



WR Review

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

SPRING 2010

Solid Gold Journalism



Senior journalist Matthew Schrembi (pictured), along with Shoreham-Wading River High School 2009 graduates Vasili Kreatsoulas and Jen Wynkoop, received Honorable Mention at the Columbia Press Association's 27th Gold Circle Awards, which attracted 8,000 entries from student writers nationwide.

The Golden Circle Awards recognize outstanding writing

by student journalists who work individually or as a staff, with either print or online media. The entries are from publications in schools or colleges nationwide and in schools overseas that follow an American education plan.

The winning entry was a centerfold in the Shoreham-Wading River High School newspaper, *The Wildcat Pause*, which included articles about the economy's impact on students. Matt's successful design resembled a Monopoly board, and the layout was executed by Vasili and Jen. The Gold Medal was presented to the newspaper staff as a whole following a review of six editions by Columbia Press.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 2010 Census

Sixth and seventh-grade social studies students at Prodel Middle School brought the subject to life as they conducted a schoolwide census to model the nation's 23rd United States census, which commenced on March 1.

Students were taught the concepts, reasoning, and justification for the



Department of Commerce's official count. Teachers Nicole Albano, Danielle Senneca, Angela Spera, and Chris Williams assigned student volunteers to distribute a census questionnaire to all classrooms and departments to learn more about the school's demographics.

Modeling the official U.S. census, the school census consisted of questions about the school body, such as the number of individuals in each of the students' households. Questions applied to middle school students and revolved around recreation, extracurricular activities, and other interests. After the questionnaires were collected, the information was entered onto a spreadsheet. The upcoming results will be charted and posted for the student body to read.

"This project is a perfect example of how a historical happening, studied in a classroom setting, can be implemented as a real-life project," Mr. Williams stated. "Not only will the students receive a clearer picture of their school's makeup, but the volunteers who passed out the questionnaires and collected the information, learned extremely important lessons about how the U.S. Department of Commerce conducts an official nationwide census. The volunteers should be proud of their work."

Exploring a Career in Science and Engineering

Female students at Shoreham-Wading River High School can now take part in a program that encourages the exploration of careers in science and engineering. The WISE (Women In Science and Engineering) Program is in its first year of implementation and serves as an extracurricular science course for female students in grades 10-12.



WISE Program advisor Tom Tomaszewski is pictured with program participants Jessica Filangeri and Kim Giacalone.

WISE advisor Tom Tomaszewski explained that the program is a three-year sequence that commences with the students' participation in field trips to labs and science centers, such as Brookhaven National Lab and Cold Spring Harbor's DNA Laboratory. The students enrolled this year meet once a month with other students from area districts for discussions and workshops. The program calls for a greater focus in their junior year and requires students, with the help of a scientist-mentor, to complete two projects. In their senior year, participants will engage in individualized research and their exposure to science fields will be fine-tuned.

"The WISE Program offers new opportunities not available on campus and offers the collaborative experience that is the real essence of science," Mr. Tomaszewski explained. "It not only promotes science, but increases young women's exposure to a field that has been historically dominated by men."

High School sophomores Jessica Filangeri and Kim Giacalone are the first to enroll in the program. Both are interested in pursuing a career in science and are enjoying the trips to various laboratories. Kim said she already intends to study medical science in college, and Jessica said the program has educated her on options for studying science after high school.

"These students are getting a jump-start," Mr. Tomaszewski stated. "You never know what you want to study in college until you try it."

Shoreham-Wading River
School District
Shoreham, New York 11786

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A Message from the Superintendent, Dr. Harriet Copel

Dear Residents,

For the past several years, our goal has been to improve student achievement and provide our students with a rigorous and relevant education that will prepare them for a future that is difficult to predict. During the past months and even now, as the budget is presented and debated, the quality of our educational programs is central to the conversation. As you read this newsletter you can be proud of this District; we have talented students and a variety of fine academic and co-curricula programs.

A recent article published by the Department of Education in Ohio outlines the top ten skills students will need to compete in society in the year 2020. This article highlights how important it is for students to develop these skills as they begin to compete in a global economy. In 2008, our own Elementary Goals Committee defined Educational Goals for our students which are closely aligned with those listed here. As a result, our district has already committed to helping our students develop many of the skills listed on this “top ten” list.

1. Critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and applied knowledge for practical results.
2. Mastery of rigorous academic content, especially in literacy, mathematics, and information technologies
3. Innovative and creative thinking, including entrepreneurial skills
4. Communication skills, both oral and written
5. Team learning and work, relationship building, and interpersonal social skills
6. Alignment of education with the needs of economic development, including better communications and cooperation between educators and business people
7. Personal responsibility, including good work habits, work ethic, knowing how to be flexible and continue learning, and financial literacy
8. Global awareness, languages, and understanding other cultures (including history, economics, and geography)
9. Communications and better interfaces between K-12 public education and post-secondary/higher education
10. Teacher education, preparation, and professional development to support content mastery and skill development, including applied learning (or problem-based learning) across disciplines in a global context

New Research Reveals Top Ten Skills for 2020. The Subcommittee for Education in the New Global Economy. Ohio Department of Education. 2007.

The Shoreham-Wading River professional staff assists students in developing the above skills, beginning in the early years. Elementary teachers use book clubs to foster critical thinking and high order thinking skills, while high school teachers use advanced didactic methods of research, dialogue and debate to engage students in critical thinking in which students formulate conclusions and fresh perspectives. To promote students’ business and entrepreneurial skills, the high school offers a competitive DECA club, through which participants gain hands-on experience and college credit bearing business courses.

At the middle school, we are exploring ways to increase the rigor in mathematics. Our goal is for students to have the opportunity to enroll in high-level mathematics needed to succeed in advanced coursework, graduate with a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, and ensure that all Shoreham-Wading River graduates begin college without needing remediation.

Students across the district participate in a variety of activities that promote global awareness – the eighth “top 10” skill needed for 2020. Middle school students take an active role in many global awareness issues, including writing to students in China. Elementary students have been fundraising to help victims of the earthquake in Haiti, while select high school students are participating in a five-week pilot program of “myChinese 360,” an online program that introduces students to Chinese culture and language. The high school Global Awareness Club has, for many years, enabled our students to learn about other cultures. In addition, a group of high school teachers have formed an exploratory committee designed to research ways to better prepare students for an increasingly globalized and ever-changing world.

These are a just a few examples of the many programs the Shoreham-Wading River School District has initiated. However, there is still much work to do so that all programs enable our students to master the “top ten” skills. We remain committed to preparing our students with the skills they need to not only succeed, but to become leaders of an ever-changing society. The proposed budget supports these efforts in meaningful ways.

Sincerely,

Dr. Harriet Copel
Superintendent

Health and Safety Proposition Update

Implementation of the District’s Health and Safety proposition is moving forward. According to Plant Facilities Administrator Robert Woolsey, the project has gone out to bid. On April 6, the District architect and business office official will receive and review each submitted bid, and the lowest and most responsible bidder will be chosen by the Board of Education on April 27.

Mr. Woolsey explained that most of the work to Briarcliff Elementary School and the Middle School is scheduled to be completed during the summer. At Briarcliff, new heating units that meet the State Education Department’s (SED) latest requirements for air quality control will be installed in 14 classrooms, and the school will be retrofitted with new fire doors.

Health and Safety proposition monies will also be used for

projects to improve entrances and exits at the Middle School. In addition, the District will install a fire alarm system and renovate 17 general classrooms, as well as the home and careers, shop, and science classrooms.



Briarcliff heating system



Home and Careers classroom workspace

Snapshot of the District's Music Program

Music accomplishments in the District have been widespread this school year. Eighteen student-musicians have attended competitions at the Long Island String Festival Association (LISFA), and 67 student-musicians participated in concerts at the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association (SCMEA) festivals. In addition, five students were selected to participate in the All-State festivals.

"We provide the students with a comprehensive music program, which includes involvement from 30 percent of students on each grade level," Music Coordinator Steve Fayette stated. "Our music program helps students extend their horizons beyond the core subject areas taught in the classroom."



Students on the elementary level receive general music instruction. Students in fifth through twelfth grade can then opt to perform in band, orchestra, and chorus. For every performance group, there is an auxiliary group such as the High School's Vocal Express choir, the Jazz Band, and chamber orchestra, and the Middle School's Quartertones (girls show choir) and the Chromatics (boys show choir).

The Quartertones is made up of girls in grades 6-8 who are selected through auditions. The girls rehearse twice a week and perform at local nursing homes, District concerts, and during the SCMEA Day of Jazz Festival. The Chromatics, like the Quartertones, perform pop and show music, and are a smaller group of Middle School boys.

High school music students can deepen their understanding of music through enrollment in Foundations of Music and Advanced Placement Music Theory. Mr. Fayette explained that AP Music Theory students who choose to study music at the university/college level typically report having scored extremely well on the theory exam required at auditions to music schools across the country. The music department also offers a Music Lab, which is comprised of a strong technical component and which serves the student who is not typically interested in performance. This course also helps students explore their options to enroll in the business side of music.



The following is a list of students who have been selected to participate in the SCMEA All-County, SCMEA All-State, and LISFA festivals across Long Island.

ALL-STATE (GRADES 11-12)

Kohei Ando
Nicole Caligiuri
Chelsea Creta
Stephanie Meier
Iris Yu

LONG ISLAND STRING FESTIVAL (GRADES 5-12)

Michaela Aliperti
Sean Callagy
Frank Desiderio
Joseph Desiderio
Alesandra Hays
Kyle Higgins
Samantha Higgins
Laura Kovach
Haley Lindell
Farrell McKenna
Christian Perricone
Emily Sopko
Rachel Szymanski
Rosario Terracina
Vincent Uzzi
Christian Wern
Iris Yu
Spring Yu

SCMEA ALL-COUNTY (GRADES 5-10)

Division 1

Andrea Anketell
Patrick Beimer
Christy Capek
Joseph Desiderio
Alesandra Hays
Kyle Higgins
Katerina Perricone
Ryan Radonavitch
Anna Scarpinito
Teanna Sosnowy
Samantha Steele
Jack Taddeo

Samantha Higgins

Layne Koeppel
Haley Lindell
Jennifer Lohrius
Nick Maritato
Kyra Mears

DIVISION II

Michaela Aliperti
Kaden Badalian
Emily Blunnie
Taylor Burgess
Kevin Callagy
Alex Csorny
Paul Culmone
Mckenna Farrell
Nicole Lambert
Julie Lindell
Laura Logan

DIVISION III

Jason Ambrosini
Stefan Ringer-Benigno
Will Bland
Joseph Caligiuri

Robert Torres

Michael Triptree
Jenna Turano
Vincent Uzzi
Julia Weindler
Elisabeth Wesselborg

Sean Mannix
Max Maritato
Alexandra Pagano
Shannon Rosati
Emily Sopko
Rachel Stearns
James Szymanski
Rosario Terracina
Sarah Uzzi
Spring Yu

Soo-Jin Lee

Eric Lopez
Elena Losquadro
Tyler Lutjen

Sean Callagy

Victoria Creta
Kim Giacalone
Will Hawrey
Larissa Hoefler
Haylie Kinsler
Justin Laino

ALL-COUNTY (GRADES 11-12)

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

SCMEA DIVISION II HONORS CHOIR

Emily Blunnie
Taylor Burgess
Kevin Callagy
Alex Csorny
Nicole Lambert
Sean Mannix
Rachel Stearns

Introducing *Music and the Brain*

Briarcliff Elementary School is poised to implement an innovative new music program for students in grades kindergarten and first grade called Music and the Brain. The program will not only teach students general music activities, but will combine those activities with keyboard training.

The Music and the Brain (MATB) curriculum was developed in the late 1990s in Manhattan, after educators and scientists proved the positive impact of piano instruction on spatial-temporal reasoning skills employed during math-related skills. In addition, scientists noticed that when children receive sequential music instruction, there is a significant impact on the students' proficiency in language, reading, math, and cognition.

According to Briarcliff Elementary School Principal Jane Ruthkowski, the most effective way to positively impact the District's K-12 music program is to focus on its youngest learners. The accessibility of this keyboard curriculum will nurture music instruction during a child's most influential years. "By the time students reach second grade, they will possess a solid musical foundation and will be a step ahead in learning other musical instruments," Ms. Ruthkowski explained.

Currently, students at Briarcliff participate in music instruction once a week. Teachers Jenilyn Smith and Paula Albert-Franz have been

incorporating literature with music through singing and movement. Until now, students have not had the opportunity to read music and transfer that knowledge to a hands-on musical instrument, such as the piano, at a very young age. Since keyboard instruction enhances learning in all subject areas, classroom teachers will be introduced to the MATB curriculum. The students can practice their addition to the beat of music, expand their knowledge of various cultures and themes expressed in songs, and discover rhythmic patterns and sentence structure in the music being studied, all of which can be conveyed to students through the lessons they conduct.

The PTA, along with the Sciremammano family have provided Briarcliff Elementary School with 25 keyboards, headphones, adaptors, double x stands, and teaching materials to launch the MATB Program, and the music teachers have participated in free off-site professional development to begin instruction.



Briarcliff students play music on the new Music and the Brain keyboards.

Student-Artists Showcase Work at Local Venues



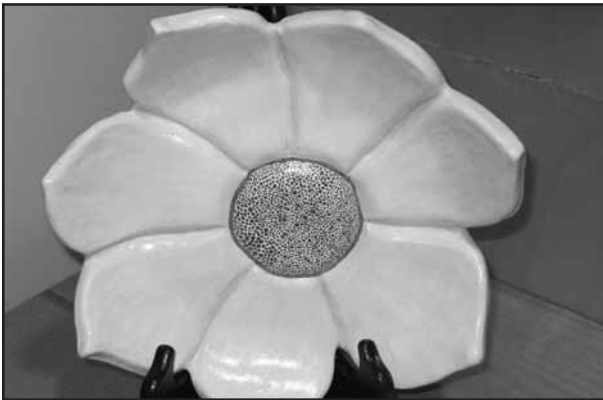
"Portrait" by Erin Marine.

The District would like to congratulate five high school student-artists who were selected to display their work at two local Long Island shows.

Pieces by Christopher Cilibrasi, Alexandria Davis, Shannon Baxter, and Erin Marine were included among the 120 entries from 40 schools participating in The Creative Expressions Young Artists Showcase at the Ward Melville Heritage Organization's (WMHO) Educational and Cultural Center in Stony Brook. The show covers all facets of the visual arts, including photography, painting, drawing, video, ceramic, computer art, and three-dimensional art.



Ceramic Bowl by Shannon Baxter.



Ceramic Bowl by Alexandria Davis.

Both Shannon and Alexandria entered ceramic bowls into the showcase. Erin submitted a portrait using charcoal as the medium, while Christopher entered a photograph.

In addition, Douglas Hoffman's "Stilllife," utilizing marker and collage, was selected for viewing at the Smithtown Township Arts Council Annual Youth Art Showcase at the Mills Pond House Gallery in St. James. Highlighting the creativity of young artists, the exhibit included over 200 pieces of student artwork from 18 Suffolk County school districts. Various media such as computer illustration, sculpture, acrylic, gouache, watercolor, ink, digital photography, graphite, charcoal, oil, and ceramic were highlighted in the gallery.



"Stilllife" by Douglas Hoffman.



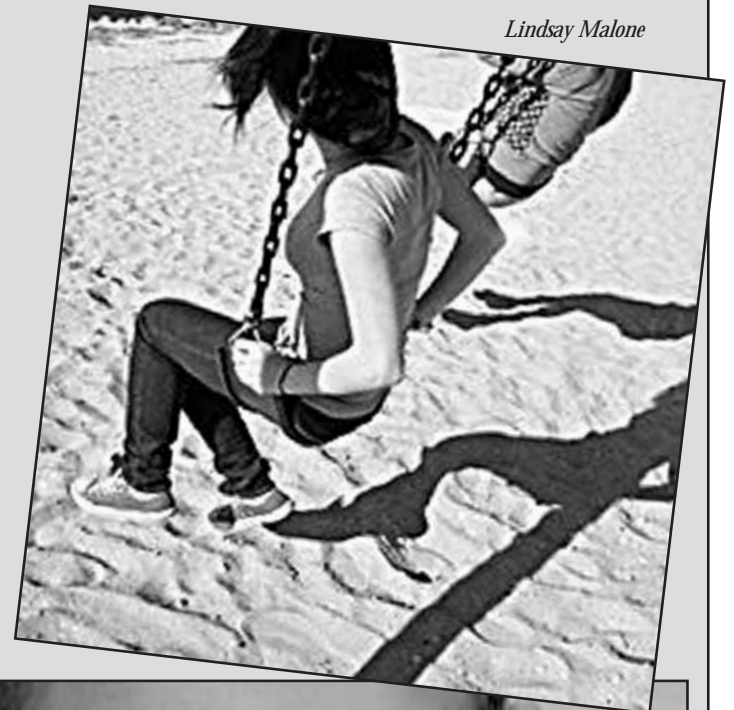
Photograph by Christopher Cilibrasi

Art teacher Ruth Kisch explained that being selected for these shows has given her students a sense of accomplishment. "The students are encouraged to attend the shows and to see how their work and other students' work are displayed," she stated. "Entering art shows also holds the student to the highest standard. Colleges are interested in this kind of energy and effort."

Art as a Soda Can Label

The District would like to congratulate Gina Polizzo, whose picture of an Afghan Hound tied to a bicycle will appear on a Jones Soda label. Gina is one of three students in art teacher Jason Andria's class at Shoreham-Wading River High School whose photos were considered for a label this year. Black and white photos taken by sophomore Lindsay Malone and freshman Audrey Ricca were also selected from thousands of submissions under consideration for inclusion on the popular soft drink's label.

Mr. Andria has been encouraging his students to enter the Jones Soda photo contest for the past eight years, and in those years, 15 of his students have witnessed their work on a Jones Soda label. This year, however, Mr. Andria has made submission to the photo contest a mandatory assignment, and the results have been gratifying. To prepare themselves, students studied the thousands of winning photo labels on the Jones Soda website. The many labels used by Jones can be viewed on the company website: www.jonessoda.com.



Lindsay Malone



Gina Polizzo



Audrey Ricca

PHYSICAL FITNESS: *It's Not Just About Sports*

A three-week physical education unit about fitness activities culminated in Prodell Middle School's second annual Wellness Fair. Groups of students researched hundreds of activities that included hip-hop dancing, Pilates, karate, jumping rope, and party dancing, before presenting their findings to their classmates with a poster and demonstration of their chosen activity.

The students learned that, for instance, jumping rope is a competitive sport that can burn 1,000 calories an hour, while party dancing is a great way to increase the heart rate. Classmates also received a Pilates demonstration and practiced movements that increase flexibility and core strength.

Physical education teacher Allison DeMarco explained that students often have the misconception that physical fitness activities only include sports activities. "We want the students to expand their minds and become knowledgeable about other fitness activities," Ms. DeMarco stated. "Our goal is to find a physical fitness activity for each student to enjoy."



Keeping Students Out of Harm's Way

Did you know that 1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 7 boys are assaulted by 18 years of age, and that two-thirds of sexual assaults go unreported? In an attempt to reduce these numbers and to keep students out of the path of sexual predators, Parents For Megan's Law representative and guest speaker April Langella delivered a sobering presentation to eighth graders at Prodell Middle School.

"When you trust someone, it [molestation] is confusing, and you don't know how you would react," Ms. Langella explained. "Ninety percent of the time, a predator is someone you trust."

Ms. Langella pointed out that students in eighth grade are at an age when they are gaining independence and must learn to set boundaries for themselves.

The students viewed a video entitled "Katie's Secret," that reflected on one young person's story of molestation. The movie encouraged students to tell a teacher, friend, guidance counselor, or a trusted individual if an adult is crossing physical boundaries.

Knowing where a sexual predator lives is another protective measure, Ms. Langella explained. She stated that while the information is public and is available for parents to protect their children, it must not be used to harass others.

Most importantly, Ms. Langella warned the students not to give out or post personal information on the Internet's social networking sites, such as Facebook or MySpace, and to be careful what they tell a stranger in a chat room. She also cautioned that predators use tricks and the private settings of chat rooms to gain access to young people, and that they feed on a child's emotions.

Parents For Megan's Law, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 community and victims' rights organization dedicated to the prevention and treatment of sexual abuse through the provision of education, counseling, victim services, policy, and legislative services.

For more information on Megan's Law log onto www.parentsformeganslaw.org.

Educating on the *Safe Use of Technology*

While the Shoreham-Wading River School District educates students in the use of available technology resources, the administration also believes that education is the first step in keeping students and families safe. In light of new technological capabilities placed on the market each day, the District hosted an assembly for parents to address the topic of inappropriate "sexting" and the dangers students can be subjected to when utilizing social networking sites.

School district attorney Tara E. Kahn, with the law firm of Guercio & Guercio; Suffolk County Police Department Special Victims Section Detective Michael Sanchez; and Suffolk County Police Department Computer Crimes Section Detective Rory Forrestdal spoke about inappropriate websites, "sexting" practices on cell phones and computers, and the dangers and legal implications associated with teens receiving and sending inappropriate messages.

Detective Forrestdal warned that cell phones will be fully capable computers within the next couple of years and cautioned about the huge increase in inappropriate images being sent on social networking sites and cell phones. He explained that these images last forever, and an eye-opening statistic shows that 20% of students have posted or received half-naked or naked images. Some of these images are even being traded by pornography website operators like baseball trading cards!

"Technology is the way our children will communicate for the rest of their lives, so they need to learn to use it safely," Detective Forrestdal told parents. "But one video, one image, can ruin your kid."

Detective Sanchez alerted parents to some of the acronyms used by teens to keep parents clueless about the messages being sent. He also reported that 9% of 13-year-olds, 24% of 17-year-olds, and 20% of 18-year-olds have sent a nude or almost nude photo over the Internet or their cell phone.

"This happens, even in the most respectable households," Detective Sanchez stated. "The problem is, there is no distinction in the law for children ages 16 and older who possess or send what is deemed as child pornography."

Ms. Kahn noted that 25% of students who are sexting believe that their actions are "no big deal," yet it is a federal crime.

Both Detectives Forrestdal and Sanchez said there are ways to prevent students from inappropriate communications. Parents must establish rules to follow when communicating with others using computers or phones, discuss the consequences of their behavior, and never allow a webcam into their child's bedroom. Both detectives also emphasized the importance of discouraging young people from taking or posting inappropriate photos, as well as sending or forwarding inappropriate photos or texts, and moreover, thinking about the consequences of those actions.



Guest speakers Detectives Ray Forrestdal, and Michael Sanchez (left) and attorney Tara Kahn (right) are pictured with Shoreham-Wading River Principal Dan Holtzman and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harriet Copel.

Pledging Not to Say the "R" Word

Members of Shoreham-Wading River High School's Best Buddies Club have joined a national campaign to abolish the derogatory word "retarded" from their vocabulary. On March 3, students and staff signed a pledge to vow an awareness and sensitivity to the use of the word, which so often hurts the feelings of those who are mentally challenged or targeted by bullies.

Shoreham-Wading River High School teacher and Best Buddies Club advisor Daria Capone stated that the word "retarded" has crept into the vocabulary of people across the country. Its use cuts to the core of the recipient's self esteem. "The Best Buddies Club is trying to heighten the awareness that all students and staff should be treated equally," Ms. Capone stated. "Having respect for one another is also a goal of the District."

Club members erected a seven-foot Shoreham-Wading River Wildcat mural in the school's A-wing. Every student or staff member that signed the pledge received a piece of mosaic to place on the mural. The goal is to fill the mural with mosaic pieces.

The Club members also sold blue and gold t-shirts that stated, "Want to Be My Buddy?" Students who purchased a T-shirt asked friends to sign and decorate them, making the shirts unique. All proceeds went to the Best Buddies Club program.



HAVING FUN & LEARNING *Under & Above the Sea*

Learning about the sea and its creatures is not confined to the classroom at Wading River Elementary School. This semester, students participated in an interdisciplinary unit entitled *Under the Sea*, which combined physical education, science, English Language Arts (ELA), art, and technology, while teaching students interesting facts about the world's largest bodies of water.

Physical education students and staff transformed the school gymnasium into a nautical-themed exhibit of interactivity. Students crafted fish that hung from the ceiling, and teachers and staff created multicolored decorations for the gymnasium's walls. The physical education teachers volunteered valuable vacation time to ensure the unit was ready at the start of the semester.



Once the *Under the Sea* exhibit was complete, students climbed the monkey bars, scaled 'fishnets' and a rock-climbing wall, tried their hands at the gymnastic rings, and balanced on beams. A computer tent was also set up for students to download information about their favorite sea urchin or mammal. They also researched bonus questions about sea life from information posted on the walls.

Part of the fun included the Riverhead Marine Research Foundation's show-and-tell presentation about rescued creatures from the ocean. Atlantis Aquarium of Riverhead also provided a touch tank for the students to enjoy, and retired boat captain Jerry McGrath (pictured at left) delighted the students with some interesting stories from the sea and a lesson on navigating the waterways.

Math is a Family Matter

Students and parents came together during the annual Family Math Night at Miller Avenue Elementary School. This year's theme was "Math in Space," which included numerous NASA-themed math challenges and stimulating hands-on activities.

Students and families stretched their brains on logic puzzles, a "Cross the Crater" dice game, and even built space shuttles using three-dimensional figures. In addition, participants walked through space stations with alien symmetry portraits and attempted to finish the "Fill the Shuttle" polygon activity. In addition, all who attended received boarding passes into the crafted space station, where they solved math word

problems written and illustrated by students. "Not only did families enjoy the many problem-solving activities, all of the evening's space travelers' were able to take their math creations home," math Academic Intervention Services (AIS) teacher Jennifer Baribault stated. "The next day, many of the students were motivated to play some of the games in school."



Miller Avenue student Aidan Crowley is a human clock.

Testing Their Knowledge *of Science*

Two teams from Prodell Middle School competed against 100 students from 15 Long Island middle schools in the Regional Middle School Science Bowl held at Brookhaven National Laboratory in March. The Science Bowl is a Jeopardy-style question-and-answer academic tournament designed to test students' knowledge of life science, physical science, mathematics, earth science, and general science. Participants also competed in a hydrogen fuel-cell car competition.

"Even though the students did not win, they had an exciting day of rigorous academic questioning and competed in the solar car challenge," Science Bowl coach Lori Racaniello stated.

The District would like to congratulate the following Science Bowl team members for their participation and efforts in this science competition.



Team 1 (above): Coach Lori Racaniello, Matthew Peraza, Tyler Anderson, Giavanna Verdi, Alyssa Filangeri, and Jason Novetti. Courtesy of Brookhaven National Laboratory



Team 2 (left): Coach Lori Racaniello, Madison Hubner, Keith Steinbrecher, Laura Logan, and Victoria Mikros. Courtesy of Brookhaven National Laboratory

HEARTS FOR HAITI

This year, Prodell Middle School's Valentine Dance turned into a fundraising event for the earthquake victims in Haiti. The Pride Club changed the dance to "Hearts for Haiti," and members sold sweetheart candy and frosted sugar cookies during the event. The club also cut out paper valentines to use for an interactive game. Each student was given half a heart on a wristband and searched for the perfect match on the arm of another student. There were also a number of games and prizes that helped to make the evening fun and full of goodwill.



An American Welcome

Third graders at Miller Avenue Elementary School studied the immigration process of yesterday and today during the school's annual Immigration Day. This special social studies unit is designed to assist students in understanding the challenges immigrants have dealt with for the last 100+ years.

"This unit helps students gain a deeper understanding of both immigration at Ellis Island and the struggles that immigrants still face today," Principal Louis Parrinello stated.

The students initially studied Ellis Island, and then took on their own personas as immigrants. They entered the gymnasium, which was decorated to look like Ellis Island's Great Hall. The student-immigrants went through a series of screenings, much like some of their forefathers, during which they were evaluated for admittance to America and questioned by a

Chief Inspector.

Upon entering the country, the student-immigrants rotated through a series of stations. They began with a visit to the Statue of Liberty station, where they learned more about this great national monument. The steerage area helped the students reenact what it was like to travel on a steamship as immigrants did. An artifact station allowed them to examine authentic items (on loan) from immigrant families. Students were also required to write about their immigration journey in the journaling station.

"We have a student in the third grade and several students throughout the school who have immigrated to this country," Mr. Parrinello explained. "The students were also able to speak with real-life immigrants about their experiences entering the United States and what immigration means to them."



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 December through January.

DECEMBER

- Danielle DeGeronimo – English Language Arts (ELA)
- Charles DeMaio – Technology
- Meghan King – Social Studies
- Dan Klemfuys – Science
- Michelle Mallardi – Art
- Michael Mazzola – LOTE
- Zach Sperling – Math

JANUARY

- Vincent Alese – Physical Education
- Justin Ceruti – Technology
- Christine Joseph – Physical Education
- Laura Kovach – Music
- Jennifer Kwarta – Business
- Emily McNally – English Language Arts (ELA)
- Courtney Perrone – LOTE
- Sarah Sasfrank – Science
- Dan Cacace – Social Studies
- Liz Nestler – Math

Gaining More Than Classroom Knowledge

Students enrolled in the high school's Life Skills program are not only gaining classroom knowledge, but are acquiring skills that they will carry throughout their lifetimes. The Life Skills program caters to the individual needs of the mentally, physically, and educationally challenged student.

Participants may be assigned to the school campus during the entire day, or may attend the BOCES program for half-day sessions before returning to the classroom. In addition to life skills, students work with speech therapist Allison Desmond and autism consultant Carrie Coleman to incorporate activities that promote language development, as well as socialization with high school students. The physical education department also works in tandem with the Life Skills program by providing cooperative games and general physical education classes.

"Everyone working together has fueled our program so it could grow exponentially," Life Skills teacher Daria Capone stated. "The program allows students to spend time in the Life Skills classroom, mainstream classrooms, and in the community."

Ms. Capone explained that one of the most important aspects of the program includes work opportunities both on and off campus. Students deliver the mail back and forth from the high school to the District Office, assist the custodians in the cafeteria, help to beautify the campus, and coordinate mailings for the high school and District Office. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Harriet Copel has also asked the students to create centerpieces for community meetings, which take place in the elementary schools. All working Life Skills students have obtained working papers and receive a paycheck for work performed based on the number of hours they put in.

Off campus, retail establishments have opened their doors to Life

Skills students. Crowne Plaza Hotel in Medford allows the students to assist with housekeeping, kitchen duty, and banquet setup. One of the students' favorite field experiences, however, is feeding the horses and cleaning the stables at IRIE Therapeutic Horse Farm in Riverhead.

"Our students especially love to feed the horses peppermints and carrots," Ms. Capone added. "Field experiences have been so successful, that we are currently searching for more fieldwork for our students."



Life Skills student Jesse Witkey delivers the mail back and forth from the high school to the District Office, and is pictured with teacher Daria Capone.

WILDCAT PRIDE

Sports Wrap-Up



The winter sports season concluded with many outstanding accomplishments on the field and in the classroom as Shoreham-Wading River athletes reached for their personal and team bests. The wrestling team captured the Section XI Team Sportsmanship Award, and three winter teams were named Scholar-Athlete Teams, having achieved a 90 percent or better cumulative academic average. Here is a list of the many athletic accomplishments.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Brandon Hughes – Conference All-Academic
Ryan McAlary – All-League

GIRLS BASKETBALL: SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAM

Caitlin Condron – All-League
Michelle Gostic – League VI Rookie of the Year
Samantha Villafranca – All-League, All-County

BOYS INDIVIDUAL SWIMMING

David Hoffman – Qualified for Suffolk County State Qualifying Meet. Swam personal best in 100-yard backstroke, and placed 17th in 500-yard freestyle.

BOYS WINTER TRACK: SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAM

Erik Anderson – All-League, All-Conference, League 5 High Jump Champion
Alec Baron – All-League, All-Conference, 4x200 Relay League 5 Champion
Jesse Feinberg – All-League
James Hunt – All-League, All-Conference
John Lee – All-League, All-Conference

John Mattia – All-League, All-Conference, 4x200 Relay League 5 Champion
Brett Miller – All-League, All-Conference, 4x200 Relay League 5 Champion
Ben Quinn – All-League, All-Conference, 4x200 Relay League 5 Champion
Kevin Sanders – All-League, All-Conference

GIRLS WINTER TRACK: SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAM

Laura Lee – All-League, All-County Small School
Shannon McDonnell – All-League, All-County Small School, League 600-meter
Codi Anne Mullen – All-League
Danielle Opatovsky – All-League, All-County, All-County Small School, League and Small School Champion Race Walk
Mackenzie Pendergast – All-League
Rebecca Troyano – All-League

WRESTLING: SECTION XI TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

T.J. Fabian – All-League, All-County, Walt Whitman Champion
John Keck – All-League
Zak Mullen – All-League

A Night of the Arts

The halls resonated with the sound of music as Wading River Elementary School students and their families attended a combined evening of music and fine arts. Students were organized into small ensemble groups for band and orchestra performances, and participants rotated from classroom to classroom to listen to a variety of tunes and lyrical styles.

The halls and classrooms were also decorated with student artwork creatively displayed on partition walls.

“We have a wonderful arts program at Wading River Elementary School,” Principal Stephen Donohue stated. “This evening’s program is a great opportunity for the students to showcase their work and for the parents to get a glimpse of their child’s talents.”



Student-musicians Derek Maillard, Connor Mears, and Christopher Sheehan.



Student-musicians Jenna Friedman and Madison Farron.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
 High School
 Auxiliary Gymnasium
 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

BUDGET HEARING
 May 4, 2010 @ the
 High School
 8:00 p.m.

Comprehensive Budget information is available on the District’s website at www.swrschools.org



SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER
 CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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