As we continue in our academic year, cognizant of how the world has fundamentally changed education as a whole, we remain steadfast in our focus of providing and nurturing our students academically, physically, mentally and more. We are proud of a school community that embraces education and shares the common goal of Shoreham-Wading River's quality education through a differentiated and integrated curriculum.

The past few months have brought the world renewed hope, and in our schools, we have seen inspired creativity, magical music, sports accolades, engagement with peers and community, and an appreciation for the overall optimism for the future. Enrichment activities related to the arts, field trips, civic engagement, virtual presentations and more are filling the spring days of our students and staff.

This newsletter is a sampling of all that is happening across our District that continues to make us Shoreham-Wading River proud!
Sharing Hearts of Gold

The Miller Avenue School Student Council raised $833 through a fundraiser for the Debra Organization’s Smile Fund Program, which helps grant wishes to people living with epidermolysis bullosa. The students created posters and packaged their colorful products, which included bouncy balls, bendable toys, stress balls, notepads and rubber ducks. The money raised was donated in honor of Grace Peshkur. Co-adviser Mr. Robert Korchma introduced the organization’s mission to co-adviser Mrs. Mary Anne Benz and the students to bring awareness to the rare medical condition.

Guinther and Annaliiese Joos – presented some of their endeavors to the Board of Education at a spring meeting. Principal Mr. Louis Parrinello introduced the students. Fourth grade teacher and adviser, Ms. Kellie McGuire, highlighted a schoolwide Kindness Challenge and the school’s annual food drive, which benefits local food pantries.

The students spoke about sharing kindness with their families, teachers, peers, other school staff and the world. They advertised their efforts through posters and signs throughout the school. One of their major accomplishments was a 105 Compliment Challenge. They surpassed that goal with a record 917 compliments that were posted on a bulletin board in the school’s hallway.

The students also presented each Board member with a paper heart that read: “We give a compliment to the Board of Education for keeping us safe and always looking out for our best interests.”

Board Vice President Mrs. Katie Andersen complimented the students on their public-speaking skills, and President Mr. Michael Lewis urged them to keep up their good deeds.

Making a Difference

Five members of the Wading River School Student Council – third graders Nathan Lauckhardt and Camden Rowett and fourth graders Alexis Cordano, Camryn Guinther and Annaliiese Joos – presented some of their endeavors to the Board of Education at a spring meeting. Principal Mr. Louis Parrinello introduced the students. Fourth grade teacher and adviser, Ms. Kellie McGuire, highlighted a schoolwide Kindness Challenge and the school’s annual food drive, which benefits local food pantries.

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Student Council President Addresses BOE

The Board of Education heard about all the exceptional work Prodell Middle School’s Student Council has accomplished this academic year. Introduced by Principal Mr. Kevin Vann and adviser Mrs. Christine Bradley, newly elected Student Council President Anthony Mango addressed the
Students in the High School’s RISE Program – Reaching Independence through Structured Education – work alongside peer mentors in an environment where they develop social skills and interpersonal relationships while broadening their knowledge of art.

The collaboration among students, art teacher Mr. Jason Andria and special education teacher Mrs. Caitlin Gould is an opportunity for camaraderie and creativity.

According to Mr. Andria, the students really enjoy working with one another and both the art and the educational aspects are beneficial to all.

Mr. Andria also arranged for a virtual visit with artist Dane Capo and his mother, Krista Capo, for the peer mentoring students. The students shared their abstract portraits of famous faces inspired by Dane’s art and had an opportunity to ask him questions about how his art connects him to the world.

Peer Mentoring Program

“...one of the most rewarding classes, where students all appreciate the one-on-one aspect and getting to know one another while working with their unique talents and abilities.”

Art teacher Mr. Jason Andria

Diverse Demonstration of Creativity

The 2021 Parrish Art Museum’s Annual Student Exhibition is featuring the works of 18 SWR High School students. Under the direction of art teachers Mr. Jason Andria, Ms. Nicole Massaro and Ms. Samantha Shepard, selected students submitted works that demonstrated creativity, enthusiasm and technical skill in diverse media ranging from painting and sculpture to drawing and photography.

Freshmen Sydney Albert, Liam McGuire, Kaelyn Metz and Riley Metz; sophomores Gavin Meltcher, Jessica Platz and Kristen Tortora; juniors Lauren DeRosso, Rachel Scarbrough, Leah Spitaliere and Jake Whitney; and seniors Jamie Johannessen, Emma Longboat, Olivia Nicoletti, Yusra Rashidzada, Brooke Roff, Julia Scheiber and Troy White are part of the more than 60-year tradition at the Water Mill museum, which showcases pieces by young artists from schools on eastern Long Island.

Senior Olivia Nicoletti was cited in the Graphic Design/Digital Media category and both Yusra Rashidzada and Julia Scheiber are up for awards in the Painting category. Underclassmen Gavin Meltcher and Kaelyn Metz were noted as Ones to Watch.

Spreading Good Vibes with Chalk Walk!

Miller Avenue School’s Student Council took some time to encourage their peers by spreading positive and colorful messages around the school. With chalk in hand, the second graders drew inspirational messages, complete with rainbows and hearts, on the sidewalks where students would enter or exit. Some of their thoughtful words were to always laugh and have fun and the well-known song title “Don’t Worry, Be Happy.”

“The Student Council received a lot of positive feedback from students and staff,” second grade teacher and co-adviser Mr. Robert Korchma said. “It was a great feeling to spread positivity around our school.”
SCMEA Distinction

Fifteen High School students were selected to the annual Suffolk County Music Educators Association All-County Music Festival. Selected to the orchestra were Lucas Portuese (double bass), Matthew Cerniglia (trombone), Jessica Nastasi (viola), and Sean Dany, Anja Minty and Dongkai Zhang (violin). Liam Flatley, Madison McQuade, Ryan O’Shaughnessy and Carter Rubin have been named to the chorus.

Google Musical Meets

High School orchestra students attended a virtual instrument maintenance workshop with Marissa Faltings, luthier and branch manager of the Long Island Violin Shop in Smithtown. Arranged by orchestra teacher Mrs. Ashley O’Connor, the students learned how to perform basic repairs and how to properly care for and maintain string instruments. She demonstrated various repair techniques, and students were able to ask questions and engage in conversation over Google Meet. The students also participated in a virtual visit from Soon Hee Newbold, an American composer, conductor, musician and actress. Before the Google Meet session, the students learned and rehearsed “Lion City,” one of Ms. Newbold’s compositions, in preparation for the virtual meeting. Students asked questions and conversed with the renowned musician who has traveled throughout the world and whose works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and elsewhere.

Virtual Musical Performances

The High School Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted its 4th Annual Suites and Treats Recital in a virtual ceremony at the end of April. In addition, Wading River band students and music teacher Mrs. Christina Meli created a “May the Fourth Be with You” virtual experience, performing the “Star Wars” theme song among other musical numbers.

Musical Moments!

The Shoreham-Wading River School District has again been ranked among the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation’s Best Communities for Music Education in America. The honor acknowledges schools and districts across the country for their dedication to and support for music education as part of the core curriculum. This is the second consecutive year that the District has received the prestigious national recognition. The honor is especially notable this year when the music department has gone above and beyond in providing joyful sounds and innovative ways to teach and encourage music throughout our buildings.

“This year, many of the questions focused on how we were teaching during the pandemic,” High School music teacher Mr. Dennis Creighton said. “The music staff has been incredibly thoughtful and put in a lot of time and planning to create unique, meaningful experiences for all of our students. I’m incredibly proud of the great creativity demonstrated by the staff and validated by this award.”

All-State students Dan Julian, Sarah Kruzynski, Grace McMillan and Mika Misawa worked with clinicians to prepare for their virtual performances in lieu of the 2020 concert series. The students used a program called Smart Music to help learn and record their music. Their parts were then sent to a clinician for review and constructive feedback. Once they mastered their parts, they created a video that was combined with every other student in the ensemble. Music teacher Mr. Creighton was honored to be selected as a clinician to work with the Mixed Choir Tenors.

LISFA Honors

Twelve High School students and 28 Middle School students were accepted into Long Island String Festival Association ensembles this year. The students were selected along with others from across Suffolk County on a competitive basis with New York State School Music Association scores as the main criteria along with teacher recommendations. In lieu of a traditional festival this year, students participated in virtual workshops during March and April. High School students Natalie Acker, Sarah Kruzynski, James Minetti, Mika Misawa, Jessica Nastasi, Killian O’Reilly, Lucas Portuese, Kaylee Thomsen, Eleanora Undrus and Dongkai Zhang participated in fiddle music, jazz and improvisation, and pop music workshops. Anja Minty and Alston Zhuo took part in an instrument-specific master class. The school district congratulates Prodoll students Jake Bodenburg, Maxwell Boerum, Louis Cerniglia, Michael Ceschini, Abigail Cooke, Siena Faragasso, Emily Hermanns, Ryan Hidaka, Yiya Hu, Emily Kall, Anabel Keegan, Ryan Kenesi, Kyler Kuck, Spencer Lee, Oscar Lieber, Ian Margiotta-Watz, Alicia Minty, Kerrin McGuire, Jocelyn Nastasi, Caroline Panasci, Katelyn Schaefer, Cameron Sheedy, Mia Stallone, Alexander Tishchenko, Shealyn Varbero, Kayla Weingartner, Terence Winters and Timothy Worton for representing the District music program.
The District congratulates the numerous student-athletes who made Newsday’s Top Nassau and Suffolk athlete lists for the 2020-21 school year. Connor Guercia and Matteo Sweet were named to the boys soccer players list; Johnny Schwarz and Jake Wilson were named to the football list; Ashley Borriello, Brooke Langella and Lydia Radonavitch were named to the girls soccer list; Thomas Bell and Tristan Costello made the basketball players list; Jake Halloran was named to the baseball players list; Catherine Erb made the girls lacrosse list; and Francisco Cortes, Alec Gregorek, Jeff Lachenmeyer, Johnny Schwarz, Tyler Schwarz and Jake Wilson were named to the boys lacrosse list. Blake Wehr, a high jumper, was named to the Top 25 list for winter track, and Craig Jablonski was named to the Top 50 wrestlers list.

**Coaches of the Year**

The District is pleased to boast two Coaches of the Year. Mr. Kevin Culhane was named as the high school boys varsity basketball Coach of the Year and Mr. Joe Condon was named the high school wrestling Coach of the Year. Both gentlemen were honored with certificates of excellence for their respective commitment to the basketball and wrestling team by members of the BOE and Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Nurses, Mr. Mark Passamonte.

**Basketball Senior Recognitions**

The High School boys basketball senior players – Thomas Bell, Tristan Costello, Joey Dwyer, Adam Gawreluk and Cayden Mulroy – were recognized at a special ceremony at the final home game in February. After the High School girls basketball team’s final home game, senior-athlete Rachel Sereno was also recognized at a special ceremony honoring her career as a Wildcat.

“As with all our student-athletes, our senior players put forth much effort in their respective basketball careers at Shoreham-Wading River. They were all assets to their teams and shared in the winning spirit in this shortened season.”

- Mr. Mark Passamonte, Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Nurses

**Wrestlers Honored**

The Board of Education honored the 18 members of the wrestling team by presenting each of them with the District’s pin of excellence for their Section XI championship. The Division II Wildcats were celebrated for their victory over Division I and top-seeded Brentwood. Congratulations to Dylan Blanco, Chris Colon, Jake Ekert, Anthony Giordano, Luke Gorman, Craig Jablonski, Jake Jablonski, Jack LaValle, Sean Miller, Will Miller, Tommy Palumbo, Tyler Paris, Connor Pearce, Tristan Petretti, Frank Pizzi, Ricky Sicoli, Joe Steimel and Ryan Wilson. Coaches Joe Condon, TJ Fabian, Chris Meloni, Kevin Nohejl and Steve Taddeo were also commended.
**SPORTS ACCOLADES**

**Three in a Row!**

The SWR Wildcats football team brought home the third straight Suffolk County Conference IV title. They, along with coach Aden Smith, were honored by the Board of Education for the positive bonds formed among players through their continued teamwork.

**Prodell Student Wins County 100-Yard Freestyle**

The District boasts another student-athlete’s success with Prodell eighth grader Emily Herr’s win at the Girls Section XI Swimming Championships. A varsity swimmer, Emily won first place in the 100-yard freestyle. Emily was also named All-County and All-Long Island in the 100-yard and 200-yard freestyle.

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**Message from the Superintendent**

Dear Community Member,

As we wind down on this challenging, albeit successful, academic year, we are pleased to see how our students have adapted, collaborated, embraced and flourished with new skills and a continued commitment to education.

Shoreham-Wading River’s longstanding tradition of encouraging our students to achieve academic, artistic and athletic success is evident in so much that has taken place in our schools and community this year. Most recently, local field trips and even some socially distanced, outdoor visitors to our district – including a wildlife rehabilitation specialist and some animals from Sweetbriar Nature Center in Smithtown – are engaging student creativity and awareness of the world, building upon classroom instruction and rounding out a renewed and productive year of learning opportunities.

As always, I thank the Shoreham-Wading River community for your ongoing commitment to our students and school district. Together, we will continue to instill the skills of creativity, collaboration and adaptability in our students, empowering them and setting them on course to excel in school, work and life.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gerard W. Poole
Superintendent of Schools
**Mastery Award for BOE President**

Board of Education President Mr. Michael Lewis was honored with a Board Mastery Certificate of Recognition. The honor is reflective of the dozens of conferences and workshops related to school district governance that Mr. Lewis attended. He was commended by Superintendent of Schools Mr. Gerard Poole for his countless hours of commitment to events across the District. The award, sponsored by the New York State School Boards Association, acknowledges the extensive time and effort required of school board members who continually strive to expand their knowledge and skills for better board administration.

**HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Seniors Zachary Dapolito, Paul Loscalzo, Matthew Martell, Aaron McClintock, Caroline McDowell, Matthew McMullan, Yusra Rashidzada, Jalal Saws, Michael Scott and Kyle Tepper participated in the Riverhead Youth Court. The students took part in many hours of mandatory training by law enforcement professionals to assume the roles of judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, clerk-bailiff, jury foreperson and juror. In addition to developing real-world skills, including public speaking and debating techniques, the annual peer justice program helped to provide a positive and detailed understanding of authority and the law to participants.
- The District held a ribbon-cutting to inaugurate the varsity softball field. Student Lindsay Cahill dedicated her Girl Scout Gold Award project in memory of student Melissa Marchese by building a helmet box in the dugout. The Marchese family stood at the pitcher’s mound and Melissa’s father threw the first pitch of the game into the catcher’s mitt worn by Lindsay Cahill.
- Students Sara Grosso and Emma Longboat shared stories of directing a virtual production as guests on the “Spotlight on Long Island Schools” show on LI News Radio 103.9 FM. The show, “Mutually Assured Destruction” featured students Torre Cintorino, Liam Flatley, Melissa Liguori, Mia Lombardi, Sara McAuliffe, Chloe McNamara, Emily Murray, Carter Rubin and Gavin Trezza. The crew, Eric Guli, Hunter Lange, Meghan Klotz and Gianna Mango, stage manager Kayla Finnegan, costume designer Nadia Grosso and lighting and sound crew Conor McAuliffe and Matthew McMullan, also contributed to the show’s success.
- Four senior members of the chapter of the Future Farmers of America – Torre Ann Parrinello, Taylor Peperno, Blythe Wing and Claire Wing – participated in New York State FFA Leadership Development Events in various categories. Each student showcased a different aspect of the organization’s guiding principles through speeches about agriculture-related topics.
- The SADD club members recognized Kick Butts Day with an anti-tobacco campaign at the school. The students created a display titled “What’s in a Vape Cloud?” with balloons and facts about vaping. They also created a Take Down Tobacco Power Wall where they posted their experiences and reasons for why they say no to tobacco.
- Sophomore Kayla Bodenburg was presented with an honorable mention Quill Award in the Adelphi University Virtual Press Day competition. Her honor was in the award category of Best Opinion Piece for her article, “Competitive Dance Is Taking Center Stage,” published in the digital newspaper, The Pause.
- Senior Caitlin Thrash was a guest of “The Drew Barrymore Show” in April, that aired on CBS television. Caitlin is a cheerleader and serves as a firefighter in the Rocky Point Fire Department. We are honored to applaud Caitlin’s commitment to school and community.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Michael Lewis, President
Mrs. Katie Andersen, Vice President
Mr. Henry Perez, Trustee
Mr. Robert Rose, Trustee
Mr. Thomas Sheridan, Trustee
Mr. James Smith, Trustee
Mrs. Meghan Tepfenhardt, Trustee

Mr. Gerard W. Poole, Superintendent of Schools