

### A MESSAGE FROM THE SOAR BOARD CHAIR

Friends and neighbors, I am happy to report that SOAR is off to a wonderful and robust start to the 2022-2023 school year. Our new Executive Director, Lauren Brown, has taken the helm with care and enthusiasm. Lauren has brought her talent and love of teaching from the classrooms of Indian Mountain School, where she had been a 3rd grade teacher, to our Salisbury Central School enrichment program. The result is an exciting mix of new classes and beloved favorites from years past. Classes were filled to capacity and the feedback has been tremendously positive. In addition, the Salisbury Fall Festival was back this year after a two year hiatus and SOAR was front and center at the Scoville Library with arts and crafts, pumpkin painting and a raffle – an overall success for both the Lakeville/Salisbury Community and our program. It felt great to be a part of this time honored event again! It is representative of the warm and supportive community that we are all fortunate to be a part of and why I will say that your financial support, at any level, is deeply appreciated. It is through the generosity of our community that we can offer exceptional creative programming to the children of Salisbury Central School, programming that might otherwise be out of reach.

Fondly, Keavy Bedell, SOAR Board Chair

### A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There is a buzz amongst the students of Salisbury Central School when SOAR is in action. If you visit the workshops you will see smiles, hear laughter, and witness creative energy filling the classrooms. With over 100 children signing up for various workshops this fall, SOAR kids have had the opportunity to explore their interests, make new friends, and take risks in a safe space. From yoga to farming to painting and guitar, there was something for everyone in the course roster this fall. We are most excited about the fall musical returning, with over 30 children signing up to be a part of Annie Jr. Over the past few weeks, the children have been working hard at memorizing lines, practicing songs, and learning dance moves. We invite you to the performances on November 18 & 19 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School to check out the talent. Lastly, I would like to thank Linda Sloane for her leadership of SOAR over the past five years. Following in Linda's footsteps is no easy feat, but with her dedication, knowledge and support of SOAR, the transition was seamless. I am excited to be a part of this amazing organization and look forward to seeing where the next year will take us.

All the best, Lauren Brown, Executive Director

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM FALL 2022



Master Class: Horror Mask making with Tyler Green



Boomshakalaka: A Process Painting Studio Art Class



Auditions for the fall musical, Annie Jr.



First and second graders enjoying Fun Fitness



Food, Farming, and Fun at Fairfield Farm



Annie Jr.
November 18 @ 6:30pm
November 19 @ 2:00pm & 5:00pm
Housatonic Valley Regional High School





Paint, Clay, and Play



Fifth grader participating in Boomshakalaka



Annie Jr.'s first script read through





A fourth grader working on a mask



Yoga & Mindfulness



Roaring Brook Nature Center



The Ancient Art of Henna

## **TESTIMONIALS**

"The Sisk family loves SOAR! For my kids who are at home in creative play and imagining more so than on a sports field, SOAR is an amazing option for after school enrichment. We are so grateful for it! Emma's face lit up so bright when she learned there would be a SOAR musical again this year. She is at home on the stage, and the musical has been a saving grace for her this fall! All three of my kids have also really enjoyed their painting/art classes. The Paint Clay and Play was a brilliant intro to SOAR for Teddy; he came home delightedly messy every week. And they all found their instructors to be so kind." ~Michelle, Salisbury Central parent

"SOAR classes are a great way to meet kids from other grades and make new good friends!" ~Emma, Salisbury Central student

"My son Emmett is participating in SOAR classes for the first time this year. He has enjoyed "painting his feelings" in his Boomshakalaka Art Class, and has felt empowered to keep creating art at home! This is a big step for a child who does not prefer fine motor tasks, and I appreciate that Ms. Higgins has helped him to feel excited about process art!" ~Michelle, Salisbury Central parent

"My kids have LOVED your SOAR class. Both of them, which is huge because Will is hard to get excited." ~Tiffany, Salisbury Central parent

"My second-grader has loved every minute of her SOAR classes this year! The free-form activities of Boomshakala really get her creativity flowing, and she has so much fun playing games outside with Miss Janet during Fun Fitness. We can't wait for spring!" ~Jenn, Salisbury Central parent

"My seventh-grader has really enjoyed henna with Nicky. This is the second time they've participated in this class, and their line work is getting more intricate and more accurate. They especially loved working at the Fall Festival this year. SOAR classes have helped them both express their creativity and take on more responsibility." ~James, Salisbury Central parent

"You never know what the classes are going to be like, but they are always super fun!" ~Kellan, Salisbury Central student

"I like SOAR because you get to do fun activities, make new friends, and I love the SOAR teachers." ~Eloise, Salisbury Central student

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### Lauren Brown

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