

STEM Saturday

Our first STEM Saturday, in partnership with Union College, took place on October 7th. Students participated in an egg drop challenge with Union students.



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ISSUE 3 | 11/01/2023

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

**ALL MOBILE PANTRY LOCATIONS
WILL RUN FROM 1:45PM-2:45PM**

PAIGE: 11/13, 11/27

LINCOLN: 11/14, 11/28

HAMILTON: 11/1, 11/15, 11/29

VAN CORLAER: 11/2, 11/16, 11/30

MLK: 11/6, 11/20

KEANE: 11/7, 11/21

PLEASANT VALLEY: 11/8, 11/22

YATES: 11/9, 11/23

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3 8:00am: Breakfast with Father Figures @ Keane Elementary School

November 4 10:00am: Pumpkin Smash @ Schenectady High School

November 7: Superintendent's Conference Day

November 10: Veteran's Day

November 12: Diwali

November 15: Parent Teacher Conference Day (Pre-K-5) Half Day

November 18 5:00pm: Schenectady Holiday Parade (Downtown Schenectady)

November 22-25: Thanksgiving Recess

November 28: Parent Teacher Conference Day (Pre-K-5) Half Day

November 29 5:00pm: Community Schools Advisory Board Meeting @ Hamilton

MEET THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS TEAM



KAYLA AMBESI
SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
BUILDING: PAIGE ELEMENTARY

RYAN WILLIAMS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR
BUILDING: MLK & VAN CORLAER



OCTAVIOUS COOK
COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR
BUILDING: KEANE ELEMENTARY

BRENNAN VENDETTI
COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR
BUILDING: HAMILTON ELEMENTARY

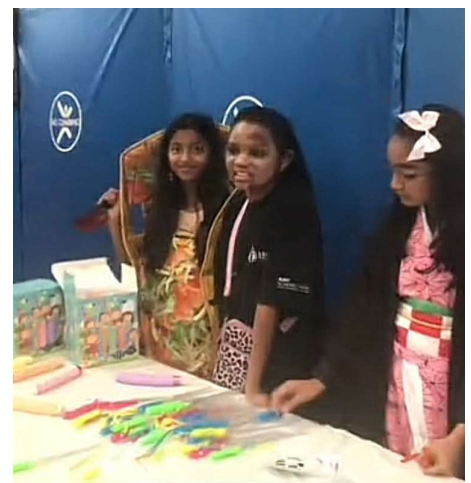


PAIGE ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



On October 18th, students and staff at Paige wore orange for Unity Day! Students took the Kids Against Bullying Pledge, promising to Speak Out, Reach Out, Be A Friend

Monthly
PBIS
Celebration
Topic: Being
Respectful



Trunk or Treat 2023

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



On October 27th, MLK held the **GRAND OPENING** for the MLK Lions Den Cafe. An idea brought to life by our amazing parent liaison to provide families with a space where they can get information, ask questions, network, and enjoy a nice breakfast together. We heard from Ms. Christine about how the cafe idea came about, as well as program presentations from MDAM, Northern Rivers Peer to Peer, and Ms. Santiago, our building secretary, spoke about our PTO. We also heard from a parent, Schenectady basketball standout James Thomas, about how important a community is to the success of every child. Our Lions Den Cafe will be open monthly as we look to continue bringing our families and staff together. For more information, please contact our parent liaison Ms. Christine Ewert at **518-881-3680**

This month, MLK had the privilege of hosting families of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder for a webinar discussing the importance of a support system. Our 12 family members sat with each other for almost 2 hours talking, sharing stories of successes and struggles, sharing a meal and discovering that they are not alone. We thank our families for coming and will continue to dive into these deep discussions surrounding the support and resources for all of our students and families. If you have any questions or interest please contact our parent liaison, Ms. Christine Ewert, at **518-881-3680**

FARM TO SCHOOL

October was National Farm to School Month and we celebrated by holding Farmer Pop Up Markets across the district! Students, families and staff got to pick out delicious local, organic produce all free of charge, at Oneida Middle School, Paige Elementary, Mont Pleasant Middle School and Keane Elementary. These markets were fun events where over 400 pounds of local, fresh produce were distributed. Produce came from the various school gardens, Roots & Wisdom, SiCM Schenectady Urban Farms, Mabee Farm Historic Site and the many different producers at the Schenectady Greenmarket. Offerings included sweet corn, a variety of fresh greens, peppers, potatoes, apples, radishes, fresh herbs and even garlic and flowers! We hope to make this an annual happening!

In addition to the markets, we held a Big Apple Crunch at Central Offices with over 30 district staff participating, and all of Howe Elementary students and staff took a big bite of local apples from Riverview Orchards at their PBIS assemblies on October 31st. Big Apple Crunch is an annual event held nationally to bring attention to local farms. Howe Elementary is participating in the NYS Farm to School Institute this year and we have a series of fun activities planned. Farm to School also did two days of cider making with students at Howe in the lead up to Big Apple Crunch!

Our first Harvest of the Month of the school year also debuted this month, featuring Apple Slaw for students to sample around the district.

Finally, we are preparing for our second annual Pumpkin Smash event, this time at Schenectady High School on November 4th from 10 am to 12 pm. Bring your fall gourds, Jack O'Lanterns and annual flowers you might normally throw in the trash, and smash or catapult (!) them instead! Students in our after-school programs worked with Union College engineering students to build catapults to use at the Pumpkin Smash - we hope to see you there! All waste diverted will be processed at the county composting facility and returned as rich soil to our school gardens in the spring.



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Afterschool Programming is off to a great start at several schools across the district. Take a look at what our bright scholars have been up to in the month of October!



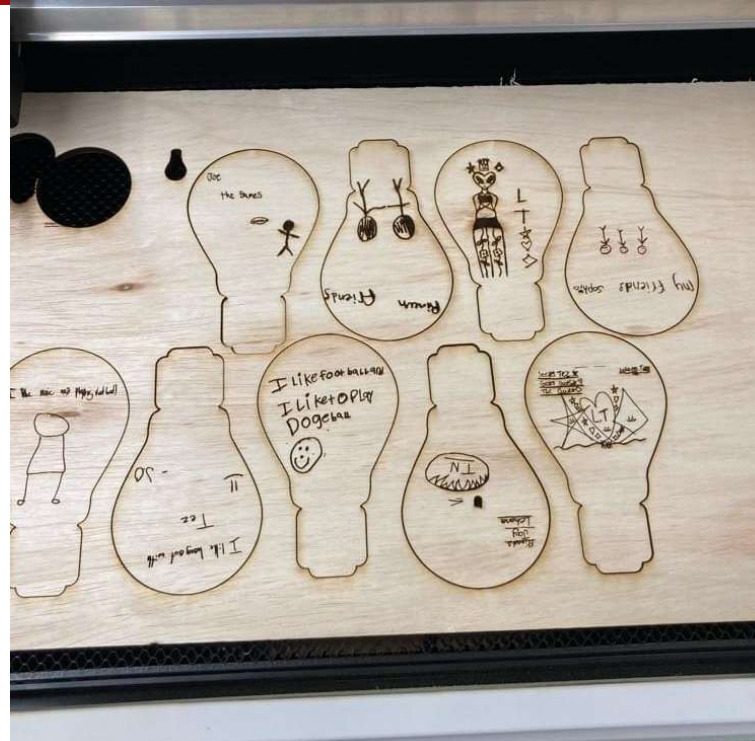
Tennis Lessons from 15 Love



Pumpkin Carving at Keane

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

On October 26, 2023, all 21st Century Afterschool Programs celebrated Lights On Afterschool. Launched in October 2000, Lights On Afterschool is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities.



PARENT LIAISON DIRECTORY

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MLK: CHRISTINE EWERT

[518] 881-3680

HAMILTON: JULIA CAMPBELL

[518] 881-3720

HOWE: VACANT

[518] 370-8295

ZOLLER: TANEKIA MATTHEWS &

JEANETTE RODRIGUEZ

[518] 881-3880

LINCOLN: ASIA TERRY

[518] 881-3780

PAIGE: GOMATTIE DUBARIA

[518] 881-3520

PLEASANT VALLEY: PATRICIA WARD

[518] 881-3640

VAN CORLAER: VACANT

[518] 881-3740

KEANE: SHANTIE BALKARRAN &

MARCIA MCGILL

[518] 881-3960

WOODLAWN: JUAN EDWARDS

[518] 370-8280

YATES: MELANY ALVARADO

[518] 370-8320

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

MONT PLEASANT: ANNA ROBINSON

[518] 370-8160

ONEIDA: CARMEN VALLE

[518] 370-8260

CENTRAL PARK: NYEMIAH GREGGS

[518] 370-8250

HIGH SCHOOLS

SCHENECTADY HIGH: RANDY EARLE

[518] 881-2044

SCLA: LISBETH FERNANDEZ

[518] 881-2030

BIG PICTURE: JAYVANUA WILLIAMS

[518] 370-8220



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A PARENT LIAISON?

THE PARENT LIAISON WORKS TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND MAINTAIN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG SCHOOL, COMMUNITY AND HOME.

THE ROLE OF THE PARENT LIAISON IS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM EFFORT TO INCREASE THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS AND TO ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS AND TO LOWER EXISTING BARRIERS TO PARENTAL/FAMILY PARTICIPATION.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ADVISORY BOARD

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING PARTNERS THAT CONTINUE TO LEAD THIS WORK WITH US AS WE IMPLEMENT AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL IN SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

"UNITY IS STRENGTH...WHEN THERE IS TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION, WONDERFUL THINGS CAN BE ACHIEVED."
- MATTIE STEPANEK

