

Hyde Park Central School District Connections

OCTOBER 2023

From the Desk of Dr. Pedro Roman

Dear Hyde Park Community,

Autum is one of my favorite seasons; there is much to celebrate. First, I want to celebrate and honor our community's rich tapestry and shine a light on **Hispanic Heritage Month**. Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from September 15th to October 15th, allows us to recognize the countless contributions and influences of Hispanic and Latinx individuals on our society, history, and culture.

We are also excited to celebrate our Board of Trustees for **Board of Education Appreciation Week** (October 16th - October 20th).

Public education is more than just the opportunity to learn math, science, English, and social studies concepts; it allows students to reach their potential and develop the necessary competencies to contribute to society. Thank you, Trustees, for your time, hard work, and dedication to guiding our educational system in providing more than 3,500 students with the resources and support for all students to learn and thrive in a fiscally responsible and fair manner for our community.

We also had an opportunity to celebrate **Bus Safety Week** with doughnuts for our bus drivers.

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Fall drama promises to be Spooktacular

Get your tickets for the annual Fall drama scheduled for November 3 and 4 at FDR! It's sure to be a spooky, spectacular show. The President's Players are flexing their acting muscles and putting what they learned in the classroom to good use for two performances of Tracey Wells' Night of the Macabre in early November.

The story centers around four friends stopping by the Museum of the Macabre, while on the hunt for horror.

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Winners Circle is a Home Run Success

FDR students, of all abilities and talents, are putting their skills to good use on a hands-on project that involves collaborating with one another and developing a mindset leading to success.

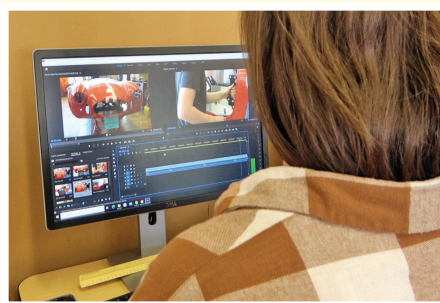
The Winners Circle Project, founded by FDR alum Pius Kayiira, involves students building a car from the ground up and marketing it to sell. However, it does not have to be a car; FDR students also built a cob oven with assistance from HGTV star Matteo Lundgren.

Students are involved in a building course, where the car is constructed, as well as visual communications and marketing courses where they design a logo and promote the car in videos and on social media. FDR Principal Michael Ruella sees the project as a great opportunity for students working together to achieve a goal.

"All three courses come together in project based learning and performance based learning to build, market and promote the vehicle," Ruella said. "It's been fantastic for the students and the FDR community."

ESL teacher Derek Zimmerman agreed to teach the visual communications aspect because many skills students use are an extension of what they learned in the AV Club he advises. It also gives them a chance to collaborate with other students they do not know as well, similar to real life.

"This is a great simulation of that," Zimmerman said. "I'm giving them more goal-oriented things and then seeing how they figure out how they should do that."



Junior Tyler Nolen finds the program beneficial because he uses problem solving skills when working with difficult parts.

"Not all of them are drilled exactly how you would have expected," Nolen said of the parts. "You have to combat that as best you can, while keeping the car looking as nice as you can."

Senior Grace Woodcock, who wants to study film making in college, has enjoyed filming and editing marketing videos with her classmates, a skill she considers important.

"It teaches you how to work with a crew that are also very passionate about what we're doing," Woodcock said. "It's getting me ready for college and beyond."



From the Desk of Dr. Pedro Roman

....cont'd from pg. 1

They are the first point of contact for our students and families each day and work hard to keep them safe as they transport our scholars to and from school.

Additionally, we would like to thank all of our students who participated in creating posters in celebration of Bus Safety Week as they showcased their artistic talents to relay the importance of safety on our school buses.

I welcome you all to our Walk and Talk Part II scheduled for October 28th from noon until 1:30 pm at FDR's track, weather permitting. Please bring your walking shoes, and let's walk and talk about your hopes, dreams, and aspirations for your children and our District, as we plan for our next levels of growth. I look forward to seeing you!



Hyde Park Central School District
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Veteran FDR music teacher given arts award

James Osborn, who has taught music at FDR for more than 30 years, was recently honored for his achievements at the Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards.

During the event at the Grandview in Poughkeepsie on October 11, Osborn was the recipient of this year's "Arts in Education" award.

"Receiving this award was a very pleasant surprise and a great honor," Osborn said. "It is difficult to fully grasp that I have been at the high school for almost 31 years already."

Osborn wants his students to have a great experience in the FDR band, like he had in his own high school band, where they are imparted with great musicianship, discipline, school spirit and camaraderie.

"I have had the great pleasure of working with wonderful colleagues, administrators, parents and students in Hyde Park," Osborn said. "We have worked together to become an outstanding musical community."

What Osborn loves the most about teaching are the FDR music students' creativity and energy and working with them through



"We have worked together to become an outstanding musical community"

James Osborn
Music Teacher

all four years of high school. Outside of FDR, he also teaches music at Vassar College.

"We are making a strong comeback after the COVID period," Osborn said. "I am looking forward to an exciting, full schedule of musical events in the years ahead."

Students and staff step up for the greater good



The Dutchess Outreach annual coat drive is running through October 31. New or gently used, clean coats can be dropped off at any Guardian Self Storage.

There is also a need for shoes and Guardian will be accepting those donations through November 30.

For more info go to dutchessoutreach.org

Hyde Park Education Foundation Happenings



The mission of the Hyde Park Education Foundation (HPEF) is to provide financial support to individual schools and district wide programs and activities that encourage and enhance the educational opportunities and well-being of the students of the Hyde Park Central School District.

New this year, the HPEF is hosting Eleanor's Bookcase. Two sessions are left: on November 7th, we will discuss The First Lady of World War II by Shannon McKenna Schmidt at Bellefield (FDR National Historic Site). On December 5th, we will discuss Loving Eleanor by Susan Wittig Albert at Hyde Park Elementary School. December 5th will be facilitated by retired teacher, Felicia Olson. Sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. To register, email: eleonorrooseveltbookclub@gmail.com. The registration fee is \$25. This fundraiser supports teacher grants and student scholarships.

Recipients for last year's teacher grants were: Trish Schramm, Natalie Ellis, Colleen Coburn, Joan Miller, Allison McCann, Kristen Vinson, Jessica Beecher, GERALYN ELY, Karin Armstrong, Erin Daniels, and Beth Camann. Congratulations to all grant recipients. We will post photos of grant activities in June 2024 on our website.

HPEF is currently organizing a hygiene drive for the HPCSD schools. There will be a drop-off box at Haviland Middle School. Additionally, there will be a wish list for Amazon on our [website](http://www.hpef12538@gmail.com). If you have any questions about the hygiene drive, please email HPEF12538@gmail.com.

Veteran's Day is perfect for purchasing a flag or dedication card to honor your favorite veteran.

To make a purchase, please visit our website: www.hydeparkeducationfoundation.org. Or by emailing: hpef12538@gmail.com.

2023 DUTCHESS OUTREACH
SUSAN DEKEUKELAERE MEMORIAL
Coat Drive

Sponsored by Guardian Self Storage



Help keep someone warm this winter

Wanted: Warm Coats

(Clean, good condition) for

Men, Women, Children

Special need for children's

coats & adult plus sizes

Drop off Coats

October 1 - October 31

At Any Guardian Self Storage

Rhinebeck Bank

Red Cap Cleaners

Raymour and Flanigan Showroom or Outlet

TEG Federal Credit Union

FDR Coach honored with annual award



FDR's coach for Cross Country and Track & Field Daniel Pelkey was recently selected as a recipient of the Brooks Running Inspiring Coaches Program's annual awards, given each year to a high school track and cross country coach who inspires the next generation of runners.

Pelkey, who also teaches math, is humbled and honored to receive this award because he never expected any type of recognition, let alone at a national level, for the tireless and selfless work he does for his athletes.

"Ever since I decided to go into teaching as a 10th grade student at FDR, I wanted to make a difference like so many of my teachers and coaches did for me," Pelkey said. "This award reassures me and is a constant reminder that I made the right decision."

After receiving encouragement from his coaches and teachers when he was an FDR athlete, Pelkey decided to come back to serve his community and contribute to its thriving.

Whether it is cheering on students at a home game or helping them understand how to solve a system of equations, he sees every day as a chance to change someone's life.

"I have said for the past six years that I have taught and coached that

I have the best job in the world," Pelkey said. "I feel privileged to teach kids amazing lessons about working hard to achieve their goals, serving others and chasing what makes you truly happy in life."

Watch the video here:

[Meet the 2023 Brooks Inspiring Coaches Grand Prize Winners](#)

"Ever since I decided to go into teaching as a 10th grade student at FDR, I wanted to make a difference."

Daniel Pelkey

Fall drama promises to be Spooktacular

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This wax museum displays scenes from the works of Poe, Hawthorne and Irving and as unnerving as the exhibits are, the real terror starts when the exhibits come to life.

Director Amy Martin chose Wells' drama because she wanted the students to challenge themselves by taking on something more dramatic than the more lighthearted fair they acted in previously. "I wanted to stretch them a little bit and have them go with something that was more out of their comfort zone," Martin said. "It gives an opportunity for a lot of different students to shine."

Senior Jonathan Melendez appreciates that the President's Players always do a diverse array of shows in the fall and the spring, including The Sponge Bob Musical.

"We're currently working on something not Sponge Bob themed, but more scary," Melendez said. "We get to see everyone's take on it."

The drama will have a performance on November 3 at 7 p.m. and one on November 4 at 2 p.m. in FDR's auditorium.

Don't miss your chance to see these kids give it all they got!

Hyde Park Happenings

October 26
Board of Education Meeting
District Office 7 p.m.

October 27
Planned K-12 Two-hour delay
for Professional Development

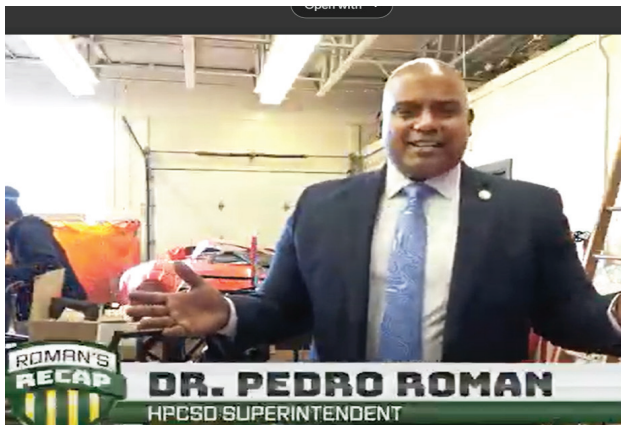
November 3
FDR Drama
FDR Auditorium 7 p.m.

November 4
FDR Drama
FDR Auditorium 2 p.m.

November 7
Election Day
No school for students

November 9
Board of Education Meeting
North Park 7 p.m.

November 10
Veterans Day – No school



Did you catch the latest Roman's Recap?

[Click Video](#)



Be sure to check out the Superintendent highlighting special things happening across the HPCSD in his speedy, 60-second videos.

IN HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WE WILL ALWAYS PUT STUDENTS FIRST