



Celebrating 50 Years of Service

# Forum

## Save the Date

### VIOLENCE PREVENTION CERTIFICATION

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019, 9-11 a.m.

### CHILD ABUSE CERTIFICATION

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Monday, June 10, 2019, 4-6 p.m.  
Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 12-2 p.m.

### DASA CERTIFICATION

Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, 4-7 p.m.  
Monday, Feb. 11, 2019, 4-7 p.m.  
Monday, March 11, 2019, 4-7 p.m.

### 18TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Monday, March 18, 2019  
Villa Lombardi's, Holbrook, New York

For more information, please call  
Jennifer Milillo at 631-881-9646.

## LONG ISLAND

## EDUCATION LEADERS GATHER AND SHARE INFORMATION

Long Island's public-school educational leaders met at Oakdale's Bourne Mansion on Aug. 9 for SCOPE Education Service's 34th annual Dinner Meeting for superintendents and school board members. The event served as a networking opportunity for new and returning superintendents, their board of education trustees and other education professionals to meet and discuss education topics before the start of the new school year. SCOPE provides a vast array of school district services, such as before- and after-school child care programs, school enrichment programs and professional development.

SCOPE Executive Director George L. Duffy told those in attendance that their work is vital and urged everyone to utilize and benefit from the many programs and services SCOPE provides. He also introduced all newly installed school board members and superintendents and wished them success in their new positions.

Henry Grishman, president of SCOPE's board of directors, shared valuable advice with the organization's new guests. "Leave your school district in far better shape than you found it," he said.

Speakers included Roger Tilles, who serves as Long Island's representative on the New York State Board of Regents, and New York State Commissioner of Education MaryEllen Elia. Both provided updates on education policy changes, such as state assessments, graduation requirements and teacher

evaluations.

Regent Tilles said he is examining ways to create opportunities for teacher advancement and noted that while many Long Island districts are receiving national accolades, other districts are struggling.

"We have to remember that those kids are our kids," Regent Tilles said. "We cannot separate districts doing well from those that aren't. The equity issue needs to be brought to the forefront."

Commissioner Elia urged educators to be vocal about the issues surrounding the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and the new New York State standards and assessment issues. She said she is most proud of ESSA's emphasis on civic responsibility and engagement.

"We need to teach students to be critical thinkers that look at issues," Commissioner Elia stated. "Students need to be aware of civic problems."

After receiving questions about the controversial opt-out movement, the Annual Professional Performance Review, charter schools and the move for privatization of public schools, Elia encouraged all education leaders to remain steadfast on their focus of what is good and beneficial for students.



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Fall is once again upon us and with that the beginning of the school year. As the executive director of SCOPE Education Services, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of The Forum, SCOPE's newsletter. The Forum, again this year, will be distributed in two formats, the printed hard copy and a full-color electronic copy. Kindly contact Jennifer Milillo at 631-881-9646 or [jmilillo@scopeonline.us](mailto:jmilillo@scopeonline.us) and we would be happy to email the electronic edition to you.



SCOPE, a not-for-profit organization celebrating our 54th year, is permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to provide services to public school districts on Long Island and in New York State. Some of the services we provide include student enrichment programs; before- and after-school child care; pre-K/UPK classes; college prep test classes (PSAT, SAT, ACT); a speakers bureau for students, parents and school district staff; training for school district staff in the Dignity for All Students Act, violence prevention and the identification of child abuse/maltreatment as well as other professional development; and conferences for noninstructional/instructional and administrative staff.

SCOPE's Professional Development Program maintains approval from the New York State Education Department as a provider of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education courses. Professionals working in our state's public schools can be assured that SCOPE's professional development courses are of the highest quality, designed to improve student performance, and are approved by NYSED to meet the 100 hours of required CTLE training.

SCOPE continues to give back to the communities and school districts we serve. Last year, \$500 scholarships were awarded to deserving recipients in every SCOPE member district. In addition, both the Nassau County and Suffolk County superintendent associations were provided with a \$1,000 scholarship for a deserving graduate in each of the counties, and two \$1,500 scholarships (one in each county) were awarded in memory of Cramer Harrington, former deputy director of SCOPE and retired superintendent of the Harborfields Central School District. Congratulations to all of the 2018 scholarship recipients!

More than \$186,000 in scholarships were awarded by SCOPE last year and we look forward to doing so again in 2019. SCOPE is proud of our history of service. No child is ever denied admission to a SCOPE program due to financial need. We work with our school districts and families to ensure that any child wishing to attend may do so and we provide scholarships to needy families where and when necessary. Children whose parents are serving on active military duty are provided free tuition to all SCOPE programs.

Please take the time to read the advertisement related to employment opportunities at SCOPE. We are looking for individuals who enjoy working with children in our before- and after-care programs. SCOPE has openings in both Nassau and Suffolk counties and offers excellent wages and benefits, including the opportunity to earn scholarships for postsecondary education. Information can be found in this addition of The Forum.

As in the past, The Forum includes interesting information submitted by school districts, including district programs of interest and new appointments and promotions. Congratulations to all new administrators and school staff and best wishes for much success. As always, I wish each of you a very productive, successful and safe 2018-19 school year.

Warmest regards,

George L. Duff

George L. Duffy  
Executive Director

SCOPE is approved by New York State to provide Continuing Teacher and Leader Education course offerings for in-service professional development. SCOPE's program structure is aligned with SED goals and designed to accommodate the professional needs of educators. Review of course offerings and registration for courses is available online at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us). Each course credit is equivalent to 15 hours of professional development, with course offerings varying from 1 to 3 credits.



<b>Balance the Mind and Heart - Creating Resilient Schools That Meet the Social-Emotional Needs of Students .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>The Dynamics of Conflict - How to Establish a Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation Program in the School ..</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>The Opioid Epidemic and the Impact on Schools - Includes Materials to Help Students Cope With Addictions .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Gadgets and Gizmos and Essential Web Tools - Learn How to Make the Internet Work for You .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Totally Twitter - Find Out What Twitter Can Do for You .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>How to Teach Research-Paper Writing Skills at All Levels .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Character Education - The Six Pillars.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Grammar Gimmicks, Word Usage, Painless Punctuation .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>How Proficient Readers Think - Mastering Cognitive Thinking .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Recognizing and Meeting the Needs of Gifted Students.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Spanish in Our Classrooms - The Basics of Spanish Language and Culture Awareness .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Best Practices for Teaching Multilanguage Students - Helping ENL, ELL and MLL Students Learn English and Succeed .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Effective Rehearsal Techniques for the School Music Director .....</b>	<b>2 credits</b>
<b>Developing a College/Career-Ready Student - Setting Postsecondary Goals.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Igniting the Entrepreneurial Spirit of Elementary and Middle School Students .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Poverty in Education .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Essential Questions to Engage Learners .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Engaging the Disengaged Learner .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Integrated Co-Teaching - Ensuring Student Success Both Socially and Academically.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Implementing Helpful Strategies for Working With Speech and Language Students .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Oppositional Defiance Disorder - Strategies for Teachers and Parents .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Defining Dyslexia and the Orton-Gillingham Reading Methodology .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>What Does It Mean to Be on the Spectrum? K-12 Characteristics and Practices .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Text-Dependent Questions - Pathways to Close and Critical Thinking.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Teaching Study Skills K-12.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Everything You Need to Know to 3D Print, Now! (No need for access to a 3D printer.) .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>iPad Apps and Websites to Help Struggling Readers and Writers.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Keeping Our Students and Schools Safe .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Engaging the Math Learner With Games.....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Using a Teacher Blog .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>
<b>Presentations - How to Create and Use Them in Class .....</b>	<b>3 credits</b>

The details of all courses and the credentials/biographies of the instructors are included online. Winter/Spring 2018-19 course offerings are often a repeat of the fall, if interest continues, with additions/deletions based on more current topics/needs. The winter courses typically begin the first week in February and end the first week in April, with spring courses starting in early April and ending the middle of June.

Again, SCOPE In-Service Course Registration is available online at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact SCOPE at 631-881-9651 or email [bwestcott@scopeonline.us](mailto:bwestcott@scopeonline.us).



# BUILDING ON SUCCESS

## *New and Improved School-Age Child Care*

SCOPE's School-Age Child Care programs are structured to provide a safe and engaging student environment during those times when students are brought together outside of the school day. We are mindful of the need to serve our students in ways that are familiar and complementary to their experiences during the school day. To that end, the SCOPE staff has been involved in ongoing training, including exposure to utilizing more effective student management initiatives and play activities that pique student interests. Staff training is a routine part of SCOPE staff preparation in working with children. The areas of student management, large group games and activities, music and the arts activities, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) experiences are all being infused into our daily school-age child care routines. As we move forward, we expect our programs and services to have an updated quality we can look to with pride.



- **Student Management** – Taught by a New York State certified classroom teacher, the SCOPE staff is receiving guidance on effective student management techniques and strategies common to classroom teachers. Appropriate adult-to-student behavior responses and activities that promote social-emotional learning are modeled and explained. Mindful of the need to extend this awareness and application past separate workshops, field trainers reinforce these skills and strategies with staff throughout the year.
- **Large Group Games and Activities** – Taught by a New York State certified physical education teacher, the SCOPE staff was introduced to hands-on training in group games that highlight physical activities in positive and enjoyable ways. A number of games and activities were demonstrated with our staff as participants and a wealth of other activities were handed out to each site director. Descriptions of tag games, relays and group games were categorized and distributed to all participants.
- **Music** – Taught by New York State certified music teachers, the world of music was demonstrated through the use of simple instruments and props that encourage students to focus and participate through music. While the skills attached to these activities require some additional planning, the joy that comes from music, especially when it's a collective effort, is intangible. Students are encouraged to coordinate their efforts with others and recognize music fluency through the use of props, including colored hand bells and charts that match music sounds to stories. These simple activities require mindful applications, and the SCOPE staff is being introduced to these opportunities as a way to enhance their programs and enhance student participation.
- **STEAM** – The SCOPE staff has been provided with and introduced to updated materials and activities that align with science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. While not certified teachers, our child care staff has become more mindful of the purposes behind the play that is associated with the updated games and activities. Specific STEAM lessons/activities are a weekly expectation, with oversight and support provided through SCOPE administrators in the field.





# SCOPE Services for Children and Students

## Focus on Children

Nothing is more important to SCOPE Education Services than the well-being of the children of Long Island. SCOPE provides a wide array of programs to serve children and their families. Child-care and educational programs are designed

to help children thrive academically, emotionally and physically in a safe, enjoyable environment.

For more information about any child care program, please contact: Mindy Labriola at 631-360-0800, ext. 164 or Dina Pendel at 631-360-0800, ext. 120.

## SCOPE PRE-K PROGRAM

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Universal Pre-K program provides eligible 4-year-old children with a wonderland of opportunity and discovery that builds on their natural curiosity and eagerness to learn. The program focuses on meeting the child's total developmental needs. Social, emotional, motor and cognitive growth are fostered through creative expression, arts and crafts, science, math, reading readiness, music, dance, large and small motor coordination, and much more. The curriculum is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards and is designed to transition students into kindergarten.

### STAFFING

All teachers are New York State certified and specialists in early childhood education. Teachers are teamed with trained assistants who are

sensitive to the unique qualities and needs of each child. SCOPE teachers participate in professional workshops to keep abreast of new trends in education. Staff meetings are conducted weekly to create a sharing and collaborative environment.

### ADMISSION

Admission is open to all eligible 4-year-old children residing in the school district (district transportation restrictions may apply). Students must be eligible to attend kindergarten the following school year in order to attend the Universal Pre-K program. Enrollment is limited to 18 students, who must be enrolled within the school district. If there are more eligible students than spots, the school district must hold a lottery and create a waiting list.



### TUITION

Universal Pre-K programs are funded through school district state aid designated for that purpose. There is no cost to parents for children to attend this program. In districts where there is no UPK funding, SCOPE provides a parent-paid, tuition-based program.

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS CURRENTLY OFFERING SCOPE UPK/PRE-K PROGRAMS:

Commack: UPK and tuition  
Comsewogue: UPK and tuition  
Connetquot: UPK only  
East Meadow: Tuition only

East Moriches: UPK and tuition  
Eastport-South Manor: UPK and tuition  
Hampton Bays: UPK only  
Hauppauge: Tuition only  
Huntington: UPK only  
Island Trees: Tuition only  
New Hyde Park/Garden City Park: Tuition only  
North Babylon: Tuition only  
Riverhead: UPK only  
Sachem: UPK and tuition  
West Babylon: Tuition only

**For more information  
about UPK/Pre-K, please  
contact Melissa Krauss  
at 631-360-0800,  
ext. 146.**



# SCOPE Services for Children and Students

## Before- and After-School-Age Child Care Programs

SCOPE Education Services is the largest child care provider in the state of New York, serving more than 6,000 students. All SCOPE child care programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and are operated in public schools on Long Island.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SCOPE child care programs provide a safe, fun, caring environment for the children of working parents. A variety of age-appropriate, supervised games, sports, arts and crafts and enrichment opportunities are offered, as well as healthy snacks, scheduled homework time and daily opportunities to socialize with peers.

### STAFFING

All staff undergo an extensive background check and meet or exceed all requirements set by the state of New York. The programs maintain a staffing ratio of one adult to 10 children at all times. SCOPE program supervisors and field trainers oversee the programs. In addition, the Office of Children and Family Services conducts inspections of the programs on a regular basis.

### ADMISSION

The programs are open to all elementary school students residing in the school district. (District transportation restrictions may apply.) Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to capacity limits

set by the OCFS regulations. When necessary, students are placed on a waiting list for the next available opening.

### SCOPE RESPONSIBILITIES

SCOPE conducts all needs assessments; designs the program to meet district needs; obtains all licensing; recruits, screens, hires and compensates all program staff; provides all staff training; purchases all consumable materials; provides children with a nutritious snack each day; provides all program supervision and maintains appropriate insurance coverage for the program.

### SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The school district provides adequate and appropriate space for the program according to the OCFS regulation requirements, provides access to a storage area and refrigeration, provides access to a phone line, provides custodial services and permits

SCOPE to distribute information regarding the program to parents in the school district.

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**For further information, contact Dina Pendel or Mindy Labriola at 631-360-0800, ext. 120 or 164.**



### TUITION

Parents pay all fees directly to SCOPE. Fees are posted for a.m. only, p.m. only, and a.m. and p.m. combined, as well as part-time (10 days or less) and full-time (all school days in the month). Fees are subject to change. Please contact SCOPE to obtain information regarding available programs and specific fees for your school district.





*SCOPE's School-Age Child Care program prides itself on being safe, structured and enjoyable. It is a time of day when children can channel their "steam" through enjoyable pursuits. In the process, they forge positive relationships with staff and, more importantly, one another. This year we will be highlighting the activities that our children seem to enjoy, even if the only discernible purpose is fun.*

## SCIENCE IS A WAY OF THINKING

Science is observing and experimenting, making predictions, sharing discoveries, asking questions, and wondering and learning how things work. To the extent that these opportunities exist in our daily activities, the SCOPE child care staff is more mindful about identifying these pursuits under the topic of science.

## TECHNOLOGY IS A WAY OF DOING

Technology is utilizing tools, being creative and inventive, identifying problems and finding solutions. Whenever our children are engaged in these pursuits, our staff is alert to the use of tools in problem-solving as rudimentary adaptations under the topic of technology. Every time a child searches for and selects something to help him/her "fix" a problem, we now think of that as using technology.

## ENGINEERING IS A WAY OF DOING

Engineering is solving problems, using a variety of materials, designing and creating, and building things that work. Activities that focus on building things and checking to see that they work are now highlighted as basic pursuits under the topic of engineering. We often see children at table play using blocks and assorted materials to create miniature worlds that only they understand. Identifying those activities as "engineering play" directs adult attention accordingly.

## ART IS A WAY OF CREATING

Art is expression through a variety of mediums. It is the "face" of every product made and it encompasses visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic expressions. Whether it is a colorful drawing, a musical performance, the creation of crafts, or an expression of communication through STEAM pursuits, the children in our programs enjoy the freedom to explore these opportunities and discover hidden talents in their pursuit.

## MATHEMATICS IS A WAY OF MEASURING

Math is sequencing (1,2,3,4...), patterning (1,2,1,2,1,2...) and identifying shapes (triangles, squares, circles, etc.), volume (less, more, equal) and size (larger, smaller, same). Math involves sorting and counting, estimating, predicting, and dealing with logic and spatial concepts. Math is embedded in nearly all daily activities, including block play, dramatic play and outdoor play. It is connected in determining quantities, time allocation, process order and maintenance of rhythm in song and dance. Mathematics, like art, is pervasive in its application, touching on most activities children engage in.

Throughout this school year, SCOPE staff will be focusing on how these STEAM spotlights are experienced in all of our programs. Our staff will focus on identifying the interests that attract our children and the skills and materials they need to enable them to make sense out of what they do. Successful interactions between and among our children and staff happen most often when activities are meaningful and bring personal satisfaction.





# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COMMACK

#### Commack Middle School Welcomes New Principal

Michael Larson has been appointed principal of Commack Middle School. Before moving to the middle school, Larson was an assistant principal at Commack High School. A graduate of Plymouth State University with a Bachelor of Science in secondary social science education and a Master of Education in special education, Mr. Larson also received his school building leader and school district leader certification from Stony Brook University. He began his career in Commack in 2007, teaching history, economics and government classes. He worked closely with students as a class and student council adviser and with the Boys Scholar-Athlete Leadership Club. His work with the staff included leading groups focused on redesigning the learning environment to support multimodality-learning experiences, and he served as the coordinator of student affairs and attendance during the 2015-16 school year.



### EAST ISLIP

#### Two New Principals Appointed – Nicholas Bilotti and Janet Jones

Nicholas Bilotti has been named the new principal of East Islip's Connetquot Elementary School. Bilotti, now in his 23rd year serving the district, worked as an assistant principal at East Islip Middle School and East Islip High School and before that as a high school social studies teacher. He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Stony Brook University, a master's degree in elementary education from Dowling College and a master's degree in administration from Stony Brook University.

Janet Jones has been appointed the new principal of East Islip's Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School. Jones most recently served as East Islip's K-12 math and science director. She previously worked as assistant principal at East Islip Middle School and East Islip High School, as math and science director for the North Babylon School District and as a chemistry and biology teacher at Bayport High School. She obtained her bachelor's degree in biology from SUNY Oneonta, a master's degree in education from Dowling College, and school district administrator and school administrator and supervisor certificates from Stony Brook University.



Brian Ernst, who served as an accountant in the district's business office, has been appointed to the role of school business administrator. Ernst earned his Bachelor of Arts in accounting at Queens College and his Master of Science in education from LIU Post. He was deeply involved in analyzing the finances that led to the passage of the bond that is enabling the district to create the first community-focused school sports complex and aquatic center on Long Island.

Michael Motisi, who served the district as school business administrator, has been appointed assistant to the superintendent for business. Motisi earned his Bachelor of Arts in accounting, and his master's in educational leadership and certificate of advanced study at Hofstra University.

### FREEPORT

#### New School Year – Five New Appointments

The district welcomes Suzanne Chaves as the director of second languages, Constance Malcolm-Grant as New Visions School principal, Christopher Porciello as J.W. Dodd Middle School assistant principal, Jessica Romero as New Visions School assistant principal and Meg Sheehan as Columbus Avenue principal.

Chaves holds a bachelor's degree as a double major in English and Spanish from University at Albany, a master's degree in teaching English as a second language from Long Island University and a second master's degree in educational administration with a concentration in instructional leadership from Canisius College.

Malcolm-Grant holds a Bachelor of Science degree from City College and Master of Science degrees in reading and administration from Adelphi University and Touro College, respectively. She also holds certifications in ESL, reading teacher and school district administration.

Porciello holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in elementary education and special education from Dowling College and a Master of Science degree in school leadership from Touro College. He also holds certifications in childhood education (grades 1-6), students with disabilities

(grades 1-6) and school building leader/school district leader.

Romero holds a bachelor's degree from Queens College, a master's degree from LIU Post and an administrative degree from The College of Saint Rose.

Sheehan holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Mount Saint Mary College, a master's degree in literacy education (birth-grade 6) from Dowling College and an advanced professional certificate in educational leadership from Stony Brook University. She holds additional certifications in school building/school district administration, early childhood education (birth-grade 2) and literacy (grades 1-6).



### HALF HOLLOW HILLS

#### Half Hollow Hills Appoints Diana Ketcham New Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

Half Hollow Hills CSD is proud to announce the appointment of Ms. Diana Ketcham as its new assistant superintendent of elementary education. Ketcham will be leading the instructional and curriculum programs for children in the district from kindergarten through fifth grade. Before joining the district, she served as the principal of Blue Point Elementary School in the Bayport-Blue Point School District for over a decade, before joining the Hicksville School District in 2017. Ketcham has successfully led a number of districtwide initiatives, including the full implementation of a co-teaching program, character education workshops, a balanced literacy program and the infusion of new technology. After earning her bachelor's degree, she earned her master's degree and administrative credentials from Stony Brook University. Ketcham has also completed coursework at Columbia University Teachers College and Harvard University Principals' Center.



### DEER PARK

#### New Associate Principal at Robert Frost Middle School

The Board of Education has named James Henry an associate principal at Robert Frost Middle School. Henry served for the past two years as the district's curriculum associate for math and business in grades 6-12. Before that, he taught math, including algebra pre-calculus and pre-AP calculus, at Deer Park High School; served as a mentor to new teachers; was lead teacher for algebra Common Core and was a member of the model classroom. Henry was also director of the high school's winter play and musical, and was a class and National Honor Society adviser. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from St. Joseph's College in Patchogue, his master's degree in arts and liberal sciences at Stony Brook University and his school building and school district leadership certificates from the College of Saint Rose.



### FARMINGDALE

#### Three New Appointments

The Board of Education has appointed Dr. William Brennan assistant superintendent for innovation and organizational development. In his new position, Brennan will continue to focus on innovation, as well as facilitate a districtwide communication and organization plan. During his prior service in the district, he has initiated several successful programs establishing Farmingdale Schools as an incubator for innovation in learning. Dr. Brennan earned his certificate in school administration from Touro College and his Ed.D. in educational leadership and policy from Fordham University.



# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HICKSVILLE**  
**Board of Education Appoints Superintendent of Schools**  
The Hicksville School District Board of Education appointed Marianne Litzman as superintendent of schools. Litzman was selected as a recipient of the Nassau BOCES 2018 Education Partner Award for her outstanding contributions to public education in Nassau County. She began her service to the district as a science teacher and science coordinator, then as continuing education director, principal of the district's evening high school, assistant principal of Hicksville Middle School, principal of Dutch Lane Elementary School and as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Litzman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education, magna cum laude, from Northeastern University, a Master of Arts with Distinction degree from Hofstra University and a professional diploma in educational administration from LIU Post.



**ISLIP**  
**New Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**  
Dr. Christopher Smalley has been named assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Islip School District. Smalley had served as principal at Islip's Wing Elementary School. He previously worked as an assistant principal at Signal Hill Elementary School in the Half Hollow Hills School District and as an elementary teacher in the Half Hollow Hills School District and New York City schools. He earned his bachelor's degree in cinema from Binghamton University, his master's degree in elementary education from LIU Post, his graduate certificate in educational leadership from Stony Brook University and his doctorate in education from Dowling College.



**LEVITTOWN**  
**New Faculty Join Levittown Public Schools**  
Forty-four new faculty members received a warm welcome from central administration and the Board of Education during a two-day New Teacher Orientation program held at Levittown Memorial Education Center. The program allowed the new faculty members to get acquainted with the district and their fellow educators before the start of the 2018-19 school year.

**LONGWOOD**  
**New Assistant Principal at Longwood High School**  
Jamal Walcott, who has been appointed the new assistant principal at Longwood High School, joined the district in 2005 as a high school social studies teacher and most recently served as the school's academy liaison. He has also served the district in other roles, including coordination, admission and communication for the international student program. Walcott earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education at St. Joseph's College, his Master of Arts degree in continuing education at Stony Brook University and his advanced administration leadership certificate from the College of Saint Rose.



**MATTITUCK-CUTCHOQUE**  
**Board of Education Appoints New Superintendent**  
The Mattituck-Cutchoque School District Board of Education appointed Jill M. Gierasch superintendent of schools. Gierasch began her career as an elementary teacher in the William Floyd School District. She also served as an elementary teacher in the Bayport-Blue Point School District, an elementary school assistant principal in the Three Village Central School District, an elementary school principal and assistant superintendent



for curriculum, instruction, staff development and assessment (K-5) in the Sachem Central School District, and as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction and then deputy superintendent in the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District. Gierasch earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Salisbury State University, a Master of Science degree in reading education (K-12) and a professional diploma in administration and supervision from Dowling College.

**NASSAU BOCES**  
**Two New Assistant Principals**  
Madeline Hackett has been appointed assistant principal of in-district programs at Barry Tech, while Sean Johnson has been appointed assistant principal of Barry Tech. Before joining Nassau BOCES, Hackett was a founding member and assistant principal of the Urban Assembly Maker Academy, an innovative new public high school in Manhattan. She holds a bachelor's degree from Binghamton University, master's degrees from both Canisius College and Long Island University, and is certified as both a district and school building leader. Johnson began his career as a New York City school teacher, then became English department coordinator and assistant principal. He holds a certificate of advanced study in school building leadership from the College of Saint Rose, and both a master's and bachelor's degree from Stony Brook University.



**NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT**  
**New Elementary Principal Welcomed**  
Dickinson Avenue Elementary School welcomed a new principal, Mrs. Laurie Welch Storch. Storch previously served as principal at Fulton Avenue School 8 in the Oceanside Union Free School District. Before serving in New York, she held



both principal and vice principal positions in Florida.

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
**New Director of Pupil Personnel Services**  
The Southampton School District appointed Jeanne-Marie P. Mazzaferro director of pupil personnel services. Mazzaferro joins Southampton from the Riverhead Central School District, where she served as assistant director of PPS/ special education. Previously, she served as principal of Riverhead's High School summer school and as a literacy coach and reading specialist. Before her service in Riverhead schools, Mazzaferro held the position of special education teacher in the Mattituck-Cutchoque Union Free School District. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from SUNY Plattsburgh, with a focus on special education and elementary education, a master's degree in education from Dowling College, with a focus on reading and special education, and certification in educational leadership from Stony Brook University. She holds both a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in educational leadership K-12 from the University of Central Florida.



**WILLIAM FLOYD**  
**New Director of Secondary Education and STEM Appointed**  
The Board of Education has appointed Christine Rosado as the new director of secondary education and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). Before her appointment, she most recently served William Floyd High School as mathematics department chairperson and before that, as a mathematics teacher. She is a National Board-Certified Teacher and a New York State Master Teacher (2014), one of five in the district and one of 70 on Long Island. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Dowling College, a Master of Arts degree in adolescent education from Dowling College, a Master of Arts degree in mathematics for secondary teachers from Stony Brook University and her school building leader/school district leader post-master's advanced certification from Stony Brook University.







## BELLMORE Smooth Opening for Bellmore Schools

Bellmore students disembarked from iconic yellow buses toting backpacks and supplies, excited to start the new school year. Students enrolled in the Charles A. Reinhard Early Childhood Center, Shore Road School and Winthrop Avenue School received a warm welcome from Board of Education trustees, administrators and faculty. The students became acquainted with former classmates and made new friends before the start of instruction. The district will continue its emphasis on promoting core values and leadership principals, which are incorporated into its nationally recognized Bellmore Stars Character Development Program.

## CONNETQUOT Incoming Kindergarten Students Make New Friends

Kindergartners at Helen B. Duffield Elementary School had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with their new building and meet their classmates before the first day of school. In a tradition started more than 10 years ago, the incoming Connetquot High School Class of 2031 was invited to tour their new school, meet principal Lisa Farrell and make new friends. The eager students went on a tour of their new classroom after they got acquainted with each other on the school playground.



## EAST MEADOW Welcome Back to East Meadow Schools

Students in each of the district's schools were greeted in the morning by district and building administrators on the first day of school and again during



afternoon dismissals to express congratulations on a successful opening. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr., welcomed students at East Meadow High School in the morning and helped to dismiss students at Meadowbrook Elementary School in the afternoon. The district wishes an exciting school year to all students, teachers and staff members and encourages them to show how "Great Happens Here!"



## FLORAL PARK-BELLEROSE Ready to Learn

At Floral Park-Bellerose and John Lewis Childs elementary schools, students posed for first-day photos before the school doors opened. They were welcomed by building leaders and district administrators, who assisted them in locating their new teachers and classrooms. They also learned their schedules, sorted school supplies and took part in a wide range of first-day activities. In kindergarten, students created paper crowns that read, "I Rocked the First Day of Kindergarten."

## FREEPORT 2017 Nobel Laureate in Physics Visits Freeport High School

Dr. Rainer Weiss, winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in physics and professor emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, visited Freeport High School, where he presented his discovery of gravitational waves to students, faculty and invited guests, and interacted with students throughout the day. During this memorable, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students, Dr. Weiss watched

students mimic his black hole experiment and listened to student research presentations. Dr. Weiss said he was impressed with the science program at Freeport schools after seeing the active science research curriculum and the opportunities the district offers students.



## GREAT NECK GNPS/TV Wins National Awards

Great Neck Public Schools Television took four top awards at the 2018 Hometown Media Awards, sponsored by the Alliance for Community Media, including the highest award for an educational channel: Overall Excellence in Educational Access. The Overall Excellence in Educational Access award recognizes the best educational channel in the country, focusing on TV programs produced throughout the year and overall operational activities. GNPS/TV received three awards in the student division of competition for outstanding student-produced programs: Best Educational Activities for a news-style piece about the Thank a Veteran program, Best Local Performance for the broadcast of the "South High Cultural Heritage Night" and Best Original Drama/Comedy for a student production, "Just Film Things."



## HALF HOLLOW HILLS New FarmBot and STEM Initiative

West Hollow Middle School is home to a new FarmBot, a student programmed and engineered



robotic garden. Students are coding the FarmBot using Raspberry Pi single-board computers to measure moisture, and seed, water and weed the garden. The students are also working with Island Harvest on a sustainability project to grow locally sourced produce that will then be donated to Long Island families experiencing food insecurity.



## HAMPTON BAYS Back to the Books

Hampton Bays School District students seamlessly transitioned back to school. Among them were the kindergarten Class of 2031 and the senior Class of 2019. On their first day of school, kindergartners met their teachers and prepared for a year filled with learning-based play, while high school seniors set their sights on graduation as they embarked on their last year in the district.

The new school year will feature a slew of new initiatives within the district's schools, including the introduction of Chromebooks to all students in grades 5-12, a new science lab at the elementary school and expanded opportunities for math, science and engineering at both the middle school and high school.



## LEVITTOWN Student Keeps Music Teacher's Memory Alive

After the tragic loss of beloved



Lee Road Elementary School music teacher Dr. Brian LaClair, Nicole Steiner, one of his longtime students and a current sixth-grader at Jonas E. Salk Middle School, wanted to keep his memory alive. Steiner decided to raise money through the sale of rubber bracelets inscribed with the words “In Loving Memory of Dr. LaClair, Our Beloved Music Teacher,” that would be used to donate a bench and plant a tree in his honor on the grounds of Lee Road Elementary School. The staff and community response was overwhelming. The tree and bench are now where students can see them when they come out to recess.

Scholar-Artist competition. Dance student Faith Centa (Massapequa UFSD) and theater student Katherine Jergensen (Hicksville UFSD) were both named Scholar-Artists, while theater students Jordan Coene (Levittown UFSD) and John DiGiorgio (Half Hollow Hills CSD) earned Awards of Merit. They are all recognized by the LIAA as “the best of the best” on Long Island, both artistically and academically.



## OYSTERPONDS Many Hands Create a Work of Art

It took the entire school body at Oysterponds Elementary School to create a permanent art installation featuring a four-paneled stained-glass window depicting the symbols of their community. The brainchild of art teacher Laurie Sanders and local artist Bonnie Bittner, every student in grades K-6 participated in the construction and design of the large glass panels depicting the Long Beach Bar Lighthouse (also called Bug Light), a schooner, an osprey and an oyster. Students helped design, tile and grout each panel, which is now prominently displayed in the main hallway clerestory.

## RIVERHEAD ENL Students Boost Skills Through Summer Program

English as a new language students continued their learning and bolstered their skills through



a thematic summer program at Phillips Avenue School. The annual three-week, half-day program engaged students in grades K-6 in creative lessons that reinforced concepts in math, science, vocabulary, reading and writing. The program culminated with fifth- and sixth-graders hosting an interactive gallery walk for younger students. The gallery featured student presentations on topics including energy flow in a food chain, locating ecosystems of various animals on a world map and concepts related to interdependence and erosion.



## SACHEM District Hosts Scholastic Literacy Leaders' Institute

Sachem High School East hosted the Long Island Scholastic Education Literacy Leaders' Institute, which provided 150 educators from numerous school districts across Long Island, including 50 teachers from Sachem, with a plethora of professional development opportunities. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Graham welcomed attendees and Elizabeth Oakes-Lani, an account executive from Scholastic, facilitated the day's activities. The breakout sessions covered literacy topics including classroom culture, educational approach,

21st-century learning skills, independent reading and how to effectively harness the power of families to support learning.

## SPRINGS

### Get Your Teach On

Springs School's first-ever new teacher orientation titled “Get your Teach On,” included a bus tour of the community and workshops on English language arts, mathematics and Foundations. Eleven new staff members joined the district following several retirements.



## VALLEY STREAM 30

### Administrators and Faculty Prepared for New School Year

Excitement filled Shaw Avenue Elementary School as faculty members throughout Valley Stream District 30 reunited for the start of the 2018-19 school year during Superintendent's Conference Day. The auditorium was outfitted for the district's theme of the year, “You and Media,” with colored lights filling the room. In keeping with the new theme and its tie to technology, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nicholas A. Stirling provided his welcome back address through a video highlighting the district's points of pride, strategic plan and hopes for the future. Faculty members participated in professional development sessions focused on You and MEdia, 21st-century innovation stations, virtual reality learning with Google Expeditions, video discussion platforms and STEAM challenges.



## LONGWOOD

### Longwood School Community Celebrates Diversity

More than 400 students and families gathered at Longwood Middle School to celebrate diversity within the school community. The event provided attendees with an opportunity to learn about the district's diverse cultures through an array of food, fashion, music and dance. To demonstrate the importance of fashion in cultures around the world, more than 40 students participated in a multicultural fashion show displaying the religious and cultural backgrounds of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Dominican Republic, Greece, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Russia and Uruguay. There are approximately 40 languages spoken by students in this district, with the four most spoken being Chinese, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu.

## NASSAU BOCES

### Long Island High School for the Arts Students Named Scholar-Artists

Four exceptionally talented students attending Nassau BOCES Long Island High School for the Arts have been selected by the Long Island Arts Alliance for prestigious awards in the 2018-19



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With the new school year upon us, it is time to get back to business and start thinking about an important, yet often overlooked piece of your benefits package. Many employees have heard of a 403(b) plan, but few know what it is. Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code provides a way for any district employee to defer a portion of their salary into a retirement account on a pre-tax basis. There are generally three basic reasons employees use a 403(b) plan:

- 1. Tax Breaks:**
  - No federal taxation on contributions or any earnings; taxation is deferred until amounts are withdrawn or distributed\*;
  - Tax-deferred growth potential;
  - Tax-deferred access using loan provisions provided in the plan;
  - Similar to a 401(k) plan, but for public school employees;
  - If eligible, in 2018 you can contribute up to \$18,500. Eligible employees may be able to contribute more using catch-up contribution.
- 2. Automatic Savings:**
  - Convenient payroll deduction;
  - Federal pre-tax basis contributions;
  - An easy way to save.
- 3. Supplement Your Retirement:**

Generally, many people may live 20 or 30 years in retirement, you should consider a supplement to existing plans:

  - NYSTRS
  - Social Security

You can start a 403(b) plan with as little as \$20 pre-tax dollars a paycheck. It's an easy way to work toward a better retirement. Agents will be available throughout the school year to help you get started.

For more information regarding this plan call:



**Paul Southard**  
(631) 224-7900  
[Paul.Southard@axa-advisors.com](mailto:Paul.Southard@axa-advisors.com)

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