

Community connection

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Message from the Board of Education

Dear Residents,

The entire Board of Education would like to extend sincere gratitude and thanks to all community residents who voted on the bond proposition on Dec. 2. The tremendous voter turnout demonstrated our community's commitment to quality education for all students, current and future, as well as its vested interest in the future of our beloved district. Your support means that we can continue to provide students with a top-notch education, better preparing them for a 21st-century workforce. Thank you for lending your support to the proposal.

With voter approval of the proposal, the district will now move forward with critical renovations to our schools, which will address necessary updates to building infrastructure, instructional spaces and resources. Basic systems and infrastructure will be updated or renovated to ensure our buildings are running in a safe and efficient manner. Science laboratories in all of our school buildings will be renovated into modern learning facilities that are better equipped to prepare students for postsecondary education and beyond. The installation of synthetic athletic fields will benefit not only our students, but the greater Bellmore-Merrick community as well. These improvements will provide a safer, comfortable and more relevant learning environment for our students, encouraging them to excel in their educational endeavors and take advantage of the wonderful opportunities the district offers.

Once again, thank you for your participation and support. As we move forward with the various components of the bond, we will be sure to keep the entire community updated on the approval process and construction timeline.

Sincerely,

Susan Schwartz, President JoAnn DeLauter, Vice President

Marion Blane Dr. Nancy Kaplan
 Janet Goller Dr. Matthew Kuschner
 George Haile Nina Lanci

Intel Semifinalists

Seniors Rachel Abramowitz, Rebecca Jellinek and Ben November from John F. Kennedy High School have been named semifinalists in the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search. This prestigious honor was awarded to 300 high school seniors across the nation.

These students completed their research as part of the districtwide Advanced Science Research Program, which enables students to select a topic of focus to explore and research for one culminating project over the course of three years, under the direction of research teachers Barbi Frank, Barbara Franklin and Helmut Schleith. These three semifinalists bring Kennedy's total number of semifinalists to 34 since the ASR program began in the district 10 years ago. Through the ASR program, the district remains committed to providing a comprehensive STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education for all students in its two middle schools and three high schools.

"I've had the honor of working with these students for the past three years," said Frank. "I've had the privilege of watching them grow from coming into the classroom unsure of what they wanted to study to developing into scientists. It's really a huge accomplishment to just be able to enter the Intel Science Talent Search. However, to become Intel semifinalists is extremely prestigious. It's due to all of their hard work and dedication."

Rebecca Jellinek's project, "The Effects of Barbie Dolls and Their Wardrobes on Body Dissatisfaction," explored the effects of playing with Barbie dolls linked to poor body image in young girls. Her present study is the first to determine if doll clothing and doll familiarity affect young girls' body images. Participants completed body image surveys and played with a Barbie doll and full-figured doll of unequal familiarity. In a follow-up study, participants completed body image surveys and played with a thin doll and full-figured doll of equal unfamiliarity. The doll type affected body image the most when playing with unfamiliar dolls; however, clothing type had no effect on body image. Playing with thin dolls resulted in a great disparity between one's ideal shape and one's actual shape, which may contribute to the development of eating disorders.

Rachel Abramowitz's research project, "Why Innocent People Comply with Police Requests: The Role of Just World Beliefs and Public Self Consciousness," was conducted in partnership with Saul Kassir at

CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice. According to Rachel's research, since 2005, the rate at which innocent people confess to crimes has increased significantly. Previous studies have suggested two theories to explain why people choose to falsely confess: illusion of transparency and just-world hypothesis. Eighty test subjects completed surveys to determine whether or not they believed in these theories. Subjects were then randomly placed into a scenario where they were innocent or guilty of a crime. All participants were considered suspects and asked a series of questions by police to assess cooperation. The research indicated that in eight out of nine questions, innocent people were significantly more cooperative than guilty people.

Ben November's project, "Measurement of Leaf Properties to Improve the Parameterization Used by Earth System Models to Estimate the Maximum Capacity for CO₂ Uptake in the Arctic," was conducted at Brookhaven National Laboratory. According to his research, Earth System Models are used to project future climate change. These models inaccurately measure the maximum rate at which the enzyme Rubisco can fix carbon dioxide in plants (V_{c,max}). This imprecision is especially high in the Arctic. The study analyzed the values of V_{c,max} in 11 arctic plant species across five categories. The values of V_{c,max} calculated in the study were 74 percent higher on average than the Community Land Model, a popular ESM. This can be attributed to the differences in the carbon-to-nitrogen ratio and the specific leaf area calculated in this study and in some ESMs. The projections of global climate change may be skewed and require further analysis of variables to improve their accuracy.

The Intel competition encourages students to investigate scientific questions and solve progressive problems across a wide range of scientific disciplines. According to Society for Science, the parent organization of the Intel STS, the 300 semifinalists were chosen from 1,794 applicants, representing 489 high schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia and seven international

schools. The semifinalists and their respective schools will each receive \$1,000. Forty finalists will be selected from the pool of semifinalists on Jan. 22 to continue in the competition. Those finalists will participate in the Intel Science Talent Institute from March 6-12 in Washington, D.C., and compete for additional awards.



Rachel Abramowitz, Ben November and Rebecca Jellinek.

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A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Members of the Community,

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy New Year with family and friends! It's hard to believe that we are already moving into the second half of the school year. Looking back on the beginning of school and through the fall, it is

clear that our students are achieving in so many ways and areas and that our staff continues to go above and beyond to ensure that your kids succeed. Some of our students have received county, state and national accolades in academics, athletics, music, art and other endeavors, proving their ability and the district's commitment to providing a well-rounded educational experience for every child.

In my last newsletter message, I discussed my vision for Bellmore-Merrick. I am very pleased to report that we have already met and exceeded many of the goals on that list, making the vision of the district much more of a reality. We take great pride in having improved communication, collaboration and strengthened ties with the elementary component districts. Numerous articulation meetings that brought together administrative teams and teachers from each district have taken place throughout the first half of the school year in order to help make the transition to the seventh grade and the middle schools a smooth one. Improving instruction continues to be our primary focus as district teachers have been working persistently to make adjustments to the Common Core Learning Standards. In addition, the district has made concerted efforts to make the community true partners with our schools. Our Senior Citizen Connections program held two very successful and well-attended events for the communities senior citizens, the latest was a workshop on computers, tablets and smart phones etc. It truly was a joy to see our students teaching residents about some of the latest methods in communication technology! A new user-friendly updated website, four of these very newsletters per year, the use of twitter by each of our buildings and effective district-wide emails and voice messages have enhanced our communication measures greatly. Additionally, through a comprehensive safety plan, this spring we will begin to upgrade security features throughout the district.

Over six months, we've not only taken on instructional issues, but have also addressed facility concerns and exercised continued budgetary responsibility with our bond referendum. I'd like to thank everyone who came out and made their voice heard in the bond vote. The passage of the bond means both our students and the community will reap countless benefits for many years to come.

As we move forward into budget season, our Board of Education will be working to compile a budget that not only is fiscally responsible, but also preserves programs and all of the wonderful things that make Bellmore-Merrick such a special place. In the coming months, the Board will share information with the community regarding the budget. We welcome and encourage community input.

Again, and as always, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the community for your continued support. Together, we must always work as one for the betterment of the students who attend our schools.

Regards,
John DeTommaso
Superintendent of Schools



The Grand Avenue Middle School Select Chorus performed for the Board of Education.

BOE Honored for Board Recognition Week

In honor of the hard work and effort they dedicate to the district and community, all Board of Education members were recognized during the November meeting. Although the New York State School Boards Association's School Board Recognition Week took place Oct. 28-Nov. 1, the district traditionally honors its board in November.

"From all of us who work in the central office and in our buildings, we really appreciate everything you do for us each and every day," said Superintendent of Schools John DeTommaso. "I value your support and I'm so thankful to be part of this group, a group that has worked tremendously hard for this community. On behalf of all of us, thank you."

Students from Grand Avenue and Merrick Avenue middle schools gave two presentations, one artistic and one musical, to thank the eight-member Board of Education for their service to the district. The Grand Avenue Select Chorus, under the direction of Amanda Cantwell, performed Coldplay's "The Scientist" and Earth, Wind and Fire's "September." In a project based on a bookmaking and journaling lesson, students in art teacher Barbara Farchione's class constructed accordion books with inspirational quotes and pictures related to the school. Each board member received his or her own booklet. On behalf of the Council of PTAs, Co-presidents Betty Pittari and Marcia Eisenmesser thanked the board for their service and made a donation to each of the schools' libraries in their honor.



Merrick Avenue Middle School students presented memory booklets to the Board of Education.

Coming Together for Professional Development

In an effort to fully align curricula and provide a seamless transition from elementary to middle school, teachers from the district met with educators from the component districts throughout the fall for several professional development days. Structured discussions covered the topics of curriculum alignment, instructional approaches, assessments and Common Core Learning Standards, while emphasizing the importance of the articulation process.

Seventh- and eighth-grade math and English teachers at Merrick Avenue Middle School met with fifth- and sixth-grade teachers from the component North Merrick and Merrick elementary school districts in November, which enabled them to spend time together sharing best practices and developing common curricular language. Grand Avenue Middle School teachers collaborated with Bellmore School District teachers in December and North Bellmore School District teachers in January to discuss the CCLS and best practices, as well as to share ideas, look at what students are learning on different grade levels, and compare assessments from each grade level.

In addition to opening up lines of communication, the meetings are designed to help teachers see that there are curricular challenges on all grade levels, and that the tests are similar no matter the grade level. Teachers had the opportunity to exchange email addresses and begin regular communication with component district teachers about curricular questions and challenges.

“Articulation meetings offer the perfect opportunity for all educators to come together in one environment and fully align and develop curricular material, in addition to sharing best practices, as we all continue to shift to the Common Core Learning Standards,” said Caryn Blum, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. “Collaborating with the component districts ensures that all of our students have the absolute best curricula implemented in their classrooms, regardless of grade level or district.”

Under the leadership of Blum, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Administration Dr. Mara Bollettieri, Deputy Superintendent Cynthia Strait Régal and Superintendent of Schools John DeTommaso, the high school district continues to work toward increasing the communication between all districts in the Bellmore-Merrick community.



Grand Avenue Middle School teachers collaborate with their Bellmore counterparts.



Teachers from Merrick Avenue Middle School work with fifth- and sixth-grade teachers from the North Merrick and Merrick component districts.

New York State English Council Conference

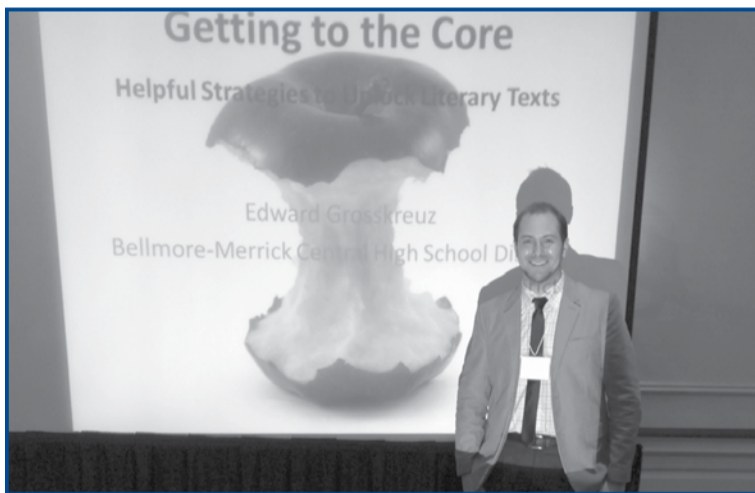
Educators from the district attended the New York State English Council Annual Conference in Albany Oct. 16-18, which provided them with a range of opportunities to listen to keynote speakers and participate in professional development workshops. Additionally, Program of Excellence and Educators of Excellence award recipients were honored.

Calhoun High School English teacher Julie Rosslee and social studies teacher Dr. David Goldberg were awarded the NYSEC Program of Excellence for their work in the Voices of the Past course. Rosslee and Dr. Goldberg presented their course and discussed its evolution into an interdisciplinary, experiential learning environment for students. Additionally, Merrick Avenue Middle School English teacher Stephanie Richemond and Calhoun English teacher Jason Boland were honored as NYSEC Educators of Excellence for their efforts in the classroom. The application process included a letter of nomination, a letter of recommendation from a colleague, letters of recommendation from former students, and submission of several lesson plans and instructional materials.

Mepham High School English teachers Edward Grosskreuz and Melanie Sirof also presented during the conference. Grosskreuz presented his workshop titled “Getting to the Core: Strategies to Unlock Literary Texts and Other Works.” He explained and modeled engaging classroom activities that teach students how to become independent readers. Sirof presented her workshop, “Reading to Read: Readers’ Workshop in the High School Classroom,” which outlined the procedures for incorporating a student-centered reading workshop into any middle school or high school classroom.

District English chairpersons and NYSEC Conference committee members Marie Netto and Kim Serpe presented their workshop, “The ABCs of CCLS for the Pre-AP and Advanced Placement Classroom.” Netto and Serpe explained how to use specific reading and analysis strategies in the classroom that align to the Common Core Standards and prepare students for the rigors of the AP Language and AP Literature exams.

Through their participation in the NYSEC Conference, the English teachers proved their dedication to their craft by sharing the excellent instructional practices evident in the district with their colleagues throughout New York State.



Mepham English teacher Edward Grosskreuz made a presentation titled “Getting to the Core: Strategies to Unlock Literary Texts and Other Works” during the conference.



Teachers were congratulated for their respective awards at the NYSEC Conference. Pictured are Superintendent of Schools John DeTommaso, Merrick Avenue Middle School English teacher Stephanie Richemond, Calhoun High School English teachers Jason Boland and Julie Rosslee, Calhoun social studies teacher Dr. David Goldberg and Board President Susan Schwartz.

Art Comes to Life

Art students at Calhoun High School presented an artistic experience for the entire student body, transforming the gymnasium into a bustling, inspiring and visual studio that encouraged interaction over observation with the first annual art expo. The concept for the expo began as a way to bring the arts to every student in the building, even if they weren't necessarily enrolled in a class, according to art teacher Michael Goldberg.

"It's exciting to see that every station has a handful of students sitting at it and being engaged," Mr. Goldberg said. "One of the concerns was that students would be a little hesitant, especially the non-art students who don't have any experience. We wanted this to be user-friendly. We have amazing students working at each station that are really drawing in the crowd and getting other students involved."

Students were able to experience works as finished products, observe demonstrations by experienced art students and participate in the creation of art in many different subject areas, from the classic fine arts approaches to drawing, painting and sculpture to modern processes that explore the roles of technology in the arts. The stations focused on hands-on activities in everything from life drawing, abstract arts and photography to sculpture and computer arts.



Calhoun students take part in the life drawing station during the first annual art expo.

Battle of the Classes Raises Money

School and class spirit were in full force during Mepham High School's annual Battle of the Classes. The event was organized by seniors in the Participation in Government class, which is led by social studies teachers Kerry Dennis and Chris Patten. A total of \$3,815.31 was raised for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. Prior to the competition, classes competed in penny wars throughout the week, raising \$837 for the charity. These events were part of a yearlong effort to raise money for St. Baldrick's. Last year, the school raised more than \$60,000 for the foundation.

Students in each of the four classes, as well as a faculty team, competed against each other in a variety of fun physical activities ranging from volleyball, relay races and tug-of-war to a pirate relay and scooter race. Since St. Baldrick's motto is "Be a hero," the event ran under the theme of superheroes. Each class represented the theme in a different way, including the Freshman Force, Sophvengers, Super Juniors and Rising Seniors.

"Battle of the Classes is usually the highlight of the year for us," said Principal Michael Harrington. "It's seniors who lead the school traditionally, led by two great teachers, who come together for a great cause. This year they chose to raise money for St. Baldrick's. It's always one of those nights that you look back on and that makes you proud to be part of the Mepham family."

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Juniors at Mepham show off their class spirit.

Standing Up to Bullying at Kennedy

Students at Kennedy High School were given a unique view on bullying and how to stand up to bullies during a presentation called "Stand Tall" from motivational speaker Mark Black. The program, which was co-sponsored by the student government, PTA and alumni association, focused on solution-based methods – specifically, how to give power to victims and connect bystanders. Black shared his personal story of struggle and bullying, which was both engaging and relatable to students. His presentation emphasized the need to "approach and invoke" anti-bullying culture in the school building. In addition to the assemblies, Black provided training to student leaders.

"When the student government representatives heard Mark speak last year, they were immediately moved and touched by his message," said Brad Seidman, co-adviser for the student government, referring to a presentation they had seen at the New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities Conference last year. "They spearheaded this whole idea of bringing him here. The student leaders felt it was important that their classmates hear this message of accepting others, ignoring bullies and standing up for themselves. I think his message is a universal one that all high school students can relate to."



Student leaders from Kennedy welcomed motivational speaker Mark Black to the school.

Honoring a Late President



Students paid homage to the late President Kennedy on the 50th anniversary of his assassination.

Kennedy High School students commemorated the life and legacy of John F. Kennedy on the 50th anniversary of his assassination. Paying homage to the school's namesake, students focused on the impact the late president made in serving country and community. Each morning, a Kennedy quote about service, community or government was read with the announcements. Students made a memory board that included newspaper and magazine clippings, as well as other artifacts from the assassination. The social studies department distributed index cards to students and had them talk to parents, grandparents or someone else who remembered the day President Kennedy was assassinated. The cards were also included in the memory board.

Seniors in Brad Seidman and Lisa Scherer's Participation in Government class volunteered on Nov. 23 with the New York State Thank You Foundation to help rebuild a New York City firefighter's house in Massapequa destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The project highlights President Kennedy's emphasis on service to the nation.

"In recognition of President Kennedy's assassination, it's important to think about what he stood for as a president," said senior Olivia Johansen. "It's also important that we give back to our society. We have family members who were greatly impacted by him, so it's great that our generation can do something to honor him."

A Lesson in Cyberbullying

Nassau County Community Affairs Police Officer Sharon Galvin visited Merrick Avenue and Grand Avenue middle schools to discuss the issues surrounding cyberbullying with eighth-graders. The program, which was brought to the schools in partnership with the Community Parent Center, focused on educating students about what cyberbullying is, its relationship with the law, and the causes and effects of cyberbullying, as well as safety on the Internet, safety statistics and being an upstander instead of a bystander.

"What we truly believe is that kids need to be educated and their awareness raised about bullying and cyberbullying," said Wendy Tepfer, director of the Community Parent Center of Bellmore-Merrick. "We know that cyberbullying is always hurtful – sometimes it's illegal – and it can change lives forever."

Officer Galvin discussed how law enforcement gets involved with cyberbullying cases and how actions today can affect students in the future. "We try to empower them to make better choices," she said. "One of the things I like to say to the kids is that if you can't say it or show it in person, you really shouldn't be putting it on the Internet."



Nassau County Community Affairs Police Officer Sharon Galvin visited Merrick Avenue and Grand Avenue middle schools to discuss cyberbullying.

Around the Schools

MAMS Raises Funds for Typhoon Victims

The entire community at Merrick Avenue Middle School took the components of the schoolwide character education initiative PRIDE – which stands for patience, responsibility, integrity, dedication and empathy – and put them into action by raising money for victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. On Helping the Philippines Day, students, staff and faculty members were asked to donate \$1 to the cause and wear the colors of the Filipino flag – red, white, blue and/or yellow – to show support. Those who donated also received a sticker that stated they helped the Filipino typhoon victims. More than \$300 was collected, with the Builders Club donating all proceeds to the Red Cross.

"At Merrick Avenue, we are very concerned about making sure students understand their place in the global community," said Principal Dr. Meador Pratt. "Just as many came to our aid during Hurricane Sandy last year, we thought it was important to extend the bounds of our community to help those in a completely different part of the world, because we are all part of the same global community."



Merrick Avenue Middle School united to raise money for victims affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.



Members of the Yorker Club at Grand Avenue collected more than 500 cans of food.

GAMS HOLDS FOOD DRIVE

The Yorker Club at Grand Avenue Middle School, under the direction of advisers Dominik Bargiel and Dan Rummenie, sponsored its annual canned food drive during the month of November. During a three-week span, more than 500 cans of food (about 13 boxes) and \$700 dollars was raised by the school's generous students to help needy families in the Bellmore community. Each family received a box of canned food as well as a \$50 gift certificate for holiday groceries at Stop & Shop.

"It's good for the students because it promotes compassion and a sense of giving," said Bargiel, adding in reference to the school's character education program CARES, "Grand 'cares' in the community, especially during the holidays."

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry was brought to life at Mepham High School when 19 students took part in the seventh annual Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest. Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest that encourages the study of great poetry through memorization, performance and competition. More than 500 students competed in their individual English classes, with class winners progressing to the schoolwide competition. From there, two winners move on to a regional competition, followed by a state competition and, ultimately, the national finals in Washington, D.C.

Judges based scores on physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, level of complexity, evidence of understanding and overall performance. Senior Arianna Miller earned first-place honors for her performance of Robert Frost's "After Apple-Picking." Junior Alyssa Rabinowitz recited Eleanor Wilner's "Without Regret" for the second-place spot and sophomore Miranda Sass took third place with her presentation of David Wagoner's "Their Bodies."

"This competition is a wonderful cultural event to help our students learn how to memorize poetry, express emotion and convey emotion to an audience," said English Department Chairperson Marie Netto. "It has been incredibly popular for the last seven years at Mepham."

Three years ago, Mepham's winner, Steven Tsai, was the New York State Poetry Out Loud Champion. Steven represented New York at the national finals in April 2011.



Poetry Out Loud coordinator Nicole Maresca, first-place winner Arianna Miller, second-place winner Alyssa Rabinowitz, third-place winner Miranda Sass and English Department Chairperson Marie Netto.



Members of Calhoun's Express Yourself choral club sing at a nursing home.

Calhoun's Express Yourself Sings Holiday Tunes

Members of the Express Yourself choral club at Calhoun High School brought a little holiday cheer to residents at the Broadlawn Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Amityville. Express Yourself, which is a club at the school composed of students from both the On Tour Company theater program and Prep for the Future program, sang holiday favorites such as "Jingle Bells," "Oh Hanukkah," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

"Express Yourself is a club that combines the students from our On Tour program with the Prep for the Future students," said adviser Wendy Simson. "It not only helps our Prep students in socializing and giving to the community, but it also helps the On Tour students by giving them a sense of empathy, compassion, friendship and leadership."

The club gives On Tour members a way to mentor Prep students through acting, singing and dancing. On Tour members, who range from sophomores to seniors, must be recommended for the club based on their leadership abilities.



Drama Production



'Almost, Maine' at Mepham

The Skull and Bones Drama Club at Mepham High School presented John Cariani's famous comedy "Almost, Maine" under the guidance of director Edward Grosskreuz Jr. and assistant to the director Morgan Paccione.

On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – almost – in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

This quick-running show is composed of mini-plays within one act, with each scene featuring different characters. This play is also an excellent way to observe and examine metaphor at work literally and figuratively, as metaphor is used in every scene.



Brandon Ellis and Jenna Frisolone performed as Pete and Ginette in Mepham's production of "Almost, Maine."

'The Winter's Tale' at Calhoun

The Calhoun High School On Tour Company kicked off its season with several performances of William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale." Considered one of Shakespeare's most intriguing romances, "The Winter's Tale" seamlessly blends both tragic and comic elements with the epic and the intimate. This riveting play features some of Shakespeare's most searing poetry and includes his most famous stage direction, "exit pursued by bear." It depicts the thrilling exploration of the healing, redemptive power of time. As the play has many of the fantastic magical elements of a traditional fairy tale, the setting and costumes for this production are those of a medieval-style storybook.

The cast included Daniel Maldonado as King Leontes, Rebecca Peretz as Queen Hermione, Samantha Kamelhar as Paulina, Jonathan Leiner as King Polixenes, Will Rosenblum as Prince Florizell, Jamie Glickman as Perdita, Robert Gallo as Camillo, Adam Wilkes as Antigonus, Stephen Ponticello as Autolycus, Sean Heverin as the Old Shepherd and Zach Abrams as Clown, the Shepherd's son.



Cast members from William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" put on several performances of the play at Calhoun.

'Twelfth Night' at Kennedy

The Drama Club at Kennedy High School staged two shows of William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," with actors and actresses engaging the audience in their modern adaptation of this classic. The cast, under director Daniel Sheffield, featured Rebecca Jellinek as Olivia, Mara Friedman as Viola, Jacob Sachs as Orsino, Evan Gordon as Malvolio, Matthew Zeltmann as Toby Belch, Scott Azus as Andrew Aguecheek, Teri Vieira as Maria, Andrew Friedman as Feste, Steven Alexander as Sebastian and Jeme Casco as Antonio. Seniors Sean O'Donnell and Liana Kramer served as crew heads for the two performances.

"Twelfth Night" follows Viola, who is separated at sea from her twin brother Sebastian and thrown onto the shores of Illyria. Viola then disguises herself as a man and is recruited by Duke Orsino to woo the stubborn Olivia. Romantic havoc ensues when Olivia becomes smitten with Viola — dressed as a man — and Viola, in turn, falls for Orsino. A hilarious subplot involving Olivia's hapless household makes "Twelfth Night" an enthralling comedy about illusion, deception and the extraordinary things people do for love. This humorous production is set in modern-day "Illyria Trailer Villa" and features current music, costumes and references.



Jeme Casco and Steven Alexander performed as Antonio and Sebastian in "Twelfth Night" at Kennedy.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Calhoun

Robert Leonard, Calhoun Class of 1970, is a professor of linguistics, director of the graduate program in forensic linguistics, and director of the Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment and Strategic Analysis at Hofstra University. A Fulbright fellow for his Ph.D. research, he received his B.A. from Columbia College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and his M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Columbia Graduate School, where he was a faculty fellow. He is lead researcher at Robert Leonard Associates, a consulting firm.

While an undergraduate at Columbia, Dr. Leonard co-founded and led the rock group Sha Na Na. As vocalist, he and his group opened for Jimi Hendrix at the Woodstock Festival and played at the Fillmores East and West, on television's "Tonight Show," and in the Academy Award-winning movie "Woodstock." He left the music business for the Fulbright fellowship and earned his Ph.D. at Columbia.

Kennedy

Steve Levy, Kennedy Class of 1983, has distinguished himself as being one of the longest tenured ESPN SportsCenter anchors in the history of the network. Mr. Levy graduated from SUNY Oswego, where he majored in journalism. Beginning his sports broadcasting career with WFAN in New York, he moved over to ESPN in 1993. As a prolific and well-known NHL broadcaster, Mr. Levy earned the nickname "Mr. Overtime" for having called the three longest televised Stanley Cup playoff games in NHL history.

A three-time Emmy winner for his role on SportsCenter, Mr. Levy is one who never forgets his roots. As one of the most recognized voices and sports personalities of ESPN's SportsCenter, he has demonstrated that persistence, perseverance and effort are the cornerstones of success. He has certainly excelled in all areas of his professional life and has been a role model for our students. Mr. Levy was inducted into the JFK Hall of Fame in 2012.

Mepham

Robert J. Levine, Mepham Class of 1951, is a professor of medicine and lecturer in pharmacology at Yale University, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1962. Additionally, he is a senior fellow and chair of the Executive Committee of Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics; the director of the Law, Policy and Ethics Core of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS; the founding co-director of the Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics; and the founding chief of the Section of Clinical Pharmacology. A graduate of Duke University, he received his M.D. from George Washington University School of Medicine in 1958 and served as a lieutenant with the United States Public Health Service from 1955-1964.

During his impressive career, Dr. Levine has accrued numerous prestigious awards, recognitions and honors, in addition to authoring and co-authoring a number of books and journal articles. Besides his dedication to the fields of medicine and education, he has also been a volunteer for the National Heart and Lung Institute; the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; the National Institute of Mental Health; and the World Health Organization, among others.

Dr. Levine spent his high school years as a committed member of the Mepham community, participating in orchestra and the Public Announcements Committee, serving as the manager of the football and track teams, and being a wrestling team member.



Kennedy Boys Volleyball Clinches LI Championship

The boys volleyball team at Kennedy High School followed up their 2012 state championship with an incredibly successful 2013 season, under the direction of coach Dennis Ringel. The team secured their fifth Nassau County Championship in the last six years with a three-game sweep, moving on to compete in their second consecutive Long Island Championship and advancing to the New York State Championships. Ultimately, the Cougars finished second in the state. Seniors Gary Anderson and Justin Feigeles were named to the All-State team.

The Cougars were the top-ranked volleyball team on Long Island, according to Newsday, and ranked the eighth best sports team on Newsday's "Big 10." Prior to the New York State Championship match, the Cougars had won 45 consecutive matches. They did not drop a single set to a Nassau County team this season, going a perfect 57-0 in sets against Nassau schools and Suffolk Division II schools.



Kennedy boys volleyball players with Board President Susan Schwartz, coach Dennis Ringel and Superintendent of Schools John DeTommaso.

2013 Nassau County Cross-Country Champion

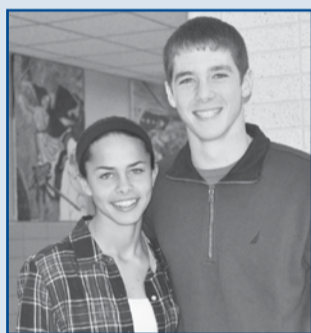
Grace Moore, a sophomore at Calhoun High School, was named Nassau County Section VIII Girls Cross-Country Champion after finishing at the competition with a 5K time of 18:39.5. Grace then competed alongside her All-Division team at the state qualifying meet, winning the Class A race with an overall time of 18:47. This finish qualified her for the New York State Cross-Country Championship meet, where she ran a 30-second personal record, finishing 17th in the state with a 5K time of 18:13.9. Grace also earned All-State honors, as she finished in the top 20 and was awarded with the Sportsmanship Promotion Award for Nassau County Section VIII. At the commencement of Grace's season, she qualified for the New York Federation Cross-Country Championships, competing against the best runners in the state and finishing 13th overall with a 5K time of 19:02.6.



Grace Moore with Superintendent of Schools John DeTommaso, Board President Susan Schwartz and trustee George Haile.

Calhoun Soccer Players Receive Top Honors

Calhoun senior varsity soccer player Kayla Cappuzzo has been named the Class AA State Player of the Year and Nassau County Conference IAA Player of the Year. She was also named All-Long Island Player of the Year and All-County, and received the Mike Clarke Award and Sue Link Memorial Scholarship. Additionally, senior varsity soccer player Harry Davis was named Conference Player of the Year and honored with All-County recognitions.



Calhoun soccer players Kayla Cappuzzo and Harry Davis.

Sharks Swimming Finishes Strong

Coming off of an undefeated season in their conference, the districtwide swim team sent seven athletes to the state championships in Ithaca. Jessica Arana, Paige Kaplan, Liz Walsh and Georgeanne Zimmerman took third place in the medley relay and qualified for All-State. The girls finished the meet by taking third place in the 400 freestyle relay and resetting their own county record. The relay, consisting of Arana, Kerry Giovanniello, Jaimie Kaefer and Walsh, qualified as All-State and scored enough points to move the Sharks into third place in the team scoring. This is the best finish ever for a Section VIII team. Calhoun's Arana and Zimmerman, Mepham's Giovanniello and Kaefer, Grand Avenue's Walsh and Kennedy's Kaplan were named to All-State. Rachel Fain of Mepham and Joleen Roberti of Calhoun were named to All-Conference, and Danielle Auty of Kennedy was named All-Division.

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

28 Out of 28 Teams Achieve Scholar-Athlete Status

All 28 fall sports teams, consisting of approximately 650 students from all three high schools, have received the New York State Scholar-Athlete Team Award.

At Mepham High School, the following students were named to All-County: Dan Paradise and Kevin Wilson for badminton; Emily Schmitt for girls soccer; David Gilroy for volleyball; Steven Forte, Chris Perillo and Charlie Skidmore for cross-country; and Tyler Davis and Chris Durkin for football. Tennis player Shari Forman and football player Yianni Hilas received All-County Honorable Mentions. Several letters of intent to play sports at the college level have been signed, including Erica Anzalone for soccer at Stony Brook University, Connor Gordon for baseball at Davidson College, Dom Raheb for lacrosse at Molloy College, Christina Rizzacasa for softball at NYIT, Emily Schmitt for soccer at Ryder University, Dylan Stock for baseball at Binghamton University, Toni-Marie Valariano for softball at Queens College and Chris Vento for lacrosse at Belmont Abbey College.

At Kennedy, both the boys and girls soccer teams made it to the Class A semifinals. The boys volleyball team was crowned the Long Island champions and competed for the state title. The girls volleyball team also made it to the quarterfinals. Baseball player Justin Ganca and softball player Lauren Sustad have both signed National Letters of Intent with Hartford University. Sydney Goldschlag has signed with Akron University for rifle, and Louis Cuttitta has signed with Adelphi University for lacrosse.

At Calhoun, the girls soccer team made it to the Nassau County Class AA finals, with Kayla Cappuzzo being named New York State Player of the Year; Taylor Sipos making All-State fourth team; Nora Charidah making All-State fifth team; and Jessica Foley, Danielle Losquardo and Kat Kustas named All-Class, All-Conference and Senior Scholar-Athlete, respectively. Boys soccer made it to the Nassau County Class AA quarterfinals, with Harry David named Conference Player of the Year and All-County; Stephen Tappeto named All-County; Aleco Podias receiving All-County

Honorable Mention; and Chris Cederroth, Patrick Chin, Dylan Drasin, Eric Rawson and Jack Thomann named All-Conference. The boys volleyball team advanced to the Class A semifinals, with the girls getting to the quarterfinals. Girls cross-country was crowned the division champions, with Grace Moore, Emma Joseph and Nadya Resnick qualifying for states, and Joseph, Resnick and Katie Woo making All-Conference. Boys cross-country members Andrew Boyd, Ryan Curran and Mike Dobkowski were named All-County, with Jordan Mentzel and Elia Platania taking All-Conference, and Mike Athy All-Division. The following Calhoun students will be participating in athletics at the college level: Colin Bayer at Florida Southern College for lacrosse, Kayla Cappuzzo at Northeastern University for soccer, Emily Dolan at Western New England University for lacrosse, Nick Fronte at Skidmore College for baseball, Jack Kerner at Albertus Magnus College for lacrosse, Kyle McGinley at Wagner College for lacrosse, and Joe Zito at Lenoir-Rhyne University for lacrosse.



DATES TO REMEMBER

February 3

Kennedy Eighth-Grade Parent Orientation, 7 p.m.

February 5

Board of Education Work Session, 7:30 p.m.

February 11

Middle School Sixth-Grade Parent Orientations, 7 p.m.

February 12

Board of Education Meeting, 8 p.m.

February 17-21

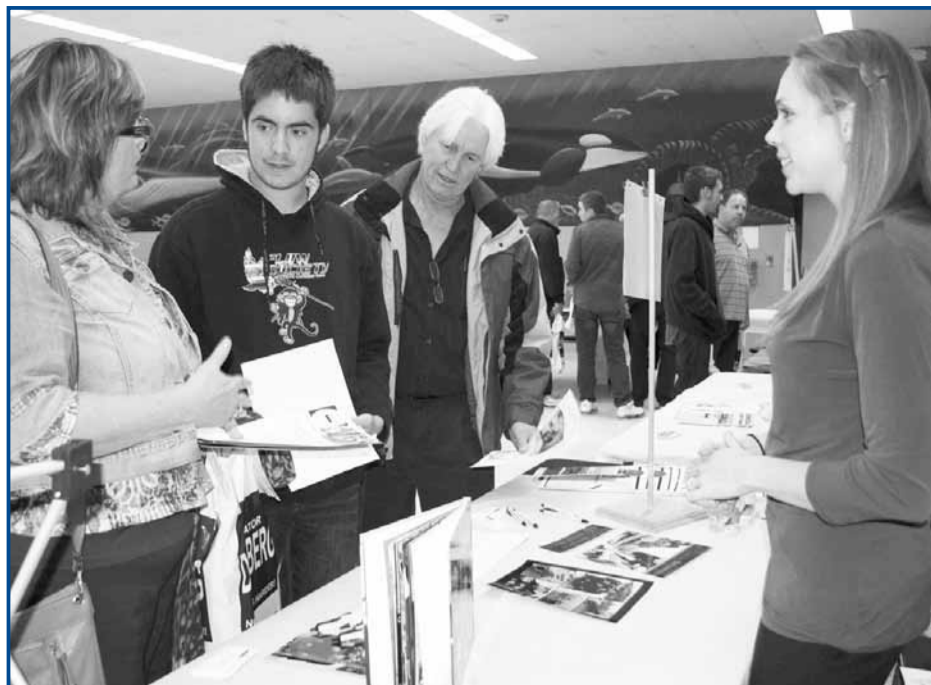
Winter Break – School Closed

March 12

Board of Education Work Session/Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

March 13

District College Planning Night @ Kennedy, 7 p.m.



Representatives from dozens of colleges, universities, agencies and vocational schools provided students and families with information on disability services during the annual SEPTA College Night.

SEPTA College Night

The district, in conjunction with SEPTA and the Community Parent Center, hosted a unique college fair at John F. Kennedy High School that provided valuable information and opportunities to high school students with special learning needs. The annual fair seeks to provide students and families with information about opportunities available to special needs students after high school. More than 300 students, parents and counselors from the district and across Long Island attended SEPTA College Night.

Guests had the chance to meet with disability service and student service representatives from dozens of colleges, universities, agencies and vocational schools, including Access Careers, Hofstra University, Lifelong Learning, Long Island Parent Center, Town of Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources and University of Iowa, among many others. During a panel discussion, several professionals spoke on topics of interest to students with disabilities, including general postsecondary options, the unavailability of IEPs in college, adult career and continuing education services, and post-high school planning. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as parents, also discussed their personal involvements in and perspectives on postsecondary experiences.

Cheryl Gitlitz, the districtwide transition coordinator, explained that it's important for students to know about the specialized services available to them in college. "In high school, they get a guidance counselor, special education services, and all of this amazing and wonderful support," she said. "When they leave high school, their disability doesn't go away – it stays with them. We want to give them the same tools that they had in high school, in college."

"This event is important because parents of students with special needs are used to getting a lot of support throughout their children's education," said SEPTA Co-president Sheila Korn. "Then they get to college and they don't know how to access support. Colleges are not just going to offer support – you have to go out and seek it. Being the parent of a special needs student, you are constantly seeking information and how to get the best for your child."

Senior Connection a Hit

Bringing together generations from across the local community, seniors who reside in the district were treated to "A Theatrical and Musical Performance" at Sanford H. Calhoun High School.

"As a district, we are looking to make a stronger initiative to create a real connection between the children and seniors of our community," said Superintendent of Schools John DeTommaso. "We've always appreciated the partnership that the district has had with its senior residents and we want to show our appreciation."

Seniors enjoyed a variety of student entertainment, including performances by the school's Crescendo Show Choir, Madrigal Choir and On Tour company, who presented a scene from their last production of William Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" as well as another scene from commedia dell'arte. Master of ceremonies Dan Maldonado, who provided comedic interludes for all guests, led the show.

This free program, organized by Michelle Gagnon, coordinator of funded programs, grants and public/community relations, was the first in a series that invites Bellmore-Merrick seniors to engage with the district on a regular basis. Additional programs will be announced in the near future. Please check www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us for more information.



Seniors from the community participated in the first senior connection program.

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