

CHRONICLE

APHS ADDING SEL

by Gabrielle Mohos

Many students can recall a recent advisory period in October when students stayed in their classrooms to learn about the dangers of vaping. That was the first of a larger series of presentations collectively known as Social



Social & Emotional Learning

Emotional Learning (SEL) that is being used this year at Averill Park High School.

SEL is a nationwide program that is devoted to helping students with their mental health. The student support service team at Averill

(continued on page 4)

CAFETERIA UPGRADES ARE JUST THE START

by Carly Antolick

The new Student Union located in the cafeteria space is officially open to students, supplying them with flexible, comfortable, and updated seating as well as a quiet study space. Though it is not completely finished, it has already been more functional and convenient than the old cafeteria. The art department still plans to fill the walls with artwork.

Concerns about the condition of the old cafeteria had been brought to Mr. Quiles, the building principal, by students and parents alike, and the plan to renovate it into a better space for students began last year.

The Student Union won't be the only building project to happen within the next few years. "The Board



of Education, District Administrators, and building principals are working on a potential improvement project, which would include the high

school," said Quiles. It is referred to as the capital project, and it is expected to make a significant improvement to the students' learning environment. Some possible ideas for this capital project include updating technology, fixing temperature issues throughout the building, updating classroom spaces, improving the building's exterior, and updating the library media

center. The Averill Park School District Board of Edu-

(continued on page 2)

AVERILL PARK WELCOMES A NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

by Sydney Ferguson

Averill Park has welcomed a number of new staff members this 2019-2020 school year, including a new assistant principal, Ms. Rebecca Leach.

Before coming to APHS, Leach for twenty years at Cohoes High School as a social worker. She was also a social worker in Project Strive in Albany for five years, and prior to that worked at a mental health clinic.

Leach loved her previous job, stating, "I love working



with kids. I loved trying to make school accessible to all students. I feel like sometimes it's difficult for more at-risk kids to be able to access public education, and I've spent a lot of time trying to change the way education interacts with kids and to improve out-comes for our most at-risk."

Leach decided to do something different, and went back to school to get her

(continued on page 10)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Passing Time Adjusted</i>	2
<i>National Ornaments</i>	3
<i>A New ISS Program</i>	4
<i>Editorial Pages</i>	5-6
<i>Staff Profiles</i>	9-15
<i>Club Updates</i>	16-21
<i>National Honor Society</i>	22

SCHOOL DAY ADJUSTMENTS: EARLIER START LEADS TO CHANGE IN PASSING TIME

by Adam Limoges

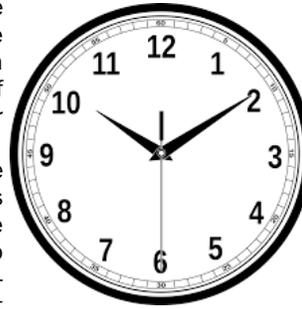
As all of you know, school starts at 7:30 this year. This new start time for the 2019-2020 school year is ten minutes earlier than the starting time from previous years. Many are wondering why the change, especially in the wake of many schools pushing start times later.

Science has shown that the teen brain does not perform as well as it can at these early hours of the morn-

ing. Other nations have taken this into consideration when determining what time their school days begin, and U.S. schools have begun to follow suit. However, Averill Park has not; instead, we have moved the day earlier which has been a point of contention for many.

The school district's reasoning for the switch in time is to provide more transition time without taking away from the schedule that was already in place. Recent changes in the schedule include the advisory period and the removal of the E lunch period. Those changes that took effect last year cut down the transition time between classes from six minutes to four minutes. The shortened time created problems for teachers and students. Many students use that time to use the re-

strooms, use the water fountains, or to walk to classes far from each other. The shortened time caused many students to not be able to do those things or to be late to class.



In turn, students who were late to class or had to leave lessons to use the restrooms or water fountains missed important learning and disrupted

teacher's classes. The general consensus was that the students needed a little more time between class periods, but at what cost?

This was solved by extending the school day by ten minutes. Dismissal was kept the same to retain the time for club activities and sports; instead, the start time was pushed earlier. Now we have five minutes to transition to our next block without

changing the length of any instructional times.

"The ten minutes don't really make a difference for me I'm usually here early anyways," said senior Lauren Harland. Other students however have to get up earlier to catch buses or to adjust when they get to school. "I dislike the change because I usually get here a few minutes before school starts and now have to move everything ten minutes earlier every morning," stated senior Carley Salerno.

Overall the change has been unnoticed or has been seen as an annoyance to the students affected by it. Many do not realize the extra time they have in between blocks and assume the ten minutes is just more time in the classroom, so their perspective is negatively warped. While this change has made it easier to get to class on time and more focused in class, it has also made mornings more difficult for some of the student body.

BUILDING PROJECT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ation must decide on a budget before any specific idea can be decided upon. Students will be allowed to give their input to any idea they support, and then those ideas will need to be voted on. The information phase may be completed in the next year or two, but it could be three to five years before actual construction begins.

"This project will provide an opportunity to create more relevant instructional spaces and more real-world opportunities for students so instruction can be more engaging and meaningful," said Quiles in reference to this capital project. "I hope that students will be excited about a facility that will be more equipped for preparation for college, career, and life."

The Averill Park School District will likely see a variety of new improvements over the coming years. For the time being, however, students are busy enjoying the new and improved student union.

CHANGES IN TECHNOLOGY HELP DESK, CHROMEBOOKS ADDED

by Sam Bonesteel

Along with the start of a new school year comes the appearance of new technology in the high school. Technology is continuously used to enhance the ease of learning in classrooms and over distances. Many new things have been added to the Averill Park School District over the years, and this year at APHS is no



the school this fall include Chromebooks moving up with the class of 2023, a voice directory for teacher phones, and most noticeably, the student Help Desk, run by Mrs. Weatherwax and Mrs. Sector.

When asked about the new technol-

exception. Some of the new technological innovations at

(continued on page 3)

STUDENTS CREATE ORNAMENTS FOR NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE CEREMONY

by Sarah Wallace

For the past 97 years, high schools across the state had the privilege to create ornaments for the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C. This year, our very own Averill Park High School gets to honor that tradition.

The centerpiece of this ceremony is the National Christmas Tree, accompanied by fifty-six smaller trees, each representing a U.S. state or territory. This is the first time that Averill Park has received this honor, and art teachers Ms. Church and Ms. Gregory wanted to make sure the ornaments were perfect.

Both teachers got to select twelve students to fulfill this honor, making a grand total of twenty-four AHS students. These selected students range in grade levels from tenth to twelfth, with each individual student hav-

ing the chance to express their talents and ideas. Students each created one ornament which will be displayed



on the "New York State Tree" as part of the *America Celebrates* display in President's Park, Washington, D.C.

Every Averill Park student involved had their own creative ideas and talents that they could incorporate in their ornament. Each student received a clear plastic globe 5 1/2 inches in diameter that had to be emblematic of our state/region

of New York. Next, each ornament had to be painted on directly, had to be weatherable and sealed, and had to have a predominant color scheme of red and green.

This is an amazing experience for students. It has progressed over the span of a month, as each student received their ornament on September 17 and needed to have them finalized by October 23. Over the course of



this month, students had various check-in meetings, many available after school

and advisory work dates and a final meeting to hand in their ornaments.

"Having our school chosen to represent New York is such an amazing honor and I'm so proud of my peers with their work on them," said Davis Synder, an Averill Park student who was selected to create an ornament. "It was such a creative project for me and I am so grateful for the opportunity."

The final products will be placed on the New York State tree during the month of December for over 250,000 people to view. Students are beyond excited and grateful to express their ideas in a way that represents not only our school, but the whole state of New York. If you are in Washington, D.C. around the holiday season this year, be sure to check out your fellow classmates' work.

TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

ogy at the school, Mrs. Sector specifically talked about the new Help Desk and how it helps handle the new technology introduced to the high school. "Because all the 9th graders all have Chromebooks, the Help Desk is there to help with those kind of issues because the tech department became really busy really quick," she said.

The Help Desk area, which takes up most of the mezzanine in the library, is not run by teachers; the students who work on technology

there perform each task. "The students working here help with everything from their projectors to their computers to setting up speakers...actually all the students in our staff really work it," said Sector. "The desk itself isn't run by me or Mrs. Weatherwax, it's run by the students."

The Help Desk is a great new addition to the technology department, but it would probably not be needed without the Chromebooks given to 9th graders. This is

the first year at the high school that students have been loaned Chromebooks, and it still requires getting used to. "I think it's a great idea but I think the teachers have to change a little bit and get used to using them, you know, having to have to get used to using it as a tool for learning in the High School," said Sector, since they create a new level of complicity to the school.

Another new tool at AHS to make teacher communication easier is voice

directory on phones. Teachers can press a button on their classroom phone and tell it to call the Help Desk. This sort of technology is now commonplace elsewhere but is still relatively new at the high school.

Many new types of technology have been introduced to Averill Park High School this fall, and we are excited to see them in action, helping teachers teach and students learn.

NEW ROOM SERVING MANY FUNCTIONS

MRS. WOOD RUNS THREE PROGRAMS IN ISS

by Emma Hanlon

ISS in Averill Park stands for In-School Suspension as well as In-School Support. Students may either enter the ISS program through violations of the Averill Park Code of Conduct, or through recommendations from administrators for assistance with a student's classes or behavior. They may also be here for the PASS program.

The In-School Support, In-School Suspension, and PASS program all take place in the same area, upstairs in the high school in room 618 with Mrs. Wood.

The In-School Support system was a new addition this year, and is used for students who have a hard time focusing for the entirety of the school day and need a space to go to for a brief period of time during the school day. It was put in place by the administration as an intermediate step in Averill Park's Progressive Discipline Model, outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Wood believes the

new In-School Support system is beneficial because it allows students to develop relationships with staff rather than simply being punished. This

these behaviors can help solve the problem that initially caused a student to be placed in ISS.

Having a trusted



allows the staff to understand why the student performed such actions, and to improve the behavior of these students. Knowing what causes

staff member with whom students can talk reduces stress in most students. Wood also believes this system is able to be built upon, to serve each

student best. "I think it's working really well right now, it's just new, and as the year keeps going we can add more to it...helping and servicing more kids," she said.

This space is also used for In-School Suspension. Students who attend this remain in the room for the entire school day, from 7:20 am to 2:10 pm.

There is no typical length of time in which students are in ISS; it varies for each infraction, but Wood said there are about 10 students on average placed there, and includes both high school and middle school students. While Wood said students tend to stay out of ISS after learning from their mistakes, if the behavior which led to ISS continues, students can be sent to ESD (Extended School Detention) or PASS.

PASS is a program for students who are placed in out-of-school suspension, allowing them to keep up with their studies for two hours each day.

(continued on page 6)

We Want Your IDEAS

The Averill Park Chronicle wants your story ideas. Send them to any Journalism Club member, or to Mr. Strich, The Chronicle's advisor.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Park pushed for SEL to be instituted at the high school, and was successful in putting it into effect for the 2019-2020 school year.

Social Emotional Learning was already being considered for implementation the year before school Principal Mr. Quiles arrived at Averill Park. Quiles said SEL is important for schools to have, because "if folks aren't ready to learn, then we are wasting our time." This means that if

students aren't in the right mental state to learn, their entire school day will be pointless.

Some topics that are forthcoming at APHS concern study skills, stress, anxiety, how to stay out of drama, and substance use.

"If students' emotional well-being is being taken care of, then students are going to be more successful people," said Quiles.

Having Social Emotional Learning will help students with their mental health so that they are more productive during school. Supporters of the program hope that it will help students focus on their primary objective in high school — to learn. SEL is going to better each and every student's educational experience at the high school, preparing them for a successful college and/or life path.

EDITORIALS

NOT EVERYONE SHOULD GET INTO HONORS

by Tyler Michaels

Averill Park High School offers many honors classes, ranging from English to Global History, to a wide selection of AP classes. However, not all students are allowed into these advanced courses. This raises the question: should all students be allowed into honors classes?

In my opinion, no, not all students should be allowed into honors-level classes. The courses are meant to be challenging, and allowing everybody in diminishes this concept.

Furthermore, the purpose of honors-level courses is to provide an advanced setting for students who are



ready for a difficult course. Offering advanced classes that are only available to those who are the most quali-

fied would be impossible without an entry test. The alternative is classes with no entry-test filled with whoever handed in the interest form first.

"My opinion is that there should be some sort of rubric to get you into honors. We want to be able to run the honors classes at a faster pace, with a larger vocabulary," stated Mrs. Engel, who teaches honors and Regents level Global History. "It might be difficult for all students to keep up at that pace," she added.

Admitting anybody interested into honors classes would ruin the higher advancement of honors-level courses and would slow down the pace of everybody in the class.

(continued on page 7)

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HANGING OUT IN THE LIBRARY

by Lilly Kronau

Averill Park High School students seem to be in one way or another tethered to the library. Whether they are there every day diligently studying or just passing by as a quicker route to the gym, every student has utilized the library at some point for their benefit. Because of this, our library is home to many different types of students who are always welcomed by our wholesome librarians.

One type of student you can always find in the library is the nerd. Now, this isn't a dig at anyone because



I, myself, am definitely a nerd. You'll find these students studying hard for a test, researching something they can't stop thinking about, tutoring a peer, or simply trying to maximize their time best by finishing any assignments they've been given. Nerds tend to use the library on a daily basis and refer to it as their "home away from home".

Another classic student you'll find in the library is what I like to call "the procrastinator". This person has waited until the very last night possible to finish their 2-page essay, study for their Algebra

II midterm, and write that APGAP outline. This student is probably hogging a computer, the printer, and a whole table just to finish their crazy workload. While I encourage students to finish their homework ahead of time, I must applaud these particular students for their insane focus while working. It's crazy what you can put your mind to when something like your grade is on the line. Maybe these students will learn to act a little more like the nerds and fin-

(continued on page 8)

EDITORIALS

SPENDING TIME WITH MY "FAMILY"

by Maddia Reiter

I look up from staring at my feet, my stomach full of butterflies. My mind is all over the place and I can't focus. Seeing twenty-eight of my brothers suited up on a Friday night, I can't help but get into the zone. I am not your average football lover. I might not have shoulder pads on, but I am still standing under the lights, on the 100 yard field that years ago stole my heart.

Most of you might be thinking, how could this be? Well, all sports teams benefit from having a team manager, and I am pretty lucky to say I am one for the Averill Park Varsity Football Team.

Being involved in the varsity team is not my only personal connection with football. I have always loved football, ever since I heard my dad and grandpa yelling at the television on Sunday afternoons. The pigskin has always been important to me, so being part of the varsity team is really a dream come true.

Every day from August to October I spend hours with my "family." The relation-

ships I have made are unbreakable. Everyone on the team would have my back anytime I needed it. The coaches are like fathers to me and have shaped me into the person I am today. The bond



between these guys is indescribable, and to say the word "family" does not even come close to the way we feel about each other.

Friday night lights give me a feeling that can't be described; I feel sick to my stomach and can't stand still. The view of the crowd packed with a sea of blue and gold, with the student section yelling at the top of their lungs.

The energy is contagious. It is the best feeling ever.

I was always an athlete growing up. I always loved throwing the softball, kicking around a soccer ball and even getting the golf

around the yard. I don't know why I never owned my own pair of shoulder pads and cleats. The aggressiveness and high energy level of every snap gets me hooked. I love every part of the game, from throwing passes in the back yard, to watching it on Sunday afternoons, to seeing the boys rip up the grass. I just love the pigskin.

I have always found joy on the 100 yard field. It's my happy place. The friendships I have made, the bonds, will never break. The Friday night pre-game jitters to the post game tunnel. It is an amazing feeling and I'm so thankful to be a part of it.

Some people find joy by sitting at the ocean or snuggling up

with a good book. For me it is the 100 yard, lined grass patch that is lit up on Friday nights. All the blood, sweat and tears I put in this team are all worth it after the post-win chant of "Family on three. 1...2...3 'FAMILY.'" Thank you Averill Park Football for having such a big impact on my life.

clubs out once in awhile. But there was a different feeling when I threw a football with my dad in the backyard. I would run routes and, when he would throw the ball, I would unnecessarily dive and yell "TOUCHDOWN!"

By the time I turned ten I knew I loved football more than anything else. My brother played and I used to put his gear on and run

ISS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

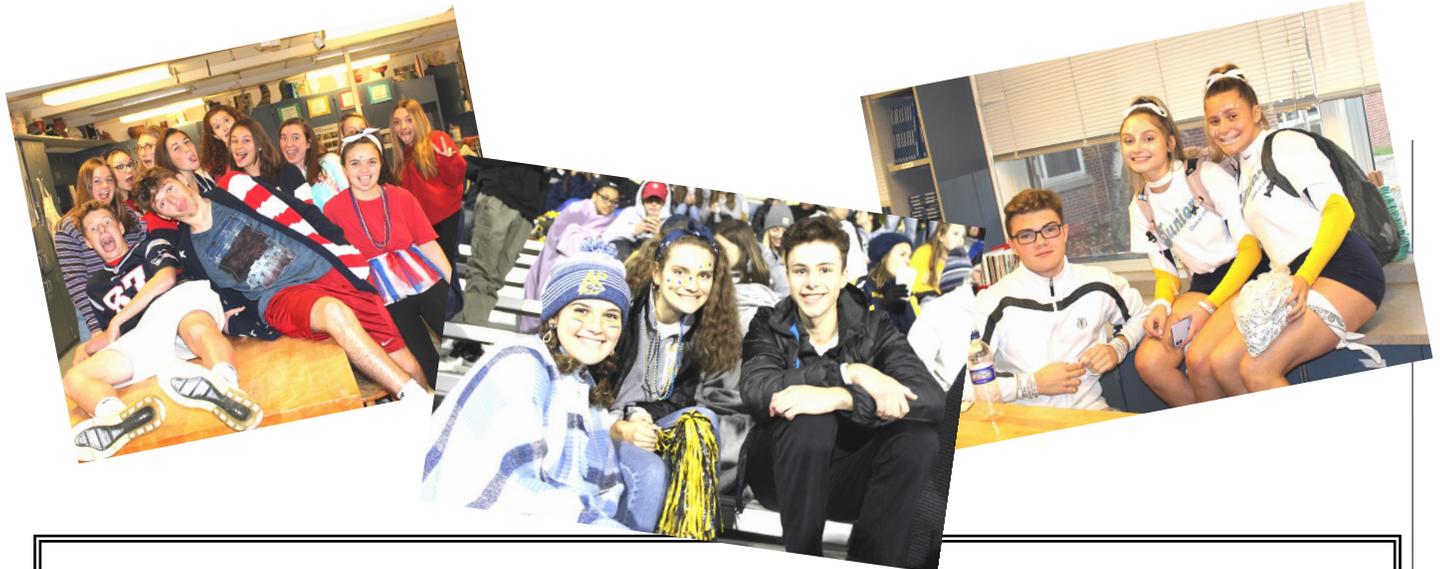
This new system is already in use at Averill Park, helping counsel several students about the best routes for them to take to stay on-track

for graduation and to remain in good standing in the school district. Wood emphasized that the program is brand new, occurs all day, and can

be built upon to serve more students.

This new program is intended to lend a support system to students who have

trouble in school, and will hopefully help those members of our school community who need it make the most of their education.



SPIRIT WEEK PHOTOS



HONORS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

"I don't think everybody should be allowed into honors classes," commented Averill Park senior Carley Salerno, who has taken advanced classes at APHS. "The point of honors-level courses is to be advanced, and allow-

ing everybody into those classes diminishes the aspect of an advanced classroom setting for students."

The entry test for honors classes determines which students will be in the course, and also designates

the class as advanced. By taking away the entry test, the class is now at the same difficulty as a regular class and loses its value as an honors level course.

Honors level classes are designed to be advanced. By admitting everyone inter-

ested into these courses, they lose the value of being tougher and thus lose the higher academic standing expected from an honors level class.

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TREAT BAG

Courtesy of Shoprite of Rensselaer

LIBRARY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

ish that work ahead of time so they can relax in the library like this next group of students.

These students might occasionally visit the library to do work but primarily use it as a fun and comfortable place to hang with friends. I call these students "the distractors." They are there to talk with friends, distract someone else, or just relax after a stressful school day. I'm not putting these students down either, because we have all been there. That's why our librarians are so great—they get it. They get what it's like to have a long day and what it's like to just need to talk. Plus, with our new student union, the library is a quiet haven with occasional distractions, but we can all agree they are

much needed "breaks" from our stressful workload. However, these students do hear that trademark "Shh!" from our librarians when needed.



Another type of student you might find in the library is our book-lovers. These students are always checking out books, reading in a quiet corner, or receiving "return your book" slips because they have 20 out!

These students take pride in reading and delve into the immense reading content our library has to offer.

This next group you'll find playing chess, checkers, or another of the abundant games offered to Averill Park students by our library. I like to call these students "the gamers." These students are always battling it out on the game board after school, during school, and before school. They welcome anyone to join them, and it's always a good time whether it's because you're learning a new game or competing heavily for that win. Either way, the gamers are bound to be found in the library.

The last group of students you'll find in the library are the ones who have been attending school for a very long time. I like to call this group "the teachers". Averill Park teachers utilize the library as much as our students. They represent a mix of all of the above groups. There's Mr. Strich, who you will always find printing something out in the morning. Whether he is a procrastinator or not is too soon to tell. There's Mrs. Weaver, who is ready to take your stress away and talk about absolutely anything albeit a perfect distraction. Mr. Goodnow is always researching and learning new things to help his students. You'll have to ask him your-

(continued on page 9)

SURVEY SAYS: TWO TEACHERS, TWO INTERVIEWS



by Lauren Harland

For this column, I sit down with two faculty members of different ages and subjects, and ask them the same set of questions. The two teachers that this prestigious and distinguished honor has been bestowed upon for this edition are Mr. Brown (French) and Mrs. Church (Art)!

If you had to teach another subject besides your own, which would you pick, and why?

Mr. Brown: "English, because sometimes I end up teaching more English than I do French in class."

Mrs. Church: "Either theater, English or French, because those were always my favorite in school."

What hobbies and interests do you have outside of the classroom?

Mr. Brown: "My car and car shows, for sure. Foreign travel with my family as well."



Mrs. Church: "I'm always working on art, and I'm always reading all different types of books."

How were your grades in school?

Mr. Brown: "I was in high 80s territory, sometimes breaking into the 90s."

Mrs. Church: "They were all very good, all mid- to high 90s."

Is there anything that your students have taught you?

Mr. Brown: "My students have taught me how to be a bit more relaxed and a bit more patient."

Mrs. Church: "They've taught me patience, they've taught me humor, and they've taught me optimism."

What character trait do you value most in students?

Mr. Brown: "Hardwork—a willingness to work and to get through what we've got to get through."

Mrs. Church: "Dedication and honesty."

If you got to start over and be something other than a teacher, what would you be?

Mr. Brown: "I really like the idea of urban planning: where sidewalks are supposed to go, how parking lots should be designed. I think it's fascinating."

Mrs. Church: "I would be a freelance artist living in New Mexico."

LIBRARY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

self if he was a nerd in high school. I could never forget our gamer "student", Mr. Colbert, whom you might occasionally find in the library getting a mind-boggling game to share with his club members. Finally, there's Mrs. Gaboury who comes to the library to check out that next great read, whether its horror, fantasy, poetry, or mystery. Gaboury is always reading, and it's quite obvious she's

our book lover. Teachers are students too. They have just been going to school a bit longer than most of us.

As you can see, the library is home to several types of students, but without each unique character, our library wouldn't be the amazing community it is today. We all bring a piece of ourselves into the library and we leave it there as an example, a friend, and a distraction from the realities of life. Our spectacu-

lar librarians work tirelessly to ensure our experience is one we will never forget. They always have everything we need and welcome every single one of us to the library each and every day. So next time you're sitting in the library, ask yourself, "Which type of student am I?" The nerd, the procrastinator, the distractor, the book-lover, the gamer, or the teacher? The great thing is that you can be whoever you want to be.

Look for issues of *The Chronicle* on-line!

Go to the APHS webpage on the APHS District website at averillpark.k12.ny.us/aphs and click on "Student Parent Resources." Then click on "Newsletters."

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT FOOD SERVICE MANAGER BRINGS CHANGE

by Christian Romer

Every day students flock into one place — the cafeteria. Ever wondered who is the driving force behind such nutritional operations? I recently got the chance to sit down with Ms. Wise, Averill Park High School's new food service manager.

The job of the food service manager is a key role in the day-to-day function of our school and entails large responsibilities. Many students have expectations as to what school food should and should not be, and lucky for us, the 2019-2020 school year is bound to be exceptional.

Wise previously attended culinary school at Schenectady Community College and earned a bachelor's in hospitality. With a degree in hand, she then went on to work in the hotel and restaurant area of food science and catered in a professional environment. In addition, Wise worked for three and a half years in child nutrition in various school districts

before applying for a position at Averill Park.

When asked why she accepted the position, Wise replied that she has lived around the community and saw what it had to offer,



and considering her extensive qualifications, it seemed like a natural fit.

Alongside Wise's experience, she has big plans in store for the future of the food service at APHS, some of which are already in effect. Local produce has been

included in the menu, such as apples from Indian Ladder Farm and lettuce from Black Horse Farm. She also wishes to make food from scratch in the near future once more training is acquired. In the

meantime, many healthy options such as wraps, salads and more are currently available for consumption by the student body.

Additionally, the new Student Union has been opened, replacing the cafeteria. Comfortable new chairs

and high-top seating, as well as booths, are now available to students. A snack bar also greets visitors with a large array of items, including lemonade, chips, coffee, and other goods. Other than lunch, students are permitted to access the area during advisory and study hall with a signed pass and permission from their teacher. This new space was made possible by our district, and it is important to note that furniture should be respected and cared for as it was a big investment that should be available for students to come.

Whether you bring your own meal or purchase lunch at school, there is no denying it is crucial that school lunch be healthy and accessible to everyone. Wise is doing a phenomenal job doing just that, and we cannot wait to see the great plans the new food service manager has in store for us. The new Student Union enhances our cafeteria and could not have been possible without the help of our district. The recent café' changes have improved the quality of our school, and we look forward to all the great things yet to come.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

administrative degree. "In my role as a social worker, I was changing a small group of kids," she said, "but as an administrator you can really change a school, a philosophy, a way that we do things."

As assistant principal, Leach works with the Student Support Team, which engages with the more unsuccessful students to come up with individual plans to support

them throughout high school.

"We're looking at starting some new programming here," Leach added. "We're talking about starting a Peer Tutoring Program, where kids could access some help if they were struggling and figuring out a good way to do that."

Another duty of Leach's will be doing teacher evaluations, which she says "is a great way to get to know this community and the

teachers and the people and their styles. And I get to see kids in classes and I get to see innovative things that our teachers are doing."

Additionally, as assistant principal Leach is head of the Safety Committee, which deals with lockdowns, shelter in place, and fire drills.

When asked how she is enjoying Averill Park so far, Leach said with a laugh, "So...it's a little different than Cohoes was. You guys should

be super excited about all the opportunities you have, because that's not happening at every school. The clubs, the activities, even the programming. The auto-tech programs, that kind of stuff. Even the class offerings are immense here, compared to where I came from, so I'm really loving that."

In regard to the

(continued on page 11)

BEFORE THEY WERE ADMINISTRATORS... REVEALING THEIR EDUCATIONAL ORIGINS

by Bridget Mulligan, Zephyr Noble, Zachary Purdy, Samantha Schroeder and Laura Williams

Becoming an administrator at a school or other organization usually requires a person to have had much experience in education. Our school district is no different. We were able to sit down with our administrative team and find out a lot about who they are and what they did before they became leaders at the Averill Park Central School District.

First up was Dr. Franchini, our district's superintendent. He has been an administrator for 17 years. His favorite part of being an administrator is that he gets to "work with students anytime," as he likes to watch them and interact with them. He started his career teaching common branch classes (ELA, math, science and social studies) for five years in Jersey City and Albany.

Our Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Hladun, came to Averill Park in April 2019. Prior to that, he was the Director of Technology at Queensbury for 16 years. Additionally, he was an 8th grade English teacher in Mechanicville. When asked what his favorite part of being an administrator is, he said, "I get to work with students of all ages in all of the

buildings."

Our new Human Resources administrator is Ms. Nugent. Prior to coming to Averill Park, she was a 7th and 8th grade Social Studies

2011-2018. His favorite part of being an administrator is working with students, teachers and the community. He was a Spanish and French teacher at Shenendehowa



teacher at Guilderland. Her favorite part of her new role is that "everyday is different." She works with a lot of different people across the school district.

Our high school principal, Mr. Quiles, has been an administrator for 13 years. He was an assistant principal here from 2005-2011, then was the principal at Coxsackie Athens from

and Shaker prior to becoming an administrator. He also taught English in Spain for three years.

Ms. Dorgan is the Director of Special Education. She has held this position for seven years. Prior to this, she was a math and special education teacher in Sidney, NY, the same school where Mr. Strich was teaching. According to Dorgan, her favorite

part of the job is "working with staff, teachers and especially the students." She likes to play volleyball and likes to sing. She also plays an instrument; we wonder what she plays...?

Mrs. Leach is our new assistant principal. She has been an administrator here for three months. Before joining us here at Averill Park she was a social worker at Cohoes for 19 years. Her favorite part of her new role is "working with students and watching all the good stuff."

Mrs. Mein started her career teaching 7th and 8th grade English and US History for four years at St. Brigid's. After that she taught special education in grades k-12 for 15 years at Niskayuna. She then became an assistant principal at Niskayuna. Mein has been here at Averill Park for four years. When we asked Mein what her favorite part of her day was, she replied, "Spending time with my students and visiting classrooms."

As you can see, the educational experiences of our school district's administrators may vary, but they all helped them reach their positions of leadership.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

students, Leach said, "You guys are super engaged; you have a lot of kids doing a lot of different stuff, so that's been a real change and a welcome change. It's been fun to work with kids that are really excited and are moving forward and exploring all sorts of inter-

ests."

Leach was also asked about her favorite part of her job. "The thing that I'm passionate about is trying to get our at-risk population of kids to be able to access our school, and to be able to find some success in school. I'm super passionate about that,

so I guess the best part of my job is...I'm excited to look at Averill Park and say 'what else can we do for our students here?'"

She also gave a special shout-out to Mr. Quiles and Mrs. Mein, stating, "They've been super nice to me and welcoming. Mr. Quiles

has been a great mentor. He's a great principal, and has a lot of leadership to offer."

Leach is very kind and is clearly very passionate about her job. She seems to have a lot of great things to offer our school. Welcome to Averill Park, Ms. Leach.

WE ALL KNOW WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE NEW MAIN OFFICE SECRETARY FITTING RIGHT IN

by Dani LaPier

If you have stopped by the main office this year, you may have noticed a new face. Joining our Averill Park staff for the 2019-2020 school year is Ms. Kelly Fink. Fink started working at APHS in late August and has enjoyed being a member of the main office ever since.

As a part of her job, Fink works with the other staff within the main office to get tasks done. When asked what her job involves, she joked, "Well... everything!" She answers the phone, sends and receives important emails, organizes all of the substitute folders and answers questions that parents or other staff members may have. "I'm kind of the go-to person for all of the teachers," she revealed.

Fink's favorite part of her job is the people she



gets to work with. She really enjoys working with the staff, the administration and the other main office ladies. The most difficult aspect of her

job is the adjustment. Because she is new, Fink has had a hard time familiarizing herself to the new school and job. "I'm so new,

so I'm just trying to learn all of the teachers and students!" she disclosed.

Before coming to Averill Park as a secretary, Fink was involved in dermatology for five years.

In her free time, Fink loves spending time with her family and friends. At home, she takes care of her two teenage children and her five dogs, all Italian Greyhounds. "They keep me busy!" she laughed. She also enjoys playing cards and riding her four-wheeler.

Although Fink is new, she seems to be settling in to Averill Park and getting ready to enjoy the new school year. "I'm happy to start working for Averill Park" she said. "I'm enjoying it so far. I think all the kids are great and the staff are amazing!" We wish Ms. Fink luck in her new position and hope she has a great school year!

MS. MOUZAKES IS BACK IN THE HOUSE ENGLISH TEACHER RETURNS FROM ALGONQUIN

by Bridget Denley

Ms. Mouzakes is returning to Averill Park High School after teaching 8th grade English for two years in the middle school. This year, Mouzakes will be teaching 10th grade English, 10th honors English, and Intro to Theatre..

Before she moved to the middle school, Mouzakes taught for 20 years in the high school. When asked, she said she prefers to work here for the curriculum, colleagues, and age level. She also loves seeing new students as well as old ones pass her in the hall or stop in to say hello.



Mouzakes is also an advisor for the Off Broadway Players (OBP), with Mrs. Christy, and a co-director of plays.

Unlike the plays at the middle school, OBP "provides more opportunities to use our skills with a broader audience," said OBP member sophomore Liam Rounds. OBP meets up every second Wednesday, and stage crew, which is part of OBP, meets at various times with Mr. Cole, added Rounds.

Mouzakes is glad to be back at the high school, and this time plans on staying.

MAKING A CLEAN SWEEP OF IT A LOOK INTO A NIGHT CUSTODIAN'S JOB

by the AP Chronicle Staff

At the end of each day, most staff and students pack up and leave Averill Park High School. But for some people the day is just beginning. Heather Hogan, an evening custodian at Averill Park, starts her day at 1:30 pm, and doesn't get finished until 9 pm each evening.

So, what's it like cleaning up after the staff and students at Averill Park? According to Hogan, it all depends. The worst task when cleaning is "the mopping...it takes a toll on your shoulders after awhile." In general, Hogan said carelessness and laziness by others cause her more work, such as "when they leave the notebook paper strips, pencils, paper all scattered on the floor."

In addition to neatness, there is something else that would make her job easier. "Social studies (one of the areas she cleans) is really nice," she said, but at the end of the school day it would help "overall if they put up chairs."

When asked about a specific area she does not

like cleaning, Hogan said "the boys tend to...decorate the (bathroom) walls with pictures



they would not put on their mother's fridge."

There's a lot to like about her job, such as "when the rooms are clean" and "putting pride in her work." She is accustomed to the "very routine work" and says "everyone is very friendly." In terms of having what

she needs to do her job, the Averill Park school district is "pretty good at getting us what we need." "Supplies are in full demand," she said, as supplies often need replacing or fixing. Hogan's favorite task is vacuuming, and she likes having the district offices under her care.

Hogan is also in a supervisory position as a night custodian. This means she's in charge of many things in the building at night; if alarms go off, if other custodial staff aren't doing their jobs, or if an injury occurs. Hogan enjoys the responsibilities that come with being in a supervisory position.

Each Averill Park custodian is responsible for maintaining a different area of the high school. Hogan is responsi-

ble for the district office and the social studies wing. As for the cleanliness of her section, she "has no complaints." As for preferring to clean another area of the school, Hogan said while her section is not that bad, "change is nice." One change she would definitely prefer would be to work mornings instead of evenings.

Hogan lives in East Greenbush, and has a 14 year old son and 29 year old daughter, as well as two grandsons. Like most of the night custodians, Hogan brings her own dinner each evening (which she refers to as "lunch"; she also mentions her favorite ice cream flavor is chocolate). She usually brings food to heat in a small crockpot. However, "every now and then we have to order something out," she said.

Becoming a custodian was not Hogan's first occupation choice. As a student at Albany High School, her favorite subject in school was science. "I always wanted to be a veterinarian, but life didn't turn out that way."

Before coming to Averill Park, "I was working at

NEW TEACHER AIDE KNOWS APHS FORMER STUDENT NOW WORKING WITH STUDENTS

by Sophia Minich

There is a new teacher aide this year at Averill Park High School, - Ms. Bowen. Before coming to the high school, Bowen was a stay-at-home mom. She has licenses in aesthetics and real estate.

This is her first year as a teacher aide., though she actually went to school here at APHS as a student. When



asked why she came back to Averill Park, she said she lives in the district, it worked with her daughter's schedule, and she wanted to "go back to her roots."

Bowen's favorite part about her job is the students. She says that she's pretty much always sitting in on a class, but when she's not, such as in one of her last blocks, she

goes down to the Student Union.

Bowen is enjoying her new job at APHS and we welcome her with open arms. When asked if she had any more comments, she said, "Go Warriors!"

TEACHERS WITH DOCTORATES

HOW TWO SCIENCE TEACHERS EARNED THEIRS

by Carley Salerno

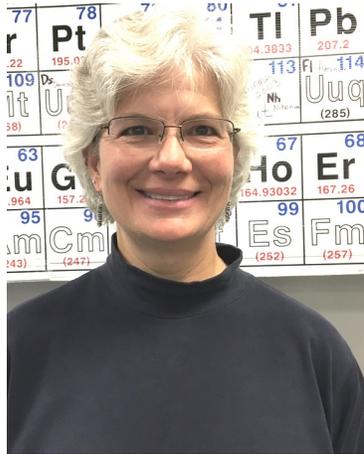
Averill Park is known throughout the community for its wonderful staff and rigorous academic program. It should come as no surprise, then, that two of our very own science teachers have continued their education and received doctorates in their specific fields.

The first of these teachers, Dr. Perry, received her PhD in science from Albany Medical College. She began her undergraduate degree with the intent of pursuing a career in physical therapy.

At some point during her undergraduate degree, Perry changed her aspiration to becoming a physicians assistant. Eventually, though, Perry realized that she didn't enjoy working with sick people, and changed her major to undecided (or, as Perry called it, a period of "I have no idea what I'm doing with my life"). Perry stayed an extra year at Siena College to get her

teaching certificate and went into grad school as an assistant professor.

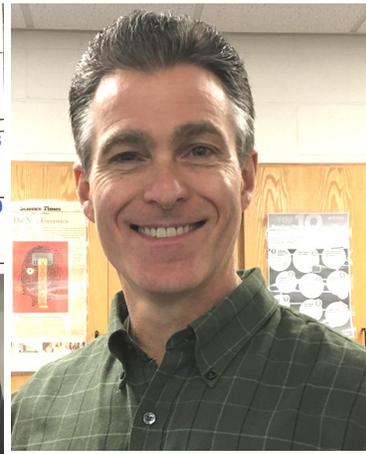
"I loved the teach-



ing... but I hated the research," she said. Despite her doubts, Perry continued down the same track, eventually earning her masters and PhD degrees.

She settled on teaching high school chemistry because she loved the experience of teaching in graduate school so much, and

she knew that was what she wanted to do with her future. Perry said that she "absolutely" made the right choice, follow-



ing her answer up with "I think I've got the best job in the world".

The second of these teachers is Dr. Panzanaro, more commonly known to his students as Dr. P. He is well known for his enthusiasm and love for his subject matter. What most of his students don't know, however, was that

he used to run a successful chiropractor's office. Dr. P got a D.C. (Doctor of Chiropractic), intending to become a chiropractor, but after working in the field, he realized that it wasn't the right choice for him. Dr. P made the decision to switch to high school teaching, despite his success in his previous career.

Anyone who has had Dr. P as a teacher can tell that he made the right decision - he is easily one of the most dedicated and involved teachers in the school.

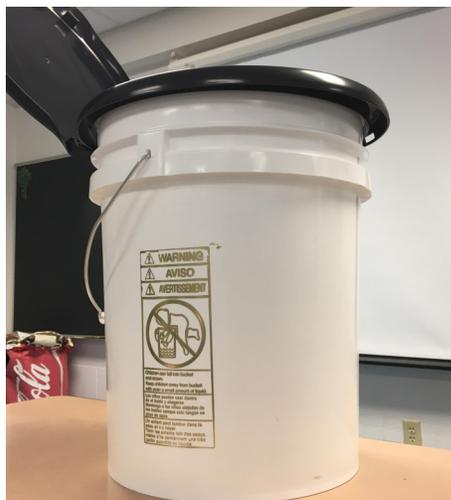
Both Dr. Ps are two examples of a larger theme at APHS. We are lucky to have teachers that care about us as students, who are passionate about their subject matter (so passionate, in these cases, that they pursued advanced degrees), and who are excited to learn with us in the classroom each and every day.

A BUCKET LIST...FOR SAFETY

NEW LOCKDOWN KITS PROVIDED FOR EVERY CLASSROOM

by Owen Perala

There are many things that you'll find in your teacher's rooms. Whether it's animals, coffee makers, or musical instruments, everything really has its own special purpose. Something that may seem quite useless was added to each classroom over the summer. You may have noticed a white bucket with a black lid over it. These are the brand new lockdown kits, and the Averill Park School District recently purchased over 300



of them.

The lockdown kits' primary function is to be used as a toilet in the event of an actual school lockdown. For this, the bucket itself will act as the bowl, and a seat is located under the lid. Inside the bucket are garbage bags to be used as a liner, a single roll of toilet paper, wet wipes, a tarp for privacy, duct tape to hang up the tarp, and hand sanitizer.

The kits also contain other essentials for a lockdown situation, including six 16.9 ounce water bottles, and 50 cups to deal with hydration. There are first aid supplies such as the "stop the bleed" kit, containing a tourniquet, medical tape, sterile pads, bandages, and other first aid supplies, accompanied by a Ziploc bag containing 10 pairs of rubber

(continued on page 15)

MENTORING NEW TEACHERS

MRS. GLUNK HELPS MS. GOMES ADAPT TO APHS

by Julie Hale

When new teachers are hired at APHS, they don't enter the classroom alone. That is because Averill Park has a mentoring program to assist new teachers.

One such mentor this year is math teacher Mrs. Glunk. She has been teaching for a total of 25 years, and this is her 20th year of teaching Geometry and project-based learning at Averill Park.

Like many teachers, Glunk loves to work with her students and gives them a sense that she actually wants to be there, which helps students gain her love for learning. To help students enjoy math, she tends to be more flexible and forgiving, which helps students feel a little less stressed.

Although Glunk has been teaching for a while, she had her own mentor, former math teacher Mrs. Smith. Since Glunk began teaching, she's been able to retain plenty of experience to pass on to her first apprentice. And that apprentice is a brand

new teacher to Averill Park, Ms. Gomes. Although she is new to APHS, she already has five years of experience teaching 7th and 8th grade

they can relate to her. Now, Gomes loves it and can't imagine doing anything else. Entering the high school has also been a

when she isn't sure about something. Even though she's a teacher and has worked at another school before, she says, "I still sometimes feel like the new kid."

According to the Averill Park mentor guide, "When support, guidance, and assistance were provided, teacher effectiveness was enhanced." Because of this, "within the last two decades, numerous educational researchers have concluded that providing beginning teachers with systematic



math outside of Boston (and no, she isn't related to former principal Mrs. Gomes).

Although many teachers choose to teach what they love, growing up Gomes never liked math. Despite this, she has chosen to teach math because she can relate to the students and

nice change of pace for Gomes, as she has been able to get different, older perspectives from her students.

Having a mentor has helped Gomes adjust because "it gives that friendly face in the crowd" and someone to talk to

guidance and induction results in a myriad of benefits that positively impact school districts educational mission overall."

As you can see, these two teachers act as great inspiration for students at our school and have been greatly helped by our mentor program.

BUCKET (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

gloves. The kit also includes 10 packs of smarties, and two glow sticks for communication.

Throughout the past years, schools have seen a need for these kits right here in the Capital District. Last November, a 5 1/2 hour lockdown occurred at Niskayuna after a threatening note was found. One im-

portant thing that was discovered from the lengthy lockdown was the students' lack of sanitation in their classrooms. Students were using trash cans as toilets with little to no privacy and no way to wipe or wash their hands.

A similar event occurred at Niskayuna's Van Antwerp Middle School last June. A threat was reported

and was followed by a four-hour lockdown. This September Averill Park saw a threat made against our own high school. Although no lockdown was required, lockdown kits would be critical in providing adequate sanitation, hydration and first aid in case of a prolonged lockdown.

Many teachers found the kits to be a "pleasant surprise"

upon returning to their classrooms after summer vacation. The Averill Park School District has recognized a need to prepare in case a situation should arise. Being proactive and providing lockdown kits will help ensure that students and teachers are being cared for in a difficult and frightening situation.

IS IT SNACKTIME, YET? S.A.G.E.S. PROVIDES YOUR WEEKLY FIX

by Chance Thibeault

Have you ever had S.A.G.E.S. popcorn before? If not, I recommend it—it is very good!

“It’s so delicious and so salty and buttery it makes my belly happy,” said sophomore Ashleigh Mein.

If you are a student you can try it every Wednesday. Come in Wednesday mornings before school to room 227 to place your order, pay for your popcorn and get your ticket. It is only \$1.00. Then you return during advisory with your ticket to pick up your order of popcorn.

On Fridays S.A.G.E.S. makes the popcorn for adults. On that day, staff look forward to getting an email from S.A.G.E.S. to place their order. “I look forward to my popcorn every Friday,” said Mrs. Gaboury. “I love it!”

Each Friday, staff receive a Google form asking them a few questions like their name and how many

bags they want to order. The most bags bought by one person so far was 20 bags.



“I buy the popcorn every week for my two grandchildren,” said Mrs. Teal. “They think it is the best popcorn that has ever been made. They simply love it and look forward to me bringing it home.”

“This popcorn is delicious,” said Mrs. Jansen. “It’s yummy,” added Mrs.

Crognale.

Do you want to know how S.A.G.E.S. makes the popcorn? We only use white popcorn, butter and sea salt. We order our white popcorn in 50 pound bags. We have already used one 50 pound bag of popcorn since the beginning of the



school year. We actually used 200 pounds of popcorn and approximately 100 pounds of butter last school year.

We make the popcorn using an air popper, melt the butter in a pan on the stove, and shake it with sea salt. Then we bag it using brown paper bags and a scale to make sure everyone gets an equal amount. Then students pick up their popcorn, and adults get it delivered to them.

While everyone enjoys the popcorn, it also makes for a good learning experience. “The popcorn is delicious and it teaches students real life skills,” said Mrs. Ryan.

Be sure to purchase a snack from S.A.G.E.S. “When we make popcorn it is delicious with the salt and butter,” said Nicole Thorburn. “You should try something new. Come to room 227 on Wednesdays.”

THE CLUB BEHIND *THE CHRONICLE* JOURNALISM CLUB INFORMS THE SCHOOL

by Emma Deo

The Journalism Club at Averill Park High School meets after school once a month with advisor Mr. Strich and the other club members. The club learns about the journalism field during meetings and writes, edits, and publishes articles for our school newspaper, *The Chronicle*. After the meetings, members write and edit articles for the newspaper during their free time.

While learning about journalism, the club learns a lot about how to write differ-



ent types of articles that may appear in the school newspaper, such as editorials, profiles, opinion pieces, or features. They also have ten minute interviews that they

work on together as a group during each meeting, and organize and sponsor in-school activities such as the Halloween costume contest.

Within the club, there are students who write the various articles and students who edit the articles of others. Selecting which particular article you write is on a first come-first served basis. Each writer is able to put their

personal variation on the given article’s topic to make it more interesting or current.

Journalism Club is an awesome opportunity for students in Averill Park High School who are interested in writing, in addition to required school or homework assignments. They have a creative outlet to do what they love, and want to help better prepare themselves for their future career paths, all while informing the Averill Park community.

MORE THAN A DRAMA CLUB

OFF-BROADWAY PLAYERS A SPECIAL COMMUNITY

by Katie Armlin

With the daily stress and pressure high schoolers face as they finish their last four years of school before college or entering the workforce, it is important to have an outlet. When I first started writing this article, I planned on telling the facts of what is new with the Off-Broadway Players club this year, checking another thing off of my busy to-do list, but the information I found brought to me something much more valuable. I found, in addition to putting on plays, the OPB club offers students a great outlet that allows them to express themselves and have a valuable experience to look back on after high school.

From watching many OBP and other high school students' theatrical performances, as well as being in many myself, I understand how theater can help a person come out of their shell and find themselves through portraying another character. This is important for high school students as they struggle with trying to find out who they are and where they fit in this world. High school students are deciding on colleges, possible majors, jobs, and are even finding their own place within our school in friend groups, classes, teams, and clubs. The OPB club offers a supportive community where many have found sanctuary, not only on stage but behind

the scenes with sets, lights, sound, and stage crew.

Senior Sarah Faragon explained, "My passion is without a doubt with the arts. There's something about be-



ing a part of something bigger than just myself that I find so satisfying. Without OBP, I wouldn't be the person I am today and I know this is true for many people".

This fall, the Off-Broadway Players will be putting on the play *Almost, Maine*, which contains eight different love stories within one show. The play is comedic and each scene has three actors or fewer, each giving off lots of energy. To give you



a little insight as to what these scenes may hold, Faragon explained her scene where she plays the role of Rhonda. "Rhonda is tough, as she's won every arm wrestling contest and holds the title of Snowmobiler of the Year in

her town. But when her best friend, Dave (played by Alex Heap) confesses he has feelings for Rhonda, things get a little crazy."

Students, faculty, and parents can go see OBP put on *Almost, Maine* on November 1-2 here at the high school.

Along with this new show, OBP has had many changes this year, starting with the new advisors and co-directors Mrs. Christy and Ms. Mouzakes. Students have thanked them for their patience, better organization, and communication with student officers, who



often act as mediators.

Students are excited to see what OBP will bring us this year. In addition to *Almost, Maine*, One Acts, a cabaret, and a spring show which is still to be announced, OBP members are also excited about what other changes will mean for them this year. Club member Emily Consula explained, "I am excited to see everyone act and work with new people [especially with the new freshman class] and to feel the dynamic of the club".

As you can see, OBP is a very valuable club at our high school that offers students

an outlet and a way to express themselves. It gives them something fun and positive within a stressful week and has many exciting shows coming up for us to see, and even be a part of.

"I want students to realize that high school is so much more than just academics and stress leading up to college or a career after school. High School is what you make of it," said Faragon. "When I look back at my time at Averill Park, I most likely won't remember that one US History test I bombed, or that mean thing someone said about me in ninth grade. I'll remember the family I have through OBP, and how they all made my four years here so wonderful."

GET INVOLVED

Join the Averill Park Journalism Club!

The Averill Park Chronicle is looking for writers, editors and photographers. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 2:20 pm in room 209.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN STUDENT BAND PLAYS GIG IN...TEXAS!

NEW HORIZONS ALL ABOUT THE CAUSE SERVICE CLUB SETS BUSY FUNDRAISING AGENDA

by Hannah Ryan

Each year, the New Horizons Club hosts a multitude of fundraisers to raise money for Averill Park High School's sister school in the Dominican Republic. Additionally, the club assembles donation drives and other events to provide goods for the school.

This year, the club began with a new fundraiser through a local business, Unbreakable Nutrition. The business set up after school on October 17 to sell energizing teas to students and staff. It was very successful and a delicious treat for everyone. "They have an extremely successful business and were

more than willing to help us. It was very generous of them," said New Visions vice presi-

dent Adam Limoges.

In the upcoming weeks, New Horizons will be selling "World's Finest Chocolate" to gain a percent of the

profit. The cost is only one dollar per bar, which are wildly requested. The money earned

will be used to help pay for maintenance of the sister school, as well as for shipping goods to the kids in the Dominican Republic.

The shipping will come into play during the "Christmas Box" drive that New Horizons runs during the months of November and December. In this event, classes, clubs and teams are welcome to choose a child from the list of students at the school and fill a shoebox of small gifts for that student. These items include school supplies, hygiene necessities, and small presents. Some Spanish classes even include a letter to the student.

"It is really cool because each box is personalized to the age and gender of the student," said club member Sydney Ferguson.

(continued on page 19)



BEST BUDDIES

CREATING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

by Mara Little

A Lifelong friendship...how would one go about creating such a thing? Well, through Best Buddies, of course! Wait...what is Best Buddies?

When translated, Best Buddies literally means "life long friendship." Best Buddies is the world's largest organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I.D.D). It's a club where students can interact with one another in a safe and accepting environment.

Everybody in APHS is different. Best Buddies is here to help kids explore their differences and strive to make everyone feel like they are welcome in school and in the community, no matter what their differences may be. Best Buddies helps to build friendships that you can't find anywhere else.

Junior Katy Story and sophomore Jeana Monaco are two students who joined Averill Park High School's newly instituted Best Buddies chapter last year. In perspective, a year is a very short amount of time, but already the two have made a point to see each other every day; all because of Best Buddies. "Every day we check in on each other, sometimes twice a day. We eat lunch together almost every other day," said Monaco when

asked about their relationship. "In Best Buddies I created a buddy booklet with her and Cara. We both drew our families and explained who they were and how we were

secretaries, which means we both take notes and help out with the club itself. During advisory we talk about our days and what we will do later or on the weekends." As their

for members in the club. So far this year they have played candy icebreaker games, created buddy family posters, and made family scrapbooks called "Buddy Booklets." The club also met on October 22 and traveled to Engelke Farms in Poestenkill to go pumpkin picking.

Everyone interested in joining Best Buddies at any point this year or in the future is completely welcome. Best Buddies meets every first and third week of the month. The first meeting of the month is held on Thursdays during advisory in room 227, and the second meeting of the month is held after school on Tuesdays in the LGI. If you wish to seek more information you can contact **M a r a L i t t l e** (22littlem@apcsd.org) or **M r s . R y a n** (ryank@apcsd.org) with any questions.

Best Buddies officers encourage and invite you to attend and create your own lifelong friendship!

BEST BUDDIES



close to them. We both found that we love to draw and color. Katy's a fantastic artist." Story and Monaco's friendship was able to blossom this year due to this amazing club.

Another fantastic pair that was able to form over the course of this past year was junior Gio Dooley and sophomore Makayla Kieley. The two met at the first ever Best Buddies meeting and immediately became friends, talking as if they had known each other forever. When asked about what she does with her buddy, Kieley said, "I hang out with Gio in Key Club and during advisory. In Key Club we are co-

friendship progressed they found that they not only have their love for inclusion in common, but they also enjoy helping to improve their school environment and community.

Story, Monaco, Dooley and Kieley, along with being avid members and amazing buddy pairs, also happen to be officers of the Best Buddies club. Monaco and Kieley are co-vice presidents and Dooley and Story are co-buddy directors. While the four may have different jobs, each of them work with the chapter president, sophomore Mara Little, and club advisor Mrs. Ryan, to create engaging and inclusive games

NEW HORIZONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

With the school year in full gear, New Horizons has a lot going on in these next few months. Be sure to keep an eye out for

those blue and white chocolate boxes, and consider taking a shoebox for a student for the holiday season. Without New Horizons, the sister

school in the Dominican Republic would likely be closed, and the students would be without education. Be sure to stay tuned into the fundraisers for this important cause.

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STUDENT GROUP ATTENDS YOUTH SUMMIT

SADD CLUB JOINS UP WITH OTHERS IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

by Olivia Flagg

On Monday, October 21 a group of Averill Park high school and middle school students, including members from the APHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club went to the Albany Capital Center for the second annual Youth Summit.

Youth Summit is a gathering of students from schools all around the Capital Region who come together to learn about drug prevention, mental health conditions and substance abuse.

This year four speakers, Jacy Good, David Flood, Tele Rabii and Carleen Wray, talked about their personal experiences and about groups supporting these ongoing problems.

Good shared her story on distracted driving and how dangerous it can be to use any device in the car. She was in a very serious accident due to distracted

suicide, and her "Start with Hello" program.

Tele Rabii was next and shared his personal story of drug abuse and his recovery. He shared that it is very

health conditions and that you should always seek help if you need it.

After the speakers finished, Madison Vandenburg from American

Idol had a live performance and sang two songs.

Additionally at Youth Summit, tables were set up where exhibitors such as Rensselaer County Mental Health, Mindfulness in the Classroom, NOpiates, and Planned Parenthood, among others handed

out information pamphlets, positive quotes and bags with their logos on them.

Overall, this year's Youth Summit was a very positive experience for all who attended.



driving which killed both her parents and disabled her for the rest of her life.

The next speaker, Carleen Wray, shared her story from the Sandy Hook promise. She discussed bullying, mental health conditions, noticing signs of violence and

challenging to recover, but it is possible, and things will get better.

The last speaker was David Flood, who has a son with autism. Flood shared his son's challenges with bullying at school. He also talked about mental

BATTLE BOTS

ROBOTICS CLUB PREPPING FOR UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

by Adam Film

The Robotics Club is a group of Averill Park students who design and build robots to compete against other schools in VEX Tournaments.

The club is divided up into teams of three or four, and each team



creates its own robot to compete with. Each of these teams will design, build, and program a "bot" that they think will do well in that specific year's game.

This year the game is called Tower Takeover. Last year, all five teams did well in the regional competitions, four of which also got

invited to and competed in the New York State tournament.

The Robotics Club meets as a group before school every day from 7:00-7:25 am, and after school on Fridays from 2:15-3:15 pm. Interested students are encouraged to attend.

CLUB LEADS DOWN A PRECARIOUS "PATH"

GAMING CLUB INVOLVES CREATIVE ROLE-PLAY

by Jacob Herter

Recently overheard at Pathfinder Club sessions:

"It was going well until I accidentally blew up an entire city..." (Julian Gorman)

"Bubbles the dragon wasn't real" (Forest Wright)

"I apologize for the dice in the vent..." (Sam Barber)

"Don't kill everyone, Don't kill everyone, Don't kill everyone, Don't kill everyone" (Viktor Montez)

day, and Thursday on days when there are late buses. Pathfinder is a spinoff of Dungeons and Dragons, which, if you don't know, is a strategy roleplaying game. If played

because they wanted to hang out with a few friends after school. People in the club started telling their friends, and they wanted to join. Eventually there were too

ing that while there has to be a teacher advisor, Hester and Wright run the clubs internally. While the club doesn't receive any funding through the school budget,



through the combined efforts of the members, a pizza party is held at the end of the year for all the club to join in.

One thing the founders stress is Pathfinder Club is not a mandatory club; please prioritize other clubs,

Pathfinder Club consists of several groups of students that meet in the Averill Park High School library every Tuesday, Wednesday,

right, it can challenge your mind and give a lot of laughs.

Pathfinder Club was founded by seniors Jacob Herter and Forest Wright,

many people for one group, so it was split into two groups, then into three.

Pathfinder Club is essentially student-run, mean-

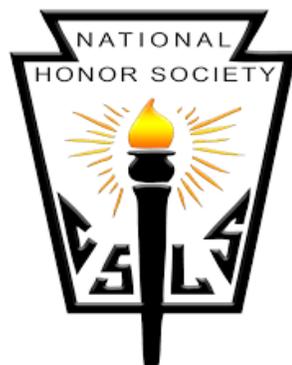
ing homework, re-taking tests and quizzes, sports, jobs, etc. The club's main goal is to have fun with friends when you have nothing else to do.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

the Averill Park High School auditorium. Assistant superintendent Mr. Hladun started the ceremony with a quick speech congratulating the NHS inductees and emphasizing their achievements. Rees and Averill Park High School principal Mr. Quiles followed, each celebrating the accomplishments of the students on stage.

Afterwards, the four National Honor Society officers, all seniors, gave speeches on each of the four pillars. Alexander Micheals, NHS vice-president, spoke on the definition of scholarship and its importance in teaching students hard work and perseverance. Next, NHS president

Carley Salerno gave a speech on leadership, followed by treasurer Lena Kehl, who



spoke about the importance of service and giving back to your community. NHS secretary

Lillian Kronau concluded the four pillars speeches by emphasizing the value of character in shaping who you are as you navigate life.

Lastly, guest speaker Mr. Reddy, a science teacher at Averill Park High School who was voted "most inspirational" by last year's senior class, gave a heartfelt and inspirational speech, connecting to each and every student while always relating his words back to his roots as a biology teacher. Reddy showed all the inductees what it means to stay true to oneself and to never give up.

After the National Honor Society inductees received their cords and recited

the NHS pledge, family and friends met them in the high school cafeteria to take pictures and celebrate their accomplishments together.

"It's easy to forget just how hard we all work," explained NHS member Adam Limoges. "National Honor Society and the induction ceremony really helped us to reflect on our efforts and the ways in which we've affected our community."

Be sure to congratulate any National Honor Society members you see and to always strive to uphold the four pillars of leadership, scholarship, character and service.

The Averill Park Chronicle

Making The Grade!

Students Inducted Into National Honor Society

by Lauren Harland

For many students, the four years spent at Averill Park High School are accompanied by immense amounts of hard work and a high level of dedication in order to achieve a high academic standing. Students spent hours each night doing their homework, studying for tests and often engaging in other activities, such as sports, extracurricular clubs and volunteering. This level of dedication can be exhausting, and it's important to recognize the achievements of these dedicated students.

Each year, seniors with a grade point average of 90 and above are invited to

apply for the National Honor Society. NHS was founded in 1921 to recognize students



who uphold the four pillars of leadership, scholarship, character and service in and out of school. Students who

apply write an essay explaining how they demonstrate the four pillars of National

Honors Society, and show proof of at least 30 hours of community service from more than one source. These

applications are then reviewed by an "anonymous teacher selection committee who meet and decide based on the four pillars," explained NHS advisor Mrs. Rees. "We take into consideration things like attendance, disciplinary actions that have taken place, good character and involvement within the high school."

On October 24, students who were accepted into National Honor Society attended the NHS Induction Ceremony in

(continued on page 21)

HIGH SCHOOL

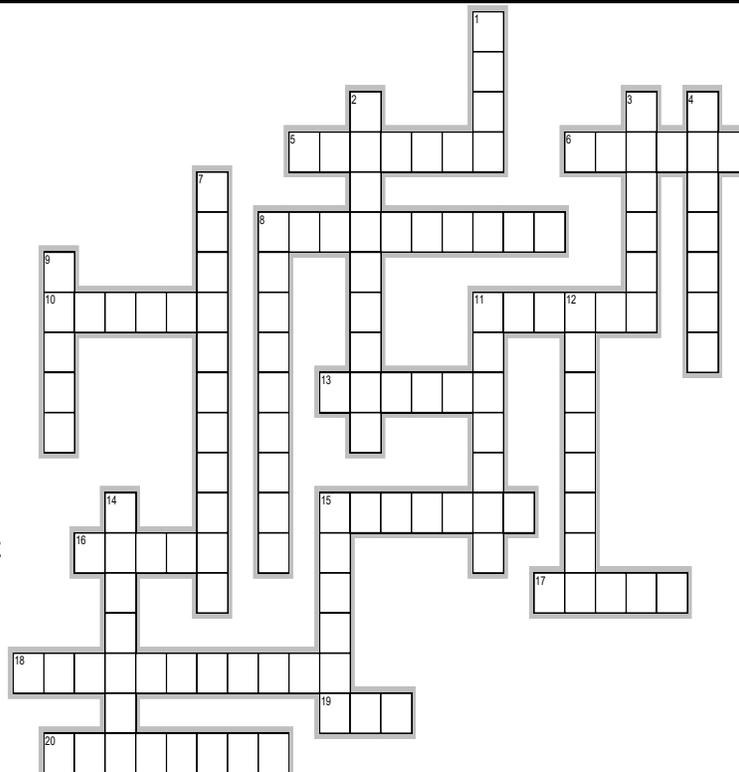
MASCOT

CROSSWORD

Match the STAFF MEMBERS with their High School Mascot

* Don't Leave Spaces

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| BLUE BISON | BLUE DEVIL |
| BLUE STREAK | BRAVE |
| BULLDOG | CRUSADER |
| DUTCHMAN | EAGLE |
| FALCON | FLYING HORSE |
| FORDIAN | FROG |
| GOPHER | INDIAN |
| MOUNTAINEER | PATRIOT |
| RAM | RIDER |
| SAWYER | SPARTAN |
| TARTAN | TROJAN |
| WARRIOR | |



EclipseCrossword.com

Down

1. Klepsch
2. McKeough
3. Dutcher M, Fox
4. Ashline, Church, Gildersleeve, Hale, Hall, Kimberling, Mackey, Malenfant, Marrufo, Pauly, Rohl, Stone
7. Agnew
8. Fairchild, Heilmann
9. Freeman
11. Blostein
12. Engel S
14. Yost
15. Minkler

Across

5. Glunk, Strich
6. Quesnel
8. Galcik, Mein
10. Daviero, Engel B, Gibbins, Gregory, Otty, Gierthy
11. Gierthy
13. Clark-Apelanz
15. Perry
16. Caruso, Ford, Oldendorf, Shupe
17. Medici
18. Miller
19. Lambright, Schmidt
20. Rees