

- Charity Basketball Game
- Join the Budget Process
- Continuing Education



Search for New School Superintendent Begins

The Board of Education has started the process to select a new superintendent of schools to succeed Doug Hamlin, who announced in October his plans to retire at the end of the current school year.

Andrew Fleck, president of the Board of Education, explained that the Board agreed at the Nov. 19 regular meeting to enter a formal search process coordinated by Questar III. The Board looked at various options, Fleck said, but decided on Questar III particularly given its experience in such searches and knowledge of the Schodack schools.

“We felt (Questar III District Superintendent) Jim Baldwin had a thorough knowledge of our district and community,” Fleck said. “Questar III will help guide us through the search process but the Board ultimately directs the process, selects the candidates and appoints the next superintendent.”

Fleck noted the cost to the district will be minimal as the only expenses for the search process involve items such as printed materials, advertising and travel reimbursement. Dr. Baldwin’s time is included in the service Questar provides to component districts.



The next step will involve creating a profile of the school superintendent that the board seeks and defining the scope of the search process to recruit candidates to fill that profile. As the search process proceeds, the Board of Education will keep the community informed of progress and opportunities to participate in the search.

Hamlin announced in October that he would retire at the end of the school year after 13 years as superintendent, the longest serving superintendent in Rensselaer County. Prior to joining Schodack schools, Hamlin was a principal at Victor High School outside of Rochester. He began his educational career as a teacher in Georgia, teaching a variety of grades from fourth grade to High School English.

“I would like to thank the Schodack school community. It’s been a wonderful opportunity to live and work here for the last 13 years,” Hamlin said. “I have such profound respect and appreciation for the outstanding faculty and staff at Schodack schools as well as for everyone in the Schodack community.”

Students Learn History at Archaeology Dig

Maple Hill Middle School students recently set out on an archaeology dig on school grounds as they learned about local history and the field of archaeology during a hands-on Social Studies project.

With “dig journals” in hand, students took on jobs such as diggers, dirt haulers, sifters, analyzers, cartographers and photographers as they searched through a dig site set up by teacher James Farrell.



“I carefully constructed the site with Native American artifacts at the bottom such as a fire pit, baskets of corn, and corn husk dolls. Next came Dutch and English colonial artifacts, followed by Civil War items. The next layer contained agricultural tools, bricks from our local brickyard, screws from the local screw factory, and ice tools from the old ice industry,” Farrell explained.

Working carefully as not to disturb artifacts, students digging in the site called for their classmates to help them whenever they discovered an item so it could be measured, labeled and its location marked before it was removed.

Students later took their findings to the classroom where they worked in a laboratory-like setting to carefully sort items into groups and predicted the correct time period for each piece. Using computers, they researched the artifacts to learn when they were made. Students recorded their findings and predictions in their dig journals.

“I have several goals for my students,” Farrell said. “First, I hope that they learn about the process of archaeology. Secondly, as I started teaching this two-year course in U.S. history, I wanted my students to learn about our community’s history through these artifacts. We will connect our history to the histories of New York and the United States. I will have a common point to refer back to over the two years.”

To see more photos, visit the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, and click on the “Maple Hill Middle School” link.

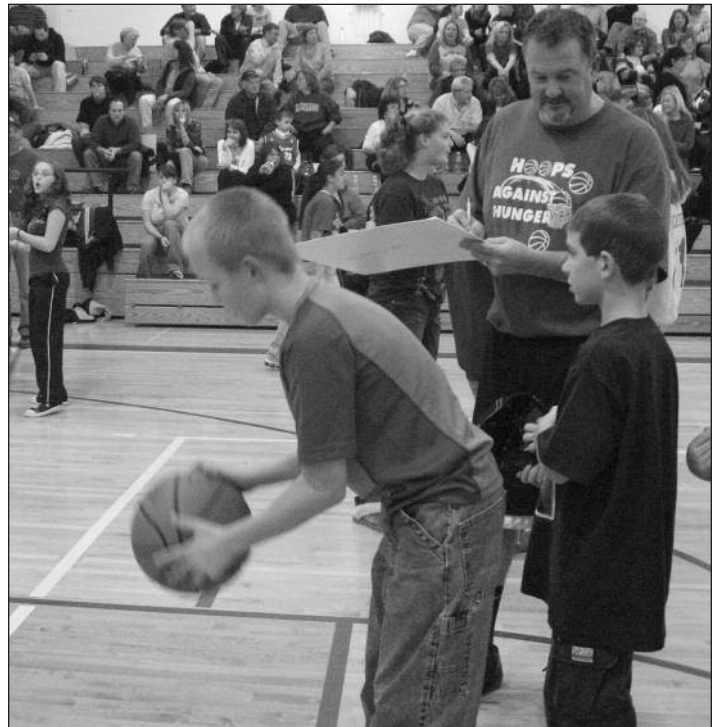
Charity Basketball Game Helps Families

The 2nd annual “Hoops Against Hunger” was another success this year as hundreds of community members came out to watch faculty and staff play a charity basketball game while raising money to help local families during the holidays.

The event, held November 6 at Maple Hill High School, raised \$1,503.65 and three boxes of donated food items which were given to The Anchor non-profit organization which helps local families in need. Because The Anchor purchases food from the Regional Food Bank at roughly 10 cents on the dollar, the money raised from the event will result in more than \$15,000 worth of food for local families this winter.

The donations are particularly helpful this year as The Anchor has seen an increase in the need for assistance. The organization had already planned a food order for November but was unsure how it would pay for it until the event helped cover the cost.

“I want to thank everyone who helped out and played in the game, but most of all I want to thank everyone who came out to support such a great cause,” said Maple Hill High School Teacher Jason Derby who organized the event. “Many families in Castleton will benefit from the great generosity shown by everyone that attended the game. Without your support, none of this would be possible.”



District Earns Award for Communications

Schodack Central School District has been recognized for outstanding achievement in educational communications by the New York School Public Relations Association (NYSPPRA).

The district earned a second place award in the “Budget Newsletter” category for its 2009-10 budget newsletter. The NYSPPRA’s annual competition featured more than 400 entries from across the state in 14 categories.

“This year’s winners should feel especially proud of their awards which recognize excellence in school communications,” said Marcia Kelley, NYSPPRA President and School Information Officer of the East Syracuse-Minoa Central School



District. “Entries were judged by a distinguished panel of professionals from around the country. The judging was very competitive.”

District Applies for Grant

On November 17, Schodack and Ithaca Crane Central Schools Boards of Education submitted a High Priority Planning Grant proposal to the New York Department of State seeking funding to implement a study to examine areas where the two school districts could eliminate expense in each district through consolidating services.

The study will also seek to increase educational opportunities for students while maintaining the culture and identity of each respective school district community.

“We are rapidly running out of ways to reduce costs by ourselves,” said Schodack CSD Superintendent Doug Hamlin. “This is a possible solution to the fiscal problem all districts will face as we lose state aid and federal stimulus funding. Schodack also faces significant tax loss due to commercial assessment challenges. We can not keep raising residents’ taxes.”

“Given the economic climate, we must look at every avenue to maintain our programs at the lowest possible costs,” added Ithaca Crane CSD Superintendent James Dexter. “It makes sense to work with our neighboring school districts to look for greater efficiencies, and where possible, to consolidate services.”

If the state approves the grant, the school districts expect to initiate the study in February and receive recommendations by the end of May. Schodack CSD will update our community as additional details become available.

Get Involved in Schodack's Budget Process

Would you like to learn about the serious financial challenges facing Schodack schools and work with other community members to provide advice about next year's school budget?

The Schodack CSD is seeking community members to join this year's Community Budget Advisory Committee. The committee will meet Jan. 13, Feb. 11, March 9 and March 31 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the High School library.

Volunteers are greatly needed as the first meeting, held Dec. 2, only included half a dozen residents. Schodack schools

still face difficult financial challenges and the district needs community input to help solve these problems. Anyone interested can call the District Office at 732-2297 or simply attend meetings.

Sherri Fisher, Director of Business and Support Services, noted the main financial challenges facing Schodack next year are escalating costs of pensions, health insurance, and contractual obligations.

Revenues are a particular concern; the state is expected to provide the same level of state aid or less and the federal

stimulus funding is scheduled to end after the 2010-11 year, requiring Schodack schools to prepare for a significant drop in revenues for 2011-12. Schodack also faces a potential drop in its assessment base as over \$40 million in pending tax challenges have yet to be resolved.

Community members interested in following the budget process are encouraged to visit the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, where a calendar of budget workshops and other pertinent information is available.

Want More School News?

This year, Schodack schools have started a monthly eNewsletter featuring school news and announcements.

The eNewsletter can be downloaded from the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, or you can receive it automatically each month by subscribing to Schodack eNews, the district's e-mail notification system.

To sign up for eNews, visit the school website and click on the "eNews" logo on the right side of the screen.

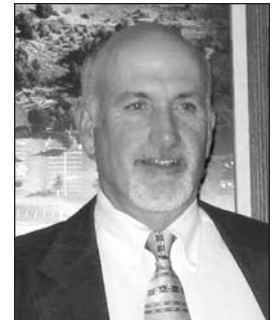
Coach Inducted into Hall of Fame

On Saturday, Nov. 21 Maple Hill boys soccer coach Dan Gillespie was inducted into the New York State Boys Soccer Hall of Fame.

Coach Gillespie has coached varsity soccer at Maple Hill for 35 years, with 30 winning seasons. His teams have earned Maple Hill 519 total wins and 19 league, 14 sectional, eight regional and three state championships. He also was a long-time teacher at Maple Hill.

An award given to Coach Gillespie at the induction ceremony stated: **"Dan has had a positive impact on the students of Maple Hill both as an educator and as a coach over the years. He has been active in the youth sports of the district, particularly youth soccer while his own sons were growing up."**

Congratulations!



CES Science Fair a Hit

The annual Castleton Elementary School Science Fair was a hit with students and parents as hundreds turned out on Friday, Nov. 20 to see what science projects students created.

Nearly 70 students in grades kindergarten to fourth grade participated in the Science Fair, showing off their hands-on experiments, displays and posters.

Students exhibited works based on science lessons they learned in class or on their own, from life science to physical science to chemistry.

"The Science Fair is a great opportunity for our students to get excited about science and demonstrate what they've learned," said Principal Jason Chevrier. "Everyone did an excellent job and should be very proud. I know the parents were certainly impressed with not only their own children's projects but their classmates as well. It was a great night."

The Schodack Central School District provides continuing education opportunities to promote lifelong learning in the community.

General Information and Registration

Eligibility — Registration is open to all residents of the Schodack Central School District. Nonresidents may enroll in courses on a space-available basis.

Senior Citizens — District residents who are age 60 or older may attend many courses tuition free or at a reduced rate. Courses that are not free or offered at a reduced rate are noted in the course description. All materials fees are the responsibility of the participant.

Continuing Education is self-supporting, with no bearing on the district's tax rate. It is only through the continuing support of the community that this program is possible.

Fees — All course fees must be paid by the first course meeting. Registrations are binding because financial commitments are made based on the number of registrants for each course. We are sorry, but no refunds will be made unless the class is canceled due to insufficient enrollment or the class is filled to maximum capacity. Each class must meet a minimum enrollment. If a course is canceled due to insufficient enrollment, or over-enrolled, notifications and refunds will be sent by mail.

Registration must be made in advance. Mail registrations are due by Jan. 8. On site registration is held on Tuesday, Jan. 5, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Maple Hill High School lobby.

Early-Start courses — Please call or send in registrations now for early start courses.

To register, please fill out a separate registration form provided for each course, enclose tuition and any materials fee (if noted in the course description) with a check payable to **Schodack Central Schools** to:

**Director of Continuing Education
Maple Hill High School
1216 Maple Hill Road
Castleton, NY 12033-1699**

You will be notified only if a class is canceled.

SAT Prep, Chinese Language/Culture and More!

SAT PREPARATION COURSES

The standardized SAT I exam is of great importance when it comes time for your student to enroll in college. Help your student prepare for this exam with our SAT Prep Courses. This year the SAT I exam will be held May 1 and June 5.

The **Math Prep Course** will be taught by Maple Hill High School Math Teacher Andrea Faoro. Classes will meet Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. from March 4 to April 29 (no class April 8) in MHHS Room 224.

The **Verbal Prep Course** will be taught by Maple Hill High School English Teacher Caitlin Donahue. Classes will meet Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. from March 2 through April 27 (no class April 6) in MHHS Room 138.

Tuition is \$50 per course. Students can sign up for one course or for both. Students will need to purchase "The Official SAT Review Book" before classes begin. Students must bring their school ID and Social Security Number to the first class and pencils and loose leaf paper to each class.

The deadline to register for the May 1 SAT I exam is March 25. The registration deadline for the June 5 exam is April 29.

INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

This class explores the basics of Mandarin Chinese, the most widely spoken language in the world. Students will also learn about the simplified writing character system that is taught to all Chinese students in mainland China. Schodack Chinese Language and Culture Instructor Mark Hoyt teaches the course. Classes meet for four weeks on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 3 (no class Feb. 17) in the MHHS Distance Learning Lab (Room 113). Tuition is \$40.

CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE II

This four-week course is a continuation of Introduction to Chinese Language and Culture class. Students will continue to explore the Mandarin form of communication. Some basic knowledge of Mandarin Chinese is required. Schodack Chinese Language and Culture Instructor Mark Hoyt teaches the course. Classes meet on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. beginning March 24 (no class April 7) in the MHHS Distance Learning Lab (Room 113). Tuition is \$40.

LEARN HOW TO SELL ON EBAY

This dynamic and fun course will provide you with a great introduction for selling on eBay. Whether you want to sell items around your house or start a part/full-time at-home business, eBay may be your answer. You can sell for others or teach students how to sell with this course offered by Stephanie Daly. This is a 3-hour course available on two separate nights, February 2 or March 23 in the MHHS Computer Lab (Room 117) from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuition is \$50 and includes a manual and informational CD.

5-HOUR PRE-LICENSING

Those holding a learner's permit must complete this course before scheduling a road test for a driver's license. A valid permit is required to attend the course. A photocopy of the learner's permit must be included with the registration form and must be brought to class. This course is broken up into two separate evening sessions. Students must attend both days for the complete time required. Spring five-hours will be held Jan. 11 and Jan. 12 and Feb. 8 and Feb. 9. Tuition is \$35. Students must pre-register. MHHS students may drop off registrations at the Continuing Education Office, MHHS Room 134.

Sports, Fitness & Fun!

** Please check with your physician prior to beginning any new physical activity*

AEROBIC DANCE AND ENERGY METHODS

If you lack energy, this class will give you many ways to energize your life. Learn stretching, toning, strengthening, balancing and other energizing methods while you move to music. Classes also includes optional small ball and Pilates movements. Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning Jan. 5 in the Middle School gym (no classes Feb. 16, Feb. 18, April 6 and April 8). Tuition is \$54. Register directly with instructor Debi Filkins at 708-9238.

YOGA

Each day more people are experiencing the benefits of yoga. Did you know that yoga reduces stress and enhances powers of relaxation while increasing your physical strength and flexibility? Yoga also enhances your posture and muscle tone, mental clarity, and boosts your immune system. This class combines a range of postures, from gentle to more challenging, to help create a practice that stretches and strengthens the body and calms the mind. Instructor Ellen Sadowski is a White Lotus-certified Hatha yoga teacher and licensed massage therapist who has practiced yoga for 25 years, teaching meditation and yoga theory for 15 and hatha (physical) yoga for 10. In her classes, Ellen incorporates a mix of styles and techniques and provides instruction based on individual needs and interests.

YOGA I

Yoga I is for beginners who are looking for an introduction to yoga or people with experience who prefer a slower, more gentle class. Yoga I classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. beginning Jan. 19 in the CES auditorium (old gym). Tuition is \$60. No senior discount. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat.

YOGA II

Yoga II combines a range of postures from gentle to challenging designed to help you create a practice that stretches and strengthens the body and calms the mind. Students who want to further develop the style and pace that Ellen uses in her yoga classes should sign up for this class. Yoga II classes meet for eight weeks on Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the CES auditorium beginning Jan. 21. Tuition is \$60. No senior

discount. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat.

CARDIO KICKBOXING

Cardio-kickboxing is a workout that's fun for everyone. This class incorporates kickboxing-style cardio movement and toning exercises into a power-packed 45-minute class. The class is taught by Aileen Flach, who holds a BS in physical education and adult fitness from SUNY Cortland. Class meets for eight weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30 until 8:15 p.m. in the CES auditorium (old gym). Classes begin on Jan. 11 (no classes on Jan. 18, Feb. 15 and Feb. 17). Tuition is \$60. No senior discount.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Join other intermediate players for an evening of fun and competitive volleyball play. This course offers no instruction, coaching or officiating — warm-ups and games will be self monitored. Players should play at an intermediate to advanced-intermediate level to participate and must wear kneepads. Volleyball meets for 10 weeks on Sundays from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. in the High School gym. It begins Jan. 24. Participants must pre-register by calling 732-7708, as class size is limited. Tuition is \$45 plus a \$2 materials fee.

OVER 30 BASKETBALL

There are a limited number of openings in Over-30 Basketball, which meets at 7 p.m. in the Middle School gym on either Monday or Wednesday evenings. The Monday night basketball program begins Jan. 25; Wednesday night begins Jan. 27. The cost of this course is \$50. Please call to register, as space is extremely limited.

HALL WALKERS

Walk in a safe, warm place — Maple Hill Middle School! The middle school is open from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, when school is in session, for district residents who wish to walk. This program is free and self-monitoring — walk when you wish, at a pace that is comfortable. Walkers no longer need to sign in and out, but will be issued a special visitor's badge to wear while in the building. To register and receive a badge, call Continuing Education Director Theresa Hovish at 732-7708.

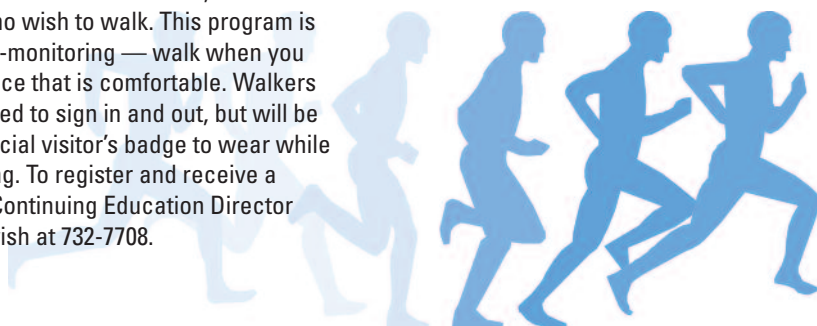
MAPLE HILL MILERS YOUTH RUNNING CLUB

The Maple Hill Milers Youth Running Club is designed to train girls and boys in grades five and six to successfully complete a 5K road race. The Kinderhook OK-5K Road Race takes place on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Last year, the Maple Hill Milers successfully trained more than 60 young runners for this race.

This program will coach first-time and beginning runners in a nurturing, supportive atmosphere while focusing on building self-esteem, setting realistic goals and learning strategies to achieve those goals. Coaches Rich Chipman, Hilary Lamishaw and Mary Mosher will help runners learn skill development, stretching, pacing, basic nutrition and team-building all while focusing on having fun. The Maple Hill Milers Youth Running Club will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 – 7:30 a.m. at MHMS from Tuesday, March 30 through early June.

There will be a parent meeting and registration on Monday, March 15 in the MHMS library from 6 – 6:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$30. This fee includes race registration and T-shirt; please do not hesitate to contact one of the coaches if this cost presents a hardship. Attendance at the parents' meeting is not mandatory but it is encouraged. Interested students can pick up a form from Mrs. Mosher at the Middle School. Forms and tuition (checks made payable to Schodack Central Schools) must be returned to Mrs. Mosher before the first practice on Tuesday, March 30.

Parent volunteers are encouraged to attend Club trainings on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings. With the help of our parents, we have had six tremendously successful seasons. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Hilary Lamishaw at 732-7398 (hlamishaw1@nycap.rr.com), Mary Mosher at 732-7761 (mdm7761@aol.com) or Rich Chipman at 732-0331 (echipman@nycap.rr.com).



Learn to Dance or Play Guitar

BEGINNERS BALLROOM DANCING

If you want to “Dance With the Stars” here’s your chance to learn how to dance in a relaxed, comfortable setting that’s affordable. Learn American style smooth ballroom dances consisting of Foxtrot, Waltz, Tango, and Viennese Waltz. Singles and couples are welcome. Karen Mason of Learntadance Dance Studio is an experienced ballroom dance instructor. Classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria beginning Jan. 26 (no class Feb. 16). Tuition is \$50. No senior discount. Register for Beginners Swing and Latin Dancing as well and receive 50 percent off the second class.

BEGINNERS SWING AND LATIN DANCING

Learn American style rhythm dances consisting of East Coast Swing, Rumba, Cha Cha, Mambo/Salsa, and Merengue. Singles and couples are welcome. Karen Mason of Learntadance Dance Studio is an experienced ballroom dance instructor. Classes meet for eight weeks on Tuesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. in the Middle School cafeteria beginning Jan. 26 (no class Feb. 16). Tuition is \$50. No senior discount. Register for Beginners Ballroom Dancing as well and receive 50 percent off the second class.

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER GUITAR

This course is for people who’ve either never played guitar or tried to tackle the instrument and given up. We’ll cover the basics, with the twin goals of getting you playing real songs as soon as possible and giving you a strong foundation for continued learning, either on your own or with an instructor. Topics include tuning, hand positions, practice habits and techniques, the essential chords, and basic reading (both notation and tablature).

Course materials include an instruction book with companion DVD and a binder containing a number of instructor hand-outs and reference sheets. Students will need to bring their own guitars to class. Instruction is almost exclusively on flat-picking, and 6-string (steel strings) acoustic guitars are the preferred instrument, but other guitars (electric with small practice amps, or nylon-strung classical acoustics) are acceptable. Classes meet for eight weeks on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:00 p.m. beginning on Jan. 27 in the MHHS chorus room (no class on Feb. 17 or March 17). Tuition is \$70. No senior discount. Ages 13 and above.

Financial Courses – Now FREE!

All one-night financial planning workshops offered at Schodack are taught by licensed financial advisors with the Halliday Financial Group in Albany. *Workshops are all strictly educational – there will be no soliciting for any investments.* All workshops are held in the High School library. Tuition is now free to all Schodack CSD residents. All participants must pre-register. For more information or to register, contact Theresa Hovish at 732-7708. For information about workshop topics, e-mail Frank Guiffre at fguiffre@hallidayfinancial.com.

WOMEN AND INVESTING:

TURNING OBSTACLES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that women control more than half of the financial assets in the U.S.? Let’s face it, men and women think differently. Women make decisions about money differently too, as they should! Men and women have different financial needs based solely on their difference in gender. This seminar is designed to help women identify these needs and overcome the unique obstacles we face when planning for our financial futures. The class is taught by a woman in the business of helping secure the financial dreams of fellow women. Please e-mail instructor Logan Hibbs at Lhibbs@hallidayfinancial.com for more information on course topics. This one-night course will be held Tuesday, March 30 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the High School Distance Learning Lab (Room 113).

UNDERSTANDING STOCKS, BONDS, & MUTUAL FUNDS

Learn the basics of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, the true backbone of most portfolios. Discover how to use the internet and daily newspapers to track your investments. This course will help you understand the differences and the similarities of various types of investments. It will also show you how proper asset allocation will lower your overall risk. Understand the benefits of using mutual funds to build a balanced portfolio and help plan for a successful

retirement. This course is strictly educational and there will be no attempt to promote any specific investments. Please email instructor Frank Guiffre at fguiffre@hallidayfinancial.com for more course information. This one-night course will be held Thursday, April 1 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the High School Distance Learning Lab (Room 113).

THE GOOD... THE BAD... THE ANNUITY

The annuity, or “personalized pension” as it is commonly referred to, has been an investment vehicle long since insurance companies have been around. Years ago, the word “annuity” made people cringe. To this day the stereotype of high fees, illiquidity, and bad investments still linger. The more recent annuities, however, are now more revised, highly regulated, feature lower fees, and offer income guarantees. Learn about these new annuities compared to their ancestors and how the revisions of today can be carried forward with your older annuities. Topics discussed (but not limited to) will be: how an annuity works, fees of an annuity, the guarantee of income, the most updated revisions, the tax advantages of this investment, and how you can pass this legacy along to your loved ones. The instructor is Frank Guiffre, a licensed Financial Advisor with the Halliday Financial Group. This one-night course will be held Tuesday, April 13 from 6:30 - 8 pm in the High School Distance Learning Lab (Room 113).

Would you like to take a course you don’t see offered? Would you like to teach a course?

Please contact the Director of Continuing Education with your ideas! Call Theresa Hovish at 732-7708, or e-mail at thovish@schodack.k12.ny.us.

Driver Education Program Could Be Canceled

Schodack CSD has learned that due to unforeseen business changes, Saturn of Albany is unable to continue to donate a vehicle to Schodack's Driver Education Program. As a result, we currently will not have a vehicle available to support our program after February 2010.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Saturn of Albany which has generously donated a car at no cost for this program for the past several years. The district is currently reaching out to local businesses for assistance and seeking alternative solutions. But it is possible that a new agreement will not

be made in time for the Spring 2010 semester of our Driver Education program.

If we are unable to find a solution, the course may be cancelled. If this becomes necessary, we will provide information to students about other available options to fulfill the driver education requirements. The district is committed to trying to continue this successful program which serves approximately 80 students each year and helps ensure their safety as young drivers. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Continuing Education Director Theresa Hovish at 732-7708.

Scholar-Athletes Recognized

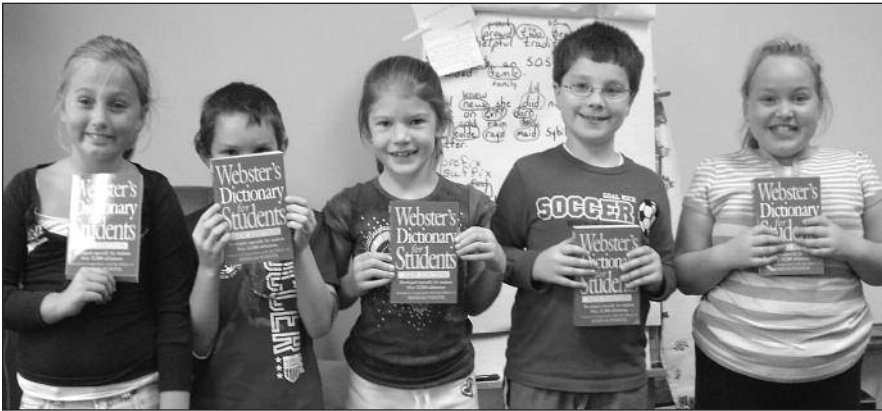
A number of Maple Hill sports teams were recently recognized for academic excellence by earning Scholar-Athlete Team Awards from the New York State Public School High School Athletic Association.

Congratulations to the boys' cross country, girls' cross country, girls' soccer, girls' tennis and girls' volleyball teams who earned the designation.

In order to qualify for the award, each team had to have a grade average of at least 90 percent.

To see more sports stories, please visit the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, and click on the "Sports" link.

CES Students Receive Dictionaries



Third grade students at Castleton Elementary School received free dictionaries this year thanks to the Rensselaer Elks. The organization donated the dictionaries to students during a visit to the school earlier this year. Students were able to take the dictionaries home and have been using them to practice using guide words to find entry words and other related dictionary skills. Thanks so much to the Rensselaer Elks for their thoughtful donations!

Honor Rolls Announced

Maple Hill Middle School and High School recently announced their honor rolls for the first quarter.

In Maple Hill High School, a total of 240 students (grades 9 – 12) were named either to the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll or Principal's list, which requires at least an 85 average.

In Maple Hill Middle School, a total of 144 students (including grades 6-8) also earned a place on the Honor Roll, High Honor Roll or Principal's list.

The Principal's list, which requires at least a 95 average, included 34 Maple Hill High School students and 31 Maple Hill Middle School students.

To see lists of students who earned the designations, please visit the school website, www.schodack.k12.ny.us, and click on the Middle School or High School webpages. Congratulations to all our students!

Continuing Education Registration Form

Please use a separate form for each course. Payments may be combined. Make check or money order (no cash through the mail, cash is OK at on-site registration) payable to Schodack Central Schools and mail to: **Director of Continuing Education, Maple Hill High School, 1216 Maple Hill Road, Castleton, NY 12033-1699.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email (optional): _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____

Course Title: _____

Tuition: _____ Fees (if any): _____ Total: _____

Resident of Schodack Central School District: Yes No

All information must be completed (address, including zip code, etc.) before this registration can be processed.

Schodack Selected for Nationwide Presentation

Schodack CSD is one of just five school districts in the country selected to give a presentation in Washington, D.C. on indoor air quality after EPA officials toured Schodack schools and were impressed by the measures taken there.

Matt LaClair, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, will travel to Washington, D.C. in January to present at a symposium with more than 500 school officials from across the country. All expenses will be paid by event organizers, at no cost to the district.

LaClair will discuss the best practices that Schodack schools take to manage indoor air quality, which research shows can improve the health and academic performance of students. LaClair will then work with design teams to help participants of the symposium learn ways to improve their schools' systems.

Schodack CSD was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its indoor air quality efforts when officials toured the building in October.

LaClair noted that the state Health Department recommended Schodack to the EPA because of the work it did with the School Air Collaborative. Schodack was one of 10 schools in New York to participate in the project which included surveying staff, faculty and support staff to find issues and identify solutions.

"The EPA learned what we did and thought we were a great model for how to do this," LaClair said. "When they left they were really excited that we were the right school to present at the symposium."

Students to Perform with Youth Chorale

Maple Hill High School students Joe Alvarez and Moriah Dean will perform with the Empire State Youth Chorale this month in the annual Melodies of Christmas concerts.

The two students auditioned in October, singing the final verse of "Silent Night" and an excerpt from "Hallelujah Chorus." Based on their performances, they were each selected to perform in the holiday concerts series held at Proctor's Theatre.

The performance will be broadcast on WRGB this month. Please check local listings. Congratulations!



Schodack Central School District

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Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033

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