

Board of Education Projects  
2013-2014 Budget will  
Remain Below Allowable  
Tax Levy Limit Threshold

While the numbers are not yet final, the Saugerties Board of Education does anticipate proposing a 2013-2014 budget that is **below the allowable tax levy limit threshold**. The Board will hold a public hearing on May 14. The community will vote on the budget on May 21.

The tax cap legislation, which was enacted by Governor Andrew Cuomo on June 24, 2011, includes an eight-step formula that is used to determine the increase that is allowed in the school tax levy before a 60 percent supermajority voter approval is required. The formula is complex and allows for certain approved exemptions. The 2013-2014 levy limit is not yet finalized, as some details within the formula are not yet available.

The Board has been working with administration on budget development since early winter and has strategically focused the allocation of funding based on changes in student needs, security enhancements, local impact of economic climate, facilities maintenance, technology upgrades, and planning for long-term fiscal health.

“The Board has directed me to prioritize District resources to ensure all students are able to demonstrate academic progress,” says Superintendent Seth Turner. “My focus is on improving graduation rates, raising achievement on state assessments, and increasing STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) initiatives,” Turner says about the goals he used for his budget recommendations.

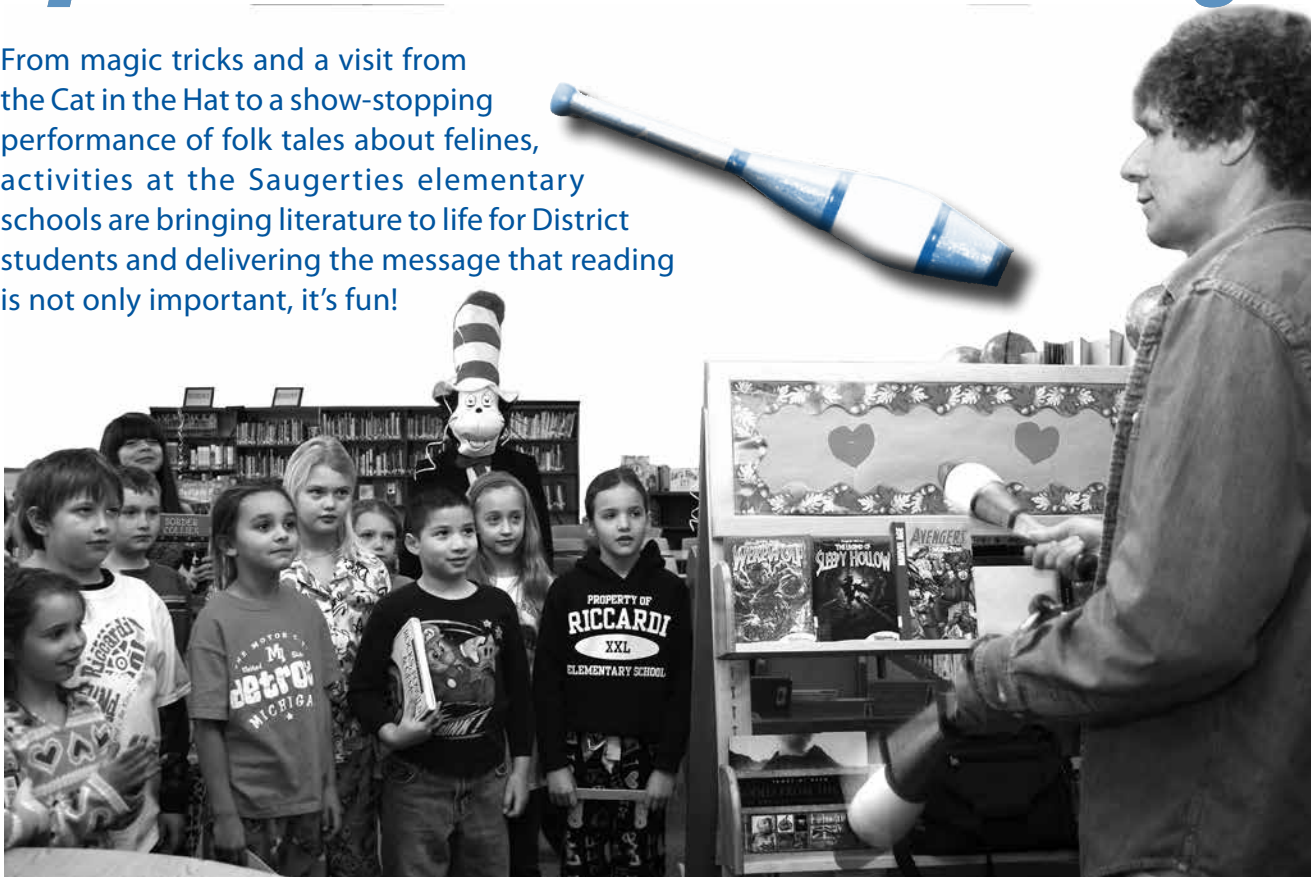
Petitions to run for the Board of Education are also now available. Interested candidates should contact the District Clerk at 845.247.6550 for more information and to obtain the necessary paperwork for candidacy. Petitions must be completed and returned to the District Office at 310 Washington Avenue Extension, Saugerties, by 5 PM on April 22.

Saugerties  
Central School District

SPRING 2013

Elementary School Programs  
Speak Volumes About Reading

From magic tricks and a visit from the Cat in the Hat to a show-stopping performance of folk tales about felines, activities at the Saugerties elementary schools are bringing literature to life for District students and delivering the message that reading is not only important, it’s fun!



Grade 3 students in Renee O'Donnell's class watch intently as School Psychologist David Chandler juggles in the Riccardi School library. Mr. Chandler's demonstration was a part of his visit with students during a PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) activity. He taught himself how to juggle by reading.

“Dr. Seuss” and Juggler Join Riccardi Reading Day

On a not-so-ordinary winter morning, Susan Rinaldi’s Grade 2 students at Charles M. Riccardi Elementary School were blanketed on the floor, all snuggly and warm in flannel “p.j.s,” curled up with good books. Principal Susan Osterhoudt donned a Cat in the Hat costume and visited other Riccardi classrooms with not only the cat’s hat on her head but a copy of Dr. Seuss’ “There’s a Wocket in my Pocket” in her hand. The occasion?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Budding scientists proudly displaying their exhibits at the 3rd Grade Science Fair are (clockwise from left): Ariana Catalinotto, who tested whether plastic wrap or aluminum foil keeps things colder (she discovered it was aluminum foil); Bailey Storms, with "Volcanic Eruption;" and Tyler Aupperlee, contemplating paper towel strengths.



Grade 4 students Gillian Henderson and Michael Peters are all hands on deck at Gillian's area.

## Morse Students Exhibit Scientific Knowledge at School Fairs

Grade 3 and Grade 4 students at Grant D. Morse Elementary School displayed their craftiness and scientific skills at two fun, grade-level science fairs held recently at the school.

What happens when you mix vinegar with an alkali? Does solar power work in the dark? Which keeps things colder – plastic wrap or aluminum foil?

These are some of the compelling scientific questions the Grade 3 Morse students chose to study. After their research was complete, the students exhibited their knowledge of the scientific method and their enjoyment of the subject at the school's 3rd Grade Science Fair in late January.

In mid-March, Morse's Grade 4 students were on the lookout for little leprechauns to trap at a festive, themed science fair held in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day. At the Leprechaun Trap event, the young scientists displayed their problem-solving skills and the crafty devices they created – such as hinges, pulleys, screws, and incline planes – to catch their prey.

At the 3rd Grade fair, the budding scientists demonstrated their familiarity with the scientific system of testing a question through hypothesis, procedure, results, and conclusion to their schoolmates and family members.

Caelin Piper's curiosity about solar panels led the Grade 3 student to question whether they work in the dark. "I saw them around town and that made me wonder," she reported. The young scientist hypothesized that they wouldn't work in the dark, and to test her theory, Caelin built a rover and attached a solar panel to the motor, using a solar cell circuit she made. Putting the rover in the sun to charge it, and then moving it to a location without sun, she observed.

"I was a little surprised by the results," Caelin reported, after revealing her conclusion. "I learned that solar panels could be used at night, because they store energy inside the batteries."

The experiment was an extension of the energy unit the Grade 3 students had just completed, said her teacher, Hilarie Wiacek. "It shows their interest and excitement about science, Mrs. Wiacek said.

And, they displayed just how much fun science can be.

"Solar energy is pretty cool," Caelin remarked. "You get to save power and also save the planet."

Grade 4 Morse students also had the environment in mind when they attempted to make use of recycled and re-used materials in creating their traps for the school's Leprechaun Traps Science Fair.

"The students really focused hard on fostering the natural environment and caring for its resources," observed Grade 4 teacher Rebecca Mulford.

Students also mastered the concept that materials can be dual-purposed. "I learned that a screw can be a ledge and a wheel and axel can be a pulley," reported Dominic Gonzalez.

"The concept of a science fair is very traditional, even though the Leprechaun Traps is a 'themed' fair," said Morse Principal Donald Dieckmann, Jr. "Science is an important subject to be taught to our students, and the fairs give them an interesting and different way to learn."

Grade 4 student Clinton Stutzman said it was "definitely fun" to construct his "Gold-Digger Inn" and see that it works, yet took it all in stride. "I always wanted to be a scientist, since I was little," the 10-year-old remarked.



Grade 4 student Clinton Stutzman demonstrates his leprechaun trap as Julianna Bassett examines her contraption.



Grade 4 students Olivia Staby, left, and Justine Lenz check their handiwork as Garon Buchter looks on.



Grade 4 scientist Ashley Hommel, right, observes as classmate Molly Daggett displays her craftiness.



## Riccardi Fundraisers Support New Technology

Riccardi Elementary School's plan to purchase document cameras and LCD projectors, new technology that Principal Susan Osterhoudt described as "innovative learning tools" for students, has been made possible with the fundraising efforts of the school community.

Document cameras are used instead of – and are expected to eventually replace – overhead projectors. The new, technologically driven LCD projectors are connected to computers for "instantaneous access" to any subject, and are particularly useful in science and mathematics study.

The innovative equipment motivates students and enhances interactive learning, Ms. Osterhoudt reported. For example, a teacher could show a student's illustrative piece of writing on a screen as a visual aid; project a library book; or display an artifact during a lesson about ancient Greece to the whole class. The projectors can also display websites.

"It really helps with those 'teachable moments,'" Ms. Osterhoudt said. "We can capitalize on the spur of the moment and bring a subject to life for the students."

Ms. Osterhoudt said she hopes to begin with a document camera and LCD projector at each grade level, and eventually house one of each in every Riccardi classroom.

### READ-A-THON

A book-opening Read-a-Thon event at Riccardi raised an impressive \$7,200 toward the new technology.

### McTEACHER NIGHT

A McTeacher Night was also recently hosted. At the evening event, several school staff members were busy at work behind the counters at McDonalds, serving Riccardi families and other community members. For their efforts, \$1,000 of the evening's sales was donated to the cause, with an additional \$500 raised from raffles.

Susan Rinaldi's Grade 2 students snuggle up to read at Riccardi Elementary School during a Read-a-Thon event that raised an impressive \$7,200 toward the purchase of new technology.

In addition to the educational benefits, Ms. Osterhoudt added that new technology would also "help the Riccardi School move in the spirit of 'going green,' and would bridge the gap between school and home without students having to lug heavy textbooks home."

"There are a lot of materials out there," Ms. Osterhoudt said. "We want to put resources on each teacher's web page, so parents can have access to all the learning materials the teachers use in school, so they can be aware of, and support, what their children are doing in school."





# Elementary School Programs

## Cahill Dramatists Celebrate Birthday of Literary Legend

Budding thespians at Lawrence M. Cahill Elementary School brought literature about cats to life on March 1, when they performed "Cat Tales" – a collection of poems, nursery rhymes, and folktales about felines. The youngsters performed under the direction of Cahill Principal Susan Gies and delighted a packed house of their schoolmates and family members.

The Grade 4 Drama Club's presentation is an annual tradition held in celebration of Dr. Seuss' March 2 birthday and the National

Education Association's Read Across America Day.

In addition to learning their lines and basic stage crafting skills such as facing the audience and projecting, performing a play made a connection for the young actors between literature and a new way to communicate those stories, Mrs. Gies explained.

"The students really enjoy the Drama Club," Mrs. Gies remarked. "It's a creative process for them, an outlet, and they learn that through acting, they're telling a story in a different way."

So, after cues from their director to stay in character and avoid upstaging other actors, the young dramatists delivered, among other pieces, "The Fat Cat," a Danish folktale by Jack Kent about a cat that grows fatter and fatter as he eats everyone he meets; "The Owl and the Pussycat;" and "Millions of Cats," which won a John Newbery Medal for distinguished children's literature, and was accompanied by music from the Broadway hit "Cats."

Jazz music was included as interludes. "I like to introduce the students to different sorts of music," Principal Gies noted. She chose pieces

by the late musician Dave Brubeck, because he was a "cool cat," she said with a laugh.

School Librarian Patricia Manfrates helped prepare the students for their performance by reading them the actual pieces of literature. "They were especially interested in hearing the original stories," Ms. Manfrates commented. "Some were word for word and others, especially the folktales, were very different."

Cahill Teacher Assistants Joann Shultis and Ronda Swart, and proud parents Elisa Williams and Dana Murphy (who also teaches Kindergarten at Riccardi Elementary School), lent a hand with the Drama Club.

"Being in the Drama Club has been very helpful for the students, in developing confidence and learning to enunciate," said Mrs. Williams.



From left, Grade 4 dramatists Kimberlee Bartells, Annette Shoemaker, Jillian Murphy, and Sofia Williams pose in character before their afternoon performance of "Cat Tales."

Kindergartners Blake Mignano-Campbell and "Cat in the Hat" students Jason Martinez, Gabriella Mitais, and Abby Hopf watch Grade 4 schoolmates perform "Cat Tales."



A packed house of schoolmates and family members show their appreciation for the "Cat Tales" actors.



## "Dr. Seuss" and Juggler Join Riccardi Reading Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It was Riccardi's Read-a-Thon, which kicked off its month-long celebration of books and also raised \$7,200 for technology upgrades at the school.

Younger Riccardi students were enthralled as they listened to "Dr. Seuss," a/k/a Ms. Osterhoudt, read to them. Older students were mesmerized as they watched juggling acts performed by School Psychologist David Chandler,

who also taught them the value of expanding the mind through books.

"I was interested in juggling, and learned all about it by reading a book on the subject," Mr. Chandler explained to his enthusiastic audience.



"Dr. Seuss" shares a literary moment with Grade 6 students Morgan Nagy, left, and Mackenzie Carter.



Daniel Aills and Christian Fasano pay close attention as "Dr. Seuss" displays a page from *There's a Wocket in my Pocket* to their PAP 2 class.



Kindergarten students Sasha Khan, left, and Alayna Van Nosdall are enthralled as they listen to a story.



# Speak Volumes About Reading



Kindergartner Carmella DeWitt assists "Magic Bob" Robert McEntee on stage.

## Tips for Reading with Your Child

*Learning to read takes practice. Loving to read takes enthusiasm. So read with your child often and create a sense of enjoyment, wonder, and even a passion for reading. Here are some easy, practical ways you can increase your child's skills and love of reading.*

### Read with your child – even your baby – every day possible.

Give children something to look forward to by reading to them every day at the same time.

### Have your youngster read out loud to you.

Listen carefully and make sure to praise your child's reading.

### Take turns reading.

You read a section, and then have your child read the next section.

**Even after children can read on their own, keep reading to them** so they can enjoy stories and books that interest them but are too hard for them to read by themselves.

Brought to you by the National Education Association.

## Mt. Marion Students Wowed by the Wonders of Reading

Mt. Marion Elementary School students discovered the wonders of reading in February when "Magic Bob," a/k/a/ Robert McEntee, brought his book bag of tricks to the school for the culminating event of its Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program.

PARP is a popular, supportive reading initiative that is celebrated in winter at Mt. Marion, Riccardi, and many other elementary schools across the nation. Morse Elementary School is slated to celebrate PARP in April. The reading program is sponsored at the Saugerties Central School District by their PTAs.

According to Mt. Marion PTA member Carmelina DeWitt, who chaired the school's enchanting event, this year's PARP theme was "The Magic Within."

"We chose this magician because his show, 'Discover the Magic in Reading,' draws the students in so they realize that reading is cool," Mrs. DeWitt said.

His illusions enthralled the students in two shows in the school cafeteria, one for Grades K-2 and one later on for Grades 3-6. Even school Principal Lawrence Mautone got

"We want our students to fall in love with reading, and to learn that reading can be fun."

— Mt. Marion Principal Lawrence Mautone

into the act, assisting the magician at the early show by popping out of a fold-a-box on stage – much to the delight of the younger students.

"We want our students to fall in love with reading, and to learn that reading can be fun," said Mr. Mautone.

Other PARP activities at Mt. Marion this year included "Build a Book Night" and Six Flags' Read to Succeed, a month-long recreational reading program coordinated with the amusement park company. During the Six Flags' program, more than 100 students who read a total of 360 minutes or six hours in a month-long period received a one-day pass to Six Flags Great Escape in Lake George, NY.

The whole school community participated in Build a Book Night, where students were given packets containing parts of a book

they put together.

They wrote the stories and did their own illustrations.

"All of these activities promote the love of reading," said Librarian Patricia Manfrates. "Reading is like a magical door that can open your imagination to new ideas."



Hannah Smith, Grade 1, left, and her sister Chelsea Smith, Grade 2, get into the act as "Magic Bob" Robert McEntee's assistants.



Kindergartner Giuliana Yonnetti, far right, finds the fun in reading with her classmates, from left front, Madison Miller, David Clearwater, and Paige Hart.



In front, Grade 1 student Ethan Adickes, left, watches in wonder and his classmate Taylor Olsen thinks magic is a scream. In back from left: Mason Hartrum, Grade 2; Julian Silinovich, Grade 1; and Gabby deThomas McGhee, Grade 1 are also enthralled with "Magic Bob's" show at Mt. Marion Elementary School.



## On-Stage Drama at Saugerties Junior High School

Grade 8 student Amalia Martinez says her on-stage persona “Pam” is someone who encourages others by seeing everything as “a glass that’s half full,” and that attitude makes it easy for the young Saugerties thespian to get into character.

“I try to move forward from challenges and I want things to succeed,” Martinez says. “It makes me more determined.”

Martinez and her fellow cast members brought those meaningful missives of hope and perseverance to life in February when the Saugerties Junior High School presented two performances of the musical *Peter Pan*. In the production, characters strive to save their high school drama club from a final curtain call due to budget cutbacks, and their actual Drama Club advisor and play director, Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher Theresa Hogan, is very pleased that they learned the lessons of *Peter Pan*.

“This year’s play delivers the positive messages of team work, responsibility, friendship, and the importance of not giving up,” Ms. Hogan says. “I love that all these ideas are wrapped up with fun music and dancing – it makes for an exciting experience for our 7th and 8th graders.”

Making his debut performance as star quarterback “Tinkerman,” new Drama Club member and Grade 7 student Jackson Hindes found getting on the stage “nerve-wracking” at first, but his real life role as a football line backer and running back helped him feel at home as an actor. And, the play transforms his fictional character as well, from a star with a big ego to someone who lends a hand to others and realizes that “you shouldn’t think about yourself all the time.”



Grade 7 student Jackson Hindes strums his guitar strings.



Above, Grade 7 students Brandon Salmi and Zuzanna Mlynarczyk practice their dance steps.



Playing daughter and mother roles are Grade 8 students Amalia Martinez, left, and Kassidy McGirr.

“This year’s play delivers the positive messages of team work, responsibility, friendship, and the importance of not giving up.”

— Theresa Hogan, Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher



Practicing their cheers are Grade 7 students Mackenzie Perpetua, Alexandra Millham, Abigail Drayer, Shalynn Sullivan, and Sarah Kopycinski.



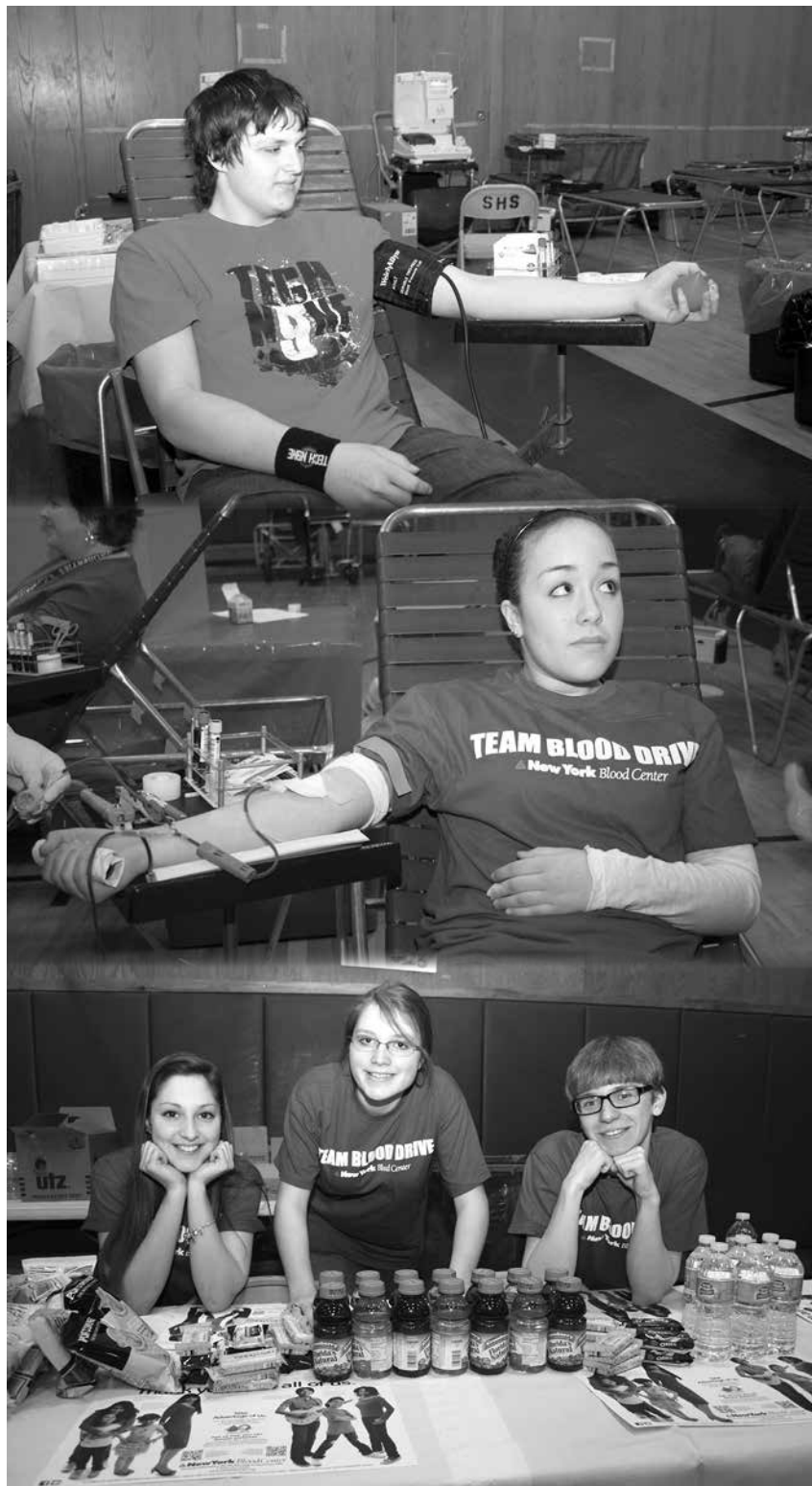
Chorus members rehearsing their song and dance number are Madeleine Grinder, Grade 7; Brooke Salvia, Grade 7; Sarah Fullman, Grade 8; Courtney Klausner, Grade 7; Annie Armstrong, Grade 8; and Samantha Smith, Grade 7.



Saugerties High School Grade 12 student Brandon Stoutenburg gets pumped to donate at his school's February 14, 2013 blood drive.

Saugerties High School Student Council President Hannah Bagshaw, Grade 12, rolls up her sleeves and gets primed to give blood.

From left, Saugerties High School Student Council members Jaclyn Greco, Grade 11; Madison Smith, Grade 10; and Hunter Igoe, Grade 11, are all smiles as they wait to distribute post-donation snacks at their school's blood drive.



## High School Students to Hold April 25 Blood Drive

The Saugerties High School Student Council will once again encourage the student body to donate blood on Thursday, April 25. The community is invited to join in the life-saving collection, which will be held at the High School from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The last all-day community blood drive at the school was held on Valentine's Day, and efforts reaped 98 units of the life-saving liquid for those in need.

Grade 12 students Clara Seyfarth and Rebecca Rustad were first-time donors in that drive. Rolling up their sleeves and getting primed to give blood, they conquered their fears and joined forces to participate.

"We have three blood drives a year," said Student Council President Hannah Bagshaw, Grade 12. "A lot of kids in our school can donate, and we're able to get a lot of blood out of them," she added with a smile.

According to New York Blood Center On-Site Supervisor Michael Blazer, the center distributes the donations to patients wherever they are needed throughout the Tri-State area.

Janet Golnek, a Teacher Assistant in the High School's Audio Visual Department who's been giving blood for nearly 20 years said, "It's a nice program they run here at the school. It sets the children up to be life-long blood donors."

## Saugerties Hires New School Business Manager

The Saugerties Central School District is pleased to welcome seasoned school finance leader Lissa A. Jilek as its new business manager. Her new position is effective June 11, 2013.

A resident of Catskill, Mrs. Jilek brings to Saugerties more than 20 years of experience in school district finance. She currently is the business manager for the Cairo-Durham Central School District in neighboring Greene County, where she is responsible for business office operations, transportation, facilities, food service, and capital project oversight. She has held that position since 2007.

Prior to her position in Cairo, from 2000 to 2007 Jilek served as business manager and

in other business roles for the Catskill Central School District.

Jilek said her first goal in her new Saugerties position is to learn more about the District, its culture, its history, and how it functions. "I'm also looking forward to meeting the staff, which I understand is a well-established team," Mrs. Jilek said.

With school districts across the state facing fiscal challenges related to New York State's property tax cap legislation, Jilek will focus on how to do more with less "creatively." In that



Lissa A. Jilek

context, she has already begun to examine the Saugerties budget and how it's crafted.

"Students come first," Mrs. Jilek said. "How are we going to be financially able to support the new requirements, such as the Common Core initiative?" she reflected. "We need to meet the standards so our students can continue to receive the high quality education they deserve."

Mrs. Jilek stated that in her previous positions, she has been able to craft school budgets that achieve financial stability.

"That's my strength, and I will bring that strength to Saugerties," Mrs. Jilek said.

# Saugerties High School Counting on New Math Courses

Adapting to recent revisions in State educational requirements, Saugerties High School has changed its math sequences. Also, as the school continues to align its curriculum with the new Common Core initiative and get its students ready for college and careers, it will add two new math course offerings.

The proposed course revisions were prompted by changes in educational requirements and an effort to make high school graduates better prepared for both college and careers, important components of New York State's new Common Core Learning Standards.

According to Assistant Superintendent G. Michael Apostol, the new Applied Geometry course will offer a more practical and hands-on experience for students than the current Geometry Regents course.

"Applied Geometry will be project-based," Mr. Apostol said. "The students will apply mathematics principals to their projects, rather than doing equations and formulas," he explained. "It will be more interesting and relevant to what they might be doing later on in their lives, and

Applied  
Geometry

Statistics


Math Courses We Currently Offer	Math Courses We Will Offer
Math A and Math B	Integrated Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2/Trigonometry. Each course has its own June Regents exam.
Math 1, Math 2, and Math 3 sequence	Algebra R, Applied Geometry, and Applied Math 3. Algebra R is a combination of Math 1 and 2, Applied Geometry replaces the Geometry Regents course, and Applied Math 3 replaces Math 3.
	Statistics, as a fourth year Math sequence

hopefully they will also learn life skills."

Adding to the other changes, Saugerties High School will now offer a Statistics course as a fourth-year math choice for college-bound students who are pursuing a path in one of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) areas. It will be offered as an elective at first, since the State does not currently require students to take four years of math.

"Statistics could be interesting for students, and they could use that math in a lot of fields, such as education, psychology, and some jobs in the health field," Mr. Apostol said.

## Look for the Budget Bus!



The Saugerties administrators will once again be available at various locations in the community to answer questions about the proposed budget. In addition to scheduled meetings and presentations, the "Budget Bus" might also be randomly spotted at Cantine Field during events or in the parking lot of the diner during lunch time. If you see the school bus parked out in the community, please stop by to learn more about the budget!

## SAVE THE DATE

### Board of Education *Budget Information*

Meetings are at 7 p.m.,  
in the Senior High School Media Center:

*Regular Meeting  
with Special Public Hearing for Budget Vote*

**Tuesday, May 14**

*Budget Vote & Election of  
Board of Education Members  
6 a.m. – 9 p.m.*

*at all Saugerties Elementary Schools*

**Tuesday, May 21**

