There was a time, not so long ago, when summer meant “play,” and fall signaled “study” – and if there had been emojis to illustrate the mood associated with each, the first would have been met with a smiley face, the latter with a sad or, at least, a ‘meh’ countenance. Today, the lines have blurred.

Educators at all levels recognize that play and study can, and should, yield a common end: learning. Innovative summer programs and inventive school-year classes and special programs aim to engage students fully, to encourage them to explore and discover. The goal is reached through many avenues and those who follow ‘roads less travelled’ will find awe and wonder waiting. Our local schools are taking the next generation on journeys through new and exciting pathways, with committed guides to lead them along the way.

Sleepy Hollow

Challenge Summer Institute Grows in Tarrytown

*Photo: Abigail Bartolacci enjoyed the hands-on combo of games and learning at Tarrytown’s Challenge Summer Institute.*

Launching rockets into the sky, building a robot or surviving a zombie apocalypse: that’s just a taste of what children experienced at the Challenge Summer Institute this summer, now in its eighth year in Tarrytown. The two-week program, run out of the Washington Irving School, engaged students entering third through ninth grade in hands-on experiences, setting goals and achieving them. Challenge Enrichment teacher and founder, Maureen Massaro, said, “Students enjoy things when they get to choose.”
To immerse students in Native American culture, high school students, who volunteer as counselors, constructed a wigwam from pipes and canvas. The children made rain sticks, dream catchers, miniature teepees and more. Instructor Rachel Gonzalez, a former principal at WI, returned to the school to share her passion.

The Zombie Outbreak Class, with the help of instructor Sheree Spagnoli, led sixth through eighth graders into real life emergency training to teach their team how to survive a worldwide epidemic.

Sleepy Hollow Middle School Welcomes New Principal

Joshua Whitham, the new Sleepy Hollow Middle School principal, knows that he is in the right place. “It definitely is a place that's open and inviting,” he said. “I am eager to enhance experiences for our students. They are the priority.”

The veteran educator has 17 years of experience, as principal of the A.B. Davis Middle School in Mount Vernon; as assistant principal at Middle School 203 in the Bronx, where he initially worked as a math coach and data specialist; and as a math teacher at Raphael Cordero Bilingual Academy at JHS 45 in Manhattan. Whitham, who started his career as a 6th grade elementary school teacher for gifted and talented students, is currently a doctoral student at Fordham University, studying K-12 Administration.

He says of the middle school environment, “The students are at an age when they are still innocent and have joy. They are taking their first steps again” into a world of more demanding work and complex schedules. He wants Sleepy Hollow Middle School to be a “true bridge” for students as they enter from Washington Irving Intermediate School and exit to Sleepy Hollow High School.
Whitham credited Superintendent of Schools Chris Borsari with beginning a new partnership with the Yale Center for Emotional Learning, which is helping Tarrytown introduce a program that emphasizes emotional growth in students during the critical pre-teen and teen years.

Sleepy Hollow Middle School Students Invited to New Bridge Opening Ceremony

Thirty Sleepy Hollow Middle School students had the chance on Aug. 24 to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony that opened the new Tappan Zee Bridge, renamed the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. The students, accompanied by Superintendent of Schools Christopher Borsari and Principal Joshua Whitham, were the guests of Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Governor Cuomo drove on the new bridge span in a 1955 Corvette with Armando “Chick” Galella of Sleepy Hollow, a Bronze Star recipient and Pearl Harbor survivor who drove the same model year Corvette as part of the inaugural procession that crossed the Tappan Zee Bridge on December 15, 1955. The old bridge will serve southbound/eastbound drivers until the new bridge completely replaces the 62-year-old Tappan Zee Bridge later this year.

Students from Tarrytown, who have been heavily involved in educational programs involving the new NY Bridge, won a contest last year to name the baby falcon that was born in a nest on the bridge.

Briarcliff Manor

Library Media Specialist McCabe to Serve on Printz Award Committee
They spoke with representatives of Open Door Family Medical Centers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts parents and children, learned about local organizations and took a bus tour of Ossining. Dozens of families recently attended a Family to Family welcome party for newcomers at Park School, where they met other of the project.

After the unveiling of the mural in late June, students taped notes on a "Giving Tree" on a cafeteria wall about what they could do to promote kindness. The AMD PTA supported this part. A shiny green, blue and black mosaic mural - a green flower with the words "be kind" in the center, surrounded by blue tiles - stands as a beacon in the lobby of Ossining's Anne M. Dorner Middle School, conveying to the school community that kindness, courtesy, tolerance and center, surrounded by blue tiles - stands as a beacon in the lobby of Ossining's Anne M. Dorner Middle School, conveying to the school community that kindness, courtesy, tolerance and

The Ossining school district completed several important construction projects and other improvements before welcoming students for the fall. MATTERS gave out nearly $53,000 in grants for the 2016-17 school year. Funding projects and learning opportunities outside the scope of the school budget. Ossining Pre-K," which helped them get acclimated to the new environment. Forty families also spent Aug. 21 to 23 at Park School in a program called "Countdown to morning of Aug. 24, learning where the cafeteria, gym and library are located, and easing any

Their proposals ranged from the practical – more garbage cans and a new drinking fountain – to ideas for improving Nelson Park as part of the "Revitalize Ossining" project. Ossining Girl Scouts and other community organizations. Ossining Superintendent of Schools Read" Bookmobile.

Ossining families that visited Nelson Sitting Park on a recent morning went home laden with books on fairies,

United Way of Westchester, Putnam and Ossining Schools Ossining The district hopes to announce the appointment of a permanent assistant principal in October. "John will be a great addition to the Dows Lane community during this transition," said Dr. Harrison. A 32-year veteran of education, Wells has experience in an elementary setting and over 20 years as a principal in the Lower Hudson Valley.

The Irvington School District Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kristopher Harrison have announced the appointment of John Wells as the interim assistant principal at Dows Lane Elementary School. Irvington UFSD appoints interim Dows Lane Elementary School assistant principal with separate programs for Middle and High School. Consultants from Beauty & The Beast Storytellers for Elementary Storytelling with Folk (& Fairy) Tales with Lane Elementary School; and Hands-on Science Other programs include the Be A Friend Project, which brings peer support to young victims of Destination Imagination to encourage teams to have fun, take risks, focus and frame challenges

virtual trips to museums, underwater and outer space through Google Expeditions; an intense, The 21 grant awards include: A visit by author Jeff Anderson (Zack Delacruz: Me and My Big

"We are so proud of our partnership with the IEF," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kristopher

BHS Class of 2017 graduate Eliana Perez left her distinguishing mark on entering classes: after completing the Apple training program, she was chosen to design the cover of the MacBooks and iPads that are being used by BHS and BMS students this year. Perez is studying video

This summer, around a dozen Briarcliff Manor high school (BHS) students participated in a Apple Certified Mac technicians able to serve tech teams district-wide. The program enables occur and provides a one-of-a-kind experience for students interested in taking their skills to the technology staffs to provide more efficient service to both faculty and students when tech issues

James Kaishian who spoke of the opportunity to start over every September in a school technology and CIO who introduced all the new members of the technology team; and Michael

Briarcliff's staff enjoyed a welcome-back breakfast and inspirational words about the coming Briarcliff's Back! Said McCabe, "I feel very lucky and honored to have been chosen to be part of such an Award each year, the nation's most prestigious award for young adult literature, equivalent to books. Past winners include Walter Dean Myers' Monster, John Green's Looking for Alaska and

Going Bovine. Apple program allows skilled students to serve district-wide needs