



Learning in Action



Oldfield Middle School's Sunshine Girls have raised funds and supported local charities like Maggie's Mission and Gabby Gives. The girls have raised over \$4,000 wrapping gifts for the holidays, performed in the PTA Council Variety Show and collected over 600 fuzzy socks to donate to area hospitals.



Students at Washington Drive Primary School collected words to kick off Read Across America week. Principal Kathryn McNally read "The Word Collector," and students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by wearing crazy socks to school.



Cultural anthropologist Bob Vetter visited Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School to offer fourth graders an inside look into the cultural traditions of the Eastern Woodland Indians.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

STAYING CONNECTED A TOP PRIORITY

We are beyond proud of our HF Family during this unprecedented time. Parents, teachers, administrators, and community members alike have joined together to make the transition to distance learning as smooth as possible.

During the mandatory closure of school buildings, our main goal has been to remain connected and to provide families and community members with the latest updates.

"Our HF Family will be able to get through this because we have each other," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Francesco Ianni said. "Staying connected to the school is our most important goal."

To accomplish this mission, teachers and administrators across the district have held numerous virtual spirit weeks. Students, eager to connect with their teachers, have been quick to share pictures of themselves wearing green to support their schools or celebrating Superhero Day by dressing up as essential workers.

It is important to stay connected during this difficult time as many students are dealing with added stressors. Support for elementary

school students is available from their social worker or school psychologists to help in coping with any feelings of anxiety.

Elementary school students have been using their "mindful jars" as coping mechanisms, by shaking them and watching as the glitter inside slowly floats to the bottom. School psychologist Dr. Lauren Gallagher explained how they work:

"Watch what happens when you're still for a moment," she said. "See how the glitter starts to settle and the water clears? Your mind works the same way. When you're calm for a little while, your thoughts start to settle, and you see things much more clearly."

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A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Families,

I hope you are all doing well during these challenging and uncertain times. While none of us could have anticipated the situation currently facing our nation, the Harborfields community and school district have demonstrated tremendous strength and resilience over the past two months. Thank you for your support of our students and your continued efforts to maintain a strong connection while our buildings are closed. While our facilities remain shut down, please be assured that school is still very much open!

This past month has brought so much progress in our distance learning platform. While I recognize that no distance learning program can be an equal substitute for in-person instruction, I am proud of the work our teachers and administrators have been doing to smoothly carry out the unforeseen transition. Our educators are dedicated to ensuring that students continue to learn while simultaneously dealing with the pandemic's impact on themselves and their own families. I thank them for their continued dedication and commitment.

I would also like to offer my sincere appreciation to our parents for their patience, support, and involvement in making our distance learning platform meaningful and educationally productive. Without your partnership, we, as teachers and administrators, could not have accomplished all that we have during this short period of time. As we navigate through this "new era" of teaching and learning, we are also mindful that access to technology varies for families throughout the district. To this point, our distance learning platform offers flexibility so that all students receive the necessary resources they need to be successful.

During the past few months, I have been thinking about the Senior Class of 2020 and all of the incredible moments that in a matter of minutes were taken away from them. We are working relentlessly on plans to make their end-of-year ceremonies and school experience activities as positive and fulfilling as possible. Milestone events, such as Graduation and Senior Recognition Night, may look different, but I promise you that they will be special and memorable for our seniors and their parents.

I know this is not an easy time, but by supporting one another, we will emerge stronger and more resilient for having overcome the many challenges these months have brought us. I hope you are able to share positive time together with your families and that you are staying safe and well.

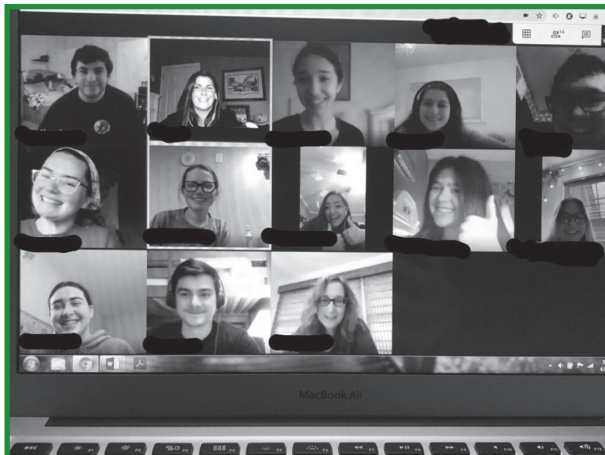
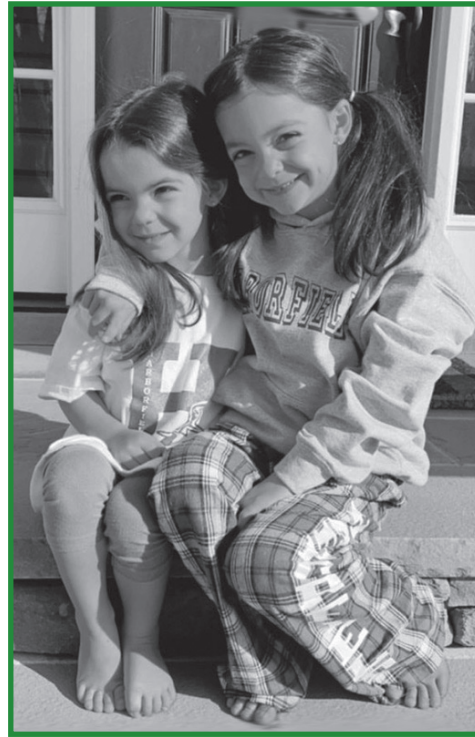
I am thinking of you and miss you.

Do not ever forget: **WE ARE STRONG, AND WE ARE THE HF FAMILY.**

Sincerely,
Francesco Ianni, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

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STAYING CONNECTED A TOP PRIORITY



Members of Harborfields High School's Future Educators club have stayed connected with elementary school students by recording themselves reading children's books and sharing them on YouTube.

It is equally important to stay connected to community members. Harborfields High School's National Honor Society members have been busy creating videos to brighten the days of patients in Sunrise Senior Living facilities through its newly generated HF NHS YouTube channel.

Even through distance learning, our students have found creative and unique ways to stay connected through virtual meetings and social media challenges. These tools have been crucial in transitioning to distance learning.

Since mid-March, administrators and teachers have been working diligently

to support students and develop distance learning plans specific to each school, grade level, or classroom. Students are engaging with their teachers in Google Classrooms and in live Google Meet sessions. Students are encouraged to use online learning support resources and to reach out to their teacher or building administration



if they need assistance or support.

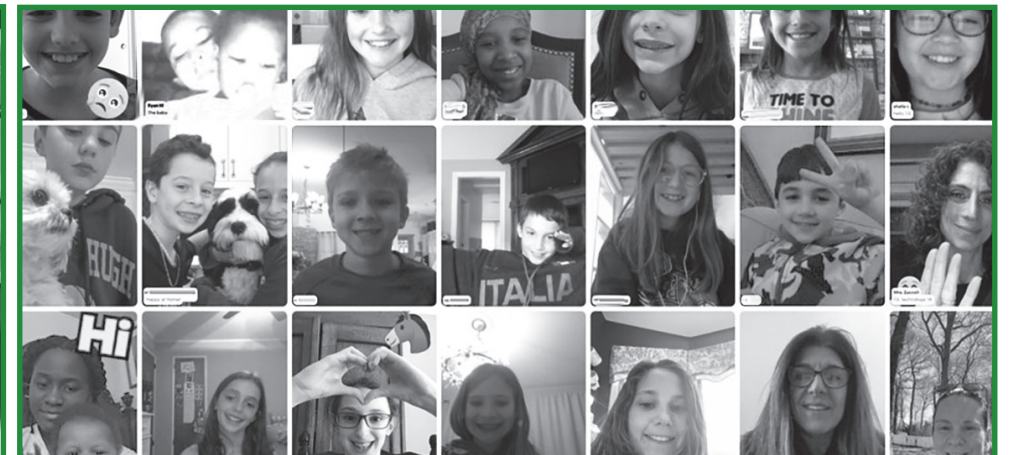
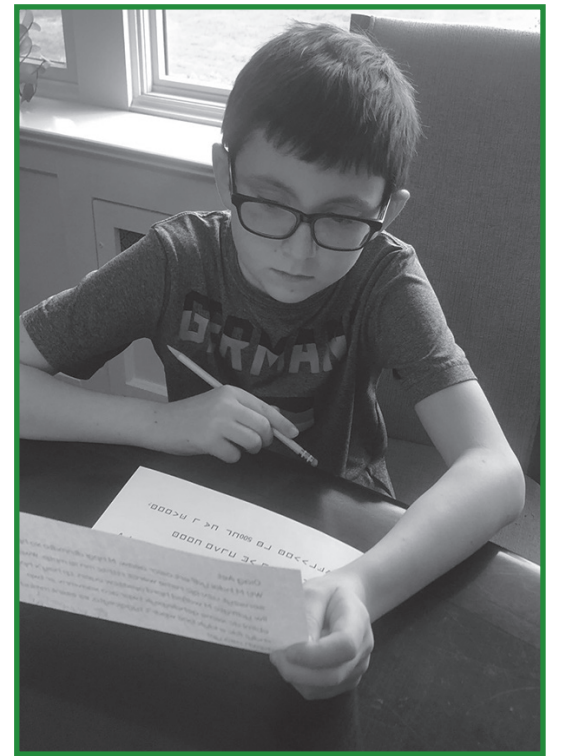
To support families, the district has made arrangements with SCOPE to provide child care for school-age children at Thomas J.

Lahey Elementary School. Please note that separate registration is required for this child care, even if your child previously attended a SCOPE program. Information regarding the program, fees and registration can be found at www.scopeonline.us.

The district is also distributing meals to families in need from Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily. Multiple meals are distributed on Friday for the weekend.

As part of our outreach efforts to help students with remote learning assignments, the district is offering loaner Chromebooks to households in need. To request a device, please email your child's principal.

"We are thinking of you," Dr. Ianni said, addressing students, teachers, families, and community members. "We are strong, and we are the HF Family."



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Shining STUDENTS

CLASS OF 2020 VALEDICTORIAN

Harborfields High School is proud to announce Aiden Cordero as the Class of 2020 valedictorian. Aiden, also a National Merit Scholarship finalist, is a member of the mathematics, robotics and creative computing clubs. After graduation, Aiden is planning to study computational biology.



NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Congratulations to Harborfields High School seniors Aiden Cordero and Simon Kapen, who were recently announced as finalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship program. Both students were selected among approximately 16,000 students as semifinalists this past fall and will compete against the top 1% of students nationwide for one of 7,600 scholarships, totaling \$19 million.



SALUTATORIAN & TIM BASSETT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Congratulations to Harborfields High School senior and salutatorian Samantha Lustig, who was recently honored with an inaugural Tim Bassett Leadership Award for her dedication to Athletes Helping Athletes. The Long Island-based nonprofit is a leadership program available to high school students who express interest in helping to prepare elementary school students for middle school and beyond. Athletes Helping Athletes' mission is to inspire leadership through sports while addressing social issues, such as life skills, sportsmanship, civility, substance abuse prevention, violence prevention and physical activity.



SILVER KEY AWARD

Congratulations to Harborfields High School senior Daniel White, who recently earned a Silver Key award in the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for his phenomenal photography skills. Each year, nearly 340,000 students submit artwork and writing samples to the Alliance of Young Artists & Writers, which is made up of leaders in the visual and literary arts, as well as Scholastic Awards alumni. The submissions are then judged based on three core values: originality, technical skill, and the emergence of personal voice or vision.

