



HERRICKS HERALD

HERRICKS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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**"I HAVE
A DREAM..."**

Center Street students participated in an arts and crafts project honoring Martin Luther King Jr., where they contemplated their dreams for the future.

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THEIR GROOVE ON**

Denton Avenue first graders were treated to a visit by the Brady Rymer Band and danced their little hearts out.

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PROGRAM READ ALOUD**

Herricks High School seniors in the Spanish Immersion program visited their counterparts at Denton Avenue for a surprise read aloud.

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**HERRICKS
HOMEGROWN**

Take a moment to get to know some of our amazing staff members who are also alumni of the district!

Center Street Students Celebrate MLK Day

Achieving world peace, becoming a famous artist, making one hundred new friends—what does your dream of the future look like?



In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the the students of Victoria Grecos' class at Center Street Elementary School worked on an arts and crafts project contemplating what their dreams of the future might be—all in the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The students came up with a wide range of different dreams for the future; including such examples as world peace, making lots of friends, or even just to own a dog!



HERRICKS MIDDLE SCHOOL IS OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

On the weekend of January 19th, the Middle School kicked off the year with an incredible performance of *The Wizard of Oz* that had the whole audience saying "there's no place like Herricks!"



SRA Students Share a Pizza History with Searingtown

Students of Shelter Rock Academy act as guest readers for Searingtown Elementary School.



How much do you know about the history of pizza? Searingtown's Scotties learned all about it this month when they were treated to a special visit from students of our Shelter Rock Academy—many of whom are former Scotties themselves! The SRA students stopped by to do a read aloud of Searingtown's January book of the month, *Pizza! A Slice of History*, and engage in pizza-themed activities with the younger students.



DENTON AVENUE GETS THEIR GROOVE ON



Denton Avenue's first graders had an exciting morning on Friday the 19th, as they had the chance to dance, wiggle, and jump around to live music performed by the visiting Brady Rymer Band!



High School Spanish Immersion Students Visit Denton Avenue

12th-grade Spanish Immersion students pay a surprise visit as guest readers to their younger counterparts at Denton Avenue.



On Friday, December 8th, the 12th-grade Spanish Language Immersion students from the Writers, Artists, and Thinkers Language Immersion class, accompanied by their teacher Ms. Jennifer Gallo, took center stage as surprise guest readers at Denton Elementary School. The seniors spent weeks practicing their storytelling skills to skillfully engage students spanning from kindergarten to 5th grade with captivating tales, seamlessly blending the art of language acquisition with the sheer joy of storytelling. This successful field trip not only enriched their understanding of language acquisition, but also left an enduring mark on both the younger and older students alike. This fostered a sense of community and creating cherished memories within the shared journey of language learning.

“Going back to Denton was such an eye opening experience and to be able to see how far we have grown since we were that young. With us now being on the oldest side of the program, it has allowed me to reflect on my time in the program and grasp the impact it has had on all of us. It was so special to have the last of us left in the program return to where it all started.”

-Ava Lorenzana

“Getting to go back and see my old teachers was amazing, but seeing the students was the most inspirational part of this trip. It was so sentimental to see the new generation of Language Immersion students sitting where the class of 2024 used to sit. I was reminded of how important the Language Immersion program was for building my Spanish skills, as well as reminded of the relationships I formed on the way.”

-Madilyn Silverman

HERRICKS HOSTS STUDENTS FROM KOREA

On January 12th, members of the Herricks High School Peer Leadership Program hosted over 20 visiting students from Korea as part of a partnership between Herricks and the KISS Cosmetics Corporation—it was a truly invaluable opportunity for all of the students involved to engage in international exchange!



Herricks Homegrown

Herricks Homegrown is a regular feature where we highlight members of the Herricks staff who are also alumni of the district! This month, we have three terrific educators from the elementary school level— Searingtown's Lauren Zubovic and Martina D'Astolfo and Denton Avenue's Jennifer Kiang. Plus, be sure to keep an eye on our social media channels, where we'll soon be sharing video interviews with our each of the staff

Lauren Zubovic

K-5 Enrichment and Gemini Teacher, Searingtown

Where did you go after graduating from Herricks?

I always knew I wanted to be an educator because of the passion and support from my teachers from kindergarten to my senior year in high school. After graduating from Herricks, I went to Queens College where I double majored in Psychology and Elementary Education. Once I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree, I worked on completing my Master's in TESOL. It's always been important for me to help and advocate for learners who speak other languages since I'm a multilingual learner myself. Since then, I have been certified in Gifted Education and school leadership. As a lifelong learner, I'm excited to learn new things and share my knowledge with colleagues and students.



Martina D'Astolfo

4th Grade Teacher, Searingtown

What made you decide to return to Herricks as a teacher?

Herricks was an important place for me, I moved to the district when I was in 6th grade. My homeroom teacher and guidance counselor (who are still there today) really helped me during that adjustment period. When I made the decision to peruse a career in education, that time of my life was always at the back of my mind. I knew I wanted to be the kind of person and educator those teachers were. I knew Herricks would be a place that would welcome me back.

Jennifer Kiang

Music and Chorus Teacher, Denton Avenue

Where did you go after graduating from Herricks?

After high school, I went to college in the city and studied psychology and music. It wasn't really until after I graduated college that I had this epiphany that some of the most influential people in my life were my music teachers. I wanted to find a way to be that for the next generation of students.

What does being a Herricks teacher mean to you?

Well, my family also lives in Herricks...so being both a parent and a teacher in this district, Herricks means a lot to me. It means community, it means diversity, and — most importantly — it means home.

