



The Reporter

SUMMER 2009

www.threevillagesd.org

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District



Celebrating Achievement & Commencing New Adventures



June 28th was not only one of this year's few sunny June days, it was also the day that marked the end of a journey for the more than 600 members of Ward Melville High School's Class of 2009. This journey was that of their academic career in the Three Village Central School District – one that was filled with pride, honors, and success.

To the sounds of "Pomp and Circumstance" performed by the school's symphonic band, the soon-to-be graduates, draped in Ward Melville colors, marched out the doors of their high school and filled the bleachers that blanketed the school's front lawn. Surrounded by family, friends, and the Three Village community, the students paused and reflected upon the past 13 years that brought them to this momentous occasion.

"Our diplomas are not merely a result of today," stated Co-Salutatorian, Yanchi

Zhao. "Rather, they represent the sum of years of effort and hard work." The Class of 2009's other Co-Salutatorian, Benjamin Sherman, echoed this message, and looking to the future added, "I know that the more than 600 graduates standing before you today will be the future inventors and explorers of things we don't even yet know to be possible."

Class President Daniel Alt addressed the crowd, sharing some of his high school memories, and encouraged his peers to create their own path and not to follow the one carved by others. Also, as has become customary, Daniel announced that the class would be presenting the school with a gift – a new Patriot mascot.

Before hearing from Principal Dr. Alan Baum, Superintendent Dr. Ralph Ferrie, and Board of Education President John Diviney, the crowd listened as Co-Valedictorians Christine Shrock and Preya

Shah spoke about their memories and aspirations for their fellow graduates. "It will be the people we met and times we shared together that we will remember...when times are tough remember that behind every shadow there must be light," commented Christine. "It is moments like this that cause you to ask, how can we make an impact on the world?" added Preya. "But today we celebrate what we've done and look with anticipation to what we will do in the future."

Following a beautiful rendition of Rascal Flatt's hit song, "My Wish," performed by Hope Pedisich and Michael Gurevich, Principal Dr. Baum and Assistant Principal Michael Owen presented the graduates with their diplomas. As the students name's were announced, family and friends cheered and applauded the newest Ward Melville alumni.



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


****ECRWSS**
Postal Patron**

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage PAID
E. SETAUKET, N.Y.
PERMIT NO.10

District Appoints *Interim Superintendent*

The district's Board of Education has appointed Executive Director of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics Donald Webster as the school district's Interim Superintendent of Schools effective this August. Mr. Webster began to transition into this position in mid-July with the guidance of departing Superintendent Dr. Ralph Ferrie. "I am very enthusiastic about this appointment," stated Mr. Webster. "I appreciate the Board's confidence in me and asking me to step up into this leadership role. Three Village is a special place and I look forward to working with the staff, students, administration and community cooperatively to achieve our mission of providing our students with the best possible educational experience."

Mr. Webster has worked in the district since 2001 and is a member of several professional organizations. He is the current New York State Athletic Administrators Association Leadership Training State Coordinator and serves on Stony Brook University's Athletic Directors Advisory Council. He was named a Certified Master Athletic Administrator in 2008.



CELEBRATING THREE YEARS OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

In celebration of three years of hard work and academic achievement, students from Paul J. Gelinus and R.C. Murphy Junior High Schools reflected on their experiences during the Class of 2009's annual Moving-Up Ceremonies.



Principal Vincent Vizzo told the R.C. Murphy Junior High School graduates that he is proud of their accomplishments. "From day one, I knew that you would be a group that would set the standards for what we

expect here at Murphy Junior High School," he stated.

Principal Gustave Hueber also congratulated the graduating ninth graders at Paul J. Gelinus Junior High School. "I hope you leave here more enriched, enlightened, rewarded, and self-confident," Mr. Hueber stated. "I encourage you to dream on, dream big, and be proud of who you are."

The students were then called to the dais to receive their moving-up certificates and other academic, athletic, and music awards.



Moving On Up

In a symbolic rite of passage, the District's sixth-grade students celebrated the end of their careers as elementary students this June and prepared to enter junior high as they participated in this year's Moving-Up Ceremonies. At each of the District's five elementary schools, students, dressed in their finest clothes, walked across the dais to receive their moving-up certificates.

Addressing the crowd at W.S. Mount Elementary School, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Kenneth Bossert, Ed.D., shared excerpts from the famous book "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." In closing he stated, "Now is the time to celebrate the accomplishments you have worked so hard to achieve and reach to achieve your next dream."

As the elementary Class of 2009 was announced, roars of cheers and applause came bellowing from the audience, which was filled with proud parents, family members, teachers, and administrators. As the students left their schools on this special day with an array of emotions, one thing was evident – they were well prepared for life's challenges ahead.



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

37 Three Village Teachers Granted Tenure

This June, the District's Board of Education and administration praised the professionalism and dedication of 37 staff members and granted them tenure in the school district.

"We thank you collectively as a Board for all of your efforts and look forward to you working in our district for many years to come," stated Board President John Diviney. "Your dedication to our schools and students is immeasurable and we commend you for your service."

Each newly tenured teacher's name was read aloud by the Board liaison to the school they work in and, after receiving words of congratulations, they were presented with a token of appreciation from the Board.

Best wishes to the following newly tenured staff members:

ARROWHEAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Christine Beck
Judy Forgione
Meryl Nani
Sarah Russell
Michelle Talento
Beth Winter

MINNESAUKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lauren Horn

MOUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sandra Woods

NASSAKEAG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Patrick Bellport

Debra Cocco
Jamie Geller

SETAUKET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jennifer Barnao
Michelle Cimini
Laura Cooley
Deborah Kiriluk
Lee Ann March
Dawn Milligan
Amanda Negus
Janine Pelkofsky
Lauren Tortorici

P.J. GELINAS JHS

Erin Anziano
Stefanie Di Lorenzo
Robert Haas

Brendan McNamara
Chantel Salzano
Gregory Wormuth

R.C. MURPHY JHS

Lesia Careccia
Jillian Kroll
Jessica Mottola
Stephen Restivo

WARD MELVILLE HS

Kristen Cordella
Teresa Fox
Allison Kane
Walter Olsen Jr.
Stacey Zeidman
Warren Dennington
Donald Muldoon

Students Travel the Globe During Multicultural Event

Students at W.S. Mount Elementary School did not have to travel farther than their own backyards to experience the culture of faraway lands such as India, Israel, Ireland, Mexico, Namibia, and China. The school community came together to experience a multicultural evening of entertainment during the PTA-sponsored "Passports Around the World."

Students and their families visited educational booths where they could learn to construct origami figures or learn to write their names in Hebrew. Cultural foods were also provided, such as soda bread from Ireland, pineapple from Hawaii, and traditional Indian cuisine. Participants were then encouraged to attend the array of cultural performances in the auditorium, which included a traditional Chinese fan dance, martial arts presentation, Indian dance, Chinese folk song, Suzuki method piano piece, and a Hindi performance by the school's multitalented students.



A NIGHT OF HOPE AND DETERMINATION

Hundreds of Three Village Residents Join the American Cancer Society's Quest to End Cancer

The Three Village community, in conjunction with the District, joined in the commitment to fight cancer during the American Cancer Society sponsored Relay for Life event held at Ward Melville High School. Numerous relay teams and participants set up camp for the night and walked or ran on the track. Together they raised thousands of dollars to support the community's fight to cure cancer.

During the opening ceremony, American Cancer Society Director of Special Events, Joy DeDenato, explained that the money raised by Relay for Life participants would fund the purchase of wigs and the payment of services, such as transportation and lodging, for cancer patients and their families. "Cancer doesn't sleep, so we won't sleep tonight either," she stated.

Administrators and teachers from the school district also told their personal stories about surviving cancer or taking care of family members who battled or succumbed to the disease. Brenda Papazissimos explained her role as both caretaker to her husband, a survivor of multiple melanomas, and her battle with breast cancer shortly after his recovery. "My family was very scared of the unknowns," she stated. "I was concerned that my daughters would have to go through this, yet again. But who ever said life is fair? So, our goal this evening is to come together as a community to fight cancer."

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event that brings community members

together to walk or run laps around a quarter-mile track to raise awareness for the fight against cancer, raise money for research, remember those who have lost their lives to the disease, and celebrate those who have survived it.

During Relay for Life, each relay team was asked to have at least one representative on the track at all times during the event, which began in the early evening and ran through the night and into the early morning. The walk and run began with a survivor lap, followed by activities throughout the night. Later in the evening, the commemorative lighting of the luminaries was held in remembrance of those who have lost their lives to cancer and those who continue the fight.



AWARENESS + ACTION = PREVENTION

District Hosts School & Community Awareness Forum

Did you know that a recent poll conducted by the University of Michigan found that one in five eighth graders consider themselves a drinker? How about that over half of drug users report they obtain their substance of choice from their family or friends? Recognizing the alarming nature of these statistics and the nationally increasing rates of drug and alcohol addiction in teens, the District hosted an evening program for parents and students focused on this very topic.

The event, which was moderated by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ralph Ferrie and Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, included a panel of experts who shared their experiences with substance use with the audience. Included in the panel were Suffolk County police officers, narcotics unit officers, mental health department representatives, Daytop youth and parent representatives, district social workers, and a district parent.

"Tonight is the first real forum we have had to start the dialogue about this topic," stated Ward Melville Principal Dr. Alan Baum, who commented that the district plans to host programs like this on a regular basis. "We hope that this dialogue will continue into the future and that this workshop will help shine a light on a problem that is plaguing communities across the region and nation."

Throughout the evening, the panelists shared their thoughts on how to recognize if a student has a problem, how to treat that problem, what are the resources available for the student and family, as well as the different types of substances students are commonly using. At the conclusion of the panel discussion, the audience had the opportunity to pose questions to the speakers and dispose of their unused prescription medication with the help of the Suffolk County Police Department.



Students Win National English Awards

Writing is a craft that is enjoyed by many – especially the students in Three Village. Recently, as a result of their outstanding original pieces of literature, several students from R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinas Junior High Schools were commended by The Promising Young Writers Program.

This program represents the National Council of Teachers of English's (NCTE) commitment to early and continued work in the development of writing. It is a school-based writing program that was established in 1985 to stimulate and recognize students' writing talents and to emphasize the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students. Students currently in the eighth grade who are nominated by their schools are invited to participate in the program. Schools in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Canada, as well as American schools abroad and the Virgin Islands, are eligible to nominate.

Each student submitted two pieces of writing, which were read by two judges. Papers were judged on content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style. Congratulations to the Three Village students who were honored in this year's competition:

P.J. Gelinas

- Kathryn Barnitt** – Certificate of Recognition
- Jamie DeLuca** – Certificate of Recognition
- Rachel Gutman** – Certificate of Recognition
- Phoebe McAuliffe** – Certificate of Participation

R.C. Murphy

- Joanna Jin** – Certificate of Recognition
- Bisma Kamal** – Certificate of Participation
- Christopher Lin** – Certificate of Participation
- Amy Zhu** – Certificate of Participation

Surpassing Upper-Level Students

Fourth Grader Recognized in MS/HS Competition

Nassakeag Elementary School fourth grader Katherine Johnson was recognized this spring by Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy for her outstanding writing and creative talent. Katherine, with the encouragement of her teacher, Robbin Teitelbaum, entered the 2009 Women I Most Admire essay contest this past February with an essay about her mother. While this contest is generally geared toward middle and high school level students, the selection committee was so impressed with Katherine's mature writing style that they presented her with a 2009 Excellence Award. As a special tribute to the inspiration behind her essay, Katherine shared her winning piece during her class's Mother's Day Tea.



MOUNT MATH TEAM TRIUMPHS OVER THE COMPETITION

Sometimes you just have to “Do the Math!” and the W.S. Mount Elementary School math team did just that during the second annual Suffolk County Mathematics Tournament held in the Student Activities Center at Stony Brook University. During the competition, the group, which is advised by Board of Education trustee and Mount parent, Glen Whitney and Mount teacher, Linda Earls, competed against 37 teams of fourth through sixth-grade students from 24 different elementary, intermediate, and middle schools representing 15 different Suffolk County school districts, all vying for the title of high-scoring team.

The event, which was organized and directed by local elementary math specialists Megan Roth-Ueno, Melora Lane, and Byron Lane and supported by the Suffolk County Math Teachers’ Association, was hosted by R. David Bynum, Director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education at Stony Brook University. During the competition, students were challenged to answer higher-level and multistep math problems in both individual and team competitions. The individual portion challenged competitors to work independently on ten difficult problems in a 30-minute time slot. For the team portion, the students worked in teams of five to complete ten or more complex problems in only 20 minutes. The problems for this tournament were contributed by the Math Olympiads organization through Executive Director Richard Kalman.

As a result of their participation, Mount’s teams emerged as one of the top three highest-scoring teams in each of the divisions – grade 4/5 and grade 6. In addition to their outstanding work as a team, Mount Elementary School students Gary Ge, Niyati Desai, and Yiran He were among the tournament’s top ten individual competitors.



Jammin’ at the Coffee House



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School students put their creative talents to the test when they participated in this year’s Coffee House Poetry Jam. The event, which was coordinated by the English department, featured several students and even a few “special guest” readers. A great time was had by all and the attendees left looking forward to next year’s festivities.

WORKING TO CREATE PEACE

With the help of school Principal Dr. Anne Rullan and Informational Specialist Betsy Knox, students at Setauket Elementary School participated in a Pennies for Peace campaign the last few months of the school year. The initiative is a service-learning program designed to broaden students’ cultural horizons while teaching them about their capacities as philanthropists – one penny at a time.

Over the course of a month and a half, the school’s students worked together to donate pennies and other loose change to help children halfway around the world. Although a penny cannot buy much in the United States, it goes a long way in the villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan. There, a penny can buy a pencil, start an education, and transform a life. Recognizing this fact, Setauket’s student body implemented this program in order to join together with thousands of students around the world who are participating in the Pennies for Peace program and who are working to become members of a global family dedicated to peace.

As a result of their donations and the contributions made during a schoolwide charity sports night, Setauket collected \$4,411.50.



Putting the Pieces Together

What would you do if you discovered the remains of a bear deep in the forest? Well, if you were the brother of third-grade Minnesauke Elementary School teacher Leslie Cross, you would give it to your sister as an early holiday present. Recognizing Ms. Cross’s love for bones and artifacts, that is exactly what her sibling did after discovering the skeleton of a bear while backpacking in Washington State.

After receiving the cleaned bones, Ms. Cross and her class began the cumbersome task of putting the pieces together in order to reconstruct the bear’s skeleton. The project, which began in November, took approximately four months to complete and involved a great deal of math and science concepts. “The wrist and ankles were the hardest part because the bones are so small,” commented student Molly Fernandes. Using the book “Building Bear Bones,” by Lee Post, the students

worked in groups to label each piece and construct the skeletal form.

“Every day was a challenge,” explained third grader Ryan McMullen. “It was a lot of fun and took a lot of teamwork in order to put this giant puzzle together.”

Throughout the reconstruction process the students learned a great deal about the bear they eventually named Blackberry. They discovered it was a female, had been shot in the front paw, was in her teens, weighed approximately 150 pounds, and had developed arthritis in her injured paw. Wanting to share what they learned, the students created a museum tour and invited the school’s other students to visit the display.

This project served as a hands-on extension of the class’s study of food webs, decomposers, and animals’ diets. In previous years, Ms. Cross’s class has worked to reconstruct cat and bird skeletons, as well as identify other bones.



REDUCING LUNCHTIME GARBAGE ONE CAN AT A TIME



The custodians at Nassakeag Elementary School typically dispose of ten trash receptacles or 600 pounds of lunchtime garbage each school day. That was before sixth graders in Robyn Weinstein's class became involved in a project aimed at reducing waste in the school. As a result of the grassroots effort, the school cut down on 420 pounds (7 cans) of litter in just one week!

During Waste-Free Lunch Week, and in honor of Earth Day, the student-environmentalists introduced a hugely successful recycling campaign to peers and younger students that asked that home-packed lunches be contained in reusable packages. The students also made posters about recycling, performed skits for the younger students, read books about the environment, and played environmental math games. Sixth grader, Alex Zapata, explained that he became inspired when he showed a fourth-grade student how to reuse a plastic sandwich bag. Some students like Kyle Mutschler observed that the amount of trash in one day often depended on whether the students liked the lunch they brought from home. "If the kids did not like their lunch, there was more waste," he stated.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Eighth Graders Attend Career Fair to Gain Insights into a Variety of Professions



R.C. Murphy Junior High School hosted a Career Awareness Day Fair for the school's eighth-grade students. Here, eighth graders Racheal Hintz, Darshini Saikumar, Juliet Capellupo, and Jenna Papazissimos learn about the chiropractic field when they visited the station lead by Selden chiropractor David Ben Eliyahu.

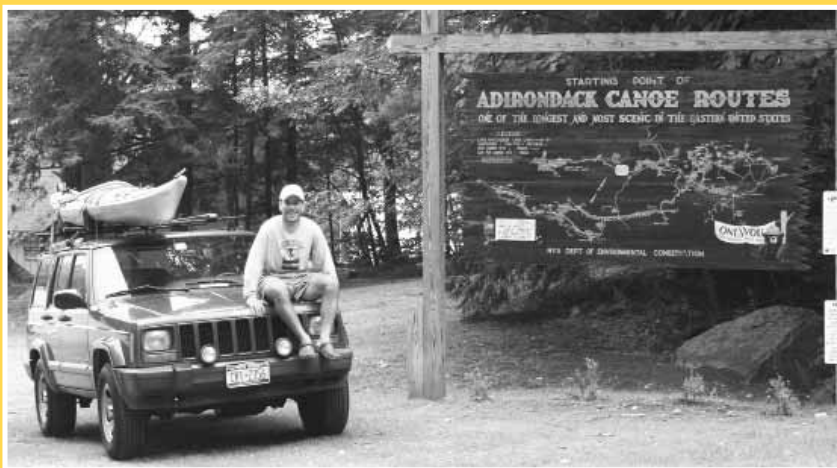
Did you know what career field you wanted to enter when you were in junior high school? Well, the eighth-grade students at R.C. Murphy Junior High got a jump-start on planning for their futures when more than 30 area

businesses visited the school for a Career Awareness Day Fair coordinated by the school's Career Awareness Committee. During the event, the approximately 300 eighth graders spoke with a variety of professionals about their jobs, educational background, and how to best prepare to enter those fields.

"This was a great opportunity for our students to speak with local professionals and gain a deeper understanding of the career opportunities out there," stated family and consumer sciences teacher, Cindy Carrucci, who helped coordinate the event along with fellow family and consumer sciences teacher, Ginger Ferraro, and business teacher, Jeanne Schnupp. "The students were prepared with several questions to ask the professionals and engaged in some really great conversations. We hope that what they learned during the fair will help them choose which elective classes to take in the future."

The event was conducted as part of the grade-level's five-week careers class. The career fair featured businesses in the areas of technology, trades, entrepreneurship, sports, medicine, law enforcement/public services, military, and entertainment.

THREE VILLAGE TEACHER GETS PUBLISHED



P.J. Gelin Junior High School science teacher, Kevin Stiegelmaier, put his love for the outdoors into words recently when he wrote a book about canoeing and kayaking in New York State. After taking notes and pictures while mapping the many journeys he took throughout the State, Kevin compiled the information into his book called "Canoeing and Kayaking New York."

The project, which took approximately two years to complete, began when Kevin started paddling local rivers three springs ago, and really took off when he expanded his journeys to territories further upstate soon after. The book is described as a great paddling guidebook to the rivers and streams of New York State and is available at amazon.com and Borders bookstores. It was published by Menasha Ridge Press.

Seussical the Musical



The stories made famous by Dr. Seuss came to life on the stage at Arrowhead Elementary School when members of the school's student body performed the production *Seussical the Musical*.

Under the leadership of drama director Bridget DiPrimo, the students put in countless hours of rehearsal to learn every step and note prior to opening night. Before sold-out audiences, the students took attendees on a journey to the smallest planet in the

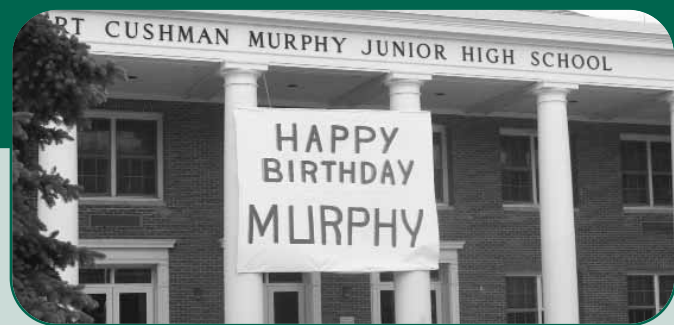
universe, introduced them to the Who citizens, and reminded everyone that a person is a person no matter how small.



Happy Birthday To You...

Former, current, and future R.C. Murphy Junior High School students and their families gathered on the front lawn of the school for a family night to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the building. Approximately 1,500 people came out for the event, which was complete with great food and entertainment. Students who have graduated from Murphy and are now in high school, college, and beyond, sang along with a professional band and kept the crowd amused for hours.

Special thanks to teachers, administration, PTO and community businesses (Fratelli's, O' Sole Mio, Famous Dave's BBQ and Ian's Cotton Candy) for their help in making this a great event. The celebration was a great example of the strong community spirit of the Murphy Family.



Students Leave a Lasting Mark

Putting their artistic talents to use and as the class gift to the school, sixth graders in Christine Fieldman's art classes at Minnesauke Elementary School rolled up their sleeves and created five



hand-painted and student-inspired benches for the school. Each student had the chance to submit a design for a bench and the grades voted in order to pick the top five choices. Each bench was inspired by a 20th Century artist to follow the school's art show theme. Pictured here are several sixth graders with Ms. Fieldman (far left sitting) and fellow sixth grader Kendall Godt (center), whose winning world peace design was chosen for one of the benches.

Welcoming Incoming Students

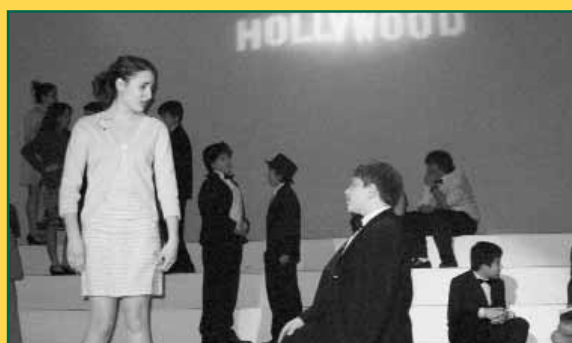
Although their first official day of school was still a few months away, the incoming Setauket Elementary School 2009-2010 kindergarten class received a sneak peek at their new school during an orientation program held at the beginning of June.



Accompanied by their parents, the youngsters entered the school's cafeteria, where they were met by a sea of smiling faces. Parent Teacher Association (PTA) volunteers were on hand to speak with parents, while students in grades four through six volunteered to act as tour guides and accompanied the new students to the kindergarten wing.

While the incoming kindergarteners had a chance to meet with the teachers, work on projects in the classrooms, and even go on a bus ride, the parents received a brief overview about Setauket School. Principal Dr. Anne Rullan, PTA Co-Presidents Deborah Petraco and Tasha Grillo, and School Nurse Donna O'Brien, reviewed the grade's curriculum structure and shared information about some activities and events that take place in the building, as well as the health information needed to enter kindergarten.

Approximately 90 families attended the event.



Singing in the Rain & Saying Bye Bye Birdie

P.J. Gelinas and R.C. Murphy Junior High Schools' Theater Companies impressed audiences with their high-energy, talent-filled musical productions. For their show, Gelinas students performed the beloved musical *Singing in the Rain*, while Murphy's student-actors showcased their talents in a production of *Bye Bye Birdie*.

Audiences sat on the edge of their seats as the casts took to the stages to deliver flawless and picture-perfect performances. The students, who had been practicing for several months under the direction of

Robert DePersio (Gelinas) and Anthony Pollera (Murphy), performed their respective shows before packed houses.

In addition to their regularly scheduled performances, both schools performed free shows for the District's sixth-grade students and senior citizen residents. Prior to the performance for the senior citizens, attendees feasted on delicious meals and enjoyed interacting with the cast members.

As the curtain closed on this year's musical productions, the audiences left looking forward to next year's shows.



MEET THE NEWEST MET

Ward Melville High School Class of 2009 senior and star pitcher, Steven Matz, received an early graduation present this June – the opportunity to play professional baseball with the New York Mets. The major league team admired Steven's talents last August when he took to the mound to play in a Florida baseball tournament and made him the 72nd draft pick this June.

Steven has been playing baseball since he was very young and finished his athletic career at Ward Melville with a strong showing. He closed this past season, during which he worked under head coach Lou Petrucci, with a 6-1 record and 0.47 ERA.

Steven is currently in negotiations with the Mets. However, if he does not reach a deal with the team, he will be attending Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, where he will play on the school's baseball team.

The District congratulates Steven on this terrific achievement and hopes to see him wearing Mets colors in the near future!



STUDENT-ATHLETES SIGN ON FOR FOUR MORE YEARS

Ward Melville High School seniors Trish O'Toole and Sara Atai have signed National Letters of Intent to play softball and volleyball, respectively, at schools of higher education this fall. Trish will be joining West Point's softball team, an impressive accomplishment and one that makes her the first Ward Melville female athlete to play a sport at the renowned school. Sara, who received a partial scholarship and will be majoring in hospitality and tourism management, will be competing on Pace University's volleyball team.

"These two students have shown great athletic promise throughout their time in Three Village," stated Executive Director for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics, Don Webster. "I am extremely proud of them and the coaches that have led them along the way. I know they will make Three Village proud next year."



WMHS Track Stars Named All-Americans

Ward Melville High School seniors Ashley O'Shea, Colleen Murphy, junior Brittany Lucatuorto, sophomore Mary Kate Anselmini, and P.J. Gelinas Junior High School freshman Caroline O'Hea have been named All-American athletes as a result of their performance during the Nike Indoor Nationals meet in Boston. In addition to this honor, Ashley was also named the National Champion for her performance in the race/walk event. The four other girls competed in the distance medley event.

Each of these girls were members of Ward Melville's Girls Winter Track team and advised by head coach Tom Youngs and coach Laurie Burke. "The girls had a fabulous season and we are really proud of their performances during Nationals," commented Mr. Youngs, who noted that this year's All-Americans mark the 20th All-American selection for the school.



Ward Melville High School sophomore Mary Kate Anselmini, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School freshman Caroline O'Hea, and Ward Melville seniors Ashley O'Shea and Colleen Murphy have been named All-Americans as a result of their performance during the Nike Indoor Nationals meet in Boston. The girls are pictured here with coach Laurie Burke and head coach Tom Youngs. Ward Melville junior Brittany Lucatuorto was also named an All-American athlete but is not pictured.

Artists Corner

This spring several of the talented student-artists at Ward Melville High School were recognized by local and regional organizations for their outstanding talent. Below is a brief listing of some of these honors:

Video students **Rob Witcom's** and **James Lamberg's** film *Nature* was selected to be screened at the annual First Exposure Film Exhibition at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center. The award-winning video, which focused on Walt Whitman poetry, has also been placed on permanent exhibit at the Walt Whitman Birthplace State Museum. Lastly, the piece placed in the Top 12 "Best in Show" at the annual Long Island Media Arts Competition.

Paul Bertolino was awarded the 2009 SCALA Scholar-Artist Award/Scholarship by the Suffolk County Art Leaders Association, as well as third place honors for his graphic design piece. Additional awards were given to: **Eric Steinberg**, first place for photography; **Kate Reboli**, third place for photography; and **Jessica Panicola**, third place for sculpture.

Sam Hallean placed second nationally for his Public Service Announcement video on Drunk Driving Awareness. His short video will be used nationally to promote awareness of traffic safety.

Melissa Hacken has had her Public Service Announcement on Anti-Bullying selected by the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In the future, her video will be shown in school districts across Long Island.

Emily Miller has won the School of Visual Arts Chairman Merit Award Scholarship and an internship with the Stony Brook Film Festival.

Sarah Coffey was nominated for a TEENY/STAR Award for her poster design for *The Secret Garden* that she created in advertising art class.

Andrew Visconti and **Samantha Mathew** were both named winners of Astoria Federal's 2009 Teen Photo Contest. Their work was selected from more than 1,400 entries

Joseph Morelli was awarded first place in the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center's 2009 Annual Art Competition.

Jessica Panicola received an honorable mention for her sculpture "Eclipse" at the Long Island Art League AP Studio Art Exhibit.

Sydney Poupis received "Best in Show" in the category of Photography during the Long Island Media Arts Competition.

STUDENT-MUSICIAN WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



The District is pleased to announce that tenth grader Eva Simpson-Abrams has won the Suffolk Piano Teachers Foundation Competition in the senior division, and performed during the annual honors recital at the Staller Center Recital Hall. This honor recognizes Eva for her performance during sponsored recitals and acknowledges her as an outstanding achiever in repertoire and practice habits. In addition to playing the piano, Eva is also an accomplished jazz player.

Save the Date!

The Three Village Educational Foundation's fall fundraising festival will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 from 6:30-9:30pm at the Three Village Inn.

During the event, which will be filled with great food, exciting auctions and raffles, the Foundation will honor the innkeepers of the Three Village Inn, Dan and Marri Laffitte. Funds raised and donations collected will go to benefit the children of the Three Village Central School District.

General admission tickets are \$55 per person and "super tickets," which enter attendees into a drawing to win a 42-inch flat screen HDTV, are \$75 per person. Tickets will be going on sale in the near future. Please visit the Foundation's website, www.3vef.org or call 631-582-6400 ext. 2365 for more information.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE – SUMMER 2009

The District's bond projects are progressing on schedule. **Phase I** is complete and **Phase II**, which includes the conversion of the North Country Administrative Center, is in the final stages. The move of administrators from the Nicolls Road facility to North Country will be completed by early August.

Phase III of the bond is underway and the majority of work is scheduled for completion in early September. The construction of the fitness center and music rooms at the high school is expected to be finished in the fall of 2009, and it is anticipated that the large science room construction will be concluded by late spring of 2010.

Phase IV, the final component of the bond, has been approved by the State Education Department and the District expects the work to begin in September. This phase encompasses the music room projects scheduled for R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinis Junior High Schools.

Student Becomes Ambassador for Safe Teen Driving

Ward Melville High School student, Danielle Behrendt, lent her voice to radio and participated in a public service announcement (PSA) campaign aimed at informing teens about the dangers distractions can play when operating a car. Danielle was selected as one of several student representatives from across Long Island to participate in the campaign, which is being conducted by Allstate Insurance Company during what experts call the 100 Deadliest Days for Teen Driving. Pictured here is Danielle with WBLI Internet Sales Manager Dain Alaia and Allstate Senior Corporate Relations Manager Krista Conte. Danielle's PSA will run on WBLI from now through Labor Day weekend.



Celebrating the Change of Season

Kindergarten students in Dawn McNally's class at W.S. Mount Elementary School jumped into the Spring season during their study on bears.

During the unit, the students learned about black, brown, panda, and polar bears, and became familiar with the habitats of each type of bear and how their environments affect the type of foods they eat. As a culmination to their study, the class enjoyed a "Bear Brunch," during which the students had the opportunity to eat like a "bear."

Prior to the brunch, each student chose his or her favorite type of bear and made a hat to represent either a black bear, a brown bear, a panda bear, or a polar bear. On the day of the brunch, the students arrived to school dressed in clothes to match the color of his or her favorite bear. As a celebration of the arrival of spring and the end of the bears' hibernation, the students also had the chance to feast on apples, berries (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries), honey, fish (goldfish crackers and Swedish fish) and "twigs" (pretzel sticks).



CORRECTION

The district extends its apologies to Cameron Iuliucci whose name was spelled incorrectly in the Spring edition of *The Reporter*. Cameron was congratulated in that issue for signing a National Letter of Intent with Wagner College to play on their football team.



Pictured here are several students from Maureen Kost's CHI classes at Ward Melville High School accepting a check from Allstate Insurance Company representative Carol Santangelo, in recognition of the safe teen driving program they created.

Encouraging Peers to be Safe Drivers

Students enrolled in Maureen Kost's Critical Health Issues (CHI) classes at Ward Melville High School acted as safe teen driver ambassadors this spring and coordinated a daylong informational event on the topic.

Set up in the school's commons area, the CHI students coordinated a game show event called the "100 Deadliest Days Game," which tested their peers about driving, encouraged their classmates to sign a pledge to be safe while in a car, listened as guest speakers shared information about the topic, and finally showcased a series of video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on the issue.

The PSAs submitted were then judged and one winning announcement was selected. This year's winning PSA was created by John Kelly, Andrew Barbakoff, and Prashant Kota and called the "100 Deadliest Days – Dangers of Drunk Driving." For their efforts this team was awarded a \$100 prize.

In recognition of their programs, the classes were issued a \$1,000 grant from Allstate Insurance Company. The students plan to use the grant money to purchase a trivia buzzer system for use in the CHI classes. Ms. Kost stated she hopes to include the trivia game as part of next year's curriculum.



Ward Melville High School tenth graders John Kelly, Andrew Barbakoff, and Prashant Kota won \$100 for their winning Public Service Announcement about teen driving. The PSA was called "100 Deadliest Days – Dangers of Drunk Driving."