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The

# Reporter

WINTER 2012

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

## A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community Residents,

At our December Board of Education Meeting, Mr. Jeff Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business, gave a statistical overview of the 2012-13 school budget, a summary conceding that the tax cap budget (2%) limits revenues and does not provide time for existing collective bargaining agreements (CBA) to expire. Under this cap, district expenditure obligations due to CBAs, health insurance, and pension system contributions far exceed the anticipated revenues.

I truly feel that if the Governor and the legislature wanted a tax cap, it should have been phased in over a three-to-four-year period, so that the CBAs could expire and new agreements could be negotiated with a cap in mind.

The consequence of the immediate introduction of the cap is a significant gap between anticipated revenues and known expenditures. The result will be reductions which will impact our instructional programs. Even with the use of reserve funds, and the Board of Education considering offering a budget above the tax cap, the reductions that will have to be made are significant.

Mr. Carlson's presentation is on the district website at [www.threevillagecsd.org](http://www.threevillagecsd.org), and I urge you to read it. In addition, I have posted a video to our website that offers more information on the 2012-13 budget, which will be updated as the budget evolves. While on the district website, please take part in the web survey, as the District is seeking residents' feedback on budget priorities for 2012-13. At each of our future Board meetings, the budget will be a major topic of discussion. I urge you to attend the North Country meetings (8 PM) to stay informed of budget developments.

In an effort to be cohesive and proactive with our approach on the topic of bullying behaviors and their effects, the District has formed a bully prevention task force. It is my hope that this committee, made up of a diverse group of members, will research and develop a K-12 curriculum-based program that can be implemented in our District. Needless to say, bullying and cyber-bullying can be extremely detrimental to a child's well-being, self-esteem and education. Although all of our schools address this issue, there is a need to develop an articulated K-12 program that teaches the same values and themes. As many of you are aware, this is a Board of Education goal, and I am quite optimistic that this excellent committee, led by Ms. Cathy Taldone, will be successful in both developing and implementing a program.

The committee members will undergo training in New York's recently enacted Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). This training will assist task force participants in gaining insights into the causes of and potential strategies to correct bullying behaviors.

Respectfully,  
Neil Lederer, *Interim Superintendent of Schools*

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## An Exceptional ACCOMPLISHMENT

Ward Melville High School is proud to announce that student Anna Sato was named a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS) for her research, making her one of only five finalists across Long Island and one of only 40 chosen from the entire nation. Anna's research centered on using nanotechnology to develop a passive filter capable of removing radioactive iodine and cesium from water.

"I was inspired to work on this project because of the explosion at the Fukushima power plant..."

"I was inspired to work on this project because of the explosion at the Fukushima power plant which caused radioactive substances to be expelled into the water," explained Anna. "My previous work with water filtration of bacteria and viruses last year [which garnered Siemens Regional finalist standing] caused me to seek a way to remove these harmful substances from water."

In March, Anna will present her research in Washington, DC at the Intel Science Talent Institute, and has the chance to win up to \$100,000 in scholarship money.

Also to be commended are the four students who were named Intel Semifinalists. Along with Anna, students Rocco Morra, Shubha Sekar, Jesse Xing and Jack Zhou were among 61 Semifinalists named from Long Island and only 300 selected nationwide.

In recognition of their outstanding research projects, each Semifinalist was presented with \$1,000, and Ward Melville received \$5,000 (\$1,000 per Semifinalist) to be applied toward furthering the District's science, math, and engineering programs.

The District congratulates these students on their exceptional accomplishments!



Intel STS Semifinalists (Left to right) Jesse Xing, Shubha Sekar, and Rocco Morra, Finalist Anna Sato and Semifinalist Jack Zhou.

## A VISIT FROM REGENT ROGER TILLES

On December 23, staff members of the Three Village School District had the opportunity to hear from keynote speaker Roger B. Tilles, New York State Regent for the Tenth Judicial District, as he addressed the group during their Superintendent's Conference Day.

One of only 17 New York State regents, and the representative for 126 school districts in both Nassau and Suffolk County schools, Regent Tilles discussed the NYS reform agenda, the 2% tax cap, and the Board of Regents' goal of closing the performance gap between schools.

"It was an honor to have Regent Tilles visit with our staff," said Interim Superintendent Neil Lederer. "He is certainly a friend to education, and we truly appreciate his words. I hope his words resonate with the Governor, and that these reforms will be modified to benefit our students."



# DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

## DEVELOPING A LOVE FOR THE WRITTEN WORD

The joy of writing was recently celebrated within the Three Village Central School District in conjunction with the NCTE's (National Council of Teachers of English) National Day on Writing. This annual celebration was established in 2009, as a means for students to recognize the importance of writing in their lives.

In order to foster an appreciation of writing and provide students with an environment conducive to the craft, students of Ward Melville High School and R.C. Murphy Junior High School were asked to read, contemplate and, if they chose to, react in writing to the words of poet Marge Piercy and American political activist and preacher Jesse Jackson. The result was a "wall of reactions," as students used 5x7 index cards to write a letter or a poem in response to the emotions evoked by the prompt. They then affixed their cards to sheets of papers that lined the hallways. Students took time throughout the day to read the over 1,800 responses submitted.

"It was amazing to see how differently each person reacted to the same prompt," said Rachel Tiedemann, a Ward Melville senior and contributor to *Cinnabar*, the school's literary and art magazine. "This was a wonderful way for students to experience writing and get creative."

Third-grade students of W.S. Mount Elementary School took part in the National Day on Writing with their annual Poetry Frolic. Each class presented the audience of parents with an autumn-themed poem composed of sentences provided by each student.



(Left to right) Students of Ward Melville High School Silvia Cohn, Rachel Tiedemann and Chair of the English Department, Brian McAuliffe are pictured in front of the school's "Wall of Reactions."

At the close of the celebration, the students collectively sang the poem "Growth of a Tree" to the familiar tune of "I'm a Little Teapot."

James from Mr. McDonald's class explained why he enjoyed this project. "I wrote about what was in my head, and then I got to read my funny line about autumn leaves that look like angry birds!"



(Left to right) Honoree Mike Vitale, W.S. Mount Elementary Principal Nathalie Lilavois with Honoree and R.C. Murphy Junior High School Principal Vincent Vizzo.

## Celebrating Contributions

The Three Village Educational Foundation gathered at the Three Village Inn for the Fifth Annual Foundation Cocktail Party. This year's honorees included Vincent Vizzo, principal of R.C. Murphy JHS and president of the Three Village School Administrators Association, and Mike Vitale, a long-time District resident and the vice president of Brooklyn Brewery. Congratulations and thank you for your contributions to the District!



## A Job Well Done

Denise Kowalski, the head custodian at W.S. Mount Elementary School, was recognized by the Board of Education for responding quickly to help a teen who had fallen and who became unconscious on school grounds. Well done, Denise!



## Off to See the Wizard

More than 80 staff members of the Three Village Central School District, including administrators, teachers (past and present), teaching assistants and substitutes, tried their hands in the world of theater production as they worked together to present *The Wizard of Oz*. The show raised money for the Three Village Teachers Association Scholarship Fund.

Directed by Anthony Pollera, a theater arts and music teacher at R.C. Murphy, *The Wizard of Oz* ran from November 16-18. Every aspect of the show was conducted by members of the Three Village staff, from set construction and makeup application to costumes and music accompaniment. In addition, administrators lent a helping hand by acting as ushers during the performances.

Mike DeRosa of Gelinas (the Scarecrow), Eric Gustafson of Setauket (the Cowardly Lion), Jackie Stiegert of Murphy (Dorothy), and Paul Wilgenkamp of Minnesauke (the Tin Man) interacted beautifully to make the audience members believe that they, too, had been transported to Oz. Adding to the excitement were the performances of Laurie Burke of Murphy (the Wicked Witch of the West), Vicki Guarascio of Gelinas (Glinda the Good Witch) and Brian Pickford of Murphy (the Wizard of Oz).

For more than two months, staff members met on weekends to contribute to this effort. The end result was a performance that will not soon be forgotten, with special effects, catchy musical performances and "flying monkeys."

Bravo to the staff of the Three Village Central School District!

# WONDERFUL PERFORMANCES

## FIDDLER ON THE ROOF COMES TO WARD MELVILLE

In early December, students of Ward Melville High School captivated a packed auditorium with performances of *Fiddler on the Roof*, produced by the Ward Melville Music Department and the Ward Melville Players.

Under the direction of Linda Contino, the approximately 60 cast members, along with the talented pit orchestra and stage crew, worked tirelessly since September to ensure that this year's production was flawless and an inspiration to audiences. The three evening performances featured Trevor Pearson as Tevye; Lianne Frankel as Tzeitel, his eldest daughter; Corin Greene as Hodel, his second eldest; and Emma Forgione as Chava, his middle daughter.



## Top Students Recognized

Congratulations to Ward Melville seniors Anthony Humphreys and Lindsay McCulloch on their selection as recipients of the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYSAHPERD) Suffolk Zone Award.

Each year, every high school in Suffolk County recognizes the top male and female physical education students based on the following criteria: physical education achievement, scholastic achievement, outstanding character, physical education class leadership, school-wide and/or community leadership, and positive role modeling. The health and physical education staff at Ward Melville were unanimous in their selections.

"It's nice to know that all of your hard work pays off," said Humphreys. "It's even nicer to know that your teachers make this selection, so they recognize your efforts." Lindsay added, "For all of the years I've been a student here, I have tried to be a well-rounded person, not just a field hockey player. I agree that it's nice to know that people see how hard you are working."



## A Perfect Game

Congratulations to Tom Slawski for bowling a PERFECT 300 GAME against Riverhead. What an amazing achievement!  
Way to go Tom!

## A Stellar Season

The fall athletic season at Ward Melville High School was one of the most impressive seasons in Patriot History. Of the eight teams that went on to perform in the county playoffs, five went on to the county finals where four were named Suffolk County Champions. Congratulations to the Girls' Cross Country team, the Gymnastics and Girls' Soccer teams and for the 20th consecutive year, the Girls' Swimming team, for such an impressive athletic performance.

# Helping Those in Need

## A Season of Giving

The staff and students of the Three Village Central School District have embraced the holiday seasons. Schools throughout the District participated in a number of efforts to help those less fortunate.

### Battle of the Cans

P.J. Gelinas Junior High School students competed against each other in "Battle of the Cans," a program sponsored by the school's student government and National Junior Honor Society. Collecting more than 695 cans, the eighth-grade class won the competition. Seventh graders donated more than 570 cans, and the ninth-grade class collected over 400 cans. In total, the students were able to present Brian Beedenbender, Chief of Staff for Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko, with approximately 1,660 nonperishable donations for the Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau. The Bureau will, in turn, offer the cans to various agencies that will provide food to families throughout the town.



### Giving the Gift of Warmth

Fifth-grade student council members of Setauket Elementary School, under the advisement of teachers Rich Guez and Ashley Schaible, initiated a winter coat drive that resulted in the collection of over 125 coats, benefiting families not only within the District, but in neighboring communities as well. All toddlers' coats were donated to the Head Start Program of Port Jefferson. Children's coats were donated to families of the District and adult coats were delivered to the Salvation Army of Centereach.

### Kindness Rises

Students of Mrs. Frole's first-grade class at Minnesauke Elementary School baked pumpkin muffins and donated them to the St. James Soup Kitchen, which provided Thanksgiving meals for local families in need.

At Arrowhead Elementary School, third-grade classes baked pumpkin bread to donate to local families in need, a project that was tied into their writing curriculum. First, the classes identified the writing components of the pumpkin bread recipe, including title, ingredients, steps, units of measure, and sequencing. Then, it was time to bake! Each of the four classes made four loaves of pumpkin bread - one to sample themselves and three to donate. The remaining loaves were given to school social worker Judy Forgione, who included them in the baskets that were assembled. These baskets were donated to local families in need.

Also at Arrowhead, Book Buddies from Rosemary Ullrich's second-grade and Lorraine Hegarty's fifth-grade classes made pumpkin muffins together and gave them, along with letters of gratitude, to members of the school community whom they felt were often underappreciated. Additionally, students encouraged the recipients to pass along a kind gesture in hopes of creating a chain reaction of kindness, corresponding to the challenge they took through the Rachel's Challenge program.



# and Spreading Cheer

## The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive

Faculty and students of several schools in the District participated in the Scholastic Book Club's Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. The drive provides new pajamas and books for children throughout the United States who are awaiting adoption.

Spearheading the initiatives at their schools were school social worker Leia Woodruff of Minnesauke Elementary, special education teacher Lee Ann March of Setauket Elementary, student Jack Faraci of R.C. Murphy Junior High School, and life skills teacher Christina Florio of Ward Melville High School.

"I wanted to help families in need," said Jack, who introduced the program to his school after he heard that students at Ward Melville and Minnesauke were taking part. "A pajama drive was the perfect way to help out." The schools that participated in the program were able to send approximately 300 new pairs of pajamas and 300 new books to children in need throughout the country.



## Stuff-A-Bus

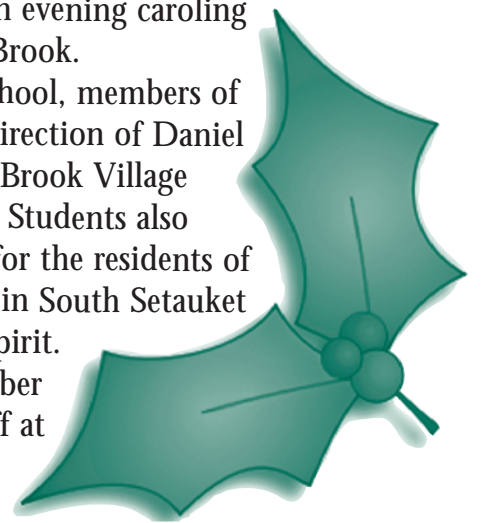
The "Stuff-A-Bus" event at R.C. Murphy Junior High School saw the donation of approximately 1,000 new toys, which students collected and packed into a 17-foot box truck. The donations were delivered to the Gerald Ryan Outreach Center at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in Wyandanch, where they were shared with families in need. In addition, student members of the Students Helping and Reaching Peers (SHARP) Club organized and wrapped donated holiday gifts for anonymous families of the District.



## The Sounds of the Season

The Ward Melville High School Camerata, under the direction of Linda Contino, walked the halls of the elementary schools in the District, singing holiday carols for the younger students, as well as the District's central office. Joined by alumni, students also took part in evening caroling through the H section of Stony Brook.

At P.J. Gelinas Junior High School, members of the Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Daniel Hayes, participated in the Stony Brook Village Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony. Students also gave a live musical performance for the residents of the Atria Assisted Living Facility in South Setauket in hopes of sharing the holiday spirit. Students in Philip Gelfer's Chamber Orchestra also performed for staff at the District's Central Office.



## HOLIDAY WISHES FOR HEROES

Students of Mount Elementary School participated in "Holiday Cards for Heroes" in conjunction with the efforts of the American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes, a mail stream technology company. Students partnered with these organizations this holiday season to collect and distribute holiday cards to American service members and veterans, as well as their families in the United States and around the world.



# Excellence in Teaching Award

The Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS) awarded its 2011 Excellence in Science Teaching Award to Gary Vorwald at the annual STANYS Conference, held at the Rochester Convention Center in November. Mr. Vorwald is one of three outstanding teachers in New York State to be honored with this award. The award is given annually to teachers who exemplify the mission of STANYS, which is to promote excellence in science education and provide opportunities for all students to participate in and learn science.



Vorwald, who has taught science for 26 years, including 15 at Paul J. Gelinas Junior High School, currently teaches earth science and science research. With the firm belief that earth science should be learned through a hands-on approach, he has dedicated countless hours with his students not only in the classroom using inquiry, but also in the field making discoveries. Many of his former students commented that this philosophy helped them to excel in science as well as develop a joy and a curiosity for it.

Mr. Vorwald classifies himself as a lifelong learner and brings into his classroom authentic, real-world teaching experiences. He believes that excellence in teaching requires making connections with students, and that all students can be successful in learning science. His teaching philosophy involves learning through "hands-on/minds-on" activities that replicate real-world phenomena. He nurtures the appreciation for learning about the natural world while developing critical thinking skills. One of his former students, Luke Sugrue, commented, "Mr. Vorwald showed me a whole new perspective of how fun and relevant science can be."

His philosophy extends beyond the classroom borders, where he strives to enrich students' experiences in science and technology. As the coach of the Science Olympiad team, Mr. Vorwald takes pride in the team's successes, which include four New York State championships and eight trips to the National Tournament since 2000. More important than the medals and dozens of trophies is the impact that Science Olympiad has had on scores of students. This year, Gelinas will field five teams of 15 students at the Eastern Long Island Regional Tournament.

# Congratulations Are in Order

## Star Spelling

Congratulations to eighth-grader Yiran He (back) who won Murphy's Annual Spelling Bee and eighth-grader Ariel Leong (front) who won Gelinas' Annual Spelling Bee.

Yiran and Ariel will now advance to the regional spelling bee sponsored by Hofstra University in hopes of participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington D.C.



## Brainstormers Place in State Competition

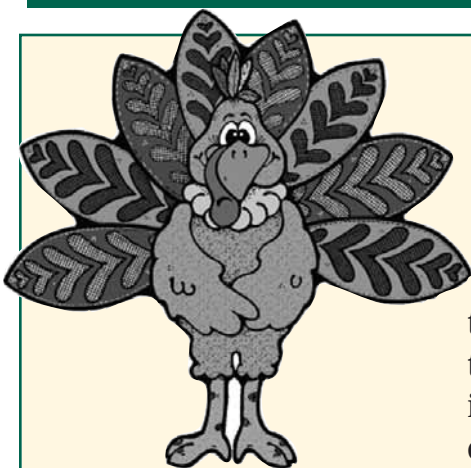
Congratulations to the Ward Melville Brainstormers Team for placing third in New York State in the Fall 2011 Knowledge Master Open academic competition!

The Knowledge Master competition is a challenging 200 question, timed computer-based event, earning points for the speed and accuracy of their answers. The team competed with tens of thousands of students across the world. The 16 members of the Brainstormers team scored 1,418 of 2,000 possible points to place 102nd overall in a field of 900 high schools participating in the contest.

Congratulations to: Harrison Li, Akilesh Tangella, Carolina Zheng, Sylvia Chen, Sahithi Reddy, Alan Wei, James Napoli, Ariel Yang, Kelsey Weymouth-Little, Matthew Nemesure, Ray Chen, Eidan Jacob, Rachel Tiedemann, Kirpal Kochar, Christopher Lin, and Grace Zhang.

## 2011-2012 LISFA Students Announced

Congratulations to the over 50 student musicians in the Three Village Central School District who were selected to participate in the Long Island String Festival Association concerts on Sunday, January 22, 2012 (elementary schools) and Sunday, February 5, 2012 (secondary schools). For a list of names and photos, please visit the Music Department webpage at [www.threevillagecsd.org](http://www.threevillagecsd.org).



## Native American Day

Upon completing a unit of study on Native American culture, the kindergarten teachers of W.S. Mount Elementary School in the Three Village Central School District transformed a classroom into an authentic Native American village so that students could experience a day in the life of a Native American child.





# STUDENTS TAKE A STAND AGAINST BULLYING

Student representatives from W.S. Mount Elementary and P.J. Gelinas and R.C. Murphy Junior High Schools attended the 11th annual Our Kids in Action Youth Conference (OKIA) Anti-Bullying Rally held at SUNY Farmingdale on Friday, December 2.

OKIA highlighted teenagers on Long Island who have fought back against bullying by turning their experience into something positive that can benefit others in their communities and around the world.

Students heard from keynote speaker Jamie Isaacs, a fifteen-year-old, bullying victim from Long Island, whose goal is to put a stop to bullying attacks among adolescents. In addition to establishing her own Anti-Bullying foundation, Issacs works alongside State Senator Jeff Klein in hopes of establishing a law that will categorize cyber-bullying as a crime comparable to stalking.

## W.S. Mount Steers CLEAR of Bullies

Third and fourth-grade students of W.S. Mount Elementary School took part in a program sponsored by Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) entitled "Steer Clear of Bullies." The program aims to make students aware of what bullying is and the differences between reporting and tattling. Students are also given strategies to deal with bullying.



During their session with retired teacher and CAPS representative Carroll Perpignano, students watched a video that depicted a number of bullying scenarios and set the stage for discussions on a variety of bullying topics. These included who they could go to if they saw someone being bullied or were being bullied themselves.

At the close of the presentation, students were reminded of five strategies to use when faced with a bullying situation, using the acronym CLEAR:

- C**alm down – Count to 10 and don't let the bully see you react.
- L**eave – Walk away from the situation if possible.
- E**nlist others – There is strength in numbers; other people can help.
- A**ssert yourself – Confidently tell the bully to stop.
- R**eport – Tell someone.

## Minnesauke Students Say "THINK BEFORE YOU TYPE"

Students of Minnesauke Elementary School took part in a school-wide poster contest to bring awareness to the dangers of cyber-bullying in accordance with National Bullying Prevention Month. The fifth-grade classes came to the library for a lesson on cyber-bullying, where they discussed its definition and how it compares to face-to-face bullying. Students also researched preventative measures and ways to handle bullying situations.

The classes were then invited to participate in the poster contest. Student submissions were judged on content, creativity, attractiveness, and grammar. Those who participated in the contest were invited to a "lunch and munch" luncheon (bagged lunch, munchkins provided) where winning posters were unveiled. Minnesauke Principal Brian Biscari attended the event along with Mr. Frank Russo and his fifth-grade class, who won the contest with a group poster based on the game "Angry Birds."

"We are trying to make people understand that they need to think before they type," said fifth-grade participant Kristin Parks. "You don't know how your words can affect someone."

Congratulations to the winners!



## A Sweet Season

Second-grade students of Kim Rosner's and Jessica Oppenheim's classes at Nassakeag Elementary enjoyed learning about and celebrating holiday traditions as part of the second-grade social studies curriculum. Students explored the similarities and differences of people living together in the same community. Through writing, literature, technology, cooking and art projects, the children shared their holiday traditions. Mrs. Rosner shared her family tradition of making and decorating chocolate houses with the students. She prepared 45 chocolate houses for the students of both classes to decorate with their parents during the annual in-school Chocolate House Party. The children were able to bring home their projects to share with their families during their holiday celebrations.



# Welcome Special Guests

## W.S. MOUNT WELCOMES A CHAMPION

Students of W.S. Mount Elementary School were visited by author, producer and New York Yankee advisor Ray Negrón.

Author of *The Boy of Steel* and *The Greatest Story Never Told: The Babe and Jackie*, Mr. Negrón spoke to students about his life experiences and his newest book, *One Last Time: Good-bye to Yankee Stadium*, a story that honors the closing of the original Yankee Stadium after 85 years.

Mr. Negrón's love of the NY Yankees began after he was caught writing graffiti on the walls of Yankee Stadium and was put to work by George Steinbrenner -- thus began his 38-year career with the team. He shared with the students his messages of making positive decisions, overcoming obstacles and looking up to your heroes. He named Mariano Rivera and Derek Jeter as top picks!

Mr. Negrón generously donated multiple signed copies of his books to the Mount School library. Students purchased over 100 copies of *One Last Time*, all of which were personally autographed. He told students that he would return to Mount to show a preview of his upcoming animated film "Henry and Me," starring several NY Yankees and actor Richard Gere.



Sixth-grade students of Nassakeag experienced Egyptian culture firsthand when they received a visit from photographer and world traveler Mike Harrold. (Back, left to right) Thomas Kutchma, Mike Harrold; (front, left to right) Alex Benanti, Maxwell Ruffner, Bailey Arnold and Hayley Brodsky.

## BRINGING CULTURAL LESSONS TO LIFE

Michael Harrold, a photographer, writer, educator, raconteur and world traveler to 80 countries, was invited to visit the sixth-grade students of Nassakeag and Setauket Elementary Schools to share with them artifacts, photos and experiences from his travels through Egypt. His visual and interactive presentation offered students the opportunity to experience firsthand the Egyptian culture, a topic of study in the sixth-grade social studies curriculum.

During a one-hour grade level presentation, Harrold bridged a gap between the ancient Egyptian world explored by students and modern-day Egypt. During an hour-long follow-up in small group workshops, he answered students' questions and allowed them to further explore the artifacts he had gathered during his world travels.

"It's a wonderful experience for the students," said teacher Sue Safranek. "He captivated them and really brought their social studies lessons to life."

## A FURRY FRIEND AND A GOOD BOOK

Setauket Elementary School has a very special guest every Monday at 11:00am; Charlotte, a Brussels Griffen who was adopted four years ago by Arlene Leone, the Special Program Manager at Little Shelter. Charlotte was a "throw away," an unwanted dog, and when Arlene saw her, she knew she could provide a forever home to Charlotte.



Since 1927, the not for profit Little Shelter of Huntington has been the oldest, no kill, shelter on Long Island. The staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to save the lives of companion animals, like Charlotte, whose lives are in jeopardy. It operates on donations and has established the Little Shelter Humane Education Program, of which Charlotte takes part, as a way of giving back to the community.

Charlotte is one of four reading dogs in the program. She has undergone weeks of training, and is now able to visit schools, like Setauket, to work with students who need the additional support and confidence in their oral reading ability. Charlotte visits with six students on a weekly basis. The children take turns reading books to her and learn to interact with her, as well as the other children in the group.

"I like reading to Charlotte," said sixth-grader Victoria. "She listens to me and she's cuddly!"

This is the first year of the program at Setauket and the changes in the students who have taken part have been positive. "The children are reading with much greater confidence," said Leone. "It is beautiful to see."

## Local Artist LEAVES AN IMPRESSION

Kindergarten through sixth-grade students at Minnesauke Elementary School had an opportunity to work with an artist and create their very own grade-level canvas paintings. Their artwork replicated the Impressionistic style they are learning about in art teacher Christine Fieldman's classes. John DiNaro, a local artist and consultant for the BOCES Arts and Education program, was invited by the school's PTA to visit Minnesauke and share his experiences as an artist with the students.

The children's artwork will be auctioned, although arrangements have not yet been made. Proceeds will go back into the PTA's Arts and Education program, which provided the funds for the visit, so that students of Minnesauke can participate in future artistic events.

In addition, sixth-grade students will paint an Impressionistic mural on a wall in the school nurse's office, leaving a reminder and thank you for the memorable years spent at Minnesauke Elementary School.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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