



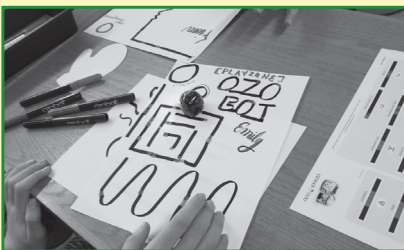
Learning in Action



Students at Washington Drive enjoyed gingerbread-themed lessons during the holiday season – practicing their math, reading and writing skills with things like gingerbread I-Spy, counting cookies on a platter, drawing a gingerbread man in disguise and more.



Students at Thomas J. Lahey put their sight-reading skills to the test during the month of December. Students learned to play holiday classics like “Jingle Bells,” “Let it Snow” and the “Nutcracker Suite” on boomwhackers in Mrs. Kassinger’s music class.



Students at Oldfield Middle School worked on their computer coding skills during a weeklong Hour of Code. Students practiced coding Ozobots, animating with Adobe Spark and more.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

THE IMPORTANCE OF TURNING STEM Into STEAM

As most parents are already aware, more than ever children need to be engaged in what they’re learning in the classroom for it to be truly absorbed. To ensure engagement, art and creativity are actively infused into Harborfields’ science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) lessons, which makes learning more enjoyable and approachable for students.

The arts help contribute to the development of complex problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity skills – the top three skills, according to the World Economic Forum, that will be in demand in 2020. While complex problem-solving still sits at the top of the list, in 2015 the second two most important skills were coordinating with others and people management – with creativity at the bottom of the list! Our world is rapidly changing, and it is important to help future generations keep up.

The district is dedicated to the betterment and preparedness of our students and has been actively taking steps to meld art and creativity with academics in any way we can. This plan of action is also bolstered by innovation and curriculum – two of the three pillars of the 2018-19 Board of Education goals.

“We’re determined to effectively support programs and initiatives, in order to maximize student opportunities in the area of STEAM,” Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni said. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

At Washington Drive, a beautifully constructed makerspace was recently opened, thanks to a grant received from the Harborfields Alumni Community Educational Foundation and the dedication of Assistant Principal

Kathryn McNally, Interim Principal Kelly Fallon and many others.
Working in



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A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Harborfields families a happy New Year. With the 2018-19 school year almost halfway through, I am constantly amazed by the accomplishments of our students and the ways our outstanding faculty cultivate creativity and achievement in our schools. As you will read in this newsletter, we continue to offer new opportunities for our students to learn and explore. The addition of a new makerspace at Washington Drive is just one example of how we are encouraging students to research, collaborate and innovate. I extend my deepest thanks to the Harborfields Alumni Community Educational Foundation (HACEF) for their generous grant that funded the makerspace addition.

Over the course of the next several months, our Board of Education and administration will be taking a thorough and thoughtful look at our school programs and offerings as we prepare for the 2019-20 school budget vote, to be held on Tuesday, May 21. As always, we value your input and invite you to our Board of Education meetings leading up to the budget adoption (all dates and presentations can be found on the district's website, www.harborfieldscsd.org). Our goal, as always, is to develop a spending plan that offers a wide variety of academic and extracurricular offerings for our students, while being mindful of the tax impact on the community.

I am optimistic about the future of our district and look forward to sharing the next steps in our students' remarkable educational journey with you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Francesco Ianni
Superintendent of Schools

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THE IMPORTANCE OF TURNING STEM Into STEAM

Makerspace challenges students to think critically and problem-solve in ways that deepen their knowledge of subject matter. Makerspace opportunities improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning and reflection. Students develop a way of learning that involves tinkering, inventing, researching, teaching, collaborating, sharing, innovating, socializing and creating. Children think of new ideas, designing and redesigning them until they have a product they are happy with, that in some way solves a problem, shares new information, connects to the content area and ultimately teaches them things about themselves and the world.

"Makers are needed to add to the global sum of human knowledge," Mrs. McNally said, "so we're starting now!"

With the added element of giving students' imaginations more room to contribute, along with hands-on experience, teachers are finding that many are

performing with a level of perseverance that's different than within the classroom.

"We're working on continuing to make artistic elements interdisciplinary," said first-grade teacher Melinda O'Donohugh, who helped write the grant for the makerspace and has a mini-makerspace in her classroom. "Patterns, exact measurements and symmetry, for example, are all a part of math, but they're also a huge part of art. So, when we teach them the basic concepts of how to construct a tower out of materials, we're also instilling in them that the tower not only can be functional, but it can be beautiful."

At Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School, teachers are also recognizing the importance of having STEAM-focused lessons incorporate hands-on experience, and they are continually integrating STEAM lessons into their classrooms. Using both artistic and found materials enables teachers to explore concepts

they may not have been able to demonstrate otherwise. Students have learned to draw up blueprints for structures, to stick to a hypothetical budget for a project, design packaging to enable astronauts to eat Skittles in space and more.

"Letting students question, research and figure out things themselves helps them become critical thinkers and problem-solvers," teacher Rebecca Turano said. "And the great part is, the kids get excited about these types of things. They regularly ask me when we'll be working on another STEAM project. They look forward to it, get excited by it and are proud of what they have created and accomplished in the end."

At Oldfield Middle School, students are afforded many opportunities to fuse art and creativity with STEM areas of study. The school's makerspace has been open and in regular use since 2016. Teachers are able to incorporate creativity into their lessons in many ways that keep students engaged. English classes have journeyed down to the library to create characters from the novels they've been reading, and social studies classes work on building and bringing to life the ancient civilizations they study.

Unique fusions of the two have been surfacing throughout the school as well. Recently, students in Carlos Tavernas' eighth-grade art class had the opportunity to learn about masks from around the world – their unique culture, history, tradition and more. Then, using a coding platform called Sprite Editor, students were able to create 3D images of the masks as well as an animated GIF of the image to further their comprehension of aspects of computer technology.

By the time students reach the high school level, they often are already set in their ways and can be more oriented toward either the sciences or the arts. Teachers are trying to bring the two together with unique, in-class activities.

A unique example of this **at Harborfields High School** is how the AP Photography and AP Environmental Science classes recently completed an interdisciplinary project. This project leveraged multiple layers



of technology to facilitate collaboration between students who were in different classes located at opposite ends of the building. The project involved fusing art, science and writing.

The AP Environmental Science students began by identifying a concept, such as pollution, and writing an explanation. Students then requested a photograph they could use to illustrate

their concept from the AP Photography class. The photography students used this information to compose two photographs, of which the environmental science students chose one and composed a haiku.

Other opportunities afforded to high school students include exploring robotics, coding, the newly expanded science research program and more.



As times change and developments in teaching and learning progress, the Harborfields Central School District is dedicated to better preparing our students for the most successful futures possible and to forever opening up new avenues of student learning and exploration.

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The HACEF Mardi Gras Gala

Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.-midnight @ The Larkfield in East Northport

This collaborative event, hosted by the Harborfields Alumni Community Educational Foundation (HACEF), PTAs, and area residents and businesses, is the largest community fundraiser for the district. The proceeds from this year's event are earmarked to benefit innovation, technology and the arts.

The foundation seeks to provide enhancements to the district that would otherwise not be financially possible. To date, HACEF has funded over \$210,000 in grants and \$60,000 in scholarships – and this year's goal is to reach \$50,000 for the children of Harborfields Central School District.

Tickets are now on sale to attend the event. The evening will include a cocktail hour, open bar, music, dancing, casino games, raffles and more. For in-depth details, visit www.gala.hacef.org.

A highlight of the evening's program is the recognition of dedicated Harborfields School Central District staff and community members who are the recipients of the 2019 HACEF Spirit of Service Awards. The honorees are as follows:

Arts Advocacy Award:
Dan Bilawsky and Allison Scilla

Community Partnership Award:

Jimmy and Peter Pastorelli

Educational Advocacy Award:

Susan Turrini and Augustino Rettino

It Takes a Village Award:

Kim Cagnazzi and Ellen Rieger

Making "IT" Happen Award:

Pete Iovino

The gala journal is a perfect vehicle for local businesses to show their support of Harborfields Central School District while gaining visibility through this affordable advertising opportunity. The journal will be distributed to 300 guests at the event and a digital version will be emailed to the foundation's 3,000-person database and posted on the HACEF and HACEF Gala websites. To further support the district, you are also able to donate goods or services for raffle baskets.

All details regarding the event, including a link to purchase tickets, can be found at www.gala.hacef.org.

The deadline to purchase tickets for this event is *Feb. 15*. The deadline to submit ads or a congratulatory message to HACEF Spirit of Service Award winners is *Feb. 8*. Please email the gala committee at hacefgala@gmail.com with any additional questions.

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