



Over 60 Years of Service

Forum

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL

8

CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION
WORKSHOP

APRIL

10

VIOLENCE
PREVENTION
WORKSHOP

APRIL

28

DASA
WORKSHOPS

JUNE

2

AUG.

12

ANNUAL NEW
BOARD MEMBERS/
SUPERINTENDENTS
DINNER

Sign Up for Summer, '25-26 Programs

Dear Readers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and enjoying the longer, warmer days of spring. Before you know it, the school year will be coming to a close, and summer vacation will be just around the corner. Here at SCOPE, our staff is hard at work planning end-of-year activities for children participating in SCOPE programs across Long Island. At the same time, we are preparing for our summer enrichment and child care programs, which continue to be offered in many school districts during the summer months.

SCOPE Education Services is a nonprofit organization, permanently chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, that provides essential services to public school districts throughout New York. In both Nassau and Suffolk counties, SCOPE is a leading provider of before- and after-school child care, the largest provider of universal prekindergarten on Long Island, and a trusted source of enrichment programs for children in grades K-6.

Currently, we at SCOPE are busy preparing for the 2025-2026 school year. Registration is already underway for our before- and after-school child care and UPK programs. These programs tend to fill quickly, and the demand for school-age child care remains high. To meet this growing need, SCOPE is actively recruiting, screening and hiring additional staff. Finding qualified and dedicated professionals remains one of our greatest challenges, so if you or someone you know is interested in working with children before and after school, please contact SCOPE's director of recruitment, Renee Mercer, at rmerc@scopeonline.us. SCOPE offers competitive salaries – the highest on Long Island for child care workers – along with benefits and scholar-

ship opportunities for our staff.

In addition to child care, SCOPE continues to be the largest provider of UPK services on Long Island, with nearly 4,000 children currently enrolled in our programs. Our mission is to ensure that our youngest learners are well-prepared for kindergarten. With the oversight of their public school districts, SCOPE's UPK classes are held in elementary schools, where children engage in a fun and educationally rich curriculum that sets them up for future success.

SCOPE also offers enrichment programs year-round, including summer programs, weekend sessions, vacation break programs and before- and after-school classes. These programs provide students in grades K-12 with opportunities to expand their learning beyond the classroom. Through collaboration with school districts, SCOPE designs STEAM classes that offer age-appropriate, engaging and enriching experiences. These programs are taught by district educators and administered by the SCOPE team.

We at SCOPE take great pride in the programs we provide to public school districts across Long Island. We

sincerely thank our parents and school districts for choosing SCOPE to support the needs of children in their schools and communities.

Wishing all of the students, teachers, school staff and families a successful conclusion to the 2025 school year!

Sincerely,

George L. Duffy

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



GEORGE L.
DUFFY

"SCOPE Education Services, a not-for-profit organization currently celebrating our 60th 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/CEO

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Connetquot Board of Education

Honors Life-Saving SCOPE UPK Employee



Melissa Walsh, who works in SCOPE’s universal prekindergarten program at John Pearl Elementary School in Connetquot, was recognized for her brave efforts to save a young boy from choking. Ms. Walsh was honored at the Connetquot Board of Education meeting in January by Superintendent Dr. Joseph Tanen Centamore, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Christina Poppe and Pearl Principal Brian Wrinkle.

School Boards of Education: An Overview

So let me explain the governance structure of our local school districts on Long Island and dispel some myths.

In 1784 New York State created the Regents of the University of the State of New York. The first public school in New York State was established in 1791, and in 1812 the common school law established a statewide system of public schools. Between the 1790s and early 1800s, laws were passed establishing school districts and empowering its citizens to elect school boards to levy school taxes.

School boards and school taxes have been around for a long time. The main role of the elected school board is to be the community’s representative of the local school district, fiduciaries of the assets of the local district and policy makers for the district. School board trustees on Long Island are elected to either three- or five-year terms and are unpaid school officials. Some school districts have five, seven or nine members on their board of education. The superintendent of schools reports directly to, and works directly for, the board of education.

An individual member of the board of education has no authority or power to enact on anything on behalf of the school district. It is

only when a quorum of the board of education is present that the governing body has the power and authority to act on behalf of the district. Some of the responsibilities of the board of education are the hiring and supervision of

SCHOOL BOARDS SPOTLIGHT



BOB
VECCHIO

the superintendent of schools, oversight of the budget and other fiduciary duties. They also ensure compliance with all federal and state regulations through policies and procedures, and other formal actions taken at public meetings of the board of education on a regular basis.

On an annual basis, the board of education is required to hold a reorganizational meeting to administer, among other things, the oath of office to newly elected or reelected trustees, the superintendent of schools and other school officials, such as the district clerk, and appoint the officers of the board. Sometimes people would think when they voted for me they were voting for the president of the board, but the officers are chosen by a quorum of the board.

The public elects the trustees.

The qualifications of being a school board trustee are very simple. You must be at least 18 years old, a resident of the school district, and you cannot be an employee of the school district you are trying to be elected to as a board

trustee. You can be a retiree, just not a current employee. Once elected, you are considered an elected official in the State of New York and you are bound by municipal laws, just like state senators, assemblymembers, county, town and village elected officials. One major difference is school board trustees are mandated to take fiscal and governance training while no other elected official in New York State is mandated by law to take training, which I have always found interesting.

The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association was established in 1959, and we represent 115 boards of education from across Long Island. We assist in educational advocacy on a federal, state and local level. We provide trainings, workshops and other information to our membership, to help with their professional development in effective governance strategies. We help promote public education on Long Island through multiple methods such as newspaper, television, radio and digital media formats. We are often called on to testify on a variety of issues, such as testimony before the Rockefeller Institute regarding reforms to the Foundation Aid Formula. We are also asked to speak at various functions and forums about public education on Long Island.

Bob Vecchio is executive director of the Nassau-Suffolk Schools Boards Association and host of the “Spotlight on Long Island Schools” radio show. He is a former Board of Education president in the William Floyd School District.



UPK Is the New Kindergarten



SCOPE is honored to be the community provider this school year for universal prekindergarten programs in 33 school districts spread throughout Suffolk and Nassau counties. Responsible for organizing and staffing more than 170 pre-K classes for the 2024-2025 school year, we are very proud of the almost seamless melding of the classes into the culture and fabric of the district schools we serve.

Prekindergarten, under the oversight of the New York State Office of Early Learning, is a developmentally focused program whose mission is to set the stage for young preschool children to be ready for the more formalized demands of kindergarten. “All I Ever Needed to Learn I Learned in Kindergarten,” the now classic book written by Robert Fulghum, underscores the fact that kindergarten’s mission of old has now moved into prekindergarten. Parents of pre-K students need to look at the following as a partial guide of expectations:

- Share everything.
- Play fair.
- Don’t hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don’t take things that aren’t yours.
- Say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody
- Flush.
- Wash your hands before you eat.
- When you go out into the world watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together.

Our prekindergarten classrooms are education environments where both the child and the teacher are constantly learning about each other and enjoying the experience in the process!





The Outdoor Environmental Education Program

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

The Outdoor Environmental Education Program (OEEP) began in 1969 as a summer marine course for inner-city youth and was co-sponsored by SCOPE and Long Island State Parks and Recreation. It proved to be a successful program, and in 1971 SCOPE and Western Suffolk BOCES began the Day-Use Program at Sunken Meadow State Park.

The program was expanded to Connetquot River State Park and Caleb Smith State Park in 1973 and 1975, respectively. The focus then and now was to use these facilities – Outdoor Learning Labs – as an extension of the classroom. The combined total of 5,200 acres of land provides classes a chance to experience glacial and barrier beaches, rivers, tidal marshes, pine barrens and deciduous woodlands. All teachers in the Day-Use Program attend in-service training prior to coming to the site.

Additional education opportunities have been created to accommodate schools’

requests. Special Services programs are customized programs using field sites throughout Long Island. These programs are taught by the environmental education specialist in conjunction with experts in the field of study. SCOPE provides a portable Star Lab and Earth Balloon with trained staff for in-school programs. The Sunken Meadow site has a challenge course perfect for team-building programs. Low elements are used to enhance the day’s outing. Another team-building and science-based program is the Nissequogue River canoe trip. Everything from canoes to staffing are provided.

Residential experiences on and off Long Island offer a unique atmosphere to bond with classmates and become immersed in the surroundings at each site. A residential summer Marine Enrichment Camp is held for three weeks. The Avalon Nature Preserve and Sierra Club offer scholarships for two of the three weeks. Upstate school districts attend the last week.

Enrichment Excursions staff offer advice and expertise on the many nature centers, museums and field trip experiences from Manhattan to Montauk. SCOPE is a nature travel advocate and smooths the way for each class to attend their desired program.

The mission of the Outdoor Environmental Education Program is to inspire a child’s sense of wonder for the natural world and enhance classroom concepts through discovery-based learning. By employing direct observation and hands-on learning experiences both in and out of the classroom, the OEEP supports and enhances existing school curricula.

The OEEP also fosters the sustainable use and preservation of the natural environment by laying the foundation for responsible action. For further information, please contact Peggy Unger, SCOPE director, at punger@wsboces.org, or John Shiels, Western Suffolk BOCES coordinator, at jshiels@wsboces.org.



Congratulations Are in Order

APPOINTMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDDLE COUNTRY

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

The Middle Country Central School District has appointed Jonathan Singer as assistant superintendent for instruction. Mr. Singer has served students on Long Island for 27 years, beginning his career as a social studies teacher at West Hempstead High School before joining Middle Country in 2005.



In Middle Country, Mr. Singer held roles including assistant principal at both Selden Middle School and Newfield High School, principal of Selden Middle School, and director of curriculum K-12. He earned a bachelor's degree from Stony Brook University, a master's degree from Long Island University, and an advanced certificate in educational leadership from The College of Saint Rose.

HALF HOLLOW HILLS

Deputy Superintendent

The Half Hollow Hills Board of Education announces that John O'Farrell has been appointed deputy superintendent of schools for the district. Mr. O'Farrell has served the district with distinction for 24 years, first as a middle school science teacher, then as the director of science and technology, and most recently as the assistant superintendent of secondary education. He will work closely with the interim superintendent for the remainder of the school year to ensure a smooth and seamless transition as he prepares to officially assume the role of superintendent of schools on July 1.



MALVERNE

Superintendent of Schools

The Malverne School District Board of Education announces that Dr. Maria Rianna will serve as the next superintendent of schools, effective July 1. Dr. Rianna will replace Dr. Lorna Lewis, who is retiring at the end of the school year after five dedicated years of service to the district.

Dr. Rianna joins Malverne from the Glen Cove City School District, where she has served as superintendent of schools since 2013. Prior to her time in Glen Cove, Dr. Rianna held numerous positions in the education field, beginning her career as a special education teacher. She then served in various administrative positions including as a dean of students, assistant director of special education, director of special education, deputy superintendent of schools and assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.



SCOPE Enrichment

SCOPE EDUCATION SERVICES

Summer 2025 Under the Sea

July 7 to Aug 1, 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location:
Grades Entering: K-6
Monday to Friday

Click on the course descriptions below to learn more about each program!

Seaside Summer Culinary Arts!

Splashes and Scales: Ocean STEAM, Robotics & Coding Experience!

Broadway by the Sea Summer Musical Theater

Seashells and Sunsets: Art Adventure

Viking Sea Warriors Fitness & Games

Register Now!

\$199.99 Per Week

Questions:
enrichment@scopeonline.us
631-873-8338



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SCOPE's Courses are
CTLE Approved

*Workshops designed to energize
today's classrooms!*

8 New Courses!

SCOPE Inservice Course
Registration is Available Online at
www.scopeonline.us



CARLE PLACE
Second Graders Build Communities

Second grade students at Carle Place’s Cherry Lane School were architects and builders through a fun and educational hands-on project. Through their Community Planning project-based learning unit, students researched suburban, urban and rural communities and used their findings to design and build sustainable homes. After analyzing the characteristics of each, students formed teams and made blueprints to decide which materials would best support their home. The houses were organized by community, allowing the students to engage in a realistic model of transitioning from one neighborhood to another.

SMITHTOWN
Robotics Enrichment Program

Fifth grade students in the Smithtown Central School District are loving the new Robotics Enrichment program, piloted last spring by Mills Pond STEM instructional specialist Serena Spata. The program began this past fall and runs through the spring. Students code the robots to move autonomously using color sensors. They learn problem-solving skills because, as Mrs. Spata told the students, “it’s not the robot doing something wrong, it’s our code.”



LAWRENCE
Virtual Enterprise Team Shows Marketing Savvy

Tornado Watch, the Lawrence High School Virtual Enterprise class, achieved success at the New York State Northeast Region Business Plan Competition and Trade Show. The team demonstrated excellence in both business strategy and innovative marketing. Tornado Watch earned \$137,000 in sales, providing cybersecurity protection plans to customers during the event. Their commitment to high-quality, impactful products resonated with attendees, showcasing their strong understanding of the growing need for cybersecurity in today’s digital landscape. Tornado Watch also earned a Silver Award in the newsletter competition, demonstrating their ability to engage with their audience.

INNOVATIONS
LONG ISLAND SCHOOLS



BALDWIN
Shubert Launches Future Jewelers Academy

The Baldwin Union Free School District, in collaboration with the Black in Jewelry Coalition and the Natural Diamond Council, launched the Future Jewelers Academy at Baldwin High School@Shubert. The unique program prepares students for careers in the jewelry industry through hands-on professional learning experiences, covering all aspects of the business from design and benchwork to merchandising and sales. Students craft their own jewelry pieces based on their creative designs using various metalworking and jewelry-making techniques. They also participate in events such as New York City’s Jewelry Week and learn from guest speakers who work in the industry.

COMMACK
New Sports Enrichment Course Gives Career Insights

This year marks the first time Commack Middle School has offered sports management as an enrichment course. Students are gaining a deeper understanding of the business side of sports and the leadership skills required to succeed in the industry. Guest speakers include two-time Stanley Cup winner Adam Graves and former New York Islanders senior VP Paul Lancey. They shared insights on managing teams, handling challenges and leading with respect. These experiences help our students explore potential career paths in sports.

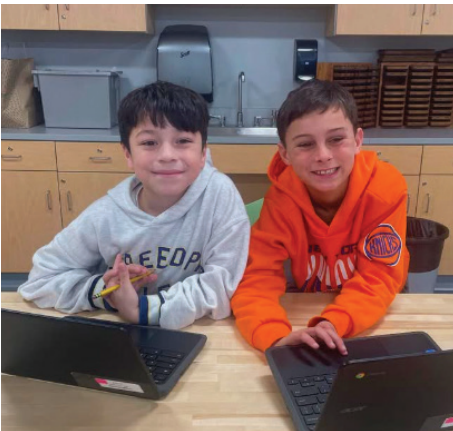


MINEOLA
Apple Distinguished School District

Mineola Public Schools has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School District. School districts apply and are selected for this distinction based on their commitment to continuous innovation in education across all schools in the system, and using Apple products to inspire, imagine and impact teaching and learning districtwide.



Mineola is one of only 19 districts worldwide to be recognized with this designation.



HARBORFIELDS
KidOYO Coding Enthralls Lahey School Students

Students from Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School are diving into the world of coding with Hatch on the KidOYO platform. The students use teamwork and creativity to develop essential programming skills while collaborating to solve challenges.



NORTH BABYLON
Coding Lessons Come to Life

Third graders at Belmont Elementary School worked with library media specialist Jennifer Olsen to learn about coding using their Dash robots. Students completed virtual coding of robots using the Wonder Workshop program on their Chromebooks. To bring their online programming skills from the virtual world to real life, they participated in a Dash soccer tournament. Working in small groups, third graders were challenged to code their robots to compete in an obstacle course.

Students controlled the robots to move around the training facility and perform different tasks. In another station, they went head-to-head in a soccer game, attempting to maneuver the robot to move the ball down the field and score a goal.

NEWS INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS



MASSAPEQUA District Brings Together Instructional Coaches

More than 50 instructional coaches and leaders from districts across Long Island came together at Massapequa High School on Jan. 9 to share best practices and improve instruction for students. The theme for the 2025 Coaching Collaborative was “Reflecting Back, Thinking Forward.” Participants could choose from one of four topics during each of the two sessions. The workshops were led by Massapequa’s instructional coaches and administrators. Among the topics were artificial intelligence in education, effective strategies to support new teachers, learning walks and resources for instructional coaches.



EAST ROCKAWAY Students Honor Troops With Trees

Rhame Avenue students participated in the 21st annual Trees for Troops event with Dees’ Nursery in Oceanside, a cherished tradition sending holiday cheer to deployed service members. Alongside local schools, first responders and veterans groups, students helped load trees for troops overseas. Two students, Chase Kearns and Alexis Merceus, read heartfelt letters to service members, while classmates joined in festive celebrations. With musical performances, a Santa visit and a DHL helicopter flyby, the event showcased community spirit and gratitude for those who serve.



HERRICKS Blues Musician Captivates Middle School Students

In December, blues musician Toby Walker visited eighth grade social studies classes at Herricks Middle School for a presentation that intertwined musical performance with captivating storytelling. Through his music and personal anecdotes, Walker took students along on his journey to the South, where he immersed himself in blues music and culture and witnessed firsthand what life was like for African Americans living in the South and how blues music evolved. Students gained a deeper understanding of racial issues and how traditional blues music, through its tone and lyrics, reflects the reality of African American history.

WEST BABYLON Therapy Dog Visits Santapogue’s Young Readers

First graders in Katie Santorelli-Ephraim’s class at Santapogue Elementary School recently had a special visit from a four-legged friend. Thanks to the Paws for Reading program, Ms. Jackie visited the first graders with her therapy dog, Marcus, to read books to the class. The students all had a chance to pet Marcus while learning how therapy dogs can help people relax and enjoy reading.



BAYPORT-BLUE POINT Buddy Classes ‘Rock Their Socks’

In preparing to “rock their socks” for World Down Syndrome Day, Blue Point Elementary students in the Bayport-Blue Point School District participated in a tie-dye workshop with their buddy classes. Third graders partnered with kindergartners, fourth graders with first graders, and fifth graders with second graders for the fun activity. Before creating their tie-dye socks, the buddies filled out a worksheet to learn more about one another. The event served as a fun, educational way for students to celebrate inclusion.



AMITYVILLE Park Avenue Supports New Students at Lunch Sessions

Since September, Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School in the Amityville Union Free School District has welcomed more than 60 new students. Guidance counselor Kim Balducci met with all the new students during their lunch periods, which provided an opportunity for them to connect with other new entrants and form friendships. It was an excellent way to support their transition to Park Avenue. Students shared what they enjoy the most about their new school, discussed their favorite special classes, talked about who their new friends are and identified a trusted adult within the school.



FIRE ISLAND 100 Steps Along Respectful Road

Fire Island’s Woodhull School has instituted a program, 100 Steps Along Respectful Road, to award safe, respectable, responsible and kind behaviors. The initiative was spearheaded by the Positive Behavior and Interventions Support committee. As students demonstrate these behaviors, they are given the opportunity to move Woody the seagull, the school’s mascot, along a board game-type bulletin board. The goal of the program is for students to collectively complete Woody’s journey along the South Shore of Long Island to Woodhull School or 100 spaces on the board.

NEWS INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS



LONGWOOD

District Holds Annual Unity Walk

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Longwood Central School District's Community Connections Committee proudly hosted the annual Unity Walk. Hundreds gathered at Coram Elementary School, including Board of Education members, Superintendent Dr. Lance Lohman, faculty, staff, students and community leaders, to walk together for a half mile to the Coram Fire Department to symbolize unity, peace and Dr. King's values. The event featured student performances and artwork reflecting Dr. King's principles of nonviolence and concluded with a renewed pledge to embrace unity and diversity within the community.

VALLEY STREAM 13

Musicians Attend All-County Festival

Valley Stream Union Free School District 13 had 56 talented student musicians participate in the prestigious Nassau Music Educators Association's All-County Music Festival this year. The annual event, which brings together young musicians from across the county, is a testament to the dedication, passion and skill of the students in the district's music programs.

Students were selected for their excellence in music and joined their peers in learning



challenging repertoire. Under the direction of guest conductors, they rehearsed together, fostering a spirit of collaboration and musical achievement. The festival culminated in a series of spectacular performances at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts.



PORT JEFFERSON

High School Science Olympiad Team Advances to State Finals

The Earl L. Vandermeulen High School Science Olympiad A team earned a spot at the state competition after an outstanding performance at the Eastern Long Island Regional Science Olympiad on Jan. 25, at Hauppauge High School. The Port Jefferson team placed second out of 63 teams, securing one of only eight spots representing Eastern Long Island at the New York State Science Olympiad at Le Moyne College. In addition to the A team's remarkable achievement, Port Jefferson's B team placed sixth and the C team placed 34th. The competition featured 23 STEM events that showcased the students' impressive breadth of knowledge across a variety of scientific disciplines.

GARDEN CITY

World Read Aloud Day

Garden City Schools celebrated World Read Aloud Day by uniting students and educators through a shared love for storytelling. Superintendent Dr. Sinha kicked off the day's events with a virtual reading of "Feeling Grateful" by Kobi Yamada, which was followed by districtwide activities highlighting the magic of reading aloud.

Younger and older students paired up to read while authors shared their stories virtually. Stu-



dents reflected on their experiences through writing and participated in creative projects including book-mark making. Middle and high school students recorded virtual read-alouds, which were compiled into choice boards for primary and elementary students to enjoy.

SAYVILLE

Leadership Club Teams Up With Wyandanch Peers

The Leadership Club at Sayville High School recently welcomed their peers from Wyandanch High School for their 2025 Ambassador Exchange. The event, which began in 2014, encourages students to "Knock Down Walls, Build Bridges." Throughout a day filled with shared meals, speed-chatting, attending classes together and games hosted by advisers Angela O'Hoppe and Jennifer Wittman-Cahill, the students grew to recognize their similarities despite



any differences they may have. Through these interactions, the students formed connections, learned from each other and exchanged phone numbers to stay in touch. The students will meet again this spring when Sayville visits Wyandanch.

FRANKLIN SQUARE

First Grade Scientists Spread Their Wings

Polk Street School first graders learned how to identify physical traits on birds during their STEAM Lab lesson on Jan. 30. Teacher Melissa Geiger presented the class with images of baby birds and a few options for its parent. The class identified similar traits, such as the beak, eyes and feet, to compare the baby with its parent. The students experimented with different "beaks,"



using spoons, pipettes, tweezers and chopsticks to represent pelicans, hummingbirds, blackbirds and herons, respectively. They tested each "beak" to see which could pick up the most "worms" (rubber bands).

HALF HOLLOW HILLS

FACS Classes Celebrate International Culture and Cooking Day

Candlewood Middle School's Family and Consumer Science classes celebrated International Culture and Cooking Day with a flavorful journey around the globe. Sixth grade students in Waren Kaplan's Home and Careers classes, along with their parent and guardian volunteers, shared dishes and cultural insights that highlighted traditions from various countries. The day included a



collaborative effort, as students created and presented slides on their culture and recipes. Highlights included empanadas from Ecuador, a traditional Turkish salad, Chana Masala, margherita pizzas and Korean BBQ Bulgogi.

NEWS INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

RIVERHEAD

Butterfly Effect Project Inspires Teachers of Tomorrow

In coordination with the local nonprofit organization the Butterfly Effect Project, Roanoke Avenue Elementary School welcomed local high school students to visit and help instruct elementary students as part of the immersive Teachers of Tomorrow program. Roanoke Avenue and the Butterfly Effect Project partnered last summer to establish the program, which aims to provide high school students with experiences in education, connect them with mentors in the field, and enhance their educational and career opportunities.



NORTHPORT-EAST NORTHPORT

Middle School Students Raise Funds With Festive Frosties

Students in Sara Mateyunas and Elizabeth Zebuth's Family and Consumer Science Entrepreneurship classes at East Northport Middle School recently channeled their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit into a project with a meaningful cause: the creation of "Festive Frosties," a delicious frozen treat crafted with purpose.

Through the sale of these desserts, the students successfully raised \$600, which they donated to the American Red Cross to aid California's wildfire relief efforts. Beyond the financial success, the project offered the young entrepreneurs an invaluable opportunity to develop real-world business skills while making a tangible impact on communities affected by the recent wildfires.



MIDDLE COUNTRY

Students Gain Insight Into Legal System

High school students from the College Business Law and Advanced Placement Law and Government classes in the Middle Country Central School District recently visited Judge Joseph Bianco at the federal court in Central Islip. Judge Bianco, who serves on the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Manhattan, hosted the students for a memorable and educational experience that highlighted the importance of law and citizenship.

The day concluded with an interactive mock trial, during which students assumed roles as judges, lawyers and jurors in a courtroom setting. This hands-on activity allowed students to apply the concepts and skills they learned in the classroom, while also developing a deeper understanding of how legal proceedings unfold.

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD

Multicultural Night Brings Community Together

River Elementary School recently brought more than 400 community members together for a celebration of multiculturalism through art, writing, reading, music, dance and food. The multicultural night welcomed students, families, administrators, faculty and staff for a "trip around the world," as they enjoyed the magnificent displays and performances in the building's walk-through tour. Hallways throughout the school showcased student research



projects, authentic artifacts and interactive exhibitions representing nations around the world. The tour continued in the gymnasium with lively performances and international cuisine donated by families, staff and 16 local restaurants.

MANHASSET

Business Students Tour Arizona Beverage Headquarters

After receiving a letter from Manhasset Secondary School sophomore Luke Falco, Arizona Beverage Co. founder and Chairman Don Vultaggio invited students from Intro to Business and Virtual Enterprise classes to meet him in person at the company's headquarters in Woodbury.

The students toured the facility, met with top executives



and gained insights into various aspects of the business, from e-commerce to sales and marketing. They were also treated to lunch and each received an Arizona swag bag.



COPIAGUE

Diving Into the World of Journalism

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School students in Dan Barresi's class are delving into the evolving world of journalism. Students have been learning to think like a journalist by creating content relevant to their school community. Using iPads, they conduct video interviews and piece together video segments. The class chooses topics for different videos based on school events, honing their reporting, interviewing and editing skills in the process.



MALVERNE

Key of Hope Choir Visits Schools

Malverne School District hosted the Key of Hope South African Choir for performances at the elementary schools and high school. The Key of Hope Choir consists of singers ages 12-27 who live in Durban, South Africa. Key of Hope helps enroll the children in school to keep them safe from crime and oppression and engaging them in music and arts. The performances included traditional holiday music, songs in their native Zulu language and popular songs from U2 and Foreigner.



BETHPAGE

First Graders Explore the Cosmos With Starlab

Bethpage first graders embarked on an exciting space adventure in January with Starlab, the district's own portable planetarium. Led by Director of Science Chris Pollatos, students explored the sun's movement, visited planets and uncovered the stories behind constellations. Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards, Starlab makes complex scientific concepts engaging and accessible. The experience sparked curiosity and a love for astronomy.

NEWS INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS



CONNETQUOT

Oakdale-Bohemia Middle School Races for 'K.I.N.D.ness'

Oakdale-Bohemia middle schoolers cheered on their teachers as they raced for a great cause. Donning hilarious inflatable costumes, nearly 20 teachers, staff and administrators competed in a relay race fundraiser, raising money for the school's "Kids Inspiring a New Direction," or K.I.N.D. program. Created by the school's counselors, the K.I.N.D. program promotes kindness, positivity, connection and acceptance at the middle school, putting on a variety of events throughout the year to encourage a supportive and fun atmosphere for students and staff alike.



NEW HYDE PARK-GARDEN CITY PARK

Young Writers to be Published in 'Scary Tales'

Hillside Grade School sixth graders Carita Chai and Aryanveer Singh had their writing entries selected to be published in April in the upcoming Young Writer's book "Scary Tales – The Witching Hour." Sixth graders in Danielle Scalogna's class were invited to participate in the Young Writer's contest. Students were challenged to write a 100-word spooky story utilizing tension, atmosphere or suspense.

WEST ISLIP

Lego Builds Engineering Basics

Young engineers at Manetuck Elementary School are growing their STEAM skills by engaging in coding and architectural lessons. The third graders are using the new Lego coding kits for hands-on, interactive learning experiences.

Students are building models with Lego bricks to explore concepts in engineering and design. They can create simple machines, structures and vehicles while learning about forces,



motion and problem-solving. Coding is introduced through the online Lego design kits, where students learn basic programming skills to control their Lego creations, such as making it move or respond to sensors.

HAUPPAUGE

Band Students Experience College Life

Thirty-four Hauppauge High School band students recently experienced a taste of college life with a trip to Wagner College. The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the students' participation with the pep band at the Wagner College basketball game, joining forces with the college musicians.

This performance offered a valuable opportunity for the students to experience the thrill of



performing in a large ensemble and to connect with college students who share their passion for music. The trip provided a valuable glimpse into the possibilities that await them in higher education, both academically and musically.

OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH

Vernon Students Shine at Atlantis Project Symposium

On Jan. 14, James H. Vernon School's Atlantis Program students showcased their independent research projects at the annual Atlantis Project Symposium. Families explored a dynamic exhibit featuring creative, thought-provoking displays reflecting students' diverse interests. Led by teacher Joanne Loring, the enrichment program fosters academic curiosity and critical thinking in grades 4-6. Projects



ranged from an adoption package for endangered animals to an interactive dog training game. The event highlighted the school's commitment to innovation and lifelong learning, empowering students to become future leaders and problem-solvers.



KINGS PARK

School Hosts Mobile Museum of Tolerance

Kings Park High School welcomed a powerful new educational experience – the Mobile Museum of Tolerance. The state-of-the-art RV, designed to educate students on combating online hate, spent two days on campus as part of the school's No Place for Hate initiative. The program was led by Assistant Principal Darlene Maffei. The mobile museum provided students with a unique and engaging way to address the growing issue of online hate. Through interactive lessons, students explored how to identify misinformation, understand digital hate speech and develop strategies to respond effectively.



ELMONT

Carlson First Graders Collaborate and Create

To culminate their science unit on the structures and functions of living things, Clara H. Carlson School first graders in Debora Jaeger and Samantha McNamara's class became scientists and engineers. They collaborated in groups to design and create objects that solve a problem through Project-Based Learning. As part of the PBL, the first graders were introduced to the overall driving question of the unit, "What features and behaviors of living things help them survive?" To create their projects, the groups utilized the guiding question, "Can animal and plant parts give people ideas to make a tool that solves a problem?"

SEWANHAKA

Engineering Students Shine in NASA Competition

For the fourth consecutive year, Sewanhaka Central High School District's Career and Technical Education preengineering students have been selected as one of 60 winning teams in the NASA TechRise Student Challenge, a nationwide contest administered by Future Engineers. Students were challenged to develop a science or technology experiment idea for this year's NASA TechRise flight vehicle: the high-altitude balloon. Sewanhaka's team then brainstormed experiment ideas, planned the design and submitted



a proposal for judging. Their project is titled, "C.R.A.T.E.R.S. (Cosmic Radiation Across Two Energy Resistant Substances)."

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