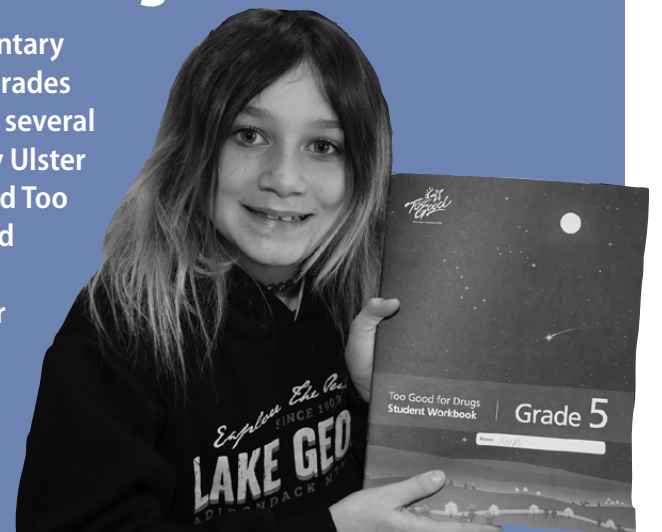
SAUGERTIES STUDENTS LEARN FIRE SAFETY

In honor of Fire Prevention Week (October 9-15), Saugerties Elementary School and Pre-K students were taught different fire safety tips, watched demonstrations, and received a complimentary fire safety helmet and goody bag. The District would like to thank the different fire companies who helped bring this valuable information to our students (Glasco, Mt. Marion, Centerville, and Village of Saugerties Fire Districts.)



Too Good for Drugs

Grant D. Morse Elementary School students in Grades 3 - 6 are in the midst of a several week program hosted by Ulster Prevention Council, called Too Good for Drugs. Too Good for Drugs builds a social emotional framework for drug-free living through a fun and interactive journey of setting reachable goals, making responsible decisions, managing emotions, and refusing negative peer pressure. Each grade is taught grade specific lessons that builds towards a better understanding of the



negative effects of nicotine, drugs, and alcohol. Prevention Educator Chase Woodlief says the goal is to help set students up for success when things get tough.

Saugerties Honored Faculty and Staff Veterans

The District kicked off Veterans Day thanking faculty and staff members who have served in our nation's military. The District wanted to pause, reflect, and give thanks for their sacrifices.

VETZERO VISITS THE CLASSROOM

Veterans who are members of VetZero, a community outreach program, were invited to speak to different classes at the High School on November 10, in honor of Veterans Day. Students had the opportunity to ask these service members about life in the military. Grade 10 students in Joseph Fabiano's Global History class asked their guests about why they enlisted, where they served, what they did to help transition back to civilian life, and whether or not they would allow their children to enlist. VetZero, which partners with Hudson River Housing in Poughkeepsie, aims to reduce the number of Veteran suicides, as well as the number of Veterans who are homeless, to zero in our region. The primary goals of the program are twofold: students meet Veterans face-to-face and hear their stories, and Veterans benefit from sharing their stories.



CAHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THANKS VETERANS WITH ASSEMBLY

Cahill Elementary School students had the opportunity to learn more about the true meaning of Veterans Day, when a group of local Veterans visited the school for a unique assembly. During the event, special guests were introduced, patriotic songs were sung, and students had an opportunity to present each Veteran with handmade cards and colored pictures. The Veterans talked about their experiences serving their country, and patiently answered the many questions posed by the young audience members. Students and staff were very grateful to these Veterans not only for their service, but also for sharing their time, memories, and words of advice with our school community.



Cahill Students Dig into Dinosaur Lessons

To help younger students get excited for science lessons in the upper grades, the District has been giving students in Grade 2 smaller, bite-sized introductory science lessons. Cahill students in Jamie Combs's class have been delving into the prehistoric world and learning about different dinosaurs. During these lessons, students acquire new vocabulary words like fossils and herbivore, and read up on the different features of these extinct animals.





Promoting Early Literacy, Early

After working hard on an art project, students in Janet Sullivan's Pre-Kindergarten class at the Mt. Marion Learning Center were rewarded with some special "book time." Students could spend time either looking at pictures or finding letters that they recognized. Having students independently explore books is a great way to help them build their reading skills.

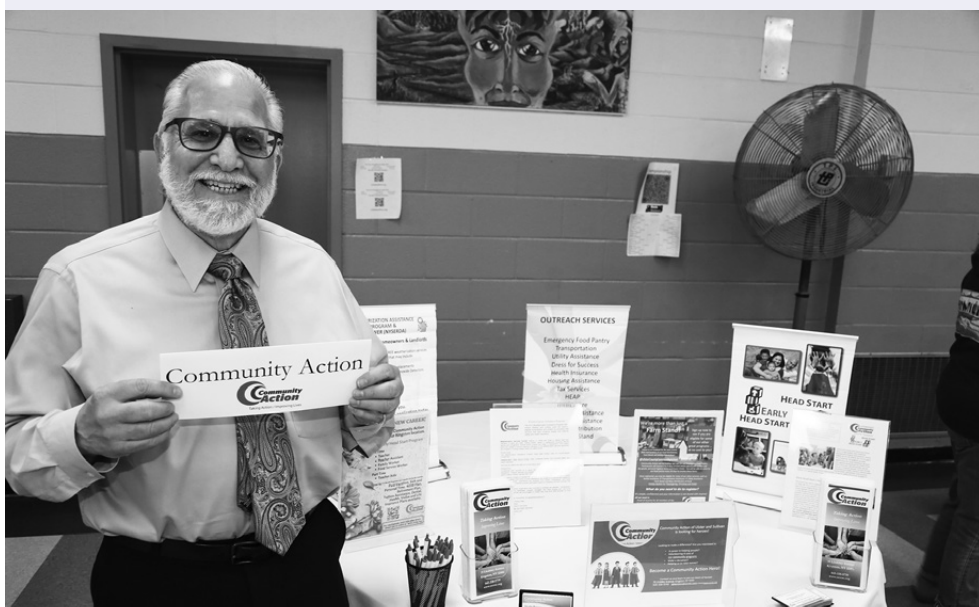


Junior/Senior High Holds First Community Mixer

During the Junior/Senior High School Teacher Conferences held on October 20, several community agencies were also on hand in the Junior/Senior High School cafeteria. This community mixer was for parents and caregivers of Saugerties students in Grades 7-12 who wanted to connect with organizations and resources that could assist in their students' success.

Many of these organizations and individuals understand the value of supporting diverse environments, celebrating differences, and creating places of belonging, especially when there are challenges.

The District would like to thank everyone who participated.



RICCARDI MARVELS AT KIDS WHO READ

For years, when school lets out for summer, Riccardi's Grade 2 teacher Frances Murphy has made it her mission to encourage kids of all ages to continue reading. She explains that summertime offers them the chance to become immersed in a thrilling narrative, explore far-off worlds, discover new interests, or learn new skills. Secretly, though, her real goal is to help students combat the loss of learning over the summer



months, also known as the "summer slide." That's why each June, Murphy sends students home with a list of reading challenges, with each task being given a different number of points. Tasks include borrowing a book from the library or reading the back of a cereal box.

Then in October, the challenge points are tallied and awards are given out during a school assembly.

This year's assembly featured a superhero theme, and it was a big hit!





Soccer Coach Celebrates 50 Years in Saugerties

Fifty years later, Tony Elia can recall his first year coaching soccer at Saugerties High School like it was yesterday.

The Modified Soccer coach says there are no coincidences in life—there is a reason for everything. Ironically, Elia's career path started with a chance meeting in 1972 between himself and Pete Kramer, a former trustee for the Saugerties Central School District Board of Education. At the time, Elia was an experienced young soccer player who was working towards earning his master's degree in Education from SUNY New Paltz.

Back then, Elia was trying to decide between playing soccer or pursuing a career as an educator. His meeting with Kramer resulted in him deciding to do both—teach Social Studies while creating the first soccer program at Saugerties High School. For the next 30 years, Elia coached the Varsity Soccer team before spending another 20 years coaching Modified Soccer. He ended up teaching Social Studies for 38 years and retired in 2009.

The District held a celebration in honor of Elia's 50th anniversary, inviting family, colleagues, and friends to mark his achievement. The District also presented him with a jacket to commemorate the milestone. Elia said he was speechless and felt choked up.

"The thrill of this game never gets old, and I will do it for as long as I can," he said about his future as a coach.



CHEER TEAM CAPTURES SPIRIT AWARD

Congratulations to our Varsity Cheerleaders who rocked it during the second annual Husky Rumble Scholarship Game Day Competition, which took place at Highland High School on November 3. Our competitive Cheer squad took second place in their class and won the Most Spirited category. Coach Jessica McCaig and Coach Crystal Whitaker said everyone has been working really hard and they definitely brought their game faces that day.



STUDENTS COMMIT TO PLAY SPORTS IN COLLEGE

Saugerties High School signed 3 athletes to play sports at the collegiate level during National Signing Day in November. We look forward to another group signing in the spring. GO SAWYERS!

- ★ **Maddy Dodig** committed to SUNY Binghamton to play Division I Softball (Utility)
- ★ **Molly Boek** committed to Mercy College to play Division II Basketball (Wing, Forward)
- ★ **Jace Van Valkenburg** committed to SUNY Herkimer to play Division III Baseball (Pitcher and First Base)



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