

Junior Drama Club Performs Disney Classic

By: Cali Travers



Draven S and Dax W perform in front of live audience at HTS.

For the debut of the Junior Drama Club, their first play was *Finding Nemo, Jr.* It is based on the 2003 Disney/Pixar film.

The sixty-minute show had an amazing set of props and settings, as well as an intermission in between. *Finding Nemo, Jr.* heavily relied on the ensemble characters to bring the show to life, there were of course a couple of main characters to set the stage. Most of these leads were fifth graders, some of which were Marlin portrayed by Draven S., Nemo by Savannah J., and Dory by Molly B.

The show was the second show under new drama club director Mr. Bigelli.

"When I found out that *Finding Nemo* was going to be made into a junior musical, I knew I wanted to do it, but I wasn't sure when it was going to happen. During the summer 2023, we went to support friends of ours at a local theater camp who had the lead roles in their production. Before intermission was over, I leaned over to my wife, Mrs. Bigelli, and said, 'This is our first production that we are going to do at Holland,' and the rest is history," Mr. Bigelli said.

Mr. Bigelli and his family were very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to join Holland and help involve more students into the arts and grow an appreciation for them. They were thoroughly impressed with the students and can't wait to make the arts program bigger and better every year.

Mr. Bigelli credits the shows to success to his awesome support staff with the production. He would like to thank Ms. Q for joining to help with the choreography and other things in the production. Mr. Bigelli would also like to thank his wife, Mrs. Bigelli for her help in bringing more opportunities to the HTS kids. She showed incredible dedication in creating wonderful sets, costumes, and overall fun experiences for everyone there.

Tight Knit Family

Mr. Bigelli has two daughters, 10 year old 5th Grade Molly and 9 year old 3rd Grade Madeline. Both had major roles in the big production.

"We have lots of fun together on and off stage. Sometimes it's not too fun because I am his daughter and I have to work extra hard to earn a part," said Molly B. "I have the role of Dory, which I'm very excited about because it is my first lead role."

Madeline has also enjoyed the family environment that this year's performance provided.

"I love him, but also he loves theater just as much as I do. I like that my mom helps out with the show and costumes because I enjoy having my whole family work on creative projects," Madeline said.

Madeline has three roles in the play. Aside from the time spent with family, Madeline also enjoyed working with her classmates on the show.

"My first role is Professor Ray, a stingray, who is the Reef Teacher. I also play Anchor the shark, who is Bruce's friend and my last role is Nigel, who is a pelican in Sydney. He is really good friends with the tank gang and tries to help Nemo escape from the tank," Madeline B said. "The experience has been great so far because it has an amazing cast. I love that I get to spend time with my classmates and sister while putting on a really fun show."

Next year, the Junior Drama Club will put on *Annie*, and the middle school will put on *Schoolhouse Rock!*

Holland Herald

HTS Celebrates Mrs. Conti's Amazing Teaching Career



Mrs. Conti with a group of students in the year 1992.

This June, Holland Township School will say goodbye to one of our most beloved teachers Mrs. Conti, who is set to retire from the teaching profession.

Mrs. Conti began her educational career at Holland in 1992. A lot of things have changed in 32 years since she has arrived on campus. Cell phones and smartphones were unheard of. Gas was 68 cents per gallon. Students were taught with things like overhead projectors and VCR tapes. One thing that has remained consistent over the years is Mrs. Conti's dedication and ability to build relationships with students.

"She has an ability to connect with the kids," said Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Raike. "She is nurturing, positive, and caring. She takes the time to get to know the kids."

Another thing that Mrs. Conti brought to the building every day was her fun loving attitude and enthusiastic personality.

"I will miss how much fun she is to work with." Mrs. Raike said. "She has such a great sense of humor, she is a team player, and has amazing energy."

Some of the words used by former students to describe Mrs. Conti were nice, fun, caring, and responsible.

"Mrs. Conti was awesome because she did things like gametime, colored with us, and read us books," said Maeve D, who is a fourth grade student.

Mrs. Conti's positive attitude was always on display for her students in her classroom.

"I will miss Mrs. Conti because she is fun, and she always looks on the bright side," said Luke M, who is a former student of Mrs. Conti.

Mrs. Conti came to Holland Township School when the Special Education Director at the time, Ron Phillips, noticed Mrs. Conti was a fellow Wilkes University Alumni and gave her the opportunity to teach at the school. From there, the rest was history.

"Holland School has been like my family," said Mrs. Conti. "I feel like it's come full circle, because in the past few years I have had students whose parents I taught in class."

The impact that Mrs. Conti has had on her students is undeniable. Seeing her former students go on to build successful careers and families is one of the things that makes Mrs. Conti extremely proud.

"Another full circle moment was on the Ellis Island Field Trip. I had a former kindergarten student who was on the trip as the nurse for the trip. I was so proud at that moment to know that I was part of her educational journey and it felt good to see her succeed," Mrs. Conti stated.

After 3 decades of inspiring and making connections with students, it's time for Mrs. Conti to move on to the next chapter of her life. One of the things Mrs. Conti looks forward to is traveling the world with her husband.

"I want to travel to places like Sicily, Ireland, the national parks, and places I have never been," Mrs. Conti said.

Wherever Mrs. Conti may be in the world, she will be missed by everyone here at Holland Township School.

The Holland Herald

HTS Participates "Read Across America Week"

By: Addison Simini



Bulletin Board in March highlighting 16 book bracket challenge.

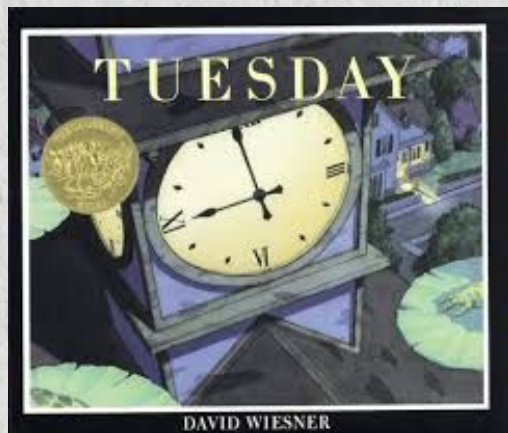
Every March schools across the country celebrate the joy of reading and the benefits that come with it.

The nation-wide celebration of reading all started on March 2nd, in order to celebrate famous author Dr. Suess's birthday. This week is known as "Read Across America Week".

Holland Township School celebrates Read Across America Week in various ways. The first being Spirit Week. During the week, each day has a different theme that represents Dr. Suess and encourages reading.

The second way Holland celebrates is the March Madness Book Bracket. This year was the 3rd annual March Madness tournament, which puts picture books head to head to see who will eventually be crowned champion. A total of 16 books are voted on by the students.

The books that made the final this year were Tuesday by David Wiesner and Something's Wrong by Jory John. By a vote of 157 to 100, Tuesday was the winner of the 2024 bracket.



Tuesday and Something's Wrong were the two most popular books voted on by participating students.

During the week the school also invites former Holland Teachers to read to elementary classes. Not only that, parents, grandparents, and other family members are invited to come in to read to the classes.

Reading isn't always the most desirable activity but school librarian Mrs. Detrick has great advice for those who haven't fallen in love with reading yet.

"I would recommend people who dislike reading to give it another try. I encourage them to try to be open minded about giving it another shot. Maybe they haven't found the book they connect with yet. If they're only reading what they're told to read, they're missing out on so many types of books that are out there. Also they should try reading in a different format like audiobooks or ebooks," Mrs. Detrick said.

Reading is an essential part of our everyday lives. Keeping yourself in a book has many benefits.



6 Benefits of Reading a Book

Reading a book can have a positive impact on your life in many different ways.

1 You can improve your imagination and creativity with it

2 You will be able to have new perspectives with it

3 You will gain a better understanding of the world around you

4 You can improve your imagination and creativity with it

5 You can discover new interests and pastimes

6 Improves grades over all

Student Council

Student Council Host Events for All Ages

By: Ava Cwynar

NJASC 2024 Spring Awards

The Holland Township Student Council has been very busy this spring.

The first important event they had was the student council's trip to Six Flags in Jackson, NJ.

The trip is in order to recognize students who are in student councils from all over New Jersey. This is a fun way to award the students' hard work over the year in the student council.



The event is run by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils.

Spring Semi-Formal

Next, the student council hosted their annual spring dance.

"This was a semi-formal dance. Students typically get dressed up in spring colors. We decorated the auditorium in spring colors. It is a great way to welcome spring and celebrate warmer weather," said Student Council Advisor, Mrs Leap.

The Student Council got a great turnout of students who enjoyed a night of dancing and socializing with friends.

Elementary Nights

Not only did the student council host events for middle schoolers, they also hosted a Spa Night for students in grades 2, 3, and 4.

At the spa night, girls got their nails, hair, and makeup done. After that they got popcorn and watched Rapunzel.

"It was fun to get a chance to bond with the older girls while we got our nails and hair done. I really enjoyed the event" said Charlotte H, who is a fourth grade student here at HTS.

Also for the younger students, the student council hosted an activity night for 1st and 2nd graders. Games include gaga, kickball, soccer, and more.

Who can join?

The student council is made up of middle school students who spend their valuable free time organizing and volunteering for events to give the school fun events to look forward to.

"We have a wonderful group of student leaders this year. We also have a large group of over 60 members in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, which we are very excited about. Our student leaders help our school in many ways and are role models for other students," said Mrs Leap.

The student council did an amazing job organizing and putting on events for kids of all ages to enjoy.

Sports

Softball Wraps Up Fantastic Season



Softball team takes picture at Diamond Nation in Flemington, NJ.

By: Ava Cwynar & Maximo Badlato

The Holland Township School softball team had a remarkable season! The team compiled win after win which led to a runner up finish in the conference championship game!

The team displayed many talents throughout the season which led to their outstanding season.

"The team did a great job mentally preparing for each game and keeping our team spirit strong! They did a great job playing the field, holding players from stealing bases, and preventing a lot of runs. Our top batters did a good job getting either base hits or home runs and we had quite a few runs batted in," said Softball Coach, Mrs. Miller.

Many of the team's wins were highlighted by excellent pitching performances by the team's magnificent trio of pitchers.

"Our pitching this year was phenomenal and we had a great bench to pull from when it came to pitching; Taylor F, Rylee H and Haley H led us to many victories with their pitching," Coach Miller said.

Not only did the team have outstanding pitchers, but they also had quality hitters and outfielders who paved the team's way to success.

"Our strongest batting came from Rylee H, Taylor F, Madison F, and Austyn H. Overall our infield players were solid in their positions and did a great job fielding the ball! Our strongest outfield player was Quinnlie R and she did a good job getting the ball infield and making some great plays," Coach Miller stated.

The team finished the regular season with a nearly perfect record of 9-1.

Playoff Recap

In the first game of the playoffs the team defeated East Amwell by a convincing 7 to 1 score. The victory advanced them to the conference final at Diamond Nation in Flemington.

The team unfortunately fell to Kingwood by a score of 3-0 in the championship game. Despite the loss, the team made the school proud and should hold their heads high after a memorable season!

Sports

Warriors Battle Back in 2024 Baseball Season

By Maximo Badlato



Michael H pitches on the road vs Tewksbury.

It's not about how you start, it's how you finish! That is especially true for the 2024 Holland Warriors baseball team.

The team started off the season with a 2-5 record, however, the team made a comeback with an amazing 4-win streak! They ended the regular season with a 6-5 record, just enough to make the playoffs.

The Warriors secured victories over High Bridge, East Amwell, Bethlehem Township, Union, Franklin, and Kingwood.

Danny C, Calvin L, and Michael H. led the team with their strong pitching performances. Bradley G, Aaron T, Jack B, Jack R, Derek S, Sampson C, and Parker S. were regular starters for the team.

"I am really proud of the guys on this team. Our team improved so much from the start of the season. We really struggled to hit the ball early in the season, but by the end we were putting up big numbers and scored a great deal of runs," said Holland Baseball Coach, Mr. Horak.

Bright Future Ahead

There were only two eighth graders, Danny and Jack R, on the team, so most of the team will still be there next season.

"Holland has an extremely bright future with the number of kids coming back next season," said Coach Horak. "I think the team is only going to continue to get better and win more games in the future as the kids get older and improve."

Even though the team was young this season, the team can contribute much of their success to their eighth grade leadership.

"I really appreciate Jack and Danny for coming out for the team this season. Only having two eighth graders can be a challenge but those two guys were extremely important to our team's success," Coach Horak said. "I think they will both have the opportunity to play at the next level at Del Val High School and be productive players."

Playoff Recap

On May 17th, the Warriors season came to an end when they were defeated by Alexandria Township in the first round of the playoffs. The Warriors will try to improve their playoff success next season.



HTS Baseball Team walks off field during game vs Alexandra.

