The Hendrick Hudson School District focuses every day on strengthening our K-through-12 district philosophy; providing all of our graduates with college and career readiness; engaging teachers, staff, parents, and community members as stakeholders in the education of our students; and empowering students to be effective leaders in their schools, communities, and beyond.

Student empowerment has long been evident at both our High School and Middle School, through formal student government organizations as well as through clubs and activities.

Now, all three elementary schools are also providing opportunities for students to take the lead in their own buildings.

The Buchanan-Verplanck, Frank G. Lindsey, and Furnace Woods Elementary Schools have active student government groups that encourage collaboration, responsibility, and, of course, leadership. While each school’s program is slightly different from the others’, all work throughout the year to motivate their classmates. This happens at the building level – through special events and contests, and at the community level – through fundraisers and awareness campaigns.

At Buchanan-Verplanck, students lead monthly evening workshops for parents to explain classroom concepts and share work. In December, 35 students taught art, music and physical education tidbits to some 50 school community members during a Special Area B-V Showcase. In January, thanks to a brilliant suggestion from three 4th-graders, the school will host “B-V’s Got Talent!” on January 12, at which 4th and 5th grade students will showcase their talents, with all school community members welcome to attend.

Twelve fifth-grade students (four from each homeroom) participate in the B-V Student Council. Advisor Megan McConville works with the representatives and Principal Joshua Cohen on various projects. “At our most recent meeting, we discussed ways to raise money for our school,” McConville said. “Soon we will be hosting a ‘Hats ON for Cultural Enrichment. Students can wear their hats to school for a dollar. All the money we raise will go to the B-V PTA Cultural Enrichment Fund.”

At Frank G. Lindsey, there are two representatives and two alternate representatives per 5th-grade classroom, elected by their peers. Elisa Rosen is their advisor. “We just finished up the Candy Cane Fundraiser, which the fifth grade decided would benefit the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital,” said Rosen in December. “They also take the lead in the Million Minutes Reading Incentive, which is in its second year.” Later, student leaders will work closely with constituents to determine what is needed in the school, and will communicate with teachers to help this happen. They are also considering additional fundraisers.

At Furnace Woods, in early December, Dr. Cynthia Kramer, Principal, and Physical Education teacher Christine Wickel, advisor, hosted the first meetings of their new 4th and 5th grade student councils. Three representatives were chosen from each classroom based on essays they submitted. At the initial meetings, Wickel and Dr. Kramer administered an oath of office to all members, selected representatives to handle various tasks, and talked about upcoming meetings and events. Among the planned events is a visit from members of the Hendrick Hudson High School Peer Leaders group.

The enthusiasm shown by all of these student leaders is remarkable, underscoring the fact that not just learning, but also practicing, leadership skills is a key part of a Hendrick Hudson education.
Students Attend Columbia Scholastic Press Conference

By Catherine Barra

In November, the student editors of Hendrick Hudson’s newspaper, The Anchor, and yearbook, The Half Moon, journeyed into Morningside Heights in New York City to attend the 75th Annual Fall Conference of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) at Columbia University. The students were accompanied by Mrs. Julie Maye, the faculty adviser for The Anchor, and Ms. Jessica Nash, co-faculty adviser for The Half Moon.

Students who went to the conference attended five lectures throughout the course of the day. The lectures were broken up into categories for Advisers, All Publications, Digital Media, Law & Ethics, Magazines, News, Photo, and Yearbooks. Speakers, most with a background in journalism, brought unique perspectives on various modern and relevant topics.

The first lecture I heard was “From the Top: Getting Your Audience to Read Your Paper,” given by Matthew Chayes. Chayes works for Newsday, covering the news at New York’s City Hall. Engaging and geared up with a PowerPoint, Chayes taught his audience how to grasp their readers’ attention from the beginning with tips on perfecting story leads. He encouraged us to consider questions such as “How would you tell your mom about this story? Where would you begin?”

The next presentation was about corn flakes. Well, not exactly. Titled “Controversy, Confession, and Cornflakes,” this lecture was all about encouraging young journalists to tackle controversial topics in the school newspaper. “Do not self-censor!” John Tagliareni, a retired teacher and former newspaper faculty adviser, cautioned the group of wide-eyed wannabe journalists. Tagliareni reminded us that if we self-censor, opportunities to write good and appropriate news stories will slip right by us.

The speaker talked about his own experience with censorship as a newspaper faculty advisor, successfully holding the attention of forty-five students for forty minutes. But what does this have to do with Cornflakes? Well, I plead the fifth on the grounds of intentional self-censorship.

Then there was a lecture by Fordham Law School alumnus Adam Goldstein called “Keeping Secrets: A Guide to the Reporter’s Privilege.” Goldstein discussed one of the hottest and most controversial topics in journalism – Reporter’s Privilege – including the rights given to a journalist concerning certain scenarios such as keeping confidential sources or unpublished notes. Goldstein advised his audience to understand the rights given to individual reporters in order to understand the rights given to the rest of us.

Next was Robert Greenman and Ed Sullivan’s seminar, “Why Nobody Reads Your Paper.” Greenman and Sullivan gave advice on how to make school newspapers interesting and eye-catching. He also even shared a thick packet filled with hundreds of tips on publishing a paper that will not only capture students’ attention, but also may inspire change within the school.

For the fifth and final lecture hour, I returned to Adam Goldstein and listened to his lecture, “How to Fight For Free Speech.” Goldstein discussed the famed case Tinker v. Des Moines (1969), in which the Supreme Court ruled in favor of students who wore arm bands to protest the Vietnam War, saying their right to Freedom of Speech was not stripped away when they entered the school. Goldstein also discussed some current examples of Freedom of Speech that are still taking place in Pennsylvania at Neshaminy High School. The students on the newspaper staff had recently decided that they would no longer print the school sports nickname, Redskins, because they felt it was too offensive. Goldstein used their experience to discuss the importance Freedom of Speech, even for high school newspapers.

Members of The Anchor and Yearbook collectively agree that the CSPA Conference is an excellent and informative educational trip, which allows us to absorb and use valuable knowledge from experienced members of real world journalism. Editor in Chief of The Anchor, Drew Abatemarco, said, “I learned many useful tips as an editor and writer that I hope to bring back to our newspaper… I know that I will become a more experienced writer and editor from the trip.”

The CSPA was founded in 1925 to provide services for student magazines and newspapers; in 1935 it also opened its services to yearbook clubs.

How to Find Us

On the Web: www.henhudschools.org
On Facebook: Hendrick Hudson School District
On Twitter: @HenHudSupt
On Pinterest: Hendrick Hudson Schools

Every fall, one of the highlights of the national high school debate community is the annual Malcolm A. Bump Memorial Debate Tournament at Hen Hud. Held this year on November 14 and 15, it is in its 49th year, making it one of the longest running invitationals in the region, and one of the oldest in the country.

The Bump Tournament, named after a beloved Hen Hud debate coach, is one of the most highly regarded debate contests in the nation. In 2011, “Bump,” as it is affectionately known, was named the National Debate Coaches Association Tournament of the Year, acknowledging the level of competition, the caliber of the judging and the outstanding hospitality offered -- from the complimentary food provided to both debaters and judges to the warm and welcoming housing provided by our community to competing students from afar. In addition, Bump is one of only a handful of elite events nationwide that allows participants to qualify for the annual Tournament of Champions in Kentucky.

Over two days, nearly 300 debaters and more than 100 judges participated in the competition, held at both Hendrick Hudson High School and at Frank G. Lindsey School. Student and parent volunteers ensured that the competition ran smoothly, that participants were fed, and that about 100 debaters were housed throughout the community. The Hendrick Hudson speech and debate teams host but do not compete. All available members were put to work serving food, working concession stands, and running ballots from judges to the tabulation room in the high school library.

The quality of this tournament, enabled by the efforts of our volunteers and the indispensable support of the entire Hen Hud community, is a tribute to our district’s long-term dedication to our speech and debate team. We are very proud of our forensics team’s national status as one of the leading speech and debate teams in the country, fielding some of the best competitors and hosting one of the best tournaments in the nation.

In December of 2013, voters approved a capital project for instructional technology and facilities upgrades and repairs. The technology portion of the project has been underway since March and our students have already taken advantage of many of the upgrades. Our network infrastructure has been replaced with new, high speed equipment that will ensure that we can work and learn quickly and efficiently. We have upgraded our Internet bandwidth and the speed of connections between our campuses, replaced servers, repaired cabling, installed classroom computer furniture, and installed over 60 new SMART Boards. All of our regular classrooms now have SMART Boards, the entire district has robust wi-fi access, and we are in the process of installing security and air conditioning in all of our server closets to protect our investment. Finally, we are piloting a mobile learning initiative. We were able to purchase 500 mobile Chromebooks that are being used in selected classrooms this year. In September after teachers are trained, the devices will be available to all teachers K-12. The 2013 capital project has proven to be of great benefit to our students. With the upgrades we are now able to provide modern technology to all students, and ensure that our staff members have access to a reliable and fast network infrastructure that can help them to teach effectively.
A District Focus on Health and Safety

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention
It’s no secret that young people are at risk for some potentially dangerous behaviors, among which are the abuse of alcohol and drugs—both illegal and prescription.

Here at Hendrick Hudson we have some serious programs in place to help students and parents navigate the challenges that alcohol and drugs present. In addition to our regular guidance and counseling staff, Student Assistance Services, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Tarrytown, provides two counselors (one part-time in the Middle School and one full-time in the High School) who work with students one-on-one—as well as in groups small and large—and with parents to address many of the challenges of adolescence.

Through Student Assistance, the District makes available on our website the monthly newsletter, Parenting for Prevention, with updated information on current trends and effective prevention for families. We also participate in Cortlandt Community Coalition, a broad coalition of government, school, and family-centered groups and agencies to promote drug and alcohol abuse awareness in our community.

Our Student Assistance counselors work with student government and SADD clubs on annual events such as Red Ribbon Week, and this year they have already helped to bring in speakers on topics ranging from adolescent brain development to bullying.

Student Safety and School Security
School safety has become a buzz word in today’s world; but here at Hendrick Hudson, ensuring the safety of all our students has always been our top priority.

Anthony Merlini, Director of School Facilities, Operations and Maintenance, chairs an active District-wide Safety Committee that includes representatives from teaching, administration, transportation, and health services. Along with the Superintendent and the Board of Education, they oversee all aspects of district safety. In addition, each school building has a Safety and Emergency Response Training (SERT) team that meets regularly and evaluates every safety drill as well as actual emergency response activities in the building.

The 2013 Hendrick Hudson School District capital project includes $3.7 million for district-wide facilities infrastructure and security upgrades and repairs. In addition to that funding, New York State is making available funds from the recently approved $2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act.

With these funds in mind, Hen Hud is focusing on safety-related projects that include additional security cameras and motion detectors, enhanced systems for building access, and strengthening doors. Improving inter-building communication is also being looked into. “We’ve always done this,” Merlini said. “It’s a key aspect of my job to make sure our students are as safe as possible.”

Transportation Update
For close to a year, transportation consultant Larry Lee Fiber, of the Saratoga Springs consultancy Fiber Fundamentals, worked with the District to evaluate our transportation services and propose options for streamlining, cost savings, increased student safety, and more. On October 8, Fiber made a detailed presentation to the Hendrick Hudson school board, explaining his findings. He examined current student ride times (the range of bus ride times to and from each school), and none was more than 30

Hendrick Hudson Alumni Notebook

Hendrick Hudson recently launched a new program for alumni outreach.

As part of this effort, we have contacted various Hen Hud graduates to find out how they are doing in their post-high school activities—whether in college or graduate school, at work, or serving in the military. We asked graduates questions about what they are doing now, who at Hendrick Hudson was influential for them, and what they might have done differently if they were able to “replay” their Hen Hud experiences.

From time to time, Soundings will offer profiles of graduates. This issue’s Alumni Notebook begins with an exceptional young woman. A special feature will be “Words of Wisdom” in which alumni give specific advice to current Hendrick Hudson High School students. Enjoy!

Angela Marriott
Class of 2013
I attend Morrisville State College. I am currently in my sophomore year at MSC studying for a four-year degree in Criminal Justice. I play Women’s Soccer and Lacrosse at Morrisville. I plan to become a police officer after graduation.

Mrs. Rogulski believed in every single one of her students and created a certain bond and connection with each individual in her classroom.

She was always interested in what your plans for the future were and she would help you in any possible way to help you get one step closer to what you wanted to achieve.

I also wouldn’t have succeeded as far in high school, and so far in college, without the help of my coaches in high school. Coach Mary Honovich and Coach Ken Sherman helped me succeed as a student athlete in high school as well as prepare me for what was to come in college. Without the support and encouragement from my parents throughout high school and now college, I wouldn’t have been able to succeed and be motivated by these coaches. If I had it to do over again, I would have worked harder at Hen Hud when it comes to the student part of being a student-athlete.

Cont’d on next page
Hen Hud High School High Achievers

**Jazz Munitz: Intel Semifinalist**

Hendrick Hudson High School senior and science research student Jazz Munitz has been named a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search. Jazz was recognized for his research project, *Microfluidics-Facilitated Synthesis and Characterization of Apoptosis-Inducing Low-Cost Nanoparticles for Cancer Therapeutics.*

Annually, students entering the Intel STS compete for more than $1.6 million in awards. Only 300 students are announced as semifinalists each year. From this select pool, 40 finalists are then invited to Washington, DC, in March to participate in final judging, display their work to the public, meet with notable scientists, and compete for three top awards of $150,000 each.

Dr. Christine Rogers, Hendrick Hudson’s Science Research Program Director, said, “Jazz is a leader and an excellent communicator. His creative scientific ideas are followed by persistence, hard work, precision, thoroughness, and, also an understanding that, without the proper communication, an idea may be lost. He was interested in nanotechnology and how it could be used in medicine. He worked tirelessly, reading scientific articles and developing new ideas with energy and eagerness. His creativity and imagination allowed him to tackle ideas unexplored in high school science, only rivaled in upper academic circles. Jazz thinks out of the box.”

**Phillip Solomon: YoungArts Winner**

Hendrick Hudson High School student and clarinetist Phillip Solomon has been named one of the 2015 winners of the prestigious National YoungArts Foundation awards.

As a YoungArts winner in the Music division, Phillip will receive an award certificate and medallion, while Hendrick Hudson High School will receive a plaque. He will also receive monetary awards; be eligible for the famous 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts (PSA) nomination; and will participate in the YoungArts Winners Regional Program in the spring of 2015 in New York City. There he will take master classes with leading artists and meet other award winners, as well as compete for additional scholarship opportunities. The many performances at this event will be open to the public.

“Thank you for sharing your talent with us. We are immensely proud of you and your accomplishments, and look forward to supporting your growth as an artist,” the YoungArts Foundation wrote in a letter to Phillip.

Phillip is in his senior year at Hendrick Hudson and his third year of clarinet studies at The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, where he studies with Laura Flax. He most recently performed with the New York Youth Symphony, one of the leading youth symphonies in the country, at Carnegie Hall in November.

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**ALUMNI NOTEBOOK (cont’d)**

**Words of Wisdom:** When it comes to being a Student-Athlete, remember that you are a Student-Athlete, not an Athlete-Student! Academics come first, which was a very difficult thing for me to understand.

Being an athlete, I understand that you’d rather be in the gym than reading a biology book. But just think, you are in college to study your major and to get a job in four years when you graduate.

It is hard to go to school to become a professional athlete—even professionals had to make it through school. Surround yourself with hard-working, smart, and motivated people in high school and college: you’d be surprised how much one person could impact your decision-making.

**Hen Hud Set to “Go Solar”**

The Hendrick Hudson Board of Education is moving forward with a plan to install solar panels on the District’s five school buildings. At its January 14 meeting, the school board agreed to move ahead with negotiations with Siemens Industry, Inc.

The new program is projected to supply about 46 percent of the five schools’ power needs over a 20-year program period. Structural engineers have already evaluated the roofs of all five school buildings and have determined that there is sufficient capacity to locate solar panels on the available flat areas.

The installation work would commence in June of 2015, with a projected start-up date of September, and cost savings would begin to be realized in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The expected benefits of this project include a lower cost to supply electrical energy to our schools and cost stability across the academic year. With traditional electrical sources, increases in the cost of natural gas, for instance, have translated into higher electric outlays at various times of the year. This would not be the case with a solar energy program.

Additionally, the project will include a Sustainability Education Program offering education to students, faculty, and administrators in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) field. Topics would include energy efficiency, conservation and sustainability. Leveraging the new solar system, Siemens and Hendrick Hudson will collaborate on a plan to educate students about the importance of conserving resources, optimizing building operations, and thinking about how they use energy in their own lives. Visit www.henhudschools.org for more details.
Hendrick Hudson Holiday Happenings
Students and teachers in the Hendrick Hudson School District are benefiting from a software program called iReady. The District's three elementary schools are using iReady to assist with English Language Arts (ELA) learning in grades three, four, and five, and both teachers and administrators are so far happy with the results, especially in the area of reading.

Dr. Alice Gottlieb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Personnel, said, “iReady is not magic, it’s an assessment tool.” Hen Hud and other area districts, she explained, have been using Aimsweb, an older assessment tool, for years, but iReady offers more information, and “it drills down into what skills and weaknesses children have,” Gottlieb added.

Aimsweb will continue to be one of the assessment tools used for levels K through two to determine how many words per minute students are reading as well as their letter / sound naming fluencies. However, iReady is the program in place for grades three, four, and five. Both of these tools are in addition to teacher’s classroom instruction, guided reading groups and other tools teachers have had at their disposal through the years (e.g, Learning A-Z resources). K-5 classroom instruction focuses on how best to address the Common Core State Standards. Currently, we are using the domains and modules in ELA / Math from the EngageNY program of the NY State Education Department.

Each reading teacher in Hendrick Hudson works with about 30 children. Today Furnace Woods School has 1.4 teachers, Frank G. Lindsey School 3.4, and Buchanan-Verplanck School 3.2.

Joshua Cohen, Principal at Buchanan-Verplanck Elementary School, gave us an introduction to the iReady software, which not only records student progress during scheduled benchmark periods, but also offers mini-lessons to reinforce what students are learning, suggested reading lists in numerous interest categories, and questions, games, and other activities for students. Rather than just zeroing in on areas that need work, “iReady provides additional feedback around what the student did well,” Mr. Cohen said.

According to research around Response to Intervention, about 80 percent of students should do well with full-class instruction, but the remaining 20 percent may need further intervention, said Mr. Cohen. iReady reports help to determine what kind of intervention students need, and in what areas. They tell what students do well, so that when parents are contacted they can be given a complete picture of both the student’s strengths and weaknesses.

During three annual benchmark periods every third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade student goes to the computer lab and works on the assessments, which by design are not very time consuming. Classroom teachers take the data gathered through iReady and divide children into much smaller groups and meet with them for small group reading instruction every day. At Buchanan-Verplanck, two other programs helped to make this process more exciting, Dr. Gottlieb said. Using Title I funds, the school purchased Fountas & Pinnell assessment tools; and for the first time teachers knew much more precisely where their children were. Mr. Cohen also brought in an intervention system – LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention). All Hen Hud elementary schools also use scheduling that minimizes interruptions for reading (which is a pull-out program after kindergarten, but an in-class program for kindergarten).

In the most recent assessment, students at Buchanan-Verplanck, both from grades 3 to 4 and grades 4 to 5 showed incremental improvement in the growth of scores, the highest growth rate in the district. “We are improving the reading levels of students systematically throughout the year, and that will carry over into every subject,” said Mr. Cohen, since all classroom work, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) studies – a strong focus at Hendrick Hudson – first depends on the ability of every student to be an effective reader. “At Hen Hud we advocate for every single student,” Dr. Gottlieb said, “and it shows.”
SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) is a charity-oriented club with an annual goal of $10,000 in raised funds to give to the not-for-profit organization of the club’s choice. One of SEED’s events, Battle of the Bands, will take place on January 16th, 2015. During this fun-filled night of music, the club will host competing bands who are determined to win a portion of the money made that night. Many of these bands include members from local areas outside of Montrose, but some of the groups are made up entirely of Hen Hud students. Besides the cash prize, the bands compete for a chance to play in SEED’s band showcase, an event at which more established bands play. The club focuses on raising money for those in need but obviously has a fun time doing it!