



The

# Reporter

WINTER 2011

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

## A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

I must thank our Board of Education for extending my service to our school district for one additional year. It is a pleasure working in a community that values education as the residents of this District do. I appreciate the opportunity, welcome the challenges, and look forward to assisting our students reach their educational potential.

As we prepare the 2011-2012 school budget, the District, as is typical, will be faced with many difficult decisions. State-imposed increases in pension contributions, known contractual obligations, and health insurance premium increases will challenge our District to fund these expenditures.

Further complicating this predicament is a more than likely reduction in school aid from this year's (2010-2011) allocation due to the state's budget deficit, no additional federal funding, and most significantly, a state-enacted property tax cap of perhaps as little as 2% or less if the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is lower.

School district revenues for the most part come from two sources: state aid and property taxes. Both appear to be impacted by the economy and governmental regulation, and as such, our projected revenues for 2011-2012 will be considerably less than what will be needed to meet expenditure increases.

Although a tax cap is inviting to local property owners, its impact on school budgets is potentially devastating and will negatively impact instructional programs, class size, electives and extra-curricular activities.

Residents must realize that with a tax cap, although property taxes will not increase as much, they will still increase. The result for this increase, modest as it might be, is a potentially significant reduction in school programs and services.

In other states where caps have been implemented, student achievement has declined. California is such an example. Perhaps if the cap allows for certain exclusions, such as the aforementioned pension contributions and health benefits, we can better manage its impact. Not to allow these exclusions will cause changes to our District that I am certain many in our community will find objectionable.

Hopefully, the tax cap regulation will have a provision which would allow an override of the cap, if enough voters (60% or more) wish to do so. A district like Three Village may want to strongly consider that, should the cap become a reality.

As information becomes available, I will share it with you. Thank you for your on-going support of our students and our District. It is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Neil Lederer  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Three Village Central School District  
100 Suffolk Avenue  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Nonprofit  
U.S. Postage PAID  
E. SETAUKET, N.Y.  
PERMIT NO.10

**\*\*ECRWSS\*\***  
**Postal Patron**

## Science Research Students Capture Semifinalist Status

After countless hours of comprehensive science research in real-world laboratory settings, six Ward Melville High School students have been named Semifinalists in this year's Intel Science Talent Search competition. Congratulations to Kevin Chen, Nevin Daniel, John Kelly, Aditi Malhotra, Jordan McHugh, and Ilana Scandariato, who were selected for this honor from among 1,744 entrants representing 499 high schools in 42 states, the District of Columbia, and one school overseas. This year, 25 Ward Melville High School students submitted their research projects to the competition. As Semifinalists, each student was awarded \$1,000 in recognition of his or her outstanding science research.



**Kevin Chen, mentored by J. Peter Gergen, Ph.D., Stony Brook University**  
Project: A Pair-Rule Response Element for Wingless in the Drosophila Embryo

**Nevin Daniel, mentored by Iwao Ojima, Ph.D., Stony Brook University**  
Project: Novel Asymmetric Trojan Horse PAMAM Dendrimer Conjugates as Model Systems for Optimal Anticancer Taxoid Drug Delivery

**John Kelly, mentored by Roy Lacey, Ph.D., Stony Brook University**  
Project: A Possible Indication of Local Strong Parity Violation via Charge Asymmetry Measurements

**Aditi Malhotra, mentored by Luis Gruberg, M.D., Stony Brook University**  
Project: Gender-Specific Impact of Body Mass Index on Left Atrial Size and the Presence of Atrial Fibrillation

**Jordan McHugh, mentored by Kristina Simonyan, Ph.D., M.D., Mt. Sinai Hospital**  
Project: Using Diffusion Tensor Imaging to Analyze the Neurological Pathways and Focal White Matter Tracts in Dystonia

**Ilana Scandariato, mentored by Harriet Waters, Ph.D., Stony Brook University**  
Project: Children's Attachment Narratives: A Window into Secure Base Scripts in Middle Childhood

## BUDGET PLANNING

The District commenced this year's budget development process with an initial presentation during the first Board of Education meeting of the New Year. Assistant Superintendent for Business, Jeffrey Carlson, presented an overview on what the proposed budget would be if all programs, services, and contribution levels (state aid, applied fund balance) remained the same and noted the increases in areas beyond the District's control. Following the Board's goal of presenting a budget for the 2011-2012 school year that carried a tax levy of 3%, Mr. Carlson explained that to reach that target, approximately \$10.9 million dollars in reductions would need to be made and, if the New York State Governor's proposal for a tax cap is approved, the reductions may need to be even greater.

Interim Superintendent of Schools, Neil Lederer, noted that members of the administration and Board had met with Assemblyman Steve Englebright to discuss the possibility of a tax cap and expressed their desires that should a cap be enforced, it is done so with certain provisions in mind. "I urge the members of our community to become involved in this year's budget process and in helping to shape what a potential tax cap will look like," stated Mr. Lederer. "There could be a serious price for school districts to pay under a tax cap – it could greatly change how our programs and schools look."

Presentations on the proposed budget will be made during the Board of Education meetings scheduled over the next several months leading up to this year's budget vote on Tuesday, May 17. Dates for these meetings are listed in the District calendar and on the District website.



# Former Setauket Principal Named District's New Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction, K-12

The Three Village Central School District is pleased to announce that Dr. Anne Rullan has been appointed as the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, K-12. Previously, this position was held by two professionals: one working at the elementary level and the other at the secondary level. Through restructuring of current resources, the District combined the positions to create one K-12 executive director, who is overseen by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

"I am looking forward to helping to support our teachers and students districtwide and helping to formulate a viable curriculum," stated Dr. Rullan, who has worked as the principal of Setauket Elementary School for the past five years. "I have many goals for myself in my new position. Among which, I hope to increase the transparency with regard to our District's curriculum and establish my credibility as a strong resource for our professional staff."

Prior to her work as Setauket's principal, Dr. Rullan served as an elementary school principal in the Westhampton Beach Union Free School District, an assistant principal at Nassakeag Elementary School, and a fifth-grade teacher in the Smithtown School District. Dr. Rullan earned her bachelor's degree from the State University College at Buffalo, her master's degree from Long Island University, and in 2002 was awarded a Professional Diploma in Educational Administration from Stony Brook University. Also in 2002, Dr. Rullan earned her doctorate from Dowling College, where she continues to work as an adjunct professor.

Dr. Rullan is an active member of many professional associations, including the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the International Reading Association.

Following Dr. Rullan's new appointment, the District named Robert Harrington, a veteran educator, as the school's Interim Principal. Mr. Harrington will serve as the school's new principal throughout the remainder of the year. The District hopes to have a permanent appointment made by July 1.



## Professional Development Continued During Second Conference Day

The District's second Superintendent's Conference Day of the school year began with a motivational and inspirational keynote address by renowned speaker, Dr. Todd Whitaker, a professor of educational leadership at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Dr. Whitaker is considered to be one of the nation's leading authorities on staff motivation, teacher leadership, and principal effectiveness and has written 24 books.

Dr. Whitaker spoke with attendees about the difference between effective and ineffective teachers, how to motivate others, and shared some of his professional tips included in his book, "What Great Teachers Do Differently." Dr. Whitaker engaged the audience of teachers, administrators, and support staff in meaningful discussions about how they could work to be effective leaders and left them reminded by the fact that "each of us went into education because we wanted to do something that mattered; we wanted to help educate others."

During the remainder of the day, elementary and secondary teachers and support staff participated in grade-level and department professional development workshops. The District extends a special thank you to the TVTA and TVSA who helped to bring Dr. Whitaker to the event.



Special education teachers and transition coordinators learned how to utilize some of the District's assistive technology geared towards helping their students.



Science teachers from R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinas Junior High Schools learned how to incorporate tablet computers and eBoards into their classrooms during a workshop conducted during Superintendent's Conference Day.



TVTA President, Claudia Reinhart, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Neil Lederer, Assistant Superintendent for Educational and Pupil Personnel Services, Cheryl Pedisich, and, representing the TVSA, Sarah Bradshaw, stand with Dr. Todd Whitaker (center), who was the keynote speaker during the second Superintendent's Conference Day.

## New HS Course Provides "Real World" Job Experiences

This fall, Ward Melville High School will be offering a new business elective for eleventh and twelfth-grade students interested in learning first-hand about some of the professions that will await them upon graduation. Through the Virtual Enterprises (VE) program, students will have the chance to experience all facets of being an employee of a business firm.

The class is a simulated business program that will be set up and run by students with the guidance of teacher Ilene Littman and community business partners. The students will be involved in every aspect of running their own business, from research and business plans to production, distribution, marketing, and sales. This web-based simulation program will enable students to understand how employees, workgroups, and departments interact and work together for the goal of the company. In addition, the simulation will convey the expectations of the workplace with communication links to 4,000 VE firms around the world. Students will be exposed to different cultures, business practices, and currencies, which will provide for a broader international perspective. In addition, the students will learn about a variety of careers associated with business, acquire global economic knowledge, and use technology as applied business. By combining a rigorous curriculum with the hands-on application of many academic skills, the course will help to better prepare students for both careers and college.

The new course will be funded through a Perkins IV grant obtained by Linda Messina, Director of Visual Arts and Career Development.

## Teachers Tapped to Present at State Conference

Earlier this year, two District educators were selected to present workshops during the 60th Annual New York State English Council (NYSEC) Conference in Albany.

P.J. Gelinas Junior High School teacher Christina D'Eletto presented a workshop called "News Literacy: The Oldest and Newest Literacy for the New Millennium," while R.C. Murphy Junior High School teacher Laurie Burke co-presented a workshop entitled "Expanding Places of Learning: A Memoir Exchange Breaking Boundaries: Connecting Place and Learning Space Through Memoir" with Victoria Alessi, a friend and colleague from a neighboring district.

The theme for this year's NYSEC Conference was "New Literacies for a New Age: Teaching with the Tools of Our Times," and featured keynote addresses from Dr. Dorothy Strickland, Mr. Peter Godwin, Mr. Will Richardson, and Ms. Laurie Halse Anderson. In addition to presenting during the conference, Ms. D'Eletto and Ms. Burke, along with P.J. Gelinas English Chairperson, Nicole Waldbauer, Ward Melville High School English Chairperson, Brian McAuliffe, and Ward Melville English teacher, Christopher LaFemina, benefited from several professional development opportunities.



Pictured here are Nicole Waldbauer, Christopher LaFemina, Brian McAuliffe, Laurie Burke, Victoria Alessi, and Christina D'Eletto at the 60th Annual New York State English Council (NYSEC) Conference in Albany.



# Building Skills in Mechatronics Academy

The Mechatronics Academy, currently in its second year at Ward Melville High School, is a series of technology classes that offers students rigorous training in advanced manufacturing, a process that entails rapid transfer of science and technology into manufacturing products and processes. Through a partnership with locally-based Suffolk Community College, students that successfully complete all components of the course will not only receive five college credits, but will also receive a Certificate to Work from Suffolk Community College.

“We learned that the continued viability of Long Island Manufacturing and Design Industry is driven by requirements to attract young entry-level skilled workers into the industry,” explained District Director of Visual Arts and Career Development, Linda Messina. “Together with a partnership with Suffolk Community College and regional industry, we are able to provide our technology students with the opportunity to gain skills that are industry relevant and lead to viable career paths right here on Long Island. In a time when so many young people are leaving Long Island to find jobs, these students are developing skills that are needed and essential to our many local defense, aerospace, bioscience, pharmaceutical, and other manufacturing companies.”

The Academy, which goes well beyond the manufacturing skills of the past, has piqued the interest of many Ward Melville students and currently has an enrollment waiting list. “I wanted to broaden my horizons,” stated eleventh grader Rachel Gallagher. “The things that I have learned in this class are unlike anything I have

done before, including working in computer code. I would recommend the program to anyone.”

To help support the program as well as purchase the supplies and equipment necessary for the program to be successful, Ms. Messina and the school’s technology teachers

completed a five-year plan through the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Perkins IV Consortia. Over the past five years, the department has received more than \$80,000 in Perkins funding, a portion of which was used to purchase the program’s 3D printer. The students in the level three/four part of the Academy are using the printer as part of their work to manufacture machines. After creating blueprints and translating that information into computer code, the students are able to print a fully functional prototype of their machine using the 3D printer.



## Technology Pilot

A specialized technology plan that was implemented in part last spring continues this school year and is now being piloted by 16 District teachers. As part of the initiative, each of the teachers in the program has received a laptop computer (which were donated by the IRS last spring), along with a projector and a document camera for classroom use. Teachers have been receiving professional development in the classroom as well as online using MOODLE as part of the program. Participating teachers are required to use Moodle for both professional development and classroom use, use Infinite Campus Gradebook regularly, and contribute and share technology resources with other teachers in the program. In the second year of the pilot program, the District anticipates that these teachers will train or teach their new knowledge to other staff members during such times as faculty meetings, department/grade level meetings, or Superintendent’s Conference Days, as well as begin to integrate the technology into the curriculum on a daily basis.

## Kudos!

During their first Board of Education meeting of the New Year, the District honored Transportation Technician John Guarnieri, who, on his way to inspect buses at Ward Melville High School before an early morning departure to a wrestling meet in Connecticut, rushed to the aid of a burning house on Old Town Road. Mr. Guarnieri, a volunteer firefighter for the past 18 years, was the first person on the scene, called 911, and approached the house to check for any occupants. Thankfully, the burning house was unoccupied and, after assisting the responding fire departments to the best of his ability, Mr. Guarnieri proceeded en route to inspect the buses at the high school before driving himself to Stony Brook Hospital for treatment of several gashes he received while aiding at the scene of the fire. Mr. Guarnieri’s commitment to protecting the safety of the community as a volunteer firefighter and the safety of District students was commended and praised during the meeting. He is pictured here accepting a certificate of appreciation from Assistant Superintendent for Business Jeffrey Carlson.



## District Teacher Featured in Upcoming Book

The District proudly congratulates Dr. Daniel Deutsch, teacher of Three Village’s student composition program and Advanced Placement Music Theory class, for being selected to write a chapter in the upcoming book *Composing Our Future: Preparing Music Educators* by editors Dr. Michele Kaschub, professor of music at the University of Southern Maine, and Dr. Janice Smith, professor of music at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College.

According to the editors, they hope the book provides philosophical, research-based, tested, and practical models for preparing teachers, particularly pre-service teachers, to design, implement, and develop composition within school-based music education programs. “Our authors include nationally and internationally recognized composition educators, teacher educators, and those whose research has focused on teaching children to compose,” stated Dr. Smith. “We selected Dr. Deutsch as a contributor for his expertise in teaching composition to children, his experience in organizing and running composition festivals, and his philosophical take on how to implement composition programs in schools. Dr. Deutsch has been teaching children to compose longer than anyone else we could think of. His students produce outstanding work and have won many state, regional and national awards. I personally spent a year observing his techniques and methods and regard him as an expert pedagogue.”

Dr. Deutsch has been teaching the District’s student composition program for the past twenty years and plans to describe the program, techniques for teaching composition, and teaching strategies for teaching and mentoring young composers in his chapter called “Teaching Composition to Talented Students.”

“Composition is a major component in National and New York State learning standards for music education, but many teachers do not feel that they have the resources to teach it,” stated Dr. Deutsch. “Just as a language arts program requires a continuum of writing, reading, and critical thinking, a complete music program must include singing, playing of instruments, reading, and critical listening to music, as well as composition. Composition is an emerging field in public education and I believe the book will cover all aspects of teaching the subject.”



Dr. Deutsch is pictured here with several of the District’s sixth-grade composition students at W.S. Mount Elementary School.



# Ward Melville Senior PLACES SECOND DURING SIEMENS COMPETITION

The Three Village Central School District proudly congratulates Ward Melville High School senior Nevin Daniel for placing second in the Siemens Science Competition National Finals this December.

Working with a professional mentor, Nevin researched and developed a novel chemotherapeutic drug that specifically targets cancer cells and only activates when inside the cells. As a second-place winner in the individual category, Nevin received a \$50,000 scholarship from Siemens.

"Nevin is highly deserving of this recognition, and I am not surprised at this exceptional accomplishment," stated Ward Melville InSTAR Program Director Dr. George Baldo. "Nevin is intensely motivated and extremely passionate about his research, even at this early stage in his career. Coupled with his high intelligence and scientific curiosity, he can make a tremendous contribution to the world during his lifetime. It has been a rewarding experience working with Nevin for three years in the InSTAR program."

"It is amazing to me to see a young man accomplish so much," stated Principal Dr. Alan Baum. "This is an amazing achievement and Nevin should be very proud of himself. It is especially pleasing because his success demonstrates the kind of intellectual excellence and muscle that our students are capable of. As a school, we are very proud of our students and it is rewarding to see Nevin recognized for his outstanding achievement. He is a very determined young man and I have no doubt he will accomplish great things in his life. A special thanks to Nevin's parents, teachers, and mentors for nurturing such an inquisitive mind!"



Ward Melville High School senior Nevin Daniel was named the second-place winner in the individual category during the National Finals of the Siemens Science Competition.

## Run, Run, Run as Fast as You Can...

### Familiar Gingerbread Man Becomes Focus of Class Lesson



Learning about more than just the familiar story of The Gingerbread Man, first-grade students in Patricia Woods' class at Minnesauke Elementary School in the Three Village Central School District recently completed a cross-curricular unit of study.

After reading a variety of stories on the famous character, the students employed their literacy skills to compose a class story on a Minnesauke Gingerbread Boy, participated in several math-based activities, and, as an extension of their social studies lesson, created a "community helper" gingerbread person. The students' creations were fashioned in the images of a chef, guide dog, police officer, firefighter, soldier, nurse, and even the President of the United States.

As a fun culminating activity, the students created gingerbread cottages to enjoy with their families during the holidays.



Several first-grade students from Patricia Woods' class at Minnesauke Elementary School in the Three Village Central School District proudly display the Minnesauke Gingerbread book they created. They are standing in front of a bulletin board covered in some of the classes' "community helper" gingerbread people.

## Buzzing to the Top During Scho

P.J. Gelinis Junior High School seventh and eighth-grade students demonstrated the about world geography and map skills when they participated in a nationwide geograph by the National Geographic Society this winter.

To determine the top ten competitors in the schoolwide contest, each of the building eighth-grade students took the program's written exam during their social studies classes. Submissions, the top ten overall scorers were announced as the school's finalists and con round of the competition at the school in late January. During the contest, the students answer both oral and written questions that centered on their innate knowledge of geog tasked with the challenge of interpreting a map.

Congratulations to eighth grader Jessica Ju, who was named the first-place winner of competition, and to Ariel Leong and Liam Field, the seventh graders who respectively c third place. Jessica is now eligible to take the qualifying test for the New York State rou notified in early spring if she is one of the 100 students chosen to compete at the state state round will take part in the national competition in Washington, D.C.

## NASSAKEAG STUDENTS WORK T CREATE A CHAIN REACTION

Nassakeag Elementary School third through sixth-grade students experienced Rachel's Challenge program that motivates positive changes in the way individuals treat one another, when guest speaker Mr. Northam visited the school. Inspired by Rachel Scott, the first person killed during the tragic sho Columbine High School 11 years ago, the kind acts she demonstrated during her life and the cor diaries serve as the catalysts for this national program.

During the assembly, Mr. Northam engaged the students with powerful video and audio foota life and spoke about her mission to bring a positive change into the world; or as she called it, a "c "Rachel was someone who has made a great impact on the world just by treating others with l compassion," Mr. Northam stated.

The presenter encouraged the students to embrace the challenges of the program, which focus on treating others with kindness, accepting those that are different, not giving up on one's dreams, and working to be a positive example for others. At the conclusion of the event, the students were invited to demonstrate their commitment to being a part of Rachel's Challenge by signing a commemorative banner displayed outside the school's main office.

Throughout the year, the students will be engaged in team-building activities, such as creating a giant chain out of strips of paper that state what they did to be kind, in order to help create a positive chain reaction.



Nassakeag Elementary School students signed a banner "I Accept Rachel's Challenge" to remind them of their p others with kindness and compassion.

## Holiday Spirit About

Students, staff members, and families throughout the Three Village Central Sch projects for those less fortunate during the holiday season.

At Ward Melville High School, Keri LoGuidice and Darlene Chiappino, along everything on their wish list except for one out-of-stock item. However, they gave High School's student government helped to coordinate a variety of clothing, coat



P.J. Gelinis Junior High School's student government put a twist on a toy collection drive for the Town of Brookhaven Interface Program this December as they organized the school's annual Toys for Kids Drive. Pairing the first floor against the second floor, each level's homeroom classrooms worked to collect new toys for the worthy organization. After the multi-week drive, the floor that was found to have collected the highest number of toys was treated to an ice cream social during their lunch period. Congratulations to the first floor homerooms who, with more than 350 toys, won this year's competition. The school collected more than 650 toys during the drive. Members of student government are pictured here.



Teaming up with Arrowhead, R.C. Murphy Junior High School buses with as man Outreach Center in Wyanc December 17 and delivere



# Bee

t knowledge  
test sponsored

enth and  
result of their  
l in the second  
challenged to  
, and were

year's  
ed second and  
d will be  
Winners of the



P.J. Gelinas Junior High School seventh grader Ariel Leong and eighth grader Jessica Ju are pictured here with social studies teacher Louis Laird and Principal Gus Hueber after the school's geography bee.

# Knitting Hats & Creating Blankets for Hospital Patients



R.C. Murphy Junior High School eighth-grade students in Cynthia Carrucciu's Family and Consumer Science classes are creating knitted hats and cozy blankets for the neonatal intensive care unit and the pediatric oncology unit at Stony Brook University Hospital.

In a service-learning project geared towards helping others, eighth-grade students in Cynthia Carrucciu's Family and Consumer Science classes at R.C. Murphy Junior High School are making knitted hats and fuzzy blankets for the neonatal intensive care unit and the pediatric oncology unit at Stony Brook University Hospital.

"I wanted to work on a project with the students that would connect them to the community around us, and with Stony Brook University Hospital being so close, I thought it was a perfect fit," stated Ms. Carrucciu. "I feel really good knowing that these hats will be used to help babies struggling to survive," added eighth grader Morgan DeBoer.

Using round looms donated by the school's PTA, the students are shaping different sized hats for the two units and hope to create at least 75, or one per student, by the end of the project. To express their gratitude for the students working on the project and to share some information about their hospital wards, a nurse from each of the two units visited the class to speak with the students.

# The Verdict Is In!

Ward Melville High School students enrolled in Daniel Conklin's Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics class had the chance to learn about the topic of capital punishment in a unique way this winter when they participated in a day-long Supreme Court simulation.

The program, which took place as a part of the class study on the Supreme Court, required the students to assume the role as a judge, government lawyer, plaintiff lawyer, or member of the media. Throughout the simulation, each party was responsible for acting through their roles; the lawyers delivered briefs based on a fictional case scenario, the judges attentively listened and ultimately delivered a verdict to either overturn or uphold the original ruling, and the reporters were responsible for drafting detailed and unbiased stories based on the court actions.

Prior to the simulation, the lawyers prepared positions papers based on one of four amendments, sentencing guidelines, or prior case studies. These papers were reviewed by the judges, who prepared a list of questions to review during the simulation, which was based on the Supreme Court model.

dynamic  
dam  
at  
of her

Rachel's  
reaction."  
ss and



ading "I  
to treat

# Holidays Around Arrowhead

Arrowhead Elementary School's kindergarten students celebrated the holidays honored in different countries as they traveled from classroom to classroom in late December. With the help of their teachers and several parent volunteers, the students learned about the holiday traditions celebrated in Holland, Russia, India, and Israel during the "Holidays Around the World" adventure. With their passports in hand, the students participated in several hands-on learning experiences, including creating paper clogs filled with presents, a Russian musical instrument, and menorahs, as well as learning about the Festival of Elephants.

"This adventure helps the students to develop a basic appreciation and respect for how others celebrate different holidays," stated teacher Meryl Nani. "We have learned about how we are a school community. This lesson teaches the students how there is a global community and how the different parts of that community often recognize different celebrations."



Several Arrowhead Elementary School kindergarten students are pictured here displaying the colorful menorahs they created while learning about the holidays celebrated in Israel.

# ls in Three Village

District came together this December to coordinate community service

SHARP, adopted a family for the holidays. They were able to purchase all gift cards to cover the cost of that item. Additionally, Ward Melville food drives during this season.



S. Mount, and Minnesauke Elementary Schools, student government worked to stuff two toy drives as possible for the Gerald Ryan Center. The donated toys were packed into a bus on the center just before the Christmas holiday.



Setauket Elementary School's student council coordinated a food drive to help stock two food pantries located in the Three Village Central School District. They also coordinated the building's second annual giving tree drive for local families. Through the generosity of the school's families and staff members, the drives collected hundreds of non-perishable food and supply items as well as many toys to bring holiday cheer to local families in need.



The second-grade classes at Nassakeag Elementary School encouraged their classmates and the entire student body to clean out their coat closets this December and donate their gently used outerwear to their grade level's annual coat drive. The outpouring was amazing, and all of the donated items were given to food banks, churches, and other charitable organizations throughout Suffolk County. Pictured here are several Nassakeag upper grade level students with some of the coats collected by the school's student body.



# Art Honors

Ward Melville High School's talented artists continue to garner awards and recognition, both locally and nationally. Below are a few recent highlights:

Students Lexi Kupp, Timmy Gavin, Leanna O'Brien, Leigha Jarret, Elizabeth Porto-Serdock and Aretha Walls were selected to have their artwork on exhibit at the Parrish's 2010 Student Exhibition. The 2010 Student Exhibition was called "Students View American Still Life" and featured artwork from students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 attending both public and private schools in the townships of Brookhaven, Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton and Southold. The District's entire art department, especially the students' teachers, Jennifer Mullany, Jim Swierupski and Stefanie DiLorenzo, congratulate them on this honor.

Canvas drawings created by the tenth through twelfth-grade students in Ward Melville High School's drawing and painting classes were on display at the Charmingwall Gallery in New York City during the month of November, as well as on the gallery's website for three additional months.

Four Ward Melville High School students were selected as the only students from New York State to receive honors during the Association of Texas Photography Instructors' annual Fall Photo Contest. The Association judged more than 6,100 entries from 75 schools from Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, New York, Arizona and California for their annual fall photo contest. Congratulations to the following talented young artists:

**Marguerite Pintauro:** Advanced Advertising, Honorable Mention  
**Gabriella Cossens:** Advanced Digitally Constructed Single Image, Honorable Mention  
**Azalea Martin:** Advanced Documentary/Travel Portfolio, Honorable Mention  
**Brett Pollina:** Advanced Formal/Studio Portrait, Honorable Mention and Advanced Sports/Action, Honorable Mention

These students' photos can be viewed at [www.atpi.org](http://www.atpi.org) in the winners' gallery.



Pictured here are teachers Mrs. DiLorenzo and Mrs. Mullany, along with students Aretha Walls, Leanna O'Brien, Leigha Jaret, Elizabeth Porto-Serdock, teacher Mr. Swierupski, and Ward Melville High School Chairperson for Art and Technology Jennifer Trettner.

# The Phantom of the Opera

In a production that rivaled the Broadway original, Ward Melville High School became one of the first high schools to perform a fully-staged version of *The Phantom of the Opera* in December.

Under the direction of Linda Contino, the 60 cast members worked tirelessly since the start of school to ensure that this year's production was flawless and inspiring for audiences. The production, which ran for three evening performances, featured Leanne Contino as Christine, Chris



Sarling as Raoul, and Ryan Cooper as the Phantom. The talented pit orchestra, comprised of 80 members, was directed by Phil Preddice. Mr. Preddice also helped guide the set design, which was organized by a 25-member crew.

# Students' Compositions in National *Spotlight*

The beautifully crafted musical pieces of three students from the Three Village Central School District will be featured during this year's Young Composer Concert at the Eastern Division Conference of MENC: The National Association for Music Education. The winning pieces, "Rêves" by P.J. Gelinis Junior High School ninth grader Kayla Rose Benaburger, "Chanson Pour Alice" by Ward Melville High School tenth grader Madeleine Vaillancourt, and "Le Grand" by P.J. Gelinis Junior High School seventh grader Martin Vaillancourt, will be featured during the conference's concert on April 1, 2011, in Baltimore, Maryland. Only 13 pieces were selected for the concert. The competition was open to students from twelve Eastern states, Washington, D.C., and American schools in Europe. While at the conference, Kayla, Madeleine, and Martin will also participate in a Young Composer Forum with professional composers and composition teachers.

In addition to the three students who were selected for performance of their pieces, P.J. Gelinis Junior High School seventh grader Emily Winston and Setauket Elementary School sixth grader Kathleen O'Brien were named finalists in the competition. Their compositions were highly rated by the New York State adjudicator, Dr. Rob Deemer, Head of Composition at SUNY Fredonia.

## P.J. Gelinis Junior High School Secures More than \$30K for SBU Children's Hospital

Through several fundraising programs, P.J. Gelinis Junior High School has secured more than \$30,000 in donations to aid in the construction of a new Children's Hospital at Stony Brook University. This total represents three times the pledged donation the school aimed to achieve; an accomplishment that was made possible thanks to two anonymous matching donations of \$10,000 from two P.J. Gelinis Junior High School families.

After learning of the hospital's plans to expand the facility's current Children's Hospital last June, the school's student body and faculty knew they wanted to help raise a portion of the approximate \$80 million needed for the renovations. This January, that dream was realized, as the school collected more than \$10,000 through several fundraising initiatives.

The school's student government coordinated a students-verse-faculty basketball game called "Hoops for the Hospital" that raised approximately \$2,000 and "A Touch of Class" gala event, which featured performances from the school's chamber orchestra and refreshments served by the school's National Junior Honor Society, collected almost \$3,000 for the cause. Additionally, students and faculty members helped the cause by contributing spare change during a month-long collection drive as well as purchasing tickets to the school's winter dance.



Members of P.J. Gelinis Junior High School's National Junior Honor Society are pictured here with advisor Chantel Salzano at the "A Touch of Class" gala event, which was held to raise funds for the new Children's Hospital at Stony Brook University.



# College-Bound Seniors Sign Letters of Intent

Ward Melville High School seniors James Cashin, Sean Cleary, Tyler Hegarty, Shannon Lampe, and Jessica Liberty recently signed National Letters of Intent with some of the top colleges and universities in the nation, committing to perform on the schools' athletic teams.

"I commend each one of these students on their outstanding academic achievements and athletic talents," stated District Executive Director for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics, Erin Blaney. "Their commitment to their sport is evident and I am sure they will make Ward Melville proud next year at college. I also wish to express my appreciation to their parents and coaches who have helped guide them down the road to success, and for their commitment to our athletic program."

The Three Village Central School District congratulates these students and wishes them well at their campuses in the fall:

- James Cashin – Siena College for Lacrosse
- Sean Cleary – University of Massachusetts for Lacrosse
- Tyler Hegarty – University of Massachusetts for Lacrosse
- Shannon Lampe – Binghamton University for Swimming
- Jessica Liberty – Old Dominion University for Lacrosse



Ward Melville High School seniors Tyler Hegarty, Jessica Liberty, Sean Cleary, James Cashin, and Shannon Lampe signed National Letters of Intent to continue their athletic journeys at some of the top colleges and universities in the nation this fall.

## In the Zone Suffolk Zone Winners

Ward Melville High School is proud to announce that Brian Droesch and Brittany Antonucci have been named New York State Suffolk Zone Award winners based on their character, leadership, physical education commitment, and overall academic achievement.

As noted by his teachers, Brian is a true leader in physical education and in life. He leads by example in the classroom, gym and on the field. Brian is great with his peers, loves participating in physical education, and excels as an overall student. He is always respectful in and out of class, willing to help set up and help out during all activities. Brian has applied for early decision to Tufts University.

With commendation from her teacher, Brittany is noted to be one of those students who is always going above and beyond.

She strives for excellence in anything she puts her heart into and does so with a smile on her face. Brittany has a great work ethic and is very self-motivated. She is active during her physical education class and is a great overall student.

The Three Village Central School District congratulates these two students on this outstanding honor.



Ward Melville High School students Brittany Antonucci and Brian Droesch have been named New York State Suffolk Zone Award winners.

## Fall Teams Capture Scholar-Athlete Team Status

As a result of exceptional dedication and commitment both on and off the field, 11 Fall Ward Melville High School Varsity Athletic teams were announced as being named New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams, an honor which is given based on the team's grade point average. 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 each of the teams on their success in the classroom!

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Boys Cross Country  | 97.015 |
| Girls Cross Country | 97.585 |
| Field Hockey        | 94.689 |
| Football            | 93.021 |
| Boys Golf           | 93.908 |
| Girls Gymnastics    | 95.728 |
| Boys Soccer         | 93.446 |
| Girls Soccer        | 94.840 |
| Girls Swim/Dive     | 96.104 |
| Girls Tennis        | 95.153 |
| Girls Volleyball    | 95.210 |

## Patriots Honored for Good Sportsmanship

Congratulations to the Ward Melville High School Varsity Gymnastics Team, J.V. Girls Soccer Team, P.J. Gelinas Junior High School Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams, and the R.C. Murphy Football Team for receiving Section XI Fall Sportsmanship Awards. This award is given to teams based on performance as well as nomination from their opponents and officials following competitions. Additionally, congratulations to the R.C. Murphy Junior High School Field Hockey Team for receiving the Suffolk County Officials Association Sportsmanship Award.

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The District is proud to report that all of the work included in the four-phase bond project, with the exception of the reconfiguration of the bus loop at P.J. Gelinas Junior High School, has been completed. As noted in the last newsletter, the bus loop work at Gelinas will be completed this summer.

The latest work, which included the renovation of R.C. Murphy and P.J. Gelinas Junior High Schools' auditoriums, was completed for the start of the New Year, and the schools' students and faculty members have already put the new facilities to good use. The planning for the safety and security projects included in the Excel Part II initiative is underway and the District expects to commence this work as soon as possible.

## Kindergarten Registration for 2011-2012 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.threevillagescsd.org](http://www.threevillagescsd.org), and reference page 34 of the District calendar. Kindergarten screening dates are listed in the District calendar. Additional information can be obtained from the registrar's office at 631-730-4555.

## Thank you!

The District extends its deepest appreciation to Stony Brook University for providing a location on the campus for students to take the January 11<sup>th</sup> English Regents exam. The exam, which was originally scheduled for later in the month (at a time when Ward Melville High School would be operating under a testing schedule), was rescheduled for earlier in the month by the State Education Department. By holding the exam on the campus of Stony Brook University, the 280 students taking the exam were able to complete the test in a quiet and test-conducive environment.

## Navigating Through the College Selection Process

The college selection process can often be a challenging and sometimes overwhelming one for graduating seniors. The choices between local universities, state schools, and institutions throughout the nation can sometimes leave students unsure of which path to choose. As this year's senior class members begin to narrow down their college choices for the fall, Ward Melville High School's guidance department once again coordinated its Alumni Day event to help seniors better understand college life on a number of campuses throughout the nation.

More than 100 Ward Melville Class of 2010 alumni returned to their alma mater to participate in the annual event, which this year included an underclassman discussion portion.



Ward Melville High School Class of 2010 alumni Eva Lyubich, Rinsha Ballani, Andrew Li, Matthew Pollack, and Devin Schaefer returned to their alma mater to participate in this year's Alumni Day program.

During the day-long program, the returning graduates engaged in a straightforward question-and-answer session that focused on pressing issues facing college freshmen. Graduates also spoke about their first-semester experiences. The students discussed things from roommate conditions, to the workload at their school, to the moment they knew that their school was "the one" for them. During in-class discussions with the building's tenth and eleventh-grade students, the panelists spoke about which classes they believed helped to prepare them for college, which courses they wish they would have taken, and an overview of what their college campuses and experiences have been like.

## PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

As the culmination to a history lesson on the nation's 50 states, fifth-grade students at W.S. Mount Elementary School worked in groups to create mosaic pictures using the shapes of the states found in one of the seven different regions.

Prior to the group projects, the teachers shared aloud the book "Puzzle Maps U.S.A." by Nancy L. Clouse and "The Scrambled States of America Talent Show" by Laurie Keller. In subsequent discussion groups, the teachers discussed that although the size of the states may change depending upon the map viewed, the shapes of the states remain the same and are easily recognized.

Using their creativity and critical thinking skills, the students worked in their groups to model the ideas and strategies used in "Puzzle Maps U.S.A." to create their artistic posters, which included cutouts of each state in their region at least once, as well as creative titles that clued viewers into which region the poster was depicting. The finished projects lined the main hallway at the school and students and teachers enjoyed trying to guess the correct region.



## Working Together to Keep Kids Safe

The District works to provide students with the tools necessary to not only succeed academically but also be successful beyond the walls of the classroom. Continuing with this goal, several years ago the District began offering parent workshops centered on the topic of substance abuse. This February, the District expanded on the previous topic and included the topic of bullying and peer pressure to an evening forum held at Ward Melville High School.

After listening to a panel discussion focused on keeping children safe in a culture filled with cyberbullying, substance abuse, and peer pressure, attendees had the opportunity to participate in one of four hour-long workshops. The different workshops featured speakers who shared tips on how to protect oneself and one's children when hosting a party or when one's child attends a party, the tools necessary to help keep children drug and alcohol free, and tips for protecting children from cyberbullying and peer pressure, as well as ways to recognize the signs of substance use and abuse and the prevention and treatment resources available to those in need.

The District feels that these type of workshops are both informative and helpful to parents and hopes to continue to offer similar ones in the future.

## 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 1 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.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: John K. Diviney

Vice President: Frank McIntosh

Trustees: Jonathan Kornreich; Carol A. Leister;  
Susanne Mendelson; Diane Peritore; Glen T. Whitney

**Interim Superintendent of Schools:** Neil Lederer