



# The Reporter

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

FALL 2011

## A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community Residents,

After some unsuccessful attempts at identifying a permanent superintendent for our District, at the Board of Education's October meeting, Cheryl Pedisich was appointed as Superintendent, effective July 1, 2012. The Board also took the step of appointing Ms. Pedisich as Deputy Superintendent, effective immediately.

This is a significant development, and I believe Ms. Pedisich will prove to be an excellent appointment. Her history in our School District, as well as her love for and dedication to the Three Village Schools and community, make her an outstanding choice. Having worked with Ms. Pedisich, I know from experience of her conscientiousness, knowledge, insight and dedication. Ms. Pedisich possesses a superior work ethic and a desire to have our District excel.

I not only believe her to be highly regarded by our staff and community, but also deem our School District to be fortunate to have someone of her vision and understanding of what our students require and desire. I salute the Board of Education for their astuteness in recognizing Ms. Pedisich's unique qualifications and appointing her to the superintendency.

In transition, I will closely work with her to facilitate a smooth change in leadership. We will all be faced with the challenges and fall-out of a tax cap budget and the eventual change in our Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) process.

New York State regulations require the District to revise how we assess teacher and principal effectiveness. Ms. Pedisich will be leading the effort in working with our affected bargaining units to develop an APPR process that is consistent with the new regulations and ensures the highest quality of performance.

The tax cap budget will result in program reductions, modifications and potential eliminations. The degree to which these impacts will affect our students will be determined by the cap figure (2% or less), or if the Board of Education, with the community's support (60%+ plurality), approves a figure above the cap. Be advised I will recommend to the Board that we attempt to override the cap and offer a budget with a tax rate that is reasonably above the imposed cap figure. However, no matter what this figure is, it will result in some reductions to instructional and extra-curricular programs. These will no doubt negatively impact class size. Many highly-regarded and prized programs could be compromised by this cap. While many rejoice in limiting the increase in school taxes, many will bemoan the fact that today's students will not benefit, to the same extent, from the programs that were available to prior generations of students.

Be assured that despite all the obstacles in front of us, we will do all we can to assist our students and to provide the first-rate educational system you deserve and are accustomed to.

Respectfully,  
Neil Lederer, *Interim Superintendent of Schools*



## New SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTED

During the October 25 Board of Education meeting, Three Village Central School District Board President, John Diviney, announced that after several years of searching, the Board was prepared to announce the selection of a new Superintendent of Schools. In a unanimous decision, the motion passed to appoint Cheryl Pedisich, former Assistant Superintendent for Education, Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Personnel Services, to the position.

Ms. Pedisich will officially assume the role of Superintendent effective July 1, 2012. She has been appointed Deputy Superintendent, effective immediately, which will allow her and Interim Superintendent of Schools, Neil Lederer, to work together and ensure consistency of the Board's approaches and initiatives.

The appointment of a permanent superintendent has been one of the major tasks of the Board this year. Faced with the critical need for a permanent District leader, the Board worked with a search consultant to assist in identifying the appropriate qualities of a superintendent. "I am proud and happy to announce that we have found the person we feel represents all of the attributes and qualities that the Board felt were critical in order to move us forward and afford us the stability to face the challenges that lie ahead," said Mr. Diviney.

When asked for her thoughts, Ms. Pedisich said, "This is a great honor. I have to thank everyone, most especially the Board of Education, for their confidence in me. I look forward to this position with great enthusiasm and dedication, as we all work together to sustain and support the excellence of the Three Village School District."

Ms. Pedisich has worked within the District for over 28 years. A graduate of Long Island University-C.W. Post, she began her Three Village career as a counselor in the guidance department. She chaired the department before going on to become the Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel, the Executive Director of Pupil Personnel, and ultimately, as of 2007, the Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel. According to Mr. Diviney, "[Ms. Pedisich] has exhibited significant success and tremendous achievement in all of her positions. She has been exposed to all aspects of the District and has the extensive knowledge and expertise in the educational issues that we confront." He went on to praise the quality of her leadership, compassionate diligence and work ethic. "She represents the best of what we aspire to in the District in terms of our staff and our kids, and how we want to be envisioned as a District. She has an unwavering dedication and commitment to our kids and the future of their education."

"It's a great day for the District," added Mr. Lederer. "We will continue to work together and she will be well prepared to take over on July 1. The District will be left in good hands!"

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# NEW FACES IN NEW ROLES



## KATHRYN WHITE *Principal at Setauket Elementary School*

Ms. White began her educational career as a fifth-grade teacher in the New York City school system. She then joined the Valley Stream School District, where she held the positions of elementary school teacher, literary and mathematics coach, and assistant principal. Ms. White served as assistant principal of Setauket for two years prior to serving in her current position.

Ms. White received her Bachelor of Arts in Education from the City University of New York and her Master of Science in Administration and Supervision from Pace University.

She has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and is working to make positive contributions to the District. Welcome to your new role!



## MARTIN MALONE *Interim Assistant Principal at Setauket Elementary School*

Mr. Malone brings an extensive background as an administrator and educator to this role. Last year, he was the Interim Assistant Principal at Murphy Junior High School. Prior to his work in Three Village, Mr. Malone served for 17 years as an elementary and middle school principal for the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District. Before his work as an administrator, he was a Spanish teacher at Copiague High School.

Mr. Malone earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish education from Siena College, a master's degree in liberal studies with a concentration in foreign language teaching methods from Stony Brook University, and a professional diploma in educational administration from Long Island University. He is the former president of the Nassau County Middle School Principals' Association and holds an honorary Life Membership with the Massapequa PTA.

## BRIAN BISCARI *Principal at Minnesauke Elementary School*



Mr. Biscari joins Minnesauke from Westhampton Beach Elementary and Middle Schools, where he held the position of assistant principal. Prior to working in Westhampton Beach, Mr. Biscari spent ten years teaching grades three, four and five in the Middle Country School District before being appointed as the teacher coordinator for elementary math and science. In that position, he spent four years providing professional development for 300 teachers in ten elementary schools.

Having earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from SUNY Cortland, a Master of Science in Special Education from Dowling College and an Advanced Certification in School Building Leadership and School District Leadership, Mr. Biscari is equipped with both the knowledge and experience needed for a successful future in the Three Village School District.

The District wishes Mr. Biscari the best of luck!

## JONATHON RUFAS *Dean of Students at R.C. Murphy Junior High School*



Mr. Rufas comes to the District with a great deal of enthusiasm and experience. He began his career as a physical education and health teacher at the Staten Island Academy. Mr. Rufas also coached middle school basketball, soccer and baseball in Staten Island. Most recently, he taught physical education, sports medicine and health at Half Hollow Hills High School East, as well as coached junior varsity baseball in the Center Moriches School District. Mr. Rufas holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Science in Teaching from the State University of New York at Cortland.

Congratulations and good luck, Mr. Rufas!



## KENNETH GRAY, JR. *Plant Facilities Administrator*

Mr. Gray joins the District staff with a wealth of experience. Most recently, he was employed by The Manhattan Club of New York, where he held the position of Director of Engineering. Prior to that, Mr.

Gray was the chief engineer for Hilton Hotels, as well as the Crowne Plaza at the United Nations.

Mr. Gray hopes to continue the success of former Plant Facilities Administrator, Bob Hanson, and his staff, with assistance from Kevin Warren, Assistant PFA.

The Three Village community welcomes Mr. Gray and wishes him good luck in this new role!

## Board of Education Is Honored

The Three Village School District took time during its October 11th Board of Education meeting to celebrate Board Recognition Week and give thanks to the six volunteers who dedicate countless hours serving the students, District, and community. Interim Superintendent of Schools Neil Lederer gave thanks to the Board members for all of the time and unwavering dedication they devote to their positions. He also highlighted some of their collective achievements to date. As a token of appreciation, each Board member was presented with a small gift from the school to which he/she serves as a liaison. The Board members and District Clerk, who was also honored, are pictured.



The Board of Education adopted a set of both short and long-term goals for the 2011-12 school year. They can be

found on the District website,

[www.threevillagecsd.org](http://www.threevillagecsd.org).

The District has established an email blast feature, which is viewable via the Website link named "Stay Connected with our E-Blasts." Individuals who register for the e-mail notification will receive monthly e-mail updates, highlighting activities taking place throughout the District.

# We Care

## TAKING STEPS TOWARD HEALTH

At Nassakeag Elementary School, students from kindergarten through sixth grade participated in the "Walk for Education" in an attempt to promote physical activity and the decision to make healthy choices during Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31). Parents sponsored their children by making small monetary donations, which the PTA will use to fund schoolwide events and programs. Students walked behind the school building on the upper and lower playgrounds.

"It is a great way to stay healthy, be with your friends, and help the school at the same time," noted fifth-grade student Annalise Baldi.

## PLANTING A PROMISE

The sixth-grade students in Cynthia Howard's health classes planted tulips in the gardens that frame the entrance of the



school as part of a Red Ribbon Week project aimed to reinforce the "say no to drugs" message. The bulbs will bloom into vibrant red tulips and will serve as a reminder of the pledge they signed to stay drug-free.

"Health education for children is essential in helping them learn to make healthy choices," said Howard. "This activity awards them an opportunity to reinforce the refusal skills they learn in class, to 'just say no.'"

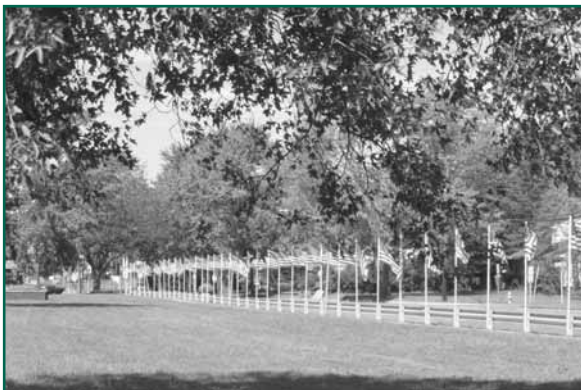
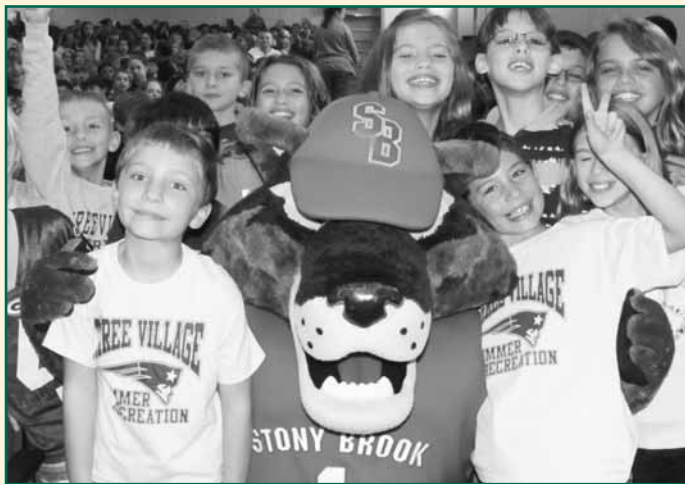
## MAKING CHANGE FOR KIDS

Hundreds of Setauket Elementary School students enjoyed a special pep rally aimed to celebrate the "Change for Children" fundraising initiative to benefit programs and services at the Stony Brook Long Island Children's Hospital, the only hospital on Long Island that strictly aids children.

The rally was attended by special guests, including Stony Brook University mascot Wolfie who danced and high-fived his way onto the stage, where he led the Setauket School band in a special rendition of "Let's Go Band."

Setauket Elementary Principal, Kathryn White, said in her address to the audience, "Your generosity is an inspiration to all children, and your efforts will help children just like you."

Members of the student government carried the large crate of coins that had been collected by the Setauket students which, including an approximate \$500 donation made by the student council, totaled \$2,500.



# A DISTRICT Remembers

Ten years after the September 11th attacks, the students of the Three Village School District honored the tragic events of that day.

On September 8, students of the District, grades kindergarten through twelve, took part in a nationwide initiative known as Operation Goody Bag, established in 2003. Students decorated brown lunch bags with patriotic images. In their classrooms, they composed thank you letters, short stories and poems, which they added to the bags along with candy and treats. The bags will be donated to the first responders to Ground Zero and the soldiers who continue to risk their lives abroad to preserve our freedom.

"It is so important to let them know how much we appreciate their service in our country's weakest moments," said Vienna Hintze, a Ward Melville High School student. "Not a day goes by that we don't think about what they're doing for us." Those sentiments were echoed throughout the District. As sixth grader Steven Chu observed, "They are risking their lives to save American citizens, so it is important to remember them."

Even the youngest students understood that it would be nice to honor these Americans. "Soldiers are people who protect us," said Max, a kindergarten student in Mrs. Freeman's class at Setauket Elementary School. "I think they will like to get a goody bag."

This Districtwide initiative was one of many ways that students honored the day. On the morning of September 9, approximately 1,000 students and staff of R.C. Murphy Junior High School stood in a circle, holding hands in silent solidarity around the flagpole of their school. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, students listened to R.C. Murphy Principal, Vincent Vizzo, and Assistant Principal, Kevin Finnerty, recount the emotion of that historic day in 2001 and the spirit of community that followed. Mr. Finnerty stated, "Now you are all old enough and mature enough to understand that every generation will face a tragedy of some type...what counts is not how and why it happened, but how that generation handles it, and whether it has made

them smarter and stronger."

Anthony Pollera, teacher of theater, arts and music at Murphy, led the select choir in a harmonious and symbolic version of "America the Beautiful." Students were then asked to hold hands as they listened to the tolling of bells while the American flag was lowered to half-mast. "It is so impressive to me," said Mr. Vizzo, "the way that they understand the suffering and the tragedy and are so respectful of it."

At P.J. Gelinas Junior High School, the members of Student Government worked together with staff to create wooden remembrance ribbons that adorned the entrance to the school. Students were asked to pay tribute to the heroes of 9/11 and to remember the spirit of unity that bound the country by making a pledge to commit to an act of community service. "Rather than focusing on the destruction of the day, we want the students to understand the coming together that occurred on the days that followed," explained Principal Gus Hueber.

Ward Melville High School, whose property was lined with 75 American flags (the collaborative effort of students and faculty), chose to honor the day by observing a moment of silence. The observation was held after an announcement made by Principal Dr. Alan Baum, who urged students to "work together in a cooperative spirit to accept the differences of others, whether it is the color of their skin, religious beliefs, sexual preferences or nationality." He went on to say, "The sum of our parts is far greater than any one of them. Let us always remember and never forget."





# Awards and

## Ward Melville Poet HONORED



Congratulations to Kelsey Weymouth-Little for her First Place Honor in the 2011 String Poet Poetry Contest honoring Women Writers of Tomorrow, a contest supported by the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association. Kelsey is being honored for her poem, "Adeline" that she submitted last spring.

On September 25, Kelsey received her award at the Walt Whitman Birthplace in West Hills, New York. Of her honor, Kelsey said, "In a world where literature has often been dominated by men, it's important for women writers, especially aspiring ones, to be recognized and celebrated. I feel honored to have won this award, and I am especially grateful for the chance to attend the awards ceremony. Hearing many talented aspiring writers read their poems reminded me that poetry unites us through our common experiences, and that it can give women a voice when they might not otherwise have one."

Congratulations Kelsey!

## The Lunch of a Lifetime

When he entered his video submission to the Random House Inheritance Cycle Super Fan Contest in November 2010, Jake Welde, a ninth-grade student at P.J. Gelinis Junior High School, had no idea that he would be chosen to fly to Montana the following September for a personal luncheon with his favorite author, Christopher Paolini. Paolini, the Guinness World Record holder for being the youngest bestselling author, was only 16 when he wrote his bestselling book *Eragon*, the first in his Inheritance Cycle series.



The contest urged readers to submit a video explaining why the Inheritance Cycle series is such a great read. Jake decided to express his views in the form of a rap he titled "Gangsta's Alagaesian-Paradise." The name is a play on "Gangsta's Paradise," a rap song by artist Coolio featured in the 1995 movie *Dangerous Minds*, combined with the mythical setting for Paolini's books.

"When I became interested in the series, I never expected to be chosen for lunch with my favorite author," said Jake, grinning widely.

According to English Language Arts Chairperson Cathy Duffy, who has been Jake's teacher for two years, this is an honor that was well-deserved. "Jake is one of the most avid and persistent learners I have ever had in my classroom. He has a very unique writing style that shows a maturity beyond his years."

It was a wonderful experience for Jake and one he will not soon forget. Congratulations!

## Rising to the Top



The Three Village School District would like to congratulate Leanna O'Brien for being selected by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) as a recipient of the 2011 NCTE Achievement Award in Writing. Leanna was one of only 520 students nationwide chosen for this prestigious recognition.

The Achievement Awards in Writing Program was established in 1957 to encourage high school students in their writing and to publicly recognize some of the best young writers in the nation.

"There were so many talented writers, it's amazing to think that I would be included among them," remarked Leanna.

## Simply the Best!

Congratulations to Alexa Antipas for placing third at the Fencing World Cup in Konin, Poland. This honor ranks Alexa as the 11th best fencer in the world.

Alexa began fencing in the seventh grade and went on to compete nationally the following year. The top 15 girls out of the 138 who compete nationally went on to compete in Poland. Alexa traveled with her father Chris and coach Jeff Salmon, who coaches her at both Ward Melville High School and the Mission Fencing Center of Rocky Point.

"It is rewarding to be part of such an elite group," said Alexa. "It is so nice to see how my hard work has paid off."

Congratulations to Alexa for receiving such a prestigious recognition.



## Highlighting Staff Members

### DR. DANIEL DEUTSCH NAMED TO NATIONAL LEADERSHIP POST

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) has named Dr. Daniel Deutsch, Three Village Music Teacher of Composition and AP Music Theory, as chairperson of its recently created Council for Music Composition. NAfME, founded in 1907, is one of the world's largest arts education organizations, with a membership of more than 75,000 active, retired, and prospective music teachers, and 60,000 music honor students and supporters.

As the founding chairperson of the Composition/Improvisation Committee of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA), Dr. Deutsch has helped to lead a major initiative in the fields of composition and

improvisation in New York since 1998. In recognition of that effort, he is the recipient of the 2011 NYSSMA Distinguished Service Award, which will be presented at the Eastman School of Music on December 3, 2011. One of the key goals of the NAfME composition council is to help other state music education associations to develop thriving composition programs like the one in New York.

Dr. Deutsch has presented many sessions on teaching composition at educational institutions and music education conferences throughout the United States. His articles on composition pedagogy have been published in music education journals, and he is a contributing author of "Composing Our Future: Preparing Music Educators to

Teach Composition," a forthcoming Oxford University Press publication.

In June 2012, he will chair a two-day Composition Academy for music educators as part of NAfME Music Education Week in Baltimore and will host the NAfME Student Composer Concert in a live video podcast from the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.



# Recognitions



## LEADERS OF MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In late October, the Siemens Foundation announced the Semifinalists and Regional Finalists of the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology, revealing the brightest high school minds in contention for one of the nation's most coveted teen science prizes. Ward Melville ranked third in New York State with five Semifinalists: Tyler Corsello, Fay Lin, Anna Sato, Murali Varadaraj and Jack Zhou.



This original research competition in math, science and technology for high school students is administered annually by the College Board and awards college scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000 in individual and team categories. New York State placed first in the country, with 57 Semifinalists. A record number of 1,541 projects were received for the Siemens Competition this year.

Congratulations to all of our hardworking research students!

## Scholars of Mathematics Named

Congratulations to Donald Della Pietra and Emily Huang on being named Long Island Young Scholars of Mathematics. These two exceptional students were two of only 75 students selected for this honor, placing them among the top one-tenth of one percent in math of all students on Long Island in their grades. Congratulations Emily and Donald. Keep up the great work!



## Third-Year Science Teacher Receives STANYS Award

Jaclyn Steigert, a third-year earth science teacher at R.C. Murphy Junior High School, was honored by STANYS (Science Teachers Association of New York State), an organization that aims to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science education.

Ms. Steigert was this year's recipient of the Fellows New Teacher Conference Award. This award benefits the career of a promising second- or third-year science teacher and supports his or her attendance at the 116th Annual STANYS Conference, which was held at the Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, NY from November 5-8, 2011.

As a participant in the conference, Ms. Steigert embarked on a field trip into the Genesee River Gorge, attended special workshops such as the "Earth Science Demo Derby," and had the chance to meet with science teachers from all over New York State. The Three Village community congratulates Jaclyn on this honor!



## Students Receive High Honors

On the morning of September 14, Dr. Alan Baum, Principal of Ward Melville High School, announced with pride that 12 seniors had been selected as Semifinalists in the 57th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program, a remarkable honor reserved for only 16,000 students nationwide. These students will have the opportunity to compete for one of 8,300 National Merit Scholarships, worth over \$34 million, offered in the spring.

The National Merit Semifinalists are Andrew Aicher, Daniel Hsu, Julia Huang, Stephen Karp, Allison LaRocco, Rocco Morra, Murali Varadaraj, Kelsey Weymouth-Little, Anna Whitney, Jesse Xing, Ariel Yang and Jack Zhou.

Dr. Baum said, "This is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to your studies and your diligent commitment to education and your families, who brought you up to value education. If this is what you are able to achieve now, I can only imagine what lies ahead for you in the future weeks, months, and years."

In addition, the District congratulates an additional 19 students for their recognition as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Congratulations to these deserving students:

Jennifer Bohlman	Jennifer Li	Lauren Todd
Tiffany Chang	Sonya Li	Aretha Walls
Dhruv Desai	Lee Lopez	Alexander Wolfe
Rachel Gallagher	James Ninia	Jonathan Yin
Sean Han	Anna Sato	Victor Zheng
Lucy He	Rachael Sclafani	
Sara Herschander	Shubha Sekar	

Congratulations to all Commended Students and Semifinalists on their outstanding accomplishments!



# Talent is... Soaring

## TACKLING TOUGH ISSUES



### A Season of Festivals

Thirteen Ward Melville High School students have been selected to perform in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Winter Conference Concerts, which will be held from December 1- 4 in Rochester, NY. These students, who were chosen through competitive solo auditions held throughout the State, represent the very best musicians at the high school level.

All-State Performers:

<b>Kathryn Barnitt</b> Violin, Symphony Orchestra	<b>Michelle Palladino</b> Alto, Mixed Chorus
<b>Daniel Chu</b> Bass, Mixed Chorus	<b>Gene Romano</b> Jazz Tenor Voice, Alternate
<b>Emily Dana</b> Viola, Alternate	<b>Abigail Serignese Maier</b> Flute, Symphonic Band
<b>Corin Greene</b> Soprano, Women's Chorus	<b>Jonathan So</b> Violin Cello, Symphonic Orchestra
<b>Adam Goldberg</b> Double Bass, String Orchestra	<b>John Adam Strub</b> Tenor, Alternate
<b>Daniel Hsu</b> Alto Saxophone, Symphonic Band	<b>Madeleine Vaillancourt</b> Violin, String Orchestra
<b>Daniel Krolkowski</b> Percussion, Symphonic Band	

In addition, over 40 talented students have been selected to participate in the Suffolk chapter of this year's New York State Council of Administrators in Music Education (NYSCAME) 2011 All-County Music Festival. This is a great accomplishment for these young musicians, who will perform in the festival on November 18 at Huntington High School under the direction of some of the most renowned conductors from across the county.

Congratulations to these talented student-musicians and good luck!

For a comprehensive list of All-County musicians, please visit the District's website at [www.threevillagecsd.org](http://www.threevillagecsd.org).

### Students Compose Their Way to Recognition

Five students from Three Village have been selected by the New York State School Music Association to perform their original musical compositions at the 2011 All-State Winter Conference in Rochester, New York, on December 2, 2011.

The featured pieces composed by Julia Hu and Lawrence Lan from W.S. Mount Elementary, Michelle Hu and Albert Liu of R.C. Murphy, and Gloria Zheng of Ward Melville High School, were selected by a panel of music composition professors. They represent 5 of 16

selected pieces chosen from the 141 compositions submitted and will be performed at the 13th Annual NYSSMA Young Composer Honors Concert.

While at the Winter Conference the students will participate in composition workshops and seminars with prominent professional composers, including Composer-in-Residence Dr. Kevin Puts, who has received many prestigious honors and awards for composition.

Congratulations to these five talented young composers.



On October 12 and 13, students of Paul J. Gelinus Junior High School presented "Pickin'," an adolescence issue performance written by Tyrone J. Butler. The story follows Jack, an outcast at school who is pushed over the edge of reason as a result of constant physical and emotional bullying.

"No show can cover everything, but we hope this production shows enough to prove how detrimental bullying can be," said Thomas Avella, the student-actor portraying the bullied student who remains silent throughout the show. "I have never had a non-speaking role that was able to give off such a strong message. People need to open their eyes to what is going on. Ignorance kills."

Students involved acknowledged that it is often difficult to know what to do in situations like that, and they hoped that this performance will leave the audience with some idea of how to approach the topic.



### HONORED FOR ART THAT HONORS OTHERS

Sixth-grade students at Minnesauke Elementary School were thrilled to learn that their art submission, "Hope Carried with the Wind," was selected for display in an exhibition that was shown from October 13-26, at Heckscher State Park, in partnership with the Town of Huntington's Embracing Our Differences Outdoor Art Exhibit.

The piece itself is a depiction of Long Island on a blue-sky day. Atop the island are five brightly-colored figures that are holding hands and appear to be dancing. Filling the sky are colorfully painted butterflies with messages of hope on every wing. The statement that accompanies the painting reads, "The butterflies carry the message of hope and life to all who will listen. The souls of the Holocaust victims are no longer forgotten, but carried with the wind."

The artists were honored at a celebration on October 20 at Heckscher State Park, where thousands of people saw their work on display.

It was a true honor to have been recognized in this way, and the Three Village community congratulates art teacher Christine Fieldman and her students.



### Murphy's a Cabaret

On October 28, the gymnasium of R.C. Murphy Junior High School was transformed into a cabaret for more than 800 people in attendance.

A PTO fundraiser that began nine years ago, Cabaret Night at Murphy experienced its largest turnout ever this year. An event that once boasted the attendance of only 150 guests in the cafeteria has now grown so large that it packs the entire gymnasium.

Audience members were entertained by musical performances, dance routines and comedy acts led by Murphy students, staff and parents. PTO prize baskets were raffled off in a Chinese auction, and the evening's food was provided by local restaurant O Sole Mio.

"The best thing about the show is that it is put on entirely by the Murphy community," said theater arts and music teacher, Anthony Pollera, who organized the event. "From the operation of the lights, to students serving guests their meals, to performances by parents, staff and students, this night is a Murphy family effort. The end result of their love and dedication is an outstanding evening."

"It is a great activity to get involved in because you enjoy yourself and get to see your teachers in a completely different light, all while helping out the school," explained ninth grader Erin Toomey. "This is my last year at Murphy," she added. "I have been involved in the Cabaret each year, and I'm going to be sad when it's all over."





# THE SPIRIT OF A PATRIOT



The grounds of Ward Melville High School were abuzz with students, parents and other members of the community as they celebrated homecoming on Saturday, September 24. Students roamed the grounds with their faces painted in shades of green and gold to show support and get into the spirit. "This is a magnificent community showing," said Principal Alan Baum. "Over 4,000 people are in attendance supporting our District. It's a wonderful sight to see."

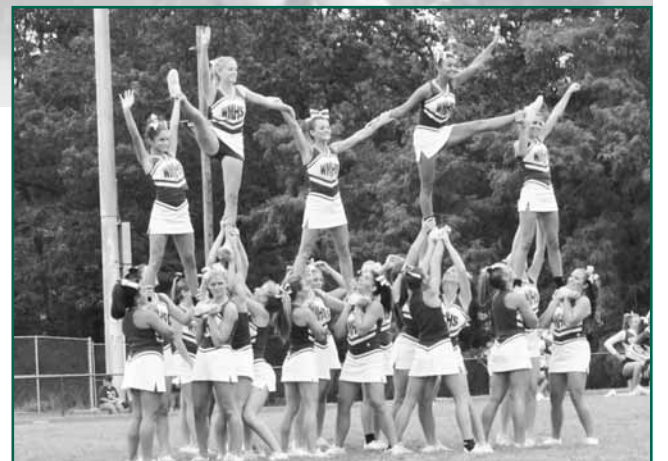
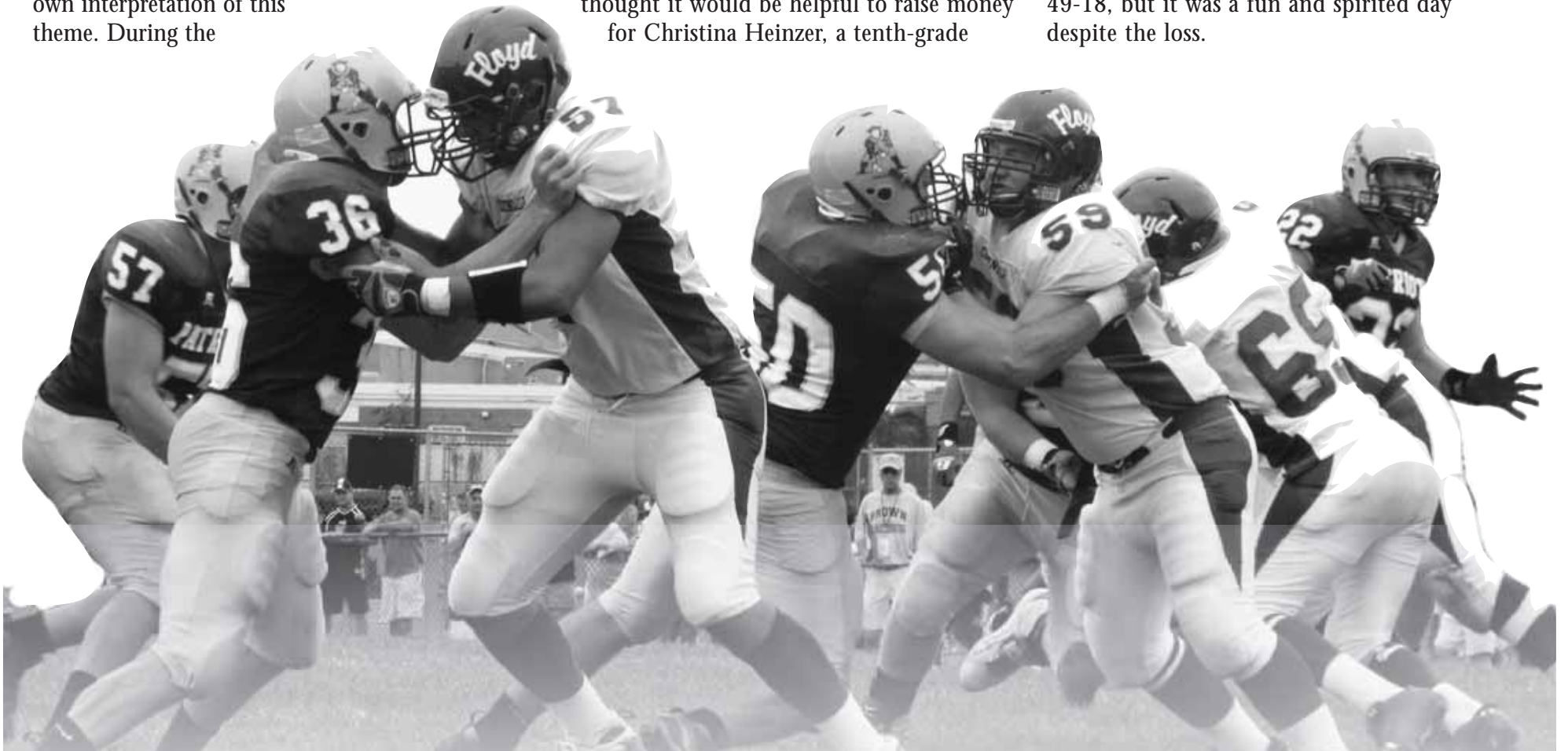
The theme for the homecoming carnival was "Inspire the World." Each of the District's schools displayed banners representing its own interpretation of this theme. During the

halftime parade, designs included committing to community service, going green, caring for others, and, as Setauket sixth grader Antonella Jones described it, "doing something that younger kids can look up to, like going to a nursing home, cleaning up a beach, or one day becoming a Navy Seal who protects our country." R.C. Murphy Junior High School's banner, with the theme of inspiring people of the world to come together, was selected as the winner of the competition.

Ward Melville senior Alexa Caselli believes inspiring others means giving back to a member of one's own school community. Alexa thought it would be helpful to raise money for Christina Heinzer, a tenth-grade

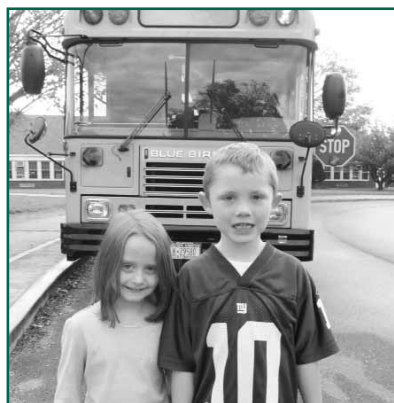
student at Ward Melville who has cancer, and present her with a gift to lift her spirits. As a fundraiser for Christina, Alexa created a banner on which people could paint a handprint to show their support. Alexa said, "We always talk about helping out in the community, but Christina is someone we have direct contact with who would be affected by our actions."

During the football game's halftime show, the marching band and the cheerleaders performed, followed by the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Patriot 2011, John Edmonds and Caroline O'Hea, respectively. In the end, the Patriots lost to the William Floyd Colonials 49-18, but it was a fun and spirited day despite the loss.



# SAFETY SALLY SHOWS THE WAY

During the month of October, the Arrowhead, Minnesauke, Mount, Nassakeag and Setauket Elementary Schools were visited by Safety Sally, a transportation safety program sponsored by Eastern Suffolk BOCES. Safety Sally arrived with her BOCES School Bus Safety Mobile Classroom and spent time educating students on how to be safe on and around a school bus.



Students went outside to the Mobile Classroom, where they discussed the danger zones around the bus (those areas in which the bus driver's view of the student is obstructed), as well as the ten-step rule that requires students to take ten steps away from the bus before they cross. Safety Sally also reviewed the hand signals that bus drivers use to let students know that it is safe to cross, and how to cross the street.

Students were then invited onto the bus, where they watched one of two short videos based on their grade level. The videos used catchy songs to engage students and encourage their safety on the bus. After watching the film, students were given the opportunity to exit the bus through the rear emergency exit. In approximately 30 minutes, the young students were given a thorough overview of how to ride the bus safely.

Kay Heidt of Eastern Suffolk BOCES, who has held this program in the Three Village School District for 25 years, explained the benefits of presenting the program to the District's youngest students. "These students are new to the idea of riding a school bus. It is very important that at the beginning of the year, we have the opportunity to instill the appropriate behaviors in them so that they are able to start out on the right foot. Those behaviors will then be reinforced each year until they become commonplace."

## HAVE A PLAN!

Arrowhead, Minnesauke, Mount and Setauket Elementary Schools were visited by their local volunteer fire departments in October for a lesson on the importance of fire safety. The visits gave the children an opportunity to discuss a variety of scenarios and responses with volunteer firefighters. Students also watched as the firefighters dressed into firefighter gear. This was done to alleviate any fears the young students may have about a firefighter's outward appearance during an emergency. "Don't be scared when you see us. It's your job to have a plan to get out, and it's our job to put out the fire," explained firefighter Tom Gulbransen, who led the presentation at Setauket Elementary School.

The firefighters will also visit the Nassakeag Elementary School within the coming months.



Firefighters gave the children specific suggestions to bring home and discuss with their families:

- Always sleep with your door closed - it could add eight minutes to the time you need to escape, and most likely provide enough time for the firefighters to reach you.
- Call 911 first.
- Have a family plan to leave the house and meet at a checkpoint such as a mailbox.
- Clap your hands if you cannot speak so firefighters can find you.
- Be certain that there are batteries in the fire detector and numbers on the mailbox so firefighters can find your house.



## TRICK -OR- TREAT

High school Key Club members Jonathan Bogia and Xavier Petromelis dressed in costumes at homecoming to encourage members of the community to bring their children to "Trick-or-Treat Street." This annual event is sponsored by the Key Club and allows children to trick-or-treat safely on Halloween at the high school. Canned goods were accepted in exchange for entrance to the event, and were later donated to local families.

The event was a great success!



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