



SAUQUOIT VALLEY™

Central School District

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had a joyful holiday season and are off to a happy and productive start to the new year. By the time you read this, we will have completed the second marking period. Congratulations to the many students who achieved honor roll status! Their names can be found in a later section of this newsletter. It's inspiring to see our students excelling across all aspects of their education. As always, we encourage every student to strive for their personal best, seek support from our dedicated staff and embrace the opportunities our schools offer.

As you may know, Governor Hochul tasked the Rockefeller Institute early in 2024 to evaluate and recommend improvements to New York State's Foundation Aid formula to better ensure equitable and effective education funding. Foundation Aid is the single largest component of state aid that Sauquoit Valley CSD receives. For this school year (2024-25), we are scheduled to receive \$9.4 million of Foundation Aid and approximately \$15.0 million of total state aid from NYS. Here are some key findings from the Rockefeller Institute's December 2024 report:

- The current formula relies on outdated poverty measures and regional cost indices that no longer reflect actual needs.
- Disparities in funding levels disproportionately affect high-poverty and rural districts, including ours.
- A 10% statewide enrollment decline over the past decade has shifted per-student funding requirements.
- "Save harmless" provisions—meant to protect districts from funding decreases—often benefit wealthier areas, contributing to inefficiencies.

The report recommends several updates to address these challenges:

- Using a five-year regional inflation average to stabilize funding
- Transitioning from weighted formulas to targeted aid for specialized services
- Adjusting local wealth calculations to ensure fairness
- Phasing out inequitable "save harmless" provisions
- Allowing districts to maintain larger reserves for unexpected costs
- Fully funding mandates for electric school buses to ease district transitions

Governor Hochul has recently decided to retain the save harmless provision of the Foundation Aid formula. The save harmless provision states that a school district will not receive less Foundation Aid than it received in the previous year, even if the formula results in a reduced amount of Foundation Aid due to declining enrollment or other factors used in the formula. Currently, Sauquoit Valley is one of 334 school districts on save harmless for Foundation Aid. Though the save harmless provision, as the name implies, is meant to protect school districts from realizing reductions in Foundation Aid, school districts contend that the factors utilized in the formula are outdated and should be updated so that nearly one-half of the school districts in NYS are not utilizing the save harmless provision. We remain cautious about how future state and federal decisions may impact our district. In the meantime, we will continue to explore ways to increase revenue and minimize costs while prioritizing our students' education.

Budget planning for the 2025-26 school year is already underway. I invite you to attend our budget workshops held in the high school library prior to Board of Education meetings. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to engage with the process as we work diligently to address potential budget gaps while safeguarding our mission to meet the needs of every student. We aim to adopt the final budget on April 8, 2025.

FEB 2025
NEWS + VIEWS

FEBRUARY 17-21

Mid-Winter Recess

MARCH 14

Superintendent's
Conference Day

APRIL 18-25

Spring Break

BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES

March 11, 6:00 p.m.

March 28, 6:00 p.m.

April 8, 6:00 p.m.

April 29, 6:00 p.m.

May 13, 6:00 p.m.

BUDGET & ELECTION VOTE

May 20

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Continued on page 2 >>





MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT CONT.

Your input is essential during this critical time. In the coming weeks, we will share details about the proposed budget, including any tax implications, and will listen to your feedback. Your voice matters, and your participation ensures that the decisions we make reflect the collective aspirations and values of our community.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that our students continue to receive the outstanding education they deserve.



Sincerely,

David Stayton
SUPERINTENDENT

Please join us at the following upcoming budget workshops in the high school library (with BOE meetings to follow):

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

MARCH 11, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

MARCH 25, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

APRIL 8, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

APRIL 29, 2025 | 6:00 P.M.

MAY 13 (BUDGET HEARING) | 6:00 P.M.

GARDEN CLUB

A "winter hello" to all the gardeners currently "arm chairing" it, enjoying their seed catalogs and designing their spring plantings. Sauquoit Valley Garden Club is here for you! Whether new or experienced, come question or share. We meet monthly for speakers, field trips, projects, to learn and have fun. For more information, call Dale Rager at 315.749.3175.



BUDGET VOTE / BOE ELECTION

The budget vote and Board of Education election is scheduled for May 20, 2025. If you would like an absentee, military or early voting ballot, please contact the Board Clerk at 315.839.6311 or mgoodman@svcsd.org.

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

THRIFT STORE AND FOOD PANTRY

2348 MAIN STREET IN CLAYVILLE

CLOTHING | HOUSEHOLD ITEMS | FOOD

If your family is in need of help for back-to-school supplies or if you have any questions, please call 315.839.5303, leave a message and we'll get right back to you. Follow us on Facebook: Sauquoit Valley Friends & Neighbors.

HOURS

MONDAYS
6 - 8 P.M.

WEDNESDAYS
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
AND 6 - 8 P.M.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for eligible children in the Sauquoit Valley School District will be held March 12 and 13, 2025 from 4:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school office. Registration will be by appointment only. Please call the elementary office at 315.839.6339 to schedule your appointment. The time slots will be 20 minutes apart.

CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT FOR REGISTRATION.

To be eligible for kindergarten:

- *A child must be five years old on or before December 1, 2025.*
- *The child must reside in the Sauquoit Valley Central School District.*

All paperwork listed must be handed in at the time of registration:

- *A completed registration packet*
- *Copy of a birth certificate*
- *Immunization record*
- *Two proofs of residency**

*Required documents will be explained in detail in registration packet

If your child attends the Sauquoit Universal Pre-K Program,

you do not need to schedule a time slot. Please send your completed packet in with your child and if we have any questions or need additional paperwork, we will contact you.

You will only have to supply the list below at the time of registration:

- *A completed registration packet*
- *Any new immunizations**
- *If you have moved since your child started Universal Pre-K, you will need to send in new proof of residency.*

Students currently enrolled in Head Start or Universal Pre-K will receive a packet prior to registration. If your child is eligible for kindergarten and you have not received a packet, please call the elementary office at 315.839.6339 for a packet.



Fourth Grade Students Create Corn Husk Dolls to Celebrate **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE**

As part of their recent social studies unit on Native Americans, our fourth grade students engaged in a hands-on project that allowed them to connect with history and culture in a meaningful way. The students created corn husk dolls, a traditional craft that has been passed down through generations in various Native American communities.

This exciting project not only provided a creative outlet for the students, but also offered an opportunity to learn about the significance of corn husk dolls in Native American culture. These dolls were often made to teach children about their heritage and were used in various ceremonies and rituals.



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Randy Phillips from the Oneida Indian Nation for his invaluable instruction during this project. His expertise and passion for Native American culture greatly enriched the students' understanding of the craft and its historical context. Randy's guidance helped the students appreciate the artistry involved in making the dolls while fostering respect for the traditions of Indigenous peoples.

Through this engaging activity, our students not only honed their crafting skills, but also deepened their appreciation for Native American heritage. The corn husk dolls they created will serve as a lasting reminder of their learning experience and the importance of cultural preservation.

We are proud of our fourth graders for their hard work and creativity, and we look forward to seeing how they continue to explore and celebrate diverse cultures in their studies. Thank you once again to Randy Phillips for making this project memorable and meaningful!



SAUQUOIT VALLEY GREEN TEAM: Bringing All Things GREEN

The Sauquoit Elementary Green Team has been busy in their first few months. The team of 26 second, third and fourth grade students have completed many fun projects, including the Plastic Film Challenge with the Oneida Herkimer Waste Authority, Crayon Collection through the Crayon Initiative and bagel bird feeders with the Garden Club of Sauquoit.

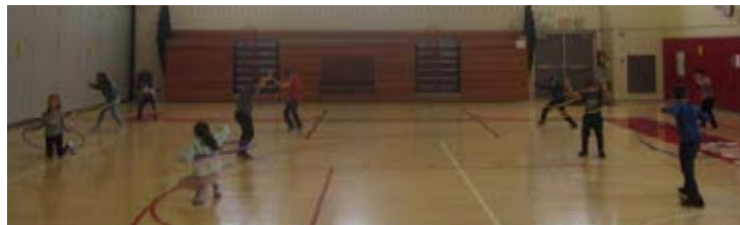
Our Green Team collected over 295 pounds of plastic film for the challenge and won, competing against many other school districts in the area. They are being rewarded with the opportunity to film a video promoting environmentally friendly practices with the Oneida Herkimer Waste Authority and their mascot Binny. This group of dedicated students is doing their best to go above and beyond for the Earth.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Exciting things are happening in the elementary school physical education department! Many students have earned their spot in the prestigious "Hula Hoop Hall of Fame." This honor recognizes students who meet impressive continuous hula hooping benchmarks:

- **Kindergarten:** 30 seconds
- **First grade:** One minute
- **Second grade:** One minute, 30 seconds
- **Third grade:** Two minutes
- **Fourth grade:** Two minutes, 30 seconds



Achieving this requires focus, coordination and perseverance, and we're incredibly proud of all the students who have joined the ranks! Those who are not yet "Hall of Famers" are encouraged to continue their practice outside of school.

We're also thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for our fourth graders. On February 7, students will travel to Black River to embark on a snowshoeing journey! This unique outdoor experience is a wonderful way to explore nature and develop new skills beyond the classroom. This adventure offers students a chance to step out of their comfort zones and gain a memorable, hands-on learning experience in a beautiful setting.

Additionally, we want to inform families of an upcoming change in the schedule. Beginning January 23, students will be switching physical education teachers. Those who currently have Mrs. Kidder will begin working with Mr. DePerno, and those with Mr. DePerno will transition to Mrs. Kidder.

Thank you for your continued support as we keep moving, learning and growing together in the gym!



Sauquoit Valley Central School

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Elementary School



Mr. Dischiavo
pdischiavo@svcsd.org

Mrs. Morat
amorat@svcsd.org

On November 6, our kindergarten classes participated in a Teddy Bear Clinic sponsored by the Psychology-Child Life Program at Utica University. A Teddy Bear Clinic involves university students and professors trained to work with children in healthcare settings. They came to school and demonstrated, through play, a fun way for children to become more comfortable with medical procedures and equipment.

Each child brought a teddy bear, or another stuffed animal, for a "medical checkup." The kindergartners took the "patients" to different stations to explore and play with actual medical equipment in a fun and non-threatening setting. Research has shown that Teddy Bear Clinics help children to feel more comfortable with medical equipment while reducing their fear of doctors and the hospital environment. This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Teddy Bear Clinic at Sauquoit Valley Elementary School. We are very grateful for the continuing partnership with Utica University that benefits both their students and ours!

Middle School

Mr. Ryan
eryan@svcsd.org

Mrs. Morat
amorat@svcsd.org

OHM BOCES Career & Technical Education (CTE) Tours

On December 4, our eighth grade students visited the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES and were provided with a tour of all of the CTE programs that BOCES has to offer. Interested students will have an opportunity to begin attending these programs in 11th grade.

Career Planning

Mr. Ryan met with our seventh grade students in early December to discuss and complete individual career plans. Career Specialists from the OHM BOCES School and Business Alliance met with our students in November to work on the Career Cruising program, which is a School to Career Program.

Ninth Grade Course Selections

Our eighth grade students will begin meeting with Mr. Ryan individually in early February to discuss ninth grade course selections.

Character All-Star Awards

All-Star students are positive role models who demonstrate good decision making abilities and are honest, kind and responsible members of our school community. Every other week, we will be awarding our All-Stars with a shout-out on the announcements, a certificate of recognition and an ice cream coupon. We will be featuring our award recipients during each installment of the News & Views!

Award Recipients:

September

Juliet Tinker
Phoenix Woods
Logan Barsuch
William Miller

October

Frank Curriere
Erin Brown
Elsie Brown
Neia Christensen

November

Lily Olmstead
Lilly Kelly
Abigail Collins
Harper Reile
Giovanni Murphy
Jacob Stetson

December

Jaxon Longo
Alexis Doerr
Claire Cardillo
Courtney Potter
Noah Poczatek
Lynn Laraby

January

Marie Elizabeth Green
Mason Day
Connor Vivacqua
Conner Smith

CONGRATULATIONS!



Sauquoit Valley Lions Host **PEACE POSTER CONTEST**

On November 14, at the Sauquoit Valley Lions meeting, Sauquoit Valley Middle School 2024-25 Lions International Peace Poster Contest winners and their families were hosted for dinner at Orchard Hall restaurant in Sauquoit. The contest is worldwide for students ages 11-13, and the first place poster is sent on to compete at the district level of New York State & Bermuda Lions. Lions Club vice president, Sue Hughes, welcomed the students and their families for the recognition ceremony in honor of the top three entries. Following dinner, the winners were announced and the club presented them with Barnes and Noble gift certificates. First place was eighth grader Margaret Davis, second place was sixth grader Alexis Porter and third place was seventh grader Alzaina Weeks.

Middle school art teacher, Kristen Willson stated that the three students were great examples of the contest theme of "Peace Without Limits," as they are all beautiful people inside that demonstrate great qualities. "They care very deeply about others, are kind and help classmates, which helps create a peaceful environment in the school district."

The Peace Poster chairperson Lion John Griffin congratulated the winners as well and expressed appreciation to art teacher Kristen Willson for support of the annual Peace Poster Contest.

HAWK FEST

The middle school held its inaugural Hawk Fest on December 13. Students arrived at school and were surprised with a day free from classes and academic responsibilities. Students participated in a full day of activities that were facilitated by their teachers. There were a variety of activities: making ice cream, bowling, bingo, making slime, karaoke, "minute to win it" challenges, making balloon cars, trivia and much more. Rocky the Red Hawk even stopped by to check out the fun!





MARKING PERIOD 1

HIGHEST HONOR LIST

GRADE 5

Alsante, Parker
Barsuch, Owen
Cardillo, Eden
Curriere, Frank
Day, Charlotte
Gaska, Shepherd
George, Laila
Green, Maria Elizabeth
Joy, Ava
Keida, Bennett
Kidder, Everly
Longo, Jaxson
McKissick, Brayden
Morrison, Emaliana
Olmstead, Lilly
Swienton, Abigail
Tinker, Juliet
Tylutki, Theodora
Weeks, Adalind
Winget, Gheller
Yearby, Chloe

GRADE 6

Brown, Erin
Cardillo, Maggie
Day, Mason
Dellea, Rachel
Freitag, Sarah
Jerzak, Grace
Kachanovich, Liana
Lopiccolo, Mia
Malone, Maxx
Nora, Lily
Porter, Alexis
Rapke, Teagan
Sherman, Lyvia
Simon, Samuel
Thall, Avery
Woods, Phoenix

GRADE 7

Barsuch, Logan
Boone, Elsie
Cardillo, Claire
Collins, Abigail
Dikar, Sahntee
Enjem, Mason
Gagnon, Elaina
George, Elliana
Haberek, Avery
Kidder, Violet
Marcello, Gianna
Merrell, Julia
Reed, Logan
Valeriano, Phoebe
Vivacqua, Connor
Yaletchko, Nicholai

GRADE 8

Barker, Kenedi
Brennan, Lillyan
Davis, Margaret
Hoch, Nikeya
Hughes, Olivia
Juliano, Alexa
Kellmurray, Raegan
LoGalbo, Owen
Nora, Jackson
Sacco, Alexander
Stoddard, Mason

HONOR'S LIST

GRADE 5

Buss, Syler
Gorton, Nathaniel
Heredia, Mariana
Hoff, Mason
Humble, Bentley
Nystrom, Jeffrey
Poe, Mason
Randall, Mason
Sou, Camren
Swiderski, Makayla
VanDyke, AnnaBella
White, Evelyn
Wilcox, Peyton
Yaletchko, Norah

GRADE 6

Bryant, Abram
Dean, Zachary
DeCarr, Abigail
Dodge, Luella
Doerr, Alexis
Loughlin, Jovonna
Misiaszek, Alivia
Polish, Katherine
Smith, Brandon
Wratten, Arieanna

GRADE 7

Allen, Charlotte
Ballard, Annalise
Brindisi, Louis
Evans, Cooper
Handzel, Eden
Lallier, Lia
Lee, Isaiah
LoCash, Juliana
Lopesz, Kallen
Nolan, Jacob
Rindenello, Jace
Palmer, Adrian
Rindenello, Jace
Taylor, Gavin
Wood, Evan

GRADE 8

Allen, Parker
Aylesworth, Evan
Baker, Savannah
Bodendorf, Gabriel
Crowe, Shae
Macrina, Sophia
Noonan, Trenton
Potter, Courtney
Rabkavets, Kseniya
Reynolds, Lilianna
Rosado, Jacia
Stephens, Landon

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

GRADE 5

Carangelo, Sebastian
Colosimo, Joseph
Corleto, Everett
Davy, Carter
DelMedico, Kolten
Foley, Jonathan
Hughes, Alexa
Kellmurray, Jack
Klenotiz, Aubrey
Loy, Jaxen
Noonan, Quinn
Ostrosky, Natalie
Stacy, Il, Patrick
Tibbitts, Kyle
Vaber, Silas

GRADE 6

Davies, Ella
DelMedico, Chloe
Hryb, Michael
Kelly, Lilly
Lupia, Charlotte
Mackey, Remington
Merrell, Charlotte
Moore, Frank
Paciello, Harper
Parslow, Tristan
Peckham, Colin
Reed, Sage
Sullivan, Millie
Talerico, Andre
Vivacqua, Caleb
Weeks, Amerah

GRADE 7

Bryant, Annalee
Corleto, Kelsey
DeCarr, Emma
Flynt, Lily
Jones, Luke
Lovrencic, Logan
Nichols, Leah
Selmi, Yasmina
Sen, Stella
Sumner, Cecilia
Szewczyk, Dolores
Tylutki, Virginia
Vaber, Mason
Weeks, Alzaina
Winget, Jaxon

GRADE 8

Alsante, Hannah
Carangelo, Ava
Colosimo, Leo
Davies, Caleb
Gerhinger, Adriana
Gomez-Lopez, Jimmy
Griffiths, Olivia
Kotary, Mila
Lee, Sean
Lopiccolo, Austin
Reile, Harper
Roberts, Natalie
Silchuk, Matthew
Wadsworth, Charlotte
Yearby, Kaylin



Senior **Katie JUDWAY** REPRESENTS SCHOOL AT NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

We are proud to highlight the remarkable accomplishments of senior Katie Judway, who recently represented our school at the prestigious American Geophysical Union (AGU) annual conference in Washington, D.C. Katie had the distinguished honor of presenting a published research project she co-authored on the subject of heliospheric physics.

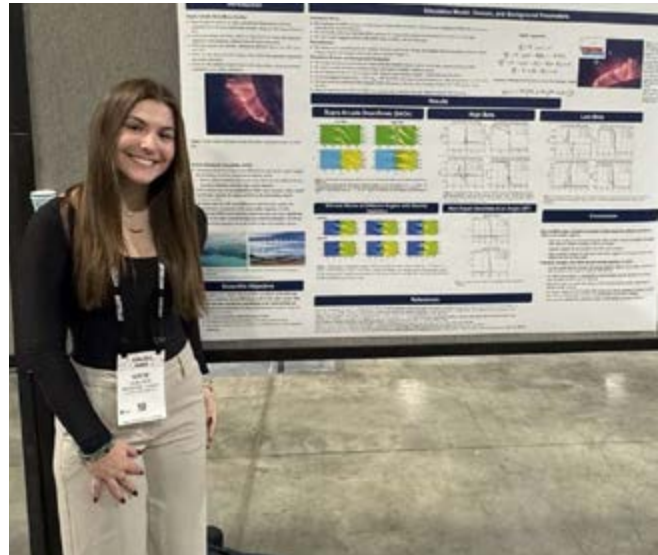
Heliospheric physics is the study of the environment around the sun. This includes the study of plasma, the fourth state of matter, and how solar activities impact other space objects.

Katie's project was the culmination of a paid summer internship she completed through Utica University. She first learned about this exciting opportunity when Dr. Hava Turkakin, a professor at Utica University, visited her Regents physics class last year to discuss research internships available to high school students. Inspired by the presentation, Katie applied for the program and was thrilled to be selected.

Over the summer, she worked closely with Dr. Turkakin and a team of researchers, gaining hands-on experience in scientific inquiry and data analysis. Her research over the summer dealt with geomagnetism, which is the study of Earth's magnetic field. Geomagnetism plays a crucial role in everything from navigation systems to understanding the planet's internal structure. Researchers in this field investigate the origins, variations and effects of Earth's magnetic properties.

At the end of the internship, Dr. Turkakin invited Katie to further her research by enrolling in a college-level course at Utica University. Seizing this unique opportunity, Katie continued her work, which eventually led to her study of heliospheric physics and her research presentation at the AGU conference.

At the conference, Katie delivered her poster presentation over a four-hour period. In addition to presenting her research, she attended several exhibits and interacted with many professionals.



With 35,000 attendees, the conference provided a remarkable networking opportunity. Katie expanded her connections, including making contacts with officials from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

When asked what she learned from the experience, Katie said, "I learned a lot about how research works. Talking to representatives from NASA was really cool. They talked to me about where I can go with my research and what types of careers I can pursue."

Katie has also secured an internship with NASA for the upcoming summer. She will be stationed in Washington, D.C., positioning her well to further grow her professional network. Her future plans include attending SUNY Geneseo, where she will major in astrophysics and minor in mathematics and history. She has also committed to participate on the Geneseo track team. Ultimately, Katie aspires to work for NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Washington, D.C., specializing in solar plasma physics and designing spacecraft capable of traveling near the sun.

Katie's dedication, hard work and passion for science have not only enriched her own academic journey, but have also brought great pride to our school community. We congratulate her on this extraordinary achievement and look forward to seeing her future successes!

ZEHR **WINS SVHS** **PERSEVERANCE** **AWARD**

We are happy to announce that the first quarter winner of the Sauquoit Valley High School Perseverance Award is Liliith Zehr! Liliith was nominated by multiple staff members. In her nominations, teachers wrote:

"Liliith has demonstrated great improvements and works hard every single day. Her grades reflect this effort and perseverance and she is doing quite well this year. She is also kind and helpful to others daily and enjoys Drama Club. I am so proud of her!" - Mrs. Zuroweste

"She has demonstrated determination, dedication and persistence in her academics and attendance this quarter." - Mrs. Kempney

The Sauquoit Valley High School Perseverance Award is presented to students who consistently demonstrate perseverance. Perseverance - one of our primary Power Skills - is defined as persistence in the pursuit of achievement, particularly when faced with a challenge. We created this award because we know how important it is for our students to develop the skill of perseverance, and we want to celebrate those who exhibit it.

Liliith will receive a certificate and a \$25 Amazon gift card, courtesy of the Sauquoit Valley PTO. Congrats, Liliith!



WELCOME SPANISH TEACHER MR. BAKER

We are thrilled to welcome a new member to our Red Hawk team, Mr. Baker, who will be joining us as a full-time Spanish teacher! Mr. Baker has already made a positive impact as a substitute Spanish teacher over the past four months. His passion for Spanish language instruction and dedication to fostering an engaging classroom environment has been evident throughout the year and he has established wonderful relationships with students and staff alike.

Mr. Baker brings a wide range of teaching experience with him. He has taught at the high school and college level and also presented at state conferences about increasing student engagement, language acquisition and comprehension through the use of authentic cultural materials. He is invested in our community and steps beyond the classroom to coach and contribute to initiatives and activities in our school and town. Most importantly, he believes in supporting students and being a positive, kind-hearted role model.

We are excited to have Mr. Baker as part of our dedicated team and look forward to the positive contributions he will make to our school community. Please join us in welcoming him to Sauquoit Valley High School!



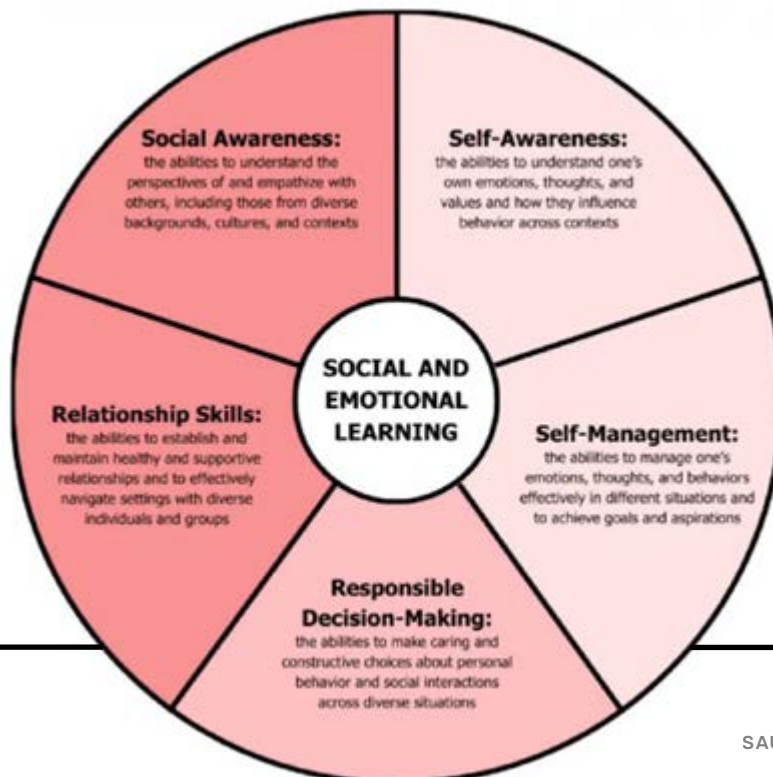
Dear Sauquoit Valley Red Hawk Families,

Our social-emotional theme for the month of February is relationship skills. This theme invites us to establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships and effectively navigate and appreciate diverse individuals and groups. The ability to develop strong relationships is critical to the academic success of our students, but it is also critical for each of us to grow as individuals and build a strong school community.

During the month of February, we will engage students in opportunities to give back to their community and interact with peers that they may not normally engage with. Concepts of empathy, compassion, connection and celebrating diversity will occur through student activities and daily morning announcements. Each person in our community holds tremendous value and enriches our school family. We are excited to cultivate a culture of care and thank you for your continued partnership and support!

Mr. Flagg

SVHS Principal





THINK PINK

EVENT WRAP-UP: 15 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT



On January 27, our community came together once again for the 15th Think Pink girls volleyball event, and it was a tremendous success! This year, we raised an incredible \$4,382 to support local breast care centers. The Sauquoit Valley girls varsity and JV teams played against Clinton but the true opponent was cancer! This game is about more than volleyball—it's about raising awareness, supporting each other and showing that no one fights alone. Thanks to the generosity of our athletes, volunteers, donors and the entire community, we were able to raffle off over 100 baskets, making this event one of our most successful yet.

We appreciate everyone who contributed, and we hope to see you all next year for another amazing event!

A Special Thank you to Our Donors of this Event

The Sauquoit Valley JV and Varsity Girls Volleyball Teams and their families

The Sauquoit Valley Elementary, Middle, and High School Staff

Clinton JV and Varsity Girls Volleyball Teams

Duffys AIS

Ameduri Auto

J & J Automotive

Edwards Body Shop

Fahy Kitchens

Sauquoit Valley Optimist

Patty Salerno

Celeste Foods

Wendys Diner

Creekside Diner

Willowvale Diner

Tony's Pizzeria-NH and Washington Mills

Sauquoit Automotive

Salvatore's Bakery

The Sneaker Store

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Symeons

Stylist Nails and Spa in Whitesboro

Babes/Kookies Q/
Tailor and the Cook

Price Chopper

Pizza Boys

Clinton Agway

Gingerbread Bake Shoppe

Lizzy's Cupcakery

Curtis Lumber

Holland Farms Bakery

Gentlemans Barber Shop

Lead Car

Zimowski's

Meyda Tiffany

Focus Photography

Elite Physical Therapy

Bushinger, Bucciero & Smith Agency, Inc

Gigliotti's Driving School

Calabria Coffee Shop

Jay-K

The Princess Shop

Power Sports of Utica

McQuade and Bannigan Inc

Fisher Auto Parts

Clinton Tractor

The Salty Twist

Lennons

Mastrovito

Big Apple Music

Delmonico's

Hannaford

Lincoln Davies

Building Supply

Utica Coffee

Orchard Hall

Boulevard Diner

Michaels Greenhouse

Bikes and Boards

Piggy Pats

Morgans Hardware

Organic Nail Spa

Café Canole

Jimmy Johns

Georgios

Debbies Café

Gianni Lauryn Hair

Joans Diner

Romeo & Juliets Salon

Hapanowicz

Soho Nails and Spa

Lafa

Bremers Wine and Liquor

Whites Farm Supply

Peters Cornucopia

Applebees

Daylight Donuts

Portofino Restaurant

Olive Garden

Pet Smart

Forever Leather

Grandes

Ninety Nine Steakhouse

City Café

Lucky Dog Bistro

Hotel Willowvale

Collins Farm

Karaz Shoes

Raspberries Café

Chanatrys

Cliff's

Packy's Pub

Greenscapes

CC's Heartfelt Hub

Dunkin Donuts

Washington Mills

Jody Hildreth

Hannaford

DJ - Joe Sallustio

Coaches - Brittney Kuhn and Kevin Perrone

Mike and Mary Kuhn

Think Pink Coordinator - Lindsay Kidder



CONKLIN WINS SVHS SOCIAL- EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR AWARD



We are happy to announce that the October winner of the Sauquoit Valley High School Social-Emotional Behavior Award is Emma Conklin! Students are nominated for this award by staff members for their exceptional display of the social-emotional competencies: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, relationship skills and social awareness.

Emma was nominated by Mr. Scialdone, who wrote: "I am nominating Emma for her responsible decision making. Emma is often observed being kind and helpful to her peers and teachers. I was proud to have witnessed her staying late after games to help clean the bleachers after sporting events."

Emma will receive a gift certificate to the Willowvale Diner, courtesy of the Sauquoit Valley PTO. Congrats, Emma!

SENIORS IN SABA PROGRAMS ATTEND BREAKFAST AT THE OHM BOCES



Seniors who have participated in SABA programs were invited to attend a breakfast at the OHM BOCES, where they were paired with local business leaders to dialogue and learn more about their prospective career fields.

Candy Cane Tournament

The high school physical education classes competed in their annual Eclipse Ball Candy Cane Tournament! Eclipse Ball is a fun mix of volleyball, tennis and badminton. On top of mixing between sports, it is an arena style game. This means that the ball can be played off the walls and the ceiling, making it more accessible and fun for each student. Students had to draft their own teams. These teams consisted of a head coach, trainer, media publicist, assistant coach and captain. The head coach delegated responsibilities to their teammates. Teams had to come together to come up with a team name as well. All teams were able to come up with their own creative names, and they used all team members' strengths doing this event. Every team played with perseverance and sportsmanship. Not only were the students able to have a chance at winning the entire tournament, but they were also given a chance to reenter the tournament if a loss happened. At the conclusion of the tournament, each member was given a celebratory candy cane in the spirit of this contest. Overall, each class had friendly competitions, and we can't wait for next year's tournament!

POSITIVITY AWARD

STEINBACHER

We are happy to announce that the November winner of the Sauquoit Valley High School Positivity Award is Sara Steinbacher!

Sara was nominated by Ms. Kemp, who wrote: "Sara is always smiling, friendly and helpful to others. I never hear her complaining about anything and she is a positive role model."

The Sauquoit Valley High School Positivity Award is presented to students who consistently demonstrate positive behaviors and a positive attitude. We created this award because we know how important it is for our students to develop a positive mindset. We want to celebrate those who exhibit it.

Sara will receive a certificate and a \$20 gift card to the Willowvale Diner, courtesy of the Sauquoit Valley PTO. Congrats, Sara!

WILLIAMS

We are happy to announce that the December winner of the Sauquoit Valley High School Positivity Award is Dwaine Williams!

Dwaine was nominated by Ms. Snow, who wrote: "Dwaine has grown so much over the year and has shown great maturity and progress. He has a great sense of humor and is a positive person in our school."

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Dwaine will receive a certificate and a \$20 gift card to the Willowvale Diner, courtesy of the Sauquoit Valley PTO. Congrats, Dwaine!

LEBERT

We are happy to announce that the January winner of the Sauquoit Valley High School Positivity Award is Alayna Lebert!

Alayna was nominated by Mrs. Reilley-Stewart who wrote: "Alayna is a determined student who works hard to earn her grades. She is always reliable, gracious, and polite! Her attitude and work ethic are deserving of the award!"

The Sauquoit Valley High School Positivity Award is presented to students who consistently demonstrate positive behaviors and a positive attitude. We created this award because we know how important it is for our students to develop a positive mindset. We want to celebrate those who exhibit it.

Alayna will receive a certificate and a \$20 gift card to the Willowvale Diner courtesy of the Sauquoit Valley PTO. Congratulations Alayna!



PHILLIPS SHOWCASES THE **ONEIDA INDIAN NATION**

Randy Phillips, a representative from the Oneida Indian Nation, was excited to return to our fourth-grade classrooms for his second consecutive year. During his engaging presentation, Randy showcased the rich history and culture of Native Americans, particularly focusing on tribes in New York State. He brought a variety of artifacts that illustrate daily life, traditional practices and the significance of natural resources in Native American communities. Randy captivated students' attention and fostered a deeper understanding of Native American heritage. His visit not only enriched the curriculum, but also promoted respect and appreciation for the diverse cultures that shape our history.



OVER 350 TOYS DONATED **DURING ANNUAL STUFF THE BUS TOY DRIVE**



Members of National Honor Society helped coordinate the annual Stuff the Bus Toy Drive at Sauquoit High School. Students donated over 350 toys to local families in need! A special thank you to our top contributor Brayden Maltese.

OPTIMIST YOUTHS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Optimist Youths of the Month! This award is selected by faculty for students who demonstrate good citizenship, are helpful toward others and participate in school and community events. Callum Torruella was selected as the October winner, Julia Colucci was selected as the November winner and Brayden Maltese was selected as the December winner.

JUNIOR ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Students are selected based on the Rotarian four-way test: They must be fair to all, build friendships, be trustworthy and participate in community service. Hannah Miller was selected as the October winner, Jared Jouben was selected as the November winner and Broc Barker was selected as the December winner.



MARKING PERIOD 1

HIGHEST HONOR LIST

GRADE 9

Barrett, Silvana
Cardillo, Grace
Chmukh, Karina
Colucci, Michael
Crompt, James
Crompt, John
Cuthbertson, Alexa
Jalowiec, Jacob
Kachanovich, Anastasiya
Larsen, Colton
Lewandowski, Dani-Ray
Madore, Jack
Nolan, Alexa
Pellegrino, Gianna
Polish, Josephine
Roberson, Luke

GRADE 10

Christensen, Raina
Dreidel, Kaylyn
Freemire, Benjamin
King, Mia
Rabkavets, Darya
Roach, Kaylie
Sanders, Nicholas
Zegarelli, Sophia

GRADE 11

Call, Margaret
Critelli, Evan
Jouben, Jared
Krupa, Alex
Land, Makayla
Makuszek, Julia
Miller, Hannah
Montrose, Makayla
Steinbacher, Sara
Yerman, Kamryn

GRADE 12

Acquaviva, Frank
Banas, Jacob
Davis, Hannah
Dischiavo, Ella
Fancett, Emilie
Farrell, Mason
Hanna, Nathan
Judway, Katherine
Kachanovich, Daria
Lazarek, Addison
Marceau, Sydney
McGarry, Aidan
Morgan, Mia
Polarolo, Madison
Price, Joan
Tomasso, Sophia
Torruella, Callum
Zammello, Sophia
Zegarelli, Julia

HONOR'S LIST

GRADE 9

Allen, Alexandra
Benn, Hailey
Boone, Evalyn
Call, Braydon
Curriere, Angelia
DeMedico, Chase
Femia, Chase
Fredericks, Addison
Furgison, Leah
George, Olivia
Hartnett, Lottie
Harvey, Lia
Krupa, Daniel
Lallier, Luke
Leao, Jiana
Meeker, Colin
Patrick, Luke
Petzke, Isabella
Randall, Brian
Sullivan, Addison
Tompkins, Annabelle
Vaber, Levi
Walker, Lincoln
Weibel, Stella
Williamson, Liam
Wilson, Trentyn

GRADE 10

Banks, Desiree
Brennan, Allyson
Brown, Benjamin
Burton, Paige
Carey, John
Carnevale, Isabella
Conklin, Emma
Curriere, Lydia
Dikar, Jenweh
Enjem, Mark
Evans-Akins, Amethyst
Freitag, Samuel
Giannatelli, Lily
Gifford, Madison
Grimes, Kenny
Hunt, Brooke
Kalil, Nora
Kolmer, Jacob
Lee, Peyton
Lupino, Talia
Miller, Lucielle
Perritano, Nicholas
Reinhardt, Genevieve
Roberts, Sylvia
Sherman, Afton
Sullivan, Kiernan
Szewczyk, III, Henry
Tibbits, Gordon
Torchia, Angelo
White, Jayden
White, Parker
Wolczanski, Amelia

GRADE 11

Barker, Broc
Barrett, Isabella
Chmukh, Vitaliy
Evans, Brittany
Farrell, Julia
Femia, Rocco
Hernandez, Mya
Johnson, Anna Belle
Latino, Jacob
Manzer, Trinity
Marcano, Daniel
Miner, Alexia
Ostrosky, Ryleigh
Reile, Owen
Weaver, Brynn
Werthman, Lilianna
Williams, Tristyn

GRADE 12

Beecher, Caden
Burton, Julia
Carnevale, Alessandro
Colucci, Julia
Craft, Morgan
Dawes, Samantha
Decker, Jake
Fiegl, Liam
Keller, Alexander
Kolmer, Kobe
LaSalle, Olivia
Lyke, Aiden
Perritano, Jaelyn
Pett, Zachary
Rabkavets, Alesia
Sacco, Sophia
Sallustio, Sydney
Selmi, Sophia
Snyder, Toryn
West, Garrett

MERIT ROLL

GRADE 9

Angiulli, Logan
Ekes, Oliviana
Foley, Sierra
Johnson, Mackynzie
Marceau, Cole
Miner, Savannah
Pierce, Myah
Prouty, Addison
Swiderski, Matthew
Zammello, Giada

GRADE 10

AlDujaili, Yahya
Aylesworth, Hailey
Ballard, Tobias
Banas, Chloe
Carangelo, Ryan
Colosimo IV, Michael
Conklin, Aiden
Curtis, Cassandra
Cuthbertson, Jaxon
Farrell, Alexis
Handzel, Ellie
Karpovich, Caroleana
Kimball, Wyatt
LoGalbo, Blake
McGarry, Mason
Mroz, Jason
Nowlan, Lucas
Rocker, Gavin
Sava, Anthony
Schultz, Isiah
Smith, Mairead
Strong, Jacob
Wadsworth, Campbell

GRADE 11

Bernat, Stephen
Fredericks, Madalyn
Harney, Ian
Hinman, Thomas
Jones, Jack
Kimball, Brandon
Kravec, Layden
Newell, Maddison
Rivera-Litz, Danniella
Ryan, Gavin
Silchuk, Nathan
Wentrick, Parker
Winget, Rylee
Zehr, Liith

GRADE 12

Chandler, Ava
Crowe, Carly
Cruikshank, Alexander
Eichhorn, Theodore
Hills, Noah
Kupris, Tyler
Maltese, Brayden
McLaughlin, Nicolas
Messenger, Aaron
Mullen, Joshua
Seymour, Logan



Sauquoit Valley High School

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January's focus of the month:

Social Awareness

For the month of January, our high school students focused on social awareness, a social and emotional competency that focuses on the ability to understand perspectives of and empathize with others, including those with diverse backgrounds, cultures and contexts. Social awareness is a skill that develops throughout childhood and continues to be honed throughout adult life. Some components of social awareness include social sensitivity, insight and communication.

You can develop social awareness by:

- Paying attention to body language
- Being present in the moment
- Putting your own thoughts aside and concentrating on the person in front of you

Students were provided with tools and resources to increase their social awareness through exposure in classroom lessons, announcements, a curated music playlist, library displays with book recommendations and a student poll for ideas regarding a community giving event.

February's competency of the month will be **relationship skills**.

A Message from Mrs. Miller:

Social-emotional lessons in the high school are now in full swing! All grade levels have participated in activities focusing on self-awareness, self-management and social awareness. Relationship skills and responsible decision-making activities will make their debut in the second half of the year.

Did you know that people are just like potatoes? Ask any sophomore to tell you about the time Mrs. Miller brought potatoes to class. It has been a student favorite!

Before the holiday break, seniors had an interesting time trying to create new inventions based on words provided by fellow classmates. The best part? They had to "pitch" these new inventions to the class as if they were on "Shark Tank." What new invention would you create out of a ball, pencil and a guitar? This activity helps students practice teamwork, critical thinking and communication skills.

Stay tuned for more updates!



GIANNATELLI Wins SVHS Perseverance Award!

We are happy to announce that the second quarter winner of the Sauquoit Valley High School Perseverance Award is Jada Giannatelli! Jada was nominated by Mrs. Cardillo. In her nomination, Mrs. Cardillo wrote:

"Jada has had to make adjustments with what her school day looks like this year. I have been consistently impressed with how Jada has independently managed changes during her senior year. She is an incredibly independent student in my English 12 class, who manages her own time, stays on top of all of her assignments, and advocates for herself and her own learning. She makes her huge adjustment look easy because of her hard work and perseverance!"

The Sauquoit Valley High School Perseverance Award is presented to students who consistently demonstrate perseverance. Perseverance – one of our primary Power Skills – is defined as persistence in the pursuit of achievement, particularly when faced with a challenge. We created this award because we know how important it is for our students to develop the skill of perseverance, and we want to celebrate those who exhibit it.

Jada will receive a certificate and a \$25 Amazon gift card, courtesy of the Sauquoit Valley PTO. Congrats, Jada!

JUNIORS:

On October 29, juniors took the PSAT exam. The PSAT is a pre-test for the SAT and also the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship. Results will be reviewed during junior conferences. In addition to PSAT results, we will be discussing senior course selection and post high school planning. Parents are encouraged to attend – please contact Mr. Scialdone to schedule a meeting time.

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETINGS BEGIN WITH COUNSELORS

Freshmen & sophomores will meet with Mrs. Flagg to discuss next year's courses and future plans. Parents are welcome to attend their child's meeting – please contact Mrs. Flagg to do so.

DAR GOOD CITIZEN

Congratulations to Sydney Sallustio for being selected as this year's Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen Award recipient. Students selected for this honor must demonstrate dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.



SAUQUOIT VALLEY FOUNDATION

Happy 2025! While the snow falls and the wind blows, the Sauquoit Valley Foundation has begun planning for the Sauquoit Valley Foundation Annual Golf Tournament. This year is the 20th annual golf tournament! The tournament is our main fundraiser, with funds raised returned to the school and community through the Foundation's support of a variety of projects and programs. The tournament will be held at the Cedar Lake Club on July 21, 2025. Mark your calendars to save this date and join us for a wonderful day of golf! Volunteers are needed and can contact a Board member directly or on the "Community" page on the Sauquoit Valley Foundation webpage at SVCSD.org. Look for further updates on Facebook and on our website: www.sauquoitvalleyfoundation.org.

Even though there is snow on the ground, with the promise of more, now is a great time to order a brick for the Community Walkway! Looking for a way to honor a graduating senior, family member, group and/or event? Considering a memorial for a loved one? This unique gift pays it forward!

Information about the Community Walkway and how it also helps this community:

- It allows everyone the opportunity to "leave their mark" and celebrate a special accomplishment, recognize high school and community groups and/or pay tribute to a loved one.
- Your purchase helps to beautify the school grounds for the students and community! The Sauquoit Valley Foundation uses funds raised from the sale of bricks to develop programs for the benefit of the school and the community. Your purchase gives back to the Sauquoit Valley!
- It is personal! Each brick is engraved with the text of your choice and installed by the Foundation. The messages on each brick vary from words of congratulations for special occasions to those honoring the memory of loved ones.
- It is highly visible and available for viewing with ease! The bricks are in the walkway next to the athletic complex at the Sauquoit Valley High School. Businesses, families and other groups can also purchase a brick to show their support of the District and community.

Engraved bricks of varied sizes are available for purchase through the Sauquoit Valley Foundation by going to the Sauquoit Valley Foundation webpage on the SVCSD.org website. A printable purchase form is available by going to SVCSD.org, following the "Community" link for the SV Foundation, clicking on "Events and Fundraisers" and accessing the "Community Brick Walkway" link to print out an order form and mail it back to us at:

Sauquoit Valley Foundation | 2601 Oneida Street, Sauquoit, NY 13456

It is an easy thing to do with a lasting effect in the heart of the Sauquoit Valley!

For further information or updates on events, visit our website or visit us on Facebook. Watch for information on the "Witch Way is the 5K?" in the months to come! The race date is October 5, 2025.

The Sauquoit Valley Foundation continues to be an active group dedicated to the school and community. Foundation meetings are in person in the high school board room on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Zoom meeting attendance is available by request. All are welcome!



REALE SELECTED AS MID-STATE RBERN

TEACHER *of the Month*

Congratulations to Ms. Sara Reale, outstanding teacher of our English language learners, for winning the Mid-State Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBERN) Teacher of the Month Award for December!

In announcing Ms. Reale's award, Tanya Rosado-Barringer, the Executive Director and Coordinator of Mid-State RBERN stated, "This well-deserved acknowledgment reflects the exceptional impact you have made on your students, colleagues and the entire Sauquoit Valley school community. Your unwavering 'can-do' attitude and solutions-focused mindset have truly set you apart. You consistently work to ensure that the ELL program is responsive to the needs of your students, tackling every challenge with innovation, persistence and a dedication to student success. It is clear that your deep knowledge and creativity benefit not only your students, but also your colleagues each and every day."

In addition to her duties as our ELL teacher, Ms. Reale also serves as an instructional technology coach in the district, and serves on multiple committees, including the district professional development committee. She has also spearheaded our efforts to offer our students the opportunity to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy, a graduation credential that recognizes proficiency with multilingualism.

This is a well-deserved honor for Ms. Reale, and we are thrilled that her great work has been recognized. Congratulations!

Mrs. Beth Ann Nora receives

Genesis Award

Congratulations to Mrs. Beth Ann Nora for receiving the Genesis Award: Excellence in Education! Mrs. Nora certainly encompasses the definition of the award: "Educators are the heart and soul of our community, shaping future generations with their knowledge, dedication and passion. We want to recognize their contributions to the lives of students and the community as a whole."

Mrs. Nora is an exceptional educator in our building and has grown into a leader amongst her colleagues. We are fortunate to have her working with our students on a daily basis. Mrs. Nora establishes life-long bonds with her students and families each and every year. If you see her, please take a moment to congratulate her on this recognition.

Congratulations, Mrs. Nora!



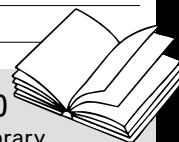
Clayville Library

SERVING THE GREATER SAUQUOIT VALLEY

Public Computers | Reference Materials | Current Best Sellers Magazines | Current Release DVDs & Blu-Rays
Games | Puzzles | Legos | Copy & Fax Services | Wi-Fi Access | After School Hours | Reading Nook

A Notary Public is available by appointment. Call the library to set up a time.

2265 Oneida St. Clayville, NY 13322 | 315.839.5893 (phone) | 315.839.5070 (fax)
clayvillelibraryassociation.org | facebook.com/clayvillelibrary | instagram.com/clayvillelibrary



LIBRARY HOURS

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

THURSDAY
3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

SATURDAY
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join in our **"Kid's Choice" Story Hour at 5 p.m. every Thursday**. Enjoy a story of your child's choosing and then a craft to accompany the story! Lots of fun and "action" for your preschooler!

Legos in the Library is every Saturday from noon–2 p.m. Bring a friend & let your imaginations loose!

Take & Make craft kits are available to children throughout the month.

Our Book Club meets the last Tuesday of the month. Join us for a good read and good company.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge at the Clayville Library:

This FREE program encourages you to read 1,000 books with your child before they enter school – a goal experts say children need to help them learn to read for themselves. One of the best ways to encourage learning is to spend time sharing books every day. This program is available to all families with children between the ages of birth & five years.

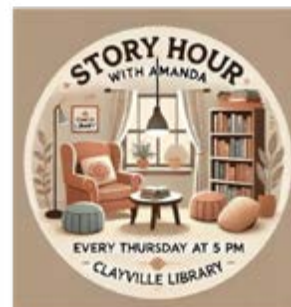
The Clayville Library Association in conjunction with Sauquoit Valley Friends & Neighbors has a tutoring program for grades 2–8.

Program Details:

- Students in need of extra attention will have access to tutoring sessions (math & reading) provided by certified teachers.
- Your child will be assessed by a certified educator and placed into the program to work on targeted skills while also trying to match the learning style of the student.
- Students must live within the Sauquoit Valley School District and need financial assistance for private tutoring.
- If you have a student who needs extra assistance with math or reading skills, contact the Clayville Library for more information.

Ludlow Community Room is available for parties, meetings and events and is "free" to the residents of the Town of Paris. Call the library to reserve the community room for your meeting or event.

A magical evening with Mr. & Mrs. Claus! On December 3, we welcomed back Mr. & Mrs. Claus to the Clayville Library, and we're so grateful they could make the trip all the way from the North Pole! We had an incredible turnout with families joining us to celebrate the holiday season. The evening began with the little ones seated in their cozy chairs, enchanted by Mrs. Claus as she read "The Night Before Christmas." A heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us and made this evening truly special. See photos of that night below.





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