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
and other organizations, and signed up for library cards at the Ossining Public Library table. The experience in the district and can assist the newcomers.

parents and children, learned about local organizations and took a bus tour of Ossining.

School, where they met other of the project.

understanding are expected and practiced in the building.

A shiny green, blue and black mosaic mural - a green flower with the words "be kind" in the Ossining's Anne M. Dorner Middle School unveils Kindness Mural and Giving Tree installing a new roof at Brookside. Ossining anticipates starting a classroom addition project at OHS; renovating classrooms and creating new guidance offices at Anne M. Dorner Middle School (Open Door Family Medical Centers completed renovations to its space at AMD); improvements before welcoming students for the fall.

The Ossining school district completed several important construction projects and other Ossining construction projects prep district for the fall.

MATTERS gave out nearly $53,000 in grants for the 2016-17 school year.

Hundreds of Ossining UFSD supporters participated in the Ossining MATTERS 15th annual 5K Pre-K," which helped them get acclimated to the new environment.

August Scavenger Hunt introduces pre-Kindergarteners to Park School the whimsical – a pool for dogs. Other students suggested a rope course, a soccer field, a water Summer Academy Students create visions for revitalizing Ossining "It is important for us to all understand that reading is essential to a child's

its delivery van into a mobile library and stocked it with children's books donated by the Raymond Sanchez and United Way President and CEO Alana Sweeny unveiled the bookmobile Ossining Girl Scouts and other community organizations. Ossining Superintendent of Schools on August 28.

Read" Bookmobile.

books on fairies,

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

Harrison.

years as a principal in the Lower Hudson Valley.

Dows Lane Elementary School.

The Irvington School District Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kristopher consultants from Beauty & The Beast Storytellers for Elementary

Storytelling with Folk (& Fairy) Tales with a history educator from the New-York Pilot Program to produce an active and collaborative way of thinking and approaching

Flexible Seating and Student-Centered Classroom Redesign that gives students the power of

The 21 grant awards include: A visit by author Jeff Anderson (Zack Delacruz: Me and My Big

basics of scale and proportion to build a 3-D model from a 2-D picture of Washington, D.C.; Grammar; ArchForKids, where facilitators visit Irvington Middle School to teach students the

"We are so proud of our partnership with the IEF," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kristopher Harrison said. "The grant program inspires so many teachers to enrich curriculum, making

Apple program allows skilled students to serve district-wide needs 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

next level.

unique summer training program offered on-site at the high school during which they became

Techies rule!

ranging from Internet safety to mental health.

school year from Superintendent of Schools Dr.

Briarcliff's Back!

important

represent Briarcliff Manor at various conferences and committee events through June 2019.

Teka McCabe, Briarcliff Manor's Library Media Specialist for the middle and high school, was

chosen by the American Library Association's Young Adult Services Association (YALSA) to be

the Newbery Medal for children's literature and the Caldecott Medal for illustrated children's

books. Past winners include Walter Dean Myers' Monster, John Green's Looking for Alaska and

Going Bovine.