

MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

YOLUME XXVII, ISSUE IIJANUARY 2022

INSIDE THIS EDITION

| HELP WANTED: BUS DRIVERS PAGE 2 |
|---------------------------------|
| SUPERINTENDENT PAGE 3 |
| HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS PAGE 4 |
| SENSORY TRAIL PAGE 5 |
| HOMETOWN HEROES PAGE 6 |
| PERFORMING ARTS PAGE 7 |
| SCHOLAR-ATHLETES PAGE 8 |
| ELF: THE MUSICAL PAGE 11 |
| MIDLAKES AQUATIC CENTER PAGE 12 |

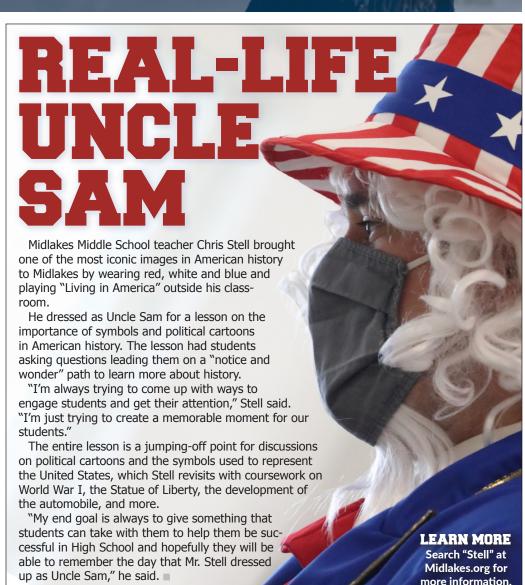
FIND MORE AT MIDLAKES.ORG



VIDEO: Meet Midlakes' first female varsity hockey player: Abby Ensworth.



VIDEO: Brandin Woods of the U.S. Army surprises his children in time for the holidays at Midlakes Elementary School.



KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION OPENS

Preregistration for children planning to attend kindergarten at Midlakes Elementary School during the 2022-23 school year is now open, with in-person registration set for April 5-7.

Children turning five years old by December 1, 2022, are eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 2022.

Families may begin the registration process by completing an online pre-registration form

to receive important updates and other information at Midlakes.org/studentregistration.

Families may register their children in-person from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., April 5 and 6, and from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. on April 7.

Families are asked to use Door A at Midlakes Elementary School and follow all safety protocols. For more information, contact Kim Maher at kmaher@midlakes.org or (315) 548-6900.

» Learn more at midlakes.org/busdriverjobs or call (315) 548-6420

CAPITAL PROJECT MOYES FORWARD

Construction begins soon on the \$15.6 million project approved by voters in 2019.

ith the hope that winter will soon be behind us. the District looks forward to breaking ground as early as March on the \$15.6 million capital improvement project overwhelmingly approved by the voters in December 2019.

Since receiving support from the community, we have worked with a team of architects, engineers, and construction managers to finish final project designs and received approval from the New York State Education Department. We have planned construction to minimize dis-

Families may have noticed that some building improvements have already commenced. Work on our separate Smart Schools Bond Act project began at the Elementary School in December and will soon move to the Middle/High School.

ruptions and prioritize the health and

safety of all students and staff.

The \$1.7 million Smart Schools project will be used to upgrade the technology, communication, and security infrastructure of both schools. This work, paid entirely by the state through bonds allocated to Midlakes, occurs after-school and is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.

Meanwhile, the capital improvement project could begin as early as March, with work starting first on a new staff parking lot behind the Elementary School along with preparations for a new fueling station near the bus garage.

Some indoor work will begin in the Middle/High School in May, as we begin the early stages of relocating and redesigning the Middle School cafeteria and music rooms.

We are working with our construction team and teachers to identify alternate instructional spaces to accommodate

the renovations and upgrades for our current music rooms.

Summer construction will take place at both buildings as well as the main Elementary School parking lot, the

Bus Garage, and the football field. Each of these areas will either receive needed repairs or other site improvements.

While our goal is to complete as much work as possible during the summer to minimize any disruptions to the school year, some programs and areas will be moved temporarily to allow work

to be completed.

Summer (2022) programs for all students will be consolidated in the southeast wing of the Middle/High School, where no construction work is planned this summer. The District will share more specific information with families as we get closer to scheduling these programs.

In the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, we expect the relocation and redesign work of the secondary school music rooms and Middle School cafe to occur. We are excited to embark on these important upgrades so we can continue to provide outstanding programs to our students and care for the community's investment in a well-maintained campus.

While construction projects are naturally disruptive, the District is committed to minimizing the impact on our students, staff, community, and

Be sure to visit the District's website, social media, and other communication channels to find more information on these projects as it becomes

Thank you, in advance, for your patience during this time and your continued support of our students through the continuous improvement of our facilities and programs.

- Matt Sickles, superintendent

PROJECT

A look at some kev time frames of the capital improvement project*

NEW ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT. **FUELING STATION**

March 2022 (work begins)

MAIN ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT

June 2022 -September 2022

SECONDARY **MUSIC AREAS**

May 2022 -April 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFE

May 2022 -March 2023

FOOTBALL FIELD CLOSED

July 2022 -Spring 2024

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

October 2023

*All dates are subject to change

HIGHLIGHTS



COMMUNICATIONS **SURVEY OPENS**

With a goal of improving District communications, the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District has launched the 2022 Strategic Communications Survey to collect data and better understand the preferences of students, families, staff, and community members.

This brief survey will help the District explore the tools, strategies, and the barriers to communicate effectively with stakeholders.

Responses will be collected through March 11, 2022. The survey is best viewed using a desktop or laptop computer. Take the survey at Midlakes.org/Page/4825.

BOARD UPDATES APRIL MEETINGS

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education has updated its meeting schedule for April, which now includes meetings on April 4, 18, and 27.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14. For more information on the Board of Education, visit Midlakes.org.

BOARD APPROVES TENURE FOR TWO

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education approved tenure appointments for two teaching assistants at Midlakes upon the recommendations of Tammy Wood, director of Special Programs and Services.

Congratulations to:

- Donna Borrelli
- Nancy Wasman



HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

Midlakes students are recognized for service, leadership, academics and more during three separate induction ceremonies, which included the inaugural class of Midlakes National Junior Honor Society.

Each inductee went through a stringent review process that followed national guidelines.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (HIGH SCHOOL)

Advisers: Kelly Hart and Erin Everson

- Aidan Conover
- Morgan Cowan
- Hannah DeJohn
- Elena Graf
- Elaina Harris-Maxwell
- Alaina Krenzer
- Samantha Lewis
- Maeghan Mahoney
- Madison McNicholas
- Jennifer Petracchi
- Cora Stevenson
- Alexis Waite
- Kenzie Wheeler

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Advisers: Jocelyn McConnon and Denise Kelly

- Haven Benz
- Aiden Bryant
- Jonathan Capozzi
- Emileigh Cardin
- Ciera Carnright
- Connor Carter
- Julie Chen
- Maddison Clark
- Marley Conrad
- · Pippa Davis

- Cohen Egburtson
- Anthony Gleason
- Lauren Godkin
- Margaret Hultzapple
- Ayden Klapp
- Jamie Lawson
- Aervn Maher
- Isabella Schutt
- Maya Stevenson
- Eden Trzeciak





NATIONAL ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY (5th AND 6th GRADERS)

Advisers: Heather Bradley and Erin Altman

- Madison Alcock
- Nick Egburston
- Evan Everson
- Lane Frost
- Giuliana Gallagher
- Emmanuel Galliher
- Brenna Knapp
- Riley Kuhn
- Rylan Potter
- Samuel Robinette

- Nahla Romps Sophia Schutt
- Troy Trzeciak
- Liberty Wickings
- Phineas Akin
- Brian Cannan
- · Harmony Dean
- Alivia DeJohn
- Spencer Fox
- Aubrey Moorland

PIE THE PRINCIPAL

Several third-graders lined up to pie their principal during the holidays as a prize for collecting the greatest amount of non-perishable food donations at Midlakes Elementary School.

Principal Chris Mover took nine pies to the face to reward students for their outstanding service to the community.

The food donations were part of a larger effort by students of all grades.

The Midlakes High School National Honor Society collected donations during the school's Eagle Time and brought donations to the Phelps Community Food Cupboard and St. Felix's Church in Clifton Springs. Middle/High School students collected 1,028 total items.

Meanwhile, Midlakes Elementary School took in about 1,300 donations with the greatest amount collected by third graders.

High School Principal Frank Bai-Rossi took two pies from students earlier in the school year after they made half-court basketball shots during Homecoming.



SENSORY TRAIL PROVIDES A NEW PATH FORWARD

A new sensory trail at Midlakes Elementary School has opened to help students focus better on their schoolwork by getting some of their wiggles out and providing a place for a quick break.

The second-floor trail takes students through a winding multi-sensory journey of brightly colored decals that has students hopping, jumping, skipping, and performing other physical activities.

It is designed to calm students and was created by Jennifer Warrington, a physical therapist at Midlakes; Kristen Mahoney, an occupational therapist at Midlakes; and Jami Randall, a physical therapist at the Midlakes Education Center.

"We tried to think of something fun but would help the students, too," said Warrington. "We (have) had a really great response."

Together, they trained teachers on how to help students through the trail and when to use it, like on those days weather conditions prevent students from going outside or when students are restless.

Students from both Midlakes Elementary School and the Midlakes Education Center use the trail, the first of its kind on Midlakes campus.



HIGHLIGHTS



NYSPRA AWARD TO THE 'JOURNAL'

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District earned a communications award for its community newsletter, the Midlakes Journal, from the New York State Public Relations Association.

The fall and winter editions of the Journal were entered in NYSPRA's 42nd annual contest. which fielded 403 total entries in writing, photography, newsletter, and other categories. The Journal received the association's "Award of Honor."

It is the third consecutive year that the District has been recognized for its communications with families and local residents.

ROLLER SKATING **RETURNS MARCH 8**

Roller skating returns to Midlakes Elementary School in March thanks to the Clifton Springs Rotary Club and Midlakes Interact Club.

Skating will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on each day. The cost is \$6 per student. The following dates are subject to change (call ahead for more).

- Grades K-2: March 8, April 5, and May 3.
- Grades 3-4: March 9, April 6, and May 4
- Grades 5-6: March 10, April 7, and May 5.

Board of Education and football official thank



MIKE CONNELL



STUDENTS GATHER IN SUPPORT



TIM VANDAMME

t was the biggest game of the season. The stands were full of fans and an overflow crowd stood along a fence behind the home team's sideline. The football boosters worked concessions as three food trucks served pre-game meals at the Ollie Cook Memorial Field.

Students, coming off a parade on the campus of Midlakes schools, eagerly awaited the first Homecoming in two years, featuring an upstart Midlakes squad that had already doubled its win total from a year earlier against a tough Hornell team.

On the field, Midlakes cheerleaders held an enormous banner their Screaming Eagles prepared to run through on the way to a sprint to the 50-yard line.

But something went terribly wrong. The dash was delayed. Mike Connell, a 63-yearold Geneva resident and one of the referees assigned to work the game, collapsed on Midlakes' sideline just before the opening coin toss.

Tim VanDamme, a Midlakes assistant coach, saw Connell go down as he was about to check the game balls. VanDamme called out to Alexandra Schreck, a team athletic trainer from Thompson Health just a few feet away when Connell collapsed.

"All of a sudden, he got that look on his face," said Jamie McCarrick, a volunteer coach at Midlakes who checked with Schreck for any response by Connell. "You could see the life leave his face."

Schreck began CPR. McCarrick counted out compressions while checking for signs of breathing.

"It is probably the scariest thing I have

ever done in my entire career," said Schreck. "You know that you can do it but the fear of, 'I hope that I do right by this person' is there, even though your training kicks in."

About 50 yards away, Ontario County Sheriff Deputy Bob Holland and off-duty Sergeant, Dana Egburtson, who is also a Midlakes parent, received a call for help.

Egburtson ran as several off-duty first responders from the Phelps Fire Department and the Phelps Ambulance service and other agencies made their way onto the field to help. Some even jumped over a fence circling the football field to help.

Holland drove his patrol vehicle, which had an automated external defibrillator (AED), to the scene. Egburtson took the AED and used it on Connell.

Connell began to faintly breathe on his

Aaron Newton, an off-duty EMT at the game, stabilized Connell's head as Dr. Ismail Mehr, an assistant coach with Hornell and chairman of anesthesiology at St. James Hospital in Hornell, assisted Connell's own breathing with the help of a breathing bag.

About this time, Midlakes cheerleaders brought their large Homecoming banner over to shield spectators from seeing the work of first responders and to protect Connell's privacy.



first responders for life-saving efforts.

Holland called dispatch and advised for airlift support.

He also had the area shut down to traffic and worked to keep spectators in the stands as much as possible to allow emergency crews, which included Phelps and Finger Lakes ambulance services and Mercy Flight Inc., to do their

work.

"That trainer made a huge difference, if not the main difference in the situation," Mehr said. "The sooner you start compressions, the better the outcome. She

"It was really heartwarming the door. Boom. to see how in a time of need all of these kids could come together and be so adult about things."

-Alexandra Schreck, athletic trainer

recognized that and started compressions. The AED, getting that on in a timely manner, shocking him, and bringing him back where his heart is now beating — that's what got his heart back, revived him."

Later, the cheerleaders led a large circle with several football players in a moment of hope and prayer for the fallen official.

"They all showed so much maturity and compassion that night, it was amazing," Schreck said of the students. "It was really heartwarming to see how in a time of need all of these kids could come together and be so adult about things."

Connell woke up early the next morning in the intensive care unit at Strong Memorial Hospital, not knowing why he was in the

hospital and unaware of the helicopter ride to the hospital the night before.

"It was just like a door shut," said Connell, a probation officer who has refereed high school football for about 18 years, in addition to girls' basketball and softball. "I remember seeing some light and then just darkness,

> like someone shut The next morning, I woke up. I looked out. I had this beautiful view of Rochester."

> A nurse told him that he went into cardiac arrest. He remained in the hospital over the next seven days to

undergo several tests. About a month later, he said, the reason why his heart stopped suddenly had remained elusive.

"The doctors said, 'Hey Mike, if you were any place else, you would have been in the obituaries'," Connell said. "They told me, 'We may never know why you just shut down (but) everything was right for you that night."

Someone sent him a photo of that night with the cheerleaders and football players holding hands. He went back to work about a month after the incident.

"All those people that came to my aid, it's just overwhelming," Connell said. "I would like to at some point meet everybody who helped me out. I want to personally thank them. They saved a life that night, you know." ■



ALEXANDRA SCHRECK

FIRST RESPONDERS **RECOGNIZED FOR LIFE-SAYING WORK**

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central Board of Education recognized several first responders, volunteers, and community members for their actions in saving a high school sports official during Midlakes' Homecoming football game.

The District recognized first responders and organizations for starting First Aid and CPR after Mike Connell, a Geneva resident assigned to officiate the game, collapsed on the Midlakes sideline.

Connell thanked the Board for bringing everyone together and then turned to the first responders who gathered in the High School Auditorium.

"These people gave me a second chance at life," he said. "All the doctors said if I wasn't there, I wouldn't have made it. I'd just like to say thanks and to these people, it was awesome. Thank you very much."

Those recognized and given certificates of appreciation included:

- Tim VanDamme
- Alexandra Schreck
- Jamie McCarrick
- Deputy Bob Holland
- Sgt. Dana Egburston
- Dr. Ismail Mehr
- Phelps Fire Department
- Phelps Ambulance
- Finger Lakes Ambulance
- Mercy Flight Inc.



JAMIE MCCARRICK







Tyler Crough

Approximately 80 varsity student-athletes and 9 fall teams are recognized for outstanding academic achievement by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

BOYS SOCCER*

Garrett Cooper Paul Lee Zachary Rozelle Corey Collett Holden Dorr Jotniel Mulero Ryan Spooner Adam Warrington

Carissa Brooks Kyla Bugbee (Red Jacket) Olivia Hannux Elaina Harris-Maxwell

Cadence Spence Nicole Szalav Hannah Wise

Ariana Hicks

Maeghan Mahoney

Allana Hubert Alexis Kopetchny Alexis Waite Libby Pane Carmin Contreras

GOLF Michael DeHond

GIRLS TENNIS*

Cassie Cook Emma LaBour Grace Payne Jennifer Petracchi Kenzie Turner

Boys Cross COUNTRY*

Christopher Behen Ethan Brodman Karmine DiBernardo David Jankowski Jackson Laird Payson Nield Evan Raes Jonah Spangenberg

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY*

Chloe Boughton Elena Graf Louise Liu Emma Middlebrook Leah Newton Katelyn Wilkes Hannah Wise

GIRLS SOCCER*

Alvssa Crance Mara Deisering Camryn Ford Mary Givens Samantha Lewis Kate Mahoney **Emily Meath** Catherine Peacock Kelsea Socha Mari Spooner Mia VanSavage Claire Wilkes Olivia Miles

Boys **VOLLEYBALL***

Ethan Bond Aiden Bryant Aidan Conover **Brady Day** Nathan Laird Kyle Kumkey

*Denotes team recognition. A team's average GPA for at least 75 percent of its roster must be greater or equal to 90 percent. Studentathletes must earn at least a 90 GPA for individual recognition.



Midlakes junior Katelyn Wilkes won the Class C Sectional Cross Country Championship in November with a personal best time of 20:08.

She edged out 80 other runners during the 3.1-mile race held at Letchworth State Park and was invited to compete in the state cross country race at Chenango Valley State Park on Saturday, Nov. 13, where she finished 26th in the Class C race.



Scan the OR Code with your phone to view the latest Screaming Eagles athletic schedules.







Holly Jolly! "Elf: The Musical" is scheduled to come back to Midlakes for several performances

The stage production is based on the popular 2003 movie starring Will Ferrell as Buddy, who is raised by Santa's elves until he realizes that he isn't an oversized elf but a full-fledged human beina.

The revelation sends Buddy (Aidan Conover) on a journey to New York City to uncover his identity by locating his career-minded father, Walter Hobbs, all while spreading holiday cheer in the big city.

The show is a fun but emotional journey that digs into family relationships while reminding everyone to never take anyone or anything too seriously. The movie was adapted by Bob Martin and Thomas Meehan and made its way to Broadway as a musical that toured nationally in 2012 and 2014.

The cast features many of the same students scheduled to perform in the 2020 production. Six cast members are graduates who have come back to perform in the 2022 production.

Scheduled to appear include Erik Dillon (Walter Hobbs), Kyra Guest (Jovie), Gavin Ruggles (Michael Hobbs), Mara Deisering (Deb), Coby Reals (Manager), Zachary Edgemon (Mr. Greenway), Andrew Crowther (Santa Claus), Sarah Brown (Mrs. Claus), Shane Thompson (Chadwick), and Carter Maslyn (Matthews) along with several members of the chorus, backstage members and volunteers.

Keith E. Childs is the director of the 2022 production. The music directors are Jennifer Cornwell and Dominic Vassallo. Costume designers are Nancy Denisi, Susie Bonawitz, Carol Byron, and Tracy VanDamme. The choreography is by Erin Altman, Childs and Stefan Uveges, Jon George, Charlie King, and Childs are the set designers. King also serves as technical director. The lighting designer is Ross Gifford and publicity graphics are by retired Midlakes art teacher Mary Quinn.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on March 11, 12 and 18, and 2 p.m. on March 13 and 19 in the Midlakes High School Auditorium. All dates are subject to change.

Presale tickets are \$8 (adults) and \$7 (students and senior citizens) in the Midlakes High School Office, Phelps Hometown Pharmacy, and Sandy's Floral Gallery. Tickets are an additional \$2 at the door. Tickets purchased in 2020 are redeemable for upcoming shows.

HIGHLIGHTS



SPELLING BEE FINALISTS

Alejandro Caraballo correctly spelled "kaddish" to claim the top spot of the 2022 Midlakes Spelling

Caraballo and sixth-grader Liam Bryant, another top speller who took second place, went backand-forth during the hours-long competition that finished in the 18th round. They are eligible to compete in the regional contest held later in the school year.

Caraballo, Byrant and thirdplace finisher, Troy Trzeciak, each received a cash award donated by the Midlakes Parent Teacher Organization. Other participants received certificates and prizes. Overall, 32 students in grades 3-8 participated in the event.

GIRL WRESTLERS PLACE IN EVENT

Three wrestlers competed in the All-Girls Invitational held on Saturday, Jan. 29 at Webster Thomas High School.

Sophomore Olivia Miles took first place in the 126-pound division. Freshman Leah Peck finished third in the 110-pound weight class, and senior Izzy Raes finished fourth in the 145-pound division.





LOOKING AHEAD



FEB. 21-25 **RECESS** Winter Recess (No school).



MARCH 10-12, 18 & 19 SPRING MUSICAL "Elf: The Musical." 7:30 p.m., March 11, 12, 18 **2 p.m.,** March 13 & 19.



MARCH 14 VARSITY & JV SPORTS Spring Sports Practices Begin for Varsity & Junior Varsity Sports.



MARCH 15-17 PARENT/TEACHER DAYS Elementary School Parent/Teacher Conferences. Early Dismissal.



MARCH 18 SUPER'S CONFERENCE Superintendent's Conference Day (No school, all grades)



APRIL 7 **CONCERT** Elementary School Band & Chorus Concert.



APRIL 11-15 RECESS Spring Recess (No school, all grades)

All dates are subject to change. For more information and updates, visit Midlakes.org/Page/2.

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432





PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 1490 STATE ROUTE 488

CLIFTON SPRINGS, NY 14432

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID

NEWARK, NY 14513 PERMIT NO. 71

POSTAL PATRON