

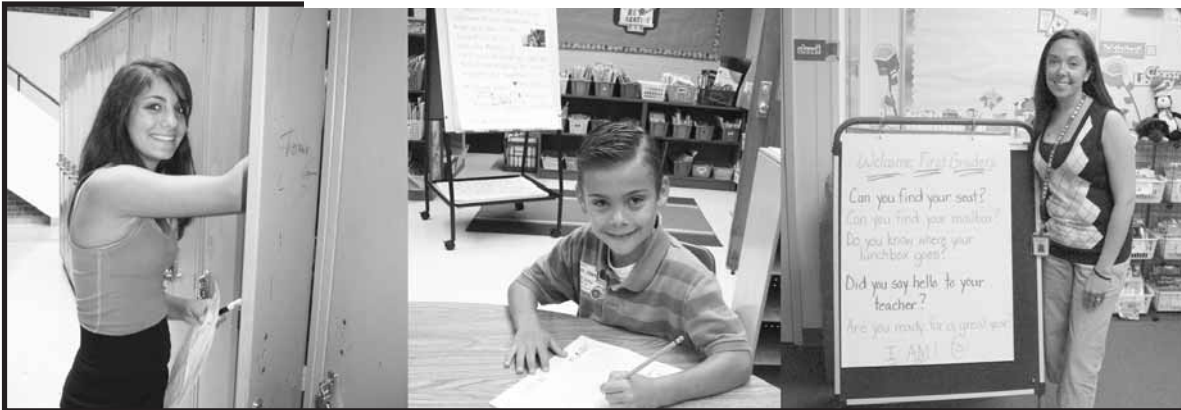


WR Review

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

FALL 2009



School Year Off to a Great Start

Dressed in their new school clothes and backpacks filled with supplies, students from the Shoreham-Wading River School District community disembarked from bright yellow school buses to attend the first day of school on September 9 and greeted administrators and teachers with smiling faces. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harriet Copel remarked that students and teachers expressed their gratitude at returning to the classroom and everyone is looking forward to a productive school year.

A Word of Thanks..

Thank you, Shoreham and Wading River residents, for supporting our schools with the passage of the Health and Safety proposition. The final tally was 1,215 yes and 791 no votes. Our District now will be able to correct health and safety violations in the Middle School and Briarcliff Elementary School.

AT THE Top of Their Class

The College Board has recognized 40 Shoreham-Wading River High School students as Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars. These students have scored a grade of three or higher on at least three AP exams. Twelve AP Scholars are currently enrolled and include:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Pooja Berdia | Pelle Hall | Meghan O'Reilly |
| Chelsea Creta | Gregory Lubin | Brandon Wahl |
| Kristi Conway | Kenneth Myers | Kevin Wern |
| Daniel Ericson | Raffaele Miceli | Iris Yu |

In addition, *Kristi Conway*, *Kenneth Myers*, and *Iris Yu* were named AP Scholars with Honors. These students received a grade of 3.25 on all AP exams taken and a grade of three or higher on four or more AP exams.

Pelle Hall and *Kevin Wern* also scored a 3.5 or higher on all AP exams taken and a grade of three or higher on five or more AP exams and have been identified by the College Board as AP Scholars with Distinction.

The Shoreham-Wading River School District's 15 AP courses offer students the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school. If a student passes an AP exam, future college credit may be granted. Each AP exam is graded on a scale of one to five, with three or higher being a passing grade.



Twelve AP Scholars are currently enrolled at SWR High School and are pictured with guidance counselors Alicia Mirabella, Susan Josberger, and Lucy Eschbach.

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Named National Merit Commended Students

The College Board has named Shoreham-Wading River High School seniors Iris Yu and Gregory Lubin as Commended Students in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program, for their exceptional academic achievements. As two of the nation's 34,000 Commended Students, Iris and Gregory have placed among the top five percent of the more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the SAT/National Merit Scholarship Corporation's Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, better known as the PSAT. By earning this distinction, Commended Students are eligible to become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses around the country.



Commended Students Iris Yu and Gregory Lubin are pictured with Guidance Counselors Alicia Mirabella and Lucy Eschbach.

Iris and Gregory are outstanding students both inside and outside of the classroom. Iris has been recently identified as an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar with Honors. She is a member of the Global Awareness Club and the school orchestra. Iris plays the viola and will be participating in the All-State Conference in Rochester, New York in December. When she is not at school, Iris is a competitive figure skater and practices her skating at The Rinx. She is applying for early decision to the University of Chicago, where she would like to study linguistics and cognitive science.

Gregory has also been identified as an AP Scholar and is a member of Mathletes and Brainstormers. He plays the cello in the High School orchestra and is a competitive rower. Gregory is applying for early action at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology, (M.I.T.), where he would like to pursue the study of either biological engineering, chemical engineering, or cognitive science.

Shoreham-Wading River
School District
Shoreham, New York 11786

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Dr. Harriet Copel
Superintendent's Message

Dear Residents,

As the leaves are falling and the heat has been turned on, it is hard to believe that we are almost two months into the 2009-2010 school year. I spent the summer planning for the opening of school with my fellow administrators. I am pleased to report that, with the exception of transportation, the year has gotten off to a great start!

I would like to take this opportunity first to thank the Shoreham-Wading River community. In mid-October, residents approved the Health and Safety Proposition, which will allow our District to make much-needed improvements to Briarcliff Elementary School and the Middle School. Through these projects, improvements will be made to ventilation systems, fire safety systems, and emergency exiting, and will put these schools in compliance with accessibility and code requirements.

The passage of the Health and Safety Proposition is just one of the many exciting things that have happened since school opened two months ago. Prior to the first day of school, I had the opportunity to address the faculty and staff of our five buildings. I am proud to say that Shoreham-Wading River boasts an outstanding staff. The commitment and dedication that our teachers have for their students is commendable. They are the reason for such success in our schools. For all staff members in the District, the beginning of the school year brings a renewed commitment to help our children reach their highest potential. For this reason, I know without uncertainty, that the 2009-2010 school year has great things in store for our students.

During the first week of school, I spent much of my time traveling to our District's five buildings. While I have worked in this District for several years now, I was still amazed to see the excitement on our students' and teachers' faces - from the bright eyes of our kindergarteners entering school for the first time, to the pride exhibited by our high school seniors.

As Superintendent, I encourage all parents and community members to take an active role in our school system. I invite you to participate - whether by attending a sporting event, volunteering your time in one of our schools, or attending a PTA meeting. I also encourage all residents to attend the monthly Board of Education meetings to stay updated on the latest news affecting the school community.

As always, my door is open to you. I look forward to working together to continue the great path of success that our District has achieved. I wish our entire school community a great and productive school year!

Sincerely,

Harriet Copel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

UPDATING THE DISTRICT'S FACILITIES

As schools closed for the summer, the Shoreham-Wading River Building and Grounds Department set out to make improvements to the District's facilities.

"The staff worked really hard this summer and did a wonderful job at improving the appearance and safety of the buildings," Plant Facilities Administrator Robert Woolsey stated.

One of the more noticeable improvements is at the Middle School. The staff created exit doors at three locations and eliminated the pass-through classrooms. Using 63 existing metal panels, the hallway walls were matched to the ceiling grid. The floors were restored with the addition of blue striping, and the lockers were moved to one side of the hallway to make more room for students to pass. The result is hallways that are wider and equipped with natural light, but still do not meet the building code for schools.

The old metal ceiling tiles in the lobby of Shoreham-Wading River High School were replaced with fire-rated tiles, and their accompanying grids were painted from black to white. The result is a much brighter and fresher-looking entrance to the high school.

The District has completed the final stages of the Natural Gas



Initiative at Miller Avenue and Wading River Elementary Schools, which will provide the facilities with dual-fuel capabilities. This is part of the District's EXCEL referendum that was previously passed by voters. Over the summer, the gas meters were hung and the system was tested earlier this month. Mr. Woolsey explained that the District will see a cost-savings by utilizing gas, but can switch to oil if the rates are competitive. Gas is also a cleaner fuel, so the school facilities will be more environmentally friendly.

BUDGET PREPARATION DATES

This year, the budget will be reviewed by the Board of Education during specific meetings. The public is invited to attend these meetings and there will be an opportunity for public participation. **All meetings will take place in the High School library and will begin at 8 p.m.**

DATE	TOPIC
January 5	Review of Transportation
January 12	Community Conversation: What Do We Value in Our Children's Education?
January 21	Community Conversation: What Do We Value in Our Children's Education?
February 25	Budget Review - Buildings & Grounds
March 2	Budget Review - Special Education
March 16	Budget Review - General Support, Fringe Benefits, Debt Service
March 18	Budget Review - Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities
March 23	Budget Review - Instructional Programs
April 13	Budget Adoption
May 4	Budget Hearing
May 18	2010-2011 Budget Vote

SWR Welcomes New Faculty Members

SWR welcomes **Dr. Lisa Mulhall** as the District's Director of Curriculum.

Dr. Mulhall previously served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Literacy Studies at Albany's Siena College and as a consultant to provide support to schools in the areas of building a shared vision, curriculum development, professional development, and program evaluation. Prior to her move to Siena College, Dr. Mulhall worked as a K-12 English Language Arts Supervisor in the Cherry Hill School District in New Jersey and taught middle school and high school English courses for 10 years.

Dr. Mulhall acquired both a Master of Arts in Teaching English and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University.



Diana Richardson joins the District as a high school English teacher for grades 9 and 10 and as an English composition instructor for twelfth-grade students. Ms. Richardson comes to SWR from Glen Cove High School, where she also taught English. Prior to becoming a teacher, Ms. Richardson worked in fundraising and development at Hofstra University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in Education, both from Hofstra University.

Ms. Richardson stated that the SWR High School staff has been welcoming, supportive, and available to answer all of her questions. She described the students as a pleasure to teach. "The students are very good-natured and respectful here in Shoreham-Wading River, and they are eager to learn," she stated.

Filling Buckets and Defining Traits to Teach Character Education

When students at Briarcliff Elementary School listen to the daily announcements, they hear about the wonderful things their peers have done for others. Throughout the school year, these messages will be delivered to the main office in a bucket by the daily pledge class as part of a character education program inspired by the book, *“Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness,”* written by Carol McCloud.

The “Bucket Project” is just one of the programs being utilized by the Shoreham-Wading River School District’s elementary schools to enhance character education among its youngest students. Through character education programs, the administration and



staff hope that words like fairness, caring, respect, trustworthiness, good citizenship, and responsibility will not only be demonstrated in everyday behavior, but will be traits carried throughout a lifetime.

Ms. Ruthkowski’s elementary students are also participating in a character education program to emphasize character traits. The students received a beaded chain to attach to their backpacks at the start of the school year. Each month, every child will receive a corresponding colored charm to add to the chain, when he/she displays the trait being taught.

At Wading River Elementary School, the students are constantly reminded about positive character traits as they walk down the hallways. Principal Stephen Donohue has asked the staff to place signs with traits on the ceilings. Each year, the students “tour” the hallway with Mr. Donohue, who asks them to define each trait and to apply it to past experiences and present situations. The student body is also given the “I Care Rules,” five rules of good behavior, on the first day of school.

“Character education is something we do every day,” Mr. Donohue



explained.

At Miller Avenue Elementary School, a character word is highlighted and defined on the lobby’s bulletin board each month for students to study. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the character trait in their lesson plans and physical education teachers Josh Bonventre and Teresa Chambel weave character education into sports and health education.

“These programs open the conversation about how to behave in society, as well as how to treat others,” Ms. Ruthkowski stated.

Learning the Truth About *Suicide* and *Depression*

Ninth graders at Shoreham-Wading River High School will take part this school year in a serious conversation about the symptoms and risks of undiagnosed and untreated depression and the painful consequences of suicide. The students will see a film created by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention entitled “The Truth About Suicide” and will have the opportunity to engage in a question-and-answer forum about these potentially dangerous conditions.

High School psychologist Dr. Peter D’Elena and social worker Lianne Conroy explained that depression and suicide affect many adolescents and is relevant to this age group. In fact, two out of three students suffering from depression or anxiety do not ask for help or treatment. “The goal of this program is for the students to come away from the day knowing how to get help for themselves or a friend that may be suffering from the symptoms of depression,” Dr. D’Elena stated.

Shoreham-Wading River High School Principal, Daniel Holtzman, explained that the film will be viewed in groups of 60 students. Feedback will be encouraged, and the risk factors of depression and anxiety will be stressed. “When an adolescent encounters problems, he or she will know what services are available both in the school and in the community,” he stated.

Dr. D’Elena explained that even though this program is designed for the ninth-grade class, tenth-grade students will receive similar

information in their health education classes. There are also plans to implement a senior component to the program. Soon-to-be-college students and those planning to work after high school graduation will learn coping skills to more effectively deal with depression and anxiety.

At the Middle School, the administration has plans to follow up on a successful suicide awareness program for the eighth-grade students. Called the SOS (Signs of Suicide) Program, students will learn to identify symptoms of depression, self-injury, and suicide tendencies in themselves or friends, and how to seek help from a trusted adult. SOS is an action-oriented approach that instructs students to ACT (Acknowledge, Care, and Tell) in the face of a mental health emergency.

Additionally, there are plans to invite representatives from Response of Suffolk County, a crisis intervention and suicide prevention hotline, to again talk to parents about suicidal and depressive behaviors and the ways in which to seek help for teens contemplating suicide or feeling depressed.

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, suicide, although rare, is the third leading cause of death among young people aged 15-24 years. One suicide in a community can have an enormous effect, and the faculty of Shoreham-Wading River School District is eager to equip students with tools to first prevent, but also how to deal with such an occurrence.

Teachers *in Service*

During the late summer and early fall, teachers across the District participated in several workshops to learn about new curriculum programs that have been adopted by the Board of Education.

In mid June, the Board approved two new programs geared at enhancing student literacy – Foundations for grades K-2 and Words Their Way for students in grades 3-5. The goal of implementing these programs is to provide for the development of skills in the areas of spelling, vocabulary, and alphabetic, phonemic and phonological awareness. Teachers in grades K-2 took part in a Foundations workshop in late August, and teachers in grades 3-5 attended an introductory workshop for Words Their Way. Opportunities to attend the Words Their Way workshop were also offered in late October and early November.

In addition, the Shoreham-Wading School District recently became an affiliate district of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, a research and staff development organization housed at Teachers

College at Columbia University. Through the District's affiliation with the program, teachers and principals are exposed to improved practices in the area of literacy development and are provided with progressive research-based strategies and practices in reading and writing instruction. Over the summer, teachers from grades K-8 participated in a four-day Home Grown Summer Institute workshop to further hone their skills in the teaching of reading and writing. Held at Miller Avenue Elementary School, the professional development workshops were facilitated by teacher-educators from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project.

Finally, at the Middle School level, teachers worked together and recently completed unit plans in social studies, science, and Methods of Inquiry and Presentation. These plans were posted on Curricuplan, a web-based method for teachers and administrators to manage District curriculum online.



THE COLLEGE SEARCH IS ON!

Juniors and seniors grasped a special opportunity to visit with representatives from approximately 100 colleges and universities during Shoreham-Wading River High School's Mini-College Day held in the gymnasium. At each booth, students browsed brochures, filled out questionnaire cards, and received pertinent information about the programs being offered at their schools of interest, while many even took the opportunity to explore unfamiliar educational institutions and the military.

Guidance Counselor Susan Josberger explained that the seniors have just finished their conferences with the guidance department, during which they were directed about the college search process. Mini-College Day was the perfect opportunity for guidance counselors to direct students towards colleges that may have a desirable program of study. It helps the students set up a line of communication with the representatives, who often serve as liaisons in the application process.

"Mini-College Day also allows students who cannot travel to colleges to speak with representatives and to see what programs are available locally and outside of the state," Ms. Josberger stated. "By sponsoring this type of program, the District's students who feel college may be out of reach know that college is always possible."



Student Anthony Franze spoke with representative Brent Broszeit about programs of study at Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts.



Juniors (l-r) Kaitlyn O'Toole, Shannon Baxter, and Gabriella Mahan would like to explore attendance at a college away from home.

High Notes for STUDENT MUSICIANS

Fifteen outstanding musicians from Shoreham-Wading River High School were selected to participate in the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association (SCMEA) All-County Conference at Huntington High School on November 20. These students were chosen based on their performances the previous school year and teacher recommendations. Congratulations to:

Kohei Ando	Jillian Hauck	Justin Petito
Melaina Badalian	Laura Kovach	Michael Sanders
Nicole Caligiuri	Melissa McDonald	Kerry Sullivan
Chelsea Creta	Kyle McElhone	Rachel Szymanski
Pelle Hall	Stephanie Meier	Iris Yu

Additionally, eight students have been identified as All-State musicians by the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) and will participate in the All-State Honors Ensembles for band, orchestra, choir, wind ensemble, string orchestra, women's choir jazz ensemble, and vocal jazz ensemble at the winter conference in Rochester in December. Congratulations to:

Kohei Ando
Melaina Badalian
Nicole Caligiuri
Chelsea Creta
Melissa McDonald
Stephanie Meier
Rachel Szymanski
Iris Yu



Fifteen students from Shoreham-Wading River High School were selected as All-County and All-State musicians.

Best in Show

Wading River Elementary School fourth grader Samantha Hunt always knew her miniature Schnauzer, Chloe, was special, but the judges at the Meet the Breeds Student Art Contest have now affirmed her opinion. In October, Samantha entered a watercolor portrait of Chloe into the American Kennel Club-sponsored art show and was the winning entry in the fourth-grade, Terrier Group, and Best of Breed divisions of this popular contest for students across the tristate area. Her winning entry was displayed in the Meet the Breeds Student Art Show at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City this October.

"She was a winner just for entering the contest," Principal Stephen Donohue commented. "This young artist clearly excelled among student-artists that are much older. Samantha is a very talented girl and the administration and staff are extremely proud of her."

Art is a passion for Samantha, who takes watercolor classes with her grandmother, Elizabeth Lemyre, at the Center Moriches Library, under the direction of Mary Jane Stevens. She is the youngest member of the class.

Samantha's artwork, however, is not limited to a traditional canvas. Her designs decorate t-shirts that she sells at craft fairs and online to raise money for the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network. So far, the young philanthropist has raised \$1,800 for the network in honor of her two brothers, who are allergic to peanuts, eggs, and milk.

Samantha also likes to dance and play guitar after her school activities are over. To view Samantha's t-shirt designs and her winning dog portrait of Chloe, log onto www.firstgiving.com/samanthadesigns.



CONNECTING ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER DESIGN WITH COMMUNITY NEED

The Shoreham-Wading River School District has incorporated a new program that will connect high school students' engineering and computer design interests with needs in the community. Based out of Purdue University, the Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) High Program is in its infancy at the High School, but computer engineering teacher and program director Linda Blasko is ready to take the program forward this fall and engage her students in an array of hands-on projects to improve the Shoreham and Wading River communities.

Shoreham-Wading River High School is the only high school on Long Island that has adopted the EPICS High Program. The initiative is being utilized in one school district upstate and three high schools in New York City. The program, developed in 2006 and funded through grant money from Learn and Serve America, allows students to work in teams and to connect with a not-for-profit partner to design projects that meet a need in the community.

Ms. Blasko explained that the students brainstorm ideas on how to improve something in the community, make a plan, and learn how to complete a real project. "When the students become part of a hands-on project, they learn more," she stated. "This is a great opportunity to meld community service into the curriculum, and hopefully these values will be carried out throughout a lifetime."

Most of the SWR EPICS High Program projects to date have been computer based, since the program's adoption last school year. The students created a logo for the school's NEXUS program as part of a community service project. This year's projects under consideration are to design a website for the Long Island Regional Service-Learning Network through the use of the District's computer-aided design (CAD) software. There are also plans to repair the signage and create a map for the Shoreham-Wading River exercise trail behind the High School. However, the projects that will eventually be generated through the EPICS High Program could be as simple as fixing a school bench, repairing desks, or crafting a sign for a community storefront.

Ms. Blasko wants to encourage any student interested in design to participate in an EPICS High Program project by bringing to the table their math, engineering, art, woodworking skills, and many other talents. Any student can contribute to this program by utilizing their talents and past life experiences in the thinking and planning of a project.



EPICS students (l-r) Connor Drost, Brandon Hughes, and Andrew Bentivegna started to measure the signs on the exercise trail.

LEARNING THE METHODS OF Inquiry and Presentation

Knowing where to find important information and the methods of presenting newly acquired knowledge are skills that every student will eventually need in the workplace. At Albert G. Prodell Middle School, these important tools are being taught in an extension course called Methods of Inquiry and Presentation (MOIP). Taught by teachers Christina Shiffman, Danielle Senneca, and Kevin Willi, seventh graders are not only learning to find sources on a topic of interest, but are acquiring computer program skills that enable them to publish their findings.

"We are taking engrained technology standards and uniting them with English Language Arts standards to make content more meaningful to the student," Ms. Senneca explained.

Although each teacher interprets the curriculum in his/her own way, each class typically starts with a mini lesson and completes the semester with a main project. In the first unit, Ms. Senneca and Ms. Shiffman's students are researching countries that form the United Nations, and will complete the unit by making a travel brochure using Microsoft Publisher. Students in Mr. Willi's class are learning to identify and classify plants. Using the same computer program, the seventh graders will create a Field Guide to Plants at Albert G. Prodell Middle School.

Later in the school year, all of the students will study personal finance and learn to create a budget utilizing Microsoft Excel. The classes will also employ their skills to write a research paper using Microsoft Word and put together a presentation project with Microsoft PowerPoint.



Seventh graders Christy Steimel and Jillian Keane researched countries that formed the United Nations during the Methods of Inquiry and Presentation class.

Ms. Senneca stated, "Students in this class learn that it's not always about memorizing content, but rather the use of research skills to acquire information that will aid them in their pursuit to explore interests to a deeper extent."

Living History...

SWR STUDENTS Remember 9/11

Students throughout the Shoreham-Wading River School District paused with a moment of silence on the morning of September 11 to pay respect to those who lost their lives on that day eight years ago.

At Miller Avenue Elementary School, all students gathered in the hallways, while one representative from each class held an American flag. Principal Louis Parrinello shared inspirational thoughts with the students over the loudspeaker, emphasizing the importance of making good decisions throughout life. "Some people on September 11th made very bad decisions with their actions. But many more people made positive decisions - these are the heroes who helped save many, many lives," he said. Mr. Parrinello also explained the significance of a banner that was hung in the school lobby, a picture of a dove, made by Miller Avenue students in the weeks following September 11, 2001. Each feather on the dove is actually the outline of a student's hand.

The students at Briarcliff Elementary displayed their patriotic spirit by wearing red, white, and blue clothing. During a morning message over the intercom, Principal Jane Ruthkowski told the students, "Throughout the day and everyday, we need to be thankful for being an American."

Wading River Principal Stephen Donohue joined in Ms. Ruthkowski's sentiments in his reminder that we should be thankful and should pay homage to the firemen, police, and emergency workers who protect this country each day. Mr. Donohue also played the song, "Proud to be an American."

September 11th was a somber memory for high school students who first listened to inspirational words by Principal Daniel Holtzman and then the ringing of bells in the school's peace garden. Middle School students were also old enough to remember the day's events. After a moment of silence, the students joined Principal Linda Anthony in giving thanks to the emergency crews that protect our nation each day.



Miller Avenue students participated in the school's September 11th remembrance ceremony.

HS Students Harness the POWER OF THE WIND

Students in Dave Driscoll's Engineering class at Shoreham-Wading River High School have experimented with the future of alternative energy by harnessing the powers of wind. During the last school year, students took a field trip to East End Energy Systems, where they learned about wind turbines, solar panels, and geothermal water. Following their trip, the students put their knowledge to the test by building their own wind turbine models in the classroom setting. Mr. Driscoll challenged the students to work in groups of three and build a turbine that could produce as much energy wattage as possible.

Students were creative, utilizing materials such as poster board, PVC tubing, and balsa wood to create their turbines. The finished projects will be entered into this year's KidWind Challenge, a regional competition in which student groups compete against one another with the turbines they have built. The turbines will be evaluated on their power and design.

According to Mr. Driscoll, "It is important for us to teach students about alternative energy because these are the up-and-coming energies that will be used."

THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT

Over the summer, juniors Kristen Kirkland and Cathryn Menarchem of Girl Scout Troop 3882 and Patrick Sullivan from Boy Scout Troop 161 in Shoreham refurbished Shoreham-Wading River Middle School's greenhouse in an effort to receive Gold Award and Eagle Scout designations, top awards for scouts. Working over 65 hours, the students first conferred with the Holtville Ecology Center and performed much-needed gardening of the overgrown plants. The students then replaced the plastic cover, repaired the bench, mulched, and painted and stained the doors and trim.

The students were honored for their exemplary efforts at a Parent-Teacher Organization meeting in September. Middle School Principal Linda Anthony told those in attendance that in her 22 years in education, she has never seen a project of this scope. "It is truly amazing what these students have accomplished, and I invite everyone to visit the greenhouse and see firsthand the excellent job they have done," Ms. Anthony commented.

Celebrating the Nation's CONSTITUTION



Shoreham-Wading River's elementary and middle school students celebrated the drafting of our nation's "rules" and "code of conduct" during the District's annual Constitution Day. Elementary principals Stephen Donohue, Louis Parrinello, and Jane Ruthkowski, Middle School principal Linda Anthony, and elementary speech teacher Bonnie Zulli brought to life this special event in our

nation's history while dressed in authentic costumes as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Betsy Ross, Martha Washington, and Abigail Adams.

The characters engaged the students, who were lined up in the building's hallways, in an interactive and live history lesson about how the United States crafted the nation's most important legal document and influenced the colonies' developing culture and lifestyle.

Holding a replica of the Constitution and representing George Washington, Wading River Elementary School Principal Stephen Donohue explained that originally his supporters wanted him to be king. He told the students that he did not want to be king, but instead an elected official that runs a democracy.

Benjamin Franklin, portrayed by Miller Avenue Elementary Principal Louis Parrinello, revealed that he was the oldest person, at 81 years of age, who signed the Constitution. Even though he described himself as a "peacemaker" during the period's many political conferences to draft the Constitution, he explained that his pivotal role as an inventor led him to devise a method to create currency for the colonies and to print the Constitution, now housed in Washington, D.C.

Middle School Principal Linda Anthony, dressed as Martha Washington, and teacher Bonnie Zulli, representing Abigail Adams, discussed their roles and historical contributions as the country's First Ladies, while Briarcliff Elementary School Principal Jane Ruthkowski, portrayed as Betsy Ross, recounted her job as an upholsterer. With an American flag draped over her shoulder, Betsy Ross described Mr. Washington's request for her to create the nation's first official flag. She even explained how she was able to design a perfect five-point star to represent each of the colonies.

Constitution Day was not only an exciting and fascinating history lesson for the District's students, but an excellent way for them to get a glimpse into the establishment of this country's laws and to stay connected with the historical figures that worked to create a strong foundation for America and its citizens for centuries to come.



PTO co-presidents (l) Patty Pisani and (r) Jen Desiderio joined SWR Middle School Principal Linda Anthony in recognizing (center, l-r) Kristin Kirkland (represented by her mother, Susan) Patrick Sullivan and Cathryn Menarchem for renovations to the middle school's greenhouse.

Recreation and Fun for All

A Summer of Fun for the Community's Students

The Shoreham-Wading River School District once again opened the doors and athletic fields of Miller Avenue and Wading River Elementary Schools to the community's students enrolled in the popular, annual summer recreation program called Roundout. Originally started in the early 1980s, the Roundout program ran for five weeks in July and August this summer and served students entering kindergarten through sixth grade, as well as many willing student-volunteer counselors.

Roundout is such a popular program that there are almost as many volunteers as there are participants. Students in grades 7-9 start as assistants to the counselors and work their way up to becoming assistant and head counselors. "This program offers a low-cost summer recreational program for the community's children, but is also a great opportunity for students to be hired in their first job," stated Shoreham-Wading River Coordinator of Community

Programs Paul Koretzki. "This is an excellent opportunity for student volunteers to make their best impressions in the workplace, and I often submit job evaluations to their future employers."

Throughout Roundout, the 250 participants were enrolled in a wide range of programs, including general recreation activities on the playground, testing their skills at board games, and creating masterpieces in the art room. Additionally, the students took part in several different theme days. Movie Day, Water Balloon Fight Day, Sports Day, and Ice Cream Social Day were just a few of the participants' favorites. The program's summer activities culminated in a special hour of fun during which the counselors put on a play for the younger students.

"The success of this program lies in its organization," Mr. Koretzki explained. "But we also have a lot of great and dedicated staff to run Roundout each year."



Preventing the Spread of H1N1 INFLUENZA

The New York Statewide School Health Services Center has released recommendations for preventing the spread of H1N1 Influenza.

- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers to clean hands if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw the tissue in the trash after use. If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your arm sleeve.
- Stay at home when you are sick or if you have a fever of 100 degrees (37.8 degrees celsius) or greater, cough, runny nose, or sore throat.
- Students should stay home until at least 24 hours after they are free from fever or signs of fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Celebrating Fall with the Community



The smell of roasted corn hung in the cool crisp air as members of the Shoreham-Wading River community joined in the fall activities at Briarcliff Elementary School's Fall Festival. Sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), this annual event had activities for everyone to enjoy. The students and their families picked pumpkins from the pumpkin patch and decorated them. There were athletic games, face painting and fake tattoo art, and edible treats for anyone who worked up an appetite. The children especially enjoyed wrapping their teachers up like a mummy and boarding the tractor for a traditional hayride!

A Fun and Safe Night Out with Friends

Middle School students from the Shoreham and Wading River communities have the opportunity to gather for an evening of fun-filled activities under the supervision of school district staff. The program is called Teen Recreation Night, and for an admission price of \$3.50, youngsters in grades 6-8 can spend an evening with peers in a game of ping-pong, pool, basketball, and soccer, try their voice in karaoke, or simply socialize with others in a safe environment.

"This program is great, because there is not much to do for students of this age

group," Shoreham-Wading River community programs coordinator Paul Koretzki stated. "The students have such a great time, and we have a wonderful array of activities for them."

Teen Recreation Night supervisors Dotsi Bubaris and Eileen Baird also explained that Teen Recreation Night allows the students from both communities to get to know each other better outside of the classroom.

The program is offered to sixth graders separately, and seventh and eighth graders participate in a joint evening of recreation and fun.



Michele Tejada, Llyric Nelson, and Angelina Cannistra participate in the District's Teen Rec Night

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WILDCAT PRIDE

2009 Homecoming



Spirit and Wildcat pride abounded in the High School and on the football field during the District's week of Homecoming festivities. On October 17, the annual celebration commenced with a parade of class floats, members of the cheerleading team and the Best Buddies Club. The spectators cheered as the themed floats brought to life the storybook images of Aladdin, Jack and the Bean Stalk, Little Red Riding Hood, and Cinderella.

The Vocal Express select chorus members led the Wildcat fans in the singing of the National Anthem. Each of the football team's senior players and their mothers were honored prior to the start of the game. Thankfully, the rain held off as the fans voiced wild

enthusiasm from the stands while the Wildcats marked a victory against the Port Jefferson Royals with a winning score of 28-21.

Prior to the Homecoming game, each class dressed in their colors and tried to outdo one another during a highly spirited pep rally. Each of the school's athletic teams was introduced to the student body and passed in front of the line of cheerleaders, who wowed the students with difficult and gravity-defying acrobatic stunts. Student volunteers elected to participate in pep rally games, such as the pyramid and the ditsy bat. The pep rally ended with the announcement of the homecoming king and queen, Jake Hunter and Kelly Homan, who joined the student body at the Homecoming dance later that evening.



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