



Bulldog

BULLETIN

June 2023

Message from the Superintendent

It has been an amazing year!

In this Bulldog Bulletin, you will find stories about the amazing projects, trips, and experiences we provide for our students.

Thanks to our amazing teacher, staff, and administrators who make all of this happen. I can not wait to celebrate next week at the fifth and eighth-grade ceremonies and at Beacon High School's graduation ceremony.

Thank you for all of your support this year, we could not have done it without you.

-Matt Landahl

BEACON'S BEST HONORED AT ANNUAL BREAKFAST

Two seniors from Beacon High School were celebrated, along with students from 12 other Dutchess County school districts at Dutchess BOCES' annual Distinguished Graduate Recognition Breakfast at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) on May 17.

The Class of 2023's Valedictorian Lila Quinn will attend Brown University to study biology and environmental science. Quinn was among many things: a class representative, the first principal dancer in the Dutchess Dance Company of Ballet Arts Studio and the cofounder of "Growth for Green," a nonprofit advocating for environmental rights and gender equality that has over 400 members.

"The hundreds of hours that went into her classwork and all of the outside activities, she also managed to find some time to co-found a nonprofit," Superintendent Dr. Matthew Landahl said. "That is Lila."



Salutatorian Shepard Rodgers was accepted to numerous elite schools, but ultimately chose Vassar to major in computer science. During his time at BHS,

Rodgers was a National Honor Society member, AP Scholar and longtime performer with the Beacon Players, his last show being "Les Miserables."

"He was Javert in 'Les Mis' to the point where if he walks down Main Street, people scream out, 'Javert, Javert,'" Landahl said. "I couldn't be prouder to congratulate and honor these students."

"Delish" Assistant Food Editor and 2018 CIA graduate Francesca Zani encouraged students to be persistent, challenge themselves and show passion.

"These things take time and timing is critical," Zani said. "If you keep pushing in the direction you want to go, you will achieve your goal."

Congratulations!
DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

South Ave ES Student and Teacher reunite after nearly 20 years

Former South Avenue Elementary School student Gabriella Cabrera returned for the 2022-2023 school year, but it was not just for a casual visit.



The 2023 graduate of Mount Saint Mary College spent eight weeks as a student teacher in Kelley Bender's third grade class this fall. Cabrera was Bender's student in her fifth grade class in 2005.

Bender was happy to see Cabrera again, especially since she often does not see her students once they complete elementary school. She was also happy to see Cabrera follow her dreams. "We may not always get to see the fruits of our labors, but we are planting seeds that will sow fruit in many ways for years to follow," Bender said.

"Getting to play a role in the development of Gabriella's career has been so fulfilling."

Cabrera enjoyed her experience working with the third graders and seeing Bender again. She will take what she learned during her eight weeks and use it in her future classroom.

"When I returned to South Avenue as a student teacher it was a full circle moment," Cabrera said. "I loved every minute of returning to South Avenue."



Sargent ES Baby Chicks grow before Students eyes



Students at Sargent Elementary School recently participated in a fun and educational task that did not ruffle any feathers. Vanessa Black's and Danielle Lizewski's classes took care of baby chicks from when they hatched until they were ready to leave for a chicken loving home in New Windsor. The idea was spearheaded by Principal Cathryn Biordi.

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Eggs were provided by Stony Kill Farm in Wappingers Falls and funding for both the eggs and appropriate equipment came courtesy of a grant from the Beacon Schools Foundation.

Each class incubated six eggs and followed their journey where they learned about a chicken's life cycle stages.

Lizewski's students loved this process best where they saw the chicks develop into an embryo and then hatch 21 days later.

"Every day they would excitedly run in to check on the eggs in their incubator," Lizewski recalls. "After a few egg hurdles we were ready for hatching."

Black's students enjoyed looking inside the chicks' cage with a light to see how they developed. They had the added bonus of watching the chicks hatch in real time on their Chromebooks with a live camera setup.

The students learned science and writing skills whilst doing the project,

as well as the importance of being calm and confident.

"My students loved reading to the chicks and writing about what they were doing," Black said.

The class continues to be engaged with the chicks they helped raise and recently received some news.

"They are growing more feathers and one is a Rooster," Black said.



Choices Were Plenty at Career Fair

Beacon High School held its annual Career Fair on May 19 offering students a wealth of opportunities from 50 local businesses and organizations.



More trade vendors such as Twins Barbershop and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America were set up in the BHS gym this year, which was a goal of Restorative School Counselor Michele Polhamus, who coordinates the fair.

"We're going to need a lot more tradespeople moving forward for infrastructure," Polhamus said. "I'm a huge proponent of the trades."

The fair is beneficial to all grade levels, as seniors could apply for a job at Amazon or Gap if they are unsure about attending college right away, while freshmen, sophomores and juniors can get summer or part-time work.

"Across the board, nine through 12, it's beneficial," Polhamus said. "They could make connections and maybe get a job if they don't have one currently."

If Polhamus could give one piece of advice to students attending the fair, it would be simply to chat with potential employers because they can give out helpful career information.

"Talk to them, they're here to help you," Polhamus said. "Don't be afraid to have those conversations."

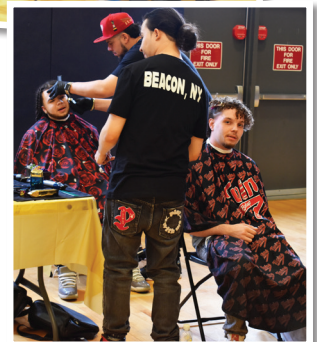
Senior Miranda Lyons, who will study adolescence education at Dutchess

Community College, spent time during the fair applying for a position at Care 4 Me, Inc. to gain experience. "I figured working at a daycare would be really good experience," Lyons said. "That's what I'm looking for." Lyons appreciated the bevy of options available. "It shows a lot of opportunities kids can take," Lyons said. "I think it's really helpful."

Attending the fair opened up Sophomore Sam Hutchison's eyes to opportunities he was not aware of, such as Amazon offering to pay for new employees' college tuitions.

"That was something good to learn about," Hutchison said regarding Amazon. "It definitely opened up my mind."

Hutchison recommends exploring all possibilities. "Keep your options open," he said. "There's a lot to offer."





Fourth and fifth graders at JV Forrestal Elementary School are sharing about all the day's news that's fit to print on Thursday afternoons, except it has gone digital.



The Podcasting Club, which started this school year, is going strong with 28 students both reading the news and working behind the scenes with 15 episodes recorded. The topics have included school sports updates, poetry readings and reviews of assemblies, books and movies for an elementary audience.

"We worked on making it relevant; that's been our key word this year, what's relevant to our school," Librarian Sarah Coleman said. "They're thinking about what their audience would like to hear."

The club initially evolved from the long running Newspaper Club that Coleman advised. She suggested changing the format to which Principal Crystal Sessoms- Wiggins agreed.

"That was something I was interested in and I thought the kids would be excited about," Coleman said. "The more modern style was exciting."

Coleman wanted her young reporters to have more ownership and podcasting proved to make it easier as many students are tech savvy. They all quickly learned how to use the Apple software GarageBand where they record and edit the shows, which are uploaded in Google Classroom.

"The podcast made it a little more accessible to the kids to really engineer the process," Coleman said. "It felt like it was our podcast that we working on together."

While the show is not available to listen to publicly, students have shared the shows with their families and the wider community with the possibility of posting it online next year.

"I love that the students are able to share with our school community what they're passionate about," Coleman said. "It's very popular within our community."

BOY'S GOLF TEAM ENDS SEASON WITH A BANG

The Boy's Golf team ended their season with a home win versus Cornwall during a game on May 11. Initially both teams tied, but Beacon proved victorious by winning the default tiebreaker with a final score of 42.

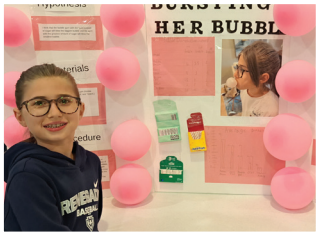
The team, led by Junior Will Martin and Senior Jack Philipbar, started the season 0-4 but then came back to win the next seven matches in a row landing them at 7-4 for the season and 4-0 in their division.

-Glenham E+S +Science Fair-

Fifteen of Glenham Elementary School's students presented their unique science projects to families during a fair on May 17 as well as during an in-school walk through the following day.

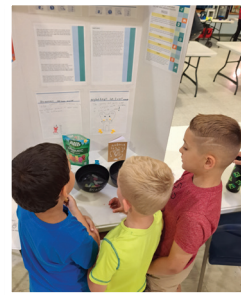
Students were eager to participate and share their unique creations with the community, including kindergartner Ruben who had a ton of fun. He learned how salt water makes gummy bears smaller, how sugar water makes them bigger and how still water does not alter their size.

"I did like the science fair, I actually loved it," he said. "Doing my experiment was the part I liked the best." Ruben enjoyed seeing his friends' projects too that featured planets. "I also liked seeing other people do their experiments," he said.



Fifth grader Madeline learned how mixing vinegar and baking soda does not explode, but creates carbon dioxide and how the more sugar gum has the bigger bubbles can be blown.

"I liked participating in the science fair because I got to learn about something that I didn't know about," she said.



AS WE WRAP UP THE SCHOOL YEAR AT BEACON, WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE AMAZING SPORTS MOMENTS THAT OCCURRED THIS SPRING.

SENIOR SCHOLAR WINNERS

Talk about ending your high school career on a high note!

Congratulations are in order to Beacon High School Seniors Ari Carmona and Darien Gillins. They were named Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association's (OCIAA) Senior Scholar Athletes during a breakfast ceremony on June 1.

Carmona's tennis coach Catie Oriani said she epitomizes what it means to be a student athlete because she is committed to school, her sports teams and the community. "I am so proud of this accomplishment and lucky to have gotten to coach her," Oriani said.

Gillins was described by his Basketball Coach Patrick Schetter as an amazing young man whose efforts and focus in the classroom are second to none. "Darien and his family should certainly be proud of what he has accomplished during his time at BHS," Schetter said.



POWDERPUFF GAME IS GIRL POWER AT ITS BEST



Beacon High School junior and senior girls were pitted against each other on May 24 for a friendly game of Powder Puff, a form of touch football exclusively for girls.

In a case of role reversal, boys were the cheerleaders for this game while the girls battled it out on the field. A big thank you to the advisors who spent many hours planning and organizing this event.

Both Martin and Philipbar qualified for the OCIAA Tournament in the postseason, which determines who will go to sectional play. While both players fell short of this goal, Coach Matt VanVoorhis is proud of their performance this season and for leading the team.

"There was a lot of growth in the program this season and a lot of young talent coming up the ranks," VanVoorhis said. "I am looking forward to next season and beyond."



BCSD FIELD TRIPS EDUCATE AND ENLIGHTEN

Throughout the past few months, Beacon City School District students have gone on numerous field trips that have both stimulated their brains and made them smile from ear to ear.

BLINDING US WITH SCIENCE



Students in the Marine Biology class, headed to Norwalk Aquarium in Connecticut in mid-May to see up close and personal

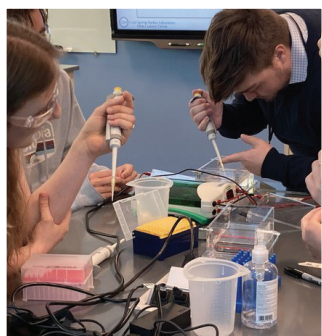
all of the underwater animals they are learning about in class. Some of the animals students saw included jelly-fish, a turtle, a seahorse and stingrays, the latter visitors can touch in shallow pools. Students really got into the spirit of the trip by purchasing colorful octopus hats to take home.

The Field Biology classes stuck a little closer to home where they visited Dennings Point to work with Clarkson University's Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries on April 26 and May 3.



Students donned hip waders to try their hand at fishing

with a seine net and used a dichotomous key to identify the fish they caught before releasing them back into the water.



In mid-May, students in the Advanced Placement Biology class ventures down

to the Regeneron DNA Learning Center in Sleepy Hollow to detect genetically modified foods.

In the lab, students isolated DNA from processed food products and were able to predict the outcome of the experiment, as well as discover genes functions that were transferred into genetically modified plants.



ROMBOUT STUDENTS TAKE WASHINGTON DC BY STORM



Washington, D.C. on an annual trip in late April.



One hundred and thirty nine Rombout eighth graders spent a jam packed three days taking in the sites and partaking in fun activities in

A new addition to this year's trip included a stop in Baltimore to see a baseball game at Oriole Park at Camden Yards and a visit to the National Aquarium.

Once arriving Washington, they kept busy with a slew of activities which included seeing the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well as visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the United States Holocaust Memorial.

This was the first time Principal Brian Soltish included the Holocaust Museum in the trip itinerary. He was impressed by the students' respectful behavior at both museums and their positive attitude throughout the three days.



"Our students were all really mature in both of the museums," Soltish said. "The kids were great, they just went with everything."

Soltish sees the trip as a chance for students to grow up as they spend time away from home, bond with each other and take in all that Washington has to offer.

"It's hopefully something that they'll remember," Soltish said. "It really gives them a nice way to end their school year."

It was Lily Mack's first time to Washington and she most enjoyed seeing the Washington Monument. "I could see a lot of the things I knew from photos in real life," Mack said. "I really liked it."

ON BROADWAY



A group of students from the school's band and chorus, as well as the Beacon Players took in the sights of New York City in mid-May. They rounded out this day of sightseeing by taking in a matinee performance of the

Tony winning Broadway musical "Hedestown."

WELCOME TO NEW YORK



While some students have been to Manhattan before, those in the English as a New Language (ENL) program recently discovered all New

York City has to offer during a May 19 field trip rounding out a series of various trips earlier in the semester



under the title of "Welcome to New York."



During this trip, students learned about how to use the subway, toured the Metropolitan Museum of Art and walked

across the Brooklyn Bridge, among other endeavors. Previous trips to Dia and Main Street, served as a chance for ENL students to become familiar with the Beacon community, and engage in reading, writing, speaking and listening in English. Everyone had a great time and the teachers thank everyone who helped make these experiences possible.

