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The

Reporter

SUMMER 2013

The Official Newsletter of the Three Village School District

A LOOK AT THE CLASS OF 2013

- 662 students comprised the Class of 2013.
- 99.24% graduation rate for the Class of 2013.
- 33% of graduates will attend two-year colleges.
- 63% of graduates will attend four-year colleges.
- 1% of graduates will enlist with the military.
- 96% of graduates received a Regents diploma or better.
- Class of 2013 has been the recipient of more than \$23 million in grants and scholarships, more than \$2.5 million of which was in the areas of art and technology.

College Bound

Members of the Class of 2013 are continuing their education at some of the nation's top colleges and universities this fall. Below is just a sampling of those institutions they have enrolled in:

Adelphi University
 American University
 Amherst College
 Arizona State University
 Bard College
 Berklee College of Music
 Boston University
 Brown University
 Bucknell University
 California Institute of Technology
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Clemson University
 Colby College
 College of the Holy Cross
 Columbia University
 Cornell University
 CUNY – John Jay College
 Dartmouth College
 Duke University
 Emerson College
 Fairfield University
 Five Towns College
 Fordham University
 Georgetown University
 Hamilton College
 Hartwick College
 Harvard University
 Hofstra University
 Hunter College
 Indiana University
 Ithaca College
 Johns Hopkins University
 Johnson & Wales College
 The Juilliard School
 LIU Post
 Lehigh University
 Marist College

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 New York University
 Parsons School of Design
 Pennsylvania State University
 Pratt Institute
 Princeton University
 Queens College
 Quinnipiac University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rutgers University
 Sacred Heart University
 School of Visual Arts
 Siena College
 St. John's University
 Stanford University
 SUNY Binghamton
 SUNY Cortland
 SUNY Geneseo
 SUNY Maritime
 SUNY Stony Brook
 Suffolk County Community College
 Syracuse University
 Temple University
 Towson State University
 Tufts University
 Tulane University
 United States Air Force Academy
 United States Merchant Marine Academy
 United States Military Academy
 West Point
 United States Naval Academy
 University of Chicago
 University of Southern California
 Villanova University
 Yale University
 York College of Pennsylvania



Proud Moment for Class of 2013

A sea of green and gold covered the front lawn of Ward Melville High School as the Class of 2013 proceeded into this year's commencement ceremony and took their seats in front of the school building. Led by members of the administration, Board of Education and school faculty, the soon-to-be graduates walked past proud family members, friends and teachers as the high school symphonic band, led by Laura Stiegelmaier, played "Pomp and Circumstance."

After a performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by senior Annemarie Cartwright, Principal Dr. Alan Baum introduced this year's student speakers.

Reflecting on the significance of the day and the changes that lie ahead, salutatorian Rachel Gutman noted, "Today is, in a way, the closing to a challenge... it started in some long-ago September and ends today." After reminding her peers that their education does not end when they receive their diplomas, she concluded her remarks by saying, "Today is emotional not just because it's the end of the familiar, but because it's the beginning of something that could be very, very exciting."

Speaking about the myriad of programs and courses offered at the school and the students' abilities to customize their course load, valedictorian Kathryn Barnitt noted that no two individuals had the same high school experience at Ward Melville. "There is a niche for everyone here," she said. "The Ward Melville student community is diverse and accommodating of all interests. I have no doubt that we will carry our own Ward Melville experiences with us, and that they will inform our choices in the future." She also urged her peers to not allow themselves to be defined by who they are today, but rather to build upon what they had learned to become well-rounded adults.

Senior class president Rajiv Shanbhag announced that the students would be presenting tents to replace those lost during Superstorm Sandy as the class gift. Board of Education President Dr. Jeffrey Kerman extended the school board's collective congratulations to the students, stating, "You should be filled with pride in your accomplishments." Dr. Baum walked the students through the memories of their time within the district. "Whatever journey each of you took to assemble here today," he said, "you have reached this milestone together as the Class of 2013."

After each graduate received his or her diploma, student government president Yaela Collins led the class in the traditional turning of the tassels, after which they jubilantly tossed their graduation caps high into the air.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Residents,

As I complete my first year as superintendent, I am proud of the achievements our students and staff have realized over the last 12 months and the collaborative work accomplished this year. Having worked in the district in a variety of capacities over the last 30 years, I have always believed that our district is one of distinction with a reputation for success. In observing and engaging with many members of our faculty, staff, student body and community this year, I'm proud to say that these traditions were evident in 2012-13 and will continue in the future.

While this year's budget process brought with it a number of financial challenges and called for many difficult decisions to be made, I am grateful to the community for their outpouring of support of our budget. Our community has a way of coming together during both difficult and prosperous times in order to ensure that our number one priority is met – the education of our district's children. I am thankful for all of the input provided during this year's process and encourage you to remain involved throughout the school year.

Detailed in the pages of this publication are highlights of the many awards and honors bestowed upon our Three Village family at the end of the school year, as well as our plans for strengthening our districtwide security system. From championship athletic seasons and award-winning artists and musicians to our high-achieving academic learners, our students continue to exemplify what it means to be a well-rounded 21st-century scholar.

I wish to extend my deepest congratulations to our Ward Melville High School Class of 2013 graduates. As you embark upon this new life journey, I urge you to reflect upon the time spent in the district and apply the lessons learned, both in and outside the classroom, to the myriad of exciting opportunities you will encounter in the days, weeks and years ahead. I am confident that you will continue to bring the community pride in each of your future endeavors.

I hope all of our community members enjoy a relaxing summer vacation and are afforded the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. I look forward to welcoming our students back to school on September 9.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Pedisich
Superintendent of Schools

Interagency Partnership Enhances Practices

This year's interagency partnership between the school district and the Setauket Fire District has provided Three Village with increased opportunities to bolster its security plans and procedures, as it continues to provide a safe and secure learning environment for both students and staff. Due to its sheer size and coverage area, the Setauket Fire District is the first responder to many of the incidents occurring within the district's schools, and as such, it is important that the lines of communication ring clear between the two entities at all times.

The two organizations have held a number of meetings over the past several months, resulting in the implementation of several new safety protocols and tools.

Increasing Communication, Decreasing Response Time

Prior to this year, after the initial reporting of an incident in one of the schools, there was no clear channel for members of the district's emergency management team to remain in contact with those responding, leaving many important decisions to be put on hold until the two came together, with responders often unclear of where to report upon arrival. With the implementation of a pilot program – one of the first in the county – that has changed, as several district personnel now possess two-way radios that connect them directly to responders from the fire district.

From large-scale incidents that require well-choreographed plans to smaller-scale matters such as medical emergencies, the improved line of communication will allow the schools to share critical information directly with those coming to their aid, thereby decreasing response time to a myriad of situations.

"The importance of these devices cannot be overstated," said Michael Owen, Ward Melville High School assistant principal and a lead member of the district's emergency management team. "The time saved by being able to speak with the responders directly, even before they arrive on campus, can make all of the difference and, in life-threatening situations, save lives."

Also as part of this collaborative work, digitized floor plans of the facilities have been created and local responders now have access to these documents using a customized iPad application created by the fire district. Moving these documents into digital format, as well as providing responders with the chance to do a walkthrough of the facilities, is also expected to quicken response time during emergencies.

"At Ward Melville, we have two different types of sprinkler systems, and the response to an emergency with either would be vastly different," noted Mr. Owen. "These digitalized plans outline even those unique items and will allow the responders to create a plan accordingly, again before even stepping onto campus."

Training Is Key

Proper training of both students and staff is

a major part of the district's emergency planning. All central office administrators, members of the district's and building's emergency management teams and building principals have received incident command training, a federal program that came about following the tragedies of 9/11. This program focuses on implementing a unified response for all individuals – responders and those involved – to follow, ensuring that a standard approach is being utilized. The district's new Coordinator of Safety and Security, Jack Blaum, has facilitated this training and is planning to instruct staff in advanced-level "All Hazards" training in the future.

"School officials and our students are our first line of defense during an incident," said Setauket Fire District manager David Sterne. "It is important for those individuals to be trained and ready to respond properly during an emergency situation. Having a common approach only aids in that process."

All staff members have also received Project SAVE training. This year, the high school was one of the first to provide the training to every high school student at the start of the year. In addition to this formal training, all building personnel and students engage in drill exercises with members of the fire district to practice the procedures they are to follow in times of an emergency. These exercises include fire and evacuation drills with "road blocks," or obstructions in the way of their routine path. To simulate what would happen during a larger-scale incident, each year one building's personnel takes part in a relocation drill where they are transported from their school to another location in the district.

Eyes in the Sky

Not all incidents will occur when the buildings are occupied. Recognizing the importance of having inside knowledge of a situation, starting this fall the district's closed circuit security camera system will also be accessible by members of the fire department and local police department. In the event of a problem, this direct access will allow both departments to monitor a situation from the cameras located in all areas of the school buildings and coordinate their responses to meet that situation.



New Safety and Security Coordinator

The district has appointed Jack Blaum as the new Safety and Security Coordinator. Mr. Blaum has worked in a similar capacity for the district since 2002, as he was assigned as Three Village's Safety Officer by Eastern Suffolk BOCES during that time period.

Mr. Blaum, a 26-year retired detective of the Suffolk County Police Department, will be responsible for the oversight and coordination of districtwide building security and vehicle patrol, as well as work as a district emergency "All Hazards" responder and facilitate safety training and consultation services for the district. He is a certified security manager, certified safety manager, advanced criminal investigator, FEMA "All Hazards" planning chief, New York State police instructor, National Level II fire instructor, and a New York State Education Department general vocational instructor. Prior to his work on the police force, he was a campus safety specialist at SUNY Stony Brook.

The funds for this new position come from a \$747,000 multi-year School District Management Efficiency Award that the district received from the NYSED.

Moving Up & On to New Buildings

A BRIGHT FUTURE

As a fitting conclusion to their seven years of hard work and dedication, district sixth-graders participated in building-level moving up ceremonies during the last week of the school year. In a tradition that earmarks the beginning of the next chapter of their academic journeys, students walked past proud family and friends to receive commemorative moving up certificates and take part in musical presentations.

School and district administrators congratulated the young scholars on all of their achievements and aided members of the teaching staff in

the presentation of numerous student awards, including the annual Three Village Teachers Association scholarship, which is given to two students from each building. At several of the ceremonies, students reflected upon their time at the elementary school as they shared personal essays about their experiences and hopes for the future. In a new school tradition, members of the Setauket graduating class took a turn at ringing the old school bell to symbolize their departure. Incoming kindergarten students reciprocate this act on the first day of school as a symbol of their journey's beginning.



STEPPING UP TO HIGH SCHOOL

Surrounded by family, friends and teachers, the ninth-grade class at R.C. Murphy Junior High School took a ceremonial step into their futures when they took part in this June's moving up ceremony.

"From your first day of seventh grade, it was clear to me that you would be a group that would set the standard for what we expect from our students," Principal Vinny Vizzo said to the ninth-graders.

During the ceremony, members of the teaching staff presented departmental awards and Assistant Principal Kevin Finnerty announced the winners of this year's Presidential Academic Fitness Award. Mr. Vizzo oversaw the presentation of Character Achievement Awards and teacher Brian Pickford congratulated the recipients of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Complementing the evening's program was a musical interlude by choral students, directed by vocal teacher Anthony Pollera. As the words of Bill Withers' "Lean on Me" filled the gymnasium, the strong bonds of friendship that exist within the graduating class became evident. In keeping with tradition, the Murphy Class of 2013 left behind a gift for future generations to enjoy – the beautification of the school's garden located near the library.



Turning the Page & Moving Up

The traditional moving up ceremony for the P.J. Gelinis Junior High School eighth-grade Class of 2013 took place at the end of June. Surrounded by proud family members and former teachers, the class of more than 300 marched into the ceremony to a processional song performed by the school's chamber orchestra and took their seats at the center of the packed gymnasium.

"You've grown leaps and bounds since your arrival here at Gelinis just three short years ago," said Principal Gus Hueber in his opening remarks. "Time and time again, I've been surprised by your achievements and your determination and ability to overcome obstacles to your success."

After noting how fast their time at Gelinis had gone, ninth-grader Rebecca Cimini encouraged her classmates to "treasure every memory along the way, because in another blink of an eye we will be gathering at our high school graduation." Fellow ninth-grader Amanda Franko, next year's class co-president, shared her hopes for the class's future and encouraged her peers to take advantage of all of the opportunities they are afforded.

After members of the building's administration presented each student with a commemorative moving up certificate, members of the ninth-grade chamber choir performed a special musical interlude.





Awards & Accolades Abound



Perfect Score on ACT

Ward Melville High School junior Raymond Yin has achieved something earned by less than one-tenth of one percent of test takers – a perfect score on the ACT college admission and placement exam. On the exam taken earlier this year, Raymond earned the highest possible composite score of 36.

When asked how he prepared for the exam, Raymond cited taking practice tests and relying on what he had learned in his classes. “I was very relieved, ecstatic even, when I received the results,” he said. While he still has another year of high school ahead of him, he is thinking of pursuing a degree in science or economics in college.

Showcasing Skills

Ward Melville High School seniors and cosmetology students Nicole Flaherty and Skye Flores were named second-place winners in the banner contest during this year’s New York State SkillsUSA competition. At the same state contest, senior Adam Ciota placed third in the area of culinary arts after making several delicious food items.

SkillsUSA is a nationwide club for career and technical education students. Some of the club’s major activities are the skills competitions held at the regional and state levels. Each BOCES facility has a chapter, and students at each center are chosen to compete by their teachers.



Top Awards at Science Congress

Two groups of students from P.J. Gelinas Junior High School competed against approximately 35 other Long Island school districts at this year’s Long Island Science Congress. During the event, the students presented their research to judges and answered questions about their experimental procedures and resulting data. The students developed their research projects as part of their science research class, receiving guidance from teachers Vicki Guarascio, Peter Schuchman and Ken Weiner. Leanne Perry coordinated their participation in both divisions of the exhibit. Six ninth-graders participated in the Senior Division (high school), and 10 eighth-graders participated in the Junior Congress (middle school).

Eighth-graders Cecilia Orduna and Sarah Prokop placed first in the “Earth, Space & Energy” category and were among the 12 projects invited to compete at the New York State Science Congress. Amber Beg and Kirti Nath were awarded Honors; Kassidy Rogers Healion and Megan Raftery were awarded High Honors and received third place in the “Earth, Space & Energy” category; and, in addition to their first-place win, Cecilia and Sarah received Highest Honors and won the Junior Division Director’s Award and Suffolk County STANYS Award. Other recognitions included Amy Huang and Isabel Della Salle, who earned junior-level achievement awards, and Arianna Ferretti and Serena Zhao, who garnered junior-level merit awards. On the senior level, the following students received honorable mention: Dylan Abad, Nicholas Barbieri, Andrew Mata, Mohit Singh, Katie Wang and Demian Zuric.



AWARD-WINNING Photos

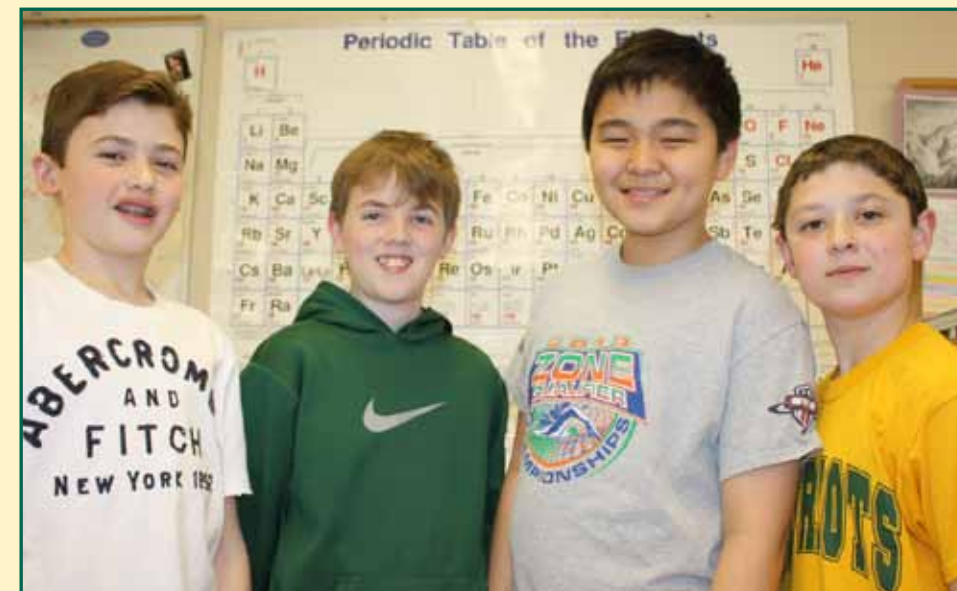
For the second year in a row, Ward Melville High School juniors Trevor Munch and Alan Wei had their photographs selected as honorees in the 2013 Jostens Photo Contest. Their photos were chosen out of more than 5,000 entries from around the country. Trevor’s photo, titled “Smiles,” placed second in the “Student Life” category, while Alan’s photo, “Patriots,” received an honorable mention in the “Photo Illustration” category. Both photos were taken as part of the students’ work on the high school’s award-winning, nationally recognized yearbook, *Invictus*.



ENVISIONING TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES

R.C. Murphy Junior High School’s seventh-grade science research class had the chance to study a technology of interest and predict what that technology might look like 20 years from today when they participated in the ExploraVision Program, sponsored by Toshiba Industries and the National Science Teachers Association. As a result of their project, “Carbon Nanotube Water Filter,” students Arthur Bances, Christopher Donnelly, David He and Ryan Kaplan were named honorable mention awardees, signifying that their project ranked in the top 10 percent of all ExploraVision projects submitted this year.

The students explained that their concept focused on the way in which water is filtered, not only for personal consumption but for commercial uses as well. They determined that the most practical use for the carbon nanotube would be realized at dams and other large aquatic areas with running water.



Student Compositions Showcased

The beautifully crafted musical compositions of 11 district students were selected for performance during this year’s Long Island Composers Alliance Annual “Music by and for Students” Concert at Hofstra University. The alliance seeks to present the most outstanding compositions by Long Island student composers under the age of 19. There were a total of 16 compositions featured at the concert.

- Harrison Bassin (Arrowhead Elementary School)
- Jessica Guo, Steven Holmquist, Victor Jiao and Elizabeth Wang (W.S. Mount Elementary School)
- Varun Jindal and Rebecca Zhang (Nassakeag Elementary School)
- Haasitha Korlipara and Emma Martinez (Setauket Elementary School)
- Michelle Hu (R.C. Murphy Junior High School)
- Adam Goldberg (Ward Melville High School)

As several of the students’ pieces were scored for multiple instruments, some of their classmates helped bring their pieces to life. Performing at the concert were students Kathryn Barnitt, Emily Dana, Kieran McAuliffe, Maria Scutari, Madeleine Vaillancourt and Adora Zhang.

Adam Goldberg, Steven Holmquist and Elizabeth Wang earned the further distinction of receiving Arline Diamond Memorial Awards for most outstanding compositions in their age categories. They received cash awards and performed their pieces in an encore concert at the South Huntington Library.

The students worked on their compositions throughout the year under the guidance of music teacher Dr. Daniel Deutsch. Dr. Deutsch, a well respected educator who retired from the district this year, was recently given the National Association for Music Education’s highest honor. This June he was inducted into the organization’s Lowell Mason Fellows, Class of 2013 – a national honor awarded to those who have made significant contributions to music education.

Masters at MATH

W.S. Mount Elementary School’s Mount Math Masters Club once again dominated at the sixth annual Suffolk County Math Tournament held at SUNY Stony Brook and even set three new tournament records, previously held by former Mount teams. Out of the 53 teams from 13 school districts in Suffolk County, Mount’s two sixth-grade teams came in first and second place, and team members received five of the 14 individual trophies presented at the end of the contest.

The club, which is taught by Linda Earls, is comprised of fifth- and sixth-graders. They practice for the contest throughout the year by participating in Math Olympiad Challenges. The top-scoring members are selected to compete in the annual county competition. During the contest, the students compete in an individual session, where they work on their own to answer 10 very challenging math problems in 30 minutes, before moving on to the team session, where they compete in teams of five to answer 10 extremely challenging math problems in 20 minutes.



Fun-Filled Field Days



The time-honored Field Day tradition marked the approaching end of the school year at Setauket Elementary School. Dressed in colorful shirts and grouped according to class, the entire student body had the chance to take part in a number of fun-filled events as their family members and teachers cheered them on. From a homerun derby and relay races to a tug-of-war and even a lacrosse challenge, this year's events helped to promote teamwork, sportsmanship and physical exercise in a friendly manner. Younger grades received support during their events from the school's sixth-graders, who volunteered to assist at several Field Day stations and act as role models for their peers.

Living History

Complete silence fell over the library at Nassakeag Elementary School when Holocaust survivor and author Ruth Minsky Sender spoke to the school's entire sixth grade about her individual experiences during one of the most troubling times in world history. Ms. Minsky Sender, who is also the grandmother of two students in the school, described how the dreams she had for her future came to a halt following the German invasion of Poland, where she was born. The heart-wrenching stories she shared – from the loss of her family to the day her oldest friend became a Nazi soldier – painted a clear picture of this devastating part of history that the students had been studying in class.

Addressing the importance of her message, she said, "We must never forget what happened. I want the students to understand that being indifferent can be just as bad."

At the end of the program, each student received an autographed copy of Ms. Minsky Sender's first book, "The Cage," now in its 30th printing.



Putting a Face to a Name

For the past 12 years, the second-graders in Rosemary Ullrich's class from Arrowhead Elementary School have corresponded through the written word with the second-graders in Patti Austin's class at Commack Road Elementary School in the Islip School District. Paired with their pen pals in the beginning of the year, the students exchanged letters every two months, discussing what they were learning in class, their favorite activities and the different books they were reading.

To culminate the yearlong pen pal program, the Arrowhead students traveled to Commack Road to spend the day with their new friends. During the visit, the students enjoyed a picnic, played on the playground, participated in a buddy read and taught one another math strategy games.



Operation Hold Fast

The lessons that formed the basis for the book "Hold Fast" by Blue Balliett were not only woven into the fabric of the curriculum in Kate Hunter's fifth-grade class at Minnesauke Elementary School, but also the lives of the 21 students in her class. Following a unit of study on diversity and tolerance, the students read the 2013 novel and were immediately captivated by the characters in the story and the social issues detailed in the book.

The book follows the life of a Chicago-based family who falls into the shelter system after becoming homeless. Its underlying messages focus on one's need to hold onto his or her dreams in the face of adversity.

Coinciding with their reading of the book, the students conducted research on the topic of homelessness and were startled to learn that there are currently 21,000 homeless children living in New York City. The students and Ms. Hunter began monitoring this number daily as they continued to read "Hold Fast" and were moved to make a difference in the lives of these youngsters.

Garnering inspiration from the paper clip project undertaken by a Tennessee middle school to understand the number 6 million, as attributed to the number of deaths from the Holocaust, Ms. Hunter's class sought to collect 21,000 pennies as a visual representation of the number of homeless children in NYC. Because pennies are often understood as a symbol of good luck, the class found them to be a fitting symbol for their mission. By doing chores around the house, the students met the goals they set during Operation Hold Fast, and with their donations in hand realized the vastness of this social problem.

After an exhaustive search for ways to donate their collected pennies to help this cause, Ms. Hunter and the class connected with Mayor Michael Bloomberg during a call-in radio show on WOR-AM. After learning about the incredible work done by the class, the mayor's staff helped coordinate the fifth-graders' donation to benefit a shelter in Queens. Learning that going to school is a significant challenge for these homeless children, the students and Ms. Hunter also drafted messages of hope for the recipients and created a bulletin board creatively decorated with corresponding messages.

When the author learned about how the students were moved into action by her book, she not only sent each class member a personalized signed copy of "Hold Fast," but also pledged to donate copies of the story to the shelter receiving their monetary donation. Ms. Balliett plans to visit the class when school resumes in September.

Teachers *in the News*

And the Grammy Goes To...

Setauket Elementary School music teacher Richard Wiederman has been named a quarterfinalist in the Recording Academy and Grammy Foundation's first-ever Music Educator Award program. This award was established to recognize current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in schools. In total, more than 30,000 initial nominations were submitted from all 50 states, and only 21 teachers from across New York State reached this level of the competition.

Mr. Wiederman, a teacher in the district for 13 years and a 28-year veteran educator, was nominated for this award by former band student Erin McSweeney. During his time in the district, Mr. Wiederman has also taught elementary instrumental music at Nassakeag and Minnesauke elementary schools. Currently Setauket's band teacher, he is responsible for teaching woodwinds, brass and percussion in addition to conducting the beginner and advanced bands. He teaches private trumpet lessons and is a professional trumpeter, having performed all over the tri-state area and Boston for the last 30 years.

One recipient will be selected from 10 finalists this August and will be recognized for his or her remarkable impact on students' lives. The winner will be flown to Los Angeles to accept the award, attend the Grammy Awards ceremony and receive a \$10,000 honorarium. The nine finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, and the schools of all 10 finalists will receive matching grants.



Gelinas Educator Named **SCIENCE TEACHER** of the Year

Gary Vorwald, a science teacher at P.J. Gelinas Junior High School and school science department chairman, has been named the winner of the 2013 Middle School Level Science Teacher of the Year Award by the Suffolk County Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State. This award is given to teachers who have been nominated by their school district's administration, their colleagues or other science professionals. Eileen Gerle, a Brookhaven Town environmental educator, nominated Mr. Vorwald based on his commitment to education and for providing experiences for his students to conduct science in the field.

Mr. Vorwald started his teaching career in 1986 after working for several years as an exploration petroleum geologist. For the last 16 years he has taught earth science, eighth-grade physical science, science research and seventh-grade science at Gelinas, while also serving as the science department chairman.

In addition to his teaching and leadership roles at Gelinas, Mr. Vorwald is the head coach of the school's Science Olympiad teams, a role he describes as his most successful and rewarding experience. He devotes countless hours to the program, leading the school's five teams, which encompass 75 members. Under Mr. Vorwald's leadership, the teams of this program have advanced to compete at the state and national levels for the past 10 years. Mr. Vorwald is involved in several professional organizations, regularly seeks ways to engage students in a higher level of learning, and shares best practices with fellow educators at the regional and state levels.



Teacher Publishes **Children's Book**

Setauket Elementary School special education teacher Susan Sangiamo can now add the title of published author to her resume, as her book "Meet Lefty St. James" was released in April 2013. Using her knowledge of baseball from her experiences with her son and educational training as a teacher, Ms. Sangiamo's book follows the story of a young boy who struggles with mathematics until he connects the subject to his love for baseball.

"It has always been a dream of mine to write a children's book," she said. "Many of the concepts included in the story are topics that the students are learning about in class but perhaps haven't thought about in the context of a baseball game."

As a teacher, Ms. Sangiamo has taken workshops on how to tie literature into math lessons, training she put into use when penning the short story. Many of Ms. Sangiamo's students quickly became fans of the book, having read it several times. The entire school will have a chance to read the story as well, as it has been added to the collection in the school library.



RETURNING TO THE STAGE

The third annual Senior and Alumni Recall Revue at Ward Melville High School was a resounding success and attended by many in the community. Featuring the vocal talents of 25 students from the Class of 1997 through the graduating seniors in the Class of 2013, the event served as a fundraiser for next year's school musical, "Beauty and the Beast." While several of the performers were on summer break from college, the most senior alumna, Kelly Waters from the Class of '97, volunteered while on break from her performances in the national tour of "Sister Act."

Directed by music teacher Linda Contino, the production featured the alumni performing several of the songs they had originally sung while students at their alma mater, including "Tradition," "Heart" and "No One Is Alone." As no musical would be complete without the participation of those working in the background, current and former students also performed with the pit band and assisted as part of the stage crew.



Patriots Commit to Play

Joining the list of those honored earlier in the year, nine more Ward Melville High School student-athletes have been recruited to sign National Letters of Intent with some of the nation's top colleges, and eight students have been invited to compete on the athletic teams of several top Division III schools.

"This is no small accomplishment – it is the culmination of many years of hard work and dedication to not only your academics, but also your chosen sport," said Erin Blaney, the district's executive director of health, physical education, recreation and athletics. "I am confident that you will go on to represent both Ward Melville and your new school well in the future."

The district congratulates the following Patriots:

DIVISIONS I & II

Alexa Antipas – Ohio State University, Fencing
Sara Buckley – Manhattan College, Swimming
Matthew Corrie – Pace University, Football
Alex Fitzgerald – Lehigh University, Track
David Gibbs – Siena College, Lacrosse
Colleen Lampe – Marist College, Swimming
Robert Mendez – Rollins College, Lacrosse
Daniel Nemirov – Cornell University, Lacrosse
Alexa Rohan – Stanford University, Fencing

DIVISION III

Matthew Befumo – Arcadia University, Lacrosse
Courtney Cleary – SUNY Geneseo, Volleyball
Daniel Decker – Fairleigh Dickinson University, Lacrosse
Kevin Doherty – Endicott College, Lacrosse
Brendan Dooley – Springfield College, Lacrosse
Harley Kaiserman – Roger Williams University, Tennis
Taylor Ringold – SUNY Purchase, Baseball
Danielle Valente – Molloy College, Soccer

Championship Seasons

This year's sports seasons ended with several Ward Melville High School Patriot teams coming home with county, Long Island and even state championships. The district's Board of Education commended these varsity athletes for demonstrating outstanding athleticism and for representing their school with pride and a high level of sportsmanship throughout the season.

"These athletes and their coaches have put in countless hours in the gymnasium, on the field and in the pool to achieve these outstanding accomplishments," said Erin Blaney, the district's Executive Director of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics, when the teams were honored at a recent Board meeting. Addressing the honorees, she added, "I offer my sincere congratulations and thanks to our athletes and coaches for all that you have achieved and for the thrill that we experienced as we followed your journey on your way through the championships."

In addition to the athletes pictured below, the varsity girls volleyball team, coached by Charlie Fernandez, was named both Suffolk County and Long Island champions. Girls track standout Emily Astarita was named the state champion in the pentathlon and received All-American honors.



The boys varsity lacrosse team, coached by Mike Hoppey, assistant coach Jay Negus and volunteers Chris Muscarella, Chris Murphy and Scott Graham, was named league, Suffolk County, Long Island and state champions. In addition to being honored by the school district, Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine commended the athletes and their coaches on their accomplishments this season and presented an official proclamation certifying a day in June as Ward Melville Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team Day.



The varsity gymnastics team, coached by Caryl Crasa, was named Suffolk County Champions. Pictured here are several team members with Board President Dr. Jeffrey Kerman and Coach Crasa.



The boys varsity fencing team, coached by Jeff Salmon, was once again named Suffolk County and Long Island champions. Several team members are pictured here with girls coach Jennie Salmon and Board President Dr. Jeffrey Kerman.



For the 21st consecutive year, the girls swimming team, coached by Chris Gordon, Britni Navetta and Jeff Perfetti, was named Suffolk County Champions. Two team members are pictured here with Board President Dr. Jeffrey Kerman and Athletic Director Erin Blaney.



The boys varsity baseball team made school history when they completed their season with a 14-0 at-home record and was named both Suffolk County and Long Island champions. They were coached by Lou Petrucci, assistant coach Ron Muscarella and volunteer Alex Piccirillo.



The girls fencing team was named Suffolk County and Long Island champions. Several team members are pictured here with coach Jennie Salmon and Board President Dr. Jeffrey Kerman.