



WR Review

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

SUMMER 2010

Poised to Face the Future

It was a day of reflection and words of wisdom as the SWR Class of 2010 celebrated their graduation with family, friends, and faculty during the District's 34th Commencement Exercises. This year, 205 graduates processed onto the field as the Shoreham-Wading River Concert Band, conducted by Mr. David Minelli, played Pomp and Circumstance. Student Government co-presidents Steven Idtensohn and Kenneth Hawrey led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and graduate Chelsea Creta sang the National Anthem.

Board of Education President Scott Ericson welcomed friends and family to this special occasion and reminded the graduates that while they are prepared to face new challenges, they must also be a "navigator of their own destiny."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harriet Copel told the students that she feels optimistic about their abilities to become leaders and to act globally and locally. "You will make our world a vastly better place," Dr. Copel stated.

Guest speaker Assemblyman Marc Alessi encouraged the graduates to honor the community by cultivating their strengths. High School Principal Mr. Daniel Holtzman remarked that this graduating class is one of the school's most academically talented, and announced that 26 students had received a weighted grade-point average of 95% or higher. Three members of the Class of 2010 achieved a weighted GPA of 100%. Mr. Holtzman stated, "My hope is that when you looked in the mirror, you were proud of yourselves."

Salutatorian Iris Yu entertained the audience with a prelude from Third Violoncello Suite in G Major by Johann Sebastian Bach, prior to words of farewell by both of the District's two top students. Iris's speech invoked memories of the class's time at the high school. She reminded her peers that commonalities, education and memories, will aid in their success. In addition, Valedictorian Kristi Conway encouraged her classmates to establish goals. "Find a passion and go for it," Kristi stated. "Passion must override any barriers."

Following the speeches, the students crossed the graduation stage and received their diplomas, officially becoming alumni of the Shoreham-Wading School District. The District extends its congratulations and wishes of success and happiness to each member of the Class of 2010.



Shoreham-Wading River School District
Shoreham, New York 11786

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A Message from the Superintendent, Dr. Harriet Copel

Dear Parents, Students, and
Community Members,

I would like to thank our students, staff, and community for a wonderful school year. This year, many of our students demonstrated their commitment to our neighborhood. Children collected food and donations for local families in need, helped to beautify our school grounds, and created new signage for the walking trails by the high school. They have sent contributions to Haiti and to a community in Kenya. Our students understand the many resources we have and the importance of sharing them with others. Summer is an especially good time to reflect on all that the community offers its residents.

Even though it is summertime and the start of the next school year is far from many people's minds, learning that takes place outside the schoolhouse walls can be profound. Intellectual and academic growth takes place all the time through conversation, observation, playing with others, making things and of course, by reading, and writing. The slower pace of summer may allow children to do more things with their families and friends. Children of all ages can help design and plant

gardens, build bird houses, construct deer fences and catch fireflies. Spending time together playing board games and card games or just doodling and hanging out outside looking at the clouds are valuable activities for children. Reading and discussing newspapers, blogs, magazines and online articles can help students learn about current events and become more analytical thinkers. Reading poetry aloud and writing and acting out plays encourage one's imagination and self-confidence. Or, when alone in the quiet of a summer day, delve into a mystery, escape on an adventure through a science fiction novel, or learn more about people through biographies. Whatever summer brings, it is most important that every student read or be read to daily.

I wish each of you a relaxing and enjoyable summer, full of happy times with friends and family and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

Harriet Copel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Thank You and Farewell

As a result of their dedication and commitment to education, at the end of the school year tenure was granted to 23 teachers and administrators.

Congratulations to:

Nicole Albano – MS Elementary Teacher
Katherine Becker – HS Math Teacher
Sarah Brant – Miller Avenue Teaching Assistant
Hilary Breig – MS Special Education Teacher
Dr. William Bushman – Director of Student Services
Carrie Fox (Powers) – Briarcliff Elementary Teacher
Lee Anne Griffin (Moschetti) – Miller Avenue Speech/Language Teacher
Peggy Grosso – MS Assistant Principal
Deanna Kirby – MS Teaching Assistant
Amanda Keiser – Briarcliff Elementary Teacher
Sharon Kommer – MS French Teacher
Susan Marasciulo – Miller Avenue Special Education Teacher
Michelle McCarthy – Miller Avenue Elementary Teacher
Jaime Morgan – MS Psychologist
Kevin O'Brien – MS Music/Band Teacher
Victoria Ocon – Wading River Teaching Assistant
Allison Quenzer – Wading River Elementary Teacher
Karla Roberts – Miller Avenue Elementary Teacher
Lauren Schlecht – HS Science Teacher
Christina Shiffman – MS Reading Teacher
Jenilyn Smith – Miller Avenue/Briarcliff Music Teacher
Kevin Vann – HS Assistant Principal
Adrian Weger (Gilmore) – Miller Avenue Elementary Teacher

The District also wishes to congratulate the following individuals on their retirement and thank them for their years of dedicated service to Shoreham-Wading River students.

Sandra Butera – Child Care Program Site Supervisor
Luisa Carey – Briarcliff Teaching Assistant
Gail Gismondi – Wading River Elementary Teacher
Anna M. Gualandi – Middle School English/Science Teacher
Maureen Healey – Briarcliff Library Media Specialist
Helen Hassell – MS Teaching Assistant
Susan B. Josberger – High School Guidance Counselor
Pamela Kimmerly-Quinn – Miller Avenue Teaching Assistant
Deborah Lohman – Miller Avenue Elementary Teacher
Nancy Lukoski – Middle School Math Teacher
Stephen Martinez – Briarcliff Custodial Worker
Barbara Scherer – Child Care Program Site Supervisor
Kathleen Steiner – Child Care Program Site Supervisor
Toni F. Thorn – Miller Avenue Elementary Teacher

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT UPDATE

The District's Buildings and Grounds Department will be working hard this summer to make improvements to schools through funding by the approved 2010 Health and Safety Proposition. Plant Facilities Manager Robert Woolsey reported that the bulk of the school construction projects will occur at the Middle School and Briarcliff Elementary School. The following is a list of projects to be completed this summer.

Middle School

- New fire alarm system to be installed
- Reconfiguration of three wings for improved egress
- Science rooms – new plumbing and cabinetry
- New exhaust vent in the Industrial Arts room
- New ceilings and floors in classrooms (as needed)
- HVAC upgrades for ventilation throughout the school
- New drop ceiling in Middle School foyer

Briarcliff

- New emergency doors for code compliance
- Improved ventilation in 14 classrooms

A Fond Farewell

The District bids farewell to two exceptional trustees who retired from the Board of Education this year.

Scott Ericson served the District for three terms, or nine years, and as President of the Board of Education during the 2006-07 and 2009-10 school years. Mr. Ericson also served as Vice-President during the 2005-06 and 2007-08 school years.

Lisa Wild served as a trustee for one term and as Vice-President of the Board for the past year. The District extends a sincere thanks for their excellent service to the Shoreham-Wading River community's students.



Thank You

The Shoreham-Wading River Board of Education and administration wish to extend their appreciation to the community for supporting the 2010-2011 school budget. The approved budget, totaling approximately \$58 million, places the District in a strong position to continue providing a quality program that supports student achievement.

Kudos.....

Winning Science Projects

Miller Avenue Elementary School third grader Brendan Safranek received first place for the third-grade category in the 2010 Brookhaven National Laboratory Science Fair held on May 1. For Brendan's winning project, entitled "Air Pressure," he researched how bicycle tires impact speed.

In addition, two students won Honorable Mention awards for their science projects. Fourth grader Jeremy Parilla researched "Distracted Driving," and fifth grader Vincent Uzzi explored "Earthquakes, Haiti Houses."



Brendan Safranek is a first-place winner in BNL's Science Fair.

All three students won medals for their winning entries.

One hundred eighteen Suffolk County schools participated in the 2010 BNL Elementary School Science Fair, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory. Nearly 550 science projects, created by children ranging from kindergarten through grade 6, were submitted.

Helping to Develop Biofuels

The Long Island Science Congress has awarded 2010 graduate Pelle Hall with honors for his research, which examined data to find a more efficient way to develop biofuel from plant matter. Pelle worked with Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) biology professor Sean McCorkle on his research entitled "An Oligonucleotide Frequency Classifier for Bacterial Metagenomes." Pelle also examined prior research on the sequencing of genomes found in tree bacteria to determine a particular genome in a sequence. Pelle will attend Grinnell College in Iowa this fall, where he will study computer science.



Enhancing the Italian Image

Sophomore Joey Pasquale was concerned about the way in which Italians were portrayed in American media, so he entered Stony Brook University's Center for Italian Studies 2010 Essay Contest for Secondary Schools. His essay received an Honorable Mention, and he is the first student from the District to receive this honor. Joey received a certificate and a watch for his winning entry.



Joey Pasquale is congratulated by (l-r) SBU Center for Italian Studies representative Jo Fusco, social studies teacher Jason Malvagno, and Center for Italian Studies representative Dr. Joseph Tursi for his winning essay that clarifies stereotypes regarding the Italian people.

Mathletes Take 1st Place Again

Shoreham-Wading River High School Mathletes Team A members Pelle Hall, Gregory Lubin, Raffaele Miceli, Kenneth Myers, and Iris Yu placed first in Division 1 for the second consecutive year. Greg, Pelle and Iris were also honored individually as County High Scorers during the Suffolk County Mathematics Teachers Association (SCMTA) Award Dinner. Team B from the high school also placed fourth in Division 1.

Coached by Mrs. Ellen Fraser, the Mathletes competed during the school year against local teams from Mt. Sinai, Miller Place, and Rocky Point, and are compared countywide with 27 similar-sized school teams.

In addition, students enrolled in math honors classes took part in the SCMTA course contests for Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Precalculus, and Calculus for the first time. Alexandra Gilliard and Michael Mazzola tied for fifth place in the county for the precalculus contest and were honored with plaques from the SCMTA.



Mrs. Fraser congratulates math students, (l-r) Iris Yu, Michael Mazzola, and Pelle Hall at the SCMTA Award Dinner.

Nicole Marie Caligiuri Wins Top Music Honors

Two of Shoreham-Wading River High School junior Nicole Marie Caligiuri's classical performances have earned her high honors. Nicole's rendition of the second movement of Mozart's Oboe Concerto and the first movement of Haydn's Oboe Concerto earned her first prize in the Long Island Philharmonic 2009-2010 Young Artist Competition for woodwinds and brass and the \$1,000 Christopher Keene Memorial Scholarship. Nicole also performed with the orchestra at the Long Island Philharmonic's 30th Annual Gala at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury this June.

Nicole has played oboe and the English horn in the New York Youth Symphony for the past four years. She is also a student in the Pre-College Division of the Juilliard School, where she studies with teacher Richard Dallessio. Nicole's accomplishments include playing first oboe in the symphony orchestra at the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) All-State conference in Rochester this year. She was selected as a Tilles Scholar at Long Island University at C.W. Post and played in the college's Summer Symphony under the direction of Susan Deaver, the renowned North Shore Symphony Orchestra's music director and conductor. In addition to performing summers with Long Island Sound Symphony and the Shoreham-Wading River Community Band, Nicole has performed two pieces written specifically for her on oboe and English horn for the Nassau County Composer Organization. Most recently, Nicole has been invited to attend the New York City Opera Instrumental Workshop, during which she performed "Madame Butterfly" on the English horn.



ACQUIRING BUSINESS SKILLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Shoreham-Wading River High School's DECA business club, now in its second year and boasting 38 members, ended the competitive season with four awards received at the state competition in Rochester this spring. More than 2,000 students from across New York State attended the annual conference.

DECA is a business club with a mission to enhance the cocurricular education of students interested in marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. New York DECA is committed to the advocacy of marketing education and the growth of business and education partnerships.

The state finalists include Mike Amabile (radio broadcasting), Taylor Brant (advertising), Charlie Denoto (accounting), and Kyle Reinhardt (job interview category).

Students participating in the state-level competition also attended seminars in creative thinking, resume writing and employment skills, presentation and public speaking skills, management challenges, and business networking and relationship development. All participants wore business attire to the competitions and the conference's general meetings.

In addition, 15 students were named finalists in the county competition held at Suffolk Community College earlier this year and include:

Chynna Anuszewski – Buying and Merchandising
 Kaitlin Brown – Buying and Merchandising
 Brian Byrnes – Marketing Math
 Emily Clark – Retail Merchandising
 Felicia DaVolio – Travel and Tourism

Mallory Daly – Buying and Merchandising

Emily Espenkotter – Visual Advertising

Judith Goldfarb – Public Speaking

Mackenzie Hubner – Public Speaking

Audrey Kelly – Travel and Tourism

Erin Kelly – Sales Demonstration

Alexa Lehning – Food Marketing

Patrick Menezes – Automotive Services

Jennifer Moldovan – Buying and Merchandising

Catherine Wagner – Business Management

DECA Club advisor Ms. Kathleen Burke explained that DECA skills help

prepare students for the 21st century.

“DECA fosters an environment in which students interact with business professionals to resolve situations facing our evolving economy,” Ms. Burke stated.



Lights, Stage, and Action!

Student-actors Haylie Kinsler, Ken Hawrey, and Andrew Miller are the proud recipients of Teeny Awards for their roles in the school play entitled *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Haylie was named Best Lead Actress in a Comedy and received one of only four \$2,000 Theater Scholarships from Five Towns College. Ken and Andrew tied for their roles as Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy. The winners attended the Teeny Awards ceremony, hosted by the East End Arts Council at Riverhead High School on June 6. Shoreham-Wading River High School picked up 12 nominations in total, for acting and lighting in both *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and the school's rendition of *Evita*. Director Mary Hygom and the nominees accompanied Haylie and Ken down the red carpet.

The 8th annual Teeny Awards recognized student excellence in school theater among 14 participating East End high schools. Evaluations of students were based on skill demonstrated in movement (physical expression, gesture, posture, fluidity), delivery (projection, articulation, interaction, timing, expression), and stage presence (confidence, believability, enthusiasm, charisma, dynamics). Evaluations of performance in musical productions included skills in singing and dancing technique.

The following students were nominated for a Teeny Award:

Jennifer Etienne – Outstanding Performance in a Comedy – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 Ken Hawrey – Supporting Actor in a Comedy – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 Jake Hunter – Lighting Design – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 Steve Idtensohn – Lead Actor in a Comedy – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 Haylie Kinsler – Lead Actress in a Comedy – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 John LaRock – Lighting Design – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 Jon Mattia – Lighting Design (2) – *Evita* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 Melissa McDonald – Outstanding Performance in a Musical – *Evita*
 Andrew Miller – Supporting Actor in a Comedy – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*
 – Lighting Design – *Evita*
 Justin Petito – Lighting Design – *Evita*
 Alice Shanklin – Lead Actress in a Comedy – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*



Play director Mary Hygom, left, is pictured with Teeny Award winners, l-r, Haylie Kinsler, Andrew Miller, and Ken Hawrey.

HS Students Hold Youth Court

Eight Shoreham-Wading River High School students were recognized for their volunteer participation in the Town of Riverhead Youth Court program. Participants were honored during a dinner and ceremony attended by Town of Riverhead Supervisor Sean Walter, Riverhead Police Chief David Hegermiller, the Honorable Allen Smith, and Councilman James Wooten.



Criminal Justice students Taylor Biondi, Jaclyn Borkowski, Benjamin Canellys, Brianna Fortuna, Jacob Hayes, John LaRock, Nicole Molinaro and Nicole Smith worked as interns with the Suffolk County Court system during the 2009-2010 school year. These exceptional Youth Court volunteers adjudicated on offenses made by minors and assisted them in making positive changes in their lives.

Criminal Justice teacher and Youth Court director Ruth Squillace (photo - right) explained that this program was incorporated into the high school 10 years ago and involves extensive training in the first seven weeks of the school year. Students judge nonviolent youths for minor delinquencies, status offenses, and problem behaviors. The program is designed to hold offenders accountable for their actions and infringements, while allowing the volunteers to receive a hands-on education about the legal and judicial system.

“This is a progressive approach to dealing with youth offenders and offers minors an opportunity to make retribution for offenses, while managing to keep them segregated from the Suffolk County Criminal Courts,” Ms. Squillace stated.

During the ceremony, the Youth Court volunteers demonstrated a mock trial for those in attendance. Each student then received a certificate of completion for service in the Youth Court program.



Top Ten

The District would like to congratulate the following students whose academic standing has placed them at the top of their graduating class. (The list does not reflect a specific order of scholastic class standing).

- Caitlin Bennett - *Fordham University*
- Kristi Conway - *Cornell University (Valedictorian)*
- Chelsea Creta - *Davidson College*
- Pelle Hall - *Grinnell College*
- Caitlin King - *SUNY Geneseo*
- Johnathan Kongoletos - *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- Gregory Lubin - *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
- Christian Munoz - *Columbia University*
- Kenneth Myers - *SUNY Stony Brook*
- Iris Yu - *Dartmouth College (Salutatorian)*

The District would also like to recognize the following students for their academic accomplishments and entrance into the country's finest colleges and universities.

- Kaitlyn Brosco - *University of Notre Dame*
- Jennifer DeVito - *Yale University*
- James Hunt - *New York University*
- Erin McMullan - *Yale University*
- Chelsey Newman - *Harvard University*
- Kevin Wern - *University of Notre Dame*

At the Head of the Class

The District would like to congratulate seniors Kristi Conway and Iris Yu on being selected Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Shoreham-Wading River High School Class of 2010. The students were notified during a surprise conference with their parents and members of the District administration.

"You are a testament to hard work, effort, and sacrifice," Shoreham-Wading River High School Principal Daniel Holtzman remarked. "This is always a proud moment for a principal."

Both students excelled in academics and athletics during their four years of high school. Kristi is an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. She is involved with the sport of fencing, and recently signed a National Letter of Intent to fence at Cornell University this fall. While at Cornell, she plans to enroll in a pre-med program.

Iris is an AP Scholar with Honors and a member of the National Honor Society. Last fall she was named a Commended Student in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship program for exceptional academic achievement. Iris plays the viola in the school orchestra and was selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Conference in Rochester. She is also a member of the Global Awareness Club and Mathletes. When not in school, Iris is a competitive figure skater. She will study linguistics at Dartmouth College.



EXCELLING ONWARD

Members of the Albert G. Prodel Middle School's eighth-grade class were recognized for hard work, the pursuit of excellence, participation, and leadership

Students who excelled in individual subject areas were also honored, as follows:

- English – Jane Murray
- Honors English – Rachel Stearns
- Social Studies – Michael Raimondo
- Honors Social Studies – Michael Loscalzo
- Math – Jack Massa
- Accelerated Math – Emily Gass
- Science – Kelly Dillon
- Regents Earth Science – Matthew Peraza
- Health – Maxwell Maritato
- Art – Jack Burke
- Spanish – Giavanna Verdi
- French – Geena Moore
- Physical Education – Shannon Rosati and Christopher Moran
- Home and Careers – Rebecca Rhodes
- Technology – Tyler Scholl
- Band – Laura Logan
- Chorus – Taylor Burgess
- Orchestra – Rosario Terracina

After the ceremony, the students and their families were invited into the corridor for refreshments and to say their farewells for the summer.



during the school's annual Awards Ceremony in the auditorium. Assistant Principal Peggy Grosso congratulated the students for all of their accomplishments and thanked the parents for their support during the students' tenure at the Middle School.

"You have challenged yourselves during your years at the Middle School, and I hope you continue to challenge yourselves at the High School," Ms. Grosso remarked.

During the ceremony, student Steven Visco received the Special Presidential Achievement Award. Sixty-four students were also presented the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence.

Eight students received the prestigious Principal's Award. To attain this high honor, a student must acquire a 3.67 grade point average or higher during the sixth and seventh grades, and during the first semester of eighth grade. The honorees were:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Anthony Aliperti | Kayla Mistretta |
| Kelly Anderson | Geena Moore |
| Alexis Biemer | Jillian Rossin |
| Jessica Miller | Thomas Stridiron |

District Curriculum...

Driving While Informed

Seniors at Shoreham-Wading River High School jumped aboard golf carts and tested their driving skills on a course directed by orange cones, negotiating the track as both a sober driver and one who has consumed alcohol prior to taking the wheel. The driving exercise was a pilot program offered by the Suffolk County Police Department called Driving While Informed. Hosted by criminal justice students in Ruth Squillace's class, the District's seniors were the first to experience the pilot program.

"If we can educate students on the ramifications of getting behind the wheel after having consumed any amount of alcohol, then we have done our job," Suffolk County Police Officer Mike Dunn stated.

Prior to driving, the students attended an assembly in which the officers covered topics including blood alcohol levels and impairment. The seniors were then paired with a police officer and taken through a driving course that combined the elements of real driving with stops and curves. On the second round, the students wore "beer glasses" to simulate visual impairment associated with inebriation as they attempted to navigate the driving course without hitting the cones. They learned that driving while impaired held drastic implications.

After the driving exercise, officers administered breathalyzer tests and peer educators were also on hand to quiz students on facts learned during the assembly.

Senior Lindsay Fortunato remarked that this hands-on program was successful. "It will definitely make us all think before getting into a car after having consumed alcohol," she stated.



Gaining Mastery on NY State English Regents Exams

The Shoreham-Wading River School District has seen tremendous gains in mastery levels on the New York State English Regents exam over the past three years. In January 2010, 57% of juniors achieved a score of 85% or higher, a 12-point increase since January 2008. Ninety-seven percent of the students passed the English Regents exam, up from 94% in 2008 and 2009. The Class of 2011 also succeeded in earning approximately 10 or more percentage points above the County average in six of the 28 multiple-choice questions.

In New York State, in order to receive a Regents Diploma, a student must have earned appropriate credit in a number of specific subjects by passing yearlong or half-year courses. The student must attain an exam score of 65 points in the subject area being tested in addition to passing the subject course.

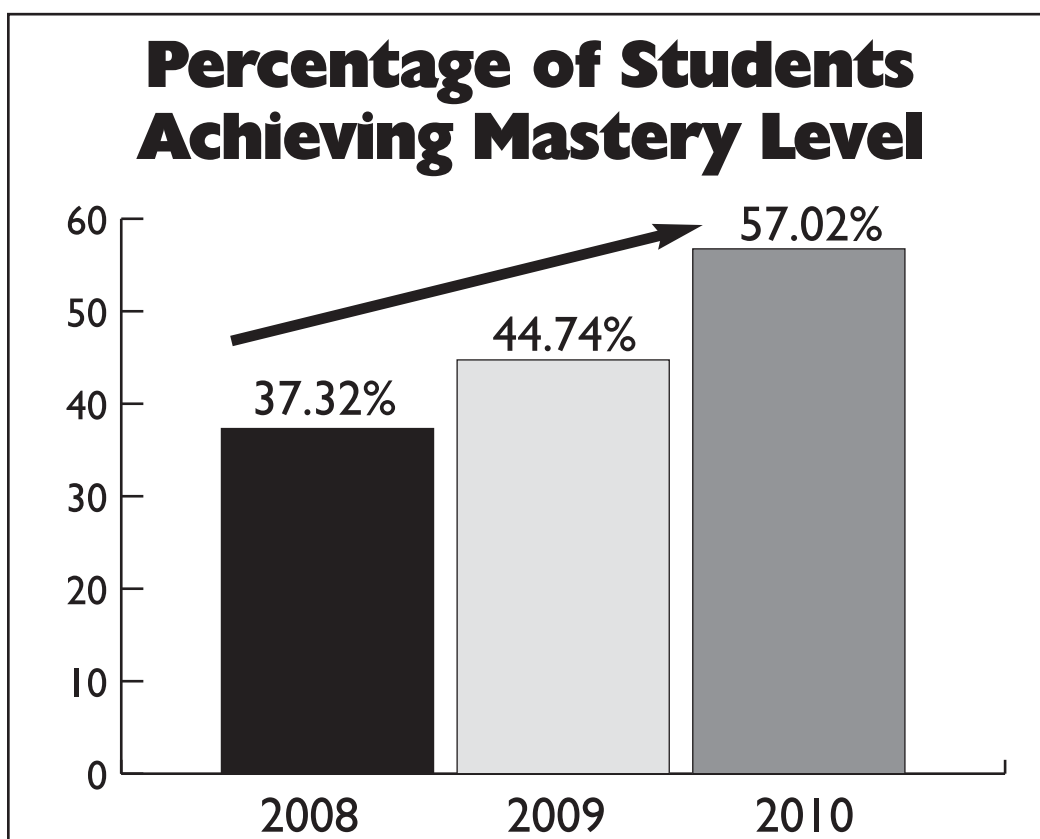
The English Regents Exam is administered in two three-hour sessions and requires four differently structured essays. The exam assesses the student's ability to read and listen for literary response and expression, critical analysis and evaluation, and social interaction.

Shoreham-Wading River ELA subject leader Jean Branna explained that the increase in mastery levels is twofold. First, students are writing better essays. Classroom instruction at this grade level focuses on in-depth reading and annotation. Students are frequently asked to analyze and evaluate character motivation as part of their in-class writing activities and instructions. This means that the teacher asks the class the "how" and "why" of a character's actions and not just the "what," regarding the actions within the plot.

"This is a much higher level of 'critical thinking'," Ms. Branna stated. "Making inferences is often the most difficult skill for a student to achieve."

The age of technology has also indirectly aided in mastery of the English exam. Now that English teachers have access to data spanning several years, they can analyze weaknesses in student performance and address them. Ms. Branna explained that English teachers have always analyzed weaknesses in student performance, but the data paints a picture for each question.

Ms. Branna indicated that mastery of a Regents subject test is always a great outcome, but that the goal is to be sure each student tries to do his/her best. "We need to be sure that the students are prepared to do their best on the English Regents exam," she stated.



District News...

Fridays are Fruity

Teaching students to become healthy adults is a primary goal of the Shoreham-Wading River School District. At each of the elementary schools, this goal is realized through the offering of fresh fruits during snack time. The program is called "Fruity Fridays" and allows students to purchase apples, oranges, grapes, and bananas for 75 cents each.

Fruity Fridays were established three years ago by Miller Avenue Elementary School PTO mom Tonya Alessi and has become popular with both students and parents.

"Since the schools do not have a cafeteria, the program allows the district's youngest students to experience independence in purchasing their food," Ms. Alessi noted.

At Briarcliff Elementary School, volunteers recently dressed in fruit costumes and sang songs to the students (pictured) as they lined up to purchase fruit. At Miller Avenue and Wading River Elementary Schools, the fruit is brought to the classroom on a cart for purchasing. The goal is always the same – to encourage children to eat healthy and fresh foods.



From Miller Avenue to NASA and Beyond

Second-grade students in Kristen Gironda's, Tara Constant's, and Michelle McCarthy's classes at Miller Avenue Elementary School dressed in their homemade astronaut costumes and held a special mock NASA press conference about the solar system. The astronauts answered reporters' questions and really impressed peers and guests with their knowledge of the planets and stars.

For several weeks, the students studied the solar system in their science classes, but this year the teachers decided to take the unit a step further. In small groups, students researched a particular aspect of the solar system. After gathering information, each group collaboratively wrote a nonfiction report on their topic. The unit culminated in the cross-curricular celebration of nonfiction reading, writing and science with the NASA Press Conference, so that the students could showcase their knowledge of the subject matter.



Taking a Walk Across America

Wading River Elementary School students, parents, siblings, and members of the community have donned their tennis shoes to Walk Across America. This fitness program encourages participants to walk a predetermined course and mark the number of miles traveled on a map of the United States. Not only have the students been charting their miles during physical education classes each day, some students and family members have joined community members on Friday mornings to walk, prior to the school's opening bell.

Physical education teacher John Regazzi explained that the Walk Across America unit is an excellent approach to combining physical education to the study of geography and to take time to learn more about health and fitness. "It's a great way to encourage community involvement in offsetting the obesity epidemic, and everyone has a great time," Mr. Regazzi stated.

Over the course of the program, students and the community collectively walked 3,200 miles, which is the approximate distance from Wading River School to California. Mr. Regazzi (pictured here with some of the school's participants in front of a U.S. map) stated that participants probably walked many more miles than recorded, but that the school decided to stop tracking the mileage when it reached the Pacific coastline.



Celebrating Research Through Project Work

For the last two months of the school year, kindergarten and first-grade students at Briarcliff Elementary School delved into the detailed study and research of a topic for their Project Work. During Project Work, each class chooses a specific topic to study and research in detail. This year, the students immersed themselves in the research of reptiles, birds, farm life, bugs, and even those people who contribute to the safety, well-being and success of a given community, who they referred to as "community helpers."

Students received cross-curricular instruction in English Language Arts, math activities, science, and social studies as part of their Project Work, which culminated in each class sharing and celebrating their findings. Family members were invited to class plays, to hear songs, and to catch a glimpse of the children's work.

In kindergarten, teacher Kerri Anderson's class researched community helpers. The students studied the roles of teachers, policemen, mail carriers, garbage collectors, and various business owners (as pictured here). Kindergarteners even crafted a school and other familiar community structures out of cardboard.

"The students have learned so much, as is evident through their cumulative projects, songs, and plays," Briarcliff Principal Jane Ruthkowski stated. "We are impressed by the amount of new knowledge they have gained through this work."



WILDCAT PRIDE

Sports Wrap-Up



Girls Lacrosse Captures 4th Straight State Title

Ranked 8th in the Nation by ESPN



The District would like to congratulate the SWR Varsity Girls Lacrosse team for winning the Class C New York State Girls Lacrosse Championship. The Wildcats secured the title with a 10-9 victory against the Carthage Comets in Cortland, NY. This is the fourth time that the team has captured the State Championship.

This has been an excellent season (19-2) for the Wildcats, who have been ranked eighth in the nation by ESPN *Rise* magazine. In addition to being the only Suffolk County team to have won a State title and only the second team in New York State to win four consecutive State championships, the squad secured several

additional honors this season, including the Suffolk County D-2 Championship, Suffolk County Class C Championship, and the New York State Scholar-Athlete Award.

The Wildcats were also recognized as the New York State Sportsmanship Award Winners amongst the 12 State finalists, and were later recognized among 43 County teams as winners of the Suffolk County Sportsmanship Award.

In addition to having an amazing group of players, coach Bob Vlahakis explained that the key to the Wildcats' success is teamwork. "We are always facing teams with individual high scores," he stated. "Our philosophy is to sacrifice the stats and share the ball. It's about the team."

BASEBALL (League Champions)

- Nick Bottari – All-League
- Jon Criscito – All-League
- Kevin Davis – Academic All-League
- Matt Kneisel – All-League and All-County
- James Luppens – All-League
- Ryan McAlary – All-League and All-County
- Andrew Nicchi – All-League
- Dan Sperruzzi – All-League and All-County

BOYS LACROSSE (Scholar-Athlete Team)

- Trevor Brosco – All-League, All-County
- C.J. Higgins – All-League, All-County
- Chris Mahoney – All-League, All-County
- Michael Malave – All-League
- Patrick Menezes – All-League
- Dan Stern – All-League, All-County
- Tim Rotanz – All-League, All-County

GIRLS LACROSSE (Scholar-Athlete Team)

- Coach Robert Vlahakis – Suffolk County Coach-of-the-Year "C" Division
- Jessica Angerman – Suffolk All-Division
- Katie Boden – Suffolk All-Division
- Kaitlyn Brosco – All-County, U.S. Lacrosse All-American, U.S. Lacrosse

Academic All-American, Under Armour Senior All-American, Newsday's All-Long Island (1st Team)

Caitlin Condron – U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American, Suffolk All-Division

Alexandria Davis – Suffolk All-Division
Jennifer DeVito – All-County, U.S. Lacrosse All-American, News 12 Scholar-Athlete Award, Under Armour Senior All-American, Newsday's All-Long Island (1st Team)

Alexandra Fehmel – Suffolk All-Tournament

Alyssa Fleming – Suffolk All-County Honorable Mention

Megan Gersbeck – Suffolk All-Division
Danielle Landon – Suffolk All-Tournament

Erin McMullan – All-County, U.S. Lacrosse H.M. All-American, U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American

Codi Anne Mullen – Suffolk All-County Honorable Mention

Chelsey Newman – All-County, U.S. Lacrosse H.M. All-American, U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American

Emily Pflumm – Suffolk All-Tournament

Kaitlyn Suarez – LI Metro Foundation Unsung Hero, Ultimate Athlete "Courageous Player of the Year"
Samantha Villafranca – All-County

SOFTBALL (Scholar-Athlete Team) Coach Price – League 6 Coach of the Year

- Chelsea Hawks – All-Division
- Michelle Gostic – All-Division
- Cali Lavey – All-County
- Katie Newell – All-League
- Christina Pagano – All-Division

BOYS TENNIS (Scholar-Athlete Team)

- Ryan Buckley – All-League
- Ben Dalecki – All-League

BOYS SPRING TRACK (Scholar-Athlete Team)

- Erik Anderson – All-League, All-Conference, All-County
- Alec Baron – All-League
- Ben Canellys – All-League, All-Conference, All-County
- Mike Clancy – All-League, All-Conference
- James Hunt – All-League, All-Conference
- Tyler Keys – All-League
- John Lee – All-League, All-Conference

All-County, Sophomore Champion - 1600m Run at Frosh/Soph Championship

Kevin Sanders – All-League, All-Conference

GIRLS SPRING TRACK (Scholar-Athlete Team)

- Laura Lee – All-League, All-Division
- Samantha Maier – All-League
- Shannon McDonnell – All-League, All-Division
- Danielle Opatovsky – All-League, All-County, All-Division, All-American, County Team Meet Champion - 1500m Race Walk
- Megan O'Reilly – All-League
- Mackenzie Pendergast – All-League
- Alyssa Pisani – All-League, All-Division, County Team Meet Champ - Pole Vault
- Kristen Purdey – All-League

Jennifer DeVito Named News 12 Scholar-Athlete



Class of 2010 graduate Jennifer DeVito has been recognized as a News 12 Long Island/Citibank Scholar-Athlete. This prestigious award is presented to students who excel both academically and on the playing field.

Jennifer was a member of the Girls Varsity Lacrosse team. During her junior year, she led her team in total points while playing the attack position. Jennifer has also been designated as an All-County and Academic All-American player.

Jennifer also excelled academically, having finished her high school career with a 94 percent unweighted average. She was an Advanced Placement (AP) student, and a member of both the National Honor Society and Global Club. In addition, she volunteers her free time at Stony Brook University Medical Center.

Jennifer will attend Yale University in the fall, where she plans to study math or take courses in a health-related sequence.

Megan's Law

In order to provide parents, guardians and residents with information concerning convicted sex offenders who are living or working in this district, our school district is now benefiting from a no-cost sex offender email alert notification program. Parents for Megan's Law (PFML) will email district residents, who have registered, informing them of any new sex offender's presence and directing them to their website where they can access a full copy of the notification. If you have not already registered to receive current or future sex offender notifications, please contact the Parents for Megan's Law Helpline at 631-689-2672 or go to their website at www.parentsformeganslaw.org and click the "Sex Offender Email Alert Registration Program" link on the home page.



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