



the Reporter

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

www.3villagecsd.k12.ny.us



UPCOMING BOND INFORMATION

Bond Fair

January 16, 2007

Ward Melville High School • 7:00 p.m.

Bond Vote

January 30, 2007 • 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

District Elementary Schools

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

Board of Education

President: Stuart Fourman, M.D.

Vice President: John K. Diviney

Trustees: Laura Hamilton; Thomas A. McDonald, Ph.D.;

Frank McIntosh; David Micklos;

Jacqueline Rudman

Superintendent of Schools: Frank J. Carasiti

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Frank J. Carasiti
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Residents,

We have just completed a fall season filled with great activities and accomplishments of staff and students. In each of our classrooms and around the community I see evidence of the Three Village tradition of pride and excellence. The showcase of our talented student-musicians during our recent holiday concerts coupled with our high school's production of *West Side Story*, which rivaled that of Broadway, and the numerous awards our students have received on the athletic fields is truly commendable -- and we are only nearing the year's half-way mark.

Our students make a difference in the community with their many service learning activities throughout the year and are particularly mindful of extending themselves during the holiday season. Several teachers have been honored by national professional organizations, recognizing them as the best in their fields, and have been selected to take part in conferences working to shape the future of education. I congratulate each and everyone of them and encourage them to keep striving for excellence.

As you may know, this January the district will be seeking the approval of a two-tiered school improvement plan. The proposed bond referendum, which will work to address our district's critical needs, is one that is crucial to our schools' future.

The work proposed, which includes upgrades to our buildings' infrastructure and academic areas in order to bring them up to 21st Century educational standards, are projects that need to be completed -- the only question is when. By bonding the projects, we are able to take advantage of a significant amount of state aid and financial incentives. This year, New York State is offering a one-time only grant in the form of EXCEL aid. This additional funding, coupled with the state aid the district already receives, has been the driving force behind keeping the cost-impact to tax payers down. If included in a regular annual operating budget, the cost of these projects would be considerably higher. In order to help community members and residents further understand the project and its ramifications, the district has created a brief video and will be disseminating a comprehensive overview publication in the next few weeks. I encourage all residents to familiarize themselves with the information provided on the district website and cast an informed vote on January 30th.

I hope you enjoyed a safe and healthy holiday season and I look forward to the new year together.

Extending A Helping Hand

Throughout the holiday season, district students generously opened their hearts to lend a helping hand to the members of the community in need. Students and staff members organized a variety of Thanksgiving food collections, which received tremendous support and drew in hundreds of pounds of nonperishable food, and holiday toy and clothing drives.

The goods donated to the individual schools were sorted by student and staff volunteers and distributed among local charities, as well as provided to local families in need of assistance.

"Every day people suffer because they don't have enough food to eat," stated fifth grader and Student Council member Logan Smith. "We feel that not everyone is fortunate enough to participate in holiday celebrations and that by coordinating schoolwide drives we are able to help them enjoy the holiday season a little bit more."



THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS MADE EASY

Recognizing that applying to college can be a very stressful time in a high school senior's life, Ward Melville High School embarked on a unique college application program with many Long Island colleges and universities to help their students complete the application process and alleviate some pressure.

During the "On-Site Admissions Programs," college admissions staff from Long Island-based colleges, including Dowling College, Hofstra University, C.W. Post, Farmingdale University, SUNY Stony Brook, Adelphi University, and Saint Joseph's College, visited with seniors to conduct personal interviews, evaluate their applications, and ultimately render a decision for acceptance.

"We began this program about eight years ago with one college and approximately 40 students," stated school guidance counselor and program pioneer Steve Levenson. "Over the years it has grown in tremendous popularity. The program really is a win-win situation for our students."

Students came to their interviews prepared with completed applications, high school transcripts, and SAT/ACT scores. This year, approximately 250 students registered to participate in the program. Approximately 95% of these seniors received early admission to their interviewing school -- some even being granted scholarship opportunities -- or received a pending status.

"The students I met with had phenomenal credentials," stated SUNY Stony Brook Associate Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Robert Pertusati. "I am very impressed with the accomplishments of these students both in and out of the classroom. There are more students than ever before applying to colleges, this program helps ease a bit of Ward Melville seniors' stress."

Collaborative on-site programs are schedule to take place in the spring with Suffolk Community College.



Student-Artist Praised for Talents

The district is proud to announce that one of Ward Melville High School's student-artists has been recognized locally for her artistic talents. Senior Kyla Perlmutter was recently honored by the SHANTI FUND, a Long Island-based charitable organization aimed at promoting peace and enlightenment through education, with a first-place win in the 2006 Shanti Foundation's Gandhi Celebration Poster Contest.

This year's competition, which was themed Peace and Unity, had more than 300 submissions from students across Suffolk County, from which the organization selected three winners — one from each of the three categories, elementary, middle, and high school.

"It feels wonderful to be recognized for this project — a project that has such a positive message," stated Kyla, whose submission stemmed from a class project. "This being the third time that a Ward Melville student has won really speaks to the outstanding art program that we have in Three Village."

Kyla and her parents were joined by Ward Melville High School Assistant Principal Michael Owen and art teacher Jennifer Trettner in the offices of Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, where she received praise and commendation for her outstanding work. In appreciation for her artistic poster and as a winner of the contest, Kyla was presented with a commemorative certificate and a \$137 gift card to Borders, 137 representing how old Mahatma Gandhi would have been this year.



Young Composers Showcased

For the past 25 years, elementary students in the district have had the unique opportunity to take a music class that could potentially transform them into the next Mozart. The Student Composition Program, taught by Dr. Daniel Deutsch, is a course that has continued to grow in popularity over the years and is one that has historically produced many New York State Call For Compositions Contest honorees.

Recently, Dr. Deutsch and five Setauket Elementary School sixth graders attended The Balanced Mind Conference, themed "Teaching World Culture through the Arts" this year, to showcase the program and the outstanding talents of these young musicians. The conference, which is an interdisciplinary arts education conference, was held at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts and attended by more than 1200 art, music, theatre, and dance educators.



"They inspired the audience by demonstrating their skill as improvisers in a variety of world music genres,"

- Dr. Daniel Deutsch

The standing room-only audience responded enthusiastically to the students' presentation, with one district's fine arts director calling it the best workshop she had seen in 35 years in the field.

"I am proud of the students for their wonderful performance at the conference," stated Dr. Deutsch. "They inspired the audience by demonstrating their skill as improvisers in a variety of world music genres. The students were eloquent ambassadors for our district's composition program."

Handmade Holiday Treats

Just before the Thanksgiving holiday, two classes at Minnesauke Elementary School opened their hearts to prepare special handmade treats for the less fortunate members of the community.

The kindergarten students in Celeste Marcus' class put their culinary skills to the test and worked together to provide the less fortunate members of the community with something to be thankful for this year. For the past eleven years, students at Minnesauke Elementary School have extended a helping hand and baked many loaves of bread, including pumpkin, corn, and cranberry, for the soup kitchen, Our Daily Bread, at St. James RC Church in Setauket, and this year was no different. With the help of parent volunteers, the 22 students baked approximately 30 loaves for the organization.

While Ms. Marcus' students were busy measuring and sifting ingredients, the second grade students in Karen Kessler's class were fine-tuning their artistic skills. With glue bottles in hand, the 24 students in Ms. Kessler's class created cute turkey magnets for Meals on Wheels. The magnets, each of which was a colorful turkey holding a "Happy Thanksgiving" sign, were delivered to Meals on Wheels subscribers along with a handmade card from the students wishing the recipient a happy holiday. The partnership between Ms. Kessler and Meals on Wheels is longstanding, and each year the recipients are extremely excited to receive the special holiday treats.

History in the Making

The students enrolled in R.C. Murphy Junior High School's science research class recently embarked on an exciting challenge — the task of creating a model of the Node 2 from the International Space Station. The task stemmed from a national program that seeks to develop students' science inquiry skills — NASA's Name the ISS Node 2 Challenge.

After obtaining materials, and researching the actual Node 2 functions on the International Space Station, the students began planning how they would construct their replica — a project the four classes continued for nearly three weeks. Students brought materials from home and obtained others from the Materials Resource Center in Holbrook.

Using duct tape, cardboard, hula hoops, bucket tops, and silver construction paper, the students spent the remaining time building their model of the Node 2. Throughout the project, students sought to understand the principles of working in space, furthering their research skills, as a team. Additionally, the students documented their work in an electronic scrapbook. The project was presented at NASA with a summary describing the chosen name for the Node 2.

"The Node 2 challenge provided the students with an opportunity to put their work into a real world application," stated science research teacher Sarah Sanford. "To be able to give them a sense of pride and motivation beyond what I have seen in them previously, I was extremely proud of what they accomplished — they are all winners in my eyes."

Murphy's finished project, which was submitted to NASA on December 1st, is one of the projects from across the nation for the honor of naming the actual Node 2, which will be launched in 2010.



Mount's Passport Around the World

On Friday, November 3rd you didn't need to travel far to visit some of the most interesting countries of the world — all you needed to do was take a trip to W.S. Mount Elementary School. When the attendees checked into Mount's first Passport Around the World Multicultural Night, an event sponsored by the school's PTA and Site-Based Management Team, they were presented with a souvenir luggage bag filled with a World Foods cookbook, globe keychain, airline wings, and information cards on several aircrafts as well as a passport for each country they visited.

More than 200 W.S. Mount students, friends, and family attended the evening event. The night off with a showcase of world talent in the school's auditorium, including piano and bagpipe playing. After watching the showcase performers dazzle them with their whirlwind journey and traveled to 20 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, England, France, Iceland, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Peru, and Switzerland. At each country, the visitors received a stamp in their passport, tasted a traditional food or made a craft that reflects that country's culture.

W.S. Mount Elementary School would like to thank the more than 50 volunteer teachers, who spent a great deal of time to make this evening such a huge success.



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Boxes Filled With Love

The sixth-grade students at Arrowhead Elementary School have been busy working on a unique community service project for the past several weeks. The project, which was coordinated by the sixth-grade committee's community service chair, Gretchen Hoey, enabled students to gather items and create gift boxes for children in need as part of the national schoolwide project Shoebox Child.

In preparation for the project, students purchased items they thought young boys and girls of all ages would enjoy, including small toys, games, clothing, and supplies, and constructed short notes, which were included in shoeboxes they covered with paper and artistically decorated.

"I think that when someone receives one of the boxes we made it will bring a big smile to their face," stated sixth grader Upasna Mauhotra. "Arrowhead is filled with a lot of generous people and when the sixth graders heard about this project they were extremely eager to help," added sixth grader John Fiore.

The boxes, when completed, will be distributed to children in need throughout the United States – each inscribed with the words "With Love From Arrowhead School."



students were able to and how to work together as a book, which they submitted to

their research skills to work in a part of a NASA initiative prior to this challenge. I am

will now be competing with which will be launched in 2007.



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program, which was kicked and violin recitals, dances and talents, the attendees began China, Cuba, Denmark, the Japan, Korea, Netherlands, their passport and either

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GELINAS' CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SELECTED TO PERFORM DURING STATE FESTIVAL

P.J. Gelinas Junior High School's 22-member Chamber Orchestra has been selected as the only junior high school in the state to perform at the New York State School Music Association's 2006 Winter Conference. The orchestra, which is comprised of students in seventh through ninth grade, rehearses one night a week after school to perfect its wide repertoire of music.

The junior high school chamber orchestra applied for consideration through an audition recording sent last February. Their selection was based on New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) selection criteria, their application performance, and other application materials. During the conference, the students will perform five different prepared pieces of music, each of which will highlight their extraordinary talents.

"This selection recognizes our group for their excellence and high-caliber performance abilities," stated orchestra director Phil Gelfer, who has been in the district for the past 10 years. "I'm extremely proud of these students. Their dedication to the group and their instruments is truly excellent."

"This selection recognizes our group for their excellence and high-caliber performance abilities,"

- Orchestra Director Phil Gelfer

A Unique Spin on Biology

As an extension of the science topics discussed in the classroom, the students at Nassakeag Elementary School received a unique in-depth look at the interworkings of some of the key organs in the body.

During two cultural arts assembly programs, the school's students and teachers watched as the auditorium's stage was transformed into a biological display of how the brain, heart, lungs, and digestive system work. Throughout the program, the presenter, PetraPuppets, broke down the complex details of the organs' jobs with the help of some creative and visually appealing puppets, all of who were in the shape of one of the organs being studied. The presenter interjected fun anecdotes, trivia facts, and catchy songs into his presentation to keep the students' attention throughout the program.

In addition to the discussion of the organs' daily functions, the older students also learned about the harmful effects alcohol and tobacco has on these organs.



HS CHAIR SELECTED FOR NATIONAL PROJECT

Ward Melville High School Social Studies Chair Carol Donovan was recently selected to serve as a panelist on the 2006 National Assessment of Education (NAEP) Progress in Grade 12 Economics to be held in St. Louis. Ms. Donovan was nominated for this honor by her building principal, Tom Colletti, and selected by the NAEP after a rigorous selection process.

During this national project, which is being overseen by the ACT, Ms. Donovan will join a panel consisting of educators from around the country to review and set standards for economic education in order to establish high achievement levels for the Nation's Report Card in Economics. Ms. Donovan is just one of a select group of economics educators to be chosen for this panel.

The district congratulates Ms. Donovan on her outstanding accomplishment and wishes her well during the project.

SENIORS SIGN NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT

Ward Melville High School is proud to announce that three seniors recently signed letters of intent to play on athletic teams at the top institutions of higher education.

"These students strive for excellence both in and outside of the classroom," stated Director of Athletics Don Webster. "Their acceptance to these colleges and universities is a true testament to the strong athletic program we offer here in Three Village, but also to the support they receive from their families, teachers, and coaches."

In addition to being provided with the opportunity to compete against the top athletes from around the nation, each of the students was awarded financial scholarships. Congratulations to the three seniors and best of luck next year!

Michele Murray - Quinnipiac University Lacrosse

Tim Pawul - Rice University Golf

Shaylyn Blaney - University of Notre Dame Lacrosse

