

# Hyde Park Central School District Connections

DECEMBER 2023

## From the Desk of Dr. Pedro Roman

Dear Hyde Park Community,

As we approach the conclusion of 2023, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, support staff, administrators, and families. Our collaborative efforts and partnership help prioritize the well-being and education of our students and support in upholding our mantra of “**Together, Keeping Our Students First.**” I am pleased to share that nearly 70 students, spanning grades 5th through 12th, have applied to join the **Superintendent Student Advisory Council (SSAC)**. Selections will be made based on their applications and recommendations from principals and teachers, ensuring a diverse and representative group. The purpose of the SSAC is to provide the Superintendent and the Executive Cabinet Members feedback on ways that the District could improve students’ overall experiences in our schools, elevate student voice, and provide two-way communication between the Superintendent and the students. Students will be notified by December 22, 2023.

As we embrace the holiday season, I wish each of you joy, peace, rest, and moments of reflection. May the upcoming year bring prosperity, growth, and continued success for you, your loved ones, and our Hyde Park community.



Hyde Park Central School District  
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## Hyde Park community puts a little love in its heart for holidays and beyond



*Across the district, students and staff from different schools were or are involved in charity initiatives helping their neighbors during the holiday season.*

### Ralph R. Smith

Students ran a food drive before Thanksgiving where they asked for donations. They were able to provide food baskets, which included gift cards, for nine families. Something similar will occur during the week of Dec. 18.

Additionally, the school runs the Backpack Program throughout the year helping hungry children on weekends get healthy meals when school breakfasts and lunches are unavailable. It is locally supported by the school and generous community members.

### Violet Avenue

Each year, the district’s nursing staff partners with the Hyde Park Lions Club to sell beautiful holiday wreaths with the proceeds going toward uninsured students so they can gain access to proper vision care. Sixty-five wreaths were purchased by Violet Avenue staff this year.

“We greatly appreciate the partnership and support the Hyde Park Lions Club provides,” Principal Nicolle Strang said. “We look forward to continuing this tradition in the future.”



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## Deputy Superintendent given Award of Excellence



Hyde Park Central School District Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gregory Brown was among the individuals recognized by the Mid-Hudson School Study Council during its Awards for Excellence event in November.

Brown received the award for Excellence in Administration in the Mid-Hudson Region. Former Superintendent Aviva Kafka, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Linda

*“It means the world to me to have been nominated by teachers and administrators whom I admire and hold in such high esteem,”*

*Dr. Gregory Brown*

Steinberg, retired fifth grade teacher Mary Beth Scattergood and North Park kindergarten teacher Laura Collins wrote heartfelt nomination letters for Brown, which he was touched to hear about.

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# Deputy Superintendent given Award of Excellence

Brown said. “I’m truly honored to have been recognized by the Mid-Hudson School Study Council and I am so proud of the amazing work we have done together as a district.”

For Brown, it is a blessing to be part of Hyde Park’s learning community where he has an opportunity to serve families, students, educators, staff and administrators every day.

The Mid-Hudson School Study Council, based at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, is a nonprofit whose goal is to improve education among member districts in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

# Hyde Park community puts a little love in its heart for holidays and beyond

Haviland

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Members of the school’s Student Government collected food and delivered it to the Hyde Park Food Pantry on Nov. 30. The pantry is seeing about six new households every week coming in and staff expressed gratitude to the students who delivered approximately 1,500 items.



“We helped provide food for many people,” eighth grader Tyler Curcio recalled. “I wanted to help other people in the community.” Students who volunteered, including eighth-grader Michael Brady, felt it was important to help families in the community as a way of giving back. “The community does so much for us,” Brady said. “It’s good to help families in need.”

Seventh grader Emily Burns explained why it is crucial to be involved with this cause. “It’s important to help, especially if it’s some of our peers who are struggling,” Burns said. Student Government will continue its charitable efforts by sending care packages to the troops overseas, providing meals to the homeless, and organizing a blood drive this spring.

# Countywide safety committee honors retired HPCSD teacher

Bob Bloom, a retired technical education teacher from Haviland Middle School, was recognized for 25 years of dedication and commitment to the [Dutchess County Schools Safety Committee](#) in November during its annual Safety Seminar.

While Bloom does his work not looking for awards, he appreciates the committee recognizing his efforts.

“It was a little embarrassing, but I’m very honored to have the recognition,” Bloom said. “I like to work behind the scenes and make sure the things that need tending to are taken care of.”

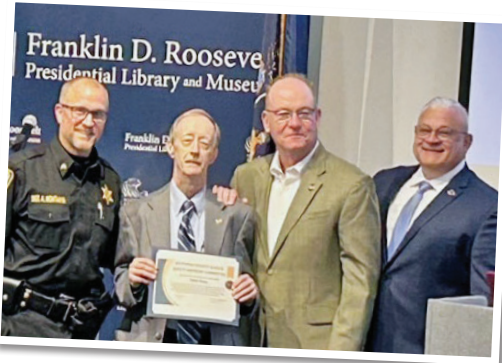
On the committee, Bloom and other members work with school districts across Dutchess County to help develop and improve their safety plans and procedures that benefit students and educators. They also collaborate with numerous county, state and local organizations. He most appreciates having the ability to support other people in their time of need.

Bloom has been involved in safety and emergency management for all his life, including stints as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, as well as serving on the policy board of the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center.

“Every call is an opportunity to make a change in somebody’s life to provide assistance,” Bloom explained. “It seemed to be a good fit.”

The announcement of Bloom’s recognition on Facebook prompted many former students and members of the community to share their positive experiences with and appreciation for the former teacher. Every now and then, Bloom runs into former students who share how much they loved his class.

“It’s very gratifying,” Bloom said. “I hope they take the lessons I taught with them.”



# Hyde Park Happenings

- December 21  
North Park Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- December 22  
Violet Avenue Winter Workshops
- December 25-January 1  
Winter Break Recess, NO SCHOOL
- January 8  
Ralph R. Smith Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- January 9  
FDR Prisms Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- January 10  
FAFSA Completion Night, 5 p.m.
- January 15  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL
- January 17  
Netherwood Concert, 6:30 p.m.

# Did you catch the latest Roman’s Recap?

Click Video

Be sure to check out the Superintendent highlighting special things happening across the HPCSD in his speedy, 60-second videos.

