HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



The Three Musketeers show off their swashbuckling skills.

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2025

Haldane Capital Project Progress
Thanksgiving Meals and Elementary Student Lunch Vote
Sixth Grade Success With the SPCA
Engineering Lift and New to NHS
National Honor Society Inductions
Model UN Tackles Big Topics
Building Relationships With Veterans Near and Far
Examining the Extinction of Languages
Happy Birthday, Jane!
The Three Musketeers
January Calendar
Hour of Code Brings Robots and Bee Bots
Fall Scholar Athletes
Happy Holidays from Haldane!

Message from Dr. Duffy

Dear Haldane Community,

What a special time of year here in Haldane! As temperatures are getting colder and we've had our first snowfall, there is excitement in the air.

We are now well into the second marking period, and it is hard to believe we are already four months into the school year. December was a month filled with school spirit and celebrations. We were so proud of all our students who participated in the wonderful Winter Concerts and the thrilling high school drama performance of “The Three Musketeers.” The start of our winter sports season has also brought great energy to the campus. I continue to be so impressed with our students as they learn and grow, and our amazing staff for their daily support.

The Haldane Essentials were all demonstrated during these events and continue to be alive and well in the classrooms.



THE HALDANE ESSENTIALS

Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Communication
Growth Mindset
Emotional Intelligence
Wellness

The Capital Project is moving forward with plans under final review at the State Education Department. Once we have our final approval, the bidding process will begin to determine which vendors will work with the district.

Here is a video of the full high school addition that is planned. I will continue to provide updates throughout the remainder of the school year.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a peaceful start to 2026.

Dr. Gail Duffy
Superintendent of Schools

1st grade enjoying Dr. Duffy’s hilarious storytime.

Haldane Capital Project Progress

Behind the scenes, tremendous progress is being made on the Capital Project. In partnership with our architect and construction manager, the District continues to fine tune details on the high school addition, which will include a multi-use student center, an innovative STEAM lab, an art classroom, a full student support suite, and general classrooms.

The Capital Project also includes much-needed renovations to the Main Building, plus an elementary and middle school student support suite, and safety improvements to our entire campus.





Renderings show an updated look at the high school addition. Watch this video for an exciting walk through the new spaces.

High School Walkthrough Video

Things Are Happening!

In just a few short months, you will start to see the project come to life. We anticipate breaking ground on the high school addition this spring! And while some disruptions to our daily routines are inevitable, we will prioritize student and staff safety, and will work to carefully plan any necessary shifts in procedures. It's an exciting time and we look forward to the many opportunities and enhancements that these improvements will bring.



So Thankful!

Lead by our tireless clinical staff, Haldane collected and organized Thanksgiving meals for 28 local families this year!





Chicken Nuggets Edge Out Mac 'n' Cheese

Elementary school students used the power of their taste buds to vote for a November student choice lunch. If you've spent any time with elementary-age kids, the winner will come as no surprise. Maybe next time, Mac 'n' Cheese!







Essential Experiences

Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.

Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Sixth Grade Success With the SPCA

Ms. Perrone's 6th grade class experienced a range of Haldane Essentials this fall, taking on a comprehensive project to support the SPCA Westchester. The students were inspired by the book Slacker, by Gordon Korman, in which teen Cameron Boxer finds himself taking on a leadership role in a school club with the mission of saving a beaver named Elvis. The students researched the organization, promoted the fundraising project, and welcomed an SPCA liaison who taught them about animal care. The class utilized their math skills to determine how to allocated the donations they received in order to best support the SPCA.



Completing this project became an interdisciplinary adventure combining ELA, Math, and even music, as one student wrote and recorded a song for the daily announcements. The project culminated with a visit to the SPCA to deliver donations and volunteer with the animals. Congratulations to Ms. Perrone and her students!





Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Sixth Grade Success With the SPCA



The project included many facets:

- Letters to author Gordon Korman, with a trip to the local post office to mail them off
- Brainstorming and researching a fundraiser for the SPCA Westchester
- Organizing a drive that included providing snacks for faculty, and the collection and inventorying of items needed by the SPCA
- Tallying financial contributions and budgeting to purchase additional donation items
- Promoting the fundraiser with flyers and a creative jingle on the daily announcements
- A reading of One Small Spark: A Tukkun Olan story about making a difference
- A visit from the SPCA and an ambassador pup, and the high school ROAR club, to learn about their missions and animal care
- A visit to the SPCA to deliver the donations and tour the facility



Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Engineering Lift

The Haldane Essentials are coming to life for students all across the campus. In Principles of Engineering Design, Mr. Lynch's Glider Project is designed to help engineering students discover the concept of lift, which allows airplanes and gliders to fly. Students are taught Bernoulli's principle, which explains how faster-moving fluids (such as air) generate less pressure. Combining this with Newton's third law, students can calculate the necessary lift to counteract the force of gravity, enabling the glider to fly.





New to NHS

Haldane inducted 43 students into the National Honor Society this year. Officers spoke to them about the Society's Pillars of Service, Leadership, Character, and Scholarship.

New members were asked to reflect on which Pillar was most meaningful to them.



Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Model UN Tackles Big Topics

In early November, Haldane Model UN delegates attended the UConn Model United Nations conference, accompanied by Ms. Secor and Ms. McGrath. Our students engaged in challenging debate and demonstrated exceptional diplomatic and research skills across a wide range of policy and historical topics.

Maisie, Una, Alegra, Katherine and Seth participated as members of ECOFIN (Economic and Financial Affairs Counsel). They successfully drafted resolutions aimed at Reducing the Economic Consequences of U.S.-China Trade Wars on Global Trade. This topic was highly relevant and required navigating complex international tariffs, intellectual property disputes, and supply chain vulnerabilities.

Anna, Near, Nadine and Lincoln participated as members of the CSW (Commission on the Status of Women). As representatives of The United States and South Korea, they worked toward addressing Gendered Psychological Pressure in the Beauty Industry. It was particularly interesting to see our students evaluate the role of advertising and social media on our societal standards. Their draft resolutions focused on implementing global ethical advertising standards and promoting digital literacy to counter harmful industry practices.

Max, Alice, Tess and Liv represented countries from the WHO (World Health Organization). In this committee they grappled with the intersection of public health and environment, drafting plans on Climate Change and its Impact on Urban Populations.

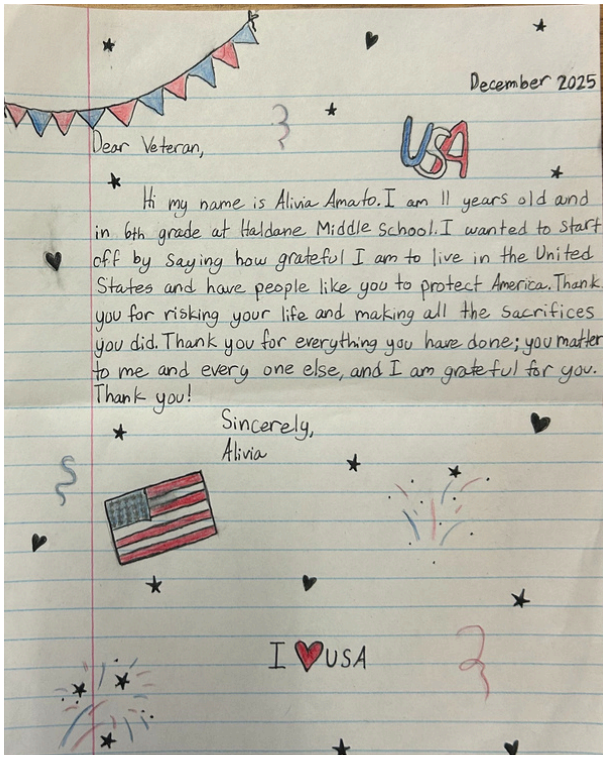
Lastly, Henry and Dylan represented Haldane as Sam Adams and Thomas Heyward Jr. on an American Revolution themed Crisis Committee. The students demonstrated outstanding strategic thinking and rapid decision making under pressure, successfully managing shifting historical scenarios and alliances.



Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

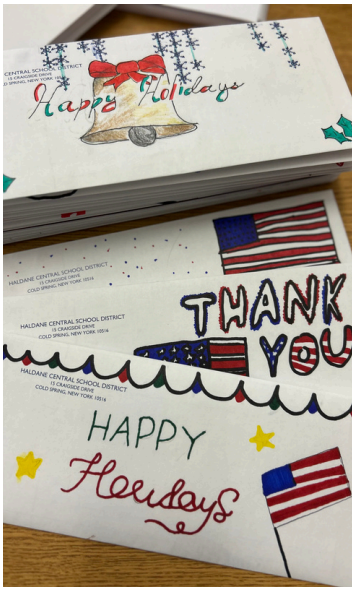
Building Relationships with Veterans Near and Far

Haldane students found greater appreciation for Veterans Day this year, working to build relationships and express gratitude to those who have served. Ms. McCollum's sixth graders wrote letters to Veterans, focusing on the elements of letter writing and editing as they showed their appreciation. The high school History Club visited the VFW for a raucous game of trivia with local Veterans.







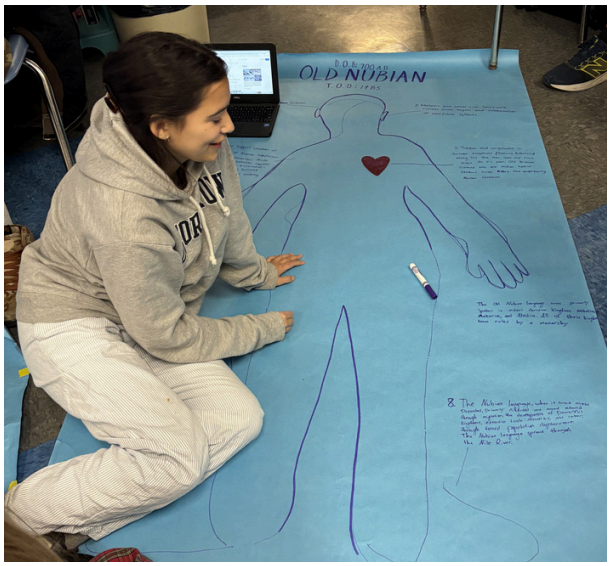


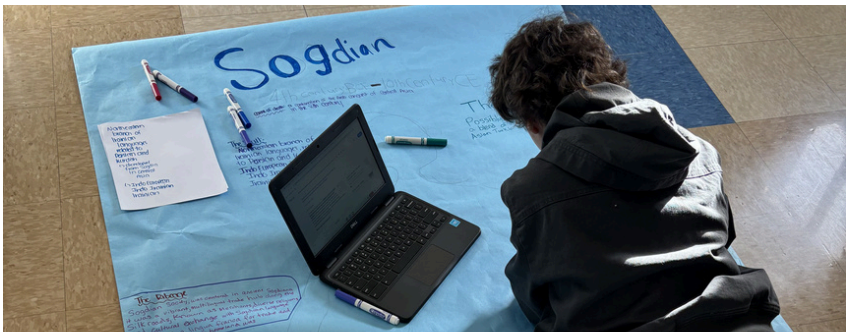


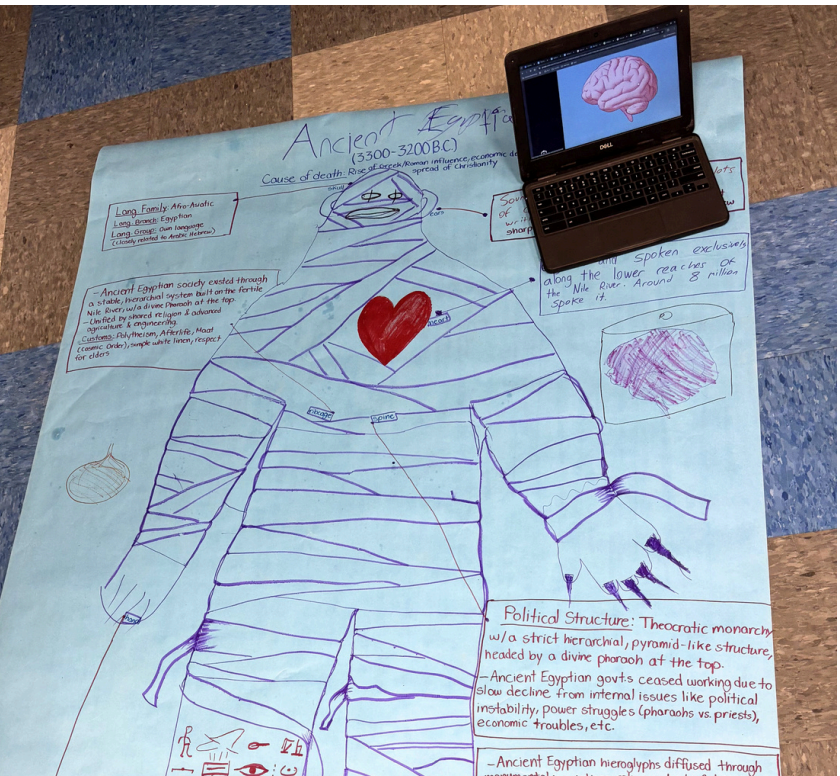
Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

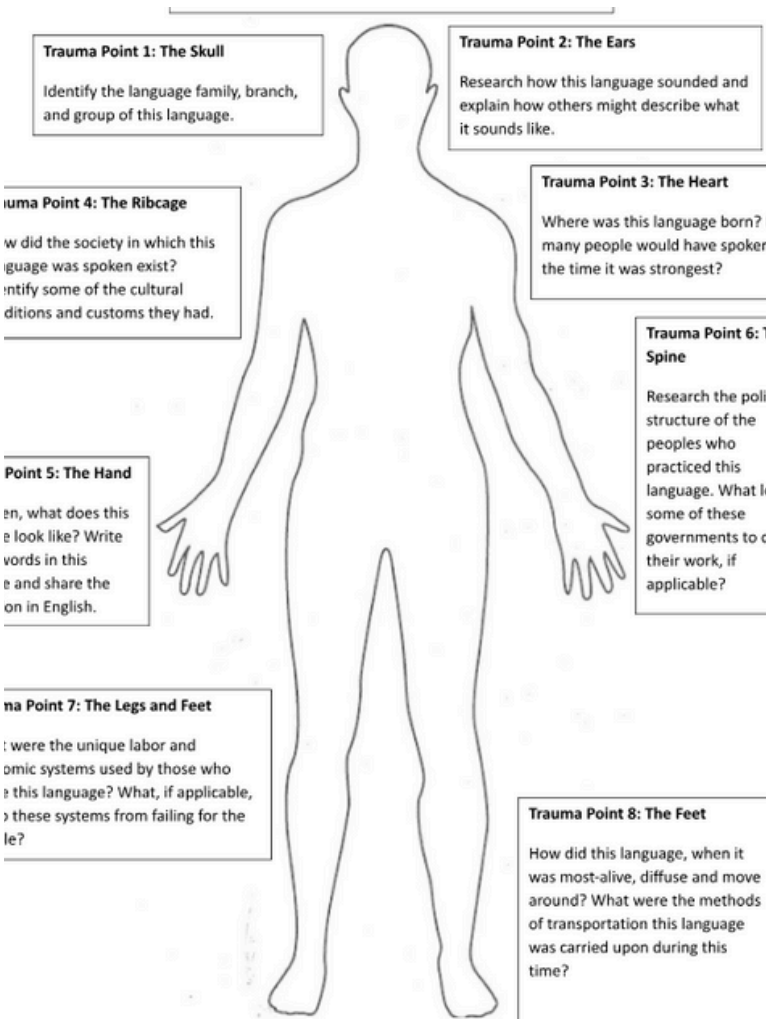
Examining the Extinction of Languages

Students in Ms. Secor's Human Geography class explored extinct languages, taking on the role of "medical examiners" to design an actual autopsy report for why the language they chose passed away. On a large sheet of butcher paper, they created a birds eye view of their patient in question. Each group researched the inner workings of their language as it appeared in the time it was alive and well. Along with the autopsy report, students wrote obituaries to highlight the life, and ultimate death, of their chosen language.









Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Happy Birthday, Jane!

Ms. Isabella's high school English classes joined fans across the world in celebrating Jane Austen's 250th Birthday on December 16th. Looking the part, Ms. Isabella welcomed students with Austen-inspired snacks, activities, and revelry.









My idea of good company is the company of clever, well-informed people who have a great deal of conversation; that is what I call good company.

- Jane Austen, Persuasion







Photos by Jim Mechalakos

The Three Musketeers

Once again, Haldane Drama wowed audiences with their two-night showing of daring sword fighting, adventure, and humor. By all accounts, the performances delivered on the high standards that our community has come to expect.

Next up, *Les Miserable*, for the spring musical. Auditions are underway. Mark your calendars for March 20-22, 2026.





JANUARY 2026

MON 5 — CLASSES RESUME

TUE 13 — PTA Public Meeting 7:00PM Butterfield Library

FRI 30 — Quarter 2 Ends

THU 8 — College Planning Night 6:30PM Band Room

MON 19 — SCHOOL CLOSED Martin Luther King Day

FRI 9 — Middle School Dance 6:30PM Auditorium

TUE 20 - FRI 23 — January Regents Exams

TUE 13 — Blue Devil Booster Club Meeting 7:00PM Home & Careers

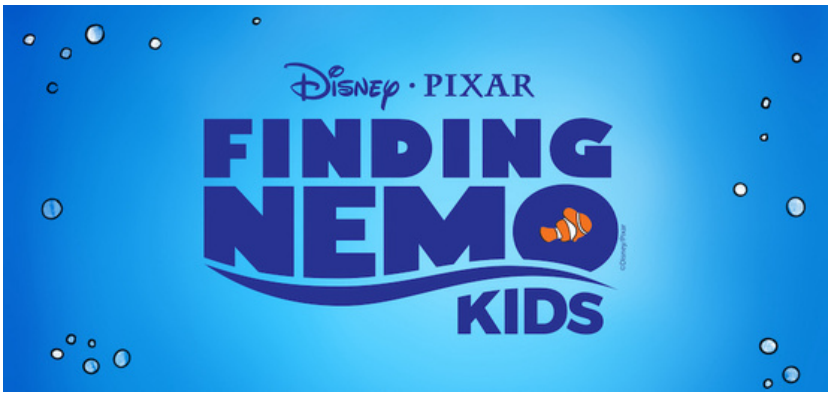
FRI 23 — Elementary School: Finding Nemo 6:00PM Auditorium

HALDANE

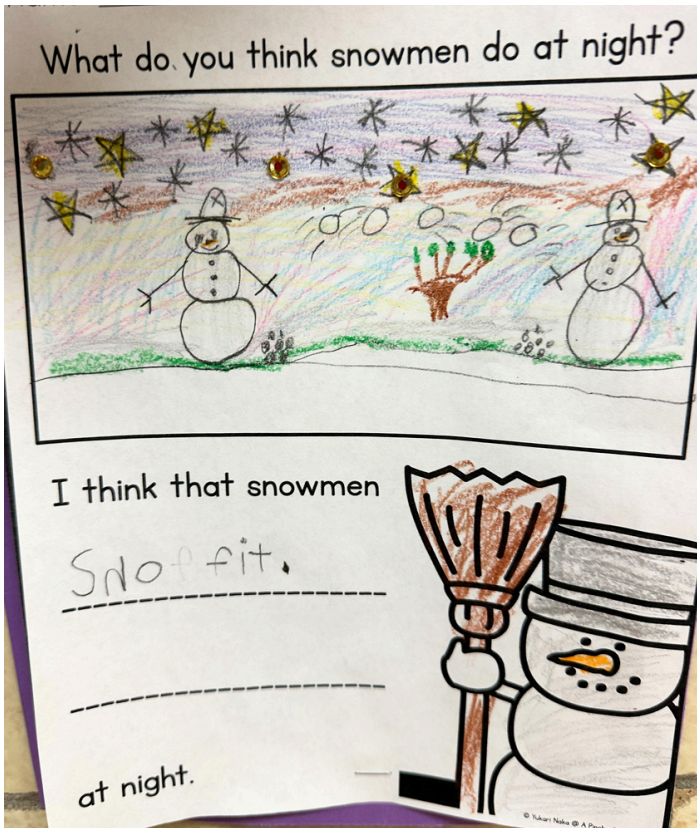
Looking ahead...
School Closed:

February 16-20
Winter Recess

Haldane Elementary Presents...



Friday, January 23 at 6pm



Hour of Code Brings Robots and Bee Bots

Each year, Ms. Hartford organizes resources and activities for teachers and classes to participate in Hour of Code. The event occurs nationally, and is a fun way to get students involved in Computer Science Education Week.







Fall Scholar-Athlete Teams

The Scholar-Athlete Team Award from Section 1 marks 75% or more of a team's roster achieving a GPA of 90 or better.



Varsity Football
Varsity Volleyball
Varsity Girls' Cross Country
Varsity Boys' Cross Country
Varsity Tennis
Varsity Girls' Soccer
Varsity Boys' Soccer

Happy Holidays from Haldane!





BOARD OF EDUCATION

Peggy Clements, PhD, President
Maggie Valentine, Vice President
Ezra Clementson, Trustee
Sean McNall, Trustee
Michelle Kupper, PhD, Trustee

Ex Officio Student Members:
Luke Ruggiero
Max Sanders

ADMINISTRATION

Gail Duffy, EdD, Superintendent of Schools
Christine Jamin, Elementary School Principal
MaryAnn Seelke, EdD, Middle School Principal
Julia Sniffen, High School Principal
Erin Piquet, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Josh Elder, Director of Curriculum and Human Resources
Tom Cunningham, Athletic Director and Dean of Students
Leah Horn, Director of Technology/Chief Information Officer
Dave Robertin, Interim Director of Facilities and Transportation
Catherine Platt, School Business Manager