

2024-2030

STRATEGIC PLANNING

LISTENING TOUR

FOCUS GROUPS

You are invited to participate in a focus group. We are seeking input for the development of a district 6-year Strategic Plan to be launched at the start of the 2024-2025 School Year. Our Strategic Plan is our vision of success and what will guide our work. *Everyone is invited to participate.*

REGISTER
NOW

SCAN



HERE

- | | |
|--|---|
|  <p>MONDAY, JANUARY 8
7 - 8:30 PM
VIRTUAL</p> |  <p>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17
6 - 7:30 PM
YATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LIBRARY</p> |
|  <p>TUESDAY, JANUARY 9
6 - 7:30 PM
KEANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY</p> |  <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
6 - 7:30 PM
HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LIBRARY</p> |
|  <p>THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
6 - 7:30 PM
VAN CORLAER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LIBRARY</p> |  <p>FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
10 - 11 AM
VIRTUAL</p> |
|  <p>SATURDAY, JANUARY 13
10 - 11:30 AM
PAIGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY</p> | |

Focus Group Discussion

What do we do well?
What do you want us to focus on?
What do you want us to do better?



ISSUE 5 | 1/02/2024

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SCHEDULE

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

PAIGE: 1/8, 1/22

LINCOLN: 1/9, 1/23

HAMILTON: 1/10, 1/24

VAN CORLAER: 1/11, 1/25

MLK: 1/15, 1/29

KEANE: 1/2, 1/16, 1/30

PLEASANT VALLEY: 1/3, 1/17, 1/31

YATES: 1/4, 1/18

**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AT
MVP HEALTHCARE FOR THE
DONATION OF 100 COATS FOR OUR
STUDENTS**



School-Based Food Pantry Program

WE ARE EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO FOOD FOR FAMILIES IN NEED. EACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOW HAS A SCHOOL-BASED FOOD PANTRY THAT IS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS AND CAREGIVERS. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL'S PARENT LIAISON TO ACCESS THIS RESOURCE. IF YOUR STUDENT IS IN MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL AND YOU NEED THIS RESOURCE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL'S PARENT LIAISON TO ACCESS THE CLOSEST SCHOOL PANTRY TO YOU.

WE ARE ALL MAKERS



FEBRUARY STEAM CAMP 2024

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2024 -
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2024
8:30AM-2:30PM**

SERVING STUDENTS GRADES 1-5

**TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY
BASED ON DISTRICT GUIDELINES**

**BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ARE BEING PROVIDED TO ALL
STUDENTS**

**PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW,
NO LATER THAN JANUARY 19, 2024 TO SIGN UP FOR
OUR STEAM CAMP PROGRAM. ENROLLMENT IS FIRST
COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.**



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGINEERING



ARTS



MATHEMATICS



PROGRAM HOST SITES:

- HAMILTON (ALSO SERVING VAN CORLAER)
- MLK (ALSO SERVING PLEASANT VALLEY)
- KEANE (ALSO SERVING LINCOLN)
- PAIGE (ALSO SERVING WOODLAWN)
- YATES (ALSO SERVING HOWE AND ZOLLER)

PAIGE ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



3RD GRADE PAIGE PANDAS WENT TO SCHENECTADY HIGH SCHOOL TO TAKE PART IN SWIM LESSONS AT THE POOL. FUN WAS HAD BY ALL!



**CHECK
OUT
THESE
PAIGE
PANDAS
DURING
SPIRIT
WEEK!**



**OUR
KINDERGARTEN
STUDENTS HAD
FUN THIS MONTH
BUILDING
STRUCTURES OUT
OF
MARSHMALLOWS
AND
TOOTHPICKS.**



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



SNACKS WITH SANTA



OVER 300 FAMILIES PARTICIPATED IN SNACKS WITH SANTA ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH. STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE ABLE TO ENJOY SNACKS DURING THEIR TIME WITH SANTA. FAMILIES TOOK PICTURES WITH SANTA AND EACH STUDENT RECEIVED A NEW TOY, WHICH WERE PROVIDED BY TOYS FOR TOTS.

FIRST NEW YORK FCU BANKING EVENT

12 FAMILIES CAME TO SET UP BANK ACCOUNTS FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR STUDENTS. THEY ALSO SPENT TIME WITH A FNY FCU REPRESENTATIVE ASKING QUESTIONS AROUND SAVINGS, CREDIT, MORTGAGES, FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS AND MORE. OUR FAMILIES WERE ABLE TO GAIN USEFUL FINANCIAL INFORMATION THAT MAY HELP BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW BANKING WORKS. STUDENTS WALKED AWAY WITH THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS AND EXCITEMENT FOR THEIR FINANCIAL FUTURE.

PROJECT LIFESAVER

SCHENECTADY SHERIFF'S PROVIDED RAPID RESPONSE BRACELETS TO FOUR OF OUR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER. PROJECT LIFESAVER IS A RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM THAT AIDS IN LOCATING "AT RISK" INDIVIDUALS WITH COGNITIVE DISORDERS WHO ARE AT CONSTANT RISK TO THE LIFE THREATENING BEHAVIOR OF WANDERING INCLUDING THOSE WITH ALZHEIMER'S, AUTISM, DOWN SYNDROME OR DEMENTIA, AND RETURNING THEM TO THEIR FAMILIES OR CAREGIVERS. PROJECT LIFESAVER IS PROVIDED TO SCHENECTADY COUNTY RESIDENTS AS A RESULT OF A PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, SCHENECTADY COUNTY OFFICE FOR LONG TERM CARE AND THE AUTISM ACTION NETWORK OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY.

VAN CORLAER ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



HOLIDAY HALLWAY WALK 2024 HALLWAYS AT VAN CORLAER WERE DECORATED THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12TH TO CELEBRATE DIFFERENT HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD!

**HOLIDAY GIVING TREE
STAFF AND COMMUNITY HAVE
COME TOGETHER TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE VAN
CORLAER GIVING TREE. 16
FAMILIES, 31 CHILDREN TOTAL,
WERE PROVIDED WITH GIFTS FOR
THE HOLIDAY SEASON.**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE VAN CORLAER WINTER CARNIVAL ON
THURSDAY JANUARY 25TH FROM 5:00-6:00PM**

WILLIAM C KEANE ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



THE MY BROTHER'S KEEPER (MBK) PROGRAM IS NOW ACTIVE AT KEANE! THIS INITIATIVE CATERS TO FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS, FOCUSING ON CHARACTER EDUCATION AND BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH PEERS AND MENTORS. ADDITIONALLY, THE PROGRAM PROVIDES ASSISTANCE WITH HOMEWORK. PARENTS INTERESTED IN ENROLLING THEIR FOURTH OR FIFTH-GRADE CHILD IN MBK CAN DO SO BY CONTACTING COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR MR. COOK TO OBTAIN A PERMISSION SLIP. MR. COOK CAN BE REACHED AT COOKOC@SCHENECTADYSCHOOLS.ORG OR 518-401-6864.



CONGRATULATIONS TO KEANE SPELLING BEE WINNERS AUSTIN AND STEVEN. BOTH STUDENTS MOVED ON TO THE DISTRICT LEVEL SPELLING BEE.



COMMUNITY ROOM RENOVATIONS ARE UNDERWAY! THE SCHENECTADY ROTARY CLUB HAS ALREADY PAINTED OUR COMMUNITY ROOM AND SECURED DONATIONS FOR BRAND-NEW WASHERS AND DRYERS. THE NEXT EXCITING STEP INVOLVES RENOVATING THE KITCHEN. A HEARTFELT THANK YOU GOES OUT TO THE SCHENECTADY ROTARY CLUB FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN BRINGING ABOUT THESE POSITIVE CHANGES!



HAMILTON ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 15TH, OVER 80 PEOPLE SPENT THE EVENING AT HAMILTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTICIPATING IN PANCAKES AND PJS. FAMILIES WERE ABLE TO ENJOY DELICIOUS PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, BACON, AND REFRESHMENTS COOKED UP BY SOME AMAZING TEACHERS AND PRINCIPAL, DR. LEAH KEDLEY. FAMILIES WERE ABLE TO ENJOY BREAKFAST FOR DINNER FOLLOWED BY A SHOWING OF FROSTY THE SNOWMAN IN THE GYMNASIUM.



Walking School Bus Update

THE WALKING SCHOOL BUS AT HAMILTON BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023. WE HAVE SEEN A 77% INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE COHORT OF STUDENTS THAT ARE ON THE WALKING SCHOOL BUS.

Coffee with Kedley

PRINCIPAL, DR. KEDLEY, AND OUR PARENT LIAISON, MS. JULIA CAMPBELL, HOSTED OUR FIRST MORNING COFFEE WITH DR. KEDLEY ON NOVEMBER 17TH. THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS. THIS MONTHLY EVENT IS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO COME TO THE SCHOOL AND MEET WITH US TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER, ANSWER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE, DISCUSS OR EXPRESS ANY THOUGHTS, IDEAS OR CONCERNS, AND LET US KNOW OF ANY NEEDS THAT YOUR FAMILY MAY HAVE THAT WE CAN HELP WITH. OUR NEXT COFFEE WITH KEDLEY WILL BE HELD ON 1/5/24 FROM 8:00AM-9:00AM. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

21ST CENTURY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM



STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT'S 21ST CENTURY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM ATTENDED A FIELD TRIP TO NYC TO VISIT THE MET MUSEUM AND DID SOME SIGHTSEEING.

CENTRAL PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL 21ST CENTURY PROGRAM HELD THEIR HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY EVENT WHERE 49 FAMILIES ENGAGED IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES. STUDENTS ALSO SHOWCASED THEIR DANCE PERFORMANCE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON WITH THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB DANCE SPECIALIST



KEANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 21ST CENTURY PROGRAM HELD THEIR FROST FESTIVAL EVENT ON 12/20/23. STUDENTS SHOWCASED DIFFERENT HOLIDAYS, MADE GINGERBREAD HOUSES, AND RECEIVED TOYS FROM TOYS FROM TOTS THAT WERE SECURED BY THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.



FARM TO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WERE BUSY MONTHS FOR FARM TO SCHOOL! ALMOST 800 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A MAPLE TREE IDENTIFICATION LESSON IN PREPARATION FOR OUR SCHOOLYARD SUGARING PROGRAM WHICH TAKES PLACE DURING WINTER MONTHS AT FIVE OF OUR CAMPUSES. STUDENTS AT KEANE AND ZOLLER PARTICIPATED IN APPLE CIDER PRESSING WHILE LEARNING ABOUT POLLINATION, PLANT LIFE CYCLE, PHOTOSYNTHESIS AND THE HISTORY OF APPLES IN OUR STATE. FARM TO SCHOOL ALSO LED LESSONS AROUND SEED TRANSPORT, WITH STUDENTS AT SEVERAL SCHOOLS ENGINEERING DEVICES TO TRANSPORT BEAN SEEDS AROUND THEIR CLASSROOMS! THESE WERE JUST SOME OF THE FARM TO SCHOOL LESSONS AROUND THE DISTRICT AS WINTER BEGINS.

GARDEN CLUBS ARE RUNNING AROUND THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING OUR NEW SCHENECTADY HIGH SCHOOL GREEN TEAM. STUDENTS ENGAGE IN A VARIETY OF GROWING ACTIVITIES IN THESE AFTER SCHOOL GATHERINGS, AND LEARN MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND FOOD RESILIENCY.



SPEAKING OF FOOD RESILIENCY, REBEKKA PARTICIPATED IN A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION HOSTED BY THE SCHENECTADY FOOD COUNCIL WITH CONGRESSMAN PAUL TONKO. THE TOPIC WAS FOOD INSECURITY IN OUR CITY AND HOW THE FEDERAL FARM BILL CAN SUPPORT NUTRITION, WITH REBEKKA DISCUSSING BOTH HER OWN EXPERIENCES AS A FOOD INSECURE MOTHER OF 3 AND THE WAYS IN WHICH OUR FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM ADDRESSES FOOD RESILIENCY AND ACCESS FOR OUR STUDENTS.

NY GEAR UP

THE ULTIMATE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAYS

NY GEAR UP [GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS] HAS PARTICIPATED IN 8TH GRADE ASSEMBLIES AND PARENT INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS AT EACH OF OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS. THE TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAYS PRESENTATIONS GAVE STUDENTS AND PARENTS AN INSIGHT TO THE THE VARIOUS PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION OFFERED AS THEY PREPARE TO ENTER THE 9TH GRADE.

GEAR UP IS EXCITED TO IMPLEMENT THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WITH AN ANTICIPATED START DATE OF JANUARY 8TH 2024. THIS WILL INCLUDE UTILIZATION OF THE STARI [STRATEGIC ADOLESCENT READING INTERVENTION] LITERACY PROGRAM, WHICH IS SET TO TARGET STUDENTS WHO ARE READING AT TWO OR MORE GRADE LEVELS BELOW. THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM WILL ALSO FEATURE WORKSHOPS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS NEW CHOICES PREVENTION WORKSHOPS AND MUCH MORE.

THIS MONTH, WITH THE HELP PARENT LIAISONS, ATTENDANCE SPECIALISTS AND ADMINISTRATION FROM EACH BUILDING, APPROXIMATELY 560 ONLINE AND PAPER SURVEYS FOR NYGEAR UP'S MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENT PARTNERS WERE COMPLETED. THIS SUCCESS ALLOWED THE GRANT TO NEARLY REACH THE INTENDED TARGETED NUMBER OF 80% COMPLETION. THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEYS IS TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO OUR GEAR UP FAMILIES.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD, THIS MONTH THE LIT [LIVING IN TODAY] PROGRAM IN COMBINATION WITH GEAR UP AND OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS, WE WILL BE PROVIDING WORKSHOPS TO EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL. THE WORKSHOPS INCLUDE: GETTING READY, GET HIRED EMPLOYABILITY 101, STAYING MENTALLY HEALTHY, CONSENT/HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SESSIONS, RESTORATIVE PRACTICES, MEDIA FOR CHANGE, STREET SAFETY, MIND AND BODY WELLNESS, HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS AND AN INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMING ARTS.

CFES BRILLIANT PATHWAYS WILL BE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL IN JANUARY TO MAP OUT FUTURE EVENTS. GEAR UP COORDINATORS ARE ALSO MEETING WITH HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS BEGIN PLANNING FOR THE INCOMING FRESHMEN NEXT SEPTEMBER. PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW FOR THE TRANSITION PRESENTATION AS WELL AS INFORMATION FOR THE WASHINGTON DC TRIP SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2024.

**PRESENTATION
LINK**



**WASHINGTON DC
TRIP**

AFTERSCHOOL ADVOCACY DAY 2024

WE ARE GEARING UP TO TAKE A GROUP OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO THE NYS CAPITOL FOR AFTERSCHOOL ADVOCACY DAY ON JANUARY 25TH. THIS DAY IS ORGANIZED BY THE NYS NETWORK FOR YOUTH SUCCESS.



ADVOCACY DAY PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AFTERSCHOOL STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND ADVOCATES TO COME TOGETHER AND SHARE THE NEEDS AND IMPACTS OF AFTERSCHOOL, SUMMER, AND EXPANDED LEARNING PROGRAMS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS. WE ARE FIGHTING TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY-AFTERSCHOOL, SUMMER, AND EXPANDED LEARNING PROGRAMS.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NETWORK FOR YOUTH SUCCESS, THE POWER OF 3 CAMPAIGN, AND ADVOCACY DAY.



SEVERAL DEPARTMENT OF IEE TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR BEING CHAMPIONS OF THE "PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES" PILLAR FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO WORKING WITH FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

CHRISTINE EWERT, PARENT LIAISON, KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LASHANDA BLANKS, PARENT EMPOWERMENT CENTER FACILITATOR, SCHENECTADY HIGH SCHOOL

TANEKIA MATTHEWS, PARENT LIAISON/SECURITY MONITOR, ZOLLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ANNA ROBINSON, PARENT LIAISON, MONT PLEASANT MIDDLE SCHOOL

ALEX TORRES, SENIOR PARENT LIAISON, CENTRAL OFFICE



CONGRATULATIONS TO SIMONE MIRANDA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION, EQUITY AND ENGAGEMENT, WHO THIS WEEK WAS NAMED THE NETWORK FOR YOUTH SUCCESS CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENT. THIS AWARD RECOGNIZES EXEMPLAR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO CHAMPION HIGH-QUALITY AFTER SCHOOL, SUMMER, AND OTHER EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.



THE NEW YORK STATE NETWORK FOR YOUTH SUCCESS NOTED SIMONE'S LEADERSHIP AND WORK WITH OUR AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS AND SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL'S 21ST CENTURY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM. SHE ALSO CONTINUES TO RALLY STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND EDUCATORS TO AMPLIFY THE IMPORTANCE OF AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING AND HAS PARTICIPATED AS A PANELIST FOR THE NETWORK'S POWER OF 3:00 WEBINAR SERIES. SHE WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT "SCHOOLS OUT, MAKE IT COUNT" ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN APRIL.

PARENT LIAISON DIRECTORY

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

MLK: CHRISTINE EWERT

[518] 881-3680

HAMILTON: JULIA CAMPBELL

[518] 881-3720

HOWE: BRANDI MOORE

[518] 370-8295

ZOLLER: TANEKIA MATTHEWS

[518] 881-3880

LINCOLN: ASIA TERRY

[518] 881-3780

PAIGE: GOMATTIE DUBARIA

[518] 881-3520

PLEASANT VALLEY: PATRICIA WARD

[518] 881-3640

VAN CORLAER: ANGELA PARBHUDIAL

[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: VACANT

[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

