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HOOFPRINTS

Sleepy Hollow High School's Student Newspaper

Dr. Sanchez's Vision for Sleepy Hollow High School: A Closer Look

by Ruby Kezur



The arrival of our new superintendent, Dr. Raymond Sanchez, brings with it a wave of anticipation for positive changes at Sleepy Hollow High School. Dr. Sanchez, a Tarrytown native with deep roots in the community, holds a unique connection to this close-knit town. "This was my space," he fondly recalls, highlighting his profound attachment to the community. Having studied business at SUNY Geneseo, Dr. Sanchez found his true calling in education, guided by an inner conviction that he could make a difference. "There was just something in my gut saying that this wasn't working, there was a void. And I have always enjoyed the opportunity to work with youth and help them."

This personal tie allows Dr. Sanchez to infuse an extraordinary level of dedication and involvement into our school system, a gift that promises to uplift our educational experience. As he navigates the responsibilities of overseeing the extensive Tarrytown school district, Dr. Sanchez's ideal superpower would be to peek into the future, always looking out for the community he holds so dear. When asked about his hidden talents, Dr. Sanchez's friendly demeanor shone through as he revealed his love for learning the guitar and his aspiration to play for the students someday. Additionally, he keeps himself in shape by hitting the track. Dr. Sanchez envisions a future where Sleepy Hollow High School flourishes. A major component of his 'one hundred day plan' was to pass the capital bond project. On December 12, the district's residents voted and passed the measure which will play a crucial role in supporting the district's mission to create a safe, nuturing, and enriching learning environment for all students. Dr. Sanchez wishes to honor the things that are working within the community and listen to the needs of the people for any future improvements. The whispers of renovations on the horizon are indeed true, with upgrades planned for the library, auditorium, gyms, and even the possibility of an expansion to the high school itself. In addition to those upgrades is the welcomed addition of air conditioning in the cafeteria; something that students have been waiting to hear for years. Although he is confident in many additions he plans to make to the district, there are still issues he is actively working to tackle.

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For example, the question of parking spots for high school students remains a challenge; however, Dr. Sanchez assured that he is actively seeking a solution that will both appease the community and accommodate the students.

With the recent pandemic still affecting both Sleepy students and the community at large, Dr Sanchez has been actively trying to bring programs that help support our students and equip our educators to provide space for the social and emotional well-being of Sleepy Hollow students. His dedication to the mental health of students and the community - especially in the wake of the pandemic - is paramount.

Dr. Sanchez envisions a vibrant array of opportunities for Sleepy students in athletics, clubs, and other programs, recognizing that these experiences provide a solid foundation for our community. His desire to share his Cuban roots and connect with students is palpable, underlining his genuine commitment to building relationships.

"I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH YOUTH AND HELP THEM."

When asked about the new advice within technology and how it relates to current educational curricula, Dr. Sanchez advocates for a balanced approach, believing it can enhance learning while preserving the essence of human connection. He is a firm believer in making curriculum instruction as relevant and engaging as possible, extending learning beyond the confines of the classroom. In his words, "That's what leads to better learning and better understanding, and that's what makes students more connected to the learning process."

Ultimately, Dr. Sanchez's goal is to ensure that both students and teachers have a significant say in their learning and teaching experiences. His warm and personable approach promises a bright future for Sleepy Hollow High School, where every student's potential is nurtured and celebrated.

SHHS Named an Advanced Placement Gold School

By Juliet Loffredo, *Source: The Hudson Independent*

Sleepy Hollow High School has been recognized by the College Board as an AP Honor Roll School with the "Gold" distinction, as well as receiving the College Board Access Award. These honors are awarded to schools with a wide range of students who demonstrate proficiency on the AP exams, and the faculty who promote these achievements. Sleepy Hollow offers nineteen Advanced Placement courses, which provide students with the ability to prepare adequately for college courses, as well as aiding in the number of students who go to college.

AP classes give students a chance to boost their grades, stand out in admissions, and receive college credit while still in high school. Sleepy Hollow is proud to say that students are not only pushing themselves to learn at higher levels, but succeeding in doing so: fifty-six percent of seniors taking an AP exam in 2022 scored a three or higher. Additionally, the Access Award recognizes schools who provide equitable advanced learning opportunities. This is awarded to schools if the percentage of students taking AP exams are underrepresented minorities or low income and mirrors the student demographics. Educators and administration at Sleepy Hollow High are thrilled with their hard work and the work of their students being recognized.

Welcome Our New AP: Ms. Perez

By: Kaia White



Where did you teach before you came to Sleepy?
I started teaching at the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music, as a stand-alone English as a new language teacher, and I taught there for nine years. And then, I moved to University of Prep Charter High School, where I was an English as a new language coordinator for two years. And then, I moved to Kingsbridge International High School, which is a small school for recent ELL (English Language Learners) arrivals, in the Bronx.

Is this your first year as an assistant principal?
This is my seventh year as an assistant principal, but my first year here at Sleepy Hollow.

How would you describe your experience as an educator?
I have grown a lot from being an educator. I feel like the students I have taught have taught me a lot about what it means to learn, and what it means to grow as a professional. Just as I learn from my two young children, I learn from the students. They teach me more than I teach them.

What surprised you about working with young people?
I don't know if I was surprised by it, but I really admire how resilient young people are. I remember being a teenager, and I remember how difficult it can feel to be on the edge of adulthood, but not be in control of everything around you. So it always surprises me how well young people, especially teenagers, are able to just keep fighting for what they want.

What makes you love your job?
I love how different it is every day; that I am not always behind a desk at a computer, but I'm talking to new people. This is my fourth school, and every time I go to a new school I get to meet so many wonderful new people and I love becoming part of the school's community.

What impact do you hope to make on Sleepy Hollow students?
I just hope to be a member of the community. I don't know what my impact will be, but I hope to be someone that students come to for support or when they need something. I hope to be seen as someone who is part of this school.

Now the fun questions: If you had to participate in the talent show, what would your talent be?
Haha. I played the flute for about ten years, from second grade through twelfth grade, so I'm really rusty and have to get my flute fixed, but maybe I could play something.

If you could have a pocket-sized version of any giant animal, what would the animal be?
That's funny. I think I would want a panda bear.

What is your favorite dish to cook?
My father is Puerto Rican, and at Christmas time his family usually makes Arroz con gandules and fried plantains, and I like cooking that because then I feel like I'm close to them.

Wow, that sounds delicious.

Last question. If you had to put a famous person's head on the headless horsemen, whose head would you choose?
Oh my goodness! Haha, that's funny. That's a hard one. I think I'd want to put one of the Founding Mothers, you know, there's the Founding Fathers of the U.S., I'd want one of the Founding Mothers' heads on there.

That sounds interesting. Ok, thank you for your time!

Looking Back on '23: Spirit Week

Spirit Week in the Hollow was an epic, jam-packed week filled with a lot of team spirit. This year, the "Cirque du Seniors" stole the show, landing them with a total of 992.5 points. The "Jet Off Juniors" came in second at 682.5 points, "Surfs Up Sophomores" secured third place with 665 points, and the "Dream House Freshmen" finished in fourth place with 375 points.

















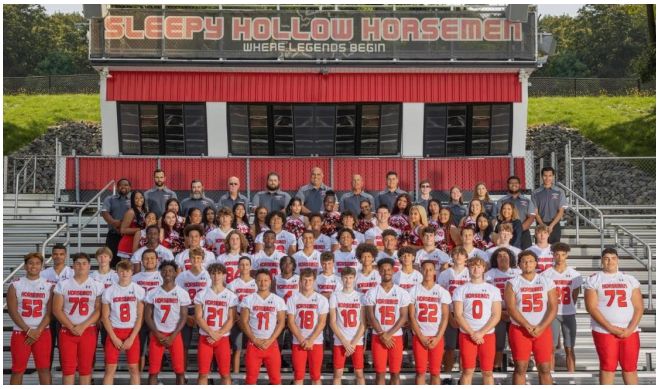


Looking Back on '23: Homecoming Game

Sleepy Horsemen vs Briarcliff Bears

By: Quincy Newland

On a balmy Saturday evening, the highly anticipated varsity football homecoming game took place under the lights with all eyes on the Sleepy Hollow football team. The stands were packed with students, faculty, and parents alike, all cheering and bursting with excitement for the team. Throughout the game, the crowd's energy was intense with the student spectators passing around an inflated ball and cheering for the home team. The varsity players responded to the crowd's energy and defeated Briarcliff with a score of 31-7. This Sleepy Hollow win can be attributed to everyone on the team, from the coaches to the team manager. But above all, the person who grabbed the crowd's attention was senior wide receiver, Evan Bowen, who put four touchdowns on the scoreboard.



But the real story took place behind the scenes of this Homecoming win, with footage of our beloved gym teacher and football coach Mr. Giuliano (interviewed by Evan Bowen himself on *Wake Up Sleepy*) calling the score perfectly, weeks before the big game. Whether it was a good guess or Mr. Giuliano's manifestation, Sleepy Hollow's win was exactly what the Horsemen needed to complete Homecoming.

Senior Reflection: Jerry Amay

By: Leo Mejia



Q: How did you stay in shape this offseason?

A: Honestly, we stayed in shape because of the Coach Floras's offseason program. Staying committed and coming in everyday at six in the morning for workouts.

Q: Why did you think the team would succeed?

A: I believed the team would succeed because we put time and energy into becoming a good team where each player contributes something important.

Q: What is your favorite moment playing football?

A: Every homecoming I've been a part of. I've been on varsity for four years. It's the atmosphere of a homecoming game; it's legit and cool.

Q: How would you describe your dream senior season?

A: I wanted to end my senior football career by winning more than three games because it's been more than five years since we have accomplished that.

Q: How sad is it that it is all coming to an end soon?

A: It's bittersweet, you know? Time flies. I remember walking in freshman year, with the new coaching staff, and they provided an overview of how they would run the program. Now is the final chapter; it was all put together and successful at the end of the day.

Entertainment

Stand-Up and Laughs: Pete Davidson Performs at Tarrytown Music Hall

By Leslie Burgos



Saturday Night Live alum, Pete Davidson, whose magnetic presence captures the attention of many, performed recently at Tarrytown Music Hall. Several students and staff attended the show, excited to see the star in person, or “The Stud,” as Sleepy Hollow High senior, Henry Ritz, refers to Davidson. Everyone in the crowd had a great time and many belly laughs. Sleepy Hollow High School’s very own Ms. Langston, who attended the show, said, “For some reason, I just like him. I like his story.” For those readers who are unfamiliar with Davidson’s story, his father, a New York City Firefighter, was killed during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The show that took place in September was a phone-free experience, as the comedian tested new material on the sold out crowd.

Davidson returned to Sleepy Hollow at the end of October, but before his show the actor had the honor of hosting the first episode of Saturday Night Live after the writers’ strike. During his debut as host of the long-running comedy show, the actor addressed the atrocities that occurred in Israel and Gaza. "I know what you're thinking — who better to comment on it than Pete Davidson," the comedian said to laughs from the audience.

"But in a lot of ways, I am a good person to talk about it, because when I was 7 years old, my dad was killed in a terrorist attack. So I know something about what that's like.” If you did not have the opportunity to catch Davidson at either of his performances in Tarrytown, keep your eyes peeled for his upcoming stand-up special.





“Hollowcliff” Field Hockey Team Bids Farewell to Senior Players

by Juliet Loffredo

The Sleepy Hollow varsity field hockey team took an interesting turn in the fall of 2022. The team “Hollowcliff” was born as a merged team between Sleepy Hollow and Briarcliff as neither school had a whole varsity field hockey team. Although it was difficult, both squads benefitted from this unification because they were able to learn from each other's skills and work to build a cohesive team. Following the completion of “Hollowcliff” field hockey’s second season, two original players from Briarcliff, Anika Zaidi and Lily Shafiroff, along with Katie Andruss and Ava McVey from Sleepy Hollow are preparing to graduate. Andruss expresses, “Being combined with Briarcliff is such a special aspect of the team… Though we didn’t know each other at first, we came together.” The team’s senior captain, Lily Shafiroff, commented on the camaraderie that the team has fostered over the last two seasons. Additionally, the senior players describe how the team has young and energetic blood who are “stepping up to the plate,” growing and getting ready to pass the torch to the next generation of players. With two winning seasons under their belt, “Hollowcliff” has proven to be a success and the partnership between the two schools will continue to produce winning seasons and strong bonds between players from different backgrounds.



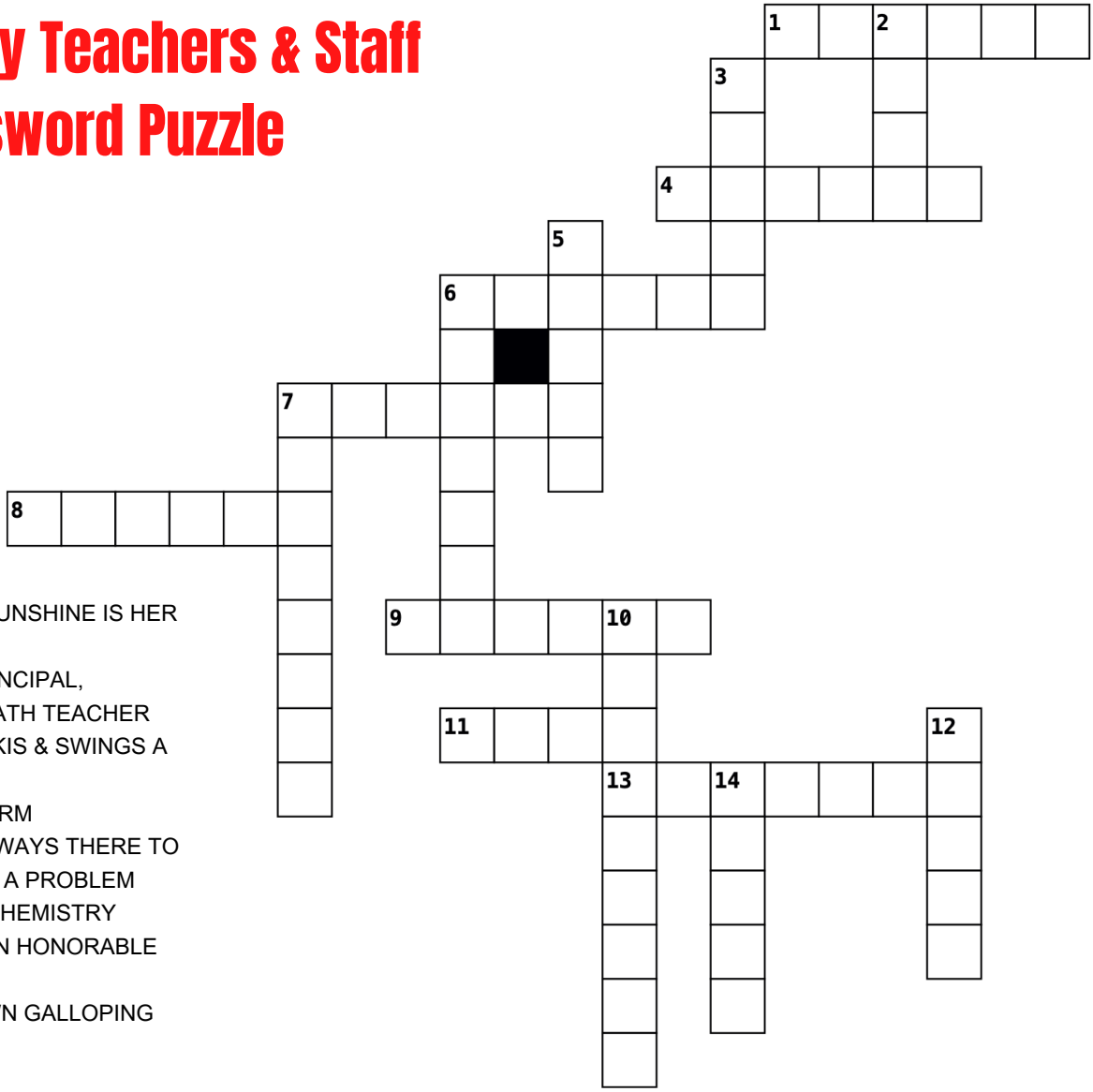




Twenty-five SHHS School students from the Music Production and Video Production classes attended the first annual Pace University AV Talent Summit on November 29th at the Pace Westchester campus.

This event was established for high school students who have an interest in the Audio-Visual (A/V) industry. It was hosted by the MCVA Pleasantville department and was led by Professors George Chacko and Rich Miller who are building an A/V program at Pace. Students gained insight from industry professionals, influencers, and vendors, as well as, having the opportunity to take part in interactive activities.

Sleepy Teachers & Staff Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. HELLO SUNSHINE IS HER MOTTO
4. ASST PRINCIPAL, FORMER MATH TEACHER
6. SINGS, SKIS & SWINGS A RACQUET
7. BOOKWORM
8. SHE'S ALWAYS THERE TO HELP WITH A PROBLEM
9. HE HAS CHEMISTRY
11. SHE'S AN HONORABLE HORSEMAN
13. OUR OWN GALLOPING GOURMET

DOWN

2. HE LIKES TO EXPERIMENT
3. WE HAVE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE
5. RADIOHEAD
6. THERE'S ANOTHER DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE
7. HE HAS A SHOW NAMED AFTER HIS HOOD
10. TWO TEACHERS MARRIED TO EACH OTHER
12. TRAVELS THE WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING THE CLASSROOM
14. STUDENT GOV RULES

Message from the editor, Juliet Loffredo

The Hoofprints staff is proud to present issue one of the 2023-2024 school year! Thank you to Dr. Brand and the administration for their support, as well as Mr. Rogers and Ms. Langston for their hard work on this publication. Thank you to Kaia White, Christa Bromfield, Leslie Burgos, Gianna Cabornero, Ruby Kezur, Sasha Marciano, Leo Mejia, and Quincy Newland for their outstanding contributions.

We are looking for additions to our staff to help with writing, layout, and other creative contributions so that we can publish more frequently. We hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to future issues!