

FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

"The things taught in schools are not an education but the means of an education."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Fiscal responsibility has many voices...

What did I do to deserve this? That is the question many of us ask when we are snowed under with problems. The fact is that our lives seem to be filled with pressures that weigh us down. How we react to these pressures, expectations, and questions may determine what we accomplish and achieve in life.

When faced with a challenge, taking and accepting responsibility is the key. When your school administrators worked on the school budget last fall, each and every one of them took their fiscal responsibility seriously. They worked tirelessly to pare down operating expenses. And at all times they kept central goals in mind: improving student achievement, increasing staff accountability, and improving the efficiency of our administration.

We have constructed a budget that we are proud to present to the residents of South Huntington. Your school administrators and members of the Board of Education firmly believe that it is our fiscal responsibility to ensure that your tax dollars are treated with the care and stewardship that they deserve. I invite you to call me at 425-5300, ext 135, with any questions you may have about the budget.

But only one vote...

The Board of Education has worked very hard to present a budget that maintains our current programs without resorting to reductions that could affect the quality of the education we provide. We have made reductions in the operating costs of virtually every other aspect of the district's budget. Now the time has come for you to cast your crucial vote. It is in all of our best interests to vote now and avoid a contingency budget. Having a second vote costs taxpayers an average of \$10,000. And that doesn't include the additional district employee hours spent to prepare information and print required literature. We believe that fiscal responsibility should be shared by everyone, and so we encourage you to make the effort to get out and vote on Tuesday, May 16th, between 3PM and 10PM.

Make yours count

The responsibility now is yours. As residents, you need to carefully review the district mailings, like our *Citizens Guide to the South Huntington School Budget* and our *Budget Spotlight*, which you recently received in the mail. We have presented the district's finances in easy-to-understand categories. Adoption of this budget will leave the district on sound financial footing and will ask residents for the smallest tax increase in 16 years: 3.94%. Fiscal responsibility is everyone's responsibility.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY HAS MANY VOICES

BUT ONLY ONE VOTE. MAKE YOURS COUNT!

Tuesday, May 16th, at Walt Whitman High School

Sincerely,
Tom Shea
Superintendent of Schools

SPOTLIGHT

South Huntington Union Free School District

ALBANY IS GETTING THE MESSAGE

SOUTH HUNTINGTON
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
60 Weston St., Huntington Station, NY 11746-4098



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Thomas C. Shea Ed.D., J.D.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jim Kaden, President
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March 21, 2006

Assemblyman James D. Conte
State Capitol
Albany, New York

Dear Assemblyman Conte:

On behalf of the community of South Huntington, I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work that you and many of our elected officials are doing to remedy the problems that our schools are approaching last spring, defeated. The service costs and p

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BOCES

We want consider

Each year, school administrators and Board of Education members meet with elected officials in Albany and discuss the many issues facing residents of South Huntington. This year's meetings were very successful, and additional funding was promised to the South Huntington School District. Board President Jim Kaden and other board members pledged the entire additional funding to be used to lower residents' property taxes.



Left to right: Board Member Barbara Archer, Assistant Superintendent Therese Lack, Ph.D., Assemblyman James D. Conte, Board President Jim Kaden, Board Member Chad Lupinacci, and President of the South Huntington Teachers' Association Joseph Carbone.

South Huntington Named "Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America"

Parents, teachers, school administrators, and students from communities across the U.S. consider music education vitally important for a quality education —this was the resounding message from a national survey that was announced by the American Music Conference (AMC), the non-profit affiliate of NAMM, the International Music Products Association that supports the benefits of music, music education and music making.

The "Best 100" survey was conducted by Perseus Development Corp of Braintree, Mass. and supported by a partnership of leading music and educational organizations during January, February and March. The 2006 roster includes school districts from 31 states whose commitment to quality music education—measured across a variety of economic, curricular and programmatic criteria—has enabled them to stand out despite the many pressures on music and arts programs across the country.

In previous years survey respondents cited that tight budgets in many of the 50 states squeezed school music budgets, but this year's survey revealed some changes in maintenance and overall support of music programs. Some 86 percent of survey respondents indicated that music is included as a core academic subject in school curricula and instructional priorities that are inline with the definition of arts as core academic subjects as defined in No Child Left Behind (NCLB) policy. Furthermore, more than 80 percent of survey respondents cited that their music programs are growing in terms of funding, size of programs, and public and school board recognition. This outcome supports the views outlined in a 2004 nationwide Gallup Poll that revealed that 93 percent of Americans said that schools should offer musical instrument instruction as part of the regular curriculum.

"All of the communities should be applauded for making sure music education is part of a quality education for all children," said Mary Luehrsen, Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for NAMM. "With testing and accountability requirements, schools are facing many challenges in maintaining curricular time and resources that assure students have access to music education. The schools being recognized here, consider music education integral to a quality education—not optional, elective, or available only if time permits."

South Huntington Schools director for Art, Dance, Music and Adult Education, Vincent D'Ulisse said: "I'm delighted to see the teachers and students of South Huntington get the recognition that they so deserve."

AROUND THE DISTRICT AROUND THE DISTRICT AROUND

WILDCAT ATHLETICS... BUILDING ON TRADITION

The South Huntington Athletic department invites you to participate in a focus group to give your perspective on athletics in our schools.

Where: Walt Whitman High School
When: Wednesday, May 24th and Wednesday, May 31st
Time: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

There will be three separate focus groups:
 #1 Parents #2 High School Students #3 Middle School Students

The groups will consist of between 20 and 25 members chosen by lottery from the responses received.

If you are interested in helping our teams achieve their maximum potential and can commit to BOTH dates and times please e-mail us at:

shathletics@shufsd.org

In the e-mail include:

Name, e-mail address, phone number
 parent, high school student or middle school student

We look forward to hearing from you!!

HATS OFF TO READING

Ms. Chalfen's SHIP class has been very busy celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. The class created their own hats using a red and white pattern. They also created door hangers titled "Hats off to Reading," to be hung on their own bedroom doors at home when they are reading. At the birthday party for Dr. Seuss the class prepared green eggs. Everybody loved them!



Ms. Chalfen's SHIP class celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Over 130 students from Walt Whitman High School were inducted into the National Honor Society class of 2006 last week. In a celebration ceremony, National Honor Society scholastic leaders Justin Quatararo, Jaclyn Sorensen, Christina Cozzetto, and Joseph Gross (left to right in photo) led a candle-lighting ceremony. Faculty advisor Lynn Tsaousis moderated the evening's events, and Principal Jim Polansky concluded with encouraging words. The Walt Whitman Chamber Choir, led by Ms. Leopold was also on hand to lend their voices in several musical selections.



National Honor Society class of 2006 inductees.

ROBERTO TOLEDO IS NEW YORK STATE'S BILINGUAL SUPPORT PERSON OF THE YEAR

The New York State Association for Bilingual Education announced that they have named South Huntington Schools Social Worker Roberto Toledo NYSABE Bilingual Support Person of the Year. Mr. Toledo works with bilingual Spanish families in a variety of ways, supporting children and parents to ensure that children have every opportunity to excel in our schools. "Mr. Toledo is a social worker for both Oakwood Primary Center and Birchwood Intermediate School, and while supporting all mainstream students, he has made special connections with the bilingual families," said Mary Ann Sacks, South Huntington dual language coordinator. "It is virtually impossible to keep up with Roberto's pace," continued Ms. Sacks. "He just doesn't stop for one minute."

One minute he's making phone calls to parents about attending evening meetings where he addresses their responsibilities to ensure that homework is done and that their children

come to school "ready to learn." The next minute he's making a special effort to go to the high school to speak with English-as-a-Second-Language students about reaching their life goals and avoiding pitfalls. No matter what he's doing, Mr. Toledo is there for the kids and their families, because he is committed to making sure that none of his students will be left behind.

"When I first was told of the award, I was very grateful," said Mr. Toledo. "I came here from Ecuador 16 years ago, and I had to start from scratch. I learned English and worked very hard for my masters degree in theology and then returned for my masters degree in social work," Mr. Toledo continued. "I am working with elementary-aged kids, and they are like little sponges. I can see that I make a difference in their lives. My work with them is like a seed that I plant and then watch it grow. It's very gratifying."



Left to right: Therese Lack, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Student Services; Roberto Toledo; Roberto's Mother; and Mary Ann Sacks, ESL / Dual Language Coordinator.

SCOPE

Honors Patricia Dillon

At the fifth annual awards ceremony held recently, South Huntington Board of Education Vice President Patricia Dillon was honored with the school board Award Of Excellence.



Left to right: Board Member Thomas Teresky, Honoree Patricia Dillon, School Superintendent Thomas Shea, School Board President Jim Kaden and Board Member Barbara Archer.

SEPTA An evening of Jazz

The award-winning Walt Whitman High School Jazz Band and Stage Band were joined recently by two guest performers in an unforgettable concert. Philadelphia-born trumpeter, trombonist, and composer Michael Philip Mossman (top right in photo) and Brittany Maier, pianist (lower left in photo), helped to create a special evening and support the work SEPTA does in our community. Brittany has mastered and can perform more than 15,000 songs on the piano, adding roughly 1,000 to her repertoire each year. Her life story recently aired on *Dateline NBC*.



ATTENTION All Walt Whitman Graduates

Student aide positions are available this summer. Positions are available starting June 26, 2006 through August 25, 2006 Assist. Custodians, Maintenance & Groundsmen. 7AM-3:30PM - \$7.50/hr
 To apply contact the Personnel Office at 425-5300 x149

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Monday May 29 Memorial Day
Thursday June 22- Early Dismissal
 •K-2 10:45AM
 •Grades 3-5 11:45AM
Friday June 23- Last Day of School
Early Dismissal
 •K-2 10:45AM
 •Grades 3-5 11:45AM
SHIP: Early Dismissal

DON'T MISS THE SHEF ANNUAL GOLF OUTING MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2006 TIMBER POINT GOLF COURSE GREAT RIVER, NY

Continental Breakfast
 Starting at 10:00 a.m. arrive early and warm up on the driving range or putting green

12:30 p.m. Shotgun Tee Off
 Barbeque Lunch at the clubhouse
 Beer and Soda on the course throughout the day
 Prizes, Raffles, Hole-In-One Contest and much more
 Following Golf (Approximately 5:00 p.m.)
 Cocktail Hour and Dinner
 Honoring Eugene Barnosky

Also featuring a Sports Memorabilia Art Auction

GOLF/SPONSOR REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____

Phone _____
 Gold Package _____ \$1,000 Silver Package _____ \$500
 Tee Sponsor _____ \$250 Green Sponsor _____ \$100
 Friends of SHEF _____ \$50 Golf/Dinner Package _____ \$150
 Cocktails/Dinner Only _____ \$75

Please assign me to a foursome _____
 I want to play in the following foursome
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

Enclosed is my check payable to the
 South Huntington Educational Foundation Total \$ _____
 Please complete and mail to:
 SHEF - Golf Outing, 60 Weston Street Huntington Station, NY 11746

Birchwood Birchwood Birchwood Birchwood

WORLD'S LARGEST CONCERT

March is "Music In Our Schools Month." In recognition of this special time, the students at Birchwood sang along with an estimated 6 million students, teachers, and music supporters around the world in the 2006 World's Largest Concert. On March 17th, students enthusiastically assembled in the Birchwood Commons to sing along with the broadcast. Mr. Kosak prepared students for the special event during general music class.



OVER 80 STUDENTS PERFORM AT STATE CONVENTION

Birchwood Dual Language students performed at the annual NY State Association for Bilingual Education (SABE) state convention.



Participants of the New York State Association of Bilingual Education essay contest: "Why is learning another language important to me?"



In the picture with Birchwood School principal Mr. Ciccarelli and teacher Mrs. McCarthy, in the back row (standing) from left to right: Jessica Barahona, Mara Keen, Emily Biederman, Cheryl Rodriguez, Sabrina Cahvez, Monica Henriquez. Front row, left to right: Josephine Crompton, Jailene Arce and Cristóbal Forno.

LET'S WRITE

Two of our very own third graders from Mrs. McCarthy's class were chosen as the winners of the "Let's Write" contest, which is organized by the New York Studies Weekly. This is a monthly publication for young students in the State of New York.

The winners, Allison Calzada and Emily Biederman submitted their articles along with their classmates and children from all over the state. Allison and Emily's articles have been published in the April issue. We are very proud of our talented young writers.



Published writers Emily Biederman, left and Allison Calzada are winners in the state contest, "Let's Write."

BW BOWLING

Birchwood PTA Bowling strikes again as students, friends and parents joined together for a fun afternoon of games, food, fun and prizes.



Maplewood Maplewood Maplewood Maplewood

MAPLEWOOD STUDENT IS STATEWIDE WINNER IN ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

At a luncheon in Albany hosted by the National Arbor Day Foundation, Maplewood fifth-grader Kelly Bilodeau was honored as this year's winner in a statewide poster competition titled: "Trees Are Terrific...in All Shapes and Sizes." "Kelly's winning poster will be printed as a bookmark and distributed throughout the state and nation," said Maplewood Assistant Principal Alison Moore.

As part of the reward, Urban and Community Forestry Partnership will

donate a tree, which will be planted at Maplewood in Kelly's name. Kelly herself would be the first to tell you that her art teacher Sefia Paduano has made her learning experiences fun and exciting. But music is also one of her true loves. "I love the violin," said Kelly, "and I'm looking forward to sixth grade, where I will be able to continue with my art and music. This award is very exciting for me. I worked hard on my poster to show that trees are very important. They provide shade, oxygen, and are



"Best in State." That's fifth grader Kelly Bilodeau with her winning art piece in the National Arbor Day poster competition.

STUDENT COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

The Student Council, along with the rest of the students and staff at Maplewood, has been working very hard in support of numerous causes. The Student Council organized and ran a successful snack sale that raised over \$1500 for the Share Our Strength organization, which works toward ending childhood hunger in America. The council has also donated \$200 to the Little Shelter after having a heart sale.

The Little Shelter cares for and finds homes for many animals in need. The shelter even has two dogs in residence that were rescued during Hurricane Katrina. Recently, Maplewood's Student Council sold shamrocks to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and a rainforest T-shirt sale just ended. Maplewood is also responsible for adopting 200 acres of rainforest from previous sales. The students and faculty of Maplewood continue to make community support a top priority.

THIRD GRADERS SHINE AT BOCES TECH FAIR

On April 27th, 5 students from Ms. Colagiovanni's third-grade class presented their World Of China projects at the Western Suffolk BOCES Annual Technology Fair. The students are Stephen Ugenti, Jordan Stummer, Ryan McAllister, Lindsay Varolian, and Katrina Truglia. These students presented their research through a Photo Story movie. Their movie included images of Chinese landmarks, facts about China, Chinese music, and much more.



Pictured left to right are: Ryan McAllister, Jordan Stummer, Katrina Truglia, Lindsay Varolian, and Stephen Ugenti, with their teacher Ms. Colagiovanni.



CARING AT A HIGHER LEVEL

When Matthew Buckley-Bove was diagnosed with cancer, the Maplewood teachers and community rallied to help the Bove family in their time of need. Several different events were planned, and in total they raised over \$2,200. Ms. Elmore and Ms. Gross were responsible for doing "Lucky Buck Fridays." Some of our staff even donated their winnings back for the family! Tonya Lourenco and Diane Christine, responsible for the basket raffle fundraiser, had over 70 baskets, all donated by the staff at Maplewood. Ms. DeNoble, a Maplewood fifth-grade teacher, Ms. Love, a paraprofessional at Maplewood, Ms. Garafalo, and Ms. Gross all worked very hard to make this a special event.



Pictured left to right are Ms. Love and Maplewood 5th grade teacher Ms. Lourenco

OakwoodOakwoodOakwoodOakwoodOakwood

PARENTS AS READING PARTNERS (PARP) PROGRAM

Our PARP program, "Safari Adventure: Hunt for a Good Book!" began on Monday, May 1. The purpose of PARP is to encourage children to read at home with their parents so that they develop a lifelong love of reading.

To accomplish this goal, students and their parents (or other family members) were asked to read together for at least 15 minutes each day, 5 days a week, during the month of May.

Oakwood had a kick-off assembly sponsored by the Oakwood PTA.

At that time, they were entertained by the "Bodacious Book Show." The lively and fun performance had the students thinking and talking about books. Many other exciting activities were planned, including Mystery Readers, Turn Off the TV Week (May 1-5), a Barnes & Noble book fair fundraiser featuring illustrator Renee Reichert, a scavenger hunt at the South Huntington Public Library, a charity book drive, and a special Principal's Challenge if the students reach their goal of reading for a total of 125,000 minutes.



VINCENT VAN GOGH



Second graders at the Oakwood Primary Center listened to the story of Camille and the Sunflowers during their library lesson with Mrs. Carol Cerrato. During art class, Mrs. Danielle Rescigno continued the theme of sunflowers, spring and creativity by having the students paint in the style of Vincent van Gogh. Children enjoyed the combination of their language arts experience with their creative art experience to produce their own individual masterpieces.

ALOHA FROM OAKWOOD

Mrs. McGrorty's and Mrs. Fierro's classes had an exciting evening last week as they performed for family and friends in Oakwood's storybook café. The classes put on a show for all their guests. It was a LUAU with singing and dancing to celebrate all that they have learned about the Hawaiian Islands.



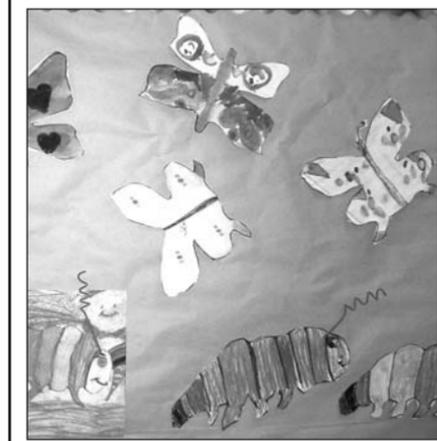
The children learned that the Hawaiian bird is called the Nene and the Hawaiian flower is called the Hibiscus. These were just a few of the many facts shared at last night's performance. The children also sang songs about rainbows and they sang "Farewell for Just a While," a traditional Hawaiian song. It was a great time had by all!! ALOHA!

CATERPILLARS AND BUTTERFLIES OF SPRING

As spring arrived at Oakwood Primary Center, Michael Garb, teaching Music, Art, and Library to select Kindergarten and First Grade classes, shared a reading of Charlie the Caterpillar [by Dom Deluise and Christopher Santoro], with his students. Children identified with the story's anti-bullying messages: No name-calling and you can't say, you can't play. Students further enforced their knowledge of anti-bullying concepts, while learning Mr. Garb's latest character education song: Use Your WITS, and Peter, Paul and Mary's: Don't Laugh at Me. Classes had the opportunity to synthesize their learning through discussion and in painting the metamorphosis of Charlie, from an "unwanted" caterpillar into a beautiful and popular butterfly.



Michael Garb



CountrywoodCountrywoodCountrywood

THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

"You're acting like a bully, and that's no way to make a friend!" This is a familiar line to Countrywood students, who have become familiar with it as part of our character education program. For the past 2 years, we have incorporated our anti-bullying theme into a musical production. This year, music teacher Ms. Makowski adapted the classic The Wizard of Oz to emphasize the importance of being a good friend. In the Countrywood version, entitled Yellow Brick Road, Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion teach the Wicked Witch some important lessons about friendship.

Students from the classes of Ms. Koslow, Ms. Oliveri, and Ms. Thompson began work on the show in January. Each teacher and student assumed a "starring" role. While learning the script, our cast sharpened their singing, dancing, and public speaking skills. We learned the history of stage directions such as "upstage" and "downstage." We learned traditional songs from the show, such as "Over the Rainbow" and "If I Only Had a Brain." With the musical accompaniment of Jazz Band leader Allan Deitz and Whitman students Robby Deitz (drums), David Uhl (bass), and Elizabeth Breen (flute), a truly magical sound was created on the journey to Oz.

Original costumes, handmade decorations, and unique props were provided by the parents of our actors. Spectacular scenery was created by the cast and included a working windmill and a



reversible Emerald City and Witch's Castle. Ms. Davis starred as the Wicked Witch who learned how to become a friend to Dorothy and the Munchkins. Ms. Oliveri played the mayor of Munchkin City, Ms. Thompson was the Coroner, and Ms. Siegel played the part of the wizard.

The show concluded with the wizard awarding Scarecrow a brain, Tin Man a heart, and Lion a medal of courage for the wisdom, love, and bravery they showed. Dorothy learned that friends and family are very important and that it's never OK to be a bully. The talented cast was featured on Monday, April 10, on News Channel 12's "The Head of The Class." This performance created memories that will last a lifetime!



STAMP OUT BULLYING AT COUNTRYWOOD

This spring, Countrywood Primary Center's K-2 character education program highlighted a new song, "STAMP Out Bullying," by Mr. Michael Garb. Mr. Garb's second-grade music class, the students of Ms. Nicolino and Ms. Hay, recently recorded the song with Mr. Garb and Cantor Brian Shamash of South Huntington Jewish Center, for distribution among all K-2 classrooms. As Ms. Siegel, Countrywood's principal, affirms, "We have a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, and Mr. Garb's song will help us to maintain our reputation as a 'bully-free zone' for students."

South Huntington's K-2 character education curriculum teaches friendship skills, builds empathy and compassion, and gives students communication tools through brainstorming, role play, discussion, and music. Children learn how to avoid bad situations, stay away from bullies, build courage and confidence, and develop assertiveness skills.

They learned that bullying behavior is behav-

ior that is hurtful, deliberate, and repeated, and continues even after the bully has been told to stop.



Standing with second grade students, Michael Garb, (left) and Cantor Brian Shamash (with Guitar) performing StampOut Bullying.

Countrywood's response to bullying behavior is found in the acronym STAMP. Expressed in Mr. Garb's song lyrics, it translates to: Stay away from bullies. Tell someone you know. Avoid bad situations. Make friends. Project confidence. Mr. Garb comments, "At Countrywood, we believe in respect for all who live in and outside our school community. This is the message behind STAMP. As the last line of the song reminds us: Countrywood is our community; we are here for each other; be a friend to have a friend."

"MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS" MONTH

What is the full name of the composer who lost his hearing in his early twenties? What are bagpipes that come from Ireland called? Countrywood students responded to these and other trivia questions during the month of March in celebration of "Music In Our Schools" month. Classes with correct answers were recognized over the loudspeaker at the end of the day.

On March 9, second graders participated in The World's Largest Concert, a live musical event sponsored by the National Association for Music Education (MENC). Students watched the broadcast

and sang along with other children across the world. Some of our favorite songs were "If I Had a Hammer" and "You Raise Me Up." As part of this event, MENC teamed up with Feed the Children to raise money to help those less fortunate. Countrywood students raised \$520 for this worthwhile cause.

On March 23, a music recital, "An Evening of Music," concluded the music celebrations. Solo student performances included piano, violin, and voice. These music highlights demonstrated the important role that music plays in the heart of education.

StimsonStimsonStimsonStimsonStimson

MATH WIZ KIDS BRING HOME THE MEDALS

Eight Stimson students recently competed in the Long Island Regional Math Fair, which was held at Half Hollow Hills High School. These eight students were chosen to represent the school based on their performance at Stimson's own Math Fair. Two of the Stimson students did exceptionally well at the regional competition and were invited to compete last Friday, April 28th, in the final Round of the 2006 Alfred Kalfus Long Island Math Fair at Hofstra University.

Mark Egger, an eighth grader won a gold medal with his project on fractals and chaos theory. Saad Kaif, also an eighth grader, won a bronze medal with his project on Pascal's triangle. To win these prestigious

awards, our students went through three grueling rounds of judging on the local and regional levels. It is rare for one school to have more than one medal recipient at the Long Island level. We are very proud of our students. They put an extraordinary amount of effort into their projects.



Left to right: Tim Eagen, Assistant Principal at Stimson Middle School, bronze medal winner Saad Kaif, gold medal winner Mark Egger, Principal Faye Robins, and Math Chairperson Ron Labrocca.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY AWARDS



Stimson Middle School students who moved on to the next level of competition in Cooperstown NY. Left to right: Assistant Principal Mr. Timothy Eagen, Jordan Schuman, Lauren Williams, Jasmine Norman, Jonathan Balsano, and Stimson Principal, Ms. Faye Robins.

On Sunday, March 19, 2006, 19 Stimson students competed with students from all over Long Island at National History Day, held at Hofstra University. The competition was fierce, but many Stimson students earned recognition. Brian Cairl won 4th place for his Individual Exhibit on Preston Tucker. Kaitlyn Beirne and Jessica Bowman earned an Outstanding Achievement Award for their Group Exhibit on the G8 and Live 8. Four Stimson students advanced to the next level, the New York State History Day Competition, which was held on May 5th, 2006, in Cooperstown, NY. The students competing include: Jonathan Balsano, with his Individual Web Site on Kent State; Jordan Schuman, with her Individual Performance on the Warsaw Ghetto; and Jasmine Norman and Lauren Williams, with their Group Performance on Judith Jamison. Jasmine Norman and Lauren Williams earned a bronze medal with their group performance.

FOUR PERFECT PEBBLES

Thanks to Ms. Brieff and the Stimson PTA Cultural Arts Committee, Marion Lazan was able to come and speak with our eighth-grade students on March 29, 2006. Ms. Lazan is a survivor of the Holocaust and the author of *Four Perfect Pebbles*. She gave a moving first-hand account of her family's life from imprisonment in Nazi concentration camps to liberation. Ms. Lazan stressed the importance of positive thinking to overcome adversity. She asked our students

to be tolerant of others and not stereotype individuals based on religious beliefs, color, race, or national origin. Ms. Lazan also warned our students to be true to themselves and not blindly follow leaders and their decisions. This message was a natural fit for our No Name-Calling Week (week of March 27th) plans. For more information, feel free to visit Ms. Lazan's web site at: <http://www.fourperfectpebbles.com>.



Science Fair Winners



Left to right: Science and Technology Chairperson for South Huntington Middle Schools Marcus Maddy, Stimson Principal, Ms. Faye Robins, Stimson Middle School science fair winners standing: Brian Cairl, Laura Sharpe, Saad Kaif, Amy Bilodeau, and Assistant Principal Mr. Timothy Eagen, and science fair winners seated: Andrew Brieff, Brianna Dillon, and Brian Rosenhagen.

JOHN HOPKINS CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ACADEMICALLY TALENTED YOUTH

The Johns Hopkins Talent Search program provides students with private academic enrichment activities outside of the school setting. These include summer camps and weekend programs. In order to participate in this selection process, students must qualify by scoring in the top percentile on the Terra Nova Test and take either the Scholastic Aptitude Test (grades 7 and 8) or the PLUS Assessment (grade 6) in the late fall. Students from Stimson Middle School participated in the program again this year.

Recognized for verbal achievement in the 6th grade were Sean De Brodt and Keil Thomas. Sean De Brodt was also recognized for math achievement. Recognized with distinction for verbal achievement in the 7th and 8th grades were Nicholas Blesi, Andrew Brieff, Emily Mannisto, Courtney O'Connor, Katharine Pigliacelli, Kaitlin Seib, and Lauren Williams. Andrew Brieff, Brian Cairl, Emily Mannisto, Katharine Pigliacelli, and James Romanelli were also recognized for with distinction for their achievement on the SAT Math test. Being recognized with distinction means that these students achieved a test score that equals or exceeds the average score for all college-bound high school seniors.

Other 6th graders participating were: Hoosna Ahmed, Ryan Capozzo, Jeremy Cirillo, Annie Coleman, Bryan Delgado, Samantha Delle, Thomas Dupkavich, Michael Gallagher, Brian Galvin, Shannon Garofola, Hassam Kaif, Adam Manson, Rachel Marx, Mirsab Mirza, Hotaru Morita, Kevin Osse, Alynn Parola, Gabrielle Robertson, Gianni Ruotolo, James Sebesta, Ryan Sheppard, and Evan Zakow. Other 7th and 8th graders participating were: Alexis Aparicio, Christian Araos, Michael Booher, Johnathan Costa, Michelle Crowe, Kristin Damato, Stephen Darcy, Molly Daugherty, Marissa Farrington, Samantha Giancontieri, Romina Gonzales, Joseph Hyland, Hamad Kaif, Saad Kaif, Regina Keane, Mark Koutsantanou, Kristina Maimis, Derek Mandresh, Erica McAllister, Natalie Mendoza, Clare Miller, Lauren Mock, Hassina Naeemi, Manahil Naqvi, Jeremy Patino, Timothy Paulsen, Chelsea Propati, Jake Racaniello, Michelle Rappa, Fuschia Ray, Avais Saleemi, Alan Scardapane, Christopher Smitelli, Ammie Tamano, Stephanie Torres, Alexander Valle, and James Walsh.

SilasWoodSilasWoodSilasWoodSilasWood

"BEST IN FAIR"

Annalyse Moskeland, a sixth grader at SilasWood, was honored as "Best in Fair" for both SilasWood and Stimson

solution," said Annalyse. "After some research, I got my dad to help me cut the Plexiglass and use power tools that enabled me to create the different chambers needed for desalinating salt water. I have already begun planning ways to improve my project," continued Annalyse. An avid piano player and member of the jazz band, Annalyse is already looking forward to Seventh grade at Stimson Middle School, where she will continue her focus on science and music. "I want to thank my family



Left to right: Science and Technology Chairperson for South Huntington Middle Schools Marcus Maddy, with Silas Wood science teacher Carol Kelly, "Best in Fair" winner Annalyse Moskeland, and Silas Wood Principal Roberta Lewis

Middle Schools for her outstanding presentation titled "Using Solar Energy to Desalinate Ocean Water." "Many places in the world, especially the Pacific Islands have a need for fresh water. It's becoming a real problem, and that got me to thinking about a

ly for their support. And I especially want to thank my science teacher, Miss Kelly. She makes class so interesting. There is never anything boring about her science classes," Annalyse said.

EARTH WEEK BLOOMS AT SILAS WOOD

The Green Thumb Squad helped Silas Wood bloom with Earth Week activities during April. Each morning began with "quick facts" read over the intercom to help students understand the adverse impact that humans sometimes have on the environment.

Then, during lunches, students could donate money to help the seals that have been damaged off the coasts of Long Island. Seals at Atlantis Marine World named Linus, Ickabod, and Rune all have alopecia, which is a disease that causes loss of hair. Other seals have puncture wounds, bruises, or seal pox. Seals' can be "adopted" for \$30 each, and Ms. Shepherd's GreenThumb Squad hoped to adopt all eight currently recuperating at the aquarium.

During the week, waste produced by teams during lunch periods was weighed, with the goal of reducing the amount produced by the Friday before Earth Day. The Squad gave the students some tips for packing waste-free lunches.



- Instead of bringing juice boxes, bring Thermoses or water bottles. Did you know that juice boxes contain three layers of packaging, including cardboard, wax, and plastic?

- Try not to bring pre-made, pre-packaged lunches, like Lunchables. Lunchables have individually packaged snacks that create too much waste.

- Instead of paper bags, use lunchboxes or reusable plastic containers. If you use brown paper bags, try to re-use them a few times.

Lastly, the GreenThumbs composted soil in a 20-gallon tank, which was placed by the front doorway. Students contributed vegetable and fruit scraps after lunches to mix with leaves, lint, weeds, soil, and earthworms used in a science lab experiment. Composting cuts down on the food and paper that is going into the fast-filling landfills. Compost could suppress plant diseases and pests, and reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers. "It could be a pollution solution!" says student Lexy Dickerson.

"SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE"

AT THE SILAS WOOD LIBRARY

Our five fabulous, fun-filled days of LibraryWeek have come to an end, and we already can't wait to repeat it next year! We had more than 460 student visits for our various activities. The most popular events were the interactive CD ROMS and the stories in the "comfy, cozy corner." While jazz, classical, and salsa music played in the background, some students worked on jigsaw puzzles and learned strategies for chess and checkers. The numerous door prizes, thanks to Ms. Lewis, Ms. Hili, and Scholastic Books, were much appreciated by the children. Photo highlights are displayed in the showcase outside the library.

A big thank you to Ms. Vetter and Ms. Farmer, who were instrumental in the planning and execution of this special event. Thanks also to Ms. Hili for assisting with the brainstorming sessions.

WhitmanWhitmanWhitmanWhitmanWhitman

Helping Naturally

We've welcomed a new program to Walt Whitman this spring! Natural Helpers is a peer-helping program used in high schools across the United States and in several other countries. The program is based on a simple premise: Within every school, an informal "helping network" exists. Students naturally seek out other students for advice, assistance, or for a sympathetic ear. Natural Helpers uses this existing helping network; it provides students and adults who are already perceived as "natural helpers" with extensive training.

The first annual Walt Whitman Natural Helpers overnight retreat took place from April 19th through April 20th. It was a huge success! School psychologist Kristen Tizzano and social worker Jennifer Provda worked hard to get the program off the ground and will serve as its co-advisors. They ran an activity-filled retreat for 31 Whitman students with the help of guidance counselor Carolyn Hammond and teacher Sam Rodriguez,

as well as staff from the Huntington Tri-CYA. The Natural Helpers were selected by their peers through a school-wide nomination process. Students were asked to name peers they find to be caring and trustworthy. The retreat, which took place at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, included many enjoyable team-building activities as well as presentations on such topics as stereotyping, healthy relationships, and active listening skills. The result was a meaningful experience for all involved. The students left with a stronger self-awareness, a new sense of respect for others, better listening skills, and a few new friends! To quote one of our new Natural Helpers, "This program has truly opened my mind about a lot of things — things that will surely make a difference."

The Whitman Natural Helpers meets every Thursday during their lunch periods. We're looking forward to many successful years as this program continues to grow.



Whitman High School's Natural Helpers take a break from team-building activities at their retreat at Camp Alvernia in Centerport.

MAYHEM POETS SLAMMING AT WHITMAN



On March 15th, Walt Whitman's 9th graders were treated to a lively performance by the Mayhem Poets, a group of three young vibrant men based in New Jersey. The group performed contemporary format spoken-word poetry known as slam poetry.

To say the performance was outstanding would be an understatement. Students were actively engaged from beginning to end as the performers traded original pieces from their personal collections, each built on a different theme and demonstrating a unique combination of meter, rhyme and verbal dexterity.

A special thank you to Lisa Brieff and Donna Appenzeller, Walt Whitman High School PTA Cultural Arts Committee representatives, for helping to bring this program to Whitman.



WHITMAN SCORES BIG AT THE FIESTA-VAL MUSIC COMPETITION

The Chamber/Madrigal Choir, Chamber String Ensemble and Jazz Band traveled to Virginia Beach to participate in The Fiesta-Val Music Competition. Eleven high schools representing six different states performed in all areas of music. The Results:

Walt Whitman Chamber/Madrigal Choir, Director, Ms. Judy Leopold, received a Superior Rating and placed First.
Walt Whitman Chamber String Ensemble, Director, Mrs. Maureen Jenness, received a Superior rating and placed First.
Walt Whitman Jazz Band, Director, Mr. Allan Dietz, received a Superior rating and placed First.

In addition there were special recognitions and awards given to and for the following:

Chamber String Ensemble received special recognition for sectional playing in the cello section.

Special recognition for individual and solo performance was earned by **Ed Wu, violin.**

Jazz Band received special recognition for sectional playing in the Brass, Sax and Rhythm sections.

Special recognition for individual and solo performance was earned by the following students:

Elan Asch - Alto Saxophone
Eric Miller - Trombone
Nick Natalie - Tenor Saxophone
Donovan Dukes - Trumpet

Finally, the Fiesta-Val Grand Championship Sweepstakes Trophy for Superior Instrumental Ensemble Performances was earned by the **Chamber String Ensemble** and the **Jazz Band.**



Allan Dietz, (left) and Judy Leopold (right) with some of the Whitman musicians and their trophies.

WALT WHITMAN SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY!

Walt Whitman High school Senior Joseph Bariatti had an idea to help South Huntington families in need and have some fun at the same time.

Joe approached Principal Jim Polansky in February about organizing a charity rock concert. He arranged for six local bands to play free of charge, with all proceeds donated as well. All band members are current or past

students of Whitman. These bands included Raze, Figure Without Form, Local 13, Cease to Exist, Fire in the Theatre, and The Rivalry.

Tickets were sold with the help of Ms. Annmarie Bunce and the GSO. The masters of ceremony for the evening were social studies teachers Mr. Robert Graziano and Mr. Tom Donlon. Over \$1,500 was raised.

SCIENCE FAIR WINNER



Left to right: Principal Jim Polansky, Guidance Counselor Kathy Acker, Science Fair Winner Jeff Petracca, and Science Chairperson Warren Cohen.



300 students from our Honor's Science Program participated. This is the winning project.

WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

BIOLOGY

First Place: Project Title: The Effect of Toothpaste Build-up on the Growth of Bacteria - *Lauren Adamczak*

Second Place:

Project Title: The Effect of Hydrogen Peroxide on Bean Plant Growth - *Kimberly Basil*

Third Place: Project Title: The Effect of Ultraviolet Light on Bacteria Mortality - *Sean D'Italia*

CHEMISTRY

First Place: Project Title: The Effect of pH Level on Freezing Point and Boiling Point - *Jenn LaCara*

Second Place: Project Title: The Effect of Voltage on the Electroplating Process - *Daniel Gross*

Third Place: Project Title: The Effect of Chlorine on Different Hair Types - *Jessica Leydon*

PHYSICS

First Place:

Project Title: The Physical and Chemical Effect of Araneae Silk on the Strength and Properties of Synthetic Materials and Its Possible Military and Practical Applications
Jeff Petracca

Second Place: Project Title: The Effect of Temperature and Weight on the Damping Constant of a Pendulum - *Matthew Giambrone*

Third Place: Project Title: The Effect of Temperature and Aerodynamics on the Distance a Golf Ball Travels - *Michael Tufo*

2006 BEST IN FAIR

Project Title: The Physical and Chemical Effect of Araneae Silk on the Strength and Properties of Synthetic Materials and Its Possible Military and Practical Applications - *Jeff Petracca*

DECA CONQUERS THE LONE STAR STATE



The 46th Annual New York DECA State Career Conference was held in Rochester, New York. Walt Whitman maintained its reputation as a high ranking school with 9 students advancing to the International level. These students represented the South Huntington Community and Suffolk County at the DECA International Career Conference recently held in Dallas, Texas.

CHRISTINA COZZETTO IS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



As a result of her ongoing commitment to her studies and her academic achievement, Christina Cozzetto has been awarded a National Merit Scholarship. In the fall Christina will be attending Brown University, where she will major in biology. "I would like to become a bioethics lawyer," said Christina. "With the recent technological advances in biology and medicine, such as stem-cell research and genetic engineering, laws pertaining to these areas are beginning to be adopted, and I would like to be at the forefront."

Christina has been president of the French Honor Society, a Girl Scout, a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and a member of the Long Island Youth Orchestra. Although Christina has had many favorite classes while at Whitman, AP Biology was her favorite. "Ms. Carman, my AP biology teacher, is very involved with her students, and you can tell that she really loves what she does," said Christina.

SportsSportsSportsSportsSportsSportsSport

FROM THE AD'S LAPTOP *Jim Wright*

"Man bites dog." That's news. Eighty-year-old woman gives birth to triplets." That's ridiculous, but it's still news. Explain to me, then, why is it news when Barry Bonds is accused of taking steroids? Why is it news when an athlete signs a multi-million dollar contract?

It's news because it makes us angry. We are hypocritical when we think that only Barry Bonds or Rafael Palmerio used supplements to help set records, even though Mark McGwire probably did the same thing when he set his record. We become incredulous that someone is paid ridiculous amounts of money to play a game while we struggle to pay our heating bills. Yet we still plunk down 100 bucks each time we donate to the professional sports charity.

I call professional sports a charity and suggest that it be allowed to become a write-off. I put to you the notion that professional sports conducts itself in the same manner as charitable foundations. The cause is the gifted athlete. How else

can we honor them, except to pay them? How else can we find a cure for their egocentric makeup than to shower them with greenbacks? And in return, just like any other charity, there will always be hope. Hope that our charity will find a cure for losing. Hope that it will be the one that our donations helped achieve greatness. The problem here is that the "cure" lasts only a few months, and then you have to donate again.

Here's a novel idea. Stop going to these charitable functions. Demand your money back so these athletes won't use your donations to buy drugs. You see, because we are so driven to be a part of greatness, we forget we are part of the cause.

Sit back, relax, and watch a high school game. Watch your donations to public education have an effect not just today but for a lifetime. That's news that's fit to print.



KICKATS DANCE TEAM WRAPS UP SEASON



2005/2006 Kickats Pom Team at the nationals, held recently in Orlando Florida

The Walt Whitman Varsity Kickline and Dance Team recently competed at the National Dance Association Championships at the Hard Rock Pavilion in Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, and placed 19th in the pom dance competition. Captains Jessica Shomer and Cristina

Dovi, along with their teammates Alicia Green, Amanda Gonzalez, Colleen Geier, Sarah Witze, Kate Gardner, Nicole Trainor, Rachel Williams, Julie Yamada, Samantha Anderson, and Lauren Citera, had an outstanding season.

WINTER SPORTS TOURNAMENT SELECTIONS

Girls Fencing

Colleen Young	Grade 12	All County Foil – Second Team
Marcella Rodriguez	Grade 11	Honorable Mention All County – Sabre
Jacquelyn Addeo	Grade 10	Honorable Mention All County - Foil

Boys Basketball

Raymond Eatmon	Grade 12	All League – All Conference
Michael Sanders	Grade 12	All League
Kyheem Green	Grade 10	All League
Daniel Mills	Grade 12	All League - Academic

Girls Basketball

Elizabeth DeMarco	Grade 10	All League
Kate Barnosky	Grade 10	All League
Diana Palka	Grade 11	All League
Erika Forland	Grade 12	All League
Meagan Foehl	Grade 8	League II Rookie of the Year

ALL COUNTY ATHLETES TO BE NAMED AT ALL COUNTY DINNER

Girls Winter Track

Kristin Stepniewski	Grade 10	All League
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Wrestling

Robert Troy	Grade 10	League II Champion/Suffolk Runner Up, League II – Most Outstanding Wrestler
James Kaden	Grade 11	League II Champion/3rd in Suffolk
Adam Troy	Grade 8	League II Champion
William Milanese	Grade 12	League II Champion
Lenny Michel	Grade 11	All League
Kevin Barile	Grade 10	All League
Clifford Regis	Grade 11	All League
Michael Milanese	Grade 7	All League
Nicholas Thode	Grade 11	League II Champion

League II Coach of the Year – Vincent Altebrando

Boys Fencing

Naveen George	Grade 12	1st Team - All County Sabre Fencers' Fencer - Sportsmanship)
Timothy Layer	Grade 12	2nd Team - All County Foil
Robert Castelli	Grade 12	Honorable Mention - All County Epee

Boys Bowling

Tucker Elliott	Grade 12	All League High Average, High Series, High Game All County High Series, High Game
Salvatore Pezzino	Grade 10	All League High Average, High Series, High Game All County High Series, High Game

MOVING ON UP AND IN CELEBRATION...

The following 8th grade students are currently participating at the high school level in their sport activity:

Matt Carter	Boys Tennis	JV	Spring - 2006
Gregory Harris	Boys Lacrosse	JV	Spring - 2006
Christine Lucido	Softball	JV	Spring - 2006
Zach Rotter	Boys Tennis	JV	Spring - 2006
Jordan Stone	Boys Tennis	Var	Spring - 2006

SUFFOLK COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME (Dellecave Award Nominations)

West Lake Inn – Sunday, June 11th West Lake Inn
Daniel Behensky and Cassandra Shepherd

WILDCAT BOOSTER CLUB GOLD KEY SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Dinner, Thursday, May 25th – 6:30PM
Mangiarno Family Style Italian Restaurant

Gold Key Awards: Daniel Behensky Patrick Buhse
Tucker Elliott Erika Forland Lisa Henselder Erik Johnsen
Christine Knauer Laura Lapine Michael Levy Erik Mahlstadt
Meghan O'Hea Thomas Savarese.

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON HONOREES

Ceremony May 23, 2006 Town Board Room
Christine Knauer and Philip Tully

WINTER 2005/06 MINDS IN MOTION

This award is presented to varsity athletes who maintain a 90+ average during their sport season



Walt Whitman High School's Minds in Motion, Winter varsity student athletes: Jocelyn Addeo, Kate Appenzeller, Kate Barnosky, Kimberly Basil, Amanda Bayley, Daniel Behensky, Jessica Bloom, Tyler Brown, Scott Burger, Michelle Danzig, Efrain Davila, Elizabeth DeMarco, Tucker Elliott, Ludnie Faustin, Milton Feliciano, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Erika Forland, Alicia Frank, Kai Garlipp, Sharise Graham, Brittany Greene, Ariel Hulley, Christine Jarjies, Danielle Jaworski, Douglas Judd, Christine Knauer, Jared Levy, Erik Mahlstadt, Maria McIndoo, Samantha McManus, Michael Milanese, Michael Milazzo,

Alana Miller-Engel, Jillian Milnick, Lauren Monroe, Jamie Moore, Anthony Negrelli, Ashley Nicoletto, Anastasia Nikolis, Diana Palka, Salvatore Pezzino, Danielle Pyser, Elizabeth Python, Kimberly Rauseo, Sean Raynor, Christian Rocanova, Jerrica Rodgers, Marcella Rodriguez, Chelsea Ryan, Thomas Savarese, Tamer Sergany, John Servinkas, Meagan Stachurski, Tara Stolte, Andrew Tremblay, Ashley Tyson, Peter Werner, Allison Zimmerman.