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# The Reporter

SUMMER 2011

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I do hope you are enjoying your summer. For me, the recently completed school year has been most rewarding. It was wonderful returning to a community I once resided in and witnessing the accomplishments of a very special student body. In observing our students, teachers, administrators and staff, I have come to appreciate their seriousness towards education, professionalism and dedication.

I very much admire and am thankful for the community's involvement in our budgetary process. Your input helped shape the final budget and the support for it was most gratifying. I must share that I believe the next school year will be equally as challenging. The tax cap is upon us, and although many may feel this is economically prudent from a property owner standpoint, as a school administrator it will be burdensome. How do we sustain our programs so many of you advocated for this past year with reduced revenues? I am still studying the tax cap legislation and hoping to better understand all of its provisions. It appears on the surface that mandate relief is not as extensive as I had hoped. Some help in the area of significant employer pension contributions is provided for. Hopefully, state aid will increase to help offset the limits to tax levy increases. However, I do not believe that wish will come true.

I must recognize the good faith efforts of some of our collective bargaining units in working with our Board of Education to adjust agreements and help save programs and, in so doing, positions. Retirement incentives also reduced expenditures to the benefit of our budget.

When I introduced last year's budget development process, I noted reducing expenditures will be an ongoing process. As we enter the second year, I will be sensitive to meeting the instructional needs of our learners and balancing that with our community's ability to fund this remarkable educational system. My resolve is great and I hope to sustain our unique position as one of the finest school districts in our state.

Thank you and please enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Sincerely,  
Neil Lederer  
Interim Superintendent of Schools



## Poised to Carve Out Their Future

The front lawn of Ward Melville High School was a sea of green and gold caps and gowns as members of the Class of 2011 congregated for the District's annual commencement exercises on June 26. The graduates proceeded to their seats as the Ward Melville High School Symphonic Band, under the direction of Laura Stiegelmaier, played "Pomp and Circumstance." Student-vocalist Ryan Cooper also led the audience in the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

In his opening remarks, Principal Dr. Alan Baum encouraged the graduates to "be the transformative power to change the world." Congratulating the class for all their achievements, Dr. Baum noted that members of the Class of 2011 have each completed 58 classes, have collectively participated in 14,000 state and national assessments, and have received a total of \$20 million in grants and scholarships.

In her salutatory speech, Ilana Scandariato noted that her classmates "have solved problems and conquered challenges." She encouraged her peers to "go the extra mile instead of taking the path of least resistance." Rather than a traditional speech, Valedictorian Emmanuel Kim performed a rap song about his high school experiences. "Don't reach for the stars, but rather be the stars others want to become," he stated. In addition, Class President James Giarraputo revealed the Class of 2011 gift, which included a bike rack, three picnic tables for the Class of 2012, 20 blue recycling containers, \$700 for the incoming sophomore class, and \$830 for the Tardo Family Trust.

Superintendent of Schools Neil Lederer reminded the graduates that they have entered adulthood and that the urge to succeed must now come from within. "You must want to succeed in order to succeed," Mr. Lederer stated.

Members of the Three Village Board of Education assisted Dr. Baum and Assistant Principal Michael Owen in handing each of the graduates a diploma. Student Government President Lauren Kocivar then led her classmates in the turning of their tassels and gave the signal to throw their caps in the air to symbolize their commencement as Ward Melville alumni.

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# Excelling Onward



The final days of the 2010-2011 school year were a time of reflection and celebration as hundreds of student-scholars moved up the academic ladder during the District's commencement exercises. Looking their best with bright smiles on their faces, students in grades six through nine walked across the stages to receive their moving-up certificates at Arrowhead, Minnesauke, Setauket, W.S. Mount, and Nassakeag Elementary Schools, as well as Paul J. Gelinas and R.C. Murphy Middle Schools. During their ceremony, many of the students received additional awards and shared some of their favorite memories of the past several years. The District's administrative team dispensed words of wisdom and wished each student best of luck in their new level of study.



## Kathryn White Appointed as New Setauket Principal

After a comprehensive search process, the Three Village Central School District has appointed Kathryn White as the new principal of Setauket Elementary School, effective July 1, 2011. Ms. White has been working in the school district since 2009 as the assistant principal of Setauket Elementary School and has become a valuable asset to the learning community.

"As the new principal, I look forward to working with the entire community, especially the children, to strengthen the Setauket spirit and establish our school as a leader in student achievement," stated Ms. White. "I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to lead our building into the future. I look forward to working with our teachers in planning and successfully achieving standards-based quality instruction in every classroom to ensure that students experience lessons that are intellectually challenging, rewarding, relevant, enriching, and self-fulfilling."

During her tenure in education, Ms. White has served as an assistant principal in not only Three Village, but also in a Nassau County school and a New York City public school. She has worked with peers to strengthen their instructional craft and individual learning progression in all academic areas. Ms. White has also been a leader in districtwide staff development, and, as a trained literacy and math coach, has played an integral role in bolstering student success in these academic areas.

As a seasoned educator, Ms. White holds an associate degree in early childhood education from Kingsborough Community College, a Bachelor of Science in science, letters, and society with a minor in elementary education from C.U.N.Y. at Staten Island, and a Master of Science in administration and supervision from Pace University.



Kathryn White is pictured here receiving congratulations from Setauket fifth graders Lukas Parbst, John Ragozzino, Deirdre Lynch, and Gianna Dunn.

## Welcome A-Board!

The Board of Education held its reorganization meeting on July 5, swearing in newly elected trustees Inger Germano, Irene Gische, and Jeffrey Kerman and voting for new Board officers. John Diviney was sworn in once again as president, and Jonathan Kornreich as vice president.

Left to right: (standing) Interim Superintendent of Schools Neil Lederer, Trustee Irene Gische, Trustee Jeffrey Kerman, Trustee Deanna Bavlnka, (sitting) Trustee Susanne Mendelson, President John Diviney, Vice President Jonathan Kornreich, and Trustee Inger Germano.



# SENIOR GARNERS PRESTIGIOUS GERMAN AWARDS

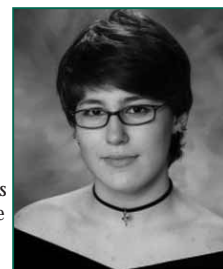
Robin Caselli, a senior at Ward Melville High School, has been granted two very prestigious awards for her work and achievement with the German language. The first award granted was the Henry E. Steinway Unit of the Steuben Society Certificate of Achievement in German Studies. The organization has been awarding this scholarship to the highest-achieving senior German student, as the goal is to promote and encourage the further study of the German language and culture. In addition to this reward, Robin was also selected by the AATG-LI (American Association of Teachers of German of Long Island) as the Long Island candidate for the senior study abroad trip to Germany after an intense

interview (in German of course). Robin is one of only about 30 students nationwide who was selected by the national organization of the AATG to participate in the trip to Germany this summer. The program will start in July and last for three weeks, during which Robin will study and travel throughout the country, all expenses paid.

Robin has been a student of German in Three Village for six years and has the highest GPA in German of all the students in the AP German class. She is the president of the German Honor Society and has successfully participated in the school's annual German language competition, Sprachfest. She was not only the top scorer

on Long Island on the Level IV exam this year, but she has also been a top winner on the National German Exam for the past three years. Robin's German teacher Michele Awesh stated, "I am extremely proud of Robin, who joins a long list of WMHS German students who have won this trip to Germany. I don't know of any other high school in the country who has had as many winners of this award as WMHS has."

Robin will be attending SUNY Stony Brook in the fall, where she will be continuing her studies in German as well as in Japanese and the sciences.



Ward Melville High School tenth grader Phoebe McAuliffe is congratulated by Principal Dr. Alan Baum.



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School seventh grader Katie Wang is pictured here with her English teacher, Doug Elliot.

## The Promise of the Future

Ward Melville High School tenth grader Phoebe McAuliffe and P.J. Gelinas Junior High School seventh grader Katie Wang have been named winners in the 2011 Kenneth F. Gambone Writing Contest sponsored by the Long Island Language Arts Council (LILAC).

For the competition, both students were called to submit their best piece of writing as well as complete a timed piece based on the prompt "The Promise of the Future." Phoebe submitted her poem "Perfect," while Katie entered her piece "Midnight Sestina," a poem about the moon, stars, and nature. Both students were honored for their winning pieces during the LILAC luncheon in May.



## National Science Olympiad Competition

As a result of their wins at the regional and state levels, Science Olympiad teams from P.J. Gelinas Junior High School and Ward Melville High School each received a bid to compete at this year's National Science Olympiad competition held at the University of Wisconsin. During the competition, the teams' members demonstrated their academic prowess in the nation's most distinguished and rigorous competitions of science, technology, engineering, and math.

The national tournament in Wisconsin drew 3,000 students on 120 winning middle and high school teams from 47 U.S. states. During the event, the team from Gelinas captured seventh place and won eight medals, while Ward Melville's team placed 18th and won medals in three events.



## Young Writers Garner Awards

Several talented young writers were recognized by the Promising Young Writers program for their creative submissions to the program's annual contest. More than 1,000 students were nominated nationwide, of which 380 came from New York State. In New York, 111 students were selected as winners, with nine in the Long Island region, four of whom were from Three Village. Congratulations to R.C. Murphy Junior High School eighth grader Erika Riley and P.J. Gelinas Junior High School eighth graders Kimberly Koon, Sarah Martin, and Rachel Martin for their winning submissions. In addition to these students' recognition, R.C. Murphy eighth graders Dasha Shavarina, Gabriella Benedicto, and Grace McBride were recognized for their submissions with Certificates of Participation.

For the contest, the students were required to submit a copy of their best piece of writing and craft a short, timed piece according to the prompt "Looking for the Real Me." Submissions were reviewed by a panel of judges who assessed each composition's content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style.

The Promising Young Writers program represents the commitment of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) to early and continuing work in the development of writing. The school-based writing program 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 may participate in the program.



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School eighth graders Rachel Martin, Sarah Martin, and Kimberly Koon are pictured with P.J. Gelinas English Chairperson Nicole Waldbauer and English teacher Joanna Cadolino.



R.C. Murphy Junior High School eighth grader Erika Riley is pictured with R.C. Murphy English Chairperson Cathy Duffy and Principal Vinny Vizzo.



# News Around

## ART DEPARTMENT WINS \$50K

Ward Melville High School's talented art students can add yet another accolade to their already impressive resumes – the honor of being named the \$50,000 award-winning school in the 2011 Vans Custom Culture Contest. For the contest, art students Omar Field-Rahman, Mary Kate Anselmini, Robin Caselli, Kerilynn McDonald, Elizabeth Serdock-Porto, and Holly Manz worked beside teacher Jim Swierupski to complete original designs for the well-renowned shoe company. Competing against high school art classes from across the United States, Ward Melville was first named one of ten regional winners before being announced as the first-place winner in the national competition in early June.



*Pictured are student Robin Caselli, Chairperson for Art and Technology Jennifer Trettner, students Elizabeth Serdock Porto, Omar Field Rahman, Holly Manz, Kerrilyn Mc Donald, and art teacher Jim Swierupski, teacher. (Not pictured is student Mary Kate Anselmini.)*

"This is an amazing moment for the students and Jim Swierupski," stated Ward Melville Chairperson for Art and Technology Jennifer Trettner. "It's a wonderful example of what true teamwork can accomplish. When a team works together, anything is possible!"

The students' designs took approximately three weeks to complete. After sketching their designs, the students painted pairs of donated Vans sneakers to resemble their concepts. A panel of judges, including Vans artists and athletes, selected Ward Melville as the winning school during a final event in New York City and presented the building's art department with a \$50,000 check. The students' completed designs will be put on display in a museum, and they may also be reproduced for next spring's shoe line.

The art department's teaching staff is in the process of examining the needs of the schools' program and identifying the best ways to apply the winning prize to strengthen it.

## Puppetry Connects Students

Through a service-learning project with New York Institute of Technology, 18 R.C. Murphy Junior High School seventh and eighth-grade students worked with art teacher Dr. Laurie Mandel to create six puppets for a village in Ghana. Word of the students' work quickly spread across the country, and Laurie Marshall, from the organization Unity through Creativity in Novato, California, volunteered to create the intricately complicated mosquito.



*R.C. Murphy Junior High School students are pictured here displaying their puppets with art teacher Dr. Laurie Mandel and Assistant Principal Martin Malone.*

The puppets were part of an educational initiative of NYIT's medical school students aimed at educating the people of Ghana about the spread of malaria through mosquitoes. The students worked since early May on the puppets, which were given to a school/clinic in Ghana during a visit by the NYIT students in June.

"Rather than just creating puppets, we thought it would look nice if we researched the region we would be helping and fashioned the puppets to look like the native people," stated eighth grader Niyati Desai.

"Besides all of the fun we had creating the puppets, it was a true learning experience that I will remember forever," added eighth grader Sydney Brenner.

Students from NYIT visited Ghana last year and noted that the individuals in the villages needed a better understanding of the disease and how it is spread in order to effectively reduce the number of malaria-related deaths. Using traditional folk tales and characters, Jennifer LaCava, a recent NYIT graduate who had completed a portion of her student teaching work at Murphy with Dr. Mandel, created an informative tale that incorporated puppetry. Ms. LaCava's puppets will be used to help educate villages in Ghana, while the Murphy puppets will remain at the chosen school/clinic to help reinforce the important information.



## An Archeological Dig

Students at Gelinus Junior High School were not required to travel to remote areas around the world to participate in a fascinating archeological dig. In April, the Archeological Institute of America/Long Island Society (AIA/LIS) awarded the Three Village School District with its Tribute Fund, which was utilized by the after-school Archeology Club at Gelinus Junior High School. Twelve club members worked at the excavation of the Jacob and Hannah Hart house on Christian Avenue in Setauket under the direction of Hofstra Professor Dr. Chris Matthews in investigating the archeology and history of Setauket's Native American and African American communities. The project was a collaboration of Hofstra's Center for Public Archeology, of which Dr. Matthews is director, and the Higher Ground Intercultural and Heritage Association, a non-profit organization that administers the historic district on Christian Avenue in Setauket.

Working with Dr. Matthews and faculty advisors, the students learned to mark out a square area, measure its elevation, and dig carefully. Using a Munsell Color Chart, the student-archeologists analyzed the soil for color and then wetness and consistency (sand or clay). They also sifted the dirt for glass and ceramic artifacts that could help date the house.

Three Village Director of School and Community Partnerships Cathy Taldone, who secured the grant, explained that the students gained valuable archeological knowledge about a piece of school property and of the African American and Native American populations that had lived in the area. The hands-on project also formed a valuable partnership between the District, Hofstra University, and the Higher Ground Intercultural and Heritage Association. Most importantly, the dig instilled a respect and knowledge of the important role of archeology in the understanding of local history. "The grant provided us with the funds to establish the Archeology Club and allowed students to participate in a unique educational experience. Hopefully, this will continue into the future," Ms. Taldone stated.



# d the Schools



## Repopulating the American Chestnut Tree

Following a blight in the 1950s, all but two Long Island American Chestnut trees were destroyed – a problem that the fifth-grade students in Brigit DiPrimo's class at Arrowhead Elementary School worked to correct this past school year. During the last half of the year, the class germinated 20 resistant American Chestnut seeds donated by the American Chestnut Foundation. After planting the seeds in calcium-free soil and tending to the plantings, four saplings grew in a pop-up greenhouse at the school. In celebration of Earth Day, the class planted the saplings in the school's courtyard. Once fully grown, the trees could stand as tall as 630 feet. They are expected to begin producing chestnuts in two to three years.

For this initiative, the class was named a New York State runner-up in the Disney Planet Challenge.



## All Cheers at Jefferson's Ferry

Throughout the school year, Setauket Elementary School fifth-grade students in Adrienne D'Onofrio's class engaged in community service projects with residents of Jefferson's Ferry, a retirement community in South Setauket.



The students met with the facility's residents to participate in a variety of activities, the most recent being a spring planting project. After germinating a plethora of seeds, the cultivated flowers were planted in the gardens of the facility by the students. Following the plantings, the students had the chance to play games and socialize with the seniors.

In addition to the class visits, several of Ms. D'Onofrio's students participated in an "adopt a grandparent" program with some of the Jefferson's Ferry residents. The class' visits have been arranged with the help of retired Three Village teacher Ellen Young.

## Creating Lasting Memories for Minnesauke

Minnesauke Elementary School's sixth-grade students have a tradition of creating a lasting piece of artwork as a graduation gift to the school they have attended for the past seven years. This year, working with art teacher Christine Fieldman, the building's sixth-grade classes created alphabet calligram (words that make pictures) panels to hang in the school.



The art and poetry was based on work completed by Minnesauke students four years ago (current ninth-grade students), many of whose siblings are now members of the sixth-grade class. These designs were used to create 4'x4' panels for each letter of the alphabet. The completed designs were in the form of mixed media, mostly paintings, and each has a variety of collage or 3D elements.

## Getting Hooked with the Nook

With the aid of a grant from the Three Village Educational Foundation, the fourth-grade students in Robbin Teitelbaum's class at Nassakeag Elementary School had the chance to get excited about reading on a whole new level this spring, as they read some captivating new stories on two Nook reading devices.



"This grade level is a very important year for reading, as our lessons focus on finding ways for the students to become better writers by using a variety of reading strategies, and really engaging them to hopefully become lifelong readers," stated Ms. Teitelbaum. "Students today are so easily engaged in using electronic devices, and I thought that this type of reading tablet could energize them about reading in new ways."

The grant monies were used to purchase the two tablets, along with a collection of electronic books for the devices. "It really feels like you are just reading a book, but in a much more exciting way," stated Connor Tweedy, who since using the classroom Nooks hopes to get his own tablet in the near future.

To help ensure that all levels of readers are able to use the Nook, Ms. Teitelbaum purchased books that would pique the interest of all students in her class – from books included in the annual Battle of the Books competition to ones better suited for guided reading instruction.



As an extension of their social studies curriculum, fifth-grade students at W.S. Mount Elementary School stepped back in time when they recently participated in an immigration simulation. From the moment the students, who were dressed as early immigrants from Europe or Asia, stepped off the school bus and entered the building, they were transported to the year 1903 and challenged to play the role of a family ancestor who had immigrated to the United States.

Prior to the event, the students researched a family ancestor who had immigrated to this country, learning about their ancestor's life in his or her native country as well as during the immigration process. The students documented all of the details in a journal and used the information collected to create a profile on the ancestor they would embody on Immigration Day.

"I used the website EllisIsland.com and spoke with my grandparents to learn more about my

## EXPERIENCING the IMMIGRATION PROCESS

ancestor," stated Shannon Grady, who passed through the simulated workshop as Martin Opila, Jr., her great-great uncle. "My favorite part was learning about how Martin's last name was changed during the immigration process. Immigration in 1903 seemed to be a very challenging process, but the benefits of becoming an American citizen were well worth it. This process meant a new beginning for the immigrants."

During the event, the students made their way through "Ellis Island" and passed through a series of "immigration" stations, which checked the immigrants' background, vocation, character, health, and ultimately cleared them for citizenship – but not before putting a few immigrants in "quarantine" or tasking them to repeat a station for re-evaluation. At the conclusion of the program, the students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Loyalty Oath.

# Sculpting and Transforming Wood



Several Ward Melville High School students are pictured here with teacher Mark Suesser proudly displaying the bowls they created during an in-house field trip on the art of wood turning.

Ward Melville High School students enrolled in the school's Woodworking and Principles of Engineering classes had the chance to hone their wood sculpting craft during an in-school field trip provided by the Long Island Wood Turners Association. Both Ward Melville teacher Mark Suesser and P.J. Gelinis Junior High School technology teacher Ed Moloney, who also assisted in the workshop, organized this field trip.

During the workshop, the students learned how to turn several different types of wood into bowls and how to make acrylic pens. The students were able to keep their finished bowls and donated the completed pens to members of the armed forces through a "Freedom Pen" project.

"These types of courses help to develop the students' fine motor skills, teach them the design process, and challenge them to deal with problem solving," stated Mr. Moloney.

"I hope that by participating in this workshop, the students take away an appreciation of wood turning and perhaps take it up as a hobby," added Mr. Suesser.

The Long Island Wood Turners Association received a grant from the American Association of Wood Turners to purchase the blades, mini lathes, and chucks used during the demonstration. The District received a \$50,000 "Learn and Serve America" grant, which covered the supplies to create the pens as well as a "Penn State Industries" donation, which provided the "Freedom Pen" kits.

## From Trash to Treasured Art

Minnesauke Elementary School students have been working together this spring on a recycling project they called "mine"-mize Waste. From packing reusable items, such as lunch boxes, refillable water bottles, and reusable utensils, to packing items that come naturally wrapped (oranges and bananas), the students helped to reduce the amount of garbage collected at the school. The school's campaign culminated with an outdoor picnic in late May, during which discarded items were collected to be composted by a school parent.

Keeping with the theme of recycling, sixth-grade students worked with teacher Nicole Connelly to create two life-sized copies of one of HA Schult's "trash people," which were made famous in Europe. Prior to creating Mr. and Mrs. Trash out of recyclable items donated by the school's families, the students learned about ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

"We think that this is a great project for our grade level to do as we prepare to move up to junior high school," stated sixth grader Giulia Boyle. "We are helping to make a difference

not only in our school but also in our community by setting an example for the younger students."

"Every day people create garbage," stated Ms. Connelly. "There are about six billion people on Earth who regularly throw things away. The sixth-grade students wanted to take some of that trash and put it to good use."



Minnesauke Elementary School sixth-grade students worked with teacher Nicole Connelly to create replicas of HA Schult's "trash people."



## WMHS Students "Lose" Their Shoes

This May, the Ward Melville High School's Varsity Girls Soccer team sponsored their annual "Lose the Shoes" fundraiser to benefit AIDS prevention in Africa. This fundraiser began as a grassroots effort and has become an international event led by Inspi(RED) Soccer.

Juniors Caysea Cohen, Adrianna Morra, "JP" Porretto, and Lizzy Rullan chaired the events and recruited their fellow teammates for their support and help. Students from fifth through twelfth grade and beyond "lost" their shoes to participate in the 3v3 Barefoot Soccer Tournament. Brackets were formed as teams played against each other for the "playoffs." Players received chances to win a variety of baskets donated by local businesses.

The day was beautiful, with 50 players losing their shoes to play and everyone enjoying the food, music, and laughter at Ward Melville High School. The Varsity Girls Soccer team raised \$831 this year for this worthwhile cause! Many of the team members are pictured above.

## LIPA PRESENTATION PROVIDES SPARK OF KNOWLEDGE

W.S. Mount Elementary School third-grade students learned about electricity, important safety tips, different types of power, and fossil fuels when LIPA representative Peter Berman visited the building to conduct an informative workshop in honor of National Electric Safety Month.

During the workshops, Mr. Berman shared his knowledge of working with electricity and even conducted a demonstration. Using a model house, he explained what would happen should a downed electric current enter the house from an outside source.

"When it comes to electricity, if you make a mistake you most likely won't get a second chance," stated Mr. Berman, noting that the current travels through the system at 185,000 feet per second, but an individual's reaction time is much slower.

At the end of the program, each student received an activity book and teachers conducted follow-up discussions on the topics of electricity and magnets.



# A Peek at the Class of 2011

- 593 students comprised the Class of 2011
- 27 percent of the graduates will attend two-year colleges
- 67 percent of the graduates will attend four-year colleges
- 2 percent of the graduates will enlist with the military
- 94 percent of the graduates received a Regents Diploma
- 31 percent of the graduates received a Regents Diploma with Honors
- 63 percent of the graduates received an Advanced Regents Diploma with Honors



**EMMANUEL KIM**



**ILANA SCANDARIATO**

## **EMMANUEL KIM - VALEDICTORIAN**

Top in his class, Emmanuel Kim demonstrated hard work and determination throughout his high school career to attain a weighted 104.32 academic average. Emmanuel was a National Merit Finalist, a Siemens Science Competition Regional Finalist, a LEXUS Eco Challenge National Winning Team Member, a National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, and a two-time recipient of both of the Presidential Gold Service Award and the Presidential Silver Service Award.

Emmanuel was founder and president of the high school's Model Congress, co-chief of the school newspaper "Kaleidoscope," and a member of the National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and Global Language Honor Society. His love of music helped him receive designation as an All-State and All-County violinist. He also performed at the Long Island String Festival Association as a soloist, Concert Master, and Principal 2 violinist. Emmanuel also participated in the high school's Chamber Orchestra and Music Without Borders. This fall, Emmanuel will attend Dartmouth where he will study economics and ethics.

## **ILANA SCANDARIATO - SALUTATORIAN**

As the second-ranked member of the Class of 2011, Ilana Scandariato graduated with a weighted 103.36 academic average. She was selected as a National Merit Semifinalist and a Finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search Competition. Ilana was the stage manager for the high school's production of *The Phantom of the Opera* and a recipient of the George A. Loizides Theater Award for her work with the Ward Melville Players.

In addition to completing a rigorous course of study, Ilana was a member of Science Olympiad, Academic Team, Key Club, Student Government, French Honor Society, INSTAR, and the Friendship Circle. This fall, she will attend Yale and plans to major in pre-med.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

August 25  
WMHS Walk Through  
9:00-11:00 AM

August 29  
JHS' Walk Throughs  
9:00-11:00 AM

August 30  
Board of Education Meeting  
North Country 8:00 PM

September 1  
First Day of School for Students

September 5  
Labor Day - Schools Closed

September 29-30  
Schools Closed for Rosh Hashanah

## ENGLISH CHAIR ELECTED TO REGIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITION

P.J. Gelinas Junior High School English Department Chairperson Nicole Waldbauer has been elected to serve as Long Island Language Arts Council (LILAC) Executive Board President during the 2011-2012 school year. Ms. Waldbauer has been a member of the executive board for the past six years and most recently served as the organization's first vice president for the past two years. Ms. Waldbauer explains, "Being a part of this organization, especially in a leadership role, has allowed me to share best practices in the area of English instruction with teachers and administrations from across Long Island. It has provided an invaluable network of resources." As the president, Ms. Waldbauer will also act as a liaison between the LILAC and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) as well as the New York State English Council (NYSEC).



## WELCOMING A NEW FACE



The District would like to welcome Dr. Gary Dabrusky to his new position as Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resources. Dr. Dabrusky comes to Three Village from the Plainedge School District, where he served as Administrator for Personnel and Operations. Prior to his employment in the Plainedge Schools, Dr. Dabrusky was employed as Intermediate Principal in the South Country School District, where he also held positions as Elementary Principal, Assistant Principal, Summer School Principal, and elementary school social worker.

Dr. Dabrusky received his doctorate in educational administration, leadership, and technology from Dowling College. He also holds a master's in social work from Adelphi University, a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Brooklyn College, and New York State Certification (SDA/SAS) from Stony Brook University.

Dr. Dabrusky is also the father of two young boys, ages 7 and 4, and coaches in the Mt. Sinai soccer league. In addition, he is an adjunct professor at St. Joseph's College.



## Coming Together to Keep Students Safe

Continuing with their mission to educate students and community members on the dangers of substance abuse and the ramifications of bullying, the District hosted its second drug and bullying prevention workshop of the year in early May. The event started with a one-hour panel discussion that featured several health professionals as well as a member of law enforcement, followed by three workshop programs. Students interested in attending this year's senior prom were required to participate in the evening's program and a workshop called "Sobering Facts - Learn How to Stay Safe While Having Fun."

"When you are dealing with drugs, you are dealing with death," stated physician Dr. William Konczynin, who noted that an average of eight people from across Nassau County, Suffolk County, and Manhattan die every day from drug overdoses.

"Only by working together can we make a difference. I encourage each of you to look out for your friends and to be there for each other," added school social worker Debbie Johnston.

The evening's attendees found the forum informative and educational. In addition to the workshop noted above, other workshops focused on tips to follow when hosting or attending a party and how to safely navigate social networks and the Internet.

## Signing on the Dotted Line

Ward Melville High School is proud to announce that 11 seniors recently signed letters of intent with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to play on athletic teams at some of the top institutions of higher education.

"These signings are a great testament to you, your families, and the hard work you put into becoming successful," Director of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics Erin Blaney stated during the signing.

In addition to being provided with the opportunity to compete against the top athletes from across the nation, several of the students were awarded financial scholarships. Congratulations to the following Ward Melville seniors and best of luck next year!



*Pictured here are many of the students who signed National Letters of Intent with Director of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics Erin Blaney and Principal Dr. Alan Baum. Not pictured are Abby Beltrani, Samantha Jacobsen, and Adam Schuster.*

Mary Kate Anselmini - Stanford University, Cross-Country/Track and Field  
Laura Barger - University of Pennsylvania, Fencing  
Abby Beltrani - Duke University, Field Hockey  
Haley Blunt - Adelphi University, Volleyball  
Samantha Jacobsen - Kutztown University, Field Hockey  
Samantha Jehle - Adelphi University, Soccer  
Sami Reilly - Quinnipiac University, Cross-Country Track  
Adam Schuster - Dowling College, Baseball  
Alexa Stonish - Stetson University, Beach Volleyball  
Lauren Tarantino - University of Connecticut, Field Hockey  
Callie Vitalo - Providence College, Field Hockey

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