

Mendon High School Students Host
Heritage Day

As a way to honor and raise awareness of Pittsford’s diverse student body, Mendon High School students organized a Heritage Day event on February 9, 2023. In what they hope to be the start of an annual tradition, approximately 30



students and staff members hosted booths in the Commons during lunch periods to share items and traditions unique to their heritages and cultures. Other students and staff, many dressed in fashions representative of their own heritages, browsed the booths and participated in activities to learn about the various customs and traditions on display.

Students learned about Pakistan, the significance of henna and how the intricate designs are applied. They also learned about traditional Indian dance, wrote their names in Korean and Lebanese, viewed photos from a student’s pilgrimage to Mecca, watched demonstrations of hair braiding and learned about its significance in Black culture. The rich diversity of Pittsford’s student body was also evident as a foreign exchange student tested other’s knowledge of Italian words and pointed out misconceptions people have of Italian food and culture, while yet another student presented information on Indigenous Americans and the Kanienkehaka language and culture. As students and staff members visited the various tables strewn with educational materials and artifacts, they also had the opportunity to learn about Jewish holidays, Ashkenazi Judaism, Nigerian cultural attire, African drumming and more.

Staff members supported and participated in Heritage Day as well, with one sharing Irish tea and the history of Vikings (the school mascot) in Ireland, and another speaking about her family’s journey from Latvia to a displacement camp in the U.S. around the time of World War II.

Capital Improvement Project on the Ballot for March 28

Focus on Secure Entrances, Academic Space Renovations, Equitable Facilities and Efficient Space Utilization

On March 28, residents will vote on a proposition for the authorization of a capital improvement project consisting of alterations, renovations, and improvements to the District’s school buildings and associated facilities for a total aggregate maximum cost of \$69,822,169. There is no planned increase in the tax levy for this capital project since State Aid and capital reserves cover more than 75% of the total budget, and the timing of the project coincides with repayment of debt from previous projects. So, the drop in debt will cover the remaining cost of this new project.

Pittsford Schools maintains its facilities and manages repairs and improvements through a five year, NYSED mandated facilities assessment called a Building Condition Survey. This report is used to prioritize necessary repairs and educational components that fall outside the scope of the District’s annual operating budget. The proposed capital improvement project reflects a portion of the \$300,000,000 of repairs and renovations listed in the Buildings Condition Survey. Over the past few years, the Pittsford Schools Board of Education has been reviewing the five-year required State Education Department (SED) Building Condition Survey report and gathering feedback from the facilities team, District planning team, building committees, and financial team to determine what repairs and renovations were most critical. As always, health and safety needs are a top priority.

Since the last capital project over a decade ago, additional infrastructure improvements are recommended to meet changing curricular and student needs, address items that are at the end of their useful life and provide the most updated safety and security measures for students, staff and community members. The scope of the work focuses on renovations that heighten safety and security District-wide, achieve instructional space equity among secondary buildings, and address improvements and repairs for athletic facilities.

Safety and Security

The safety and security of students and staff remains a central priority for Pittsford Schools. In order to meet the needs of students at the most fundamental level, safety must come first. Priorities that focus on the safety and wellbeing of students include:

- Fortifying main entrances at every school with the construction of double-door vestibules.
- Securing large areas of assembly, such as auditoriums, gymnasiums and cafeterias with intruder locks.
- Performing District-wide security system enhancements (cameras, card readers, PA system).
- Installing emergency generators across all nine buildings.
- Replacing and upgrading HVAC systems for improved air quality while addressing repairs to building roofs, exteriors and windows.
- Repurposing and updating underutilized school areas to create dedicated spaces for students to meet with mental health providers like social workers, behavior specialists, psychologists, and counselors to address escalating student mental health needs.

Secondary Buildings

Since Sutherland High School and Calkins Road Middle School received significant renovations in the last major project, a main focus of this project will be on Mendon High School and Barker Road Middle School so that all four secondary schools are more inline, particularly with science and technology classrooms. To achieve equity of instructional spaces in secondary buildings, priorities include:

- Building a two-story addition at MHS that will include new science classrooms and labs to improve safety and enhance STEM education while conducting renovations to other areas, as needed.
- Removing portable classrooms that are at the end of their useful life at Barker Road Middle School (BRMS), as required by the State Education Department.
- Constructing a Commons area at BRMS that accommodates all students during lunch periods and remediates the need for some students to eat in the hallway outside the existing cafeteria. It will also serve as a meeting space for large groups.

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Project Focus

District-Wide Safety & Security

Classroom Spaces & STEM Programs

Counseling & Mental Health Support

Infrastructure Improvements

P.E. & Athletic Improvements

A black and white photograph of three students sitting at a desk, smiling at the camera. One student is wearing a baseball cap.

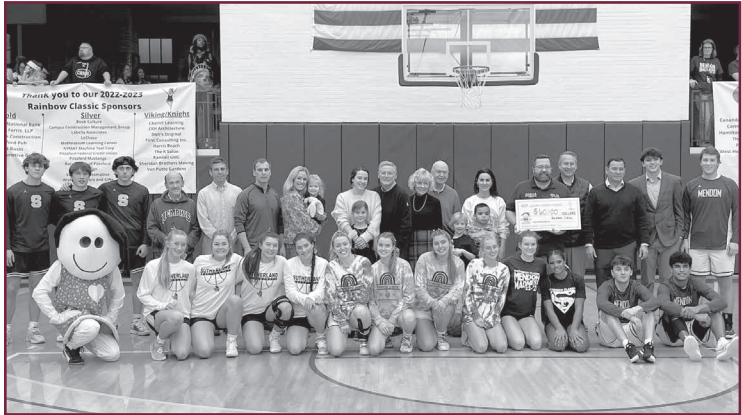
March 28, 2023 • 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Vote

Barker Road Middle School Gymnasium • 75 Barker Rd.
pittsordschools.org/2023CapitalProject

Student Philanthropy Events Raise Nearly \$70,000 for Charity

The Pittsford community once again came out in full support of two highly anticipated philanthropic student events – the Rainbow Classic Basketball Games on December 22, 2022 and Pink the Rink Hockey Games on January 7, 2023. The Rainbow Classic received donations exceeding \$60,000 to support Golisano Children’s Hospital, and Pink the Rink raised a total of \$9,000 for the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester.



Rainbow Classic

During the sold-out basketball event, Pittsford students, staff and community members cheered the Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball Teams as they hit the court for the 22nd Annual Rainbow Classic at the University of Rochester Palestra, organized by Mendon and Sutherland High School students to benefit Golisano Pediatric Behavioral Health and Wellness Center.

Sutherland High School was victorious in both games, with a score of 58-40 in the Girls Varsity game; and a score of 73-70 in the Boys Varsity game.

Since the Rainbow Classic began, PCSD has raised over \$500,000 for Golisano Children’s Hospital. Funds raised from this friendly cross-town competition have supported various projects at the hospital including Pediatric Intensive Care Unit patient rooms, the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorder Program, the Teen Lounge, the Pediatric Palliative Care Program and more. Proceeds from this year’s Rainbow Classic will support the Golisano Pediatric Behavioral Health and Wellness Center.

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Administrators Retirements

The Board of Education accepted three letters of intent to retire from the PCSD administrative team at its February 7, 2023, meeting.

Administrators planning for retirement include Park Road Elementary School Principal Mark Balsamo effective June 30, Sutherland High School Assistant Principal Jennifer Marren effective July 19, and Food Services Director Paulette Vangellow effective July 15.

The interview process for these positions will begin shortly and the usual thorough and collaborative process will be used to select final candidates for each of these positions. The interview teams will consist of administrators, teachers, support staff members and parents.

“I wish our retirees a happy and healthy retirement. Their hard work, positive impact on students and expertise in their respective roles have been invaluable, and they will be missed,” said Superintendent Michael Pero.



Mark Balsamo



Jennifer Marren



Paulette Vangellow

Safe School Helpline

Pittsford CSD knows that keeping children safe is a top priority for parents/guardians and schools. The Safe School Helpline®, a service used by school districts nationwide, offers an easy anonymous way for anyone to report information about situations that might affect safety at our schools.

Parents/guardians, students and staff members can make a report at any time of the day or night about unsafe or potentially disruptive activities or situations including threats of violence, depression, drug or alcohol abuse, harassment, or illegal activity that could harm students in our schools. Calls are anonymous and confidential.

To Report a Situation

- **Call:** (800) 418-6423 ext. 359
 - **Text:** (614) 426-0240, then type, TIPS
 - **Report online:** www.safeschoolhelpline.com
 - **Free mobile app:** available on Google Play or the App Store
- Your message will not be traced and you will not be identified. If you have any questions about the Safe School Helpline, please call your school principal or visit the District website at www.pittsfordschools.org.

As always, 911 is available for immediate emergency situations and 988 for an urgent mental health crises. Remember, if you **See Something, Say Something.**

Notice of Fire Inspection

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2022-2023 of the buildings of the Pittsford Central School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers and employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the Office of Operations, Maintenance & Security, 100 Mendon Center Road, for inspection by all interested persons.

Private & Parochial Transportation Requests Due April 1, 2023

Residents whose children plan to use Pittsford Central School District’s transportation next year for private or parochial school attendance are required by the State Education Department to file a Private & Parochial Transportation Request Form with the District by April 1, 2023, in order to receive transportation services. Dual Location/Daycare forms are also due by April 1.

Private & Parochial Transportation Request Forms are available online at www.pittsfordschools.org in the Parent Center under Transportation.

2023-2024 Budget Development Schedule

The Pittsford Central School District community is invited and encouraged to attend and observe the remaining budget development workshop meetings and events as they are open to the public. Community members will have the opportunity to comment at the regular Board of Education meetings immediately following the budget workshops, during the time allotted for public comment. The below meetings are in addition to Budget Work Sessions that took place on February 7 and 28.

All meetings take place in the Barker Road Middle School McCluski Room.

Budget Work Session

Tuesday, March 14
6-7 p.m.

Budget Adoption and Regular Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, April 18
7-9 p.m.

Budget Adoption is placed on the agenda of the regular Board of Education meeting. During this meeting, the Board of Education formally votes to adopt the budget created during the Budget Work Sessions.

PTSA Meet the Board of Education

Candidates Night
Thursday, May 4
7-9 p.m.

Budget Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday, May 9
7-9 p.m.

The Public Budget Hearing is the formal presentation of the Board of Education’s adopted budget which will later be voted on by residents at the annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Election.

Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday, May 16
7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Voter identification is required
Barker Road Middle School Gymnasium

2023-2024 Budget Guidelines

Developed by the District Planning Team and approved by the Board of Education

Develop a student-based budget focused on:

- Safe and secure school environment and facilities
- Implementation of rigorous, engaging, equitable, and authentic curriculum, instruction, assessments and resources that maintain excellence while supporting responsive and relevant offerings
- Providing experiences, both curricular and extracurricular, that support the varied interests and abilities of the whole child
- Increased accessibility and appropriate staffing, to support district technology initiative
- Equity and inclusion practices
- Social emotional learning and mental health supports
- Supporting diverse academic needs

Provide high quality professional learning focused on:

- Tiered supports to address range of learners in classroom
- Curriculum, assessment, grading and instructional practices
- Equity and Inclusion practices aligned with District goals
- Professional Learning Communities
- Social emotional and mental health learning
- Safety Preparedness
- Continuous improvement for instructional and non-instructional staff members

Balance the investment in education with sensitivity to limited community resources by:

- Balancing community expectations for services and programs, with the need to be cognizant of changes in property values, income levels, new state/federal tax laws, and other economic uncertainties
- Engaging in thoughtful long range financial planning
- Working collaboratively with local partners/districts to share services
- Sustaining transportation reserve for planning for electric buses/vehicles
- Planning for the cessation of Federal funds and impact on minimum wage compression
- Seeking innovative sources of revenue
- Recruiting, hiring, and retaining diverse employees of the highest caliber
- Seeking cost efficiencies to further mitigate the burdensome and financial impact of underfunded and unfunded mandates

Maintain fiscal stability now and into the future through:

- Financially prudent and sustainable reserve accounts
- Partnerships, Shared Services, Audits
- Protecting and maintaining our Aa1 bond rating
- Protecting the community’s investment in facilities and infrastructure
- Advocacy with legislators relative to appropriate levels of funding

Meet legal mandates and contractual obligations

Student Essays Win Awards in Local VFW Competition

The local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9495 awarded three Pittsford students with scholarships for their entries in its patriotic themed essay contest. Mendon High School senior Jisu Oh placed 3rd for the Voice of Democracy contest at the Post level. Calkins Road Middle School eighth graders Aditi Jagannath and Helen Kalandrakis were awarded first and third place for the Patriot’s Pen contest at the Post level.



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Teachers, Nurses and
Paraprofessionals**

Pittsford Schools

PittsfordSchools.org/JobOpportunities

Andrea Lynch Appointed Assistant Principal of Mendon High School

Pittsford Mendon High School welcomed Andrea Lynch as Assistant Principal of Mendon High School on January 23, 2023, following a thorough search and interview process and approval of the appointment by Pittsford Schools’ Board of Education on January 10.

“With more than 20 years of combined experience as a teacher and instructional coach, Ms. Lynch brings a comprehensive set of leadership skills and knowledge that will make her an effective assistant principal to our students and colleague to our staff,” said Superintendent Pero.

Over the past nine years, Lynch served as Instructional Coach for the Churchville-Chili Central School District. Prior to that position, she served as a special education teacher at South Orangetown CSD (2005-14), Ardsley Union Free High School (2004-05), Spencerport High School (2003-04), and Monroe 2 Orleans BOCES (2002-03).

Lynch earned a Master of Education in Special Education and a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from State University at Geneseo. She also received a Post Master’s Certificate in Educational Leadership, Professional Certification in School District Leadership, and Provisional Certification in School Building Leadership from State University at Stony Brook.



Student Artwork Wins Awards at RIT “Start Here” Exhibit

Congratulations to the following Pittsford Central School District students whose artwork won awards at Rochester Institute of Technology’s “Start Here” art exhibition celebrating high school and middle school students from the Rochester and Finger Lakes region!

Camden Sullivan (CRMS Gr. 6) - School of Design Young Designer Award for “Mosaic Self-Portrait”

Lila VanHouten (MHS Gr. 12) - School for American Crafts Studio Award for Felted Yarn and Mixed Media artwork, “#601”

Kaiva Anzalone (MHS Gr. 11) - School of Film and Animation Award for Stop-Motion Animation, “New World”

Isabelle Maloney (SHS Gr. 9) - School of Art Medical Illustration Award - 3D for Mixed Media artwork, “Suffocating”

To view an album of all PCSD student entries, visit the District’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PittsfordCentralSchoolDistrict.



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Student Philanthropy Events Raise Nearly \$70,000 for Charity (Cont.)

Pink the Rink

The extraordinary spirit of philanthropy continued as the Pittsford Panthers hockey team faced off against Fairport High School in the 13th annual Pink the Rink hockey games on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at Bill Gray’s Regional Iceplex.

As per tradition, Pittsford athletes wore special pink jerseys as they took to the ice. The Varsity game ended in a Pittsford Panthers shutout as they defeated the Fairport Red Raiders with a final score of 2-0. Goals were scored by Will Masaschi in the 2nd period and Keegan Garver in the 3rd.



On Stage!

March 16-18

Sutherland High School presents:

The Addams Family

- March 16-17 at 7 p.m.
- March 18 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Tickets: \$10 students/senior citizens; \$12 regular admission.

On sale at www.showtix4u.com and at the door (cash/check only).

“The Addams Family” is a musical comedy based on the original eccentric family cartoon. The story follows the Addams family as they grapple with the engagement of their daughter, Wednesday, who is normally macabre (wears only black), to her boyfriend, Lucas, who comes from a “respectable” family. When the families gather for dinner at the Addams' home for the young couple to announce their engagement, things don’t go quite as planned!

April 14-15

Mendon High School presents:

The Wedding Singer

- April 14 at 7 p.m.
- April 15 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- Tickets: \$10 students/senior citizens; \$12 regular admission.

On sale at www.showtix4u.com and at the door (cash/check only).

“The Wedding Singer” takes us back to 1985, a time when hair was big, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room. Rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar and he decides to make every wedding as disastrous as his own. Everything changes when Robbie needs to pull off the performance of a decade to win the girl of his dreams.

June 10

Barker Road Middle School presents its 6th-grade Musical:

Annie Jr.

- June 10 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Tickets: \$10 at the door

In this family-favorite musical, Annie charms everyone's hearts with equal measures of pluck and positivity despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. Annie is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of an orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. Annie eventually foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, finding a new home and family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary, Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

Pittsford Celebrates School Bus Drivers and One Driver's 40 Years on the Job

Pittsford Schools honored Richard Minnamon on February 3, 2023, for his 40 years of dedicated service as a school bus driver. Fellow bus drivers, administrators and staff members gathered at the bus garage to celebrate Minnamon and thank him for his service.

“We have so much gratitude and respect for Mr. Minnamon and the admirable work ethic, attention to safety and positive attitude he has demonstrated over the past four decades transporting students to and from Pittsford Schools,” said Superintendent Pero. “Bus drivers are heroes in my book. No matter the weather, they are up at the crack of dawn every school day to make sure children get to and from school safely. It takes a special person to do that, and I appreciate Mr. Minnamon and every bus driver in our District,” he said.

Pittsford students feel the same way! During the District’s School Bus Driver Appreciation week, February 27-March 3, bus driver inboxes were flooded with hand-made drawings and notes from students expressing their gratitude for all their drivers do.



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Capital Improvement Project on the Ballot for March 28 (Cont.)

Athletic Facilities

Student wellness, fitness and achievement depends on athletic facilities that are in good repair. Priorities for this capital improvement project include District-wide repairs and renovations where most needed, including:

- Mendon High School pool renovations including new starting blocks, a new scoring system and sound system and repair/renovations to the bleachers, locker rooms, fixtures and tile.
- The PCSD Board of Education has approved a pool capital reserve, not to exceed \$40 million, as part of the May 16, 2023, budget vote/school board election. In a February 7, 2023, structural engineering inspection report from HSE Structural Engineering Consultants, the pool structure was found to be in “a fair and reasonable condition,” and the report concluded “...there is no reason the pool shell cannot function effectively for at least another 10 years.” By establishing a pool capital reserve now, that dedicated reserve could be built up to help fund a new pool.
- New competitive tennis courts at Mendon and Sutherland High School. To maximize the remaining life of some of the existing tennis courts at SHS, they will be striped for use as pickleball courts. The new courts being installed at MHS will have pickleball lines overlayed on the last two courts.
- New all-purpose athletic surface over the footprint of former tennis courts at Barker Road Middle School.
- Improved drainage on the baseball and softball fields.

For more information about the proposed capital project, please visit www.pittsfordschools.org.

New Voting System for PCSD Elections

When Pittsford Central School District residents come to vote for the March 28, 2023, capital improvement project and the May 16, 2023, budget vote and Board of Education election, there will be a new, more secure, streamlined electronic voting system in place. Residents will vote in the same place, at Barker Road Middle School gymnasium, but instead of signing in a paper poll book, they will be using a digital tablet.

By using this electronic system, voter information will be pulled from the Monroe County voter registration rolls. This process will provide more security by verifying that only voters who live in the PCSD catchment area are participating.

When voters arrive at the polls, they will now be able to walk up to any digital tablet to sign in and receive their paper ballot rather than having to wait in line according to their street address. Residents will fill in their ballot as usual, behind a privacy screen, and then scan it at one of the Monroe County Board of Elections machines. As always, assistance will be available every step of the way!

Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award during the February 7, 2023 Board of Education Meeting for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive leadership. Congratulations to: **Carmen Esposito**, Gr. 8, Barker Road Middle School; **Christopher Johnson**, Gr. 10, Sutherland High School; **Harleen Kaur**, Gr. 5, Park Road Elementary School; **Sora Kawakyu-O'Connor**, Gr. 8, Calkins Road Middle School; **Jisu Oh**, Gr. 12, Mendon High School; **Logan Pritchett**, Gr. 5, Mendon Center Elementary School; **Mark Shand**, Gr. 5, Thornell Road Elementary School; **Jack Shannon**, Gr. 4, Jefferson Road Elementary School; **Eleanor Single**, Gr. 4, Allen Creek Elementary School



Graduation

Saturday, June 24, 2023

10 a.m.

Sutherland High School



2 p.m.

Mendon High School



RIT Gordon Field House

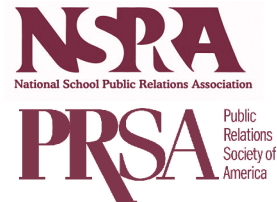
The Pittsford Central School District does not discriminate in access, admission, employment, or treatment of participants in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, color, handicapping condition, or ethnic or national origin. This is in compliance with Title IX, OCR Guidelines, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Inquiries regarding compliance issues may be addressed to: Shawn Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Administration Building, Pittsford Central Schools, 75 Barker Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.

Pittsford Central Schools
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School District News



Spring 2023

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