



Learning in Action



Students in Ms. Sack's and Ms. Teape's class celebrated Apple Day and enjoyed learning with apple-themed activities – practicing addition with apple seeds, exploring the apple's growth cycle and creating art with apple stamps.



Third-grade students in Ms. Harley's class learned the basics of electricity and practiced making closed circuits together. They learned about voltage, electrical currents and more.



Students explored music using the mountain dulcimer – an instrument for beginning musicians to learn how to navigate melodies and harmonies. Students had the opportunity to play their own solo compositions, duets and more.

Harborfields HIGHLIGHTS

The Official News Source of Harborfields Central School District

New Classroom Skills and Tools

Recently, the district has implemented the use of kidOYO – or Kid Own Your Own – in K-12 classrooms. This educational infrastructure offers an array of tools and project-based learning in computer science, engineering and entrepreneurship education. Students have begun to grasp the basics of computer code as they solve challenges and earn badges for each completion. The more badges they earn, the more they progress in knowledge.

According to the educators at kidOYO, the goal of these programs is to create a “safe space where students can engage the real world using real-world tools aimed at professional-quality results, while being free from advertising, data exploitation or business models that shift in time and change how past efforts function today.”

Once students begin to get comfortable with their coding abilities, they can create a challenge or a project to share with their classmates or the kidOYO community. Users of kidOYO have a “failing forward” mentality – that to move forward, students have to learn what doesn't work and, in turn, be motivated by that failure.



Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School students code clickable maps with kidOYO.

On the elementary level, fourth-graders at Thomas J. Lahey are getting the hang of basic coding. On another coding platform called Hatch, they've been slowly learning the basic building blocks of coding by experimenting with animating graphics, creating interactive maps and more.

“I really like learning how to code things because you're basically making something out of nothing,” said Olive, a fourth-grader at Thomas J. Lahey. “We get to be creative, but in a different way.”

Christian, a student at Thomas J. Lahey with the most kidOYO badges so far, began teaching himself the basics of coding before it was implemented in the classrooms. When he found out they'd be learning it in class, he was ecstatic.

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A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Harborfields Community,

The 2018-19 school year got off to a great start, and our students hit the ground running with achievements in academics, art and music. I am excited to share that the final phase of bond work has been completed, as highlighted in this newsletter. Students within our schools are benefiting from new and improved facilities that were finished this summer.

The district has also begun implementing security improvements to best ensure the safety of our children. In addition to enhancements noted in my previous messages, I am also pleased that we have established a strengthened connection with the police department, with increased officer presence and check-ins. As I have expressed many times, the well-being of our students is my utmost priority.

Speaking of our students, they have done a great deal to make our community proud these past few months and have demonstrated their strong dedication to helping others. Homecoming brought fundraising opportunities for Maggie's Mission in support of pediatric cancer research, and the game featured a meaningful, student-organized Stand Up 2 Cancer effort that united the community in strength. Thomas J. Lahey students also supported Maggie's Mission through a Maggie's Challenge initiative and performed random acts of kindness through Sandy Hook Promise's Start with Hello Week.

As we move forward into the holiday season of gratitude and generosity, I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our students and programs. I look forward to sharing many more exciting accomplishments as the school year continues.

Sincerely,
Dr. Francesco Ianni
Superintendent of Schools

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New Classroom Skills and Tools

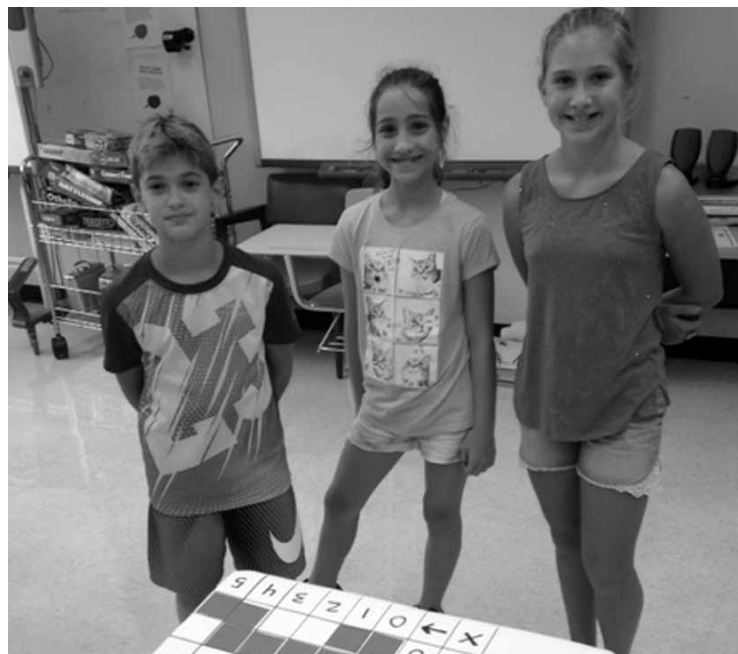
"One of the things I really like about coding is that it's okay when you mess up," Christian said, "because once you figure out what you messed up, you can just go right back and try again."

Teacher Jennifer Washington has enjoyed watching her students respond to being given the opportunity to learn something completely foreign and new, and has noted their increasing resiliency as they tackle hard tasks.

"I love that the students have to try and try again with this new skill," Mrs. Washington said. "They learn to not give up and to lean on each other for help. Utilizing kidOYO in the classroom allows us to utilize innovation, creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving in such a different way than we had previously."

At the middle school level, the sixth-grade coding class at Oldfield Middle School tackled earning badges in an application called Maze Code. This code teaches them to block code and transitions them into learning JavaScript, which is just one of many computer languages. Additionally, they've learned how to use coordinates within coding, how to create a GIF (graphic interchange format) file, how to program in different computer languages such as Python and learned about binary code.

"This class has a creative component as well," coding teacher Drew Lockwood said. "It's teaching students the graphic aspects of computing that are necessary for the everyday adult in our society to understand."



Oldfield Middle School students work on teambuilding activities to teach computer science concepts.

Bond Construction =

COMPLETED!

Over the summer, the district worked hard to cross the finish line of the third and final phase of the capital bond referendum. The high school received the bulk of this last phase – renovations of the orchestra room, gym lobby, main lobby bathrooms and auditorium systems. Additionally, an athletic storage building

was constructed, as well as a top dressing for the stadium field. At Oldfield Middle School, renovations of the family and consumer science room and both locker rooms took place. Finally, at Thomas J. Lahey, renovations of all student bathrooms were completed, as well as the creation of a sensory room.



The new sensory room at Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School.



The renovated choral room at Harborfields High School

Safety and Security Upgrades

To further ensure the safety of our children, an outside security guard position has been created at each school to greet every visitor before they are able to enter the building. With a radio on hand, the guard is able to communicate to the front desk regarding the visitor, and ensures that they have appropriate identification as well as a valid reason for entering the school. Once those two items are confirmed, the person entering the building must also have their identification scanned. This process, which was implemented in June, has been working well. While the process of showing identification and explaining a visit can be tedious, it's a small price to pay for the safety and security of our students and staff. Thankfully, this extra step in further securing our buildings has been supportively embraced by the community. As the school year

continues, the district will be making more moves to further secure the buildings with the help of Smart Bond funding.

In addition to physical security implementations, the district has pledged to continue increasing social and emotional safety for each and every Harborfields student. For example, the “No Place for Hate” initiative, which focuses on promoting schoolwide inclusiveness and acceptance, is in full swing throughout each school. Last year, each school was recognized

by the Anti-Defamation League as a “No Place for Hate” school. Throughout the district, teachers initiate conversations about handling challenging real-life situations in healthy ways.

“Allowing for students to share their thoughts and experiences in social situations is very helpful for students of all ages,” Thomas J. Lahey Principal Susan Kenny said, “and it provides support and guidance in how to handle hard situations when they arise.”

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– Thomas J. Lahey Principal Susan Kenny

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Shining STUDENTS



Top County and State Musicians

Ten Harborfields High School students have been selected for the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education All-County Music Festival. Of those students, three have also been selected for the New York State School Music Association All-State Festival. NYSCAME All-County is composed of the highest-scoring NYSSMA musicians across Suffolk County, and NYSSMA All-State is based on NYSSMA scores

and how those scores compare to other students at the same level across the entire state. Both groups of students will be performing at their respective concerts later this fall.



Arts-Focused Award of Merit

Harborfields High School student Shannon Tucker was selected as an Award of Merit recipient by the Long Island Scholar-Artist program for the 2018-19 school year. This program, sponsored by Long Island Arts Alliance, recognizes academically outstanding students who also excel in the arts. Shannon is one of 20 students to receive an Award of Merit islandwide and is commended for her success in the arts and ability to excel academically across all subjects.



National Merit Semifinalist

Harborfields High School Senior Albert Zhang was recently named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship program, placing him in the top 1 percent of the 1.6 million test takers nationwide. Albert will continue on in the competition for one of the final 7,500 National Merit Scholarships by scoring well on the upcoming SAT and continuing his dedication to academic excellence.

Save the date for
the HACEF
Mardi Gras
Gala!

Friday, March 1, 2019
7:30 p.m. @ Larkfield
in East Northport

Join the Harborfields Community Educational Foundation for a celebration and benefaction for innovation, technology and the arts in the Harborfields Central School District.

The committee is working hard to make this a spectacular event and needs the community's help in making the event as successful as possible.

Please consider becoming a sponsor, placing journal ads to congratulate the honorees or donating goods or services. Visit our website, gala.hacef.org, or email the committee at hacefgala@gmail.com for more information.