HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Haldane Elementary hand-in-hand for Valentine's Day.

JANUARY | FEBRUARY 2026

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Message from Dr. Duffy

Dear Haldane Community,

As part of our ongoing commitment to optimizing district transportation efficiency and ensuring the safety of all students, the Haldane Central School District will be implementing a School Site Safety Traffic Pilot. This pilot is a direct recommendation from our 2025 Transportation Study, aimed at better managing the flow of vehicles on campus and separating car traffic from bus traffic. This study is also aligned with plans for the upcoming Capital Project.

Recent data shows significant traffic volume during school hours, with peak elementary arrival seeing nearly 200 cars alongside our bus fleet. By separating these two modes of transport, we aim to create a more predictable and safer environment for our walkers and riders alike.

The District is working closely with the Village of Cold Spring and our emergency responders to ensure a safe and thorough pilot.

THE HALDANE ESSENTIALS

Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Communication
Growth Mindset
Emotional Intelligence
Wellness

Following this pilot period, the District will evaluate the results to determine what additional changes are necessary. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work to improve the safety and efficiency of our campus.

This issue of Haldane Horizons introduces the traffic flow changes. Please watch for more details and reminders in the coming months.

Dr. Gail Duffy
Superintendent of Schools



Haldane Campus Traffic Pilot

This April, Haldane will pilot a new traffic pattern for student arrival and dismissal. Here's a sneak peak of the changes you can expect. Please watch for more information in the coming months.

Why is the traffic flow changing?

You may remember that the Capital Project, approved by voters in 2024, includes improvements to some of our roadways and sidewalks. During the planning phases, our architects and engineers noted that Haldane has an "unhealthy mix" of car, bus, and pedestrian traffic.

Those sentiments were echoed during the 2025 transportation audit of our bus routes and student drop-off and pick-up procedures.

In both cases, traffic flow experts recommended a separation of cars and buses. This is the time for the District to explore new procedures before changes are made during the Capital Project construction.

Traffic Pilot Goals:

- Improve safety during arrival and dismissal by separating cars, buses, and pedestrians on campus
- Allow emergency vehicles to quickly access school buildings during these busy times

Pilot begins Monday, April 13



What will be different?

As part of Haldane's open campus design, there are multiple vehicle entry points. Right now those entry points are shared by school buses, families, staff, and even student drivers.

During the pilot, we will explore separating buses and cars to establish clear direction and safer pathways. These changes will also help us evaluate on campus sidewalk improvement needs as students and staff travel between buildings.

Can I still drop off or pick up my child?

Yes, of course - but you will do so through a different entrance. Students who ride the bus will hop off and on right in front of their school building.

Students who are dropped off or picked up by car, will do so at the sidewalk along the playground.

Cars will only be permitted to enter campus via Route 9D outside of arrival and dismissal times.

The following maps detail the new traffic flow for arrival and dismissal.

Traffic Pilot: Bus Route



During Student Arrival & Dismissal:

- Only buses will enter campus via Morris Avenue/Route 9D
- Buses will drop off/pick up elementary and middle school students at the flagpole in front of the Main Building
- Buses will drop off/pick up high school students in front of the High School building
- Buses will exit campus via Morris Avenue/Route 9D

Traffic Pilot: Car Route



During Student Arrival & Dismissal:

- Families will only be permitted to enter the back of campus via Cedar Street*
- Families will drop off/pick up students at the sidewalk along the playground backtop
- Families will exit campus via upper Craigside Drive, and continue on Mountain Avenue to Locust Ridge or Fishkill Avenue

*Cars will not be permitted to enter campus via Route 9D during student arrival/dismissal. This will be strictly enforced during the pilot.

Finding Nemo Finds Its Way Into Our Hearts

Once again, Sam Sauer and his team of Haldane Elementary drama cast and crew delivered a swimmingly spectacular performance. Finding Nemo Kids showcased the talent, bravery, and enthusiasm of Haldane's youngest performers, including special guests from pre-kindergarten and Mrs. Jamin's family. The scenes were brought to life by cleverly imagined pool noodle coral reefs and real-life wardrobes that perfectly captured each character's feelings and fins.



The show reminded us of the power of leaning on our friends as we just keep swimming through life's ups and downs.









Essential Experiences

Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.

Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Problem Solving Through Natural Disaster Prep

Haldane fourth graders designed preparations for communities in the event of a natural disaster such as a blizzard, hurricane, volcano eruption, tornado, or earthquake. As a grade level, our learners simulated disasters and evaluated the effectiveness of their designs.











Fourth grade teachers add in the disastrous elements.

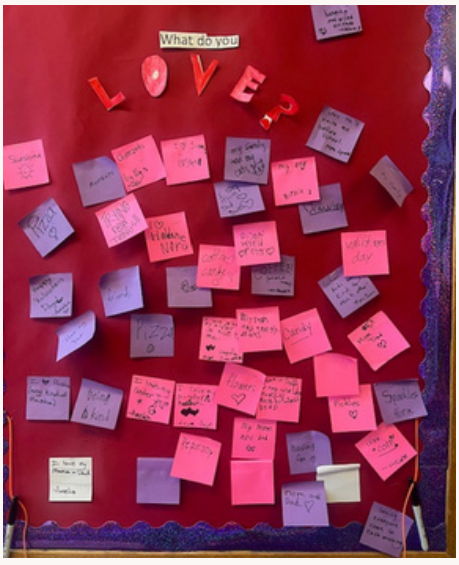
Laughing Our Way Through 100 Days of Learning



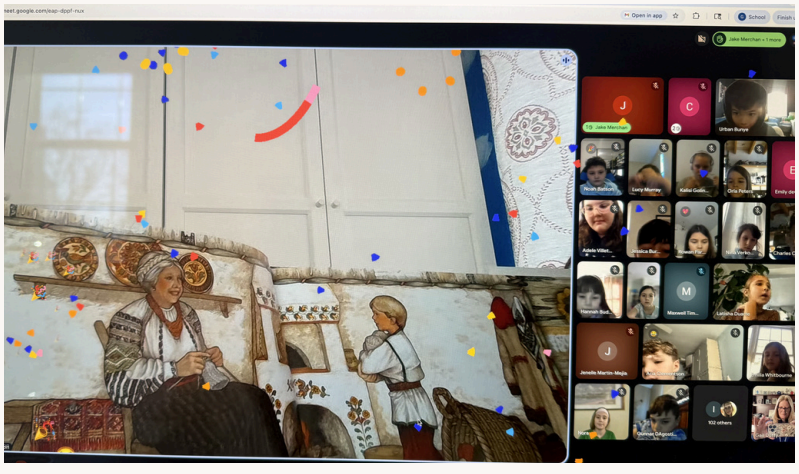
And Looking the Part!



Elementary Answers: What Do You Love?

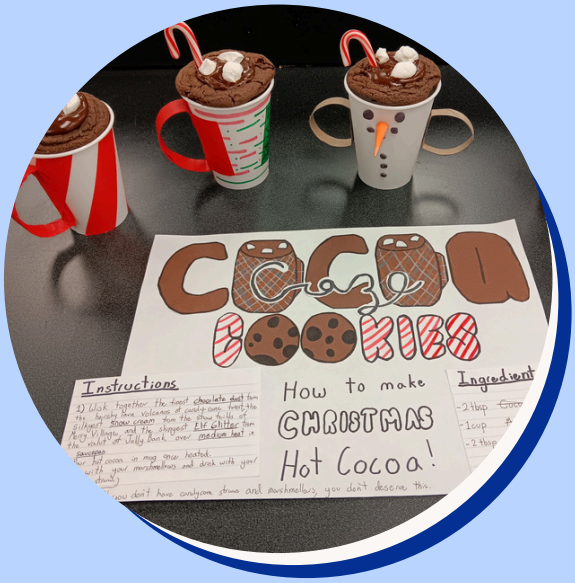


Mrs. Jamin's Storytime Draws Big Crowds During Our Remote Learning Day



Cocoa Craze Cookies Win Big With Mr. Sullivan





Ski Club at Gore and Whiteface



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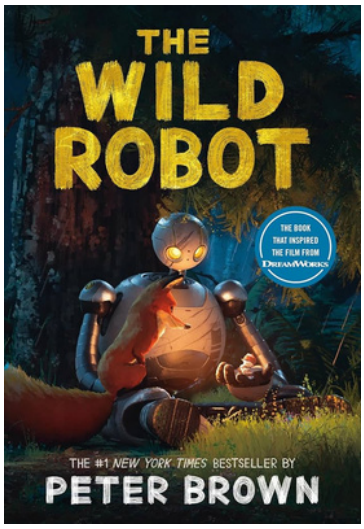
Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Middle School Community Read



Haldane Middle School students, faculty, and families held another successful community read. This year's book, The Wild Robot, by Peter Brown, tells the tale of a castaway robot who navigates a new environment and struggles to build relationships with the animals who inhabit the island. As Roz the robot finds its way, the novel explores themes of nature vs. technology and empathy and connection.









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Model UN Heads to Bronxville



The Haldane Model UN Club attended the first ever Bronxville High School Model UN Conference this month.

Our delegates were involved in several committees, attempting to solve some of the world's biggest issues. Alice, Eli, and Maisie were actively engaged in reforming international space law. Katherine, Una, and Henry B. examined the global challenges posed by the unauthorized trade of weapons. Allegra and Henry S. handled the future of a divided Germany after World War II.

Our students were impressive and seem to have had a great time! Shout out to Eli, Katherine, and Alice for earning outstanding and best delegate awards. Mrs. Secor-Kutcha reported that it's always a pleasure to attend events and advise such an excellent group of students!



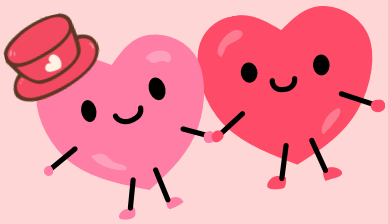
Blue Notes Sing Their Hearts Out

In what has become a beloved annual tradition, the Haldane Blue Notes spread the love on Valentine's Day as they delivered Valentine-o-Grams to students and staff throughout campus. Raising funds for the choral program at Haldane, the group performed mini renditions of "My Girl," "For The Longest Time," "Stand By Me," "Sh-Boom," and more, sent from one admirer to another.





High school teachers were even treated to a couple impromptu performances of "Build Me Up Buttercup" and "My Way."





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Haldane Debate Performs Well at Ethics Bowl

Haldane's Debate Team attended the Manhattanville Regional Ethics Bowl in the Northeastern Division. Students presented normative arguments that displayed inventive thinking, deliberative reasoning, and other core features within the Ethics Bowl format. Among the cases developed by the National High School Ethics Bowl:

- Human Genetic Modification
- Paving National Park Trails
- Public Record, Private Lives
- County Jails Replacing In-Person Visits with Virtual Meetings
- College Professors Using Chatgpt to Generate Lectures
- Passion Projects - Mission: Admission
- Healthy Profits - GLP-1
- Wisconsin Law for Compulsory School Attendance and Religion

As opposed to traditional debate, participants in the Ethics Bowl are not forced to argue one way or the other, but rather are judged on how well they articulate the nuances of the issue. Haldane performed well, with one team winning 2 of 3 matches and the other winning all 3. Of 22 teams, only 4 advanced to the semifinals, and unfortunately, neither of our teams made the cut despite a strong overall record. Teams are judged on a 60-point scale by each of the three judges for each round, and the 4 highest-scoring teams advance.

MARCH 2026

WED 3/4
Mental Health & Substance Use Parent Session
7:00PM HHS

THU 3/5
High School Parent Orientation
6:30PM
Band Room

TUE 3/10
PTA Public Meeting
7:00PM
Butterfield Library

TUE 3/10
Blue Devil Booster Club Meeting
7:00PM
Home & Careers

FRI 3/13
Middle/High School Q3 Progress Reports

THU 3/19
SCHOOL CLOSED
Superintendent's Conference Day

TUE 3/24 - FRI 3/27
Juniors in Washington, DC

WED 3/25 - FRI 3/27
Seniors in Boston, MA

WED 3/25
Freshmen to Broadway

THU 3/26
Sophomores to Bronx Zoo

MON 3/30 - FRI 4/3
SCHOOL CLOSED
Spring Recess

THU 3/26
5th & 6th Grade Parent Orientation
6:30PM

Haldane Spring Musical

March 20, 21, and 22





Haldane Professional Development Explores Station-Based Teaching

Thirteen high school teachers are participating in an in-service course lead by High School Principal, Julia Sniffen, that engages them in a collaborative, data-informed process to design a complete unit of study using station-based teaching. Teachers are analyzing current student data to inform instructional decisions, ensuring that lessons are responsive to student needs and learning trends.

Throughout the course, teachers are developing station-based lessons that incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. Emphasis is placed on creating strengths-based learning opportunities, allowing students to choose multiple methods to demonstrate understanding and mastery of the content. The course runs January through April.

2026 Junior High All County Band & Chorus



Congrats to the students who participated in this year's Junior High All County with Mr. Sauer:

Westley Marzollo, Zade Matthews, Alexander Ostrow, Nate Gretina, Eleanor Pearson, Parker Fyfe, Maren de Groh, Margo Bellamy Tarantino , Ysabella Jung, Pippa Daisley, Amalia Timm, Isla Hudson, Clark Brown, and Will Sexton

NYS Farm to School Summitt



Haldane's elementary library and garden educator, Carolyn Llewellyn attended to the New York State Farm to School Summit as a workshop presenter. She shared many of Haldane's Read and Grow lessons in her session titled, "Veggie of the Month and More Ways to Grow a Program."

Mental Health and Substance Use: Understanding Co-Occurring Disorders

FACILITATED BY: STEPHANIE MARQUESANO, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, THE HARRIS PROJECT

Prevention, Early Intervention, and Strategies for Putnam County Parents and Caregivers

This session is designed to provide a better understanding of co-occurring disorders and how mental health challenges and substance use issues often go hand-in-hand.



Topics include prevention and early intervention, factors that influence risk and protection, the role of self-medication, and how substance use can affect the developing brain. Participants will also learn why addressing concerns early matters and how to navigate to appropriate care and local resources when additional support is needed.

Content is informed by a first-of-its-kind health education curriculum developed to advance understanding, prevention, and help-seeking among our youth.

join us! March 4, 2026 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
HALDANE HIGH SCHOOL 15 CRAIGSIDE DRIVE, COLD SPRING, NEW YORK 10516

the harris project is a non-profit organization dedicated to prevention, early intervention, and improving access to appropriate care for individuals and their loved ones impacted by co-occurring disorders.

the harris project | CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS AWARENESS CODA | PNW BOCES | HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT | WESTCHESTER COUNTY | Partnership to End Addiction

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