



## Day of Play at Chestnut Ridge

“Soft skills” have taken on increased importance for our younger students due to the last school year’s loss of peer interaction and in-person learning. Skills like problem solving, compromising, taking turns, handling frustration, encouraging others, sharing, and being a gracious winner or polite loser are vital for future success. Day of Play, held in January at Chestnut Ridge School (CRS), was one learning solution that prioritized these competencies through having good old-fashioned fun with others. Without a digital screen in sight, students from all grade levels went hands-on with favorite card games, board games, toys and puzzles brought in from home.

Each teacher structured the day in a way that was best for their class’s ages, interests

and skillsets, and COVID protocols were carefully followed. Some classes went to the gym or even played outside. The play itself, though, was purposely unstructured. After setting expectations, students were encouraged to play freely.

First-grade teacher Sarah Sparks Stewart’s students have come a long way since September, but many are still missing social skills usually seen in first grade. She said, “This was just what they needed! We started by discussing what we wanted to get out of the day and how we were going to accomplish those goals. Students wanted to make new friends, teach others how to play their games, talk to everyone and have fun! They were going to accomplish this by trying to talk to friends they don’t normally

play with, and they were going to be careful with the games and toys they had. They all agreed that being kind was also very important.”

“We took a few times to reflect throughout the day,” said Sparks Stewart. “There were some tears from friends who didn’t know how to handle situations, but we worked through everything. The kids loved the day, and at the end, they wrote about the problems they solved and the things they learned.”

Many of the CRS teachers hope to continue to use short periods of free play daily to reinforce the skills learned during Day of Play.



### NEWS & VIEWS What’s Inside:

- Recognizing Black Scholars
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- The SHS Musical



Dear community,

While the State has lifted the mask mandate in schools, I want to assure you that the health and safety of our students and staff remains a priority.

In addition to optional masking, we continue to encourage social distancing, regular handwashing and use of hand sanitizer. We have also been working with staff on the transition by providing safe spaces for students to have a choice around wearing masks. Based upon our Core Beliefs, students will be treated with mutual respect, dignity and honesty whether they choose to wear a mask or not. Students should seek help from their teachers, counselors or administrators if they feel they are in need of support.

On behalf of the district and our staff, I want to thank you for your continued support as we work collaboratively to assess and address students, both academically and behaviorally. Through the first semester, and now as we are in the midst of the third quarter, we continue to be aware of the increased level of social emotional needs of our students. At times, this is reflected through conflict and challenges with relationships; however, we want to assure you that each of our schools has spent time working with students and families to create opportunities for support, through working directly with our counselors, social workers, psychologists, teachers and administrators. Our focus will continue to be on creating and providing welcoming and nurturing environments for all of our students and staff.

We would like to thank you for your recent support in passing the Phase VI Capital Project which will focus upon the middle school classrooms, hallways and HVAC, along with transportation facilities, infrastructure and athletic fields. Our district architects are currently working with staff members to plan and prepare documents for the State Education Department's review near the end of the calendar year 2022. We will keep you updated through the spring and summer with our next steps and submission.

In January, we were able to have guest panelists from three local businesses (ESL, Paychex and Dixon Schwabl) address our staff about their diversity initiatives, hiring practices and training. In addition, several of our students in our high school Voices of Change group worked with staff to facilitate relationship circles, talk about poverty, and have conversations about diversity in a safe space. Several of our students attended the Student Summit on Race at St. John Fisher College in November, and they are looking forward to participating with students from area school districts in the upcoming summit in March.

I want to thank our staff members who are working diligently each and every day to meet the needs of our students and families, and especially for creating an environment that fosters positive relationships and a safe setting for all.

Dr. Lori Orologio  
Superintendent of Schools

## Churchville-Chili Approves Phase VI Capital Project

The \$66,730,000 project will be funded through State Aid, Federal funding, and the Capital Reserve Fund with no additional impact to the local tax share.

The major focus of the project is renovations of Middle School North classrooms, hallways including lockers, kitchen, stairwell and elevator relocation for compliance and safety, and HVAC updates.

### Additional project details:

- Hallway and locker updates for MSS.
- Roof replacement over the NGA.
- MSN bus loop pavement replacement, a new concrete sidewalk, the loop completion of the waterline, and four electric car charging stations.
- New exit onto Buffalo Road in front of the high school.
- Relocation of the tennis courts.
- Installation of one synthetic baseball/multipurpose field and one synthetic softball field.
- Reconstruction of the transportation parking lot.

### Churchville-Chili Central School District Budget Presentations – 2022-23 Budget

Date	Time	Place	Target Audience (anyone can attend any meeting)
Monday, 5/2	6:45 p.m.	FRS Cafeteria	FRESPA
Tuesday, 5/3	7 p.m.	Boardroom	Open Board Meeting – Budget Hearing
Wednesday, 5/4	6 p.m.	Zoom	MSPTO
Thursday, 5/5	8 a.m. 2 p.m. 2:50 p.m.	FRS Cafeteria SHS Cafeteria MSN Auditorium	FRS Faculty 9-12 Faculty 5-8 Faculty/CO Staff
Tuesday, 5/10	6:45 p.m.	CRS Cafeteria	CRSPTO
Wednesday, 5/11	9:40 a.m.	Transportation Building	Transportation Staff
Thursday, 5/12	6:45 p.m.	CRS Cafeteria CES Cafeteria	CRS Faculty CESPA
Friday, 5/13	8:20 a.m.	CES Cafeteria	CES Faculty
<b>Tuesday, 5/17</b>	<b>Noon-9 p.m.</b>	<b>MSN Cafeteria, door 31</b>	<b>BUDGET VOTE</b>

# Triple C Awards

The Churchville-Chili Triple C Awards honor students, community members and staff who exemplify our district's core beliefs and who go above and beyond to make our schools great environments for learning.



Congratulations to our 2022 Churchville Elementary School Triple C winners! (Left to right) Ayah Andro, Hawkeye Pape, Madelyn Bonafede, Ryan Childs, Gregory Azzolina, Amy Francis and Amory Dunham. (Not present: student Ryan Smelt and CES nurse Amy Knutti.)



Congratulations to our Fall 2021 Fairbanks Road School Triple C winners! (Front, l-r) Isabella Sookram, Hayden Palmer-Moody, Miyah Marsh, Jack Schauf, Brennan Beehler, George Strom and Liliana Mindler. (Back, l-r) FRS Principal Todd Yunker, Jeanie Long, Lorie McCreedy and Jennifer Moore.

## Recognizing Our Black Scholars

The Urban League of Rochester's Black Scholars Early Recognition Program honors seniors and underclassmen who are on their way to achieving at least a "B" average throughout high school. Congratulations to this year's Scholars!

**Grade 12:** Malcolm Akins, Hind Elsir, Blossom Ibezim, Nevine Kori, Zetlale Martinez-Gilbert, Aj'jahnae Roberts, Ashley Scott, Esabella Smith, Kayla Stokes, Jaden Tensley, Chiara Terranova.

**Grade 11:** Malachi Brown Tomaszewski, Zachary Dick, Marissa Dingus, Anisa Flowers Thompson, Jason Gibbs, Amya Gibson, Samuel Grant, Levi Jackson, Amani Nur, Sydney Postell, Salina Salters, Jayden Sanza, Nevaeh Starks, Ajani Wilson.

**Grade 10:** Olufemi Akinpelu, Isabella Akins, Mikayla Bevilacqua, Sarah Brace, Myiah Garcia, Zoria Hughes, Layla Jackson, Serenity Jager, Sarai Jones-Langston, Joshua Kabaka, Ricardo Lagares, Eric Neal, Ava Peevey, Chaney Powell, Amiyah Randolph, Mikenna Tolliver.



Urban League of Rochester, N.Y., Inc.

## Jonathan Raplee: Do the Right Thing Award Winner

Churchville-Chili High School is proud to have one of our students chosen to receive the Rochester Police Department's Do the Right Thing Award. Sophomore Jonathan Raplee was home alone with his grandmother last October when a fire started. He stayed calm and got her safely out of danger. Their home was destroyed, but Jonathan's brave action kept his family together. Jonathan will be celebrated in a virtual ceremony on March 10 at 10:30 a.m. that will be streamed on Facebook Live. The Do the Right Thing program recognizes the outstanding youth in our community who become role models for their peers by "doing the right thing." Congratulations to Jonathan!



## Ensuring Access to Enrichment for All Students

Over the past few years, Churchville-Chili teachers have designed many special project-based enrichment activities for students in grades K-6. New technologies and hands-on experiences have been integrated into lessons that push students' thinking. Projects have included building solar cookers, engineering protective packaging, and using math to escape breakout rooms. Makerspaces at every school are in development and will provide all students with access to a variety of learning tools.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Giulio Bosco said, "Our goal is to hold all our students to high expectations, so they'll want to challenge themselves academically, now and in future academic endeavors."

To make enrichment more accessible, we are developing flexible and inclusive educational opportunities for all students. These educational opportunities will be designed to meet the students' aptitudes and interests across all content areas.

This enrichment approach for all students will:

- Embed enrichment in the core curriculum to expose and engage all students;
- Offer small, criteria-based pull-out groups, determined by using data and interests demonstrated by the student; and
- Provide students with rigorous, differentiated opportunities based on a student's readiness.

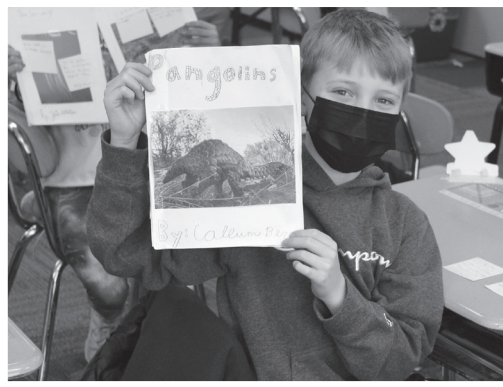
Currently, our enrichment specialists are focused on developing challenging standards-based activities in grades 4-6. Over the next few years, we plan to expand offerings to include all grades UPK through 6.

The district has three enrichment specialists: Patti Saucke, who works with Fairbanks Elementary School and the Middle School Blue House; Shannon Barton, who works with Churchville Elementary School and the Middle School Green House; and Stephanie Ricci, who works with Chestnut Ridge School and the Middle School Red House. All work closely with teachers to develop enrichment activities to enhance the educational experience for all students.

## Growing A New Crop of Authors at CRS

There were fascinating and well-researched informational books on subjects as varied as Fennec Foxes, LeBron James, American Shorthair Cats and extinct Dodo Birds. Some boasted original illustrations by their authors; all included inviting introductions, four chapters full of interesting facts, an informed conclusion and glossary, plus an autobiographical article on the proud fourth-grade author.

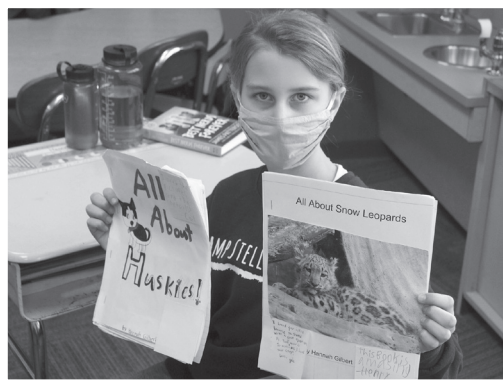
This is the second project in the four genres of writing for the budding writers at Chestnut Ridge Elementary. Those genres are Personal Narrative, Informational, Opinion and Creative Personal Narrative. Fourth-grade teachers helped students celebrate their achievement with a book launch, complete with critical acclaim from their peers. Students took turns reading each other's books and sharing positive comments (like "I learned something new!" or "Loved all the details"). "Students did a great job and were so proud of their work!" said teacher Jody Melnyk.



A bestseller in the making on endangered Pangolins.



Jody Melnyk's class enjoyed a special Author's Tea celebration, complete with tea and cookies.



This young author wrote two books: on Huskies and Snow Leopards.



Student author with her book on actor Kevin Hart.

## Protecting Our Ecosystems

Fifth-graders at the Middle School had been learning about the importance of clean water in the environment. In January, they welcomed Rochester Institute of Technology's Environmental Education Specialist Kaeti Stoss to their classrooms to dive deeper into the subject.

Stoss is an ambassador for RIT's water quality-focused environmental education programming for grades K-12. Her mission is to increase awareness and inspire young people to protect this vital resource. Fifth-grade classes had just finished a standard science unit on water and are venturing into a study of ecosystems and macro invertebrates, so Stoss's presentation made an excellent learning bridge. Participating

students learned about the unexpectedly high amount of water we use every day, the part water plays in building healthy ecosystems, the many threats to water quality, and practical actions they can take to cut down on pollution. They were also introduced to the concept of pH and learned the effects acid rain has on waterways.

Students were then able to do several hands-on experiments with lab equipment and water samples from Irondequoit Creek that Stoss supplied. With the help of Churchville-Chili Enrichment Specialists Andrea Lynch and Stephanie Ricci, students tested the water's pH and then examined their healthy stream water for myriad life forms, including tiny fish, crane fly larvae and water beetles.



Students compared their test tube samples to the pH chart to determine if the creek is able to support a range of healthy life forms.



Students were asked to share their thoughts and experiences on how to keep waterways healthy.



Water samples contained a wide variety of healthy fish, insects, larvae and mussels.



Team members tested water from Irondequoit Creek that was collected by guest Kaeti Stoss that morning.

## Nurturing a Love for Reading

The Page Turners club for fourth graders at Churchville Elementary School is having a successful first year. Club members commit to reading five grade-level books on their own time each semester and meet once a week after school for book-related discussions and related activities. Readers at all levels are encouraged to participate. The extended day activity is a fun way to build stamina, confidence and reading comprehension.

The first half of the school year brought 21 students together to read books ranging from graphic novels to historical novels, culminating with a lively readers competition held in front of the entire fourth-grade class.

"Page Turners is a wonderful enrichment opportunity for students who love to read, or who want to learn to love to read," said reading teacher Betsy Pereira. "Surprisingly, many of our most enthusiastic team members were not the most accomplished readers to begin with."

The program is possible through funding from the American Rescue Plan of 2021, which supports afterschool, summer and extended school day programs that promote enrichment opportunities, student engagement, and learning recovery due to the pandemic.

Page Turners began again in January with a new list of exciting books and many new members.



Competition was fierce, and the audience was intent at the first CES Page Turners tournament.



Team members worked strategically to decide on correct answers to tough reading comprehension questions.



Students took turns explaining why they like to read.

# The Evolving Role of Our High School Library

"The school library is no longer just for reading, studying and academics," said Sarah Amorese, library media specialist at the High School. "All of that still happens here, but it's also a hub for technology, career exploration and collaboration. In addition, the library is a safe place for students to relax and decompress from the day's pressures."

This year, teachers, counselors and administrators at the high school quickly recognized that many students suffered from a gap in their social and emotional learning. This was caused by a decrease in peer and personal interactions created by the pandemic and remote learning. Amorese and the library staff stepped in with positive solutions. "Some students have anxiety about being back in school," she said. "Others feel pressure to keep up academically or have difficulty interacting with peers. We're making the library a stress-free zone."

That means giving students options to spending their time in front of a digital screen, with relaxing alternative activities, including board games like chess, Uno, Jenga and Operation. A 3,000-piece jigsaw puzzle is set up on a table for anyone to work on; smaller individual puzzles are available, too, along with different card games. "When students need a break, they can find things to

do here that are mindful, not just academic," said Amorese. "They can spend time unwinding alone, or playing together, face to face. Play is good for all of us, regardless of age."

A new student club is also taking shape under the umbrella of the library: the Media Communications/News Club. "Many of our students are interested in social media, media communications, public relations, writing, design or photography," said Amorese. "With the support of Principal Scott Wilson and help from Director of IT Services Derek VanDenHandel and Communication Coordinator Amanda Puleo, the district updated our school's large screen video displays recently. This gives us the opportunity to offer students a chance to create original content to share with the entire school."

The experience will give students a first-hand look at working under deadline, completing assignments, meeting requirements, brainstorming and collaborating. Amorese hopes the club's contributions will be driven by member interest, including Teacher or Student Spotlight features, graphic design for announcements, event marketing, highlighting art or photography, or creating contests.



Students interacting with a board game.

## Winter ART Showcase

Congratulations to our student artists who were invited to show in RIT's annual exhibition celebrating work from regional high schools and middle schools, on view at the Bevier Gallery in January.

Participating C-C HS artists and teachers: Sabrina Cousins, Leah Leupold (Teacher: Kelly Bosco); Ryan Johnson, McKenna Arguien (Teacher: Jon Woodard); Amanda Conner, Zetlale Gilbert-Martinez (Teacher: Rich Cravatta); Samantha Marvin, Shayel Lamgade (Teacher: Jordyn Wolcott)

More kudos to artists featured in this year's Central Office Artwork Exhibit. Exemplary student work was chosen by Superintendent Orologio, building principals or Director of Fine Arts Jeffrey Smith. See video at this link: <https://www.cccsd.org/ArtVideo>

Artists included — Kindergarten: Elouise Burger; Grade 1: Delaney Hirt; Grade 3: Marco Phalen, Oivia Riorden and Delaney Mersich; Grade 4: Marlee Terilli; Grade 6: Emily Schauf; Grade 8: Cheyenne Andross; Grade 9: Leila Cody; Grade 10: Tori Zavatkay; Grade 11: Jack Swanson; Grade 12: Jacob Calus, Chloe Collins, Cameron Tulloch



# Senior Saints Sign Letters of Intent for College

Join us in celebrating four of our seniors who signed Letters of Intent to play their chosen sports at the college level. McKenna Arguien, recently named 2021 Monroe County Young Citizen of the Year, was awarded an athletic and academic scholarship from Iona College, where she will compete in cross country and track and field for the Division I Gaels. Post-graduation, Gaven Egan will be moving on to Binghamton University's Division I Bearcats men's soccer team. Lacrosse player Fiona Clancy will head to Newberry College in South Carolina to play for their Division II Wolves, and Madison Buck is trading her status as a Churchville-Chili Saint for a place on Buffalo's D'Youville College Saints Division II women's lacrosse team.

Arguien, one of the fastest runners in Saints history, has had a stunning career: All-Greater Rochester First Team for XC as a senior and sophomore with honorable mention as a junior; All-Section V for XC in grades 10-12; repeatedly named Team MVP for Saints XC, indoor track, and track and field over four years on all three Varsity teams, and team captain in grades 11



Fiona Clancy, pictured here with parents Christina and Brad Clancy, is headed to the Newberry College Wolves lacrosse team.

and 12. Varsity XC Coach Paul Glor said, "This year, McKenna placed third at XC Sectionals as an individual, helping her team win the first girls XC Sectional Team Title in 43 years of school history!"

"Gaven helped lead the Saints to the Section V soccer finals in two consecutive years and was part of our division title winning teams in 2018 and 2021," said Athletic Director Michael Murray. "He was named Monroe County Division 2 Player of the Year for 2021." Three-

time First Team All-County honoree Gaven Egan was also named to All-Greater Rochester's First Team twice. In 2021, he made both Third Team All-State and Section V All-Tournament Team. In 2020, he made Fifth Team All-State. Egan was selected to participate in the 2021 Exceptional Senior Game.

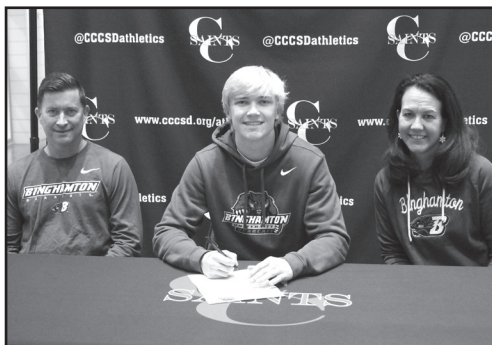
In 2020, lacrosse defender Fiona Clancy amassed 15 ground balls and eight caused turnovers. "Fiona was our leader on defense," said Varsity Lacrosse Coach Sean Marsh. "She did an excellent job communicating with her teammates and took our young goalie under her wing, as she was in her first year on the team. I really appreciate Fiona's tenacity and confidence on the field."

"Maddy was a leader on and off the field," said Varsity Lacrosse Coach Sean Marsh of senior Madison Buck. "She really improved her stick skills and her total lacrosse IQ this year." Buck led the Saints to 27 goals this season and tied the team lead of 33 points. She collected five caused turnovers and 12 ground balls. Marsh added, "She's a very coachable lacrosse player."

We wish them all success!



McKenna Arguien signs her Letter of Intent for Iona College with parents Tim and Katie Arguien.



Soon-to-be Binghamton Bearcat soccer player Gaven Egan with parents Michael and Elizabeth Egan.



Madison Buck, future D'Youville Saint, with her parents John and Melissa Buck.

## Nominations Open for 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame

The athletic department is requesting nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame. We recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of those who have made significant contributions to Saints athletics. The goal is for our students, student-athletes, coaches and community members to appreciate our history and know that they can aspire to great things if they work hard and set their goals high. The Hall of Fame is open to athletes who graduated at least five years ago, retired coaches who coached a sport for at least five

years, and special contributors (who may include administrators, parent volunteers or any other community members). Nominations are accepted at <https://www.cccsd.org/AthleticHallofFame.aspx> until June 30, 2022. New inductees are honored with a formal ceremony in December. Contact Athletic Director Michael Murray [mmurray@cccsc.org](mailto:mmurray@cccsc.org) with questions.

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**Churchville-Chili Central Schools**

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Churchville-Chili Senior High School presents

**THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL**

Based on the series by Stephen Hillenburg

**Book by Kyle Jarrow**

**Original Songs by**

Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alex Ebert of Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady Antebellum, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants, T.I.

And Songs by David Bowie, Tom Kenny & Andy Paley

Additional Lyrics by Jonathan Coulton

Additional Music by Tom Kitt

Musical Production Conceived by Tina Landau

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THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**Live Musical Theatre Returns!**

**Students and staff at the senior high school are excited to be back on stage for live theatre this coming March!**

We are thrilled to bring you to Bikini Bottom with "The SpongeBob Musical." The stakes are higher than ever in this dynamic stage musical, as SpongeBob and all of Bikini Bottom face the total annihilation of their undersea world.

Not only is this show fun and electrifying, it has great messages of optimism, friendship and to not judge a book by its cover. A unique aspect of this Broadway show is the music. Artists like David Bowie and Brian Eno, Cyndi Lauper and Rob Hyman, Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith, and John Legend, to name a few, wrote the songs for this show. In addition to the all-star soundtrack, this musical enlists the help of a Foley artist who creates a variety of sounds needed throughout the show. Once again this year, C-C Theatre has partnered with Muddy's Buddies to welcome FRS fourth-grader Jovi Mannara as Gary the Snail. This partnership has been wonderful for all involved in the show. This is certainly one show you will not want to miss!

**"The SpongeBob Musical" will be presented at 7 p.m. March 24, 25 and 26 and at 2 p.m. March 27 at the Churchville-Chili Performing Arts Center, 5786 Buffalo Road.**

Get your tickets early for a discounted rate by visiting [www.cccsd.org/finearts](http://www.cccsd.org/finearts). Tickets are \$10 presale or \$15 at the door, with special pricing for students at \$8.



Please visit the listed website for information regarding a livestream performance opportunity. "The SpongeBob Musical" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com).