HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

Kindergarten Maple Sugaring
Introducing: Universal Pre-Kindergarten
100 Days in Many Ways
Jungle Book KIDS a Roaring Success
The Boys in the Boat Community Read
Junior High All County Festival
2nd Annual Middle School Talent Show
Careers in Nonfiction
Middle School Students of the Month
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Asian Lunar New Year

Read on for Haldane Elementary School's roaring sensation, Jungle Book KIDS

Maple Sugaring

Haldane Kindergarten spent a wet and muddy day at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center learning about the process of making maple syrup.



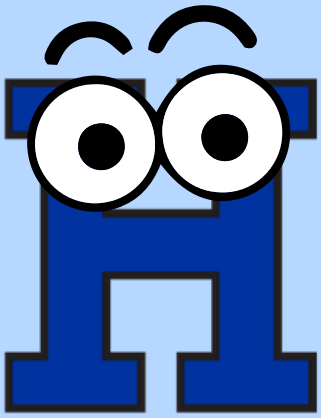






And then...pancakes!





Haldane Introduces Universal Pre-Kindergarten

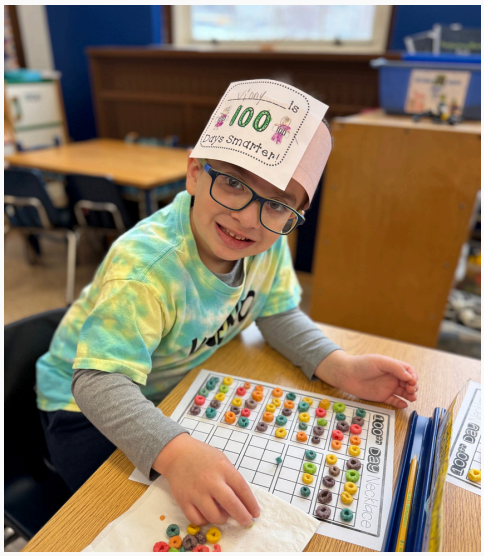
Haldane announced a no-cost universal pre-kindergarten program to begin in the 2025-2026 school year. Made possible through a combination of New York State's Universal Pre-Kindergarten Funding and district budgeting, Haldane's Pre-K will be held five days a week from 9:00am to 2:00pm in the Haldane Elementary School building.

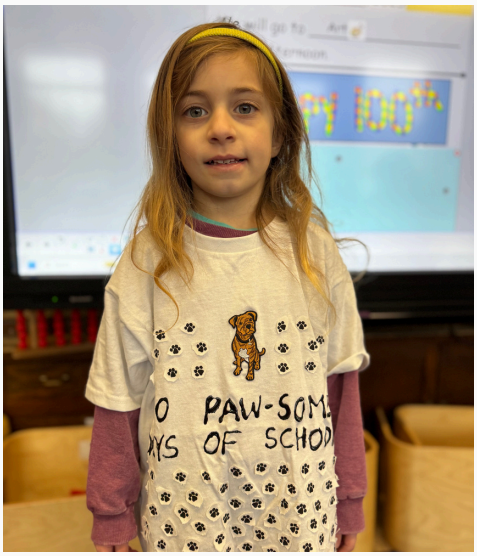
Registration is open through March 31, 2025 and enrollment will be based on a lottery system for the 18 available seats. Children must reside within the Haldane Central School District and turn 4 years of age by December 1, 2025.

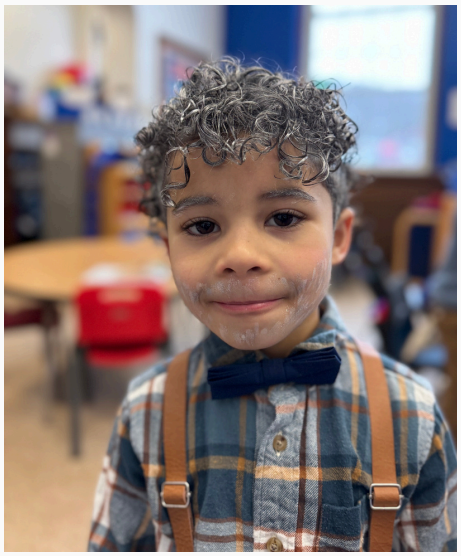
Learn More & Register at haldaneschool.org

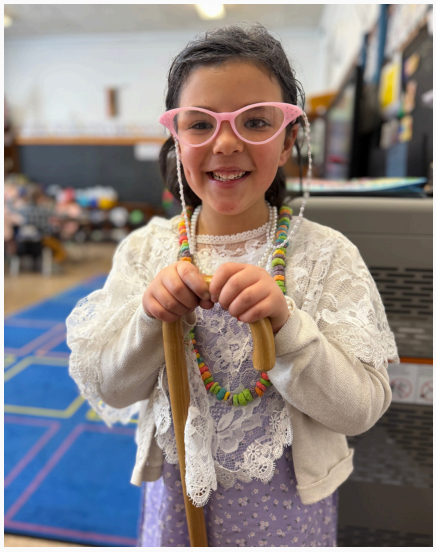
100 Days in Many Ways

Haldane Elementary's annual celebration of the 100th day of school included traditional favorites and a new scavenger hunt to find 100 Mrs. Jamins around the school.

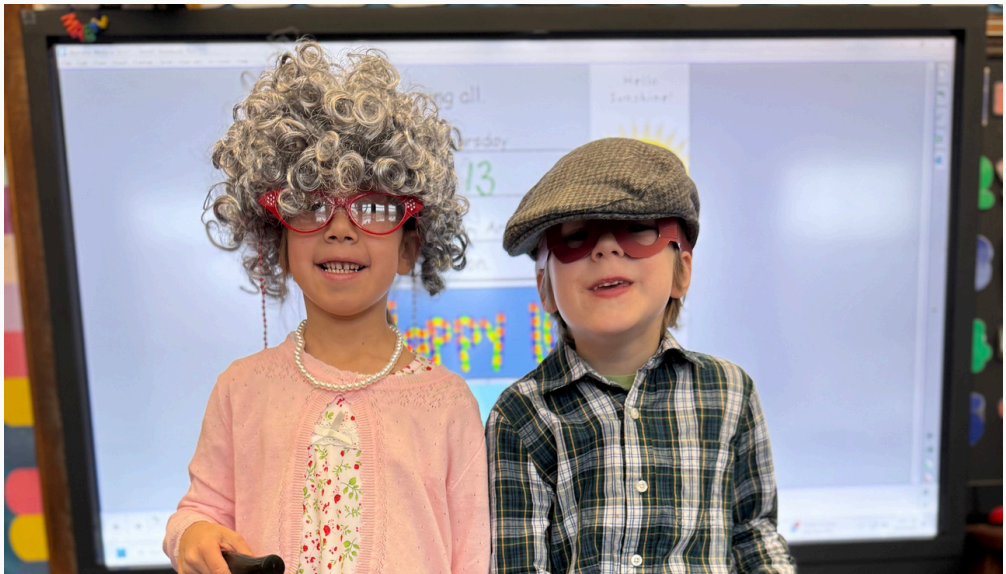














Jungle Book KIDS a Roaring Success

Directed by Sam Sauer, Haldane Elementary School performed a high-energy rendition of Jungle Book KIDS with messages about finding your place and embracing differences. The cast and set crew delivered jungle joy in two performances - a daytime show for students and an evening show for families and community members. Among the wildlife were special guest crows, Mrs. Jamin and Deputy Tolve. The show's stars had A LOT to say about their time on the stage.















Everly Coleman | Kaa the Snake Coil 2

Favorite thing about your character?

I loved being with my friends.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Little Mermaid or Wicked

Beatzy Alayon | Balloo

Favorite thing about your character?

He was very funny, lively, and kind of dumb.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Hamilton

Adriana Celeste Peparo | Mowgli

Favorite thing about your character?

He's so adventurous and wild; it gave me a big opportunity to have fun and act like I live in the jungle.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Little Mermaid

Eve Kelly | Old Monkey

Favorite thing about your character?

I love *I Want To Be Like You*; it was so fun to sing and dance in the song.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Wizard of Oz

Miles Darnell Turner, Jr. | Silly Monkey

Favorite thing about your character?

He's funny like me and brings out my character.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Peter Pan the Musical

Juliet Varrichio | Jungle Chorus

Favorite thing about your character?

I got to be in almost every act.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Sound of Music

Marlow Jody Stracci | Jungle Chorus

Favorite thing about your character?

We were in the play a lot.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Cinderella

Mae Schneck | Jungle Chorus

Favorite thing about your character?

We get to see everyone on stage and behind everything.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Sound of Music



Moon Glo Cutler | The Jungle

Favorite thing about your character?

All the singing I got to do.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

High School Musical, Mama Mia, or Hairspray!

Wyatt Henrickson | A Monkey

Favorite thing about your character?

The costume.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Lion King

Dom Wake | A Monkey

Favorite thing about your character?

The costume.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Groundhog Day

Esme Lee | An Elephant

Favorite thing about your character?

It was such a fun role to play and involved a lot of acting and dancing.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Mary Poppins

Elsa Hardman | Stage Crew

Favorite thing about your role?

Moving the pillar and being with my friends.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Brave

Freja Allebrand | A Monkey

Favorite thing about your character?

I got to jump around and be crazy - it was really fun.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Matilda

Alice Bunye | Stage Crew

Favorite thing about your role?

I got to help out everyone and I enjoyed being around the community.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Mary Poppins

Violet Dean Herman | An Elephant

Favorite thing about your character?

The song, being in the military, and being with my best friends.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Wizard of Oz



Jax Taylor | A Monkey

Favorite thing about your character?

The energy of the role and the makeup.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Hamilton (even though it's a bit challenging)

Avery Deikus | Kaa the Snake Coil 1

Favorite thing about your character?

The lines and my song.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Matilda

Elizabeth Sexton | Baggerah

Favorite thing about your character?

I loved being the odd one out, super serious, and having such a fun costume.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

The Greatest Showman

Hunter Garrett | King Louie

Favorite thing about your character?

He was a funny and quirky character.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Matilda (because we just did Willy Wonka and both are by Roald Dahl)

Eleanor Moody | Stage Crew

Favorite thing about your character?

I loved helping backstage.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Hamilton

Rosie Valentine | Shanti the Village Girl

Favorite thing about your character?

My solos, songs, lines, and dances.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Wicked

Eve Penski | Kaa the Snake Head

Favorite thing about your role?

I loved being part of the group, and I really enjoyed my puppet - even though it was extremely heavy.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Matilda, because I'd like to be Trunchbull. I realized that sometimes being the bad guy is interesting and it helps stretch my ability to act.

Adele Villetto | Jungle Chorus

Favorite thing about your character?

We were in almost all the scenes.

Play or musical you'd love to do next?

Sleeping Beauty



The Boys in the Boat

On February 13, Haldane Middle School held their Community Read book discussion on The Boys in the Boat (young reader adaptation) by Daniel James. Students were invited to read independently and during DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) class time leading up to the event. The evening included breakout room discussions and a 1930s Americana-themed picnic, courtesy of the planning committee and PTA representatives.

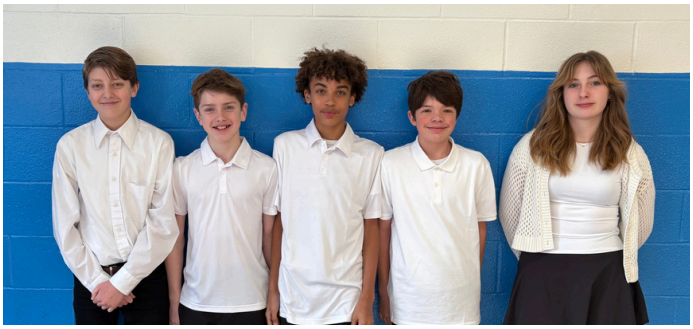






Junior High All County Festival

Congratulations to the Haldane Middle School band and chorus students who were selected to perform at the Junior High All County Festival in February: Ysabella Jung, Oscar Pisano-Simonyi, Ellie Shields, Alisson Estrada-Ochoa, Bruno Lopez, Parker Fyfe, Edie Coleman, Natalie Taylor, Cara Coleman, Eleanor Pearson, Aisling Loughman, Clark Brown, Allegra Clementson, Orion Freiburghaus, Will Sexton, Will Valentine, Aya Hull, and Zade Matthews. And a big thanks to Jessica Stein and Sam Sauer for their work preparing and accompanying Haldane's performers.









2nd Annual Middle School Talent Show

Student Council President Allegra Clementson and Eleanor Pearson organized the event and served as emcees, while Aya Hull, Edie Coleman, and Margo Bellamy-Tarrantino worked in the sound booth. Congratulations to this year's performers!





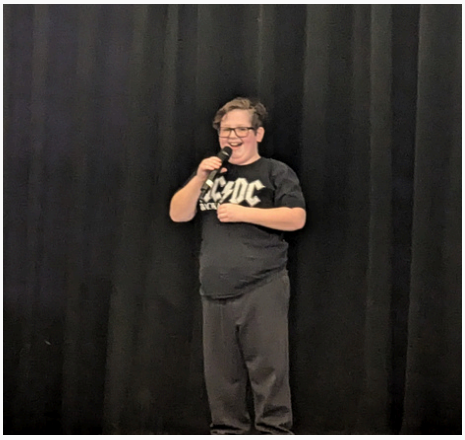












Orion Frieburghaus: ***Drum Solo***

Parker Fyfe & Zephyr Wayland: ***Singing & Acting "Popular" from Wicked***

Emma Elias: ***Guitar Solo***

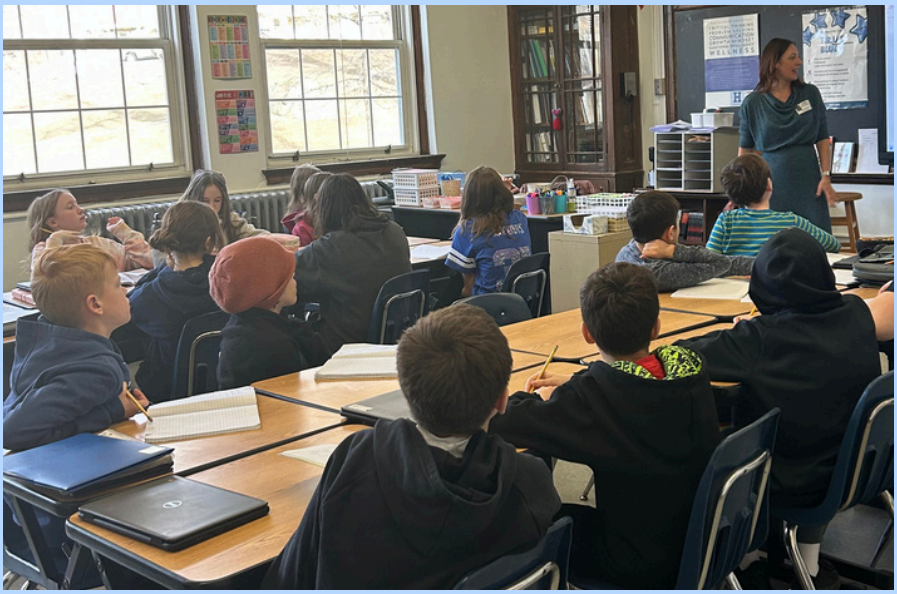
Nate Gretina & Luna Stracci: ***Duet & Piano "Coney Island" by Taylor Swift***

Pippa Daisley: ***Solo "A Million Dreams" from "The Greatest Showman"***

Alex Ostrow: ***Solo "High Hopes for A Living" by Panic at the Disco***

Elliot Bennett & Tyler Powers: ***Variety Act***

Careers in Nonfiction



On Tuesday, February 4, science journalist and author, Melinda Wenner Moyer, visited the sixth grade for a humanities block to speak about what it is like to write nonfiction for a living. She provided the students with her top five nonfiction writing tips that Mrs. McCollum's students have already begun applying. Thank you, Mrs. Moyer!

Nonfiction Tips:

1. Do not plagiarize - cite sources.
2. Use short sentences.
3. Use topic sentences.
4. Use transition words (but, still, also, too, of course, however, although, meanwhile).
5. Explain and define.

Middle School Students of the Month: January



Congrats to Henry Budney (6th), Michael Beglan (7th), and Everett MacIntyre (8th), recognized by Haldane Middle School and the Elks Club as January's Students of the Month.

Debating the Ethics

Haldane High School's Debate Team participated in the 9th Annual Westchester County High School Ethics Bowl at Manhattanville University. The event, which is hosted across 34 states, is designed to foster critical thinking and dialogue among high school students. Teams debate head-to-head on cases that involve tricky moral questions and dilemmas. Participants work through timed periods for presentation, commentary, and response, followed by questions and answering with the judge.



According to the National High School Ethics Bowl, these events differ from traditional debates in that, "...great care [is taken] to emphasize high school students' developing moral and political agency with respect to their own views, beliefs, and judgments. Unlike in many forms of speech and debate, students participating in an Ethics Bowl are not assigned particular propositions to defend, and the case-based design of the format de-emphasizes "pro vs. con" reasoning in favor of complex issues which are nuanced, multi-faceted, and admit many forms of reasonable disagreement."

Blue Notes at FDR High School



Haldane High School's a cappella group, the Blue Notes, performed at FDR High School's annual A Cappella Invitational at the end of January. Haldane performers included Henry Amadei, Lucius Bell, Molly Bernstein, Louise Denehy, Keira Drury, Silvia Hardman, Helen Hutchison, Sophie Koch, Eowyn Kolarek, James Llewellyn, Lily Parker, Oliver Petkus, Lucia Petty, Owen Powers, and Tyler Schacht; plus, solos by senior Sophie Koch and junior Molly Bernstein. Thank you to Sam Sauer who made this opportunity possible for our students.

Picking Your Path

Haldane hosts series of events to help students and families navigate post-high school options.

Junior College Planning Night

Parents of juniors were invited to an evening led by Haldane Guidance Chair, Amanda Cotchen. All aspects of the college process were reviewed, including search criteria, admissions requirements, and application tips. The presentation also included an introduction to financial aid and merit aid, as well as how to navigate maintaining or obtaining the appropriate academic supports and accommodations during college. College kick-off meetings are underway, during which Ms. Cotchen works with students and families to establish the foundation of their post-high school goals, help orient their search process, and discuss timelines.

In addition to the event, students and families receive a wealth of information and support from the guidance office, including a College Guidance Handbook, Haldane SAT Day, one-on-one appointments with visiting college representatives, and personalized college and career planning.

BOCES 9/10 Parent Night

This month, the high school also hosted a BOCES 9/10 Parent Night to help families explore the many programs offered by Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES. Haldane students have the opportunity to enroll in a career and technical education program at BOCES. Classes take place during the school day so that students' schedules are blended to include courses at Haldane and valuable career learning that results in both their high school diploma and a field-specific certification.

Upcoming Opportunities

SAT School Day
Spring 2025 @ Haldane

Putnam/No. Westchester College Fair
April 30 @ PNW BOCES Yorktown Campus

Northern Westchester College Fair
October 23 @ Jefferson Valley Mall

Career & Tech Education Info Night
TBD @ PNW BOCES Yorktown Campus

HALDANE

Visit Haldane College Planning Resources

PNW BOCES
PUTNAM | NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

Learn more about PNW BOCES opportunities

Haldane Skis Gore and Whiteface















MARCH 2025



TUE 11

Haldane Arts Alliance Meeting
3:00PM
Main Building Art Room

Blue Devil Booster Club Meeting
7:00PM
HS126

PTA Public Meeting
7:00PM
Butterfield Library

MON 24 - THU 27

Junior Class to Washington, DC

WED 26 - FRI 28

Senior Class to Philadelphia, PA

THU 6

High School Parent Orientation
6:30PM
Band Room

FRI 7

Middle/High School Q3 Progress Reports

SCHOOL CLOSED
Superintendent's Conference Day

WED 26

Freshman Class to Broadway

THU 27

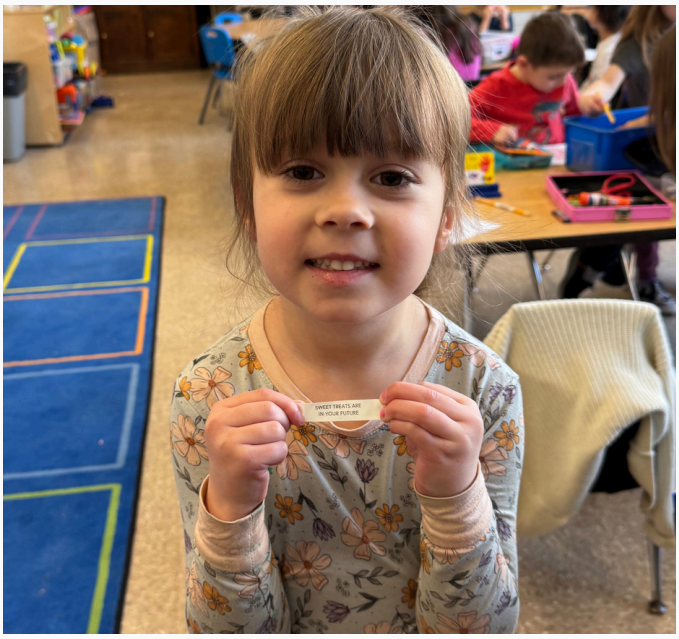
Sophomore Class to Bronx Zoo

ES Student Council Newsletter



Haldane Elementary School Student Council released their latest newsletter under the guidance of fourth grade teacher, Elena Neumann. The issue has over a dozen contributors and is filled with book recommendations, sports news, jokes, coming events, and an interview with art teacher Angela Branco. Click the cover above to check it out.

Asian Lunar New Year



January 29, 2025 marked the first New York State public school holiday for the Asian Lunar New Year. Governor Hochul signed the legislation in 2023, but in 2024 the holiday fell on a Saturday. Asian Lunar New Year signifies the arrival of spring based on the Chinese lunisolar calendar. According to the Chinese zodiac, 2025 is the Year of the Snake, symbolizing calmness and introspection. Those who celebrate mark the day with festivals, parades, fireworks, food, and prayers. Haldane kindergartners celebrated with dumplings and fortune cookies.

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Josh Elder, Director of Curriculum and Human Resources
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