

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

Elmsford
UFSD

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Elmsford Community,

The past several weeks has been truly inspiring across our district! As I visit our schools, I continue to be amazed by the enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication of our students and educators.

One standout moment was with our second graders at Grady, who took a deep dive into the fascinating lives of bugs. As part of their study of non-fiction elements, students selected a bug of their choice, researched its lifecycle and wrote their own short books. They then presented their work to classmates and families. The students' excitement and dedication to learning were truly impressive.

We also recently celebrated Black History Month, a meaningful time to

recognize the contributions of Black Americans throughout our history and culture. During special assemblies' students showcased their learning through music, poetry, dance, and original artwork, honoring the legacies of influential figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington Carver, and many more. It was exciting to see students embrace their creative talents and share their knowledge with their peers.

Looking ahead, the Board of Education and I are actively working on the 2025-2026 Budget, with a focus on Excellence in Action—ensuring that our schools continue to provide outstanding opportunities



Superintendent Yom visited Dixson for the 100th Day of School celebration!

for all students. I encourage you to participate in the upcoming discussions and share your thoughts. Please join us on **Saturday, March 1, at 9:00am in the Hamilton Library** for our budget presentation.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our students' success. I look forward to continuing our work together!

Sincerely,

Susan Yom, Superintendent of Schools

REMINDER STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

A special reminder to our families! Monday, March 3, will be a half day for students in order to host a Staff Development Day.

Students will be dismissed at the following times:

AHHS: 10:45 a.m.

Grady: 11:15 a.m.

Dixson: 11:35 a.m.

ELMSFORD EDUCATORS HONORED WITH "HERO IN EDUCATION AWARDS"

Principal Andrea Hamilton of Alice E. Grady Elementary School and Teacher Maia Hood, who teaches third grade at the school and has coached at the high school, were recently recognized by Senator Shelley Mayer and the Westchester-East Putnam PTA for the 2024 Hero's in Education Award.

[Click here to read more](#)



SPOTLIGHT: CAPITAL PROJECTS



During the February 5, 2025 Board of Education meeting, Director of Facilities James Frees provided an update on the most current Capital Projects. He reminded the community that in May 2024 residents approved approximately \$9 million for several facilities related projects, which are currently underway.

“Students spend so much time here, in addition to providing a healthy and safe and secure environment, the architecture, function, color and condition influence the occupant’s daily well-being and pave the ground work to be open to learning, collaborating and working in this environment,” Mr. Frees said of the importance of maintaining the facilities.

Project status

AHHS Parking lot – Completed

Capital Projects for 2024-2025

- Security camera replacement
- PA system
- Telephone VOIP system

Capital Projects for 2025-2025 To-Be-Completed

- Grady and Dixon Roofs
- Grady HVAC (unit ventilators, gym unit, controls)
- AHHS fencing modifications (upper field area)

Building Condition Survey

In 2000, the New York State Education Department established a process to evaluate the conditions of all school buildings every five years. For Elmsford, it was required an inspection took place in 2024, the next one will happen in 2029.

Critical Findings of Survey

All four buildings were rated as “Satisfactory,” meaning all systems categorized as health and safety were found to be satisfactory or better. No system rated “non-functioning” or “critical failure”.

Findings related to repairing sidewalks, steps and railings and retaining wall, repointing brick exteriors, door and hardware replacements, window repairs, interior finish replacements, tiles and flooring, life cycle replacements (roofing, mechanical and electrical equipment) and accessibility.

PA System and Cameras

The PA system is almost fully hung at Hamilton and they will start on Grady next. The PA system will help with communication greatly throughout the building and on school grounds.

The camera system will be replaced and fully operational on new hardware and software at Hamilton by Mid-March. This will help monitor the building hallways and certain public areas inside and outside of the school buildings.



What is needed?

Continued and sustained annual funding for repairs, maintenance and capital projects, collaborate with Board of Education, staff and community and to remain pragmatic in the approach to complete these projects.

What’s next?

A five-year plan for improvements. The District will formulate a short- and long-term facilities plan to address repair and replacement of building operating equipment, repair of structures and building envelope, space planning, and updating to a 21st century learning environment for all.

AHHS STUDENTS PRESENT AT UNITED NATIONS



Several students from Alexander Hamilton High School recently had an amazing opportunity to work with the non-profit group, IVECA, (Intercultural Virtual Exchange of Classroom Activities), which has special consultive status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Together, they developed goals that support the U.N.'s 17 Sustainable Development Goals, focusing their efforts on two: Life Below Water and Global Partnerships. Connecting via Zoom, they spoke with a group of their peers from South Korea on what they can do in their respective communities and beyond to meet these goals. The students' efforts culminated in a visit to the United Nations, where two volunteers presented to a large assembly of high school and college students, as well as professors and others.

[Click here to read more](#)



BLACK HISTORY MONTH STUDENTS CELEBRATE WITH SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

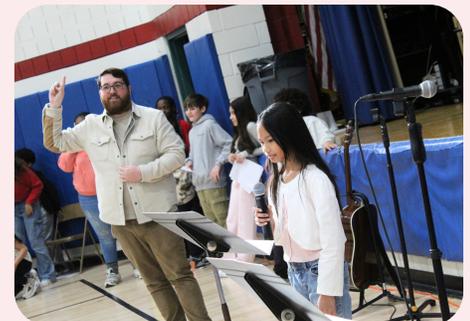
Black History week was first celebrated by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1926 and later expanded to Black History Month by President Gerald Ford in 1976. The focus of both was to create as an opportunity to honor the many contributions of Black Americans in society and culture.

Dixon celebrated with songs and dance



Dixon students enjoyed an interactive Black History Month celebration when they gathered together to sing and dance. Music teacher Christopher Funke led students in a number of songs and dances which celebrated the Black composers and musicians who created them. In addition, several songs helped to tell the story about the contributions of Black Americans in our culture.

Grady gathered to celebrate with original poems, music and dance



During a school-wide assembly that was part dance party, Sing-a-Long and a showcase of original work, the entire Grady school gathered on Feb. 14 in a celebration of Black History Month. Performances paid homage to Black entertainers and poets, Chubby Checker and Maya Angelou among them. In addition, fifth and sixth grade students shared poems they had written as well as hip-hop dances they had choreographed!

Alexander Hamilton High School students performed

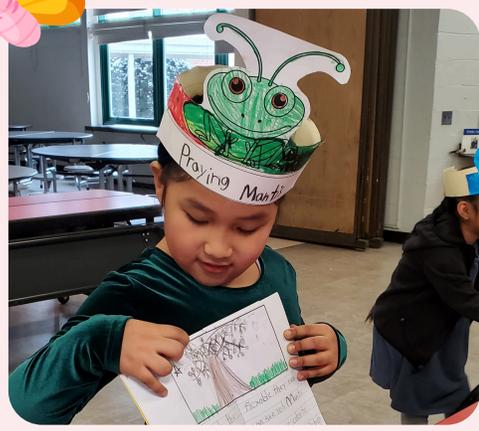
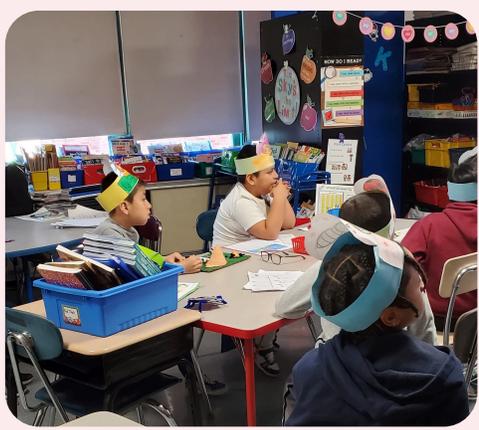


Students at AHHS shared personal performances, art work and music as they celebrated the Black influences in a number of creative endeavors, from Rock and Roll and Hip Hop to Fashion, poetry and art. Their assembly included music, dance and fashion from various countries in Africa and a slide show of art work done by students.

BUG FEST IN SECOND GRADE!



Grady second graders had their fun with their deep dive into BUGS! After researching a bug of their choice, they completed their own books, including students in the dual language program writing in both English and Spanish. The assignment was part of our ARC (American Reading Company) curriculum. In their writings students included six topics: Classification, Ecosystem, Adaptation, Social Interactions, Inter-dependent relationships and eEcosystem Dynamics. They then shared their published work which included non-fiction text features they had learned about, including table of contents, diagrams, captions, and more!



AHHS PEP RALLY!



AHHS wrapped up spirit week last week with the Winter Pep Rally! Students gathered in the gym for some silly games and to celebrate our winter sports teams!





On Wednesday, February 26, both the Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball teams participated in the Section 1, Class B Playoffs Quarter-Finals!

The Lady Raiders went up against Valhalla and the Boys took on Blind Brook. The teams withstood losses, but certainly had a great season and can build off of their hard work next year!



Scenes from the HOF 2023 Induction ceremony

Nominations for Alexander Hamilton HS Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2025 being accepted

The Alexander Hamilton High School (AHHS) Athletics Hall of Fame, Inc is now accepting nominations of individuals and teams for the class of 2025. The deadline for applications is March 30, 2025. The application must be filed electronically and can be found on the Elmsford Union Free School District website under Athletics, www.eufsd.org

The Alexander Hamilton High School Athletic Hall of Fame was founded in 2020 to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of athletes, teams and coaches who have contributed to the impressive history of athletics at Alexander Hamilton High School. Those storied individuals and teams were lifted to success by the school's athletics team mantra of building champions through "Pride, Sacrifice and Desire" since 1929.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1, Board of Education Budget Workshop, 9 a.m., AHHS Library

March 3, Superintendent's Conference Day, Half Day for Students

March 5, Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., AHHS Library

March 10, Kindergarten Registration Ends

March 21, Grady Sharing Day

March 26, Pre-K Lottery if needed



DIXSON 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL!

On February 24, students at Dixson celebrated 100 Days of School!

