



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Letter from Dr. Benante

Dear Haldane Community,

I continue to be incredibly proud of how our school community has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, and supported our schools through the fall. As you will find in this month's update, we are striving to do our best to provide students with as much a sense of routine as possible, while supporting the many programs and activities that our students and families have come to expect from Haldane.

The months ahead will continue to present unique challenges - however, with these challenges also come opportunities to re-envision solutions that we may not have considered before. Read on to learn about how Haldane has taken advantage of some of the opportunities that have presented through this crisis.

OCTOBER 2020

P.E. Explores Philipstown

The View from Craigside Drive

Listening With Respect

Writing Celebrations Outside & Online

Blue Devils Mask Up To Play

Eagle Scout Brings Play Back

DCI Halloween Happiness

I wish you and your family continued good health!

Sincerely,
Phil Benante, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

New P.E. Guidelines Open the Door to Philipstown Exploration

The Haldane Physical Education Department is taking advantage of social distancing by teaching students about the local resources and hiking trails throughout Philipstown. During the months of October and November, middle and high school students are exploring these trails, experiencing the peacefulness of nature, and breaking away from screens to enjoy the scenery. Along the way, students discuss hiking safety and etiquette, while learning about the important history that is prevalent in the community. Judging by the feedback, they seem grateful for the escape. Many students often say, "Wow we didn't know this even existed," and they look forward to the chance to visit again.



Listening With Respect

Middle Schoolers discuss COVID-19, Social Justice, and the Election

During this tense and challenging time that we are living in and an especially difficult year, our team of school counselors, social workers, and psychologists are working to support our students.

Teaching students how to listen with respect is essential when discussing moral and philosophical issues that could be affecting themselves and others. The clinical staff and the 8th grade team collaborated to present students with information on how to disagree with respect, as well as on internet safety. Students were anxious to talk about the topic of respect and what it means, especially in light of COVID-19, social justice issues, and a contentious election.

The discussion was well-received and the counseling team will soon revisit classrooms to continue the conversations.

The View from Craigside Drive



Eamonn McGrory
5th Grade

What's your favorite part of being back at Haldane this year?

My favorite thing about being back at school is seeing all the friendly faces.

What's the toughest part of adjusting to Haldane's new procedures?

The hardest thing about Haldane's new procedures is wearing a mask for seven hours and not touching!

What are you most looking forward to this year?

I am looking forward to the graduation of elementary school this year.



Violeta Edwards Salas
8th Grade

What's your favorite part of being back at Haldane this year?

Getting to feel the sense of community, and being part of that.

What's the toughest part of adjusting to Haldane's new procedures?

Having the fear of Covid-19 in the back of your head at all times.

What are you most looking forward to this year?

Making new connections and learning, especially during this time.



Kate Jordan
10th Grade

What's your favorite part of being back at Haldane this year?

Getting to see all my teachers and friends; after being stuck at home for so long it's great to be at school and socialize.

What's the toughest part of adjusting to Haldane's new procedures?

The long periods - but we have been in school for almost a quarter and you get used to the lengthened amount of time.

What are you most looking forward to this year?

The possibility of having a volleyball season later in the year.

Writing Celebrations Outside and Online

Haldane Elementary School hosts virtual author visits and publishing parties to celebrate their work

Across the elementary school, our scholars have been furiously writing. Kindergarteners recently shared their writing focused on labeling key parts of their classrooms and illustrating their favorite places, including the zoo, movie theater, and pizza shop.

First grade writing celebrations (pictured right) allowed students to share their small moment stories. Students wrote about events such as apple picking, catching a frog, and boogie boarding. They then brought their moments to life by unfreezing their characters to make them move, talk, think, and feel using ellipses, pop out words, and exact actions.

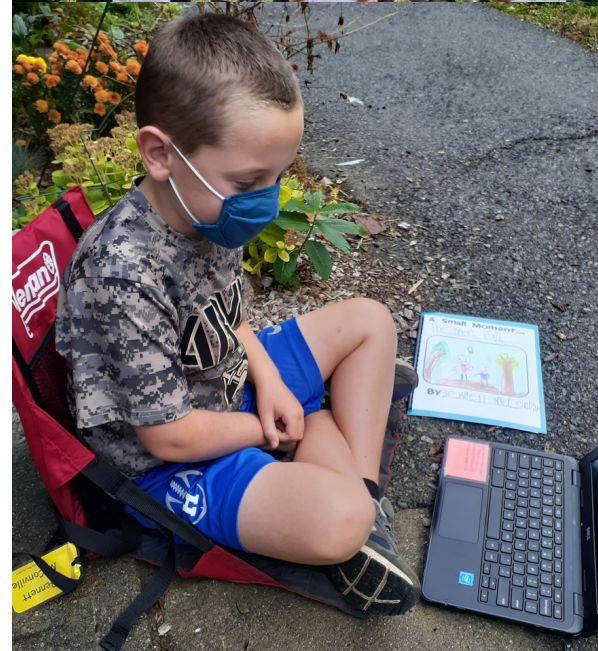
Our second graders are developing a whole series of books with recurring central characters and supporting characters. Nonfiction stories are being created in third grade with topics that include real events and informational text about many topics, including Minecraft and Roblox.

The fourth graders worked to develop interesting leads, dialogue, and detailed scenes for their stories. Fifth graders held an outdoor writing celebration to share stories that centered around problems such as broken arms, shark attacks, and everything in between.

Each grade level participated in virtual visits with published authors, including Colleen AF Venable, author of *The Oboe Goes Boom Boom Boom* (Grades K-3), and Michael Buckley, author of *Finn and the Intergalactic Lunch Box* (Grades 4-8).

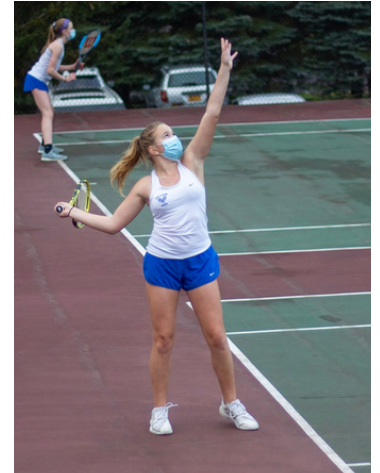
Throughout campus, Haldane elementary students are expanding on their writing abilities and learning the ropes as real authors.

The celebrations created empowering moments for all writers to share their work.



The Blue Devils Mask Up to Get Back In Action

New Fall Season I opens with Tennis, Cross Country, and Boys & Girls Soccer



Haldane Eagle Scout Brings "Play" Back to the Ground

Dylan Gunther, Haldane Senior, added socially distanced playscapes to the newly blacktopped playground at Haldane. Future phases of Dylan's project will expand the painted games and fitness activities across the play area.



The 6th grade Discover, Create, Innovate (DCI) class made Halloween cards for the senior citizens of the Cold Spring Friendship Center.

The center is still closed to visitors due to COVID-19, so the cards were sent home with lunch orders to spread Halloween happiness!



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