



# Bulldog

## BULLETIN

November 2021

## Message from the Superintendent

Welcome to our inaugural edition of the Bulldog Bulletin Newsletter.

I have an ongoing goal to find ways to improve communication in the district. Last year, we made major improvements to our website with a new design. Last year, we also began to utilize Zoom town halls as a way to communicate about our COVID-19 mitigation efforts and we have expanded our town halls to other areas in the district.

We have initiated this newsletter as a way to share some of the good news from the amazing people who make up our district, our students, our staff members, and our community.

I hope you enjoy reading it!

As always, let me know

if you have any questions or concerns, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

—Matt Landahl



Join Global Event

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## Next Steps on Capital Project

Thank you to the Beacon City School District Community for your support of the Capital Project on October 26, 2021.

The project will transform learning spaces in each of our schools and will also improve key infrastructure in all of our buildings.

Most of the work of this project will occur during the summer of 2022 and 2023. The upcoming summer we will focus on the roof work at Beacon High School and Rombout Middle School, the hallway ceiling and lighting work throughout the district, the electrical work at Rombout, and the paving work and new boilers at various schools.

In the summer of 2023, we will complete the learning space transformations at all of our schools. The design work for those spaces will begin in January 2022. We will keep the community updated throughout this process and we thank you for your continued support!



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot



The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot was a great success! 94 Sargent Stars participated in this great event! Teachers Jane Cervone (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Tracy Gida (math), Kim Asch

(2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), and the PTO were amazing with setting up and running the event. The PTO donated apple cider, cookies, and helped distribute water during the race.

Originally, the event was tied in with a student council food drive. Students brought in food to help families in need around the Thanksgiving Holiday. Tracy Gida who is the head of the Student Council has worked with the Salvation Army to organize the food drive and pick up where we donated a significantly large amount of food.

The Trot itself is a timed event and the students complete as many laps as they can in 30 minutes around the front field at Sargent Elementary. Sargent Phys. Ed., Varsity Football Assistant Coach, and JV Softball Coach Ryan Koval comments, "I would say the biggest inspiration for this event is doing everything we can to teach our students pride in where they come from. Showing them the importance of coming together as a community during difficult times is something that is a valuable life lesson. I would also say that our students and their families answered the call!"

## Beacon Staff Run for Good Causes in NYC Marathon

*Three Beacon City School District staffers made their district proud by running in the New York City Marathon on November 7 for causes important to them.*



This year marked the third time Glenham Occupational Therapist Marcy Rynne has competed and she fundraised for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Her 15-year-old son Eamonn has the disorder. "Once he was born it gave new meaning to doing longer distance events as far as raising awareness," Rynne said. Eamonn suffered lung damage from CF, but participates in sports thanks to treatments and medication that would be impossible without the foundation's efforts.

"They're really responsible for all the gains that have been made," Rynne explained. "This has been a huge eye opener about how you really can't take anything for granted."

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# ADMINISTRATORS NEW TO THE DISTRICT

*Congratulations and welcome, we are excited to have you in our District.  
Your skills and talents are a great addition to our team, and we look forward to  
sharing many student successes!*

## Vanessa DeFonce BHS Interim Principal



Vanessa DeFonce is very excited to be working as the Interim Principal at Beacon High School this school

year. She has worked as a substitute administrator in the district for the last six years and held multiple interim positions at the high school as well as in other buildings throughout the district.

Before being part of the Beacon school community, she served as a middle school principal, an assistant principal, and a guidance counselor. On a personal note, she is a mother of five children; three of her own and two step daughters. Vanessa and her family love to travel, camp, hike, and be outside in any capacity. She enjoys cooking and baking and spending time with family.

Mrs. DeFonce remarked, "I am looking forward to working closely with faculty and staff alongside our students and families in order to ensure a successful school year."

## Corey Dwyer BHS Assistant Principal



Corey Dwyer is excited to be returning to Beacon as an Assistant Principal at Beacon High School. After graduating

from BHS, Corey received a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from The College of New Jersey and a Masters Degree in Urban Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Corey began his career as a Teach For America corps member in Philadelphia.

While in Philadelphia, Corey taught Middle School English, served as an Assistant Principal, and thereafter he served five years as a Principal. He is excited to be back among friends, family, and New York Yankees fans.

## Sagrario Rudecindo-O'Neill Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Support



in Bilingual Special Education from CUNY City College. Sagrario completed her Masters of Science in Administration and Supervision from Fordham University and is currently entering into her third-year as a doctoral student at Manhattanville College's School of Educational Leadership.

Professionally, Mrs. Rudecindo-O'Neill began her career in education as a bilingual special education teacher for the New York City Board of Education. After a year in that position, she served as an Assistant Principal in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan, later leaving the city to serve as both an Assistant Principal and school principal in Washingtonville. She has facilitated professional development on inclusive practices for exceptional learners and English as a New Language students. She has led book clubs with her teachers, introduced culturally authentic libraries into her school and has been involved in district wide inclusive curriculum changes.

Personally, Sagrario enjoys going to movies, Broadway shows, concerts, reading and traveling. She has visited 5 out of the 7 continents.

## Daniel Glenn South Avenue ES Principal



South Avenue Elementary School's new Principal Daniel Glenn has adjusted to his role well as he encourages students to be

kind and to emphasize the school mantra of passion meeting purpose.

Before coming to Beacon, Glenn was a first and second grade teacher for 19 years in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District and a Vice Principal in another district for three years. Glenn loves Beacon's diverse population and idyllic nature. "I'm happy to be here in Beacon," he said. "We have a lively bunch of kids here."

One of Glenn's initiatives is to promote an atmosphere of kindness and respect. Using the morning announcements to explain what kindness means. As well as reading vignettes from Judge Judy's book "Win or Lose by How You Choose!" to students, reiterating the importance of decisions they will make in life.

"It's important for students to be kind to each other," Glenn said. "I feel like we can effectuate change."

Outside of school, Glenn is an avid traveler who has visited France 17 times, as well as China, Guadalupe and the Netherlands. He recently adopted a Jack Russell Terrier named Elodie.

## Beacon Staff Run for Good Causes in NYC Marathon

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Rynne found the crowd's energy incredible and was congratulated by Glenham Principal Cassandra Orser during morning announcements the day after the marathon. "I didn't expect it at all," Rynne said. "I got a lot of congratulations, it was very sweet."

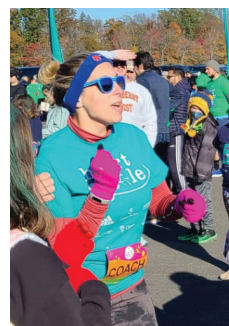


Rombout School Psychologist Dawn Assumma has competed in races before, but this was her first New York marathon. She fundraised for Girls on the Run's Hudson Valley chapter, where girls gain self-esteem by participating in sports for social and fitness benefits with the goal of completing a 5K.

"It's nice self-esteem building," Assumma said. "There's nothing limiting them to be able to participate if they're not able to pay for it." Assumma appreciated the kindness shown to runners from spectators who handed out refreshments.

"There's people out the entire time cheering throughout the five boroughs," she said. "It's just really motivating."

To compete in a marathon, Assumma recommends having a training plan, being persistent and not worrying about how well it goes.



"I just went with the expectation of 'I want to enjoy this for what it is,'" Assumma said. "Nobody cares about your time."

Rombout Nurse Amber Klemann fundraised for the Allyson Whitney Foundation, which helps young adults with rare cancers, and does not get much attention.

"I don't think people are aware of how hard it is to pay for everything, when you're battling cancer," Klemann said. "It's overwhelming."

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## South Ave ES Stars Shine

South Avenue ES is positively excited to award these Students-of-the-Month with certificates celebrating their stellar performance in demonstrating exemplary character through: honesty, optimism, and responsibility!





# Beacon Athletics Fall 2021 Season Highlights



## BEACON SPORTS SCORES BIG

*Students who participate in sports throughout the Beacon City School District are making their coaches proud with many accomplishments and wins.*

### Football

The High School football team scored a 5-3 Overall record with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place League finish, led by an amazing group of seniors who showed exceptional commitment to school and each other, High School Football Coach Jim Phelan said.

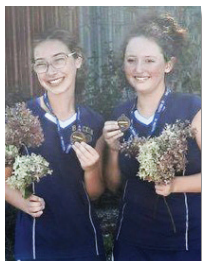
The team was led by their two All Section and All League selections: Tyler Haydt and Jason Komisar, along with All League selections Samuel Lunsford VI, Louie DelBianco and Isaac Hansen.

"These young men have been the driving force behind our outstanding 2021 season," Phelan said. "This year the Beacon Bulldogs had their most successful season in many years."

### Girls Tennis

The 2021 Lady Bulldogs Varsity Tennis squad had a successful first season in Section 9 finishing the season with a final record 9-6, or 9-4 in Second 9. This led them to a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in their league, High School Tennis Coach David Ryley said.

In addition, the 2021 Olympics were won by Team Canada made up of Maura Lane, Bethany Rudolph, Addison Miller and Sophia Campagiorni. In the postseason, Lane and



Isabelle Ray made history by forming a doubles team to become the first Beacon players ever to reach the quarter-finals of Sectionals.

"To top it all off, the JV Girls finished with an undefeated, 11-0 record under tutelage of first year coach Catie Oriani," Ryley said. "The team would like give a very special thank you to our seniors for all their dedication and contributions to the program."

### Boys Soccer

"A historic day for Beacon-October 6, 2021, Coach Seaman earned his 200<sup>th</sup> Career Varsity Soccer win. Thank you Coach for your years of dedication to the Beacon Athletics Program!"

Some highlights from the High School Boys Varsity soccer season included capturing a 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive league championship, remaining undefeated in league play for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and winning the first Section title in school history with a 5-1 win over FD Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, Head Coach Craig Seaman said.

Additionally, the team finished the season 17-2-1 and climbed as high as #4 in New York State rankings.



### Cross Country

"Our first season in Section 9 was a tremendous success. The Boys Cross Country team finished 8<sup>th</sup> as a team and the Girls squad finished 12<sup>th</sup> at the OCIAA championship. At Sectionals, senior Evan LaBelle placed 2<sup>nd</sup> as an individual and sophomores Rachel Thorne and Ella Cason placed first and second as individuals to all qualify to represent Section 9 at the NYS XC Championships held at Chenango Valley State Park. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1960 in Beacon History that three Cross Country athletes qualified in a single season.

At states, Ella and Rachel finished 70<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Girls Class B championship race. Two hours later, Evan, who entered the race as the 59<sup>th</sup> ranked male class B runner, ran a spectacular race in difficult, muddy conditions to finish 24<sup>th</sup> overall. I was quite happy for Evan, that he was able to put together his best race of the season when the stakes were the highest."

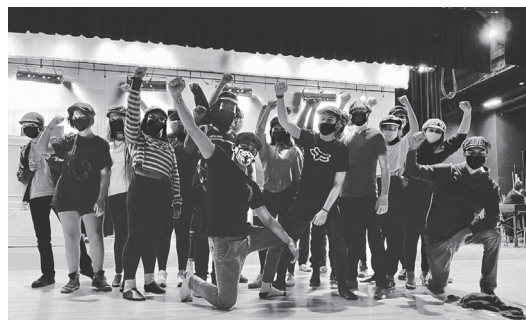


## Students meet on COMMON GROUND

In the fall, Glenham Elementary students took an informative and fun trip to Common Ground Farm in Wappingers Falls gaining hands-on experience about food and farming from local food system professionals.

Field trips engage children to participate in a true field to fork experience where they tour the fields, meet the farmers, harvest crops and visit the barn animals to learn about their roles on a working farm.

## BEACON PLAYERS JOIN GLOBAL EVENT



Beacon High School was one of five thousand schools worldwide to participate in "All Together Now!" a global event celebrating local theater.

Beacon Players, the high school's drama and theater arts organization, held their

performance on November 13 where they produced and performed an exclusive musical revue featuring songs from many of Musical Theater International's shows. It featured songs written by many legendary composers including Alan Menken, the Sherman Brothers and Stephen Sondheim. The cast included current members and alumni.

Anthony J. Scaronne, the players' advisor/director thanked his followers on Facebook for coming to see the show, making for a successful return to the Beacon High School Theater.

Beacon Players promotes theater education by organizing performances, conferences and trips. It is open to all Beacon high school students who share the organization's goal of promoting theater and performing arts awareness at school and in the community.

## Beacon Staff Run for Good Causes in NYC Marathon

*Cont'd from pg 2...*

Klemann said seeing Chris Nikic, the first athlete with Down syndrome to complete an Ironman triathlon, was a delight. "That was such an inspiration to see him," she said. "I was just amazed by him."



Library & Media Specialist Aaron Burke was a third time participant in the marathon and fundraised along with his friend Charlie for the American Cancer Society, a cause close to him as his wife had lung cancer. "Everyone

has been touched by cancer at some time," Burke said. "It's an amazing thing to do."

The marathon may have had less runners, but Burke found the energy and support from the crowd to be stronger than ever.

"It felt like New York was back," he said. "How many opportunities do you have to be cheered on by thousands of people?"