



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Message from Dr. Benante

Dear Haldane Community,

I write to you on the heels of watching our elementary students perform in *Willy Wonka Kids* - and what a performance it was! It was heartwarming to see the confidence and enthusiasm of our students in front of their friends and family members, who also brought an incredible energy to the show.

It's experiences like these that become core memories for our kids. It was a wonderful example of our children thriving under the exceptional tutelage of their teacher and support from their families - an example of the very best of Haldane!

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

DECEMBER 2023/ JANUARY 2024

Holiday Card Creations

How To (Have Fun in 1st Grade)

Elementary Collaboration Continues

Willy Wonka Kids

Middle School Shows Big Talent

New Honors: Students of the Month

Middle School Community Read

Frost Valley Reflections

View from Craigside Drive: Our Town

Haldane Leos Support Project Linus

NYSSMA All State Festival

February & March Events

Art Club Sets the Scene

Friends & Family University

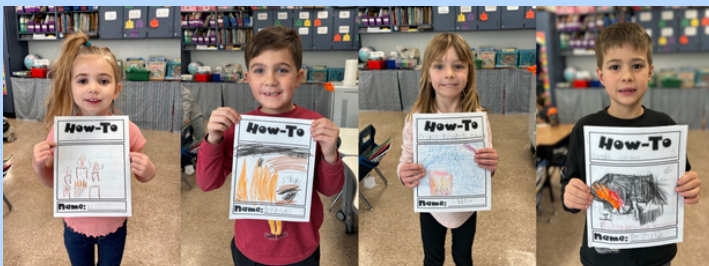
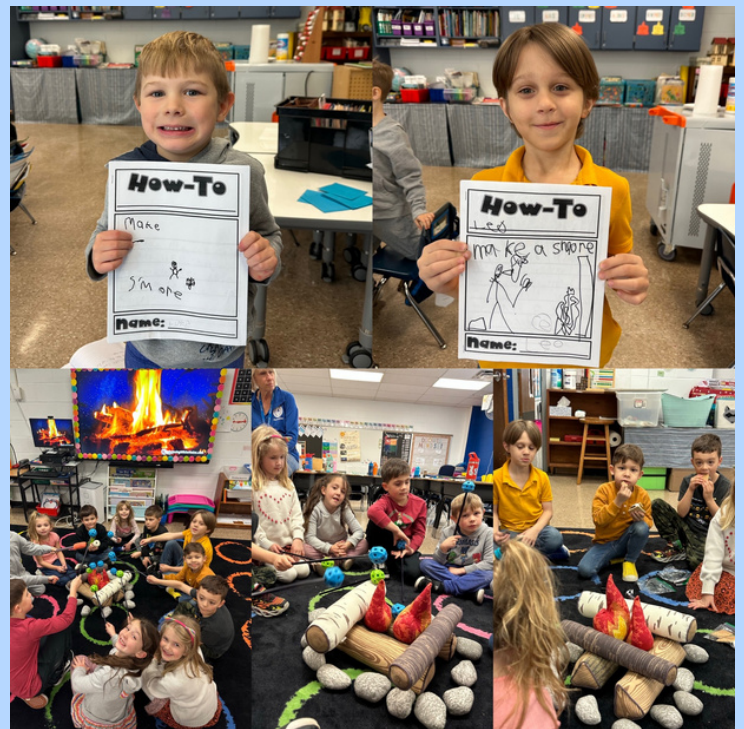
Holiday Card Creations

Kindergarten and first grade students collaborated to make holiday cards that were available for elementary teachers to order. While delivering the cards to their customers, students worked on language development, social skills, and helped foster an inclusive environment throughout the elementary school. It was such a fun way for the younger students to spread holiday cheer!



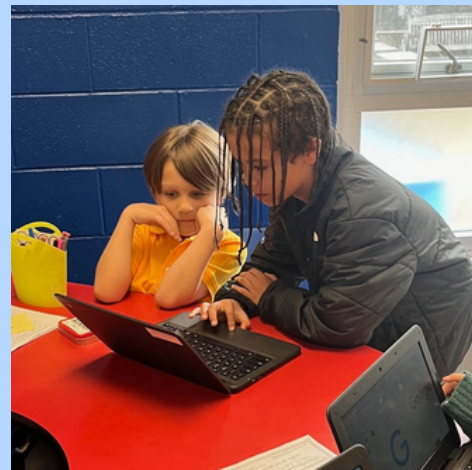
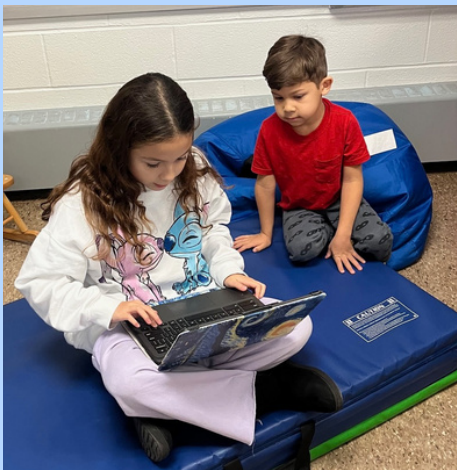
How To (Have Fun in 1st Grade)

Mrs. Scrocca's first graders successfully finished their "how to" writing books, showcasing their creativity and learning as they detailed how to make s'mores. To celebrate, they wrapped up the project with an indoor s'mores party, combining fun with the joy of accomplishment over a pretend fire and REAL s'mores!



Elementary Collaboration Continues

Mrs. Hartford's fourth graders joined first graders to help them with 1s code during Computer Science Education Week's Hour of Code.





Under the direction of Mr. Sam Sauer, Haldane Elementary School performed a wonderfully wonky rendition of Willy Wonka Kids. Two colorful shows, one for classmates and one for family and friends, delivered laughs, talent, and fun costumes. Beyond acting, students were involved in all aspects of the production from set construction and stage crew, to lighting and sound, to poster design.

In Mr. Sauer's words, Willy Wonka is a story that "ignites a sense of wonder and discovery within each of us. It is a celebration of curiosity, imagination, and magic that brings out the inner child in everyone. Above all, it's a reminder that, like Charlie, each of us holds the key to creating a "sweeter" world through kindness, consideration, and respect." Thank you to all who helped make this production a sweet success!

↖ Mrs. Jamin!



[View more pics on the Haldane website.](#)

Middle School Shows Big Talent

On Friday, January 5, Haldane middle schoolers staged their talents to a room of screaming fans. Impressive acts and enviable displays of self-confidence filled the auditorium. Middle School Student Council President, Allegra Clementson, tells us how it all went down.

Did you hold auditions for the Talent Show or were all performers welcome? Did students have to propose their acts before the show?

All students were welcome, but we did hold auditions. The auditions were to make sure that all the acts were appropriate. We also held rehearsals the week before to make sure everyone was prepared.

What was the most challenging part of organizing the Middle School Talent Show?

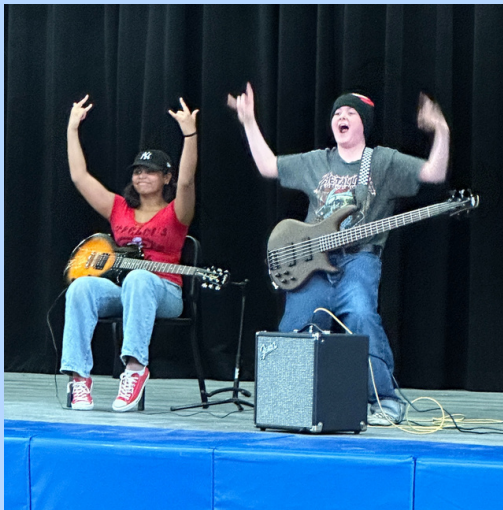
The most challenging part of organizing the Talent Show was raising interest for the event. A lot of people were nervous about performing, but they eventually came around.

What other activities is the Middle School Student Council hoping to plan for this school year?

The Middle School Student Council is planning a Winter Dance, and hopefully a Spring Talent Show.



MS Student Council President and show emcee, Allegra Clementson



Performances included music, dance, and even a speedy Rubik's Cube solver. Thank you to Holt Illian, Klara Simkova, Emma Elias, Trenton Luoma, Elliott Bennett, Ysabella Losin Yung, Isla Hudson, Matthew Sousa, David Garcia, Xavier Bazos, and Andrew Frierburghaus for sharing your talents.

New Honors: Elks Club Students of the Month

Haldane Middle School is partnering with the Beacon Elks Club to honor students who have exemplified hard work and strength of character with the Student of the Month Award. Each month our teachers will select a student who has demonstrated kindness, determination, and leadership. Students will be awarded with a certificate and a gift certificate to Cold Spring Pizza. Our first group of honorees were congratulated by members of the Elks Club, along with Dr. Benante, Dr. Seelke, and the students' parents.



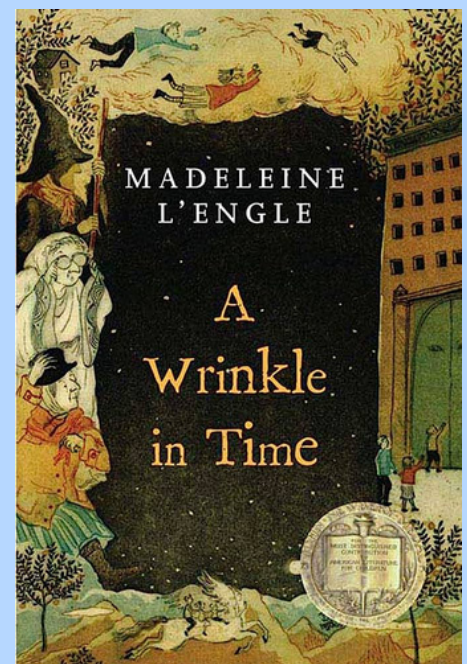
Congratulations to Max Kupper (8th Grade), Everett MacIntyre (7th Grade), and Eleanor Pearson (6th Grade)

Looking Ahead: Middle School Community Read

Thursday, February 15 4:30 - 6:00pm

The Haldane Middle School Community Read Planning Committee is pleased to announce this year's Community Read: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle. In April, middle school students will perform a theater adaptation of *A Wrinkle in Time*, by James Sie. Stay tuned for more information!

Community Read Snow Date: February 29



Frost Valley Reflections from Leah Horn

For more than 30 years Haldane 8th grade students have been going to Frost Valley. No one seems to know the exact year the trip was started, but if you ask retired teacher and current Ski Club Advisor, Steve Graff, he will tell you that it probably started around 1978 by a teacher named Paula Gallagher. Frost Valley is located in Claryville, NY about two hours from Cold Spring, nestled in the Catskill Mountains on 5,500 acres.

This year, fifty 8th grade students participated in the three-day adventure. The trip is unique in that students leave their cell phones at home and instead spend time connecting with classmates and chaperones. They experience a range of team building activities, including outdoor survival skills, ziplining, and belaying. Students also soak up breathtaking hiking views at the top of Giant's Ledge, located over 3,000 ft. above the Slide Mountain Wilderness. The hike is over 3 miles roundtrip, but once at the top students are treated to a glorious, wintry view of the surrounding Catskills. Clear cool skies at night, meant that the students had a fantastic view of Jupiter and three of its moons through Frost Valley's observatory.

It was great to see kids challenge themselves and step out of their comfort zones. It was even better to hear shouts of joy and pure excitement as they zipped down from the over 50 ft Y Tower. Thanks to the support of the Haldane School Foundation, Haldane Faculty Association, and the Haldane PTA, the trip was made more accessible for all who wanted to attend.

As a chaperone, I have been going on this trip for over 20 years and leading it for the past 15 years. It's so rewarding to get to know our students outside of the classroom. I often run into former students and they always remind me of our adventures at Frost Valley. It truly is an experience with memories that last a lifetime. Haldane students have an exceptional reputation at Frost Valley and year after year the Frost Valley staff compliment me on how polite and well behaved our students are. I feel very fortunate to be able to take our students on this trip every year. A big thanks to the chaperones who joined me on the trip to support our students; we could not do this without them: Mrs. Cortes, Mr. Virgadamo, Mr. Many, Mr. Blair, Mr. Graff, and Mr. Horn.

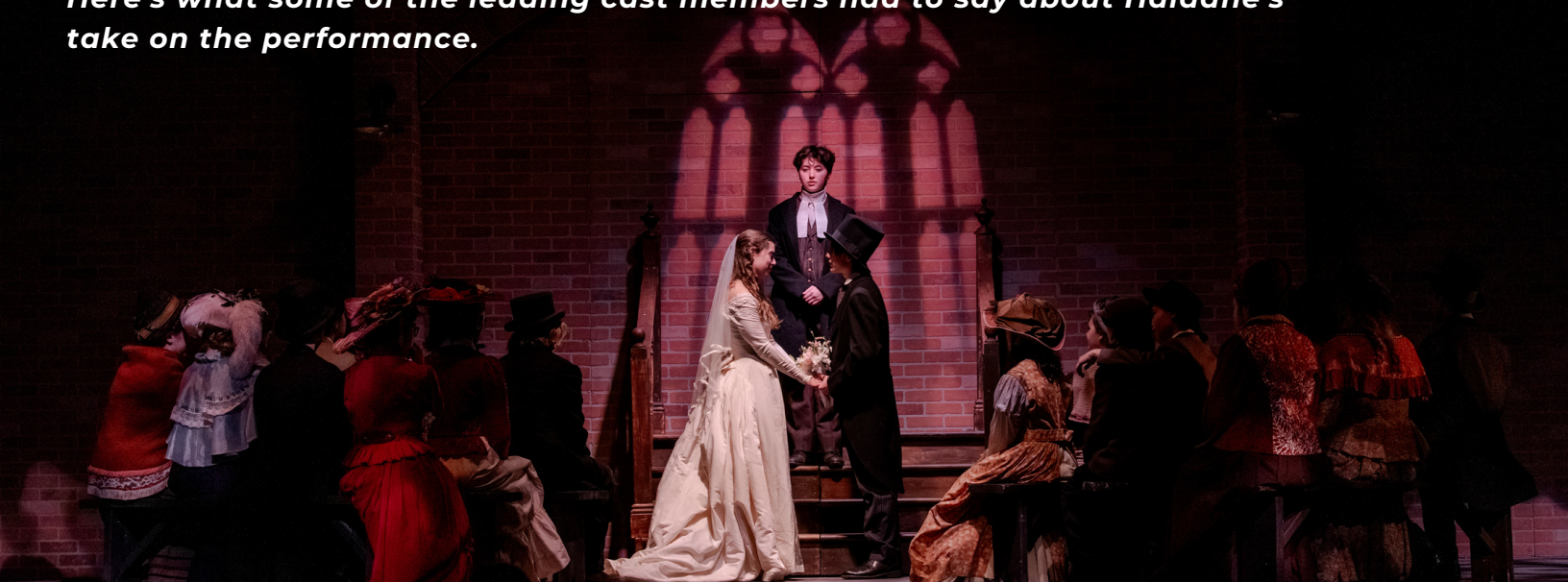


Leah Horn, Technology Integration Specialist, faculty member, and 20-year Frost Valley chaperone.



The View from Craigside Drive

On December 8 and 9, Haldane Drama presented a double-casted Our Town. Here's what some of the leading cast members had to say about Haldane's take on the performance.



STAGE MANAGER



Percy Parker
Haldane Senior

What could you most relate to in your character?

The thing I could most relate to in my character was his love for the small town he belongs to. It was really special to deliver these speeches about the beauty of Grover's Corners to my friends, family, and neighbors - picturing Cold Spring the whole time.

What was your favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play?

My favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play was how loyal we were to what I think of as the "heart" of the play. Thornton Wilder took care of the characters and the town he created as a writer. I think it's easy to treat this play as a "boring" show that is done often enough that you can pull it off with the bare minimum. We did not do that. Every single aspect of this show - from the actors, to the crew, to the staging - was treated with lots of passion and care. I love Thornton Wilder a lot, and I'd like to think that we pulled off his vision.

Will you be performing in Chicago at Haldane? If so, in what role?

Yes! I'll be in the ensemble in Chicago this spring.

What character would you love to play in a future performance?

I think my dream role would either be Prior in Tony Kushner's Angels In America or else Hamlet in Shakespeare's Hamlet.

The View from Craigside Drive cont.



Amelia Alayon

Haldane Junior

What could you most relate to in your character?

Emily is a teenage girl for a lot of the time in *Our Town*, but I found that she never really grew up. I found her to be really relatable in the way she felt emotions so passionately. Sometimes when I was acting her, I felt as though I wasn't acting at all.

What was your favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play?

I loved how we did Emily's death scene. I thought the simplicity of the costumes and set really made the moment look so beautiful and so much more heartbreaking.

Will you be performing in Chicago at Haldane? If so, in what role?

I will be playing Roxie Hart!

What character would you love to play in a future performance?

Probably Ms. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Little Red in *Into the Woods*, or Liesl von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*.



Lincoln Wayland

Haldane Freshman

What could you most relate to in your character?

I related most to the care he has for his community, he is someone who truly cares about Grover's Corners and the people in it.

What was your favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play?

My favorite part was probably the slideshow that played in the beginning and after intermission, I think it really helped to draw the parallel between Cold Spring and Grover's Corners and allow audiences to connect more with the play.

Will you be performing in Chicago at Haldane? If so, in what role?

I will be performing in Chicago as an ensemble and as the judge.

What character would you love to play in a future performance?

My dream role probably would be Atticus from Aaron Sorkin's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, or Hamlet.

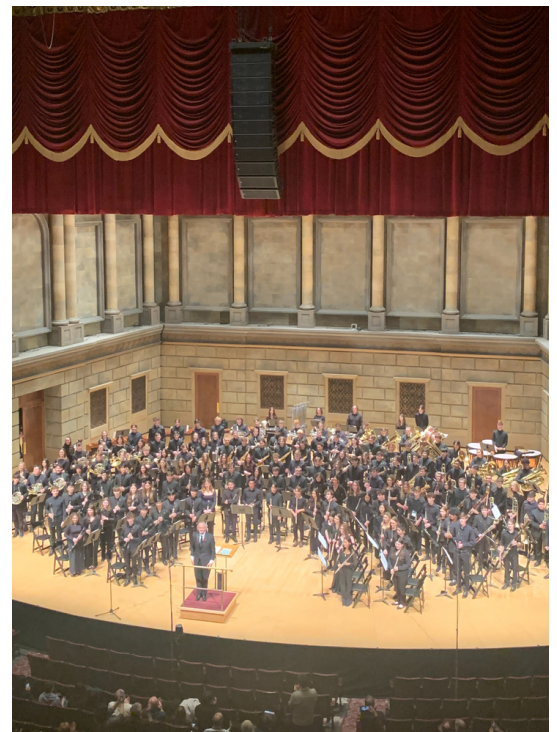
Haldane Leos Support Project Linus

The Haldane High School Leo Club continued their tradition of making cozy blankets for Project Linus, an organization that provides handmade blankets to children of all ages who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. The Lions Club expressed their appreciation for Leo Club members who are always so willing to help their community.



Haldane Musicians Perform at NYSSMA All State Festival

In early December, two Haldane students attended the NYSSMA All State Festival. Robert Freimark rehearsed and performed as a member of the All State Band with the final concert held in Kodak Hall at the Eastman School of Music. Delia Starr performed her original piece *The Lighthouse* at the Young Composers Honors Concert. She also participated in a composer's roundtable discussion with other winners. Both Delia and Robert represented Haldane with pride!

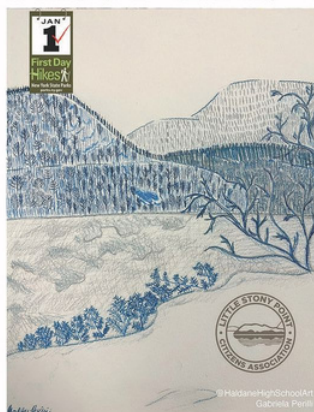


FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024

FRI 2/2 High School Winter Dance 6:30-9:30PM Auditorium	MON 2/19 - FRI 2/23 NO SCHOOL Winter Recess	TUE 3/12 Arts Alliance Meeting 3:00PM Main Bldg: HS Art Room
THU 2/8 Kindergarten Orientation 6:00PM Elementary Room 116	FRI 3/1 Middle School Dance 6:00PM Auditorium	WED 3/13 PTA Public Meeting 7:00PM via Zoom
WED 2/14 PTA Public Meeting 7:00PM Zoom	THU 3/7 HS Parent Orientation 6:30PM Band Room	THU 3/14 MS Parent Orientation 6:30-7:30PM Band Room
THU 2/15 Middle School Community Read 4:30-6:00PM	FRI 3/8 Middle/High School Quarter 3 Progress Reports	FRI 3/15 Elementary School Half Day 11:30AM Dismissal Report Card Conferences
THU 2/15 BOCES 9/10 Parent Night 6:30-8:00PM High School Room 211	FRI 3/8 NO SCHOOL Superintendent's Conference Day	FRI 3/22-24 High School Musical <i>Chicago</i>



FIRST DAY HIKE



HIKES COMMENCE at 11:30 am

NO FEE event

FREE snacks, coffee & hot cocoa

LEASHED PETS allowed

EASY to MODERATE terrain

ALL AGES welcome

DRESS warmly & wear proper trail footwear

RING IN THE NEW YEAR with beautiful scenery and fresh air of the Hudson Highlands down at the Hudson River's shoreline!! Music, fireside warmth, short naturalist-led hikes around LITTLE STONY POINT (about 1 mile), or a hike to nearby historic CORNISH ESTATE (3 miles round-trip).

JANUARY 1st -11am

Little Stony Point Volunteer Center
3011 NY-9D, Cold Spring, NY 10516



FIRST DAY HIKE



HIKES COMMENCE at 11:30 am

NO FEE event

FREE snacks, coffee & hot cocoa

LEASHED PETS allowed

EASY to MODERATE terrain

ALL AGES welcome

DRESS warmly & wear proper trail footwear

RING IN THE NEW YEAR with beautiful scenery and fresh air of the Hudson Highlands down at the Hudson River's shoreline!! Music, fireside warmth, short naturalist-led hikes around LITTLE STONY POINT (about 1 mile), or a hike to nearby historic CORNISH ESTATE (3 miles round-trip).

JANUARY 1st -11am

Little Stony Point Volunteer Center
3011 NY-9D, Cold Spring, NY 10516



Art Club Sets the Scene for New Year's Day Event

Haldane High School Art Club members Gabriela Perilli and Judine Cox shared their artistic talents for the designs of Little Stony Point's First Day Hike posters.

Haldane Friends & Family University Explores the Emotional Lives of Teenagers

With support from the Haldane School Foundation and the Haldane PTA, on the evening of Tuesday, January 17, Haldane hosted a free virtual event as part of our ongoing Friends and Family University series.

Author Lisa Damour, PhD, spoke about Helping Tweens & Teens Thrive as an extension of her most recent book, *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers*.

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

Helping Tweens & Teens Thrive

with psychologist and bestselling author

Lisa Damour, PhD

January 17th at 7pm

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peggy Clements, Ph. D. President
Maggie Valentine, Vice President
Ezra Clementson, Trustee
John Hedlund, Trustee
Sean McNall, Trustee

ADMINISTRATION

Philip Benante, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

Christine Jamin, Elementary School Principal
MaryAnn Seelke, Ed. D., Middle School Principal
Julia Sniffen, High School Principal
Regina Kaishian, Ed. D., Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Josh Elder, Director of Curriculum and Human Resources
Tom Cunningham, Athletic Director and Dean of Students
Adam MacNeil, Director of Facilities
Catherine Platt, School Business Manager