



Bulldog

BULLETIN

October 2023

Message from the Superintendent

We have had a great start to this school year! I want to thank all of the teachers, administrators, staff, and students who helped make an amazing Homecoming week! We had really high involvement from the community in all of our events that week and we had over 500 high school students attend the Homecoming Dance to cap off the week.

In this issue, you will find articles that celebrate our diversity, our student achievement, and our varied programming that impacts all of our students.

I hope you enjoy!

—Matt Landahl

All Six School Student Council's Coat & Sneaker Drive October 1-31

Please join all six of our schools as our student councils collaborate to collect coats for Dutchess Outreach's annual coat drive. Coats should be clean and gently used. We are also collecting sneakers to be recycled or repurposed by [gotsneakers.com](https://www.gotsneakers.com). There will be drop boxes in all six buildings.



BCSD Celebrates NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



From September 15 to October 15, students and staff across the Beacon City School District, students and staff celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, which recognizes the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans in history, culture and achievements in America.

At JV Forrestal, the Equity Team created a virtual library of books by Hispanic authors decked out with Mexican streamers and virtual lit candles.

South Ave. also highlighted Hispanic-centric books on a colorful display, while BHS displayed images of Hispanic celebrities and their achievements including musician Gloria Estefan and soccer superstar Lionel Messi.



Meanwhile, Rombout celebrated the month in style both in individual classes and school-wide.



Foreign Language teachers Karen DeCandia and Christine Miroff had their 8th grade students participate in a Gallery Walk of biographies from influential Hispanic Americans and later participated in an escape room themed around this month.



During the week of October 9, all Rombout students were challenged to read short biographies of important Hispanic Americans that were posted around the school and to completed a Bingo board with details from said biographies.



BHS Students Score High

For these Beacon High School students, passing the preliminary SAT (PSAT), was easy like Sunday morning.

Seniors Wallace Wei, Rubio Castagna-Torres and Isabella Migliore were recognized for their performance on the 2022 PSAT, the practice version of the SAT exam, by the National Scholarship Corporation.

While Wei noted that long-term success is more important than awards, he still appreciated being recognized for his efforts.

"The award is just a byproduct of what you're doing," Wei said. "Say what you want, but it's pretty nice."

Wei, who is considering studying computer science in college, started studying early for the exam and put effort into it to do well.

"You've got to know your stuff," Wei said. "You can't just mail it in."

Castagna-Torres, who desires to attend Tufts University for engineering, was pleasantly surprised by the honor because he thought it was something that was unachievable.

"I thought it was a super prestigious thing

that the only top students got," he explained. "I'm pretty grateful."

Castagna-Torres recommends utilizing all resources available to help with studying, such as the Khan Academy, and to practice.

"Like with anything else, if you practice the test, you'll get good at them," he said. "You need to know the content really well." Migliore, who wants to pursue biology at Wesleyan College, found that repetition is what led to her successful marks. "It makes me feel really proud," Migliore said. "I put in a lot of time and effort and good things came out of it." Migliore's simple advice to students taking the PSAT, is to not sweat the small stuff.

"Don't beat yourself up about it," she said. "Take the time for yourself and really focus on self-care, because that will help you succeed."



SARGENT STUDENTS RIDE THE RVER



Two 4th grade classes at Sargent Elementary School took a sail aboard the Clearwater Sloop out of Long Dock Park on September 21 with students giving the experience two “fins” up.

While on board, students performed a variety of important tasks such as fishing with a large net, assisting the captain with steering and hoisting the sail.

Onboard Program Coordinator Ella Agoos gave the students big praise for their help with the latter task.



“That was 1,000 pounds you guys hauled,” Agoos said. “You worked together really, really hard.”

Agoos explained how the boat was spearheaded by musicians, including

Beacon legend Pete Seeger, in 1969 who wanted to save the river after years of pollution. She encouraged students to continue Clearwater’s legacy by getting involved in causes.

“You guys are now part of that story of taking care of the river,” Agoos said. “If you see something in your community that you don’t like and you want to see change, then you can use whatever talent you have to bring people together.”

Many students, including Nylah Jordan, counted petting hogchokers, a type of flatfish, as their favorite on-board activity.

“One side was really soft and smooth, but when you went the other way it was scaly and rough,” Jordan said of hogchokers. “I haven’t gone fishing a lot, so it was really fun.”

Kay Reeves most enjoyed helping steer the boat. “It was hard, but it was so fast how it turned,” Reeves explained. “I liked the part when the boat was moving.”



2023 Sargent Elementary School

Kid's Fun Run @ 9AM

Turkey Trot

5K Race @ 9:30AM

Saturday, November 4th

K-5 Runners FREE

Adult Runners - \$30

Meet up on Sargent ES front lawn.

SES Student Council will be collecting non-perishable and canned food items at this event.

Get your Mt. Knevel's T-shirt.

Subaru gives back to South Ave. Teachers



Mid-Hudson Subaru will now be able to provide items to supplement South Avenue ES students’ learning experience thanks to a program dedicated to education.

Through Mid-Hudson Subaru and the organization Adopt A Classroom, teachers who applied each received \$500 for materials.

As long as General Manager Ken Banks has worked for Mid-Hudson Subaru, it has always supported South Avenue and other schools and will continue to do so.

“They want to partner with stores like us that also support learning,” Banks said of Subaru. “We believe in supporting community.”

This year marks the first time English as a New Language Teacher Kathryn Lokmaci applied for funding which she plans to use toward alternative seating, an updated world map and starting up a Foreign Language club, which all enhance student learning.

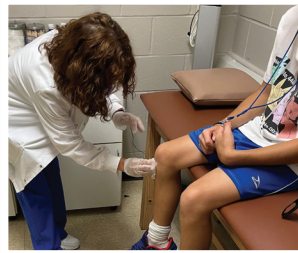
“To have new books or materials that go with the subject matter that you’re teaching, really makes a difference for the kids,” Lokmaci said.

Lokmaci is appreciative for the funding. “I was very grateful that I was a recipient of it,” Lokmacki said. “Little things make a difference.”

Student Nurses Practice Their Vocation in BCSD

Student nurses from Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh are required to perform 90 clinical hours and have chosen the Beacon City School District to learn all the nuances of the job and one skill the district’s Nurse Manager considers crucial.

The nurses started on September 12 and are scheduled to work with the district’s school nurses on Tuesdays until the semester ends in December.



Nurse Manager Hannah Aakjar believes having studying nurses in the district is a great experience because they learn how to interact with a diverse range of students and staff – something she considers just as important as medical expertise.

“If you can effectively communicate with people, everything else will come over time,” Aakjar said. “People trust you more when you have the bedside manner, when you have that communication skill.”

It can be intimidating for studying nurses to talk with adults in vulnerable positions at a hospital whereas Aakjar finds school kids accept nurses in training without judgement. “The kids are like, ‘Oh, you’re just another nurse,’” Aakjar said. “They ask more questions and don’t treat you as if you’re a student.”

Aakjar has observed the nurses in action and is impressed with their kindness and work ethic. One even requested to attend more days for further experience.

“To me that shows real dedication and drive and that’s what we’re looking for,” Aakjar said. “That’s the kind of personality that will do great in nursing and beyond.”

