

Thank You, Voters!

The Board of Education and Administration of the Saugerties Central School District appreciate the community's support of the 2017-2018 budget and propositions in May.

"I would like to thank the Saugerties community for once again demonstrating its continued support of our students," said Superintendent Seth Turner.

In addition to approving the budget and two propositions, voters also elected three members of the Board of Education: incumbents Krista Barringer and Damion Ferraro, and new board member Susan Gage, who is a retired District administrator.

Saugerties

Central School District

SUMMER 2017

Summertime is Learning Time at *English as a New Language Academy*



Elementary school classrooms are usually quiet during the summer months, but one room at Cahill was buzzing with the sounds of conversation and learning in July and August.

For the second year in a row, the Saugerties Central School District offered its English as a New Language (ENL) Academy to any English language learner in first through sixth grades.

"This is a great program. It keeps the students'

language skills active over the summer," said Christa Dedrick, an ENL teacher from Catskill Central School District, who oversaw the Academy with support from Cahill Kindergarten teacher Jamie Monroe and Saugerties teaching assistant Jocelyn Cariello.

Every weekday for five weeks, a group of about 16 students met during the morning hours and immersed themselves in both written and spoken English through fun science activities. They grew and collected data on their own tomato and pepper plants, harvested zucchini from the school garden, studied bugs, and observed the effects of different environmental conditions on plants and vegetables. Each week also included a different "special" – art, physical education, and library, plus a field trip.

"They're having a lot of fun," Dedrick said.

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Saugerties Graduates Are On Their Way

As summer winds down, recent Saugerties High School graduates are building on their recent graduation success by starting the next chapter of their lives.

Members of the Class of 2017 are headed off this month to universities that include Cornell, Penn State, Hofstra, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, as well as many of the SUNY two- and four-year colleges. Others have already begun their careers or joined the military.

STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGES 4 & 5

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TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

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Summertime is Learning Time at *English as a New Language Academy*



The ENL Academy, which was funded by a grant obtained through Ulster BOCES, helps English language learners keep the skills they've built during the school year but might not otherwise have the chance to practice during the summer. Each of the activities, from making papier-mâché masks to logging plant data, encouraged the students to read, write, or speak English.

"It's good for them to keep learning," Dedrick said. "And they like coming here to learn and have fun."



Cahill Third Graders Visit Junior-Senior High School Tech Class

STEM activities were powered by collaboration recently when a group of third grade students from Cahill Elementary School enjoyed hands-on learning alongside technology students at Saugerties Junior-Senior High School. During a visit to SHS in early June, the younger students watched a race of carbon dioxide-powered wooden cars built by the older students, toured the school garden, visited the tree farm planted by other Cahill students earlier in the year, and built birdhouses with help from the technology students. The activities generated excitement about STEM, created an enjoyable collaboration between students of different ages, and gave the third graders a sneak peek at the many learning opportunities that will be available to them when they reach secondary school.





Riccardi Fourth Graders Explore Immigrant Experience Through Library 'Tenement'

The fourth grade Social Studies curriculum came to life at Riccardi Elementary School this spring as the school library was transformed into a living museum of the immigrant experience.

The role that immigrants have played in New York State history is a key component of Social Studies learning for fourth graders. By creating a replica of a New York City tenement apartment in the library, students learned more about how immigrants lived during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Students created kitchens, bedrooms, and living areas and separated them by hanging bed sheets, as many immigrant families did. After pretending to live in the rooms for a short time, students discussed the challenges of tenement life with Riccardi Library Assistant Pat Kochetta, who lived in a Yonkers row house as a child. The students were fascinated by Kochetta's stories of living without hot water, walking to and from school, going home for lunch on school days, and getting a two-scoop ice cream cone for a nickel.



Estuary Education: Fourth Graders Visit Hudson River Maritime Museum

The history and ecology of the Hudson River were the focus of a fun-filled learning adventure for Saugerties fourth graders at Hudson River Maritime Museum in May.

Students from all four elementary schools visited the museum on the Rondout waterfront, where staff guided them on an exploration of the river that touched on science, history, geography, and culture. The students moved among several stations on the property, observing fish, learning about invasive species that threaten the Hudson, singing folk songs about the famous waterway, exploring the types of ships that used the river, and practicing their 17th century sailor skills on a replica of a Dutch fur-trading yacht.

The visit was part of the museum's Hudson River Stewards program, which is aimed at providing a hands-on learning experience about the Hudson River for fourth graders as they study New York State history. Prior to the students' field trip, museum staff visited each of the schools for interactive workshops. The workshops and museum visit helped students develop a greater appreciation for the river and its preservation.



Top SHS Grads Starting College Studies at RPI, Union

Among the freshmen starting college this month at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Union College will be the top two Saugerties High School (SHS) Class of 2017 graduates, **Valedictorian Annie Armstrong** and **Salutatorian Lilith Haig**.

Annie will pursue a degree in actuarial science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy.

"It seems pretty fascinating," Annie said of her major, adding, "I just get numbers. It's fun, like a puzzle."

Not surprisingly, Annie's favorite subject at SHS was math and her favorite teacher was calculus instructor Debra Cacchillo.

"Ms. Cacchillo really made me realize my passion for math," Annie said.

Annie heads to RPI with not only a great education, but also a wealth of co-curricular experiences. She was class president for two years, served as president of the National Honor Society, and was treasurer of the Key Club, a service club sponsored by the Kiwanis. She also played on the cross-country and golf teams. Outside of school, she taught religious education at St. Mary of the Snow, and was also a dance teacher.

Most of her fondest memories of her four years at SHS are from Key Club, although she laughingly noted that eating a dozen pretzels in one day at the annual Garlic Festival is pretty memorable, too.

Although she admitted to being a bit sad at leaving high school behind, Annie plans to make the most of college.

"[Starting classes at RPI] is going to be exciting," she said, adding that she also plans to stay involved with Kiwanis and hopes to continue using one of the biggest skills she learned in Key Club: how to connect with people.

Salutatorian Lilith Haig will pursue a double major in neuroscience and psychology at Union College in Schenectady.

"Union is my dream school," she said.

A member of Key Club, Math Team, and National Honor Society, as well as secretary of Student Council, Lilith was also captain of the girl's varsity soccer team and plans to stay with the sport in college.

Lilith's favorite subject at SHS was English, a love fostered by teacher Steve Stellavato, who encouraged students to think outside their own perspective as they read, an experience Lilith called "eye-opening."

Outside of the classroom, Lilith has become interested in education reform, autism, and other issues. She has helped children build confidence as a Pre-K instructor at The Little Gym in Kingston and among her standout memories from SHS is a "really rewarding" trip to New York City, during which students helped distribute food to the homeless.

Lilith is looking forward to the start of college this month.

"I'm really excited to get out into the world and see how much I can get out of life," she said.



"Go and show the world what Saugerties High School graduates are capable of."

Saugerties High School Principal
Thomas Averill



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Saugerties Graduates Are On Their Way



The Class of 2017 celebrated graduation on June 24, becoming the District's 121st graduating class. They were hailed as a "talented, exciting, unique, and cool" group of people by Superintendent Seth Turner.

The 200 graduates, their accomplishments, and their bright futures were celebrated in remarks by Superintendent Turner, Board of Education member Raymond (Mike) Maclary, and Principal Thomas Averill. Student speakers included Valedictorian Anna Marie Armstrong, Salutatorian Lilith Haig, and the class officers.

"I am proud of what you have accomplished," Turner said, urging the graduates to "challenge yourselves to live up to your greatest potential."

Maclary reminded the students that while they're making a new beginning, wherever their lives take them, "there will always be a whole community here caring for you."

Averill spoke about the concept of YOLO (you only live once), which he said became the mantra of the graduates' generation and had been tweeted more than 36 million times by 2012, when the grads were in seventh grade.

"I believe YOLO is something we can and should all embrace and use as our mantra," Averill said. "As you all prepare to leave Saugerties High School, ask yourselves, what do I do with this great opportunity? Here is my suggestion: create your bucket list and follow

through with all those special things you want to accomplish. Take your vacations, buy yourselves good things, but make sure you pay your bills first. This can only happen through hard work."

Averill went on to say that the Class of 2017 has already lived up to YOLO in many ways through acts of kindness and empathy.

"Our Key Club backpack program has defined YOLO for several years now by feeding over 80 families each week," Averill said. "You, the Class of 2017, have defined YOLO by performing over 5,000 hours of community services throughout high school. During my career as an educator, I have been most impressed by this generation's empathy toward others. I witnessed acts every day in school of these fine graduates helping other students."

Student speakers drew their inspiration from a wide variety of sources, from poems and old jokes to the wisdom of their ancestors.

Class social director Mannon Lindhorst recalled how she was moved by her first discovery of the classic poem "Desiderata" when she received it as a reading assignment from a substitute teacher. She said she believes the truths in the poem "are as relatable today as they were in 1927 when 'Desiderata' was written."

Mia Pedersen, the class secretary, shared the words of a Saugerties High School graduate from an earlier class: her great-grandfather John Mauro, salutatorian of the SHS Class of 1925.

"The aim of every student should be not to get an education in order that he may get on, but to seek an education to help others get on," Mauro wrote almost 100 years ago.

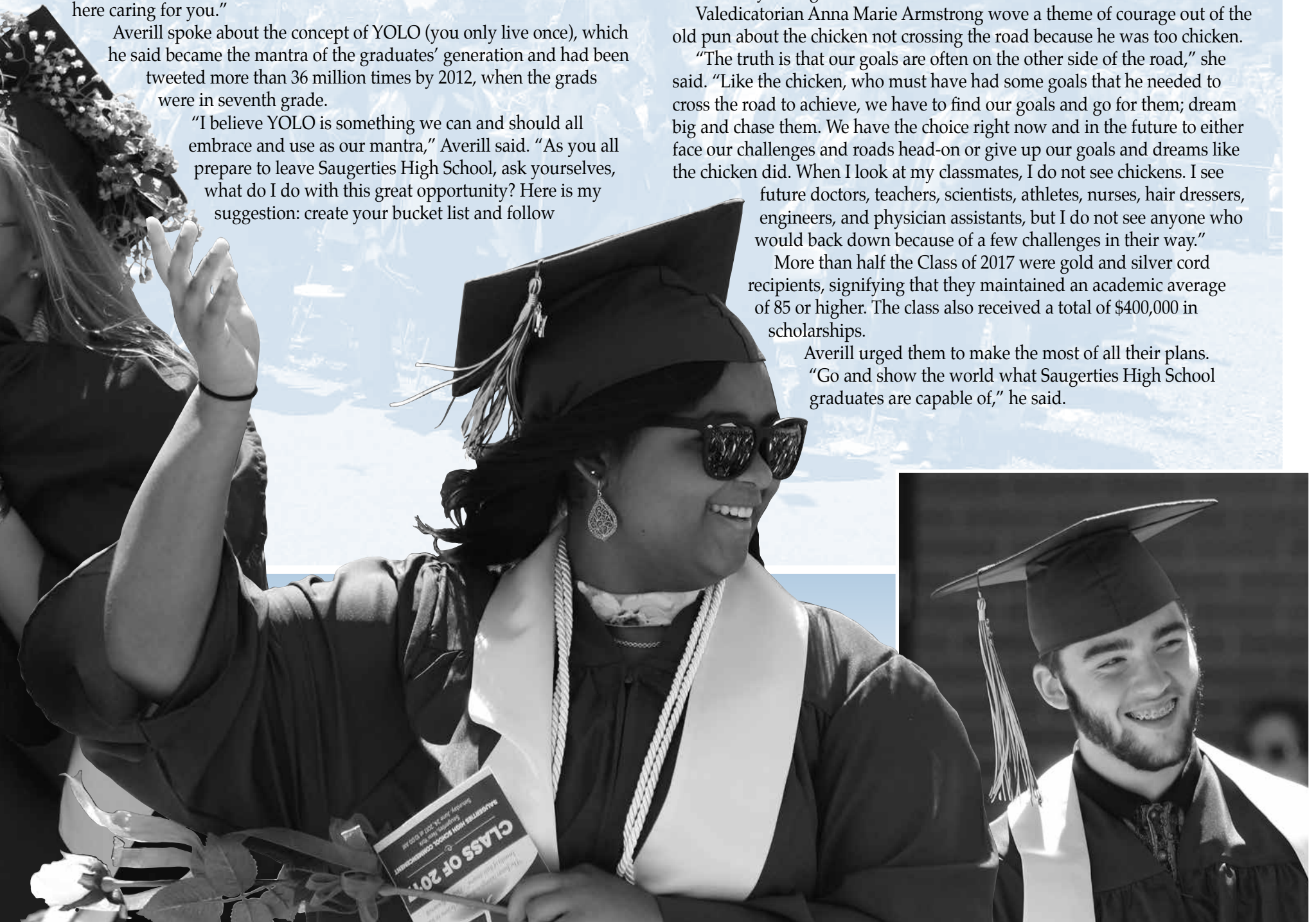
Valedictorian Anna Marie Armstrong wove a theme of courage out of the old pun about the chicken not crossing the road because he was too chicken.

"The truth is that our goals are often on the other side of the road," she said. "Like the chicken, who must have had some goals that he needed to cross the road to achieve, we have to find our goals and go for them; dream big and chase them. We have the choice right now and in the future to either face our challenges and roads head-on or give up our goals and dreams like the chicken did. When I look at my classmates, I do not see chickens. I see future doctors, teachers, scientists, athletes, nurses, hair dressers, engineers, and physician assistants, but I do not see anyone who would back down because of a few challenges in their way."

More than half the Class of 2017 were gold and silver cord recipients, signifying that they maintained an academic average of 85 or higher. The class also received a total of \$400,000 in scholarships.

Averill urged them to make the most of all their plans.

"Go and show the world what Saugerties High School graduates are capable of," he said.



Junior High School a 'Place of Endless Opportunities' for New Seventh Graders

Saugerties Junior High School is ready to welcome its new class of seventh graders when school begins on September 6. Members of the Class of 2023 are excited about all the opportunities for fun and learning that they will find in junior high school. As always, the first day of school will be an afternoon half-day for seventh graders.

The new seventh graders reflected on their past success and their exciting future at moving-up ceremonies in June.

Morse

The sixth graders of Grant D. Morse Elementary School celebrated the end of their elementary school years and the next chapter in their learning journey at moving-up ceremonies on June 20.

"I commend you on a job well done," Principal Don Dieckmann told the 43 members of the class. "It has been my pleasure and my honor to be your principal."

The students, who will be part of the Saugerties High School (SHS) Class of 2023, were recognized for outstanding achievement in every academic subject, as well as for positive character traits like citizenship, attitude, and a sense of humor.

"Most days, our students met or exceeded their challenges," Dieckmann said, noting that many of them also demonstrated character, leadership, and a good work ethic, both in and out of the classroom.

SHS Class of 2017 graduating seniors and Morse alumni Nicole Joers and Rachel Wood offered words of advice that included remembering their roots at Morse and getting involved in activities when they reach junior high school.

Dieckmann also lauded Morse staff for preparing students so well every day of the school year.



A "very special class" of sixth graders "graduated" from Cahill Elementary School on June 19, taking with them words of wisdom and a valuable lesson learned from a tube of toothpaste.

"This is one of the best groups of students I ever worked with," Principal Dawn Scannapieco said of the 57 students, who will become part of the Saugerties High School Class of 2023. "They are kind, they are caring, and they look out for each other."

During the presentation of awards, many students were recognized for their academic work, as well as creativity, athletic skills, positive character traits, attendance, and citizenship.

Scannapieco, who normally reads a story to the "graduates" at the annual ceremony, opted for something a little different this year. Calling three sixth graders to the front of the stage, she handed them tubes of toothpaste and asked them to squeeze as much as they liked onto paper plates. When they were done, she said, "Now put it back." When the students looked at her in surprise, she reminded them that as they move on to junior high and beyond, they will have the opportunity to use words to either hurt people or heal, encourage, inspire, and love them.

"Your words have power," she said. "Just like this toothpaste, once words leave your mouth, you can't take them back. I hope you will remember this plate of toothpaste. You will never regret choosing kindness."



Riccardi★



Mt. Marion★



The sixth graders of Charles M. Riccardi Elementary School were told that “anything and everything is possible” for them as they prepared to move on to junior high school.

The inspiring words were delivered at the annual sixth grade moving-up ceremony on June 15. Fifty-two students “graduated” from elementary school and looked ahead to the challenges of junior high school.

“This is a time filled with excitement and anticipation,” said Principal Sue Osterhoudt. She reminded the students that responsibility accompanies their newfound freedom and urged them to rely on the strong foundation they received over the past seven years from the dedicated Riccardi faculty and staff.

Students received many awards in academics and other areas, and the student government and school Kindness Committee were recognized for their service throughout the year.

In keeping with tradition, the ceremony included a guest speaker from among the graduating seniors of Saugerties High School. This year’s speaker was Amalia Martinez, a 2011 Riccardi alumna and older sister of sixth grader Angel Martinez.

“Congratulations on this truly amazing achievement,” Amalia said, urging the students to stay true to themselves, treat other people as they would like to be treated, and not let anyone else define success for them.

“Anything and everything is possible,” Amalia said. “I wish you a lot of success in your life.”

With happy memories of the past and bright dreams for the future, 52 sixth graders bid farewell to Mt. Marion Elementary School at moving-up ceremonies on June 21.

“These students have worked hard for seven years, waiting for it to be their turn,” said Principal Carole Kelder. “They’ve done a fine job representing our school.”

The ceremony included a slide show, student remarks, presentation of awards, and the traditional passing of the student council gavel to the incoming class officers. The “graduates” also performed a favorite song, “Hall of Fame” by The Script.

Student speakers recalled the many things they learned at Mt. Marion and looked ahead to the exciting new chapter of their lives that will begin in September.

“These seven years have been a real adventure, and I know junior high will be, too,” said sixth grader Ariana Newkirk. “I will really miss Mt. Marion, but we’re going to a place of endless opportunities.”

Kelder told the students that they would be greatly missed, and reminded them to work together and support each other as they move on to a new school.

“You all have the world before you,” Kelder said. “You have it all. It’s a good day to step into a great future.”



Congratulations, Graduates!





SHS Students Use the Power of Film to Fight Dating Violence

For the third year in a row, two students from Saugerties High School are among the winners of a county-wide video contest aimed at fighting teen dating violence.

Junior Michael Averill and sophomore Erin Blank won second and third place, respectively, in the third annual Ulster County Teen Dating Violence Video Contest, sponsored by the Ulster County Inter-Agency Council on Domestic Violence. The contest invited students to create short videos identifying the signs of abusive or unhealthy relationships. Both Averill and Blank are students in Computer Video Production II.

At about 30 seconds each, both Averill's and Blank's videos are short but powerful. Averill used a well-known Bible verse about love to remind viewers that abusive behavior is not love. In making the film, Averill said he hoped to focus on the more emotional aspect of dating violence and less on statistics. Computer Video Production (CVP) teacher Jackie Hayes called Averill a "smart, creative" student. Blank's video makes effective use of close-up photography to capture the physical consequences of abuse. She said that creating the special effects for the film was the most enjoyable part of the project and Hayes said the special effects were particularly moving and effective in conveying her message.

Averill and Blank were recognized for their efforts at a ceremony on June 8 in the High School library.

Saugerties Chief of Police Joseph Sinagra, who attended the ceremony, praised the students' efforts toward ending domestic violence. "I'm really proud of the students of Saugerties High School because you get it. You understand what the problem is. These videos are class A work. You guys are awesome, you're tremendous people, and you'll be change-makers in the future."

All the winning videos from the contest can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcUZ2CmfIOk>

Find Us on Facebook

The Saugerties Central School District is excited to announce the launch of our new Facebook page.

Through Facebook, we'll now be able to share so many of the great things that happen in our schools, as well as alert the community to events, meetings, snow closings, and other important news. We also look forward to the community contributing to the Facebook page through comments on our posts. Be sure to check out our page guidelines, found in the Notes section.

Snow closings, delays, early dismissals, and other pertinent news will be posted on Facebook and will continue to be announced on the District website, on local radio, and via the District's School Messenger automated calling system.

To follow the District on Facebook, visit www.facebook.com/saugertiescsd and click Like at the top of the page. If you want to be sure to never miss a post, after you have liked the page, hover over the Liked button and then select Get Notifications.



Important Dates for Fall 2017

September 6

School Begins

Half Day AM for Grades K-6 & 8-12

Half Day PM for Grade 7

September 19

Elementary Open House

Grades K-2: 6-7 PM

Grades 3-6: 7:15-8:15 PM

October 7

Mum Bowl

October 9

Columbus Day – Schools Closed

November 2

Secondary Parent Conference Night

November 10

Veterans Day – Schools Closed

November 16

Elementary Parent Conference Night

November 22-24

Thanksgiving Holiday – Schools Closed

'Dr. Bird' Visits Saugerties



Dr. Stephen Birchak, Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling at the College of St. Rose in Albany, shared a message of kindness at Morse, Mt. Marion, and Saugerties Junior High School in May. The professor, known as "Dr. Bird," presented a lively and inspiring talk, encouraging students to think for themselves, use their power wisely, and be kind to one another. Dr. Bird is pictured sharing an oversized fist bump with Morse student Matthew Dolan.