



# WR Review

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

WINTER 2010

## Getting a Taste of Healthy Eating

The Shoreham-Wading River School District administration believes that there is a connection between healthy eating habits and learning. In an effort to introduce more fruits and vegetables into the student body's diet, students at Wading River Elementary School and Albert G. Prodehl Middle School were encouraged to taste snack sizes of healthy fruits and vegetables as the first of five nutrition and physical education challenges to be met this year in accordance with the New York State Action for Healthy Kids – Game On grant, sponsored by Stop and Shop grocery stores.

Wading River Elementary and Albert G. Prodehl Middle Schools are two of nine schools statewide to receive a total of \$3,000 in grant monies to encourage students to make healthier life choices through Game On challenges.

Shoreham-Wading River School District Wellness Committee member Michelle Loesch said receiving this grant has placed the District in a unique position to further promote nutrition and physical fitness among the student body. In addition to the grant money, the committee obtained the fruits and vegetables for the first challenge by using a small cash donation from King Kullen and a donation of apples and peppers from Bernie May Farm. Prior to the program, the students completed a survey, which revealed that only 20% of students are eating the recommended daily allowance of fruits and vegetables.

"The Game On activities will make the students aware of why they should eat healthily," Ms. Loesch explained. "Hopefully the percentage of students who eat the recommended daily allowances of healthy foods will increase among the District's student body."

During the next several weeks, the Wellness Committee will discuss future challenges to include a taste test of whole grains, a taste test of dairy products, activities with the food pyramid, and a field day that will incorporate fitness and nutrition exercises.



Alexandra Dougherty, holding five pounds of fat, compares five pounds of muscle being held by her brother Brandon.



Wading River Elementary fifth grader Nichole Visintin displays a plate that identifies proper meal proportions.

## Healthy Students Make Ready Learners

The District believes that students can be empowered to become healthier, more focused, and physically fit learners. Local health and wellness professionals set up informational tables and demonstrations in Wading River Elementary School's gymnasium during the Health and Wellness Fair held this past fall. The goal was to disseminate information to the entire community about how to achieve a healthy and conditioned body and mind.

Students and their parents talked to professionals about dietary requirements and impediments, received a massage, attended a seminar on healthy snacking, and learned about best practices of infant and toddler dental health. Some of the more popular events included introductory yoga and Zumba aerobics classes. The Health and Wellness Fair served as an excellent opportunity for parents to connect with medical professionals, including chiropractors, ear, nose and throat specialists, and nutritionists.

"This is a great event and one that will help put students and their parents on the road to a healthier lifestyle," Wading River Elementary School Principal Stephen Donohue stated. "I am so happy with the outcome. The students have acquired information about how to achieve wellness, which will assist in their ability to learn."



## Winning the Test of Knowledge



Long Island Challenge team members include (l-r) Will Bland, Greg Lubin, Raffaele Miceli, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Ken Myers and advisor Ann Gianfalla.

Shoreham-Wading River High School students showcased their collective intelligence and secured a first-round win during Cablevision's Power to Learn competition known as the Long Island Challenge. The five-member team, which included Will Bland, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Greg Lubin, Raffaele Miceli, and Ken Myers, defeated Shelter Island High School by a score of 410 to 165. The students, coached by advisor Ann Gianfalla, have advanced to the second round of competition as a result of their victory.

The Long Island Challenge is a televised academic quiz show that features the tri-state area's brightest high school students. The grueling competition is designed to test a student's knowledge of history, art, literature, science, and math. Randomly placed bonus questions allow teams to earn additional points during the Challenge's three rounds.

The Long Island Challenge is in its 13th season and showcases the academic talents of students from 64 schools from Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Each fall, high schools from the tri-state area compete during 31 weeks of academic contests, and one school from each region is crowned champion, earning a \$2,500 cash prize for the school. Final winning teams from each region advance to the Challenge Championship to compete for a \$10,000 school prize. Each contestant from this level of competition is awarded \$500.

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School District  
Shoreham, New York 11786

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**Dr. Harriet Copel**  
Superintendent's Message

I would like to wish you a very healthy and happy New Year. The start of another calendar year brings a renewed commitment for our district to provide the best education possible for the students of Shoreham-Wading River. As you probably know, the ways in which we educate our children are constantly changing – how my generation learned is different than what our youngsters are experiencing in school today. Why is all this change necessary? The answer is quite simple: our world has and is rapidly changing, and with it, we must change the way in which we do things. We must prepare our children for the world that will be – not the world that was. It is up to us as parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to offer the programs and resources our students need so that they can compete in a global society.

In early December I was fortunate to travel to China, along with 400 other United States educators, at no cost to the Shoreham-Wading River School District. As I visited schools and met with principals, I realized that the Chinese government invests heavily in improving their schools with an emphasis on improving schools for their most capable students. During this one-week educational visit, I learned that English is taught to all students in China, beginning in the elementary grades and that China sends educators to dozens of other countries so they can learn the customs and traditions of those countries. This enables the teachers to bring these lessons back to their own students, so the children become students of the world. Chinese students are being educated to become professionals who can work in many different places across the globe.

As China continues to become a prominent force in the global economy and as the Chinese strengthen their educational system to prepare their children to be citizens of the world, I realized how important it is for the children of Shoreham-Wading River to be educated to become citizens of the world. What I saw has made me look at our schools and ask “Are we educating our students for the world of the past or the world of the future?” Our present challenge is this: How do we provide evolving, cutting-edge programs for our students – programs that they need to prepare themselves for this ever-changing society – in a time of great economic challenge? I believe that by working together we can answer this question, and continue to develop the curriculum, technology, and educational resources that our children deserve.

## 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  |
|-------------|--|
| February 23 | Board of Education Meeting – Secondary Programs  |
| February 25 | Budget Review – Buildings & Grounds  |
| March 2     | Budget Review – Special Education  |
| March 4     | Budget Review – Elementary Programs  |
| March 9     | Board of Education Meeting – Secondary Programs  |
| March 16    | Budget Review – General Support, Fringe Benefits, and Debt Service                                 |
| March 18    | Budget Review - Athletics, Co-Curricular Activities, Community Programs, and School Age Child Care |
| March 24    | Board of Education Meeting – Board Propositions; Secondary and Elementary Instructional Programs   |
| April 6     | Budget Review – Revenue  |
| April 13    | Board of Education Meeting – Budget Adoption   |
| May 4       | Board of Education Meeting – Budget Hearing  |
| May 18      | 2010-2011 Budget Vote  |

## Education Proposals Earn Grant Monies

Four proposals written by Shoreham-Wading River teachers have resulted in education grant funding awarded to the District from the Mid-East Suffolk Teachers Center (MESTRACT). These innovative and hardworking educators competed for awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 under the Terri Peters Curriculum Initiative Award and the Technology Initiative Award programs. In total, the recipients received \$5,050 to fund various educational projects to benefit students.

The Terri Peters Award Program is designed to provide funding to teachers and administrators in order to implement projects not funded by the district. The purpose of the Technology Initiative Award is to provide educators with additional funding for curriculum-based technology-integrated projects for the classroom.

The Initiative Award recipients have been invited to showcase their projects at the Mini-Grant Showcase in May 2010. The district would like to congratulate the following Initiative Award winners:

### TERRI PETERS INITIATIVE AWARDS:

|                 |                            |         |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Gail Gismondi   | Civil War Reenactment      | \$1,500 |
| Donna O'Connell |                            |         |
| Deborah Lohman  | Live From the Crooked Road | \$1,500 |
| Erin Fasano     |                            |         |
| Lisa McEvoy     | Recipes For Learning       | \$1,000 |

### TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE AWARDS:

|               |                         |         |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Tonia Villano | Laptop Learning Centers | \$1,050 |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------|

## RENOVATING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

During the school year, the facilities department performs projects to maintain and update the District's facilities. Plant facilities administrator Robert Woolsey explained that many of the projects budgeted for in the current year pertain to improving the Middle School.

Asphalt repairs to the Middle School parking lot are an ongoing process, and egress roads and pathways have already been resurfaced with recycled asphalt. Recycled asphalt flooring has also been installed in the school's storage barn.

Middle School athletes will benefit from some improvements. New rubberized flooring has been installed in the weight room. The baseball fields are being prepared for the spring sports season and have been “blechaveted,” or turned over and aerated. Roof and gutter repairs around the new gym have also been completed.

Additionally, lighting in the school library has been repaired and/or replaced, making the room brighter. The bathrooms are being updated with the replacement of all broken and chipped sinks, and toilets with automatic flush valves.

“The staff is working hard and doing a wonderful job of updating the Middle School for the benefit of the staff and the students,” Mr. Woolsey stated.

## Correction to *Fall Newsletter*

In the Fall newsletter, the District regrets that High School student Alexandra Gilliard was omitted from the article “At the Top of Their Class.” Alexandra was one of 40 Shoreham-Wading River High School students who were named AP Scholars by The College Board. We congratulate Alexandra on this great honor and apologize for the error.

## A Community of Practice

Through the District's affiliation with Teachers College at Columbia University, principals and teachers have been continually exposed to the best research based practices in the area of literacy development and reading and writing instruction. This fall, teachers at Miller Avenue, Briarcliff, and Wading River Elementary Schools benefited from a special opportunity to hone their reading and writing instruction skills during an on-site staff development "laboratory."



Teachers College Staff Developer Christine Robson Cook, standing, works with (l-r) Briarcliff Elementary School Principal Jane Ruthkowski, and teachers Pam Abad and Amanda May.



Teachers College staff developer Christine Robson Cook speaks to teachers Linda Burke and Jillian Davey about classroom literacy objectives

During the on-site lab, staff developers, trained by Teachers College co-founders Lucy Calkins and Laurie Pessah, modeled reading lessons in classrooms with an objective that correlates with the Units of Study at each grade level. As the teachers observed the staff developer, teachers acquired new ways to improve student success and learning. After observing the staff developer's implementation, the classroom teacher helped conference with a student or co-taught the remainder of the lesson with the staff developer. At the end of the lab site demonstration, teachers had time to ask questions and plan for future instruction and were anxious to bring the work into their own classrooms.

Briarcliff Elementary School Principal Jane Ruthkowski stated, "Not only do the teachers who participate in these on-site laboratories (approximately six times a year) gain access to valuable tools to improve student literacy acquisition skills, these workshops give the students access to more powerful teachers."

## Parents As Reading and Writing Partners

While much of the Teachers College training is done within the classroom, the program's success also depends on the support of parents. On In October 20 and December 8, approximately 20 parents attended a free day at Teachers College Columbia University called Parents as Reading and Writing Partners. Held at Columbia University in Manhattan, these workshops were held by staff developers and the program's co-founders and centered not only on the program's philosophies and instruction, but taught those in attendance how to have a conversation with a child's teacher about the curriculum and how to move a child forward as a reader and writer.

During the twenty-five or more workshops, parents developed a keen understanding of the curriculum and how to support their student's reading at home. Those who attended a workshop by presenter Laurie Pessah acquired information about the ways in which teachers assess children as "readers." Presenter Mary Ehrenworth spoke to parents about what matters most in the development of strong nonfiction readers and

writers, as well as how spelling, grammar, and vocabulary are essential skills in academic writing. There was also a workshop by presenter Mary Ann Colbert that addressed steps to take at home if a student is not progressing with his or her reading.

Wading-River PTA President and parent Carloyn Visintin reported that the workshops were useful because they explained the tools utilized by District educators in the teaching of reading. For instance, Ms. Visintin's child brought home a book with Post-It notes attached to highlight key areas of the text. By attending the Teachers College workshops in Manhattan, Ms. Visintin learned that when students use Post-It notes in books, it helps them keep track of and think more in depth about what they are reading.

"Teachers College is about the process of becoming a good reader and writer," Briarcliff Elementary School Principal Ms. Ruthkowski remarked. "The success of Teachers College is, in many ways, connected to the schools' parental support and understanding of the program."

## Students Reveal Reading Strategies

Ask any elementary student in the Shoreham-Wading River School District what his or her reading strategies are, and parents will receive a myriad of answers. Teachers College is very much alive in the District and the following statements from students will enlighten readers about the more common strategies utilized during reading time at home and at school.

**Ryan – Kindergarten, Briarcliff:** "I use my eyesight power to look at a page. I also use my pointer (finger) and then say the word."

**Sean – Grade 1, Briarcliff:** "I look for all the little words. I skip words and go back to get more information. Then they make sense."

**Joey – Grade 1, Briarcliff:** "I think about if the word makes sense."

**Sarah – Grade 2, Wading River:** "I think about the characters in books and their feelings. I ask questions in my head, like what is going to happen next. I stop and jot down words I don't know. I make connections to myself like, 'that happened to me.'"

**Aiza – Grade 3, Miller Avenue:** "I use my finger to point to words."

**Declan – Grade 3, Wading River:** "When I read the sentence wrong and I don't get it, I reread the sentence again."

**Bella – Grade 3, Wading River:** "I sound out words. I reread sentences for meaning."

**Zach – Grade 3, Wading River:** "I read captions in nonfiction books."

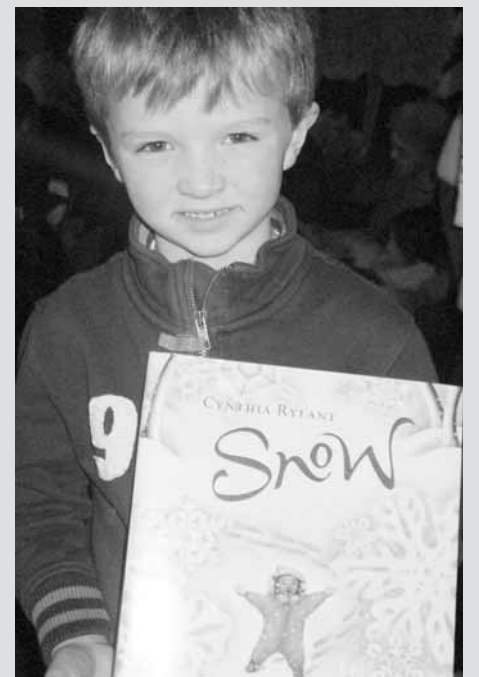
**Tim – Grade 3, Wading River:** "I use my finger to make sure I know where I am."

**Danielle – Grade 4, Miller Avenue:** "When I can't figure out a word, I stretch it out and split it up. When I can't understand, I skip and go back."

**Brittany – Grade 4, Wading River:** "I use Post-Its for summaries, predicting, questions, empathy, and jotting down notes. When your teacher recommends your color dot, you shouldn't pick a level too easy or too hard. Only read your level."

**Arianna – Grade 5, Wading River:** "I learned a lot about inferring and envisioning. Last year I only predicted when I was reading. Now, the books that I'm reading really explain what the character and scenes look like, and it is easier for me to envision. Writing my thinking in my notebook keeps me organized."

**Justin – Grade 5, Miller Avenue:** "If I don't know a word, I look in the dictionary and look at the words after it. I make predictions and inferences based on the character I am reading about. I also make a movie in my mind."



# Superintendent's Conference Day

On November 3, District administrators, teachers, and staff participated in a variety of workshops during the academic year's first Superintendent's Conference Day. Scheduled conference days provide the District's staff with opportunities to collaborate on curriculum planning, explore new and innovative teaching methods, and attend workshops that address issues facing today's students.

Among the 27 workshops offered, several were geared at assisting teachers in the implementation of the District's literacy initiatives. Briarcliff Elementary School Principal Jane Ruthkowski provided a session on the multistep process of assessing students' instructional reading levels using the Teachers College reading assessments. The group included reading specialists and Kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers. Participants learned about the importance of administering the assessments with consistency and how to use the information to inform and plan future instruction for each individual student. Ms. Ruthkowski explained each component of the assessment, which includes fluency, comprehension, and decoding abilities. When these assessments are employed correctly and consistently across grade levels, teachers can properly identify a student's progress over time and assist them in the utilization of appropriate reading strategies during scheduled Reading Workshops. Pearson staff developer, Lori Cadena, also provided grades 3-5 teachers with a *Words Their Way* workshop that explored key features of word study and sorting, scope and sequence, and assessment and grouping. Participants also walked through a typical *Words Their Way* week.

During a workshop with Let Me Learn, Inc. guest instructor Dr. Christine Johnston, teachers gained knowledge about creating a learning environment that increases the students' sense-of-self as learners and understanding learning patterns. Dr. Johnston's more advanced workshop introduced learning processes to "de-mystify" typical items found on standardized tests and statewide assessments. Participants also gained an understanding of test items and acquired effective approaches that go beyond "teaching to the test."

*Parents For Megan's Law* presenter April Langella hosted a workshop for teachers, teaching assistants, psychologists, social workers, and counselors about the specific methods needed to prevent child sexual abuse, and skills adults can teach children to protect themselves. The workshop also reviewed

the signs of sexual abuse and methods of reporting allegations.

Two workshops were held off campus. K-12 science teachers were encouraged to attend Professional Development Day at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, where they explored new science curriculum ideas, as well as strategies for differentiated instruction and inclusion in the science classroom. Meanwhile, art teachers participated in a guided tour of the Nassau County Museum of Art.

Conference Day also offered workshops on technology. High school teachers and teaching assistants were invited to an online research workshop to explore the library's web-based catalogue offerings, digital databases, and 46 online subscription databases. In addition, math teachers updated their skills in integrating SMARTBoard technology into high school mathematics classes. Math teachers also reviewed data collected during the 2008-09 academic year to revise assessments.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harriet Copel reported that Conference Day provided the District's staff with interesting and innovative workshops. "Superintendent's Day provided the staff with an opportunity to develop new ideas, strategies, curricula, and materials and to collaborate on new initiatives, while deepening their work on existing projects."



During Superintendent's Conference Day, guest speaker Dr. Christine Johnston facilitated an exercise that demonstrated her goals to help students gain a sense-of-self in the classroom.

## Showcasing Artwork Across Long Island

Works belonging to talented high school student-artists have been selected for display in two Long Island art exhibits.

Alissa Bruno and Jillian Hauck's art pieces were showcased in the *Nita Elder Juried Senior Student Art Exhibit* at the Bellport Community Center in November. Jill drew a bicycle using charcoal, while Alissa painted her perspective of the view outside one of the high school art room windows. The show is designed to give students insight into the workings of a freelance artist, including the preparation of works for exhibition and judging, and the opportunity to learn from more established and experienced artists.

(Nita Elder was a founder of the South Bay Art Association in 1956, which sponsors this annual show).

The Long Island Museum in Stony Brook selected art pieces from Travis Butler and Gabriella Mahan for the annual *Colors of Long Island: Student Expressions Art Show*. Gabriella submitted a mixed media still life, while Travis's photography series captured the movement of water being poured and then splashing.

The Colors of Long Island art show encourages students to creatively interpret Long Island's landscapes and cultural diversity through different media, including watercolors, sculptures, quilts, drawings, oil pastels, photographs, and computer graphics.



Painting by Alissa Bruno.



Drawing by Jillian Hauck.

## A SPECIAL VISITOR BRINGS BOOKS TO Life for Briarcliff Students

Children's author/illustrator Richard Torrey visited students at Briarcliff Elementary School, as part of a PTA-sponsored Arts In Education program. Mr. Torrey, author of many books including *Almost* – a book about young children wanting to grow up and how they can 'almost' do things their elders can – brought the creative process to life for the young children. He shared his experiences as a child, how he drew whenever he had the opportunity, and his inspiration: Peanuts author/illustrator Charles Schultz.

Mr. Torrey gave students a visual slideshow "tour" of his writing/art studio and discussed the process he goes through when writing and illustrating a book. "It all begins with a single idea – this is why I keep an 'idea journal' and write everything down. If you are having trouble with an idea, look at things a bit differently," he said.

The guest author also showed students the progression of his drawings, from the first sketch to the final painting. Students were surprised to learn that the drawings for *Almost* took an entire ten months to complete! Mr. Torrey concluded his presentation with a captivating reading of *Almost* and gave students a short preview of his next book.



## SWRHS STUDENTS ATTEND "Compassion Without Borders" Leadership Summit

Five Shoreham-Wading River High School students participated in the first annual "Compassion Without Borders" leadership summit, held at Harborfields High School this fall and sponsored by the Suffolk County High School Principals Association (SCHSPA). During the summit, student representatives from every high school in Suffolk County gathered to take part in the unique conference, geared at breaking down geographic borders between the schools and uniting the students to work toward one common cause. Students Ben Canellys, Lauren Abbatiello, Emily Bakos, Brittany Smith, and Jenna Birkmire represented SWRHS at the conference.

For this initial summit the high school leaders gathered to discuss the group's first mission: to raise money for Dylan Thompson, a sophomore at Harborfields High School who suffers from Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Dylan's condition confines him to a wheelchair and presents him with a myriad of health-related issues. Dylan's home is in need of upgrades as it is not wheelchair accessible.

At the Compassion Without Borders summit, each high school pledged to raise \$1,000 for Dylan's cause over the course of the school year. Through this collaborative effort, more than \$50,000 will be raised to help renovate Dylan's home.

To meet Shoreham-Wading River High School's goal of raising their pledged \$1,000, the high school leaders are currently working with High School principal Daniel Holtzman on plans for a fundraising event to be held in March.

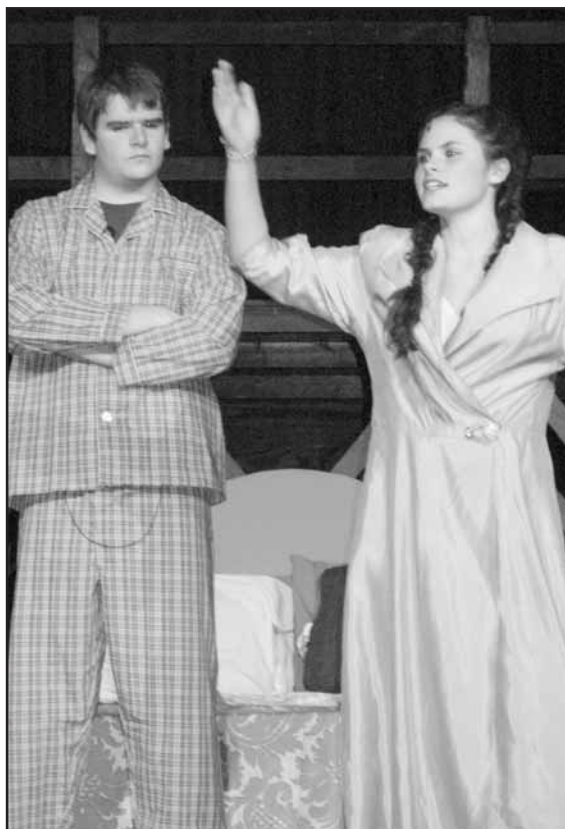


Ben Canellys, Lauren Abbatiello, Emily Bakos, Brittany Smith, and Jenna Birkmire at the first annual Compassion Without Borders summit.

## SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER DRAMA CLUB Wins Applause for Fall Production

Applause resounded from the auditorium during several successful presentations of this year's fall production of *Evita*. Over 140 cast and crew members worked diligently to produce the popular musical about the rise and fall of Argentina's first lady, Eva Peron, who used her feminine powers to climb the ladder of success.

The high school's production of *Evita* challenged students with many demanding musical performances. The cast, however, delivered an impeccable repertoire of popular favorites from the play's original version, including "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina."



## TORIES WIN!

If Prodell Middle School students from Ms. Danielle Senneca's history class had been members of the nation's Second Continental Congress, it is likely that history would have turned out quite differently. During a simulation of this important event, the colonies' representatives chose to remain "loyal" to the Crown of England.

During an assembly, students dressed in colonial garb and defining themselves as Radicals and Tories debated amongst themselves the pros and cons of becoming an independent nation or remaining loyal to England. Representatives from each of the colonies paid close attention to two rounds of speeches and questions before the final vote brought forth a result quite different from the history books.

Ms. Senneca explained to the attending parents that the activity was entirely student-run and organized. For the past month, the students have been studying the American Revolution and have literally stepped into the roles of a Tory, Radical, or Moderate. The goal of this event, Ms. Senneca stated, was to bring alive this nation's history in the classroom.

The Second Continental Congress was a convention of delegates that met in Philadelphia in May 1775, soon after the onset of the American Revolution. The Congress managed a colonial war effort that eventually moved towards independence and acted as a de facto national government, later called the United States.



## RINGING IN THE *Spirit of the Season*

While student-musicians performed in District concerts with more traditional instruments, one group of musicians at Miller Avenue Elementary School took a different approach to creating music. The Miller Avenue Bell Choir, under the direction of teacher Ian Platt, charmed parent and school audiences with the familiar tinkling of hand-held bells.

The Bell Choir was established at Miller Avenue by former music teacher Dan Grable, who came up with the idea after volunteering as a ringer in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Rocky Point. The school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) donated the first set of 25 bells.

Today, the bell choir consists of 25 fifth-grade students, and the group rehearses once a week. Mr. Platt explained that playing in a bell choir is a different kind of musical experience. Normally, a student plays a particular

instrument and is responsible for all of the notes that his or her part demands. The hand bell is not only complex, but requires each student to play one or two musical notes.

"It takes tremendous focus and concentration to have all of the students play their one or two notes at the precise time and location within the piece that they are performing," Mr. Platt stated.



Fifth grader John McCarrick is one of 25 students who plays in the Miller Avenue Bell Choir.

# LEARNING THE MECHANICS OF RESEARCH WRITING

This is the first year that tenth graders are required to write a research paper, and teachers are guiding the students through the process and mechanics of writing in an interdisciplinary English/social studies class at Shoreham-Wading River High School. A requirement to write a research paper in the eleventh grade is already in place, but the administration and teaching staff firmly believe the mandate to write a research paper in tenth grade will not only benefit students throughout their high school careers, but for a lifetime.

“We felt that students need to start writing research papers earlier,” English teacher Jean Branna explained. “We hope that the students will be more comfortable with their research writing and will realize that there is much work before the presentation of a final product.”

The class takes every student step-by-step through the components of writing and organizing a research paper, including the selection and narrowing down of a topic, formulation of a thesis, the location of credible primary and secondary sources, and formatting and citing sources in MLA style. Students are also encouraged to read higher-level scholarly sources in their research of a topic and to utilize the website [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) to avoid plagiarism. The required length of each paper is three to four pages, with a minimum of four sources, and the paper must address the topic of tolerance.

Ms. Branna explained that the students receive much help in researching their paper in the library, where they can find scholarly sources using the district website. Before each paper is written, the student must also summarize each source, so that the teacher is confident that the student understands the information prior to writing the paper.

“Each step is geared to help guide the student toward a successful end product,” Ms. Branna stated.

# Creative WRITING

Third-grade students at Miller Avenue Elementary School celebrated writing this semester with the creation of nonfiction books.

The students were initially asked to pick a topic, based on their interests, before authoring and developing a layout for their book. While writing and designing their books, the young authors utilized nonfiction conventions, which included a table of contents, labels, and photo captions. Some even took their own photos!

Third-grade teacher Ms. Adrian Gilmore explained that the process for this writing assignment was detailed and that it took the students many weeks to craft their books. Each third grader will be responsible for writing three to four books per year.

The best part of the process, however, was the students’ sharing of their finished books with peers and family during a literary celebration called “Tis the Season for Sharing.” Each student proudly read their nonfiction work to an audience over hot cocoa and cookies.



Ms. Adrian Gilmore’s third-grade students: (back row, l-r) Caroline Tyburski, Noah Minarik, Lexi Smith, and (front row, l-r) Noell Spuhler, and Joseph Daleo celebrated the writing of nonfiction books.

# A LIVING HISTORY: VIETNAM VETERAN PETE ADDESSO

## Shares His Vietnam War Experience with Students

In honor of Veterans Day, Vietnam War veteran Pete Addesso of the Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, addressed eleventh-grade American history students at Shoreham-Wading River High School about his personal experiences in Vietnam. His riveting story enlightened the students about the bloody Tet Offensive in Hue City, the imminent danger of entering the tunnels of Cu Cui, and being helicoptered out after he sustained a spinal cord injury while defending a school.

“You should put veterans on a pedestal,” Mr. Addesso told the students. “The most unselfish thing a person can do is fight in a war for his country.”

Mr. Addesso addressed many of the myths that still, to this day, surround the Vietnam War. He explained how veterans, including himself, were ostracized and treated poorly upon returning from Vietnam. He also explained that the media would broadcast Vietnam coverage every evening on the national networks, and that the nation responded with protests.

Mr. Addesso concluded with a discussion about posttraumatic stress disorder, and explained that today’s soldiers are more likely to suffer from this psychological malady due to multiple deployments overseas. He also encouraged the students to ask any questions they may have about his experiences as a soldier.

United States history teacher Ruth Squillace explained that this is the fourth year that Mr. Addesso has talked to history students about veteran issues and his experiences in Vietnam. “He is a wonderful man and a great speaker, and it is a tremendous opportunity for the students to hear his story,” Ms. Squillace stated.



Vietnam veteran Pete Addesso addressed junior United States history students at Shoreham-Wading River High School and is pictured with, l-r, Richard Thalman, Justyn Ceruti, Sara Ribaud, Marissa Kluber, Kris Miller and U.S. history teacher Ruth Squillace.

# Students of the Month

The District would like to congratulate the following High School students on being named Students of the Month for the months of September through November.

**SEPTEMBER**

- Pelle Hall – Science
- Michelle Perricone – Social Studies
- Justyn Ceruti – Business
- Christian Munoz – LOTE
- Cari Gostic – Physical Education
- Breanna Bachmann – Math
- Nicholas Azzara – Physical Education
- Gary Hauck – ELA
- Jessica Rhodes – Health
- Nicole Caligiuri – Music
- Eric Steiger – Technology

- Gabriella Mahan – ELA
- Chelsea Delia – Physical Education
- Madeline Massa – Science
- Charles DeNoto – Business
- Raffaele Miceli – Social Studies
- Daniel Fitzpatrick – Social Studies
- Kenneth Myers – Social Studies
- Christopher Higgins – LOTE
- Alyssa Pisani – Art
- Brandon Hughes – Technology

- Sarah Rose – Science
- John Keck – Social Studies
- Celia Werner – Physical Education
- Brian Lachenmey – Physical Education

**OCTOBER**

- Lauren Araujo – Math
- John Keck – Social Studies
- William Bland – Social Studies
- Gregory Lubin – Social Studies
- Justyn Ceruti – Physical Education

**NOVEMBER**

- Alissa Bruno – Guidance
- Luis Morales – Business
- Nicole Caligiuri – Music
- Codi Anne Mullen – Math
- Cari Lynn Gostic – LOTE
- Justin Petito – Technology
- Christopher Higgins – ELA



September Students of the Month showcase their certificates.

## HELPING THE COMMUNITY'S *Needy Families*

Under the direction of teacher Kevin Mann, the Shoreham-Wading River High School community relations class hosted the annual Holiday Project to benefit less-fortunate families in the community. Some of the events held this year included a giving tree, Holiday Project T-shirt sale, Fun Bear sale, Pictures with Santa, House Group food drive, raffles, cheesecake sale, King Kullen food drive, Christmas tree sale, recycling drive, blood drive, and Befriend a Family (donating gifts and food to a family). Not only did everyone who became involved learn a tremendous amount about themselves and others, participants were part of the District's special tradition of helping families in the community that are truly in need.



Shoreham-Wading River High School seniors Nicole Capuano and Anthony Pisani sold bear grams to benefit the annual Holiday Project.

## Raising Dollars for *Cancer Research*



Students in Mr. Korchma's and Ms. Walter's classes at Briarcliff Elementary School and other classes Districtwide are participating in the Math-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. During the Math-A-Thon, students obtain sponsors, complete their Funbook by solving a variety of math problems, and collect donations. The benefits of the Math-A-Thon include improved math and comprehension skills, the ability to solve age-appropriate math problems, and gaining an understanding of the importance of helping others. Over the past nine years, Shoreham-Wading River School District has collected approximately \$12,000 in donations for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the world's largest childhood cancer research hospital.

## Giving to Those in Need

In response to Long Island's food bank shortages, the Miller Avenue Student Council hosted a two-week food collection campaign. Each class competed to see how many provisions they could stockpile, resulting in the collection of 1,200 pounds of canned food and boxed goods and a total of 1,139 items for the Long Island Cares Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Student Council members were also invited to tour the food bank with council facilitators Ms. Griffin and Ms. Gilmore.



# WILDCAT PRIDE

## Sports Wrap-Up



The fall sports season concluded with many outstanding accomplishments on the field and in the classroom. The undefeated Varsity Field Hockey team captured the Suffolk County Class B and Small School Championships, while the Boys Cross-Country team was also named Small School Champions. Six varsity teams were named New York State Scholar-Athlete teams, having obtained a 90 percent or better cumulative academic average. Additionally, the Varsity and Junior Varsity Girls Tennis, Junior Varsity Boys Soccer, and Middle School Blue Field Hockey teams were recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship and received the Section XI Sportsmanship Award for their respective sports and levels. Here is a list of the athletes' many accomplishments.

**BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY:** Scholar-Athlete Team, League VI Champs (7th consecutive League title), Conference III Champs, PAL Invitational winners, Suffolk Officials winners, and Brown Invitational winners, 53 Dual Meets without a loss  
 Justin Andrews – *All-Conference*  
 James Hunt – *All-League, All-Conference, All-County, All-State, Conference III Champion, Jim Smith Invitational, and Section XI State Team*  
 John Lee – *All-League, All-Conference, All-County, and Section XI State Team*  
 Chris Pohlot – *All-League, All-Conference, All-County, Brown Invitational winner, Suffolk Coaches and Suffolk Officials winner*  
 Evan Purdy – *All-League, All-Conference, and Section XI State Team*  
 Kevin Sanders – *All-League, All-Conference, All-County, PAL Invitational winner, and Section XI State Team*  
**GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY:** Scholar-Athlete Team, County Team Qualifier for Division III  
 Caitlin Condron – *All-League (2nd Team)*  
 Codi Anne Mullen – *All-League, All-Conference, County Team Qualifier, Tom Knipping Invitational*  
 Corinne Wiederkehr – *All-League, All-Conference*

**FIELD HOCKEY:** Scholar-Athlete Team, Sportsmanship Award (Ranked #1 Suffolk County team for four consecutive years), Division Champs, Small School Champs, County Champs  
 Kaitlyn Brosco – *All-County, All-State*  
 Chelsea Creta – *All-County Honorable Mention*  
 Erin McMullan – *All-County*  
 Debi-Michelle Jantzen – *All-County, All-State*  
 Emily Pflumm – *All-Division*  
 Stephanie Sorrentino – *All-County*  
 Kaitlyn Taddeo – *All-County Honorable Mention*

**FOOTBALL:** Scholar-Athlete Team  
 Dylan Bates – *All-Division (2nd Team)*  
 Dalton Crossan – *All-Division*  
 Dylan Gorman – *All-Division*  
 Matt Kniesel – *All-County, All-Division*  
 Ryan MacAlary – *All-Division (2nd Team)*

**BOYS SOCCER:**  
 Andrew Houck – *Academic All-County*  
 William Miller – *All-League*  
 Christopher O’Gorman – *All-Conference*  
 Ben Quinn – *All-County*  
 Dominick Squicciarino – *All-League*

**GIRLS SOCCER:** Scholar-Athlete Team  
 Lauren Birkmire – *All-League*  
 Shannon McDonnell – *All-Conference*  
 Trista Rivera – *All-County*  
 Alexandra Schechner – *All-Conference*  
 Megan Seabrook – *All-County*  
 Kari Quinn – *All-County, All-State*

**SWIMMING:**  
 Kristen Purdy – *All-County, USA Scholastic All-American Team, State Meet Competitor, 100 Butterfly County Champ, Second in County in 200 Individual Medley*

**Girls Tennis:** Scholar-Athlete Team and Section XI Sportsmanship Award  
 Abbott Brant - *All-League*  
 Aimee Manfredo - *All-League*  
**Boys Volleyball:**  
 Erik Anderson – *All-County*  
 Andrew Bentivegna – *All-Division Honorable Mention*  
 John Mattia – *All-Division Honorable Mention*  
 Dan Speruzzi – *All-Division*

**Girls Volleyball:** Scholar-Athlete Team  
 Amanda Criscito – *All-League Honorable Mention*  
 Emma Houlihan – *All-League, All-Conference*  
 Chelsea Hughes – *All-League Honorable Mention*  
 Madeline Massa – *All-League Honorable Mention*

## Emergency Closing

When it is necessary to close due to inclement weather conditions or other emergencies, announcements will be made:

On the District's website  
[www.swrschools.org](http://www.swrschools.org)

Through the District's Connect-Ed Automated Phone System

Through the following radio and television stations:  
 Radio: WALK (97.5 FM), WBLI (106.1 FM), WBAB (102.3 FM), WRIV (1390 AM), WRCN (103.9 FM), KJOY (98.3 FM), WHLI (1100 AM), WMJC (94.3 FM), B103 (103.1 FM), and WLIE (540 AM)  
 TV: Cablevision Channel 12 – News 12 Long Island, CBS Channel 2, and WPIX Channel 11

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SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER  
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