

Sullivan West BULLDOG BULLETIN

Volume XVI • #4 May-June 2016

From Dr. Hackett...

There are so many ways to share the concept of community. Our school district represents our entire community which covers approximately 250 square miles. In this community we find our students engaging in so many activities. We chose to share a few with you in this issue.

I have the privilege of spending time with your students each and every day. Whether I'm reading with the PreK/Kindergarten groups or having lunch with the seniors who are leading the Class of 2016 towards their graduation date of June 25th, I learn even more about our community.

Our students are bright, engaged and have tremendous insights into their school. Our little ones love to read, share and play. Their energy is contagious and their inquisitive nature will carry them into their middle school years.

Our seniors are a little more nostalgic and reflective. When asked about their community, words such as diverse, opportunities, support and lifelong friends were shared. **Keith Paciga**, President of the Class of 2016, put it in perspective with his statement, "This is one step in our lives. We are now ready to take the next steps with confidence and enthusiasm." Leif Johansen spoke about how the school, "empowers students to present ideas, share thoughts and design concepts." The true sense of having a voice, and being surrounded by adults who listen and

encourage was shared by the group of seniors which also included **Jeffrey Michel**, **Katie Russell** and **Erin Sumfleth**. Katie summed up the idea of community as "opportunities in our towns, in our schools, and in our families."

The Sullivan West Community inspires our students to find their interests and passions, and to follow their dreams. All ages are involved as you will see in this issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy M. Hackett



CALENDAR INFORMATION

MAY

- May 4th - English Literature and Composition (AP Testing)
- May 5th - Public Hearing on the Budget 6:30 pm SWHS
- May 6th - US History (AP Testing)
- May 9th - Biology (AP Testing)
- May 9th & May 10th - Kindergarten Screening
- May 11th - English Language & Composition (AP Testing)
- May 12th - World History (AP Testing)
- May 13th & 14th - NYSSMA Solo Festival @ Monticello
- May 16th & May 17th - Pre K Screening
- May 17th - Budget Vote & Election - noon-9 pm
- May 19th - BOE Meeting 7 PM HS
- May 25th - NYS Science Performance Test for Grades 4 & 8, Elementary Spring Concert 7 pm HS Auditorium
- May 26th - School in session
- May 27th & Monday, May 30th - Memorial Holiday, closed

JUNE

- June 1st - WSUT/SRP Scholarship Awards, 6:30 pm - library
- June 2nd - Junior High Spring Concert, 7 pm - auditorium
- June 3rd - NHS Awards Ceremony - auditorium
- June 6th - 8th Grade 6 Trip to Frost Valley
- June 6th - NYS Science Written Test for Grades 4 & 8
- June 7th - Senior High Spring Concert, 7 pm - auditorium
- June 10th - Modified Spring Sports Awards & Junior High Academic Awards (*changed from June 3rd - parents & other guests are welcome*)
- June 14th - June 22nd - Regents Exams
- June 16th - Volunteer Recognition Reception- 6 pm HS BOE Meeting 7 pm HS
- June 20th - Pre K Graduation 9:30 am - 38 gym
- June 21th - Kindergarten Celebration 9:30 am - 38 gym
- June 22nd - 6th Grade Stepping Up Ceremony 9 am- 38 gym
- June 22nd & June 23rd - 1/2 day sessions for Elem. 6/23 last day
- June 25th - Graduation, 10:30 am - gym & auditorium

FUTURE SKATING STAR

Kindergartener, **Emily Olsen**, with the help of her teacher, Miss Sandy, at Ice Time Sports Complex is becoming quite the figure skater. Making the long drive to the arena in Newburgh, New York, requires a huge commitment. Emily can skate backwards and forwards and is learning how to do crossovers in a circle. Perhaps the most difficult skill Emily is working on is the jump. Emily said, "I have to jump and twirl in the air and then land on my ice skates." Her ice skating is improving daily, and she hopes to one day be the best ice skater and compete against other skaters. Emily enjoys learning about math in school. She likes to figure on paper too!



her to wear a brace. She began taking horseback riding lessons at Diehl Farm and loves riding her favorite horse, Sherman. The riding helps to strengthen the muscles in Cady's back. However, that's not all she does at Diehl Farm. She helps feed the horses hay and clean the stalls. Cady spends much of her weekend at the barn helping with the chores. She has definitely learned that with a little perseverance, anything is possible.



MORNING FUN

Teacher aides, Mrs. Cormier and Mrs. Weyandt, are making the early morning wait before the start of the school day for the pre-k and kindergarteners loads of fun. Each morning they



FARM GIRL

If you go over to the Diehl Homestead Farm, don't be surprised if you see fourth grader, **Karlee Diehl**, helping out with the chores. The farm, which overlooks the valley of the Callicoon Creek, dates back five generations. The family continues to maintain a working dairy farm. Karlee lends a hand feeding the cows and calves and milking the cows. The family also produces maple syrup and other maple products such as maple cream, maple sugar, and maple candy. With the help of her father, Karlee is learning all the steps needed to make these prod-



ucts. Due to the unusually warm weather this winter, the sap was really running. Karlee said, "We collected about 600 gallons of sap this year." Her "Pop" also harvests honey. Karlee is learning how to remove the honeycomb from the hive and separate the honey from the honeycomb, so it can be sold in jars.

In the summer, Karlee shows her Holstein, Pringles, at the Grahamsville Fair. She spends a great deal of time practicing before the fair, so that her cow will not be frightened during the showing. She has won a first place ribbon in showmanship. Karlee hopes to follow in her family's footsteps and become a farmer when she grows up.

LEARNING TO PERSEVERE

Second grader, **Cady Kratz**, is learning that with hard work and perseverance it is possible to overcome any obstacle. Recently Cady was diagnosed with a back issue that requires

lead our littlest learners in stretches and songs such as *Six Little Ducks*, *Love will Build a Bridge*, and *God Bless America*. The kids are so excited about coming to school and look forward to this early morning routine. Some of the older kids from first and second grade help guide their younger friends through the songs. Mrs. Cormier and Mrs. Weyandt are hoping to have a special guest come to teach them a Zumba routine sometime in the near future. What a great way to get the school day started!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Recently Mr. Ebeling started using Twitter as a resource to connect the Sullivan West Elementary Physical Education Department with other Physical Education teachers around the country to identify activities that increase fitness, speed, accuracy, teamwork, and sportsmanship. One of the games is called "You Make It! You Take it!" Each student stands inside a hula hoop while practicing a specific skill such as catching, throwing, or shooting baskets. If the student completes the skill successfully they get to take their hula hoop to their team's home. The students enjoying practicing their skills in a fun and creative way.

THE GREAT MULTIPLICATION CHALLENGE

The students in Mrs. Erlwein, Mrs. Mullally, and Mrs. Cormier's math classes are working hard to lead Sullivan County to the top of the leaderboard in the Great American Multiplication Challenge. At the start of each class, the students work as a team to complete as many multiplication facts as they can in two minutes. When the time is up, they view their statistics and see how their performance ranks against others in our state and across the country. Presently, Sullivan County is 24th in the nation, 1st in the state, and New York State is 7th in the nation. Keep up the great work!

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Sherman, the Golden Retriever along with his handler, Laura Vernacchia from the Dessin Animal Shelter recently visited the first graders. Sherman is a certified therapy dog. Therapy dogs provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, nursing homes, and other facilities. These animals have the unique ability to reach out and love unconditionally. Therapy dogs can lift moods and relieve anxiety, fear and loneliness. The children were able to ask questions and spend one-on-one time with Sherman. Dogs certainly are man's best friend.

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

Sixth grade students in Mrs. Humleker and Mrs. VanFradenburgh's Social Studies' classes just finished a pilot run of one of New York State's Inquiry Based Social Studies Units. Working in conjunction with Mrs. J. Mullally's 6th grade tech classes, students created a PowerPoint presentation which focused on Middle Ages Europe and how The Black Death influenced life there in the 14th century. This Inquiry Based Unit is entitled "Can Disease Change the World?" Students were asked to research and present four questions: *What was the Black Death? How did the Black Death spread so quickly? How did the Black Death affect people in the 14th century? And, what is an infectious disease?*

In addition to the Black Death PowerPoints, these students completed their Middle Ages unit through a 100 point, project based learning menu. Given a plethora of activities to choose from, students were required to select assignments, each with a particular point value and varying levels of complexity. These assignments needed to total 100 points. This allowed each student to choose assignments that allowed them to use their "individual" area(s) of strength. From writing short stories and

diary entries of historical figures, crafting games like Medieval-opoly, models with descriptions of castles and a knight's armor to creating medieval newscasts, poetry and Gregorian chants, the display of work done was impressive. Kudos to the 6th grade students for a job well done.

RECORDER CONCERT

The 3rd grade students have been working hard learning the recorder since January. After they learn a song, each student plays it for the class in order to earn a "belt" for their recorder, like in karate. To show off how well the students have done,



they are putting on Sullivan West's first Recorder Karate Concert at the end of April. The concert will include ensemble performances by the entire grade, of songs they have learned, such as *Hot Cross Buns*, to earn their White, Yellow, Orange, Green, Purple, Blue, Red, Brown, Black, and Honor Belts.

PERCUSSION PROJECT

Mrs. Krentz's 2nd grade music classes were very busy with their percussion project. Based on the story "*Simon Welcomes Spring*", the students created their own percussion instruments to welcome Spring. Students discovered that recyclable items can be used for making homemade instruments. Percussion instruments are instruments you can tap, shake or scrape when you play them. Thank you to parents for helping us repurpose, renew and recycle these items into something special!



DISTRICT NEWS

PROM 2016

On Saturday, April 23rd, the Class of 2017 will be hosting the Junior Prom at The Club House at the Villa Roma. The class has been raising funds since the fall to cover expenses for the music, decorations, and crowning ceremony. This year's décor focuses on a James Bond theme replete with songs and video montages from their favorite 007 films. Students will have an opportunity to take pictures at the fountain, gazebo or with the professional photographer, Mr. Dan Parisi of KaraBella Photography. DJ Jim will be playing tunes all night.

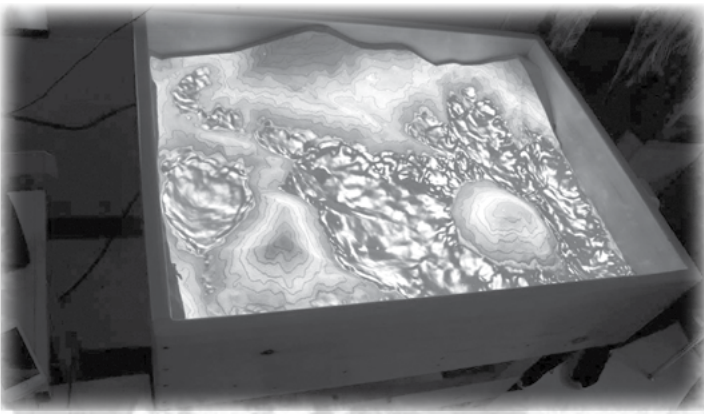
Earlier this month, ten members of the junior class were nominated to the SW Prom Court. The Prom King and Queen will be selected from these court members at the crowning ceremony. Pictured from left to right – Nathan Mills, Dylan Ginty, Austin Melchick, James Burlingame, Kevin Puerschner, Mya Landers, Danielle Brockner, Bridget Hart, Marina March and Emily Pazuello.



On the following day, Sunday April 24th, the Sullivan West SADD Chapter is sponsoring an after-prom trip to Six Flags Great Adventure® in New Jersey. This activity is held to encourage students to make responsible choices after prom, which includes a good night's sleep, so they are able to enjoy a full day in the park.

AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) SANDBOX

This year the high school science club designed and built an Augmented Reality (AR) Sandbox. The AR sandbox project



was headed by Sullivan West senior Gabe Corcillo, along with Mr. Clark, earth science teacher and science club advisor. The science club built a state-of-the-art computer from scratch in order to run the complex AR Sandbox system. The AR Sandbox

uses a computer projector and a motion sensing Kinect 3D® camera mounted above a custom-built sandbox. The Kinect 3D® camera detects the distance to the sand below, and a visualization (an elevation model with contour lines and a color map assigned by elevation) is cast from an overhead projector onto the surface of the sand. As students move the sand, the Kinect perceives changes in the distance to the sand surface, and the projected colors and contour lines change accordingly.

The AR Sandbox will be used by Sullivan West students as an educational tool that will model many earth science concepts like topographic maps, geology/landforms, hydrology, and environmental studies. It provides the students with a hands-on 3D approach to understanding these complex environmental systems going on in our environment every day. The science club would like to thank the Sullivan West High School Administration for giving us the opportunity and funding to create such a state-of-the-art learning tool. We would also like to thank Steve Lewis for building the custom sandbox, and the rest of the maintenance crew for helping with this project.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

On Wednesday, April 13th, 2016, Sullivan West National Honor Society held their annual induction ceremony. The evening began with a delicious dinner prepared by our cafeteria staff with current NHS members acting as servers to the family, friends and administration who attended in support of the new inductees. They then convened to the auditorium for the official induction ceremony. The new inductees were introduced individually by current members of NHS, who highlighted the applicant's character, community service, leadership and scholarship, which are required in order to be considered for mem-

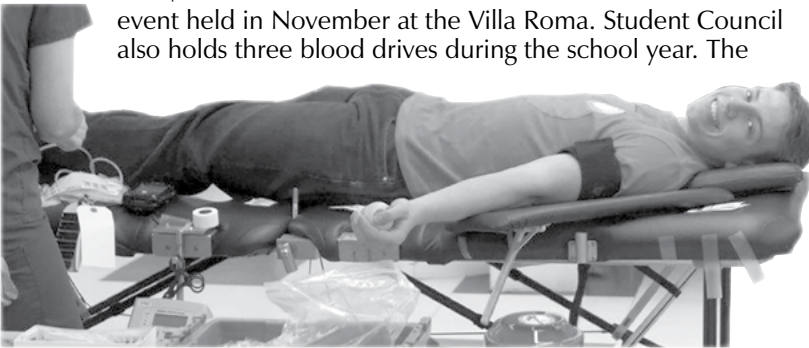


bership. Congratulations to our new members - back row: Alex Unser, Jordain Almazan, Jordan Kubenik, Quinn Hofer, Michael Peters, Andrew Lumalcuri, and Alex Schwalb. Front row: Kelsey Farrell, Heather Roeder, McKinley Bernitt, Breanna Dunwell, Danielle Brockner, Leizel Schlott, and Hope Erlwein. The new and existing members will be moving forward with plans for next year's fundraisers, group projects and individual community service hours. NHS members are all required to do five hours of individual community service as well as group projects which are all service based. Many students do fundraisers within the community and then donate the money earned to local charities and cancer organizations.



COMMUNITY SERVICE – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Students in HS Student Council participate in many community service projects during the year. Hat Day is held the first Friday of each month. Students/staff members donate one dollar in order to wear a hat during the school day. Once a year, students donate all the proceeds to the local cancer organization, Ride2Survive. This year they donated over \$900. Students also volunteered at the Ride2Survive event held in November at the Villa Roma. Student Council also holds three blood drives during the school year. The



last one for the year was held at the high school on Tuesday, April 19th. The American Red Cross donates scholarship money to the students based on the pints of blood collected. Currently, Student Council is holding their clothing/toy/bike/household items donation drive. A storage bin is located in the visitors' circle at the high school. The deadline to donate is Sunday, May 22nd. More complete information can be found on the school's website.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IN OUR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Carson Mannino is one of those students who has direction. Her goal is to become a band director. To gain experience and to give her a realistic impression of what that career will be like, Carson volunteers to tutor other band students. Carson



helps students with their lesson material, band music and NYSSMA (New York State School Music

Association) solos. Carson spends most of her lunch and study hall periods in the band room practicing and working with other musicians. She also recently assisted a substitute teacher during a Junior High Band rehearsal. Carson, along with Mr. Reynolds, developed a lesson plan and then she actually conducted a band rehearsal. Mr. Reynolds, our JH/SH Band director would like to thank Carson for her assistance and hopes that this experience will help this advanced young musician with her choice of careers. Bravo to Carson Mannino!

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS - SENIORS

Mr. Ogozalek's Economics classes are required to complete community service projects of their choosing as part of their required coursework. Some of the projects are highlighted below.

Katie Russell recently conducted interviews with the Sullivan West student body to find out how heroin use in our community was affecting our students.



Through a series of anonymous interviews with students and with Officer Harb, our resource officer, she got an insight into our students' lives. These interviews were recorded and aired on WJFF 90.5 during the Youth Radio Project, along with commentary and a discussion on the issue afterwards. This influential piece did not stop there; however, it

was aired again during the King Fisher Project on WJFF, a program that focuses on heroin in our community. She states, "I am glad that I was given the opportunity to interview and speak with my classmates. I am honored that it has made such an impact and I plan on continuing my efforts in informing the public about the effects of heroin use through the Community Task Force here at Sullivan West where I am an active member." Katie's task force committee is working on the "National Night Out" project which takes place on August 2nd, 2016. You can listen to Katie's interviews through this Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lvn7m5y2ld5vc8h/YRP%20-%20Heroin%20Feature%20by%20Katie%20Russell%20-%202-24-16.mp3?oref=e>

Jessica Pennino - I decided to help my wonderful mother Donna Pennino with her commitment to our small county. My mother is the director of the Sullivan County Domestic Violence Program. Every day there is a person who is verbally or physically abused. Not only does my mom help people from Sullivan County she helps people from out of state and provides them with a safe place. Sullivan County has a high rate of domestic violence abuse. A lot of this abuse comes from the use of drugs or even the way the abuser was taught growing up. When I initially started my community service with my mom I only thought of it as a grade and a ticket to graduation. After the third time I went to my mom's group night I noticed how much I really like watching the kids when my mom has a meeting with the parents. At first I thought it would be really hard to be around a whole bunch of children who have seen and heard horrible things but in reality these kids are just like anyone else.



DISTRICT NEWS

They actually may even give more love. I have grown to know one girl who is 5 years old and such a beautiful smart young lady. From the first day I was introduced to her she made me laugh. I enjoyed this so much that I plan on continuing to help my mother. I really enjoyed this experience and I never will forget how I made a difference. I want to thank Mr. O. for the push forward to this community service project. If he never assigned this I would have never had the opportunity to make a change. I am seriously thinking of being one of my mom's coworkers one day so I can be a strong women like my mom. Not only has this helped me with my view of life but it brought me and my mother closer.

Alli Hemmer and Elaine Durkin - Halloween Dog Show. For our community service project we wanted to do something



that would help our local animals while involving people in our area. We came up with the idea of a Halloween dog show to be held at the Villa Roma baseball field.

for the judges. five winners for from the looks on Emily Pisall and her for scariest costume.



We had the dogs walk around the cones to show off their costumes. The judges had to choose our five categories and their faces, it was not easy. Pitbull dressed as a thug won

He wore a red bandana and a sombrero and pranced around the show circle like a prince! Kara Spath and her bumblebee won the prize for cutest costume! The Yorkie named Stella buzzed around making everyone smile, including the judges!

The next category was most unique. This lady also had a very cute Yorkie but instead of having her dog get wet and cold, she put the dog in a doggy stroller. The stroller and dog were decorated to the theme of Halloween. In the front of the stroller there was a sparkly orange spider and all around the stroller were black and orange streamers. The Yorkie was dressed in a black and orange costume. The next category was best partners in crime, which means the owner and dog have to dress up together. This award was won by Bryce Bressler and his superhero dog, Maggie! Bryce was dressed in a Spiderman sweatshirt with Spiderman rain boots and his partner was dressed in a homemade cap and homemade booties!

The last category was best in show. Zoey Marano and her dog, Delilah, won this category with no doubt. This friendly bulldog was a pretty ballerina with a pink tutu, a leotard, and sparkly pink nail polish. As all of the dogs came around the cones and lined up, this dog even did a twirl and a spin just like a natural ballerina. With the \$500 earned through the parade and bake sale, we bought cleaning supplies for the Rock Hill animal shelter, as well as toys and food for the animals. The shelter employees explained they had just received 51 puppies from kill shelters and that they received that many once a month. They also had a beagle that had eight puppies. They were very happy to receive all of our donations.

Bianca Burgos - For my community service project I worked with Mrs. Lynn Baron in our school, who teaches the 7th grade



health classes on Fridays. She works in the Recovery Center and teaches prevention related to substance abuse and promoting healthy life-styles. I picked this community service project based on the fact that I want to become a social worker. The first time we met she explained to me that she had taught the 7th graders last year. They had learned many of the same topics we went over last year and this was basically an extension of their prior knowledge. She gave me

the book they learned from and told me that I could help her teach the 5th period class every Friday with her. I started this project in late September and we met every Friday 4th period to discuss the topic of the day and go over how we would be teaching the kids that day. Most of the time I would only do little things like read sections to the kids and help them if they didn't understand something we were doing. Through our three months together we also tackled two bigger projects.

One of the projects was for Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign done every October. Together we set up a table outside of the cafeteria for the three lunch periods. Mrs. Baron asked me to make flashcards which had true and false questions about the dangers of drug abuse. She gave me a lot of papers to read and sources to pull information from. I ended up making about twenty flashcards. We spread them out on the table and the kids in each lunch period had the chance to win candy by answering questions correctly. We also had an option to win a water bottle if they answered four questions right in a row.

The second project was for Great American Smokeout day. The Great American Smokeout is an annual social engineering event on the third Thursday of November held by the American Cancer Society. This event encourages Americans to stop smoking. Similar to the first project, I also was asked by Mrs. Baron to make flashcards for the students to answer. This table had more information for the kids to help get their friends or relatives to try to stop smoking. Unlike the first project, this project seemed to have more kids interested in the actual information and not just getting candy for answering the flashcards correctly. A lot of kids shared stories about their relatives smoking and how they wished they'd stop. Most of the kids took the little books and brochures of information and told us that they'd give it to their parents and talk to them about it.

I honestly loved doing this community service project and if I could I'd do it all over again. Working with Mrs. Baron really showed me that social work is something I want to do for the rest of my life. She talked to me about all the different types of jobs she had involving social work and all the different opportunities she had and I think it's great that there are so many different places for social workers to work. This whole experience has made me so much more excited about the journey I'll be going through after high school.



DISTRICT NEWS

Gabe Corcillo - I have been assisting Mrs. Meyer every day for the past few weeks and have logged many hours. This includes helping deliver new toner to classrooms, disposal of old equipment and even server maintenance.



After many long hours of work, the Augmented Reality Sandbox that I have been working on has been completed. I have worked on this project from start to finish, from the construction of the computer to the programming and calibration of the various sensors and projectors. I assisted the custodial staff with mounting the cameras and projectors to the walls. (For

more information on the Augmented Reality (AR) Sandbox, see the science club article.)

Timothy Jacobson, Michael Rhodes, Keith Paciga - held a Volleyball Tournament on April 2nd to benefit the local SPCA.



The tournament included six teams and over twenty games. Our teams consisted of students from Sullivan West as well as students from other schools and local community members. In total we raised almost \$300 to donate to the SPCA.

Jordain Almazan, Collin Gibson, Luke Krentz - We found the idea of computer gaming to be a fun and interactive way to benefit the community. Our idea was to install League of

Legends on multiple computers and have students in the school come and have fun in a competitive game setting. With the help of the tech teachers and Mrs. Meyer we were able to install the game flawlessly on the computers and have an awe-



some event in room 237. We had the event on March 3rd and 4th with a large turnout of more than 20 students. We found that students thoroughly enjoy gaming! We collected \$60 in donations for our cause in helping children through the Extra Life Foundation.

Brandi Burk - I did my senior community service project at the Youngsville Veterinary Clinic. Some of the tasks I did were carrying pets out to their cars for the elderly, cleaning the cat cages for the incoming patients to be spayed or neutered, and filing patient cards - yes, there is a card for every animal (rabbit to horse). I also got to tend to those who were staying in the kennels which included walking, feeding and cleaning. One of the most interesting things I did was help the vet technician pluck 57 porcupine quills out of a 3-year-old black lab. Dr. Nebzydoski taught me things like looking at parasites under a microscope, in a fecal exam. He genuinely enjoys sharing his knowledge and passion. I am planning on attending SUNY Alfred next fall to major in vet technology.

Some of the other students' projects include:

Megan Robisch - working with the Jeffersonville JEMS repairing flower boxes, staining and painting. She will also be spring cleaning in the backyard park. Megan states that she will also be interning for the Jeff JEMS this summer. **Catherine Lavinski** counted turkeys from Callicoon Center to Lake Huntington for a period of time. She then completed surveys for the DEC which included information such as the day's temperature, the weather, and approximate location of the turkeys. Catherine reports that the turkey population has been very low since 2011. **Jeremy Klutts** built an oak stand with a pullout drawer for the auditorium sound booth. **Taylor Hillriegel** is volunteering at the National Parks Service as an Oral History Transcriber. She is transcribing recordings of local River Valley residents from the mid-1980s. This will make the recordings available to be searched and further documented. Up until this point, none of the 150 interviews have been transcribed so any interviews that Taylor has an opportunity to transcribe will help the program. **Gabe Pinciotti**, using a special program, is editing movies for Mr. Ogozalek to make them more appropriate for a classroom setting. **Alan Sipple** refurbished a rolling cart for Mrs. Ruggles' classroom. **Jessica Bellotti** volunteers at the elementary school's latchkey program. **Kayla Graham** assists at a dance studio. **Heather Maxwell** volunteers at the Callicoon Hospital. **Gaby Fliman** works at a local animal shelter. **Megan Brockner** volunteers at the Delaware Youth Center. **Kelly Graham** helps Mrs. Coffey at the elementary school and **Liz Dos Santos** volunteers at the Forestburgh Playhouse. **Erin Hankins** is building a concession stand for the football games. Her stand will be able to be moved to other locations when necessary.



Alan



Megan



Jeremy

DISTRICT NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Parents and Community Members,

It seems like yesterday when I welcomed everyone back from summer vacation and spoke of the excitement of the new school year. Now, as I write this, May is on the horizon, weather is slowly getting warmer, and the end of the school year is quickly approaching.

Over the course of the 2015-16 school year our students have excelled in the classroom, on stage, in the art galleries, in extracurricular clubs and in athletic competitions. However, there is still hard work to complete as final exams and Regents will be administered soon.

It is my pleasure to announce that Bristol Woods has earned the honor of being named the Class of 2016 Valedictorian and Erin Sumfleth the Class of 2016 Salutatorian. Following their lead, 29% of all seniors earned an overall average of

90% or better, while 50% of all seniors earned an average of 85% or better. I would like to thank the students, teachers and parents for their hard work. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

As final exams and Regents come closer, teachers will begin to schedule review sessions, both during and after the school day. Students should speak to their teachers for more information. The Regents are required for graduation and students are encouraged to take advantage of review sessions. Past Regents can also be found on the NYS Department of Education website www.nysedregents.org. These past Regents are strong resources. I encourage all students to use them in their preparation.

Earlier this year students met with their guidance counselors to create an academic schedule for next year. Last month a letter was mailed home detailing how each student would

be permitted to have only one study hall per day in their schedule. This decision was made as more colleges look at courses completed in high school during the admission process. We have electives spanning most subject areas which are engaging and will allow students to explore interests. Counselors will be meeting with some students who need to add courses. Please do not hesitate to contact the Counseling Department with any questions.

A letter was also sent home earlier this year stating beginning next year, we will upload all AIMS letters, 5-week Progress Reports and Quarterly Report Cards into eSchoolData, which you will be able to view, save and print from the Parent Portal. Parents will also have access to other information such as schedules and immunization records. By doing this, it will allow for a more accurate and timely delivery of your student's academic

progress as well as reduce district costs for mailing supplies, postage and worker hours. If you do not have or need assistance in accessing your eSD Parent Portal account, please contact Lisa Moran by phone, 845-482-4601 x3006 or email at moranlis@swcsd.org.

Steve Jobs once said, "The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it." Join me in encouraging our students to keep working hard, keep looking for their life's path, and give them the confidence to follow it when it appears to them.

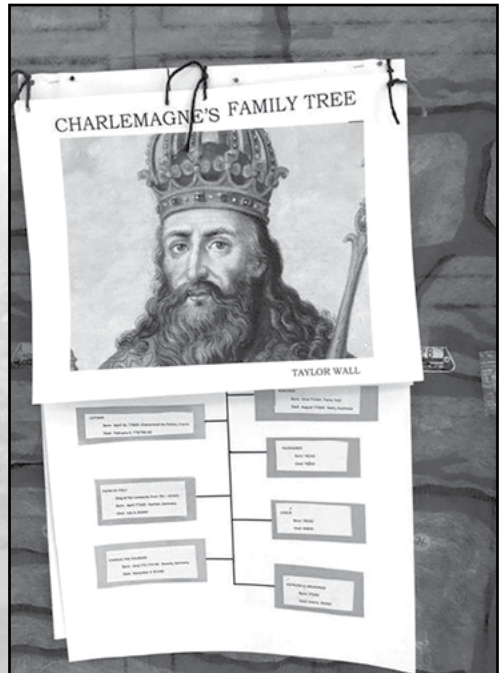
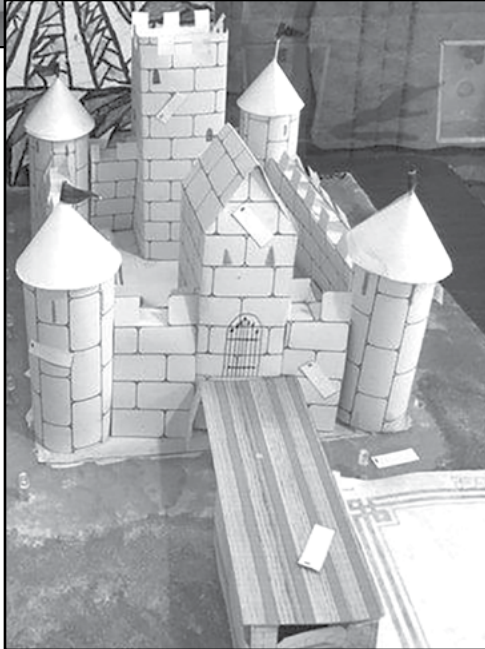
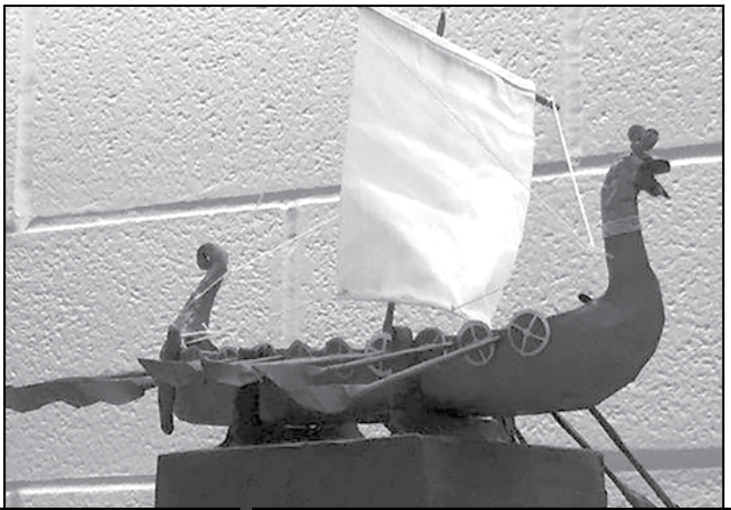
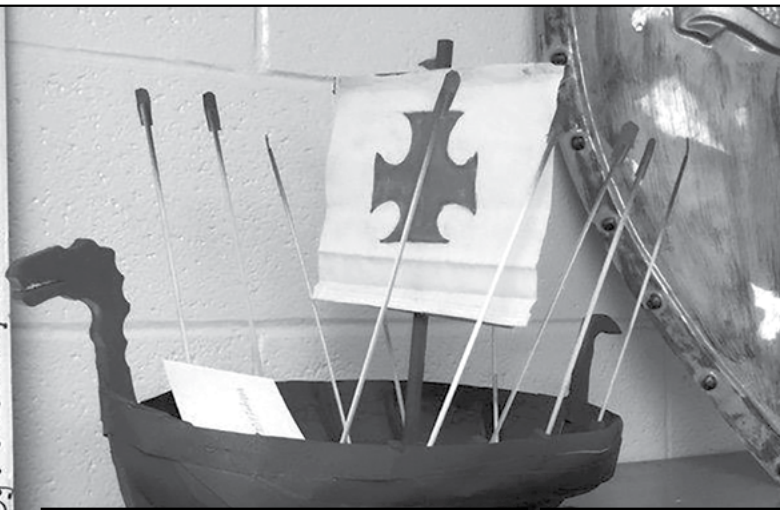
Succeed.

Mark Plescia



THE VIEW FROM SULLIVAN WEST

By: Jake Nystrom



Sullivan West

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Dr. Lane • Assistant Superintendent for Student Services482-4610, Ext. 3010

Mrs. Poston • Asst. Superintendent for Administrative Services.....482-4610, Ext. 3001

Mr. McLaughlin • Elementary Principal.....482-4610, Ext. 2141

Mr. Plescia • High School Principal.....932-8401, Ext. 1101

Mr. Franskevicz • Athletic Director.....932-8401, Ext. 1284

First Student Busing • Transportation Questions..... 482-4448

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If you wish to contact the school, please feel free to do so.

Our newsletter is available on-line at: www.swcsd.org

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