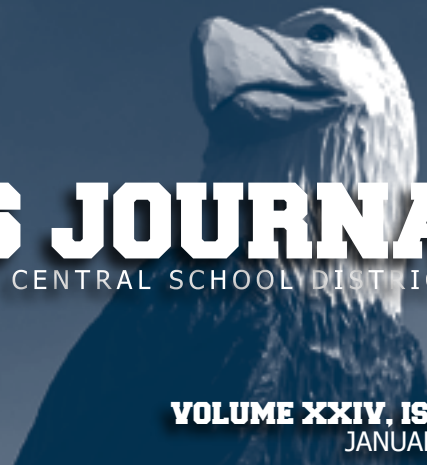




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MIDLAKES JOURNAL

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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INSIDE THIS EDITION

SUPERINTENDENT PAGE 2

SPRING MUSICAL DATES PAGE 3

SEASON OF GIVING PAGE 4

DISTRICT NOTES PAGE 5

BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 6

UPCOMING EVENTS PAGE 7

EMERGENCY INFO PAGE 8

FIND MORE AT MIDLAKES.ORG



COLLEGE PLANNING: The Pupil Support Office has put together a comprehensive guide for students in grades 8-12 thinking about college.



VIDEO: WHAT DO THEY THINK? We asked five recent graduates about their experience at Midlakes and how it prepared them for what's next.

DISTRICT HIRES NEW DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District has hired a former student and current parent to serve as its next Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Michelle Robinette's appointment was approved by the Board of Education to take over for Patti Larche, who retired in December. Robinette joined the district after an extensive interview process involving teachers, administrators and other district personnel.

She previously served as the Director of Curriculum for the Red Creek Central School District, and has a background that includes work as a district data coordinator, in addition to several teaching roles, said Matthew Sickles, superintendent.

"Michelle is also a Midlakes graduate and parent of four current Midlakes students," Sickles said. "The Board of Education and I are excited to add Michelle's professional expertise and investment in our community to the Midlakes family."

Robinette, whose family ran Goodman's Corner Store in Phelps for many years, shared more during a recent interview.

Why Midlakes?

I graduated as a Midlakes Screaming Eagle in 1992. It is a great community. Now my four children attend Midlakes and I always thought it would be a dream come true to come back here to work.

What's your educational philosophy?

I have always had a "whole child" philosophy. I grew up on reduced-price lunch, living in a trailer on my grandparents' property. I was successful in school and was the first in my family to go to college because of the supportive people in my life, including my teachers at Midlakes. It is of the utmost importance that we do all we can to help our students to be healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.

Can you share more on your career?

I always wanted to be a math teacher but once I began teaching I decided to get my master's in special education thinking



Michelle Robinette

it would make me a better math teacher. I loved it so much I made the switch. I was later asked if I would consider administration, so I completed the program at SUNY Oswego, and worked as a data coordinator in Syracuse.

With four young children, I wanted to get back into the Wayne-Finger Lakes region so I took a position at BOCES and then Red Creek before joining Midlakes.

What impresses you about Midlakes?

I couldn't be happier with how the staff is so caring and positive with the students but with each other. They are willing to try new things and reach out to each other for ideas. It makes it exciting to come to work. We are small enough to have a strong community feel, but large enough to offer many academic and extracurricular programs.

What areas are you ready to tackle?

I see my role as an opportunity to help and support the principals and staff in achieving vertical alignment across subject areas so that there are smooth transitions for our students from one grade level to the next, particularly when they change buildings.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



NEW YEAR OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO RESET, REFOCUS OUR EFFORTS

BY MATTHEW SICKLES | MSICKLES@MIDLAKES.ORG

The start of the new calendar year brings hope and excitement for a great second half of the school year along with many new opportunities and achievements for our students. Just as many are identifying and embracing resolutions for growth in the new year, this is also a time to reflect on what is most important and to rededicate ourselves on our core values and beliefs.

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District is committed to the health, safety, and success of every one of our students. We recognize that every child has unique talents and needs that shape their experiences at school, and we value the caring relationships that enable our staff to nurture our students' growth and development. We also recognize that everyone encounters challenges, but we are determined to remove those barriers and create the conditions that allow every student to thrive.

Midlakes is fortunate to have many caring adults, in every role imaginable, who go above and beyond each day to

make the needs of students their first priority.

As a district, we are committed to supporting our staff by providing them with the resources and learning opportunities necessary to make a positive difference for every child.

We believe in continuous improvement and we will continue to build upon our successes and embrace our opportunities for growth. This will always involve focused investments in the areas of academics, social and emotional support, opportunities outside the classroom, and efficient operations across the district. These efforts are essential for creating meaningful outcomes for all students.

In order to accomplish these ambitious goals, the district recognizes the importance of communicating and engaging with the community and using our resources strategically and responsibly. We invite and encourage you to use the redesigned school website (Midlakes.org) to follow the work of our students and staff, learn about district programs,

and even sign-up for some of the programs.

Throughout 2019 and beyond, the district leadership team and Board of Education will engage in budget and facilities planning to meet the immediate and long-term needs of our students. In the spirit of transparency, important information will be shared through the school website, the Midlakes Journal and on our social media networks.

Community members are also encouraged to attend monthly Board of Education meetings and budget presentations, to learn about the planning process and offer valuable feedback.

The district appreciates and respects the generous support of the Phelps-Clifton Springs community, and your participation will help us to understand and meet the needs of our students and families. We look forward to working with you as partners in educating our children. Thank you for the ongoing support and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019!

IMPORTANT FORM FOR FAMILIES OF INCOMING KINDERGARTNERS

Parent registration for kindergartners turning five years old by Dec. 1, 2019, will be held in April, followed by screening during the first week of June.

Children turning six years old by Dec. 1, 2019 must receive instruction on the first day of school in September, 2019. Those turning six years old after Dec. 1, 2019 must receive full-time instruction in September 2020.

Families should fill out the following form (or find the kindergarten pre-registration form under the "Schools" tab at Midlakes.org) to receive more information on registration and screening.

Registration Form

Clip out and return the following information by Feb. 15 to Attn: Laurie Schmitt, Midlakes Primary School, 1500 Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432.

My child will (check one):

Attend Midlakes Primary School
 Attend a private/parochial school

Have home schooling
 Not start this year

Family Information

Student: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____
Parent(s): _____
Home Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Home Language: _____
Mother's Cell Phone: _____ Father's Cell Phone: _____

DISTRICT MESSAGE ON IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

To improve learning for all students, the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District values all information that can help shape the design of what we teach and how we teach.

Every spring, school districts across the state are required to administer New York State assessments in ELA and Math (grades 3-8) and science (grades 4 and 8). The results of these assessments provide teachers with important insights about student progress that help identify appropriate instructional adjustments.

The assessments help determine who needs additional support, who needs enrichment, and who needs more challenging opportunities. It also helps to shape improvements in curriculum and instruction for all students.

Over the past several years, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has taken steps to respond to

parent and educator concerns regarding the assessments and the standards being tested.

As a result, the annual assessments have been redesigned and shortened, time limits have been removed, and computer-based testing is being implemented, all in response to concerns regarding unnecessary stress on students and the interruption of instructional time. NYSED is also in the process of aligning the annual assessments to new learning standards that are specific to New York State, rather than the Common Core Standards.

In light of these changes and the role the assessments play in helping us meet the needs of our students, we encourage all parents to have their students take the math, ELA, and science assessments, at the appropriate grade levels. Our teachers and administrators take

deliberate steps to administer these assessments in a thoughtful and relaxed manner, and the results help teachers to provide targeted instruction. The best interests of our students guide everything we do.

It is important to note that the state assessments given in grades 3-8 also help prepare students for the experience of taking mandatory state Regents Exams in high school. Regents Exams are required for high school graduation and cannot be refused.

Therefore, it is helpful for students to experience standardized testing before it has a direct impact on their graduation from high school.

Thank you for your continued support and helping us ensure that we have all the information needed to meet the needs and promote the success of all students.

MIDLAKES WADES INTO 'BIG RIVER'

The mighty Mississippi and the adventures of Huck Finn will flow through the Midlakes Auditorium when the award-winning Midlakes Theatre Experience stages "Big River" for several shows in March.

The spring musical is based on Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, which follows Finn and runaway slave Jim as they travel along the Mississippi River to freedom. The original Broadway production was written by William Hauptman with music and lyrics by Roger Miller.

The musical has a little bit of everything, including intrigue, mystery, humor and themes of friendship and loyalty as the Finn (Holden Dorr) and Jim (Erik Dillon) get in and out of trouble along their journey.

Shows will be held March 15-17, 23 and 24 at the Midlakes Auditorium, 1554 State Route 488, Clifton Springs. Presale tickets for "Big River" will be available in mid-February for \$8 (adults) and \$7 (students and senior citizens) at the Midlakes High School Office, Phelps Hometown Pharmacy, Peirce's Gift Shop in Clifton Springs, and Renaissance — The Goodie II Shoppe in Canandaigua, Deb's Crafts and Things in Newark and



Director Keith Childs works with Holden Dorr on the spring musical "Big River" by Midlakes Theatre Experience.

the Stomping Grounds in Geneva. Tickets will cost an additional \$2 at the door.

For additional features, photos, cast

list and videos, be sure to visit Midlakes.org and follow on Facebook [com/MidlakesSchools](https://www.facebook.com/MidlakesSchools).

SEASON OF GIVING

The Midlakes school community opened its arms over the holidays by performing concerts at the high school and in the community, donating cookies to local families, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, wrapping presents for area veterans while collecting gifts, food and clothes for those in need.



**LET'S STAY
CONNECTED**



ON FACEBOOK AT:
[FACEBOOK.COM/MIDLAKESSCHOOLS](https://www.facebook.com/midlakeschools)



ON YOUTUBE SEARCH:
MIDLAKES SCHOOLS

DISTRICT NOTES

SOPHOMORE RANKED NO. 1 IN STATE

Sophomore Nita Schumacher finished the fall season with the highest overall individual season average for a female with a score of 21.50 out of 25 in the New York State High School Clay Target League.

The score put her at the top of the 1A Conference 2 standings, which was rounded out by Midlakes freshman Sadie Schumacher, Nita's sister, in second with 19.60 and Midlakes sophomore Kelsie Klee with a score of 18.30. As a team, Midlakes finished the fall season ranked second in the conference behind Lancaster High School.



Nita Schumacher

GRAD RETURNS WITH RPO FOR CONCERT

Lisa Albrecht was last in line – excited to start playing but unable to pick an instrument – when her music teacher at Midlakes put a trombone in her hands and made a promise: If it doesn't work out, you can try something else.

What the 1982 Midlakes graduate didn't know at the time was how the shiny piece of metal would eventually take her around the world and back to Midlakes for annual concerts with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The last concert was held in November.

INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS IN HONOR SOCIETY

The Midlakes Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society inducted 26 new students in October from Midlakes Intermediate School.

Fifth and sixth graders are eligible for induction into the National Elementary Honor Society after receiving a nomination from a teacher and earning a grade point average of at least 85 percent. Midlakes' National Elementary Honor Society is led by advisors Erin Altman and Heather Bradley and conducts several community service projects throughout the school year.

Students inducted into the honor society, included: Jackson Alamond, Azrielle Cahill, Jonathan Capozzi, Cheria Caraballo, Emileigh Cardin, Maddison Clark, Lena Cooley, Makenzie (Pippa) Davis, Alicia Gonzalez, Madison Haers, Corine Hughes, Margaret Hultzapple, Liam Killian, Ayden Klapp, Jamie Lawson, Camryn Mattoon, Leah Newton, Payton Reed, Lily Roth, Kendra Santillo, Amelia Santy, Jonah Spangenberg and Braxton Wilkes.

FRENCH STUDENTS EXPERIENCE MIDLAKES

Fifteen exchange students from France had just 10 days to get a taste of American life, but their experience with Midlakes students and families was so powerful that they promised to keep in touch long after the tears and hugs goodbye.

High school students from Rennes, France came to Midlakes through an exchange program coordinated by Newark French teacher Rachel Chistolini and assisted by Midlakes teacher Michelle Shenton.

The French students went on several excursions with their host families in addition to attending Midlakes schools. "I really,

really enjoyed the time with my host family," said French student Esterre Prime. "I hope that we get to meet again in the future."

RILEY BACKUS IS THE RIGHT TYPE

High school senior Riley Backus has promoted and recruited donors to support the American Red Cross through various blood drives at the Midlakes High School gymnasium.

Backus will receive a \$750 scholarship from the American Red Cross if she is able to get at least 60 donors over the course of the three blood drives. She could receive a larger amount if Midlakes gets more donors. Members of the community are invited to the next blood drive on March 19.



Riley Backus

SIXTH GRADER WINS ESSAY CONTEST

Colin Chimera, a sixth-grader at Midlakes Intermediate School, was named the first-place winner of the Phelps American Legion Post No. 457 Veteran's Day Essay Contest for writing about "What the Flag (U.S.) Means to Me."

Mia McMahon was named the second-place winner and Azrielle Cahill finished third among English-language arts sixth graders in Kayleigh Sheppard and Kristen Quagliata classes.



Colin Chimera

PRIMARY STUDENTS SHIP GIFTS IN A BOX

The Second Grade Student Council at Midlakes Primary School sent special holiday gift packages to overseas soldiers.

The group, led by Student Council Advisor Jalyne Smith, raised approximately \$650 in donations to purchase materials for the construction of 50 wooden holiday trees.

Students involved in the project, included: Oliver Altman, Christopher Finewood, Giuliana Gallagher, Sophia Schutt, Ella Busby, Madison Alcock, Lane Frost, Liberty Wickings, Emma Mae White, Grayson Taylor, Julionna Carrasquel, Rylan Potter, Alejandro Caraballo, Nahla Romps, Elijah Frohm, Brenna Knapp, Riley Kuhn, Ryann Rogers, Carter McConnon, Kali Frelove and Delia Hargarthe

STUDENTS WRAP GIFTS FOR AREA VETERANS

The Midlakes Work Experience Program again sent students to the Voluntary Service Office at Canandaigua VA Medical Center to help area veterans.

Fourteen high school students visited the VA in December to wrap about 160 gift packages for the veterans. The Voluntary Service Office selects what goes into the gift packages based on community donations. The volunteer work by the students in December marked the 16th consecutive year of helping out at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



TRACY ALTMAN
MEMBER

For more information on the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District Board of Education, including contact emails, phone numbers, meeting dates, agendas and minutes, contact District Clerk Sarah Butler at (315) 548-6420, or visit the Board of Education online at **Midlakes.org**.

RYAN DAVIS
PRESIDENT

LAURA CIRONE
VICE PRESIDENT

TRACY ALTMAN
BOARD MEMBER

JACOB AMIDON
BOARD MEMBER

TODD FREELOVE
BOARD MEMBER

SHERI SCHERBYN
BOARD MEMBER

AMBER WILKES
BOARD MEMBER

ADOPTING NEW GOALS, INCREASING TRANSPARENCY

Overseeing the education and the overall school experiences of our children is an important responsibility that each member of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education takes seriously.

We each work to take a leadership role, along with the superintendent, teachers, staff and district administrators, to oversee and manage the school district's affairs. We work to foster an inclusive environment to improve student achievement while sharing other responsibilities, including:

- Employing the superintendent;
- Developing and adopting policies, curriculum, and the budget;
- Overseeing facility issues; and
- Approving collective bargaining agreements.

We also recognize that to improve student achievement and strengthen our school district, our priorities need to include parent involvement and community partnerships. Board members want to be transparent, accessible and engage the community on many fronts, but especially on those that will directly enhance and increase student success.

The Board of Education already adopted several goals to help accomplish our district mission of enabling students to demonstrate college and career readiness by displaying strong moral character, critical thinking skills,

perseverance, cultural awareness and innovation.

The following are the goals we adopted for the 2018-19 school year:

- Educate ourselves on strategic plan development, what it involves as well as the next steps.
- Create a handbook for new and existing members of the Board of Education to solidify procedures, increase consistency and help guide the board's work.
- Increase community awareness of board initiatives by providing columns from board members to publish in the district's reformatted newsletter.

This column is the first of those submissions in what we hope will be a new and ongoing dialogue of information sharing and increased involvement by the district's stakeholders. Together, we will make our schools the best for all of our current students and those coming in the future.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas to assure that we are considering all of our options in making the important decisions that will positively impact student success. And remember, all Board of Education meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to attend.

Tracy Altman is a member of the Phelps-Clifton Springs Board of Education. Find contact information for the entire Board of Education by visiting **Midlakes.org/BoardMembers**.

COME SOAR WITH US

Midlakes seeks qualified candidates for a variety of substitute positions, including:

- Bus drivers
- Monitors
- Cleaners
- Teacher aides

CALL MARY JO PEAKE AT (315) 546-6436, VISIT MIDLAKES.ORG/JOBS **EAGLES**



YOUNG MUSICIANS NAMED TO ALL-COUNTY FESTIVAL

Seven school districts from Ontario County will send select fifth and sixth graders to participate in the Finger Lakes Music Educators All County Music Festival on February 1 and 2 at Midlakes. Students will perform in orchestra, chorus and band for a 2 p.m. concert Feb. 2 at the Midlakes Auditorium, 1554 State Route 488.

The show is open to the public with tickets available at the door. Melissa Cannan will conduct the band this year. James DesJardins will lead the chorus. Beth Glaza will conduct the orchestra.

Students in the chorus from Midlakes Intermediate School participating in the event, include: Sage Horton, Gabbie

Monaco, Gavin Ruggles, Wynnie Archer, and Kyra Guest. In back: Pippa Davis, Isabella Schutt, Allyson Gray, Lily Johnson, and Heather Belcher. Missing: Ava Drover and Shia Osterhout.

Those from the band, pictured above, include in front, from left: Kyle Bell, tuba; Aaron Gonzalez, clarinet; Jamie Lawson, alto saxophone; Nathaniel Herendeen, percussion; Chloe Collett, trumpet; and Lily Roth, flute. In back: Aleena Fullerton, tuba; Leah Newton, percussion; Cheria Caraballo, horn; Ella Weykman, alto saxophone; Calleigh Tiffany, flute; and Matthew Cannan, euphonium. Not pictured: Jerell Zimmerman, trumpet; and Ava Fitzgerald.

AQUATIC CENTER HOURS, SPECIAL EVENTS

The Midlakes Aquatic Center offers multiple opportunities for open swim, lap swim, and water aerobics to those in the community.

- Lap swim hours are 6-7:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 7-8 p.m., Monday; and 8-9 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Passes are \$50 for 20 visits.

- Open swim is from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday and Friday. Cost is \$1 for students; \$3 adults, \$2 seniors; \$5 for families.

- Water aerobics classes are 7:30-8:30 a.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 7-8 p.m., Tuesday and Thurs-

day. Fee is \$5 for drop-in; 20-class pass is \$70 for adults, \$60 for seniors.

- The pool is also available for birthday parties and other group events from noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays. The fee is \$45 per hour for the pool; \$25 per hour for the room.

Registration for spring swim lessons begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 23, at the Aquatics Center at Midlakes High School. Tentative dates are at 10 a.m. March 30, April 6, 13, 27 and May 4. The schedule is subject to change. For more information regarding, contact Jack Hauber at (315) 548-6451 or email at jhauber@midlakes.org.

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Superintendent's Conference Day
(Half-day) Tuesday, Feb. 5

PS I Love You Day
Friday, Feb. 8

Dodgeball Tournament
Saturday, Feb. 9

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, Feb. 11

Kindergarten Royal Tea and Dance
Thursday, Feb. 14

Winter Frolic
Saturday, Feb. 16

Winter Recess
Monday, Feb. 18 - Friday, Feb. 22

Volleyball Camp
Monday, Feb. 18 - Wednesday, Feb. 20

Rotary Interact Club Roller Skating
(Midlakes Primary School)
Tuesday, Feb. 26

Rotary Interact Club Roller Skating
(Midlakes Intermediate School) Wednesday,
Feb. 27 and Thursday, Feb. 28

Spring Gemini Registration
Friday, March 1

PTO Carnival
Friday, March 8

Board of Education Meeting
Monday, March 11

Superintendent's Conference Day Friday,
March 15

Midlakes Theatre Experience
Spring Musical: Big River
Friday, March 15 - Sunday, March 17,
Saturday, March 23 and Sunday March 24

College Search Night
Thursday, March 21

Jump Rope for Heart
Wednesday, March 27

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 For more events, recent updates, the cycle day calendar and more, visit Midlakes.org and search for calendar under the "Community" tab.

VOLLEYBALL CAMP REGISTRATION ONLINE

School-aged volleyball players of all skills are invited to a camp from Monday, Feb. 18 to Wednesday, Feb. 20 at Midlakes High School, 1554 State Route 488, Clifton Springs.

The purpose of the camp is to provide girls and boys an opportunity to develop their skills, learn more about the game and have some fun over February break.

The camp will run from noon to 2 p.m. each day and is open to first-graders on up to varsity-level. Cost is \$25. There are discounts for children of the same family attending the camp. Families can register by returning the online form at midlakes.org/volleyball. For more information or questions, email Kyle Salisbury at ksalisbury@midlakes.org.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS, CLOSINGS INFORMATION

The Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District now uses a School Messenger Parent Notification System to provide updates on school closings and other important information through a telephone call and email.

Parents should contact their building school secretary or go to midlakes.parentlink.net to sign-up to receive notifications. Parents can also contact District Office at (315) 548-6420.

The school district will use the notification system, post messages on its social media accounts, website and will alert various media outlets in the event school is closed or delayed to inform community members.

PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Produced by the Office of Communications

Send tips and suggestions to: Newsletter, 1490 State Route 488, Clifton Springs, NY 14432



**PHELPS-CLIFTON SPRINGS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**
1490 STATE ROUTE 488
CLIFTON SPRINGS, NY 14432

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