



# Haddam Killingworth High School May/June 2023 Newsletter



## *From the Principal...*

In these last few weeks of the 2022-23 academic year, we are enjoying the celebrations of student success!

We are in the “home stretch” of the academic year, looking forward to celebrating our seniors at their graduation on Thursday, June 15th. We are happy to share lots of newsy tidbits in this edition of the newsletter.



## HKHS Class of 2023 Valedictorian & Salutatorian Announced!



Abigail “Abby” Jones, daughter of Wallace and Jennifer Jones of Killingworth, has been named Valedictorian of the class of 2023 at Haddam Killingworth High School. She is an amazing student, writer, artist, musician, and person who will be greatly missed at HKHS. Academically, Abby has taken all of her courses at the highest levels where she excelled in all areas. She has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Harvard Book Award and the HOBY Leadership Award. Abby also has a passion for community service and has compiled over 400 volunteer hours for a multitude of local organizations including the YMCA Camp Shore, St. Lawrence Church, and the Knights of Columbus. Abby will be attending Brown University this fall.

Kristen Thebeau, daughter of Ronnie and Robin Thebeau of Haddam, has been named the Salutatorian of the class of 2023 at Haddam Killingworth High School. Kristen has flourished in her time at HKHS, taking on an arduous schedule including mainly honors and advanced level offerings. She has received numerous awards for her academic achievement including the Yale Book Award, the George Orwell Award for Excellence. Kristen is a section leader of the Jazz Band and is proficient with five instruments. Outside of school, she has accrued over 320 hours of community service and holds the Girl Scout Gold Award. Kristen plans to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall to major in computer science and minor in astrophysics.

Read more about Abby & Kristen and the rest of our Top 10 [here!](#)



## Trout in the Classroom!

Trout in the Classroom is an environmental education program in which students raise trout from eggs before releasing them as fingerlings in a state-approved stream at the end of the school year. Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a collaboration between Trout Unlimited, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and schools.

In early January, the Science Department received 200 Seeforellen Brown Trout eggs, which started hatching in January. They are now at the fingerling stage and are approximately 5 cm long. Students will get the opportunity to release the trout at Chatfield Hollow in June.

Students in Integrated Science are responsible for testing water quality and feeding their trout while monitoring growth and development. Students learn about water degradation (the changes in the physical, chemical and biological properties of water) and the impact that it has on the trout's ability to survive. Lessons like this help foster a sense of conservation ethics in our students!



Picture of trout in the Alevin stage (they feed off the attached yolk sac)

We extend a special thank you to Jim Woodworth of the Hammonasset Trout Unlimited Chapter for bringing us the trout eggs and supplying us with the materials needed to start up the program here at Haddam Killingworth High School.



Picture of Olivia releasing trout at Chatfield Hollow

**Come see them in Mrs. Walston's classroom!**



2023 CT Earth Day  
Scholarship Contest

HKTV is happy to announce that **Molly O'Neal** has won the 2023 Earth Day scholarship contest offered by The Junkluggers! Molly submitted a PSA video to answer the burning question:

Landfill waste reduction starts at home - and in school!  
In the spirit of community empowerment, winners were selected based on their response to the burning question: "In today's world, we are always looking for ways to help save the planet and increase sustainability. Do you have a creative way for us to keep reusable items out of landfills?"

Watch Molly's full video [here!](#)







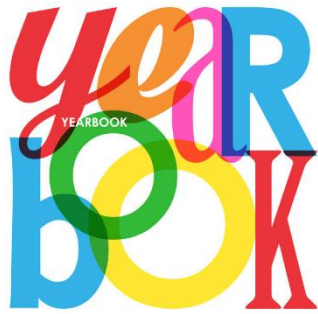
## Child Development News!

Child Development students taught one of the most fun “Big Kid Time” lessons yet! Preschoolers tried their best to “Pin the Tail on Gayle” while blindfolded. First, we read about selflessness & kindness by reading **Rainbow Fish**, one of our favorite story books. We also colored our very own fish scales to give our rainbow fish special scales of his own. If you’re in A-Wing, take a look at the stellar artwork on our windows & walls!

What’s the best way to start your day in preschool? How about story time and yoga with your Big Kid Friends? We read **Today, I Feel Silly & Other Moods That Make My Day** then used our own hands and bodies to stretch and relax. We also practiced breathing deeply.



**Namaste  
HK Cubs!**



Yearbooks will be arriving in approximately 2 weeks and will be handed out during Streetfest!



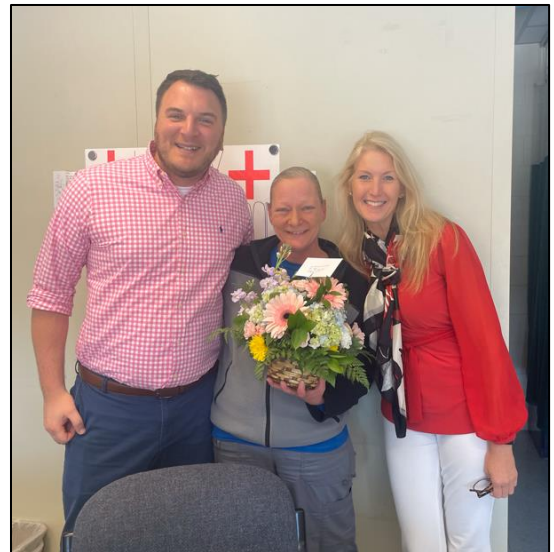
If you did not place an order but would like to, please bring a check for \$90 made out to “HKHS Yearbook” and deliver it to Mr. Bartholomew **ASAP** to avoid waiting in line during Streetfest. Extra copies will be sold during Streetfest until they are gone!

## School Principals’ Day, Teacher Appreciation Week + School Nurse Appreciation Day!

During the month of May we celebrated School Principals’ Day (5/1), Teacher Appreciation Week (5/8 to 5/12) and School Nurse Day (5/10)!



We are incredibly grateful, **year-round**, for everything our professionals do! We celebrated with flowers for Ms. McGran, goodies for all of our teachers every day of Teacher Appreciation Week and the Spirit Club spoiled all of us on each of our respective days.





## CONGRATULATIONS to the HKHS

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR**  
*Christine Ahearn, Math Teacher*

**STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR**  
*Rosemary Schlosser, Paraprofessional*

Christine Ahearn has been a math teacher at HKHS for the past seven years. Our math department, and our school, wouldn't be the same without Christine's dedication and enthusiasm!

Rosemary Schlosser is a much-loved paraprofessional who has been part of the HKHS family for over 27 years. This is a well-deserved honor for Rosemary!

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### NEWS FROM THE FIELD!

The HKHS **Girls Tennis** team have worked hard on the courts during their season which marks an end for one half of the team as well as a strong beginning for the other half. There are six seniors rounding out their high school careers this week, eight freshmen diligently striving to improve their game for future competition, and one lone junior assuming her leadership role for next year. A handful of those players will fight to win matches this week in order to achieve a spot at the Shoreline Tournament on May 22. While the girls are far from a winning record, their improvement this season has been vast and a bright future is undoubtedly ahead. Captains Brenna Lonergan and Jenna LeMontagne have successfully led this team to new horizons!

The 2023 **Boys Tennis** team is made up of six returning lettermen and eight newcomers to both the team and the sport of tennis. With fourteen matches played, the newcomers are now complimenting the veterans and the team finds itself with a record of 7-7 in Shoreline League competition going into the last match of the season. "We have lost four league matches by the heartbreaking score of 3-4 but believe we are on the brink of a breakthrough", said Coach Pakus. The team is finding its identity at the right time and we should do well in the Shoreline Tournament and qualify for State Class S Tournament competition. Our tri-captains, Gus Luziotti, Eddie White, and Bryce Leiberman have provided the continuing leadership we need to stay motivated during the season. We lose Gus and Cav Napoletano who played together as our #1 doubles team to this year's graduating class and they will be hard to replace. Fortunately, the enthusiasm and hard work they brought to the team is the legacy they leave to our other doubles players. Ezekiel Stevens will be the veteran we will rely on to lead our doubles going forward. Our singles players, Eddie White and Bryce





Leiberman, have led the way for us this season, with both scoring victories in eight of our Shoreline matches and only once were both defeated in the same match. Joe Wessinger has had a breakthrough season playing #3 singles and Will Lirot has qualified for Shoreline Tournament play. Our first-year players Saige Merwin, Adam Livingston, Joe Lucero, Joe Castelli, Luke Frohlich, Larson Mc Laughlin, and Thomas Young round out the roster and have all filled important roles for our team. Our remaining goals for this season are for a good showing at the Shorelines, advancing to State Class competition and having one or more of our players selected for participation in the season ending State Invitational.



**Girls Lacrosse** is having a great season as they are just over the halfway point. While currently 4th in the Shoreline Conference, they remain hopeful and hardworking to achieve more. With each game, they continue to work together toward a common goal - one shot, one goal, one game at a time.

As of May 8<sup>th</sup>, the team is 6-3. One milestone the girls lacrosse team can boast about is a win in sudden death overtime in a game against North Branford early in the season. "It's these comeback and tight games, the players seem to thrive on", Coach Reilly jokes. They have a really great way of coming through for each other for the good of the team. They had six games over a ten-day period, taking on rivals Old Saybrook, Morgan, and Old Lyme as well as Cromwell, Avon, and Valley, culminating with their senior night on May 16<sup>th</sup> against Valley. HKHS girls lacrosse boasts nine seniors this season: Sophia Romino, Brooklyn Bailey, Juliana Gagliardi (aka J Gag), Audrey Wrinn, Georgia Cancroft (aka George), Kelsie Piela, Jenna Whitmer, Ellie Frith, and Julia Favalora (aka Fav).

**HKHS Golf** is currently 3-5 (3-3 in conference), averaging a 185 for team matches. As of May 10<sup>th</sup>, we are in 5<sup>th</sup> place of 11 teams in the conference and we're currently in 11<sup>th</sup> place

overall out of 33 teams in Division III, giving us a very solid path to the state tournament (top 17 will gain entrance). In our last match, the squad shot a 165 - the best round an HKHS golf team has produced in over seven years! Captain Jacob Maier and junior Declan Kessler have led the way for us. Things are looking up for HKHS golf!

**Boys Lacrosse** is 11-2 and in first place in the Shoreline. Our leading scorers are Alex Phipps w/ 35G/12A, Nolan Braren w/ 30G/10A, and Spencer Savoy w/ 20G/20A. Our defense only surrenders five goals a game and is led by goalie Braden Civiello, Charlie Maxwell, Aidan Griswold, Nate Kelly, and Jack Insalaco. Cooper Pitts has owned the face-off "x" with a ton of help from standout sophomore Jake McKenzie and newcomer Tyler Perry. The top performances we've had this season are Alex Phipps w/ eight goals against Old Saybrook and Nolan Braren with six goals against Branford. The team is working hard to make it three in a row in the league championship in a couple weeks!

In **Baseball** news, Liam Gordon scattered four hits over five innings, striking out seven, as Haddam Killingworth defeated East Hampton 14-2 on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Matt Shea, Callen Powers, Ryan Erskine and Jackson Pray each had two hits for the HKHS Cougars. The Cougars are 15-3, with a win on senior day vs SMSA 2-0 with Blake Kamoen on the mound.



**Outdoor Track** is undefeated in their dual meets! The HKHS Cougars will compete on May 25<sup>th</sup> at East Hampton for the Shoreline Championship led by captains Kaleigh Bodak and Ivy McNiel.



The **Softball** team has a record of 11-5 with just three regular season games remaining. They are getting ready for Shorelines which will begin on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and expect to be the #3 seed in that tournament. After that, they will compete in the Class M State Tournament. Come out and cheer the Cougars on this postseason!

Please visit [www.ciacsports.com](http://www.ciacsports.com) and the @HK\_Cougar\_Den on Instagram for the most up to date information on HKHS Sports!



### News from the gym!

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, representatives from each of the Physical Education 1 class periods faced off in a cross-class Badminton Battle during the lunch activity period. The runners up in the tournament were (from left to right) Finn O’Hanlon & Chase Bruno and the 2023 PE1 Badminton Champions are Jesse Fazzone & Jackson Pray.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, two teams worked their way up to be the finalists in the Pickleball Lunch Activity Tournament between PE1 classes. Eli Hamann-Shay & Jake Wolfradt will face off with Ian Pizzorusso & Matt Singer for the championship that will be finished at a later date.

## PROM 2023

Our senior prom was held at the Water’s Edge on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Zenon Kolcio was crowned the Prom King & Ellie Frith was crowned Prom Queen!



Our junior prom was held at the Westbrook Elks Lodge on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Alex Battistoni was crowned Prom King and Ella Commerford was crowned Prom Queen!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Awards Night** - May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm - *invites were mailed out last week!*
- **Senior Outing** - May 26<sup>th</sup> at Holiday Hill
- **Memorial Day** - May 29<sup>th</sup> - *No school!*
- **Streetfest** - May 31<sup>st</sup> from 10:30am to 2:10pm
- **Scholarship Night** - June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm - *invites will be mailed out this week!*
- **SATs** - June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **Finals Week** - June 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Graduation Rehearsals** - These are mandatory rehearsals and all seniors must be present for both!
  - June 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm starting in the auditorium
  - June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am starting in the cafeteria
- **Senior Breakfast** - June 15<sup>th</sup> at 8am in the cafeteria
- **Graduation** - June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
  - An outdoor ceremony will not require tickets. However, if it is moved to the auditorium due to inclement weather, each student will be allotted four tickets.
- **Project Graduation** - June 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30pm until 4:30am to 5am on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the HKHS fieldhouse. Students must arrive by 11:30pm for admittance!



We look forward to bringing the 2022-23 school year to a successful close with graduation on June 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us for many of our celebrations!

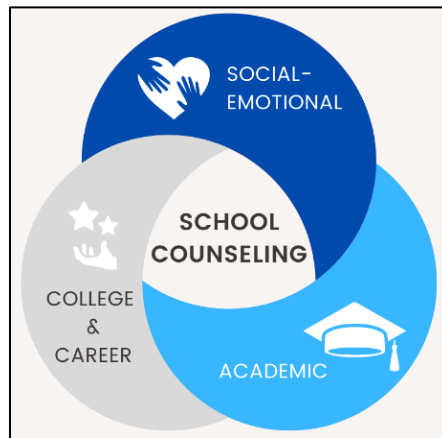
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Donna Hayward'.

Donna Hayward,  
Principal







## Guidance Counseling Dept Update!

- Reminder for seniors to complete the Post-Secondary Survey! (sent out via Google Forms)
- Reminder that transcripts will be sent out after final grades have been submitted - both to colleges and for NCAA athletes.
- **Please help us congratulate all upcoming award & scholarship recipients!**

There are still a few opportunities left to apply for scholarships!  
Reminder that all scholarships are available through **Naviance!**



- Guilford Sportsmen's Association Conservation Sciences Scholarship (6/1)
- CALAHE Scholarship (6/2)
- Abbott & Fenner Scholarship Program (6/12)
- Big Sun Scholarship (6/19)

## Upcoming / Ongoing Community Service Opportunities!

Reminder that all students must earn at least 30 hours of community service in order to graduate. Community service is a wonderful way to give back to your community, meet new people, help those in need, and become a part of something bigger than yourself. Please contact the Guidance Counseling office if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to sign up for any of these opportunities!

- **HKIS Stepping Up Ceremony** - face painters needed for June 12<sup>th</sup>!
- **Higganum Farmers Market** - volunteers needed for all Saturdays in June!
- **Killingworth Lions Club** - ongoing opportunities throughout the year including helping to set up rental tents all through the summer and the Durham Fair food booth in September!