



## Students Selected as Young Math Scholars

High School students **Jaclyn LaSita** and **Christine Joseph** are two of 75 students selected as Young Scholars of Mathematics by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for gifted and talented Students at SUNY College Old Westbury.



Their acceptances were based on recommendations from math teachers Ms. Becker and Ms. Fraser, a rigorous examination, a school transcript, and a brief statement from each student.

Jaclyn and Christine will spend 60 hours in class during 20 Saturday mornings on related outside projects. The curriculum will cover mathematical topics from algebra, geometry, and number theory that are not included in the standard course of high school study.

## Winning Top Music Honors

Student-musicians **Abigail Fayette** and **Melaina Badalian** have been selected to perform for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-Eastern Ensembles to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 31, 2011.



Abigail was recently selected to perform a violin solo and was one of 100 student-violinists to perform with the String Orchestra at NYSSMA's All-State Concert in Rochester this fall. In addition, Melaina was accepted as one of 29 French horn players to perform with the Symphonic Band. Their participation in these concerts qualified them to be nominated for the bi-annual National Association of Music Education, or MENC, All-Eastern Honors groups, the highest honor a music student can achieve.

## District Schools Take on the Issue of Bullying

Throughout the Shoreham-Wading River School District, administrators are making efforts to ensure that students are informed about how to recognize and respond to the damaging impacts of bullying and cyberbullying.

"It is our goal to provide students, staff, and parents the greatest range of tools and strategies for increasing awareness of bullying and preventing it from creating a negative learning environment in the schools and in our community," Director of Curriculum and Instruction Alan N. Meinster stated.

At **Briarcliff Elementary**, the lessons of "bucket filling," or doing and saying positive things for others, continues to be reinforced through readings and activities. The Caring Kids program is also being implemented in each classroom. The school psychologist uses story telling, role playing, and puppetry to teach empathy and respect for differences, and to respond to "bucket dipping" behaviors.

In September, the **Miller Avenue Elementary School** PTO sponsored an anti-bullying assembly entitled "No Bullies Allowed." This program focused on helping students identify, respond to, and halt bullying behaviors. A parent guide entitled "Net Cetera" was also mailed home to provide parents with information on how to discuss online safety with their children.

During faculty meetings, teachers and support staff at **Wading River Elementary School** discuss District policies related to bullying and cyberbullying and how to recognize these behaviors in the classroom and building as a whole. Suffolk County Police Officer Nancy Ward of the PoliceSmart Program has also presented fifth-grade students at Wading River and Miller Avenue Elementary Schools with the tools to examine cyberbullying and to stay safe while using the Internet.

**Prodel Middle School** continues to provide ongoing programs aimed

at bullying and cyberbullying. In November, sixth-grade students attended an assembly on identifying and responding to bullying behaviors and the forms of online bullying. In January, seventh graders will participate in a program on autism awareness and appreciating differences. During the spring semester, seventh and eighth graders will attend a forum on sexting, the social environment in school, assessing bullying, obtaining parent and staff support for the prevention of bullying, and online rules for safe texting.

At a **High School** workshop, ninth-grade students were recently provided with information on common methods of bullying and cyberbullying. The students discussed the methods for addressing situations where they observed or were subjected to cyberbullying. At a November staff meeting, District employees viewed the Southern Poverty Law Center's video entitled "Bullied" and then discussed the impact of bullying on students. Plans are currently being developed to host a parent forum on cyberbullying and sexting during the spring semester.

In addition to building level initiatives to handle bullying and cyberbullying, the District continues to support staff with programs and training. During the November Superintendent's Conference Day, a cyberbullying workshop was presented by two of our middle school guidance counselors. District monitors also attended a workshop on positive supervision and discipline designed to help identify and address bullying incidents amongst students under their supervision. Through a program entitled "Adventures in Peacemaking," staff explored a variety of activities and strategies to demote bullying and to encourage the development of peaceful and safe learning environments. Additional workshops on recognizing, targeting, addressing, and reducing bullying behaviors are planned for Superintendent's Conference Day in March.

Shoreham-Wading River  
School District  
Shoreham, New York 11786

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 3  
Shoreham, N.Y. 11786

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
Postal Patron

## the news inside

- Budget Preparation Dates.....Page 2*
- Reading Achievement Goals.....Page 4*
- Accelerated Math.....Page 5*
- Around the Schools.....Pages 6-7*
- Sports Wrap-Up.....Page 8*

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



As with the beginning of school in September, the New Year is a time to review the past and consider the future. During the first four months of this school year, Shoreham-Wading River students have been receiving more intensive and rigorous curricula. The elementary students are being asked to read and write more often and for longer periods of time. Math activities are being redesigned so that all students gain a deeper understanding of mathematics. In September, sixth graders began the first year of the accelerated math course leading to the Integrated Algebra Regents in eighth grade and all seventh and eighth-grade students are participating in an honors curriculum in Social Studies. Moving to an all-honors English curriculum in the Middle School is also under discussion.

These changes are prompting corresponding changes in the High School. High school students are encouraged to take Advanced Placement (AP) and college credit bearing courses (some AP courses also allow the students to earn college credit). This year, 295 students are enrolled in Advanced Placement courses and 97 students are enrolled in college credit bearing courses.

Our District's work to raise the standards for academic success stems from two core concerns. One is to prepare students for the changing curriculum and assessments. The NYS Learning Standards are being replaced with the Common Core State Standards. Beginning in 2012-2013, State assessments will be based on these new guidelines. This school year and next will be transition years. Assessments will contain more varied questions and longer reading passages. To be successful, students must be more accomplished readers and thinkers than was required previously. To do this, they need to read and write often and for sustained periods of time. In the elementary schools, student reading logs are used to promote reading at home which is critical to their academic progress. The most important factor in improving reading and writing is for students to read and write; and the most important factor in improving math is for students to use math. Parents are critical partners in educating our children and parental support for reading, writing and math at home is essential to student academic success.

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, we understand that assessments will include traditional test items and newly constructed performance items. These assessments will be linked to national standards and assessments. Students will be tested on their ability to think critically, solve complex problems, conduct research, and write. Our students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade will take the new assessments. Information about the changes will be sent to districts as the State finalizes their work in this area. In the meantime, we are preparing for these changes now by raising standards and revising curricula.

In addition, we are increasing standards for academic success to ensure that our students are college and career ready when they graduate and that they have the skills to be competitive in the global work force. The State Education Department is revising the high school graduation requirements so that students will be required to achieve mastery in more courses. Although we do not yet know what the final revisions will be, we are encouraging students to study math and science for four years and to continue taking courses in art, music, and a language other than English. The changes in Middle School curricula support the State's goals and we will continue to review and revise our District's secondary course content, student assignments and instructional strategies, as needed.

Our District has begun the process of planning for the 2011-2012 budget. Please refer to the budget workshop dates our District has planned listed to the right. I encourage community involvement throughout the process and look forward to your feedback. Compiling the 2011-12 budget will be a difficult process for all districts on Long Island, as we are all faced with a set of financial challenges. Among these are the expiration of Federal Stimulus funds that we have received for the past two years; a continued drop in New York State aid; a continued escalation of mandated costs for teachers and employees' retirement systems; and the possibility of a 2% tax cap as proposed by Governor Cuomo.

Despite these challenges, our District must find avenues of supporting the positive changes mentioned above that we have been making in our curriculum. We must continue to provide our children with the resources they need to succeed – not only on State assessments, but on becoming college and career ready.

## MEGAN'S LAW INFORMATION

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

## SWR BUDGET MEETINGS AND SCHEDULE

All meetings are at 8:00 p.m.

February 1	Tuesday	BOE	Considerations for the 2011-2012 Budget
February 15	Tuesday	BOE	Transportation and High School Programs
March 1	Tuesday	BOE	Buildings and Grounds, Budgeted Capital Projects and Voter Approved Capital Projects
March 3	Thursday		Special Education, Nurses, Social Worker, and Psychological Services
March 8	Tuesday		Elementary Programs and Curriculum Development and Supervision
March 15	Tuesday	BOE	Secondary Programs, Library and Guidance, and Instructional Technology
March 22	Tuesday		General Support, Fringe Benefits, and Debt Service
March 24	Thursday		Athletics, Co-curricular Activities, Community Programs, and Adult Education
March 29	Tuesday		Secondary and Elementary Instructional Programs
April 5	Tuesday	BOE	Revenue Budget
April 12	Tuesday (Tentative)		Budget Adoption
May 3	Tuesday	BOE	Budget Hearing
May 17	Tuesday	BOE	Budget Vote

## Emergency Closings

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), WLIE (540 AM)  
TV: Channel 12 – News 12 Long Island

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE DISTRICT OFFICE OR THE SCHOOLS, AS WE NEED TO KEEP THE TELEPHONE LINES FREE FOR EMERGENCY CALLS.

For Before/After Child-Care Programs:

Delayed Openings - No morning program  
Early Dismissal - No afternoon program  
School Closings - No morning or afternoon program

## Introducing a Redesigned District Website

The District recently unveiled a redesigned website which highlights the many events and achievements of our students and staff, as well as important school news, information, and District policy. To access the website, please log onto the web address [www.swrschools.org](http://www.swrschools.org). It is our hope that students, parents, and members of the community will utilize this website as an important communication tool and link to the Shoreham-Wading River School District.

# PAYING TRIBUTE

In celebration of Veterans Day, students at Shoreham-Wading River High School participated in an assembly that allowed interaction with veterans and active duty soldiers of war. Marine Sergeant Chris Johnson and Staff Sergeant John Gallagher visited the school to discuss a variety of topics with students.

To begin the program, senior Kyle McElhone played "Taps" to set the mood. Sergeant Johnson and Staff Sergeant Gallagher then provided students with a history of Veterans Day and its importance to Americans. In addition, they spoke about the goals of the Marine Corps, its mission in times of war and peace, and the physical and tactical training the soldiers endure. Students also learned how they can help veterans and wounded soldiers through various organizations and volunteer work.

The program continued with a discussion on the educational and financial opportunities available to students, the characteristics and values of the Marines, and the roles enlisted soldiers play to protect the United States and its allies. To conclude, the students viewed a Marine Corps Birthday video, which included interviews with veterans who reflected on their service.

Thank you to social studies teacher Ruth Squillace, who coordinated the event for the fifth straight year. Ms. Squillace will continue her partnership with the Marines by attending an educator's workshop at Paris Island, South Carolina (home of the Marines). During her time there, Ms. Squillace will be learn more about the Marine Corps and participate in physical training through a special scholarship she received. Thank you also to student Aja Keys and her father, who assisted in coordinating the Marine's visit.



Marine Sergeant Chris Johnson and Staff Sergeant John Gallagher discussed the importance of Marine Corps service during a Veterans Day assembly in the high school auditorium.



(From left to right): Sergeant Johnson (USMC), Tim Murphy, John Clark, Kristen Suarez, Chris Ray, Christina Scrocco, Joanna Wood, Danielle Pedulla, Staff Sergeant Gallagher (USMC), Mrs. Ruth Squillace, and Aja Keys.

# Students Reflect on "Together We Can"

This year, for the first time, students at Shoreham-Wading River High School were invited to participate in the annual PTA Reflections Program, a national competition that encourages students to express themselves artistically based on a common theme. This year's theme of "Together We Can" drew a wide variety of responses from students, from short stories and poems to self-portraits and photography. In addition to submitting an artistic work, students were required to write an essay that explained how their works of art related to the chosen theme.

Congratulations to the following **High School** winners, who will continue on to the next level of competition with the Suffolk Region PTA:



SWRHS Reflections winners (from left to right): Raeann Mariella, Isabelle Marcelin, Emma Stoll, Samantha Merzbacher, and Marisa Bruno.

**Literature**

- First Place – *Isabelle Marcelin*
- Second Place – *Raeann Mariella*

**Visual Arts**

- First Place – *Nicole Cortina*
- Second Place – *Emma Stoll*

**Photography**

- First Place – *Marisa Bruno*
- Second Place – *Samantha Merzbacher*

**Wading River Elementary School** students also submitted entries to the Reflections contest. Principal Stephen Donohue said, "We really encourage participation at our school. Our students are all winners if they participate!" The school recently recognized the following students who will continue to the regional competition:

**Literature**

- Award of Excellence – *Samantha Hunt and Jordan McClintock*

- Award of Merit – *Ryan Ledda and Paul Loscalzo*

- Honorable Mention – *Kathleen Loscalzo*

**Visual Arts**

- Award of Excellence – *Samantha Hunt, Trevor Kessel, and Cayden Mulroy*

- Award of Merit – *Brennan Gorman, Aaron McClintock, and Danielle Perner*

- Honorable Mention – *Alexandra Borriello and Jordan McClintock*

**Photography**

- Award of Excellence – *Lydia Kessel, Nicolette Ness, and Julianna Kohlus*

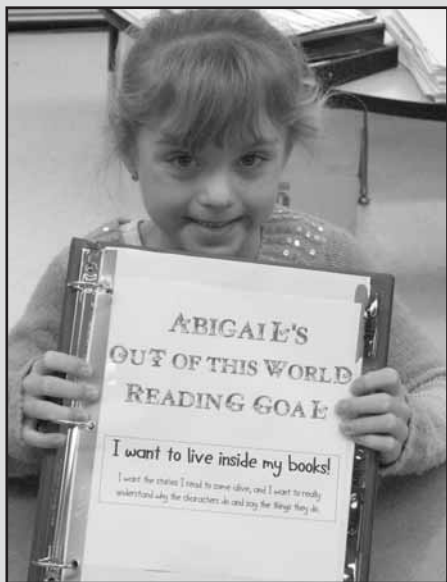
- Award of Merit – *Kathleen Loscalzo, Joseph Brown, and David "DJ" Brown*

- Honorable Mention – *Reagan Gulotta*



Students from Wading River Elementary School were winners in the PTA Reflections Program contest.

# Students Set Goals for Reading Achievement



Abigail Wing holds a binder that contains her daily reading goals.

Successful adults create goals and determine the steps they need to achieve them. With this idea in mind, teachers and students in all three of the District's elementary schools are establishing daily reading goals to become better readers.

At **Briarcliff Elementary School**, teachers set daily goals for the District's youngest students. For instance, a daily goal might ask students to read independently for five minutes to help them build "reading and writing muscles."

Principal Jane Ruthkowski explained, "The goal is for students to read for sustained periods of time by gradually challenging themselves to push further."

At Briarcliff, students also meet with their teachers individually or in small groups, called "conferences," to discuss individual reading goals.

At **Wading River Elementary School**, Principal Stephen Donohue explained that teachers encourage students to accomplish specific goals, such as envisioning a story in their head, much like a movie. Another goal each student is working on is the ability to make connections between a story and other literary texts, as well as themselves, in order to derive meaning from the content. In order to accomplish these goals, the students are given strategy cards with exercises to help them look, hear, see, and feel the details of a story.

"Down the road, these students will be deeper thinkers and more proficient," Mr. Donohue noted.

In Michelle McCarthy's class at **Miller Avenue Elementary School**, the students look at the big goals of becoming a proficient reader. In recording goals in a binder, the students have learned that in understanding the big picture, they must first accomplish smaller goals.

In Marcus Vallina's third-grade class, students help each other attain goals on a blog board, where students place their successes and daily reading goals. Fellow classmates can then read their classmates' blogs about what reading techniques work and then respond with suggestions. Mr. Vallina can also blog to the students with suggestions on how to become better readers. In a recent blog, Jake De Paoli wrote that his goal for the month is to try to remember what happens in the former chapters of the book he is reading.

Ms. Danielle Algieri has employed a similar method in her classroom with an instant messaging board. Much like a blog, students can post their daily goals with instant messages, which are answered by the teacher each day. "The students love the instant message I write to them, and the whole process comes in handy when I discuss a student's reading abilities with a parent during teacher conferences," Ms. Algieri stated.

Mr. Vallina explained that the key to a student becoming a better reader is setting goals. "The student has to know what he or she needs to work on," he stated. "Reaching these goals is a lot of hard work."



Jake DePaoli and teacher Marcus Vallina point out a reading goal on the classroom's blogging board.

## Book of the Month Club Celebrates Reading, Cultivates Love of Literacy

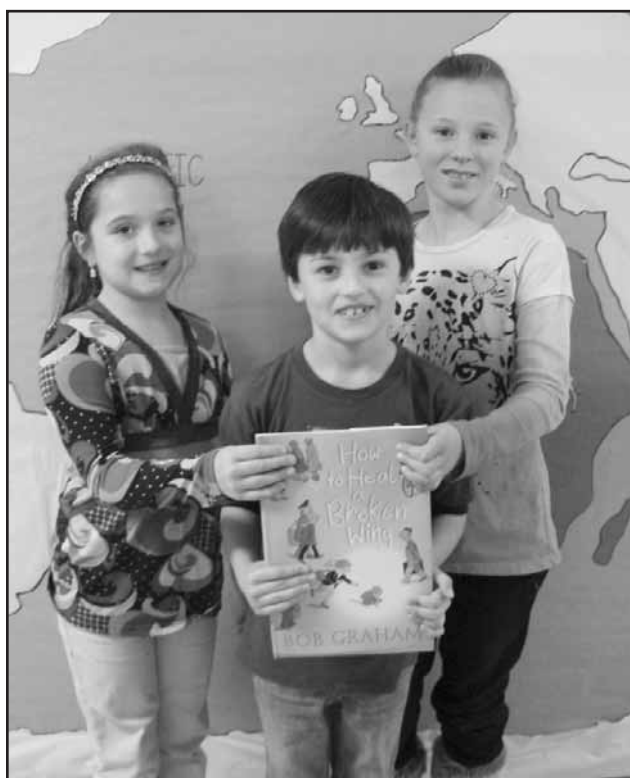
At each of the District's elementary schools, students are reaping the benefits of a Book of the Month Club. Now in its third year at Briarcliff Elementary, Principal Jane Ruthkowski chooses a book to share with her students at the beginning of each month. She then wraps the book and presents one copy to each class throughout the school. "It is my monthly gift of literacy to the students," said Ms. Ruthkowski.

The books are chosen to correlate with the school's character education program or a unit of study. Principals at all three elementary schools have noticed that the program has become a motivator for children to read. "The love of literacy is so important," Ms. Ruthkowski continued. "This program not only brings our three elementary schools together, but reinforces important lessons with our students."

At Wading River Elementary School, Principal Stephen Donohue takes the monthly title to each of the classrooms. His choice of title coincides with the two other elementary schools and is usually linked to a monthly theme. "We use this opportunity to get the students excited about reading," Mr. Donohue stated.

Miller Avenue Elementary School Principal Lou Parrinello said the students get very excited when the Book of the Month announcement is made over the loudspeaker. One student from each class is called to his office to take the "special gift" to his or her classroom, and he makes sure to read the book to each class.

"This is an activity the students look forward to each month," Mr. Parrinello explained. "The students here love to read!"



Miller Avenue students, l-r, Page Fabian (Grade 4), Tristan Costello (Grade 5), and Kendall Pluschau (Grade 4) display the District's Book of the Month choice.

## Books and Blankets

Approximately 180 pajama-clad readers congregated in the Miller Avenue library to participate in the annual Books and Blankets Read-In, organized by the PTA. Students snuggled up with a blanket and a book with friends and special grownups to engage in the adventures of their favorite characters. Midway through the program, the students received a preview reading of November's book of the month, *The Secret of Saying Thanks*, read by School Principal Louis Parrinello, and departed with their own book light.



Miller Avenue students Anna Baumeister and Terrence Nolan.

## Excelling at Accelerated Math

Educational research indicates that students who take more mathematics courses during high school tend to be more successful in life, and more New York schools are adopting this idea. Shoreham-Wading River administrators and math teachers also believe in the importance of a strong math background and have been working closely with consultants Cornelius DeGroot and Nancy Letts to effectively administer the newly adopted accelerated math program.

This is the first school year in which an entire cohort will move through the accelerated program at Prodel Middle School. This program will allow students to sit for the Integrated Algebra Regents examination in the eighth grade and receive their first high school math credit. Prior to the adoption of this program, only a select group of students were able to take the Regents exam until ninth grade. Now all but a few students will be able to take advantage of earning Regent's credit in the eighth grade and have the opportunity to take more math courses during their high school tenure.

Subject leader Lynn Losquadro stated that the students who decide not to opt out of the program have embraced accelerated math and have been living up to the District's expectations. "The students are learning to discover rules that make sense to them, thus helping them to develop a conceptual understanding of math," Ms. Losquadro explained.

During a recent professional development seminar, Dr. DeGroot and Ms. Letts explained how to build tiered lessons for students on all levels (differentiation) and to condense the new math curriculum to effectively teach multiple topics in less time. Teachers also reviewed foundational math structures that can be utilized in the curriculum next year. In addition, they learned how to use manipulatives for discovery and strategies to more effectively teach mathematics concepts.

Ms. Losquadro explained that the success of the program is, in part, attitude. "When teachers have learned to like math and have passed that attitude down to their students, the students excel."

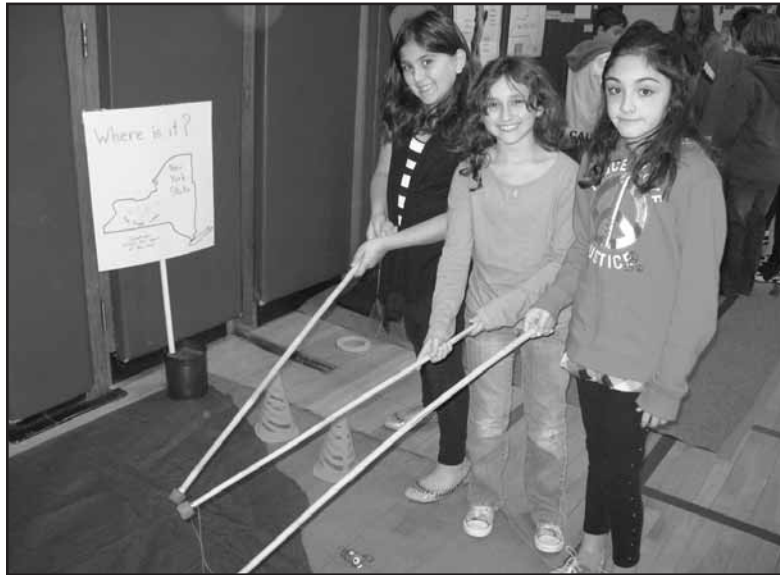


Math consultant Cornelius DeGroot works with math teachers on accelerated math principles.

## Curriculum Comes "Alive" at Wading River

At Wading River Elementary School, students recently discovered the history of New York State through an interactive "Curriculum Alive" presentation during their gym classes. Students learned about state traditions, customs, and geography, among other topics, while rotating to a variety of stations set up in the gymnasium. At one center, students could trek through the Adirondack Mountains, while at another station, they could "fish" for brook trout, the official fish of New York State. Students also tested themselves on state trivia through a hands-on matching game.

The special unit was sponsored by the Wading River PTA and presented by Cliff and Pat Heinze, retired physical education teachers from the Smithtown School District.



## Students of the Month

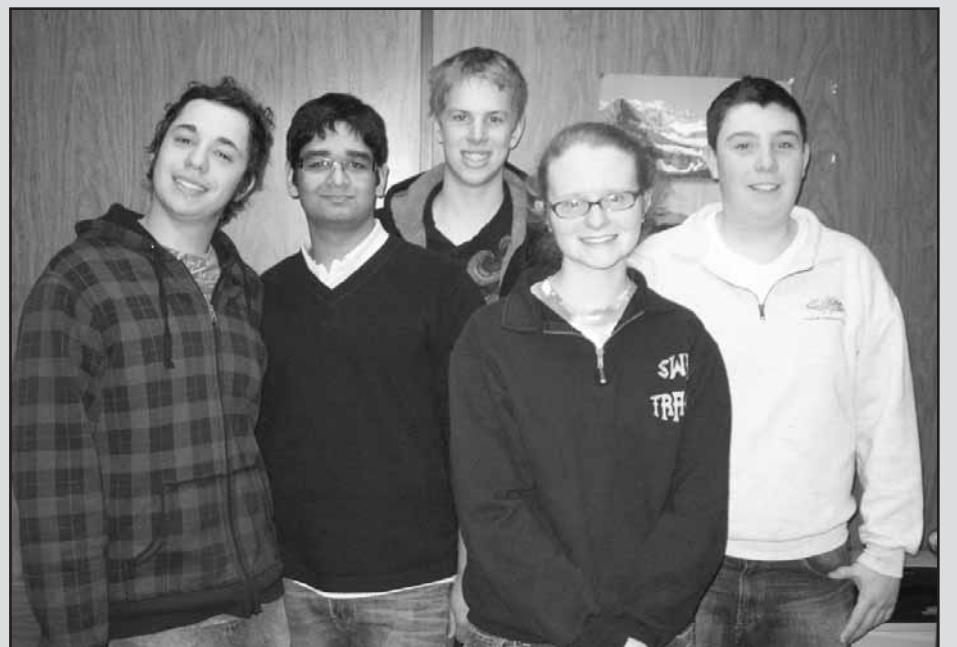
The high school administration would like to congratulate the following students for their selection as Students of the Month for October and November.

Kristopher Barr – English  
 Kathryn Birkmire – Math  
 Jeremy Buro – Science  
 Cari Lynn Gostic – Social Studies  
 Audrey Kelly – English  
 Jared Lambert – English

Wheveline Orvil – French  
 Megan Safranek – Technology  
 Elizabeth Sietzle – Social Studies  
 Zachary Sperling – Health  
 Eric Steiger – Technology  
 Rachel Szymanski – Spanish

## This is a Public Service Announcement!

Along with the Eastern Suffolk BOCES TV and Film class, six high school students volunteered to develop a Public Service Announcement (PSA) regarding the Social Host Law, which was aired on Channel 12, Bravo, Food Network, MTV, VH1, AMC, and ESPN this fall. **Kyle Barr, Chirag Raparia, Gary Hauck, Kim Giacalone, Dan Hauser, and Tyler Yaskanich** (not pictured) helped to write the script and will again volunteer their skills to collaborate on another commercial, entitled, "How Not Every Teenager Drinks."



## Wildcat Pause Editors Win Prestigious National Award

*Wildcat Pause* co-editors **Abbott Brant** and **Samantha Lacovara** were first-place and honorable mention winners, respectively, in the Gold Circle Award competition sponsored by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

The Gold Circle Awards recognize the superior writing by student journalists throughout the country. The judges are experienced journalists and educators familiar with the context surrounding student journalism currently produced in schools and colleges.

Abbott's first-place entry in the competition's single-subject news/feature package category was entitled "Teens and the media: What's the impact?" It appeared in the school newspaper's April 2010 issue. Abbott is currently a high school senior and plans to study journalism and communications in college.

Samantha's December 2009 editorial, entitled "Holiday magic may fade, but importance does not," also received an honorable mention in the competition.

The *Wildcat Pause* is published monthly and covers issues and events relevant to the school community. The students responsible for reporting, editing and production are enrolled in the high school's Journalism 1-4 classes, taught by teacher Jean Branna.



*Wildcat Pause* co-editors **Abbott Brant** (left) and **Samantha Lacovara**.

## Seniors Realize Early Action

It is always an exciting time for seniors who are awaiting an acceptance from the college or university for which they applied. For 13 students, the wait is over. The following students have received early action and early decision acceptances from higher educational institutions along the eastern seaboard. To date, the Shoreham-Wading River High School guidance department has processed approximately 1,000 applications to colleges and universities throughout the nation.

- Chynna Anuszewski – Early Action – *SUNY Oneonta*
- Chelsea Carlen – Early Action – *SUNY Cobleskill* and *SUNY Delhi*
- Sarah Franck – Early Decision – *Bucknell University*
- Meagan Hearney – Early Decision – *Swarthmore College*
- Sydney Koeppel – Early Action – *Sacred Heart University*
- Cali Lavey – Early Action – *Northeastern University*
- Caitlyn Maio – Early Action – *Siena College*
- Jennifer Moldovan – Early Action – *Mount Saint Mary University, Roanoke College, High Point University, Queens University of Charlotte, University of Scranton, York College*
- Michael Peraza – Early Decision – *Cornell University*
- Joseph Skorupski – Early Decision – *Manhattan College*
- Paige Tilton – Early Decision – *High Point University*
- Danielle Kennedy – Early Action – *University of Tampa*
- Jaclyn Bentivegna – Early Decision – *Sacred Heart University*

Students who have received early action and early decision acceptances to colleges and universities are pictured with guidance counselors Sal Rosato, Lucy Eschbach, and Alicia Mirabella.



## HS Thespians Perform "Fiddler on the Roof"

The administration would like to congratulate the cast and crew of the high school musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*. The cast, under the direction of drama advisor Mary Hygom, performed three outstanding shows for the community at the beginning of November and brought the audience to its feet during each performance of this popular favorite.



*Fiddler on the Roof* is the story about Tevye, his five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his Jewish traditions while outside influences encroach upon the life of his family. He must cope with the strong-willed actions and choices of his three oldest daughters' choices of husbands and the edict of the tsar that evicts Jews from his village.

Not only was the audience drawn in by the students' superb acting abilities, they were pleasantly surprised by the vocal performances of the actors who sang favorite melodies, including "Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man."

## Briarcliff Students Get Fit with "Sweaty Pennies"



Students at Briarcliff Elementary School, under the guidance of physical education teacher Deirdre Gilroy, collected "Sweaty Pennies" during the month of November. The "Sweaty Penny" initiative was a month-long physical activity challenge, with the goal of children exercising for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. Briarcliff students were provided with a "sneaker log," on which they recorded their physical activity. For every 15 minutes of exercise, the students were asked to collect one penny to be brought to school. All money collected is being used to purchase food baskets for local families in need.

## LEARNING HOW TO HANDLE MONEY

It is never too early to learn about handling money, and eighth-grade Home and Careers students at Prodel Middle School are on their way to becoming fiscally responsible adults.

TD Bank representatives Lori Gulotta and Tiffany Cataldo recently visited the students and delivered a banking unit about checking account balances, debit and credit cards, and the advantages to opening bank accounts. The students learned how to write a check and use simple math to calculate their checking account and savings account balances. Each of the students then received a blank register and worked collectively with the representatives to learn how to record transactions. Ms. Gulotta and Ms. Cataldo also touched on the basics of debit and credit cards and transaction fees.

"When students go to college, they often think of the debit card as free money, not realizing that they are responsible for overdraft fees and transaction fees," Home and Careers teacher Gina Ristau stated. "By

offering this class, the students learn to be accountable for their money and the advantages to saving at an early age."

After the class, each of the students received a gift bag from TD Bank and a ten-dollar coupon to set up a savings account. Their newly found knowledge was reinforced with an exercise from Ms. Ristau. Each student was given a fake account with an opening balance of \$200. Laminated cards illustrated debit and credit amounts for imaginary transactions, in which the students were asked to balance a check register.



Peter Pisciotto learns how to correctly write a check.

## FRIDAY FUN AT BRIARCLIFF ELEMENTARY

Every Friday morning, students at Briarcliff Elementary School begin their school day by uniting for a special sing-along. During this time, students not only share songs, but take time to learn about important initiatives happening within the school. During their sing-along in mid-November, students learned all about Briarcliff's upcoming Math-a-Thon, through which students seek donations for math problems they complete, all to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

In addition, during each sing-along, students who have been "bucket fillers" are recognized (based on the concept that was introduced to Briarcliff last school year). From cooking a meal for someone who is ill to paying a nice compliment to a friend, students are continuing to "fill buckets" for others.

"The sing-alongs have become a great addition to our school. They give us an opportunity to unite on a weekly basis and celebrate our Briarcliff family," Principal Jane Ruthkowski stated.



## Did You Know....?

The photography of high school students **Briana Coffaro, Taylor Huglemeyer, Lindsey Malone, Samantha Merzbacher, and Audrey Ricca** have been selected to appear nationwide on cream soda bottles produced by Jones Soda Company. The product can be purchased at local Stop and Shop grocery stores.



Lindsey Malone

# WILDCAT PRIDE

## Sports Wrap-Up



The District's student-athletes concluded the fall sports season with outstanding accomplishments both on the field and in the classroom. Seven of the nine teams were named New York State Scholar-Athlete Teams, having obtained a 90 percent or better cumulative academic average. In addition, the Boys Cross-Country team captured the League 6 Championship, while the Field Hockey team won the title of Small Schools' Champs, County Champs, and Division III Champs. Field hockey player Debi-Michelle Jantzen reached a personal best, as she was chosen as one of 16 athletes in the country to make the National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-American Team. Here is a list of the athletes' many individual accomplishments.

**BOYS CROSS COUNTRY: Scholar-Athlete Team and League 6 Champs**

Tyler Keys – *All-League and All-Conference*  
 John Lee – *All-League, All-Conference, All-County, All-State, Jim Smith Invitational winner/placed 1st out of 122 runners, PAL Championship winner/1st out of 207 runners, Qualified for State Fed. Meet, Qualified for NYS team/placed 15th*  
 Evan Purdy – *All-Conference*  
 Kevin Sanders – *All-League, All-Conference, and All-County*

**GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY: Scholar-Athlete Team**

Rose Andrews – *All-League (3rd team)*  
 Audrey Kelly – *All-League (2nd team) and All-Conference*  
 Laura Lee – *All-League (1st team)*  
 Codi Mullen – *All-League (3rd team)*  
 Danielle Opatovsky – *All-League (3rd team)*  
 Kaitlyn Suarez – *All-League (3rd team)*

**FIELD HOCKEY: Scholar-Athlete Team, Division III Champs, Small Schools' Champs and County Champs**

Debi-Michelle Jantzen – *All-County, All-Long Island Tournament Team, National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-American Team (1 of 16 athletes in the country)*  
 Cali Lavey – *All-County*  
 Demi Lopez – *All-Division*  
 Stephanie Sorrentino – *All-County*  
 Kaitlyn Taddeo – *All-County and All-Long Island Tournament Team*  
 Kristen Torres – *All-Division*

**FOOTBALL:**

Joseph Longo – *All-League*

**BOYS SOCCER: Scholar-Athlete Team**

Kyle Davis – *Academic All-County*  
 Chris Frick – *All-Conference*  
 C.J. Higgins – *All-League*  
 Gerald Logan – *All-League*  
 Will Miller – *All-Conference*  
 David Oliveira – *All-League*

Timothy Parker – *All-State, All-Region, Nassau County Jim Steen Award, and Conference Player of the Year*

**GIRLS SOCCER: Scholar-Athlete Team**

Victoria Creta – *All-League*  
 Shannon McDonnell – *All-County*  
 Marissa Mertens – *All-State*  
 Hannah Miller – *All-Conference*  
 Melinda Myers – *All-League*  
 Kaitlyn O'Toole – *Suffolk County Girls' Soccer Coaches' Association*  
 Kari Quinn – *All-County*

**GIRLS TENNIS: Scholar-Athlete Team**

Lauren Abbatiello – *All-League*  
 Abbott Brant – *All-League*  
 Taylor Brant – *All-Division*  
 Aimee Manfredo – *All-Division*  
 Jaclyn Milillo – *All-League*  
 Nicole Molinaro – *All-Division*

**BOYS VOLLEYBALL:**

Erik Anderson – *All-County and All-Tournament Team*  
 Andrew Bentivegna – *All-County*  
 Dan Clark – *All-Division Honorable Mention*  
 Michael Clancy – *All-League*  
 Kevin Galligan – *All-League and All-Tournament Team*  
 Michael Henriques – *All-Division Honorable Mention*  
 Michael Muhlhausen – *All-Division Honorable Mention*  
 Jeff Steinbrecher – *All-Tournament Team and All-League*

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Scholar-Athlete Team**

Emma Houlihan – *All-League and All-Conference*  
 Chelsea Hughes – *All-League*  
 Madeline Massa – *All-League Honorable Mention*  
 Christina Pagano – *All-League Honorable Mention*

**Suffolk Zone Winners:** Connor Drost and Kathrin Menaschen



Marissa Kluber (center) is pictured with (l-r) lacrosse coach Mary Bergman, parents Christine and Terrence Kluber, and field hockey coach Leah Calligeros.

## Students Sign National Letters of Intent

The District would like to congratulate Marissa Kluber and Demi Lopez, who signed National Letters of Intent to play college sports next fall. Marissa will play both field hockey and lacrosse at Mercy College, while Demi Lopez is headed to Sacred Heart University to play lacrosse. Both students were joined by their parents and coaches in the high school library during the signing.



Demi Lopez (center) is pictured with parents Mike and Janine Lopez and lacrosse coach Robert Vlahakis (standing).



**SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER**  
 CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.swrschools.org

BUILDING THE  
 FOUNDATION FOR  
 SUCCESS

**BOARD OF EDUCATION - SWRCSD**  
 Shoreham, NY 11786

Jack Costas, President  
 Marie Lindell, Vice President  
 Robert Alcorn, Trustee

Mike Fucito, Trustee  
 William McGrath, Trustee  
 Leo Greeley, Trustee

Richard Pluschau, Trustee  
 Harriet Copel, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Permit No. 22  
Ridge, N.Y. 11961

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
P A I D  
Permit No. 4  
Wading River, N.Y. 11792