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The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

the Reporter



Three Village Central School District
200 Nicolls Road
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A District of Pride, Honor, and Distinction

A Message From The Board of Education

The Three Village School District is a place of pride, honor, and distinction. Academically, athletically, and musically, our students rise and soar above rigorous standards put before them in the strong programs offered by our district.

Our student athletes, musicians, and philanthropists contribute to our schools and community, distinguishing themselves both in and out of the classroom. As you read this publication, you will see our district is far from ordinary, and our students do not settle for average.

Over the past year, our superintendent has addressed how the Three Village School District spends less per pupil than comparable districts and how our students are continuing to achieve at the highest level. To assure the community that our students are succeeding and reaching even higher standards of excellence, this district newsletter will touch on a variety of achievements that our students have accomplished districtwide.

The Three Village School District does not see achievement as an ending point, rather we see it as a starting point for all future endeavors.



HOW WE MEASURE ACHIEVEMENT

The measure of a school district's success lies in its ability to engage students in meaningful learning experiences. Success in the Three Village School District is realized when our students make significant contributions to the community, while continuing to achieve academically.

Achievement in the Three Village School District can be seen at all levels and grades. Character education programs, curriculum-based enrichment activities, and acts of community service all enable the district's students to achieve a new level of acceptance and understanding, molding them into well-rounded individuals. Several of these achievements are highlighted on the inside pages of this publication.

In addition, our fine extracurricular programs place students in a position to shine. Vocally and instrumentally, our students reap the benefits

associated with participation in our award-winning music program. Our bands, choruses, and orchestras are comprised of the most talented musicians around. In the area of athletics, in just three short months, our Swim Team was recognized as League I Champions, the Girls Volleyball Team was named Long Island Champions, the Boys Gymnastics Team won their first Suffolk County Championship title, and our Girls Field Hockey Team won their second consecutive Class A Championship.

Please look inside to learn more about how our program is helping to cultivate great citizens of tomorrow in the students of the



“Achievement is the measured outcome of successfully finishing or accomplishing something persistently sought after.”

FROM THE BEGINNING

The District's elementary students continue to achieve at high levels through enrichment programs, often sponsored by the schools' PTAs. These programs expand on classroom lessons and provide the students with hands-on learning opportunities.

journalism skills. "My hope is that someday I will take a book off the shelf and it won't have my name on it – it will have one of yours," stated Mr. Heinz.

Through state-of-the-art technology available in the district's classrooms, kindergarten students at Arrowhead Elementary School were also able to go on a field trip without leaving their classrooms. A videoconference with the Bronx Zoo taught the students about how the color of the animals' fur protects them in nature, and introduced the students to different live animals.

students started to practice their democratic right and responsibility early. In the atmosphere of the presidential election, the students' social studies curriculum was enhanced with an experience of casting votes on fully functional voting machines.

Classroom social studies lessons at Setauket Elementary School were enriched by a visit from Cultural



to follow. Firefighters from Stony Brook Station 2 Firehouse visited W.S. Mount Elementary School to teach the students about fire prevention and safety procedures. The firefighters visited classrooms to speak about fire-safety rules and brought the students fire-safety information cards, coloring books, and firefighter rulers to take home with them as a reminder of the lessons learned. "Safety Sally," a full-sized school bus unlike any other, visited the schools to teach the students about safety rules to follow when riding and exiting a school bus.



Famous children's illustrated book author Brian Heinz visited Arrowhead Elementary School to teach students the step-by-step book writing process and techniques to improve their

During a unique lesson in physiology, Nassakeag Elementary School students uncovered many of the mysteries of the human body. Marvelous Marvin Novogrodski, a New England traveling educational entertainment performer, taught the students about concepts including skin, muscles, and the brain with the help of his 25-foot wide, six-foot tall self-constructed model house as a visual teaching tool.

Minnesauke Elementary School



Anthropologist Robert Vetter and Eastern Cherokee Native American educator Jamie Reason. Students listened as the presenters spoke about tribal traditions and various artifacts. The students spent the day touring museum exhibits set up in their classrooms and learning about the Iroquois government.

From the home to the school bus, the district's elementary students know all of the safety rules. Through a variety of districtwide programs, students learn the proper safety procedures



Exceptional Achievements



Ward Melville High School students Meghan Sylvester, Melissa Gordon, and Ellen Ferzoco received congratulations from high school Principal Dr. Leon Beckerman, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, high school Director of Visual Arts & Career Development Linda Messina, and high school art teacher Jennifer Trettner for their award winning posters at the 2004 Shanti Foundation's Gandhi Celebration.

Recent student achievements at Ward Melville High School have clearly demonstrated the strong fine arts programs available to students districtwide.

Ward Melville High School music students deserve high

praise and commendations for their exceptional ensemble and individual musical talents. This year, many high school students were selected to perform at the 2004 NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester, NY and during the All-County

Division IV ensembles at Northport High School. These students' hard work, determination, and musical capabilities are evident during school and county vocal, orchestral, and band ensemble performances.

Ward Melville High School juniors Michael Karelis and Michelle McCullar were selected to join 55 other high school students in New York State for a four-week, intensive media arts training program held at Cazenovia College. Michael's and Michelle's outstanding artistic achievements enabled them to sample the life of a professional artist during the New York State Summer School of the Arts, a preprofessional training program. During the rigorous program, they attended workshops, received individualized instruction, and listened to seminars presented by top art professionals. Since attending the program,

Michelle has completed a seven-minute independent film in conjunction with the History Channel, focusing on local historical graveyards, and Michael has continued to run his own business, M.A.K. Video Production, creating edited films for clients presented on custom DVDs.

Two hundred students from Suffolk County submitted original posters to the 2004 Shanti Foundation's Gandhi Celebration Poster Contest, from which the organization selected only eight winners. Ward Melville High School is proud to announce that out of the eight winners six were Ward Melville students. The students received awards from the foundation as well as from Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy. Congratulations to Meghan Sylvester, Melissa Gordon, Ellen Ferzoco, Shane Snider, Jamie Kaufman, and Jackie Morrison on their hard work and accomplishments.

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OPPORTUNITIES *for the Future*

A NEW SPIN ON COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

Recognizing that applying to college can be a very stressful process, Ward Melville High School has embarked on unique collaborations with several Long Island colleges and universities to help seniors complete their application processes and alleviate some pressure.

During the "On-Site Admissions Programs," college admissions staff visited with seniors to conduct personal interviews, evaluate their applications, and ultimately render a decision on acceptance. Students came to their interviews prepared with completed applications, high school transcripts, and SAT/ACT scores. This year, more than 100 students registered to participate in the program.

"The students I met with had phenomenal credentials," stated State University of New York at Stony Brook Associate Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Robert Pertusati. "I am very

impressed with the accomplishments of these students both in and out of the classroom. Many of the students have achieved well beyond the criteria we use when making an acceptance decision."

In addition to providing the school's seniors with the opportunity to complete their college application process, Ward Melville has also reached out to prepare the district's high school juniors for the college application process they will face in their upcoming senior year. The high school conducted a workshop to introduce students and parents to the application process. State University of New York at Stony Brook Associate Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Robert Pertusati and high school Guidance Counselors Steven Levenson, John Diehl, and Nathan Jayne



met with parents to discuss the SUNY education system, which college best suits each individual student, and the process Ward Melville follows in respect to college planning.

Beyond the Classroom



The R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinas junior high schools provide their students with numerous 'beyond-the-classroom' activities that allow them to excel academically while experiencing first-hand, what they are learning.

For example, R. C. Murphy Junior High School seventh-grade students tested their science and mathematics skills during the school's First Annual Metric Olympics. The students demonstrated their academic capabilities during the full-day event comprised of entertaining, educational math and science based activities. "This was a fantastic academic competition that allowed the students to come together for a day centered around academic excellence," said Principal Tom Colletti.

At P.J. Gelinas Junior High School, eighth-grade students recently journeyed to New England to enrich their social studies curriculum. The students toured Boston, Massachusetts to learn about the city's many historical aspects including the USS Constitution, Bunker Hill Monument, Faneuil Hall, and the legendary Plymouth Rock.

IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Ward Melville High School is well known for the wide array of programs available to its multit talented students. A program that is unique to the high school is the Ward Melville Players, a performing theatre arts organization. This organization has been a part of the district for approximately 27 years and is comprised of the school's most talented tenth, eleventh, and twelfth-grade actors. Under the direction of George Loizides, these students perform, on average, eight productions a year.

The Fall One-Act Plays gave students the opportunity of a lifetime – the ability to cast, direct, and produce a production without adult guidance. "I have built my future based around the opportunities the Players organization have given me," stated club President Lee Czemba. "It is a great experience that introduces you to every aspect of theatre production, and ultimately helps you choose your theatrical discipline." This program not only prepares the students theatrically, but it puts them in the director's chair, enabling them to achieve greatness.

Serving the Community



Murphy and P.J. Gelinas junior schools provide character building opportunities to students that complement the district's fine academic programs.

R.C. Murphy Junior High School's "Help Everyone Live Proudly" members reached beyond the walls of the school community to help touch the life of a United

States soldier fighting in the war in Iraq. The club adopted Captain Douglas Fortier and sent him care packages on a regular basis. As a token of his appreciation for bringing him a piece of home while he was far away, Captain Fortier

sent the students a genuine burqa, an Afghan flag, and a framed commendation.

In observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and in support of breast cancer research, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School students sold pink ribbons during their lunch periods to raise money for the Fortunato Breast Health Center and to

increase awareness during National Breast Health Awareness Month. More than 100 students volunteered and

raised \$600 for the John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson.

