



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2024

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Campfire Cookies for the Win

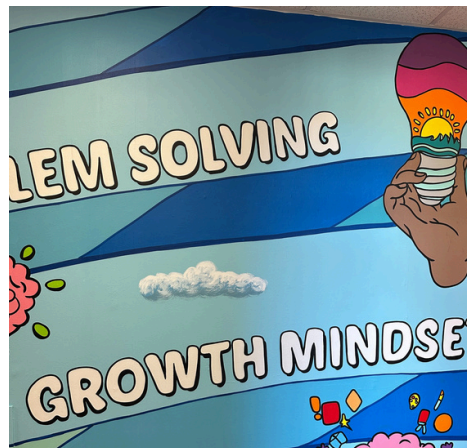
Haldane High School Chorus spread their holiday cheer to the seniors at the Friendship Center and down Main Street to local businesses and last minute shoppers.

At Haldane We Grow

Through Haldane’s Arts in Education program, local Artist Joe Pimentel met with 4th and 5th grade students in October. He shared his journey as an artist and how he turned his passion into a career. In a discussion of the Haldane Essentials: Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Communication, Growth Mindset, Emotional Intelligence, and Wellness, Mr. Pimentel challenged students to think about what those words mean to them as students at Haldane Elementary and how they could turn their ideas into an artistic representation.

Mr. Pimentel took inspiration from an existing "Poe-Tree" art piece that was installed in the lobby and used it to create the centerpiece of a new mural with the central theme of "At Haldane we grow..." He then incorporated student art representing the essential qualities for student growth.

In December, the piece came together in the elementary corridor. Under Mr. Pimentel's talented guidance, 4th and 5th graders and staff painted the beautiful mural that will welcome our community into the Elementary School for years to come.



World Kindness Day...

On November 13, Haldane celebrated World Kindness Day. The elementary school participated in a school-wide BINGO challenge to complete random acts of kindness, and faculty and staff got in the spirit with kindness gear created by Leah Horn. The theme highlights the collective power of kindness and encourages everyone to participate in spreading goodwill across the globe, beginning by spreading positivity and joy throughout the Haldane community.



...and the students who bring it to life



Parker Larsen, 10th grader, was recognized by the Haldane Board of Education and the Putnam County Sheriff's Department for stepping in to help another student in need. On a walk home from school, Parker came across an elementary student who had lost his way. Not recognizing the student's address, Parker responded with compassion and quick thinking. He called the school and waited with the student until Mrs. Jamin arrived to help. With the support of Deputy Tolve, Parker received a Certificate of Award from the Putnam County Police Benevolent Association. Thank you, Parker, for being the perfect example of what it means to be a Haldane Blue Devil role model on our K-12 campus.



Haldane Middle School and the Elks Club, recognized three November students of the month based on character and academics.

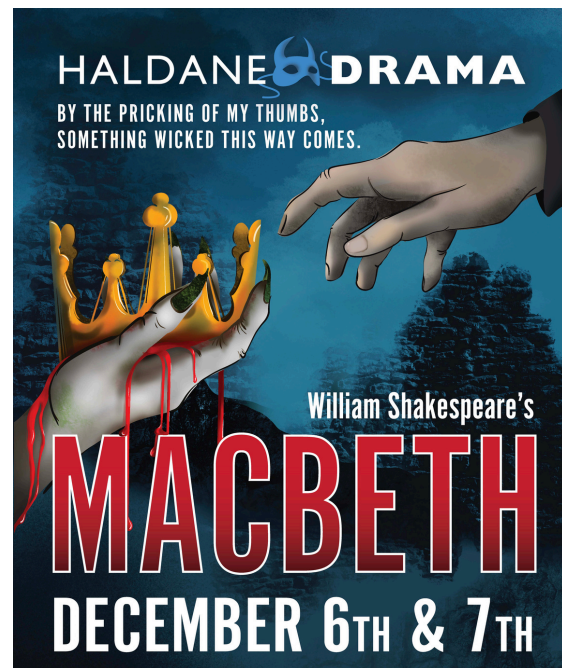
Congratulations to Devin Byrne (6th), Owen Mekeel (7th), and Teo Bon Tempo (8th).

Mastering Macbeth

December brought Haldane Drama's annual performance - this year, a double-cast take on Shakespeare's Macbeth. An excerpt from the Haldane Arts Alliance newsletter gave the performances high praise, "Haldane Drama wowed audiences with a professional-grade production of Macbeth [as] two casts of Haldane high schoolers took on Shakespeare's intricate language with ease, infusing it with jealousy, agony, guilt, and hysteria in all the right places. It was maddeningly good!"

The performances brought the play out of the classroom and onto the stage and, like all Haldane Drama productions, had performers rehearsing day and night. If you missed Macbeth, catch moments of the shows on [Haldane Drama Backstage](#), thanks to Jim Mechalakos.

The Highlands Current offered a detailed look behind the scenes with insight from cast and crew in their November 29 [Macbeth's Timeless Message](#).



Into the Spring

Get ready to take your seat again this March for Haldane Drama's performance of Into the Woods by Stephen Sondheim on March 21, 22, and 23. Check out the official trailer on the [haldanedramabackstage](#) Instagram. Auditions are just weeks away!

Haldane Musical Excellence on Display at NYSSMA

Under the leadership of Sam Sauer and Jessica Stein, the breadth of musical talent at Haldane shone bright at this year's New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Area All State and All State events.

Following a rigorous selection process, a group of Haldane student musicians were chosen to perform in various ensembles at the NYSSMA Area All State at Dover High School in November. Mr. Sauer reported that all of the ensembles performed at an exceptionally high standard and highlighted Molly Bernstein's solo in the Treble Choir. Mr. Sauer even had the honor of stepping in to conduct the Treble Choir as a last minute substitute.



Congratulation to all who were selected to perform:

Mixed Chorus

Lucius Bell
Oliver Petkus

Treble Chorus

Lucia Petty
Sophie Koch
Molly Bernstein
Sofia Kelly
Rain Lee
Kira Drury
Tyler Schact

Orchestra

Dana Spiegel

Band

Robert Freimark - Clarinet
Noah Green - Percussion

In December, Oliver Petkus and Delia Star participated in the NYSSMA All-State Winter Conference in Rochester, NY. Oliver was selected to sing in the Mixed Chorus and Vocal Jazz Ensemble this year and Mr. Sauer shared that he "performed with joy that can only be achieved by an immense amount of preparation." Delia received her second consecutive Young Composer Award, playing the piano with poise and exceptional musicianship. **Congrats, Oliver and Delia!**



Haldane-Style Send-Off for Cross Country

Haldane Varsity Cross Country headed to States in November with a traditional K-12 sendoff cheering them on. Nine runners across the boys and girls varsity teams qualified to participate in the States meet at Queensbury High School.

Haldane Boys' Cross Country finished fourth out of 11 Class D teams. Owen Powers took third overall in Class D, finishing the 5,000 meters in 16:04.8. Jack Illian was 29th for Haldane with a 17:10.5. The team finished fourth out of 11 Class D teams.

For the girls, senior Ashley Sousa came in 38th among the Class D competitors and set a personal record of 21:17.4 - amazing finish to her senior season.

Owen Powers' States time qualified him to run in the New York State Federation Championship at Bowdoin Park on November 23. He is the first Haldane athlete ever to qualify for and compete in the NYS Federations Championship!

Congratulations on an amazing season showcased by Haldane Varsity Cross Country and Coach McConville, Coach Richter, and Coach Casey.



Haldane Delegates Hone Their Skills at Model UN

In November, Haldane students returned to UConn for the annual Model UN Conference. The delegates represented Haldane with exceptional skill, actively contributing to meaningful discussions and showcasing their expertise.

Seth, Henry, Scotia, Callie, and Max represented various countries in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). They made substantial contributions by crafting resolutions to address the pressing issues regarding protecting children in conflict zones and working toward eliminating barriers to safeguarding children's rights online.

Dylan, Anna, Lincoln, and Gabe represented delegations in the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Affairs Committee (SOCHUM). Together they created a plan to improve prison conditions globally and designed innovative solutions to reduce the criminalization of homeless populations worldwide.

Amelia, Josie, and Katherine represented countries on the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). They skillfully debated the policing of sex offenders and recommended solutions regarding how to use police technology in a way that satisfies both personal privacy and public safety.

Ms. Secor shared that "the trip was a great success! Our students collaborated with other delegates, and solved a diverse range of global problems. It was truly a valuable academic experience."



High School Art Club Takes In the Magic of MoMA



In December, 25 students from the high school Art Club visited the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) for guided tours. In one group, students discussed *My Grandparents, My Parents, and I*, 1936 by Frida Kahlo, and were given paper and pencils to draw their own versions of their family trees. They were also taken to the Senga Nengudi, *R.S.V.P. I* sculpture, where they discussed the conceptual meaning behind the work, and students had the opportunity to play with and stretch out pantyhose - a rare museum opportunity to physically touch the rather unconventional sculptural medium used for this particular piece.



After the tour, students had independent time to wander the museum. Students saw the Nour Mobarak installation and John Giorno's *Dial-A-Poem*, an interactive opportunity to hear famous artists read poems. On the fifth floor students saw work by many artists including Picasso, Duchamp, Warhol, Dali, Mondrian, and a beautiful Matisse exhibit. Many students were thrilled to get to see the Monet *Water Lilies* exhibit. For several of the students, this trip was their first time at MoMA. Ms. Booth shared that many students expressed being surprised and impressed by the amount of work that they recognized from the classroom. Last year, in Studio Art, one student did her research presentation on Picasso's *Girl Before a Mirror*, and was especially excited to see it in person.



Haldane Search for Next Superintendent

The Haldane Board of Education is preparing to identify a new Superintendent of Schools for the Haldane Central School District. In partnership with PNW BOCES, the Board will review and interview applicants with the intention of naming the district's next Superintendent this spring. Details on the search timeline and application process are available on the [Haldane site](#).

In preparation, the Board invites you to participate in a focus group or take the survey to share what you feel is most important in the district's next leader.

[Take the Superintendent Search Survey](#)



The poster features a large blue 'H' logo at the top center. To the right is the PNW BOCES logo with the tagline 'Service and Innovation Through Partnership'. Below the logo is the text 'Superintendent Search' in a large, bold font, followed by 'STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS' in a smaller, bold font. A banner below that reads 'Haldane wants to hear from you!'. The main text states: 'The Haldane Central School District's Board of Education wants to hear from you about what educational opportunities and challenges lie ahead for the district, as well as questions that you would like the Board to consider asking Superintendent candidates.' Below this, it says 'IN-PERSON FOCUS GROUPS ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:'. There are two columns of dates: 'January 7, 2025' and 'January 14, 2025'. Under the first date, there are three items: 'PARENTS/COMMUNITY' at Mabel Merritt 105 at 8:00 am, 'ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM' at District Office at 9:00 am, and 'HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' at HS Room 211 at 10:30 am. Under the second date, there are two items: 'MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY & STAFF' at MS/HS Library at 2:15 pm, and 'ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACULTY & STAFF' at MS/HS Library at 3:15 pm. A third item, 'PARENTS/COMMUNITY' at Butterfield Library at 6:30 pm, is listed to the right of the second date. At the bottom right, there is a small image of a building under a blue sky.

Capital Project Progress

Following community approval of the 2024 Capital Project Bond Referendum, the district is well underway planning the new and redesigned instructional and support spaces. Following the New York State review process, construction is expected to begin in January 2026. The Haldane Board of Education plans to provide regular progress updates to the community. We look forward to bringing this project to life!



JANUARY 2025

TUE
7 Superintendent Search
Focus Groups
[See website for details](#)

WED
29 SCHOOL CLOSED
Asian Lunar
New Year

WATCH FOR DETAILS:

Haldane School
Foundation

THU
9 College Planning
Night
6:30PM

THU
30 High School
Talent Show
Auditorium
7:00PM

Trivia Night

Saturday, February 1

TUE
14 Superintendent Search
Public Focus Group
Butterfield Library
6:30PM

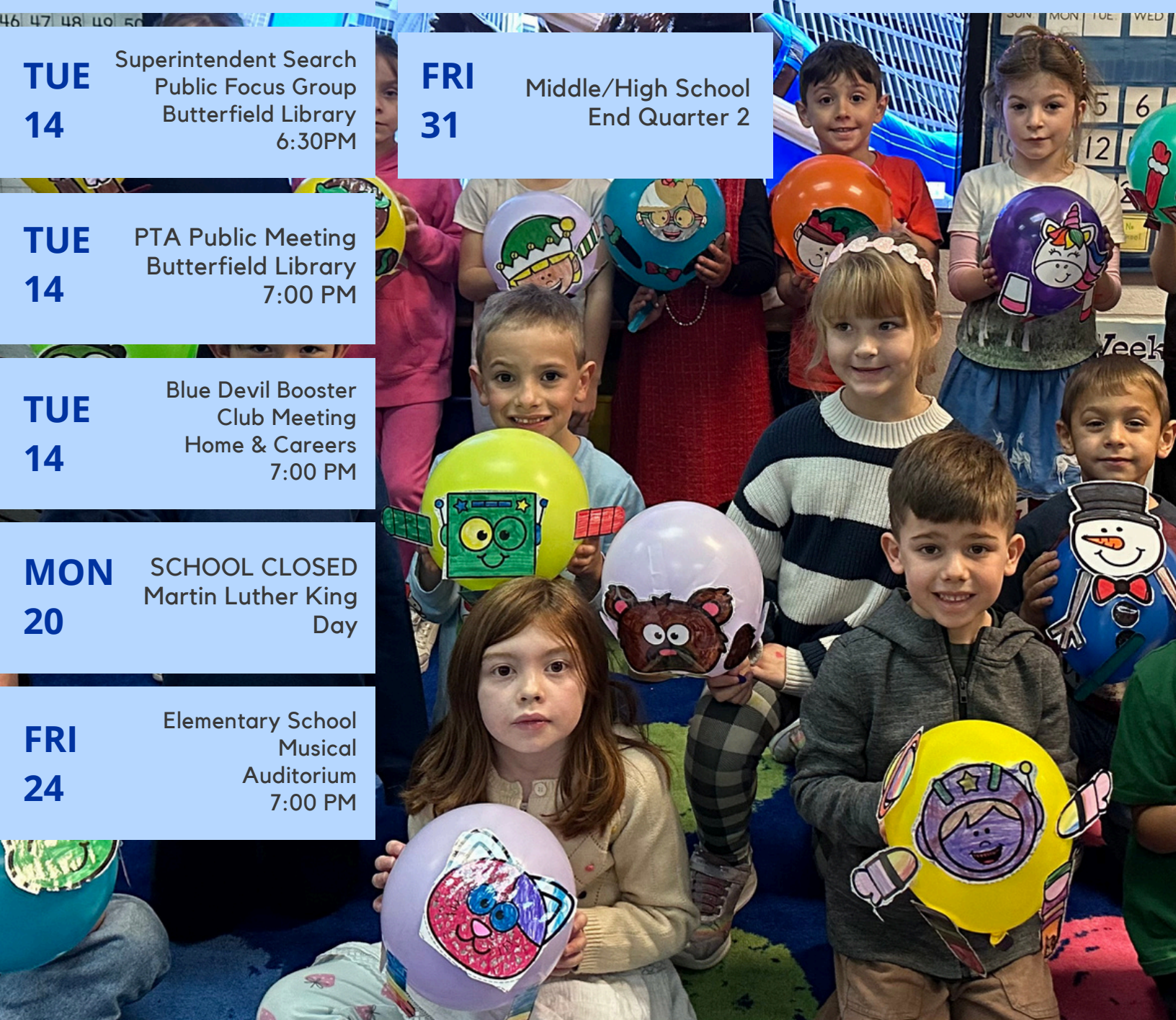
FRI
31 Middle/High School
End Quarter 2

TUE
14 PTA Public Meeting
Butterfield Library
7:00 PM

TUE
14 Blue Devil Booster
Club Meeting
Home & Careers
7:00 PM

MON
20 SCHOOL CLOSED
Martin Luther King
Day

FRI
24 Elementary School
Musical
Auditorium
7:00 PM



HHS Earns AP Gold Award



The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness. Granted to only 7% of eligible schools nationwide, the award is based on the number of graduating students who took AP courses across their high school experience, as well as how they scored on AP exams. Congratulations to the Haldane educators and students whose dedication resulted in this recognition.

Eagle Scout Does Stand-Up Job

Haldane senior, Louis Ferreira, completed his Eagle Scout project by designing and crafting standing desks for Haldane teachers.



Campfire Cookies for the Win

Faculty and staff were brought in to judge the high school home and careers cookie competition based on taste and texture, looks, and theme. Congrats to Nick LeMon, Sam Poses, Ryan Cavallaro, and Joey DeMarco on their S'Mores Campfire Cookies!



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