

CONTACT: Linda Park
Hawthorne Valley Association
518-672-4465 x101
lpark@hawthornevalley.org
www.hawthornevalleyschool.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawthorne Valley School Students Organize Black Lives Matter Rally

GHENT, NY - OCTOBER 2, 2020: On Tues, Sept 29, Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School (HVS) students held a student-led Black Lives Matter rally to raise community awareness of this important social justice issue.

The rally was organized by two sixth graders to coincide with the school's annual Michaelmas festival, which celebrates courage, fortitude, and service. Over 40 students from grades 5-12 joined in, along with faculty, staff, and parents.

Four students gave speeches on the social justice struggle of Black and Indigenous people before the group marched around the campus with handmade signs with messages such as "Silence is Violence" and "Power in Unity #BLM".

At the rally, Isolde, 6th grader and rally co-organizer, spoke to her fellow students about the resolve needed to achieve social justice for all. "We need to continue fighting if we really want change," she said. "We are here fighting for the equality we believe in, and we will continue to fight until the violence stops."

Addressing the social injustices faced by Indigenous peoples in the United States, 7th grader Sophia said, "We acted as if these people did not exist, didn't matter. This has to stop. To solve a problem, you can't ignore it and expect it to go away. You need to look it in the face and acknowledge that it is there."

For more information about Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School, contact Linda Park at lpark@hawthornevalley.org or 518-672-7092 x101.

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About Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School

Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School is a pre-K through grade 12 school situated on a 900-acre Biodynamic® farm in New York's scenic Columbia County. Hawthorne Valley's integrative Waldorf curriculum is designed to create a healthy and balanced learning environment where children build living connections to the natural world while cultivating social responsibility, personal excellence, and

the practical capacities to meet the challenges of the future. Visit hawthornevalleyschool.org to learn more.

The school is part of Hawthorne Valley Association, a diverse nonprofit dedicated to social and cultural renewal through the integration of education, agriculture, and the arts. Hawthorne Valley Association's campus includes the Waldorf school, a working Biodynamic farm, on-farm education programs, a full-line natural foods and grocery store, social, ecological, and cultural research groups, teacher training programs, and more. For additional information, please visit hawthornevalley.org.