

REGION

SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANAAN/FALLS VILLAGE CORNWALL KENT NORTH CANAAN SALISBURY SHARON



OUR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

UPPER LEFT TO RIGHT: NCES Earth Day, Salisbury Biographies, & Sharon Mentoring

LOWER LEFT TO RIGHT: KCS Autobiographies, LHK Petting Zoo, & CCS Community

BOTTOM Row: HVRHS 2023 Ag Ed Open House Team

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

OUR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

And so we come to the end of another school year. However, to our students and staff, it is not the end, but one more giant step on their Journey of Discovery. This year has been remarkable as it is the first year since the start of the pandemic that classrooms and activities have not been overshadowed by health and safety protocols. As we have noted in earlier newsletters, students and staff have celebrated their return to active learning with a renewed sense of wonderment and awe that has fueled successful learning outcomes across the Region.

In this newsletter, you will read about students learning through observation, critical thinking and discovery, whether it be in the art room, the science lab, or the arboretum. Teachers and staff have redesigned units of study and classroom environments to foster interactive opportunities. These new spaces encourage students to work together and independently, and to speak or write about their ideas. It is important for us to stress that strengthening and growing their foundational skills in the areas of English, math, social studies, and science are at the core of the academic discovery projects described in this newsletter. Our staff incorporates the science of reading and the improvement of written and verbal communication in all learning activities. Students are exposed to instructional practice in math and science that pushes them to think critically about the problems/phenomena they are solving/observing. Social studies teachers are helping students discover local history that has been neglected and tie it to current national and international events and trends. You will also see that as students grow academically, they also learn more about themselves and the importance of skills such as trying until they are successful, communicating, collaborating, being open to and aware of the thinking of others, and tapping into prior knowledge to guide their research, problem solving and creative thought.



This newsletter also celebrates all our graduates, eighth grade and high school. We congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them the best as they embark on the next step in their learning journey.

Last, but not least, we thank Nancy Hegy Martin for continuing to spearhead the production of this newsletter. Her love of Region 1 combined with her creativity and organization allow us to bring you news about all of the happenings throughout the year.

From all of us in Region 1, we thank you for your support and hope you have a wonderful summer. It is a beautiful time in the Northwest Corner and it goes by all too quickly. Be sure to savor every moment and may they be filled with wonderment, awe and great discovery!

All the best,

Lisa Carter, Superintendent Region 1 Schools

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

SUMMER MOUNTAINEER EXPERIENCE

This summer students entering middle school grades 6-8 have the opportunity to participate in our Summer Mountaineer Experience. The program is held at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School from Monday - Friday from July 10 - 21. Student Mountaineers work on leadership and team building in activities during the morning. We might find Student Mountaineers learning to do paddle boarding or canoeing, hiking, or rock climbing with trained Outdoors Educators.

Afternoons give Student Mountaineers time to explore science with Flying Cloud or Ag Science and Technology with the HVRHS Ag Ed staff. They may be learning Introduction to Logic to create music with Mr. Krupa, using the digital printer with Mrs. Dinneen, or creating art with the Art Garage staff.

Our great thanks go to the Northwest Corner of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which has generously provided funding for this program as well as busing transportation for all students.

HUMANITIES

Learning is a Journey of Discovery for both the learner and the teacher. This is a lesson that our 4th and 5th grade ELA and social studies teachers are engaged in as we begin the process of adopting a new Humanities curriculum for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Humanities disciplines are concerned with the discovery of the values inherent in humanity and culture. A Humanities course combines the English Language Arts and social studies classes to consider ourselves and others in and through a historical lens. Literature provides opportunities to explore people—all sorts of people. Characters might be people who are like ourselves and in whom we can see ourselves, and also people who are seemingly not like ourselves. Or perhaps more accurately are like us but who are engaged in struggles very different from the ones we see in our everyday lives.

Literary study develops in us a sense of empathy and compassion. A few years back, researchers tested this idea and discovered that kids who had read any of the Harry Potter books showed a greater empathy toward other kids who were outsiders. Growing to love and respect Harry and Ron and Hermione, or even the villainous Severus Snape or Draco Malfoy, fictional characters that were a little smarter, or a little poorer, or a little less loved not only helped kids to imagine how they themselves could overcome similar adversities to accomplish great deeds, but also helped them to see how others could likewise do the same. Reading these books has made children kinder toward one another.

Our Humanities course will help students see history as a living experience – that historical figures were folks just like themselves – through integrated reading and writing activities related to literature, nonfiction, and historical primary resource documents.

Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent

THE TROUTBECK SYMPOSIUM

The Troutbeck Symposium was established in the summer of 2021 by a group of educators committed to having their students learn neglected aspects of local history. A collaborative effort among public and private schools, the annual showcase of student research meets at Troutbeck in Amenia, New York, site of two foundational conferences for the NAACP. This May, hundreds of students from eleven schools shared their work with renowned historians, artists, curators, archivists, and community members. Members of the ECE (Early College Experience) US History class at Housatonic contributed six projects to the symposium. One group created a land acknowledgment for our school - complete with stunning aerial photography - paying tribute to the Wechquadrach people who once lived in the area. A second group completed applications to have four local history sites placed on the National Park Service's Network to Freedom database, commemorating sites associated with the destruction of slavery. Students created kindness stones to educate the public about the service of Black soldiers from the region in the Civil War. Another group added a section on commemoration and memory to ProjeCT29, the ECE US History's website on the 29th Connecticut Infantry. The fine line between slavery and freedom in early Cornwall was the focus of the fifth group, who worked closely with the Cornwall Historical Society.

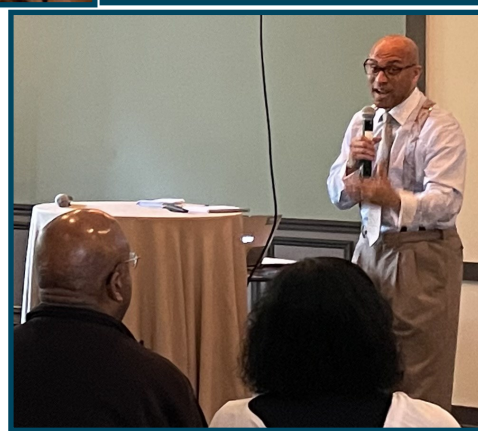
The final project was a film documenting the story of Essie Knowles and Carolyn Porter, members of Housatonic's Class of 1959. Knowles and Porter grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas and attended the schools there through 11th grade. However, following the integration of Central High School by the Little Rock Nine in 1957, Arkansas governor Orville Faubus closed all Little Rock public schools for the 1958-59 school year. Little Rock students were forced to attend private schools, move out of the city, or lose a year of their education. Click [HERE](https://youtu.be/eUUKTftmeWA) to watch the film which focuses on Knowles and Porter's Housatonic experience. (<https://youtu.be/eUUKTftmeWA>)

- Peter Vermilyea, HVRHS Social Studies Chair



REGION 1 STUDENTS SHINE

1. **Sharon Center 8th Graders** were asked to make a project showing how cotton influenced the lives of African-Americans in the South. Their painting, *Broken System*, shows the differences that existed between Americans living in the same place who were supposed to have the same rights.
2. There were audible gasps from the audience when **Cornwall Consolidated 7th Graders** turned the light on behind their Cranky theater scroll. The moderator - who gave public, specific, positive feedback for each presentation said, "What kind of wizardry was that!?" and noted how it was a unique medium for presenting the student's research about the *Foreign Mission School*.
3. *MIRRORS AND WINDOWS* by the **Salisbury Central 8th Grade**. Students read and discussed the book *An American Story* by Kwame Alexander. This powerful picture book tells the story of slavery in America. Students talked about how often the story of slavery in America is whitewashed in history books and schools and were encouraged to think about texts, poems, and information in terms of windows or mirrors. *Mirrors* help reflect one's own experiences and *Windows* provide insight into the identities, and motivations of others .



4. The **5th-grade students from North Canaan Elementary** created a digital story map outlining the life and legacy of James Mars, a slave born in Canaan. Through research, including an autobiography, students created a timeline providing information on Mars' early life as a slave as well as his work in later years as a prominent equal rights activist.
5. **Hasan Kwame Jeffries**, a history professor and author at Ohio State University, was the keynote speaker and gave insightful and affirmative feedback to every presentation. He spoke about the importance of bringing to light the stories of marginalized populations; power of disrupting established narratives; importance of discovering "points of entry" to hard topics; and quoted Langston Hughes, " I look at the world with awakening eyes ."

CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



INDEPENDENT ARTISTS IN THE MAKING

- Susana Martinez-Bauer

This year at CCS we introduced TAB, Teaching Artistic Behavior, in the Art Studio; TAB allows the artist to have more choice and decision making in what and how they are creating. While continuing to learn about art history, the elements of art, and artistic techniques, students are more in control of their creative choices.

The Art Studio has been set up for open access to materials so that students, after learning how to use the materials, can choose which ones they want to use in their independent projects. These artists are learning to become more independent in their creative process. They start every independent project by planning in their sketchbooks and following a process of “Draw it out” (illustrate your idea), “Plan it out” (write down the materials/ techniques being used), and “Map it out” (label colors and number the steps). This planning process helps the artists have a better understanding of what materials and steps they will need to use as well as serve as a reference resource. Artists are able to go back and follow their plan or make adjustments as they are creating.

Our Kindergarten and 1st grade artists are learning to be more independent by learning where the materials are, how to access them, use them and put them back when they are done.

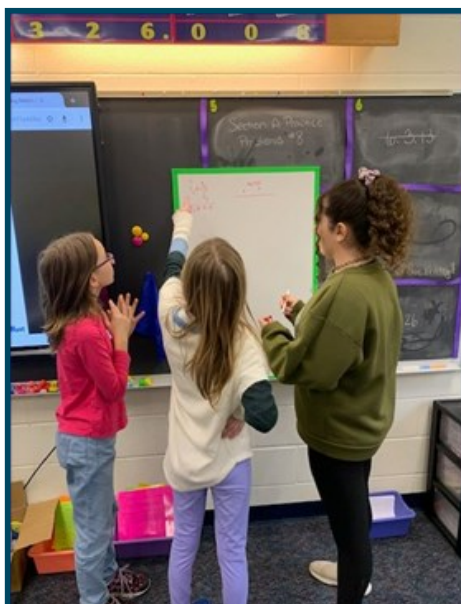
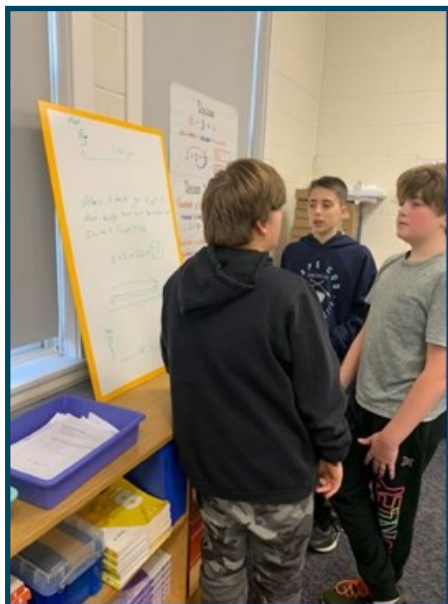


While our artists in 2nd – 8th grade are using the planning process in their sketchbooks; grades 4-8 have full access to material and tools to use for their independent projects.



This year we have also implemented a few fun techniques like wood burning, Styrofoam cutting and paper quilling. Our artists are always open to learning new skills which are continuously adding to their ability to explore, create and become confident independent artists. Our second art show this school year at CCS demonstrated a wonderful artistic range and watching these artists present their work and explain their creative process is proof of their artistic growth.

5-8TH GRADE MATH CLASSES HAVE BEEN REVAMPED



Students are spending more time problem solving in random groups while standing at vertical whiteboards. These changes were implemented based on the first three practices in Peter Liljedahl's book, "*Building Thinking Classrooms*."

With this change you'll find students:

- walking into the classroom each day, excitedly watching the random group generator on the screen sort them into random groups;
- communicating with their group as they problem solve by talking through a task from the Illustrative Mathematics program and deciding how to tackle it;
- up and out of their seats quickly adding ideas to the vertical whiteboards around the room as they take on the task because they are not afraid to take a risk;
- different groups communicating with each other as they compare strategies on their whiteboards and bring back new ideas to their group;
- learning from each other as each group shares their strategies for solving the task;
- becoming a strong community of learners who are willing to work with anyone and who are not afraid to share ideas with all!



The middle school math classroom at CCS is a thinking classroom where students collaborate and problem solve together all while developing their understanding of new mathematical concepts.

CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED

(CONTINUED)

WALK-A-THON

- Kristi Pramuka & Danielle Krueger

On May 19th, all CCS students and staff, along with many families, community members, and four legged friends, journeyed together to raise money for World Central Kitchen. It was the perfect weather for the 19th Annual Walk-a-Thon! The afternoon was spent walking and talking as K-2nd graders walked 1.5 miles, 3rd-5th graders 2.5 miles, and 6-8th 4 miles. The World Central Kitchen provides meals to communities in crisis; it serves both Ukraine and Syria.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE Class of 2023



Mais Aljaseem



Byron Bell



Sophia Bindley



Selena Black



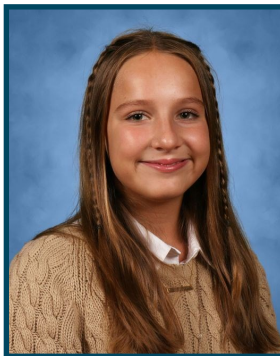
Jasmine Bright



Ava Bronson



Elizabeth Holland



Olivia Jeans



Conor Joseph



Daniel Lesch



Jacob O'Connell



Jacob Robels



Liam Steck

KENT CENTER SCHOOL

REG¹ON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES IN KINDERGARTEN - Valerie Vega and Kathleen Robey

KCS kindergartners loved showing their parents their learning during student-led conferences in March. Our students led their parents through five different academic centers to show their proficiency in several common core state standards.



In the Foundations Center, students used their phonemic awareness skills by building, writing, and reading words. The writing center allowed students to share their pieces from their writing folders. Kindergartners read books from their reading bags aloud to their parents in the reading center. Parents read number story problems aloud and asked their children to solve them using manipulatives, number trees, pictures, and equations. The Number Corner was the favorite center! Kindergartners used the calendar to write numbers and solve and record number stories within ten, and counted the number of days we have been in school using two different methods.



This format allows kindergartners to take ownership of their learning and truly be the leaders in displaying their academic growth. The positive self-esteem and confidence shown by our youngest students is exciting and rewarding!

SECOND GRADE BIOGRAPHIES & BIOLOGY

- Kristen Willenbrock and Ane Starr

The KCS library is full of many wonderful biographies. Second graders had their choice of many influential people to study, including scientists, presidents, athletes, and authors. In addition to reading their biographies, students used *Epic* to research additional information for their reports. Students first completed a written report highlighting their person's childhood, character traits, adulthood, and influence/legacy. Finally, students were given a choice of how they wanted to present the information. Ideas for projects included dressing up, a pizza box, a poster, or a tri-fold. Staff members and first graders visited so second graders could share all their hard work.

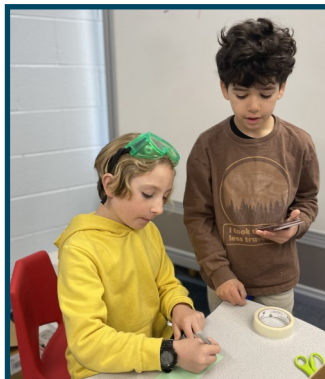
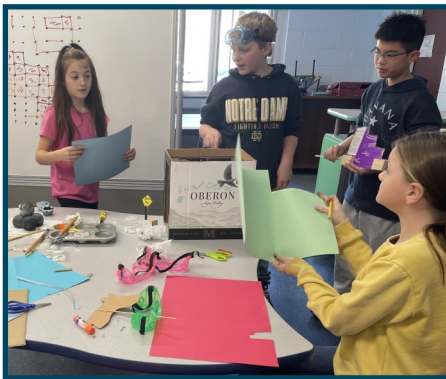


During the month of April, the second graders' number corner theme featured garden beds. At the beginning of the month, students each planted 2 corn and 2 pea seeds. Once the seeds germinated, students measured the seedlings twice a week, finding the height in centimeters and how much the plants grew from the previous measurement. Weekly, measurements were added to the class line plot, and students made observations about the data.



PUPPETS AND POETRY IN 4TH GRADE

- Laurabeth Davidson and Elizabeth Bernard



The fourth grade has been working with local artist, Susan Aziz to transform a poem of their choosing into a toy puppet theater. During this six week project, students worked in collaborative groups, selected a poem, created a storyboard, and brought their poems to life. Students worked together to create backdrops, characters, and the theater itself. Students used cardboard and paper in the creation of their scenery, characters and theater. The performances consisted of the incorporation of lighting, music, and movement of the characters and scenery. It was an incredible experience for students to show their creativity with the guidance of Ms. Aziz.

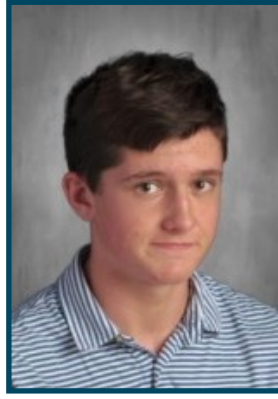
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KENT CLASS OF 2023



Charlie Baird



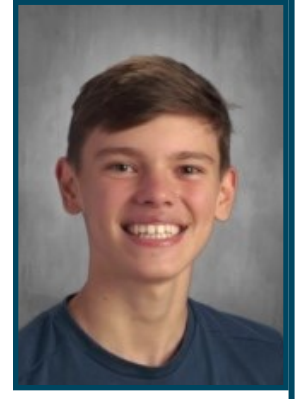
Griffen Bloom



Odin Bonis



Atticus Brown



Owen Brown



Rhys Culbreth



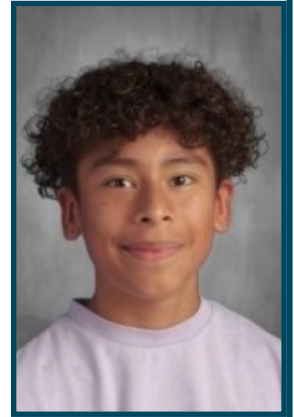
Kacie Darrin



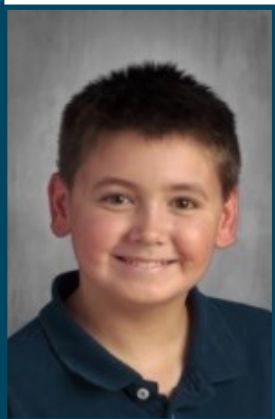
Layla DiDomenico



James Flores



Oliver Hernandez



Levi Houck



Nora Lennon



Noah Love



Ryley Minnerly



Meadow Moerschell



Charlie Osborne



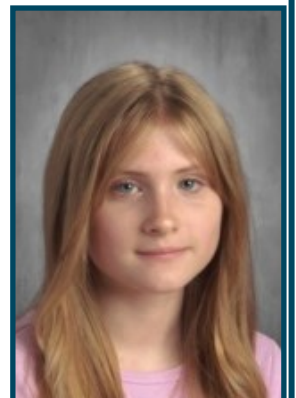
Michelle Philipps



Blaize Santiago



Abigail Victory



Fate Wright

EGG DROP

- Jen Calhoun and Lauren Montagna

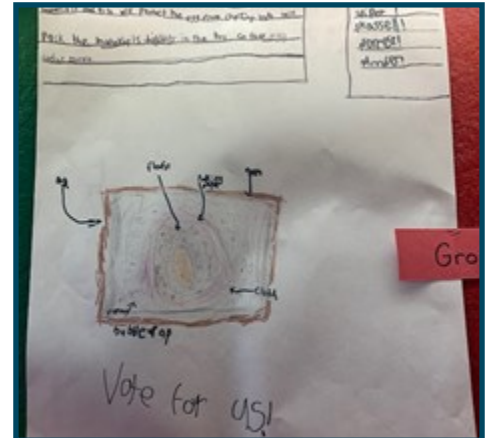
Over several weeks in April, K,1,& 2 students were presented with the challenge of designing a container that would protect a raw egg from a high drop.

Initially, students collaborated in small groups to brainstorm a design that would keep the egg safe using recycled materials and their contraption could be no larger than 12x12x12 inches including a parachute.

After the brainstorming session, students constructed a poster explaining their design in depth. Focusing on another area of a *Portrait of a Graduate*, communication, students added details and descriptions to their posters in the hope of persuading Kellogg students to vote for their design to last. Students across the grades admired the posters and had thoughtful discussions on the strengths and limitations of the designs.

Over the following week, K, 1st, and 2nd grade students sought recycled materials to build their contraptions and assemble them. Some groups revised their designs and had to think flexibly to creatively use the recycled materials but still stay within the size requirements.

On April 24, Sharon Fire Department generously came to Kellogg School with their ladder truck to drop the eggs safely encased in their prototypes. The whole school gathered outside to cheer on the seven groups of students. Kellogg School's retired custodian and fireman, Bill Bebee along with Matt Hansen dropped each egg container four different times at varying heights. The last drop was at the ladder truck's full extension at 100 feet over the parking lot's asphalt. Six contraptions made it to the last round and five contraptions survived all four drops. Well done K,1,2 engineers!



EARTH DAY AT LHK

- Amelia Nichols

It has become an annual tradition at LHK to join as a community and dedicate some time to celebrate our planet. This year we acknowledged Earth Day on Friday, April 21st by hosting a half-day, outdoor event. It was a beautiful day for some fun, earth-friendly learning experiences. We spent the afternoon in our bunches (groups made up of students in different grade levels) rotating to various presentations or stations around the school led by staff, parents, and members of our community.

Each station was a huge hit, especially if animals were involved. Stations included ducklings and calves from two different farms, recycled instruments made by 1st -8th graders, taking care of our garden, designing a butterfly garden, tree measuring and building a "recycle person" made completely out of recycled materials; every bunches group contributed to a part of the body. We spent 20 minutes at each station which made it possible for our students to have some hands-on experiences, including petting and feeding the cows and ducks, planting different vegetable seeds in our community garden and pulling all the weeds, drawing out their plan for our future butterfly garden and learning how to tell the age of a tree and how tall it is. There were a lot of questions asked and a lot of information shared that will help us all to learn how to better care for our Earth and all that lives here. Thank you to everyone who made this amazing afternoon possible!



MUSIC FOR EARTH DAY

- Danielle O'Neil

In preparation for our Earth Day Celebration, students designed musical instruments made from recycled and natural materials during their music classes. In the process, they learned about how instruments create sounds, and where they can be found. Grades 1 and 2 made Shaker Guiros. A guiro is an instrument native to South America and produces vibrations using friction. The outside ridges of the instrument are scraped. These handmade guiros double as a shaker instrument. Shaker instruments can be found throughout the world.



The 1st and 2nd grade students assembled their shaker guiros using recycled water bottles, popsicle sticks and various fillers such as rice, beans, and beads. They then enjoyed decorating the outside of their guiros with different color patterns.

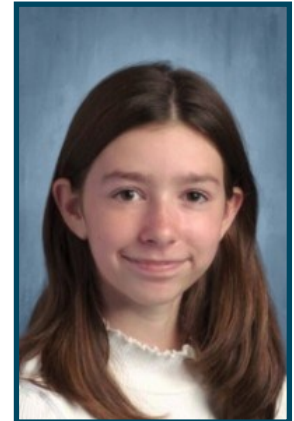
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEE H. KELLOGG CLASS OF 2023



Chase Tyler Ackerman



Hayden Marisa Bachman



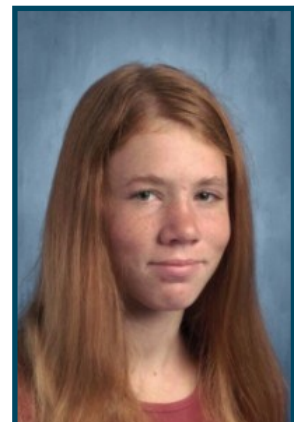
Grace Olivia Graney



Aiden James Krupa



Jasper Hidalgo Oyanadel



Darwin Anna Wolfe

NORTH CANAAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



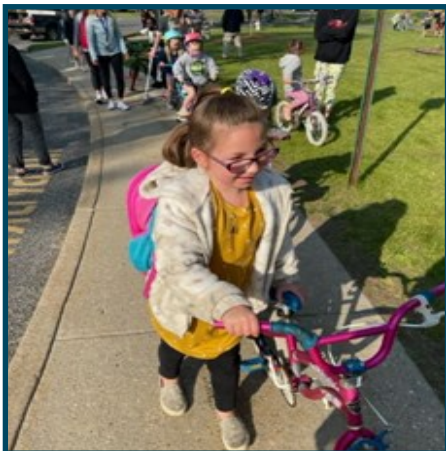
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

- Dr. Alicia Roy

Our Journey of Discovery included learning more about ourselves, inside and out. We focused on the importance of kindness this year at North Canaan Elementary School, including learning to be kind to the environment in which we live, the great outdoors.

NCES is proud to share our Arbor Day and Earth Day Celebration; Snow White, our school play; and Walk, Bike & Roll to school photos. We know the Journey of Discovery is a lifelong journey, one which we have begun through a year of adventures.

WALK, BIKE, & ROLL TO SCHOOL



Wednesday, May 12, was the perfect morning to start our day by walking, rolling, or biking to school. Seventy-five students and many families started their day outside. All students who participated received a special treat and two students were randomly selected to receive a free scooter and helmet from the PTO.

Thank you to Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Nelson, Trooper Ribadeneyra, the PTO, and families who helped to make the morning a success.

NORTH CANAAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EARTH DAY AND 33RD NCES ARBOR DAY CEREMONY



Friday, April 28th marked the 33rd Arbor Day Celebration at NCES and the 151st anniversary of National Arbor Day. Thanks to the ongoing dedication of Tom Zetterstrom and Selectman Christian Allyn; the donation from the Canaan Foundation; and the support from the North Canaan Selectmen, Town Crew, Chris Toomey, and Laurelbrook Natural Resources, we added a northern catalpa to our school's thriving arboretum to honor the 5th grade, who shared original poems. Kindergarten students sang the traditional Arbor Day song while first graders sang *My Roots Go Down*. Representatives from all grades EK-5 in attendance took turns adding mulch to protect the newly planted tree that we will enjoy as can all who pass by the front of the school. The winners of our recycling challenge were also announced as we celebrated Earth Day: Mrs. Noubleau's fourth-grade class and Dr. Braun's seventh-grade class recycled the most in April. As a school we recycled or reused a total of 28,559 items during the three months of the challenge! Look for the young tree in front of the flagpole and you can continue to celebrate the beauty of our natural environment with us.



In 1872, Sterling Morton proposed a tree-planting holiday – Arbor Day – in Nebraska, which resulted in a million trees being planted. Arbor Day was quickly adopted in all 50 states and became a tradition in schools nationwide in 1882. Today it is celebrated in more than 40 countries around the world.

LIGHTS DOWN, CURTAIN UP, STUDENTS TRANSFORM



Snow White, our school play, delighted the audiences on March 23rd and 24th. Twenty-four students impressed all of those in attendance, working as a team to present this classic show.

Thanks to the direction of Mrs. Merrill, Mrs. Peppe, and Mrs. Perry, and the creative set design of Mr. Merrill, the students enjoyed their time on stage as much as we enjoyed watching them.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NCES CLASS OF 2023



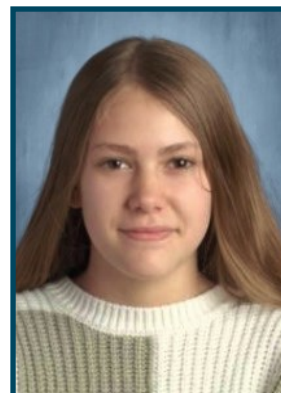
Jaelynn Andrews



Ashlynn J.
Beeman



Olivia Millicent
Claydon



Natasha Dawn
Dennis



Adelyn Belle
Diorio

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NCES CLASS OF 2023



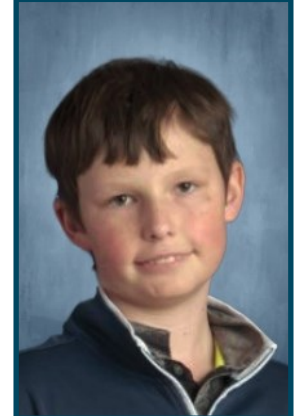
Lydia Christine Fleming



Sydney Rose Howe



Natalie Ann Hutchins



Jonas Bronx Johnson



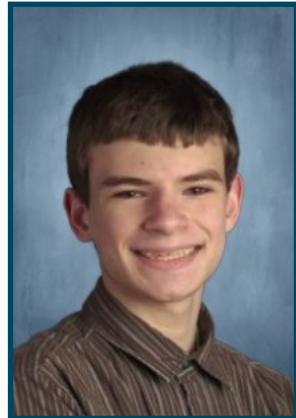
Emeline Krauz



Brayán Lopez-Gonzalez



Matthew Christopher McGuire



Logan Jerome Padelli



Marlene Perez



Gustavo Portillo



Rivers Richard



Carson Michael Riva



Sean William Sackett



Joseph B. Sherwood Jr.



Alanna Nicole Tatro

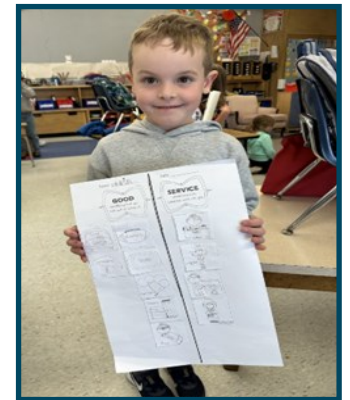


Ivy Zheng

KINDERGARTEN & COMMUNITY

- Rachel Incillo and Kirsten Merritt

This year Kindergarten has thirty-four students in 2 classrooms. In their social studies unit, the classes have discussed the SCS community and our local communities. Students learned about rules and laws, goods and services, the differences between wants and needs and the tools community members need to be successful. In addition, a portion of the unit includes researching community helpers. Students are selecting members of the community that they would like to research. Then, in partnerships, students use a variety of books and online resources to learn about their community helpers and teach classmates using their new knowledge. Students will also learn how community helpers contribute to the local community through a classroom visit. Members of the community will be invited to the Kindergarten classrooms to help us learn by hearing about their real life experiences. A culminating activity will be to use materials to design the community member, their tools, the building and vehicle needed to do their job.



3RD GRADE BIOGRAPHY PROJECTS

- Julianne O'Connell and Jennifer Mitchell

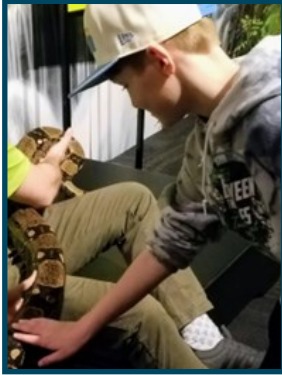


The Biography unit for third graders is a three month non-fiction unit that addresses several reading and writing standards. Throughout the unit, students learn non-fiction reading and research skills and focus on writing informational texts using facts and text evidence. We began the unit with a “book tasting” where students learned about different influential people in history and decided who they wanted to learn more about. We then moved onto teaching how to read informational texts, identify text features and conduct research. Once they selected their person of interest, they developed an understanding of the person’s life and significance through research. Finally, students complete an informative/explanatory writing piece and research project. This year, students were given several options for how they wanted to present their final projects. We will share our wax museum, pizza box biographies, and replica dolls with families on May 25.

SALISBURY CENTRAL SCHOOL

5TH GRADE GOES TO CT SCIENCE CENTER

- Jenni Hill and Deanna Maytas



On April 16th, the SCS fifth graders traveled to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford to explore many hands-on activities connected to our science curriculum. They were able to enhance their understanding of the NGSS space topics we have studied this year, as well as biomes of the world. Students interacted with various animals of the rainforest, such as sloths and snakes. They explored erosion and extreme weather. They experimented with sound waves and sports mechanics and were exposed to different types of energy and the workings of the human body. It was a great day that brought science to life!

8TH GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Kiera Bisenius and Tracy Dowd



The 8th grade traveled to D.C. in May to celebrate what for some is over 12 years at SCS of learning, growing, and exploring together. We were accompanied by Kellogg's 8th grade as well, which was a fun addition to our group. Students arrived early Tuesday morning, eager and excited for the week ahead. We loaded up the bus with pillows, blankets, copious amounts of Takis and Sunny D, and waved goodbye to our families. WE WERE OFF!

Our adventure began with an introduction to our awesome **Close Up** staff, Aiden and Jodie, who accompanied us for the duration of our trip. Their goal for our students was for them to “get the facts” and to leave better able to communicate their learning to others, cooperate with peers, make thoughtful decisions, take a stand and make their voices heard, as well as to have fun.



Within a few hours of hitting the city limits, students were tackling these challenges. Our Redhawks explored the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and met in small groups to reflect on how government works to improve inequity both in policy and the distribution of wealth and resources in the US. From there it was a quick dinner at the Pentagon Mall and lights out!



D.C. Trip Continued: The last day, students got to interview Miranda Ganter from the Office of Representative Jahana Hayes; explore the Library of Congress; go through the underground tunnel to visit the Capitol Visitor Center; explore the National Museum of African American History and Culture & the Smithsonian Natural History Museum; and see the World War II, Lincoln, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials at night.

As we left D.C., we were running low on Airheads, Mini Muffins, and sleep; but holding close old friends and new memories, countless souvenirs, and many students (and staff) hoping they would find their airpods before arriving home! Mr. Liu, our superstar bus driver who safely and efficiently navigated us through D.C.; never a minute late, helped us make a quick stop at Gettysburg to see the Cyclorama before we headed back to the NWC.

We would like to thank everyone; including our Board of Ed and SCS families, the Close Up Foundation, and all who supported our fundraising efforts that made this trip possible. We had a great time, the students learned lots while still having fun, and gained enough memories to last a lifetime. Congrats to the class, we are so proud of you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SALISBURY CLASS OF 2023



Wyatt Bayer



Asher Blake



Hadley Casey



Georgie Clayton



Christian DeDonato



John DeDonato



Braeden Duncan



Carmela Egan



Wiley Fails



Ben Fiorillo

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SALISBURY CLASS OF 2023



Cooper Grace



Fae Hall



Elliot Levinson



Makenzie Lidstone



Jackson McAvoy



Angel Medrano



Robbie Nellson



Charlie O'Connell



Jackson Olson



Michael Phillipp



Chris Race



Adele Russell



Karen Chavez Sanchez



Ryan Segalla



Islay Sheil



Ishaan Tantri



Joseph Yuranich



SHARON CENTER SCHOOL



OUR JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

- Carol Tomkalski

Welcome to the final edition of our Region 1 newsletter! Today, we embark on a thrilling Journey of Discovery, where we celebrate the spirit of exploration and the joy of learning. Throughout the year, our students have been engaged in a multitude of activities that have fueled their curiosity, expanded their knowledge, and inspired them to SOAR to heights they did not know they could reach.

In science, our students have embraced the scientific method, fostering critical thinking skills and igniting a lifelong passion for discovery. Our Journey of Discovery would not be complete without the magic of books and stories. Our students have devoured words; expanded their vocabularies; and enhanced their communication skills. Numbers and equations have served as compasses guiding our students through the world of mathematics. From solving complex problems to unraveling mathematical patterns, our young mathematicians have worked through hands-on activities and collaborative learning that has supported their development of a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, equipping them with essential skills for future success.

Embracing diversity and understanding different cultures has been an integral part of our journey as well. Through music, art, and all of our extracurricular activities, our students have celebrated the rich tapestry of not only our Sharon community, but the community at large. Our students have discovered through dance, drumming, BMX biking, arts, and acrobatics, that unity lies in our understanding of unique experiences and shared humanity.

As we reflect on our Journey of Discovery, let us acknowledge the unwavering dedication of our teachers and the support of our parents. Together, we have fostered an environment that nurtures curiosity; encourages exploration; and ignites the spark of lifelong learning within our students. Let's celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students and eagerly await the adventures that lie ahead!

SPRINGTIME HAPPENINGS IN EK & KINDERGARTEN

- Allison Bryant

The Kindergarten and EK classes are enjoying learning about spring seasonal changes including weather, baby animals and rainbows. We learned how rainbows are formed and loved doing rainbow art work. We also traveled to Sharon Audubon to make maple syrup.

Kindergarten students are also learning how to read and write and EK students are engaged in games and crafts to master their letters and sounds with Mrs. Hurlburt.



FIRST GRADERS LEARN BY DOING

- Karen Ducey

In April the students played virtual BINGO using songs. The first graders thoroughly enjoyed playing. They also had a visitor from the Sharon Playhouse who taught them different acting techniques. First graders have been learning about animals and how the animals adapt to their environment to keep them safe. They created a “home” for their animal.



PROJECT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Liz Foster

Project Make a Difference is SCS's peer mentor program. Middle school student volunteers enjoy spending time this school year with their younger buddies during scheduled activity blocks. Students play games, color, and share interesting happenings in their school day.

FROM THE ART ROOM

- Lilly Barnett

Jill from The Wassaic Project has been helping us paint a mural inside the schoolhouse. Speaking of murals, we have received funding from the Silly Putty Fund to put a mural up outside of the school building! Artists from the Sharon community should consider submitting a design. Contact lbarnett@sharoncenterschool.org if interested in participating.

Local Artist Katro Storm has been collaborating with the 8th grade students to come up with a piece of artwork that responds to the history of cotton as it relates to our nation's history of slavery. This project based learning model was one of many student projects & was shown with work from most other local schools, both public and private, at the Troutbeck Symposium earlier this month. (See Pages 4 & 5)

CIRCUS ARTS DAY

- Ashley Hamilton

On April 26th, students gathered for an all-school assembly with teachers from Scribble Art & the Circus Splendiferous! It was a fun-filled afternoon with clowning, tightwire walking, team building, and art! We even made a mini-circus based upon Alexander Calder's circus art, which will be on display in the school soon.

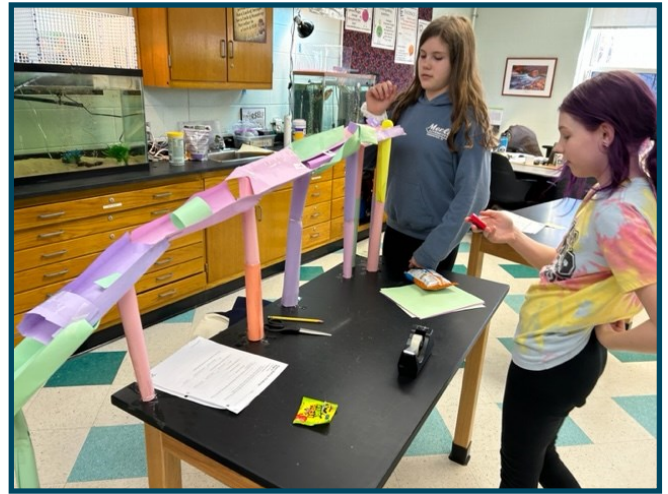
The kids worked collaboratively throughout the program, with our grades mixed together. Our secondary school students were able to exercise leadership skills helping out our younger kids, & primary students got the chance to learn from their older friends. Everyone had a blast!



MIDDLE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

- Jen Bergin

Middle school students all participated in a STEM challenge: they received only paper, tape, and a ping pong ball. The challenge was to see who could build a ramp that allowed for the SLOWEST descent of the ping pong ball, following the constraints of the contest. Brain cells were flexed and some interesting designs were tried and tested. No overall winner was declared, but everyone who participated had a great time.



The 7/8 Science class has started their unit on collisions in the past month. They have had fun trying to figure out the forces at work during horizontal collisions, some that caused damage and some that did not. We have recently been wondering what is the important piece that determines if there will be a permanent change in shape or a temporary one.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHARON CENTER CLASS OF 2023



Sophia Camphouse



Griffin Ducey



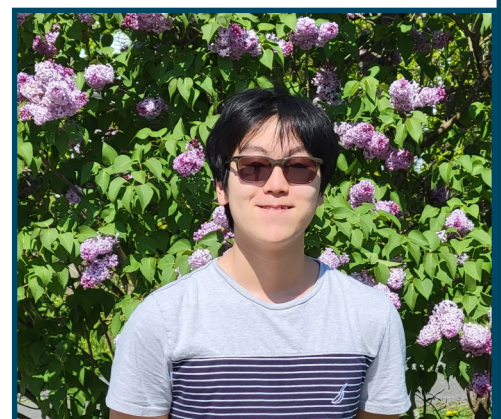
Lily Haxo



Riley Heady



Finian Malone



David Nam

HOUSATONIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

REGION
SCHOOL DISTRICT



A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

- Caitlin Messina and Patricia Vanicky

In true humanities fashion, freshmen students in Global History have explored the past through a variety of lenses. Pat Vanicky (Art), Taylor Monico (English), and Caitlin Messina (Social Studies) have been collaboratively teaching a unit on the Ancient Greeks. As part of their exploration, students are learning the myths the Greeks created to explain the origins of human nature, provide heroes and role models, teach humans the perils of imitating the gods, and offer explanations for natural phenomena. Students were then challenged to identify the take-aways in these stories and apply them to their current lives.

This structure allows students to experience meaningful connections between the academic disciplines. With Ms. Monico they practice the critical skills of close-reading text sources and using the premises of characterization to explore the role of symbolism in literature. With Mrs. Vanicky they learn the elements of art and the principles of designing a 3-dimensional sculpture. With Mrs. Messina they learn the role of mythology in the ancient world and the value of oral story telling as a unique source of information about the past.

Freshmen **Ariana Danforth Gold** believes "Working on this project was so enriching because I've never considered myself a good artist but this let me explore my creative side while engaging in an academic task." **Mollie Ford** thought "It was so interesting to watch my classmates take on this project as we all tackled it so differently. Using art helped us understand the topic of discussion while being creative, which was really empowering!"

Maddy Johnson enjoyed the interdisciplinary project, "Working on this allowed me to integrate ancient myths and beliefs in a personal and creative manner that broadened my artistic horizons, specifically regarding sculpture. It helped me learn about Ancient Greek myths in a hands-on way that was unique to my learning style and interests."

BLUE AND GOLD

- Warren Prindle



The 19th annual Blue & Gold art show exhibited an impressive collection of HVRHS students' work. It including paintings, drawings, sculptures, mixed media, photography, and digital art, as well as a broad range of individual styles. A team of interns, led by Ellie Wolgemuth, organized the sixty pieces.



The opening reception on May 19th was attended by friends, family, teachers, and art enthusiasts in the Kearcher Monsell Gallery in the HVRHS library. The Emcee was Tino Galluzzo, former head of Lakeville's White Gallery, who distributed twelve awards. Gage Heebner's work titled "Basket of Surprise" won "Best in Show." The Sharon Women's Club awarded two generous scholarships to Theda Galvin and Adrianna Ciccotelli.

MOUNTAINEERS TAKE ON DISNEY

- Thomas Krupa



The HVRHS Band and Chorus had a whirl wind trip to the 2023 Walt Disney World Festival. We attended a concert of the **Voices of Liberty** in Epcot center, where half the fun was watching students see what professional singers can do with vocal blending. Saturday, we did two performances and two college level clinics. The awards ceremony was a full-on rock concert which ended with a performance of *Don't Stop Believing* with the entire audience singing in tune.

Not only was this one of the best festival trips I've ever chaperoned, our Concert Choir and Band received excellent ratings with scores of 87.7/100 and 81.7/100, respectively, and Lorelei Gnerre's solo recording received a superior rating of 90/100.

THE LURE OF THE ORIENT

- Ella Hewins

For those of us who ventured to Japan with the Northwest Corner: Students Without Borders travel club during spring break, we made certain to cover as much of the land of the rising sun as our eleven-day expedition allowed - from Tokyo > Kyoto > Hakone and Osaka > Hiroshima.

Kyoto was magical during cherry blossom time; Osaka had amazing fried octopus and squid kabobs sold by street vendors; the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum reminded us of Japan's volatile past; and every shrine and temple we visited opened another doorway into the country's history.

Throughout our time in Japan, students and chaperones alike made it their missions to soak up every bit of culture possible.



CONGRATULATIONS TO HVRHS CLASS OF 2023



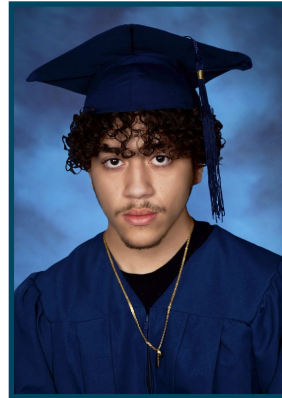
Brandon Allard



Alexis Andrews



Riley Andrews



Jordan Arango



Kayla Archiere



Caroline Barber



Linus Barnes



Mia Bayer



Nicholas Bonhotel



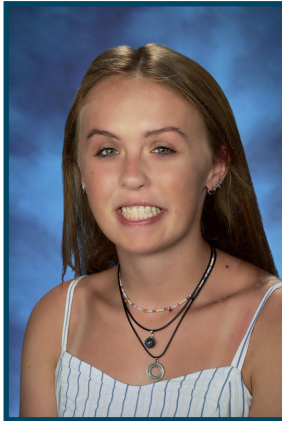
Calli Bosio



Catherine Bushey



Saige Cahill



Mackenzie Casey



Brandon Chiacchia



Adrianna Ciccotelli



Emery Coolbeth



Mackenzie Corkins



Elise Culbreth



Kaitlin Cunningham



Ariana Dahoney

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HVRHS CLASS OF 2023



Kai Davis



August Dekker



James Demaraies



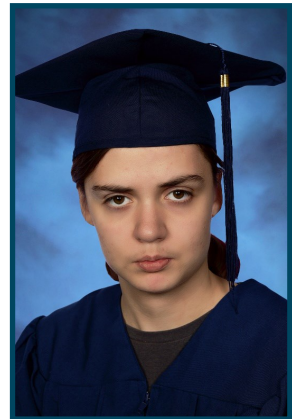
Zachery DiGirolamo



Lily Dolan



Lindsey Drislane



Theodora Galvin



Zoe Gillette



Zoey Greenbaum



Thalia Gualan



Kaelary Gwinn



Ella Hewins



Owen Hosier



Braydan Karanjawala



Leila Kline



Odin Knutson



Damien Lee



Logan Lockwood



Leslie Lopez Santiago

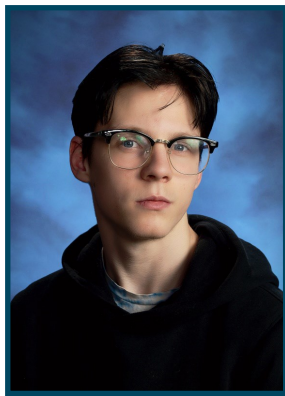


Carlos Lopez-Gonzalez

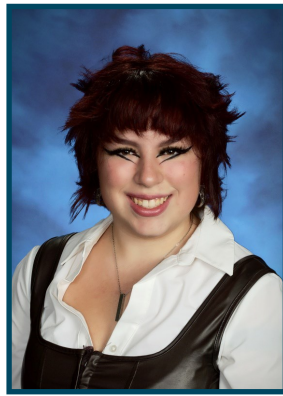
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HVRHS CLASS OF 2023



Carter Lotz



Wesley Lucas



Hex Marcus



Spencer Markow



Melody Matsudaira



Gregory Meindl



Libby Menniges



Margot Minton



Lily Najdek



Ava Nason



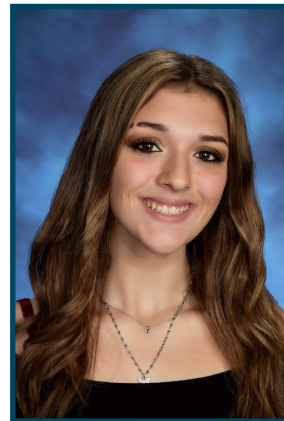
Aramis Oyanadel



Natalie Palmer



Elizabeth Petkovich



Kaylin Piscitello



Gavin Quigley



Lauren Ralph



Siobhan Ruiz



Harold Sanders



Helen Sanders



Noah Shipa

CONGRATULATIONS TO HVRHS CLASS OF 2023



Brianna Simone



Carter Sneller



Caitlin Sorrell



Sylvie Stiffler



Stella Story



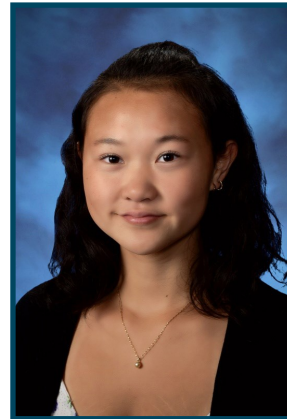
Haley Swaller



Matteo Taraba



Alyssa Tatro



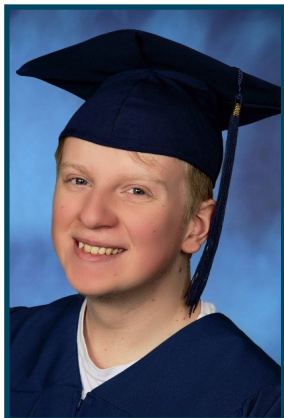
Shanea Togninalli



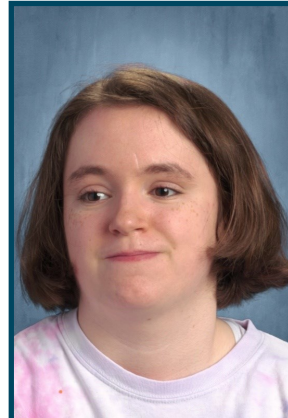
Odessa Trabucco



Lydia Turner



Jacob Veach



Althea Voorhees



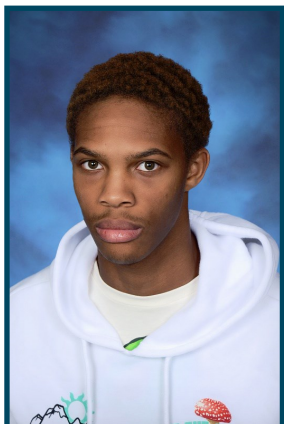
Caleb Wandell



Aislyn Weinstein



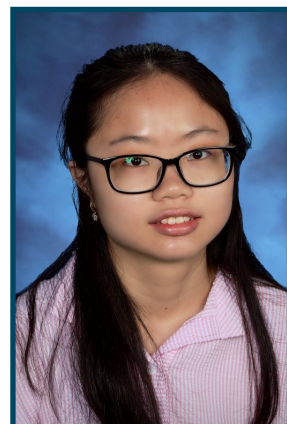
Sage Wilson



Devonte Wright



Ada Yeung



Maggie Zheng



www.hvrhs.org

REGION 1

SCHOOL DISTRICT

21st Century Fund for HVRHS Mural



When the **21st Century Fund's** Board of Directors voted on the application for the BIPOC Mural, it was unanimous. This was something they wanted their name on. On behalf of the students, Warren Prindle had written: "HVRHS is a small rural high school. The student body, though heterogeneous in economic backgrounds, is largely homogeneous in ethnic make-up. Due to the latter, a grassroots sentiment arose among the students to have a broader, more diverse, more inclusive representation in the school. To address this, our students conceived of a BIPOC-themed mural on the school campus. Students also enthusiastically embraced the idea of working with a professional muralist whom they would engage with throughout the process." The mural is located in the school cafeteria.



This year the **21st Century Fund** awarded \$34,000 in grants to the HVRHS Community. The mural was paid for by the Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts. www.21stcenturyfund.net

REGION 1 ADMINISTRATORS

Ms. Lisa Carter, Superintendent

Dr. Jeanine Rose, Asst. Superintendent

Mrs. Martha Schwaikert, Director Pupil Services

Mr. Ian Strever, Principal, HVRHS

Mrs. Mary Kay Ravenola, Principal, Cornwall CS

Mrs. Stacey Calo, Principal, LH Kellogg S

Mrs. Stephanie Magyar, Principal, Salisbury CS

Mr. Sam Herrick, Business Manager

Mrs. Rebecca Gaschel-Clark, Supervisor Special Ed

Mr. Steven Schibi, Asst. Principal, HVRHS

Mrs. Michelle Mott, Principal, Kent CS

Dr. Alicia Roy, Principal, North Canaan ES

Mrs. Carol Tomkalski, Principal, Sharon CS