



THE HAWTHORNE HERALD

"The Eagle is the best bird in the sky"



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Valentine's Day Dance-HCDS-Westchester

At HCDS-Westchester Campus, members of the Sunshine Committee (Lauren Veteri, Danielle Pesin,

Monisha Watts, Tatiana Pollard, and Tamisha Wattley) have taken an initiative to hold a Valentine's Day Dance on Friday, February 14h, 2020. The school campus is anticipating a lot of excitement and enthusiasm from the staff and students in preparation for the event, which will take place during regular school hours. In training for the event, staff and students create themed banners, cards to share with others on campus, and even held a bake sale to raise money to purchase food. The committee has been working together with other staff members in the school to make the first annual Valentine's Day Dance a special event for everyone.

Daryl Bleich Holiday Toy-Drive

In December of 2019, the Hawthorne Agency and Hawthorne Country Day School held their 29th annual Daryl Bleich Holiday Toy-Drive. Started by Daryl Bleich himself, the toy-drive occurs every year and has grown over the years since his passing.

Partners have contributed to the toy-drives success in 2019 include Manhattanville College's Athletic Department, Modell's Sporting Goods, Gordo's North (Bar/Restaurant), Rocky's Deli, Knollwood Deli, Pat's Deli & Catering, City Line Deli, Pop's Deli and, the "American Hair" Hair Salon.

The Iona Preparatory school, located in New Rochelle, NY, contributes every year to the toy-drive in a unique way. Every Friday during the school year, the Iona students host a "dress down" day, and student government representatives travel from homeroom to homeroom to enlighten their peers about HCDS. The students from Iona Prep donate \$5.00 each to "dress down." When the holidays approach, the representatives and Iona families go shopping, wrap presents, and come to our campus to spread their holiday cheer. This tradition provides opportunities for collaboration between HCDS students and the Iona students, and it's great to see them interact and socialize together. It is a truly festive day, and we are very appreciative of their gratitude, kindness, and support. Thank you to the Iona Preparatory administration, staff, students, and families for supporting this event and making the holiday season memorable for our students.

The Hawthorne Agency is exceptionally grateful for the contributions from Iona, Manhattanville College's Athletic Department, and all other partners for their willingness to contribute and devoting their time to HCDS's toy-drive.



Student-Run Enterprises

H C D S -
Westchester
brings vending
machines to



campus. Led by Senior Job Coach, Robert Fortes, the addition of vending machines to the school has paved a path for students to engage in real-life money management, community relationships, and the organization and distribution of inventory. This new opportunity for students has been made possible by the overwhelming support from the administration and the Hawthorne Agency. HCDS- Westchester now has its second student-run enterprise on campus, following the implementation of "lunchy-munchy."

Coordinator of Schools, Daren Cerrone, commented, "thank you, Rob Fortes, for working closely with myself and the team, to move the vending machine project forward. Rob's relentless determination to finish the project; our campus now has functioning vending machines and an additional opportunity for our students to participate in work-based learning."

The vision is to create an environment where students can gain practical experience in the workplace. Students will be exposed to job-applications, interview processes, and participate in workshops that will help to be ready and excel in a real-life job interview setting. Fortes commented, "utilizing the vending machine student-run enterprise, students will gain valuable insight, preparation tools, and the confidence to be a part business." In the future, the student-run

enterprise will also take place at the HCDS- Manhattan Campus.



Technology For Learning

The development of technology over the last 20 years has a significant influence on society. Technology has changed the way humane society thinks, communicates, and makes money; society has become dependent on technology. More importantly, technology has a significant influence in the classroom, especially in Special Education settings. From administrative tasks to teacher instructional strategies, technology has altered and arguably advanced education for all students.

Technology advancement and usage in the classroom are helping Special Education teachers meet the needs of their students and reach Individual Educational Program (IEP) goals. Also, technology allows teachers to create assessments faster and record, organize, and analyze data more efficiently. Many software programs can help teachers help students to be more successful.

At the agency, we continuously work to increase opportunities to incorporate technology into curricula and instruction, we are collaborating and receiving support from "Educate," an Instructional Technology company. Stephanie Phekoo, a Technology Coach at Educate, has been providing technical support to our teachers, classroom staff, and students. Mrs. Phekoo works with our teachers to redesign tasks to take advantage of multiple programs and functions to improve upon conventional activities. Technology in the HCDS curricula includes: Epic Reading, Prodigy Math, Read Theory, Typing Club, Edulastic, Readworks, News ELA, Lalilo Reading Program, Teach Your Monster to Read, ABCya, Go Noodle and Smart Exchange.

At a recent Professional Learning Community (PLC) meeting, teachers, Lauren Veteri and Jennifer Grosso, shared their utilization of technology programs in their classrooms. Meetings continue with Mrs. Phekoo to discuss additional plans to enhance technology opportunities for our staff and students around campus and the community.

Technology has also paved a path for more personalized learning for students. The use of computers and tablets has created a wide range of instructional approaches that can cater to each student.

Technology and the usage of the software is a useful supplement that can help teachers teach their students to be successful and reach their goals.

For more information or if you'd like to contribute to the Hawthorne Agency, please visit: hawthornefoundation.org.