Over the last few years, the District has made significant strides in its mission to boost the educational experience provided to students. A number of new educational programs are underway (learn more inside this issue), and the community-supported bond, Renewal, has resulted in the realization of several facility enhancements, with more to come.

“We are moving the District’s facility vision forward,” said Director of Facilities Angelo Andreotti. “We remain on task with the variety of projects included in the bond.”

Over the summer, several bond projects were completed. Among those finished were the replacement of 763 High School lockers (in use since the opening of the school in 1975) and a project to replace the flooring in the High School library with new carpeting.

In addition to interior renovations at the High School, the District’s athletic fields were also improved. Advanced lighting was installed on the athletic field and tennis courts and a new scoreboard was erected on the newly turfed athletic field.

At Miller Avenue School, the playground was relocated to make room for a construction road, which will be used during an expansion project. The road will eventually be converted into a bus drop-off loop.

“With a number of projects now completed, we can move forward with other items that were included in the community-supported bond,” said Mr. Andreotti.

During the school year, a number of doors and windows will be replaced at both the High School and Middle School. The District will also begin work on a previously approved energy performance contract that will result in a number of energy-saving initiatives, including the installation of solar panels, LED lighting and steam traps.

“This energy project should allow the District to realize energy savings over time,” said Mr. Andreotti.

During the summer of 2017, the District is prepared to embark on a set of tasks that will result in the addition of four kindergarten classrooms at Miller Avenue. At Wading River, 10 classrooms will be renovated and four new classrooms and a cafetorium will be constructed. These elementary projects are on schedule to be completed by the start of the 2017-18 school year. Other bond projects slated for the Middle School and High School will commence in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Prior to the summer of 2016, the District completed an athletic field turf project and added nine new tennis courts and two basketball courts. The courts are outfitted with new drainage, nets, fencing and wind screening. Lighting was also put in place. Additionally, the District completed a project that added 10,000 square feet of state-of-the-art High School science classrooms and several other upgrades at the High School that was part of a separate voter proposition.

“The District has taken the responsibility of modernizing all facilities,” said Mr. Andreotti. “The state of our schools is a reflection on our community and is an integral component of the conditions of learning.”

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Director of Facilities Angelo Andreotti
Raising Standards

While the District moves forward on facility improvements, it is simultaneously creating authentic enhancements to its curriculum. These enhancements are being made to boost students’ educational experiences while ensuring they are college and career ready.

Tri-State Consortium

The District has officially joined the Tri-State Consortium to further its goal of providing students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning in creative ways.

The consortium is an alliance of 67 schools spread across three states — New York, New Jersey and Connecticut — that share the common goal of creating student-centered, authentic learning tasks that promote critical thinking and performance-based assessment measures.

“The partnership provides valuable resources and professional workshops for staff,” said Alan Meinster, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

During the school year, teachers and administrators will have ongoing opportunities to use professional development time to explore integrating consortium resources into lesson development and implementation.

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Curriculum Updates

Behind the scenes, the District has been working diligently on curriculum re-writes in the areas of social studies, English Language Arts and pre-Advanced Placement Spanish.

With regard to the Spanish curriculum, the District has enhanced courses of study in an effort to offer AP Spanish in the future.

“We are rolling out a multi-year plan so that students will be prepared to take an AP Spanish course,” said Director of Humanities Dr. Rebecca Chowske. “We will ensure that we support our whole Spanish program.”

In response to a new Social Studies and ELL framework introduced
by the state, the District is taking significant strides to generate a curriculum plan that not only ensures student understanding, but is also engaging and provides interdisciplinary components.

“We will be writing curriculum through the new year and preparing teachers through professional development,” said Dr. Chowske.

At the Middle School, teachers worked throughout the month of August to re-write the Health 6 and seventh-grade Methods of Inquiry and Presentation curriculum to incorporate research and Google Classroom into the courses.

AP Capstone

This school year marks the initial rollout of the District’s AP Capstone Program at the High School. A number of interested juniors and seniors have embarked on this educational journey through enrollment in the Advanced Placement Seminar course.

Through this course, students will learn current research techniques centered on a common theme. They are required to use these techniques to write and present a research paper and take a written exam in order to receive credit.

Upon completion of the course, students are eligible to continue on to AP Research, which will be offered for the first time in the 2017-18 school year. Students who complete both courses, in addition to four other AP course offerings, will receive a prestigious AP Capstone designation on their high school diploma.

“This is an exciting opportunity,” said Mr. Meinster. “It provides students with the type of genuine research experience increasingly desired by colleges and universities.”

Learning Through Engagement

To foster curriculum, the District has initiated several new engagement opportunities that aim to enhance student learning.

For example, all students celebrated Punctuation Day through planned activities. At the elementary level, the importance of grammar and punctuation was raised through humorous PowerPoint presentations and a read aloud. Meanwhile, students in the Middle School made posters highlighting punctuation mistakes and were encouraged to create shirts displaying their favorite punctuation marks.

In addition, as part of their study of The Scarlet Letter, the entire junior class will attend a free performance of the play at the Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor. Seniors in the AP Government and AP U.S. History courses also traveled to Stone Brook University to attend “The Icons of Freedom” presentation, which focused on the First Amendment.

Also this school year, social studies students studying 9/11 will have the opportunity to visit the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at Ground Zero.

“We have been working very hard to enhance experiences for students and find authentic, engaging and interdisciplinary ways to connect curriculum and learning,” said Dr. Chowske.

STEM Experience

This school year, the STEM office, directed by Dr. Amy Meyer, embarked on a new community-based science project in connection with the A Day in the Life Program. Through the program, AP Environmental Science Students and seventh grade students visited the Peconic Estuary in Riverhead and took baseline data that will be used by local land stewards to assess the health of the watershed.

“The project is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience while also working with local land stewards,” said Dr. Meyer.

Google Apps for Education

A Districtwide initiative to bring more technology into the classroom has resulted in the rollout of the Google Apps for Education platform across the District. The District technology team, led by Director of Technology Peter Esposito, has been working diligently on this endeavor, creating accounts for all students and teachers and assisting in delivering professional development.

Teachers participated in workshops and training sessions on how to best use the platform for supporting education, with a goal to increase the use of Google Apps this year.

In September, all students were provided with their accounts. Teachers have begun to use these for assignments and sharing information in and outside of class.

“The application can extend the learning day by enabling students to share work with teachers who can, in turn, provide feedback to them in real time,” said Mr. Meinster. “We look forward to exploring the multitude of ways the platform can expand learning opportunities.”

Elementary Math Coach

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New Teachers

The District is pleased to announce that it has hired 13 probationary teachers and 3 new part time teachers for the 2016-17 school year. These educators hold teaching positions in each of our schools and join the Shoreham-Wading River School District family with extensive educational knowledge.

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About MR. LEDERER

As the Board continues its search for the next permanent superintendent, Neil Lederer has been appointed to serve as the District’s Interim Superintendent. Mr. Lederer, whose career in education spans 50 years, most recently served as an Interim Superintendent for the Hauppauge School District and previously as an Interim Superintendent for the Bayport-Blue Point and Three Village school districts.

He spent much of his educational career within the Lindenhurst School District and served as superintendent from 2002 until his retirement in 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in biology from Long Island University and a Master’s Degree in educational administration and supervision from New York University.

“My goal is to work closely with the Board of Education to foster a culture of collegiality and cooperation,” said Mr. Lederer. “I look forward to my time in Shoreham-Wading River, with the hope that we can move the District forward to the benefit of our students.”

Wildcat Field Dedication

At a ceremony on Sept. 9, the Shoreham-Wading River School District officially dedicated its newly turfed and renovated athletic field in memory of football player Thomas Cutinella, who passed away in October 2014.

As part of the dedication, the District unveiled a plaque that sits on a large stone at the entrance to the newly named Thomas Cutinella Memorial Field. Since the ceremony, a bust of Tom has been added to the field. The bust was donated as part of junior Ryan Ledda’s Eagle Scout project.

“The dedication is a wonderful tribute to a great person,” said Athletic Director Mark Passamonte. “It shows just how much Thomas meant to our community and school.”

Lead Testing UPDATE

Over the last several months, the District has been ensuring the safety of the school community by working with EnviroScience, a regional environmental services firm, to actively collect and test water samples for lead.

During the summer, using Environmental Protection Agency protocol, all consumable water sources in every District building were tested. Five samples demonstrated a concentration of lead in excess of EPA standards. Since then, the District has taken corrective action by replacing a water fountain at the High School and two fountains at the Middle School. The fountains were restated and have been deemed safe. The District also capped off two water sources found at Briarcliff, which has been closed since 2014.

To further ensure the health and safety of all, the District recently took action to test all other water sources in each school, including bathroom sinks. The results of those tests are expected in the near future.

“We are in full compliance and we remain committed to ensuring a safe school environment,” said Angelo Andreotti, Director of Facilities.

31 AP Scholars Named

In recognition of their exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement exams, 31 high school seniors have earned the title of Advanced Placement Scholar.

In total, 14 seniors were named AP Scholars, 13 earned the recognition of AP Scholar with Honor, three were named AP Scholar with Distinction, and one was ranked as a National AP Scholar.

To earn AP Scholar recognition, students are required to score a 3 or higher on three or more AP exams; to be recognized as an AP Scholar with Honor, students must earn a 3.25 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams; for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award, students must receive an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on five or more of those exams; and to be named a National AP Scholar, students must earn an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of those exams.

The District congratulates the following students:

AP SCHOLARS

Denis Aglagul, Alex Angerman, Murray Centro, Ryan Condon, Joseph Desiderio, Daniel Gas, Alexandra Hays, Haley Lindell, Tyler Offutt, Jennifer Searing, Matthew Simonetti, Michelle Steele, Jalen Wright and Courtney Wrigley

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONOR

Alexander Bettenhausen, Keyi Chen, Erin Choiinski, Paige Ekkert, Kyle Higgins, Samantha Higgins, Melissa Mantzello, Shannon McGarr, Lindsey McKenn, Nicholas Pantzarino, Sarah Scarbrough, Shoaib Syed and Ryan Zukowski

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION

Meaghan Carroll, Anthony Peraza and Ryan Radonavitch

NATIONAL AP SCHOLAR

Rohin McIntosh

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Meaghan Carroll, Anthony Peraza and Ryan Radonavitch

NATIONAL AP SCHOLAR

Rohin McIntosh

With the retirement of the District’s superintendent over the summer, the Board of Education has commenced an extensive search for a new superintendent who will provide the leadership necessary to bring the District’s vision to fruition.

As part of the search, the District asked the community to assist in the form of a Superintendent Search Survey. The survey specifically requested input regarding the qualities the Board should seek in a new superintendent.

With the survey complete, the Board of Education has hired the search firm District Wise Search Consultants, to assist in the search that will include the feedback received from the community survey.