



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Message from Dr. Benante

Dear Haldane Community,

When reading the highlights in this month's issue of Horizons, I am reminded that Haldane is a thriving community that balances student opportunities across academics, athletics, and the arts. Our students took center stage this past month - whether that be in our elementary students' performance in Seussical, the high school drama department's production of Oklahoma!, or our Boys' Basketball team's run to the state finals.

It's clear that Haldane's students continue to thrive this school year. Read on to learn more about the array of experiences our students have had on campus and beyond over the past month.

Enjoy,
Phil Benante, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

MARCH 2023

Pancakes! Pancakes!

Romeo and Juliet Reader's Theater

Seussical

8th Grade Panda Poets

Student Wellness Speaker Series

Oklahoma! Double Cast

Basketball Takes Town to States

Debate Team First Place at Bard

New Infield at Mayor's Park

9th and 10th Take In The Lion King

Student Art Invitational

Sociology Shadows Our Teachers

Juniors Explore Washington, DC

Foreign Language Immersion

Pinwheel Garden & Magnet Positivity

Pancakes! Pancakes!

Would you believe us if we told you that some kindergartners ate 4 or 5 pancakes, maybe more? Well, it's true! They enjoyed sausages, fruit, and juice, as well. The real maple syrup was poured all over the warm flapjacks. The delicious breakfast follows the February maple sugaring trip. Thank you to our parent volunteers for coming in to help make and serve the pancakes, as well as those who sent in food and supplies to make the day so special.



Romeo and Juliet Reader's Theater

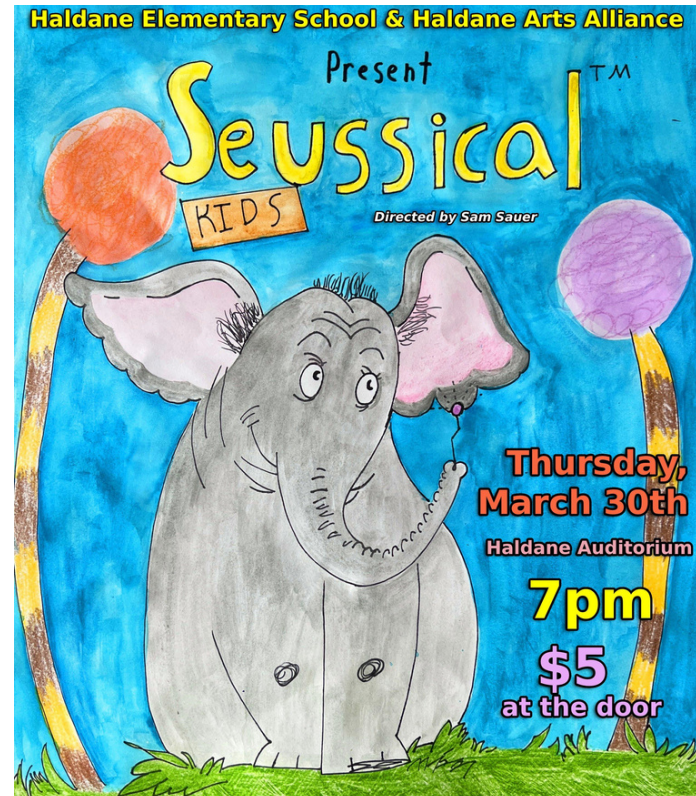
Students in grades 6-9 enjoyed a Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival modern take on Romeo and Juliet.

The performance was made possible through grants from the Haldane School Foundation and the Haldane Arts Alliance.



Seussical

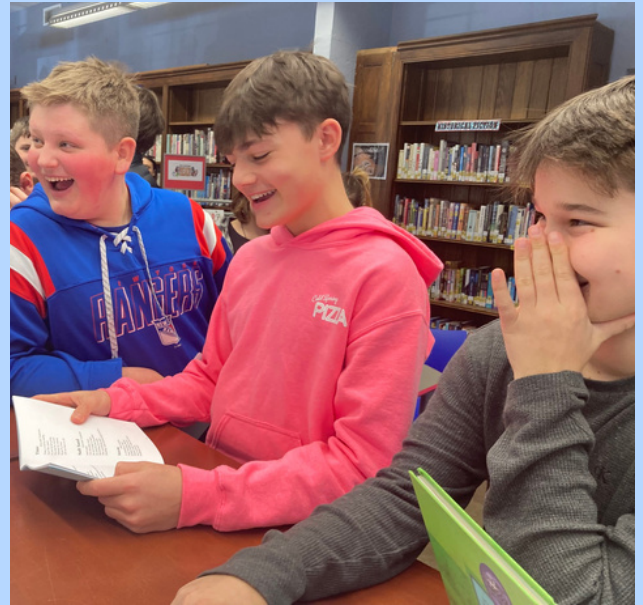
Under the direction of Sam Sauer, and with the support of the Haldane Arts Alliance, Haldane Elementary School sent everyone off to Spring Recess with their performance of Seussical Kids. The two shows, one daytime for students and staff, and one evening for families and the community, yielded rave reviews. The show even included a cameo by Mrs. Jamin, Elementary Principal.



8th Grade Panda Poets

With support from a Haldane School Foundation grant, 8th grade students participated in a series of five poetry workshops with Visiting Poet Jane LeCroy. Together they created the Panda Troubles book of poetry featuring their works. Their hard work was celebrated at a publishing party this month.

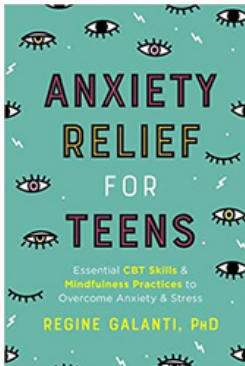
Seeking inspiration from well-known poets, the students, "expanded the universe through our imaginations, played with language and made poems. Above all, we had fun! We were serious and hilarious, ridiculous and compassionate, introspective and goofy," according to Ms. LeCroy.



Speaker Series Prioritizes Students' Wellness and Wellbeing

Anxiety Relief for Teens

On March 23, Haldane Middle School students participated in an assembly, lead by author Dr. Regine Galanti. The program emphasized the causes of anxiety and helped student explore CBT-based skills and mindfulness techniques to manage anxiety and reverse negative patterns. With support from the PTA's Learning Differences Committee, each student received a copy of her book, *Anxiety Relief for Teens*.



You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me

On March 28, students in grades 6-8 explored ways to build empathy, teamwork, and understanding during Dr. Mykee Fowlin's performance of *You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me*. Through the use of humor, performance art, poetry, storytelling, psychology, theatrical monologues. Dr. Fowlin engaged the students in the stories of nine characters experiencing bullying.



Haldane Family University: Dr. Amanda Nickerson

Parents and guardians are invited to a Haldane Family University event on Monday, April 17 from 6-8pm.

Dr. Amanda Nickerson, whose research focuses on school crisis prevention and intervention, will speak on the roles of schools, parents, and peers in preventing violence and enhancing the social-emotional strengths of children and adolescents.

RSVP here.

ATTENTION

HALDANE PARENTS
AND CAREGIVERS

SAVE THE DATE FOR
THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC

**Supporting Students' Social, Emotional
and Relationship Needs**

Presented by Dr. Amanda Nickerson
Director, Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention

Monday, April 17, 6-8 pm (Auditorium)

Speaker 6-7 pm

Followed by Small-Group Discussions 7-8 pm

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/o2i2Z8yPqE2jTnPj6>

Presentation and discussion periods are for adults only. If childcare is needed in order to attend, it will be provided for children ages 5-12.



Double Cast Does It Again in Oklahoma!

Reflection by Senior Conrad White

Oklahoma!" was Haldane Drama's latest Musical performance, and the last of my career at Haldane High School. This show was directed by Martha Mechalakos, with huge help from Andrea McCue, Damian McDonald, Shauna Chandler and countless others. The production brought out the best talent from its actors, stage crew, and tech booth workers. I couldn't be prouder to have been part of this musical, or happier to have done it with my friends.

Photos courtesy of Jim Mechalakos



Boys' Varsity Basketball Takes Town to States

With nearly the entire town in tow, Haldane Varsity Boys' Basketball made an amazing run for the state championship. Congratulations and thank you for bringing us along for the ride. You made us all proud to be Blue Devils!



Haldane Debate Team Takes First Place at Bard College

Reflection by Junior Helena Kottman

On March 3, eight students from Haldane's Debate Team travelled to Bard College, where the Bard Debate Union hosted a high school tournament attended by five schools from the Hudson Valley. Motions (topics) were provided many weeks beforehand to allow for research and preparation.

Haldane's Debate Team meets every week at the Butterfield Library (new

members always welcome!) for brainstorming sessions or practice debates. The format we use is called "world schools," and each member of opposing teams of three deliver their own 5-minute speech. Because each debater has a designated speaking time, each speaker gets their time to shine, so the emphasis is less on making a lot of noise and more on the actual argument.



The motions at hand for the Bard tournament had to do with: whether Puerto Rico should seek independence, whether mockery should be discouraged in political discourse, and whether countries should push for energy self-sufficiency. These topics got us to research areas we might not delve very deeply into on our own, and the opinions that we held going into the experience were not always those we ended up with after hearing strong arguments and evidence for multiple sides.

At the tournament, we competed against high school teams from other schools, and got to socialize with some very intelligent and interesting people. The judges were coaches from the different schools, as well as members of Bard's own debate team. It was the first time this yearly tournament had been held in person since the February right before the pandemic, so for some of us, this event felt like a long-awaited reunion with live debate events. We had a pizza lunch half-way through the afternoon, and at the end of the tournament awards were distributed. The top 10 speakers and top 5 teams were given a gavel or medal.

From Haldane (the smallest school at the tournament), Keira Shanahan (10th grade) received 5th place speaker award, and Haldane A, which was Colin Hopkins (11th grade), Marc Firpo (10th grade), and me, Helena Kottman (11th grade), won 1st place team overall. I am immensely proud of my whole team's hard work and talent. I wasn't able to watch my teammates' debates because I was competing myself, but the practice debates we held at our meetings always produced interesting conversations and I am consistently impressed by my teammates' critical thinking and argumentative skills. It has been particularly rewarding to watch my younger teammates grow in their confidence and abilities, and develop a passion for debate.

New Infield at Mayor's Park Sets Blue Devils for Success



Just in time for the 2023 baseball season, Haldane completed the regrading of the Mayor's Park baseball infield. Thank you to the Varsity Baseball team and their supporters whose fundraising efforts helped offset the cost of this significant project.

While Mayor's Park is owned by the Village of Cold Spring, Haldane works in partnership with the Village to maintain the playing field for the benefit of players of all ages.

Go Blue Devils!

Freshmen and Sophomores Enjoy a Day in NYC at The Lion King



SITE: School Invitational Theme Exhibition: You Are Here

Garrison Art Center showcases Haldane and Hudson Valley student artists



Celia Drury



Chloe Rowe



Sam Bates



Olivia Flanagan



***4th Grade Work
Also on Display***

High School Teachers Welcome Sociology Student Shadows

As part of their unit on education, students teamed up with Haldane teachers for a day on the other side of the desk.



"I liked observing how Mr. Hoolan interacted with the different classes. While there were definitely changes in how lessons were taught from class to class, he upheld the same positive energy and constructive classroom environment. Talking to Mr. Hoolan about being a teacher was really inspiring- he was very transparent and helped me get a sense of the ups and downs of being a teacher. He clearly cares so much about his students."

"I was able to observe the relationship that Mrs. Cotchen has with a lot of students. Since there was a basketball game and play this weekend, she went out of her way to tell all of the students how well they did and how she enjoyed getting to watch them."



"The fact that Mr. Sassano is able to structure his classes so that we learn so much about life outside of school but also maintain a schedule that fits a math curriculum is very impressive. In sociology, we learned about how schools around the world prepare students differently. In those schools, children learn by participating in various activities outside the classroom. At Haldane, Mr. Sassano incorporates school curriculum and life skills into his math classes."



"From students, parents, other teachers and everyone involved in a school, teachers are constantly working together and finding ways to help the people around them. Also, the ability for one person to have a major impact on a student's life is very astonishing."

Haldane Juniors Explore DC With Packed Agenda of Sights and Sun



Annual Foreign Language Immersion Day



APRIL 2023

**MON 3 -
MON 10**

NO SCHOOL
Spring
Recess

**MON
17**

PTA
Dr. Amanda Nickerson
Presentation

**TUE 25 -
WED 26**

Kindergarten
Screenings

**WED
12**

In-School
SAT Day

**WED 19 -
FRI 21**

Grades 3-8
ELA
State Tests

**THU
27**

High School
Spring Concert

**FRI
28**

5th Grade
Arts Alive



Pinwheel Garden Brings Awareness



Ms. Festo and her 7th grade girls group planted this year's pinwheel garden at Haldane's flagpole in preparation for Child Abuse Awareness Month in April. The blue pinwheels are intended as a sign of happy, carefree childhoods, the kind that everyone deserves to experience.

Positive Message Magnets

Nomie, Celia, and Opal from the 6th grade DCI class created "Positive Message Magnets" to cheer up students at Haldane Middle School. Students could choose from eleven designs to display positivity in their lockers. Awesome work Opal, Celia, and Nomie!



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