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**
next step in the Family to Family program is to match up new families with those that have experience in the district and can assist the newcomers.

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

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 School, conveying to the school community that kindness, courtesy, tolerance and understanding are expected and practiced in the building.

installing a new floor in the gymnasium and expanding the nurse’s office at Roosevelt School; The Ossining school district completed several important construction projects and other Ossining construction projects prep district for the fall

Hundreds of Ossining UFSD supporters participated in the Ossining MATTERS 15th annual 5K Ossining MATTERS Education Foundation’s 15th Annual Run/Walk a success

August Scavenger Hunt introduces pre-Kindergarteners to Park School

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 Ossining Girl Scouts and other community organizations. Ossining Superintendent of Schools With the help of United Way of Westchester and Putnam, the Ossining School District converted

“John is a warm and dedicated educator who will greatly support the learning of our early elementary students,” said Principal Deborah Mariniello.

Harrison.

“John will be a great addition to the Dows Lane community during this transition,” said Dr. Harrison said. “The grant program inspires so many teachers to enrich curriculum, making learning exciting and engaging.”

Other programs include the Be A Friend Project, which brings peer support to young victims of bullying; a sail on the Hudson with the Clearwater Sloop visit; Child’s Play Drama Residency for Grammar; ArchForKids, where facilitators visit Irvington Middle School to teach students the basics of scale and proportion to build a 3-D model from a 2-D picture of Washington, D.C.;

Irvington Education Foundation Awards Grants Irvington game design at Champlain College this fall.

BHS Class of 2017 graduate Eliana Perez left her distinguishing mark on entering classes: after unique summer training program offered on-site at the high school during which they became Apple Certified Mac technicians able to serve tech teams district-wide. The program enables technology staffs to provide more efficient service to both faculty and students when tech issues next level.

Techies rule!

Haberman on behalf of The Board of Education. The staff also attended workshops on topics expressed to him by his own children at the end of their annual sojourn to Long Beach Island!.

Other speakers included Edgar McIntosh, director of instruction & HR; Erica Beasley, director of community and the challenge of transitioning from summer vacation to back-to-school (as

school year from Superintendent of Schools Dr.

Briarcliff's staff enjoyed a welcome-back breakfast and inspirational words about the coming

important

McCabe, one of a nine-member committee chosen from librarians across the country, will 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 a member of the 2019 Printz Award Committee. The Committee grants the Michael Printz Award each year, the nation’s most prestigious award for young adult literature, equivalent to a member of the 2019 Printz Award Committee. The Committee grants the Michael Printz Award each year, the nation’s most prestigious award for young adult literature, equivalent to

Libba Bray's

Award each year, the nation’s most prestigious award for young adult literature, equivalent to

Going Bovine.