

# REGION 1

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

CANAAN/FALLS VILLAGE    CORNWALL    KENT    NORTH CANAAN    SALISBURY    SHARON



## LET THEM SHINE

UPPER LEFT TO RIGHT: Salisbury Art Class, NCES Eclipse Watch, CCS Flower Power Center: HVRHS Hamilton Winners

LOWER LEFT TO RIGHT: SHARON THINKING CLASSROOM, KCS Earth Day & LHK Finding Joy

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

### LET THEM SHINE

What a fabulous year! It is hard to believe that it is coming to an end. As you know, we aligned our 2023-2024 newsletter themes to the CT State Department of Education theme of “Infinite Possibilities”. Toward that end, we shared information about authentic student learning experiences and extra-curricular activities that included choice, discovery and student application of learning. When observing student participation in these projects and activities, it is possible to see that, not only are students learning the fundamental building blocks of a discipline or activity, they are also learning how to interpret information, to create new ideas and, in many cases, students are taking action (collectively or individually) to realize those ideas in their schools and communities. Thus, their learning is deeper, more meaningful and more likely to be sustained throughout their lives.

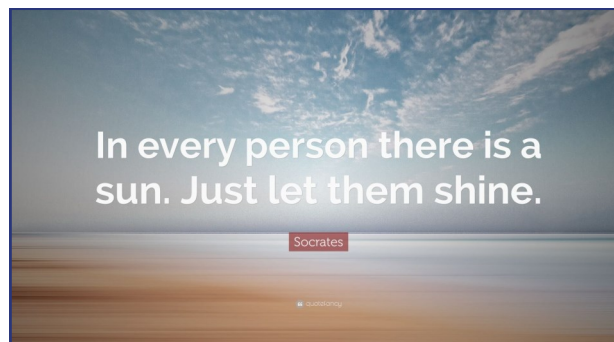
In this newsletter, you will see students from grades Pre-K-12 shine, whether it be while participating and collaborating in mathematics Thinking Classrooms, discovering and creating in the art room or on stage, or taking action in civic and environmental projects such as those presented at the Troutbeck Symposium or in celebration of Arbor and Earth Days. In addition to the active learning that occurs through these more student-centered instruction, one sees remarkable growth in student skills in the area of public speaking and interpersonal discourse; skills that will serve them well regardless of the path pursued later in their lives. Finally, students experience important social and emotional growth in the areas of all 16 Habits of Mind, which are so important to their success as wholly-developed individuals. We thank the teachers, administrators and community members who support our students as they learn. It truly does “take a village” to prepare them for the future.

In addition to school and student news, this edition is always special because we see our eighth grade and senior graduates. We congratulate each of these students on the achievement of the important milestone of graduation and wish them all the best in the next steps of their journey.

I would be remiss in ending this year without thanking Nancy Hegy Martin for her continuing amazing and tireless commitment to the creation of this newsletter. It has been my pleasure to partner with Nancy in this work, but she should be recognized for the imagination, hard work, and devotion she commits to sharing the accomplishments of our students and staff through the years.

It is with mixed emotions that I sign off on this last letter in the role of Region 1 Superintendent. It has been an honor and privilege to have worked in the Region for the last 22 years, both as a teacher and an administrator. I thank the Boards of Education, administrators, staff, students and parents/caregivers for your partnership and support throughout my career.

Thank you for all that you do to support our schools throughout the Region. We cannot do this work without your partnership. It is because of your efforts, past and future that we are and will continue to be Region 1 strong; I am sad to leave such a beautiful community, but I look forward to the next chapter of my life experience.



Have a wonderful summer,

All the best,

Lisa Carter, Superintendent Region 1 Schools

## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

I can think of no better way to celebrate than to highlight the remarkable initiatives that empower our students to shine. Two outstanding programs: that reinforce this are the Troutbeck Symposium and Summer Mountaineer Program.

**Troutbeck Symposium:** The Troutbeck Symposium is a profound local history project that delves into the rich, often overlooked histories of marginalized communities in our region. Through this symposium, our students engage deeply with the past, uncovering stories and contributions that have shaped our society. By learning about these diverse narratives, students gain a more inclusive understanding of history and its impact on our present and future. This project not only educates but also inspires our students to appreciate and respect the multifaceted nature of our community's heritage.

**Summer Mountaineer Experience:** Our Summer Mountaineer Program offers middle school students an unforgettable camp experience, fostering friendships and skills amidst the natural beauty of our region. This program is a gateway to adventure, featuring activities like rock climbing, canoeing, paddle boarding, hiking, and swimming. Students also explore their creative and agricultural interests at the high school's Art Garage and Ag Center while Flying Cloud hosts activities in the STC. By immersing themselves in these diverse experiences, students develop confidence, resilience, and a profound connection to the outdoors. They also start to build connections to their peers from different schools.

Together, these programs exemplify our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, informed, and inspired students. Let them shine, indeed!

Finally, I want to recognize and thank all of our retirees from across the 7 schools in Region One. Each of these teachers has in their time with the Region helped our students to shine.

Lisa Carter: 22 years (2002-2024), Superintendent, Principal of Salisbury Central School, HVRHS History teacher

Dr. Scott Fellows: 35 years (1989-2024) HVRHS Math Department Chair, Co-Assistant Superintendent (2020-2022)

Alan Lovejoy: 37 years (1987-2024), HVRHS Science and Lee H. Kellogg Science teacher

Mary O'Reilly: 15 years (2002-2014, 2021-2024), HVRHS Spanish teacher

Warren Prindle: 21 (2003-2024), HVRHS Art teacher

Mark Fogel: 22 years (2003-2024), Lee H. Kellogg Spanish teacher

Athena Halkiotis: 22 years (2002-2024), Salisbury Central School Music teacher

Angie Coleman: 11 years (2013-2024), Pupil Services Occupational Therapist

Kathleen Brinley-Manning: Pupil Services Educational Paraprofessional

Jeanine Rose, Assistant Superintendent

# CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

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## FLOWER POWER!

- Candy Carlson

Cornwall Kindergarteners enjoyed celebrating Earth Day, Arbor Day and May Day. On May Day they investigated how flowers bloom in the spring. They focused on the unique properties of water and how it helps flowers to bloom. Knowing that April showers bring May flowers, they watched the flowers blooming all around us and practiced fine motor skills by cutting and folding paper pinwheel flowers. They placed these into a dish of water where they floated and expanded as we brainstormed about why and how this was happening. We talked about how the paper fibers absorbed the water and expanded pushing the tips of the paper out, similar to how water helps real flowers to blossom.



## 4TH GRADE & KINDERGARTEN BUDDIES

- Cathy Binkowski

The 4th grade and Kindergarten classes have been teaming up for a big buddy/little buddy program twice a month since February. It is a wonderful opportunity for 4th graders to build their leadership skills as they learn to take on responsibility. It also ensures the Kindergarteners know they have a fellow student they can turn to for support. It increases social interactions, as it increases knowledge and shared experiences. The “buddies” do getting to know you activities, reading, puzzles, a rainforest activity and rainforest BINGO. It is thrilling to see a Kindergartner's face light up when they see their buddy at lunch or on the playground! (Photos on page 6)

## Go Live Girl!

- Nicole Folino



This year CCS middle school girls took a chance to shine and brighten their futures by learning how to navigate relationships. How do we say what we are feeling kindly? How do we tell someone when they have crossed a boundary? How do we express to someone that we are happy for them? All are questions that can be hard to ask and/or answer. CCS collaborated with a non-profit program “LiveGirl” whose main themes are LIVE brave, LIVE kind, and LIVE your power. LiveGirl highlights the importance of conflict resolution, connection, resilience, and social emotional intelligence. It gives middle school girls the chance to grow into more confident individuals by empowering themselves and one another.



The 8th graders at Cornwall Consolidated School have worked on individual community-oriented projects for the past few months. They began the process by choosing topics that are of interest to them and would be beneficial to the CCS community or the larger Cornwall community. Students practiced persuasive and informative writing by drafting and editing grant letters to receive project funding from the **CCS Fund for Excellence**. Additionally, they worked with an assigned mentor from the community to learn about their project topic, set goals along the way, and create a product that benefits or teaches others. In early June, all of the 8th graders will have their individual chance to shine the spotlight on their projects through formal project presentations to the school community, their families and mentors, plus other community members. 8th grade Explorations projects vary from teaching younger students how to write and publish comics to creating a pamphlet that teaches visitors about our school and our town. The 8th graders are demonstrating that they are thoughtful, intentional, and driven leaders of our CCS community, and we will be celebrating their accomplishments soon!



# CORNWALL CONSOLIDATED

(CONTINUED)



**4th Graders & their Kindergarten Buddies work and play together.**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CORNWALL Class of 2024



Travis Barber



Samuel Berry



Logan Bronson



Lucius Bryant



Olivia Cavalier



Winter Cheney



Lily Danforth Gold



Logan Dolan



Elise Laigle



Karoleena Martins



Chayton Pastre



Kaylee Roache



Rowan Taaffe



Schuyler Thompson



Nathan Young

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KENT CLASS OF 2024



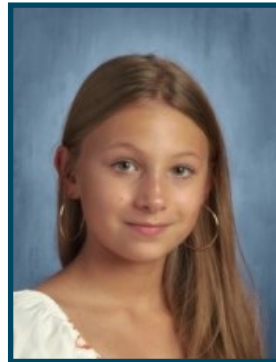
Baylee Alderman



Elizabeth Austin



Benjamin Baird



Lyla Banffy



Mason Basile



Charles Collins



Andrew Gawel



Dylan George



Beatrice Gifford



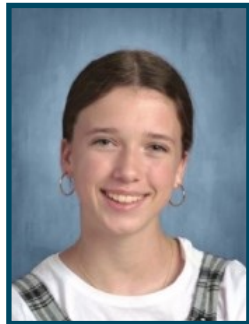
Myers Gifford



Addison Green



Katherine Joseph



Alyssa Kovacs



Alison McCarron



Katherine Money



Kadence Parsons



Richard Patterson



Vincent Roberti



Owen Schnepf



Andrew See



Juliette Trabucco



Jessica Watkins



Emery Wisell

Missing: Lincoln Kennedy

# KENT CENTER SCHOOL

REG<sup>1</sup>ON  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## KENT ARBOR DAY 2024

- Betsy Morrow

In the town of Kent, Arbor Day is more than just a date on the calendar. It's a celebration of roots, both literal and metaphorical, and a reminder of the positive impact we can have when we come together to nurture the world around us.

The special event began with a tree planting ceremony, which took place at the local firehouse. The entire school took a walk into town and then gathered in the school gymnasium for the annual Arbor Day assembly.

For the fifth graders at KCS, Arbor Day holds a special opportunity as well. In their library class, they delved into the rich history of their town, uncovering a connection that spans generations and begins with a visionary named Birdsey Grant Northrop. Born on March 18, 1817, in the quiet town of Kent, Birdsey Grant Northrop would grow up to become a pioneer in environmental stewardship. His passion for trees was a driving force behind many of his endeavors during his lifetime. When offered a chance to speak in front of the whole school during the Arbor Day assembly, six brave students rose to the occasion.



With pride and confidence, the students stepped forward to share the story of Kent's special connection to Arbor Day. As they stood before their peers, they spoke of Birdsey Grant Northrop's dream. These students painted a picture of a man who believed that every tree planted was a gift to future generations. They spoke of the significance of Arbor Day to their small town of Kent. Thanks to their participation during the event, audience members understood that Arbor Day was more than just an annual celebration. It was a celebration of community, of history, and of the power of one person's vision to change the world. Birdsey's legacy lives on, not just in the roots of the town's history but in the hearts of its inhabitants, especially its youngest members.

Arbor day is not just about planting trees but about nurturing hope, and fostering a brighter future for generations to come.

## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

- Christopher Rose

When it comes to Arbor Day, it is often easy to forget all of the work that goes into the celebration. Recycling poster competitions, composing poems, selecting a site, calling groups to make sure ground lines are avoided, and most importantly, the physical process of placing the tree into its new home. This year a hole had to be dug for a six year old tulip tree, three feet across and roughly half as deep. The students had to help move nearly 1500 pounds of soil. One might say that's a long row to hoe, but Trey Roberti, Edwin Hernandez, and Ben Baird did so with zest.

Despite the challenge, typically in the form of the many rocks left by glacial retreat here as throughout much of CT, the students did not complain and even expressed a simple joy and deep fulfillment in the toil. The roughly two hour period prompted many questions around the various fields of science involved, from botany to geology, making it a real teachable moment. I can't think of a better way to welcome a new tree to the community than taking such interest in all aspects of its life and that of its new home.



As much as the tulip tree may look like a field of stars in time, with its yellow blooms, the students of Kent Center School will always shine brighter. Minds brimming with questions and such bright excitement and wonder at the natural world, for Arbor Day at least, I feel we can all aspire to and share in the same feelings.

## OUR EXTENDED KENT COMMUNITIES

- Second Graders



In social studies, we learn about communities. We spend time comparing the different communities that we belong to and discussing how each community is important. Students also learn about story quilts and their purpose. We learn that these quilts share a personal narrative through pictures. Second graders read many different quilt stories, including *The Keeping Quilt* by Patricia Polocco and *Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold. In these stories, families create a handmade quilt to tell their history.

In this spirit, we asked each family to create a quilt piece and craft a second-grade story quilt; pictured to the left. The completed quilt, will be on display through the end of the year. This quilt will be stored until the students are in 8th grade. The quilt will then be displayed at their 8th-grade graduation celebration. This is a cherished Kent Center School tradition!

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

- Stacey Calo, Principal

Our third annual Earth Day celebration at LHK brought our students closer to nature and fostered a strong sense of community. Under the bright spring sky, students spent the day participating in a variety of environmentally-focused projects and learning opportunities.

Whether prepping our beloved community garden, getting it ready for a season of growth and learning or hiking around campus learning to identify the various trees that grace our grounds, students tended to and appreciated the natural beauty that surrounds them. The excitement continued with a visit from the Housy VoAg students, who introduced our children to their adorable baby goats and provided an educational session. We were also lucky to have lamb babies visit with one of our LHK families. This unique experience allowed our students to connect with animals and understand the importance of agriculture and animal care.

Other activities included hiking to the falls, making seed bombs, which students eagerly took home to plant in their own gardens. Our students also contributed to beautifying the school by planting vibrant pansies in planters, adding a splash of color and cheer to the campus. Other groups demonstrated their craftsmanship by building birdhouses, giving safe nesting spots for local birds and enhancing our school's wildlife habitat. Our sixth and seventh grade students erected a new community bench, which will serve as a perfect spot for outdoor classes and gatherings, fostering a stronger connection with the environment.

We are incredibly grateful to the community members who came out to support our Earth Day celebration. Their involvement and enthusiasm helped make the day a success and underscored the importance of working together to promote environmental awareness.

Our School cherishes our Earth and we are committed to nurturing a love for the environment in our students. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day special. We will strive towards a sustainable and environmentally conscious future.



# LEE H. KELLOGG SCHOOL

REGION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED SEÑOR FOGEL!

- The LHK Community

Spanish teacher, Señor Fogel, will be retiring after an incredible 20 plus years of dedication, passion, and fun. He has not just been a teacher; he has been a cornerstone of the LHK community, touching the lives of countless students and staff members with his enthusiasm and commitment.

Señor Fogel's influence extends far beyond the classroom. As the driving force behind our PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) program, he instilled a culture of positivity and respect that will continue to shape our school for years to come. Who could forget his legendary performances at middle school dances, where he would always lead the Macarena with boundless energy and a contagious smile? Whether he was playing a game of soccer on the front lawn, hosting a spirited game of Knock Out in the gym, or simply cheering from the sidelines, his presence was always a source of inspiration and fun.

Señor Fogel's love for Spanish and Hispanic culture was evident in his stories of travels to Spanish-speaking countries. The annual 8th-grade trip for Spanish lunch was always a highlight, giving students a taste of the culture they had been learning about and a chance to speak Spanish outside of school.

Here's to Señor Fogel, for two decades of incredible service, unforgettable moments, and an enduring impact on our community.  
¡Gracias, Señor Fogel!



## MAKING MENTAL HEALTH A PRIORITY AT LHK (Story Page 12)

- Lynn Shea



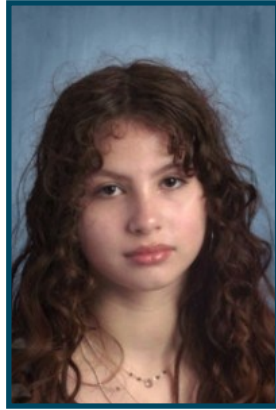
## MAY WAS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH! (Continued from page 11)

In order to bring awareness to Kellogg School, the students, staff, and teachers participated in an afternoon of activities that promoted self-care and helped us to find our joy! The activities included: Making Calming Jars, Yoga (thank you for Meg Sher and Amanda Spelbos!), Chair Yoga, Mindful Eating, Mindful Dance, Mindful Drawing, Quiet Craft Station, Coloring Mandalas, & Puzzles. We then went outside for an All-School recess! We had a great day and look forward to celebrating again next year.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEE H. KELLOGG CLASS OF 2024



Hoyt Boyden



Isabella Dugan



Connor Gulyas



Baxter Hayhurst



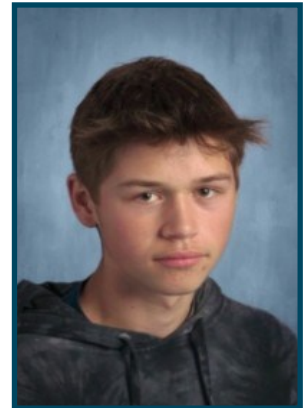
Marlow LaPointe



Paul Losh



Logan Miller



Nassim Nirschel



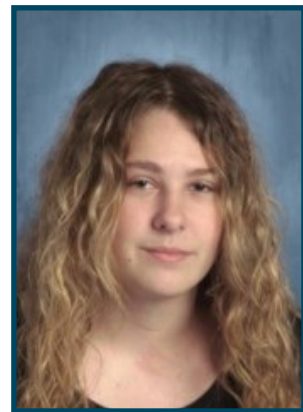
Karmela Quinion



Jacoby Reeve



Ian Thomen



Payton Wagner

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NCES CLASS OF 2024



Krystin Patricia-Rose  
Ackerman



Luca John Bascetta



Paige Reneé Beeman



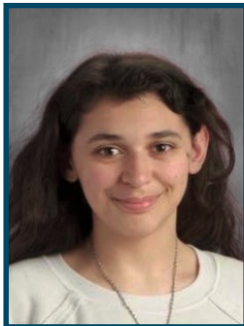
Peyton Cole Bushnell



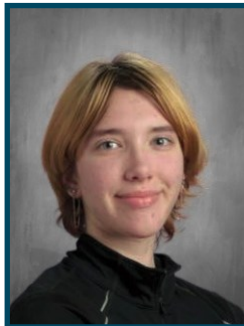
Alisa Christiansen



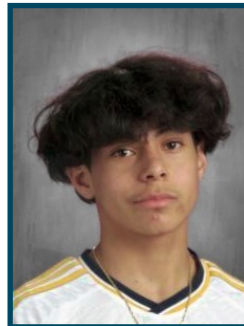
Caitlin Elizabeth  
Devino



Kailyne-Marie  
Foley



Teah Fredenburg



Sam Garcia Pulido



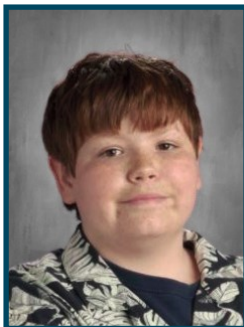
Kartel Levar  
Robinson Henry



Avery Hutton



Grace Koller



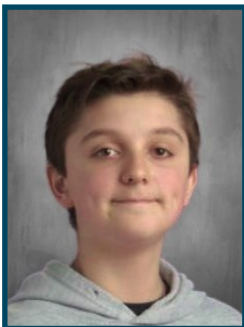
Joseph  
Linkovich



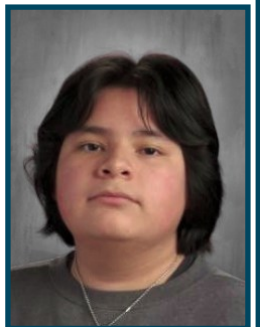
Chase Matthew  
Lowell



Abigail Perotti



Christopher  
Piscitello



Giovani Antonio  
Solorzano-Lemus



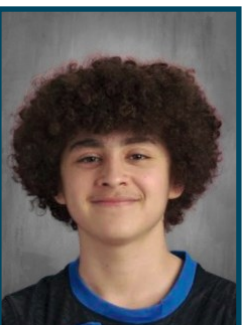
Sierra Lynn  
Szymanski



Camdyn Natalee  
Tallon



Erick Joseph  
Trotta



Federico Vargas  
Tobon



Collin Maddox  
Walsh



Olivia Whitney

## SHINING THROUGH SUGARING AT THE AUDUBON

- Denise Sorrell

In March, NCES second graders visited the Sharon Audubon Center to participate in their Maple Sugaring Program. Students learned about the many steps required to get the sap from the tree to the table. First, Ms. Sunny Kellner led us down one of their trails. While we walked we learned how to identify sugar maple trees and how to tap them to collect sap. We even got to peek in some buckets to see the sap inside. Our entire class was surprised to see some bugs in the buckets too!



The next part of our adventure was to collect sap. Annabelle gave Gavin the small bucket of what we collected which he poured through a cloth into a larger bucket. The cloth filtered out the bugs and/or debris that may have gotten into the sap.

We then took the larger bucket to the sugar house where they were boiling sap in the evaporator. Autumn thought “the maple syrup boiling in the machine looked like Coca-Cola!”

We also learned 40 is the magical number. Steven thought one of the most memorable things he learned is that “a tree must be 40 years old before you can tap it to collect sap.”

Nathan learned “the daytime temperatures must be at least 40 degrees.” Hunter added, “I can’t believe it takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup.”

Ms. Wendy Miller gave us each a taste of the maple syrup. It was delicious! Wyatt and Katalina both said, “My favorite part of the field trip was eating the maple syrup!” Then we ventured further into the woods, where Ms. Bethany Sheffer taught us how the indigenous people of North America made maple syrup long ago before our modern-day equipment existed. Annabelle found it interesting that “they made a spile to collect the sap from the tree from a straight piece of sumac.” “They used sticks to continuously move hot rocks into a carved-out log full of sap until it boiled,” Issac learned. Zephaniah found our field trip very interesting. He said, “I loved learning about the differences between how we do things now and how things were done long ago.”

Our field trip ended just as it started to rain, but not before we shined while sugaring.

## LET THEM ALL SHINE IN *THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.*

- Dr. Alicia Roy, Principal

This year's musical was an extraordinary success! More than 75 students from grades 2-8 participated, the greatest number of students who have ever starred in a show. They all had so much fun performing for the community!

The drama club gave two performances of Disney's *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* this past March, plus a preview for the students on March 20. Our performances are always outstanding, but this one truly was extraordinary. I am so proud of the students and staff who dedicate so much of their time to produce such a fabulous show!



Mrs. Merrill, Mrs. Peppe, and Mrs. Perry have been directing performances since 1999 with Mr. Merrill designing sets. Mr. Reed directed the music. Mrs. Kelly, Ms. LaMedica, Mrs. Selino, and Mrs. Fifer also worked as a creative team to design the costumes and wigs that made the actors in the show shine. We are fortunate to have such dedicated staff and community members who do whatever it takes to produce the show.

There are so many people who deserve credit, including Mrs. Zucco who worked the spotlight, Miss Bachetti who created the program and managed the ticket sales, and the numerous staff who helped to supervise the students. Kudos, North Canaan Elementary School Drama Club, for another shining success!

## HABITS OF MIND IN GRADE 2

- Sarah Freund & Taylor Hurley

This year Second Graders are focusing on a different *Habit of Mind* every month. During our morning meeting, they are introduced to a quote of the week. Each week, students discuss quotes and demonstrate the *Habit of Mind* quality throughout the school day. During our closing circle, we often hear students set a goal for the coming day that is related to that month's *Habit of Mind*, e.g. "One thing I want to do better is manage my impulsivity."

So far this year we have studied: Persisting, Managing Impulsivity, Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations, Striving for Accuracy, Listening and Understanding with Empathy, Thinking Flexibly, and Thinking Interdependently.

Below are some samples of how students define our *Habits of Mind*:



- "Persisting means trying and never giving up."
- "Listening with understanding and empathy means paying attention and responding to others."
- "Striving for accuracy is trying to do your best!"
- "Thinking flexibly means look at it another way!"

## CHOICE AND CREATIVITY IN THE ART STUDIO

- Marie Herow



Hanging above the Art Studio windows, there's a sign that reads "Creativity Happens Here!" This has become our motto in the SCS Art Studio, and has provided students with a sense of individuality and excitement towards their visual arts education. The Art Studio has become a hub for blooming creativity, creative problem solving, and a launching pad for blending the arts into everyday life.

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, students have continued to explore a choice-based studio model, with the addition of a practice of teaching called T.A.B. What is T.A.B. you may ask? T.A.B. stands for Teaching for Artistic Behavior, a transformative model with a focus on the

creative process over the final product. The foundation being that the student is the artist and the classroom is the student's studio.

This model has given students the opportunity to discover a variety of tools and mediums available, make personal choices, and to become independent artmakers. Our studio has transformed beautifully into a community of learning, not only for our students, but our school community as well. We hope you enjoy these snapshots of our T.A.B Studio at SCS!

## WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Kat Bucceri and Stephanie Beck

Our dedicated Wellness Committee has been busy this school year, making strides towards a healthier and happier school community!

**Breakfast Revamp:** The committee honed in to look at ways we can create more balanced and nutritious school meals for our students. Initially, our main focus was devoted to the breakfasts provided across PK-8th grade. The group decided to start by reducing the number of days juice was offered; we saw it as an easy way to reduce sugar while not eliminating the option for students entirely—working on balancing and not overall restricting. The committee worked with the kitchen staff to incorporate healthier cereal options (i.e. Chex Squares) and to offer cereal more often during the week reducing the number of days in which baked goods are offered as they are higher in sugar.

**Taking Wellness Beyond the Classroom:** The committee hosted a *Wellness Walk* that was an opportunity for SCS families to gather together and move our bodies. The walk incorporated physical movement while enjoying a beautiful sunny afternoon. Following the walk the group enjoyed a meal provided by local businesses (Deanos and Labonne's). Not only was the walk a great community gathering it was also an opportunity to give back by bringing collected canned goods that were donated to the Corner Food Pantry.

**Next Year:** The Committee intends to focus on composting and mental wellbeing.

## NATURE'S CLASSROOM

- Laura Badolato & Liz Houck



This spring 6th graders went to Nature's Classroom; it is a place where students are constantly learning academic lessons and life skills. While the programs focus on science, students often find classes are cross-curricular, as they touch upon elements from art, math, and even history! Mr. Conklin and Mrs. Houck worked alongside the Nature's Classroom teachers to ensure the program aligned with our curriculum.

A typical day would be breakfast; Field Group experiences; break; then lunch; more outdoor classes e.g., dissections; a pre-dinner break; dinner; evening activities and nighttime singing. A highlight was a visit to *Project Oceanology* in Groton. We boarded a large research vessel and headed out to sea. The bounty in our trawling net allowed us to examine fish, plankton, and crustaceans and to study the biotic components of the estuary. Oceanographic equipment measured water quality, estuary health, temperatures, and light at different sea levels. Sampling gear and collected data helped us make sense of our findings.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SALISBURY CLASS OF 2024



Jillian Allyn



Mia Belter



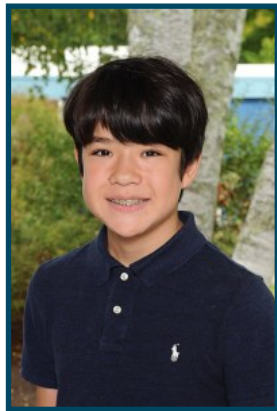
Max Bochnovich



Nico Bochnovich



Jack Campbell



Joseph Castellano



Sadie Chapell



Tess Churchill



Niki Clark



Landen Cooper



Louise Faveau



Luca Floridis



Sophia Francoline



Angel Gonzalez



Aryanna Horton



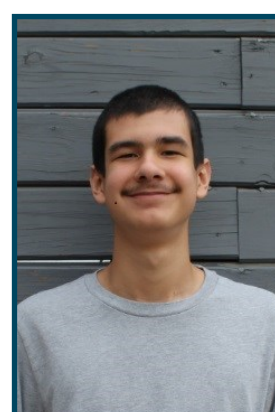
Cole Johnson



Kian Kennedy



Eliana Lang



Ayden Lemmy



Olivia Lounsbury

# THE SALISBURY CLASS OF 2024 CONT.



Julia Maier



Lily McCabe



Kennadi Mitchell



Teagan O'Connell



Michael Parris



Vladyslav Petrenko



Bridger Rinehart



AJ Russillo



Tony Saunders



Emma Sisk



Oliver Storm



Vincent Valcin

# CONGRATULATIONS TO SHARON CENTER CLASS OF 2024



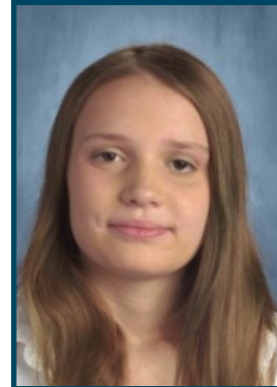
Jackson Brammer



Zaira Celso-Cristobal



Domenic Farley



Celestia Galvin



Nikolas Klippel



Jayden Milton



Mira Norbet



Viliija Salazar



Michael Schuster



Chase Smith



Soren Trivelli

# SHARON CENTER SCHOOL



## SHARON CENTER SHINES BRIGHT

- Carol Tomkalski, Principal

As we move into warmer weather and the vibrance of spring, our school community continues to shine brightly in countless ways. The final edition of the Regional Newsletter theme, "Let Them Shine," truly captures the spirit of our students, teachers, and staff who shape our school community with their talents, kindness, and enthusiasm. Below are some highlights showcasing the brilliance within our halls here at Sharon Center School (SCS).

We began a new program this year by creating a new block on Wednesdays where students engage in different club activities. This block gives students a time to shine in other ways beyond academics. Students are able to show peers that they are artists, dancers, engineers, athletes, musicians, and scientists among other things. More importantly, this time allows our primary students the chance to interact with students in other grades and classes. Students who struggle with academics are able to feel special showing off a lego creation, knitting projects, or even share dance moves they have learned.

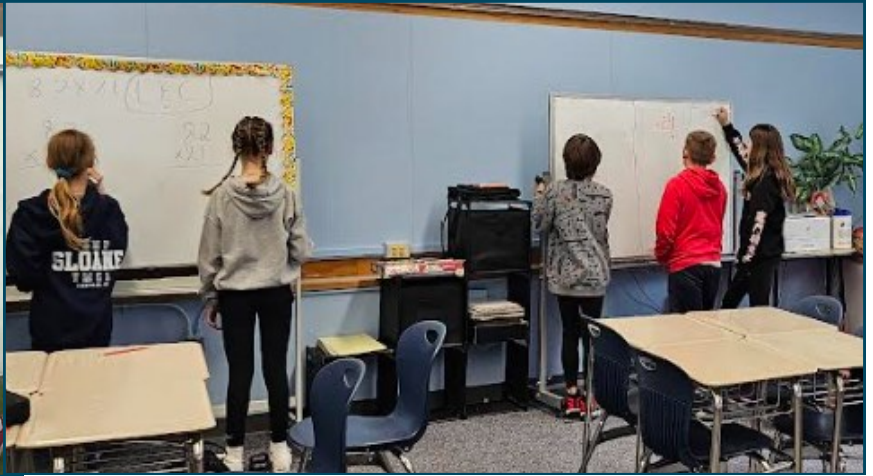
SCS's Middle School Students have been shining through their engagement in the *Civic life Project*. They are creating documentaries centered around civic issues. One group is creating a documentary about censorship in schools, while another is creating a documentary about social media's impact on teenagers. Students have to identify a topic, find people to interview, develop questions, conduct interviews, and then edit and produce the documentary. Some of the interviewees were principals including myself; others included a mother who lost a child to cyberbullying and U.S. Senator Blumenthal.

In Math students have really taken to the *Thinking Classroom* strategy. This strategy encourages students to show their work on a white board, discuss their thinking, and learn from mistakes. Students have strong mathematical discussions and rise to challenging problems. The 5th graders are currently working on showing their decimal operations, 7th graders are solving equations and inequalities, and simplifying expressions, while the 8th graders just wrapped up on exponent properties and scientific notation.

*Phoenix News* and Troutbeck were other places our students were able to shine. At Troutbeck SCS students displayed their artwork and consulted with a professional artist. "In collaboration with self-proclaimed history nerd and maker Blake Myers, Sharon Center School's 8th-grade Art class delved into the historical context of the Amenia Conferences held at Troutbeck in 1916 and 1933. Students recreated the menu using ceramics, while also interpreting place settings with embroidery through their unique artistic lenses." (See Page 29) *Phoenix News*, as part of our weekly club offerings with Ms. Palumbo, a former Emmy Award Winning journalist, challenged middle school students to become investigative reporters. With her guidance, students created actual news footage that is shared during our morning meetings. They not only met the challenge, they exceeded expectations.



The *Phoenix News Crew*



5th Graders working in a Thinking Classroom

Our school's end of the year art show was held at Standard Space Gallery with an opening on 5/17. The gallery was flooded with families and community members all weekend long. The community rallied and many thanks to Theodore Columbe, Gallery owner, and Annie Trowbridge who helped cater the event. Additionally, The PTO helped to hang the show and brought in cookies and treats for all to enjoy. Mrs. Barnett would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer, and to thank you for your support over the last 10 years. She invites everyone to come visit her at the high school.

The Sharon Center School Phoenix sculpture got an upgrade this past spring. Thanks to Sharon Autobody for taking our sculpture in and cleaning it up, and installing it back to its original location. It is now repaired and has a new life and a new color! The color showcases our beautiful school color! Come check it out!

Overall the first year of STEM at Sharon Center was a success. All students were able to participate and showcase their creativity and ingenuity. Middle school students worked on a variety of design and engineering projects and spent the last few weeks coding. Elementary students used the makerspace to create masterpieces of design and function. They also used a variety of robots and started learning to code.

Lastly, at SCS, students were able to "Let Them Shine" in a variety of ways through music. This year, students had many performance opportunities through band, chorus, and jazz band at their winter and spring concerts. The variety of music they performed showcased many themes and emotions: joy, love, togetherness, and wonder. In addition, our Drama Club performed Disney's *The Lion King Jr!* Students memorized dance numbers, learned songs, and acted in a full length musical production. With different sets, costumes and props, the cast and crew were able to shine on the stage!

# HOUSATONIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

REGION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## THE NEXT WOMEN SYMPOSIUM

- Abby Auerbach and Lori Bucco



On Monday, May 20th the HVRHS Next Women spent a day in the corporate world of NYC. The 2023-2024 HVRHS NEXT Women Program, created by its Executive Director Abby Auerbach, culminated in a symposium bringing the students together with a variety of professional women in a NYC business setting for conversations about career paths, communication skills, self-advocacy, work/life balance, and more. The six senior students, Veronica Bonet, Kathleen Bodwell, Samantha Crodelle, Lorelei Gnerre, Haley Leonard, and Anne Moran spent the day immersed in the fast-paced world of television, advertising, event planning, and career planning.

The NEXT Women Symposium, which was generously underwritten by the **21st Century Fund**, began at Nexstar Media Group.

Abby produced the day's program with the help of Debbie Presser, VP, National Sales at Nexstar. Debbie's innately motivational career-journey story, began in a 30th floor conference room and continued as the group walked (as working New Yorkers would) to the WPIX-TV studios. At PIX, the group met with senior TV executives who were infinitely inspiring and provided valuable advice about everything from interviewing to commuting. The students returned to Nexstar for lunch with two sales assistants, much closer to the ages of the students, for a more casual, but no less meaningful, conversation. By 12:30 pm the girls had already seen and learned so much.

In the afternoon the group met with two more amazing women: Cassandra Knowlton, at age 28, is Director of Events at Liberty National Golf Club; and Terry Yoffe, Managing Partner, TRY (executive) Coaching. These women provided a broader perspective into career planning, communication skills, and navigating professional relationships.

The NEXT Women were curious, engaged, and professional, and represented HVRHS with pride, as a place where educational opportunities are broad and where students can flourish. The experience opened their eyes to possibilities they had never before imagined.

**Photo Above:** From left to right--back row: Lorelei Gnerre, Debbie Presser, Haley Leonard, Veronica Bonet, Anne Moran, Kathleen Bodwell, Samantha Crodelle, Lori Bucco; foreground: Abby Auerbach

## HAMILTON EDUCATION PROGRAM WINNERS

- Peter Vermilyea

The historical skills and song-writing abilities of five Housatonic students earned them a trip to “the room where it happened.” Two groups of Housatonic juniors - Andy Delgado, Katelin Lopes and Tess Marks, and Manny Matsudaira and Kyle McCarron - were selected as National Performance Competition winners for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History’s Hamilton Education Program. Chosen from hundreds of entrants, their prize was an all-expenses paid trip to New York to see *Hamilton*, take part in a Q and A with the cast, and participate in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum of Broadway.

The five students are enrolled in ECE United States History, a dual-enrollment course with the University of Connecticut. The Hamilton Education Program challenges students to craft songs about the Revolutionary War by incorporating the ideas and words from primary source documents, the manner in which Lin-Manuel Miranda created *Hamilton*. Delgado, Lopes, and Marks wrote a song about the Battle of Trenton, the December 26, 1777 battle in which George Washington’s army surprised the British, rallying Americans to the Patriot cause. Their piece was written around Thomas Paine’s *The American Crisis*, especially the line, “Tyranny like Hell is not easily conquered.” Matsudaira and McCarron’s song expressed, as Matsudaira said, “not only historical facts but the emotions and struggles of Native Americans during the Revolutionary War, which we captured by staying true to and pulling directly from primary source documents.”

The students - along with superintendent Lisa Carter, English teacher Lori Bucco, music teacher Tom Krupa, and history teacher Peter Vermilyea - attended the May 8th performance of *Hamilton*. Of seeing *Hamilton* on Broadway, McCarron said, “this experience gave me a sense of appreciation for the work and dedication that is put into productions like that one.”

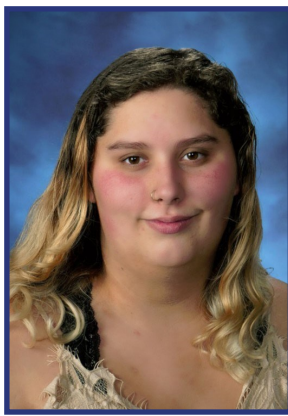
These are the second and third groups of Housatonic students to be named National Performance Competition winners for the Hamilton Education Program. Charlotte Clulow, Serena Kim, and Mia Tittmann were recognized for their song in 2020.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO HVRHS CLASS OF 2024



Evan Bockting



Kathleen Bodwell



Veronica Bonett



Charlotte Burke



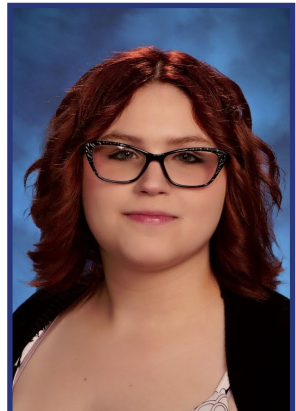
Myranda Cables



Aniel Caraballo  
Rodriguez



Taylor Christen



Mia Claydon



Leonid Clayton



Damian Cortsen



Finn Cousins



Samantha Crodelle



Joshua Crump



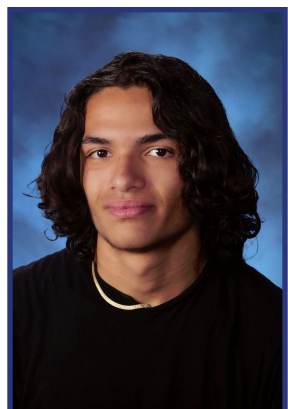
Christos Curry



Logan Dean



Nicholas Dorn



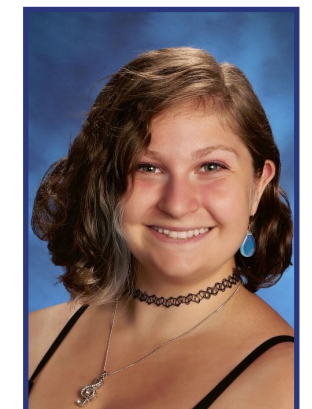
Westyn Doyen



Juan  
Estrada-Arbelaez

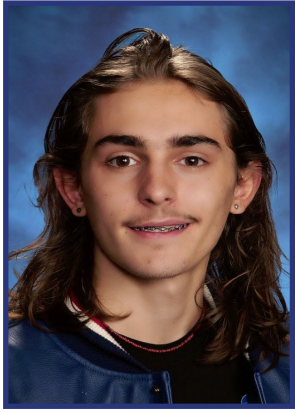


Kara Franks



Lorelei Gnerre

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HVRHS CLASS OF 2024



Gage Heebner



Theodore Hicks



Ayla Hill



Mary Ireland



Kayla Jacquier



Spencer Jasmin



Abigail Jones



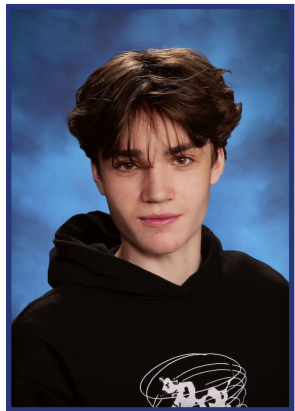
Aden Labshere



Aron Ladanyi



Haley Leonard



Leland Macaire



Saylor Macchi



Riley Marshall



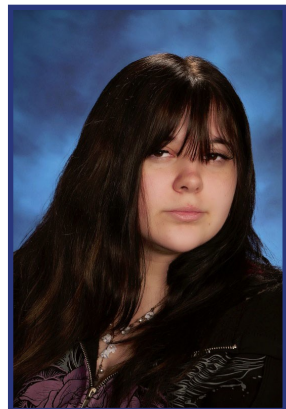
Jerome Maury



Jonathan Minacci



Anne Moran



Grace Morey



Keegan Olsen



Evangeline Petkovich



Amber Ramcharran

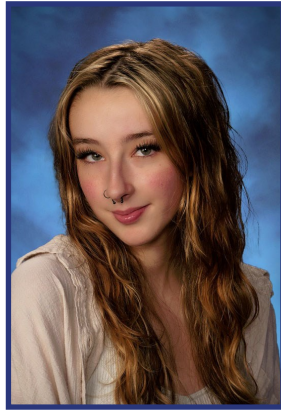
# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HVRHS CLASS OF 2024



Grace Riva



Izaiah Robles



Alexis Rougeot



Flynn Ryan



Dana Saccardi



Hudson Sebranek



Sophia Seng



Rebecca Storm



Yaritza Vega



Jimmy Villa Arpi



Isaac Watkins



Payton Wells



Ryan Zani



Eason Zhang



Marissa Zinke

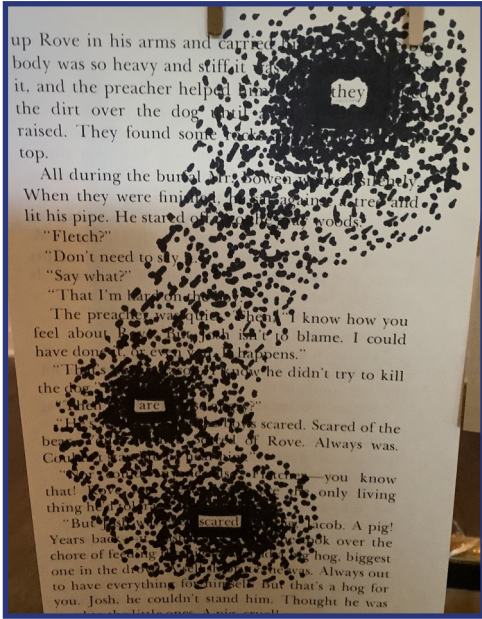
Missing: Tabark Aljaseem, Sofia Brooks, Owen Hosier and Vivian Roberts

## Portrait of a Graduate

HVRHS strives to nurture graduates who are confident communicators that are globally and environmentally aware and able to problem-solve and self-advocate.



# THE TROUTBECK SYMPOSIUM

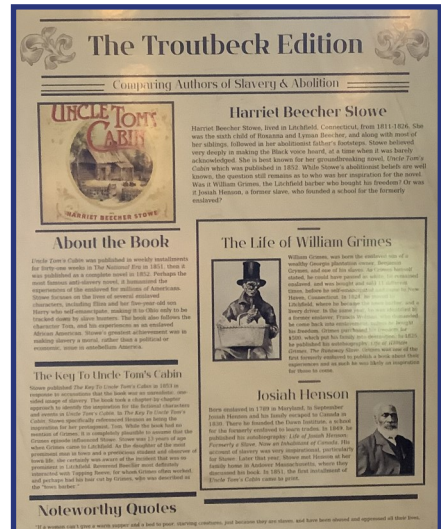


The Troutbeck Symposium Projects encourage local public and private school students to uncover the hidden stories of history and bring them to life through student research, documentaries, art, and discourse. Three years ago, the Symposium began with the study of the 1916 and 1933 NAACP held conferences at Troutbeck in Amenia, New York that had been organized to improve race relations in the US and to discuss issues facing African Americans. This year, several projects continued this theme while others broadened their research to include the local underserved communities of Native American tribes and people with disabilities. As Tess Marks, HVRHS Class of 2025 said, “History is all around us, we just need to look.”

Four of six K-8 schools in Region 1 participated. Below are their projects:  
 Cornwall Consolidated—Being Truly ADA Compliant  
 North Canaan Elementary—“Story Tiles” and Land Attribution  
 Salisbury Central—Blacked-Out Poetry & Land Acknowledgments  
 Sharon—Recreated the NAACP 1916 Troutbeck Dinner in Pottery



HVRHS 11th Grade Honors class submitted multiple projects and thanks to a grant from **21st Century Fund for HVRHS** met privately with two national historians to review their projects and learnings.

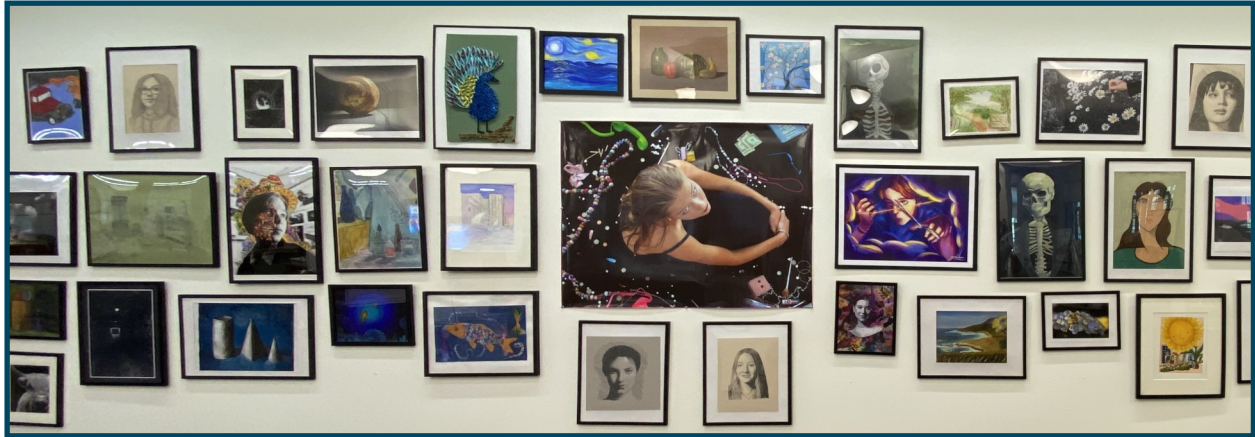


# REGION 1

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

### BLUE & GOLD ART SHOW

- Ellie Wolgemuth, Class of 2025



The Kearcher-Monsell Gallery in the Library Media Center at HVRHS hosted the annual Blue & Gold on Friday, May 17. The show included over 100 student works, including sculptures, photographs, paintings, drawings, and various mixed-media pieces. The opening was a big success. At 5:00, a sizable crowd of students, family members, teachers, staff, and community members gathered for the awards ceremony. Senior Aron Ladanyi won Best in Show for his cyanotype, "Blue Bond." Superintendent Lisa Carter recognized Ladanyi as the recipient of the Warren Prindle Visual Arts Scholarship (previously the Contemporary Visual Arts Scholarship). Aron plans to attend Pratt as a film major.

Additional awards, 1st and 2nd Runner Up, went to junior Elinor Wolgemuth (digital illustration, "The Monster Within") and senior Yaritza Vega (acrylic painting, "Invisible Taxes"), respectively. Charlotte Burke, also a senior, won the Tino and Susan Galluzzo Award for Excellence in Art. Charlotte Burke, Aron Ladanyi, Yaritza Vega, Sofia Brooks, Lydia Fleming, Amber Ramcharran, Keiana Wallace, and Abram Kirshner all received awards for Best in Category. The Housatonic Camera Club presented cash prizes to senior Amber Ramcharran and sophomore Abram Kirshner; the money will aid them in their future photography pursuits. The Sharon Woman's Club, supporter of the HVRHS Art Department, raffled off a quilt at the ceremony, with proceeds going to the HVRHS art program.

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## REGION 1 ADMINISTRATORS

Ms. Lisa Carter, Superintendent

Dr. Jeanine Rose, Asst. Superintendent

Mrs. Rebecca Gaschel-Clark, Director Pupil Services

Mr. Ian Strever, Principal, HVRHS

Mrs. Leanne Maguire, Principal, Cornwall CS

Mrs. Stacey Calo, Principal, LH Kellogg S

Mrs. Stephanie Magyar, Principal, Salisbury CS

Mr. Sam Herrick, Business Manager

Mrs. Ashley Holmes, 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