

# Schools

## Briefs

### Schools closed for holiday

All schools will be closed Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### SHS Drama Club plays

The Scarsdale High School Drama Club presents two student-directed plays “And” and “A Simple Task,” Friday, Jan. 17 and Saturday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the SHS auditorium. Tickets are \$10 at the door or online at eventbrite.com.

### ‘Inside Albany’ conference

Each year, the League of Women Voters of Scarsdale selects and sponsors two students to attend the Students Inside Albany Conference. This year, the conference will be held from May 17 to 20. Applications are due Monday, Feb. 3. Applications and information are available online at lwvs.org/youth.html.

### Summer activities fair

The Scarsdale High School PTA’s annual summer activities fair will be held Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the SHS cafeteria. The fair will feature representatives and information from more than 40 organizations that specialize in summer programs for students.

### School boards to meet

Scarsdale School Board will meet Monday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 170-172 at the high school. Edgemont School Board will meet Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. in the large group instruction room at the Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School.

### Board leadership changes

As previously planned, Scarsdale School Board President Scott Silberfein and Vice President Pamela Fuehrer resigned from their positions on the board Jan. 13, and the board unanimously appointed Fuehrer as president and appointed board member Alison Singer as vice president. Silberfein will continue to serve as a member of the board. Last July, when the board reappointed Silberfein as president, he announced plans to resign after six months to allow Fuehrer to step up and serve as president.

### Regeneron scholars

Scarsdale High School senior Jessie Liu and Edgemont High School senior Takaharu (Taka) Araki were recognized Jan. 8 among the top 300 scholars in the Regeneron Science Talent Search 2020. Liu’s project was “Developing and Evaluating a Novel Retinoblastoma Staging Application” and Araki’s project was “PDK Inhibition Selectively Sensitizes Hyperactive mTORC1 MEF Cells Under Hypoxia.”

Regeneron’s competition is the nation’s oldest and most prestigious science contest for high school seniors, providing an important forum for original research that is recognized and reviewed by a national jury of professional scientists.

### Chess winners

Edgemont Chess Club members won first place in the 12th grade section of the National Scholastic K-12 Championship in Orlando, Florida, on Dec. 13 through 15.

### Gifts to schools

Edgemont PTSA donated \$225 to the high school to fund registrations in Science Olympiad competitions. Two anonymous donors contributed a total of \$7,107.78 to the high school for Edgemont athletics.

### School board nominees

The Edgemont School Board Nominating Committee accepted letters of nomination Jan. 15 for four individuals to fill the two upcoming vacancies on the Edgemont School Board when current terms expire on June 30. Those nominated are: Rebecca Asher, Jennifer DeMarrais, Dr. Nareen Jabbour and Monica Sganga.

The SBNC seeks comment from Edgemont residents concerning all of the above nominees. Comments should be submitted by March 1, and must be attributable. Anonymous comments will not be accepted. All comments will be kept confidential within the SBNC. Nomination letters and letters of comment on the nominees should be submitted in writing to SBNC Chair Andrea K. Weiss, 15 Paxford Lane, Scarsdale, NY, 10583, or via email to EdgemontSBNC@gmail.com.

## BOE mulls preliminary 2020-21 budget calendar

By NICHOLAS PERRONE

SCARSDALE — The Scarsdale School Board meeting Jan. 13 included, among other business, a presidential swap, a discussion of the preliminary draft 2020-21 budget and more.

### Preliminary draft budget update

Assistant Superintendent for Business Stuart Matthey presented to the board a proposed \$167 million budget, a 3.92% budget-to-budget increase from last year. The proposed tax levy would increase 3.66%.

“The tax levy is approximately \$268,000 over the limit at this point,”

said Matthey. “This is an early draft. It’ll get tighter as the weeks go by.”

Property tax levy growth for New York school districts will be capped at 1.81% for the 2020-21 fiscal year, down from a 2% cap in each of the two previous years, according to data released Jan. 14 by New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

On Feb. 3, the board will hear a draft budget presentation with a more definitive proposed budget.

According to Matthey, during the district’s internal budget development process — which began in late October — school principals requested a total of 10.40 additional FTE (full-time

equivalent), with an estimated cost of \$1.1 million.

For the requests to become fully fledged recommendations, the district places the requests in a three-tiered system to signify importance. Tier 1 includes a staffing request which is recommended, Tier 2 includes a request that is not recommended at this time, but has merit-based rationale for the future, and Tier 3 is a staffing request that is not recommended and would need extensive rationale to support.

Eric Rauschenbach, the director of special education and pupil services, submitted three requests for the 2020-

21 staffing budget for an additional integrated elementary special education co-teaching educator, an elementary special education educator for a ratio of 8:1:2 in one classroom and a psychologist’s secretary. Rauschenbach said the addition of a special education teacher in the 8:1:2 classroom from a cost perspective would be a “net zero,” as the special education department anticipates four fewer students would be in out-of-district placements, which cost \$65,000 to \$75,000 each. The actual cost of the 8:1:2 program would be \$180,000, which includes \$110,000 for the FTE, \$50,000 for two instructional aides and \$20,000 for profes-

sional development.

The addition of the integrated elementary special education co-teaching educator would cost \$110,000 and the psychologist secretary would cost \$18,000.

### 2020-21 draft calendar

The first draft of the 2020-21 school calendar showed the school year beginning on Sept. 8 ending on June 25. Winter holiday break is tentatively set to run from Dec. 23 to Jan. 4, 2021; February break is Feb. 15 to Feb. 19, 2021 and spring break is not set yet, but options have it running either March 29 to April 2, or April 2 to April 9.

## THREAD RETREAD

## SHS fashion show features upcycled clothing

By DEBORAH SKOLNIK

SCARSDALE — A cutting-edge fashion show is coming to the Scarsdale High School auditorium Jan. 24 from 3 to 4 p.m. But the teens strutting the catwalk won’t be modeling the types of ensembles our kids usually covet — say, the latest from a village boutique or something from the juniors’ department at Bloomingdale’s. Instead they’ll be showing off unique, handmade garments created from old clothes. Attendees may see a checkered skirt made from ties, for instance, or a chic blouse crafted from a men’s suit jacket.

It’s the ultimate intersection of creativity and practicality, and, if one young entrepreneur has her wish, it will also be the wave of the future.

“Hopefully, we can reduce consumerism and waste in the fashion industry,” said 17-year-old Jennifer Kahn, the founder of Up2D8, the sustainable-fashion school club behind the outfits and the show. “Clothing currently is being produced and discarded in much shorter time frames than it used to be, with new designs showing up daily on social media. In addition to quicker trends, people post themselves on social media wearing an outfit, and then don’t want to discard clothing that has barely been worn.”

This so-called fast fashion wreaks havoc on the ecosystem. “The apparel industry is one of the largest polluters in the world after the oil industry,” Kahn explained. “The emission of greenhouse gases due to the production of clothing is a huge contributor to climate change, especially due to the types of fabrics that are being used. For example, synthetic fibers such as polyester are causing harm to the environment because they are not biodegradable and they sit in landfills. We hope that in the future the fashion industry will start using more organic fabrics.”

And, of course, there’s always Up2D8’s strategy — reinventing old garments and turning them into fashion-forward pieces. Kahn first came up with the idea after learning about sustainability in school, she said. And she didn’t need to look far for sartorial inspiration: “My father owns a fashion company that’s about 130 years old, one of the oldest in the country,” she explained. “It’s called Kahn Lucas and it was started by my great-great grandfather. They make girls’ dresses.”

Like her forebears, Kahn has a flair for clothing design. “I started taking classes at the Fashion Institute of Technology in ninth grade for eight hours every Saturday, as well as during my ninth- and tenth-grade summers,” she said. Up2D8, which she founded about a year ago, was a natural outgrowth of these experiences. “I combined my design interest with my desire to address waste in the fashion industry and how it ultimately affects climate change,” she said. “I wanted to spread aware-



MONICA KAHN PHOTOS

Kahn, above, sewed old ties together to make a skirt and reconstructed a suit into a trendy off-the-shoulder jacket. Right, the old suit and ties from Kahn’s father, who was going to throw them away.

ness about this problem and also enable club members to use their design skills at the same time as they’re helping the environment.”

Recruiting members for Up2D8 “wasn’t very difficult,” Kahn said. “There are a bunch of people in school that are interested in art and a couple of my friends are also interested in fashion design and helping the environment.” Currently, the club has about a dozen members, all female, though boys are welcome to join.

The garments Up2D8 works with come from homes all over town. “People bring them to school — we have had clothing drives and we have posters all over,” Kahn said. “We’ll get anything from sweatshirts to jeans and suits.” T-shirts, she said, are the most frequently donated items of clothing.

After surveying the haul, Kahn and her fellow club members get to work. The items created “depend on the students,” she explained. “Whatever they would like to create, they first sketch it on a piece of paper, and then we figure out how to make or sew it. And then we may sew parts of different garments together or add some trim to embellish them.” Members design the clothing on mannequins, and then go through fittings to ensure the garment will flatter their own figures.

Up2D8 only meets for an hour on

Mondays after school, “but I also have a sewing machine at my house,” Kahn said. “So if people would like to work after hours, I allow them to come over to my house and I teach them some simple sewing techniques, because a lot of them aren’t as experienced in sewing.”

Kahn understands that to be successful, sustainable clothing needs to be chic. To keep in touch with the trends, “I do research,” she said. “I am constantly checking vogue.com and the various fashion magazines. Another way I’m updated is through Instagram, because it’s very visual and great for designers to showcase their designs. It has inspired many different garment ideas that we ended up creating in the club.”

In all, Up2D8 has created some 50 pieces of clothing, about 30 of which will be modeled at the fashion show. It will mark a high point for the club members and especially for Kahn, who hopes to study fashion design in a liberal arts school. For now, though, she has a different goal in mind: “In the future, I hope to create my prom dress,” she said.

Tickets are \$5; proceeds will be donated to Kids Klostet, a program that provides underserved Westchester County children with donated clothing and related items.



NICHOLAS PERRONE PHOTO

Renovations at Greenacres Elementary School began last summer.

## Construction at Greenacres School makes headway

Construction at Greenacres Elementary School is on schedule, according to Gary Gonzales, the vice president-project executive for Park East Construction Corp. and Francesco Borgese, the project superintendent for Park East Construction Corp. At a school board meeting Jan. 13, Gonzales and Borgese presented Park East Construction’s 2019 construction report, which outlined percentages for work completed.

### Phase 1:

New additional foundation and footing excavation .....	95% complete
New addition footing rebar and form work .....	95% complete
New addition concrete footings .....	95% complete
New addition foundation walls rebar and form work .....	95% complete
New addition concrete foundation walls .....	95% complete
New addition CMU partitions .....	20% complete
New addition face brick masonry .....	15% complete
Below grade plumbing storm drainage piping .....	100% complete
Below grade sanitary piping .....	90% complete
Structural steel erection .....	20% complete
First floor slab preparation .....	20% complete
First floor concrete slab on grade .....	20% complete
Attic concrete slab on deck .....	20% complete
Installation of storm water piping and hangers .....	15% complete

### Phase 2:

Existing attic spray foam insulation .....	25% complete
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This month, the construction firm plans to complete the remaining addition footings and foundation walls, continue the installation of plumbing hangers and piping at the underside of the metal decking, continue construction of the concrete masonry unit (CMU) partitions, continue construction of the face brick masonry, continue the delivery and erection of structural steel, begin delivering and installing the roof framing system and continue to spray the foam insulation in the building’s existing attic spaces.

— Nicholas Perrone

## SBNC election results

SCARSDALE — The 10 candidates elected Jan. 14 to join the School Board Nominating Committee are Cecilia Anon-Kowalski and Prem Itharat of Edgewood, Swapna Kanekar and Jonathan Lemle of Fox Meadow, Deborah Jeanne Skolnik and Cindy S. Yau of Greenacres, Curtis Parker and “Claire” Yin Yang of Heathcote, and Susi D’ambra Coplan and Purnima Srivastava of Quaker Ridge.

Of the total 137 votes cast, nine were mail-in ballots, and there also were two write-in candidates.

The number of votes cast by neighborhood was 21 from Edgewood, 26 from Fox Meadow, 19 from Greenacres, 37 from Heathcote and 34 from Quaker Ridge.

The newly elected committee members will join the existing SBNC members serving three-year terms on the SBNC followed by a two-year term as part of the Administrative Commit-

tee. The committee will have its first meeting on Jan. 26 and by the end of March it expects to nominate two candidates for the Scarsdale Board of Education to fill the seats currently held by Scott Silberfein and Chris Morin who both completed two three-year terms on the school board.

All Scarsdale residents are welcome to propose board of education candidates to the SBNC at sbncchair@gmail.com. The SBNC-nominated school board candidates, along with any other candidates who may choose to run, will stand for public election May 19 at the same time as the school budget vote.

Also during the vote this week, 21 amendments to the SBNC Resolution were passed. A total of 125 resolution ballots were cast in the election, of which nine were mail-in ballots.

— Submitted