



Bulldog

BULLETIN

December 2023

Message from the Superintendent

I hope you enjoy another amazing Edition of the Bulldog Bulletin!

There are wonderful stories about our students, staff, and community in this issue. I want to thank all of the teachers, support staff, and administrators who make this powerful work happen and our community for supporting us every day!

Thank you for everything you do!

—Matt Landahl



BHS is Thomaselli Tough

Beacon High School's National Honor Society (NHS) held its annual Costume

Volleyball Tournament

Nov. 9 to honor a beloved member of the Beacon City School District community going through a tough time.

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Beacon students flourish through NYSSMA

Beacon High School's young musicians are making everyone proud with their recent performances in the New York State School Music Association's (NYSSMA) Area All-State Conference Nov. 18 and brought that same magic to the All-State Conference in Rochester.

Jaelynn Hernandez, a soprano, belted out the numbers in the mixed choir while trombonist August Wright, tenor saxophonist Jacob Signorelli and trumpeter Charlie Klein performed beautiful melodies in the concert band. BHS music teacher Susan Wright rated them as the best tenth to twelfth grade musicians from across Dutchess, Putnam and Columbia counties.



"It felt really productive to play with people who improved so quickly," Signorelli recalled. "It was a wonder to participate in Area All-State."

Hernandez headed to the All-State conference at Eastman School of Music's Eastman Theatre to be a part of a mixed choir consisting of 275 of the best junior and senior vocalists in the state.

Hernandez described the conference as an incredible experience where she instantly jelled with the other musicians.

"There is nothing like meeting with a group of like-minded individuals for the first time and connecting on a musical level as if we had been working together for years,"

Hernandez said. "This experience helped me gain confidence, knowledge and made my passion for music grow even more."



Thanksgiving Luncheon is a multigenerational delight



on Nov. 16 that warmed everyone's hearts.

On top of the full turkey dinner, the audience was treated to student-made crafts and performances by Beacon High School's chorus, as well as Sargent's choruses of kindergartners and fourth and fifth graders.

The luncheon, which celebrated its 28th anniversary, was on pause during the pandemic, but returned last year. Sargent Principal Cathryn Biordi thanked everyone for coming, including Superintendent Matt Landahl and Deputy Superintendent for Business Ann Marie Quartironi.

"This is really a longstanding tradition," Biordi said.

"We hope to keep it going, so we will make sure you get a date so you can return to us next year."

A handful of fifth graders, dressed in white aprons, served the seniors' lunch, refilled their drinks and even took dessert orders on a server pad.



Addy Clark enjoyed the work with her classmates to help serve the seniors, which she was nervous about at first, but their kindness put her at ease.

"It took a lot of courage to talk to them," Clark said.

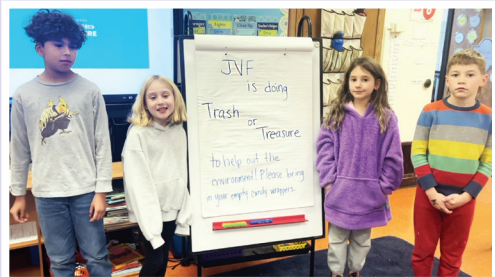
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JVF Saving the Earth, one wrapper at a time



One man’s trash is another man’s treasure and members of J.V. Forrestal’s Environmental Club made good use of those pesky Halloween candy wrappers.

Principal Crystal Sessoms-Wiggins contacted club advisor MeriAnne Keogh earlier this school year about recycling candy wrappers through software-based waste and recycling company Rubicon’s Trash or Treasure mission, helping schools and other organizations reduce waste by recycling candy wrappers so they avoid ending up in a landfill.



“We thought it would be a good idea the environmental kids could promote,” Keogh said. “This is our planet and they want to see it stay beautiful.”

Five of the club’s members recorded a short message for the school’s morning news program to promote the initiative which they had fun with.

“They each got to put in their take,” Keogh recalled. “It was really cute.”

Rubicon shipped boxes to Forrestal, which the students filled up with hundreds of wrappers, preferably those that were cleaner, making them easier to recycle.

Keogh praised the students for their efforts and their empathy for the planet.

Glenham Bears Weight

Glenham Elementary School students



put on their engineering hats and tested out different methods to design a bridge that could bear weight.

These engaging science activities are a part of the Science 21 curriculum being taught district wide in grades 2-5. The teachers were happy to report that every group completed the challenge and their structures were reinforced so well they could hold up to 21 bears!

Thanksgiving Luncheon is a multigenerational delight cont’d...



“They sang a lot of beautiful songs,” Digneo said. “They were really good.”

First time attendee Miriam Roman was thoroughly impressed with the students’ professional manner and found them adorable.

“They were so serviceable, they wouldn’t stop coming over and asking if we needed anything,” Roman said. “We hope to be able to return next year.”



“They were so sweet and really kind to us.”

Mirella Digneo got to hear all of the performances while bussing the tables and gave them a rave review.



In the days leading up to Veteran’s Day, Rombout Assistant Principal Michael Carofano along with some eager students planted American flags in front of the school building and raised money in honor of local veterans that served our country.



Sixth grader Victoria Squilla described the experience as a very thoughtful one for veterans.

“I thought that it was fun putting the flags out,” Squilla said.

Eighth grader Luna Yawman also enjoyed the experience.



Carofano came up with the idea to do it at Rombout after he saw, while on vacation, that the Southern Regional High School

in Stafford Township, New Jersey, did a similar type of event.

“I thought we could something similar, but make it our own,” Carofano said. “I don’t believe we’ve done something like this in the past.”



“It was a lot of fun setting up the flags and honoring veterans who have done so

much for our country,” Yawman said.

Students raised nearly \$1,000 for Beacon’s chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Carofano noted it was a nice thing to do for veterans, who provide plenty of wisdom to younger generations.

“You can learn a lot from their experiences,” Carofano said. “There’s a lot of knowledge that can be learned from sitting down or listening to a story that a veteran might have.”



Members of the Student Council and National Honor Society, helped put the flags into the ground two days before Veterans Day so they were visible to the community.

First Tipoff Dinner is a Community Celebration



Prior to the start of the varsity boys basketball team’s winter season Dec. 1, a dinner was held to honor the team and raise money. St. Rocco’s Society hosted the Nov. 16 event. Varsity basketball coach Patrick Schetter ran with the idea of hosting a fundraising dinner for his team after his family suggested it.

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BHS is Thomaselli Tough

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diagnosed with Stage 4 neuro-endocrine carcinoma, a series of cancerous tumors that begin in cells, similar to those of nerve and hormone-producing cells, according to the Mayo Clinic.



"She continues to approach each day with courage and optimism, determined

to fight this battle head-on," Thomaselli's sister Aileen Schatz said. "Her resilience and strength inspire us all."

Every year the NHS picks a cause to fund-raise for and decided to raise money for Thomaselli because some of the seniors had her as a teacher.



"They felt strongly that the money go to her and her family," NHS adviser Frances Vakirtzis said. "Fun was had by all and we raised money for a dear teacher in the district." In total, the NHS raised \$515 for Thomaselli to use as she continues her treatments.



The tournament proved to be a blast with teacher and student teams competing while wearing colorful costumes.

"The teacher team 'Barbenheimer' won the best costume – we had a legit Barbie on the court," Vakirtzis recalled, thanking everyone who volunteered, especially NHS leaders who kept score and manned the admissions and concessions stands.

"Our very own NHS members ran the whole thing," she said.



Additionally, Rombout staff held a "Thomaselli Tough" day Nov. 1 as part of Spirit Week where everyone was encouraged to wear all black or all white in support of Thomaselli.

Anyone interested in donating can donate at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/erika-thomaselli>



Earlier this year, Rombout Middle School English Teacher Erika Thomaselli was

First Tipoff Dinner is a Community Celebration

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He invited the entire Beacon community with all proceeds to go toward equipment and funding trips. The event was a true community affair because many in attendance either knew a player or played on the team when they were in school. "The Beacon community is here for sure," Schetter said. "Students come from supportive families that encourage their sons."



The team had a successful 2022-23 season, which saw three graduates go on to play basketball in college and all players passing their classes. "That was a goal of ours last season and now it's a standard," Schetter said. "We expect our young men to be disciplined in the classroom just as they are on the court."



Team leaders, including Jayden Quintana, thanked the audience and Schetter for their support. When Quintana broke his collar bone, it made him realize that the team should cherish every moment before they graduate.



"We have limited time playing the sports we love with the people we love," Quintana said.

"This team has tremendous talent and there's nothing holding us back."

Guest speaker Dan McCarthy, a BHS and West Point graduate, noted that the greatest impact sports has on young athletes is developing their character.

"The discipline required in training, the resilience demanded in both victory and defeat contribute to the holistic development of our student athletes," McCarthy said. "These experiences are not just about wins and losses, they're about instilling values that will guide them through their lives."

SOCCER AND VOLLEYBALL TEAMS OUTPLAY THE COMPETITION

The boys and girls soccer teams and the girls varsity volleyball team at Beacon High School have continued to do well on the field, making their coaches and the community proud.

GIRLS SOCCER

The team, led by Coach Michael Lentini, advanced to the semifinals after winning 5 to 2 against Port Jervis Oct. 23 and winning the league championship. Goals were scored by juniors Reilly Landisi, Noelle Haase and Rory LaDue.

Landisi also assisted, along with senior Devyn Kelly and junior Chelsea DerBoghossian. The backline consisting of Seniors Sara Gonzalez and Gabrielle Kuka, was also praised by Lentini for their great play. Previously they won the league by defeating Port Jervis 4- 0 on senior night, finishing with a record of 11-2-1.

Retired BHS physical education teacher Cindy Pomarico congratulated the team's accomplishments on X, formerly known as Twitter, and encouraged them to always be willing to outwork the competition on the field.



BOYS SOCCER

The team, led by Craig Seaman, finished the regular season with a record of 13-3-2 and won its eighth consecutive league title, third straight section title and fourth straight postseason championship.

"There were strong defensive performances throughout the year, conceding only seven goals all year and earning 11 shutouts in 14 games," Seaman said.

Seaman praised the outstanding defensive play from Liam Murphy, Avery Davis, Brody Timm and Enis Dika. The offensive was led by Jaidyn Caccamo, Nick Lentini, and Tye Elias. He also thanks Dika, Murphy, Lentini and Matt Sandison, all seniors, for their dedication and leadership.

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations are in order to this team which clinched its first league title in BHS history which was a sweet end to a successful season finishing with a record of 14-3.

Team members showed their love by participating in a tribute volleyball game to raise money for Rombout Middle School teacher Erika Thomaselli's treatments for neuroendocrine carcinoma. Nice job girls!