



Celebrating 50+ Years of Service

# Forum

## Save the Date

### VIOLENCE PREVENTION CERTIFICATION

Thursday, June 13, 2019 4-6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019 9-11 a.m.

### CHILD ABUSE CERTIFICATION

Monday, June 10, 2019 4-6 p.m.  
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019 12-2 p.m.

### DASA CERTIFICATION

Three Hours Face-to-Face Time

Three Hours Online (to be completed within one week)

Wednesday, June 4, 2019 4-7 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 9, 2019 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**SCOPE's Annual Dinner Meeting**  
**Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019**  
**Bourne Mansion, Oakdale**  
**5-9 p.m.**

Dear Reader,

The 18th Annual SCOPE Education Services School District Awards Dinner was held this year on March 18 at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. Once again, public school districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties selected individuals in the five categories of School Board Service, Community Service, Support Staff, Teachers and School Administrators to be honored for providing outstanding service to their respective school districts. A total of 41 school districts honoring 173 individuals were at the dinner attended by 812 people.

Honorees were selected by their district for having gone above and beyond, assisting in providing the children and communities they serve with outstanding programs for the students and communities in which they work and live. Each individual receiving an award is invited to the dinner with a guest free of charge, is presented a beautiful plaque and has a brief bio published in the program. I have the pleasure of presenting each honoree with their award, while families, friends and colleagues cheer, applaud, snap pictures and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of each recipient.

Assisting with the presentations were Dr. Charles Russo, President of the SCOPE Board of Directors and Superintendent of East Moriches School District; Dr. Joseph Famularo, Vice President of the SCOPE Board of Directors and Superintendent of the Bellmore School District; Mr. Lars Clemenson, Treasurer of the SCOPE Board of Directors and Superintendent of the Hampton Bays School District; Ms. Bernadette Burns, member of the SCOPE Board of Directors and Superintendent of the West Islip School District; and Mr. Michael O'Brien, Associate Director of SCOPE.

A big thank-you to all of our awards dinner sponsors, in particular our Platinum Sponsors, BBS Architects, Landscape Architects & Engineers; Guercio & Guercio LLP; Ingerman Smith LLP; and Lamb & Barnowski LLP. Without their support and that of our other many sponsors, this event would not be possible. You will find a list of all of our sponsors in this edition of The Forum.

I also was honored to present Dr. Lorna Lewis with the National School Development Council's Cooperative Leadership Award. This award recognizes exemplary efforts to establish cooperative relationships with other educational agencies or study councils in the course of creating educational programs for the nation's schools. Dr. Lorna Lewis is a member of the SCOPE Board of Directors, President of the New York State Council of School Superintendents and Superintendents of Schools for the Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD. Dr. Lewis generously shares her time, experience and knowledge of education in her service to numerous organizations. She has served as president of the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents, is a founding member of the New York State Council of School Superintendents Commission on Diversity, co-chairs the NYSCOSS curriculum committee, and serves on the boards of Erase Racism and the American Heart Association.

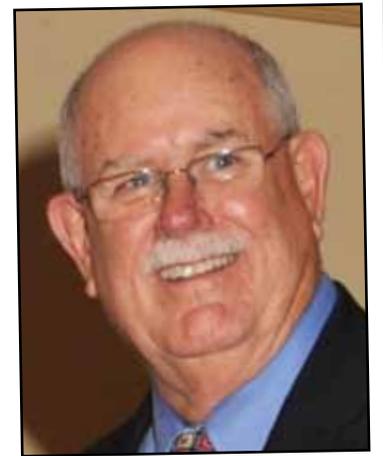
In addition, Dr. Lewis has received recognition and awards from numerous organizations, including the Freeport-Roosevelt branch of the NAACP 2004 Education Award, the Korean Parents Association of Long Island's Educator of the Year Award, Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award 2015, National Coalition of Black Women in Education Award in 2018 and the NAACP Legacy Award in 2019.

I would like to extend a special thank-you to those individuals at SCOPE, particularly Christine Cosme, Jennifer Milillo and Ann Nuzzo, and all of the staff who assisted with this very successful event.

Congratulations to all of those honored and thank you for all you do to make Long Islands' school districts the best in our nation. I hope that you enjoy this edition of The Forum, which is dedicated to our award recipients and their accomplishments.

Sincerely,

George L. Duffy  
Executive Director



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 SCOPE Education Services  
100 Lawrence Avenue  
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*"SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization currently celebrating our 52nd 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."*

George L. Duffy, Executive Director

# SCOPE Provides the Services Your Children Deserve

## Before- and After-School Child Care Where Learning Never Ends



Time outside of the school day should be filled with opportunities for children to enjoy themselves. In our school-safe environment, SCOPE provides enriching experiences through varied activities.

- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math).
- Physical fitness.
- Traditional board games.
- Music.
- Crafts and other enriching activities.

Contact with peers offers children opportunities to form friendships and learn rules of fair play and cooperation. The SCOPE staff is trained to be continually aware of the needs and interests of the children they supervise. Emphasis is on safety, learning and fun.

## SUPERVISION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

SCOPE programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Staff are qualified and well trained to properly supervise children.

Staff to student ratio never exceeds 1:10.

Children get to know their peers in age-appropriate groups and activities are tailored to meet their needs.



## A SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFERS PEACE OF MIND

Safety of the children attending SCOPE programs is always our main priority.

Under close supervision, children take part in a variety of daily activities.

SCOPE staff are trained in emergency first aid/CPR/AED and in medication administration.

Children are provided daily snacks and drinks. All snacks provided are USDA approved and are nut-free (gluten-free options are available). Drinks include bottled water, 100% fruit juice and milk.



## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES ENCOURAGE GROWTH

SCOPE provides activities that reflect student interests and extend the learning experiences they may have in school and at home.

Enrichment activities are included as part of the before/after care program at no additional cost to parents. Children will take part in a minimum of 40 enrichment activities throughout the year. Activities will be STEAM related, fun and educationally enriching.

Separate enrichment programs such as coding, theater, world languages, etc., may be offered at an additional cost, based on student interest.

Contact Info: Mindy Labriola (631) 360-0800, Ext. 164

Contact Info: Dina Pendel (631) 360-0800, Ext. 120

# SCOPE EDUCATION SERVICES PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM



## The PRE-KINDERGARTEN WORLD

- SCOPE conducts more than 70 3-year-old and 4-year-old pre-K classes in 17 school districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties.
- SCOPE pre-K prepares the children for the school district's kindergarten program.
- SCOPE pre-K curriculum is aligned with NYS Next Generation Standards as well as school district needs.
- SCOPE accommodates emergent multilingual language learners.
- SCOPE pre-K provides for the needs of all children.

## Take a Look...

SCOPE pre-K programs provide for the social, emotional and academic growth of the children. Children can learn to interact appropriately with their peers, work cooperatively, problem-solve, and discover and explore their own personal interests.

Playtime, free time to explore, structured learning activities including STEAM activities (science, technology, engineering, arts, math), and continuous language development are a part of the daily routine.



## Social-Emotional Learning

- Learning how to make and sustain positive relationships with others.
  - Fostering friendship and belonging.
  - Learning to be respectful of one another's needs.
  - Learning to identify and verbalize their own needs and strengths.
- Children are frequently assessed and information on their developmental, academic, and social-emotional progress is passed on to parents and shared with their home school.

## Staff

All of the SCOPE pre-kindergarten teachers and teaching assistants are New York State certified and knowledgeable about early childhood development. They are provided with professional development opportunities to sharpen their instructional skills and address different demographic and district needs.

Contact Info/Extra Info: Mellisa Krauss (631) 360-0800, Ext. 146

## Learning Centers Include:

**Kitchen Center** – providing a setting for play through collaboration and sharing.

**Math Center** – Making connections between the symbol and the quantity, along with sequencing, is a major focus.

**Technology Center** – Coding and robotic activities at this level are fun and a real treat.

**Legos Building Center** – Legos and assorted blocks are used to underscore basic engineering principles.

**Drama Center** – Role play is made easier with a costume center and doll house center.

**Reading Center** – Literacy through reading is not only center based, but spread throughout the room.



**AND MORE!**



# SCOPE Hosts 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner

## Celebrating Those Who Shine Above the Rest

Educational leaders from 41 school districts across Long Island gathered at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook to honor and celebrate more than 170 dedicated professionals during SCOPE Education Services' 18th annual School District Awards Dinner, held on March 18. The evening's honorees were chosen for recognition based on their exemplary contributions to the field of education and for embodying the night's theme of "Shining Above the Rest" during the 2018-2019 school year.

During his remarks, SCOPE Executive Director George L. Duffy noted that there were 173 individuals being recognized for their service to schools, communities and children. "Thanks for all you do for the children of Long Island," he said.

The first awards of the evening were the National School Development Council's Cooperative Leadership Award, received by Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lorna Lewis, and the U.S. Army Leadership Award, received by Nassau BOCES and staff. Recipients were then presented awards in five categories: school board service, community service, teacher service, support staff service and administrator service. Members of SCOPE's Board of Directors assisted in presenting the night's honored guests with commemorative and personalized plaques.



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

## SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARDS

Charles Anderson  
*Mattituck-Cutchoque UFSD*  
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*Bay Shore UFSD*  
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 Daniene Byrne  
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 Sherley Jean-Louis Cadet  
*Westbury UFSD*  
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 Ernest J. Kight, Jr.  
*Freeport UFSD*  
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*Nassau BOCES*  
 Michael Lewis  
*Shoreham-Wading River CSD*  
 Molly Licalzi  
*Bayport-Blue Point UFSD*  
 Peggy Marengi  
*Levittown UFSD*  
 Kathleen McClelland  
*Bridgehampton UFSD*  
 Paula Moore  
*Brentwood UFSD*  
 Lori Pagano  
*East Moriches UFSD*  
 Lisa Pesce  
*East Moriches UFSD*  
 Robyn Rayburn  
*Center Moriches UFSD*  
 Laura Slattery  
*Sachem CSD*  
 Stacie Stark  
*Seaford UFSD*  
 Timothy Taylor  
*Massapequa UFSD*  
 Jennifer Wandasiewicz  
*West Babylon UFSD*

Sheryl Amallobieta  
*Sachem CSD*  
 Daniel Bachman  
*Massapequa UFSD*  
 Erin Bielski  
*East Moriches UFSD*  
 Jennifer Bova  
*Lindenhurst UFSD*  
 Liliana Cacace  
*Hampton Bays UFSD*  
 Jillian Cagno  
*Tuckahoe CSD*  
 Kim Calamia  
*Bayport-Blue Point UFSD*  
 Edwin D. Callaghan  
*Brentwood UFSD*  
 Jeanne Candal  
*Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD*  
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*North Babylon UFSD*  
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 Ann Marie Ferry  
*Islip UFSD*  
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*Roosevelt UFSD*  
 Eleni Fotopoulos  
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*Bayport-Blue Point UFSD*  
 Karen Schulz  
*Oysterponds UFSD*  
 Joanne Simicich  
*Oysterponds UFSD*  
 Sheila Siragusa  
*West Islip UFSD*  
 Corey Tiejen  
*Tuckahoe CSD*  
 Karen Tully  
*Kings Park CSD*  
 Catherine Ward  
*Sayville UFSD*

## SUPPORT STAFF SERVICE AWARDS

Paula Attard-Lewis  
*Sachem CSD*  
 Edward Backus  
*Amityville UFSD*  
 Rosena Baptiste-Porter  
*Roosevelt UFSD*  
 Joyce Bolton  
*North Babylon UFSD*  
 Jo-Ann Brodsky  
*West Islip UFSD*  
 Bobbie Cohen  
*Sag Harbor UFSD*  
 Maria Colarossi  
*Elwood UFSD*  
 Jennifir Cunningham  
*Bridgehampton UFSD*

Camille Delany  
*West Babylon UFSD*  
 Manette DeRosa  
*Shoreham-Wading River CSD*  
 Charlene Drewes  
*Levittown UFSD*  
 Madeline Fischetto  
*Seaford UFSD*  
 Lillian Flores  
*Springs UFSD*  
 Kristine Gawlowski  
*William Floyd UFSD*  
 John Giambrone  
*Sayville UFSD*  
 Charles Hyde  
*West Babylon UFSD*  
 Joanne Klein  
*Western Suffolk BOCES*  
 Jackie Lamb  
*Southampton UFSD*  
 Dana L. Link  
*Smithtown CSD*  
 Matthew Lombardo  
*Massapequa UFSD*  
 David Mammina  
*Lindenhurst UFSD*  
 Juanita Orr  
*Westbury UFSD*  
 Nancy Provenzano  
*Brentwood UFSD*  
 Laure Rodriguez  
*Wyandanch UFSD*  
 Beatrice Rubsam  
*Southampton UFSD*  
 Teresa Scaturro  
*Nassau BOCES*  
 Christina Smith  
*Mattituck-Cutchoque UFSD*  
 Barbara Stabile  
*Deer Park UFSD*  
 Thomas Stevenson  
*Kings Park CSD*  
 William Thompson  
*Center Moriches UFSD*  
 James Vanella  
*Bay Shore UFSD*  
 Polis Walker  
*Southampton UFSD*

## ADMINISTRATOR SERVICE AWARDS

Joyce Barry  
*Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD*  
 Jonathan Bloom  
*Freeport UFSD*  
 Kimberly Boccanfuso  
*Lindenhurst UFSD*  
 Doreen Buckley  
*Tuckahoe CSD*  
 Christine Cleary  
*Springs UFSD*  
 Nicole Duffy  
*Kings Park CSD*  
 Debra Emmerich  
*Seaford UFSD*  
 Joseph S. Famularo, Ed.D.  
*Bellmore UFSD*  
 Evan Farkas  
*Amityville UFSD*  
 Anthony Fierro  
*Nassau BOCES*  
 Dr. Michelle Garrett  
*Bay Shore UFSD*  
 Matthew Gengler  
*Brentwood UFSD*  
 Monique Habersham  
*Wyandanch UFSD*  
 Shawn Hanley  
*West Babylon UFSD*  
 Leila Holmes  
*Central Islip UFSD*  
 Paul R. Infante  
*Commack UFSD*  
 Eileen Kelly-Gorman  
*Elwood UFSD*  
 Toni Komorowski  
*William Floyd UFSD*  
 Dr. Eliana Levey  
*Deer Park UFSD*  
 Alan Meinster  
*Shoreham-Wading River CSD*  
 Maria Angelica Meyer  
*Westbury UFSD*  
 Michael M. Miller  
*Bridgehampton UFSD*  
 Timothy Mullins  
*Bayport-Blue Point UFSD*  
 Jeff Nichols  
*Sag Harbor UFSD*  
 Cheryl Pedisich  
*Three Village CSD*  
 Annie Rao  
*Levittown UFSD*  
 Dr. Nichelle Rivers  
*Roosevelt UFSD*  
 Patrick M. Smith  
*Smithtown CSD*  
 Denise Lindsay Sullivan  
*Hampton Bays UFSD*  
 ToniAnne Summers  
*Massapequa UFSD*  
 Brian Taylor  
*West Islip UFSD*  
 Susan Tuttle  
*Sachem CSD*  
 Susan Wright  
*Southampton UFSD*



School Board Service Award Recipients



Administrator Service Award Recipients



Teacher Service Award Recipients



Support Staff Service Award Recipients



Community Service Award Recipients

## TEACHER SERVICE AWARDS

Debra Abrams  
*Sayville UFSD*

# National School Development Council Award

As a study council representing Nassau and Suffolk counties, SCOPE is a participating member of the National School Development Council, an organization comprised of various study councils located throughout the nation. The NSDC presents an annual award to acknowledge outstanding leadership within the Council's membership in recognition of exemplary efforts to establish cooperative relationships with other educational agencies or study councils in the course of creating educational programs for the nation's schools. Previous award recipients include Mr. Cramer Harrington, deputy director for management services for SCOPE (posthumously); Ms. Lorraine Deller, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, executive director; Dr. Charles T. Russo, East Moriches superintendent of schools and past president of SCSSA; Ms. Susan Schnebel, Islip superintendent of schools and past president of SCSSA, and Mr. Henry Grishman, superintendent of the Jericho School District and past president of NCCSS.



This year, this prestigious award was presented to Dr. Lorna Lewis, member of the SCOPE Board of Directors, president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents and superintendent of schools for the Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD. Dr. Lewis generously shares her time, experience and knowledge of education in her service to numerous organizations. She has served as president of the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents, co-chairs the NYSCOSS curriculum committee, and serves on the board of Erase Racism and the American Heart Association.

In addition, Dr. Lewis has received recognition from numerous organizations including the Freeport-Roosevelt branch of the NAACP, the Korean Parents Association of Long Island, Nassau BOCES Education Partner Award, National Coalition of Black Women in Education Award in 2018 and the NAACP Legacy Award in 2019.

## U.S. ARMY LEADERSHIP AWARD



The U.S. Army Leadership Award is presented to educators who have inspired their school districts through innovation and character. Factors considered when selecting the recipient of this prestigious award include how a school district promotes and integrates character education, technology, athletics and the maximum utilization of external resources to provide the highest-

quality, well-rounded education based on the whole-person concept.

This year's recipient was Nassau BOCES. Nassau BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Robert R. Dillon accepted the award from U.S. Army Major Munir Noureddine, 1st Sgt. Ninoska Urbina-Abarau and SCOPE Board President Eric Schultz.

## Special Thanks to Our Awards Dinner Sponsors



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Suffolk Transportation Services Inc.*

# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BALDWIN

#### District Announces New Appointments

Mr. Unal Karakas has been selected as the new principal of Brookside Elementary School, effective July 1, 2019. Karakas comes to Baldwin from P.S. 195X in the Bronx, where he has served as principal for nearly four years. He holds a Master of Arts in childhood education from New York University, and a Master of Science in education and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Iona College.

Mr. James Robinson has been appointed the new assistant superintendent for business and administrative services effective July 1, 2019. Robinson comes to Baldwin from the Westbury Union Free School District, where he served as the assistant superintendent for business. He is completing his doctorate in education from St. John Fisher College, and holds a master of business administration from Dowling College and a Bachelor of Arts in communications from LIU Post.

Dr. Neil Testa has been appointed principal of Baldwin High School, effective July 1, 2019. Testa comes to Baldwin from Sanford H. Calhoun High School in Merrick, where he has served as a tenured assistant principal for five years. He holds a doctorate in education from Concordia University, a Bachelor of Arts in adolescent education from Adelphi University and a certificate of advanced study in educational leadership and administration from The College of Saint Rose.



### CARLE PLACE

#### Board of Education Appoints Assistant Superintendent for Business

The Board of Education unanimously appointed Kevin J. Coffey, CPA, as the district's new assistant superintendent for business, effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Coffey is a familiar face in Carle Place, having served as the district's business administrator from January 2015 until May 2017. More recently, he served as the school business and operations administrator for the Mattituck-Cutchogue school district, where he was responsible for leading the district's business, human

resources, facilities, transportation and food service departments. He also managed all capital projects, prepared and oversaw the district's annual budget and implemented a districtwide energy performance contract, among other duties. Mr. Coffey also has a background in the private sector, having served as the corporate controller and senior vice president of finance for Globecomm Systems Inc., as well as a senior accountant for Ernst & Young LLP.



### CONNETQUOT

#### Excellence in Computer Science and Engineering

Computer science and engineering specialists Patrick Brennan, Jill Ferraro, John Llanes, Cathy Mongiello and the district's Elementary STEM Chairperson Bethanie Rizzo shared details about the district's K-5 computer science program during the 21st annual ASSET Technology Conference. They explained their best practices and how the district's robust computer science curriculum is designed to meet the New York State P-12 Science Learning Engineering Practices and Standards in an effort to develop the necessary skills in the 21st-century learner.



### COPIAGUE

#### Town of Babylon Honors Superintendent

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kathleen Bannon was honored at the Town of Babylon's National Women's History Month celebration. During the 30th annual celebration, themed "Visionary Women: Champions

of Peace and Nonviolence," 30 women were honored for their service to the Town of Babylon. With more than 30 years of educational experience, Dr. Bannon has served as the superintendent of the Copiague Public Schools since 2015.

### FREEPORT

#### New Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Special Projects

The Board of Education has appointed Benjamin Roberts as the next assistant superintendent for personnel and special projects effective April 27, 2019. Before joining the district, Roberts served in the Glen Cove CSD as an elementary principal and in the Shenendehowa CSD as an elementary principal. He holds a master of liberal studies from Stony Brook University, a school district administrator certificate from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and a Bachelor of Science in elementary-early secondary education from SUNY Cortland.



### HERRICKS

#### Music Teachers Conduct New York State and County Festivals

Five district music teachers were selected to guest conduct music festivals across New York State during the school year. As distinguished leaders in their field, members of Herrick's music department faculty are often invited to share their expertise with students from other districts and regions. Each festival occurs over a range of two or three days and involves intensive rehearsals, culminating in a final performance. This year, the following teachers were honored to represent Herricks as guest conductors: Mark Bligh, Denton Avenue band director; Catherine Fish, Herricks High School orchestra director; Stephanie Lanuto, Denton Avenue orchestra director; James Ludwig, Herricks Middle School chorus director and Jennifer Phelan, Herricks Middle School chorus and general music director.



### LONG BEACH

#### New Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

The Board of Education has selected Dr. Paul Romanelli as the next assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, effective July 1, 2019. Long Beach Middle School principal since 2015, Dr. Romanelli oversaw the successful implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program, facilitated the rollout of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative, founded and chaired the K-12 Literacy Task Force, created professional development opportunities and chaired district subcommittees. Under his leadership, the middle school was named a No Place for Hate School by the Anti-Defamation League and has embraced numerous antibullying efforts.



### LYNBROOK

#### Lynbrook Teacher Honored as Trailblazer

Lynbrook High School English teacher Mary Kirby was recognized by Legislator C. William Gaylor III as a recipient of the 2019 Nassau County Legislature Women's Trailblazer Award for the 6th Legislative District. Kirby has been a valuable member of the Lynbrook High School family since 1997. As a dedicated educator, she creates meaningful connections with her students and has served as the director of the Lynbrook Teacher Center and the director of the Lynbrook Summer Program. She has also been an internship coordinator, a class adviser, a coach and a Lynbrook Teachers Association representative. Kirby continues to show her leadership skills as an adviser to the high school's Student Government Association and yearbook committee.



# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **MALVERNE** **Administrator of the Year**

The district congratulates Special Education Director Meredyth Martini for receiving the 2019 Council of Administrators and Supervisors Administrator of the Year Award. Mrs. Martini is a dedicated administrator who is committed to making sure all students succeed. She was also recognized for her devotion to the children and families of Malverne during a special district ceremony.



### **NORTH MERRICK** **Superintendent Wins National Award**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cynthia Seniuk is the recipient of the Superintendents to Watch award from the National School Public Relations Association. Dr. Seniuk is among 14 superintendents nationwide who were honored for their dynamic leadership with an emphasis on technology and communication. Dr. Seniuk has been the superintendent of the North Merrick Schools since 2016 and has been instrumental in creating a forward-looking vision through a three-year strategic plan to integrate technology and communication across the district.



### **PORT JEFFERSON** **District Appoints New Superintendent of Schools**

The Board of Education has announced the appointment of Jessica Schmettan as superintendent of schools, effective Nov. 1, 2019. Schmettan currently serves the district as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Her background includes 19 years in public school K-12 education and additional experience

in training and supervising educational programs and staff as well as administrative-level budget management experience. Before joining the district, Schmettan served as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at the elementary level in the Sachem Central School District, and before that as an administrative assistant for instructional support and programming. Prior to that, she was the district literacy coordinator for the five elementary schools in the Three Village Central School District. She also taught third grade and fifth grade in Setauket and served as an elementary special education teacher in the Roosevelt School District.

She holds a Master of Science in instructional technology from the New York Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Science in special education from Long Island University.



### **ROCKY POINT** **Next Superintendent Appointed**

The Board of Education has selected Dr. Scott T. O'Brien to serve as the next superintendent of schools. Dr. O'Brien, who currently serves as the district's interim assistant superintendent, has nearly two decades of educational experience in the Rocky Point School District. He served as a principal in the district before his current administrative position, most recently for Rocky Point Middle School and previously for Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School. O'Brien earned his doctorate in educational leadership and accountability at St. John's University, professional diploma in educational administration at Stony Brook University, master's in literacy from Dowling College, and his Bachelor of Science in psychology and special education from LeMoyne College.



### **THREE VILLAGE** **New Principal Appointed**

The Board of Education has appointed Dr. Brian Biscari to serve as principal of R.C. Murphy Junior High School effective July 1, 2019. Since 2011, Biscari has been serving the district as principal of Minnesauke Elementary School. Biscari is a well-seasoned educator, having also been an assistant principal at the elementary and middle school levels in the Westhampton Beach School District. He holds a doctorate in educational administration, leadership and technology from Dowling College, a Master of Arts in special education from Dowling College, an advanced certification in school building leadership/school district leadership from Stony Brook University and a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from SUNY Cortland.



### **VALLEY STREAM CHSD** **Administrator of the Year**

Valley Stream Central High School Assistant Principal for Attendance and Discipline Mathew Pearson was presented with a 2019 Administrator of the Year award by the Council of Administrators and Supervisors. This annual distinction is bestowed upon an educational leader who exemplifies the highest qualities of school administrative leadership, including achievement, vision, innovation and collaboration with parents, students, staff and administrators. Mr. Pearson has been an integral member of Central's administration since 2013, when he first joined the district. He also manages issues and concerns and helps to oversee security matters.



### **WEST ISLIP** **Director of School Safety Appointed**

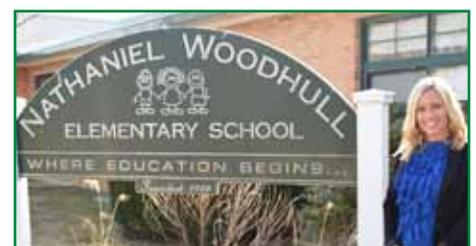
The district has appointed Byron McCray as director of school safety. McCray is responsible for overseeing peace officers, investigators, school security and training, working in close collaboration with district

and school administrators. McCray joined West Islip after many years in public service and law enforcement, including serving as a supervisor in the Brentwood School District, a New York State Department of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security instructor, a sergeant and officer in charge of training as well as an academy instructor for the New York Racing Association, and regional director of operations and community relations for the criminal justice agency NYC TASC. McCray was educated at John Jay College, FEMA Emergency Management Institute and Pace Law School, and also attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Rockland County Police Academy and SUNY Delhi Police Academy for law enforcement training and professional development.



### **WILLIAM FLOYD** **Next Principal of Nathaniel Woodhull Elementary School Appointed**

Dr. Heather Murillo has been appointed principal of Nathaniel Woodhull Elementary School effective January 6, 2020. She has served as the school's assistant principal for the past four years and is taking the reins from Monica Corona, who will be retiring. Murillo began her educational career as a teacher in the New York City school system serving as a second and third grade general education teacher, a fourth grade special education teacher and reading specialist, and as a second grade teacher at William Floyd Elementary School before serving in her current position. Murillo earned a doctorate in supervision and educational leadership and an advanced certificate in school building leadership/school district leadership from St. John's University. She holds a Master of Arts in literacy education (birth-6) from the C.W. Post Graduate School and a Bachelor of Arts in elementary and special education (K-6) from Manhattan College.



## BAYPORT-BLUE POINT

### Students Discuss the Dangers of Vaping

To further enforce the dangers and consequences that go hand-in-hand with vaping, student-members from Bayport-Blue Point High School's Peers Educating Peers Club hosted an informative session on "Teens Teaching Teens: The Dangers of Vaping and Vaping Prevention." The presentation was attended by seventh graders from James Wilson Young Middle School. Additionally, the students reinforced the consequences that come about when caught with a vape pen at the high school level. The seventh graders engaged in role-playing, where they used their creative talents to create the best way to refuse a vape pen from their friends based on what they learned.



## COPIAGUE

### Visit Leaves Lasting Impact on NJHS Students

Copiague Middle School's National Junior Honor Society visited the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park. Along with advisers Francesca Walker and Paul Harvey, the students baked and delivered six dozen cookies for the families at the house. The students spent time with one of the younger patients staying at the house and returned with some positive life lessons.



## EAST ISLIP

### Showcasing Their STEAM Skills

More than 350 community members participated in the district's second annual STEAM/Robotics Festival, held at the East Islip High School. The exciting evening event, open to all students from kindergartners through seniors, featured diverse science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities and showcased the district's current STEAM and robotics programs. Student groups taking part included the high school and middle school STEM clubs, the high school's Chess Club, and science fair winners from John F. Kennedy and

Ruth C. Kinney elementary schools.



## FARMINGDALE

### Students Recognized for Their Participation in St. Baldrick's Day

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini hosted a ceremony to celebrate the many students who shaved their heads or cut their hair in support of St. Baldrick's Day. Each student was given a certificate in proud recognition of their participation. This marked the ninth year that the district has taken part in the local fundraising efforts of the #Shave2Save event, and their participation helped the greater community achieve – and well exceed – a million-dollar fundraising milestone.



## FREEPORT

### New Visions Student Awarded for Artwork of Peace

Fourth grade student Laiyla Salome-Diaz was honored at the annual Shanti Fund Peace Artwork Contest Luncheon for her artwork that depicted peace and reflected the beliefs of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Shanti Fund volunteers work with local schools to inculcate values of peace and nonviolence, as practiced and promoted by world leaders. With hundreds of pieces of art submitted by first to 12th grade students, only 12 peace posters were selected for inclusion in the Shanti Fund Peace Art calendar. Laiyla won this prestigious award from among all fourth grade students in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Laiyla was also awarded a check for \$401 and selflessly donated the check to a good friend in need, who has been her classmate at New Visions since kindergarten.



## GARDEN CITY

### 27th Annual Toshiba ExploraVision Regional Winners

Congratulations to the team of Garden City High School freshmen who were selected as the regional winners of the 27th annual Toshiba ExploraVision program ([www.exploravision.org](http://www.exploravision.org)). The GCHS' all-girl team included Abigail Benzinger, Sophia Bernardo, Julia Conroy and Ryann Henry. The team of ninth graders invented a device that could stimulate the brain and the nerves to repair spinal cord injuries.



## GLEN COVE

### Students Teach Spanish to Second Graders

Seventh graders from R.M. Finley Middle School shared their love of and skill in the Spanish language with second grade classes at Deasy School. Tatyana Alicea, Javiera Contreras and Carolina Maisonet, under the guidance of teacher Christine Skaar, taught the younger students how to say different colors, the letters of the alphabet and how to count from one to 10 in Spanish. They used videos and songs to help the second graders with pronunciation and spelling. At the conclusion of each lesson, students were given packets that reinforced the lessons they learned.



## HALF HOLLOW HILLS

### Most Represented District From New York At International Science & Engineering Fair

Half Hollow Hills is proud to announce that a combined nine students from High School East and High School West qualified for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona. Those nine students represent the most from any district in New York State and the fourth most from

any district in the country that will compete at ISEF, which is the world's largest international precollege science competition. The students qualified to go to the international competition by placing high enough at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair or New York State Science and Engineering Fair. Their projects tackle problems including identifying a novel target for antiviral therapeutics, creating a mathematical model of rumor/information spread and detecting that an FDA-approved cancer therapy causes increased migration (metastasis) of tumors.



## HERRICKS

### Keneil Soni Joins Carnegie Hall Youth Orchestra of the United States

Herricks High School freshman Keneil Soni has earned a spot on the roster of the Carnegie Hall National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America. He is the first horn player from Nassau County ever selected to this prestigious, fully endowed program and one of only 13 hornists selected in the entire country. Keneil will be one of the younger members of the NYO2 orchestra – a three-week-long intensive summer orchestral training program to which 80 of the nation's most extraordinary musicians ages 14-17 were selected. He was also asked to join the top NYO-USA (ages 16-19) horn section in their United States Concerts. As announced by Carnegie Hall, the NYO2 program will begin with a training residency at SUNY Purchase in July. The young musicians will work with New World Symphony Fellows as well as other professional players from top orchestras.



## MASSAPEQUA

### Kindergartners Join Hands to Help the Earth

Kindergartners created an Earth Day bulletin board in Maureen Walsh's

class at East Lake Elementary School incorporating the theme “Lend a Hand. Help the Earth.” They created a depiction of the Earth from their handprints using blue and green paint. Each student also wrote a short piece about what he or she would do to help the environment.



## NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT Spring STEM Fun

Pairs of kindergarten and third grade buddies at Dickinson Avenue Elementary School came together to construct some delicious, spring-themed STEM projects. Using colorful jelly beans, marshmallow peeps and bunnies, toothpicks and popsicle sticks, students were challenged to make a birdhouse, a nest and a functioning catapult. Before beginning their projects, students first sketched out the design of their structures. After successfully completing each challenge, students were allowed to eat their delectable materials – a wonderful way to end the week before break.



## PORT JEFFERSON Art Students Experience van Gogh Multimedia Presentation

Earl L. Vandermeulen High School art students attended a performance of the one-actor play “Vincent” at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts. Accompanied by art teachers Lynne Edsall and Nancy Randazzo, the students learned about one of the world’s most renowned artists through a unique perspective. Written by Emmy-nominated actor Leonard Nimoy, the one-man production examined the life of acclaimed artist Vincent van Gogh as told through letters with his brother Theo. The educational program shed a light on some of the struggles and thoughts

behind several of his most famous works. The students viewed van Gogh’s works on the stage through projection as the narrator shared their fascinating back stories.



## ROCKY POINT Forum Focuses on Substance Abuse and Mental Health

To proactively support students’ social, emotional and health needs, the district hosted an informative Substance Abuse and Mental Health Community Forum. The results of a survey taken by Rocky Point students were shared along with a comparison to what students are experiencing nationwide. Guest speakers included North Shore Youth Council Executive Director Janene Gentile, RESPONSE of Suffolk County crisis counselor Lorraine Peragallo, Deputy Sheriff Investigator Michael Kern and New York National Guard Counterdrug Task Force and Civil Operations Specialist Carissa Siry. Topics included information on the area’s after-school youth programs and intervention services, RESPONSE’s crisis intervention hotline services, the effects of vaping and the unfortunate rise in opioid abuse across the country. Additional resource groups were on hand to provide reading material and included Alateen (Al-Anon), Brookhaven Youth Bureau, Hope House Ministries, OUTREACH, the Suffolk County Police Department and the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office.



## SEAFORD Holocaust Survivor Tells Students to Reject Hatred

Don’t stand by and do nothing when evil is happening. That was the message of Holocaust survivor Irving Roth for Seaford High School sophomores during the district’s annual Holocaust Remembrance Day

program. Mr. Roth, who has spoken at the school for nearly two decades, shared his personal stories about the Holocaust, including how Germany’s expansion through Europe drastically changed his life after growing up in Czechoslovakia. He told students about his capture by the Nazis and how he managed to survive one of the darkest periods in human history. He encouraged them to remember his story so they could share his message about the detrimental effects of hatred.



## SMITHTOWN Guide Dogs Get Acquainted With Great Hollow Students

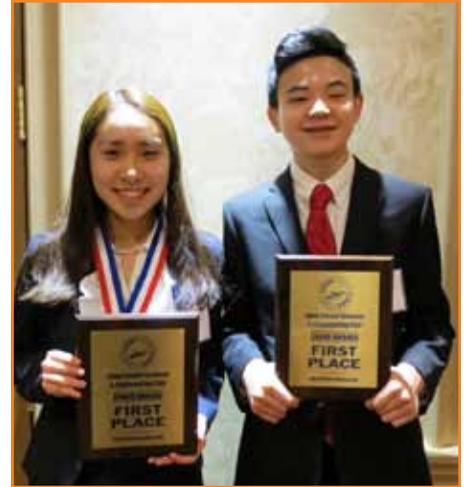
Tying into their English language arts curriculum, sixth graders at Great Hollow Middle School had a special visit from two furry friends. The students spent the last month learning about how dogs impact the lives of humans, reading and writing reaction pieces about the effect of canines on people. Representatives from America’s VetDogs, a sister organization of the Guide Dog Foundation, located in Smithtown, visited with students to teach them about the role of the canines, how they are trained and how they help those in need. The students collected toys and food to donate to the organization, which they presented following the assembly.



## THREE VILLAGE Ward Melville Students Qualify for International Science Competition

As a result of their science research projects, Ward Melville High School senior Kelsey Ge and junior Leo Takemaru placed first in their division at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair. Both now qualify to

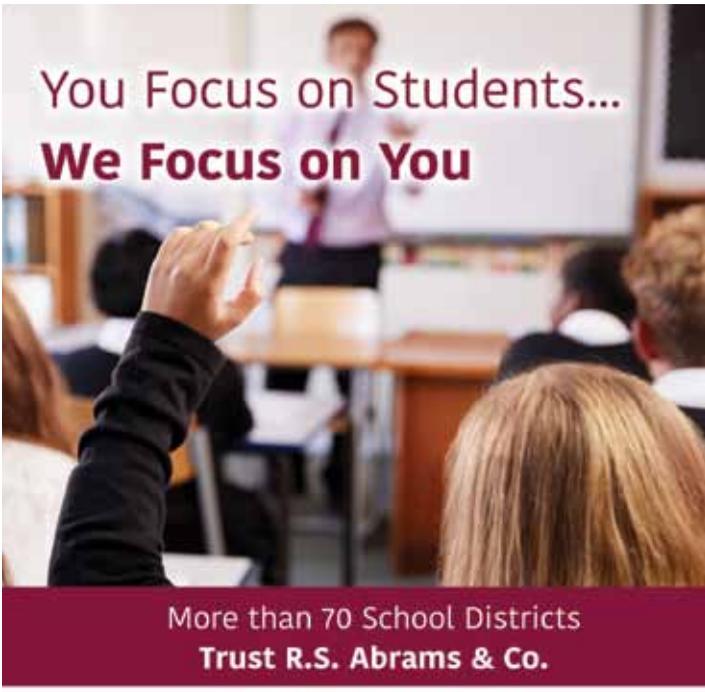
compete at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona. Leo’s project focused on how human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which weakens the body’s ability to fight infection. Kelsey’s project focused on the identification and evaluation of the manifest ways in which tropical cyclone and hurricane evolution has changed during the past four decades.



## VALLEY STREAM 24 Celebrating #AWESOME New Global Technology Initiative

A ribbon cutting ceremony officially launched a new districtwide global technology initiative including the utilization of Learning Hubs, digital iMOs and a floor projection screen in all schools. Earlier this year, the district represented the United States during an i3 Technologies International Learning Conference held in Belgium. Davy DeRijbel, a representative from i3 Technologies and one of the inventors of the digital iMOs, trained the district’s staff to develop interactive and collaborative lessons using these new tools. Students are already benefiting from the more global and technological learning experiences as they continue to prepare for the future.





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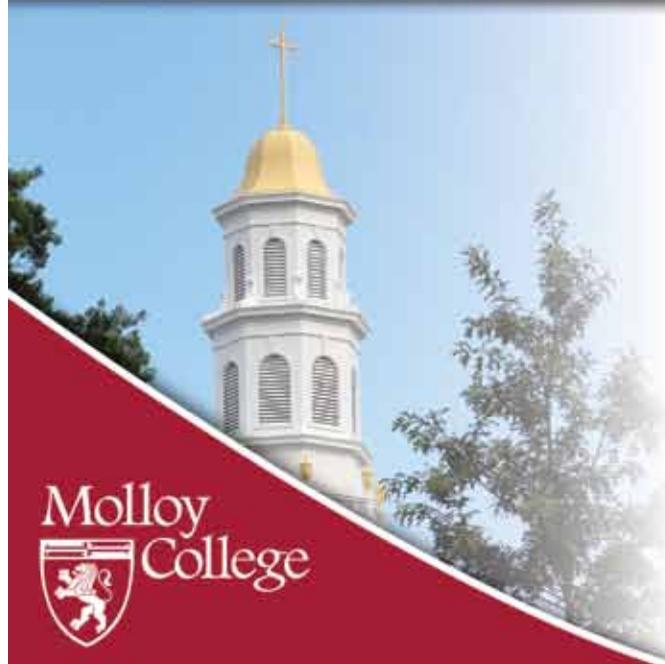
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