Kensico CARES!!
Kensico students and staff CARE! Here are some of the things we’ve been doing.

Can Can Carnival
Mrs. Romano/Ms. Ward’s 4th grade students hosted our annual Can Can Carnival on December 19th in the gym.

The Can Can Carnival started as a celebration of the end of the class’ opinion/persuasive writing unit. The students researched pollution and ways in which we could take a greener outlook on life. Each student wrote a persuasive essay about going green. We wanted their writing to have an audience and to show them that writing can be used as a tool to change the world for the better. Each student made a game out of recycled materials, and we celebrated their hard work at the Can Can Carnival. Students were very creative – ring toss, bowling, knockdown games, corn hole toss, tic tac toe were just some of the many games created.

Kensico students paid 25¢ or brought a recycled bottle or can to the Carnival. All proceeds made will be donated. Mr. Curran feels activities such as these help our students grow as future innovators, and reminds students to reduce, reuse and recycle!
Toys for Tots

Kensico School once again participated in the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Program! The drive was organized by Mrs. Gonzalez’s 5th grade class. Every morning students collected toys from the donation box, packed the toys in bags, and kept them in their classroom until they were picked up by Mr. Steve Topilnycky, a Marine Corps Coordinator for the Toys for Tots Program. As students helped him pack the van, Steve explained that these toys not only bring joy to children, but also to parents who will now be able to provide a happy holiday for their children. He was very grateful and appreciative.
Great job!
Kensico CARES!

Tellabration! – Thursday, January 16 ~ 7:00 p.m.

For thirty-two years, the month of November has been filled with stories being told all over the world ~ an event called Tellabration! This year will mark Valhalla’s 22nd Tellabration! ~ one of the few where all of the tellers are children. Our 4th through 8th grade storytellers have been working diligently crafting their stories. When they perform, they are not reading or reciting a memorized piece, but are truly telling their stories. There will be a wide variety of traditional folktales, adaptations of literary stories, and much more. Please come and join us for a wonderful evening of story!

Tuesday, January 21 ~ 1:15 p.m. ~ “Lion Dance Plus” Assembly performed by New York Chinese Culture Center

This introduction to Chinese culture uses a diverse and authentic selection of dance, costumes, music, artifacts, and historical information to immerse students in the ancient and vibrant culture of China. With Dance China New York, students witness beloved Chinese folk art pieces, including excerpts from Beijing Opera, the Monkey King story, and the “Red Ribbon Dance.” Thank you to our PTA and Sue Martinez, PTA Arts in Education Chairperson, for sponsoring this assembly.

Friday, February 14 ~ 9:00 a.m. ~ The Living Museum

Students will once again participate in an interactive assembly titled, “The Living Museum.” Professional actors portraying famous African Americans are staged strategically in the hallways of Kensico School. In the past, we have had personalities including Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., Harriet Beecher Stowe, Langston Hughes, Mae Jamison, Madam C.J. Walker, Maya Angelou, Katherine Johnson and others. This is one of many ways we honor Black History Month at Kensico School. A special thank you to Valhalla parent, Toni Rubio, and our PTA Arts in Education Chairperson, Sue Martinez, for bringing this assembly to Kensico.

Happy Birthday!!

Nathaniel Aguilar
Iridessa Alston
Samuel Araujo
Alex Arocho
Miranda Caiazzo
Ella Castillo
Peyton Clark-Leon
Daniela Cromwell
Harmony De Leon
Nathan Gershner
Aria Holder
Julie Lee
Abby Levine
Isabella Marin
Mia Martinez
Mikenzie Martinez
Julianna Nikolakakos
Caroline Partenza
Jeramiah Ramos
Ryan Riviezzo
Tomas Signes
Grace Strnad
Yaseen Youssef
Alicia Zamudio
Monthly Writing Contest

A big thank you to our October writing celebration participants who wrote letters to our visiting author, Laurie Friedman and even had lunch with her!

Mrs. Astrella
Odvar Isabella Alm
Giuliana Derba
Sophia Morzello

Mrs. Floryshak
Valerie Castillo
Kayla Jenkins

Mrs. Walters
Max Buonocore
Maxwell Kwan
Valeria Martinez

Mr. Wright
Gabriella Oliveira

Mrs. Frank
Alex Nagorny

Mrs. Romano:
Hannah Konigsberg
Lilianna Rubino

Mrs. Williams:
Anika Gursahani
Joshua Thomas

Mrs. Guzzo:
Giuliana DiMaio

Another huge thank you to our November writing celebration participants who expressed what they were thankful for in either artwork, a poem, or an essay, and even submitted their pieces to Senator Harckham!

Mrs. Frank’s whole class
Mrs. Pecora’s whole class

Mrs. Astrella
Giuliana Derba
Lucia Gupta

Mrs. Floryshak
Valerie Castillo
Kayla Jenkins

Mrs. Pappalardo
Gabriela Florez
Ella Johnson

Mrs. Walter
Max Buonocore
Ava Ferere

Mr. Wright
Gabriella Oliveira

Mrs. Romano
Hannah Konigsberg
Izzie Liberati

Mrs. Williams
Fares Choura
Anika Gursahani

Mrs. Guzzo
Giuliana DiMaio
Nicholas Rosa

Mrs. Trehy
James Vamossy
Jeremiah Ramos

We look forward to reading our December writing celebration pieces. For December, we asked students to think about the gift of giving this holiday season. We asked them to describe the best gift they have GIVEN someone else, or will give. In their writing we want them to explain who the gift was for, what was given, why it was given, and what made the gift-giving experience special. We want them to keep in mind that not every gift has to be a tangible item, something you can touch. Not every gift needs to have a monetary or materialistic value. This writing piece can be a reflection about a previous time you have given a gift, or it can be around a gift you give this holiday season. Feel free to include a picture to go with your writing. We know what caring and thoughtful students we have here at Kensico and can’t wait to hear about how you all add to the joy and spirit of the season. We will celebrate the writers at our breakfast on Thursday, January 16th.

Happy Birthday!

Antonella Angeles
Daviel Cabrera
Roman Capobianco
Bella Capobianco
Gianna Capocci
Maria Carrillo Quevedo
Liana Castellanos
Fares Choura
Nia Dawson
Jeremy Fleiss
Bradley Fleiss
Lucia Gupta
Gabrielle Hickman
Vivien Keppler
Angela Lin
Marcus Mathews
Joseph Henry McLaughlin
Talya Neale
Anastasia Nikolakakos
Peyton Olmeda
Anthony Pesce
Makenzie Reckson
Delilah Richards
Dylan Suarez
Shea Teter
Martine Toth
Emma Wang
Gabriella Zonetti
Vincent Zonetti
From our Health Office ~ Mrs. Branciforti, RN

Health Office Website: Please check Mrs. Branciforti's webpage for updates and happenings in the Health Office at Kensico School Mrs. Branciforti's Page (Kensico Website–About Us–Staff Directory). Forms and other information can be found on the website under the Parent Tab (Health Office/Wellness).

Flu Season/Gastrointestinal Virus (NOROVIRUS): As the flu and stomach virus season makes its way across the tri-state area, here are a couple of things to remember. Always consult with your health care provider when/if your symptoms arise and/or persist. Please be sure that the school nurse is informed of your child’s illness.

Please keep your child home if:
- A fever (100 degrees or higher) is present or has been in the past 24 hours. Your child should remain home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen.
- Your child has a cold with nasal discharge and/or a persistent cough.
- Your child has a sore throat.
- Your child vomits/diarrhea before school.
- Your child has an unidentified rash.
- Your child is tired and generally not well.

Attendance: You MUST call (683-3649) or email (tbranciforti@valhallaschools.org) the Health Office each day of your child’s absence or lateness prior to 9:00 am. The automated electronic attendance call system is activated daily at 9:10 a.m. Please call to verify your child's attendance. A written note from the parent/guardian is required by NYS law upon a student's return to school, and a doctor's note is required if your child is absent due to an illness more than 3 days.

If your child arrives after 8:45am, they are considered late, and need to go to the health office to receive a late pass prior to going to the classroom.

Physicals: All 3rd & 5th grade students and students new to our district are required by NYS law to have a current physical examination and dental certificate on file. Please send completed medical/dental documents (dated after Sept. 4, 2019) to the Health Office.

Food Allergies: All classrooms at the Kensico School are designated nut free. This includes any food consumed in the classroom; including, but not limited to snacks, celebrations, parties, etc. No homemade foods are to be brought into the building at any time. If food products are granted permission for entry they must be store bought and have a visible label of ingredients. Any food processed on shared equipment is not allowed for fear of cross contamination with tree nuts or peanuts. If there is no indication of what is in the food, it will remain in the front office or will be sent home.

Changes: Please notify the health office of any changes or new medical conditions, allergies, medication, etc. that may arise throughout the year pertaining to your child so their health record may reflect confidential, current information that is necessary to keep your child healthy and safe while at school.

Clothing: The Health Office is in need of Boys/Girls Pants (sizes 6-12) for those "emergency" situations. If you're looking to purge your closets soon, please consider donating clean, used clothing to the Health Office.