

# School Link



BACK TO SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 2018

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Families:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to the return of approximately 3400 students and will provide them with a kind, caring, and safe learning environment. Many thanks to all the twelve-month employees who made it possible to open the doors this September and set the "wheels in motion" for another successful school year.

Our schools are ready to engage students in their learning and to provide them with an academic program that is rigorous and rewarding. We have both the infrastructure and the tools to incorporate digital learning and to support our mission to "strive for excellence and embrace the opportunities of our globally connected world."

The HPCSD's "Profile of a Graduate" states that our students will be responsible individuals and critical thinkers. We believe that "responsible individuals who respect themselves and others" contribute greatly to a positive learning environment. We also believe that "critical thinkers who anticipate, identify and evaluate issues and use multiple resources to solve problems" will experience success in school and in all their future endeavors. Our District Leadership Team will continue to plan initiatives and programs that are designed to support what we want our students to know and be able to do upon graduation.

We would like to thank our community for supporting the capital project proposal to upgrade heating and ventilation systems and to replace the science labs at FDR and HMS. We will update the community on our progress at regular intervals.

A special thank you to all our families for entrusting us with the care and education of your children. Thank you to all the families and community members who partner with us in keeping the Hyde Park Pride going and growing!

Sincerely,

*Greer Rychcik, Ed.D.*

Superintendent of Schools

## Summer Programs are a Springboard for School Success

Thanks to a variety of educational programs offered by the District, there was plenty of opportunity for learning this summer. Students of all ages attended classes and are poised for a successful start to the new school year.

### Summer Bridge Program

About 120 elementary students enjoyed the Summer Bridge program offered at Violet Avenue Elementary School. The goals were to help students refresh knowledge needed for new school year and to prevent regression that may occur when there is a break from academics.

The biggest change to the program was the addition of a canine companion. Milano, a two-year-old trained facility dog certified by Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities (ECAD), began working for the district this summer and the students loved him.

*continued on page 2*

## HPCSD 2018-2019 New Bell Schedule

SCHOOL	STAFF	STUDENTS
FDR	7:20 – 2:20	7:30 – 2:14
HMS	8:00 – 3:00	8:12 – 2:54
NES	8:55 – 3:55	9:40 – 3:40
NPE	8:40 – 3:40	9:25 – 3:25
RRS	8:55 – 3:55	9:40 – 3:40
VAS	8:55 – 3:55	9:40 – 3:40



## Summer Programs *continued from page 1*

“Milano is just sweet and calm all the time,” said Seren who is 7. Classmate Jeremiah, also 7, was excited that Milano listened carefully while students read him shark facts.

ECAD dogs assist in a variety of ways. Locally, they work in the county’s court system and at the Children’s Home. Milano will assist Violet Avenue students and at other schools if needed. The district paid for his training and Principal Deanna Gonzalez is responsible for all other costs related to the dog.

He will greet students at the bus, comfort them in counseling sessions, and be a guest for reading circles. He will also have a mailbox so that students can write to him as part of their literacy program.

“The kids just adore him and are excited to see him and so is the staff,” said Gonzalez. “It makes the building a happy place and the happier we are, the more we learn.”

### Camp Invention



Netherwood Elementary School hosted 110 elementary students for the weeklong Camp Invention. Students, guided by five teachers, focused on “Fast Forward” project-based learning. They built Smart homes, Smart cars, and catapults. As robotic pet vets, the students performed “surgery” on robotic dogs to get rid of

programming bugs. A games module rounded out the program with physical activities and team building.

“The students really benefit from the fun, hands-on activities that encourage creative problem solving, teamwork, entrepreneurship and curiosity,” said Kim Knisell, director of math and science. “This is our seventh year with Camp Invention. It really inspires the students to think critically during the program and later on at home and in school. This year everyone brought home personalized robots to continue their learning.”



### Enrichment Program Makes Learning Fun

At Haviland Middle School nearly 60 students honed their math and English skills in preparation for the new school year. This is the second year summer enrichment was offered at the middle school for those entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades this fall.



## Foundation Re-Energized; Dedicated to Supporting Students

After a ten-year hiatus, the Hyde Park Education Foundation is invigorated and raising money to support school district programs.

The first fundraising event for the not-for-profit group was a Field of Honor held last Memorial Day weekend at the FDR Home Site under the direction of then President David Roosevelt, FDR grandson and HPCD parent. During the patriotic weekend, 255 American flags, 3x5 feet, were flown as a tribute honoring people of the donors choosing.

“We received a really nice response and reaction to the field. The community and thousands of visitors to FDR’s home were quite moved by it,” said newly elected President Donna Lackner-Horn. “As time goes on we hope to grow our finances and increase our efforts to support Hyde Park students.”

The money raised will help to fund programs and fulfill needs in the district. The Foundation is independent of the school district. Anyone interested is encouraged to check out the website [www.hydeparkeducationfoundation.org](http://www.hydeparkeducationfoundation.org) or email [HPEF12538@gmail.com](mailto:HPEF12538@gmail.com) for more information.



# FDR Students Excel

The graduates of FDR's Class of 2018 celebrated their achievements and friendships at Commencement on June 22 at the athletic complex. Scores of scholarships and awards were presented to the accomplished class in the weeks before graduation.

In addition to Valedictorian Lia Strait and Salutatorian Natalie Molloy, graduates heard from keynote speaker Kathy Sheehan, the FDR Class of 1986 Valedictorian.

Currently vice president and associate general counsel for ethics and customer trust at Amazon.com, Ms. Sheehan offered advice she wish she had received when she was graduating including to wear sunscreen and to start to save money even if it was just a teeny bit.

"I'm a genuinely happy person. Some people wait for happiness to come to them" she said. "Don't let life just happen to you. Take the reins, go with your own

happiness, and be very intent on that. At Amazon we have had a motto of work hard, have fun, and make history. That's great life advice. Whatever you choose to do, show up, dig in and learn."

The 272 graduates tossed their gold and green caps in the air as a symbolic start to the rest of their lives. Impressively, FDR had 85 members of the class of 2018 who carried four-year averages of 90 or better, according to Principal Rick Pardy.



## Capital Project Timeline

- Schematic design completed – 8/9/18
- Presentation to BOE – 9/27/18
- Design Development – 11/1/18
- Submission to State Ed Dept. – 1/10/19
- Bids Requested – 11/14/19
- Award Contacts – 1/16/20
- Construction begins Spring of 2020

The Owner/Architect/Construction Manager team meets twice a month and updates the BOE quarterly. The community is encouraged to attend these meetings. Follow our progress on our website and in our newsletter after final approval from the State Education Department.

## Congratulations!

**Phil Pacio received his 30 year award at the Annual Driver's Refresher Meeting.**



*Pictured, Superintendent Greer Rychcik, Phil Pacio and George Treadwell, Director of Transportation.*

BOARD of EDUCATION  
Jeffrey B. Danielson, President  
Daniel M. Duffy, Vice President



Denise R. Biery  
Douglas H. Hieter,  
Perry G. Sheldon,  
Carl J. Tomik  
Michael C. Zagorski  
Patrick Izzo, Student Member

SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS  
Greer Rychcik, Ed.D.

DISTRICT CLERK  
Joanne "Jay" Mikula

11 Boice Road • Hyde Park, NY 12538

HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Administrative Offices**  
P O Box 2033  
Hyde Park NY 12538

www.hpcsd.org • 845-229-4000  
Fax (845)229-4056

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Newburgh, NY  
Permit No. 3809

ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## North Park Garden

The Second Grade Garden at North Park Elementary School has been named a certified schoolyard habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). It is the first school in Dutchess County to meet the criteria by offering adequate food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young.



"The students are just fabulous," said Barbara Hobens, a volunteer for the NWF, who presented a plaque during a ceremony June 14. "They really understand that if you do certain things the bees, butterflies, birds, all pollinators will come and help our environment."

The garden was developed over several years by second grade classes and has served as an outdoor classroom. It ties well to curriculum in science, math and social studies, said teacher Mary Langenau. She received a grant from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley to help fund the garden. "Students learned about the decline in the population of pollinators and that as members of a community they have a responsibility to take action to help," she said. They have enjoyed watching the garden grow and look out the window to take notice of the arrival of butterflies, dragonflies, hummingbirds and chipmunks.



## FDR Athletes Excel in Academics

FDR student athletes earned the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) School of Excellence award for the 2017-18 school year. This award is presented to schools that have at least 75% of their varsity teams earn the NYSPHSAA scholar athlete award. The scholar athlete team award is given to the teams who have a 90 or above GPA.

Impressively, 22 of 25 varsity FDR teams earned the scholar athlete team award last year. "We are very proud that our students excel academically while balancing the time and effort needed to play and compete in varsity sports," said Athletic Director Thomas Cunningham.



## FDR Student Second in Nation for Steeplechase

FDR Sophomore Sarah Trainor placed second in steeplechase at the National Championships held at Aggie Stadium in Greensboro, North Carolina on June 16th. She earned her trip to Nationals at the New York State Championship, held in Syracuse, earlier in June. Sarah ran a new school record time of 2:11 in the 800m run, finishing fourth overall. The following day, she ran a 6:47 in the Steeplechase and won the New York State Championship in the event.

