

Ward Melville Ranked #1 Nationally Pg. 3

Students Win MENC Talent Search Pg. 2

All Science Olympiad Teams Advance. . . . Pg. 1

inside this issue...



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The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

the Reporter



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

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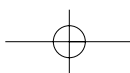
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PLEASE NOTE...

The location for the Three Village School District's Meet the Candidates Night has been moved from R.C. Murphy Junior High School to Ward Melville High School. Please be sure to mark your calendars!

Meet the Candidates Night
May 2, 2006 - 8:00 p.m.
Ward Melville High School
380 Old Town Road
East Setauket





the Reporter

Issue 3 • Spring 2006

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

www.3villagesd.k12.ny.us



Frank J. Carasiti
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Residents,

This past year has been a banner year for our district. Our students continue to excel in all academic areas as well as in community outreach, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Several of the outstanding accomplishments attained by our students so far this year are detailed in the pages of this publication. It is through achievements such as these that our district is able to enjoy the excellent reputation it has so rightly earned.

Just as we look back to the district's recent past achievements, we would be remiss if we did not also look toward the future of Three Village. Over the past several months, the Board of Education and the administration have been working to develop an educationally sound and fiscally responsible budget. The 2006-2007 Budget will be presented to the public for vote on May 16.

Once again, this has been an exceptionally challenging budget process. Mandated expenses keep rising and revenues, especially state aid, are failing to offset the increase in expenditures by a great degree. Unfortunately, the impact of any increase will fall largely on the taxpayer.

It is inevitable, therefore, that cost containment must take place and therefore some of our educational programs will be affected as well as other areas of our overall operation. A forthcoming Budget Brochure will explain these changes.

It is our hope that through community support we will be able to preserve the investment that has already been made in the education of our students and ensure that our students of the future are offered the same respected programs.

Secondary Schools to Advance to State Science Competition

After many hours of practice, studying, and hard work, the Ward Melville High School, P.J. Gelinis, and R.C. Murphy Junior High Schools' Science Olympiad Teams headed to the Suffolk County Regional Science Olympiad tournament with their eye on victory. The Science Olympiad, which focuses on promoting excitement and enthusiasm in science through annual regional, state, and national competitions, calls for students to work on a variety of events, ranging from building bridges and balsa planes to learning about forensic science and becoming experts on trees or fossils – areas that all provide enrichment to the traditional science curriculum.

During the regional competition, teams of students from each of the district's three secondary schools competed against their peers from across the county, each vying for a spot to compete in the state competition. Out of the 37 teams competing, both the P.J. Gelinis team and the Ward Melville team placed first in the Eastern Long Island Science Olympiad tournaments and R.C. Murphy Junior High School placed fifth. These victories ensure that all three schools will be



advancing to the state competition this spring.

"Science Olympiad is more than just a club," stated P.J. Gelinis Junior High School ninth grader David Gittin, who has been on the school's team for the past three years. "It teaches you how to work with others and about different aspects of science that you might not learn in class. I'm very proud of how all of our teams did at regionals. All of our hours of preparation were evident."

The Three Village School District congratulates all the members of the Science Olympiad teams and wishes them the best of luck at the state competition.

Fourteen Ward Melville Seniors Announced As Finalists in National Merit Scholarship Program

The Three Village School District is proud to announce that as a result of exceptional scholastic achievement and academic promise, 14 Ward Melville High School seniors have been named finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. This scholastic program presents high school seniors with scholarships to be used towards their pursuit of a degree in higher education.

These students were announced as semifinalists in the program last fall based on their Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test scores, and now qualify for the chance to win one of the competition's scholarships, totaling \$33.9 million.

Mary Auner
Ming Min Hui
Loren Loiacono
Alexander Luryi
Dustin McKinley
Margherita McNair
Paul Rademacher
James Smithy
Benjamin Solomon
Curt Swike
Patrick Van Nieuwenhuizen
Connie Wang
Jenny Wang
Harley Zhang



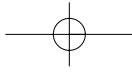
SCHOOLS RECEIVE \$25,000 IN GRANT FUNDING

The district is pleased to announce that as a result of their participation in the School Health Index (SHI) and the development of a School Health Improvement Plan, **Arrowhead, Mount, Nassakeag, and Setauket Elementary Schools** have each been awarded \$1,000 in grant monies from the Statewide Center for Healthy Schools and the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (NYSAPERD). **Minnesauke** was awarded \$7,000 to support the construction of a fitness trail and promotion of healthy eating - bringing the schools' total in grant funding from the Statewide Center and NYSAPERD to \$11,000.

Additionally, **Minnesauke** has received \$10,000 from the Center for Disease Control Foundation/American School Health Association as well as \$4,000 from Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld on behalf of the Town of Brookhaven to further support the fitness trail and the development of a school wellness library for parents and staff.

Through this funding, the schools will be able to implement programs and/or activities that will increase students' understanding of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and the need for physical activity.

The district congratulates the health teachers and schools on their efforts and for working to create a healthier tomorrow today!

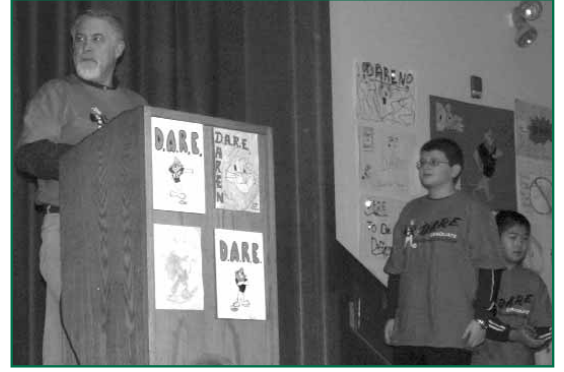


A PLEDGE TO REMAIN DRUG & VIOLENCE FREE

Sixth-grade students in the Three Village School District recently culminated their ten-week Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program with a pledge to remain drug and violence free before their teachers, family, and friends during this year's D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony.

The students spent the past ten weeks learning about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol from trained Suffolk County Police Officers, as well as how they can take charge when faced with peer pressure.

Under the new and improved curriculum structure, the D.A.R.E. program's lessons were tailored to fit a "Think-Pair-Share" formula, facilitating active learning through small-group participation. At the end of the program each student was asked to submit an essay explaining what they learned in D.A.R.E. and how they plan to remain drug and violence free. Selected representatives from each of the sixth-grade classes shared their essays with the audience during the graduation.



The Building Blocks of Education

New York State has set curriculum standards higher than ever before. The district has responded to the challenge with a sound curriculum grounded in best practices. The Essentials of Learning, located on the district's website, outlines the K-12 curriculum.

From the first day of kindergarten, students are immersed in lessons on reading, writing, mathematics, and social studies. The Elementary Literacy program addresses the differentiated learning abilities of all students and allows them to develop a passion for learning at their own pace. Throughout the kindergarten year, teachers focus on social, physical, and cognitive growth development by engaging students in meaningful educational learning opportunities. Students exit the Kindergarten program with the necessary skills needed to begin their academic journey and become life-long learners.

"Those who live and work with five-year-olds know that they become deeply absorbed in the processes of learning and growing and adequate time to learn by "doing," "exploring," "playing," and "interacting" with other children is critical. The district's program provides them with just that - a learning community dedicated to laying the foundation for future success," stated Executive Director of Elementary Education Deborah Blair.

In order to ensure that both parents and students experience a smooth transition into kindergarten, the district conducts two preparation programs in each elementary school building. The kindergarten screening process takes place in April and May. Over the course of an hour, students meet with kindergarten teachers to complete a screening profile, which enables the school to receive a full understanding of the child's early learning, motor, and language skills, while parents have the opportunity to meet with the school's social worker and nurse. In June, students return to the schools to participate in a student orientation day, during which they take a ride on a school bus, visit a classroom, and take a tour of the building.

Any community resident who has a child that will be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten in the 2006-2007 school year is urged to register immediately with the registrar. If you have not yet scheduled your screening process appointment please contact your school's main office.

MENC's 2006 Student Composition Talent Search

Musical talents are not necessarily something that you are born with. Music is an art form that one must craft and work at in order to be successful. The Three Village School District is blessed with a wonderful program that provides students with a solid foundation in music. One course, which is nationally recognized as being superb, is the student composition program - a course that teaches fifth- and sixth-grade students how to compose their own original pieces of music.

Recently, the National Association for Music Education announced that it will be showcasing 17 compositions by elementary through university-level students from across the United States during its 2006 Student Composition Talent Search. Out of the 17 pieces selected nationwide two are from students in the Three Village School District - Ward Melville High School senior Loren Loiacono and R.C. Murphy Junior High School seventh grader Curtis Chen. Both Loren and Curtis' musical masterpieces will be presented during the Young Composers Concerts at the MENC's 60th National Biennial In-Service Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"Loren and Curtis richly deserve this national honor," stated composition teacher Daniel Deutsch. "They are wonderful gifted musicians whose compositions demonstrate imagination, originality, and technical mastery. All of their teachers are proud of them."

Curtis and Loren have also been the recipients of many other music awards, both as performers and composers. They have both been winners of the Stony Brook Pre-College Music Program Concerto Competition, Loren was a finalist in the Concerto Competition sponsored by the Long Island Philharmonic, compositions by both students have been featured in several NYSSMA Young Composer Honors Concerts, and both have won awards in the National PTA Reflections program. Additionally, Loren has been an award winner in the MENC national competition for the past two competitions and was the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award winner.



First-Time LEAGUE CHAMPS & FOUR STATE QUALIFIERS

For many years the members of the Ward Melville High School Boys Varsity Winter Track team have been winners in the eyes of their family, friends, and fans. This year was no different, except for the fact that this talented group of runners also won the respect and honor of calling themselves League 1 Champions, a recognition never before held by any Ward Melville Winter Track Team.

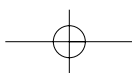
The team, which is lead by Head Coach Brian Schoen and Assistant Coach Jerry Vessichio, was extremely overjoyed when the results of the meet were announced. For the past two years, Ward Melville has fallen second to Longwood.

"We knew we had a shot at clinching this year's title," stated Coach Schoen. "However, nothing truly prepares you for that moment. It was all so surreal when the final score came in."

In addition to the league victory, four members of the team were selected to participate in the state competition at Cornell on March 4th. Seniors Jimmy Joy, Alex Tingue, and Kurt Johns-Harris, along with junior Brian Geslak were proud to wear green and gold and show their Patriot Pride during the competition. Currently, Kurt holds the school's triple jump record, Brian has tied the school high jump record at six feet, and Alex holds the 55-meter school record.



The district congratulates the entire team on bringing such a well-deserved honor to Three Village.



FROM START TO FINISH

Minnesauke Students Engage In Book Writing Process

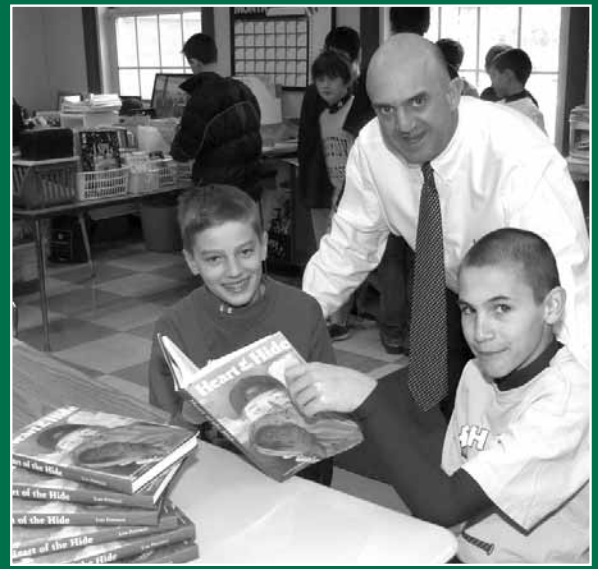
Do you know what it takes to become a published author? Well, the sixth-grade students in Lou Petrucci's class at Minnesauke Elementary School are experts on the detail-oriented process. Thanks to Mr. Petrucci's involvement in writing, editing, and publishing his very own children's story, his class had the unique opportunity of putting the lessons they've learned in the classroom to use in order to be part of the development of *Heart of the Hide*.

Mr. Petrucci, who before coming to the district eight years ago was a sports writer for the *Boston Herald* and *Newsday* for 15 years, took on the project of writing an original book in order to further demonstrate the steps in the writing process to his students.

"The creation of this book sprung from my work with the Literacy Collaborative program," stated Mr. Petrucci. Literacy Collaborative is the nationally recognized

literacy development program that the district implements for students in grades K-6. "I feel that by engaging myself and my students in this project we were able to utilize the tools and skills acquired through the Literacy Collaborative in a real world setting."

For many hours the students, with the help of school librarian Angela Nyberg, reviewed several drafts of the publication, making suggestions for improvement and brainstorming ideas to enhance the story. One idea the students suggested was the title Mr. Petrucci adopted for first chapter, which was created by Cameron Castronova and Gregory Meisher.



Be sure to look for the finished copy of *Heart of the Hide* in book stores today so that you too can admire the work of Mr. Petrucci and his talented group of sixth-grade budding young writers.

A Universal Love For Art



As an extension of Ward Melville High School's chapter of the National Art Honor Society's participation in the Memory Project, a national endeavor that enables students to lend a helping hand to children living in orphanages in impoverished countries by creating personal gifts in the form of artwork, the organization's members reached beyond the basic calling of the project and embarked upon a unique community service project.

After the members completed their 18 wonderful, lifelike portraits of select children in a Guatemalan orphanage, the students felt they wanted to do more to help brighten the lives of the children. Through the organization and execution of a schoolwide spare change collection, the club's members rallied their peers together to collect more than \$125, which was used to purchase numerous art supplies, including 28 art supply kits, markers, crayons, sketchbooks, and colored pencils.

"After learning about the terrible conditions and lack of resources that these children live with, our organization knew we needed to work on a project that would help," stated NAHS President Rachel Briston. "These children don't have even the simplest things – like crayons or drawing paper – and I hope that when they receive these supplies they will feel inspired to create their own artwork." NAHS Vice President Jackie Montanaro added, "Our participation in the Memory Project has not only taught us a lot of about the children who are living in the Guatemalan orphanage, but also about ourselves and the act of being selfless."

WMHS - Ranked # 1 in Research Competition

Although the students, teachers, and administrators were filled with excitement and anticipation, the morning that the 2006 Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists' names were announced, you could have heard a pin drop in the InSTAR room at Ward Melville High School.

Out of the thousands of submissions to this highly competitive program, 12 Ward Melville High School seniors were selected to be among this year's 300 semifinalists, tying the school for number one spot in the nation, an honor that topped last year's rank of number two.

"I can't even express my excitement," stated Principal Thomas Colletti. **"This honor truly is a testament to the students' dedication and is by far the highlight of my year."**

The Intel Science Talent Search, formerly Westinghouse, is a rigorous program that selects and recognizes only a few schools in the country. This year is the first time that Ward Melville is ranked number one in the nation – a well-deserved honor that clearly demonstrates Ward Melville is a high school that produces leaders in the area of science research.

Top scientists from a variety of disciplines reviewed and judged all of the semifinalists' entries and selected 40 finalists - two of whom were from Ward Melville. Jerrold Lieblich and Harley Zhang were announced as finalists in the 2006 competition and presented with the opportunity to take an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. to attend the Intel Science Talent Institute, where they participated in the



Dr. George Baldo, director of Ward Melville's InSTAR program, congratulates Intel Science Talent Search Winner Jerrold Lieblich.

final judging and competed for college scholarships totaling more than \$500,000.

Before hundreds of honored guests and governmental officials, on March 15th the Intel Science Competition awarded Jerrold with one of the top prizes in the national competition. For his research on cognitive psychology, Jerrold was announced as the fifth-place winner and presented with a \$25,000 scholarship.

"I was in total and complete shock when my name was announced," stated Jerrold. **"Everything about that evening was very surreal. It was a fantastic recognition for all of the hard work and many hours that I put into my project. I couldn't be happier."**

Jerrold, who is deciding to either attend Yale, Princeton, Duke, or Harvard this fall, was described by Dr. George Baldo, director of the high school science research program InSTAR, as "an exemplary student with a strong work ethic. His talents will take him far in life."



Out of the thousands of submissions to the Intel Science Talent Search, 12 Ward Melville High School seniors were announced as 2006 Semifinalists, ranking Ward Melville first in the nation for the most semifinalists.