



The

# Reporter

SPRING 2011

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

## A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

I am pleased to announce that our Board of Education has approved a budget to present to the community for a vote on May 17. This has been an arduous task, caused by a downturn in the economy that precipitated a significant deficit in the State Budget.

In order for the State to resolve their financial woes, they reduced aid to education. This year, Three Village will receive approximately \$1 million less in aid than last year.

Reduced revenues coupled with significant increases in expenditures, such as employer contributions to retirement systems, health insurance benefit increases, and contractual obligations made for a \$9.7 million budget gap.

Working with the Board of Education to reduce expenditures and negotiating with our bargaining units to obtain contractual relief has resulted in a narrowing of the gap. The Board of Education's astute decision to use fund balance and reserve revenues, as well as modestly adjusting upward our targeted 3% tax levy to 3.8%, has greatly reduced the extent of program modification we first feared. Retirement incentives enabled the District to realize significant savings that also narrowed the gap.

I must salute the incredible efforts of our Board of Education and the assistant superintendents who have worked tirelessly to develop this budget in the best interests of our students.

I, too, must acknowledge the good faith efforts of the leadership of our teachers, administrators, clerical and maintenance/operations bargaining units to work with the District in alleviating some of the costs associated with their collective bargaining agreements. Their spirit of cooperation is much appreciated and admired.

Although exhausting, this has been an inclusive effort. I am most thankful to those who have shared their thoughts at our budget workshops. Their input has been most helpful in structuring our budget.

I believe the proposed budget provides for our students and insures their continued academic growth. It is a budget whose development I am proud of.

Thank you and please remember to vote on May 17.

Sincerely,  
Neil Lederer  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Three Village Central School District  
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Stony Brook, NY 11790

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## BECOMING MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

In an effort to be more energy efficient and as part of the District's scheduled capital projects, the Three Village Central School District partnered with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) to upgrade its facilities by participating in LIPA's Efficiency Long Island/Commercial Efficiency Program. Through this partnership, the District completed several upgrades to the lighting systems in each of its eight school buildings and at the North Country Administrative Office. These projects included:

- Replacing more than 16,000 inefficient fixtures with energy-efficient high-performance T8 light bulbs
- Installing more than 700 occupancy sensors
- Installing a 5 kW photovoltaic (electrical) system

With these improvements, it is estimated that the District will save approximately 996,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. As lighting constitutes the largest portion of energy used in commercial buildings, often accounting for 25-30% of a facility's total energy consumption, the financial savings equated with these upgrades are sure to be beneficial to the District's overall operations.

The District was able to offset the cost of these upgrades with a \$197,500 rebate from LIPA.



Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Jeffrey Carlson, LIPA representative Walter Hoefer, Board of Education President, John Diviney, and LIPA representative, Rob Scipioni, are pictured here at a recent Board meeting, where the District accepted a \$197,500 rebate check from LIPA for the capital project work completed through their Efficiency Long Island/Commercial Efficiency Program.

## Seniors Become Finalists in National Scholarship Competitions

The District is proud to announce that as a result of continued scholastic achievement and academic promise, all six of Ward Melville High School's National Merit Semifinalists have been named Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. These seniors, **Robin Caselli, Kevin Chen, Shannon Csorny, Emmanuel Kim, Alexa Krupp, and Ilana Scandariato**, were announced as Semifinalists in the program last fall based on their Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test scores, and now have the chance to receive some of the 8,400 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million.

Additionally, Ward Melville High School senior, **Sasha McIntosh** has been named a Finalist in the 2011 Competition for National Achievement Scholarships. She has now qualified to receive some of the 800 Achievement Scholarships from the competition.

These scholastic programs present high school seniors with scholarships to be used towards their pursuit of a degree in higher education.



Ward Melville High School Principal Dr. Alan Baum proudly congratulates the students named as Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program and the National Achievement Scholarship Program. They are (l-r) Alexa Krupp, Robin Caselli, Ilana Scandariato, Kevin Chen, Shannon Csorny, and Sasha McIntosh. Not pictured is Emmanuel Kim.



# Two District Teachers Receive Harvard Club of LI Honors

As a result of nominations submitted by Ward Melville graduate and Harvard College Class of 2014 member Shelby Lin and selection by the members of the Harvard Club, two District educators have been named a "Distinguished Teacher of 2011" by the Harvard Club of Long Island. Ward Melville High School chemistry teacher Dr. Paul Brendel (pictured top right) and P.J. Gelinas Junior High School science teacher Gary Vorwald (pictured bottom right) were two of fourteen teachers from across Long Island to receive this award this year.

Dr. Brendel, has taught chemistry for almost 20 years, sixteen in Three Village where he teaches Advanced Placement, Honors, and Consumer Chemistry. He credits his varied work experience after college with providing him perspective on his career in teaching, which he didn't begin until his thirties. While earning his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Delaware, he was awarded the university's "Elizabeth Dyer Award for Excellence in Teaching," and has come to see teaching as the "most rewarding and fulfilling job I could have."

Mr. Vorwald, who has taught science for 25 years, 14 at Gelinas, now teaches earth science and science research and is the coach of the school's highly successful Science Olympiad team. His awards include the Suffolk County Science Teachers "Award for Service" (2005), the March of Dimes "Golden Apple Award" (2004), the Science Teachers of NYS Suffolk Section "Service Award" (2003), National Association of Geoscience Teachers "Earth Science Teacher of NYS" (1997), The 21st Century "Educator of the Year, Honorable Mention" (1995), and the University of Kansas Geology Department "Haworth Award for Outstanding Graduate Work" (1983).

Both educators were honored at the end of March at the Harvard Club's annual University Relations Lunch, where they were presented with scholarships for a "Harvard experience" at the Harvard University campus in Cambridge, MA.



## Revitalizing the Nature Preserve

Looking to revitalize the Three Village Community Nature Preserve, which is a 33-acre piece of land located at the far back corner of W.S. Mount Elementary School, the school's administration and project coordinators have been hard at work this spring developing a task force to help restore the outdoor learning center to its former beauty.

The preserve was created as an "outdoor classroom" and community nature preserve in the mid-1990s by then Ward Melville High School Science Chairperson Allen Schwartz with the assistance of a grant from the State of New York provided through the efforts of Assemblyman Steve Englebright. Since its creation, an average of 15 elementary classes from throughout the District have enjoyed participating in interpretive nature walks in the preserve each year.

With the original clearing of land and creation of trails occurring more than 15 years ago, the area is now in need of repair, as many of the information markers, signs, and walking trails need to be refurbished. Under leadership of project coordinators, Principal Nathalie Lilavois, District mentor/intervention support teacher Kristianna Martindale, and fifth-grade teacher Jeffrey Schaentzler, the task force has been meeting monthly to discuss the plans for the revitalization of the land. A preserve clean-up day was held in mid-April and task force members have submitted project proposals geared towards beautifying the area.

Any community member interested in helping with the revitalization of the Three Village Community Nature Preserve is encouraged to become a member of the planning task force. For more information about this project, please contact Mount School at 730-4300 or attend the next planning meeting scheduled for May 11 at 3:45 p.m. in the auditorium at Mount.

## Going Green at Gelinas

P.J. Gelinas Junior High School eighth-grade technology students learned the ins and outs of going green during a recent alternative energy project study on wind turbines. The wind energy project is a new component to the school's "green initiative" curriculum started by technology teacher Edward Moloney. Mr. Moloney received special training on this subject and was certified as a WindSenator following a summer workshop course provided by KidWind in Albany, NY.

During the unit of study, the students learned about the electricity generated by windmills in other parts of the country and worked in groups to research and create different types of turbines. The groups studied how the size and pitch of the blades affect the productivity of the turbines as well as the benefits these resources create.

Using the knowledge gained from their research, the students created weight lifting wind turbines as well as wind turbines, which were tested to see how many grams could be lifted and how many volts of energy could be created, respectively. After making adjustments to their turbines, the students were able to lift 2.8 grams (453.6 grams = one pound) and generate 1.55 volts of energy, or the equivalent of one AA battery.

This study was a part of the grade level's 15-week technology course, which also includes bridge building, technical drawing, and the study of aerodynamics. As part of the new "green initiative" students will also be learning about energy conservation, home energy audits, global warming, their carbon foot prints, and solar power. Later in the year, the students will work to create solar cooking ovens to utilize in their Family and Consumer Science class as well as a wind tunnel to use in an interdisciplinary unit in science. These projects are being funded through the Three Village Educational Foundation and New York State Technology Education Association grants obtained by Mr. Moloney. A similar "green initiative" is also being piloted at Ward Melville High School in the Principles of Engineering class.



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School eighth-grade technology students are pictured here with the wind turbines they created. The students are pictured with technology teachers Dean Kostis and Paul DeSimone.

## Dominating Science Olympiad Competitions

The District is proud to announce that with eight gold medals, the Science Olympiad Team from R.C. Murphy Junior High School placed first in this year's New York State Regional Science Olympiad Tournament. Additionally, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School's Science Olympiad Team placed second in the regional competition with six gold medals. At the conclusion of the competition, the teams were tied based on points (47 in 16 events) and the number of gold medals awarded determined rank. A total of 40 teams from 26 schools participated in this year's tournament. As a result of these victories, both schools will be sending teams to the New York State competition.

Additionally, Ward Melville High School's Science Olympiad team placed second out of 50 teams from across the state during the New York State Science Olympiad Tournament at the end of March. With this win, the team has qualified to compete in the national tournament, which will be held at the University of Wisconsin in late-May. In order to qualify for the state tournament, Ward Melville's team placed second at the Eastern Long Island Regional Tournament, held in February.



R.C. Murphy Junior High School's Science Olympiad Team placed first in this year's New York State Regional Science Olympiad Tournament. The team is pictured here with advisors Sue McGuire and Jackie Stiegert. Derek Angermaier, who also coaches the team, is not pictured.



# District Student Ranked Second in LI Spelling Bee Finals



The Three Village Central School District congratulates W.S. Mount Elementary School fourth grader Dana Chiueh for placing second in the Long Island Spelling Bee finals on Thursday, March 10. Dana competed in the competition against 20 other students in grades 4-8 from across Nassau and Suffolk counties, including R.C. Murphy Junior High School seventh grader Ashley Hong and P.J. Gelinas Junior High School seventh grader Dana Smith. Ashley successfully completed seven rounds in the competition and Dana was ranked seventh in the contest.

## Student Keeps the Beat with 1,454 Drummers

Minnesauke Elementary School sixth grader Conor Heaphy was one of 1,454 drummers in 15 cities that played the same groove at the same time during a program called "The Big Beat 2010." This feat was achieved through a video internet connection, with a director in each city following the conductor in Seattle. As a result of this project, nearly \$54,000 was raised for the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps fund music programs and instruments for schools that otherwise could not afford them. The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation will acquire almost \$36,000 to purchase musical instruments for deserving children in Big Beat cities, while the remaining \$18,000 will go to children's organizations and food pantries in the various Big Beat areas. The Big Beat 2010 took place simultaneously in 15 cities across North America, bringing drummers "together" virtually for a great cause.



## Award-Winning Student Researcher Garners Additional Recognition

Ward Melville High School senior Nevin Daniel has earned a number of national recognitions this school year for his work as a science research student. This February, he was granted another prestigious honor. Nevin was selected as a winner in the 2010-2011 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement, for which he was presented with a college scholarship. Nevin was selected for this award based on his exceptional performance on the math and science Advanced Placement exams. Only one male and one female student in each of the 50 states are awarded this scholarship. Nevin is pictured here with Ward Melville Principal Dr. Alan Baum proudly displaying the plaque he received for this honor.

## Gold Key Award Winner

R.C. Murphy Junior High School eighth grader Jake Welde was recognized on the regional level of The Scholastic Writing Awards of 2011 and was presented with the Gold Key Award for his short story "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Golden Idol." This year, 185,000 works were submitted to the competition, 12,000 of which received Regional Gold Keys. As a regional winner, Jake's piece was submitted to the national level of judging. Winners in this category were announced on March 11. Approximately 1,500 young artists and writers will earn recognition at the national level.

Since 1923, these awards have recognized some of America's most celebrated writers when they were teenagers. This competition is presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.



R.C. Murphy Junior High School eighth grader Jake Welde has been named a Regional Gold Key winner in The Scholastic Writing Awards of 2011 competition. He is pictured here with English Department Chairperson Catherine Duffy and Principal Vinny Vizzo.

## Geo Bee Winners Advance to State Level

After applying their keen understanding of world geography during the schools' geography contest (sponsored by the National Geographic Society) this past winter and placing well during subsequent qualifying tests, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School eighth grader Jessica Ju and R.C. Murphy Junior High School seventh grader Jasper Chen have been selected to compete in the New York State Geography Bee this April. During the competition, these two students will compete against 98 peers from throughout the state for a chance to take part in the national competition in Washington, D.C.

The Three Village Central School District congratulates both Jessica and Jasper and wishes them well at the state competition.



R.C. Murphy Junior High School Principal Vinny Vizzo and Social Studies Department Chairperson John Andruszkiewicz are pictured here with seventh grader Jasper Chen who was selected to compete at the state level of the National Geography Bee.



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School eighth grader Jessica Ju has been selected to participate at the state level of the National Geography Bee. She is pictured here with a social studies teacher Louis Laird and Principal Gus Hueber.





# News Around

## Sharing a Love for Poetry

W.S. Mount Elementary School students were excited to learn about poetry in a new way when award-winning poet, motivational speaker, and children's book author Darren Sardelli visited the school in early March.

During the assembly, which was sponsored by the school's PTA, Mr. Sardelli brought poetry to life by performing several of his funny poems for the fifth-grade students. He also spoke about the importance of writing down ideas and the wonderful things that can be created with those ideas.

As an extension of their classroom studies on poetry, the students had the chance

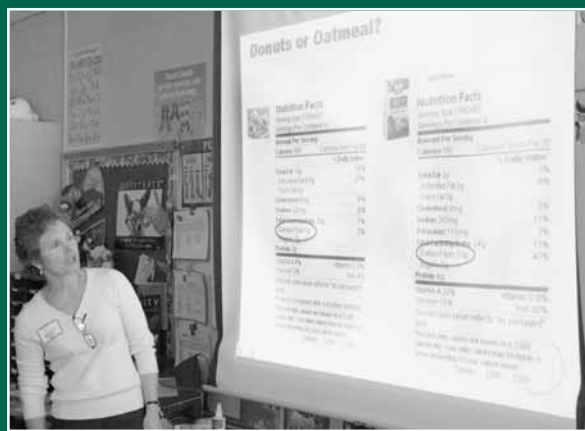


W.S. Mount Elementary School fifth graders from Linda Earls' and Corinne Hinde's classes worked with award-winning poet Darren Sardelli to create a poem about food in a school cafeteria coming to life.

to create original funny poems with the help of Mr. Sardelli. They were excited to learn how to infuse humor into their poetry and were eager to create several catchy poems of their own.

Mr. Sardelli's poems are featured in twelve children's books in the U.S. and England and six textbooks in the Netherlands, Germany, and Israel.

## Giving Back with Peapod



This winter, Minnesauke Elementary School became the first school in New York State to participate in the Peapod.com Kids Give Back Program when the fifth-grade students in Kate Hunter's and Irene Berman's classes worked to help out less fortunate members of their community. This initiative offers students

the opportunity to learn about nutrition, to practice relevant math skills, and understand how they can make a positive impact on their local community by making a special donation to a local food bank.

To help the students better understand the Peapod-sponsored program, Peapod presenter and director of marketing, Peg Merzbacher, spoke to the classes, highlighted the resources on the Peapod site, and outlined the ways the organization helps members of the community. Island Harvest volunteer Loretta Sehlmeier, who was also present during the kickoff, spoke about the work of the organization and shared some statistics about the hungry on Long Island.

At the end of their visit, Ms. Merzbacher presented each class with \$200 Stop & Shop gift cards and challenged them to create the most nutritious and useful purchases. Using their math skills and working collaboratively, the two classes selected the most economically friendly and healthy options for their recipients. Once their orders were processed at the South Setauket Peapod facility the purchased items were donated to a local soup kitchen with the assistance of Island Harvest.

At the time of the visit to Minnesauke, only four other schools in the region had participated in the Kids Give Back Program.

## Stepping Back in Time

Arrowhead Elementary School students stepped back in time when they participated in the school's annual Colonial Day program. Dressed in replica clothes indicative of the period they had studied, the grade level completed hands-on lessons and had fun playing some traditional colonial games.

"This is a program that the students look forward to each year and one that they will remember for years to come," stated teacher Brianna Wyllie. "The program is a great way for our students to better understand colonial life and develop a deeper understanding of the lessons we have had on Colonial America. It really makes the information they read about come to life."

With the help of their teachers, the students fashioned feather pens, learned how to write in a colonial script, and made pinwheels and several colonial games. At the end of the day, to top off their experience of what life was like during the colonial period, the students enjoyed several food items, such as cornbread and gingersnaps, which were considered treats during that time.

## Brrrrr!

### Nassakeag Students Go on an Arctic Adventure

Kindergartners at Nassakeag Elementary School in the Three Village Central School District have been making their way through the Arctic. As part of a study of arctic life, the multipurpose room in the school's lower level was transformed into a frozen tundra filled with student artwork and tons of adventures for the youngsters to enjoy.

The Arctic Adventure has become a staple of the curriculum at Nassakeag Elementary, as it was introduced several years ago as an enjoyable way to extend students' understanding of the animals, environment, people, and traditions of the Arctic.

As students and parents strolled through the tundra, they were able to take part in activities such as ice fishing, sculpting animals with clay, hiking in the snow (with actual snowshoes), story time in an igloo, and blubber tasting.



Kindergarten students at Nassakeag Elementary School enjoyed participating in activities during the school's Arctic Adventure program.

## International Month Commences

A celebration of global language commenced at R.C. Murphy Junior High School in early March in conjunction with the nationally honored Foreign Language Week. Spreading their celebration over several weeks, students at R.C. Murphy Junior High School had the opportunity to learn about the languages they were studying in new and exciting ways. From field trips to Ellis Island to poster, trivia, and door-decoration, the students had the chance to learn about the cultures of several French, Spanish, and Italian-speaking countries, as well as a few other select areas.

To kick off this year's Global Language Month, the members of the school's Global Language Honor Society coordinated several afterschool activities for the community's fifth and sixth-grade students. With the help of R.C. Murphy French teacher Jacqueline Korzenko, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School French teacher Raney, and Murphy's Global Languages Chairperson Kerri Golini, the school hosted a French cooking event which was attended by more than 50 students in the community. During the event, the attendees learned how to make a croque-monsieur sandwich and how to speak a few helpful French sayings. Later in the month, the school coordinated an Italian afternoon, during which attendees learned to make Carnevale masks. Additionally, the school held a Spanish-themed workshop, where attendees had the opportunity to create piñatas.

This year's International Month culminated on April 14 with the school's annual International Night. During the evening program, attendees had the chance to sample dishes from around the world, which were prepared by the Global Language Honor Society, and enjoy a variety of live entertainment, including musical performances by dancers and vocalists. Additionally, a traveling exhibit of Pablo Picasso, Michelangelo, and Claude Monet was on display.



# and the Schools



## Clicking into Learning

Setauket Elementary School third-grade teachers have been assessing student understanding in a new way this year. The grade level has been piloting a technology initiative that involves a hand-held student response system called "clickers." The clickers have been utilized in a variety of formats over the last two years. This year, the grade level has been able to use this technology when administering math chapter tests.

"This type of student response system engages the students in a new way. It encourages an entire class to participate rather than one or two students at a time," stated Setauket's Curriculum Enrichment Specialist Eric Gustafson, who has been working with the third-grade teachers on this initiative. "Given the different ways the results are presented, such as an item analysis, the teachers are able to immediately see which areas or topics they need to review, and with which students. Utilizing the clickers to administer tests not only supports our 'go green' initiative, but also allows the teachers to better plan lessons based on student understanding."

Clickers are small hand-held devices that send a signal to a receiver plugged into the teacher's computer. Each clicker has a keypad, much like a cell phone or remote control, which the students use to select their answers to questions asked in class or during a test. Different than the more traditional means of attaining feedback from students, clickers allow student responses to be anonymous and instantaneous. Once students have answered the question, the software on the teacher's computer displays the results in a variety of ways. Teachers can then modify and differentiate lessons in order to address the individual needs of every learner.



Arrowhead Elementary School fifth-grade students completed science projects using the format of the hit Discovery Channel TV show "MythBusters" and presented their findings dressed as a few of the show's hosts.



Arrowhead Elementary School fifth-grade students completed science projects using the format of the hit Discovery Channel TV show "MythBusters" and presented their findings dressed as a few of the show's hosts.

## Students Test Theories During "MythBusters" Science Fair

Using the format of the hit Discovery Channel TV show "MythBusters," the fifth-grade students in Brigit DiPrimo's class at Arrowhead Elementary School completed science projects aimed at proving or disproving a few of their own "myths." The students put ideas such as, "Is a dog's mouth or a cat's mouth cleaner?" "Can guinea pigs play soccer?" and "Does double-dipping spread germs?" to the test and shared the results with the class on the day of the class science fair. Dressed as some of the show's personalities, the students uncovered their findings and noted whether their myths were "proven" or "busted."

Ms. DiPrimo taped the students' reports and submitted a video on the project to the Discovery Channel in the hope they will feature the students in an upcoming episode. The students' projects were also featured during the upcoming Stony Brook University Technology and Science Fair in April.

## Making a Splash

### Students Receive Visit from Suffolk County Water Authority Representative

As an extension of the school's science curriculum, the fourth-grade students at W.S. Mount Elementary School in the Three Village Central School District recently received a special visit from Suffolk County Water Authority Director of Administration Donna Mancuso to learn the ins and outs about the water that is provided to residents on Long Island.

During the program, the students learned about Long Island's water cycle, how water is extracted from the ground, how contaminants filter into the water tables, and why water towers are found so high off the ground. Before leaving, the students were each presented with a booklet of information to share with their parents and an assignment to complete in order to receive a certificate for successfully completing the course.



W.S. Mount Elementary School fourth-grade students recently learned about water found on Long Island during special group programs provided by the Suffolk County Water Authority. Several students are pictured here with Suffolk County Water Authority Director of Administration Donna Mancuso.

## Commencement at Murphy

Each month, the students have been participating in various contests, including regional, state, and national competitions.

The Honor Society, with the help of Mrs. Anna Maria, is sponsoring a French cooking class. During the month, the students will learn how to cook and bake. They also

will attend a night of French music, some of which will be performed by the school's French band, and



R.C. Murphy Junior High School kicked off its International Month with a French cooking class for more than 50 fifth and sixth graders in the District. The school's Global Language Department and the building's Global Language Honor Society coordinated the event.



# Students Talents Shine During School Musicals

From hit 80's songs to the story of an orphan child who captures the hearts of audiences, theater enthusiasts in Three Village rejoiced this March when they were treated to two wonderful musical performances thanks to the talented student-actors at R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinas Junior High Schools. Murphy students gave a stellar performance in *Footloose*, while those from Gelinas put on an equally impressive show in *Oliver!*

From the opening numbers the audiences were impressed by the students' talents and the high-quality caliber of the productions. The months of hard work and preparation were evident during the sold-out performances and had many feeling as if they were on Broadway. This year's musicals were directed by Anthony Pollera (Murphy) and Melissa Davis (Gelinas).



R.C. Murphy Junior High School performed *Footloose* as this year's school musical.



After months of preparation, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School students took to the school's stage to perform *Oliver!*

## Gala Performance at Tilles Center

Ward Melville High School's Concert Choir, Women's Choral Ensemble, Camerata, and Chamber Orchestra continued their tradition of collaborating together for a gala performance as they once again performed a major choral and orchestral work this April at the Tilles Center located on the campus of Long Island University-C.W. Post.

This special concert was presented under the direction of Guest Conductor Lawrence Doebler of Ithaca College and featured a quodlibet mass, which is a major work for choir and orchestra comprised of the melodies of numerous major works, such as Mozart's Requiem, Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Since 1994, Ward Melville's Choral Director, Linda Contino, and Orchestral Director, Phil Preddice, have been collaborating on major choral and orchestral works. Both teachers feel that every student in the choir and orchestra should have the opportunity to perform such a work at least once while in high school. This performance marked the final gala performance by Phil Preddice, who will be retiring at the end of this school year.



Ward Melville High School's orchestra students prepare for this year's gala concert under the baton of their teacher, Phil Preddice.

## Making Memories & Earning Honors

Ward Melville High School's 2010 *Invictus* yearbook, SPACE, is more than just a book of high school memories; it is an award-winning piece of art. The school's students and yearbook advisor Cortney Weisman spend countless hours dedicated to making the each treasured yearbook a flawless compellation of the year's events and it really shows in the final product. Congratulations to the yearbook staff of 2010 for receiving the following honors.

The book will be featured in Volume 16 of *Ideas That Fly*; a 160-page book "showcasing top-notch work" from yearbooks printed by Herff Jones, a yearbook publisher that prints more than 7,000 yearbooks from the U.S. and Canada. *Invictus* was one of 186 high schools selected to be featured in the book. The feature will showcase three different selections from the 2010 yearbook. This is the second year that *Invictus* was chosen to be showcased in *Ideas That Fly*.

The school's DVD yearbook made New York State history recently when it was named a 2010 NSPA Digital Yearbook Pacemaker Finalist. This is the first Digital Yearbook Pacemaker nomination in the entire state. The Pacemaker is often considered the "Pulitzer Prize of Scholastic Journalism." *Invictus* is one of eight nominated digital yearbooks from around the country. The finalists were judged holistically based on content, concept, editing, design, use of multimedia, student work and the way in which the DVD supplement related to the print product. The winners will be announced for the first time at the spring JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention in April.

"We cannot even wrap our heads around just how huge this is," stated Ms. Weisman. "My students have been working so hard for so long to get their name out there among these other award-winning schools, and this just shows how their hard work can pay off."

## Advanced Advertising Students Create Logo for *New Manhattan Restaurant*

The students enrolled in Ward Melville High School's Advanced Advertising Arts class experienced the field of graphic arts first hand recently when they had the unique opportunity to create logos for a new restaurant in New York City. Ward Melville alumna and former advertising student Meghan Sylvester presented the course's teacher, Jennifer Trettner, with the challenge of having her students create graphics for West End Bar & Grill, the newest venue for West Side Hospitality Group.

Working under a tight 24-hour deadline, the students brainstormed their ideas and began conceptualizing their designs during an in-school field trip, created by Ms. Trettner especially for this authentic educational experience. Students started the morning with a lesson on logo design and perused a website dedicated to the art of creating logos. The students then spent the day working and reworking their ideas, finishing the end product in Adobe Illustrator. A total of 36 ideas for a logo and sign for the outside of the restaurant were submitted by the deadline.

The final logos were presented to the hospitality group, along with designs from a professional graphic design company from Philadelphia. The group was impressed that their favorite submissions were made by the students and ultimately selected a logo created by Ward Melville senior Mary Kate Anselmini. Mary Kate's design will represent the new West End Bar & Grill on 49th and 8th Avenue in Manhattan and a piece designed by junior Carly Goldstein will be used as a sign for the outside of the building. In addition to these selected designs, West Side Hospitality Group requested that the logos designed by senior Camryn Baum and junior Jeanna Esernio be kept of file for possible use in rebranding one of their existing restaurants.



Pictured here are Mary Kate Anselmini, Jennifer Trettner, Carly Goldstein.

## Celebrating Reading

In collaboration with the school's PTA, Setauket Elementary School students celebrated reading during the month of March. With the theme of "Folktales from Around the World Reading Month" the students participated in a variety of educational activities and reading-themed events. During the month, the entire school participated in a reading contest to see which classes could read for the greatest number of minutes and students put their pencils to paper to take part in a folktale-writing contest. Additional events included a special folktale assembly; a visit from a mariachi band who performed during every lunch periods; a visit from Lady Nyota, an African storyteller who gave a fabulous presentation in the auditorium that featured stories from around the world; and a multicultural family reading night.



Setauket Elementary School fifth-grade students from Gina Castellano's class proudly display the books they read during the school's "Folktales from Around the World Reading Month."



# Workshops, Performances, and All That Jazz

R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinas Junior High School jazz ensemble members had the chance to learn about their craft from professional musicians in early February when the buildings conducted the District's Fifth Annual Jazz Nite. During the evening program, the students participated in clinics with members of the Leon Petruzzi Jazz Orchestra (LPJO) and held a performance before an audience of family and friends. The LPJO is comprised of Long Island music educators and professional musicians from the metropolitan area. The group features complete big band instrumentation.

The student-musicians began Jazz Nite by attending clinics for each instrument in small group settings. During the one-hour segment, the students received jazz performance instruction from adult professional musicians who are highly proficient on their instruments. Following the clinics, the LPJO performed a half-hour concert, which was free to the public, and the junior high school students joined their professional mentors in a massed ensemble performance. The combined group of musicians performed three songs that were rehearsed earlier during the clinic sessions.

The school's jazz ensembles are directed by teachers Mark Portugal and Todd Schievelbein.



A R.C. Murphy Junior High School student is pictured here with music professional Ed Chiarello, LPJO drummer and the Director of Fine and Performing Arts in the Baldwin Public Schools, during the Three Village Central School District's Fifth Annual Jazz Nite program.

## Jazz Students Capture Essence of Ellington

The immortal Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington said it best: "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing!" and Ward Melville High School Jazz Ensemble students have been hard at work trying to recapture that standard. For the second year in a row, the Ward Melville High School Honors Jazz Ensemble submitted a taped recording to the Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Competition. This international competition requires jazz ensembles to prepare original Duke Ellington arrangements as well as those of Count Basie, this year's featured artist. The Jazz Ensemble prepared three tunes, "Portrait of Mahalia Jackson" by Duke Ellington and both "Swingin' the Blues" and "Tippin' on the Q.T." by Count Basie and his orchestra.

## The Circus is in Town

Spinning plates, impressive acrobatics, and tricks with the diabolo were among the circus activities the students at Minnesauke Elementary School learned when representatives from the National Circus Project visited the school to conduct workshops during physical education classes.

During the lessons, students in grades K-6 worked with the trained professionals and perfected the skills necessary to perform a number of circus tricks. As a conclusion to the school's participation in the National Circus Project, the school's sixth graders conducted an evening circus performance for their family and friends.



## Winter Sports Highlights to Note

Ward Melville High School **Girls' Fencing Team** completed their winter season with a 15-0 record and captured their ninth consecutive League Championship, County Championship and 8th consecutive Long Island Title. The team ended the season with an eight-year undefeated record of 129-0. Beyond their achievements at the local level, two talented Ward Melville fencers, tenth graders **Alexa Rohan** and **Alexa Antipas**, represented the United States at an international fencing World Cup in London.

Ward Melville High School **Boys' Fencing Team** also completed their season with a 15-0 record and captured their sixth League, County and Long Island Titles. They established their depth and strength when they defeated Nassau Champions, Great Neck South, 14-1.

Ward Melville High School's **Varsity Wrestling Team** was presented with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's Section XI Sportsmanship Award. This rating has been in place since 1993 and honors teams who have exemplified the standards of good sportsmanship as assessed by opposing teams within each scheduling device (league, division, etc.).

Ward Melville High School's **Varsity Boys' Swimming Team** competed at the New York State Championships and created two new school records – the first in the 200-medley relay and the second in the 400-free relay. Participants included Luiben Chipev, Luis Romero, Jon Yin and Misha Yavid.

Ward Melville High School senior **Mary Kate Anselmini** finished third with a time of 9:48.85 at the Girls' Indoor Track State Championships.

P.J. Gelinas Junior High School eighth grader, **Nicholas Piccinni**, placed third in the New York State tournament for wrestling in the 96-lb weight class.

R.C. Murphy Junior High School seventh grader, **Cydney Crasa**, placed second on the vault and balance beam, first on floor exercise, and was ranked second "all-around" for the complete competition season. The school's team was ranked third out of all Section XI Suffolk County teams.



Ward Melville Girls' Fencing ended the 2010-11 winter season with an eight-year undefeated record. The team is pictured here with Coach Jen Salmon.



Ward Melville High School Boys' Fencing Team also completed their season with an undefeated record and captured their Sixth League, County and Long Island Titles. They are pictured here with Coach Jeff Salmon.

## Winter Patriots Earn Scholar-Athlete Team Status

After successfully completing an award-filled winter athletic season, seven of Ward Melville High School's 10 varsity athletic teams were named New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams. In order to be eligible for the award, the following Varsity Teams attained a cumulative team grade point average of 90 or above. Congratulations to these teams for earning this honor and for not only remaining committed to their sport but also to achieving excellence in the classroom.

Varsity Team	Overall Team Average
Boys Indoor Track	96.976
Girls Indoor Track	96.749
Boys Swimming	95.498
Girls Basketball	95.005
Girls Fencing	94.978
Boys Fencing	93.596
Girls Bowling	91.850



## DATES TO REMEMBER

May 10

Board of Education Meeting/Public  
Hearing on Proposed Budget  
8:00 p.m. North Country

May 17

School Budget Vote & School Board  
Election 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Elementary Schools

May 24

Board of Education Meeting  
8:00 p.m. North Country

## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

The District's annual school budget and trustee election will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. at each of the District's elementary schools. If you are not yet registered to vote, please contact the District Clerk's office at 790-4067 for information regarding the registration process.

## Helping to Fundraise for ALS Research

W.S. Mount Elementary School hosted its 3rd Annual Nintendo Wii fundraising event in mid-March to collect donations for the ALS - Ride for Life Foundation, an organization that provides aid to those afflicted with Lou Gehrig's disease, as well as their families.

In addition to playing the Wii version of MarioKart, attendees had the chance to win a variety of prizes. Over the last seven years, the Mount Community Service Team, with the tremendous help of the school's students and staff, has raised more than \$20,880 for this organization. More than 60 students in kindergarten through sixth grade attended this year's event and put their "driving" skills to the test with Wii MarioKart to raise \$2,300 for the organization.



## District Partners with SBU for Expanded Educational Offerings

At the very center of the District lies a state-of-the-art educational resource – the campus of Stony Brook University. District students and community members are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of programs and services offered at the University as part of the District's longstanding Stony Brook University Partnership. While the programs offered at Stony Brook University can change from year to year, the experience offered is second to none and is found in the District's own backyard. An overview of the different types of programs offered through Stony Brook University, as well as a link to the Community Resource Guide, can be found on the District's website, [www.threevillagecsd.org](http://www.threevillagecsd.org). To access the information click on the "Stony Brook University Partnership" tab located on the right of the homepage.

## A Parade of the 50 States

Nassakeag Elementary School's fifth-grade students not only learned about the nation's 50 states but also sang about them this winter during the school's annual State Hat Parade. As part of their social studies curriculum, the students learned about the birth of the country and how it expanded over the years into what it is today. Following their class study, each student chose a state of interest to them and conducted research on that state.

The students learned how and when his or her selected state gained statehood, famous people who came from that location, places to visit in the state, and many other interesting pieces of information about their chosen state. The students then used what they had learned to design a hat that best reflected the state and affixed several of the facts they found most interesting about the state to their hat. Included in the designs were skyline hats with skyscrapers, mountainous ski slopes, a golf course, a volcano and giant potatoes. Before taking to the halls to display their hats and sing the "Nifty Fifty United States" song, the students presented their hats and research to their class.



## TECH SAVVY STUDENT RECEIVES PRAISE

R.C. Murphy Junior High School student Arezu Esmaili has won the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. The NCWIT honors young women at the high school level for their computing-related achievements and interests and selects winners based on their computing and IT aptitude, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education. The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing offers both national and local "affiliate" competitions to generate support and visibility for women's participation in communities nationwide. Arezu will be recognized at an award ceremony in Manhattan at the Eventi Hotel on May 24. She applied for this honor after attending the Tech Prep summer camp, and she was endorsed by Murphy teacher Brian Pickford.



R.C. Murphy Junior High School student Arezu Esmaili has won the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. She is pictured here with Principal Vinny Vizzo.

## Gelinas Presents Donations to SBU Children's Hospital

As a result of several school fundraisers and matching donations of \$10,000 from Dr. Pam and Stephen DellaPietra and Vincent DellaPietra, two school families, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School collected more than \$31,000 in donations to aid in the construction of a new Children's Hospital at Stony Brook University.

"While we have been fortunate enough not to have any children that need to be in the Children's Hospital, we strongly believe in the work that is done at the facility and feel that it is a true asset to our community and to anyone with children in the county," stated Dr. Pam DellaPietra, commenting on her family's generous matching donation. "It is truly fantastic how the school came together to help fundraise for the hospital and to learn about being philanthropic contributors in their local community – it is indicative of the top-notch education they are receiving," added Dr. Thomas K. Lee, the Chief of Pediatric Surgery and Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at Stony Brook University.

Gelinas students and faculty members came together in mid-February to present their cumulative donation to representatives from the hospital and to speak about the fundraisers they coordinated.



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School collected a total of \$31,233 in donations to help build a new Children's Hospital at Stony Brook University. Students, administrators, matching donors, and representatives from the hospital are pictured here during a special check presentation the school recently coordinated.