



****ECRWSS****
Postal Patron

Superintendent of Schools: Frank J. Carasiti

Thomas A. McDonald, Ph.D.

Jeffrey Kerman, D.M.D.; John P. Oliver, J.D.;

Trustees: John K. Diviney, J.D.; Stuart Fournan, M.D.;

Vice President: Mitchell H. Pally, J.D.

President: William F. Connors, Jr.

Board of Education

Three Village Central School District
200 Nicolls Road
East Setauket, NY 11733-9050

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
E. SETAUKET, N.Y.
PERMIT NO. 10



the Reporter

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

www.3villagecsd.k12.ny.us



in their words...

The impact of a school district's instructional program is best understood by the **experiences and success of its students**. In this issue, selected students from each school **share their thoughts and feelings** on their experiences of the current school year.



“There are tons of opportunities here. There is something for everyone. We have such a **diverse array of clubs and activities for students to choose from.”**

Jessica Owen, Ward Melville Junior



the Reporter

Issue 6 • May 2004

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

www.3villagecsd.k12.ny.us



Ward Melville

For Junior Jessica Owen and senior Thane Schweyer, Melville has "something for everyone."

WM HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- First fully active year of the Education & Business Advisory Alliance.
- InSTAR science research program produced eleven semifinalists and one finalist, who ultimately placed fifth in the competition.
- Chosen as first suburban high school in New York area to host a live GRAMMY In The Schools Careers in Music program.
- Implementation of an attendance-for-credit policy that dramatically improved school attendance in all three grades.
- Introduction of highly successful career fairs in various fields of student interest.

What programs made a difference to you?

J: I really think sports medicine. I want to go into medicine eventually, and it has really exposed me to the field. I am taking an EMT class next year so that I can get my certification. That will help me a lot too. **T:** I really enjoy taking electives such as Holocaust and Great Moral Issues. I'm a big history person and the teachers are really great.

Are you involved in any clubs or activities? What have you learned from your involvement?

J: I am in Key Club, SHARP (Students Helping & Reaching Peers), and National Honor Society. I have learned the importance of volunteering and community service. We are currently volunteering to help

out at kindergarten screening for SHARP and I love it. I have learned that I really like interacting with children. The kids in the community look forward to what we do for them.

T: I am President of Student Government and National Honor Society. Student government has taught me how to delegate for leadership, and how to work with others.

How would you describe the programs offered at Ward Melville to a new student just entering?

J: There are tons of opportunities here. There is something for everyone. We have such a diverse array of clubs and activities for students to choose from. Anything you can think of really. **T:** Ward Melville has one of the top programs in our area. There is

so much to choose from. You can find a specific thing you are interested in and go with it.

How has Ward Melville prepared you for life outside of high school?

J: There are so many courses offered here. I know other schools don't have the kinds of programs we have here. The faculty really gears you to the programs that match what you want to do. **T:** The coursework and demanding classes have definitely prepared me for college. I've also learned how to work well with other people.

Name an adjective that best describes Ward Melville.

J: Diverse. So many different interests are represented here. Anyone can find anything here. **T:** Extraordinary. My experiences have gotten better each year.

Nassakeag

Fifth graders Megan Grzymala and Zachary Liwton are learning priceless lessons.

What have you been learning about this year?

M: For the Literacy Collaborative we are just starting the writing process using revision, big revision, and edit. It's helping me a lot to become a better writer. **Z:** We have been working on the writing process. It's interesting to watch how your writing growsthroughout the process.

How have you grown as a reader and writer since the beginning of the year?

M: Describing, definitely. I learned how to explain all my thinking and get ideas from reading books. **Z:** I never liked reading and writing, but now I like it a lot more. I've found out it's not as hard, you can pick your own topics and do a lot more of what you want.

Are you involved in any clubs or activities? What have you learned from them?

M: I'm in the newspaper club and orchestra. **Z:** I'm in newspaper, chorus, band, and orchestra. **M:** I interview adults for the newspaper and its fun to hear what they have to say. **Z:** Responsibility, practicing, and getting stuff in on time. Being part of the newspaper also helped me learn to work on the computer.

How have your teachers helped you achieve your goals?

M: With everything we do they are always encouraging us to do our best. They teach us that you get what you earn. I never looked at it that way.



Z: They give us lessons on how to do certain types of writing.

Since you will be graduating from Nassakeag next year, is there anything that you will be looking forward to doing at the junior high?

M: I am really excited. It's going to be a little more independent there. We'll have more work, but that's okay. Plus, we won't have to walk in a line in the hallway anymore! **Z:** I'm looking forward to the different types of classes they have there. I am also happy about being able to do more things myself.

What makes Nassakeag such a special place?

M: I think the staff is really friendly here. **Z:** We have so many activities that go on here like Fun Fridays, drama, newspaper, and Justice Club.

"I learned how to explain all my thinking and get ideas from reading books."

HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- Received PTA School of Excellence Award for parent involvement.
- Implemented a Character Education Program.
- Senior Citizen Outreach program created for seniors to become actively involved with school community.
- Final phases in progress for an Environmental Learning Center.
- Supplemental support services provided before school for third and fourth graders.



What was your most memorable moment from the past school year?

J: The school performance of *Oklahoma*. I was invited to be in the pit orchestra. It was a lot of hours, but a great opportunity.

S: This past Halloween we put on a haunted school for children in our community. We had an amazing turnout and we had tons of fun!

Are you involved in any clubs or activities?

J: Jazz band, student government, the pit orchestra, yearbook, lacrosse, and winter track.

S: I'm in student government.

What have you learned from these experiences?

J: I've learned leadership, the drive to succeed, and the feeling to always help

the community.

S: No matter what, I am able to have a say in my school. I also learned to combine many people's ideas to have one outcome.

How would you describe your school and its programs to a new student just entering the school?

J: I would say keep your eyes open. There is a lot to see and a lot to do, but only if you look and ask about it.

S: Although our school seems large it is truly a tight knit community. All of the teachers are understanding and always willing to assist with schoolwork and various things relating to school.

How do your teachers help you to achieve your goals?

J: They have supported our ideas and help to make them a reality.

when possible. Student government helps make the students of the school involved and we are able to help

S: They are always available and always willing to help out.

What are you looking forward to as you move up to the high school next year?

J: I'm looking forward to seeing my older friends and taking part in jazz band and lacrosse.

S: I'm looking forward to the opportunities there. There are so many more electives that I am interested in such as Art History and Interior Design classes.

Can you think of an adjective that best describes Gelinas?

J: Opportunistic. If you look around there is so much to do.

S: That describes our school in a nutshell. I would also say proud. I have learned many new things here, brought up my grades, and gotten involved with my school.

Gelinas

Ninth graders Stacey Berman and Jonathan Feldman discuss the "tight knit community" at Gelinas.

HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- Science Olympiad team competed in the State Tournament, finishing fourth.
- Seventh and eighth-grade math teams competed in the NY Math League Contest with both finishing first in Suffolk County.
- Over 25% of students participated in our musical production of *Oklahoma*.
- The entire seventh grade participated in Constitution Works, a social studies program at Federal Hall in NYC.
- 8th graders attended an assembly production by Theatre Three - "Voices From the Fire" in relation to their Holocaust study.



(L to R) Matthew Cornell, Ashley Byrne, Charlie Cespedes, Ian Meltzer, and Ramya Rao.

How have you grown as a writer since the beginning of the year?

C: I write lowercase letters. I only use uppercase at the beginning of a sentence.

M: I did not know how to write [in the beginning of the year]. Now I write stories. I write about things I know about that happened. My stories have a beginning, a middle, and end. **R:** When I need to write something, I use words like barefoot warm and t-shirt warm instead of summer.

A: I learned to put periods in my writing. I correct my spelling by using my buddy study words.

Can you tell me about the things you do during guided reading?

R: Ms. Blumenfeld has books and calls a group to read, and when we're done we talk about it. We talk about things we

notice [while reading].

C: I pay more attention to reading. I can look at pictures to help me read because it helps me understand what is happening. When letters are really dark [bold], I know to say them really loud and strong.

What makes Mount such a special place?

C: We learn here and we are all a family in Room 102. **R:** We get to read books in the morning. **A:** We help each other here.

M: We are all different.



Front (L to R): Kindergartners Rachel Sullivan & Joseph Diebel
Back (L to R): Fifth graders Katrina Lundgre, Ilicia Manzi and Scott Brekne

Can you tell me about your Owl Pellet project?

J: We used tweezers to dissect owl pellets and find bones. I found a house

mouse. I matched the bone to the sign that Ms. Weckstein had. **R:** Once we were done dissecting, we glued the bones on black paper and tried to see what animal we found. We looked at a chart to figure out how to glue the bones together.

How did you like working with your buddy? How did they help you?

R: They held the owl pellets for us. I learned a lot from my buddy. **J:** He [Scott] held the owl pellet and I picked at it with a tweezer. **I:** It was fun working with the younger grade.

K: I enjoyed getting to know my buddy. We had fun together. **S:** It was a good experience. When we work with younger kids we can really help them out. We learned just as much as they did.

What have you learned about owls?

R: I learned that crows are enemies of owls. **J:** I learned that owls sleep in the day and stay up at night.

Mount

First graders talk about life in their Literacy Collaborative classroom, and two sets of students share a love for owls.

HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- Mrs. Lachler's kindergarten class read 100 books for the Scholastic "Classroom Cares" program to donate books to a charity partner.
- Students, faculty, and parents participated in an Asthma Walk, raising over \$3,000.
- Students and staff worked to create the Character Education pillars standing in the main lobby.
- A grant received by physical education teacher Ms. Martin resulted in the miniature golf project, an effort involving the entire school community.
- A New York Times photographer documented work of fifth-grade students Collen Cash, Robby Hill, and Collen Scriven as they represented Mount at the Long Island Museum of Art.

Arrowhead

Fifth graders Jack Farren and Ashley Mendriski are involved in a project close to their hearts.

HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- Students participate in Rag Dolls to Love Project, making dolls to send to children in war-torn countries.
- The Shared Decision-Making Team sponsored a Literacy Collaborative Work Board Night.
- Student Government and Justice Club students organized a hospital drive for American soldiers wounded in Iraq.
- Sixth-grade students participate in Operation Montserrat, a simulation-based learning experience allowing students to exercise critical thinking skills.

How have you grown as a reader and writer since the beginning of the school year?

A: I really learned how to make everything more descriptive. In the beginning of the year my poems were flat and now they are on the writing wall. They were published in three magazines. I like to write more at home too. I used to not like to write that much. I also learned to read more genres. **J:** When I write a piece it is put through a process before I finish it. It helps because last year when I didn't do this I would misspell words and not use punctuation correctly. This way reminds me to do those things.

Are you involved in any clubs or activities? What do you like about them?

J: I am in drama, student council, and chorus. I play Winthrop in the play the *Music Man*. I like it because a lot of my neighbors, aunts, and uncles want to come and see me. I have two solos. **A:** I play the drums in the band and am in chorus and the gardening club. I love playing the drums. I definitely want to keep playing them.



Can you tell me about the Rag Dolls to Love project? What have you been learning?

J: We are making dolls for kids overseas that are by the war. We are doing this so they have something to hold on to in case anything happens there. It feels good because you know you're helping someone. **A:** I learned that I should help people if they need help. I felt really good about making dolls for all those kids.

What makes Arrowhead such a special place?

J: The teachers, the principal and assistant principal, and all my friends. They all help us learn and solve our problems. **A:** Probably because the teachers are so nice and understanding.

Minnesauke

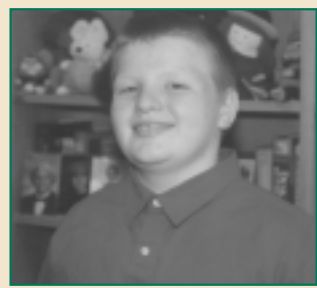
Third grader *Gracie Barresi* talks about the Literacy Collaborative, while fifth grader *Ricky Nilsson* experiences all Minnesauke has to offer.

HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- Launch of Character Education program raising awareness of respect, responsibility, honesty, perseverance, and caring.
- The faculty sponsored a Parent University providing workshops on strategies and techniques of the Literacy Collaborative.
- Through the Site-Based Team we are developing a handbook to further partnerships with parents.
- Launched initiative with the PTA to beautify and develop our courtyard so that it may be used as an environmental learning center.

Are you involved in any clubs or activities at Minnesauke?

G: Not yet, but in junior high I want to be in the club [Student Government] that lets you go to all of the Tuesday meetings [Board of Education] at night.



What are some things that you have been learning about this year?

R: We are learning how to add and subtract fractions, and we are writing a storybook about immigration for social studies. We can use our family history, and it is very interesting.

How have you grown as a reader and writer this year?

R: Now I use my background knowledge when I am reading a book.

Are you involved in any clubs or activities? What have they taught you?

R: I am in the Justice Club, Peer Mediation, and Student Council. We learn how to help the community in the Justice Club. We are planning a multicultural night and I am excited about that. As a peer mediator I have learned to look at two different sides of stories and how others will feel in certain dilemmas. It really makes you feel good when you can help them out.

How have your teachers helped you reach your goals?

R: In the beginning of the year we wrote goals for ourselves and what we plan to do to reach them. I wanted to read 14 books and my teacher helps me to find really interesting books. When I need help, she takes it slow and helps me to understand.

What makes Minnesauke School such a special place?

R: It's just everything that everyone can imagine. It's special in its own way and I like it!

What has the Literacy Collaborative taught you?

G: We learned how you can get deep into a book. We also learned how to choose a book and not to judge a book by its cover. Some books with dull covers can be the best books. In my writers notebook I have a heart with all of the things I care about written inside. If I need something to write about I can flip to it to get ideas.

How have you grown as a reader and writer this year?

G: I like poetry workshop. I write more poems. I am learning how to illustrate my poems better too.

What writing projects are you working on right now?

G: I'm researching skunks. I didn't always like research, but my teacher has taught me how to skim through information, and now I find skunks really interesting.

Murphy

Ninth graders Courtney Aquilina, Matt Gibbons, and Danielle Hines reflect upon their years at Murphy.

HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- Seventh, eighth, and ninth-grade math teams placed first in Suffolk County Division II Math Competition.
- Students and faculty entertained over 300 audience members at October's sold out Cabaret Night.
- Over 275 community seniors were treated to a sit-down dinner and free performance of Pippin.
- Science students participated in a JHS-Elementary Articulation Project teaching science concepts to elementary students.
- Art students display artwork at "Colors of Long Island" exhibit at the Long Island Museum of Art.
- Fashion & Design students donate over \$200 and handcrafted dog coats to Sav-A-Pet foundation.



What have you been learning this year?

M: In math we are learning about circles, finding area with pi, negative and positive integers, and multiplying integers. We are also learning about ancient Greece, Rome, and Mesopotamia. We went to Medieval Times on a field trip; it was neat to see actual jousting on horses. **K:** We just started poetry in creative writing. My class is doing a report on the desert. We use Google to research an animal and use colored index cards to put the information on.

How have you grown as a reader and writer since the beginning of the year?

M: I'm able to write more metaphors and similes to make my writing more interesting. I can also read harder and more

What is your favorite memory from the past school year?

C: Being part of the musical *Pippin*. I met some awesome friends and the director [Mr. Pollera] was phenomenal.

D: Being in *Pippin*. I learned to work together with my peers and many fundamentals about acting. **M:** *Pippin*. It was a great musical experience to be in the orchestra. I was the only student picked to play the piano with all adults.

Are you involved in any clubs or activities?

C: I'm in Student Government, theater, band, jazz band, chamber choir, and bluegrass. **D:** I'm in volleyball and chamber choir. **M:** I'm involved in the musical, chamber choir, and jazz band.

What have you learned from these experiences?

C: I've learned a ton! I began bluegrass this year for starters, and that was lots of fun. All group clubs teach you leadership, without being

pushy or bossy. They also teach you confidence, which is something teenagers really need to acquire.

D: I have learned how to work together with a team and how to perform to the best of my ability.

How would you describe your school and its programs to a new student just entering the school?

C: I think the school and its programs are wonderful. Murphy has so much to offer us. **D:** Our school offers a variety of extracurricular activities that I would encourage all students to participate in. The teachers not only educate you about school subjects but about life situations as well.

What are you looking forward to doing when you get to the high school?

C: I'm looking forward to InSTAR, PACT, and high school cross country, which is more intense than here.



There is just so much more stuff there. **D:** I'm looking forward to taking part in more extracurricular activities, clubs, and sports. **M:** I'm excited about the new music programs that Ward Melville has to offer, like the wind ensemble.

Can you think of an adjective that best describes Murphy?

C: It's diverse – in a good way. Having Mr. Colletti and Mr. Vizzo here is a very good thing. The way they connect with the kids has really shaped up our school. The kids respect them and the school is more organized because of that. **M:** Murphy is an opportune place to be. We have a lot of choices here like clubs, electives, and extracurricular activities to take advantage of.

Setauket

Fifth grader Max McBride and third grader Kathryn Barnitt share what Setauket has to offer.

HIGHLIGHTS 2004/05

- Recognized as an Honor School through the Suffolk Reading Council.
- Third graders participated in Read to Feed Project, collecting over \$5,000 to donate to Project Heifer.
- Sixth graders participated in an array of community service projects and donated money to several community programs.
- Health students participate in "Character Counts," a character education program designed to create character standards.
- Students work with high school students in correlation with SHARP (Students Helping & Reaching Peers) Program.

advanced books. I know a bigger selection of words; when I read I can understand more words. **K:** I use capitals and periods. When I flip through my language arts book, I can see my sentences get tougher and tougher.

Are you in any clubs or activities?

M: I'm in student council. We're the government of the school. We make the decisions if we should do certain activities. We help with spirit days and ask our peers if anything should be improved. I've definitely learned leadership. I ask other people about their opinions instead of only seeing my own. **K:** I used to be in the science club. I learned about the scientific method.

What do you look forward to doing in school next year?

M: In the junior high there are more sports teams and Science Olympiads. I'm interested in how things work. That will help me with that.

What makes Setauket such a special place?

M: We have a lot of extracurricular activities, which is nice. You get to spend extra time with your friends and do things you enjoy. **K:** I think because we have all these special activities like reader leaders in the library and the PTA does a lot for the school like book fairs and bake sales.