



# Bulldog

## BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2024

### Message from the Superintendent

I hope you enjoy the November edition of the Bulldog Bulletin. We have an amazing staff and students and many highlights in this edition.

I want to highlight one article focusing on the Friday Night Lights program. This program provides a place for our high school students to hang out and enjoy different activities. Thanks to the staff who make this possible.

Have a great Thanksgiving! I hope everyone can enjoy time with friends and family.

—Matt Landahl

### New BHS program prepares students FOR WORK IN THE REAL WORLD

Students in special education teacher Rebecca Cady's class are getting a taste of working life by participating in the School to Work program in partnership with Dutchess BOCES.

This year marks an exciting milestone for Cady's students as they begin participating in the program, with a focus on fostering their independence and preparing students to confidently transition from the classroom to the workforce. It is crucial that a clear plan is established so students are successful in their employment.

"It takes time to build skills, so we figured we'd start as soon as possible," Cady said. "The whole goal of the program is to make them become independent and transition into becoming an adult."

Cady observes that her students thrive as they enjoy meaningful breaks from the classroom to participate in their job assignments alongside supportive job coaches. Many students have embraced the opportunity to return to their former elementary schools, taking pride in contributing by engaging in work tasks and supporting the younger students both in the classroom and at recess including Sa'yon Harrison.

Sa'yon has provided help with cleaning, filing and monitoring students during recess and music class at Forrestal and Sargent. He enjoys his role, but his favorite job is clear. "My favorite part is being with the little kids," Say'yon said.

"They're seeing it in a different light and now they're in charge," Cady said of her students. "It's been a positive experience for them."

### BHS Spirit Week Ends in Spectacular Fashion



This year's Spirit Week, held mid October at Beacon High School, was a chance for students and staff to show their school spirit in a unique and fun way. The week wrapped up with a large Pep Rally that got everyone moving.

Special themed days were held throughout the week including Tacky Tourist Tuesday which saw students donning Hawaiian leis, cameras, binoculars and of course "I Love New York"

t-shirts. On Wednesdays, both the guys and the girls wore pink in reference to the 2004 movie "Mean Girls," but also in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

However, the most fun was had Friday when students, divided by grade, roared into the gym ready to compete in the wacky and exciting games such as a real

life

version of the board game Hungry Hungry Hippos where students used laundry baskets to gather colorful balloons.

The last day was no different and students decked out in Bulldog shirts, crowns, beaded necklaces and face paint. Even the district's beloved Bulldog mascot joined in the fun posing for pictures and dancing along to the music.



### Unique Art Returns to South Avenue

Fifth grade students at South Avenue showed off their artistic side by creating masterpieces with the help of a collective of artists, printmakers, educators and community activities known as Roll Out Beacon.





## Unique Art Returns to South Avenue .....

Roll Out co-founder and artist Lauren Adelman returned to work with students on a large art project where they used 6x6 pieces of linoleum to create masterpieces. The students came together Oct. 19 at The Yard to put their pieces together by inking them and having them run over by a steamroller, similar to how a printing press works.

"It's so much fun and it's celebratory," Adelman said. "If we're going to do this crazy event we wanted it to involve the kids in the community."

At the event, the steamroller pressed the art, children made their own prints with vegetables and gourds and local artists' work was displayed. Adelman recalls past years where the steamroller driver had a fun time driving, while creating art.

"There was a whole lot of fun stuff going on during the day of the event," Adelman said. "It's really for the community;

all of the kids that come through are able to print."

Adelman has heard from students' parents who were awestruck by the fact that their kids were working side by side with professional artists using the same process to create art as they did.

"There was a sense of pride and it was collaborative," Adelman said. "It was really amazing on many levels."



## Beacon Educators Honored at Foundation's Annual Gala



Teachers from across Beacon's schools were honored for the hard work they do every day during the Foundation for Beacon School's annual gala held Oct. 24 at The Roundhouse.



photo courtesy Foundation fb page

Matthew Carpenter, from Sargent, and Kelly Hamburger, from BHS, as well as, Alison DeLisi, Erica Hughes and Edmund Trad, all from Rombout, each received a certificate and plaque for their outstanding classroom projects and leading unique field trips, both near and far.

All proceeds from this gala will go toward funding a new round of educator grants giving Beacon students the opportunity to discover and cultivate their talents. The gala was a sold out event that saw record breaking fundraising.

The Foundation thanks everyone for their generosity and enthusiasm.



## JVF Morning Circle Starts Students' Day Right!

Mornings in Alicia Donovan's second grade class start off with the sounds of a small instrument and a cheer of "Two, four, six, eight. Who do we appreciate?" This helps every student feel welcome and they are then comfortable sharing something about themselves.

This is morning circle time where students share all the news in their lives, while also learning more about each other. A fun activity closes out the half hour before the students get into their academics.

"It sets a foundation for creating a community within the classroom," Donovan said. "It does take up time, but it's important."

Donovan noted that her kids are still learning during this time because they work on their vocabulary skills by sharing their news in complete sentences and their sharing is always centered on a theme of which one was positivity.



"They're sharing about someone who creates positivity in their lives or what's a compliment they can give a friend in the room," Donovan explained. "It's their time to share; they get to be heard."

Students including Tessa Timpano have enjoyed this daily routine where she and her classmates have played games to see what they have in common, as well as take "brain breaks," set to funky music.



"You get up and move your body around," Timpano said. "I like the brain break a lot."



The Beacon Players' young performers put their own spin on a classic that was anything but an "impossible dream."



Showcasing student talent, "Man of La Mancha," which Director Anthony Scaronne described as a play within a play, centered on a "mad" knight, Don Quixote, as told by the writer Miguel de Cervantes and his fellow prisoners as he awaits a hearing during the Spanish Inquisition.

Sophomore Molly Lyons played Antonia, the show's antagonist, who is the niece of Cervantes praying that he dies in order to get his will. She never portrayed a villain before, so getting to play one was a refreshing change. "It's really cool to see a different side that I've never done before," Lyons explained. "I see a different side of myself in it."

Lyons' grandmother is a huge fan of "Man of La Mancha" and she suggested that the cast and crew try their hands at it. "It's so sophisticated in the fact that not many theater groups will do something like this," Lyons said. "I'm really excited because it's something we haven't really done before." Freshman McKenna Griffin portrayed the supporting role of Maria, the innkeeper's wife, and said part of the appeal of participating was that she was unfamiliar with the show beforehand. "You can interpret things your own way," Griffin said. "I'm sure it was easier for a lot of the people that didn't know it to make their character their own."





## Advanced Placement Human Geography

The College Board approved course, taught by social studies teacher Thomas Burns, looks at social studies being completely connected to geography, which includes how land is used, how many people live in a specific area and what resources they may or may not have access to. The material comes from multiple perspectives and is data driven.

“Everything that people do, where they live, the cultures that develop is all somehow tied to geography,” Burns explained. “There’s a surprising amount of human development that is tied to where you’re born and how you live when you look at it on a global scale.”

Burns noted that the class is suited for students who work from a global perspective and it is a mix of students who are just beginning to take AP courses and those who already have some under their belt.

“They have the ingredients and this is just another way to filter and to shape that world view,” Burns said of his students. “They’re doing a good job advocating for themselves.”

## Hands-on Chemistry



Science teacher Louise Alfonso is happy to offer this course for science loving students and those who need to take a chemistry class, but can feel more confident working on exciting scientific projects, rather than dealing with complicated data and math.

“I’m hoping to take some of the fear out of chemistry and put some of the fun in,” Alfonso explained. “It will satisfy everybody.”

Alfonso’s students are most looking forward to the food chemistry portion of class where they will make a mock apple pie, consisting of soaked Ritz crackers dusted with cinnamon and sugar that take on the texture and flavor of cooked apples.

“You make this and it tastes like apple pie, but there’s no apples in there,” Alfonso explained. “That’s always a big thing, because you get to eat what you make.”



## Introduction to Teaching

Principal Corey Dwyer came up with the idea for this class so juniors and seniors could receive college credit from Mount Saint Mary College and because he knows students who want to be teachers. The teacher of this class, Nesha Prahaladsingh, noted that it is also a way to continue a unique Beacon trend. “Beacon has this community type of feel and there’s so many teachers in this school that were students here,” Prahaladsingh explained. “Mr. Dwyer wanted to foster that.”

The class began with students interviewing teachers of subjects they are interested in teaching and listing the characteristics of their favorite teachers. As the class progresses, they will observe Rombout teachers in action and eventually plan and teach a 40 minute class themselves.

“They’re starting to look at the teacher point of view,” Prahaladsingh said. “It’s a diverse group because everybody wants to do different things.”

Senior Taylor Finley, who desires to be a chemistry teacher, appreciates the small class size where they share ideas and discuss teaching techniques. Even if students do not end up pursuing teaching, they can learn a lot from the class.

“You get good experience talking to other people because you’re going to have to do that anyway,” Finley said. “It’s a nice open place where we can be honest with each other.”

## BURKE ACHIEVES VOLLEYBALL MILESTONE



BHS senior Lila Burke has stuck with volleyball and her hard work paid off when she recorded her 1,000<sup>th</sup> kill, the first student athlete ever to do so, during an Oct. 23 game, which was also Senior Night.

A kill is an attack by a player that is not returnable by the receiving player on an opposing team that leads directly to a point or loss. Since the end of junior year, Burke thought she might reach 1,000 kills, but did not overthink it. She was thrilled to be honored with a specialized volleyball and a certificate for her efforts.

“I knew I was close; the whole game I was stressing,” Burke recalled. “It was so exciting, everyone was cheering... my team ran out and we were jumping around.”

Volleyball has been an interest of Burke’s since seventh grade. Although she was not a fan of it at first, it was the team support and the fun competitiveness that won her over. She credits her coach Ron Pagliaro for encouraging her on the court. “I just love the sport,” Burke said. “In general, volleyball is a very uplifting sport.”

## Rombout Club Caters to Students’ Passions

Rombout has plenty of clubs to offer to its students, and of those offered to sixth graders, the Home & Careers club is a hit.



The club meets on Tuesday afternoon where students learn how to cook, bake, sew and make unique crafts.

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## Friday Night Lights: Spooktacular Edition!

Just before Halloween, BHS students could munch on pizza and candy, carve their own pumpkins and watch some scary movies during a monthly community event.

The program, called Friday Night Lights, is held once a month and is tied to a theme or seasonal activity. It was initially proposed by Superintendent Dr. Matt Landahl to give students a chance to gather for a night of fun together, rather than being at home with nothing to do.

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## Friday Night Lights: Spooktacular Edition!

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"The program provides entertainment, activities, and shared experiences for the students," BHS teacher and event advisor Carmen Finton said.

This time around it was Halloween themed and along with the apple cider donuts and popcorn, Finton, her co-advisor Maria Calaf and other teachers dressed as M&M's of all colors.

Sophomore Trevi Romanelli had fun at the Halloween themed event and has been a regular attendee to the previous events because of the social aspect. "It's a great way to meet people and get to know one another," Romanelli said. "This is really nice."



## Rombout Club Caters to Students' Passions

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During a late October meeting, club adviser Deana Garrett showed the students in attendance how to make ghosts with cheesecloth and mason jars, just in time for Halloween.

Some of the sixth graders who took part in the club have enjoyed what has been offered so far.



Maya Ariel, who already knows how to sew and knit, appreciates the opportunity to work on fun projects with her friends in a more relaxed setting.

"It's more like you're hanging out with your friends and doing fun activities," Ariel said. "I like having something to do after school because otherwise I would be home doing something boring."

Ariel would like to see her and classmates attempt to bake something from scratch that is more challenging than brownies at a future meeting.

"I like baking and cooking a lot," Ariel said. "A lot of the activities that we do here is something you wouldn't do outside this club."



Haley Brandstrom joined the club because she loves to bake and cook and wants to improve her sewing skills. She explained why it is important to have a club like this available to younger students like herself.

"It will really help you when you're older and you can really get advice from it," Brandstrom said. "It can really help you learn how to use a stove."

## Trunk or Treat

### Events Bring Out the Fun and Creativity

Beacon parents and their young learners love Halloween and showed their affinity for the holiday by dressing up in colorful costumes and decorating their trunks with different themes in the annual Trunk-or-Treat events.

#### Glenham

Students had a golden opportunity to get lots of candy before the Halloween rush from trunks decorated like Chef Remy's kitchen from the Disney movie "Ratatouille" and one with two skeletons dressed as everyone's favorite A-list couple Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce.

Forrestal fifth grader Serenity Oleksa came back to her former school with her mother to display their trunk centered on spells and witches after doing a "Beetlejuice" themed one previously – a year ahead of the new movie coming out.



#### Sargent

Students and their families had creative trunks ranging from the Land of Oz to SpongeBob Squarepants' hometown of Bikini

Bottom to a skeleton band belting out the Halloween classic tune "Monster Mash."

Parent Orlando Lorenzo loves seeing the camaraderie around school events like this and appreciated the creativity coming from the varied trunks.

"It makes things fun for the kids and we can keep an eye on everything," Lorenzo said.

"It's a nice alternative, especially if Halloween is a weather bust."