

HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT **CONNECTIONS**



Roman's Remarks

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring begin to appear, we are reminded of the resilience that carries us through another New York winter. Warmer temperatures, blooming flowers, and brighter afternoons bring a renewed sense of energy across our schools and community.

This season of renewal is also reflected in our work as a District. Our proposed budget is thoughtfully designed to preserve the programs and services that most directly support student success. Through careful planning and identifying efficiencies, we are able to maintain strong instructional programs, student supports, and extracurricular opportunities that enrich the experience of every student.

We're already seeing the impact of these efforts. Chronic absenteeism has decreased by 5% compared to last year, and more students are showing up and staying engaged. Academic progress is also on the rise, with steady gains in both English Language Arts and Math over the past three years.

This progress is the result of a shared commitment. Our staff closely monitor student needs and connect with families early, ensuring that support is in place when it matters most. Through our Community Schools approach, families have access to important resources that help remove barriers to attendance and learning. At every level, from daily attendance tracking to celebrating milestones, we are building strong habits and reinforcing the importance of showing up each day.

As we move further into spring, I am grateful for the partnership we share with our families, staff, and community. Together, we will continue to support every student and build on the momentum we have created.

With Hyde Park Pride,



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Maya Winnik selected for Hearing Our Way Magazine

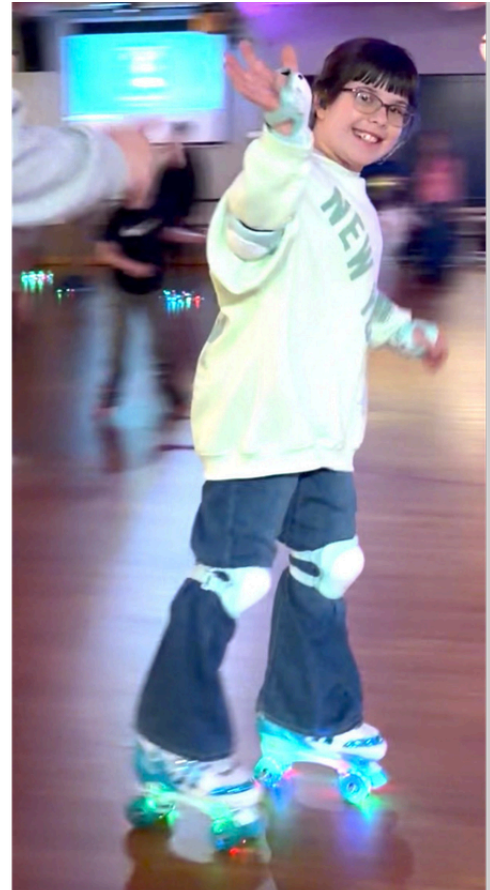
Maya Winnik is a horseback riding, roller skating, acting, writing, and climbing superstar! The Ralph R. Smith fourth grader was recently selected to be featured in popular magazine Hearing Our Way, a magazine for kids and teens with hearing loss.

"I want to do something big, and I want people to know my name," said Winnik. "I saw all these covers with kids on them and I thought...I can do that! So I asked Miss Gates how these kids did it, and she helped me go for it."

Melanie Gates, a Dutchess BOCES teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, knew Winnik would be a great fit for the magazine. "She's a really great advocate. For herself and for others."

"Some people look at me and they're like, 'what are you deaf?' and I'm like...yeah, actually. I am. And? It's just not nice to hear when they say it like that," said Winnik. "I like these magazines because when I see these people and all the cool things they do, I think about all the cool things I do and I think, I guess I belong!"

With over 15,000 readers, Hearing Our Way is packed with fun, inspiring, and educational content in every issue. Listening, language, and self-advocacy symbols throughout the magazine highlight features that promote these skills.



Each edition has its own theme, and while Maya is not sure what her edition's theme will be, she knows her interests offer a ton of possibilities!

"I'm writing my own play. And I love animals. I play basketball, I go horseback riding... I'm not ordinary. I'm unique."

Winnik's feature in the magazine is set to publish spring 2027, but Winnik wants to start spreading awareness now! "I can't wait to see it. I can't wait for other kids to see it."



March Artist and Musician of the Month

Analyn Falconi

4th Grade, Ralph R. Smith Elementary

Analyn Falconi, a fourth-grade student at Ralph R. Smith Elementary School, is recognized for her enthusiasm, creativity and strong work ethic. A self-directed learner, she consistently demonstrates responsibility in the classroom and serves as a positive role model for her peers.

Falconi has a particular interest in yarn weaving and enjoys art for the freedom it offers to create without limits. Her continued growth and willingness to explore new techniques have resulted in unique and impressive work.



Samuel Hicks

5th Grade, Netherwood Elementary School

Samuel Hicks is recognized for his enthusiasm and dedication as a musician. His teacher, Ms. Vinson, describes him as highly motivated and hardworking during lessons and rehearsals.

Hicks actively participates in extracurricular music opportunities, including Elementary All-County Chorus, the NYSSMA Solo Festival and private percussion lessons. He is known for going above and beyond to further develop his musical skills.



Bowling Teams Thrive as Unified Program Builds Connection

The bowling program delivered a strong winter season, with both the girls' and boys' teams returning to competition ready to perform. A new addition this year, unified bowling, quickly became an integral part of the program and its overall team dynamic.

Throughout the season, the girls' and boys' teams remained focused, balancing practices and matches while continuing to improve. Sharing the bowling alley with the unified team fostered a greater sense of connection, as athletes supported one another and contributed to a more inclusive environment across the program.

Senior Celeste Gorres emerged as a key leader for the girls' team. "What stands out most is how quickly the season went, but I got to end my senior year doing something I love," Gorres said.

As a senior captain, Gorres took on an expanded leadership role. "Bowling gave me a place to belong and something to look forward to almost every day during the winter," she said. "I became more confident in my abilities and took on more responsibility both on and off the lanes as a captain."

Leadership was also evident on the boys' team, where captain Braydin Moser helped guide his team throughout the season. Contributions from team leaders like Moser played an important role in maintaining focus and building team cohesion during matches.

Overall, the addition of unified bowling strengthened the entire program. While the girls' and boys' teams continued to compete at a high level, the shared experience with the unified team created a more supportive and connected environment for all involved.

APRIL ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



Imran Kalemba Varsity Track and Field

Junior Imran Kalemba qualified for the NYSPHSAA

Championships in the triple jump, placing third at the state qualifier. Earlier in the season, Kalemba set a school record with a jump of 44 feet, 11.5 inches, earning a top-three qualifying spot.



Rashad Amaro Varsity Track and Field

Sophomore Rashad Amaro qualified for the NYSPHSAA Championships and Nike Indoor Nationals after placing second in the long jump at the state qualifier. Amaro set a school record with a personal-best jump of 22 feet, 4.75 inches.

HPCSD CELEBRATES ATTENDANCE ROLE MODELS

Magnolia Meyer is making a name for herself as an attendance expert at her school.

The fourth grader enjoys writing both in class and at home, especially when creating birthday cards for friends and family. Outside the classroom, she likes spending time on the playground and, separately, blueberries and pancakes.

Teachers say simple activities like writing birthday cards can help strengthen literacy skills while also building excitement around reading and writing in the classroom.



At North Park Elementary School, fourth grader Kaiya also emphasizes the importance of showing up each day. She said she attends school regularly so she doesn't miss lessons or time with friends.

"Learning new things is fun, but I also love to see my friends," Kaiya said.

Her advice to other students is simple: "Show up to school even if we are tired or it is hard."

Attendance experts encourage families to build consistent routines, such as setting regular bedtimes, preparing for school the night before and scheduling appointments outside of school hours when possible. Regular attendance helps students stay on track academically and stay connected in the classroom.