



HALDANE HORIZONS

A newsletter of the Haldane Central School District



Message from Dr. Benante

Dear Haldane Community,

I think this issue of Horizons best reflects the sense of community on our campus. From the newly organized group of elementary greeters, the student performances prior to the Winter Recess, or the annual "Battle of the Tunnel" games, this sense of community has pervaded our campus.

It's one of those characteristics that make Haldane a special place for our students, families, faculty, and staff. Read on to learn more about what our students have experienced on campus over the past two months.

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

DECEMBER 2022 JANUARY 2023

Elementary Greeters on the Job
Holiday Concert Send-Off
Lunar New Year Fortunes
McCollum's Memoirs
Sixth Grade Visits TOEC
Middle School Drive for Homeless
A Midsummer Night's
View from Craigside Drive
Battles of the Tunnel
Haldane Student Spotlight
Dodge Challenger Challenge
TRUE Blue Responsibility
Hallway Match of the Minds

Welcome to Haldane!

Haldane Elementary's new team of Greeters took their posts on December 1.

After completing the job application process including gathering references and interviewing with Mrs. Jamin, Haldane Elementary's new team of Morning Greeters were hired and suited up.

Prepare to be greeted by: Josephine "JoJo" Moyer, Elisha Cardozo, Juniper Sizemore, Charlie Crothers, River Silverlinck, and Alice Bunye.

Morning Greeter

8:30-8:45

Playground and Office

- This position is open to 3rd through 5th Graders
- You must be friendly and outgoing
- You must be a good role model to other students
- You must have two teacher references (one from your homeroom teacher)
- You must have one non-school reference (not a parent) who can say you are responsible (coach, neighbor, tutor, family friend)



Holiday Concert Send-Off

Haldane High School's Band & Chorus sent Elementary students and staff off to the holiday break with a spirited performance lead by Mr. Sauer and Ms. Stein.



Lunar New Year Fortunes

Courtesy of the Haldane PTA EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee, elementary and middle school students took home fortunes of kindness in recognition of the Lunar New Year. The high school International Club helped prep the signature red envelopes with kind fortunes.

January 22 marked the start of the Year of the Rabbit under the Lunar New Year. This Chinese New Year holiday represents new beginnings and the renewal of good health, happiness, and fortune.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

Year of the Rabbit

2023

Country / 1 Tradition & 1 At-home activity

- * China / CHŪNJĪÉ**
 Red is considered to be a lucky color. Red envelopes with gifts of money are given to children, families dress in red, and red lanterns are used for decor. *You can wear red clothing or make a red paper lantern to decorate.*
- * Thailand / SONGKRAN**
 The "Water Splashing Festival" represents the Thai New Year and is celebrated in April. Mandarin oranges are eaten for good luck. *Eat Mandarin oranges or other citrus fruits.*
- * South Korea / SEOLLAL**
 Koreans gather together to pay respects to deceased family members in a ceremony called charye and eat rice cake soup. *Reflect on a loved one who has passed and think of something you'd wish to say to them or a fond memory you share.*
- * Singapore / TUANYUAN**
 People shop at festive bazaars where they buy New Year's treats like pineapple tarts and "nian gao" (sweet and sticky rice cakes). *Enjoy some pineapple and sticky rice for good luck.*
- * Malaysia / KONGSI RAYA**
 Families eat a salad style dish called "yee sang" for good luck. As ingredients are added to the dish, they say phrases like "Good luck and great prosperity!" and "May life always be sweet!" *Your family could make a special dish together and say kind, happy phrases while making it.*
- * Taiwan / CHŪNJĪÉ**
 It is considered good luck not to eat all of the fish and pineapple at the special New Year meal, and to keep leftovers to have as treats for later. *You can help your family clean up after the meal and put away the leftovers in special containers for later.*
- * Philippines / MEDIA NOCHE**
 On Lunar New Year when the clock strikes midnight, children and adults jump for joy; legends say that will make you grow taller. *Ask your parents to let you stay up a little late and have everyone jump up and down or have a dance party.*
- * Vietnam / TET**
 People decorate their homes with branches, flower blossoms, bonsai, and other plants to celebrate the coming of spring. *Decorate your home with a special piece of nature that reminds you of spring.*
- * Indonesia / IMLEK**
 A huge clean-up gets underway days before the New Year when houses are cleaned from top to bottom, to sweep away any traces of bad luck. *Help clean up your house.*
- * Tibet / LOSAR**
 During ceremonies, people burn incense to appease local spirits, deities, and protectors. *Ask your grownup if you can burn incense or light a candle at home.*

Equity Diversity Inclusion
Partnered with H.S. INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The Year of the Rabbit is believed to symbolize longevity, positivity, auspiciousness, wittiness, cautiousness, cleverness, deftness, and self-protection.



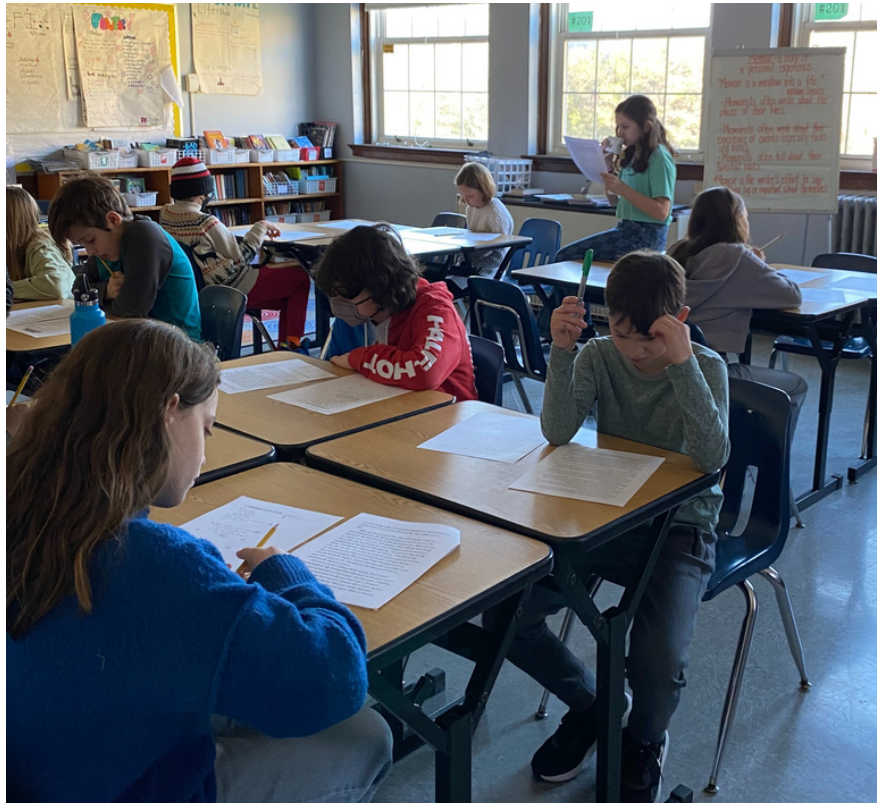
McCollum's Memoirs

Haldane sixth graders highlight important moments through memoir writing.

Mrs. McCollum's 6th Grade English classes recently completed a personal narrative writing unit of study, edging toward memoir. A personal narrative does not attempt to tell a writer's entire life story, as one would expect to find in an autobiography, but instead zooms in on an important moment or event.

The writer of a personal narrative does, however, try to bring the elements of story to his or her true story. This writer also asks, "What is this story really about?" bringing that idea forward just as a fiction writer shapes his or her story so as to advance a meaning or a theme. In memoir, especially, the message is primary.

Upon completion, writers read each other's pieces, one by one, and leave a comment, a compliment, or connection as a way in which to celebrate!



Haldane Helpers for Homeless

Ellie Shields and Bruno Lopez from the 6th grade DCI class worked tirelessly to collect items requested by Hudson Housing in Poughkeepsie. They collected enough donations to fill two vans!

The staff at Hudson Housing are incredibly grateful for the hard work of these two students, and are thankful for the generosity of the Haldane community.

Sixth Grade Visits Taconic Outdoor Ed

Team bonding at the Taconic helps set the tone for Middle School success.



The View from Craigside Drive

On December 9, 10, and 11, Haldane Drama presented A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Here's what some of the leading cast members had to say about Haldane's take on the Shakespearean drama.



Elaine Llewellyn



Oberon, King of the Fairies

What could you most relate to in your character?

Oberon isn't the most relatable: he drugs his wife and others, steals people, is magical. But I love his storytelling. Oberon has many whimsical monologues, and I loved bringing Shakespeare's beautiful language to life and making the stories understandable and captivating.

What was your favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play?

I loved the creative movement that our director and choreographer integrated into the show. The fight scenes, hammock, slide, and more added visual texture to the show and made it fun to watch, while the dances brought the story to life and highlighted each character's journey.

Will you be performing in Oklahoma at Haldane? If so, in what role?

I will be playing Ado Annie in Oklahoma!

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

I'd love to play Reno Sweeney in Anything Goes, Velma Kelly in Chicago, Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd, Maureen in Rent, the Witch in Into the Woods, and Annie in Annie Get your Gun!

Sam Bates



What could you most relate to in your character?

His sense of humor.

What was your favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play?

I thought Haldane did a great job of making it very understandable while still using the original Shakespearean dialect!

Will you be performing in Oklahoma at Haldane? If so, in what role?

Yes, as Curly!

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

I am graduating this year, but if I still had Haldane shows ahead of me I'd love to play Harold Hill in The Music Man or Orin Scrivello in Little Shop of Horrors!

What was your favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play?

My favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play was in Elaine Llewelyn's character Oberon -- the King of the Fairies had a dark, androgynous look. The use of aerial silks throughout the play aided in showing the audience Oberon's ever-lurking presence during times of emotional trouble for the lovers.

Will you be performing in Oklahoma at Haldane? If so, in what role?

I will be in Oklahoma! I'm going to be playing Laurie in the Blue Cast.

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

In a future performance, I would love to play Sally Bowles in Cabaret!

Maya Gelber



What could you most relate to in your character?

Helena is hard on herself -- her insecurity and self-loathing becomes something of a monster when she places her worth in what people think of her and how they act around her. While I have more confidence and self-love than Helena, it's important to take her extremes as a cautionary tale - to be reminded not to compare myself to others, and not place my worth in other people when I get insecure.

Conrad White



Lysander

What could you most relate to in your character?

Lysander is driven by his heart. His decision to escape Athens in favor of marrying his love expresses this well. I feel that I'm driven by my heart more than my head fairly often, which was something I immediately drew from when playing the part.

What was your favorite part of Haldane Drama's take on the play?

Haldane Drama did an outstanding job casting and portraying the fairy-folk. The makeup and dances made each spirit feel unique and faunal. Many fairies could be seen hiding onstage during scenes which was a great detail. The perspective of the fairies makes the struggles of the four lovers feel trivial, as if their lives were a play for Oberon and Hippolyta to watch. This was a surprise for me, as I only felt the eyes of the fairies as I watched a recording of the entire show, which left me more content knowing there was more for me to discover about the show even after it was finished.

Will you be performing in Oklahoma at Haldane? If so, in what role?

I will be performing in Haldane Drama's production of Oklahoma as Curly!

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

In future performances, I would love the chance to play antagonists. The opportunities I've been given onstage have corresponded to leading men fairly often, but I want to test my strengths in other roles. I find villains to be much more intriguing and captivating onstage, especially once you understand their motives. Roles like Javier in Les Misérables have always caught my eye because they are destined to lose, and within that inevitability are often broken characters. I'd love to portray more conflicted characters in the future.

Portraits courtesy of Jim Mechalakos

HALDANE & DRAMA

Spring Musical Coming Soon!
March 17-19, 2023

Two casts! Attend more than once to see unique performances.



Battles of the Tunnel 2023

Fans of all ages came out to support Haldane Blue Devils Varsity Boys' Basketball take on the Beacon Bulldogs in the 5th Battle of the Tunnel on Friday, January 27. Haldane defended their title as Tunnel champs, winning 77-65. The victory was extra sweet for the Blue Devils as Senior Matteo Cervone hit his 1,000th career point at Haldane. Haldane Girls' Varsity battled it out at Beacon the night before, falling 44-27. Beginning in 2020, the Battle of the Tunnel swaps home courts each year. The friendly feud doubled up in 2021 to fill a COVID-thin schedule. The Haldane boys have taken home the trophy for the past four battles.

Photos courtesy of Amy Kubik



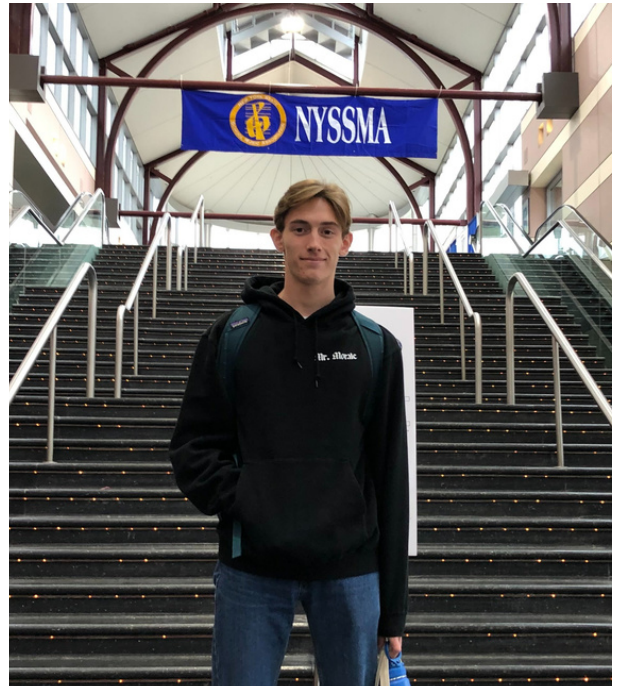
Haldane Student Spotlight: Conrad White, Senior

2022 NYSSMA All-State Chorus

Conrad White and Chorus Director Sam Sauer traveled to the 2022 NYSSMA All State Winter Conference during the first weekend of December. They attended four jam-packed days of student rehearsals, music exhibitions and teacher professional learning opportunities. The weekend culminated in an exceptional performance by the 2022 All State Mixed Chorus, where Conrad represented Haldane in the best way possible.

In the Spring of 2022, Conrad scored extremely well on his NYSSMA solo at the Solo Festival which entered him in the selection process. He was one of 203 accepted students out of the 2,053 vocal applicants! This is an extremely high honor in the field of music education.

Congrats to Conrad!



Representing Philipstown

Conrad also led the Pledge of Allegiance at the January 20 Inauguration Ceremony for Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg.



FEBRUARY 2023

**MON-FRI
6-10**

Kindergarten
Registration

**MON-TUE
20-21**

NO
SCHOOL
Winter Recess

**TUE
7**

Junior Class
Pasta Dinner
Fundraiser

**WED-FRI
22-24**

8th Grade
Frost Valley
Trip

**FRI
10**

Elementary
Movie
Night

**FRI
24**

Middle/High
School
Q3 Progress Reports

**SAT-SUN
11-12**

Ski Club
Trip to
Gore Mountain

**THU
16**

Middle School
Community Read

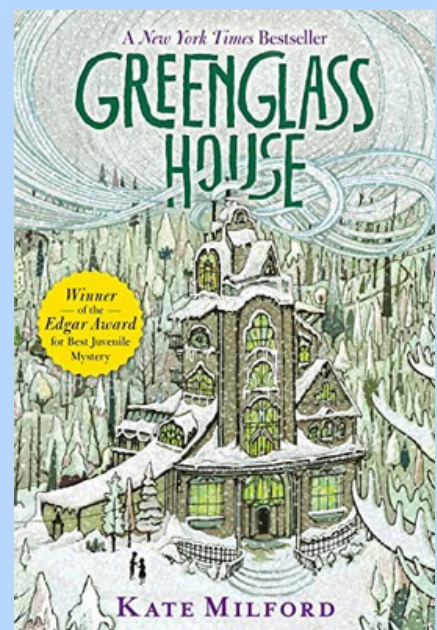
**THU
16**

BOCES
High School Parent
Info Night

Join Us!

Middle School Community Read

**Thursday, February 16
4:30 - 6:00 PM**



Dodge Challenger Challenge

Deputy Anthony Tolve and Haldane 9th graders, Aiden Kenny and Dominic Kulan went tire-to-tire in a self-designed competition of model car building skills. In the end, the friendly feud came down to Deputy Tolve and Aiden. The "judging" by Superintendent Dr. Benante and Haldane Art Teacher Ms. Branco put Deputy Tolve in the lead.

Rematch coming soon!



TRUE Blue Responsibility

Continuing the TRUE Blue program, sixth grade DCI students Carla and Edie created a "Ride into Responsibility" board to highlight HMS students. **Well done Haldane!**



Hallway Match of the Minds



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sean McNall, President

Peggy Clements, Ph. D., Vice President

Ezra Clementson, Trustee

John Hedlund, Trustee

Maggie Valentine, Trustee

ADMINISTRATION

Philip Benante, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

Christine Jamin, Elementary School Principal

MaryAnn Seelke, Ed. D., Middle School Principal

Julia Sniffen, High School Principal

Regina Kaishian, Ed. D., Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Josh Elder, Director of Curriculum and Human Resources

Mike Twardy, Interim Director of Facilities

John Bauerlein, Interim Athletic Director and Dean of Students

Catherine Platt, School Business Manager