



Ty Gallagher won the Outstanding Lineman Award. He is pictured with Saugerties Superintendent Seth Turner, right, and current Morse Principal Don Dieckmann.

## Mustangs Take Home the Championship in Traditional Mustang Bowl

The Patriots and the Mustangs got into a “game day frame of mind” by warming up to Queen’s “We Will Rock You” at Mustang Bowl X, a traditional event at the Grant D. Morse Elementary School. It was the Mustangs though, who rocked the score, winning the championship 14-6.

To the cheers of an estimated 1,700 spectators, team members hoisted the coveted Green Apples Cup in the air. This was a much-celebrated win for the Mustangs, who have lost the previous four year’s games to the Patriots.

Approximately 100 Grade 5 and Grade 6 Morse students participated in the tenth annual touch-football game, either as players, cheer team members, or as staff acting in various capacities such as setting up, providing entertainment, and running the concession stand.

Much preparation goes into the Mustang Bowl. Players and the cheer team practiced for nearly five weeks with an end goal of honing character and team-building skills. “The Mustang Bowl is so much more than a game. The process of working together to create this event is even more valuable than the day itself,” says Special Education teacher Joe Defino, who organized and spearheaded the activities.

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# Saugerties

## School District

FALL 2013

## Living History Series Connects Students to the Past

Students from throughout the Saugerties Central School District took a historic trip back in time as they heard stories from veterans who served in wars ranging from World War II to Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. “The Living History Series” event provided students from various grade levels with a unique opportunity to hear first-hand accounts from the soldiers who served in these world-changing military actions.

Grant D. Morse Elementary student Abigail Sperl said attending this event was important to her because there was a lot of information about the different wars that she didn’t know about. “What stood out for me was Russell Gackenbach being able to talk about something so emotional. It was impressive,” said Abigail, referring to the veteran’s role in the bombing of Hiroshima, Kokura, and Nagasaki.

Students were excited by Dillard Johnson’s personal gifts to the District. Included in the donation was the first American flag to be flown over Iraq, a T-shirt that was printed for Iraqis who voted in the election after Saddam Hussein was overthrown, and a flak



Mt. Marion Elementary School student Sean Brett (in the foreground) shakes hands with WWII veteran Walt Straka, as Miguel Aguirre, also from Mt. Marion, greets the other veterans.

jacket belonging to Mr. Johnson. His message to the students in the audience was strong. “Make sure that America stays the great country that it is.”

The featured veterans who served in World War II were Russell Gackenbach, a navigator on “Necessary Evil” (one of the three planes that dropped the atomic bomb in 1945); Armondo “Chick” Galella, a Pearl Harbor survivor; Walt Straka, a Bataan Death March survivor; Clarence Jansen, who experienced hand-to-

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## Living History Series Connects Students to the Past

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hand combat in Italy; RV Burgin, who fought on Pelelu and New Britain Islands; and Guy Whidden who parachuted into Normandy and Market Garden, Holland.

Veterans who served in the Korean War that participated included Ronald Rosser, who was awarded the Medal of Honor, and David Mills, who was a prisoner of war. Also in attendance were Saugerties native Roger Donlon, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service in the Vietnam War, and Dillard Johnson, who served in Iraq and was given a Silver Star, Bronze Star, and four Purple Hearts.

According to Superintendent Seth Turner, the veterans that live and work in our communities are valued treasures, ones that even celebrity stardom can't compete with. "People always say that Jimmy Fallon is the greatest Saugerties graduate, but I say no, it's Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Roger Donlon."



Mt. Marion Elementary School student Margaret Wade shakes hands with Saugerties native Colonel Roger Donlon.



World War II vet Guy Whidden is joined onstage by Cahill Elementary School student Jesse Debbeman and Superintendent Seth Turner as veterans Walt Straka and Armando "Chick" Galella look on.

## RICCARDI FUNDRUN FITNESS FUNDRAISER



Riccardi Elementary School students flex their muscles to raise funds.

The entire Riccardi Elementary School community—students, families, teachers, and staff—pulled together to raise money for PTA-supported events, supplies, and equipment. The second annual FUNdRUN, a health and fitness fundraising event that took place through the month of September, raised more than \$10,000.

The event culminated with a day of physical activities, which included students completing a two-mile walk or run, followed by visits to a nutrition station, a dance station, and a bouncy slide station. The day concluded with a one-mile run for students in Grades 5-6. Staff members and Principal Susan Osterhoudt joined the students to the cheers of classmates and spectators.

Congratulations go out to the top three finishers of the day: Jaden Mertens-Gunn, Evan Sullivan, and Ilana Numssen.

## Cahill Elementary 1K Raises Thousands for School Activities

A typical school day at Cahill Elementary includes all of the traditional three Rs, but on October 18 the Cougars tried their hand – or make that their feet – at another one: running.

To kick off the following day's PTA-sponsored Fifth Annual Cahill Classic 5K fundraiser, students spent their physical education classes running a 1K, the equivalent of two laps around the school playing fields. Schools are increasingly turning away from catalogue and candy sales, choosing instead to have students obtain sponsorships for healthy activities.

The money brought in by the two races will fund everything from assemblies and field trips to the spring carnival, classroom events, and technology purchases.

The Cahill PTA pioneered this movement with the launch of the 5K in 2009 and the 1K has become a powerful fundraiser in its own right, accounting for about half of the \$16,000-plus collected through the two races.

"I think everybody understands that the 1K is a major fundraiser," said race organizer and PTA member Jennifer Mangione.

Physical education teacher Steve Below added excitement to the run with hurdles and a Hula Hoop agility course.

Sixth graders were the first to take the field on the picture-perfect autumn day. With shouts of encouragement for each other and an occasional morale boost from honking motorists driving by on Lafayette Avenue, the students ran, jogged, walked, and sometimes danced and skipped their way through far more than two laps.

Several students ran nearly the equivalent of a 5K. Among them was sixth grade student Graeme Knisell, who was the first to finish the 1K with a time of 8:50. Graeme and classmate Ethan Via-Pietrzak ultimately ran almost three miles in 26 minutes.



Grade 6 students Ethan Via-Pietrzak, left, and Graeme Knisell running the Cahill 1K.

In the coming years, Mr. Below plans to jazz up the 1K even more with music and additional obstacles. "We'll make it a little more fun, more interesting," he said.

New bicycles for the four top producing students and a lunch party for every class that raised more than \$1,000 were also big incentives.

Mangione said the races "really pulled our school together in a healthy way. The kids come across so proud of themselves. It's such a great community event."



Cahill student Michael Dysard clears a hurdle.



# Morse Students Learn Safety Skills from Carlie's Crusade

Students at Grant D. Morse Elementary School learned how to be a bit safer this fall thanks to a visit from Carlie's Crusade.

The Marlboro-based non-profit was founded in memory of Carlie Brucia, an 11-year-old girl who was kidnapped and murdered in Sarasota, Florida, in February 2004. Members of "Team Carlie's Crusade," many who are active or retired law enforcement officers, have traveled to schools throughout the Hudson Valley to spread their message of safety with assemblies and hands-on demonstrations.

Carlie's Crusade CEO Dominick Magistro and founder John Jenerose, along with retired New York State Parole Officer Dan Whitehead, visited Morse on October 28 and 29, addressing students in Grades K to 6 and teaching them techniques to help them protect themselves.

During age-appropriate assemblies the first day, the students watched videos featuring animal characters who highlighted ways to be more aware, not only at home and in the community, but online as well.

The following day, Magistro, Jenerose, and Whitehead met with each class individually during physical education.

"Today we're going to have some fun, but we want to get some education, too," Magistro told a class of Grade 1 students.

Although he taught a few basic physical techniques to help the students protect themselves, Magistro stressed repeatedly that



A Morse Elementary School Grade 1 student practices a defensive technique with Carlie's Crusade team member Dan Whitehead.

their strongest weapons aren't their fists or their feet, but their brains and their voices.

"It's not about fighting," Magistro said. "The program is to teach you not to look like a target."

Being aware of their surroundings, avoiding strangers, and shouting loudly and knowing where to run if they are approached or threatened were among the skills the students learned.

Magistro also advised them to make a game of spotting surveillance cameras in public buildings and to run toward them if they feel unsafe, all in the hope that an incident can be avoided, or filmed if it does occur. Footage from a surveillance camera outside the Florida car wash where Carlie was abducted helped law



Vincenzo Neglia, a Grade 1 student at Morse Elementary School, works with Carlie's Crusade team member John Jenerose.

enforcement officers identify her kidnapper.

Magistro also reminded them that making a lot of noise might also prompt citizens to call 911 or film an incident on their cell phones.

The issue of bullying came up during the program, too, and Magistro reminded the students that they should use their brains and their voices to be "upstanders" if they see a schoolmate being bullied.

The students clearly learned their lessons well. Magistro quizzed them on his safety reminders numerous times during the 40-minute period and the students shouted out the answers without hesitation and at the tops of their voices.

The Morse PTA provided the funds for the Carlie's Crusade visit, which was coordinated through Saugerties Chief of Police Joseph Sinagra.

Riccardi Elementary and Saugerties Junior High School students learned safety skills from Carlie's Crusade this fall, too.

## Saugerties High School Student Council Hosts Another Successful Blood Drive



Saugerties High School Student Council members recently rolled up their sleeves, literally, and collected 56 pints of blood during a drive in partnership with the New York Blood Center. The Student Council focuses its efforts on helping others, both within the school and the broader community. Among the many students who gave blood is Shea Robinson, pictured, a Grade 11 student at Saugerties High School. Mt. Marion, Morse, and Riccardi Elementary Schools also held blood drives.

## Educators Take on New Roles at Central Administration and Mt. Marion Elementary School

The District is pleased to welcome former Mt. Marion Elementary School Principal Lawrence Mautone to his new role as Assistant Superintendent and Carole Kelder as interim principal of Mt. Marion Elementary School.

Superintendent Seth Turner welcomed the two administrators and is confident of the strength they will bring



Assistant Superintendent Lawrence Mautone and Mt. Marion Interim Principal Carole Kelder.

to the team. "Mr. Mautone and Mrs. Kelder both bring a wealth of talent and dedication to their new positions. We're proud to have them as part of the Saugerties family."



Marine Corps Corporal Tommy Rea and his cousin, Natalie Tucker, a Grade 2 student at Morse Elementary School, enjoyed breakfast together before the School's Veterans Day assembly.

# Elementary School Students Salute Local Heroes

Mt. Marion Elementary School student Keen Kinney shows his patriotism at the Veterans Day assembly.

Marine Corps veteran Teri Lundy, the Guest of Honor at Morse Elementary School's Veterans Day assembly, receives flowers from her daughter Alison, a Grade 4 student at Morse.

With poetry and poppies, song and sign language, students at three Saugerties elementary schools marked Veterans Day with a special message: veterans are heroes.

Students, dressed in red, white, and blue, waved small flags at Mt. Marion Elementary School's hour-long program, which included four musical performances, the presentation of paper poppies to local

veterans, and essays on freedom, written and read aloud by students in Grades 5 and 6.

"The students worked very hard to prepare for this day," said Carole Kelder, who was enjoying her first Veterans Day as principal of Mt. Marion. Mrs. Kelder said the students were more excited by the celebration than they are for more child-oriented holidays like Halloween or Christmas.

In what they called their "A-Z Tribute," students in Mrs. Frasse's Grade 6 class held up handmade signs pointing out some of the challenges faced by men and women in the service, including leaving their own families to fight for freedom. When it came to certain letters of the alphabet, students got creative, and everyone agreed with the sign that thanked veterans for their "zuper" commitment.

A spirit of giving was in the air as Jen Arcadipane's class, decked out in patriotically tie-dyed T-shirts, presented members of the Saugerties Elks Club with a quilt to be given to a veteran. Grade 2 students also presented paper poppies to veterans in the audience as

teachers recited the poem "Why Wear a Poppy?" by Don Crawford.

Among those honored was Saugerties resident Ken Krom, the grandfather of two Mt. Marion students and a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

"The program's excellent," Mr. Krom said of the day's activities.

Veterans Day at Mt. Marion is also the traditional kick-off of the annual Elks Adopt-A-Soldier program, in which the school takes part. Last year's care package of goodies from the school reached American soldiers at the Joint Border Coordination Center in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan. In a letter read aloud at the Mt. Marion ceremony, the soldiers called the students' morale-boosting efforts a "true treasure." Students were also treated to a slideshow of the soldiers' daily lives in Afghanistan.

Marine Corps Corporal Tommy Rea, a Saugerties native and a veteran of two tours in Afghanistan, presented the colors at both Mt. Marion and Morse Elementary. Cpl. Rea also shared the soldier's perspective on receiving care packages like those sent by Mt. Marion students.

"It's like a taste of home coming in," he said. "You know somebody's thinking about you."

During the third annual ceremony at Morse Elementary School, veterans were treated to breakfast



Morse Elementary Kindergarten student Victoria Phelan salutes during the School's Veterans Day assembly.





Grade 1 students at Mt. Marion Elementary School wave flags while singing a song at the school's Veterans Day assembly.



before being escorted into the gymnasium by staff and students for the festivities. Red, white, and blue paper stars with messages of thanks to service members hung from the ceiling in the hallway between the cafeteria and gymnasium.

During the program, veterans were seated before a large flag at the front of the room. They were asked to rise when the Saugerties Junior High School Band performed the anthem of their particular branch of the armed services.

The Guest of Honor for the day was Marine Corps veteran Teri Lundy, who fielded questions and received flowers from her three daughters, Morse students Alison, Debbie, and Megan, and her husband Arthur.

Principal Don Dieckmann Jr. reminded the students that the veterans' sacrifice and service was the reason school was closed the following Monday.

To the veterans, Mr. Dieckmann said, "We're going to keep doing this as long as you keep showing up."

In addition to Mt. Marion and Morse, Riccardi Elementary School also marked Veterans Day with an assembly.

Mt. Marion Elementary School students display a quilt they created and presented to the Saugerties Elks Club. From left, Nyizon Parker, Z'Mya Bullock, Tyara Schiskey, and Jo'L Bullock.





In the spirit of team camaraderie Angelica Owen and Hunter Igoe adorned themselves with the blue and white Saugerties Sawyers' colors.



## Sawyers Spirit Shines at Pep Rally

There was no shortage of excitement as the Sawyers' community prepared for the 43rd annual Mum Bowl. Cheerleaders flew through the air to the sounds of the Saugerties High School Marching Band while students took turns rousing up the crowd with inspirational and comical antics.

Along with the homecoming football game, which was played against the Washingtonville Wizards, halftime featured the traditional crowning of the Mum Court. The announcement of the Mum Queen, Olivia Bronson, and her court, consisting of Kyley Milosek and Melanie Siebeking, brought cheers from the crowd.



Varsity Cross Country team captain Eric Dunham and team member Nicholas Skalla inspire their classmates to have school spirit.



The Saugerties cheerleading squad provided plenty of encouragement at the Saugerties High School pep rally.



Varsity Volleyball Captain Oksana Kuisell proudly introduces her teammates.

Hunter Igoe takes Rebecca Veltrie for a ride in a mini pickup truck to the delight of the crowd at the Saugerties High School pep rally.

## Saugerties High School Field Dedicated to Former Coaches at Mum Bowl

Fred Seither dedicated 27 years of his life to coaching and sports administration at Saugerties High School. He holds the record of 32 consecutive wins over four seasons.

William Straub was credited for starting the football program at SHS with a six-man team back in 1951. Straub remained the SHS Varsity Football coach for 13 years.

Both men were coaches, and later athletic directors. Their contributions to the Saugerties athletic program will be a legacy that is remembered for generations to come, as the Saugerties High School Football Field has been renamed and dedicated in their honor.

Prior to the event, Seither said he felt very emotional because coaching football represented some of the best years of his life and to be remembered this way was a huge honor. William Straub said he was elated and that it was all very unexpected. He added that even though he is retired from coaching, he still follows the SHS football team.



Straub receiving his plaque. L to R: Salvatore Misasi Sr., former SHS Football player; William Straub, Field Dedication Honoree; and Jack Bartells, former SHS Football player.

Seither saying thank you. L to R: Robert Praetorius, former SHS Football player; Fred Seither, Field Dedication Honoree; Rich Giannotti, former SHS Football player.





# Fire Safety & Prevention Reinforced in Saugerties Elementary Schools

Throughout the month of October, the District conducted hands-on training and activities to teach and reinforce fire safety to elementary school students. The activities were a part of the longest running national public health and safety observance on record: Fire Prevention Week.

Local firefighters from the community visited the schools fully garbed in their full protective gear and toting their equipment. One of their goals was to encourage the children



Morse Elementary students had the opportunity to see and touch the Centerville Fire Department's truck and firefighting equipment.



Riccardi Elementary students get ready to practice safety skills as artificial smoke is dispersed in the Glasco Fire Department's safety house.

not to be afraid of the scary looking masks that are a part of their uniform and to teach them to never run away or hide from rescue personnel in an emergency.

Cahill, Morse, and Mt. Marion Elementary Schools all had fire trucks on display, and students were able to see, and in some cases touch, the various fire fighting tools and gear. At Riccardi, in addition to the rescue vehicles, the Glasco Fire District brought a fire safety house that expelled imitation smoke and gave the youngsters a more lifelike experience of practicing crawl-

ing low to the ground to avoid inhaling smoke.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), "Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871."



Cahill Elementary students learn about fire fighting equipment and get tips from a Saugerties Fire Department firefighter.



A Mt. Marion Fire Department volunteer shows a student what it feels like operating one of the fire truck's water hoses.

However, this date also marks another disaster, one even larger and more deadly than the Great Chicago Fire. The Peshtigo Fire, a devastating fire that burned down more than 1.2 million acres in Northeast Wisconsin, also occurred on October 8, 1871 and was responsible for leaving 16 towns smoldering in ashes and taking the lives of 1,152 people.



Nicole Peters, a Grade 6 student at Riccardi Elementary, concentrates on her chess game during After School Enrichment.

Between three and five classes are offered on Tuesdays in four-week sessions five times a year and include everything from chess, hiking, volleyball, and art to jewelry making, Native American drumming, and circus training.

"The idea behind it is to extend the child's day in an engaging way that offers activities they can't get during the school day," said Theresa Costello, a Riccardi parent who coordinates the After School Enrichment program.

Costello's goal is to pique students' interest and motivate them to try new things, which then helps them identify personal strengths and build skills early in their educational careers.

Although they may not realize they're benefitting academically, students definitely want to take part in After School Enrichment because it is fun. Costello said that 80 percent of the classes offered this fall were filled by the end of registration night.

That's not surprising to anyone who's witnessed the buzz of excitement on a Tuesday afternoon at Riccardi. Newton's Laws of Motion were observed with giggles and puffed cheeks as balloons slowly inflated (and occasionally popped) in Mad Science. Down the hall, possible future Olympians were getting their start on the fundamentals of volleyball, while quiet contemplation reigned in another hallway as

students considered the most strategic chess moves.

About 60 students participated in the first fall session. Costello said classes were initially led by volunteer Riccardi faculty and parents "teaching their talents," but in two short years the program has grown to include community members as well. The chess program, for example, is run by retired high school physics teacher Ken Evans. Saugerties High School Key Club members also volunteer their help.

In fact, Costello said everyone at Riccardi has gotten behind the program.

"We've grown with support from the PTA, and now we're able to bring in nationally known programs like LEGO Snapology," she said. "The school has supported this beautifully. There's just been a lot of cooperation."



Riccardi Elementary Grade 3 student Ryan Kirker makes a move during an After School Enrichment chess game.

## After School Enrichment at Riccardi Motivates Students to Try New Things

When Riccardi Elementary student Gabriella Mills signed up for After School Enrichment this fall, she didn't know what to expect.

"This was definitely the best," puffed Gabriella, a sixth grade student who commented between breaths while inflating a purple balloon as part of an experiment in inertia.

Whatever their interest, from tadpoles to juggling, students at Riccardi Elementary School have an opportunity to explore it through the After School Enrichment program, which is now in its second year.



## Mustangs Take Home the Championship in Traditional Mustang Bowl

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For all of his efforts, Mr. Defino was recognized with a special plaque at halftime. While Mr. Defino humbly accepted the award, he says he can't take the credit alone.

"The Mustang Bowl has grown to be a community event that receives incredible support from local families and businesses and would cease to exist without them," says Mr. Defino. "I feel fortunate to be part of such an inspiring community."

According to tradition, the football used in the Mustang Bowl was delivered in grand style, this time on horseback.



Saugerties Junior High School Assistant Principal Lisa Kappler with Frank Shelley, the Frankenstein-inspired monster and star of the "Don't Be A Monster" anti-bullying video. Frank visited the Junior High School with his anti-bullying message.

### Saugerties Junior High School Hosts 'Don't Be A Monster' Anti-Bullying Assembly

Autumn may be everyone's favorite season to get scared for fun, but being frightened by a bully can send a real chill up any student's spine.

Saugerties Junior High School students were recently reminded of the damage that bullying can do, thanks to some help from a local Halloween attraction and a nationwide anti-bullying initiative.

The "Don't Be A Monster" program, launched last year in Texas by Imagine Better Inc., came to Saugerties through a collaboration with Headless Horseman Hayrides & Haunted House (HHH & HH) in Ulster Park.

Grade 7 students attended the assembly, which featured a detailed presentation, including a powerful talk by a young man who described his own experiences of being bullied in school.

The students also viewed a short film featuring a Frankenstein-inspired monster named Frank Shelley who encounters bullies throughout his day at school. Each time he's bullied, however, other students step in to help and support him. Ultimately, Frank decides that bullies are the real monsters.

Following the film, Frank emerged to greet the students and pass out rubber bracelets emblazoned with the message "Don't Be A Monster."

"The students seemed pretty receptive to it," Assistant Principal Lisa Kappler said about the program. "I thought it was good."

In addition to the "Don't Be A Monster" program, the Junior High School also hosted Carlie's Crusade this fall. The Marlboro-based non-profit organization educates students about personal safety and while at the Junior High School they also addressed issues of cyber-bullying.

Ms. Kappler said that both the "Don't Be A Monster" and Carlie's Crusade programs supplemented ongoing anti-bullying efforts in the classroom.

"We are always looking for innovative and interesting ways to present this troublesome topic to our middle school learners," Ms. Kappler said.

HHH & HH owner Michael Jubie, who sponsored the program, said, "Monsters belong at Headless Horseman, not in schools."

### Saugerties High School Alumnus Wins Nobel Peace Prize



Saugerties High School Class of 1983 alumnus Peter Zmiyarch

Peter Zmiyarch has spent the 30 years since his graduation from Saugerties High School (SHS) making the world

a safer place, and his hard work was recently recognized with the most prestigious of all honors: the Nobel Peace Prize.

Zmiyarch and his colleagues at the Netherlands-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) received the award for what the Nobel panel called their "extensive efforts" to rid the world of chemical weapons. The 17-year-old watchdog organization was described in a New York Times article as "modest" and "little-known," but its work came to increased public notice following a chemical attack in Damascus, Syria, in August.

A 1983 graduate of SHS, Zmiyarch joined the Marines after high school and served for eight years, taking part in both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as well as being decorated for leadership during combat in Iraq. In the mid-1990s, he began working in security, first for the United Nations and then for The Hague, the seat of government of the Netherlands. He joined OPCW as Assistant Head of Operations Security in 2007.

Although he has lived in Europe for nearly two decades and frequently rubs elbows with world leaders, Zmiyarch believes that his hometown of Saugerties helped shape him into the person he is today. In an interview in the Morse Elementary School student newspaper "Just Print It," Zmiyarch called Saugerties a "warm, friendly community of good people with good values," and said, "I owe much of my success in life to the fact that I come from Saugerties."

### Mark Your Calendars for these Saugerties Central School District Winter Concerts



#### Cahill Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 4  
(Snow date December 6)

#### Saugerties Jr/Sr High Winter Band Concert

Thursday, December 5

#### Riccardi Winter Concert

Tuesday, December 10  
(Snow date December 11)

#### Morse Winter Concert

Thursday, December 12  
(Snow date December 13)

#### Saugerties Jr/Sr High Winter Choir Concert

Tuesday, December 17

#### Mt. Marion Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 18  
(Snow date December 19)