

WEEK ENDING APRIL 28 2023 | VOLUME 2 ISSUE NO. 32

**SUPERINTENDENT ANIBAL SOLER, JR.**

Good afternoon and happy Friday,

I hope my note today finds you doing well and on the heels of a good week. I know it's been quite busy with state testing in the early and middle grades and our ramp up into the last eight weeks of the school year. It's hard to believe that we are already here.

It's really important that we do everything we can to encourage all kids to finish strong. After a long year, it's not uncommon for a child to begin to lose motivation to get to school and continue to work hard. Remind them to show up and do all you can do to keep them focused on learning. This might be a good time to take the lesson outside. You may even want to try a new game, jam out to some music or invite a special guest to your classroom. Start a countdown calendar and encourage students to set a new goal or read five new books. There are many things we can do to make learning fun and to motivate students .

Earlier this week, we celebrated Earth Day, a day called for environmental education. Today Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes.



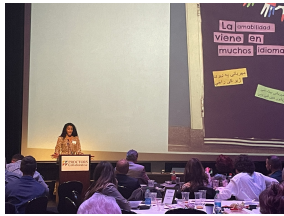
On Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, Andy Ramnauth and Ilias Miles, both seniors at Schenectady High School, attended the 2nd Annual Schenectady March with their teacher Jennifer Insull. Both students spoke on the steps of Schenectady City Hall to a crowd of about 200 people and then held the banner to lead the march through downtown Schenectady.



Thank you to Ms. Insull for her leadership and encouragement and to Andy and Ilia for your advocacy and representation in our community. The words you speak and the work you are doing is very powerful. We are very proud of you.



The Schenectady Educational Foundation Gala was held Wednesday evening at Proctors. Thank you to all who attended. Congratulations to all of the award recipients. This year's Teacher of the Year, Marissa Ray, gave an inspirational speech to her colleagues. Thank you to the Foundation for all that you do for our teachers and students. The Foundation provided our teachers \$52,000 worth of grants this year. This funding allows them to do creative, innovative and outside the box activities with students.



Thank you to community partners at Justice for Orphans, who visited Paige Elementary School to participate in their Earth Day celebration, and helped launch the clothing closet for children in need with the help of Plato's Closet in Albany.



Congratulations to Schenectady High School seniors Reuel Raju, Devon Blunt and Bhisam Rambjars who are among 96 students enrolled in the Capital Region BOCES Automotive Trades Technology program. They are all working towards careers in the automotive repair industry. Raju and Blunt have already secured employment at Destination Kia. Raju and Blunt, along with their bosses at Destination Kia, will be part of a National Signing Day celebration on May 4 at Capital Region BOCES Career & Technical Education Center – Albany Campus. They will sign letters of intent to launch their careers with BOCES business partners at the event.



Students in the two-year program learn everything from computerized diagnostics to hands-on repairs while gaining the skills to service and maintain all types of cars and light trucks. Students are prepared to enter the industry or pursue higher education and professional certifications that will elevate them no matter the path they choose.

Congratulations to Damari Holder who was honored as one of the top ten basketball players at the Newschannel 13 Rensselaer Honda All-Star banquet held last week at the Hampton Inn in Clifton Park.



Please join us Thursday, May 4th between 3:00-6:00p.m. for The Schenectady City School District Employee Health & Wellness Fair being held at Schenectady High School Cafeteria.

Parking will be available at Golub Corp, 461 Nott Street, with shuttle service every 15 minutes to and from Schenectady High School.

Please note: School will still be in session so please take advantage of our shuttle service due to limited parking at the high school.

Reminder that **Pre-K applications for three and four years old are due on Wednesday, May 2, 2023.**

- If you have a child who will be 3 years old on or before December 1, please complete [this lottery application](#).
- If your child will be 4 years on on or before December 1, please complete [this lottery application](#).

We use a random number generator to determine the order of the draw. The lottery continues until all students are placed based on their choice and the number of seats available per location.

Families will be notified of placement by phone call and letter home. Information and a registration checklist is posted on our website [here](#).



SUMMER ENRICHMENT 2023: JULY 10 THROUGH AUGUST 4 ENROLL TODAY

You can still sign up for the 2023 Summer Enrichment Program

The program is offered to all students in grades K- 12 and will take place July 10 - August 4 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. each day.

Breakfast, lunch, and a snack is served each dy.

Transportation is available for those who qualify.

Please apply through the infinite [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) or speak to your child's school parent liaison.

Questions?

Program Locations

- Yates
- Woodlawn (also serving Paige)
- Pleasant Valley
- MLK
- Hamilton
- Van Corlaer
- Keane
- Lincoln
- Howe (also serving Zoller)
- Central Park
- Oneida
- Mont Pleasant
- Schenectady High School

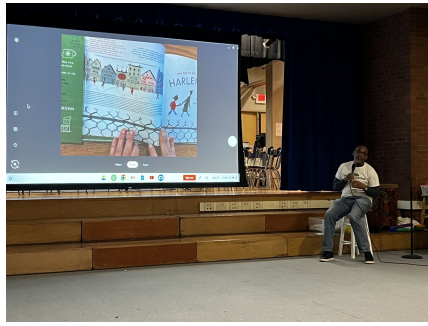
If you have questions about the Summer Enrichment Program, please submit them through Let's Talk.

This is some fun stuff! Martin Luther King Elementary School has partnered with Victoria Acres Equine Facility in Altamont to provide therapeutic riding classes for students in our two Intensive Skills NYSAA - Autism Classes. Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International riding uses equine-assisted activities for the purpose of positive contributing to the cognitive, physical, emotional, an social well-being of people with disabilities.

I had a great time attending the ridiing classes earlier this week and can see how much the students enjoy this activiitiy.



Equine therapies focus on the improvement of physical functional status by using the rhythmic movement of the horse's gait to improve hip and trunk stability. Equine therapy involves mounting activities completed in the presence of a horse, including hippo therapy or therapeutic horseback riding as well as non-mounted activities like grooming and caring for the horse (Lentini, & Knox, 2015). Equine therapy as a physical therapy has shown in literature to be used for a number of neurologic conditions, including Multiple Sclerosis, stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and cerebral palsy.



Children's book author and founder of Harlem Grown, Tony Hillery, visited our district this week. He spent two days working with 2nd graders at Van Corlaer and Keane Elementary schools. The students read his book and enjoyed doing a community mapping project where they drew what their community currently looks like and then a new map of how they would like it to be. They planted seeds for beans and carrots in their school gardens. His visit also included a community event at the central branch of the Schenectady Public Library on Thursday night, an assembly at Yates livestreamed across the district, and sessions with Schenectady High School and SCLA students around food justice and access in our community. This visit was funded by Farm to School and Community Schools with support from SiCM and Friends of the Public Library.

BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION MAY 16

On May 16, taxpayers across New York State will head to the polls to vote on school budgets and board elections. In our district, we are asking our community to vote on six different items including:

- **2023-2024 BUDGET \$265,267,298**
No impact on tax levy

2023-2024 BUDGET

Budget Mission

- To ensure the district has the necessary resources to offer an educational program that is committed to the success of all students by enhancing social and emotional well-being, high academic standards, and a safe learning environment incorporating the vision, values, and goals.
- To ensure the educational process functions seamlessly by developing a healthy sound budget and that the primary focus of the district remains on the educational programming.

District Vision

- Schenectady City Schools will be a continuously improving district dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning, equity, engagement and efficiency, having environment incorporating the vision, values, and goals.

www.schenectadyschools.org

Everybody Counts. Everybody Learns.

• SCHENECTADY REVITALIZATION PLAN

When you head to the polls on May 16, we are asking you to please also consider the Schenectady Revitalization Plan 2030. If approved, this plan would bring up to \$300 million worth of building renovations and upgrades to our schools over the next seven years. Tax Impact: Zero

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

VOTE on the proposed **SCHENECTADY REVITALIZATION PLAN 2030**

Tuesday May 16, 2023
Noon - 9:00pm
Same Day as the 2023-2024 Budget Vote & School Board Elections

SCHENECTADY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHENECTADY REVITALIZATION PLAN 2030

Capital Project Propositions with \$300 Million in Renovations And Upgrades To Schools and **NO Tax Impact**

#SchenectadyRising

Reopening, rebuilding and reigniting Schenectady City Schools with a commitment and dedication to excellence in teaching and learning, equity, engagement and efficiency.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

NO Tax Impact

The proposed will require super majority (60%+) approval and will have **NO Tax Impact**

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

- **Purchase of 530 Liberty Street, Schenectady for location of Family and Community Engagement Center.**

The district has identified the property at 530 Liberty St. as a purchase property for the Family and Community Engagement Center. The cost is \$2.9 million. If approved by taxpayers, the facility will be used for the district's Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE) with the purpose of offering a welcoming first experience in the district and a one-stop shop for student registration, transportation, and other services and experiences. This center will also be used in the evening and on weekends for various community engagement events. We will also provide technology for families to use to register for school and to fill out an application for employment. TAX IMPACT: ZERO

- **Purchase of Keane Elementary School Building** (Currently Owned by St. Luke's) Voters are being asked to consider a proposal to purchase Keane Elementary School from St. Luke's. The district has been leasing the school building since July 2007 and is now seeking to purchase the school building for a one-time cost of \$2 million. Purchase of this property would serve to provide much needed space for student enrollment, and in the long-term allow for expansion. TAX IMPACT: ZERO

- **Add a student member position to the board of education**

The board is asking residents to vote on a proposition authorizing the addition of an ex-officio student member position on the board of education. A student board member will attend board meetings, sit at the board table and participate in public discussions, they will not vote or attend executive sessions.

- **Elect Three Members to the Board of Education**

Terms for board members Bernice Rivera, Nohelani Etienne, and Princella Learry will end on June 30, 2023. Ms. Learry has announced that she will not be running for another term.

2023-2024 Board Candidates include:

- Amanda Sponable-Pantalone
- Nohelani Eitenne
- Bernice Rivera
- Anne D. Kennedy

We will be posting information on the board candidates on our website soon.



Today is Administrative Professionals' Day!
Thank you to all the incredible Schenectady Schools team members
who work hard each day to help our schools run smoothly.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to say thank you to all of our administrative professionals. Administrative Professionals Day recognizes and celebrates the work of secretaries, administrative assistants and other office professionals for their contributions to the workplace. Thank you for your hard work and dedication and for being the glue that holds our office together. Your hard work, professionalism, and positive attitude make our jobs easier and more enjoyable, and we appreciate everything you do. We can't do this work without. You are passionate people and are important team members as we are #schenectadyrising.

I wish you a relaxing and fun weekend. See you Monday. I look forward to seeing you at the Wellness Fair next week. That promises to be a lot of fun.

Anibal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools.

Photo of The Week



Officers visit Howe

Officer Ross Flood of Schenectady PD stopped by Howe Elementary during recess to shoot some hoops with the kids and Principal Sitts on SuperHero day!

Community

Art in
BLOOM

— AT THE —
**SCHENECTADY
GREENMARKET**
10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Every Sunday from May 21 to October 8
*Except July 2 and any Sunday
with a forecast of extreme heat advisory or heavy rain*

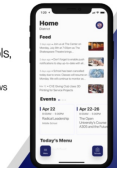
Follow Schenectady Kids Arts Fest
for a Schedule of *Art in Bloom*

PRESENTED BY **ELECTRICITY** **Council on the Arts**

This series is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.
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<https://bit.ly/3Mzposx>

 Download for iPhone

<https://apple.co/3lAXbWA>

MOBILE APP SUPPORT Click here to watch a short video on how to set your school and language preferences on our mobile app: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sANC9ek2Lqg>

#SchenectadyRising

PREVIOUS BRIEFS: For the index of Volume 1 and Volume 2 Briefs, [click here](#).