

Tuckahoe Happenings

December 9, 2022



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DR. AMY GOODMAN

This week, we hosted a workshop with the Board of Education. We unpacked our progress toward the first two pillars of our strategic plan. District and building leaders shared information about our social-emotional learning program, Response-to-Intervention structures, and college preparation efforts. Our partners at JumpStart also spoke about their work to help Tuckahoe students prepare for college admissions exams. The ensuing discussion was thoughtful, with students planted firmly at the center of our work.

Our UPK Leadership Team welcomed families virtually in an open house information session. They covered the different considerations families bring to the Pre-K selection process, the curriculum we implement, and the connections to the K-12 program. Ms. Faith Sparks covered the details of the lottery and application program. More information can be found below!

This week we shared information about an upcoming capital project. The exciting details will be shared at our next Board of Education meeting, which can be streamed on our website. My letter to the community is included in this edition of the Happenings. Additionally, our staff worked on the extended day on important initiatives like vocabulary integration, differentiation, and data inquiry.

Proposed Capital Project

Dear Tuckahoe Schools Community:

On Monday, December 12th, the Trustees of the Board of Education will be discussing a proposal from our Facilities Committee to launch a new Capital Project to redesign the Cottle cafeteria and improve our HVAC systems. These and other infrastructure improvements were a part of recommendations put forth in our recent building condition survey.

Due to unprecedented inflation and supply chain issues, the bids for the HVAC work and the addition and alterations to the Cottle cafeteria were not able to be completed as part of the previous project. Despite this setback to our original scope, several key components of the 2021 project are either complete or nearing completion. These include:

- **New William E. Cottle Field**, a broad, turf-based playing space for recess, athletics, and community use;
- **William E. Cottle Playground and Siwanoy Boulevard Improvements**, providing additional playing space in a safe, engaging enclosure for our Cottle Cubs and community;
- **Redesign of the MS/HS Library**, with open learning spaces, breakout rooms for student collaboration, and state-of-the-art AV equipment and learning furniture; and
- **Renovation of the MS/HS Cafeteria**, including new eating spaces, display boards, and modern furniture and design.

We are proud of what we were able to accomplish. Building on this momentum, we worked with community and Board members on our Facilities Committee to develop a proposal we will present at the next meeting of the Board of Education. This proposal will be put before voters in February of 2023:

William E. Cottle School:

- Additional funding to complete the work that could not be completed as part of the previous project. This includes upgrades and improvements to our cafeteria at William E. Cottle Elementary School and HVAC work. This HVAC work will provide upgrades to ventilation and air quality for student/staff health and wellness.

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- New funding for critical infrastructure work that has surfaced in the past few years, including security upgrades such as new cameras and doors.

The additional funding for the Cottle scope listed above is approximately \$3,450,000. The proposed improvements at the William E. Cottle cafeteria have been re-designed to lower the proposed cost of this project element. The Facilities Committee, including building administrators, supports this redesign and agree that it will meet the school's needs.

Tuckahoe Middle/High School:

- Additional funding to complete the work that could not be completed as part of the previous project. This includes HVAC work in the older part of the building and some masonry restoration work. The HVAC work will provide upgrades to ventilation and air quality for student/staff health and wellness.
- Partial roof replacement and related masonry repair,
- Replacement of all steam piping and traps in the pipe tunnels,
- Additional masonry restoration,
- Replacement of all steam traps above the pipe tunnels,
- Repair leaking plumbing piping, and
- Security upgrades, including replacing the entire PA/intercom/bell & clock system.

The new funding for Tuckahoe Middle/High School totals \$5,800,000. This component of the project addresses major infrastructure needs and will preserve the longevity of our assets and facilities. These investments aim to maintain a state of good repair in our buildings and modernize our assets. The District does ongoing, routine maintenance work every year. The proposed work is not considered "routine maintenance," but, instead, it is composed of projects that fall outside the definition of routine maintenance. Replacing these big-ticket items that are approaching or are at the end of their useful lives through the bond will avoid costly, emergency action in the future, achieve economies of scale and minimize disruption to the students. Investment in school facilities is effective not only in achieving its primary goal of improving health and safety but also in inducing secondary effects such as heightened academic performance. A quality educational environment can have a positive influence on the attitudes and behaviors of both students and teachers.

The replacement of interior lighting will be included at both schools to the extent that the budget will allow.

Our historic buildings require updates, and our learning spaces need to be redesigned to keep pace with the progress we make toward our strategic plan goals. The total proposed funding request is for \$9,250,000. \$750,000 of that amount will be requested to be taken from the capital reserve fund established by the Board for this purpose.

Please view our meeting online at www.tuckahoeschools.org or in person this Monday, December 12th, to further understand and discuss the proposed project. There will be other presentations as well. I thank

the Facilities Committee, School Board Trustees, and building leadership for their hard work, and I extend my appreciation to the Tuckahoe Schools community for their unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Goodman
Superintendent of Schools

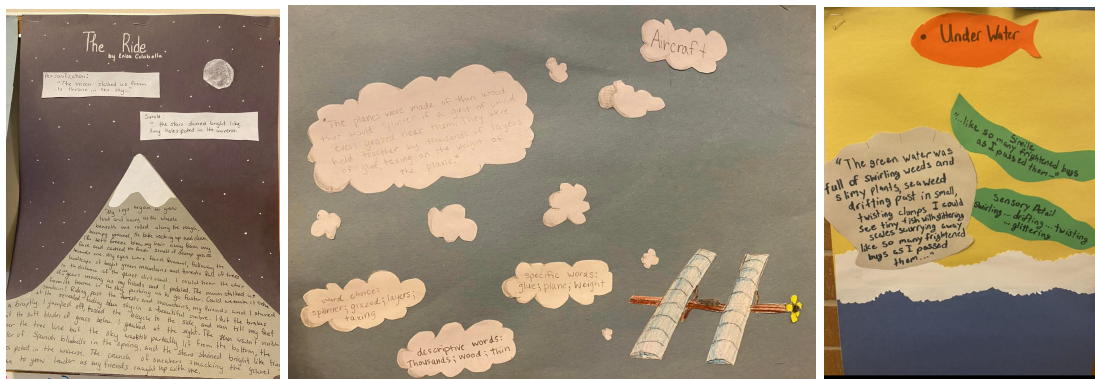
Chess Champs at Cottle!



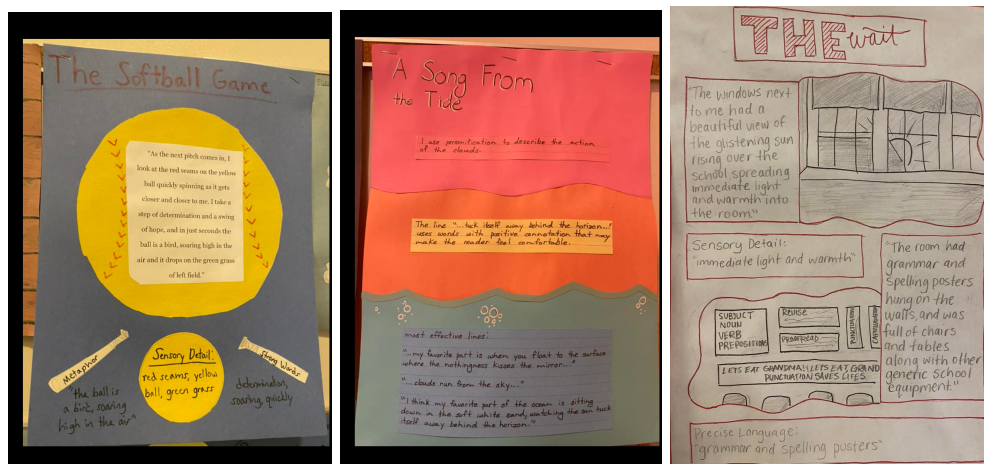
Cottle was represented by Fourth Graders William Owen and Riyaan Walambe at the National Scholastic Chess Foundation Tournament (NSCF) hosted by the Bronxville Schools on Saturday, December 3rd. William and Riyaan both competed in the Booster Section, which is a US Chess Federation-rated section. Approximately 30 players competed in the section. William scored 3.5 points (3W 1D 0L) and finished in second place to the only other competitor in the section to score 3.5 points based on tiebreak rules. Riyaan scored an impressive 2.5 points (2W 1D 1L).

In addition to individual trophies, NSCF also awards team trophies to the top 3 schools in each section. The scores for the top four players from each school are aggregated to determine team standings. Despite having only two players, William and Riyaan's combined score of six points won the second-place team trophy for Cottle. They outscored many schools with three or four players!

Bringing Story Elements to Life



In Ms. Conway's eighth-grade English Language Arts, students practiced the craft of writing by practicing a variety of techniques to zoom into a small moment. Students created focused narratives where they used sensory detail, figurative language, and strong word choice. Afterward, they created visual representations of their writing to publish their best lines and the writing techniques they employed. Students are learning to make complex inferences and use contextual evidence, such as imagery of figurative language, to support their writing.



Debate Team Soars!



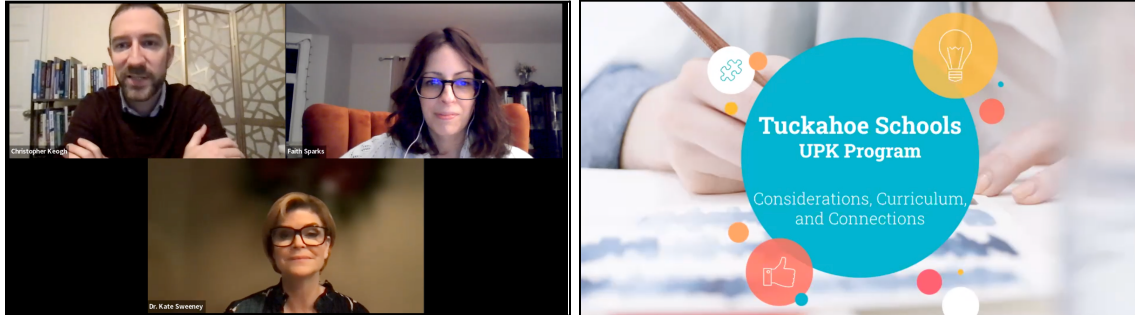
Tuckahoe Debate traveled to Hackley today for a full day of debating! There were 130 debaters present from all over the NY tri-state area. Tuckahoe debaters competed with poise and confidence. Congratulations to Victoria Gjelij and Stella Sheldon for getting speaker awards! We are proud to announce that Elizabeth Gjelij got the best speaker award in the Novice division!

All teams competed well, and we are proud of all our debaters: Dylan Rigby, Camilla Massucci, Ella Donovan, Elizabeth Gjelij, Victoria Gjelij, Sebastian Kulic, Stella Sheldon, Valentina Bothwell, and Marin Swenson. Our success could not have been possible without the help of our researchers and judges: Jane Sheldon, Mila Sekulic, Aidan Mancuso, Emre Uzun, Violet Linn, Esther Linn, and Ellie Reilly.

We are so proud of our debate team and their coaches, Ms. Mosa and Mr. O'Connell! Go Tigers!



UPK Open House Webinar



This week, our UPK Leadership Team (Dr. Kate Sweeney, Dr. Chris Keogh, Ms. Faith Sparks, and Marion Anderson from Cornerstone) hosted an [informational webinar](#) for families inquiring about our free Pre-K program, available via lottery. The theme of the evening was “Considerations, Curriculum, and Connections.” The considerations that many prospective UPK families have were covered in the first portion, including pick-up, drop-off, fees for before and after care, the personnel, facilities, and daily schedule. Next, the panel dove into the curriculum that is used, the social-emotional learning platform, and the ways the UPK program prepares students for success in the K-12 program at Tuckahoe. Lastly, we focused on the strong bridge between Cornerstone and Tuckahoe and how our UPK families are valued members of our school community and PTA. We then spoke in detail about the lottery process and answered questions.

A recording of the presentation can be found by [clicking here](#). Tours will be held next week on December 13th at 2:30 and December 15th at 6:30 PM. Please visit our website by [clicking here](#), or reaching out to anyone on our UPK leadership team.

Congrats, Yuri Lee!



This past weekend Yuri Lee was chosen to represent THS in NYS All-State Orchestra. Top musicians from across the state gathered in Rochester, NY at the famed Eastman School of Music for a weekend of rehearsals culminating in an inspiring performance on Sunday morning. In addition to Yuri's violin honors, she was also chosen as an All-State composer and had her composition, "Frome," performed on a student composer showcase.

Yuri was also named a winner in Classical Music/Composition for the 2023 YoungArts national competition. Yuri will be attending the YoungArts Week in Florida next month for an intense (and awesome) week of attending masterclasses and meeting young artists in various disciplines. She will also have a chance to be nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

We are SO proud of Yuri, and are happy to have played a part in her development. She truly is a musical all-star in our eyes! Special thank you to Strings Instructor, Mr duChateau; our arts faculty who taught and collaborated with Yuri; and teachers/staff and peers who cheer her on. Kudos 🎻 Yuri!!!

Presenting to the NYS Bar Association



Dr. Christopher Keogh and Ms. Cheila Mosa were invited to participate in a panel hosted by the New York State Bar Association committee on Law, Youth, and Citizenship. The focus of the panel was skills that support learners' critical reading. They shared the CARS (Credibility, Accuracy, Reliability, and Source) strategy, and how students are taught to learn about different perspectives. Ms. Mosa was also able to share how critical these skills are for students on debate teams! Audience members included K-12 teachers, attorneys, and legal educators. The webinar panel discussion was moderated by Jay Worona, Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel of the NYS School Boards Association.

Tuckahoe Tigers Compete in Soccer



Tuckahoe's Pioneer League has been enjoying a successful season of soccer, enjoying a game on Tuesday against Pleasantville. Goals were scored by William Lozano and Slava Mirzoev. We are so proud of how our athletes work together and cheer each other on. Teamwork makes the dream work! Thanks to Dr. Kate Sweeney, Coach Trevisan, Miss Dawn, and Miss Tara for their support! WTG Tigers!



National Junior Honor Society Gives Back!



Thank you to our Junior National Honor Society who spearheaded a children's theme band-aid drive for the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. Ninety-five boxes of children's themed band-aids will be delivered next week to the hospital. Fun-themed band-aids will help put smiles on children's faces. Thank you to all the students, the NJHS Advisors, Ms. DiFrancesco, and Ms. Nickoletos who contributed to this event!

This Week in Athletics

Sunday, December 8

- Varsity Cheerleading @ LIU Post - 2PM *Regional Competition*

Monday, December 12

- Varsity Boys Basketball @ Pleasantville HS - 4:30PM
- JV Boys Basketball @ Pleasantville HS - 6:15PM
- Mod Girls Basketball @ North Salem - 4:30PM
- Varsity Bowling @ Bowlerland - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, December 13

- JV Girls Basketball vs Valhalla - THS Gym - 4:30PM
- Varsity Bowling @ Bowlerland - 4:30 PM

Wednesday, December 14

- Varsity Boys Basketball vs Valhalla - THS Gym - 4:30PM
- JV Boys Basketball vs Valhalla - THS Gym - 6:15PM

Thursday, December 15

- Varsity Girls Basketball @ Bronxville HS (vs Rye Neck) - 6:45PM
- JV Girls Basketball vs Irvington - THS Gym - 4:30PM
- Pioneer Team @ House of Sports - 4:15PM

Saturday, December 17

- Varsity Girls Basketball @ Bronxville HS (vs TBD) - Time: TBD
- Varsity Cheerleading @ North Rockland HS *Rockfest Cheer Competition*



Varsity Boys Basketball wins their Home Opener!




Varsity Boys Basketball defeated rival Haldane in their home opener.

Tuckahoe 57, Haldane 56!

Varsity Girls Basketball placed 2nd in the Eastchester Holiday Tournament!



Varsity Girls Basketball opened up the season with a big win over Preston High School and finished second in the Eastchester Holiday Tournament!



TUCKAHOE
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT



U P K

Are you ready?

We are pleased to provide an opportunity for Tuckahoe families to enter a lottery for our Universal Pre-Kindergarten program (UPK), a partnership with the Cornerstone Children's Center, located at 65 Main Street. The program will run five days per week from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and will follow the school district calendar. Eligible children must be four years old by December 1, 2023. Transportation is not provided.

More Information!
Visit our website tuckahoeschools.org/UPK



Important Notes!

- Publicly funded at no added cost to the family
- Stimulates creativity and self-expression through creative play
- Develops critical thinking skills and social awareness essential for school success
- Offers a caring and safe environment to learn and play in
- Resources, materials, and staff training aligned with Tuckahoe K-12 program

**TUCKAHOE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNOUNCES
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Registration for Kindergarten students for the 2023-2024 school year will be held on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023** and **Thursday, January 26, 2024**. Children who will be five years of age by December 1, 2023 are eligible to attend Kindergarten.

Parents/Legal Guardians are urged to register children according to the following schedule, utilizing the first letter of the child's last name:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday, January 25, 2023 | 9:00AM – 11:00AM | A – L |
| Thursday, January 26, 2023 | 9:00AM – 11:00AM | M – Z |

Registration takes place at the William E. Cottle Elementary School, 2 Siwanoy Boulevard, Eastchester, New York in the Auditorium. At the time of registration, parents/legal guardians must bring the required registration forms, which can be found on the District's website (www.tuckahoeschools.org), filled out and notarized along with the following documents:

Three (3) Proofs of Residence

Parents/Legal Guardians **must** bring originals and copies of the following documents:

1. **Property tax bill, deed, co-op shares, OR a signed current lease**
(valid through June 2024)

AND

2. **Con Edison bill, cable bill, phone bill, OR current income tax return**

AND

3. **NYS Driver's License, NYS Registration OR NYS Insurance Card with**
your current address

AND _

- **Your Child's Proof of Age**
(i.e., birth certificate, passport, baptismal certificate, etc.)
- **Your Child's Immunization Record including date of last physical exam**
- **If you are divorced or separated, please bring a copy of your Custody Agreement.**

If you have any questions regarding Kindergarten Registration, please contact Karen Barros at 914-337-6600 x1262.

Board of Education Meeting Update

The next scheduled Board of Education Regular Meeting will be held on:

Monday, December 12, 2022, at 7:30 PM in the MS/HS Auditorium

To access the meeting via live stream, please click on the link below:

www.tuckahoeschools.org

Board of Education agendas, policies, and other related documents are available in [BoardDocs](#).

Upcoming Events

The Tuckahoe Public Library Presents

HYBRID SING ALONG WITH MISS ELAINE



MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
AT 11:30 AM
AGES BIRTH TO SIX
Space is limited in person so
join us online too.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
Please Register Online
<https://tuckahoelibrary.libcal.com>
Contact: tukreference@wlsmail.org / 914-961-2121



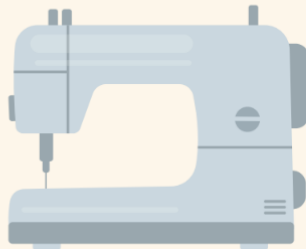
Tuckahoe Public Library Presents

Fun & Easy Beginner Sewing with Melissa

Monday,
December 12 th at 6 pm
Ages 11- Adult



Learn how to make a hat and scarf.



For information about sewing machines please visit
our registration page.

**Sponsored by
The Westchester County
Board of Legislators**

Registration is Required

Please Register Online

<https://tuckahoelibrary.libcal.com>

Contact: tukreference@wlsmail.org/914-961-2121

The Tuckahoe Public Library Presents

Online Bedtime Storytime *With* Mayor Andino



Monday, December 12th at 6:30 pm

**Mayor Andino will read one of her
favorite holiday book, "Twas the
Night Before Christmas".**

Registration is Required
Please Register Online
<https://tuckahoelibrary.libcal.com>
Contact: tukreference@wlsmail.org
914-961-2121



• The Tuckahoe Public Library Presents



HOLIDAY SINGALONG AND STORYTIME

with

Miss Elaine, Miss Ginger & Miss Miriam

Tuesday, December 13th @ 11 am

Join Miss Elaine, Miss Ginger and Miss Miriam in the
Community Center for holiday songs and stories!



Registration is Required

Please Register Online <https://tuckahoelibrary.libcal.com>

Contact: tukreference@wlsmail.org

914-961-2121

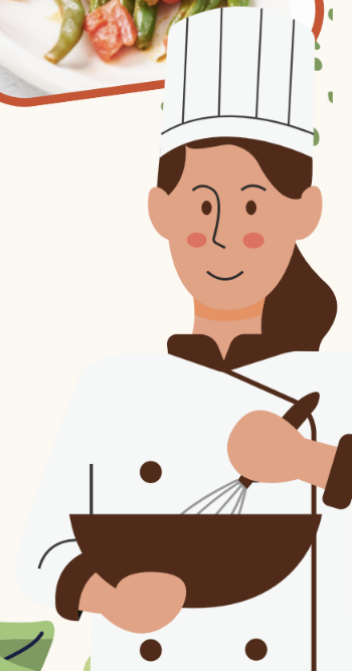
TUCKAHOE LIBRARY PRESENTS

Armenian Cooking Class

**Tuesday, December 13th
at 4 pm**

**Gather around the Tuckahoe
Table for an Armenian feast.
Miss Lisa will demonstrate
how to make rice pilaf and
fasoulia, a green bean stew,
two savory dishes to add to
your repertoire of favorites.**

***Registration is Required*
Please Register Online
<https://tuckahoelibrary.libcal.com>
Contact: tukreference@wlsmail.org
914-961-2121**



The Tuckahoe Public Library Presents

IN PERSON: UKULELE HOLIDAY CONCERT

WITH MISS GINGER
ALL AGES WELCOME

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
AT 3:45 PM

Join us for a special holiday concert
celebrating the talents of our young ukulele
players!

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Please Register Online

<https://tuckahoelibrary.libcal.com>

Contact: tukreference@wlsmail.org /
914-961-2121

Sponsored By





SENSORY INTEGRATION STRATEGIES: TOOLS FOR PARENTS

TUESDAY, DEC. 20 | 5:00PM-6:00PM

LOCATION: VIRTUAL EVENT (ZOOM LINK BELOW)

The Tuckahoe School District is proud to partner with Westchester Therapy Solutions and bring to you a wonderful presentation on “Sensory Integration Strategies: Tools for Parents.” Interested parents are encouraged to attend to learn more about sensory processing difficulties impacting their children and tools to support these concerns at home!

We will be hosting a virtual event with Emily Rudolph, OT/PT Supervisor and Occupational Therapist, and Dr. Kate Sweeney, Director of Special Education and Student Services.

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Dr. Catherine Sweeney, Director of Special Education and Student Services
at sweeneyc@tuckahoeschools.org**

[Zoom Link Invite](#)