



the Reporter

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

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Three Village Central School District
200 Nicolls Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

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Frank J. Carasiti
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Residents,

We welcome you back to the start of another exciting school year. Our smooth opening of school came as a result of the dedicated time our teachers and administrators spent this summer preparing to provide challenging and engaging opportunities for all students. Already we have seen evidence of the tremendous talents of our students as many have been selected for the upcoming All-County and All-State music festivals, as well as named Scholar Athletes, National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists, AP Scholars, and finalists in local art competitions.

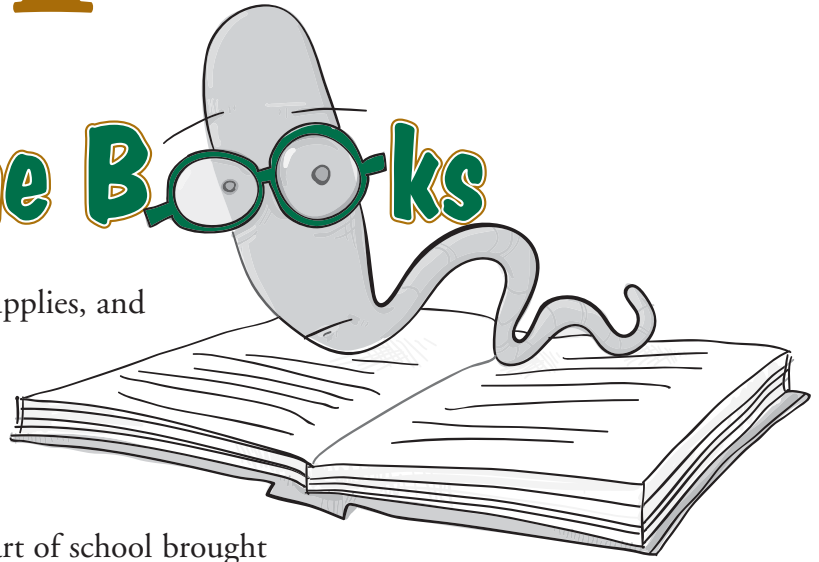
Over the summer, the Board's Facilities Committee, put in more than 40 hours of deliberation to study the current physical condition of the district's buildings and formulate a plan to address the needs of these spaces. During the October 10th meeting of the Board of Education, the committee presented its report to the Board and community members in attendance. A copy of the report in its entirety is available for viewing on the district's website.

After much discussion and consideration of the recommended plan, the Board unanimously agreed to go forward with the planning of a capital improvement project, which would be put up for a vote on January 30, 2007. It has been the decision of the Board and central administration to concentrate on high priority items that will not only repair the current structures, but would also bring our instructional spaces into the 21st century.

As the details of the project become finalized, a comprehensive explanation of the proposed plan will be laid out for community members in a districtwide mailing. Additionally, the plan will be shared with the community during several scheduled events, including all building PTA meetings.

I encourage all Three Village residents to attend the upcoming Board of Education meetings, all of which are listed on the district calendar and website, in order to be an involved part of the capital improvement project development process. We welcome your input and look forward to a successful new year together.

Back To The Books



Well rested, carrying new school supplies, and ready to begin the new school year, students in the Three Village School District boarded familiar yellow school buses and traveled the road back to school.

As with any new beginning, the start of school brought with it an array of fears and emotions. Younger students said tearful good-byes to parents as they started down their academic path, while high school upperclassmen prepared for the nearing conclusion of their journey through the Three Village School District.

When the students arrived at their newly decorated schools, they were greeted by smiling and welcoming teachers and administrators, ready to assist them with their first-day adjustments.



DISTRICT SLATED TO RECEIVE FUNDING TO COMBAT SCHOOL DRAINAGE PROBLEM



office of New York State Senator John Flanagan and New York State Assemblyman Steve Englebright, respectively. These funds may be used to offset the funding needed to fix the drainage problems in the school's bus circle, parking area, and renovated auditorium.

Setauket Elementary School can bid a very thankful farewell to the drainage problems that have plagued the building for years, thanks to a recently issued increase in state aid and a discretionary grant. The additional funds, totaling \$230,000, were granted to the district from the

"The drainage problem at Setauket has been a top priority of mine and the Board of Education for some time now," stated Superintendent of Schools Frank J. Carasiti, who received recommendations on the issue from McClave Engineering P.C., an engineering firm that studied the site last year. "When asked if there were any maintenance items that needed funding and addressing, our discussion immediately turned to the chronic flooding problem that not only affects our busing circle but also our classrooms, recently renovated auditorium, and historic murals at Setauket."

The project, which will take approximately \$260,000 to fully complete, will receive the remainder of funding from the district. Senator Flanagan recently visited Setauket School to present Superintendent Carasiti and building Principal Anne Rullan with a check representing his commitment to fixing the drainage problem. When asked

why he chose to dedicate the funds to the district, Senator Flanagan stated, "We are trying to work with the school district whenever and wherever we can to help, especially when it relates to property and tax issues as well as school building projects. I know that they are topics of great concern to everyone."



CURRICULUM PROJECTS WORKING TO MOVE THE DISTRICT FORWARD

Over the summer, while students were relaxing and enjoying their two-month vacation, Three Village School District administrators and selected teachers were busy working on curriculum development projects at both the elementary and secondary levels. Below is just a highlight of some of the work that took place.

Elementary

Recognizing the well-documented benefits associated with a middle school approach to learning, and in order to deliver this type of experience while still maintaining a K-6 building configuration, the district created sixth-grade centers, with a structured "teaming" approach to teaching.

The program, which enables students to switch or rotate through classes for different subject areas, provides time for literacy lessons to be taught by the students' homeroom teachers and 45-minute blocks of learning for math, science, and social studies taught by other sixth-grade teachers. Because of the different number of classes, each school's rotation structure is slightly different. Some buildings operate on a three-team model while others have a two-team model. The only difference is in the number of times the students rotate – the curriculum itself is the same unilaterally.

"The sixth-grade centers have enabled our students to feel a greater sense of independence and responsibility," stated Executive Director of Elementary Education Deborah Blair. "By rotating through the subject areas the students are becoming prepared for what they will face next year, while the teachers are able to specialize in a subject content area and explore information on a deeper level with students."

Periodically, throughout the year sixth-grade meetings will be conducted at the district level in order to evaluate the program. Additionally, at the end of the year, the district plans to conduct a self-evaluation with students, parents, and teachers.

Secondary

With the ever evolving state-directed curriculum changes, it has become an annual responsibility of school districts to conduct evaluations of educational programs currently offered and revise or realign their curriculum content as needed. Over the course of the summer, many curriculum projects were conducted at the secondary level, and preparations made for the Advanced Placement Audit required of all high schools in the country.

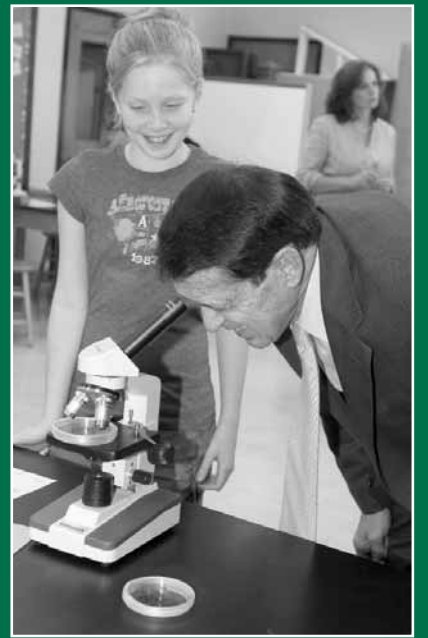
In the spring, teachers throughout the district submitted curriculum proposals, and after careful review, 30 teachers were selected to work on approximately 15 curriculum development projects over the summer. The teachers worked for more than 140 hours with colleagues, administrators, and department chairs to examine current curriculum guidelines, update content areas where necessary, and further differentiated instruction – a major initiative the district plans to expand over the year. The result were revised curriculum outlines for a variety of courses, including AP English Literature Composition, AP

English Language and Composition, AP Statistics, AP German, SUPA French, Spanish B, English 7 Regents and Honors, as well as English 8 Regents and Honors.

Additionally, as a part of the College Board required AP Audit, the secondary teachers and administrators worked diligently to examine the 26 AP courses currently offered at Ward Melville High School. The review, which is designed to enable high schools across the country to ensure the high level of rigor of their AP course offerings, is required in order for a school to maintain the AP distinction for a course offered during the 2007-2008 year, as well as for the AP designation to appear on student transcripts.

"Our teachers and administration welcomed this opportunity to review our AP course curricula in order to validate its rigorosity," stated Executive Director of Secondary Education Elise Russo. "The AP courses offered at Ward Melville enable our students to advance in an area of interest through a challenging course that is certified as acceptable by the College Board – a verification that often provides students with advanced credits at many of the nation's top colleges and universities."

Last year, as a result of the May 2006 AP Exams, Ward Melville produced a total of 172 AP Scholars; 60 Scholars, 35 Scholars with Honor, 65 Scholars with Distinction, and 12 National Scholars.



Superintendent of Schools Frank J. Carasiti visits one of Setauket's sixth-grade centers to observe a science lesson on DNA.



As a part of the newly implemented sixth-grade centers at each of the district's elementary schools, students rotate through subject areas. Here, Kerry Muller teaches math to Susan Safranek's class.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Welcomes New Student Representative

If you have attended one of the Three Village School District Board of Education meetings held so far this year, you might have noticed someone new sitting at the table before you. As has been policy for the past two years, in addition to the seven community members elected to serve and represent the Three Village community, the current Ward Melville High School Student Government President is also inducted each year as a part of the district's governing body.

Brittany O'Shea, a senior at Ward Melville High School, joins the Three Village Board of Education for the 2006-2007 school year as this year's Ward Melville student representative. In addition to serving as the current President of the high school's Student Government, Brittany is also Co-Captain of the Varsity Cross Country Team, and member of the Blue Spruce Cloggers, a dance group that performs a traditional form of tap that began in the Appalachian Mountains.

When asked how she feels about being a member of such an important organization, Brittany stated, "Being a student member of the Three Village Board of Education empowers me and my fellow peers to be active participants in our education. I definitely feel like my being on the Board opens many doors for the students of Three Village."

During her time at Ward Melville, Brittany has been an active member of the National Honor Society, Site-Based Management Team, and Interactive Club Council as the organization's chair, all while maintaining a high grade point average. In addition to holding down several Advanced Placement and honors classes, Brittany is an active member of the community. She volunteers her time for the Walk for Beauty, Madonna Heights Summer Fundraiser, and is a member of the Brighterfaces Cleft Palate Team and United Way Youth Advisory.



MINNESAUKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CUTS RIBBON ON OUTDOOR SCHOOL FITNESS TRAIL

The benefits associated with daily exercise and healthy eating have been widely noted to make a significant and positive impact on a person's life. It was with these benefits and the district's commitment to providing students with the tools and resources necessary to live and sustain a healthylife style in mind that Minnesauke Elementary School embarked upon a fitness project unlike any other – the creation of a quarter-mile, permanent, outdoor multistation fitness course. On Monday, October 23, under particularly sunny skies, Minnesauke students, faculty, district officials, and local legislators gathered together to cut the ceremonial red ribbon on the trail.

The project, which was conceptualized by school health teacher Kristina Fiore-Rosenfeld and physical education teacher Danielle Cumings, was funded through sizeable grants from the NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the Center for Disease Control Foundation/American School Health Association, and from Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld on behalf of the Town of Brookhaven, as well as by fundraising efforts coordinated by the Minnesauke PTA and Site Based Team. The trail, which is comprised of a series of ten stations, was designed by PlayWorld Systems and received planning guidance from the district's architect John Grillo. Each of the stations was designed to provide safe and enjoyable physical activity geared towards maintaining and enhancing endurance, flexibility, strength, and balance.

"The Minnesauke Fitness Trail is just one component of a multifaceted approach to child health and the prevention of childhood obesity," stated school Principal Paula Bienia. "It's never too early to teach children how to be healthy, and this trail works to make exercise fun."

Immediately following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, student volunteers dressed in colorful healthy fruit costumes demonstrated how to properly use each piece of the equipment. "I am really looking forward to using the trail during recess and gym classes," stated Minnesauke sixth grader Carly Lombardo. "It is nice to have a fitness trail in our school's backyard – it makes it really convenient," added sixth grader Alexa Rohan. "I think one of the best parts of the trail is the multilevel aspect of the stations – it makes it so everyone can set individual goals and work to their ability," stated sixth grader Samantha Scarfogliero.

The school encourages all district children, parents, and residents to utilize the Minnesauke Fitness Trail as part of a healthy lifestyle.



OUTSTANDING MUSIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Whether it is during a school concert or a special invitational event, Ward Melville High School music students always provide outstanding performances with their musical capabilities impressing listeners of all ages.

Recently, more than 50 highly talented student-musicians were selected to perform in the 2006 All-County Division IV Ensembles and 16 were acknowledged at the state level, and invited to participate in the 2006 New York State School Music Association's (NYSSMA) All-State Conference in

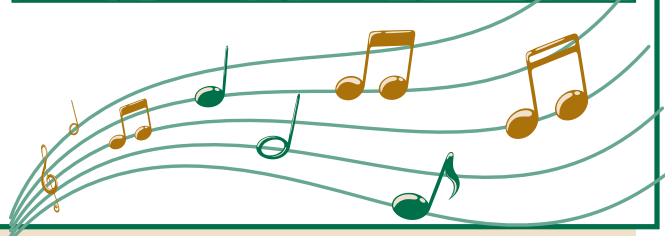


Rochester, New York on November 30 to December 3.

In addition to the 17 Ward Melville students selected to participate during the All-State festival, five Three Village students were selected during the 2006 statewide Call for Compositions contest to perform during the All-State Winter Conference. The 8th Annual NYSSMA Young Composers Honors Concert will feature pieces by Cristina Mata (Minnesauke), Madeleine Vaillancourt (Setauket), Gloria Zheng (Arrowhead), and Carolyn Chen (Murphy). Curtis Chen (Murphy) will present his composition at the 11th Annual NYSSMA Electronic Music Composition Showcase. John Adam Strub (Setauket), Emily Dana (Nassakeag), Janet Lee (Ward Melville High School), and Anne Polyakov (Ward Melville High School) were selected as finalists and received honorable mention.

As a kickoff to the conference, NYSSMA President James J. Cassara has

invited Carolyn Chen to perform her composition, a duet with her brother Curtis, at the opening Gala Concert before an audience of more than 1,000.



A Favorite Storybook Character Comes To Live

As an extension of their lessons on children's author Kevin Henkes, the first-grade students in Patricia Woods' class at Nassakeag Elementary School decided to make their favorite character, *Chrysanthemum*, come to life in the form of a scarecrow. For their studies on Mr. Henkes, the students read the book *Chrysanthemum*, which tells the story of a grade school mouse who grows increasingly insecure when her new classmates mock her flowery name.

With the help of school art teacher Rachel Condron, the students embarked on the monthlong project of erecting the six-foot mouse out of chicken wire and plaster of Paris. The class and their families donated clothing and other accessories to help add the finishing touches to Chrysanthemum.

In addition to having peers, teachers, and school visitors admire the student-constructed scarecrow, the first graders also entered her in the Stony Brook Village Center annual scarecrow competition, a contest that has been taking place for the past 18 years and has approximately 35 entrants this year. Visitors were able to see Chrysanthemum at Site 111, which was very close to the town post office.

National Program Rewards Seniors

The district is proud to recognize seven highly talented Ward Melville High School seniors who were recently announced as Semifinalists in this year's National Merit Scholarship Program. These students were congratulated and commended for their academic achievements and presented with the opportunity to continue in the competition against 16,000 other talented high school seniors for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards, totaling \$33 million.

In order to advance to the final level the students must now complete several steps. The Semifinalists must each present an academic record of advanced performance, supply an exceptional recommendation from their high school principal, earn SAT scores to support their earlier testing performances, and submit a detailed scholarship application, including an individual essay and information regarding the applicant's academic and community activities.

Ward Melville High School Principal Thomas Colletti, Ward Melville High School Guidance Department Chairperson Linda Bergson, and the entire Three Village School District community congratulate the following students for their outstanding accomplishments and wish them luck on the next level of competition.

Lucas Janson
Hillary Lin
Christopher Parles
Jeremy Schwartz

Allison Truhlar
Ruihui (Rachel) Yu
Ruizhi (Rebecca) Yu



Gelinas JHS Celebrates German Culture With Annual Wurstfest

As an extension of the German language program offered at P.J. Gelinas Junior High School, language teacher and German native Ken Esser recently hosted the eighth annual Wurstfest on Thursday, October 12th for the school's German students in

grades seven through nine. The event, which took place on the grounds in front of the building, was created to foster students' love for the German language and expose them to different aspects of the country's culture.

Mr. Esser, whose first language growing up was German, started the event eight years ago and is thrilled to have seen it grow in numbers over the years. "New York State's Standards for Foreign Language not only include teaching students about the country's language, it also calls for students to have an understanding of the culture. This event does just that – it enables students to experience a traditional German celebration firsthand."

Manning the grill, Mr. Esser, and his two parent helpers Jeff Aston and John O'Rourke, served up delicious authentic German food, including bratwurst and sauerkraut, to more than 120 hungry students during the event. Mr. Esser would like to send a big "Dankeschön" out to Karl Ehmer, a German butcher in Patchogue, who helped make this event possible.

ATHLETES BECOME ROLE MODELS OFF THE FIELD

As a result of exceptional dedication and commitment both on and off the field, six Ward Melville High School Varsity Athletic teams from last spring were recently announced as being named New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams.

This prestigious honor is based on the team's grade point average. This year, in addition to being named a Scholar-Athlete Team in New York, each of the six teams ranked among the top three teams with the highest GPA in all of Suffolk County – an extremely impressive accomplishment.

Congratulations to the following teams:

Team	GPA	Placement in Suffolk County
Boys Lacrosse	94.143	1st out of 17 teams
Boys Tennis	96.293	1st out of 23 teams
Boys Spring Track	97.066	1st out of 22 teams
Girls Lacrosse	94.406	2nd out of 30 teams
Girls Golf	94.687	3rd out of 9 teams
Girls Spring Track	97.219	3rd out of 27 teams

Character Education PROGRAM KICKED OFF WITH A VISIT FROM STEVE LEVY

The kickoff to this year's character education program at W. S. Mount Elementary School was an extra special event. As a jump-start to the school's first pillar of the year – Citizenship – Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy visited with the school's students to shed a little bit of insight into how the trait plays an important role in his professional and personal life.

During two 1/2 hour assembly programs, Mr. Levy spoke about the duties of a County Executive and the diverse population of Long Island with students in grades 3-6. Additionally, throughout each of the programs, Student Government representatives asked Mr. Levy a few questions – including how he first became involved in government and for one piece of advice he had for someone looking to further their civic responsibilities – students also had the opportunity to share one thing that they felt would be

important enough to make into a law if they were a County Executive. As a special surprise, at the end of each of the assemblies, the school's Student Government presented Mr. Levy with a signed proclamation unveiling their plan to support the Adopt-A-Fish initiative designed as a community service project to help raise funds and fill the aquarium at Good Shepherd Hospice's Inpatient Hospice Center at Port Jefferson.

Accompanied by the school's character education mascot, Character Ed, Mr. Levy also visited the kindergarten through second-grade classrooms to discuss how even the youngest student in the school can become active citizens and members of the community.

The school's character education program operates on a two-year cycle, during which time the students study 10 different character pillars.



District Teachers Receive High Professional Honors

WARD MELVILLE TEACHER HONORED AS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Teachers do not only teach students about the subject area of the class they are enrolled in, they also educate them on how to be responsible, well-rounded, caring individuals.

Liz Brecht, Ward Melville High School's Global Language Chair and Spanish teacher, is just one of Three Village's teachers whose influence on her students is immeasurable. For her dedication and outstanding leadership, not only to her students but also to the Hispanic community, Liz was recently presented with New York State Assembly's first ever "Educator of the Year" Award during the 2006 Long Island Sumos el Futuro Conference. Ms. Brecht, who has been teaching at Ward Melville for the past 22 years, was nominated for this honor by Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher for her and her students commitment to providing a joyous Christmas to needy Hispanic children by buying and delivering gifts to their communities.

"This award is not just for me – it represents more than 20 years of our students and their families generosity. I work to help facilitate the project, but it's our students that are the true heroes," stated Ms. Brecht.

Ms. Brecht was commended during Long Island's first Sumos el Futuro conference and presented with an engraved plaque.



Ward Melville High School Global Language Chair and Spanish teacher Liz Brecht is congratulated by high school principal Tom Colletti for recently being named as the New York State Assembly's first "Educator of the Year."

GELINAS SCIENCE CHAIR ELECTED TO HEAD OF STATE ORGANIZATION

P.J. Gelinas Science Department Chairperson Gary Vorwald was recently elected as the Chairperson of the Suffolk Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS), a state professional organization for science teachers. The organization, which has approximately 4,000 members statewide and 400 in Suffolk

County, strives to work with educators and communities in order to provide opportunities for students to participate in and learn science.

"I am excited about my new role as Suffolk Section Chairperson" stated Mr. Vorwald, who has previously served as Vice President for Membership, 1st Vice President for Programs, Intermediate-Level Subject Area Representative and Conference Chairperson. "I enjoy being active in this professional organization and networking with teachers from other districts."

In his new role as chairperson, Mr. Vorwald, who has been a member of the association for 20 years, will essentially act as the chapter's president. He will run monthly board meetings, serve on the State Board of Directors, and help make sure that the Suffolk Section successfully develops and implements programs for science teachers.



R.C. MURPHY JHS TEACHER NAMED NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Tim Ehlers, a seventh-grade social studies teacher at R.C. Murphy Junior High School, was recently presented with the Bernard Cohen Memorial Award for New Teacher of the Year from the New York State Council for Social Studies (NYSCSS) and the New York State Social Studies Supervisors Association (NYS4A). This is the first time that a teacher in the Three Village School District has been presented with this honor.

The award, which was presented based upon a nomination from Murphy social studies colleague John Black, is in recognition of the exceptional teaching potential Mr. Ehlers demonstrated in his first few years of teaching. In his letter, Mr. Black described Mr. Ehlers as "showing a great dedication from the beginning of his teaching experience...his enthusiasm has been present throughout the school environment, including the unique lessons which he presents."

In recognition of this honor, Mr. Ehlers received a commemorative plaque at the association's annual convention in Rye Brook.



A Special Thank You for Four Decades of Service

Over the course of the past 40 years, many things at Arrowhead Elementary School have changed, but throughout those four decades one thing has remained. For the last 40 years, Rose Kirchman has worked at the school, helping the students who pass through the doors as a cafeteria monitor. In appreciation for the many years of service and the many students' lives she has touched, Arrowhead Elementary School recently surprised Ms. Kirchman with a wonderful tribute – the renaming of the school's cafeteria to the 'Mrs. K's Café.'

"For the past 40 years, Mrs. Kirchman has been taking care of our children with a smile," stated Principal Marisa Redden. "We hope she works with us for another 40 years."

Each grade in the school made a special present for Mrs. Kirchman, including crafty aprons, poems, and signs, and select class representatives presented her with the items during the café's "grand opening." In addition, the school presented a commemorative plaque that read "Mrs. K's Café, Arrowhead Elementary School, 40 years of Love and Kindness, September 2006" to Mrs. Kirchman. The plaque will be hung in the cafeteria for all to see and admire.



CAFETERIA WALL SERVES AS BLANK CANVAS

FOR STUDENT ARTIST

If you have recently walked through the cafeteria in Ward Melville High School (WMHS) you might have been surprised to see what was covering one of the walls – a beautiful, hand-painted 74-foot wide and 10-foot high mural depicting downtown Stony Brook with a distant view of the New York City skyline. The project, which came to fruition through work completed by the school's Site Based Team's School Atmosphere and Student Involvement Committee, was created by WMHS senior Lilia Royanova.

In late spring, the committee decided to sponsor a contest – open to all students – to submit graphic designs. Submissions were made by four student artists and were analyzed by the Site Based Team and project members. Since

the district is situated in such a beautiful area, the committee wanted to incorporate a local scene into the mural and felt that Lilia's design helped to fulfill that vision.

In preparation for her mural construction, Lilia perused photos, provided by committee chairperson Evelyn Klopfer-Scher, of the various landmarks and historical buildings, and toured downtown Stony Brook Village. It was important for both Lilia and the committee to make the mural as accurate as possible. After Lilia finalized her sketch, the committee of Ms. Klopfer-Scher, high school science teacher Erick Sussin, and high school art teacher Kristen Dietz purchased supplies, supervised the painting, and worked with Lilia and some of her friends who helped her. Work began on a part-time basis after school in May and continued through the end of the summer.

"It was a really amazing opportunity to work on this project," stated Lilia. "I am very proud of how the mural turned out. My initial design included a landscape with the boardwalk, but after speaking with Ms. Klopfer-Scher I chose to incorporate two things that I feel define us as a community – Stony Brook Village and the New York City skyline. I think these two images are items that everyone feels they have a connection to in one way or another."

After hearing of Lilia's work on the mural, Ward Melville Heritage Organization (WMHO),



an association Lilia has been actively associated with for the past three years, felt it was necessary to honor her with a special presentation. On Wednesday, September 27, Gloria Rocchio, President of the WMHO and Richard Rugen, WMHO Board Chair, visited Ward Melville High School to view the mural and present Lily with a certificate of appreciation and a miniature replica of the Stony Brook Village Post Office, a major point of focus in the mural, as well as a \$500 scholarship.

In addition to Lilia's mural, this year, the committee plans to paint a lighthouse and beach scene mural – a design submitted by Allison Truhlar and Valerie Askinazi from the Environmental Club. The committee's goal was to have projects supported by students from many groups and areas and their selection addresses this goal. As a testament to the hard work the students put into the creation of the murals, the committee has created a scrapbook to include photographs of all murals at WMHS, along with detailed background information.



Gearing Up For September

Just before the start of school, Ward Melville High School and R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinas junior high schools opened their doors to conduct orientation programs for their incoming tenth and seventh-grade students. Armed with their class schedules and locker combinations, the students embarked on self-guided walking tours of the buildings with parents and friends.

"I am really looking forward to coming to Murphy," stated Kaitlin Moller. "I feel that the summer program helped me gain a better understanding of Ward Melville and I feel prepared to start the new year at my new school," added Alex Kerman.

In addition to meeting several teachers who were busy preparing their classrooms, the students at R.C. Murphy also had the chance to meet upperclassmen volunteers and enjoy some tasty treats courtesy of the school's Student Government. At Ward Melville, the school's administration were on hand to welcome the incoming students and introduce them to key personnel in the school.



NEW TEACHERS WELCOMED DURING ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The first day of school not only stirs up a mix of emotions for students, but it can also create some butterflies in the stomachs of faculty and staff members new to the district. In an effort to provide the approximately 43 new teachers and staff members with an overview of the district, the Three Village School District conducted a two-day orientation program coordinated by teacher mentors Brenda Lamiroult and Kristianna Martindale, as well as teacher leader Jim Fargione.

After enjoying a delicious breakfast and engaging in some icebreaker activities, the teachers were informed of the state-mandated core curriculum, provided with a copy of the Essentials of Learning Guide, instructed on methods of assessment and classroom management, informed of district policies, as well as

given access to their email accounts and the district network. On the second day of the program the teachers were able to visit their assigned buildings, meet with the principals, and receive insight about the district from veteran teachers.

"It was the reputation of this district that drew me to apply," stated Rachel Condon, who will be teaching art at Nassakeag and Setauket. "I love to teach and am extremely excited to be teaching in Three Village."



RAISING FUNDS FOR CANCER RESEARCH

On Friday, October 6, the teachers and staff at R.C. Murphy Junior High School may have looked underdressed to anyone visiting the school, with the majority of the school's professionals dressed in jeans. However, this was not just a "dress down" or "casual" Friday. The teachers at R.C. Murphy were sporting their favorite pair of jeans in support of Lee National Denim Day, the largest single-day fundraiser for breast cancer.

"In some way, everyone has been affected by this disease and we felt that, by participating in this national event, we are doing our part to help combat this deadly condition," stated R.C. Murphy math teacher Anne Duca, who, along with Lillian Calo and Debbie Kaye coordinated the school's denim day effort. "We are so impressed with the outpouring of generosity from the teachers and staff. One of our teachers even went out and bought a new pair of Lee jeans just so he could be a part of the event!"

In order to participate in the denim day, each individual was asked to contribute \$5. At the end of the day, the school collected an outstanding \$460, all of which was donated to the Entertainment Industry Foundation to aid the advancement of groundbreaking breast cancer treatment and early detection research.



LET'S GO!

WARD MELVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HOME



For the first time in two years, when the first whistle was blown to signal the start of the high school homecoming game, the Ward Melville Patriots were on home turf. Unplayable fields had kept the football players out of the high school's stadium for the past two seasons, but this year that all changed.

On Saturday, October 14th, a blanket of green and gold, the colors of the Three Village School District, covered the field at Ward Melville High School as hundreds of students, teachers, administrators, and community members gathered together to show their Patriot Pride and cheer on the Ward Melville Patriots as they took on the Sachem East Flaming Arrows.

School spirit was at an all-time high in Three Village after receiving a boost during Friday afternoon's student pep rally and only continued to rise as the big game drew closer. Two hours before the game's kickoff, community members, students, parents, and district administrators were already gathering around the field to participate in the school's homecoming carnival, an outdoor event complete with a bounce house and a variety of entertainment booths operated by Ward Melville High School co-curricular clubs and organizations.

Under the guidance of head football coach Craig Perrino and coaches Kurt Ferraro, Ron Muscarella, John Holownia, Gerry Belvedere, and John Ruggerio, the 42-player team dominated the field throughout the important game, running challenging plays that had the crowd cheering and the other team fumbling. Captains Chris Day, Jeff Brous, Matt Spagnoli, and Connor Pryor demonstrated an unparalleled amount of leadership throughout the entire game that not only spoke to their athleticism, but also their character.

During the halftime celebration, the varsity team walked off the field with a 13 to 7 lead over the Flaming Arrows while the cheering crowd watched the Varsity Cheerleaders, marching band, and color guard perform well-rehearsed routines. In addition and as a special treat, during this year's homecoming halftime show Principal Tom Colletti and Assistant Principal Alan Baum announced the four new inductees into the Ward Melville High School Alumni of Distinction Wall. Alumni Timothy Valentine, Allison Reynolds Covino, Margaret Valentine Kelly, and Peter Valentine were presented with an honorary plaque, inscribed with their biographical information, and received a warm round of applause for their accomplishments and for continuing to be a source of honor and pride to the school district years after graduation.

When the last whistle of the game was blown, it marked the end of the game and a much-deserved 13 to 7 win for the Patriots. The cheering crowd was on their feet, showing their school spirit for the team and their happiness for spending a great homecoming back on the Ward Melville field.

PATRIOTS!



COMING BACK ON HOME FIELD

FOUR INDIVIDUALS RECOGNIZED AS ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION

In keeping with a tradition that was started two years ago, Ward Melville High School recognized four individuals as Alumni of Distinction during this year's Homecoming celebration.

The honorees were nominated and selected by a committee under the advisement of Assistant Principal Alan Baum, based upon the positive contributions he or she has made to the community, nation, or profession, or for having overcome a major life challenge. In recognition of this honor, the four alumni received commemorative plaques, detailing why they were selected along with the date they were inducted. Replicas of these plaques will be placed on the wall in the school's main entrance and will join the plaques of the first set of Alumni of Distinction inductees.

Congratulations to this year's Ward Melville High School Alumni of Distinction.



Timothy Shea Valentine - Class of 1976

Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Father Valentine left his current profession of teaching a philosophy class at Fordham University in New York City and joined the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps. Recently, he completed a tour of duty in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. Father Valentine has earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Education from Columbia University and four Master's degrees (Philosophy, Music and Music Education, Theology, and Biblical Studies). His accomplishments include three musical albums, numerous publications, and a Bronze Star, as well as medals for Army Achievement, National Defense, Iraqi Campaign, Global War on Terrorism, and Army Service.

Allison Reynolds Covino - Class of 1981

In 1987, Ms. Covino began her employment with Options for Community Living, Inc. – a not-for-profit organization that provides housing and support services for adults with mental illness, and later expanded to include a shelter program for homeless families. Ms. Covino was promoted from a counselor in the mental health program to supervisor and then coordinator/developer of a new program that provides intensive case management and housing services to individuals and families living with HIV or AIDS. Ms. Covino is currently the Director of Options' Community Follow-up Program, which has become the largest program of its kind on Long Island. The program has served thousands of people in need. Ms. Covino is also celebrating her sixth year as a breast cancer survivor. She is cancer-free and recently volunteered for two years with the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery program to assist the newly diagnosed. In addition, she has worked to fundraise thousands of dollars to help raise awareness and funding for breast cancer research.

Margaret Valentine Kelly - Class of 1973

Mrs. Kelly has distinguished herself in the nursing profession by her attention to detail, her vigilant advocacy for patient care and her consummate professionalism. She was the youngest director of a long-term home health care agency in New York State. She taught at St. Joseph's College and assisted in the process for the college's initial accreditation by the National League of Nursing. Mrs. Kelly's present job allows her to do the two things she enjoys most in nursing: teaching and hands-on patient care. Mrs. Kelly also assists the Rotary International's Gift of Life program. This program helps families who host children from Latin America and the Caribbean who come to Stony Brook Hospital for lifesaving heart surgery.

Peter Valentine - Class of 1975

Mr. Valentine has distinguished himself in the music industry, as well as the teaching profession. He has performed with some icons of the music industry, including Bruce Springsteen, Pat Benatar, Bill Chinnock, Carly Simon, and Darlene Love. Mr. Valentine has also been a principal performer and musician for Broadway shows such as *The News* and *Rent*. He has appeared on the "Conan O'Brien Show," "Good Morning America," and "Live with Regis and Kelly." His voice is recognizable in many commercials including Hanes, Folgers, Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper, Dodge Trucks, Kodak, and Noxzema. Mr. Valentine also uses his time and talents to organize professional musicians to raise funds for humanitarian causes. One example was the Seven Bridges Benefit for the victims of the December 2004 tsunami and victims of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Valentine is currently a partner in a recording studio in Manhattan and teaches music in Chappaqua, New York.

