



Highlights

A publication of the Harrison Central School District

Contents

Purchase School Re-enacts Civil War3

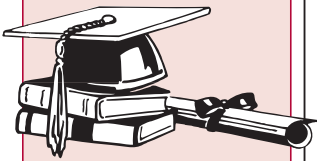
Student Writers Honored4

Teachers Get Starring Roles5

Strings Program Hits High Notes6

Math Team First in County6

Mock Trial Team Goes to Finals7



INSIDE:

Special Graduation Pullout Section
Photos of all of Harrison's 2006 Graduations

Enjoy your summer!

Clip and save the 2006-07 School Calendar, page 8.

ROSEMARY BROOKE RECALLS LIFE'S WORK IN HARRISON

For Rosemary Brooke, it ends where it began.

She did her student teaching at Louis M. Klein Middle School, and in June she'll retire after 17 years as its principal.

"I'm excited and happy, but it's kind of scary," she said recently as she reflected on her 34 years in the District, beginning as a health and physical education teacher. Along the way she taught every grade, K-12. "The kids in Harrison are wonderful people. They want to please you and they are respectful of everyone."

On any given day, she could be teaching someone to swim or play tennis, and on the next she could be shaking hands with the President of the United States. "That was a very emotional day," she said, getting emotional again about the trip to Washington, D.C., when LMK was designated a Blue Ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education in 1993-94.

"We worked toward this," she said with a tear in her eye. "I remember thinking about my grandfather. He came from Italy. And here I am, shaking hands with the President. Who would ever think an educator just doing



continued on page 2

MR. DOWNER THANKS HIS STUDENTS



Bruce Downer, the mild-mannered principal at Samuel J. Preston Elementary School for the past seven years, gives much

of the credit for his career in education to his students.

"I became an active learner by watching my students," said Mr. Downer, who is retiring after serving Harrison for 15 years.

He recalls a turning point when a group of fifth-grade students decided to open and operate a school store at Preston. At one point, the well-meaning principal decided to help out by organizing the merchandise in the school store cabinets and shelves, but in a very adult way.

Then the students volunteered to reorganize the school store shelves, skipping recess for a couple of days to accomplish the task. "I was stunned at how well

they organized the store, knowing full well where they would need to put the more popular items for easy access, and so on," said Mr. Downer.

"I realized then that we need to let these kids tell us how they can learn best," said the principal. "That mantra is how I've tried to run Preston ever since."

He is most proud of the teaching staff.

Mr. Downer said he is proud of creating "a risk-free environment for my staff," where teachers are encouraged to try new things and to share their successes. "I have received a lot of latitude from my superintendents, and that translates down to the teachers."

continued on page 2

Coach Retires from Classroom



You'll still see Coach Dennis Fulton around Louis M. Klein Middle School — just not teaching science. He'll stay on as cross-country and track coach, but will retire after 34 years of classroom teaching, 32 of them in Harrison.

"I wanted to retire when I still enjoyed coming in," he said. But Coach Fulton can't give up coaching yet. "I enjoy working with the kids. My long-term relationships and friendships were

developed coaching. It's something I still enjoy."

Instead of day-to-day teaching, he'll be helping out with his wife's preschool and spending a lot more time with his family, he said.

He's loved his work in the classroom. "The secret for me is having a sense of humor. And if you treat the students with respect, they reciprocate. The kids make it fun. Their enthusiasm is contagious," he said.

And it's always been fun for the kids because Mr. Fulton cares about the students. "He always contributed not only to science at the middle school, but to the culture of the district," said Superintendent of Schools Louis Wool. "As a coach, he always makes kids feel welcome and finds a place for every student. This is a rare quality."

Mr. Fulton wonders what it will feel like not to be in class in September. "After 52 years of going to school as a student and a teacher, it will be odd," he said. "All of a sudden, I turned around and the years had gone by."

HCS D Community Wishes the Best to This Year's Retirees

Barry Ahearn, high school social studies

John Caserta, high school special ed

Samuel Fishman, high school social studies

Dennis Fulton, middle school science

Larry Haffner, high school science

Kathi Hochberg, high school foreign language

Raymond E. Johnson, Purchase Elementary fifth grade

Virginia Marciano, Purchase Elementary fourth grade

Teresa Rioseco, high school foreign language

Janice Sim, high school music

Henry Strada, middle school technology

Sherman Taishoff, high school math

Philip J. Wax, Jr., high school foreign language

Harrison Says Goodbye to Two Principals *continued from page 1*

ROSEMARY BROOKE

her job would have the opportunity? I was so proud of the staff."

Superintendent of Schools Louis Wool noted that legions of students have been impacted by Ms. Brooke over the years. "Generations of students have benefited from Rosemary's caring leadership," he said.

She has reason to thank many people, among them her own ninth-grade French teacher, former Harrison guidance counselor Anne Abbatecola, and LMK guidance counselor Paddi McGee

"She took me under her wing, mentored me, walked me through those first-year jitters and along the way we became lifelong friends."

"We had our celebrations. We had our sad moments. The teachers and the support staff are like a big family helping the children. Everyone here is so caring and motivated. That's why this job is so great," she said.

Now, says Ms. Brooke, she's going to go to the beach, play a little tennis and think about what comes next.

"I always considered it a joy going to school. Every day was new and different," she said. "And it was fun to watch families grow."

MR. DOWNER

Mr. Downer, who was a teacher for 10 years and a director of special education, said he will spend his retirement "taking a step back and then exploring other things I can do in the future."

He and his wife, Regina, will spend more time together and with their three children. Their oldest daughter, Sarah, is attending Harvard Law School, their other daughter Alisa is attending graduate school, and their son Adam is attending high school in Wappingers Falls.

Mr. Downer said he will miss the opportunities he had to change the lives of children. "I will miss the challenge of helping kids to become successful," he said. "I will miss watching them grow."

A Day to Remember:

PURCHASE STUDENTS RE-ENACT CIVIL WAR



Kelsi, Taylor and Alexa Wolf

In hoops and feathers, brass buttons and gold trim, Purchase School fifth-graders led their schoolmates and assorted adults through the lessons of war at a Civil War re-enactment held there on May 25. Matter-of-fact as they played their parts, they burst into chatter and smiles between tour

groups and played the timeless games of the Victorian Age.

James Underwood gambled away his money at poker. "It's counterfeit," he promised.

Allie Van Der Vord was pretty in pink. "This is how they lived, sewing and playing games. See, they played jacks," she said, offering a handful of big green pieces. "Well, they didn't have plastic back then," she added, but the anomalies were part of the charm.



Brett Moretsky assumes his post before the chevaux-de-frise, effective against cavalry.

If "Angel of the Battlefield" Alexa Coloccia's surgical saw and anesthetics weren't real, they did the job this day. With help from parents in gathering costumes and objects, and with their own eye for detail, the students got their messages across before they ever said a word.

But they had plenty to say, especially Max Borowitz, who, at 11, said he was a student of the war since he was "a little kid."

He's become a specialist in the notorious prisons of the era, Andersonville in Georgia and Camp Douglas in Illinois. He painted a verbal picture of the dismal circumstances, then stopped to reflect. "One thing I've never liked about history was that the winner always comes out the good guy," he said. "But the North was sending people to the prisons, too, and was never punished for its crimes."

Disconcerting words on so beautiful a day, but the idea was to get the kids to think, said social studies teacher Raymond Johnson, whose own grandfather was part of the 15th New York Volunteer Engineers, represented by a permanent regiment of adult re-enactors who traveled to the Purchase re-enactment this year, as they have since the event began in 1985. As always, they brought along some authentic gear, including rudimentary but formidable fortifications.



Teacher Raymond Johnson

This year's re-enactment brought on a touch of wistfulness because Mr. Johnson, who started it all, was retiring.



Max Borowitz

Mr. Johnson confessed to "mixed feelings" about leaving the District after more than 30 years. "I'll miss this, he said as he swept his arm across the scene and said so long to former students who had come by to wish him well.

***"This is
how they lived,
sewing and
playing games.
See, they played
jacks"
— Allie
Van Der Vord***



The Civil War reenactment at Purchase School was designed and directed by Raymond Johnson, who retires this year.

Student Writers Honored

The literary talents of 27 Harrison High School students were celebrated May 15th at the school's 3rd annual Writers Among Us Recognition Breakfast.

Poetry, short stories, journalism and other forms of writing were featured during the breakfast program, which was attended by the honored students, their families, members of the Board of Education, and members of the District Administration.

"We congratulate these students and are honored by their presence," said Marie Perrotta, supervisor for secondary English in Harrison. Students are nominated by grade-level teachers based on their writing throughout the year. Student writing must show the imaginative development of ideas, logical organization, vivid language, fluency, and accurate use of standard written English.

Students were also congratulated by Superintendent of Schools Louis Wool,

who told them that "there is no more important role than that of the writer," and by Steve Lichtenauer of the Harrison Educational Foundation, which provides funding for the Writers Among Us program.

Some of the work of students honored at the breakfast has been published in "Imagine," the High School literary magazine, which was distributed to those who attended the event. Both the Harrison High School and Louis M. Klein Middle School publish literary magazines, and both have won recognition from the National Council of Teachers of English.

Students received certificates from members of the HHS English Department, including Geraldine O'Neil, Keith Johnson, David Fritz, Kim Gaynor, Phil Dearstynne, Christine DePaoli, Jessica Reap, Jessica Maricevic and Caroline Brennen.



THIS YEAR'S WRITERS AMONG US REC

GRADE 9:

Danielle Roviezzo
Tatiana Wojczak
Michelle Castro
Rebecca Wandel
Brittany O'Donnell
Caitlin Occhipinti
Violet Santelia
Nicole Corona
Jacqueline Morgen
Stefanie Manisero
Daniel Zaltz

GRADE 10:

Riya Goyal
Christine Jang
Kristy Wallace
Andrew Chandra



Winning Work

HERE ARE TWO POEMS PUBLISHED IN "IMAGINE" BY HHS STUDENTS:

Holding Stars

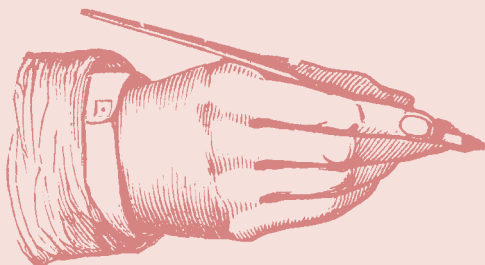
Days between lights and shadows,
The world is crashing half heartedly.
My eyes on fire,
But you stand there with the moon
around your neck

Sudden movements hold our hearts,
Between where we should be,
And where we wish we were.
Everything looks easy to you.

The ocean is sweeping,
Over the desert in my eyes.
But there's nothing I can do,
Sink into forever.

Surrounded by everything there is,
And everyone I resent,
I wish I was
Someone with a star in her hand.

—Nicole Aber



New Kid

With the ring of the school bell, waves of kids pour into the halls.
Faces swoosh past as if swarming bees, rushing to go please their queen.
Down past the office people sit in time-out,
Dormant and inactive for having been there so long,
Into the classroom, the kids go looking for friends, not caring about who is alone.
Yet one kid, one lonely kid, sits alone as the teacher walks in.

The teacher walks in looking fierce as a hawk, tying students of enmity and ignorance
Together in groups of four.
As the bell rings the students are unraveled, and run out.
Down toward the cafeteria students whiz to get to their friends.
But one kid, one lonely kid, dawdles and moves as slowly as she can.

There are no empty tables.
Approaching toward a crowded table with a sole empty seat,
The kid nervously asks permission to sit and
An awkward silence is cast upon the table until another kid sits.
A conversation is started,
So full of gossip it is a foreign language.
Yet one kid, one lonely kid, is shut out.

The bell rings and the kids dash to get out.
Time passes and soon ninth period comes around.
The kids linger into the classroom and they sit down.
The teacher comes in and plays "break the ice" games.
This one kid, this one lonely kid, finds
something out.
A friend? Maybe.
Another new kid? Without doubt.
This one kid, this one happy kid?

— Riya Goyal



PIENTS:

GRADE 11:

Samantha Jacobs
Dominique Sepe
Dan Arlotta
Alexander Greenberg
Alexa Lutchen

GRADE 12:

Christina Mariani
Fran Ranno
Chris Giorgio
Robert Harvatovici
Jason Siegel
Jamie Alimorad

Harrison Literary Magazines Receive Top Honors

Two Harrison schools have been recognized for achievement in publishing top literary magazines.

The Louis M. Klein Middle School's *Literature Molded by Kids* has earned the rank of superior, and Harrison High School's *IMAGINE* literary magazine received the rank of excellent, in the 2005 National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. The two literary annuals were selected from among 468 submissions from schools throughout the U.S.

The NCTE program encourages schools to develop literary magazines with the goal of honoring excellence in writing and production. At Harrison High School, Geraldine O'Neil's creative writing class accepts submissions of creative writing and original artwork from the entire student body, selects and edits works and publishes the magazine.

At the Middle School, teacher/advisors Marie Dionisio, Joan McNeece and Carol Kitson share the responsibility of collecting creative writing, be it poetry, short stories or essays, along with student artwork, and creating *Literature Molded by Kids*. Marie Perrotta, Harrison's Supervisor of Secondary English, said, "It's a two-run homer to have two schools in one District receiving this recognition in the same year."

Harrison Teachers Get Starring Roles

Three national educational training programs set their sights on Harrison this year as a place where excellence in teaching and learning takes place, and filmed training videos in the District's classrooms.

In September, national educator and author Ruth Culham released a series of videos filmed by Scholastic Education in the Harrison elementary schools for the latest installment in her Professional Development video series, *6 & 1 Traits of Writing*.

"The opportunity to show teachers across the country and world how to teach writing doesn't come along every day," said Dr. Culham. "So when Scholastic asked me to choose a district where the writing traits model was working well so we could capture it on film, I immediately thought of the Harrison schools."

"The videos we made of Harrison teachers working with grade 3-5 students have been warmly received nationally and serve as a model of success to inspire teachers everywhere," she said.

Virginia Rojas, an educational leader in the area of English as a Second Language, was filmed at Purchase Elementary School for a video on how classroom and ESL teachers work together to improve learning for students. Harrison's teachers were recog-

nized for using content-based ESL curriculum and instructional methods that meet New York State standards.

"I identified Harrison because I am aware of several teachers who are, shall we say, thinking outside of the box," said Ms. Rojas.

The School Improvement Network, North America's leading provider of professional development for teachers and administrators, also videotaped

Harrison teachers in action this year. The Network chose Harrison as an example of an exemplary school district for a new series of videos being produced about differentiated instruction.

"The outstanding teachers that we captured on videotape presenting differentiated instruction surpassed our expectations," said Curtis Linton, co-owner of the School Improvement Network, who has spent the past 10 years documenting on video and in print the improvement efforts and best practices of successful schools across North America. "We were impressed with their dedication to the success of each individual student, their professionalism, and

the skill with which they worked with their students. The students as well were very natural in front of the cameras and actually went on about the learning ignoring our presence."

*"The videos we made of Harrison teachers...serve as a model of success to inspire teachers everywhere."
— Ruth Culham*

Harrison and the Bee

Congratulations to Louis M. Klein Middle School, whose champion student spellers recently defeated Rye Middle School in the first annual spelling bee competition sponsored by the Westchester Council of English Educators.

The Harrison team joined a total of 62 students who competed in the bee, and defeated Rye by placing first and second in the competition. LMK Principal Rosemary Brooke and Marie Perrotta, the Secondary Curriculum Supervisor for English, accompanied LMK students to the bee.

Harrison teachers Joan McNeece and Michelle Brookfield served as competition judges, and teacher Emily Margolis helped to organize the competition.

Strings Program Hits the High Notes

The return of a strings music program to the Harrison schools has been embraced by enthusiastic students, parents, and teachers throughout the District in 2005-06, and culminated with a joyous series of concerts in the spring.

The District's new elementary strings teacher, Linda Lott, has been working all year to acquaint third, fourth and fifth-grade students with the violin, and the program will continue with those students as they progress, both on the violin and on other stringed instruments, through their Middle School years.



Elementary school students learning how to play the violin in Harrison's revived strings program.

Strings instruction was discontinued in Harrison back in 1969, and all the stringed instruments given away. But the return of the program at the elementary level now ensures that in just a few years, the community can be treated to the performance of a full orchestra at the high school level.

Superintendent of Schools Louis Wool said he was determined to enhance the music instruction program by resurrecting the strings program. "Strings instruction is a valuable part of the learning process for students and enhances the music experience in general," said Mr. Wool.

During the 2005-06 school year, Ms. Lott visited each elementary school on a rotating basis and provided basic instruction to third-graders, teaching them respect for the violin, how to hold the instrument and how to move the bow over the strings to make beginner-level music. With 10 violins per school, third-graders are expected to cooperate and share the instrument,

said Ms. Lott, and learn from each other's mistakes and successes. Once they enter fourth grade, students who want to continue with the violin can do so, while others may choose to move on to learning other instruments.

Ms. Lott said that the school community has embraced the program with enthusiasm.

"The teachers in all the schools have been so enthusiastic and wonderful in sharing the children's time with me," said Ms. Lott. "I think they do appreciate how valuable this program is to the District."

Concerts showcasing third and fourth graders playing string instruments took place during the fall and winter, and culminated with well-received spring concerts.

"I couldn't sleep the night before the first concert," said Ms. Lott. "But when it was over, I thought, this is going to work!"

Before joining Harrison, Ms. Lott taught at the Hackley School in Tarrytown and the Crestwood Music Education Center in Eastchester.

She has performed with orchestras at the Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea, the Spoleto Festival in Italy, and all 38 Verdi operas in Central Park. She also has been a member of a strings group that has played for Mariah Carey's wedding, Donald Trump's wedding, Melissa Rivers' wedding (Joan River's daughter), and President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush.

HHS Math Team Takes First Place in County

Harrison High School's Math Team is ranked #1 in Westchester County and #9 in New York State out of approximately 250 schools that participated in the New York Mathematics League competitions held throughout the school year.

HHS students participated in six math meets held during the school year by the Mathematics League, and three of its students, Woo-Hyung Cho, Alex DiRe and Lauren Smith, turned in perfect scores in the school's final meet.

The HHS Math Team, led by math teacher and advisor Sherman Taishoff, also took part in the American Mathematics Competition in February to qualify for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination, with 13



The winning Harrison High School math team with advisor Sherman Taishoff.

Harrison students placing in the top 5 percent of the country. Those students moved on to the next round of competition, from which only 12 students in the U.S. were chosen for the United States American Mathematical Olympiad.

Mr. Taishoff prepares his math team, a group of 30 students in grades 9-12, by teaching them real-life math problems and how math relates to the world. He holds weekly "skull sessions," where his "mathletes" can practice problems.

Mock Trial Team Makes it to Finals



The full mock trial team from Harrison High School poses with Westchester County Judge Anthony Scarpino.

Defending a driver who reached for a cell phone at the wrong moment was the challenge facing members of the Harrison High School mock trial team as they entered the final round of the annual Mock Trial Tournament, sponsored by the Westchester County Bar Association.

In *The People of the State of New York v. Terry C. O'Neal*, defendant Terry O'Neal had been charged with 2nd-degree murder/negligent homicide, after a passenger in his SUV was killed when O'Neal's vehicle flipped over. The defendant had been reaching for his cell phone when he swerved to avoid hitting a pedestrian, causing the fatal accident.

Finalists in the Westchester competition then advance to regional competitions, and finally to the annual Statewide High School Mock Trial Tournament, the nation's largest. The state tournament provides students with hands-on opportunities to further their understanding of the law, court procedures, and the U.S. legal system, while honing their speaking, listening, reading, and reasoning skills.

In the mock trial competitions held in Westchester, the Harrison High School team, led by their advisor Tiffany Theodos, studied and argued the O'Neal

case and won a series of rounds with other high schools until the team had eliminated all but one other high school, Blind Brook. The two schools faced off at the Westchester final round on April 20.

Student "lawyers" and witnesses were graded based on their ability to apply

case law and statutes appropriately, how well-prepared and polished their presentations were, how well they used available resources, how effectively they used their time, and how they responded to questions and objections. Teams also were graded based on their professionalism, confidence, demeanor, civility, and ethical conduct.

The Harrison High School mock trial team members were "attorneys" Ariel Colangelo, also team captain; Adam Berkey, lead attorney; Stephanie Bernard, Chelsea Ursaner, Michelle Repecki and Harry Reibman; and "witnesses" Pamela Fuller, Maddie Dufour, Dana Ellis, Ryan Patterson, Melissa Shapiro, and Matthew Guanero.

After a "fantastic run," said Ms. Theodos, the Harrison team was defeated by the Blind Brook team, who argued on behalf of the prosecution and have been the county's mock trial winners for the past three years. Both teams presented the case before Westchester County Judges Anthony Scarpino, Adam Seiden and Sam Walker.



Standing at their counsel table are three mock trial "attorneys" from Harrison High School, left to right: Adam Berkey, Ariel Colangelo and Stephanie Bernard.



HARRISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT School Calendar 2006-2007

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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OCTOBER

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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SEPTEMBER

- 1, 5 Superintendent's Conference Day *
- 4 Labor Day
- 6 Schools Open

OCTOBER

- 2 Yom Kippur
- 9 Columbus Day

NOVEMBER

- 7 Election Day
- 7 Superintendent's Conference Day*
- 10 Veterans' Day
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- 25-29 Holiday Recess

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday
- 2 Schools Reopens
- 15 Martin Luther King Day
- 23-26 Regents/Midterm Exams

- * Staff Attendance Required
- Schools Closed
- No Students

FEBRUARY

- 19-23 Winter Recess

MARCH

- 23 Superintendent's Conference Day*

APRIL

- 2-6 Spring Recess

MAY

- 15 Statewide School Budget Vote Day
- 28 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 14-22 Regents Exams
- 22 Regents Rating Day
- 22 Last Day of School

UNUSED SNOW DAYS

- If 3 remain, 4/9, 5/25, 4/10
- If 2 remain, 4/9, 5/25
- If 1 remains, 4/9

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Harrison Central School District Harrison, NY 10528

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