



Schalmont

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

Schalmont Welcomes Back Students

SCHALMONT SCHOOLS WERE EXCITED TO OPEN OUR DOORS ONCE AGAIN TO WELCOME OUR STUDENTS IN SEPTEMBER.

Hundreds of families shared their wonderful first day of school photos with Schalmont, which we shared with our community through our website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Thank you to all our families for sharing your photos that helped build such excitement for the new school year!





SCHALMONT CELEBRATES HOMECOMING



There was plenty of Schalmont pride for this year's Homecoming as hundreds of families and alumni enjoyed a perfect fall afternoon and evening to celebrate their school.

Our community enjoyed varsity soccer and volleyball games, a Middle School dodgeball tournament, and Schalmont Football team's 43-7 win. Families also supported Schalmont's clubs that offered food and other items at their Homecoming Booths.

Sabre Youth Football and Cheer families particularly enjoyed Homecoming, as youth football players got on the field before the game and youth cheerleaders performed alongside varsity cheerleaders.

Thank you to our community for making Homecoming such a special event!



See more photos on our website at www.schalmont.org

Middle School Welcomes Therapy Dog

There are a lot more smiles in Schalmont Middle School on Fridays as the school welcomes a new therapy dog this year, Enzo!

Enzo is Teacher Mr. DiCocco's rescue dog, who was trained and certified to be a therapy dog.

Each week, Enzo visits Schalmont Middle School where he brightens the day of everyone he meets!



SCHOOL PICTURES FOR THERAPY DOGS



Good dogs were welcome at this year's School Picture Days as therapy dogs Gunner and Callie May had their photos taken along with students!

Gunner is Teacher Mr. Beck's therapy dog who lifts spirits each day at Schalmont High School. Callie May is Teacher Ms. Pink's therapy dog who always brings smiles to the faces of students whenever she visits Jefferson Elementary.

Good girl and good boy!





PTO Ensures Each Child Gets Book

Every Jefferson Elementary student was able to take a book home from this year's Book Fair thanks to an incredible idea by the PTO.

Due to the success of last year's Book Fairs, PTO President Julie Dion explained the PTO was able to gift a book of \$10 or less to each student this year. Any purchases beyond the free book



went towards offering a free book for students next year to keep the idea going.

Thank you to the PTO for encouraging reading and making sure every student was able to choose a book!



RUGBY



STUDENTS ENJOY INTRO TO RUGBY



Schalmont High School students enjoyed an opportunity to learn the basics of rugby this year as representatives from a group that introduces the sport to youths visited our physical education classes.

Rugby NY brought rugby players to Schalmont to teach the rules of non-contact rugby, lead students through fundamental drills, and coach scrimmages. Rugby NY also left equipment with Schalmont so

they could explore adding it to the physical education curriculum.

Thank you Rugby NY for spending the day to teach our students about the sport!





Middle School Art Creations

Fifth graders in Ms. Stockbridge’s art class drew inspiration from stained glass for a class project this year.

Students learned about French artist Henri Matisse’s renowned stained glass art and were inspired to create their own art based on his work.

Schalmont’s art program continues to grow as increased student interest in recent years has led to more opportunities and electives for students.



Raising Awareness for Suicide Prevention

Schalmont students helped raise awareness and money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention this fall with a walk that began before sunrise.

Senior David Cafarelli organized the Out of the Darkness Walk on the High School track, which symbolizes the journey that those affected by depression take and their path from darkness to light.

David approached the SADD Club about the idea as a way to show support for those who suffer from depression. Students embraced the idea, raising money and planning to make the walk an annual event with David as the founder.

Thank you, David, for your amazing leadership to organize this event and all the students, faculty and staff who joined the walk!



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention





Clubs Share Positive Messages

Schalmont students were greeted with encouraging messages when they arrived at school this fall thanks to student clubs.

As part of an annual tradition, students wrote positive messages in chalk on the sidewalk outside school to spread positivity for the start of the school year.

In the past, SADD clubs wrote messages but the Spanish Club also joined this year to help celebrate the start of Hispanic Heritage Month as well.

Great job, students!



STUDENTS LEARN FIRE SAFETY

The South Schenectady Fire Department helped keep our students safe with their annual Fire Prevention Day at Jefferson Elementary.

Firefighters reminded students about important safety tips such as having an escape plan for their house in the event of a fire, calling 911 only for emergencies, and not playing with candles or fire.

Students then enjoyed an opportunity to see the inside of a firetruck and jump off a safety ladder that was near the ground.

Thank you to the South Schenectady Fire Department for helping keep our students and community safe!



Desks Help Students Collaborate

Approximately 500 new desks that are designed to help students better communicate and collaborate were installed in Schalmont classrooms this year.

The desks were purchased at no cost to the district as funding came from a federal grant.

The triangular shaped desks, which were distributed to various classrooms in all three schools, can be used as a traditional standalone desk or pushed into a variety of shapes depending on the lesson. Desks also feature fully adjustable heights so they can be used for students in any grade.



“ I love these desks as they are all the same height and they can create unique ways to group students.”

—3rd Grade Teacher Mrs. Reilly



Hallway Heroes Recognizes Students



Schalmont Middle School started a new program this year called Hallway Heroes that celebrates students who display excellent hallway behavior.



Hallway Heroes was created by Music Teachers Mr. Alden and Mr. Spacher as a way to positively reinforce students for being quiet and respectful in hallways between classes.



Faculty and staff nominate students for the Hallway Heroes awards and students are presented with certificates each Monday morning. Great job!



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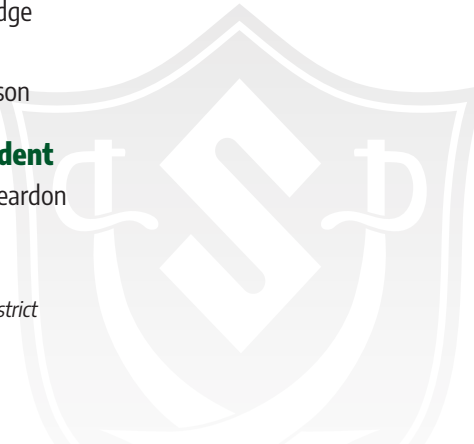
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Pede Brothers Helps Schalmont



Schalmont would like to sincerely thank local company Pede Brothers who saved the day when one of our kitchen freezers stopped working the day before school started.

On September 6, as our Food Services staff was getting ready for students to arrive at school the next day, the kitchen freezer at Jefferson Elementary unexpectedly stopped working. Some food was moved to freezers in our other kitchens but there was limited room as they were full in preparation for the new school year.

With no rental options available and time of the essence, Facilities Director John O'Donnell cold called Pede Brothers to ask if they could help and the company quickly offered to store the food in their freezers at no cost until the compressor for the Jefferson Elementary freezer was repaired.



“We can’t thank you enough,” Food Services Director Maria Zarrillo told AnnMarie Pede at their store. “You made a lot of students happy by helping us.”