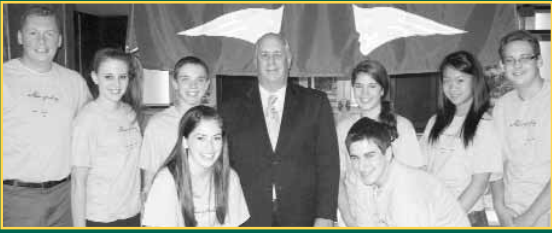




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The Reporter

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District



RESIDENTS MEET NEW SUPERINTENDENT

This school year, in addition to welcoming new students to the district, the Three Village Central School District and community welcomed a new Superintendent of Schools – Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed.D.

Dr. Ferrie, who came to Three Village from the Monroe Township Public School District in New Jersey, began his work in the district on July 1, 2008. In an effort to get better acquainted with residents and share his vision for the school district, community members were invited to attend an open and informal Meet the New Superintendent program on the evening of Friday, September 19.

Throughout his open dialogue, Dr. Ferrie had the chance to speak candidly with the members of the district and listen to their hopes and ideas for the future of Three Village. In return, Dr. Ferrie also gave the attendees an insight into the goals he has for the district, including the development of a long-range plan.

With the help of 10 R.C. Murphy Junior High School Student Government volunteers and the Student Government advisor, community members also had the opportunity to enjoy some light refreshments. The program was sponsored by the Three Village Teachers Association, Three Village School Administrators Association, and the Three Village PTA Council.



Welcome Back!

District students returned to school on September 3 for the start of the 2008-2009 school year. After boarding familiar yellow school buses, or, for the upperclassmen at Ward Melville High School, after driving to school for the first time, the district's students were happy to be back together with their old friends.

The transition from the relaxing days of summer vacation to the start of school was seamless, and the students and faculty jointly look ahead to another successful year in Three Village.



DISTRICT RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM SENATOR FLANAGAN

With the help of Senator John Flanagan, the district has been granted an additional \$400,000 in state funds. The monies, which are labeled as Bullet Aid, were awarded as a one-time allocation. One of the ways in which the provision could be utilized is to fund an emergency repair or project and, earlier this summer, the district experienced just that – an urgent asbestos abatement project at Nassakeag Elementary School.

“Senator Flanagan has been an outstanding supporter of education and our school district,” stated Superintendent of Schools Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed.D. “We are so appreciative of his efforts. These funds will be applied toward ensuring that the Nassakeag project will not have a detrimental impact on student programs or initiatives.”



During the district's October 7th Board of Education meeting, Senator Flanagan presented the district with a ceremonial oversized check, symbolizing the \$400,000 in state funding that he helped secure for the district.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Last January, district residents approved a \$7.5 million EXCEL improvement project and, in October, a \$72.8 million bond referendum was passed. Included in those two plans was a multitude of projects needed to renovate the district's physical plant and bring instructional spaces into the 21st Century. To date, all of the EXCEL projects and Phase I of the October Bond have been completed. This includes:

- Renovation of the Black Box Theater at WMHS (formally the LGI)
- Creation of sixth-grade science centers at all Elementary Schools
- Creation of four classrooms and a life-skills room at Arrowhead
- Creation of a new art and band room at Nassakeag
- Installation of two turf fields at WMHS

- Refurbishment of heating and ventilation equipment districtwide
- Refurbishment of the cafeteria and kitchen at Setauket
- Installation of the Wide Area Network at the North Country Administrative Building

Phase II, which includes the completion of the North Country renovations, is estimated to begin in November. Additionally, projects included in Phase III of the bond are with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) awaiting approval, and Phase IV will be submitted to NYSED in December. All projects are on schedule and the total for the capital improvements are coming in under budget. Total completion is estimated for late fall of 2010.

Under Construction...

Three Village is in the process of designing a new district website, which is expected to launch after the New Year. The fresh site will include a wide range of information about district happenings, programs, departments, and more. Be sure to check the site, www.3villagesd.k12.ny.us, for updates!

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

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BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Members of the Three Village Central School District Board of Education were recognized for their dedication and service to the school district this October in celebration of Board of Education Appreciation Week. Superintendent of Schools Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed.D, shared a proclamation from Governor David Paterson and thanked the members for their countless hours of service before turning the microphone over to the night's guest speakers – students from each of the district's eight schools.

One by one, the students read brief biographies on each trustee and the district clerk and presented them with certificates thanking them for their service to the district's students and community.

Revised Wellness Policy In Effect

The district is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity.

In July 2007, the Board of Education joined school districts across New York State in adopting a Wellness Policy to address the growing issue of child and adolescent obesity, and its relationship to students' ability and motivation to learn. During the 2007-2008 school year, teachers, parents, students, school nutrition leaders, and administrators met as part of a districtwide Wellness Policy Committee to recommend policy changes to the Board of Education. The discussions and recommendations resulted in a revised Wellness Policy, which was put into effect for the 2008-2009 school year.

While still remaining cognizant of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the revised policy includes several major changes. Under the previous policy, cupcakes and other food products were not permitted during the school day, teachers were unable to provide snacks to a student who was without one, and food was not allowed to be sold as a fundraiser on school property during the school day. Beginning this September, these regulations were changed. Teachers are still encouraged to use crafts, songs, and other alternatives to food-based celebrations, but can now, at their discretion, choose to involve food during the school day. If you are unsure as to your child's class regulations, please contact his/her teacher.

This policy will continue to be reviewed annually or when deemed necessary.

DISTRICT AWARDED TWO COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Following a comprehensive application and selection process, which was completed with the assistance of the district's Grant Writer and Director of School and Community Partnerships, Catherine Taldone, the district has been awarded two highly competitive grants totaling approximately \$346,000.

The first is the Mentor Teacher Intern Program (MTIP) grant from the New York State Education Department. The MTIP is designed to provide funding for school districts to develop and sustain a mentoring/induction program. With an eye towards providing guidance and support to teachers new to the field of education, the district has applied for and received this grant for the past nine years. The grant will be distributed in \$75,000 increments over a four-year span.

According to lead mentor Brenda Lamiroult, "Our district is looked upon as having an exemplary mentoring program, and one of the reasons we are able to sustain that level of success is through the funding and assistance this grant provides." Citing the many benefits a strong mentoring program can have, coordinator and mentor Kristianna Martindale noted, "When teachers feel supported they in turn are able to provide the necessary support students need to succeed. It's really a win-win situation."

In addition to the MTIP grant, the district is also the recipient of the New York State Learn & Serve America Grant. This funding is allocated to school districts in an effort to support service-learning initiatives in grades K-12 and provide resources to enhance community service programs.

"We have used much of the grant's funding toward enhancing and expanding the knowledge and application of service-learning methodology in our district and surrounding area," stated Ms. Taldone. "Throughout the year will we continue to seek alternative funding to support our educational programs."



Educational Foundation Awards Teachers 18 Grants

As a special component to this year's Superintendent's Conference Day, the recently revived Three Village Educational Foundation (3VEF) presented 18 mini-grants to 25 teachers. Foundation President Christian Buzzanca announced the projects that were selected and applauded the teachers for their interest.

Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected as mini-grant recipients:



- Bright DiPrimo** – "Bird Watching" (Arrowhead)
- Christina Maffia & Janice Connolly** – "Amazing Alphabet Quilt" (Arrowhead)
- Christine Fieldman** – "The Minnesauke 'Gates'" (Minnesauke)
- Irene Berman & Kate Hunter** – "Teaching Tolerance and the Holocaust" (Minnesauke)
- Kimberly O'Shea** – "Paper Recycling Project" (Minnesauke)
- Robert Davies** – "Music Class Recording" (Mount)
- Andrew Weik & Michael Schlank** – "Poetry Podcasts" (Mount)
- Deborah Kiriluk** – "Setauket Book Club" (Setauket)
- Pam Roberts** – "2BU" (Setauket)
- Gary Vorwald** – "Visualizing Microscopic Earth Science Phenomena" (Gelinias)
- Ginger Ferraro, Cindy Carrucci, Andrea Farley & Kerri Golini** – "International Night" (Murphy)
- Gary Hodges** – "Touch the Music" (Ward Melville)
- Elizabeth Kelso & Lisa Rochford** – "Nonfiction Literature: Narrative and Anecdote as Evidence" (Ward Melville)
- Jennifer Mullany** – "Art in History, Discovery through Creativity" (Ward Melville)
- Phil Preddice** – "A History of Orchestra Music" (Ward Melville)
- Alisa Rabbitt** – "Zoom and Listen" (Ward Melville)
- Steven Rogers** – "Automotive Battery" (Ward Melville)
- Cortney Weisman** – "Art Through Digital Photography" (Ward Melville)

New Grading System At Secondary Level

Several years ago, the district converted its process of grading students at the secondary level from an alphabetical to a numerical system, and developed a method for weighting grades based on the rigor of the course. Since that time, the level and differentiation of course curriculum has continued to evolve, making the old numeric grading system in need of revamping.

Charged with the task of conducting a comprehensive review of the district's current secondary grading structure, a composite committee, comprised of administrators, teachers, and guidance counselors, spent the past two years examining the current system in place. Through their detailed analysis, two main issues were identified and targeted to be revised: the method used for grade weighting and the grade inequities that occur between academic levels.

During a presentation made to the Board of Education during its July 31st meeting, the committee recommended a revised numeric grading system. The proposal, while maintaining the four different levels of weighting (Advanced Placement, Honors, Advanced, and Regents), aims at properly weighting grades based upon the course's level of difficulty. Furthermore, the committee felt that the proposed system would more precisely reflect student performance and the rigor of the program, as well as encourage students to enroll in higher-level courses that allow them to reach their academic potential.

While there is not a unified system for grading on Long Island or across the country, a system that more accurately conveys the rigor of courses and the students' performances is not only beneficial within the school system, it is something that assists colleges and universities to accurately understand student transcripts.

The new grading system became effective August 2008. Students' grades earned prior to the August 2008 date will be adjusted to meet the rules of the new system.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Elementary

This September, three major curriculum changes were implemented at each of the district's five elementary schools.

Houghton Mifflin mathematics, a **new second-grade math series**, was introduced in each building. A committee comprised of teachers and administrators selected the program last spring in an effort to further align the grade's math program with the New York State Standards and provide for an integration of technology. Teachers received training on the curriculum prior to the start of school and began using the program materials, including learning manipulatives and large flip charts, this fall.

Moving away from a textbook-based approach to learning, a **new grade K-4 science curriculum** is being implemented this year. The program, which is fully aligned to New York State standards, will work to create consistency and uniformity between buildings and decrease redundancy between grade levels. Additionally, the new curriculum allows for a greater focus on areas of interest and identified weaknesses and was written with hands-on learning in labs in mind. The series was created through a two-year curriculum development project, and teachers have and will continue to receive training during grade-level meetings with their building's Math, Science, and Technology teachers.

Recognizing students' different learning abilities, the district is piloting a **new enrichment program in the fourth grade**. The program, which is being offered in each elementary school, is an extension of the Intelligently Gifted (IG) program previously offered to students. Unlike the IG program, which is housed solely at W.S. Mount Elementary School, the fourth-grade enrichment program allows students to remain at their home school. Additionally, by offering the program at each building, an increased number of students are able to enroll and, throughout the year, students who demonstrate an ability to flourish in one of the core units of study – Math, Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts – could enroll in the program based on teacher recommendation.

"There are many systems in place to continue to evaluate the new programs being offered this year and assess current district offerings," stated Executive Director of Elementary Education Kenneth Bossert, Ed.D. "We are currently working on developing a cyclical review system for each curriculum area in grades K-12 to ensure that no program is overlooked."

Secondary

In **mathematics**, secondary students are learning using a 'new' New York State math curriculum, which is comprised of Integrated Algebra, Integrated Geometry, and Integrated Trigonometry. Additionally, both junior high schools are offering a Math Theory Honors course for the first time this year. This course is designed for those mathematically inclined students who want to 'think' like a mathematician. While its focus is the NYS curriculum, it offers students more opportunities for discovery and exploration of the mathematics they study.

The high school's **English department** is in the middle of a two-year course revision to the senior English class. The curriculum work completed this summer has increased the number of opportunities for writing experiences, similar to those the students may encounter in college, including writing a personal narrative and presenting a researched argument.



MEET WARD MELVILLE'S NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

DR. ALAN BAUM – PRINCIPAL

Dr. Baum is the new Ward Melville High School Principal. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Baum served as one of the school's Assistant Principals since 2003. Looking ahead to the school year, Dr. Baum is hoping to foster a positive and safe educational environment, explore a variety of methods for educating students, and have a positive impact on students in order for them to develop a strong connection to both the school and their education. Prior to coming to Three Village, Dr. Baum was a teacher and coordinator of several programs at Commack High School. Before getting his start in education, he practiced law until 1996. Dr. Baum is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Council of Administrators and Supervisors, and the PTSA.



ADAM DEWITT – ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Having worked in education for the past 13 years, Adam DeWitt joins Ward Melville's administration this year as an assistant principal. Mr. DeWitt, who served in the district last year as Ward Melville's administrative dean, comes to the district from the Longwood School District. In Longwood, Mr. DeWitt worked as a special education teacher, a teacher dean, and head football coach. Mr. DeWitt attended St. Joseph's College for his undergraduate studies, received his Master's Degree from SUNY Stony Brook University, and his Administrative Degree from Dowling College. He is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, American Federation for Teachers, and the National Education Association.



DR. PAUL GOLD – ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Since 2003, Dr. Gold has worked in the district as the junior and senior high school social studies chair, and now joins the Ward Melville High School administrative team as an Assistant Principal. Dr. Gold has been in the educational field for the past 16 years, during which he worked in the West Babylon and Comsewogue School Districts as well as District 29 in Queens. Dr. Gold received his Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Dowling College, Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from Hofstra University, and Doctor of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Technology from Dowling College. He is the past president of the New York State Council for the Social Studies, and has served on the New York State Social Studies Supervisory Association's Board of Directors and as a consultant for the New York State Department of Education's Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.



MIKE OWEN – ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Mr. Owen is a veteran leader in the district, having worked in Three Village for the past 18 years as one of Ward Melville's Assistant Principals. He began his career in the Commack School District and, before working at Ward Melville, served as a leave replacement assistant principal in Port Jefferson.

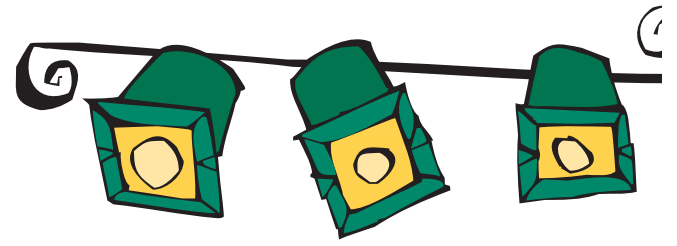


JENNIFER HARRISON – ADMINISTRATIVE DEAN

Ms. Harrison joins the Three Village School District from the Hicksville Public School District, where she worked as a Special Education Administrator. Ms. Harrison has been in the educational profession for the past 12 years, 10 of which she spent in the Half Hollow Hills School District as a Special Education teacher. She is certified in elementary education, special education, as a reading specialist, and as a School Building Administrator/School District Administrator. Additionally, Ms. Harrison is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, Supervision and Curriculum Development, and Support Our Autism Rainbow organizations.

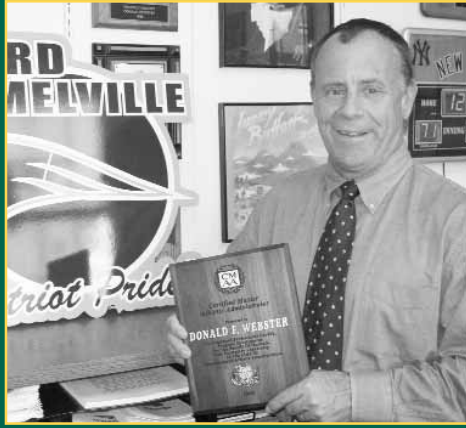


Spotlight on Achievements



True Leader Receives National Certification

District Executive Director of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics Donald Webster has been awarded the title of Certified Master Athletic Administrator. Mr. Webster received this honor based upon his successful completion of a rigorous certification program administered by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).



Mr. Webster, who has worked in the district for the past eight years, began the certification process seven years ago. He is the current New York State Leadership Training Coordinator, a member of the National Course Review Board, active on the Policy Committee at the local level, the past president of the Suffolk County Athletic Directors Association, and sits on the Athletic Council for Section XI.

Ten Seniors Named Merit Semifinalists

Ten Ward Melville High School seniors were announced this September as Semifinalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program, which is coordinated by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These talented scholars were among the 16,000 Semifinalists named in the 54th annual program.



As semifinalists, these academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$35 million. Nearly half of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and nearly half of those are expected to earn the Merit Scholar title.

Congratulations to the following Ward Melville High School National Merit Semifinalists:

David Gittin
Peter Gustafson
Andrew Han
Penelope Hobbs
Naureen Osman

Preya
Benjamin
Christina
Victor
Zhou

A Day Made Better

According to a study conducted by the National Education Association, teachers annually spend an average of \$1,200 of their own money for classroom supplies. Recognizing this growing trend, OfficeMax stores began an initiative last year to give support to exceptional teachers throughout the nation. This fall, W.S.



Mount Elementary School third-grade teacher Kim Pushee was recognized for her dedication to the educational field and had her classroom adopted as part of the organization's *A Day Made Better* program.

For this honor, representatives from the Stony Brook OfficeMax presented Mrs. Pushee with a commemorative certificate, a banner for the school, and a giant box full of school supplies totaling more than \$1,100. Included in the donation were an Olympus digital camera, a deluxe leather desk chair, and an assortment of writing supplies.

Art Honors at Ward Melville

As a result of their hard work and determination, two Ward Melville High School student-artists have been recognized for their creative talents.



Senior Paul Bertolino was selected as one of two Long Island Scholar Artists for the month of January by the Scholar-Artist program sponsored by the Long Island Arts Alliance. For this honor, Paul will be featured in *Newsday* and honored at a reception at the Tilles Center that will congratulate Paul and his Media Arts teacher, Cortney Weisman.

Additionally, Ward Melville High School tenth grader and former R.C. Murphy student Stephanie has been recognized by the United States Achievement Academy as a Student Artist. Stephanie was featured in a late August edition of *Newsday*, which featured Stephanie's art teacher Dr. Laurie Mandel nominating her for this honor in her ninth grade year.

CONGRATULATING COMMENDED STUDENTS

Ward Melville High School recently congratulated 17 seniors for being named Commended Students in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students joined approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation.



Although they will not continue in the 2009 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

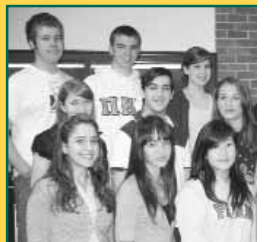
Joshua Belanich
Michael Bouklas
Kay Chen
Laurence Coman
Camilla Dagum
Daniel Haigh

Andrew Jimenez
Jason Karelis
Yuchen Liu
William Lunden
Jie Min
Taejoong Park

Gregory Pflaumer
Tal Shtulsaft
Clementine Tousey
Kevin Xu
Allyson Zacharoff

MUSIC STUDENTS HIT A HIGH

After perfecting their music talents with the help of the district's music teachers, more than 60 Ward Melville High School student-musicians have been recognized for their talents and invited to perform during either the 2008 NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County or 2008 NYSSMA All-State Conferences. The students qualified for participation in the ensembles based upon their scores in last spring's NYSSMA solo and ensemble festival.



"I am extremely proud of our music students," stated Director of Music Thomas Jones. "These invitations are a true testament to the program offered in the district and the support that our faculty provides. It is through their help and guidance that our students are able to succeed and achieve at such high levels."



In addition to the more than 60 students who will perform during the All-State festivals, the high school's singing group, Camerata, has been invited to attend the All-State Conference in Rochester.

Creating 'Whirled' Peace

Imagine a world where peace was more than just a thought – it was a reality. Well, that's exactly what more than 200 R.C. Murphy Junior High School students and faculty members strived to achieve on Friday, September 19th. In art classes taught by Mike Tiberius and Brian Baker, the school teamed up to participate in the national *Pinwheels for Peace* project.

In their art classes, students transformed the traditional childhood symbol – the pinwheel – into an image for peace. After handcrafting their pinwheels, the students wrote their thoughts about 'war and peace, tolerance and living in harmony with others' on one side and on the other artistically demonstrated their feelings visually. After assembling the more than 250 pinwheels and with the help of their teachers, the students displayed the finished creations outside of the building in a line to show their solidarity and commitment to help promote world peace.



Exploring The World of Science

Through their participation in the Biotechnology Summer Camp program held at the Center for Science & Mathematics Education at Stony Brook University, four Ward Melville High School tenth graders had the opportunity to conduct hands-on research in the university's state-of-the-art laboratories. Tanya Beg, Nevin Daniel, Anisha Satish, and Priyanka Patel were selected to participate in this elite program through a comprehensive and extensive application process.

The program, which is designed for highly motivated high school students, aims to instruct scholars on the techniques used in modern biotechnology research. Throughout the four-week program, students were provided with the chance to explore topics in biochemistry, microbiology, and molecular biology, and invited to live on campus Monday through Friday.

First, the students began by learning concepts and techniques as a class and then, working in small groups, conducted original research projects on a topic of their choice. Tanya and Nevin worked with an Arizona student on a project studying the possibility of using hydrogen gas as a source of clean, renewable fuel. Anisha and Priyanka explored DNA and the process for recovery of DNA for forensic analysis. Additionally, the students had the chance to attend seminars, meet with guest lecturers, and tour the greenhouse and medical center.

The program is offered to students nationwide who have completed their ninth-grade year and a biology course. Only 24 students from across the United States were accepted into the 2008 summer program.

A Journey Into AMERICAN INDIAN TERRITORY

Do you know what it takes to construct a full-sized tipi? Well, thanks to a cultural arts program called *Journeys into American Indian Territory: The Plains Indian Tipi Experience*, students in kindergarten through third grade at Arrowhead Elementary School do. With the help of two presenters the students were asked to imagine a time of open space, no waste or pollution, and teamwork being the foundation of a functioning society, in order to travel back in time and learn about the historical culture and ways of the Plains Indians.



Throughout the program, the students listened to the traditional tale of the turtle, learned about the important roles animals played in the Indians' lifestyle, how to perform the Dance of Respect and Honor, and took a look at some artifacts. At the conclusion of the program, each class had the opportunity to walk through a full-sized tipi, which was located on the school's front lawn.

Olympic Star Inspires Scarecrow Design

During the summer Olympics many Americans were glued to their television sets to watch as swimmer Michael Phelps sped through the water and captured a record-breaking eight gold medals. The kindergarten students in Pam Woods' class at Nassakeag Elementary School were no different. When it came time for them to participate in the annual Ward Melville Heritage Organization's scarecrow competition, they knew exactly who to model their submission after.



Working in their art classes and with the help of art teacher Rachel Condron, the students worked to shape strips of plaster of Paris over chicken wire. The project, which took approximately three weeks to complete, resulted in an almost lifelike replica of the swimming phenomenon. Propped up in a pool and decorated with medals, the Michael Phelps scarecrow was placed on display in downtown Stony Brook at the end of September.

Fly Mutations Captivate Students

What determines the color of someone's eyes, how a body's genetic makeup affects physical appearance, and the complexity of DNA are just a few of the topics Setauket Elementary School's sixth graders learned about during their monthlong scientific study of genetics. Through classroom material and hands-on lab experiments, the students took an in-depth look at a variety of genetic topics.

Following a study on DNA and the genetic makeup of offspring, the students completed a lab project on homeotic (genes that determine body pattern and symmetry) mutations, specifically

those found in fruit flies. Using microscopes, the students worked in pairs and examined petri dishes filled with deceased fruit flies to look for mutations.

The flies, which had previously been exposed to small doses of radiation in a laboratory environment, were noted to have a variety of common mutations. Students observed that the specimens were in different stages of life, differences in wing shape and size, as well as changes in eye color and size.

"It is really cool to see the different types of mutations that we have learned about in class,"



stated Faith Reynolds. "Learning through lab experiments helps me to really understand the topic...and it's a lot of fun," added Tess Duryea.

Modern Artists Inspire Students

After studying several famous contemporary artists from the 20th Century, students at Minnesauke Elementary School were inspired to put paintbrushes to canvas and create some remarkable pieces of their own. Each grade level was assigned to study a modern artist and then, grouped according to class and with the help of art teachers Christine Fieldman and Phyllis Pastore, the students worked to create an original piece of art that incorporated the techniques made famous by the artist.



The finished products, which measure approximately 4x9 feet, were painted on thick canvas and will be on display during the school's spring art show – Minnesauke's Museum of Modern Art. To date, 18 of the 38 canvases have been created.

Speaking Up for Change

In an effort to help educate their peers on the variety of ramifications the choices they make can have, 20 P.J. Gelinus Junior High School students took to the school's stage to perform a play dealing with serious adolescent issues. This year's play, which for the first time was written by the entire student-based cast and director Robert DePersio and Assistant Principal Antonio Santana, was called *Choices*. The play depicted the lives of 20 teenagers dealing with a variety of issues that can affect a teenager's life – including bullying, harassment and eating disorders.

From start to finish the audience found the production to be emotionally charged and well performed. The school's eighth- and ninth-grade students had the opportunity to preview the production during the day, and the entire community was invited to a free performance the evening of October 15.



Welcoming New Students

Not long after the start of the 2008-2009 school year, P.J. Gelinus and R.C. Murphy Junior High Schools welcomed students just entering their schools during New Student Breakfast celebrations. Members of the schools' student leadership and student government organizations were on hand to assist in welcoming their new peers and informing them of the many different ways to get involved in school activities.



At R.C. Murphy Junior High School the building's 12 new eighth and ninth graders were happy to listen to a presentation on the school's clubs and activities from student government volunteers. Led by the club's advisor, Brian Pickford, the latest members of the student body enjoyed meeting new friends and sharing a tasty breakfast.

Approximately 10 P.J. Gelinus Junior High School eighth and ninth-grade students gathered in the school's cafeteria for the building's new student breakfast. After enjoying a bagel and juice breakfast, which was served by the school's student leadership, the students participated in several icebreaker activities and shared their favorite activities with the group.

Remembering 9/11

On the seventh anniversary of the September 11th tragedies, the entire R.C. Murphy Junior High School student body, faculty, and administration gathered in front of the school to pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives that day. Walking with bowed heads and in silence, the students gathered with their teachers to listen as ninth graders Julia Belich, Gabriell Messina, Amanda Erickson, and Amanda Slawinski proudly sang "God Bless America."

As bells chimed to symbolize the time when the towers were struck and ultimately collapsed, the crowd bowed their heads for a moment of silence. Dressed in red, white and blue, friends consoled their peers as they thought back to that day – a year when they were almost too young to understand what was taking place in the world.

"We observe a moment of silence to remember the more than 2,700 individuals who were lost on 9/11," stated Assistant Principal Patrick DiClemente. "Solemnly we are joined together to commemorate the seventh anniversary of that day and the lives that could have and should have been, if not for that tragedy."

The commemorative event was planned and coordinated by the school's student government.



Touchdown Patriots!

WARD MELVILLE SCORES A WINNING HOMECOMING



On what was a picturesque Saturday afternoon, hundreds of Three Village students, administrators, and community members gathered together to attend the district's annual homecoming celebration and cheer on their favorite high school football team – the Ward Melville Patriots.

Prior to the start of the highly anticipated game against the Commack High School Cougars, visitors of all ages enjoyed the festivities at the Homecoming Carnival. The event, which was coordinated by the high school student government, included a variety of innovative stations. Just before the ceremonial coin toss, a new Homecoming tradition was born – a districtwide banner competition. Students from each school marched along the walking track and displayed the handmade banners they had created to show what it meant to be a part of the local community.

Wearing green and gold, attendees took their seats in the bleachers and began cheering for the varsity team. Under the direction of head coach Craig Perrino, the Patriots took to the field and quickly established a strong lead in the first half. Leaving the field at halftime with an 11-point lead, the team was met with a boisterous round of applause from the audience.

During the halftime break, the high school's varsity cheerleaders entertained the crowd with a show-stopping routine and the marching band performed several catchy and familiar tunes. Additionally, members of the student government congratulated this year's banner competition-winning school, Arrowhead Elementary School, and presented them with the first annual trophy.

With a powerful offense and a solid wall of defense, Ward Melville dominated throughout the remainder of the game. As the last pass of the game was thrown and the final whistle sounded, Ward Melville's team and fans were on their feet cheering the 48 to 10 win over Commack.

LEGEND LEAVES LASTING MARK

Anyone who has attended or worked at Ward Melville High School in the past 40 years is sure to have had the privilege of knowing a man fondly called "Mr. Patriot." For more than 40 years, Willie White has been a staple in the school and this year, following his retirement, the district came together to honor him for his years of service and give thanks for the many hats he has worn over the years. As the district prepared to cut the ceremonial ribbon that led to Ward Melville's new athletic fields and complex, current and past students, teachers, administrators, and community members gathered for a dedication ceremony in Mr. White's honor.

Although strong rain forced the ceremony indoors, the weather did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. As Mr. White entered the auditorium dressed in Patriot colors – green and gold – he was met with a resounding standing ovation.

"I am so thankful that 40 years ago the Board of Education and Superintendent gave me the chance to work in this great district," stated Mr. White. "They say it takes a village to raise a child and I can't think of any



other village I'd rather be in. It is hard to find the words to express how I feel – I am simply overjoyed."

With members of the school's varsity cheerleading squad by his side, Mr. White cut a symbolic ribbon opening the new athletic fields, and unveiled the sign that will be placed for all to see; a sign welcoming visitors to 'Willie White Field.'

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION, UTILIZING RESOURCES

District Continues to Implement County SRO Initiative

In early 2005, in response to school tragedies and safety issues across the country, the Suffolk Police Commissioner developed a program to provide school district administrators with a direct line of communication to their local police department and help schools evaluate their safety procedures and plans. During the 2007-08 school year, Three Village implemented this offering in the form of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

Headed by Sixth Precinct COPE and Police Officer Paul Paglia, the program has grown over the past year from a part-time to a full-time initiative. Servicing the district's students in grades K-12, Officer Paglia is on hand to assist with safety and security issues. During the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Officer Paglia is available to the district and works with district administrators to help maintain a safe environment for learning, assist with both criminal and noncriminal occurrences, and offer his services when needed. From reviewing school floor and emergency management plans to assisting with lockdown drills, the SRO program provides the schools with a direct connection to the police department.

"This program is about opening the lines of communication between the police and the school district," stated Officer Paglia. "The police department and school district are taking a strong and serious stance on enhancing security measures and working within the parameters of both school rules and regulations and police department rules."

Tips for a Successful Year: A Message from Officer Paglia

As your School Resource Officer (SRO) in each edition of *The Reporter* I will be providing helpful tips for parents and students to combat issues prevalent to children in today's society. With the start of the school year, I find it important for you to remember the following when using technology:

- Think before you type or share files/images.
- Anything that you put in writing, whether it be a text, an instant message, or website posting, is often seen by more than just the intended party.
- The Police Department is constantly monitoring the content on networking sites like Facebook and MySpace.
- There are serious consequences and criminal repercussions for Internet and cyber/verbal threats.

The Internet and communication technology can be a great resource when used properly. Just remember to be safe when going 'on-line' and report unacceptable or unwarranted behavior to an adult.

Student Volunteers to Serve on Board of Education

Allison Pinard, a senior at Ward Melville High School, will be volunteering to serve on the Three Village Central School District's Board of Education for the 2008-2009 school year as a student representative. While she will not have any voting rights, Allison will have the opportunity to share a student's perspective on issues and decisions the Board will make throughout the year. Additionally, during each meeting Allison will share upcoming events taking place at the high school and provide brief recaps on prior happenings.



"I am proud to serve as the student representative to the Board of Education and will work to serve to the best of my ability," stated Allison. "I hope to have a busy and productive year and aspire to make a difference in the Three Village community."

Allison is the current President of the high school's Student Government, on the Varsity Field Hockey (2007 Long Island Champions and New York State Semifinalists) and Lacrosse (2007 County Champions) Teams, a member of the high school's Peer Athletic Council Team (PACT), and was awarded both the Presidential Community Service Award and Academic All-American Award in 2008. Additionally, Allison has been an assistant coach for the boys Three Village Basketball Team for the past three years, serves on Ward Melville's Principal's Student Advisory Council, was nominated for the 2008 National Youth Leadership Forum, and is a member of a youth group.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW

2008-2009 Title I Schools: Arrowhead Elementary, Minnesauke Elementary, Murphy Junior High Schools

As per the No Child Left Behind Parents' Right-To-Know requirements, parents have the right to know the qualifications of his/her child's classroom teacher(s) and paraprofessional staff.

You are entitled to know:

- whether the teacher has met State certification criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State certification criteria have been waived;
- the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to obtain this information please contact Mara Bollettieri, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, at The North Country Administrative Center, 100 Suffolk Avenue, Stony Brook, New York 11790/ Telephone: 730-4530

NEW TEACHERS ATTEND SUMMER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

After having demonstrated a strong passion for education and teaching, approximately 30 new teachers were welcomed to the district at the start of the 2008-2009 school year. Prior to their official start on September 2, these professionals attended a two-day new teachers workshop in order to gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the district.

The first day of the program was held off-site at the Miller Beach Surf Club, the second was conducted at the North Country Administrative Building, and both were coordinated by teacher mentors Kristianna Martindale and Brenda Lamirault.

Just before delving into district policies, procedures, and some icebreaker activities, Superintendent of Schools Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed.D., Board of Education President John K. Diviney, and several members of the administration extended a warm welcome to the new staff and wished them well during the year ahead.

During the program the new teachers also had a chance to interact with their building principals, take tours of their buildings, and receive training on the district's network system. Additionally, as a special touch this year, two current high school seniors visited with the new faculty members to share the positive impacts some of their teachers have had on them and two teachers who went through the training sessions last year spoke about their experiences with the mentoring program.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: John K. Diviney

Vice President: David A. Micklos

Trustees: Jonathan Kornreich; Carol Leister; Frank McIntosh;
Diane Peritore; Glen T. Whitney

Superintendent of Schools: Ralph P. Ferrie, Ed. D.