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HALDANE WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Arden Conybear

New Haldane superintendent, Dr. Benante, is focused on setting a new path for Haldane that includes input from the community, especially students. "That's really important to me, that whatever actions I take here as superintendent are grounded in understanding of what the student perspective is here at Haldane," said Dr. Benante.

After spending 16 years in the Arlington School District as an elementary teacher, high school assistant principal, elementary school principal, and deputy superintendent, Dr. Benante decided to take on the challenge of being Haldane's superintendent. His first task was to spend time listening and examining the strengths and values of our school system.

In order to understand the perspective of students at Haldane, Dr. Benante prioritized creating a student advisory council, "It is important to me that students feel they have a connection with me."

When asked to point out

an area of focus for Haldane, Dr. Benante commented, "One area where we need to focus is a review of our literacy program K-12." He believes students need a strong balance between reading and writing and he feels that can be created at Haldane. He also explained that at Arlington, each staff member, or a team, had one specific role and responsibility - made possible by the size of the staff. At Haldane, the smaller size makes it necessary for everybody to tackle multiple tasks. This involves a strong level of teamwork,

which he believes will accomplish great things.

Dr. Benante and his wife, Kerri, have 2 boys, Cole (10), and Luke (7). He enjoys Crossfit when he is not working, as well as hiking, and is currently training his dog, Scout. His boys play baseball and soccer, and he loves to join them on the field.

Dr. Benante is excited about his new position at Haldane. "It's a good change, both professionally and personally." One important thing he wants students to know is that

they can reach out to him, "If students have a thought, perspective, or an issue that they not hesitate to reach out to me if they feel I can be of help to them."

On behalf of *The Blue Print* staff, good luck, Dr. Benante, and welcome to Haldane!



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HALDANE'S GOT SPIRIT

Spirit Week

Riley Bissinger

For the week of September 24th to the 29th, morale was high at Haldane High School for Spirit Week 2018, a traditional precursor to the annual homecoming football game.

The school-wide celebration kicked off on Monday with throwback day. Students dressed in fashion from almost every recent decade, from 60s hippie to 90s grunge.

Tuesday was teacher-look-alike day, a new day this year. Lynchs, Virgadamos, and even a few Richters were seen roaming the hallways. "I was Mr. Lynch and I carried around my twenty calculators all day," says senior Katelyn Pidala. "I chose him because I own a Columbia sweatshirt and several watches." The faculty seemed to enjoy this day almost as much as the students, and even principal Julia Sniffen joined in on the fun.

Wednesday was theme day, and each grade was assigned a theme that best fit their class. The themes this year were fire freshmen, summer sophomores, jammin' juniors and space seniors. Freshmen filled the hallways with red, while sophomores wore leis and sunglasses. Juniors dressed in pajamas and seniors came to school looking like they were from another world. Each theme was chosen by the indi-

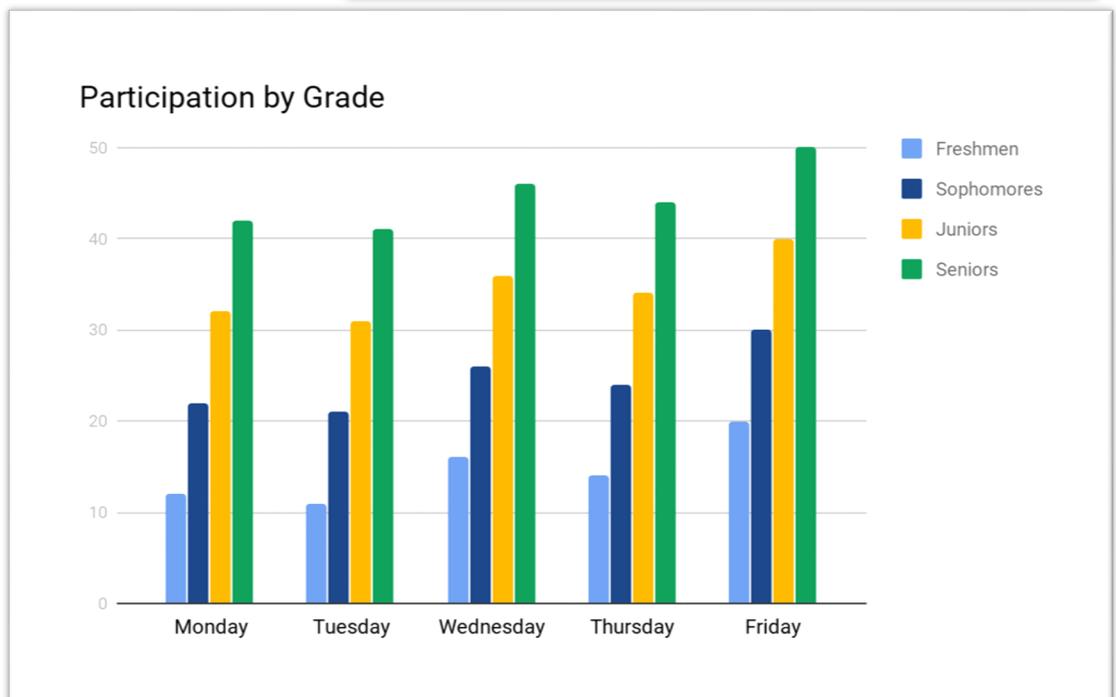
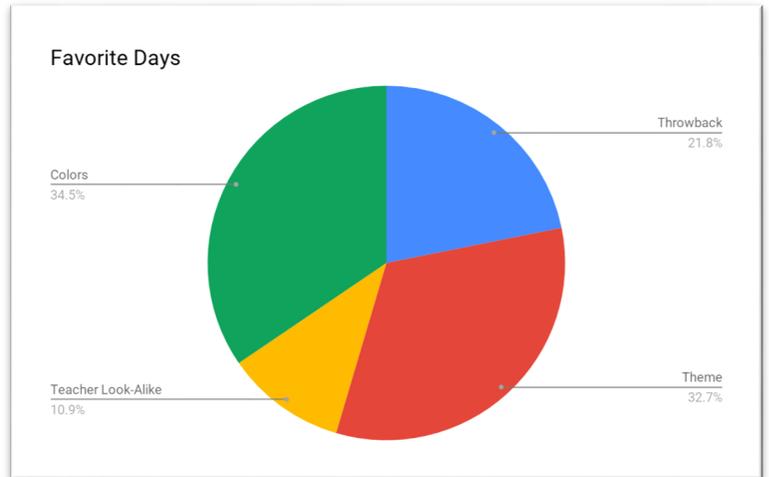
vidual student councils.

Thursday was color day, with freshmen wearing green, sophomores purple, and juniors red. Seniors donned their traditional black senior shirts, with THIS IS OUR K1N9DOM written on the back, the phrase specific to the class of 2019.

Bringing the week to a close was blue and white day. The entire high school, students and faculty alike, wore the Haldane colors and cheered during the pep rally. It was a spirit week to remember!



The Lynchs



HALDANE'S GOT SPIRIT

Homecoming Dance

Sophia Scanga

On September 29, 2018, students from Haldane High School tore it up on the dance floor celebrating the annual Homecoming dance. With almost 200 students attending, high schoolers got to take pictures with friends in the photo booth and dance under the gold string lights illuminating the gym.

There was only a break in the dancing to announce the homecoming court. This year's homecoming Queen was Willa Fitzgerald and Sam Curto was crowned King. The runners up for this year's homecoming Queen were Helena Alvarez, Julia Rotando, Evy Ashburn, and Robin Ben Adi. Vlad Siriia, Thomas Percacciolo, Sam Giachinta, and Matt Ortiz were the runner ups for King.

Mazzie Maxwell said, "I thought it was pretty fun, they should play songs that people request and I'd go next year."

Elizabeth Nelson, a sophomore at Haldane commented, "The homecoming dance was absolutely wonderful. I loved the atmosphere, music, and of course dancing the night away. I will most definitely be attending next year's dance."

The homecoming dance is something many students look forward to every year and enjoy the overall vibe. This year's homecoming was a success just like all others.

Homecoming Games

Julia Rotando

Football:

On Friday 9/28/18 the Varsity Football Team took on Hastings under the lights to start off the weekend's sporting events. During a pre-game celebration, seniors Sam Giachinta, Thomas Percacciolo, Matt Ortiz, John Hankel, Brad Dowd, Craig Dowd, Will Westerhuis, Nate Allen, Adam Hotaling, Everett Knapp and their respective families were all recognized before playing their last home game as Blue Devils. Hastings cut the game short by forfeiting at halftime, leaving Haldane with a 35-0 win.

Senior Sam Giachinta added three touchdowns along with Senior Thomas Percacciolo and Junior Jagger Beachak both had one as well. Darrin Santos had 78 passing yards in the game along with Sam Giachinta who had 94 rushing yards and Thomas Percacciolo having 46 receiving yards. Our boys pulled out the victory to end the team's final home game for the season. Good Luck to all our senior boys in college and

in all of their future endeavors.

Boys Soccer:

Saturday morning the Varsity Boys Soccer team took a 3-0 fall to Class A Our Lady of Lourdes. "It was an equally matched game, and because of that was really fun to play. They had a few lucky breaks that led to some unfortunate goals, but everyone had a good attitude about it. Even in the parking lot after both teams were shaking hands and wishing good luck," added Senior Captain Justin Roffman, "although a rough start we still continue to work hard in practice to make it to the sectional finals".

Girls Soccer:

Saturday afternoon the Girls Varsity Soccer team defeated Irvington in a tough 5-2 matchup. Freshman Lili Westerhuis stepped up scoring two goals, along with Junior Captain Jade Villella also having two, followed by Senior Maura Kane-Seitz having one as well. Two Assists came from Junior Bela Monteleone, with another

two from Senior Captain Julia Rotando. "Not only am I proud of how all of the girls played, but this was a big win for the team and brought up our team's confidence. We have a lot of underclassmen stepping up and I couldn't be happier with their effort, they were a huge part of this win," said Senior Captain Jamie Calimano after the win. The girls continue on their 4-6 season with high hopes to make it far in the postseason.

Varsity Tennis:

Our Varsity Girls Tennis team took on Pawling Saturday morning for their Homecoming match, playing two singles and a doubles match going 3-0. Playing in the single matches were Senior Ashley Haines and 8th grader Amanda Johanson. Along with them, the doubles match was played by Junior Anneka Chan and Freshman Mazzie Maxwell. The Lady Blue Devils came out on top of all three games. After the match, Senior Captain Olivia Olsen stated, "it was a great opportunity for our younger girls to get some experience against one of the weaker teams, all of the girls played great and won easily."



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS PREPARE FOR COLLEGE

Alden Dobosz

As the fall continues to progress, High School Seniors gather up what they need to prepare to apply to colleges and meet the upcoming deadlines. This is certainly a stressful, yet exciting time for seniors, as they negotiate their next chapter of their lives. There are a number of things that go into getting accepted into a place of higher education, such as extracurricular activities, volunteer service, work experience, academics, athletics, and much more. If you're a senior and don't know what you want to do during the next four years of your life, it is definitely time to start seriously planning your next step, as now is crucial.

Someone who is right in the middle of this strenuous process is Haldane's guidance counselor, Kristen Mosco. She advised, "At this point in the fall, seniors should have started their Common Application essays, requested their

letters of recommendation from teachers and other faculty, have linked their senior questionnaire through Naviance, as well as through the Common App." Some of the most key parts to a successful application are the essay (Common Application), letters of recommendation (at least two from teachers, up to six total), your resume, and of course, getting good grades throughout the years. Students should apply to six or so schools, with about two in the "reach" category, meaning you might fall short of their standards; two "target" schools, meaning that you are on par with their criteria; and about two "safety" schools, meaning that you have almost a guarantee you'll be accepted.

"The most important deadlines to meet are the minimum of two weeks for the letters of recommendation, the deadlines for the application of the colleges of

their choice, as well as the financial aid deadlines for those colleges," added Mosco. One thing about college that prospective students and their families are suspect about is the cost (tuition). Although it won't be cheap no matter what, there is help. Colleges and universities give out financial aid to most students every year, to ease the cost. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens October 1 and ends June 30, 2019. It may not be well known that there are several types of application options. They are: Regular Decision (RD), Early Action (EA), Early Decision (ED), and Rolling Admissions (RA). The deadlines for each type all vary by school. As a senior in the fall, you will have another opportunity to retake the SAT or ACT, to try and improve your score from taking it as a junior. Try to complete your personal essay (Common App) by

November 1 or so.

The fall is a great time to visit the schools that prospective students may have an interest in, if this hasn't been done already. Once you have gathered everything you need, contact the guidance office to send your transcript to your college(s). "Seniors are more prepared than they think they are, so it's a good idea to take a deep breath and put things into perspective. It's also important to realize most of the hard work is already done, but take advantage of what Haldane has to offer, like the essay workshop, and Naviance. I think the essay causes the most stress, but just take it step by step," Mosco said on her overall thoughts regarding the deadlines and processes. The whole experience is lengthy and difficult, yet promising, as it could propel you on a new, exciting journey into the next chapter of your life.

FALL SPORTS PICTURES



CELEBRATE FALL IN THE HUDSON

Riley Johanson &
Liam Marrinan

As the days get shorter and the leaves change color, the Hudson Valley comes alive with festivals and events that make our area's fall special. So far this fall we have experienced many diverse and unique events fit for people of all interests; if you didn't get out to see them this year, maybe mark your calendars for Autumn 2019!

The New York Renaissance Fair- A longtime tradition and classic event in our area is the annual Renaissance festival that runs August 4th through September 30th. This is a celebration of all things Medieval and honors the European Middle Ages in a way that's fun for everyone and provides entertainment for all. Another year of fun at this festival has passed with success and participants, and fans look forward to next year.

The Moving Vietnam Wall- During October 4th through October 7th, the Travelling Vietnam Wall memorial was in Putnam County allowing veterans, family members and anyone else pay tribute to those lost in Vietnam. This memorial was temporarily held at the Putnam County Veterans Memorial park and was open to the public. The traveling wall continues to be an honor to all those who sacrificed

everything far from home in Vietnam.

The Blaze- The Blaze, held in Cortlandt Manor from October 4th to November 13th is an enjoyable and captivating event attended by over 150,000 visitors every year. With over 7,000 carved jack-o-lanterns it is a truly spectacular event. Their preparation for the event and carving begin in June taking them months finish all 7,000 pumpkins. This popular event routinely sells out but luckily currently tickets are available on The Blaze's website so buy your tickets to this fantastic event while you still can.

Apple Picking - Located in East Fishkill, Fishkill Farms is a fantastic way to spend a day. With over 750 acres of farmland, 9 types of apples, 3 types of pears, and pumpkins there is plenty for you to pick. Hours for this are 9am to 5pm open every day, but on Tuesdays admission fee is free. Pricing is based on the amount of fruit picked on top of the admission fee. They also sell delicious apple cider, doughnuts, and already picked apples. For any more helpful information on orchard maps, specific pricing, and more visit Fishkill Farms' website.



SENIORS KAYAK THE HUDSON

Riley Bissinger,
Katelyn Pidala, &
Julia Rotando

September 14th was a humid and cloudy Friday, but that didn't stop the senior class of 2019 from going on the school's annual kayak trip. The grade was split into two groups, with each group spending one half of the day kayaking up and down the Hudson River, and the other half hiking up Mount Beacon.

The kayak trip was run through Mountain Tops Outfitters, whose employees were extremely kind to the students, patiently helping them into their boats and later instructing them clearly while they were kayaking on the Hudson. Students travelled for about two hours, starting at Long Dock Park

and looping around Denning Point. They also drifted underneath a pair of train tracks that had trains actively racing across. Kayaking on the Hudson was peaceful and enjoyable for everyone. Although a few students did capsize, all in all it was a successful and fun trip up and down the Hudson.

The hike up Mount Beacon was a much more strenuous journey. The 40 minute hike was done in the morning for the first group and in the afternoon after lunch for the other. For each group, there were a few members who opted out of the hike for several reasons. One of those students was Jamie Calimano, who has said, "Yes, I was

one of the few that didn't make it to the top. Myself along with a small group of my fellow classmates just didn't have enough in us to make it all the way. After getting about halfway, we decided to take our trip back down the mountain. Mr. Sassano decided to join us and come down, he too was exhausted. On our trip back down we did come to a few problems. The funniest being Justin Markey dropping his glasses off of the stairs and having to figure out how to get them back. Although we didn't get to the top it still was one of the best class trips I've been on and I'm very glad I went." For those who did go to the top, it was a beautiful view of the Hudson Valley and a perfect place to take pictures!

The trip as a whole was very fun and was a great opportunity for students to bond and become closer as a grade. The day was filled with many laughs and a lot of memories that students will hold on to for a long time. Hiking up Mount Beacon alongside teachers and classmates allowed students to deepen their relationships and let them get to know everyone a little more outside of school. "I didn't know a grade could bond so much over students tipping kayaks and nearly falling off of mountains until I went on this trip," says senior class President Katie Langer. The 2018 senior kayak trip was a great success and a perfect way to start off a great senior year!



Arlan Thornquist pre-tumble



Brad Dowd relaxing



Katie Langer at the Mt. Beacon summit

HALDANE STUDENTS GET INVOLVED

Catriona Fee

On Thursday September 13th, representatives from over ten clubs gathered in the high school lobby for the annual club fair. The event was aimed to encourage involvement in various clubs that take place here at Haldane, from Art Club to Women Empowered. Each club ran a table with slideshows, handouts & flyers, trifolds, and even donuts to encourage new members to join. Students from all four grade levels participated, supporting clubs they are a part of and looking for new ones to join.

Anneke Chan, President of The Art Club, said, "I think that it's really important for

kids, especially at this age, to be exposed to different interests and modes of thought. I'm glad that we've started to have the club fair because it makes the process a more accessible one."

This approach proved to be a successful one, as many clubs reported increased membership that is partly due to the club fair's ability to reach students that were formerly unaware of the club. With a wide range of clubs to join, the extracurricular opportunities at Haldane were certainly showcased at this event, and has resulted in greater participation overall.

THE WRITER'S BLOCK

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 Liam Marinar
 Ada McBride
 Elizabeth Nelson
 Katelyn Pidala
 Julia Rotando
 Natalie Sandick
 Sophia Scanga
 Damian Vladimiroff

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STEPS TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Natalie Sandick

Each year, Haldane offers a day for students to work toward their futures. This year, on Wednesday, October 10th, sophomore and junior students took the PSAT exam, while seniors participated in college visits or essay workshops.

Elizabeth Nelson, a sophomore who took the PSAT, says it was a great experience to have for the PSAT and get a

sense of what the SAT exam will be like next year. For juniors, sitting for the PSAT for the second time, they have the opportunity to qualify for National Merit Scholarships, as well as set goals for when they take the SAT in the spring.

While the PSAT was taking place, the senior students had the option to visit a college of their choice or Dutchess Community College with

Haldane. Some students spent the morning attending a college essay writing workshop at school, hosted by Mrs. Martinez-Cirelli and Ms. Linda. Senior Olivia Olsen, who attended the writing workshop said, "The workshop gave us an opportunity to work on personal essays with guidance from our English teachers, while being surrounded by peers, and helping them as well."

This year the freshmen students had a regular day of classes, and next year will have the opportunity to experience the PSAT exam.



PUERTO RICO ONE YEAR LATER

Katelyn Pidala

When Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, it was the first time in 85 years that a Category 4 storm hit the island. In some regions, Hurricane Maria boasted winds of 155 miles per hour and poured 30 inches of rain per day, having a lasting, devastating impact on the U.S. territory. Power was out on the whole island, there was limited clean water, and infrastructure was destroyed almost everywhere.

The first action taken by President Trump was his issuance of a state of emergency in Puerto Rico on September 21st. After this, he tweeted several times about how the recovery effort was such a success, like his tweet on October 1st saying, “We have done a great job with the almost

impossible situation in Puerto Rico. Outside of the Fake News or politically motivated ingrates, people are now starting to recognize the amazing work that has been done by FEMA and our great Military.” Trump’s first time visiting the island after the hurricane made landfall was on October 13th. While in Puerto Rico, he threw paper towels and toilet paper into a crowded group of civilians. The death count at the time was 16 people as a result of the storm.

Fast forward almost one year on August 28, 2018, and according to a study done by George Washington University, the death toll increased to 2,975 people. How did the number increase this much from a mere 16 people? It turns out that not having clean water or

power for a few months can be detrimental to a country’s health after it has just been hit by a Category 4 hurricane. Having got their power back five months later on February 19th, the island has been slowly rebuilding what was lost.

One year later, most of the tourist city of San Juan is fully functional again, as well is the airport. The effects of Hurricane Maria go almost unnoticed here, but in the more rural parts of the island reports show that people are still suffering. Many people are still covering their storm-torn roofs with tarps, have no power, and are living in ruins.

The state of the country may come as a surprise to many because of Presi-

dent Trump’s statements on the success of the recovery effort. The island is still suffering today and according to Yulín Cruz, the mayor of San Juan, “The administration killed the Puerto Ricans with neglect. The Trump administration led us to believe they were helping when they weren’t up to par, and they didn’t allow other countries to help us.” This shows that the proper care wasn’t taken of Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Thousands of people in Puerto Rico still need help that was never given to them. Ways in which you can help are by donating money and resources to those still affected by the hurricane.

Interested in helping those affected by Maria? Donate to the [Red Cross](#).

HURRICANE FLORENCE

Elizabeth Nelson

This past September, Hurricane Florence hit the Southeast Coast of the U.S. and caused great damage, risking the lives of residents. More than one million residents were asked to evacuate by North Carolina Governor Roy

Cooper, along with South Carolina being under mandatory evacuation as of September 11th. Schools throughout seventeen North Carolina counties were closed due to the emergency evacuation. But this storm didn’t just hit Southeastern states, but also include Maryland and Eastern

United States. The hurricane was ranked as a Category 4 storm and has more recently been ranked to only a Category 1 disaster, although wind speed has racked up 140 miles per hour at the peak of the storm.

Florence surpassed North

Carolina’s rainfall record by reaching over thirty inches of rainfall by September 14th, with a projected forty or more inches of rainfall in total by the storm’s end. South and North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington D.C. were in states of emergency earlier this month due to the projec-

FLORENCE CONTD.

tion of flooding and high winds.

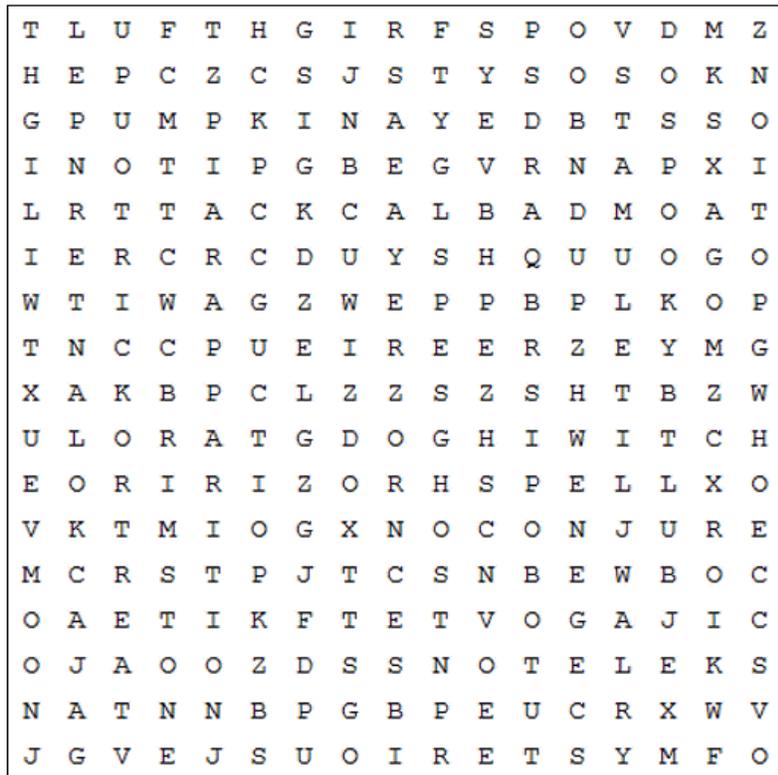
U.S. Navy ships made preparations to seek safety in the wake of the storm leading to dangerous winds that will cause torrential waves in Hampton Roads.

A New York task force sent NYPD and FDNY members to North Carolina to get involved in rescue work. The 82 rescue workers brought 128 people to safety, although recent reports say that the death toll has reached to 39 in North Carolina alone since the dawn of the storm.

The storm did not hit New York. It was only projected that Rochester County would experience a rain storm, but no life threatening storms were set to directly affect Cold Spring. Volunteers affiliated with American Red Cross in New Jersey were also sent to contribute to rescue work.



Happy Halloween



To help with hurricane relief efforts, consider donating to Charity Navigator and/or Charity Watch, as suggested by The Weather Channel.

AMULET
 APPARITION
 BATS
 BLACK CAT
 BOO
 BRIMSTONE
 CACKLE
 CAULDRON
 COBWEB

CONJURE
 EERIE
 FRIGHTFUL
 GHOST
 GOOSE BUMPS
 JACK-O-LANTERN
 MOON
 MYSTERIOUS
 PHANTOM

POTION
 PUMPKIN
 SKELETON
 SPELL
 SPOOKY
 TRICK OR TREAT
 TWILIGHT
 WITCH

