



WR Review

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

FALL 2011

Let's Talk About It

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven R. Cohen has started a new District tradition. Throughout the school year, Dr. Cohen and the Board of Education will host several Community Forums.

The first Forum fostered a lively discussion about the link between free society and free public education, and was attended by concerned staff, parents, and residents of the community. Not only were those who participated encouraged to ask questions on the delivered material, attendees even bounced ideas off of one another.

Your participation is welcome and encouraged at the upcoming Community Forums listed below. All forums will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 12/15/11

Middle School Library

Paying for public education: budgets, unfunded mandates, economic conditions (incomes and taxes) PART 1

Thursday, 1/12/12

Middle School Library

Paying for public education: budgets, unfunded mandates, economic conditions (incomes and taxes) PART 2

Tuesday, 2/28/12

Wading River All-Purpose Room

NY State Regents Reform Agenda and Lifelong Learning: Friends or Foes?

Thursday 4/5/12

Wading River All-Purpose Room

The link between professional development and student learning

Tuesday, 4/17/12

Miller Avenue All-Purpose Room

Student Life: Growing up and coping with competitive athletics, demanding academics, drugs, bullying, and the Internet

Thursday 5/10/12

Miller Avenue All-Purpose Room

SWR School Buildings: Long term plans for repair and renovation



NATIONAL MERIT HONORS

The District is pleased to announce that two high school seniors have been recognized as Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship program. High School Principal Daniel Holtzman presented a Letter of Commendation to **William H. Bland** and **Emily J. McNally** from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program.

William and Emily are two of the 34,000 students throughout the nation who were recognized for exceptional academic promise with the presentation of this award. Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, being named a Commended Student recognizes that these seniors are among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

A YOUNG SCHOLAR OF MATHEMATICS

Congratulations to High School senior **Emily Gass**, who was one of 75 students to be named a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury. Selection by the Institute implies that Emily is among the top one-tenth of one percent in math of all Long Island students in her grade, and that she will continue to pursue mathematics and mathematical applications with the Institute.



To qualify for this prestigious honor, Emily competed against 700 of the top-ranking math students nominated from Long Island school districts. Her acceptance was based on a rigorous entrance exam, nomination by her math teacher, a school transcript, and a brief student essay.

As a Young Scholar of Mathematics, Emily is expected to spend 60 hours in class over the course of 20 Saturday mornings and on related outside projects. The curriculum covers mathematical topics from algebra, geometry, and number theory, not included in a standard high school course of study.

This opportunity will allow math scholars like Emily to develop their ability to use a variety of problem solving skills, increase their interest and enthusiasm for problem-solving in mathematics, sharpen their mathematical intuition and develop their brain power, as well as to become acquainted with interesting and important mathematical ideas and to experience the thrill of discovery associated with creative problem-solving.

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



Superintendent's Message.....Page 2
New Reading ProgramsPage 3
Students in the News.....Page 4
Red Ribbon Week Activities.....Page 6
Homecoming Coverage.....Page 8

A Message from the Superintendent, Dr. Steven Cohen

Believe it or not, the Holiday Season is upon us! Shoreham-Wading River's nearly 3,100 students, teachers, administrators, and support staff are all engrossed in different kinds of work that add up to a fully functioning school district. Guided by their teachers, Shoreham-Wading River elementary students are learning to read, write, and master the building blocks of mathematics, in addition to experiencing the music of Edvard Grieg and figuring out why egg shells dissolve in vinegar. Students at all grade levels are examining nature and human society, as well as helping their neighbors and those in special need. From children in need in our District to children in Kenya, our students are taking action to improve others' lives. Secondary students are also winning an amazing number of athletic contests in soccer, football, tennis, field hockey, cross-country, and volleyball, preparing to host the community at various performing arts presentations, reflecting on literature, music, art, and history, and getting ready to apply to college. Beauty and the Beast, produced and performed by SWR students, is but one of many performances to be shared with the community over the next two months. SWR's young people are growing up in an environment rich in academic, social, and emotional exploration and learning.

In addition to working with their students, SWR teachers are not only engaged in orienting our curriculum to the national Common Core Standards, but also in participating in workshops intended to improve instruction. Building administrators are working closely with teachers to support teachers' professional development, as well as with their parent organizations in joint efforts to provide additional programs to students. The Board of Education has established strategic educational, budgetary, and facilities goals for the 2011-2012 year, which it and the administration are pursuing. Budget preparation is underway for the 2012-2013 school year, and I have begun a series of public forums to help the community understand why the District is important and how it actually works. In short, the 2011-2012 year is off and running.

As I finish my first several months as your new Superintendent, I want to thank the many teachers, administrators, parents, students, support staff, and community members who have offered their generous help. You have all made me feel welcome and provided a variety of useful advice about how I can best help SWR continue to grow and prosper. For all of that, I am thankful.

Board of Trustees Reconvene Committees

The Board of Education has announced that its four previous committees have reconvened and that work on the new Shared Services committee has also begun.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven R. Cohen explained that the trustees are currently looking for volunteers to work with the Audit, Legislative, Space and Facilities, Technology, and Shared Services Committees.

Volunteers who have experience relevant to a particular committee should apply for a position on one of the Board committees. Simply log onto the school website, www.swrschools.org, and click onto the icon "Forms and Documents" on the top left side of the homepage. Click onto "Committee Member Application" and fill out the form. The School Superintendent, Business Official, and the Board of Education will review the application after it has been received.

Meanwhile, Space and Facilities committee members Leo Greeley, Richard Pluschau, and John Zukowski, along with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Cohen and Director of Finance and Operations Glen Arcuri, are now reviewing the District's facilities and will identify capital projects with associated timelines. The Space and Facilities Committee will also continue to plan and prepare for the district-wide oil tank replacement project, as well as the Briarcliff drainage project, set to begin in June 2012.

WELCOMING NEW STAFF



The District welcomes new faculty members, l-r, Linda Loscalzo, Andrea Monz, Audrey Kaem, Diana Cavallero, and Meredith Wagner.

The Shoreham-Wading River School District Administration welcomes several new faculty members this school year.

- Jaclyn Anci** – High School Social Worker
- Diana Cavallero** – High School Art
- Audrey Kaem** – High School Spanish
- Linda Loscalzo** – Middle School Special Education
- Matthew Millheiser** – High School Social Studies
- Andrea Monz** – Middle School Social Worker
- Tara Stanley** – Middle School Math
- Meredith Wagner** – High School Spanish

DISTRICT GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The Board of Education voted to adopt the District's 2011-2012 Education Goals and Priorities. These goals were developed to maintain, improve, and inspire K-12 student learning and include:

- Evaluate the reading and writing program to identify instructional elements that increase students' capacity to "learn to read" in grades K-2 and "read to learn" in grades 3-5. Also, to evaluate practices that support student interest and engagement in reading and writing with particular emphasis at the secondary level.
- Evaluate the mathematics program to identify instructional elements that increase student capacity to apply mathematical concepts appropriately both within the mathematics curriculum and in other subjects that involve applied mathematics (i.e. science and technology).
- Foster student engagement by exploring student perceptions of secondary programs and obtain student feedback to inform instructional decisions.
- Build capacity for staff-driven professional development in order to support student mastery of content at all grades and subject areas.
- Develop effective and efficient operating budgets and continue to identify efficiencies without reducing internal controls.
- Continue to provide a healthy, safe, and clean educational and working environment.
- Link the technology and facilities plans.
- Human Resources: Review safety and building reporting procedures, negotiate contracts, review interview and hiring practices, streamline professional development procedures, examine personnel procedures and enrollment projections, examine local academic labor market, monitor labor agreements to minimize grievances, and supervise the creation and implementation of new Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) regulations.

Increasing the Capacity to Read

In alignment with the Board of Education's adopted goals for the 2011-2012 school year, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven R. Cohen has put into place two new programs to increase students' capacity to read and to ignite interest in reading at all levels of education.

The first plan includes hiring .6 full-time equivalent reading teachers at Wading River and Briarcliff Elementary Schools (.2 at Wading River and .4 at Briarcliff). Teaching time is divided based on the number of students per elementary school and student performance levels, Dr. Cohen explained. The plan is meant to improve reading skills and to increase interests in reading for younger grade students. Dr. Cohen also hopes to provide the elementary teachers with reading support options that will provide greater opportunities to close identified reading gaps.

The new reading plan also includes nine reading tutor positions spread among the elementary schools and the Middle School. The tutors will be paid on an hourly basis and will assist students for 2½ hours per day, five days a week.

Both the reading tutors and reading teachers will cost the district a total of \$144,500, funded through realized savings in the difference between retired teacher salaries and the salaries of new teaching positions.



"This is a great opportunity for us to develop a deep pool of teaching talent to be distributed as the need arises," Dr. Cohen stated.

In addition, Dr. Cohen has plans to engage readers on the day they are born with a program called "Grow Bookworms." By reaching out to district churches and hospitals, Dr. Cohen hopes to acquire the names of all babies newly born or baptized. Each infant will then receive a token of a book and parents will be encouraged to begin reading to their child at infancy.

"The district is trying to create a culture of reading," Dr. Cohen explained. "The program will also help bridge home and school reading."

NEW ADMINISTRATORS TAKE HELM



DR. WILLIAM BUSHMAN

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Dr. William Bushman has served as the District's Director of Student Services for the past four years and has been promoted to Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. Previously, Dr. Bushman was employed by the Smithtown Central School District where he served as Assistant Administrator for Special Education and Special Services. He began his career working with developmentally disabled adults in both educational and residential settings. Dr. Bushman's employment in public school education commenced with a position as a school psychologist for the Elmont School District. He has also worked as a school psychologist, Committee on Special Education (CSE) Chairperson and Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Chairperson in the Greenport, Port Washington, Patchogue-Medford, and Sagaponack school districts.

Dr. Bushman was also employed as a school psychologist at Just Kids Early Childhood Center and as a licensed clinical psychologist in various nursing homes on Long Island.

Dr. Bushman holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology and Religious Studies from Stony Brook University. He received his Master of Science in School Psychology and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychiatry at Hofstra University, as well as his School District Administration (SDA) certification at the College of New Rochelle.



PATRICIA NUGENT

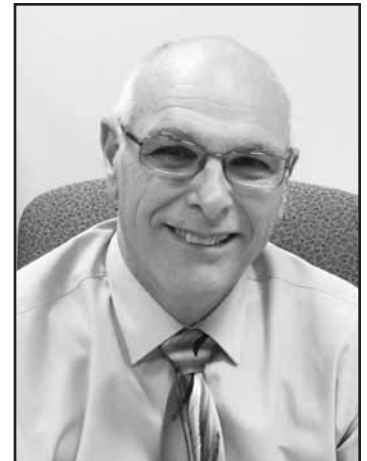
Briarcliff Elementary School Principal

Students and parents welcomed Patricia Nugent to the position of Briarcliff Elementary School principal at the start of the school year.

Ms. Nugent comes to the community from the Riverhead Central School District, where she served as an elementary and middle school assistant principal. Ms. Nugent has an extensive reading instruction background. Through a Reading First grant, she previously worked as a coordinator for reading in the South Country School District. In addition, she formerly taught reading in the Smithtown School District and was a reading recovery teacher for first-grade students in the Huntington School District. For most of her professional career, Ms. Nugent was an elementary education teacher and taught third, fifth, and sixth-grade students in the Huntington School District, as well as kindergarten in the Woodhull Early Childhood Center in Huntington.

Ms. Nugent holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from SUNY Old Westbury and an Associate's Degree in Advertising, Art, and Design from SUNY Farmingdale. She also earned two master's degrees, one in Reading from Dowling College and another in School Building Administration from St. John's University.

Ms. Nugent stated that she believes in the importance of students looking forward to attending school every day. "The first years of a child's education are the most important years of their education and have a great influence on how they perceive learning," she explained.



CHARLES M. ALTOFF

Interim Director of Student Services

Prior to being hired by the district, Charles Altoff served as a Section 504 Hearing Officer and was employed as the Interim Director of Special Education at Harborfields School District. He has also held this position at Port Jefferson and Seaford School Districts. Mr. Altoff has also worked as a special education consultant for Sachem Schools, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services for South Manor School District, and as an Eastern Suffolk BOCES Coordinator of the Regional Consortium for Reading and/or Math initiatives. His expertise has also taken him to the classroom as an adjunct professor of special education courses at both St. Joseph's College and C.W. Post College at Long Island University and as a classroom and lead teacher at Nassau BOCES.

Mr. Altoff holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Entomology and Zoology from Kansas State University and a Master of Science in Special Education from Hofstra University. He also holds a PD in Administration from Long Island University and an Associate of Applied Science in Biological Technology from SUNY Farmingdale.

Students in the News...

High Honors for SWRHS Student



AP SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

The College Board has recognized 72 Shoreham-Wading River High School students who have earned Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams. The AP Program provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while enrolled in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performance on AP exams. Each AP exam is graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 3 or higher being a passing grade.

Four of the District's high school students qualified for the National Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Twenty-four students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Twenty students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Twenty-eight students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP exams with scores of 3 or higher.

Of this year's award recipients, 20 are enrolled as juniors, which means that they have one more year to complete college-level work and possibly earn a higher-level AP Scholar Award.

AP NATIONAL SCHOLAR

David Heilbrun*
Michael Mazzola*
Raffaele Micelli*
Rachel Szymanski*

AP SCHOLAR WITH HONOR

Shannon Gallagher*
Debi-michelle Jantzen
Audrey Kelly
Danielle Kennedy*
Laura Kovach*
Lauren Libby*
Gabiella Mahan*
Patrick Pitts
Chris Pohlot*
Chirag Raparia
Thomas Rotanz*
Michael Sanders*
Kyra Slawski*
Nanette Stirpe

AP SCHOLAR

Melaina Badalian*
Shannon Baxter*
Dennis Caruana
Victoria Creta
Sarah Franck*
Loren Keith
Daniel Klemfuss*
Sydney Koeppel*
Matthew Kravitz*
Samantha Lacovara
Eric Luenig*
Michael Malave*
Isabelle Marcellin
Juliana Mazzone*
Melissa McDonald*
Shannon McDonnell
Elizabeth Nestler*
Ruby Otoo*
Danielle Pedulla
Nora Qualley*
Christopher Ray
Kristin Torres
Rebecca Troyano*
Roxann Vanderlelie
Adalgisa Varuoulo*
William Vazquez*
Corrine Wiederkehr*
Douglas Wind*

AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION

Maryanne Agius*
Daniel Beacon*
William Bland
Brian Cuzzo*
Michelle Gostic*
Maegan Hearney*
David Heilbrun*
Christopher Higgins*
Cali Lavey*
Kevin Lopez*
Samantha Maier*
Erin Marine
Michael Mazzola
Emily McNally
Cathryn Menarchem*
Rafaele Micelli*
Nicole Molinaro*
Danielle Opatovsky
Kaitlin O'Toole*
Michael Peraza*
Kevin Sanders*
Nicole Smith*
Rachel Szymanski*
Michelle Wern*

AP SCHOLAR WITH HONOR

Matthew Butler*
Ben Canellys*
Kyle Davis*
Matthew Davolio*
Abigail Fayette
Jessica Filangeri

*CLASS OF 2011 GRADUATE

Shoreham-Wading River High School senior **Isabelle M. Marcellin** has been designated as an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Isabelle scored in the top three percent of more than 160,000 Black Americans who requested consideration in the 2012 National Achievement Program when she took the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

In 1964, the National Achievement Scholarship Program was initiated to recognize outstanding achievement and award university scholarships to African-American high school students. The process for selecting recipients works the same way as the selection process for the National Merit Program.

Isabelle is an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar and vice president of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society. She is actively involved in the Best Buddies and Natural Helpers Clubs, as well as student government. In addition to her academic and extra-curricular activities, Isabelle serves as co-leader of her church choir.

The District would like to congratulate Isabelle on this prestigious academic honor.



Spreading Hope

High School senior **Samantha Lacovara** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the U.S.-Kenya Hope Children's Fund. The Hope Children's Fund is a 501 3(c) charity that supports 76 HIV/AIDS affected orphans who reside in the rural village of Meru, Kenya.

"This is the first time that a High School student has been voted onto the board," high school Global Awareness Club advisor Kevin Mann stated. "This is quite an honor, and we are very proud of her."

Samantha is co-president of the Global Awareness Club and has traveled twice to Kenya to assist the orphans. While in Kenya, Samantha also assisted in the

building of a school. Under the direction of Mr. Mann, Samantha and fellow club members have been collecting supplies and clothes and shipping them in a cargo container that currently sits on the high school's parking lot. As reported in the summer newsletter, members of the Global Awareness Club were named winners of the Charity of Champions contest run by MSG Varsity and Cablevision.

Musicians Hit the Right Note



The All-State musicians will participate in the NYSSMA Conference in Rochester this December.



The All-County musicians will perform at the NYSCAME All-County Conference at Huntington High School in November.

Eleven of the District's top student-musicians have been selected to perform at the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) All-County Conference in November at Huntington High School. These young musicians were selected from a large pool of Suffolk County student-musicians and were considered for this prestigious opportunity based on their New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) scores and teacher recommendations. They include:

Jason Ambrosini - *Band*
Kerri Beacon - *Choir*
Sean Callagy - *Orchestra*
Victoria Creta - *Band*
Abi Fayette - *Orchestra*

Haylie Kinsler - *Choir*
Soo-jin Lee - *Orchestra*
Eric Lopez - *Choir*
Emily McNally - *Band*
Michelle Wern - *Band*

Kimberly Giacalone - *Band*

In addition, **Stefan Ringer-Benigno** and **Kimberly Giacalone** were identified as NYSSMA All-State musicians and will represent the District at the 2011 NYSSMA Conference at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester this December. **Jason Ambrosini, Victoria Creta, Michelle Wern and Soo-jin Lee** were identified as All-State alternates.

Over 8,000 student-musicians auditioned for this honor from across New York this year at NYSSMA's Spring Evaluation Festival. The competition demands the highest level of performance from each participant.



Community Packs the Track

Shoreham-Wading River students, staff, and members of the community donned bright orange t-shirts and walked the high school track this past Sunday in support of Liam McGuire, a Miller Avenue student who is battling a rare form of leukemia. Organized by the Natural Helpers Club, hundreds of participants made a donation at the gate and student clubs sold bumper stickers, wristbands, t-shirts, and other goods to raise a total of \$21,000. All of the funds were donated directly to the McGuire family to help with medical costs.



Natural Helpers Club advisor and health teacher Mary Mitchell explained that the community as a whole is very concerned about Liam and that the event was a wonderful way for the community to come together to help the family. Miller Avenue

Principal Lou Parinello also joined the students on the track and thanked participants for their help. "A fundamental part of education is to do for others," he stated.

Under the direction of art teacher Michelle McCarthy, Miller Avenue students traced their hands and names into a heart and collectively placed their smaller hearts onto mural-sized paper hearts. The hearts were displayed at the track for all to see and are now hung in the elementary school's hallways.

"The art project's goal was to show Liam that our hearts are with him, and that the whole school is behind him," Ms. McCarthy explained.

Art REFLECTED ON A SODA BOTTLE



SHANNON ROSATI
"Devil's Bay"
(featured on Zilch Cola)

Four high school students, who were previously enrolled in art teacher Jason Andria's class, have had their photography selected to appear on Jones Soda labels. **John Clark, Kelly Dillon, Lindsay Malone** and **Shannon Rosati** have each successfully photographed scenes that help define the popular beverages, which are sold in Stop and Shop, Starbucks, and 7-11 stores in the U.S. and Canada. Lindsay even managed to have two photographs selected!

Submission to the contest is a mandatory assignment for Mr. Andria's students. When he introduces the project, the students are required to review the winning photograph label archives before taking to the street with their cameras. So far, more than 30 SWRHS students have had their photos appear on the soda labels.



LINDSAY MALONE
"looking back"
(featured on Blue Bubblegum)



JOHN CLARK
"Air"
(featured on Blue Bubblegum)



KELLY DILLON
"Shadowstar"
(featured on Strawberry Lime)



LINDSAY MALONE
"skateboarder"
(featured on Blue Bubblegum)



EXPLORING HIGHER ED OPPORTUNITIES

Representatives from 110 colleges and universities visited the high school campus during the District's first of two annual mini-college fairs. Students took time out from their classes to speak with representatives at each of the booths about admission procedures, gather pertinent information about programs, collect brochures, and fill out questionnaires at their schools of interest.

Guidance counselor Lucy Eschbach explained that select members of the National Honor Society welcomed the representatives and handed them school profiles. "The representatives will leave here knowing that the students receive a solid education," Ms. Eschbach stated. "Not only do the students receive an opportunity to shop for perspective colleges, we have created a nice relationship between the colleges and the District."

Let's Jump!

Students at Miller Avenue and Wading River Elementary Schools attempted to help First Lady Michelle Obama set the new Guinness World Record by doing as many jumping jacks as they could for 60 seconds straight. Lining up in straight lines, the students got their hearts pumping as they joined 450 Washington D.C.-area students on the south lawn of the White House to break the previous record of 20,425 people doing jumping jacks for one minute during a 24-hour period.

The "Let's Jump" initiative took place between 3 p.m. Tuesday, and 3 p.m. Wednesday, on October 11 and 12, and is a part of Mrs. Obama's national campaign to fight childhood obesity.



...break the previous record of 20,425 people doing jumping jacks for one minute during a 24-hour period.

Open for Halloween Unit

The Briarcliff multi-purpose room, which also serves as the school's gymnasium, is now open for physical education classes. The gym had been closed since last March after a custodian noticed a disturbance in the ceiling tiles. Upon further investigation by the District's architect and engineer, it was discovered that one of the eight ceiling trusses that hold up the roof was cracked, possibly due to heavy snow, dried out wood, and age. During the summer, each of the trusses was replaced, and the cost of the work was covered by insurance.



"We are very grateful to be able to utilize this space once again," Principal Patricia Nugent stated. "Physical education teacher Ms. Gilroy is also pleased at being able to conduct her Halloween physical education unit."

Since the gym's re-opening, Briarcliff students have been crawling over a pit of tarantulas, putting together a human skeleton, punching eyeballs, and ghost bowling during the school's annual creepy crawly physical education unit. Students are divided into pairs and asked to rotate among the ten stations decorated by orange lights, a graveyard, pumpkins, and ghosts.

The station activities may seem simplistic, but Ms. Gilroy explained that this form of physical education has dual purposes. "The students remain engaged with the different movements involved," Ms. Gilroy stated. "They also learn cooperation and how to work with a partner."

The Halloween unit includes a pumpkin bag toss and a tic-tac-toe game, as well as the challenge of meandering through a huge spider web! These activities help young children with hand/eye coordination, balance, and the art of listening to directions. The students also appreciate the wonderful Halloween decorations on the walls and surrounding stations.

No one even seemed bothered by the spiders!



Just Saying, "No!"



Prodell Middle School students (l-r) Emily Clasen, Layne Koeppel, Mary Steinbrecher, and Isabella Cortes are pictured with Dr. Andrew Clair of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and Red Ribbon Week advisor Andrea Monz (center).

During the last week of October, students at Prodell Middle School joined the national Red Ribbon Week campaign to reconfirm their commitment to abstaining from drugs and tobacco. The students were encouraged to wear red clothing and required to attend a number of assemblies regarding safety, smart decisions, and the perils of drug and tobacco use.

Under the direction of social worker and Red Ribbon Week advisor Andrea Monz, many of the students competed in a poster contest. There were also tables set up in the school's main entrance with information on drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.

Officer Nancy Ward from the PoliceSmart program talked to the students about good choices and how to avoid peer pressure. There was also a riveting Phoenix House presentation given by recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, who explained how their lives changed for the worse once they started using drugs.

Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Senior Medical Director Dr. Andrew Clair also had a candid conversation with the students about tobacco use and the effect of the chemicals in cigarettes on the body. His presentation, "The Tragedy of Tobacco," showed graphic photographs of mouth cancer and gave examples of the dangers of first, second, and third-hand smoke. He also explained that those who smoke drastically limit their life expectancy of 76.9 years of age.

"It is in the nature of cigarettes to seriously harm you," Dr. Clair stated. "Cigarettes are not your friend. The first puff starts the cycle of addiction."

MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH



Students throughout the Shoreham-Wading River School District commemorated the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks with moments of silence, the wearing of patriotic colors and participation in activities whereby each student made a promise to improve the world.

In the **High School's** Peace Garden, Global Club members Julie Lindell and Samantha Lacovara rang the school's peace bell during a schoolwide moment of silence. Principal Daniel Holtzman addressed the students with inspirational words about that fateful day. "We must never forget the legacy of that September day, a world drawn together in the common cause of freedom and our renewed devotion to it," he stated.

In addition, high school instructional support specialist Pat LeDeoux created a September 11th showcase in the library. Students also received an opportunity to select a paper "brick" on which to write a name or thought in memory of those who lost their lives.

Under the direction of the social studies department, **Middle School** students participated in a moment of silence, were encouraged to wear patriotic colors, watched a presentation on the events of September 11th, and placed a leaf on one of the school's three Trees of Hope, located in each school corridor. Each student wrote on a leaf a pledge for community service or ways in which he or she can make a difference in the world and taped it to the tree's branches.

Spearheading the project was social studies teacher Danielle Senneca, who explained, "We are trying to turn this day of tragedy into a day of patriotism. The nation came together, and our goal today is to bring about service in this country."

Both **Miller Avenue** and **Wading River** Elementary Schools focused on the positive ways in which each student can articulate peace and service to the local community and nation. Wading River students wore patriotic colors to honor firefighters, police, emergency responders, and members of the armed forces. The students also collectively sang "Proud to Be an American" during the morning announcements. In addition, Miller Avenue students participated in an activity called Rays of Hope. The students were asked to decorate a "sun" at home and to place their photo in the middle. On the sun's rays, they wrote ten ways to make the world a better place.



CELEBRATING THE CONSTITUTION

Dressed in patriotic colors or as famous historical figures, students at Miller Avenue Elementary School studied one of the most important events in our nation's history, the drafting of the Constitution, on September 17th.

On this historical day, teachers prepared instructional activities based on the Constitution. Teachers Carol Davis Wiebelt and Erin Willis, among other staff members, even dressed as figures out of America's history books. Principal Lou Parinello, dressed as Benjamin Franklin, also discussed the Preamble during the morning announcements.



PTA Corner

"Diversity means..." is the current theme of the National PTA cultural arts program Reflections, which has been in existence for the past 40 years. This year, students enrolled at SWR High School, Prodell Middle School, and Wading River Elementary School entered their original works in the categories of visual arts, photography, literature, film, music composition, and dance.

Residents of Leisure Glen responded to a request for judges of these works, which took place over a two-day period. We would like to thank those who shared their time and opinions:

Visual Arts and Photography Judges:

Joanne Larsen, Richard Larsen, Joanne Meehan, Elaine O'Keefe, Marcia Smoller, Tom Struminski, Jim Wieland, and Christina Wennisch

Literature Judges:

Peter Holub, Mildred Lieberman, and Lori Blend

We also extend thanks to those who volunteered to judge categories not represented by students' submissions.

The winners of the evaluations will move to the next round of judging

at the Suffolk Region level. Upon the submissions' return from all competitions, we will exhibit the pieces at the North Shore Public Library (NSPL). The Shoreham-Wading River Council of PTAs (LIKE us on Facebook) would like to thank all of you for participating and assisting us with the Reflections program and for supporting our school-aged children.

In addition, veterans were honored at Wading River Elementary School in recognition of Veterans Day. Military photos of family, friends, and community members who have served our country were proudly displayed. We thank them for their service and the protection of our freedoms. Leisure Glen shared military photos with the students, and we want to thank Mr. Tracy, Mr. Grady, and Mrs. Meehan for collecting photos of our local heroes.

Thank you for supporting our SWR Parent Groups,

The Shoreham-Wading River Council of PTAs
 everychild.onevoice

DEDICATION OF A WILDCAT



Prior to the Homecoming festivities, administrators, staff, students, and residents gathered around the Wildcat statue for its formal dedication. The personally crafted Wildcat was carved by alum **Rob Caskie**, (see above photo), as a way of saying thanks to his school for a great education. The statue is carved from a 270-year-old maple that is believed to be from Horn Tavern.

"I just wanted to give back to the school that produces great students and that will continue to produce great students," Mr. Caskie explained. "This is a very special school. That's why I put so much effort into the sculpture." 2011 graduate McKenzie Pendergast explained how the project came to fruition. The Class of 2011 was challenged to come up with a proposal on how to leave their mark on the high school. Class members were going to clean up the main entrance of the school as their project until Community Relations Class teacher Kevin Mann put the students in touch with Rob Caskie.

The sculpture sits in the main entrance of the High School and is mounted with a dedication plaque to the senior class of 2011. Also engraved on the plaque are the words, "The Pride Is Back."

Principal Daniel Holtzman thanked Mr. Caskie for his gift, as well as the Community Relations Class, the Class of 2011, and senior class advisor Mrs. McKee. "A special thanks goes to Rob Caskie who took the time, energy, dedication, and passion to put together what has always been a symbol of our school and District pride," Mr. Holtzman stated.

WILDCAT PRIDE REIGNS DURING HOMECOMING



The Shoreham-Wading River community gathered on October 22 for the District's annual Homecoming festivities.

A Friday afternoon pep rally in the gymnasium kicked off the celebration as the students demonstrated their Wildcat pride with cheers led by the cheerleading team and music performed by the band.

Prior to the game, the District dedicated the Wildcat statue located in the high school's main entrance. Rob Caskie, who sculpted the statue from a 270-year-old maple tree, explained that this piece of artwork was his gift to the school for having received a stellar education (see story at left).

The Homecoming parade then snaked around the athletic field, showcasing the artistic floats of each high school class, based on the theme "Nickelodeon." Students, parents, and community residents also visited a variety of booths set up by the various high school clubs.

In addition, senior football team members demonstrated their appreciation for their parents during a ceremony on the field. As the team members lined up, each parent was called to receive flowers for the support given on and off the field.

The Wildcats then kicked off the game against McGann-Mercy High School, securing a 28-0 victory that boosted everyone's pride of the team and the District.



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 their 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 their website at <http://www.parentsformeganslaw.org/> and click the "Sex Offender Email Alert registration Program" link on the home page.

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

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.



SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUILDING THE
FOUNDATION FOR
SUCCESS

www.swrschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION - SWRCSD Shoreham, NY 11786

Dr. William J. McGrath, President
Mike Fucito, Vice President
Jack Costas, Trustee

Leo Greeley, Trustee
Marie Lindell, Trustee
Richard Pluschau, Trustee

John Zukowski, Trustee

Dr. Steven Cohen, 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