Shoreham-Wading River High School continues to expand enrichment opportunities to empower students for postgraduation success. Senior Robert Tacke and recent graduate Eileen Sheridan recently proposed the creation of a job shadowing program to further prepare students for future careers. After sharing their vision with Principal Frank Pugliese, Superintendent Gerard Poole and the Board of Education, their initiative is coming to fruition.

Additionally, the new High School store will allow special education students to gain practical job skills and experience in areas like inventory management and marketing. By working at the store, they will also improve vocational abilities, math skills, communication and social confidence to assist in transitioning to employment.

A group of advanced American Sign Language students, including Abigail DeLumen, Carly Mulroy, Elizabeth Sabino, Emma Turley and Nick Worthington, recently demonstrated their proficiency by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in sign language at a Board of Education meeting. Not only does ASL enhance overall communication capabilities vital to engaging with the Deaf community, but these students can now earn Stony Brook University credits for their efforts.

Students in the High School’s Long Island Sustainability courses and Future Farmers of America Club are taking the lead in creating an apiary on the high school campus. In addition, students are constructing state-of-the-art beehives and planning for the arrival of bees in the spring. They will be utilizing technology to monitor the health of the hive.

As the school year unfolds, more enrichment opportunities will empower students to embrace their bright futures. With decades of continued District growth and evolution, including these new student-led initiatives, Shoreham-Wading River is poised to embark on another 50 years of excellence.
Before the start of school, the Shoreham-Wading River School District welcomed three special guests to our 2023-24 Superintendent’s Conference Day: Mr. Kevin Mann, who retired after 40 years in 2014 as a social studies teacher at the High School; Mrs. Liala Strotman, who ended her 38 years in the District as the principal of Briarcliff School in 2008; and Ross Burkhardt, who taught English and social studies at Prodell until his retirement in 1997. The trio shared a part of the history of the District’s advances in education as part of its 50th anniversary. As a District, their visit was another historic moment for us as we honored them as the inaugural inductees into the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District Alumni Staff Hall of Fame.

Historical Analysis at Prodell

Students in Albert G. Prodell Middle School learned more about primary sources by analyzing Shoreham-Wading River yearbooks and literary magazines from 1976-2010.

The sixth graders in Lisa McEvoy’s social studies classes examined archived student newspapers and district newsletters, provided by Superintendent Poole, to learn about the District’s 50 years of excellence. In their research they uncovered an important SWR historical event: the opening of Prodell Middle School in 1973!

“They made some insightful observations, found some answers to their questions and developed new questions in their investigations,” Ms. McEvoy said. She used the practice as a springboard into the academic year and to help the students understand how history is connected to each of them.

“I want my students to know that social studies isn’t just found in a textbook, with questions at the end of the chapter; it is exciting and fun when we look closer at the artifacts left behind,” she said. “The project is instilling a curiosity to dig deeper into the ancient world and uses vocabulary we will encounter all year.”
The Shoreham-Wading River School District took pride in honoring its seven-member Board of Education during the annual celebration of the New York State School Boards Association’s School Board Recognition Week (Oct. 16-20). During the Oct. 24 Shoreham-Wading River Board of Education meeting, held at Wading River Elementary School, administration, faculty and students formally demonstrated their sincere appreciation of the district’s seven trustees: President Thomas Sheridan, Vice President Henry Pérez and trustees Katie Andersen, Michael Lewis, Robert Rose, James Smith and Meghan Tepfenhardt.

Superintendent of Schools Gerard Poole thanked the trustees for their dedication to the students, making important decisions for the district and positively impacting student outcomes.

After congratulating and thanking the Board, Wading River and Miller Avenue elementary schools’ students presented the trustees with a poster commemorating the district’s 50th anniversary. Albert G. ProdeLL Middle School students gifted the trustees a poster made with origami butterflies, representing the ability for someone to transform into their best selves. High school students presented a combination of qualities that best describe the trustees, such as dedicated, selfless, forward thinking, collaborative, intelligent, inventive and courageous. The Wading River School’s fifth grade advanced orchestra, under the direction of Erin Fasano, also performed during the meeting.

50 Years of Excellence

As we celebrate 50 Years of Excellence, we would like to find out where our SWRHS alumni are today to celebrate their post-high school achievements, military service, college, career, hobbies, family and more! Scan the QR Code to fill out the form so we can celebrate you!

Miller Avenue Students Salute Veterans

Miller Avenue School hosted an inaugural Miller Avenue Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 8. Principal Claudia Smith extended the invitation to all community veterans and received dozens of responses. Veterans were welcomed to the school with coffee and refreshments before walking alongside their cherished Miller Avenue students through the hallways. Patriotic music played, and red, white and blue flags were waved by students throughout the hallways to welcome and thank the veterans for their service to our country.

“This was truly a memorable and historic experience for our students and staff,” Mrs. Smith said. “It was wonderful to thank these American heroes in person.”
Shoreham-Wading River School District celebrated its annual homecoming festivities on Oct. 21. Starting the day, students from Miller Avenue School, Wading River School, Albert G. Prodell Middle School and Shoreham-Wading River High School, district families, community members, alumni and staff enjoyed various fall-themed activities hosted by the high school clubs and organizations in the high school gymnasium. Prior to the start of the football game, senior members of the football team were recognized and celebrated as family members escorted them onto the field to mark the occasion.

The cheerleaders kept the enthusiastic crowd cheering with Wildcat pride throughout the game against the Southampton Mariners.

SpongeBob SquarePants on Stage!

SpongeBob, Patchy the Pirate, Gary the pet sea snail, Patrick, Squidward, Sandy Cheeks and others were on stage at the Shoreham-Wading River High School production of “The SpongeBob Musical” in late October. The talented students put on three performances for the community under the leadership of Director Mr. Dennis Creighton and Assistant Director Maryanne Agius. Bravo!
Learning has never been as sweet as when kindergarten students celebrated Apple Week! With apple-inspired read-alouds, writing activities, creating apple prints, learning about the seeds, stems, core, leaves, flesh and skin that make up an apple, and a yummy taste test investigation, the students are well-versed in all things apple related.

Students tasted red, green and yellow apples and shared their thoughts about what each apple tastes like by filling in their choice of good, bad or indifferent. They also colored a sheet with the various hues of the apples.

“The students had a great time experiencing what we may think of as a simple fruit,” teacher Courtney Von Bargen said. “There are so many learning activities provided by apples.”

Seashore Science Lessons

Wading River School students found a real seahorse while seining on the Great South Bay! They also spotted dolphins swimming by in the Atlantic Ocean on a sun-filled day trip to Fire Island. Meanwhile, Miller Avenue School students visited the Nature Center at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai for some up close and personal views of the outdoors. These two unique field trips were geared to the young SWR scientists.

Local Heroes Visit

Local heroes from the Wading River Fire Department visited the Wading River School on Oct 13. Special thanks to each of them for helping teach our students how to stay safe in the event of an emergency and for always being there whenever needed.
Spotlight on SWR High School!

National Merit Semifinalist

Shoreham-Wading River High School senior Dongkai Zhang is a standout student. His most recent achievement is being named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Dongkai is among the more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 69th annual program and will continue in the competition for approximately 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly $28 million that will be offered next spring.

Outstanding Potential for Academic Success

Two seniors have been named Commended Students in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Students James Minetti and Emily Scherl have each been recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated on their outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They each received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program. The two students are very involved in all aspects of their high school careers and recognize that this achievement is vital to the advancement of educational excellence.

All-State Honors!

Seven students were recognized by the New York State School Music Association. Killian O’Reilly (symphony orchestra, cello), Lucas Portuese (symphonic band, double bass) and Robert Tacke (mixed chorus, bass 2) were selected to perform in the All-State performing ensembles to take place in Rochester, New York, in December. Yiya Hu (violin), James Minetti (viola), Lee Minty (violin) and Dongkai Zhang (violin) were selected as alternates. Their selections stem from evaluation scores and comments from the spring 2023 NYSSMA assessment, along with detailed teacher recommendations.
Academic Achievement Honors

Students Chris Colon, Casey Hernandez, Emily Scherl, Averie Sciarrino, Rick Sicoli and Dongkai (Alex) Zhang earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition programs. They were lauded for their hard work, dedication and strong academic performance.

Christopher Colon, Averie Sciarrino, Rick Sicoli and Dongkai Zhang were also honored with the National Rural and Small Town Award. Casey Hernandez and Emily Scherl were honored with the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

The criteria for these eligible students included a GPA of 3.5 or higher and PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of students taking the assessment in each state for each award program or who earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP exams in ninth and 10th grade. The awards are another way for students to showcase their hard work in high school. The programs not only benefit students, they also benefit colleges looking to recruit diverse, talented students.

For its commitment to academic excellence from students, coaches and administrators, Shoreham-Wading River School District’s Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Nurses Mr. Mark Passamonte was presented with a certificate and a commemorative award at the Fall New York State Public High School Athletic Association local athletic director workshop.

The workshop was an opportunity to highlight Shoreham-Wading River High School as one of the 20 Section XI high schools to achieve the honor of being named a 2022-23 School of Distinction.

This is the third consecutive year that Shoreham-Wading River received the status by having 100% of its varsity teams qualify for and receive the Scholar-Athlete team award during their respective sports seasons.

Wildcat Wins!

The Shoreham-Wading River School District congratulates all of our student-athletes on a successful fall season. A shout-out to the varsity girls tennis team who received the Section XI girls’ tennis small school final four championship award for the fall 2023 season; the girls soccer team who won the Long Island Championship; the Prodel Middle School girls soccer team for finishing up the fall season undefeated; junior and two-time All-American, three-time Newsday All-Long Island selection Emily Herr who succeeded in both the 200 individual medley, taking first place, and the 100 butterfly, breaking a record in that race, at the Section XI Swimming Championships at Stony Brook University; and senior Gavin McQueeney who was honored with the Thomas Cutinella Service Award.
Dear Shoreham-Wading River Community,

For 50 years, the Shoreham-Wading River School District has empowered students through engaging programs, nurturing environments, and challenging learning. As we commemorate this milestone anniversary, the district’s founding principles of unity and progress continue to guide our growth and connectedness.

To commemorate, we have added special 50th anniversary features to our website, including digital copies of district newsletters dating back to 1973. Upcoming celebrations include a time capsule event and districtwide concert performance. We are proud to honor our rich history.

This school year brings exciting enhancements across our schools, from renovated art rooms and a new fitness center at the high school to outdoor learning spaces, refreshed academics areas, and curriculum improvements at all grade levels. New offerings such as our apiary program, community relations course, and expanded technology featuring laser engraving and drones provide students with enriched opportunities.

As our successful 2019-2024 Strategic Plan nears completion, we have begun updating the plan to ensure continued relevance, advancement, and alignment with the district’s mission, vision and values in the years ahead. We will seek periodic community feedback through surveys during this process and share updates regularly.

We are thankful for our dedicated Board of Education, administrators, educators, support staff, parent organizations, and booster clubs who guide our students, support their growth, and enhance their experiences. As we embark on this milestone year, we look forward to new successes, inspirational stories, and more reasons to be proud members of the Shoreham-Wading River school community.

Sincerely,
Mr. Gerard W. Poole
Superintendent of Schools

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR STUDENTS’ SUCCESS!

The input of our SWR community members is highly valued and plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our students’ success. We request your participation in a survey aimed at identifying the essential traits that a student should graduate high school with. By gaining your insights, we can ensure that our educational system aligns with the needs of our students, equipping them for future careers and life success.

Please complete this short survey by Dec. 15.

Stay Connected With ParentSquare

Reminders, links and other important messages are the highlights of our new communications-based service – ParentSquare. The easy to navigate system for families is now available for use. Click on the homepage icon to register for this innovative tool.

District Welcomes New Prodell Assistant Principal

Mrs. Lauren Biscardi has joined the District as the assistant principal of Albert G. Prodell Middle School. Throughout her professional career, Mrs. Biscardi has had a strong focus on collaborative leadership, communication skills and building positive relationships with students and staff. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English education from Siena College and a Master of Science in literacy from Adelphi University. She also earned an advanced certificate in school building leadership from The College of Saint Rose.

Her most recent role was as dean of students at Finley Middle School in the Huntington School District, where she also held positions as a seventh and eighth grade English teacher and an instructional coach for the English department. In these educational roles, Mrs. Biscardi has learned the importance of trust and confidence, placing great emphasis on making sure students feel safe and welcome in their school, as if it is a second home.

“I intend to create that feeling for students, parents and staff when they walk through the doors of Albert G. Prodell Middle School this year, and for many years to come,” she said.

Message from the Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mr. Thomas Sheridan, President • Mr. Henry Pérez, Vice President
Mrs. Katie Andersen, Trustee • Mr. Michael Lewis, Trustee
Mr. Robert Rose, Trustee • Mr. James Smith, Trustee
Mrs. Meghan Tepfenhardt, Trustee
Mr. Gerard W. Poole, Superintendent of Schools

build the Foundation for success

SWR Review