



Learning in Action



In a STEAM-related art project, Washington Drive Primary School second graders learned the importance of perseverance and determination when building creations out of recycled materials.



Students at Thomas J. Labey Elementary School celebrated kindness during a "Read to Feed" event Nov. 9-13. Students were encouraged to read books on kindness and dressed in yellow on Nov. 13 in celebration of "World Kindness Day."



On Nov. 17, Fenway, a certified therapy dog, visited students in the library at Oldfield Middle School to help alleviate stress and anxiety related to the new school year.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

Dr. Rory J. Manning

APPOINTED INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Harborfields Central School District is pleased to announce that Dr. Rory Manning has been appointed as Interim Superintendent of Schools effective Jan. 1, 2021. Dr. Manning has been an integral part of the district for the past eight years, first serving as principal of Harborfields High School for four years before assuming the role of Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Administration in 2016 and then Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Administration in 2018.

"The Board of Education is confident that Dr. Manning has the professional leadership skills and vision to lead our district," Board of Education President Suzie Lustig said. "Dr. Manning's dedication and commitment coupled with his knowledge of our schools, students, and community will ensure a seamless transition during this time. Even more so, we look forward to watching Dr. Manning execute his vision for Harborfields School District and know it will lead to a bright future for our Harborfields Family."

Dr. Manning has served the district in a broad range of leadership roles, including the coordination of many curriculum enhancements and the implementation of the district's K-12 computer coding platform. As the district's data privacy officer, Dr.



Manning has brought the district in compliance with all data privacy regulations and supervised projects to strengthen network security. Dr. Manning has successfully worked with staff and community members as chair of the Mission Statement Committee, Black History Month Celebration Committee, ENL Celebration Committee, the Curriculum Committee of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force and the Curriculum Committee of the HF Reopening Task Force. He is looking forward to continuing this important work in his new capacity as Interim Superintendent of schools. For a special message from Dr. Manning, please see page 2.

Additional background information on Dr. Manning can be found on the district's website: www.harborfieldscsd.net.

Each Child. Each Day. One Harborfields Family

A Letter from Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rory J. Manning

Dear Harborfields Families,

It is an honor of mine to write this letter to you as the incoming Interim Superintendent of Schools. I am extremely proud of the work that has been done and our combined success during these challenging times.

In my nearly nine years with the Harborfields Central School District, I have had the pleasure of witnessing the many great achievements of our students and staff. I join with the community in celebrating the fact that all of our schools are Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and that we can boast about the numerous awards received on a local, state and national level. These are recognitions that are certainly worthy of celebration and applause. At the same time, we know that the strength of our community lies much deeper than this. Over the past ten months, I have seen our community come together to accomplish things that were previously unimaginable. We did this together, as a community, providing a wonderful learning environment for our children in the midst of a global pandemic.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the members of our HF Ready Task Force for their work in contributing to the safe and successful opening of our schools. I would also like to publicly acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our staff and students. I remain inspired to be better each day because of them.

As we enter the new year, I am energized by the work that lies ahead. We will soon be entering the 2021-2022 budget development process and I am looking forward to working with the Board of Education to develop a fiscally sound budget that aligns with the ideals that our community has come to expect from our schools.

I have been touched by the outpouring of support from the community in my transition and I can commit to you that this support will be met with a relentless pursuit of excellence on my part. "Each Child. Each Day. One Harborfields Family" will be our vision going forward as we come together to achieve greatness.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rory J. Manning
Interim Superintendent of Schools



Students at Washington Drive Primary School connected with their classmates during the school's first "Chew and Chat" session on Oct. 20.



Harborfields High School band students safely practice together with their classmates during lessons and rehearsals.



Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School students donated toys and pajamas to benefit families in need for the holidays.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

The 2020-21 school year has been like no other. But, our amazing students, faculty and staff have shown tremendous strength, resilience and comradere in the face of adversity. Our community is better and stronger than ever!

While COVID-19 has certainly brought its challenges, our Harborfields Family has come together to create new traditions, activities and clubs to replace those that were lost. At each of our buildings, in-person and virtual learners have discovered new ways to connect not only with their fellow classmates, but also with those within and beyond the community as well.

Technology upgrades at each of our schools have allowed for our students to work together on group projects and assignments using Google Meet breakout rooms – a tool that has proven beneficial in the academic environment, but also in building relationships in this time of social distancing.

Students at WDPS have found new ways to connect and socialize with their in-person and virtual friends through a new "Chew and Chat" initiative.

With limited opportunities for students to interact with others outside of their classrooms, WDPS Principal Kathryn McNally hopes to offer additional sessions in the future.

"Because of the pandemic, students have been confined to interacting only with their immediate classmates," Mrs. McNally said. "These sessions offer an opportunity for the kids to build those important relationships outside of their classrooms."

Our primary school students have also built important relationships with our high school "Tornadoes News" team in launching "Little Tornadoes News."

Each month, WDPS students work alongside Harborfields High School student Alex Bayer to report and record school news, including past and upcoming events, student and staff birthdays, acts of kindness, and even punchline jokes.

Students at TJJL are learning about the importance of kindness and have helped to make a

difference in their classmates' daily lives.

In a weeklong "Read to Feed" event, in celebration of World Kindness Day on Nov. 13, students read books on the topic of kindness. They then turned those lessons into actions, spreading kindness throughout our community by collecting nonperishable food items to benefit HACO's annual Thanksgiving food drive.

TJJL's No Place for Hate Committee – which has 24 student members, parents from the community, and staff – also recently kicked off several schoolwide programs to support kindness, equity, diversity and inclusion. The team has dubbed January "Kindness Month," during which acts of kindness have been recognized each day.

Preexisting programs, such as Beautiful Me and Inner Strength, have also been running strong, offering students an opportunity to be kind to themselves and accept others for their differences.

At OMS, eighth graders are using technology to build global connections. Mary-Lynn Karpenske's class recently participated in a "Global Read Aloud" with three classes in North America as they read "Prairie Lotus," by Linda Sue Park. Our students engaged in friendly competitions against their global peers through Kahoot – an online learning platform – to answer user-generated, multiple-choice questions about the book.

Students at OMS have also found new ways to stay connected with old friends. Typically, each year on Veterans Day, members of Greenlawn's American Legion Post 1244 come to speak to our students. This year, we returned the favor and visited them virtually, using a Flipgrid video slideshow.

Middle school students have also reached out to new friends at Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook. During these trying times, the 350 veterans at LISVH have been unable to visit with their families and friends. To bring them some cheer during the holidays, our students created cards and artwork, thanking them for their service.

In keeping with staying connected to our community, Harborfields High School junior

Sophia Karl recently launched the Huntington chapter of "Letters for Rose." Her goal: to reduce the loneliness of the elderly in nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joining in her mission, students districtwide worked passionately to create more than 500 heartwarming letters, and pastel and watercolor cards which were delivered to local nursing homes for the holidays.

"In this time of uncertainty, residents of nursing homes all over the world are feeling lonely because they cannot interact with their regular visitors," Sophia said. "The Letters for Rose allow them to connect back with the community in the safest way possible."

Learning new ways to stay connected with their classmates, Harborfields High School seniors have also started new traditions. On Oct. 23, the Class of 2021 woke up more than an hour before classes began to watch the sunrise, marking this the high school's first-ever "Senior Sunrise."

Following the postponement of homecoming, the event was the first chance for seniors to connect as a class in the 2020-21 school year

"It was a great opportunity for us to reconnect after such an abrupt end to last school year," Senior Class President Melina Sandel said. "It was great seeing all of our friends from different cohorts."

Additionally, across all buildings, choir, orchestra and band students are once again making music. Thanks to the collaboration of administrators, the district's music department, and the Harborfields Board of Education, each of the schools' auditoriums, music rooms, outdoor spaces and gymnasiums have been redesigned to accommodate social distancing during lessons and group practices, in accordance with state guidelines.

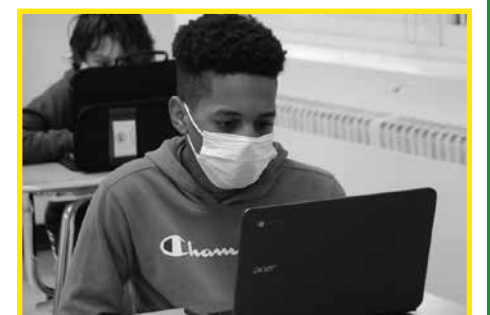
"It's taken a huge amount of time and thought to make this work, but it's important," K-12 Music Department Coordinator Daniel Bilawsky said. "I can't say enough about how everyone went above and beyond to keep the arts alive."



Washington Drive Primary School students worked with Harborfields High School student Alex Bayer to record the first edition of "Little Tornadoes News."



Pictured left to right, Huntington "Letters for Rose" ambassadors Caitlin Fealy, Anna Goslin, Emelie Hochwald and chapter head Sophia Karl.



Oldfield Middle School eighth graders in Mary-Lynn Karpenske's class made global connections during a "Global Read Aloud."

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STUDENTS SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Harborfields High School students in the Career Transitions program recently teamed up with the school's Introduction to Journalism class to make a difference in the lives of military families.

The newest initiative, known as the "Troopons Project," encourages all students, faculty and staff to donate unused coupons to be mailed to overseas and domestic military families in need.

"The program enhances the well-being of military families by sending them coupons to make their hard-earned dollars go further," Career Transitions student Adam Vahling said. "It is an easy way to make a big difference in their lives."

In early November, the journalism and Career Transitions teams worked together to produce a promo video that was shared throughout the district's schools and community. Donations began pouring in on Nov. 13 and soon overflowed the collection box in the high school main office.

Since its kickoff in 2018, the Career Transitions program has been dedicated to providing students with valuable life skills and credible experiences not typically found in the classroom. The program has helped to prepare these students for life



after high school and, over the years, has only expanded, offering them additional opportunities in the 2020-21 school year.

Working alongside the Tornadoes News team in an immersive, real-world experience, these students recently became directors, stage managers, graphic engineers, teleprompter operators and, of course, the on-screen talent. Students learned teamwork, comraderie, and communication skills and became the face of the Troopons Project.

The team will be collecting, cutting, sorting, and bagging coupons throughout the holiday season.

To view the promo video, please visit the district website at www.harborfieldscsd.net. Also, don't forget to follow the Tornadoes News team at [Vimeo.com/HFTornadoNews](https://vimeo.com/HFTornadoNews) to get alerts and enjoy more videos like these!

Bond UPDATE

Over the past several months, the district has been working hard to tackle projects approved through the 2019 bond referendum. The existing vestibule at Washington Drive has been retrofitted for enhanced security. Additionally, all doors within Harborfields High School, Oldfield Middle School and Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School have been upgraded with new security hardware.

Work on the turf field at the high school is underway. The scoreboard has been temporarily removed, and the inside curb of the track was saw-cut to allow for the eventual joining of the turf carpet to the track. Soil is being removed to prepare the site for the installation of the drainage and the synthetic turf system. To view a full capital project update, please visit the district website at www.harborfieldscsd.net.

