



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Letter from Dr. Benante

Dear Haldane Community,

As we begin to close what has been a remarkable year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for how our community came together to provide our students with an exceptional school experience - our educators, support staff, parents, Board of Education members - everyone played a role in helping facilitate an effective school year.

As of this writing, approximately 95% of Haldane students are receiving in-person instruction and our hope is that all students will return to campus in the weeks ahead.

APRIL | MAY 2021

Monster Magnificent Poetry

Clever COVID Guide for Kids

**Eurydice, The Trojan Women,
and Helen**

The View from Craigside Drive

Fall Season II Athletics

**Putnam County Youth Bureau
Award**

This month's issue contains images, writings, and happenings that reflect a gradual return to "school as usual" on our campus. Please enjoy and I look forward to seeing you in the weeks ahead!

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

Monster Magnificent Poetry Contest

Haldane 5th graders celebrated March Poetry Month with a STANZA BONANZA

During their poetry unit, Haldane 5th graders explored and wrote a variety of poetic forms including cinquains, haikus, free verse, and definition poems. In honor of National Poetry Month, each student selected their favorite poem to be display in the window of Split Rock Books on Main Street.

Raven Howell, Cold Spring resident and Story Monsters Poetry Director, invited the 5th graders to participate in a STANZA BONANZA poetry contest. Exploring the theme, "Why I am Monster Magnificent," students wrote poems for a kids' poetry compilation.

The poems feature uniquely magnificent characteristics that make each student lovely and different.

Howell shared these words, "What a pleasant surprise to find many talented Haldane poets submit their work to our national children's poetry contest. Every applicant shined, embracing their "magnificence" through thoughtful, whimsical, and inventive verse. Congratulations to all students, and a warm thank you to the enthusiastic support of Jennifer Windels. Winners have been chosen and will be included in the upcoming book anthology titled, (I Am) Monster Magnificent, published by Story Monsters Press. The tentative release date is in fall 2021."



The Haldane poets will have their work featured in the illustrated book to be published by Story Monsters Press, and each will receive \$15 and a copy of the book.

***Luciano Ruggiero
Eli Hudson
Aurelias Drinnon
August Skiptunis
Silvia Hardman
Harry McGrory
Sophia Taylor
Emma Cavanaugh
Chloe Hasler***

***Thomas Sexton
Aisling Stathos
Audrey Silverstein
Margaret O'Sullivan
Anyia Mercurio
Reagan Stickle
Eli Beato
Petra Brooks-Saladyga***

Monster Magnificent Poems

*Enjoy the full collection of 17 Haldane poems
to be featured in "Why I Am Monster Magnificent" [here](#).*

One With Nature

By Audrey Silverstein

Trampoline flips,
I'm a flying bird. Walking through the forest,
searching for the perfect hill to climb.

Swimming deep down, acting like I'm a fish.
Hiding in the tall, slimy lake, seaweed.

Climbing all the trees, I act like a squirrel.
I can swing, and I can swoop on the fun, fun vines.

Running through the fields,
wondering if I can become a wild horse.

Deep in the caves I see all the bats,
trying hard to not wake them up.

Smell the sweet, sweet pine in campsites galore!
I wish I could stay here forever.

I Am One With Magnificent Nature

I am Magnificent!

By Eli Beato

**I am so magnificent because I am very smart,
I get good grades and win at charades
every single time,**

**I am so magnificent because I am very selfless,
I never brag and I'm not a drag
and put others before myself,**

**I am so very magnificent
because I am all of these things
except for a great poet,**

**This is not an awesome poem
and will not blow your mind,
but it's kind of decent
so please do not throw it away!**

When I Play Baseball

By Thomas Sexton

On the field I am aware and active.

**I am athletic, monster powerful,
and am magnificent in strength.**

I can get a little competitive but I just have fun.

When I'm up at bat I'm excited and confident.

**When I make monster rounds in the field around
the bases, I feel energetic.**

**When I dash through home plate
I feel happy and proud.**

**When I play baseball
I am monster magnificent!**

Mountain Biking

By Petra J. Brooks-Saladyga

When I am on a bike I feel like a bird in the sky.

When I am racing down the hill
I feel like a herd of horses racing into the sunset.

When I am in the woods,
I feel like a deer jumping over logs.

When I feel the wind in my face,
I feel like a blue dragon going through the clouds.

When I am pedaling on a trail with beautiful roses
rocking in the wind,
I feel like I am one of those beautiful roses.

When the sunsets with the incredible view of light
pink and milky blue sky.
I feel like a koi fish swimming away from my
problems.

Now it's time to go home

Clever COVID Guide for Kids

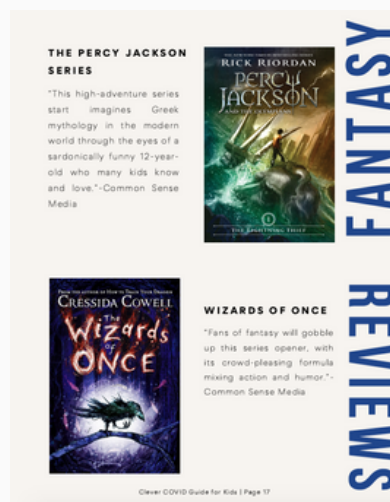
Recognizing that 2020 and 2021 were tough years for everyone, a group of 6th graders in Ms. Gesson's DCI class pooled their quarantine experiences to create a **Clever COVID Guide for Kids**.

In their words...

We learned just how resilient and creative we can be! Ms. Gesson's 6th grade class wanted to share how they kept themselves active and engaged while being at home, and created this helpful guide for anyone looking to keep busy or try a new hobby. Enjoy!



Enjoy their comprehensive guide [here](#).



Eurydice, The Trojan Women, and Helen

Reflections from Haldane Senior, Damian Vladimiroff

This year's season with Haldane Drama, while turbulent and riddled with complications and challenges at every corner, was all the while perhaps the most memorable experience of my young adult life.

The drive of my fellow actors and friends throughout this process was one of the most exceptional and inspirational I've ever seen. I'll never forget the early stages of rehearsal, when, despite the restrictions, the limitations coming from CDC and school guidelines, and the angst that came from fear of whatever the gaping void of COVID-19 might hurl at us, we still analyzed and perfected our parts, the traditions that generations of cast members upheld were preserved, and ultimately we had a performance.

As a senior, this was an immensely emotional process, and one that was, yes, filled with disappointments coming with the strains of the era of coronavirus; however, it did not hinder any friendships and connections held by the cast and crew—new and old. And especially among the seniors was a tight bond, molded by years of dedication to Haldane Drama. Despite the losses of this year, the seniors in the cast accumulated a sense of resilience that surmounts that of many previous graduating classes.

Lastly, I'd love to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Mechalakos, Ms. McCue, Damian McDonald, and all those behind the scenes who put in countless hours mastering the skill-set to make this performance truly memorable. While us performers without a doubt put in immense effort, it was those behind the scenes that calculated every action, mapped out the best outcome and braced for the worst scenarios, and when for a short time we were forced to stop rehearsals for "A Greek Trilogy", it was those backstage who thrust us back into position for our April performance.

This show truly exceeded all expectations of a season limited by COVID, and it was a great honor and pleasure to be part of such an amazing cast and witness firsthand the resilience and determination of so many in this community. Leaving now, I only wish I and other seniors could stay longer to help in future shows; at the same time, this year was only evidence that Haldane Drama is being left in perfect hands.



Photos: Jim Mechalakos



The View from Craigside Drive

Sasha Levy



Helen: Helen

What could you most relate to in your character?

A lot about Helen is that she isn't valued for anything other than her beauty because she is a woman. As a woman, I found it easy to connect with her feelings on how the world treats women.

How did working with such a small cast shape rehearsals and your relationships with each other?

I found that working with a small cast made it really easy to form a bond with them. It also allowed for more time to work on individual scenes.

What character would you love to play in a future performance?

I would love to play so many characters in the future. But if I come across another production of Helen by Ellen McLaughlin, I would love to play Athena.

Lucas Vladimiroff



Eurydice: Eurydice's Father

What could you most relate to in your character?

I could relate to his more introverted personality. He is not much of a monologue character so he is not very open to the audience about his emotions. It's clear what he's feeling over the course of the play, but he is only upfront about it at the end when he's lost everything. He's not closed off, he's just subtle, which is something I can connect to.

How did working with such a small cast shape rehearsals and your relationships with each other?

A small cast made rehearsals easier to work individually. We all got closer as a result of this small cast setup, and I can say that my cast in particular bonded really well and had a lot of fun.

What character would you love to play in a future performance?

In a musical I would love to play Sweeney Todd in Sweeney Todd (even though we already did it) and Judd in Oklahoma. In a play I would love to play Macbeth in Macbeth.

Jaclyn Landolfi



The Trojan Women: Helen

What could you most relate to in your character?

I relate to Helen in a way that I think almost anyone can. She was dealt an impossible situation but tried her best to persevere. I like to believe I have a fraction of the strength and confidence she has.

How did working with such a small cast shape rehearsals and your relationships with each other?

I think that working with a smaller cast made rehearsal feel a lot more one on one. It felt very personalized and we really had the opportunity to work closely with each and every part. We had more time to focus on the little things. I think that the cast was a lot closer and we were able to bond in a unique way. Having rehearsal with only a select 10 people instead of the normal 30 allowed us to form closer and more genuine connections.

What character would you love to play in a future performance?

I'm not sure what character I would like to be in a play specifically but I do know that Rose from Titanic is a dream part of mine.

Fall Season II Athletics

Varsity Football

The Haldane Varsity football team finished the season 2-4. While a 2-4 record might sound like an unsuccessful season, the Blue Devils lost 2 of those games by a total of 2 points. They had huge wins versus Woodlands and on the road against Rye Neck. The Devils battled all year, competing week in and week out against a very difficult schedule.

Quarterback, Daniel Santos, threw for 643 yards and 5 TDs while rushing for another 331 yards and 2 TDs. The rushing attack was led by his twin brother, Darrin Santos, with 411 yards and 4 TDs. Soren Holmbo led the receivers with 16 catches, 139 yards, and 1 TD, and Darrin added another 171 yards through the air. Ryan Irwin, Julian Forcello, and Doug Donaghy also had major contributions offensively, with 8, 7, and 7 catches, respectively. Leading the offensive line for big-time plays were Jake Mason and Will Etta.

Defensively, linebacker Darrin Santos led the team in total tackles with 30, and Giancarlo Carone at the Free Safety position added 28. Christian Pezzullo had 4 fumble recoveries and 3 defensive touchdowns, which led all of Section 1 Class C/D.

First-year starters Evan Giachinta, Dylan Rucker, Jesse Osterfeld, Soleil Gaines, and Thomas Tucker made huge contributions throughout the season.

The coaches are extremely proud of this team and the Senior Class.

Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball

The Lady Blue Devils concluded their Fall II campaign with a 13-2 record, and were seeded number one going into the playoffs. Having lost eight graduating seniors, the team started the season working on playing at a varsity speed and getting comfortable with new positions. Without a preseason, the girls pulled together quickly and worked extremely hard.

Coach Rohling praised, "This is one of the mentally toughest teams I've had the opportunity to coach. Even when we found ourselves down by five or more points, the players' mindsets were very strong and they fought their way to wins." The team's two losses were close matches against Croton, one in regular season and one in playoffs.

The team grew significantly throughout the season, both physically and in their volleyball knowledge. They made smart decisions on the court and worked extremely hard to improve their serve and serve receive accuracy.

The Junior Varsity team progressed immensely throughout the season, as well. With a record of 4-7, the team included a mix of first-time players and experienced players. The JV team's last game was their best by far - the improvement and teamwork was amazing!



FALL SEASON II SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS

Volleyball Football

ALL LEAGUE

Giancarlo Carone, Football

Will Etta, Football

Soleil Gaines, Football

Soren Hombo, Football

Ryan Irwin, Football

Christian Pezzullo, Football

Daniel Santos, Football

Darrin Santos, Football

Maria Barry, Volleyball

Megan Farrell, Volleyball

Meghan Tomann, Volleyball

Jill Weinpahl, Volleyball

ALL SECTION

Maria Barry, Volleyball

Putnam County Youth Bureau Award

Haldane Senior, Andrew Scicluna, honored for outstanding volunteer service

Each year, the Putnam County Youth Bureau recognizes area students for their contributions to the community. Haldane is proud to announce that Andrew Scicluna, 12th grader, was one of 14 students chosen this year.

Andy was nominated by High School Principal, Julia Sniffen, for his diverse involvement in Putnam County organizations, as well as the proactive, selfless way he supports his peers, teachers, and the local community. In addition to becoming an Eagle Scout, Andrew has volunteered over 200 hours working on initiatives such as opioid awareness, Putnam County 4-H Forums, local food pantries, Adopt-a-Highway cleanup projects, local libraries, and Memorial Day reflections and ceremonies.

Mrs. Sniffen said, "Andy is a true leader by example. His middle name could be service. He always thinks of others and when he sees a project he can take on, he does. He doesn't wait to be asked and he has never once sought recognition or the spotlight."

Andy and his parents are invited to attend the 36th Annual Youth Awards Event in June.

Congratulations, Andy!



**Andrew Scicluna, Senior, with
Julia Sniffen, High School Principal**

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Anne Dinio, Business Manager

Tim Walsh, Director of Facilities

Eric Romanino, Interim Athletic Director and Dean of Students