



Celebrating 50 Years of Service

# Forum

## Save the Date

### VIOLENCE PREVENTION CERTIFICATION

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

### DASA CERTIFICATION

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 call Jennifer at  
 631-881-9646  
 or visit [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us).

Dear Reader,

I can hardly believe that the school year is already more than halfway complete. By the time you read this edition of the Forum, the February break will be over and it will be March. SCOPE's many programs are quickly moving forward and we have already begun the process of preparing for the 2019-20 school year.

SCOPE continues to be the leading agency for school-age child care on Long Island. Each day more than 7,000 children attend before-school and after-school SCOPE programs. SCOPE staff are highly qualified and well-trained, providing the children attending our programs with a safe, fun and appropriate experience each day. Due to the hard work and dedication of our staff, SCOPE programs continue to grow each year, and thousands of children are kept safe and happy both before and after school.

Each year, SCOPE works to improve the programs we offer. This year, we have added STEAM activities to our after-school programs. Children attending our after-school programs have the opportunity to participate in 40 activities, allowing them to explore and learn in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Children in the programs were also provided with special presentations, such as an indoor planetarium (Star Lab) and Bricks for Kids (a Lego robotics program). SCOPE before- and after-school programs provide children with an appropriately balanced experience, allowing them time to interact and socialize with their peers, have fun while learning, participate in fitness activities and take part in various activities of interest to the children.

In addition to child care, SCOPE offers Pre-K/UPK programs and enrichment programs to thousands of children on Long Island. Currently, SCOPE Pre-K/UPK classes can be found in 16 school districts and provide our youngest learners with unique opportunities to prepare for the start of kindergarten, learn how to work cooperatively with their peers and enter kindergarten ready to begin their K-12 learning experience. There are currently more than 1,400 children attending these programs daily. SCOPE teachers and teaching assistants are all New York State certified and are among the most devoted and hardest working professionals in our public schools.

SCOPE enrichment programs provide K-6 children attending our public schools with the opportunity to enhance their daily instruction. Children attending SCOPE enrichment programs may participate in a variety of activities, including art, foreign language, music, science, technology and other programs of interest. More than 5,200 children will take part in SCOPE enrichment programs this year. Programs may be offered on weekends, after school and during the summer vacation. Each district's enrichment program is tailored and unique, meeting the needs of the children attending the district. SCOPE enrichment programs can be found operating in 31 public school districts on Long Island and each year the number of districts participating grows.

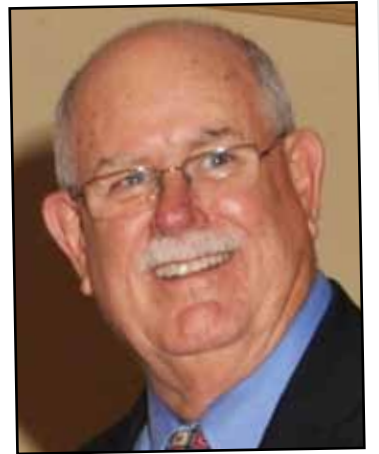
SCOPE's mission is to "meet the many diverse needs of the families, children, educational professional/paraprofessional staff and school districts located on Long Island." We are proud that no child is ever left out of a SCOPE program due to financial need or physical disability. Thank you to the entire SCOPE staff and school districts that, through your membership and participation, assist us in achieving our mission, and a special thank-you to our SCOPE families who choose our programs.

On a sad note, I would like to offer condolences to the Franklin Square School District and the family of Patrick J. Manley. Patrick was the Superintendent of Schools since 2010 and passed away on December 27, 2018. He was devoted to the children of the Franklin Square School District and worked tirelessly to provide the children with an outstanding education. Patrick was a leader among leaders and will be greatly missed by Long Island's education community.

Wishing each of you the arrival of an early spring with warm temperatures.

Sincerely,

George L. Duffy  
 Executive Director



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SCOPE Education Services  
 100 Lawrence Avenue  
 Smithtown, New York 11787

*"SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization currently celebrating our 55th 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



# Service and Dedication Recognized

SCOPE Education Services knows that dedicated staff members are the cornerstone of SCOPE's success as a service provider to public school districts. One of SCOPE's highest priorities is to support a staff that is committed to the work they do and to the success of the organization.

## Thank You for Your Commitment to SCOPE

Five longtime staff members were honored for their years of service and dedication to the organization during a SCOPE Board of Directors meeting. During the meeting, Kelly Hartofelis, field trainer (Preschool/UPK), was honored for 10 years of service; Deborah Thornton, assistant director of finance, was honored for 15 years of service and Patricia M. Walsh, associate director for finance, was honored for 25 years of service. Two other employees, who were unable to attend, were also recognized: Cheri Markland, district manager, was honored for 10 years of service and Rebecca Rosario-Ramos, field trainer (Child Care/Day Care), was honored for 10 years of service.

*Pictured from left, SCOPE Board President and Superintendent of East Moriches School District Dr. Charles Russo, Patricia M. Walsh, Kelly Hartofelis, Deborah Thornton and SCOPE Executive Director/CEO George L. Duffy III.*



## SCOPE Staff Honored for Their Service

Before a day of SCOPE training at Burr Intermediate School in Commack, attendees gathered in the auditorium to pay tribute to those who have dedicated years of service to SCOPE for the education of Long Island's children.

One by one, recipients were applauded for 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and 25 years of service by SCOPE Executive Director George Duffy and the SCOPE leadership team.

"Congratulations to all of our recipients," Duffy said. "It really is heartwarming to have people who are dedicated to the children and to what they do. I have to say that you all do such a wonderful job."

Those honored for their service included:

### 25 YEARS

- Victoria Stein
- Michelle Swartz

### 10 YEARS

- April Ortiz
- Carolyn Roca
- Deborah Thornton

### 20 YEARS

- Marie Cantave
- Debbie Ciampa
- Lori Pinzarrone
- Maria Toscano

### 15 YEARS

- Agostina Cardaci
- Donna Carullo
- Maria Casucci
- Meryl Collins
- Margaret Doherty
- Julia Dunn
- Tameka Dyce
- Maryann Eccleston
- Meryl Eisenberg

### 15 YEARS

- Maureen Carroll
- Joseph Consolazio
- Mary Dimondo

### 10 YEARS

- Ruthie Fields
- Jamie Freel
- Patricia Gambino
- Kelly Hartofelis
- Diane Hilbert
- Laurie Koenig
- Tuniqwa Little
- Cheri Markland
- Antoinette Marzigliano
- Roseann Merk
- Noreen Puri
- Rebecca Rosario-Ramos
- Andrea Schalk



*Employees who were honored for 10 years of service to SCOPE.*



*Employees who were honored for 15 years of service to SCOPE.*



*Employees who were honored for 20 years of service to SCOPE.*



*Victoria Stein, honored for 25 years of service to SCOPE and SCOPE Executive Director George Duffy.*



# Who We Are and What We Do To Benefit Children

## Who We Are

- A service provider chartered by the New York State Board of Regents.
- Provider of before- and after-school child care in the child's home school district, typically in the child's home school.
- Provider of school-year and summer enrichment programs tailored to meet the wants and needs of each district.
- Provider of universal pre-K (state-funded) and pre-K (parent-pay) half-day programs for 4-year-olds, five days a week for the full school year (180 days).
- Provider of half-day pre-K programs for 3-year-olds, three days a week for the 40 weeks of the school year.
- Provider of extended-day child care for students enrolled in half-day pre-K programs (if approved, with minimal enrollment requirements).
- SCOPE is New York State approved as a Continuing Teacher and Leader Education provider, offering courses of one to three credits per semester (typically online).
- SCOPE provides SAT/PSAT/ACT preparation courses for high school students, offered after school in a face-to-face format.
- Provider of speaker workshops on prevention of sexual harassment, bullying, cyberbullying and any other topic requested by the district or community organization.
- Provider of an annual teacher assistant workshop to inform teacher assistants in identified areas of need.
- Provider of certification workshops for child abuse awareness and prevention, violence prevention and DASA (Dignity for All Students Act).
- Coordinates and publishes the international education research journal, Journal for Leadership and Instruction, twice yearly.
- Publishes the Forum, a newspaper with updates on SCOPE services and information from school districts throughout Long Island.

## What We Do

- We place children in before- and after-school day care programs that are safe, stimulating and fun. The adult-to-child ratio of 1:10 is enforced, and every employee is thoroughly vetted before being employed.
- We have upgraded the play materials at each of our child care sites to reflect the ever-evolving interests of the students.
- We have supported our child care staff with organized and structured STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) activities, with the expectation that a facet of STEAM is implemented each month.
- We have secured the services of a security expert to oversee our child care sites and make recommendations to ensure safety.
- We collaborate with parents and the school to address the particular needs of children who struggle in social situations.
- Our child care staff receives ongoing student management training, with 15 hours or more of in-service training each year.
- No child is ever denied service because of validated financial need.



### ENRICHMENT

- Enrichment programs are designed to address and accommodate the interests of the students and taught by qualified staff.
- Every effort is made to schedule sessions that meet parent needs and offer alternatives in the event of oversubscription.
- Enrichment fees cover the cost of supervision, instruction and materials.



### PRE-K

- Pre-kindergarten, whether universal pre-K or private-pay pre-K, adheres to the recommendations imposed through the New York State Office of Early Learning. These recommendations touch on classroom environment, instruction, assessments, and coordination with the families involved, the district and the community.
- We are making efforts to attach extended child care to our half-day pre-K programs, which then includes the licensing of space through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

### PROFESSIONAL

- This winter, SCOPE is offering teachers 88 different online professional development courses. Registration and instruction are handled online.
- All one- to three-credit courses are sanctioned under the umbrella of SCOPE's approval from New York State as a Continuing Teacher and Leadership Education provider.



- SCOPE provides student preparation classes for SAT/PSAT/ACT preparation.
- Coordinates and publishes the research journal, Journal for Leadership and Instruction, twice yearly.

# SCOPE UPK and Pre-K Programs

## From Learners to Leaders



# 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 further information about any program, contact: Mindy Labriola at 631-360-0800 ext. 164 or Dina Pendel at 631-360-0800 ext. 120.

## SCOPE UPK and PRE-K PROGRAMS

### 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 – UPK only  
North Babylon – Tuition only  
Patchogue-Medford – UPK only  
Riverhead – UPK only  
Sachem – UPK and tuition  
West Babylon – Tuition only

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**For more information, contact Melissa Krauss at 631-360-0800, ext. 146.**



# SCOPE Services for Children and Students



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

SCOPE Education Services is the largest child care provider in the state of New York, serving more than 7,000 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.

### 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 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.

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

## ENRICHMENT IS THE KEY TO LEARNING

All SCOPE-sponsored enrichment activities take place outside the school day, and each experience is structured to complement the learning base provided by the school, with added emphasis on the interests expressed by the students. SCOPE has been able to offer programs in the visual and performing arts; science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM); health and wellness; foreign languages and cultural development; leadership development and service learning; history; social studies and geography. The possibilities are endless.





# SUMMER

## Is a Great

## Time to Learn

Throughout the summer months, children spend their time engaged in interesting and enjoyable activities that focus on learning and connecting experiences to their own personal interests. These enrichment encounters build on those interests and often trigger lifelong pursuits.

During the summer of 2018, SCOPE was thrilled to offer a collection of such opportunities in 13 school districts. Below is an overview of the types of enrichment programs SCOPE provided.

- **Art Explorations (1-3)** – Using various mediums, such as watercolors, clay, paint and others, children created works of art that had personal meaning to them.
- **Baking (4-6)** – Students learned about different ingredients, how to measure, and how to create and decorate delicious desserts.
- **Curtains Up (4-6)** – Children learned various acting skills and gained self-confidence through presenting themselves to others. They created and performed commercials, brought books to life, and designed and built their own props and scenery.
- **Fitness Fun (1-6)** – Children participated in a variety of fun-filled games on the playground (or indoors), along with cooperative games that helped to develop teamwork and sportsmanship.
- **Foreign Language (4-6)** – Languages such as French or Spanish were introduced. Students learned their names in a foreign language, along with basic language skills such as naming colors (while creating crafts), learning about basic cultural foods and the vocabulary associated with French and Spanish cuisine.
- **STEAM Experiences (K-6)** – Engineering feats incorporating designing, building and testing strength offered challenges as children created objects such as towers, rockets and simple machines. Facets of science, technology, engineering, arts and math were interwoven

through these engineering projects.

- **American Sign Language (K-2)** – Children learned sign language skills they can use in everyday life. Learning included the alphabet, colors, days of the week and months of the year. They also experienced how to interpret their favorite songs and made some fun projects. It was intriguing to watch them start a conversation without uttering a word.
- **Fun with Nature (1-6)** – Children explored the nature around them, collecting things such as rocks, sticks and leaves and then creating arts and crafts including bird feeders and sun catchers. They also went on scavenger hunts to find things to make their unique projects special.
- **Creative Coding and Technology for Kids (1-6)** – Children learned how to code a video game and create animations through investigations of educational websites, videos and unplugged lessons. These experiences helped to open up a whole new world for future scientific experiences and pursuits.
- **Looney for Legos (4-6)** – In this class, children had an opportunity to explore ways of construction using problem-solving strategies and techniques related to building familiar structures and other structures with their own unique designs.
- **Fun with Sculpture (3-6)** – Children learned many hand-building techniques to create

clay masterpieces. Starting with an idea on paper, they built and painted 3D designs and watched their imaginations come to life. This opportunity was uniquely geared towards self-expression and personal creativity. There were no cookie-cutter projects created here!

These examples of summer program opportunities are provided to give you a broad overview of the exciting and enjoyable learning and creative experiences your child could have during the summer months. Enjoyment and having fun are tied to each of the experiences described. The creation of courses can be as varied as the presenters who are willing to teach, and the student and parent interest that is expressed.

SCOPE works with the school district to offer these programs during a time that works for parents and at a rate that is affordable to parents. Typically, all summer programs run daily, Monday through Friday, throughout the month of July (except for July 4), with each session running from one hour to an hour and a half. We invite you to go to the SCOPE website at [www.scopeonline.us](http://www.scopeonline.us) and click on Student Services. There you will see the school districts that have already contracted with SCOPE to provide these summer workshops during the summer of 2019.



# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



director of middle school life and elementary science in the East Williston School District, as dean of students and seventh-grade science teacher at East Williston, and as a general science teacher in the Colonial School District in Delaware. He earned a bachelor's degree in adolescence education in biology from SUNY Cortland and his master's degree in school leadership from Wilmington University in Delaware.

**LITTLE FLOWER**  
**District Welcomes New Superintendent**

The Board of Education appointed Dr. Harold Dean as superintendent of schools. Beginning as a special education teacher for East Moriches Schools, Dr. Dean served Eastern Suffolk BOCES as a school improvement administrator and then as assistant principal of the Ward Technical Center in Riverhead. Before joining Little Flower, he was director of grants, funded programs and student achievement for Freeport Schools. Dr. Dean holds a Bachelor of Science in special education from Dowling College, a professional diploma in educational leadership from Stony Brook University, and a Master of Science in curriculum, instruction and assessment and Doctor of Education in educational leadership degree from Walden University.



**ISLIP**  
**Two New Appointments**

Michael Giacchetto has been appointed principal of Wing Elementary School, replacing Christopher Smalley, the current assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. He previously served for the past four years as assistant principal at West Islip's Udall Road Middle School, and before that as an elementary teacher at South Ocean Middle School and Medford Elementary School in the Patchogue-Medford School District. Giacchetto earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and his master's degree in business administration from Dowling College, and educational leadership certificates from St. John's University.

James McCabe has been named science coordinator for the Islip School District. McCabe previously served as



**MASSAPEQUA**  
**Recognized for Dedication to Student Well-Being**

Ed Hoffman, a physical education teacher at Berner Middle School, has been named the 2018 Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year. This award is presented by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in recognition of the recipient's dedication to professional excellence, demonstrated leadership and exemplary work. In addition to teaching, Hoffman is the physical education chairman and athletic coordinator for Berner, where he oversees the school's staff of nine physical education teachers and intramural and interscholastic athletic programs. He is a 1988 graduate of Massapequa High School. He received a bachelor's degree in physical education from SUNY Cortland and a master's degree in kinesiology and exercise science from California State University at Fullerton.

Programs. The department encompasses several notable schools and programs, such as Barry Tech, the agency's premier career and technical education high school, and Long Island High School for the Arts, the Island's only public arts high school. Other programs in the department include Adult Education, Regional Summer School, the Twilight Alternative High School and Work-Based Learning.



**NORTH BELLMORE**  
**Retiring Principal Honored**

Members of the Board of Education, administrators, parents, students and members of the John G. Dinkelmeyer Elementary School community recognized retiring principal Faith Skelos during a board meeting. Many honored Ms. Skelos with words of reflection and praise, along with gifts of heartfelt gratitude for her 26 1/2 years of service to the district, including as a teacher and principal. Skelos retired effective Dec. 31, 2018.



**NASSAU BOCES**  
**New Head of the Department of Regional Schools and Instructional Programs**

Veteran educator Dr. Carla Theodorou has been named Executive Director of the Nassau BOCES Department of Regional Schools and Instructional



# Congratulations Are in Order

## APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PORT JEFFERSON

#### Educator Makes History for School District

After a rigorous application and selection process, Edna Louise Spear Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Megan Roth-Ueno has been named a New York State Master Teacher, the first for the district. She will join a reputable group of innovators and leaders in STEM education who bring a unique perspective to enhancing their students' education.

According to Roth-Ueno, as a classroom teacher it is often difficult to learn firsthand what is happening in other schools and programs. It generally requires being out of a teacher's own classroom in order to visit other schools. The New York State Master Teacher Program will enable her to learn about other programs outside of the school day and help her become more aware of her cohort's schoolwide programs and eventually work to create and plan curriculum together.



secondary health education, Lori Hewlett, has been named the Secondary Health Teacher of the Year by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. A distinguished educator in the district for 34 years, Hewlett received numerous nominations from fellow colleagues before her selection for this prestigious honor. Among her plethora of professional accomplishments, Hewlett has been the vice president of the Suffolk Zone for the NYS AHPERD for six years, is a national spokesperson for the American Heart Association and has educated thousands of students in lifesaving skills utilizing her vast number of first-aid instructor certifications.



### SOUTHAMPTON

#### Teachers Published in International Magazine

Languages other than English teachers Sarah Trujillo-Underhill and Ellen Martin, along with Laura Perez Sanchis, an International Spanish Academy Language and Culture teacher from Spain, were published in the University of Valencia's annual Spanish language magazine, Foro de Profesores de E/LE. The trio's published work, "Life Is a Carnival; A multi-level collaborative unit of study," discusses a project that was implemented for the 87

students in the Southampton School District's International Spanish Academy program. As part of the project, students learned about Carnival festivals through cooperative and action-based learning with activities that engaged the multiple intelligences, while teaching values and intercultural respect.



### THREE VILLAGE

#### New Master Teachers Celebrated

Three educators – Minnesauke Elementary School STEM teacher Sean Dowling and Ward Melville High School chemistry teachers Samantha Chereb Bradshaw and James Dornick – have been recognized as New York State STEM Master Teachers. Dowling is the first district elementary school teacher selected for this honor, as this is a new aspect of the program and only eight teachers on Long Island have received this honor. The NYS STEM Master Teacher program is a competitive program and only selects veteran educators who demonstrate a commitment to student achievement, promote STEM inside and outside the classroom, seek out professional development opportunities and work with colleagues to improve STEM instruction.

### WANTAGH

#### School Nurse Is Best in New York State

Forest Lake Elementary School nurse Victoria Alssid is the recipient of the 2018 Excellence in

School Nursing Award. Bestowed by the New York State Association of School Nurses, Alssid received the accolade for having excelled in her practice of school nursing. Alssid has been a practicing nurse with the district for 10 years and is a member of the Nassau County Association of School Nurses. Previously, she served as a psychiatric nurse at Zucker Hillside Hospital in Queens, New York, and as a pediatric nurse at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.



#### A Moment to Remember

NYCOSS President, SCOPE Board of Directors Trustee and Superintendent of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District Dr. Lorna R. Lewis (left) and Roosevelt School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marnie Hazelton (right) had the memorable opportunity to meet former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama during her book tour at the Barclays Center.



### SACHEM

#### Educator Named New York State Secondary Health Teacher of the Year

The district's chairperson for





## BRIDGEHAMPTON You've Got a Friend in Bridgehampton

After reading the popular Kevin Henkes' story, "Chrysanthemum," students displayed their creative interpretations about a story lesson on cultivating friendships. Building upon the simple lessons about self-esteem, acceptance and respecting other people's differences, they worked together to make a plan focusing on how to be a good friend.

## COMSEWOGUE Pennies From the Heart

Students of Terryville Road Elementary School donated \$200, collected in just one day through their Penny Friday initiative, to the children in Stony Brook Children's Hospital. On the first Friday of every month, students can donate their pennies, and only their pennies, which are then donated to a noble organization or project of their choice.



## COPIAGUE Hands-On Lessons Engage Kindergarten Learners

Kindergartners at Deauville Gardens West Elementary School are engaged in multiple learning activities. After reading "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom," students in Danielle Jacobs' class created their own tree with the first letter of their name. In Briana Mullady's class, students are learning how to identify shapes, including hexagons and circles. Students in Marissa Krause's class read "The Kissing Hand" and colored their own raccoons for display in the classroom. The class is also learning all about apples, using different adjectives to describe the crunchy treat.

## EAST MEADOW 2018 National Blue Ribbon School

W.T. Clarke High School was one of 349 schools nationwide identified as a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School. The high school was named an Exemplary High Performing school and was nominated by the New York State Education Department based on its overall academic performance. The coveted award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.



## ELWOOD Read It, Dream It, STEAM It

The district hosted its annual K-8 STEAM night at Elwood Middle School, promoting the theme "Read It, Dream It, STEAM It." Students were invited to bring the worlds of storybook fantasy to life through experimenting with science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Students and parents journeyed through the school holding a map of the available stations that each contained a different activity. At one of the stations, "If I Built a Car," students were hard at work building rubber band propeller cars that ran on stored energy. Parents stood by, marveling at their children's innovation and commenting on the refreshing nature of STEAM-focused events.

## FREEPORT Successful Tour for Select Chorale

The Freeport High School Select Chorale experienced a whirlwind tour performing at multiple prestigious venues under the leadership of choral director Monique Retzlaff. They opened their tour performing for tourists at the Empire State Building and then received the honor of singing the national anthem at the Kentucky vs. Seton Hall college basketball game at Madison Square Garden. They

entertained shoppers at Roosevelt Field Mall and ended their tour with an impressive performance at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where they were selected to perform their own hourlong concert singing their beautiful repertoire.



## GLEN COVE A Focus on Kindness at Gribbin

Second-graders in Coleen Brunhuber and Jennifer Hajok's class at Gribbin Elementary School participated in a lesson about spreading kindness as a community-building activity. Students learned the importance of treating each other with respect and kindness, and that as a classroom family they will take care of each other. They read "The Jelly Donut Difference" by Maria Dismondy, decorated a picture of a donut sprinkled with acts of kindness, then picked one act of kindness and constructed a sentence about it.



## HALF HOLLOW HILLS Students Take on Ocean Challenge

For the fifth consecutive year, students in every grade level will be participating in the Students Rebuild challenge, a program launched by the Bezos Family Foundation. This year's challenge encourages students to learn about the environmental issues affecting our oceans and coastal communities. For every piece of ocean-inspired paper art received by the foundation, it will make a \$2 donation toward youth-focused ocean conservation and restoration efforts in coastal communities. The district is working to build on its impact from last year's challenge,

for which students created 21,408 self-portraits to raise \$126,410. That brought their total support over the past five years to nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

## HAMPTON BAYS Coding With Botley

Students in first through fourth grade at Hampton Bays Elementary School have been learning to code using Botley the Robot during their STEM lab period. Under the direction of STEM lab teacher Jonathan Della Speranza, the students used code to solve challenges and program Botley to navigate through a maze, catch a ball, score a goal and detect objects in its path.



## LOCUST VALLEY Falcons Unite Through Play

A volleyball flew across a net, a kickball soared to the outfield and runners dashed across the field in relay races during Locust Valley Middle School's first-ever Falcon Fest. The field day, initiated and sponsored by the Falcon Pride Athletic Booster Club, allowed sixth-graders to bond with their teammates, some of whom they had not met before entering middle school. Team members cheered each other on to create a memorable event where everyone was a winner.



## LONGWOOD Student Named First-Place Winner in Suffolk County Poster Contest

Sixth-grade student Rohan Akmal is the first-place winner of the Suffolk County "Dangers of Liquid Nicotine" poster contest. Rohan's



poster will be on the cover of the 2019 Suffolk County Department of Health Services brochure. During a general meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature, Legislator Sarah Anker presented Rohan with a proclamation.



## MINEOLA Girls Who Code

This past summer, Mineola High School students Tara Minaahang and Anushka Patel participated in Girls Who Code, a program designed to show rising juniors and seniors the career possibilities in the field of coding. During the seven-week intensive course, Tara and Anushka were introduced to Arduino, CSS, Firebox, HTML, Java, JavaScript and Python. Beyond being immersed in very technical subjects, they also met once a week with a female mentor who works in the field of coding. Additionally, there were several field trips to companies in New York City, and each student participated in an internship.

## NASSAU BOCES Broadway Stars Perform at Gala Fundraiser to Support Long Island High School for the Arts

Students at Nassau BOCES Long Island High School for the Arts shared the stage with major talents from the Great White Way during their fourth annual fundraiser, Broadway Supports LIHSA. More than a dozen Broadway stars came out to perform at the event, including Tony Award winner Alice Ripley, Drama Desk Award winner Ken Jennings and dynamic triple threat Jesse J.P. Johnson.



## OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH Billy Joel Cuts Ribbon on Oyster Bay High School's New Fine and Performing Arts Wing

In a magical evening of music and community pride, Oyster Bay's own legendary musician, Billy Joel, helped the district cut the ribbon on its newly expanded Fine and Performing Arts Wing at Oyster Bay High School. That vision started when residents approved a bond issue for the expansion. Work included the renovation of three classrooms, including a digital art room, a new three-dimensional sculpture and design room, a new choral room and band room that are equipped with air conditioning and state-of-the-art equipment, offices and storage space.



## SACHEM Local Author Empowers Students Through Inquiry

Long-time Sachem resident, author and retired educator Salvatore Nicosia visited fifth-grade students at Hiawatha Elementary School to share the importance of civic engagement. Author of the book "Empowering Our Children to Be More Effective in the Political Process," Nicosia is a passionate advocate for educating and empowering students to ask questions and be engaged members of the community. Mirroring the advice in his book, Nicosia answered several student questions about his work.



## SEAFORD Teaming Up for STEAM in Seaford

Fifty Popsicle sticks, a few paper clips and some glue were all the materials students at Seaford Harbor Elementary School had to work with as they were tasked with building small Ferris wheels. Fourth- and fifth-graders took part in the first STEAMED lunch of the year, in which they can spend

their lunch break participating in activities that focus on science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. Before they were allowed to build, they had to sketch out their plans and divide up the tasks. Future STEAMED lunch projects will include bird feeders, geodesic domes and snow globes.



## SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER Olympic Trial Qualifier Visits Shoreham-Wading River High School's Gay-Straight Alliance

Shoreham-Wading River High School's Gay-Straight Alliance welcomed USA Swimming national champion Tom Luchsinger as a guest speaker. A 2013 World Championship finalist, 10-time NCAA All-American, and 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympic trial qualifier, Luchsinger spoke to students about his experience being the first openly gay USA Swimming national team member, informed students about LGBTQIA terms, and provided advice about building positive, healthy relationships and having a presence on social media that students can be proud of years later.



## SMITHTOWN Hands-On Coding Lesson With Amazon

Representatives from Amazon visited Mills Pond Elementary School to host an Hour of Code event, where students created their own apps or games and earned an Hour of Code certificate for their work.

## SOUTH COUNTRY Kreamer Street Elementary Students Learn Hydroponics

Aimee Volk's third-grade students at Kreamer Street Elementary School have been growing vegetables using hydroponic farming. They performed an experiment that compares the soil-based growth of various vegetables to those grown through hydroponics, charting and comparing their growth. They are also creating a tiered hydroponic system with four levels of plants, which can be readily used in a home, office or classroom. In addition, the students are utilizing a

low-tech aquaculture system to grow wheatgrass and radish microgreens. A beta fish tank provides all the nutrients for the plants to grow. In fact, the wheatgrass was harvested and blended into a smoothie for the students to taste.



## WEST ISLIP West Islip Science Students Collect Connetquot Ecological Data

Science-minded students enrolled in West Islip High School's Biotechnology, Introduction to Research, and International Baccalaureate Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Systems and Societies classes participated in "A Day in the Life of a River" citizen science program, collecting data on all of the rivers and estuaries on Long Island. The program tracks the health of the aquatic systems and reports the data to various ecological institutions, including Brookhaven National Laboratory, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Suffolk County Water Authority.

## WILLIAM FLOYD Floyd Academy Hosts Sock Drive to Benefit Homeless

Career Development and Occupational Studies students in the Floyd Academy held a sock drive to help the homeless and those in need of emergency housing this winter season. Thanks to the generosity of the school community, 625 pairs of new socks were donated to Nana's House in Mastic and the Halo Network of Services in Shirley. Floyd Academy teacher Dawn Battaglia was instrumental in overseeing this drive.





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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:



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## DECEMBER 2018

Lamb & Barnosky, LLP is pleased to announce that  
**ADAM S. ROSS**  
has joined the Firm as Counsel.



Prior to joining Lamb & Barnosky, LLP, Adam S. Ross, Esq. served from 2011 to 2018 as the General Counsel of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) and, prior to that, as the UFT's Special Counsel from 2006 to 2011. Adam attended Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, where he earned his Bachelor's degree. He received his Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law. Prior to working at the UFT, he was an associate at Stroock, Stroock & Lavan LLP where, after several years, his increasing work with public sector unions led him to take a position at the UFT.

As the UFT's General Counsel, Adam negotiated and drafted collective bargaining agreements on behalf of over 200,000 UFT-represented employees in more than 20 bargaining units in both the public and private sectors. He was responsible for directing the UFT's handling of a wide range of labor and employment matters before state and federal administrative agencies, arbitrators and the state and federal courts, both in the UFT's role as a labor union as well as an employer. His practice included a broad array of other matters, including education, contracts, arbitration, and general corporate matters. He was likewise responsible for coordinating and directing the UFT's internal and outside counsel.



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