



Bulldog

BULLETIN

Graduation 2022

June 2022

Message from the Superintendent

What an amazing year!

I am so incredibly proud of our students, staff, and families. The past two years have presented so many different challenges and our students, our staff, and our community overcame each and every one. I want to wish everyone a safe and restful summer, we will see many of you over the next two months and we can't wait to see everyone back in September! We will continue to keep you updated on district events all summer and I hope everyone can enjoy some time with family and friends.

Matt Landahl

Dutchess County Honor Student

RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

All Dutchess County school districts celebrated high school students at the Dutchess BOCES Honor Student Breakfast held at the Pavilion at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck, N.Y.

County Executive Marc Molinaro joined district superintendents and board members to salute the students and wish them well.



The event celebrated exemplary students, including Beacon High School's Valedictorian Madeline Bobnick and Salutatorian Emma Sandison.

As a recipient of the Dean's Scholarship, Madeline Bobnick plans to attend Northeastern University to study biochemistry on a pre-med track.

Emma Sandison will be attending Binghamton University in upstate New York, entering the exploratory program. She plans to explore her many interests, such as business, data science, and healthcare.

BHS Seniors Go Out in Style

Nearly 200 Beacon High School seniors are now graduates of the school following a beautiful outdoor ceremony held at Dutchess Stadium on June 17.



Students in blue and gold graduation caps and gowns entered the stadium to cheers from family, friends and their teachers.



BHS Interim

Principal Vanessa DeFonce and the school community are extremely proud of the students and she described the ceremony as heartfelt and extremely celebratory.



"Through their hard work and determination during a challenging high school career, they have successfully earned their high school diploma," DeFonce said.



After graduating, the students will either attend college, enter the workforce or go into the military. "We look forward to seeing where their futures may take them," the principal said. Congratulations to everyone and good luck on your next endeavors!



MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF DUTCHESS COUNTY Kathy Decker Claiming the Children Award

Mental Health America of Dutchess County honored Rombout Middle School Counselor Phyllis Manson with the Kathy Decker Claiming the Children Award during a ceremony on June 1 at the organization's office.

Manson, who works with all grades at RMS, was humbled and appreciative of receiving the award. She was the only counselor in Dutchess County to win.

"I was really honored," Manson said. "It's always nice to be recognized for the work that you do every day."

After working at Beacon for 24 years, Manson plans to retire following the 2022-2023 school year, so the award means even more to her.



RMS Assistant Principal Cathryn Biordi nominated Manson, noting her dedication to working with youth in Beacon, helping them improve their mental health, building strong social-emotional skills and advising them on academic and personal decisions. Biordi dubs

Manson a great liaison to the county's mental health support network.

"One of her greatest strengths is connecting children and families with all of the resources Dutchess County has to offer," Biordi said. "Mrs. Manson sees potential in every student and is the backbone of our student support team."

Congratulations!
and thank you

Fun & Survival at Sharpe Reservation



Fifth graders from J.V. Forrestal and South Avenue attended Sharpe from June 13-15, and from Sargent and Glenham, fifth graders enjoyed all Mother Nature had to offer during a stay at Sharpe Reservation from June 1 to 3.

Students split into groups on the first day to participate in six fun and unique activities. They included learning to survive in the woods by building a rock shelter, conducting a pond study, and visiting the on-site planetarium.

During pond study they learned about the different organisms living in the pond. A crowd favorite was the activity called predator vs prey. During this activity, students were split into groups; the insects, the rodents, the snakes, and the hawks. The goal was to collect tokens that were hidden about the reservation without getting caught by your predator group.

Each night, there was a presenter. The first night was about reptile encounters and the second night was a storyteller. The students loved both!

"This was an amazing opportunity for students to meet new people and make friends from the other school before going to Rombout together," Sargent 5th grade teacher Brianna Gibbons said.

"We participated in amazing team building activities led by the Glenham and Sargent P.E. teachers."

Students, faculty, and family chaperones were treated to nightly barbecues. Students said staying in the cabin was the best part of the trip and even though it rained quite a bit, everyone had a fun time.

"It didn't put a damper on our fun," Gibbons said. "The students, faculty and family chaperones had a blast."

BEACON HS BAND, CHORUS, and DRAMA



Students from the Beacon High School band, chorus and drama club recently took in a matinee on Broadway during their first field trip since 2019. They saw the musical "Come From Away," based on the true story of the small Canadian town of Gander that took in approximately 7,000 passengers after all planes were order to land there unexpectedly following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

For many students, this was the first Broadway show they attended. They, along with the chaperones, enjoyed the show and learned a lot.

"I had a good time on the trip," Ivy Cancel Dickens said. "It was something I've never done before."

Nathaniel Ramos described the show as an eye opening experience because of cast's diversity where actors of all ages, races and body types were represented.

"As someone who does theater, and plans on doing theater professionally in my future it's beautiful to see 'real' people performing," Ramos said. "I love that just about anyone can go to this show and see someone that looks like them."

CALICO BALL RESEARCH: Culture, Travel, & Budgeting - All in One

Third graders at Glenham Elementary School are now prepared to plan an international trip due to what they learned in class with real life skills.

Library Media Teacher Gloria Rosati Peterson has done this exercise for over 25 years where students pick a country, learn about its culture and then plan a trip there. They studied about customs and the daily lives of children in Brazil, Albania and Mexico, while the Vanaver Caravan taught dances from those countries.

"It was a really good conversation," Rosati Peterson said. "I try to support what they're doing in the classroom."

Students worked in groups to determine what flights to take to their country, what sights they wanted to visit and which hotel to stay at based on the amenities offered. They used math skills to determine costs, learned new vocabulary and looked up flight times on Expedia. Rosati Peterson found some students negotiating and compromising on their itineraries.



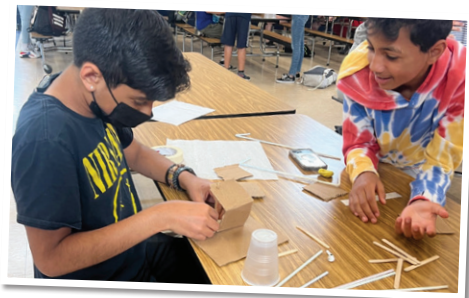
beaches," Rosati Peterson said. "I was really proud of them."

Students had fun creating the slideshows. "I liked that we could choose where we wanted to go and choose a hotel with nice amenities," Delaney said. Elijah found the exercise beneficial. "I think this project could help me in the future when I want to plan a trip," he said.

"Just to hear their little conversations, it was so organic," she said. "The real world application makes it engaging for them."

Students presented their findings on Google Slideshow with some even surprising Rosati Peterson. "We didn't think about Albania having beautiful

RMS STEM PROJECT WEATHERS THE STORM



Sixth grade students at Rombout Middle School put their brainpower to the test when they were tasked with building structures that could withstand any kind of weather thrown at them.

Cont'd on pg 3...

RMS STEM PROJECT WEATHERS THE STORM



Science teachers Marissa Benson and Kate Murray incorporated Science, Technology,

Engineering and Math

based lessons into their unit which was about weather and climate.

They brainstormed about the types of buildings that could withstand high winds and a flood simulation. "This is the most effective way to use what they learned," Benson said. "It really hit all the main categories that we try to aim for as science teachers."

"We saw a lot of change in design," Murray explained. "It taught them the process of engineering – that blueprint, that planning."

The project was completed over the course of a week and tested the strength of their building by use a fan to simulate wind, as well a hose and bucket of water to simulate heavy rainfall. The teachers found that students enjoyed the process.

"They loved it," Benson said. "They applied their skills and knowledge."



Elementary Students Spring into Summer



Glenham ES kindergarten students in Mrs. Hanrahan and Miss Bonneau's class have been learning about the **Lifecycle of a Butterfly**.

Students observed six caterpillars grow for about a week before they made their chrysalis. After a week, students had six beautiful butterflies that they released into the wild!



JV Forrestal ES students were **"Eggspecting!"** and enjoyed seeing the chicks hatch. The students were very excited to hold their new fuzzy friends. The young farmers reported they had learned a lot.



BHS Seniors Earn Biliteracy Award

Three Beacon High School seniors were recently given the New York State Seal of Biliteracy, an award for graduates who have shown to have a high level of proficiency in English and one or more other language.

Veronica Klein, Ayanda Nxumalo and Alondra Ramirez Paredes were awarded for their hard work, which acknowledged the importance of being bilingual in today's world. They all excelled in both English and Spanish and had to present a culminating project to a committee.

"They have worked very hard and are well deserving of this prestigious award," World Language Foreign Coordinator Karen DeCandia said.

DeCandia noted that being bilingual is considered an accomplishment and strength to future employers and college admissions counselors.

"We are extremely proud of this year's NYSSB earners and hope to see many more students in the future aspire to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy," DeCandia said.



Kaleidoscope Kids March in Pride Parade

Two students from Rombout Middle School's Kaleidoscope Club, accompanied by their families, were not afraid to let their true colors show during Poughkeepsie's Pride Parade on June 11.

The club marched on behalf of the school district and carried the Beacon City School District Banner.

"Beacon supports all of our students," Kaleidoscope Club Advisor Dawn Assumma said.

Students would not hesitate to come again to the parade, after they were welcomed and accepted with open arms. The students also aligned themselves with members of the Millbrook Central School District community.

"It was nice to see another school district there," Assumma said.



"It was a big celebration for people to be who they are."

Kaleidoscope Club, RMS's chapter of the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, keeps busy all year long sharing information on the LGBTQ community. For Pride Month, they worked on a project talking about who they are beyond their identity.

"There's still continued interest," Assumma said. "Some kids just want a place to be safe and be themselves."

Students Given Free Reign on Plant Research

Fourth grade students in Lesli Tompkins' class at J.V. Forrestal Elementary School chose their own path to present projects on different plants.



They had the choice of topics such as a plant's life cycle, photosynthesis, adaptations and the types of seed dispersal and completed the research and final project in class.

"They researched using various plant and seed books," Tompkins said.



Students working in pairs chose how to present their project, which included giving a lesson, creating a short video and using Power Points and posters to highlight their research.



College Athletics Commitment Ceremony



Nine seniors were recognized during the 2022 Athletics Commitment Ceremony on June 6 held in the Beacon High School Auditorium. A presentation as made by the Beacon Varsity Coaches, followed by a letter signing for each of our committed athletes.

Below are the students, along with their college and sport of choice:

- Tyler Haydt, Baseball at Saint Thomas Aquinas College (Division 2)
- Alex Wyant, Soccer at SUNY New Paltz (Division 3)

BEACON SPORTS ROUNDUP

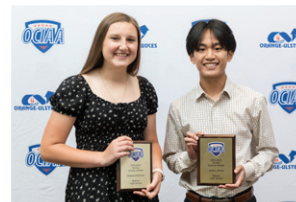
Beacon City School District worked hard and played hard in their respective sports this school year. Some were rewarded for their efforts, while others are ready to go off to college to continue their studies and play.



- Dillon Kelly, Soccer at SUNY Oneonta (Division 3)
- Tommy Franks, Soccer at Manhattanville College (Division 3)
- Leanna Rinaldi, Softball at King's College (Division 3)
- Sal Migliore, Track & Field at Springfield College (Division 2)
- Evan LaBelle, Track & Field SUNY at New Paltz (Division 3)
- Jack Cleary, Track & Field at Flagler College (Division 2)
- Eddie Manente, Track & Field at SUNY Cortland (Division 3)

Congratulations to our athletes and good luck on your next journey!

OCIAA Senior Scholar Athlete Breakfast



Two Beacon High School athletes were given the Orange County Interscholastic

Athletic Association Scholar Athlete award during a ceremony on June 2 at Kuhl's Highland House in Middletown.

Madeline Bobnick and Jeremy Briñas proudly accepted the awards before a crowd of about 300 people, including fellow honorees, their families and school district representatives to name a few. Congratulations to these two for this special honor!

Choices Were Plenty at BHS Career Fair



Over 75 participants representing 48 different careers took time to share their experiences with BHS students during the annual Career Fair held on May 27. This marked the first time in three years that the fair was in-person again.

"There's nothing like having that in person connection," Guidance Counselor Michele Polhamus said. "It's one of my favorite days of the year."

Polhamus, who coordinates the event, estimates this year's fair was the biggest one the school held with



representatives from varied industries such as publishing, public service and tourism engaging with students. "There was a lot of great representation," Polhamus said. "We have awesome



careers right here in Beacon."

Students enjoyed meeting with members of the local fire and volunteer ambulance teams and local African American artists. They could also get a haircut from Twins Barber Shop owners and BHS

alumni Christian and Abraham Soto.

"It's great to see students engaging in that way," Polhamus said. "They also had an opportunity to gain employment and apply – that is fantastic."

Polhamus thanked head custodian Rob Walls and his custodial staff, the BHS security team, PTSO and administration for their assistance in preparing for the fair. "Without their hard work and support, the event would not have been as successful," she said.



Farm and BCSD Make Healthy Connections COMMON GROUND

The relationship between Beacon City School District and Common Ground Farm continues to get sweeter as the district benefits from the farm's bountiful harvests and students learn about local agriculture.

Director of Food and Nutrition Karen Pagano has worked with the farm for nine years and they have offered plenty of farm to school programs. She believes it is important to feature locally and state produced fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products. The school's cafeteria menus featured Common Ground lettuce and pasta with New York beef sauce during the week of June 13.

"We're focused on what's available," Pagano said. "The agriculture in this region is really dictated by the growing season." For Pagano, it is crucial for students to know where their food comes from and understand the

ecological and financial impacts of using local produce.

"Our students are learning from the ground up what it takes to be a steward of our land," Pagano said. "They can recognize food that's grown locally."

Recently, fourth graders from all BCSD elementary schools participated in Common Ground's Pollinator Program where they learned about pollination's importance and even made a salad from vegetables that benefit it from it.

"It's fun for them," Common Ground Education Manager Renae Essinger said. "We like to talk about how this



is more than just planting flowers." It is Common Ground's goal to have as many BCSD students visit the farm as possible to see where food is grown.

"If you live in Beacon, chances are you've eaten Common Ground food at some point," she said. "Every kid in Beacon should be interacting with the farm in some way."



Thanks for reading our



If you have a submission idea, email: bulldogbulletin@beaconk12.org