

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2023



BLOOMING INTO MAY!

I'm very excited to bring back monthly District Newsletters to the Hudson CSD!

We've been busy preparing the 2023-24 budget for the District vote on May 16 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., preparing our scholars for NYS and Regents exams and starstruck by our standouts in athletics and the arts.

Rest assured, we will be giving it our all for the last two months of the school year. I hope this newsletter makes you smile and motivates you and your student(s) to finish strong!

Sincerely,
Dr. Lisamarie Spindler
Superintendent of
Schools



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2023-24 BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Hudson City School District is proposing a \$54,509,530 budget with a 0% tax levy increase for the 2023-24 school year.

The emphasis of next school year's budget is clear: sustaining and building upon programs and opportunities that support the school community. Additionally, two Board of Education seats with three-year terms are on the ballot.

For more information and to see the full budget newsletter, please go to:
<https://www.hudsoncsd.org/district/budget/2023-24-budget/>



VOTE

TUESDAY MAY 16

11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Learn about voter eligibility
& absentee ballots at www.hudsoncsd.org/budget

BUDGET SUMMARY

- Proposed budget of \$54,509,530
- **Estimated 0% tax levy increase** (below 1.39% tax cap)

WHERE TO VOTE

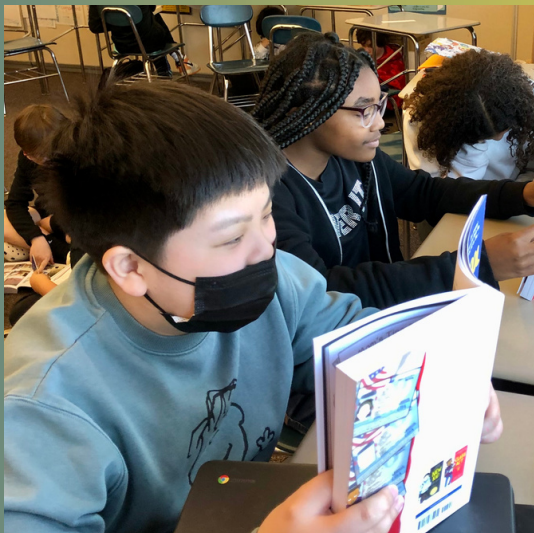
DISTRICT 1:
City of Hudson –
Hudson Central Fire
Station (77 North Seventh
Street, Hudson)

DISTRICT 2:
Greenport, Stottville/
Stockport, Ghent –
Greenport Community
Center (500 Town Hall
Drive, Hudson)

DISTRICT 3:
Claverack, Livingston,
Taghkanic – A.B. Shaw
Fire House (67 NY-23,
Claverack)

Need this info
in a different language?
Translated on our
www.hudsoncsd.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Month of May: Mental Health/Prevention Month (Week recognition is 5/8-12)
- 5/4: MCSES Heroes Breakfast (More info to come)
- 5/6: SAT Exam
- 5/6: Hudson Children's Book Festival
- 5/11: National Honor Society Induction, 6 P.M.
- 5/12: 5th Grade Spring Fling
- 5/14 Mother's Day
- 5/16: 2023-24 Budget and BoE Vote 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 5/16: K-5 Spring Concert
- 5/18: Junior National Honor Society Induction 5:30 P.M.
- 5/20: Class of 2024 Car Show Fundraiser
- 5/26: JSHS Six Flags Trip
- 5/29: Memorial Day (No School)



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SPECIAL SPEAKERS FOR EARTH DAY!

The Hudson City School District hosted its annual celebration of Earth Day at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School on April 21 and special guests to speak about the importance of sustaining a healthy, green Earth! Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Lisamarie Spindler, Hudson City Mayor Kamal Johnson, NYS Assemblyperson Didi Barrett and NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey for sharing your kind words of how to protect our planet!



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COLUMBIA COUNTY FAIR HOUSING POSTER CONTEST

This event is held each year in the month of April to coincide with a formal proclamation by the Columbia County Board of Supervisors declaring the month of April as Fair Housing Month.

Students in third and fourth grade at M.C. Smith were tasked with drawing pictures of houses and/or apartments with the theme of "Houses for Everyone". A panel of judges from the Columbia County Housing Advisory Board and evaluated the artwork and selected the following scholars as winners:

Third Grade:

First Place – Bryan Bao le

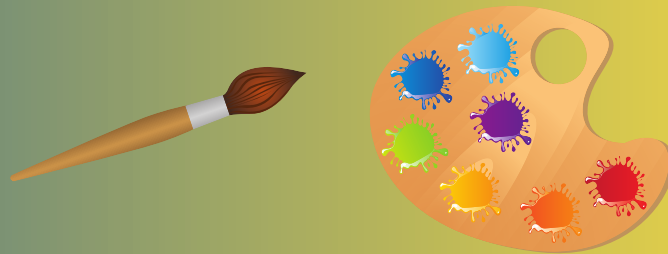
Honorable Mention – Empress Hyman

Honorable Mention – Alice Fawcett

Fourth Grade:

First Place – Swad Akbar

Second Place – Fatheah Jannat



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"MEAN GIRLS - HIGH SCHOOL VERSION" THE MUSICAL STEALS THE SHOW

The Hudson JSHS Drama Club's production of "Mean Girls - High School Version" the musical was a major success! The regional debut of the show took place April 28-30 and showcased the theatrical and musical skills of 32 Hudson students and several incredibly talented staff members. Directed by Andrew Stein and choreographed by Danielle Scirico (Assistant Director), the duo were able to effectively guide our scholars to put on an entertaining, yet thought provoking performance based on the iconic teen movie originally released in 2008 derived from the book "Queen Bees and Wannabes," by Rosalind Wiseman, which dives into the dynamic and hierarchies within high school social groups.



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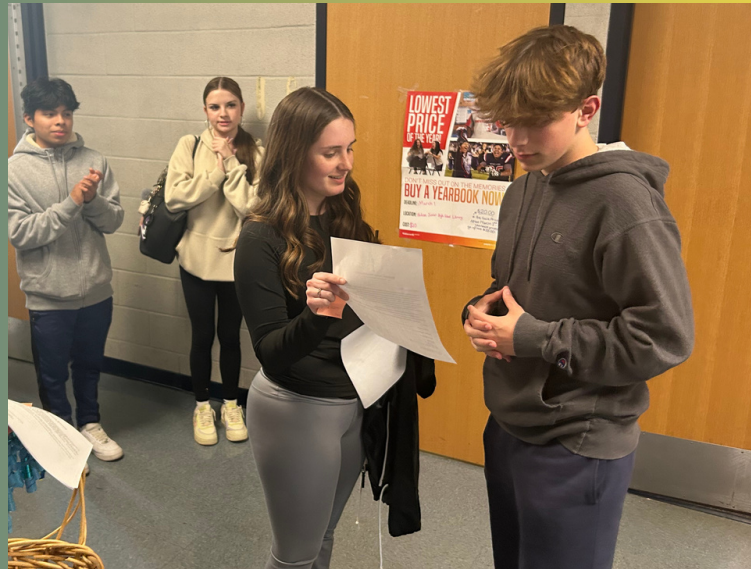
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JUNIOR NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS "TAPPED"

On May 1, members of the Hudson Senior High School's National Honor Society had the opportunity to "tap" and congratulate the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society representing the Junior High School. The NJHS members were given a chocolate bar and a letter announcing their acceptance into the NJHS!

NHS Induction Ceremony: May 11 6 p.m.

NJHS Induction Ceremony: May 18 5:30 p.m.



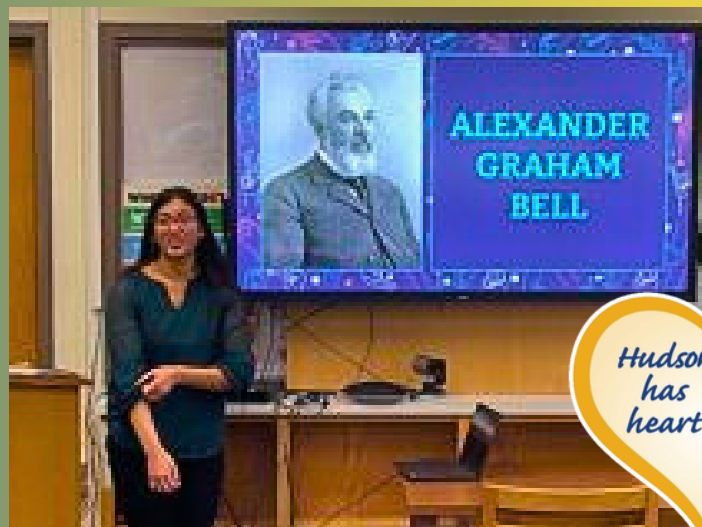
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NYSSB PRESENTATIONS

Prior to Spring Break, several Senior High School students delivered Seal of Biliteracy presentations in front of a panel of judges representing the high school. The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) recognizes students from district, charter, and non-public schools who have attained a high level of proficiency in two or more world languages (one of which must be English) by high school graduation. It acknowledges the importance of biliteracy in today's global society.



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SATURDAY ACADEMY CAPPED WITH BUBBLE BUS!

The Spring edition of the Hudson Saturday Academy on April 1 was highlighted by the music-playing Bubble Bus at the end of a fun day of learning and interacting with dozens of local vendors and volunteers!

Among several other awesome sessions, scholars and their families were able to learn about repairing bicycles, foundations of dance techniques and even a dinosaur fossil exploration!

The next Hudson Saturday Academy is slated for June 24 with more details to come soon!



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HUDSON ALUMNI/NFL VETERAN SPEAKS TO BLUEHAWK ACADEMY

The Bluehawk Academy recently had a special visitor, Hudson alumni and NFL veteran Leroy Collins Jr., swing by and speak about his experiences in the NFL, his upbringing in Hudson and keys for success in the real world.



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NOVO GRANT FOCUSED ON TEACHER MORALE & RETENTION

Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement Dr. April Prestipino spoke at the April 25 Board of Education on the utilization of a \$50,000 NOVO grant, secured by Superintendent Dr. Lisamarie Spindler, focused on improving teacher morale and retention.

In applying for the grant, the District was ultimately tasked with identifying its "One Thing" that if accomplished, everything else would be easier or unnecessary. After nationwide studies have declared staff morale and retention are at an all-time low, the District's decision was made.

The District is determined to develop a deep and nuanced understanding of the experiences and challenges of classroom educators related to the social and emotional dimensions of learning, well-being, and relationships arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the District will collaborate with educators and school leaders to co-design solutions that will address root causes of decreased teacher morale and retention in their schools.

Through staff appreciation efforts since November, the District has been able to tackle the problem statement of: The teachers and paraprofessionals at HCSD need a way to feel appreciated because they feel undervalued and unsupported.

Below are just a few ways the District has prioritized morale and staff retention:

November

- Thank You Thursday Email Shout Outs
- 10-minute massages for PK-5 teachers, TAs, and clerical
- 3-year subscription to Calm Premium Access available to all employees
- Virtual yoga classes available to all employees

December

- Holiday Joy Cart by administrators
- 10-minute massages for 6-12 teachers, TAs, clerical, and Central Office
- Hudson Bluehawk winter hats for all employees

January

- Faculty rooms stocked with several weeks of beverages and snacks for all employees

February

- Valentine compliments for all staff written by students
- "Hudson Has Heart" squishy stress reliever hearts

March

- Teacher "recess" on March 17th PD day
- 10-minute massages for K-12 aides
- Restocked faculty rooms with more beverages and snacks for all employees

April

- Staff appreciation seed packets for all employees
- Carnation for all employees

May/June

- Explore [KidKred](#) (HiLight)
- Possibly some sort of food truck treat



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HUDSON HAS HEART SHOWCASES DEVOTION TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY

In October 2022, the Hudson City School District announced the launch of a monthly recognition titled the “Hudson Has Heart” Awards to acknowledge the selfless contributions and passionate members that make the Hudson City School District community what it is.

Individuals considered are nominated by peers for making a positive difference in Hudson City School District by selfless, passionate actions and being dedicated to the district.

Numerous nominations are sent in monthly of students, staff and community members, respectively, who elevate and proudly represent the culture and values that are cherished and implemented here in Hudson.

Pictured are the recipients of the award for March 2023: Kaelyn Hibbert (student), Lynn Clark (staff) and Peter Frank (community member).

