HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Freshmen explore the Taconic Outdoor Education Center

OCTOBER 2026

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Ride the Bus!
Strategic Plan Review & Refresh
Fire Prevention Week
A Very Haldane Halloween
Big Apple Crunch
Building Bridges, Testing Forces
Trails & Teamwork
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League Champions
Making a Racquet: New Courts
Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees
Another Historical Harvest
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Haldane History: Football & Pepsi
A Special Breakfast Invite
Spooky Story Contest Winners
November & December Calendars
Host a Haldane Intern
School Foundation Fall Ball

Message from Dr. Duffy

Dear Haldane Community,

As the seasons change, I am grateful for the wonderful community we have here at Haldane. I hope that you were able to join us for our curriculum nights to meet your child's teachers and hear about the exciting learning that will be taking place this school year. A huge thank you to our amazing community partners - PTA, School Foundation, Booster Club, and Arts Alliance for sharing information about their events and ways we can support their work.

One of the district goals this year is to evaluate the 2020 Strategic Coherence Plan by gathering data across all district operations and systems. This audit will highlight accomplishments, identify curriculum and training gaps, capture stakeholder feedback, and build an evidence-based roadmap for the district's next strategic phase. The Strategic Planning Committee had their first meeting this month to review the goals of the strategic coherence plan. We began by identifying the types of evidence that will be collected in order to provide a comprehensive review of the plan. As part of this process, the school community will have an opportunity to provide feedback as we update the plan to move us forward. We will share more information regarding these opportunities in the coming months.

Additionally, as a district we are looking at our current technology practices and overall school climate. We recently provided a few opportunities for you to share feedback including: the Digital Equity Survey (technology) and the Panorama Survey (school climate). We will share the results of both surveys with the public soon.

Please enjoy the October Haldane Horizons as it celebrates our students' wonderful learning opportunities. Thank you for all that you do to support our children and school community.

Dr. Gail Duffy, Superintendent of Schools



THE HALDANE ESSENTIALS

Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Communication

Growth Mindset
Emotional Intelligence
Wellness







Ride the Bus!

Haldane celebrated all things school bus this month with Bus Safety Week and an app that gives parents real-time tools and peace of mind.

This month, the Haldane Transportation Department conducted grade-level bus safety training with our elementary and middle school students. They focused on appropriate bus riding behaviors, and the critical safety window of boarding, unboarding, and crossing.

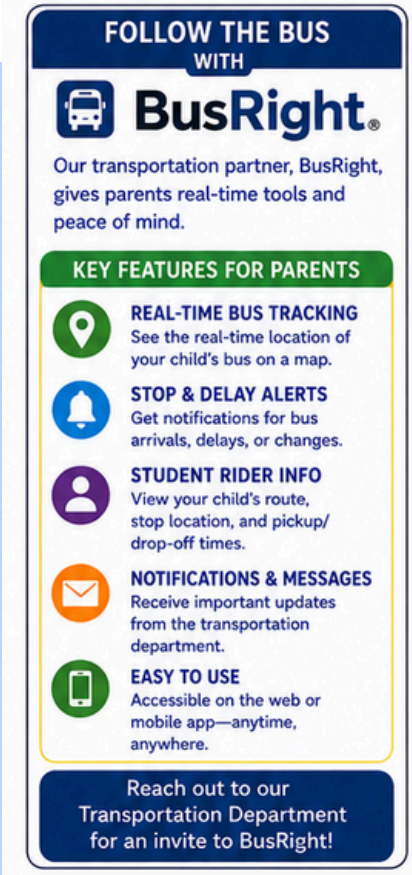
High school students held a “chalk your walk” to highlight safety tips for drivers and pedestrians.

Get the App, Track the Bus

Haldane now offers BusRight, an app that lets you track the bus real-time and receive notifications in the event of possible delays.

Bus families received an email in late September providing the link to download the app.

If you need assistance finding the link or signing up, reach out to transportation!



Melanie Giordano, School Transportation Operations Assistant
mgiordano@haldaneschool.org
845-265-9254, ext. 171

Haldane Strategic Plan Review & Refresh

Progress Probe: Six Years of The Haldane Essentials

In March 2020, on the eve of the COVID shutdown, Haldane completed a Strategic Coherence Planning process and launched The Haldane Essentials. This set of six critical skills and dispositions outlined what the district believed would define student success in the future.

Six years later, Haldane is evaluating the progress of the plan to consider current conditions and refine the strategic direction for the years ahead. A team of administrators and teachers will work through a three-phase approach during the 2026-2027 school year.







THE HALDANE ESSENTIALS

Critical Thinking
Problem Solving
Communication
Growth Mindset
Emotional Intelligence
Wellness

Phase 1: 2020 Plan Review

Assess progress on The Haldane Essentials to identify accomplishments and areas that still need attention.

Phase 2: Environmental Scan & Stakeholder Perspectives

Consider how Haldane and the broader environment have changed since 2020, including changes in student needs, enrollment and demographics, NYS expectations, and community priorities.

Phase 3: Strategic Direction & Plan Refresh

Identify which elements of the plan and our current practices should be sustained, strengthened, revised, or retired, along with a manageable set of strategic priorities and indicators of success.

Fire Prevention Week

Thank you to the Cold Spring Fire Company for joining our kindergarten students during Fire Prevention Week. Students learned all about the fire truck and how to stay safe during a fire. Firefighters encouraged students to talk with their families about a safe meeting place in the event of a fire at home. Students also learned about safe tech device charging - always on a hard surface, never on a bed or blanket!







A Very Haldane Halloween























Big Apple Crunch







Crunching in support of local New York State apple farmers.







Essential Experiences

Bringing The Haldane Essentials to life for our students.

Critical Thinking **Problem Solving** **Communication** **Growth Mindset** **Emotional Intelligence** **Wellness**

Trails & Teamwork: Students Explore and Connect

This October has been one of the best in the Hudson Valley, and our students had the privilege of spending time in its beauty to explore and connect. The 8th graders visited Lake Minnewaska and the 9th graders held a retreat at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center.









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Critical Thinking Problem Solving Communication Growth Mindset Emotional Intelligence Wellness

Building Bridges, Testing Forces





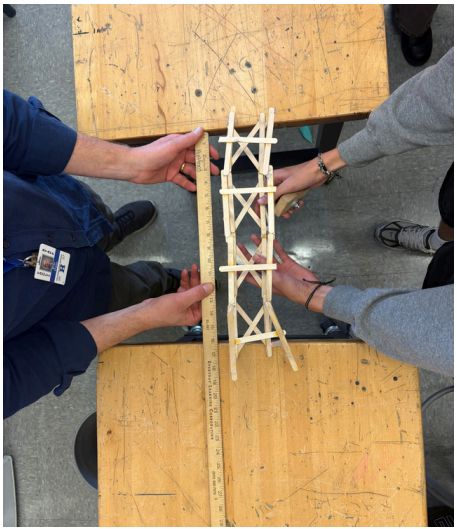
Last month, we shared the first stage of a bridge design project in our Principles of Engineering Design course. In exploration of the engineering and design process, students began with paper bridges built to support pennies, before progressing to popsicle stick bridges.

Student researched bridge designs, assessing scientific data and the credibility of their sources, before creating technical drawings for their builds. Teams considered how internal forces such as tension, compression, and torsion would impact the strength and durability of their designs.

Finally, bridge prototypes were constructed to span a 16" gap, featuring flat 2-inch wide roadways. Hot glue, wood glue, and 40 popsicle sticks per bridge came together in a variety of styles that were then put to the test to support increasing weight.

Once each bridge succumbed, the teams assessed the rubble to evaluate the successes and weaknesses of their designs. Failure points and opportunities for refinement were considered.





Haldane's STEAM curriculum is continuing to grow as we look toward the construction of two new STEAM labs in our Capital Project.



Homecoming Under the Lights

Homecoming week was packed with traditions, plus a first-ever opportunity for Varsity Tennis, Girls' Soccer, and Boys' Soccer to play under the lights.











League Champions



GIRLS' VARSITY TENNIS



GIRLS' VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

Making a Racquet On Our New Courts

Thanks to community support during the 2026 school budget vote, Haldane Girls' Varsity Tennis finished out their season on two brand new courts. Their homecoming match marked the inaugural play.



HALDANE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 INDUCTEES



On Saturday, October 10, during Homecoming Weekend, the Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its ninth class of outstanding athletes at a brunch reception at Cortlandt Colonial. Read about the successes of this year's inductees on the Haldane website.

Sam Sunday '56
Irene McGrath '78
Mike Moran '89
Damon Perpetua '94
Missy Lisikatos '17
Brandon Twoguns '18
1996 Girls' Basketball Team
1998 Girls' Basketball Team

Thank you to the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, the Blue Devil Booster Club, the Haldane Athletic Department, and our many local sponsors.

The Haldane Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Haldane athletes and coaches. Ready to nominate an athletic contributor? Here are the details.

Another Historical Harvest

Jackie McGrath's students turned out another crop of gourd-geous pumpkins!



Uncle Sam

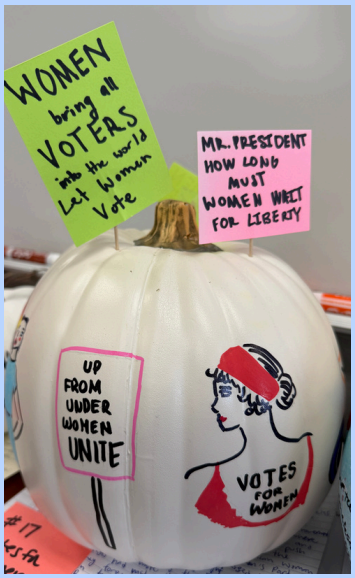


Salem Witch Trials



Neil Arms-gourd and One Giant Leap

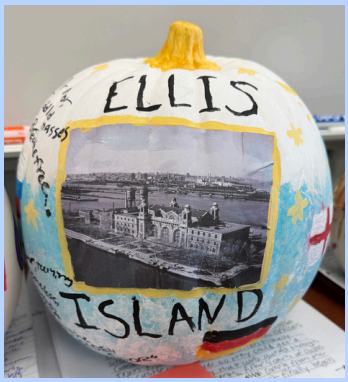




Votes for Women

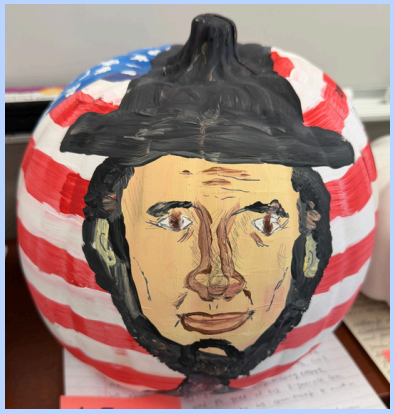


Jackie Robinson





Sesame Street



Abe Lincoln



Flapper Girls



Jamestown



The Evolution of Mickey Mouse



If You Make a Call on a Banana Phone

Dr. Duffy and our elementary classes have been laughing their way through the fast friendship of a child who makes a banana phone call to a gorilla in the jungle.

Haldane History

John Fairbairn, who attended Haldane during his freshman year from 1961-1962, reached out to share a fun piece of Haldane Blue Devils Football memorabilia.

During the 1960s, Pepsi-Cola bottling plants distributed posters like these for local high schools to print and display their football game schedules. The current Pepsi-Cola Co. in Newburgh, NY was founded in 1946 as the Pepsi-Cola Newburgh Bottling Company. Likely where this bit of Haldane History got its start!

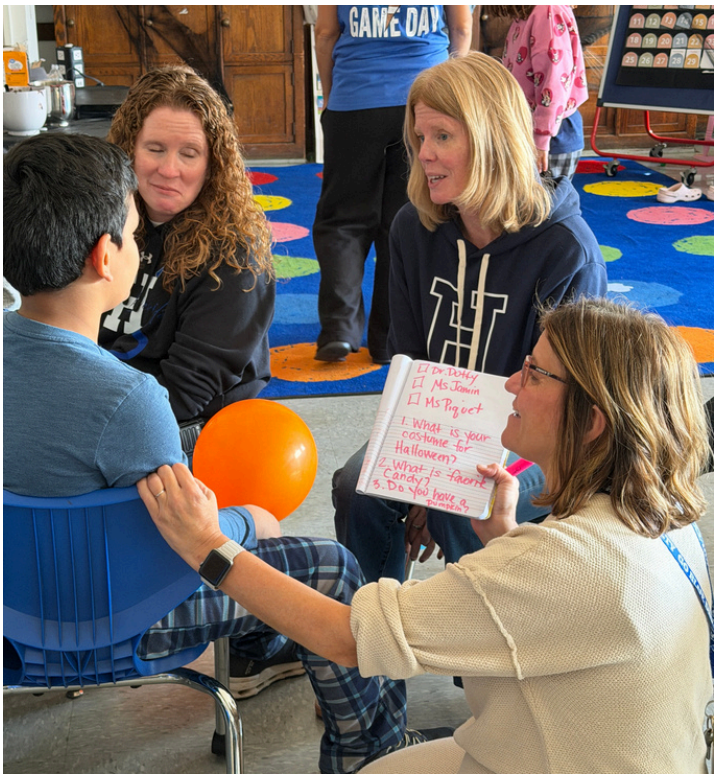


1st ROW--J. Post, Mgr.; M. Boulanger, Mgr.; R. Townsend, Mgr. 2nd ROW--J. Trocheck; H. Harrison; M. Ellis; R. Owen; A. Christian; W. Merante; L. Turner; C. Rapalje; K. Nash; B. Washburn; L. Lewis. 3rd ROW--Mr. Milkovich; T. Ogley; W. Mazucca; J. Kinney; R. O'Connor; S. Tompkins; D. Smith; R. Byrnes; P. Byrnes; J. Fairbairn; J. Leska; D. McIntyre; H. Howell; D. Jones; Mr. Champlin. 4th ROW--L. MacKenzie; H. Williams; B. MacDonald; G. Maddox; Jim Godbout.



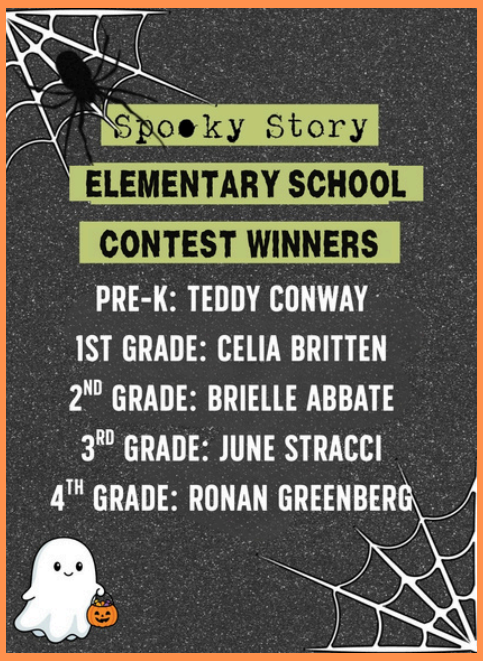
A Special Breakfast Invite



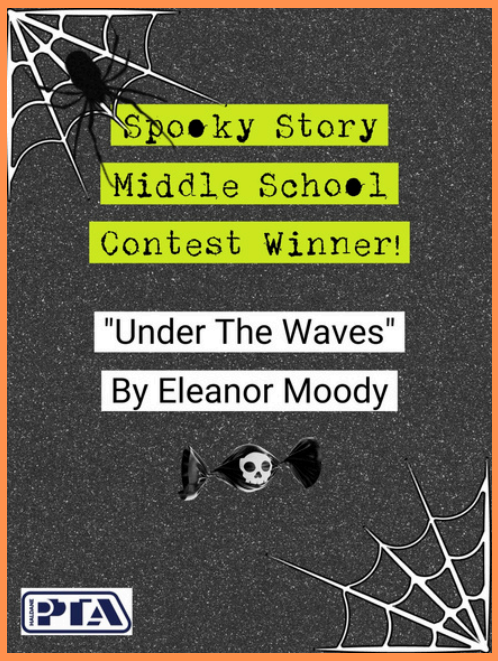


Dr. Duffy, Ms. Jamin, and Ms. Piquet enjoyed a pajama day waffle breakfast with Ms. Salka and Ms. Corless' class.

Congrats to the Haldane PTA Spooky Story Contest Winners





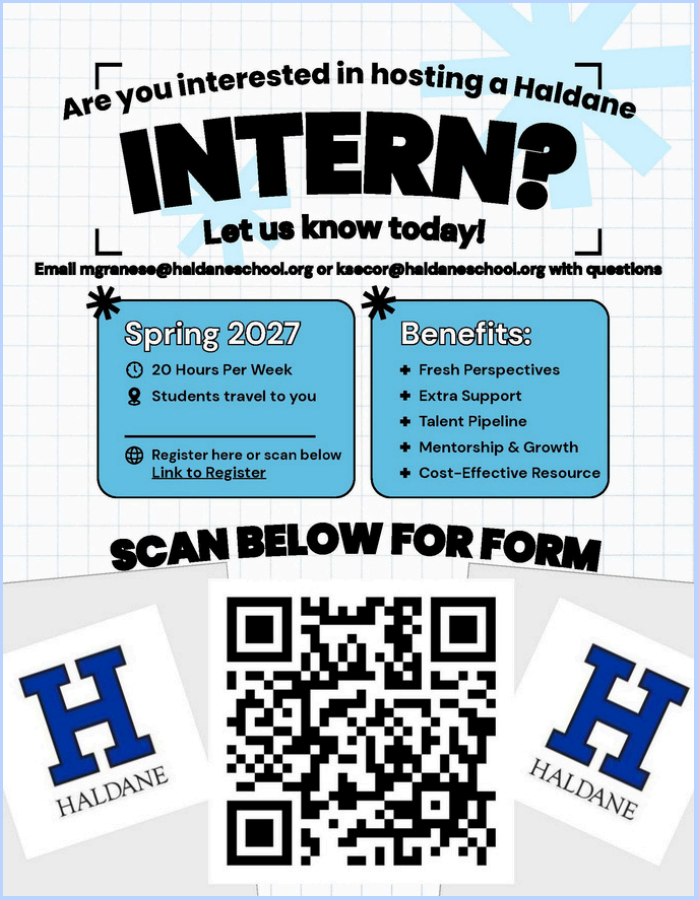


NOVEMBER '26

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
02 Dia de los Muertos EDI Committee 3:00pm	03 **SCHOOL CLOSED** Superintendent's Conference Day BOE Business Meeting 7:00pm	04 Garrison/Manitou Visit Students 9-11am Parents 6:30-7:30pm	05	06 Quarter 1 Ends	07 **HSF Fall Ball 7:30PM** 
09 Booster Club Meeting 7:00pm	10 PTA Meeting 7:00pm	11 **SCHOOL CLOSED** Veterans Day	12 Student/Faculty Volleyball Game 5:00pm BOCES Info Night 6:30pm	13	14
16 JV/V Winter Sports Begin	17 BOE Workshop Meeting 7:00pm	18	19 Elementary/ Middle School Picture Retakes High School Parent Conferences 6:00pm	20	21
23 National Honor Society Induction	24	25 **SCHOOL CLOSED** Thanksgiving Recess	26 HSF Cold Spring Turkey Trot **SCHOOL CLOSED** Thanksgiving Recess	27 **SCHOOL CLOSED** Thanksgiving Recess	28
30 Modified Winter Sports Begin			Register to run! 		

DECEMBER ‘26

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 BOE Business Meeting 7:00pm	02	03 ES/MS HALF DAY PreK 11:45am K-4 11:30am MS/HS 10:30am Parent Conferences	04 ES/MS HALF DAY PreK 11:45am K-4 11:30am MS/HS 10:30am Parent Conferences HS PLAY 7:00pm	05 HS PLAY 7:00pm
07	08	09	10 ES/MS 4-8 Chorus Concert 7:00pm	11	12
14 Booster Club Meeting 7:00pm	15 PTA Meeting 7:00pm BOE Workshop Meeting 7:00pm	16 ES/MS 4-8 Band Concert 7:00pm	17 HS Concert 7:00pm	18	19
21 Concert Snow Date	22	23 HALF DAY PreK 11:45am K-4 11:30am MS/HS 10:30am	24 SCHOOL CLOSED Holiday Recess	25 SCHOOL CLOSED Holiday Recess	26
28 SCHOOL CLOSED Holiday Recess	29 SCHOOL CLOSED Holiday Recess	30 SCHOOL CLOSED Holiday Recess	31 SCHOOL CLOSED Holiday Recess	01 SCHOOL CLOSED Holiday Recess	





Looking Ahead...School Closed

Tuesday 11/3
Superintendent's Conference Day

Wednesday 11/11
Veterans Day

Wednesday 11/25 - Friday 11/27
Thanksgiving Recess

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Maggie Valentine, President
Sean McNall, Vice President
Ezra Clementson, Trustee
Michelle Kupper, PhD, Trustee
Adam Burgoon, Trustee

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MaryAnn Seelke, EdD, Middle School Principal
Julia Sniffen, High School Principal
Erin Piquet, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Zizette Deutsch, 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