



# Bulldog

BULLETIN

November 2025

## Message from the Superintendent

In this edition of the Bulldog Bulletin, there are many stories about students and teachers taking initiative and showing leadership to work together, build community, and help those in need. In this season of gratitude, I am very thankful to be in a community that demonstrates these qualities every day.

I hope everyone has a  
Happy Thanksgiving!  
—Matt Landahl

to see numerous displays in their honor, as well as cheers from other students and staff thanking them for their service. “Everyone decorated the hallways to show patriotism and thankfulness,” Yeaple said. “Most of the students understood that these veterans did something that they should be appreciative for.”

While Ed Maher, a Marine Corps veteran and Glenham alumni, humbly said serving was no big deal, he still appreciated being thanked for his service. “I was very honored to be recognized,” Maher said.

Fifth grader Leana Soltish, whose veteran grandfather attended, participated in setting up the breakfast to thank veterans for protecting America and hoped that the performances cheered them up. “It’s important to honor the veterans who served us,” Soltish said.

## BCSD Honors Veterans 2025 Glenham ES

This year marked the first time since COVID that Glenham hosted a Veterans Day breakfast in the school’s cafeteria Nov. 7. Fourth and fifth graders taking turns emceeing in between performances of patriotic tunes by pre-k, kindergarten and first grade students.

Teacher Danielle Yeaple, a member of Glenham’s Building Leadership Team, suggested bringing back the breakfast as a way to host more community events and noted that all students helped with preparation. Second and third graders handed out colorful cards to veterans, while fourth graders decorated placemats. Fifth graders set up and cleaned up the breakfast and greeted veterans as they arrived.

“We tried to designate each grade level to have a part,” Yeaple explained. “Students felt happy to sit with the veterans ... it was a special bonding time.”

The breakfast concluded with the veterans being escorted through the hallways by their student relatives



Some of Beacon High School’s best and brightest performers sang their favorite songs from the stage and screen during the Annual Cider & Songs event held Oct. 17.

The main lobby of the school seemed more like an intimate jazz club with dimmed lights, high top tables, carpets and a stage area for the performers. Students and their families sipped hot apple cider and snacked on some sweet treats while listening to Beacon Players

regulars including senior Jonah Espinosa and junior Molly Lyons belt out one killer track after another. All performers received much applause and encouragement from the audience.



## BHS Beacon Players Warm Up a Cool Evening with Cider & Songs



Espinosa, who serves as the Beacon’s Players President, opened the show by sharing why this event is so important to the theater troupe.

“This event has really become a part of our identity over the years

and what makes us the Beacon Players,” Espinosa said. “Thank you for supporting us, it’s been fun.”

Director Anthony Scarrone thanked everyone who helped make the event possible and gave special kudos to the sound crew for their efforts before some of the stars of the fall play, “Little Women” gave a sneak preview before its November performance dates.



“This has become somewhat of a tradition,” Scarrone said.

Beacon had plenty of successes when it came to sports this year and many of the teams reached milestones.



The Varsity Boys Soccer team made the

Section IX finals and was named runners up, while the Varsity



Girls Soccer team was named Section IX Class A semifinalists.

The varsity girls volleyball team hit it over the net by being named Section IX Class A quarterfinalists.



"The volleyball team progressed and developed throughout the season," Athletic Director Mike Carofano said. "That was really awesome to see."

The Varsity Football team beat a Beacon High School record for second most wins in a season with six, falling shy of a sectional tournament spot.

Varsity Cross Country runner Chloe Goessel, a senior, came in second



in the sectionals, earning her a place at the New York State Class B Cross Country State Championships on Nov. 15 where she

placed 34<sup>th</sup> out of 125 runners. She then qualified and completed in the NYS Federation Race at Bowdoin Park on Nov. 22.

The fall season also saw the launch of Beacon's first Unified Bocci Ball team which thrived under Coach Mike Mullins. Some of the matches were held on Beacon's home turf.

"It was a really great experience for our student athletes," Carofano said.

Winter sports is looking to be a promising season ahead with plenty of students signed up. Carofano hopes students continue to evolve in their chosen sports.

"We want to make sure they're achieving good grades as well as developing in their specific sport throughout the season," Carofano said.

## BCSD Honors Veterans 2025

*Cont'd from previous page...*

### Sargent ES & South Ave ES

Sargent students made cards for veterans staying at Castle Point VA Medical Center showing appreciation for their service.



This is a passion project of Math AIS Assistant Tracy Gida, whose father served in the Marines. She has

lead this effort for 10 years because she said it is necessary for everyone to pause, reflect and thank veterans for their selfless acts.



Gida delivered three boxes of cards and chocolates Nov. 10 and noted how much veterans appreciate the cards when she has received a thank you letter from Castle Point.

"I always share that with the kids to let them see how much of an impact such a small gesture can make to somebody,"

Gida said of the thank

you letter. "It's such a small gesture for such a great sacrifice."

This year saw **South Avenue students** contribute cards with Gida adding that she hopes to see more involvement from the other district schools in the future.

"I would love to see it grow every year to get as much support for these veterans," Gida said. Even though Veterans Day is a nice day to remember, it needs to be more thought of throughout the year."

Fifth grader Tabitha Biracrae has worked on this project before and loves seeing how much the cards make veterans happy.

"It's fun and it makes me feel good to do good things for others," Biracrae said. "We give back a little to them when they've given so much."



Rombout seventh graders learned so much about Christopher Columbus, Henry Hudson and other explorers who came to America by participating in a role playing game that brought the history they are learning about to life.

Social studies teacher William Castaldi first thought of using a role playing game to teach history when he taught AP history at Beacon High School around the time the test makers revamped it so students understood how to utilize project-based learning.

"The best thing about it is it's all based on real life experiences of real explorers," Castaldi said. "It lets us hit exploration as a whole and really experience some of that key vocabulary and put it to good use."

Castaldi finds that this activity enabled his students to write six paragraphs of crucial information about the explorers in the form of journal entries, which is typically hard to do. "It gives them that element of story writing, chronological order, looking at things from a diary aspect, using dates and different tenses," Castaldi explained."



Camille Murphy, who was a steward for her team, thought the simulation was exciting and she said learned more than if she just read a book. "With the rolling of the dice and making for an interesting story to build upon," Murphy said. "After day one, I was really excited for first period."

## Forrestal ES Students are Super-Citizens



While second grade students in Jennifer Gall's class at Forrestal are always focused on kindness, a recent ELA lesson led them to think about ways to be a super-citizen in society.

Gall noted that the unit focused on extraordinary people and dogs who helped others. The message resonated with her students who

thought of ways to be a super-citizen, even beyond school. A super-citizen, according to Gall, is someone who is as kind as possible to all people and animals and shows others how to be kind.

"It gets passed on like a random act of kindness," Gall explained. "It was amazing how they were able to expand on not just being a good citizen at home, but being a good citizen everywhere."

Students worked on a first person narrative showing how they can make the world a better place and Gall hopes to have them work on projects that help others. Last school year, her students wrote letters about dogs for adoption at Compassionate Animal Rescue Efforts of Dutchess County that were displayed at the center and helped get some of them adopted. "That helps that kids realize what their actions mean to the community," Gall said.

According to Sebastien Huebsch being a super citizen involves help others if they are having a hard time and never giving up. One way Huebsch gives back is by keeping the earth clean. "If I see someone throwing down some trash, I'll pick up it and put it in the right place," Huebsch said.

Leanna O'Gore said it is fun to be a super-citizen and is familiar with giving back to her community – she previously helped distribute gift bags at her local church. "I learned that it feels better to give than receive," O'Gore said. "I like giving because I like seeing people smile."

## South Ave. Students See Themselves Grow

Students at South Avenue are learning through growing – quite literally with the help of a unique measurement project in the school's hallways.



This fall Math Teacher Kelley Bender introduced the idea of students from all grades measuring their height against yellow paper resembling a measuring tape, based off what she used to do with her own children when they were growing up. Students will re-measure themselves in the spring to see how much they have grown.

"We did have to mention to them, 'You're all growing at the speed that you need to grow,'" Bender said.

"Everyone has noticed it in the hallway, which is a neat thing." Bender reminds her students, especially those who find math a hard subject, that they often perform math-related tasks without realizing it.

If you put on matching shoes, you did math; if you figured out that you need a pair and you need them to match for comfort, you already did math this morning before school," Bender said.



## BHS SAT Prep Club Puts Student in the Running

Beacon High School senior Oscar McKible started off his last year by being named one of 16,000 semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program, honoring students who have exceptional academic ability and the potential to succeed in college.

Out of the 1.3 million high school juniors who took the preliminary SAT (PSAT) nationwide in 2024, less than 1% were named semifinalists. McKible was surprised, but ecstatic over the news.

Over 15,000 semifinalists will be named finalists in February 2026, who then can compete for one of 2,500 scholarships worth \$2,500 each, according to a press release from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Winners will be announced between April and July. McKible credits Guidance Counselor Michele Santiago for encouraging him to take the PSAT and other staff members for their helpful efforts. "The whole math and English departments have been really helpful in getting me ready for that test," McKible said.

The announcement proved beneficial to McKible in another capacity as he searches

## Glenham ES Student is King of the Halls



Brain breaks are essential to young students helping them re-energize and



re-focus after long periods of activity in their classes. Glenham third grader Luke Maxaner has benefited greatly from these and now he is showing

other students how to use game-changing Hallway Stations to promote these breaks.

Occupational Therapist Marcy Rynne noted that these stations are not an excuse to get out of class and each one helps students be the best they can be in the classroom. One of the stations instructs students to spin, do jumping jacks and then tap on hand prints and numbers on a wall.

"They work so hard and it's so hard for a lot of them to sit and focus all day," Rynne said of students. "If it's structured with a purpose and a clear beginning and end, it can help them go back and focus and hopefully do their best learning."

Maxaner enjoys his role making sure his fellow students use the stations correctly and offered some advice if kids are trying them out for the first time.

"Just follow the patterns on the wall," Maxaner said of the stations. "If you're walking in the hallway, you can do them to get your mind off all of the work."

Rynne knew Maxaner was the perfect role model to demonstrate how the stations work as he has benefited from the brain breaks helping him mature over the years.

"He's a kid that those breaks work really well for," Rynne said of Maxaner. "He is a good model for it because he really understands the why behind these activities."

for a successor to run the school's SAT Prep Club. McKible is looking to apply to top universities such as Johns Hopkins and Harvard where he plans to major in public health with a focus on epidemiology, the study of how diseases spread. While he was already interested in studying diseases, living through COVID solidified McKible's decision to study epidemiology.

His advice to future applicants and SAT test takers is to prepare plenty, but relax on the days leading up to a test.

"It's better to try and pace yourself, it's a journey, not a short burst," McKible said. "You've got a whole lot of time before the end of high school."

# Little Cheerleaders make Big Impression

This year marks the second year Sargent's Cheer Club collaborated with the Beacon High School Varsity Cheerleading team and they made plenty of noise during halftime during the Oct. 24 Homecoming football game.



The younger cheerleaders, along with the varsity ones, received much applause for their routine where they danced and waved their pompoms to the Kidz Bop version of the Chappell Roan hit "Hot to Go!"

Varsity Cheerleading Coach Andonia Karnavezos praised her cheerleaders for teaching and making connections with the elementary kids interested in this sport, who also enjoy getting to revisit their old elementary school.



"I wouldn't be able to do it without them," Karnavezos said. "They teach all of the cheers and the entire routine, and the little ones adore them."

This winter, the Varsity Team will work again with Forrestal's cheerleading club, where this collaboration originated, on new routines with Karnavezos hoping to collaborate with the cheer clubs at Glenham and South Avenue too.

Fourth grade cheerleader Sofia Lorenzo's favorite cheerleading moves include making a pyramid with everyone else and being on the bottom to support the other cheerleaders. She appreciated learning from the varsity cheerleaders.



"It's exciting and they teach us a lot," Lorenzo said of the older girls. "I just enjoy working with other people and I like cheering."



## BCSD Students Run for a Good Cause

Student groups across the Beacon City School District came together Oct. 26 to participate in the Student Color Run For Breast Cancer raising money toward breast cancer research.

The event was hosted by the Forrestal, Glenham, Sargent and South Avenue PTAs and PTOs, with help from the Rombout and Beacon High School Student Councils which gave students a way to actively make a difference while having miles of fun. Together they raised \$5,000 for the Miles of Hope Foundation, which provides support to people in the Hudson Valley affected by breast cancer.

Sixth grader Michaela Jawor, Vice President of the Rombout Student Council, wanted to get involved because Miles of Hope was a great help to her family when her mother had a bout of breast cancer last year and she wanted to return the favor.



"It was the fundraisers that help them do this," Jawor said of Miles of Hope. "We decided to start doing fundraisers to try to make more money to help other people with breast cancer." "Don't give up because you can always make it through," Jawor said.

Sargent fourth grader Amirrah Nelson Lamar participated in the Color Run in honor of her grandmother who beat breast cancer with the help of Miles of Hope.

"She's still living and she's one of the survivors," Nelson Lamar said of her grandmother. "Miles of Hope wants to heal other people and give them a cure, like my grandmother."

## BCSD HALLOWEEN FUN

Beacon students and staff alike celebrated Halloween with colorful costumes and unique events and lessons that will stick with them throughout the year.



Halloween came early to the district, when Glenham, Sargent, and South Avenue hosted Trunk-or-Treat events for students and their families. At Sargent, families decked out the trunks of their cars with inspiration from the movies "Wicked" and "K-Pop Demon Hunters," as well as aliens and Barbie dolls and handed out candy and other treats to the trick-or-treaters, who wore equally creative costumes.

Joanna Burns' son is a fan of the original "Ghostbusters" film, so he dressed as the character Slimer, while she decked out her trunk in honor of the 1984 classic complete with a Stay Puft Marshmallow Man and a painted sign reading "Who Ya Gonna Call?"

"We just went with it as a family," Burns said. "It's fun and a good chance to be creative."



While second grader Ruby Ceritti, who dressed as an astronaut, did not have a favorite trunk, she did have a favorite part of the experience. "I liked seeing the decorations and eating candy," Ceritti said.



At South Avenue, students in Kathryn Lokmaci's class learned not only how to carve pumpkins into Jack-O-Lanterns, but also about its many culinary uses, related vocabulary and the difference between pumpkins and squashes, as well as tasting the latter.

"I wanted them to get the concept of comparing and contrasting, but to do it in a physical way," Lokmaci said. "Through that experience you can learn a variety of things and it helps you retain that information better when you're engaged physically."