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The Reporter

Winter 2010

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

Dear Residents,

Since my last message, many things have occurred both in our school community and abroad that are cause for reflection.

We continue to find ourselves in a trying economic time, which was recently made increasingly difficult when Governor Paterson announced his plan to reduce school districts' State Aid allocations. Although Three Village does not benefit from a large allotment of State Aid, any cut to our funding means that we need to seek alternative ways to finance our regular operations or identify ways in which to reduce costs.

In the upcoming months, the District's Board of Education and administrative team will work toward developing a proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year that not only strives to preserve our strong educational program, but is also mindful of the impact doing so puts on our community taxpayers. With the uncertainty of the changes in Albany and the current state of the economy, I am sure that this will be one of our most difficult budget years in recent history. I encourage all residents to stay informed of the development process by attending the District's regularly scheduled Board meetings (which are listed on the calendar) and by visiting our website.

Despite these trying times, I am extremely pleased of the outstanding accomplishments achieved by our students.

Not only do our students and staff members continue to excel in the classroom and on the athletic field, it is their community service initiatives that also bring our District tremendous pride. In the wake of the recent natural disaster in Haiti, our students and staff members quickly rallied together to coordinate a vast number of collection drives. From clothing to monetary fundraisers to organizing a garage sale, the District has shown that not even an ocean can stand in the way of the desire to help others.

As you read through the pages of this publication I hope you too will take pride in the accomplishments of our students and staff.

Sincerely,
Donald F. Webster
Interim Superintendent of Schools

SEVEN INTEL SEMIFINALISTS & TWO FINALISTS

Ward Melville Boasts Highest Number of Intel Semifinalists & Finalists on Long Island

The perennial science research powerhouse, Ward Melville High School, has once again produced the highest number of Long Island Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists and Finalists. The school's talented student-researchers dominated over the competition from 44 high schools in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four overseas schools during this year's competition. On Wednesday, January 13th, seven of the school's talented student-research students enrolled in the school InSTAR program were named 2010 Intel Semifinalists and at the end of January two seniors, Ruoyi Jiang and Yuval Calev, advanced in the competition to be named Finalists.

In recognition of their outstanding research projects, each Semifinalist was presented with \$1,000, and Ward Melville received \$7,000 (\$1,000 per Semifinalist) to be applied toward furthering the District's science, math, and engineering programs.

"The District is extremely proud of these students and all of the students who submitted projects to this year's competition," stated Interim Superintendent of Schools Donald Webster. "Being named a Semifinalist in the competition is a tremendous honor and a true testament to the amount of work the students put into their projects."

As Finalists, Ruoyi and Yuval will now attend the Intel Science Talent Institute in Washington, D.C. from March 11-16, 2010. During their trip to Washington, these students will participate in a final judging process and share in \$630,000 in awards. The District congratulates both Finalists and following students on their outstanding research projects:

Yuval Yaacov Calev

Project: Language Perception, Production, and Memory: A Comparison of Older and Younger Adults

Conor Bodkin Diviney

Project: The Synthesis of Compounds as Inhibitors of the Menaquinone Biosynthetic Pathway in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*

Ruoyi Jiang

Project: Targeting Loop Dynamics in BI/BIII Isotype Tubulin: The Application of *in silico* Techniques in Combating Chemotherapy Drug Resistance

Andrew Li

Project: An Estimate of the Viscosity of the Quark-Gluon Plasma via Anisotropic Flow Measured in Au + Au Collisions at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider

Pooja Mysore

Project: Effects of Algorithmically Derived Calcitonin Receptor Peptide on the Formation of Bone Matrix

Rashmi Rao

Project: Pattern Classification of fMRI Data for Understanding Brain Activity in Drug Users

Nimali Ayanthi Weerasooriva

Project: Inhibition of Fatty Acid Biosynthesis in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: Towards a Novel Tuberculosis Chemotherapeutic



Raising the Bar

Senior Becomes First LI Student to Win Siemens Competition

America's brightest minds and the innovators of tomorrow took on revolutionary research in biophysics and mathematics during this year's Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Hundreds of applications were submitted to this year's contest, but only one individual and one team were named winners during the National Finals held at New York University in early December. As a result of his hard work and determination, Ward Melville High School senior Ruoyi Jiang was named the \$100,000 Grand Prize winner of the competition in the individual category, which makes him the first Long Island student to win the competition since its creation in 1998.

Ruoyi won the \$100,000 scholarship in the individual category for his research on chemotherapy drug resistance. His project used state-of-the-art computational techniques to develop a more complete understanding of how Taxol functions kill tumor cells. Ruoyi's project, entitled Targeting Loop Dynamics in BI/BIII Isotype Tubulin: The Application of *in silico* Techniques in Combating Chemotherapy Drug Resistance, addresses very important outstanding questions surrounding Taxol; the understanding of such questions can help develop better chemotherapeutics for treating cancer.

Earlier in the year, Ruoyi was named a Regional Finalist along with fellow Ward Melville students Aneesh Sampath and Kevin Zhou. Additional praise goes to Ward Melville students Nevin Daniel and Cara Lin, who were named Semifinalists in the competition.



Three Village Central School District
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PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

District Works to Develop School Budget for 2010-2011

The District has been working since the fall to develop a financial plan for the 2010-2011 school year. The District's principals and department directors have been working with central office administrators to develop a preliminary budget, which will be presented to the Board of Education in February.

"The District once again finds itself in a difficult situation as we work to plan for next year," stated Assistant Superintendent for Business Jeff Carlson. "With the current state of the economy and the Governor's proposal to withhold school districts' State Aid allocations, we find ourselves trying to sustain our successful educational program with less. In the upcoming months, the Board of Education and central administration will work diligently to keep our budget increase to a minimum while maintaining our strong instructional and co-curricular programs."

Residents are encouraged to become a part of this year's development process by attending the scheduled meetings of the Board of Education. The District will dedicate a portion of each Board of Education meeting from February through May to discuss the status of the proposed budget. These meetings will take place on the following days at 8:00 p.m. at the North Country Administrative Center:

February 23	April 6
March 2	April 13
March 9	April 27
March 16	May 11 (Public Hearing)
March 23	

Teacher Wins IEEE Award

Ward Melville High School physics teacher Robert Spira is a recipient of the 2009 IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) Pre-University Educator Award for his innovation in the classroom. Mr. Spira was honored "for inspiring and motivating high school students through imaginative teaching and extracurricular activities to excel in the study of physics and to choose careers in science and engineering."

This award was established by the IEEE EAB to provide recognition for current pre-university classroom teachers who have inspired an appreciation and understanding of mathematics, science, technology, and the engineering process in students, and have encouraged students to pursue technical careers.

IEEE is the world's largest professional association for advancing innovation and technological excellence for the benefit of humanity.



Spotlighting Technology A Welcome 'ASSET' In-District

The District strives to provide students and teachers with leading-edge technological resources while identifying new ways to integrate technology into all curriculum areas and across grade levels. Looking to share information with other educators in this field, the District hosted a meeting of the Association of Suffolk Supervisors of Educational Technology's (ASSET).

In attendance were representatives from local school districts, including Comsewogue, West Hampton Beach, and Elwood, as well as several technology vendors. During the event, Executive Director for Instructional Technology, Kerrin Welch-Pollera, the District's Lead Teacher for Instructional Technology, Jim Fargione, and technology teachers, Steven Rogers and John Williams, shared information about the District's programs and fielded questions from the audience. This year a new course has been introduced at Ward Melville High School called Mechatronics. Offered through a partnership with Suffolk County Community College, the program enables students to learn the necessary skills to secure an entry-level position as a CNC machinist, a position in demand in modern-day machine shops.

"This forum provides a great opportunity for professionals to share information about the field of technology," stated Ms. Welch-Pollera. "We were happy to host the meeting in our new Board Room and showcase the District's instructional technology program."



The District hosted an ASSET meeting, during which Executive Director for Instructional Technology, Kerrin Welch-Pollera, technology teachers, John Williams and Steven Rogers, and the District's Lead Teacher for Instructional Technology, Jim Fargione, shared information about the District's programs.

Reflecting on What "Beauty Is..."

The District's Board of Education, PTA/PTSA members, and administrative team are proud to announce that six District students have been commended for the creative projects they produced for the 2009-2010 PTA Reflections Contest. These pieces were selected from the numerous submissions made to the annual contest and recognized as Suffolk County Award of Excellence and Award of Merit winners.

Each of the five projects presented with Awards of Excellence will now advance to the next level of the competition – the state level of judging. This year's submissions were based on the theme "Beauty Is..."

Congratulations to the following students:

Nolan Adelsky (Arrowhead Elementary)
Award of Excellence in Visual Arts

Shaelea Carroll (P.J. Gelinas JHS)
Award of Excellence in Film Production

Yiran He (W.S. Mount Elementary)
Award of Excellence in Musical Composition

David Kirsch (Ward Melville HS)
Award of Excellence in Visual Arts

Thomas Li (W.S. Mount Elementary)
Award of Merit in Musical Composition

Constance Mulford (Setauket Elementary)
Award of Excellence in Musical Composition



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School English Chairperson Nicole Waldbauer and Assistant Principal Antonio Santana congratulate Shaelea Carroll for winning an Award of Excellence in Film Production in the 2009-2010 PTA Reflections Contest.

Mini-Grants Awarded for Creative Endeavors

Two District art teachers have been awarded mini-grants from the Mid-East Suffolk Teacher Center (MESTRACT). Congratulations to Ward Melville High School art teacher Cortney Weisman and Ward Melville High School Chairperson for Art and Technology Jennifer Trettner, for securing \$3,000 for the school's art department.

The first grant will be used to fund a recycled fashion project. Students will be given an opportunity to construct a garment using recyclable materials such as newspapers, plastic bottles, plastic grocery bags, etc. They will first create sketches of a design, then use dress forms and various materials to construct the garment into a wearable design. The money awarded will be used to purchase sewing forms and sewing machines.

The second grant will go toward an advertising campaign and product design project. Students will first research successful advertising campaigns throughout history such as McDonald's, Coca-Cola, Apple Computers, etc. They will study companies' packaging designs, print ads and commercials to find out what made these campaigns so successful, then use Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign and iMovie software applications to create package designs, magazine ads, and commercials for their own product. The money awarded will be used to purchase video cameras, tripods, digital cameras, memory cards, and card readers.

Collegiate Insight

Throughout their educational career in the Three Village Central School District, students are provided with the guidance and resources to research post-graduation opportunities available to them and find the right college or university that suits their interests and career path. This January, Ward Melville High School's guidance department coordinated two programs geared towards this mission.

More than 60 Ward Melville Class of 2009 alumni returned to their alma mater to participate in the annual Alumni Day. During the event, the returning graduates engaged in a candid question-answer session with members of the current senior class. Graduates spoke of the issues facing college freshmen and about their experiences during their first semester. Panelists included students attending schools, locally and throughout the United States, including several of the SUNY schools, Harvard University, Suffolk County Community College, American University, St. Joseph's College, Yale University, and Fordham University.

During a Parent College Night, which was combined with the school's traditional Financial Aid Night, parents of juniors and seniors gathered in the school's auditorium to learn how best to begin

planning for their child's post-secondary education. During the event, Peter Van Buskirk, a former dean of admissions, author, and speaker on college admissions, shared his expertise on the college application process and the best ways to secure financial aid.

In addition to these two January programs, this year the guidance department once again partnered with several college campuses to offer an on-site Admissions Program for members of the Class of 2010. During the event, college admissions staff visited with seniors to conduct personal interviews, evaluate their applications, and ultimately render a decision for acceptance.



More than 60 Ward Melville High School Class of 2009 alumni returned to their alma mater in January to participate in the school's annual Alumni Day.

Professor Pendleton Puts the Pencil to Paper

Last school year, the District piloted a new handwriting program for students in kindergarten and first grade. Thanks to the program's success, the District is now using the Writing-Right with Professor Pendleton Pencil program in all five elementary schools. Students and staff have adapted to the new curricula seamlessly, and benefit from the program's instructional tools on a daily basis.

As a special treat, the program's founder, occupational therapist Lori Licker, and Professor Pendleton (a 6-foot animated character featured throughout the pages of the workbook) recently visited the kindergarten and first-grade classes at Minnesauke Elementary School to conduct a small workshop on the handwriting program. During the assembly, the students demonstrated several of the Writing-Right lessons they have learned, and enjoyed singing along with some of the interactive songs associated with the program.

As stated on Ms. Licker's website, Writing-Right with Professor Pendleton Pencil is a complete handwriting program, which teaches proper grasp of the pencil, and correct body position in the chair at a table or desk, and provides basic finger warm-up exercises suitable for most children. In addition, the book teaches pre-writing concepts (i.e., types of lines, directionality concepts, right/left recognition and an introduction to top, middle and bottom lines), proper letter and number formations, and where to place the letters and numbers on the paper.



Students Become Savvy Business Leaders

Ward Melville High School business students successfully participated in the Adelphi University Annual High School Business Competition. Jonathan Corona was named a semifinalist and Scott Brekne (pictured below) was selected as a finalist, while his team placed first in the competition. Ward Melville High School was represented by 10 students, the maximum number allowed to enroll.

"All of the students had a wonderful experience today as they showed off their business savvy. They not only enjoyed competing, but also had the opportunity to learn how to truly be team players as they connected with various business education students from across the Island to create their marketing plans," stated business teacher Ilene Littman.

More than 20 schools from Long Island participated in this competition.



Working to Keep His Dreams Alive



Just in time for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, students throughout the District spent time discussing the importance of this legendary civil rights leader and engaging in a variety of activities as they celebrated a districtwide Diversity Day.

With prepared speeches in hand, 13 P.J. Gelinis Junior High School seventh-grade students took to the school's stage to participate in the building's annual "I Have A Dream..." Oratory Contest. In preparation for the event,

the students worked with program coordinator Louis Laird and teacher Doug Elliot to draft messages fashioned after Dr. King's famous speech. The students' speeches touched upon their personal goals: from becoming a professional athlete – to those that would affect the masses, such as finding a cure for cancer and strokes or developing a national program geared towards preparing students for college. After each student delivered their compelling speeches, this year's judges, Richard Romero, April Hatcher, and Andrew Pelosi, scored the students based on their delivery, organization, content, appearance, and poise. Congratulations to Caite Bucco, Joseph Barbieri, and Emily LaRosa, who placed first, second, and third place, respectively, in the contest.

Additionally, in celebration of Diversity Day, P.J. Gelinis's National Art Honor Society worked in collaboration to create a beautiful mural comprised of different art pieces. When combined, these pieces formed a portrait of Dr. King. The building's ninth-grade chamber choir also performed at the Bethel Church in Setauket in celebration of the day.

Murphy Makes Poetry Slammin'

Taking poetry to a new and cutting-edge level, several aspiring poets from R.C. Murphy Junior High School recently put their creativity to the test during the New York Knicks Poetry Slam contest. Out of the thousands of students who participated from schools in the tri-state area, three students from R.C. Murphy Junior High School emerged victorious and were named 2010 semifinalists. Congratulations to ninth graders Khavir Sanon and Maria Mucci and eighth grader Griffin Schwab for being selected for this honor.

In addition to participating in the Knicks program, many other Murphy students had the opportunity to showcase their poetry talents during the school's annual Poetry Slam event in early February.



News Around

SELECTING A CAREER PATH

Although the time when they will need to select a desired career path is still several years away, students in grades four through six at Setauket Elementary School received a sneak peak at a variety of professions during the school's First Annual Career Day.

During the program, which was coordinated by parents Karen O'Dell and Elizabeth Della Salle, students visited with the presenters in workshop settings to gain a deep sense of what each profession was like, what type of training was needed to work in that career, and to gather advice on how to be successful in the career path. Seventeen professionals, including architects, a police officer, an orthopedic surgeon, and a fishery biologist, were on hand to teach students about their different career fields.

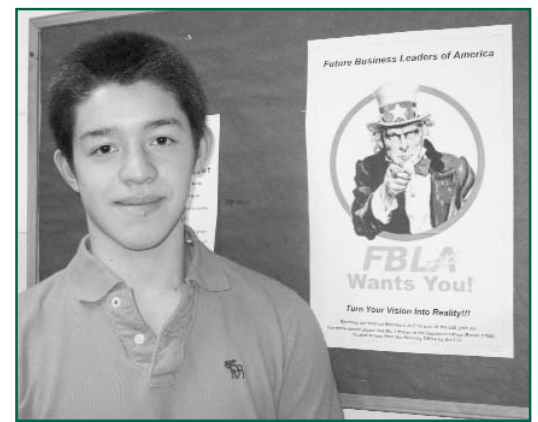


During Setauket Elementary School's First Annual Career Day, Shannon Coughlin had a temporary cast applied by Dr. Douglas Petraco, Director of Orthopedic Surgery at Mather and St. Charles Hospitals.

Rising to the Top

Ward Melville High School sophomore Rocco Morra was named a Semifinalist in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) District Leadership Conference held at Molloy College. Rocco competed against students from 16 other high school FBLA chapters in the area of Impromptu Speaking. During the event, Rocco delivered a speech on how he would change the world, identifying how one's character could lead to accomplishing that mission.

As a Semifinalist, Rocco will now compete in the FBLA State Leadership Conference to be held in Rochester, NY this April.



MOUNT SCHOOL TURNS BLUE!

Flashing lights, sirens, and members of the U.S. Marshals Service were on hand to help kick off a schoolwide celebration at W.S. Mount Elementary School in honor of the building being named a National Blue Ribbon School. Dressed from head to toe in blue clothing, students, staff members, and the parent community gathered in front of the building to watch as the school's character education mascot, Character Ed, presented Principal Nathalie Lilavois with the commemorative plaque and flag that signified W.S. Mount's Blue Ribbon status.

Since being named a National Blue Ribbon School earlier this year, a coveted recognition shared by only 19 schools from New York State, the building has been abuzz about the honor. During their schoolwide celebration, the sixth graders sang, "We are Blue Ribbon," a tune set to the sounds of "We are the Champions," and the whole student body performed a choreographed dance to the Black-Eyed Peas hit song "I've Gotta Feeling."



Favorite Tales

Combining English Language Arts and music, New York State students worked on an innovative class project with Susan Trump visited the school to conduct a multi-media project.

Students used their English Language Arts and music skills they had read as a class. The students met daily with their teacher and performed their finished songs during a closing assembly. The project served as a concise overview of their chosen books.

At the end of the project, the students performed and recording of the songs.



Fourth-grade students at Mount School pose with music teacher Ms. Trump performing the original songs during her residency with Ms. Trump.

LESSONS FROM A SENATOR

As a part of their studies on the different components and aspects of New York State government, Arrowhead Elementary School's fifth-grade classes had a unique opportunity to learn about the subject matter from someone who lives it daily when New York State Senator John Flanagan visited the school.

"I am YOUR state senator and am dedicated to working for you," stated Senator Flanagan. "The most important thing that I do for my job has to do with my work in education. It is one of the areas I am most passionate about."

During the program, the senator spoke about an individual's right to vote, the three branches of government, his experience in the assembly and senate, as well as how a bill becomes a law. As an interactive component to the assembly, the students participated in a demonstration of how a bill becomes a law. They assumed the roles of the state assembly and senate and voted on whether or not to approve two proposed bills.



Several Arrowhead Elementary School fifth graders are pictured here with their teacher, Lorraine Hegarty, and New York State Senator John Flanagan.

and the Schools



Stretching Muscles, Strengthening Minds

With the many physical and mental benefits associated with yoga in mind, Nassauk Elementary School's physical education teachers put theory to practice when they conducted a unit of study on yoga.



With the help of P. Unlimited, Inc. Cultural Enrichment/Wellness Educator Beth Hagedorn, RN, BSN, RYT, the students learned that even though it is outdoors there are still exercises that they can do to help not only stretch their bodies, but also their minds. During the lesson, the students learned how to perform several traditional yoga positions and how to relax their minds in order to improve concentration, a skill the students noted would be of great importance when completing homework assignments and exams.

Ms. Hagedorn explained that yoga philosophy is character development that enhances personal performance and collaborative learning environments. The students left the class eager to share what they had learned with their peers and family. Special thanks to the school's PTA for sponsoring this event.

Set to Music

Nassauk Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Nicole Silverman, musician, songwriter, and storyteller Susan Trump, led a disciplinary Arts in Education program. The students used their music skills to compose a song about a book they read with Ms. Trump during the course of a week. They performed the songs at an assembly for their parents. The final pieces were set to extremely catchy tunes. At the end of the program, each teacher received a written copy of the songs.



Teacher Nicole Silverman with her class at Nassauk Elementary School. Silverman is a musician, songwriter, and storyteller. Susan Trump is a musician and songwriter. They are posing with the songs they had composed during a songwriting program.

SHINING YOUNG Artists

Does the next Picasso or Leonardo Da Vinci currently attend Arrowhead Elementary? Well, visitors to the South Setauket International Deli on Belle Mead Road were able to judge for themselves when several selected students from grades 1-6 had their artwork featured at the deli during an exhibit called "The Arrowhead Heros and a Side of Slaw." The art projects were created in a variety of medias, including paint, chalk, and cut paper, and were put on display at the deli.



Arrowhead Elementary School students Brien Flanagan, Tristen Eckstein, Benjamin Eckstein, and John Fitzmaurice had their artwork on display during an exhibit called "The Arrowhead Heros and a Side of Slaw" at the South Setauket International Deli. The students are pictured here with deli owners Eric and Beth Eckstein and art teacher Tom Dipierro.

"This is a great way for us to bring attention to the wonderful artistic talents of our students and show the community how important the subject is to students," stated art teacher Tom Dipierro. "It is also a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their work in a venue outside of the District."

Open Hearts, Warming Homes

In each of the District's schools, students, faculty members, and administrators took time out during this holiday season to spread some cheer to those less-fortunate members of the community.

The student council members from Arrowhead and Minnesauke Elementary School teamed up with the R.C. Murphy Junior High School student council to stuff a school bus with as many holiday toys as possible for the Gerald Ryan Outreach Center in Wyandanch. The three schools collected hundreds of toys, both gently used and new, and delivered them to the center just before the Christmas holiday.

In the spirit of playful competition, P.J. Gelinis Junior High School's Student Government and National Junior Honor Society co-sponsored an event called Floor Wars. The program, which encouraged students to donate new, unwrapped toys, challenged the first and second floor homerooms to compete against each other to determine which floor could collect the most amount of toys. With 482 new toys donated, the first floor was named this year's winner and the second floor finished a close second with 359 toys. All donations were given to the Toys for Kids program sponsored by the Town of Brookhaven.

Nassauk Elementary School's student council coordinated a collection drive during the holiday season. Each class donated funds, which were used by the class

representative to purchase a new toy for a local child in need. The council members wrapped the donations after school and made sure they were delivered in time for the holiday.

W.S. Mount Elementary School's Student Government created homemade crafts which, in total, sold for \$122 at the school's Holiday Boutique. The monies collected were donated to a Mount family in need. Additionally, the entire school worked to collect donations for the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind located in Smithtown.

For their community service project, the sixth graders in Gina Castellano's class at Setauket Elementary School coordinated a schoolwide coat and winter apparel drive through the middle of December. The drive received tremendous support from the school's student body and all of the items donated were given to the Salvation Army to distribute to needy families in the area.

Lastly, even the community's furry friends were on the minds of the school community as Ward Melville High School senior Anna Lubitz, who has a true passion for animals, coordinated a pet drive called Saving Shelter Animals with Volunteer Efforts (SSAVE). During the drive, Ward Melville students and faculty members donated several boxes full of unopened food, bowls, blankets, beds, and crates.





Ward Melville Actors Perform a **Broadway Classic**

Broadway's legendary musical *Les Misérables* came to life on the stage at Ward Melville High School when the building's talented student-actors performed the show at the end of December. The epic story, recounting the struggle against adversity in 19th century France, is one that has become a favorite for all audiences.

Approximately 200 Ward Melville High School students were involved in this year's production on stage, off stage, and in the pit. They rehearsed for months before the play's debut, under the direction of Acting, Vocal, and Staging Director Linda Contino; Orchestra, Set, and Technical Director Phil Preddice; and Theatrical Consultant George Loizides.

As the students sang the musical's favorite songs, including "I Dreamed a Dream" and "On My Own," the crowd was transported back in time and reveled in the cast's unwavering talent. The students performed nearly flawless shows for three evening performances before packed crowds, and left the audiences hoping next year's production would be just as wonderful.



Quiet, Please

Walking through the halls of W.S. Mount Elementary School, visitors can often hear the voices of students, speaking with their peers and teachers about daily activities and lessons.

However, this all changed when the building's fifth-grade students spent one day using their other senses to communicate. After reading the book "No Talking" by Andrew Clements, the students made a pledge to hold a "No Talking Day," just as the book's main character did at his school in order to improve his focus.

In order to maintain a positive learning environment while following the no-talking rules, the students and teachers used creative thinking, problem-solving skills, and cooperation to make the day a success. Throughout the day, when speaking with an adult, the students limited their sentences to three words, and only conversed with their peers on note paper, and only when it was necessary and connected to learning in the classroom.

An honor system was established to encourage the students to honestly report any word infractions. At the end of the day, the students and their teachers reflected on the event and shared their feelings about remaining silent during the school day. While most found it difficult to remain silent, the students found the exercise informative and believed it helped improve their concentration and remove unnecessary distractions.



Painting Pictures for Cancer Patients

More than 40 Nassakeag Elementary School sixth-grade art club members are putting their paintbrushes to canvas and creating beautiful artwork for patients at Stony Brook University Hospital Pediatric Cancer Unit. With the help of art teacher and club advisor,

Rachel Condron, the students are creating two paintings for each of the patients geared toward their personal likes. The patients range from two to seventeen years old.

"This is a wonderful community experience for our students and will most definitely put a smile on young children's faces as they struggle every day to get well," stated Ms. Condron.

The paintings are expected to be completed in February.



Students Sculpt Beautiful Wood Creations

The students from Ward Melville High School showcased their talents at the 14th Annual Long Island Woodworkers Show and 1st Annual High School show. The event was held at the Old Bethpage Historical Restoration Village fairgrounds and more than 1,000 attendees viewed the craftsmanship of woodworkers from Long Island, including students who are enrolled in the Woodworking Elective Courses, offered from ninth through twelfth grades, at the P.J. Gelinis and R.C. Murphy Junior High Schools and Ward Melville Senior High School.

Each student who took part received a ribbon of excellence for their individual pieces and was recognized at the Long Island Woodworkers Club meeting in Smithtown in early January. In addition, all participating students received membership into the newly formed Ward Melville Woodworkers Guild, established by the Technology Education Department at Ward Melville earlier this year.

The student woodworkers who participated were Mike Esposito (Mission Rocking Chair), Chase Godt (Splined Box), Emma Borrie (Mantel Clock), Kevin Johnson (Skateboard), Neil Hyland (Camp Seat), and Trevor Holotka (Backscratcher). Next year the Technology Education Department hopes to showcase more students and their work.



Ward Melville High School woodworkers Chase Godt, Mike Esposito, Neil Hyland, and Emma Borrie display the pieces they created for the 14th Annual Long Island Woodworkers Show.

Many Came to the Cabaret



If you have attended one of the Cabaret Nights at R.C. Murphy Junior High School in the past, you know that the evening is one of the most enjoyable times you can have off, off-Broadway. This year, the school hosted its Annual Cabaret Night and opened its doors to its biggest audience yet!

Transformed to look like a Manhattan-style dinner theatre, the gymnasium at the school was almost unrecognizable. The evening was full of entertaining comedy, song, and dance numbers by the school's most talented students and even a few guest stars. More than 200 students performed and participated in the event, which was attended by more than 775 people.

Comprised of live professional music, a mouth-watering catered meal, entertaining performances, and plenty of raffles, it was no wonder that the event continues to grow in popularity over the years. In attendance were community members, district administrators, teachers, and students, all of whom enjoyed a fun-filled, entertaining evening. As a result of the event, more than \$20,000 was raised by the school's Parent Teacher Organization.

Seniors Sign on the Dotted Line

Ward Melville High School is proud to announce that 14 seniors, the highest amount at one time in recent history, signed Letters of Intent with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to play on athletic teams at some of the top schools of higher education.

“The amount of time and effort that these students put into not only their sport but also their academics is extremely commendable,” stated Interim Director of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics Erin Blaney. “This commitment is a result of the students’ work, along with the support they received over the years from their parents and coaches. I am so proud of all of their accomplishments, both on and off the field, and know that they will make Ward Melville and Three Village proud next year.”

The District extends its congratulations and best wishes to the following student-athletes:

Joseph Bellavia – Florida Southern (Boys Lacrosse)
 Kaitlyn Caballeira – Fordham University (Girls Soccer)
 William Casey – Stony Brook University (Boys Soccer)
 Albert DeStefano – West Point Prep (Boys Lacrosse)
 Nicholas Giampaolo – Bryant College (Boys Lacrosse)
 Georgia Holland – Yale University (Field Hockey)
 Richard Hurley – Siena College (Boys Lacrosse)

Matthew Kunkel – Duke University (Boys Lacrosse)
 Kaitlyn Meade – Hartford University (Softball)
 Kelly Naslonski – Virginia Tech (Girls Lacrosse)
 James Ryan – Colgate University (Boys Lacrosse)
 Brian Slevin – University of Vermont (Boys Lacrosse)
 Jennifer Walsh – University of Cincinnati (Girls Lacrosse)
 Jonathan Wolcott – Belmont Abbey (Boys Lacrosse)



Students Hit a High Note

This year, 43 Ward Melville High School students were selected to perform during the NYSCAME-SCMEA All-County Music Festival held in Hauppauge, while 18 student-musicians were chosen to participate in this year’s NYSSMA All-State Conference in New York in early December.

“We are extremely proud of these students and thank their teachers for helping to encourage their love for music,” stated Three Village Director of Music Thomas Jones. “I know that they will represent Three Village well during these festivals.”

The students qualified for participation in the ensembles based on their scores in last spring’s NYSSMA solo and ensemble festivals.



Pictured are many of the Ward Melville High School student-musicians selected to perform during the upcoming NYSCAME-SCMEA All-County and NYSSMA All-State Music Festivals.

Master Class with a True Jazz Legend

The newly completed orchestra room at Ward Melville High served as the perfect backdrop for a once-in-a-lifetime master class with jazz legend Teddy Charles.

Taking the baton, Mr. Charles led the high school’s jazz ensembles through an expansive and impressive music program.

Recounting stories of now legendary and historic studio sessions and collaborations with the pioneers of jazz, Mr. Charles’s visit truly was memorable. His critiques, advice, and encouragement will certainly be remembered for some time to come, and the exciting and fun-filled evening was one that could never be duplicated.

Mr. Charles, who is now in his 80s, has performed with the most venerable who’s who of the jazz world. Beginning his career in the early 1940s, Mr. Charles toured and performed with the Big Bands of Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw. This was the first of what the group hopes to be many visiting artist programs.



Four Patriots Make All-LI Team

As a result of their outstanding athletic abilities and dedication to their sport, three Ward Melville High School seniors have been named to Newsday’s All-Long Island Team for their respective sports. Congratulations to Georgia Holland (Field Hockey), Noelle Morrison (Girls Volleyball), and Quinn Raseman (Boys Cross-Country). In addition to these three rising star athletes, Ward Melville Girls Swimming Coach Chris Gordon was selected as this year’s All-Long Island Coach of the Year. Pictured here is Quinn, Georgia, Noelle, and Interim Executive Director for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, & Athletics Erin Blaney.



A Whole-in-One Season

Congratulations to the Ward Melville High School Boys Varsity Golf team, who recently completed their first undefeated season since 1974. The team, which is coached by Robert Spira, finished the season and won the league with a 12-0-0 record. The team is pictured here with Mr. Spira.



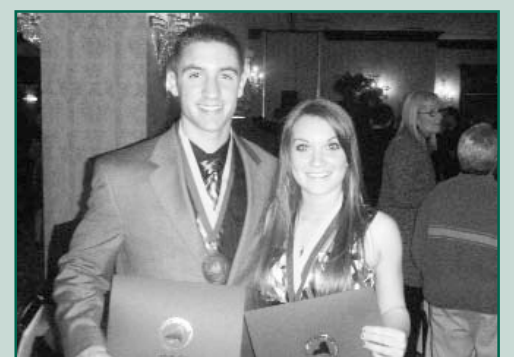
SENIORS ARE IN THE ZONE

The New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance has named Ward Melville High School seniors James Ryan and Sabrina Pryor Suffolk Zone Award winners.

James has competed on the school’s Varsity Football team since twelfth grade, serving as a captain during his senior year. Additionally, during his athletic career at Ward Melville, he has received several honors, including being named All-County for Lacrosse and All-Division for Football.

Sabrina competes on Ward Melville’s Varsity Field Hockey, Basketball, and Lacrosse teams. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been named All-Long Island in Field Hockey and was a member of the NYS Championship Field Hockey team last year.

The Suffolk Zone Chapter of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance honors one male and one female student from each school district in Suffolk County who meet established criteria for outstanding physical education achievement. In addition to that requirement, winners are expected to maintain scholastically sound academic records, display outstanding character, act as a leader in physical education and schoolwide activities, as well as serve as a role model for their peers.



WEATHER-RELATED Closing of School

In the event that schools are closed for inclement weather or hazardous road conditions, or in the event of delayed openings, the following stations will make the announcement:

**News 12
103.9 (WRCN)
88 News Radio (WCBS)
97.5 FM (WALK)**

Additionally, notification of closings/delays will be made via the District website, www.threevillagecsd.org, Connect-Ed, and can be obtained by calling 730-4050.

PLEASE NOTE: The School-Age Child Care (SACC) program WILL NOT OPERATE when schools are closed due to inclement weather. All building use for other purposes is also cancelled when schools are closed.

SAVE THE DATE Upcoming District Drug & Alcohol Awareness Forum

Continuing with its commitment to help educate parents, students, and the community on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, the District will be holding its third informational Drug & Alcohol Awareness Forum on Monday, March 1st, starting at 7:00 p.m. at Ward Melville High School.

During this event, a special presentation will be made by popular presenter Dr. Stephen Dewey on "The Effects of Drug Abuse on the Human Brain." Dr. Dewey, who was a senior scientist and researcher at Brookhaven National Laboratory for 24 years, is currently working at The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Hospital in Massapequa, where he is pursuing his career goal of developing a pharmaceutical means to prevent chemical addiction.

TAX CODE - 635

When filing your State Income Tax Form, please be certain to fill in the Three Village Central School District Tax Code number (635) in the appropriate space provided. School aid will be affected if the school district or code is incorrect or missing. You must enter the name and code number of the public school district where you were a resident on December 31, 2009. This information applies even if you were temporarily absent, if the school your child attended was not in your school district, or if you did not have children attending school.

Private/Parochial Transportation Requests DUE APRIL 1

Requests for transportation to private/parochial schools must, by state law, be received in the transportation office no later than April 1st each year. In addition to new residents, this requirement applies even if your child attended private/parochial school in the previous year or if you are merely changing schools.

Improving Safety For Walkers

As a result of a recent amendment to the Brookhaven Town Code passed in late January, **property owners are now required to clear** snow, ice, and other obstructions from public sidewalks adjacent to their property. As many of the roadways in Three Village have become increasingly busy over the past several years, the District is thankful to the Town for their help in working to provide a safe environment for students walking to and from school and their bus stops.

"We commend the Town for taking such a proactive approach to protecting our students and the community as a whole," stated Interim Superintendent of Schools Donald F. Webster. "The District thanks all property owners in advance for their help with this issue."

Kindergarten Registration for 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

The District offers a full-day kindergarten program for District residents. In order to be admitted to kindergarten in September, a child must be five years of age on or before December 1 during the school year in which they enter kindergarten. A proof of residency (either a lease, deed, tax bill or signed contract) must be provided along with the child's original birth certificate and copy of their immunization records at the time of registration. Registration occurs daily at the Central Registration Office at the North Country Administration Center (100 Suffolk Avenue, Stony Brook) from 8:15 - 11:15 a.m. and 1:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Children must be registered with the North Country Administration Center in the Registrar's office prior to kindergarten screening. For more information about the registration process and the immunizations required, please visit the District website, www.threevillagecsd.org, and reference page 18 of the District calendar. Additional information can be obtained from the registrar's office at 730-4555.

This year's kindergarten screening program will take place on:

Arrowhead: May 24, May 25, & May 26, 2010

Minnesauke: April 22, April 30, & May 3, 2010

Mount: April 21, April 23, & April 27, 2010

Nassakeag: May 19, May 20, & May 27, 2010

Setauket: May 10, May 11, & May 12, 2010

CALENDAR CORRECTION

Please note: The Kindergarten Screening dates listed in the District calendar are incorrect. Please see the information to the left for the correct dates and information regarding this year's Kindergarten Registration.

Helping Haiti

Not long after hearing about the devastation caused by the earthquake in Haiti, students throughout the District began coordinating support drives for the survivors of that tragedy. Students worked to collect a variety of items, from clothing, shoes, and outerwear, to organizing monetary collection drives and fundraising activities. The students' efforts are ongoing. Anyone interested in helping the District send supplies and donations to Haiti is encouraged to contact the main office of any school. Pictured to the left are students from Jon Stecker's sixth-grade class, who collected more than 50 boxes of clothing for Haiti.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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