



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Deer Park's **BIG 10**

The Deer Park School District has announced its Top Ten academic students for the 2008-2009 graduating class. Students and their families, guidance counselors and administrators gathered for a celebratory breakfast and honored each Top 10 achiever.

Congratulations to all the members of the Top 10 who have worked hard to get to this point.

The Top 10 academically ranked students for the Deer Park Class of 2009 are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ekta P. - Valedictorian | Michael F. - Sixth |
| Christopher W. - Salutatorian | Karamveer S. - Seventh |
| Justin W. - Third | Amanda H. - Eighth |
| Michael P. - Fourth | Eric W. - Ninth |
| Ebne S. - Fifth | Alyssa N. - Tenth |



Deer Park High School Principal (standing far right) James Cummings presented the District and community with the 2008-2009 graduating class Top 10 students.

SPOTLIGHT ON DEER PARK ATHLETES

Tanger & Town Collaborate on Donation of Field Lights



Pictured here are (standing, L-R) High School Principal James Cummings, Town of Babylon Council Member Anthony Martinez, Babylon Town Clerk Carol Quirk, Town of Babylon Supervisor Steven Bellone, Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino, Board of Education President Dennis Ryan, Tanger at the Arches General Manager Curt Fickeisen, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Marguerite Jimenez, Varsity Football Coach Ron Langella, Booster Club President Fran Theiss, and Athletic Director Anthony Amesti with (kneeling, L-R) Varsity Football players.

The District received a donation from Tanger Outlets at the Arches for \$125,000 to purchase and install field lights at the Deer Park High School athletic field. Varsity Football Team members and Athletic Director Anthony Amesti, Board of Education President Dennis Ryan, Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino and Town of Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone were on hand for a ceremony at the field where Tanger General Manager Curt Fickeisen presented the generous donation.

A Message from *Your Board of Education President*



Hi Everyone,

There are so many great things happening all around us. I want to thank our administration, teachers and students who are providing a continuity that is remarkable and such a benefit to our school system.

Student Performance In & Out of Class:

I have received compliments from so many different people, from elected officials to members of the media, about the successes our students are realizing. They all feel the positive change our children have inspired. I have always been proud of our students, and I beam with even greater pride when I receive compliments from people outside of the Deer Park school community. I'm speaking not only of academic accomplishments, but also the quality of character demonstrated; from their participation in activities that help others less fortunate in our community, to the manner in which they embrace their teachers and peers on a daily basis in a mature, accepting fashion that sets an example for all. I urge our students to continue this positive attitude and ask parents and teachers to continue their support.

Congratulations to all of our Fall athletic teams who have made our community proud through hard work and dedication. We had 11 teams recognized as Scholar-Athlete teams, with a cumulative average of 90 or greater. This is quite a remarkable feat. I also wish to thank the teachers, coaches, and again our parents, for making this a reality. Winter athletics are in full swing so let's make sure we pack the house at our home games. Go Falcons!

Don't forget to cheer on the Deer Park High School News 12 Long Island Challenge team, as well. They will be

representing our district the night of February 8th on News 12, competing against East Islip in an academic quiz show.

Our Fine and Performing Arts season is in full swing and our students' talents are truly remarkable. The winter concerts were unbelievable and we welcome all residents to attend upcoming student performances for a night out filled with great entertainment! The high school theater department's winter play, a rendition of *High School Musical*, is scheduled for March 12, 13 and 14. Our young entertainers are working hard and a full house is a great way to show your support.

Initiatives Around the District:

Website: The new Deer Park School District website has been launched and we are very happy with its ease of use and look. I believe you will be too. The new site will link to the Board of Education website. The online parent portal, Infinite Campus, is also being rolled out. Please sign up and familiarize yourself with the new program.

Facilities: New gym bleachers at Robert Frost Middle School are scheduled to be installed in the Spring. We will also upgrade the Frost gym by resurfacing and relining the floor, upgrading the lights and repainting the entire facility. At Deer Park High School, both girls and boys team locker rooms are scheduled for renovation by July 2009. Two new science labs will also be completed in the summer of 2009.

Our District recently received a \$125,000 donation from Tanger Outlets Center, in conjunction with the Town of Babylon to purchase lighting at our High School Athletic Field. This donation is greatly appreciated and is a good start to what I believe can be a wonderful community partnership. I will keep you posted on this.

Lean and Green: Our energy initiative is still moving along. The installation of automatic light sensors continues in our

buildings. This is saving us tax dollars and lowering our energy consumption. The Board is also exploring the idea of converting our fleet of buses over to natural gas. We have a considerable amount of research to conduct to determine whether this is feasible and if it can be achieved without affecting the budget or the taxpayers. To date, all of our energy initiatives have not cost the District (or our taxpayers) a single penny. We will continue to push our legislators to help assist us with this cause.

Budget Development: The 2009/10 budget development process has begun. We will begin meeting regularly in the boardroom (at District Offices) and you are all welcome to attend those meetings (check your school calendar and the Board website – www.deerparkboe.com – for dates/times). As part of Governor Paterson's school funding proposal, the Deer Park School District will lose approximately \$1.4 million dollars in state aid in the upcoming year. We as a Board of Education began bracing for the state's fiscal crisis two years ago and believe our District is in a position to withstand this loss without overburdening our taxpayers, or compromising our instructional program. However, we must tighten up the belts even more than we have in recent years and these budget development meetings will lead us there.

Again, your input is valuable to us. We urge you to attend our meetings, write your local legislators and become involved as we continue to shape and improve the Deer Park School District for this generation and those to come. Please feel free to contact me.

Thank you and God Bless,

Dennis P. Ryan, President
Deer Park Board of Education
(631) 274-8891/ Ryan.D@Deerparkschools.org

Recognized for Recycling

The District has put its green initiatives to work. In the Deer Park High School cafeteria, students are doing their part to help the environment and community by using color-coded recycling bins (placed throughout all District buildings) to facilitate the sorting and proper disposal of all the District's solid waste in accordance with the Town of Babylon.

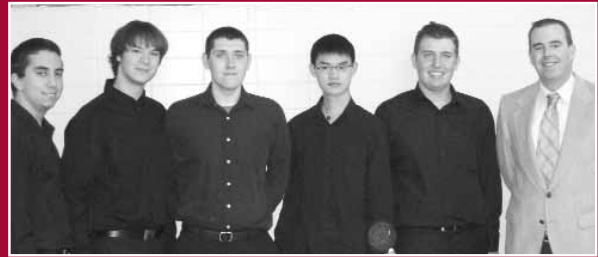
High school students have been placing their empty plastic containers in blue recycling bins as part of this cooperative effort. Town officials recently visited the school to commend students and school officials for their participation. Students are pictured here with Town and school officials.



ACADEMIC TEAM *Conquers the Challenge*

Deer Park High School's Academic Team competed in the Long Island Challenge on News 12. The Challenge is a televised quiz show for high schools featuring the best and brightest local students that tests their knowledge of history, arts and literature, science and math. The Deer Park Falcons defeated an intellectually tough East Islip team, advancing to the second round of the tournament (date/time to be determined).

Tune to News 12 on Sunday, February 8, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m., when Deer Park's exciting win over East Islip will air. To view the video online, log onto powertolearn.com, where it will be posted for the rest of the year.



Academic Team and Long Island Challenge winners (L-R) Michael F., Rob V., Justin W., Eric W. and D.J. R. are pictured with team advisor Matt Murphy.

High School Students SHOWCASE THEIR STRENGTHS

During Biannual Breakfast for Champions

Seventeen Deer Park High School students and their family members enjoyed a breakfast filled with honors and accolades as the school hosted its biannual Breakfast for Champions to recognize those who have achieved above and beyond expectations in a specific academic or extracurricular subject area.

Those teachers or administrators that nominated the students shared kind words about why each student was chosen. They also shared some character anecdotes that provided insight into each student's personality.



High School Associate Principal Kimberly Johnston (standing far left), Principal James Cummings (standing second from right) and Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino (standing far right) honored Deer Park students who excelled in various subject areas: These 'Champions' are (standing L-R) Jesus M. – Family/Consumer Science, Miguel F. – Social Studies, Rebecca D. – World Languages, John G. – Guidance, Briana G. – Athletics, Kristina L. – Art, Caterina L. – Special Education, Allyssa P. – ELA, Meaghan L. – Technology, Stephen M. – Math, Nolan C. – Physical Education, (seated L-R) Rosa F. – Social Studies, Carlos H. – ESL, Kayla L. – Performing Arts, Tangir M. – Health, Mojdeh G. – Business, and Marcus J. – Science.

Middle School Student Honored by Veterans



Robert Frost Middle School student Nicholas V. stands with his Town of Babylon Veteran's Awareness Week Essay Contest Awards Certificate as Town Supervisor Steven Bellone, council members and United States Veterans congratulate all of the winners.

Robert Frost Middle School student Nicholas V. was awarded second place in the Town of Babylon Veteran's Awareness Week Essay Contest. For his efforts, Nicholas received a \$75 Savings Bond to put towards his future academic endeavors.

Nicholas was recognized at a Town Hall meeting, during which he recited his award-winning essay before Town Supervisor Steven Bellone, council members and town residents. The committee that selected Nick's essay was comprised of war veterans who selected the literary submissions that best illustrate the role of the United States military.

Infusing the school's eighth-grade social studies curriculum, students researched the current and past wars and the men and women who served. Nicholas met with local veterans from multiple branches and capacities of the military and various conflicts. In his essay, he wrote "The freedom our country has is a privilege. We should thank our troops every day for the sacrifice they go through to ensure our freedom."

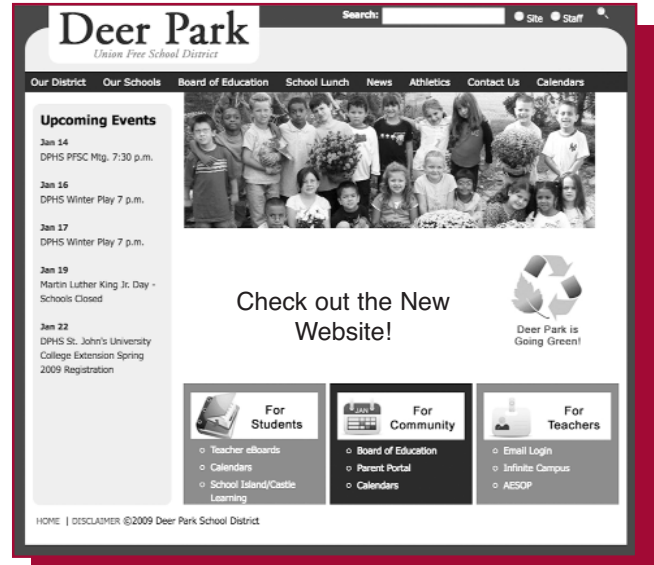
Nicholas also shared his unique perspective on life as a middle school student: "It is because of our brave military that we are able to live in peace, harmony and happiness. Many of us complain about the price of gas, food and taxes, but that is not nearly as much of a price that the military troops must pay."

DISTRICT LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Students, Teachers, Parents & Community Members Encouraged to Log On

The District's new innovative website offers an interactive journey through the school buildings, departments and classrooms in a user-friendly format. Some of its features include:

- Listing of staff directory categorized by school & curriculum area
- Viewing teacher personalized eBoards containing classroom instruction
- One-click access to Section XI athletic games, schedules & results
- Latest news, highlighting student, teacher & District accomplishments & happenings
- Central Registration page where new students learn how to become part of the Deer Park school family
- Dynamic District calendar tool to view upcoming school events, concerts, meetings & social events
- Link to the Board of Education's website, with meeting agendas, message boards & District committees
- Up-to-date alerts that scroll through the website's homepage with important District news
- Searchable and school-specific calendars



www.deerparkschools.org

JFK Students, *Tanger* Making a Difference

Students in John F. Kennedy (JFK) Intermediate School's "Let's Make a Difference" club were among the first students to take to the ice at the Tanger at the Arches skating rink, located at the center of the complex. School district officials were joined by JFK Principal Susan Bonner and club advisors, who accepted a check of \$500 from Tanger, which will be used for club activities. Town of Babylon officials were also on hand to commend the students for their efforts. The "Let's Make a Difference" club organizes and supports a multitude of community outreach programs that not only benefit those in need, but teaches students to give of themselves in a positive manner.



Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino (center) accepts a \$500 donation from Tanger at the Arches General Manager Curt Fickeisen (to her right) for JFK Intermediate School's "Let's Make a Difference" club. They are flanked by (from left) Babylon Town Clerk Carol Quirk, "Let's Make a Difference" club advisors Julianne Rotunno and Joyce Carmen, JFK Principal Susan Bonner, Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone, Babylon Town Councilman Tony Martinez and Deer Park Board of Education President Dennis Ryan holding JFK Student Council President Amanda G. with other JFK students waving in the background.

STUDENTS CONSTRUCT A Sweet Story

John Quincy Adams Elementary School students celebrated the holiday season with classmates and family during an interdisciplinary gingerbread project. Students in the school's special needs self-contained class invited their parents to join them for a dual lesson in literary and gingerbread house construction. Reading *The Gingerbread Man*, a classic folk tale, students helped recreate the adventures of a little gingerbread man. Students repeated and recited key terms and phrases, engaging family members in their story. Students learned about the gingerbread man's habitat by building their own gingerbread houses using their favorite candies.

Laying a foundation of white icing, students created M&M windows, gumdrop doors, and even fences with licorice landscapes.



John Quincy Adams Elementary students demonstrated their culinary creativity and basic architectural skills by building gingerbread houses.

Deer Park HS Voices Touch Senior Citizens

The Deer Park High School Women's Choir used their musical talents to spread holiday cheer to Long Island



senior citizens. Dressed in festive red and green garb, the young ladies visited The Arbors at Islandia East, an assisted living community. The Choir took center stage with a winter backdrop of wreaths, garland, bells and bows before an excited crowd of senior citizens. They sang classic tunes such as *Jingle Bells* and *Winter Wonderland* and inspired audience members with melodies of *Oh Holy Night*, creating a sing-along for all to participate in the spirit of the afternoon.

Generosity Giftwrapped for Local Families

Deer Park High School students sang winter songs, sipped on hot cocoa and shared red and green sugar cookies while bringing some joy to a few families less fortunate in their community. Members of the school's



Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) and A World of Difference (AWOD) clubs adopted three families, including parents and children, and used their wish lists to give each family member presents.

Each gift was handpicked with a specific person in mind. With over 50 gifts collected, students held a wrapping party to decorate and personalize the presents, which ranged from board games, dolls, puzzles, action figures, and coloring books for young children, to a glittering pink scarf for a mother currently battling breast cancer. All District departments pitched in, including Home and Careers teachers and students, who baked sweets and treats for the families to share.



SCHOOLS TEAM UP for the Community

Students at John Quincy Adams (JQA) Elementary School participated in a district-wide coat drive organized by students in Brownie Troop 499. Teaming up with John F. Kennedy Intermediate School students, the JQA students collected three large bags of winter jackets (pictured here) for the "Clothing Closet." The Deer Park community will benefit from the students' efforts with donations being made to St. Cyril and St. Methodius churches and JQA and May Moore Elementary School social work offices to help local needy families. Troop 499 leaders Joyce A., Ruth C. and Christine C. spearheaded the effort.

Frost Students Get a Taste of Professional Culinary Arts

Students enrolled in Robert Frost Middle School's Cultural Foods class had the opportunity to work with top professionals in the culinary industry thanks to a visit from A La Carte Culinary Center in Lynbrook. Upon entering the expansive, state-of-the-art kitchen, they were greeted by experienced chefs who engaged them in detailed lessons and demonstrations on techniques used to prepare a variety of recipes and dishes.

The guests then took to the kitchen and prepared a four-course traditional Italian meal. These young chefs quickly learned about the teamwork that drives a successful kitchen line and developed different workstations to produce such Italian favorites as minestrone soup, polenta with broccoli rabe, chicken piccata, and gnocchi pomodoro, culminating with tiramisu for dessert.

After a day of baking, broiling, and sautéing, students sampled their meals, critiquing taste and presentation while reflecting on each step of the cooking process. At the end of the savory meal, they brought their recipes home so that they can perfect their dishes and share their talent with friends and family.



Robert Frost Middle School Cultural Foods students get a hands-on lesson in cooking and baking.

DPHS STUDENTS MARKET LITERACY AND CHARACTER Teach May Moore Kindergartners the Value of Reading, Writing & Giving

Deer Park High School juniors and seniors from Jill Perry-Eising's College Software Applications class recently visited students in Pam Arcuri and Tammy Cotrone's kindergarten classes at May Moore Elementary School. The visit was part of the District's year-round efforts to promote literacy throughout grade levels, while teaching students that it's better to give than receive.

As an introductory project to their unit on Desktop Publishing, the high school students created bookmarks that marketed the benefits and fun of reading to young children. After crafting their bookmarks, they visited the kindergarten classes to read classic tales such as *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* and *If You Take a Mouse to School*, all of which highlight characteristics of giving, caring and compassion.

Sharing their unique bookmarks, the high school business students helped the younger students write letters to Santa to thank him for last year's gifts, inform him that they have been good boys and girls all year, and ask for a variety of gifts for the holidays. Before returning to the high school with May Moore's wish lists in tow, they were treated to an energetic song and dance performance from the

kindergarten classes. Acting as Santa's liaison, the older students responded to their requests just prior to the holiday break.

The project enabled the older students to refine their technology, writing and artistic skills and work collaboratively with the youngsters to help inspire them to read, write and cultivate their own positive character traits.



Deer Park High School students enrolled in the College Software Applications class worked with May Moore kindergartners to develop their literacy skills and positive character traits.

A Journey into the Unknown ...from the Classroom

Robert Frost Middle School students conducted a videoconference with the Ward Melville Heritage Organization and National Grid Foundation as part of their Environmental Education unit. Curriculum Associate for Humanities Oslin Rodriguez engaged sixth-grade social studies classes in a lesson about the extreme environments and habitats of Easter Island, a Polynesian island in the southeastern Pacific Ocean off the coast of Chile. Students, pictured here with their teachers displaying tee shirts they received for their participation, gained an awareness of ecological preservation through their virtual tour and involvement in the interactive tasks.



C-SPAN

Rolls into Deer Park

The C-SPAN 2008 "Road to the White House" Campaign Bus visited Deer Park High School and gave Advanced Placement Government students an opportunity to tour its mobile multi-media production studio. Students discussed the historic significance of the 2008 presidential race, including topics on media literacy and campaign advertisements. They also shared their thoughts on the election in an interview format that mirrored interviews given by political candidates aboard the very same campaign bus.

Students viewed a portion of C-SPAN's "Washington Journal" program, and a recent interview with former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, both of which took place aboard the C-SPAN bus. Students observed and learned interviewing skills and production techniques. They also answered questions pertaining to political science, identifying past political campaigns and their memorable



Advanced Placement Government students received a behind the scenes tour of C-SPAN's "Road to the White House" Campaign Bus, joined by Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Personnel & Professional Development Eva Demyen, Principal James Cummings and Associate Principal Kimberly Johnston.

speeches and slogans such as George H.W. Bush's "Read my lips, no new taxes" quote.

To prepare students for the event, Cablevision's Power to Learn Department partnered with "C-SPAN Classroom" this election season to bring the convention speeches and critical debates to the classroom through the use of Video on Demand (VOD) programming.

Schools Have an Election to Remember



Twenty-four JFK fifth grade students vying for school office, campaigned for weeks.

This fall, students were immersed in the democratic process through some educational election experiences to remember.

Fifth graders at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School seeking school office campaigned for weeks throughout the school, hanging posters and talking with their peers throughout the primaries and the final election. In a school-wide assembly, 24 candidates gave speeches to the entire student body on their school views, policies and themselves. Students later voted on their choices for Student Council President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Once

elected, these fifth grade officers began working with class representatives to better the school and community.

May Moore Elementary School's Presidential debates heated up with a tight race between characters Grace, Max and Duck. Students kicked off the campaign by reading three storybooks: *Grace for President*, *Max for President* and *Duck for President*, which taught them about the voting process through various literature and lessons that culminated with interactive participation. Showing patriotism at the polls, May Moore students wore red, white and blue and arrived at the polls with their individual voter registration cards to take part in a school-wide mock election of their favorite storybook character. Entering a private voting booth, they cast their ballots on laptop computers, which instantly tabulated results from across the school and displayed them through various graphs and charts. After exercising their student civic duty, every student received an "I Voted Today" pin and voter certificate.

John Quincy Adams Elementary students used interactive SMARTBoards to learn about the political process. Infusing their knowledge of the 2008 race, as well as general knowledge of the presidency they learned in class, they completed a series of individual and group tasks revolving around the written structure of campaign messages and public speaking techniques. This included a word-find using key government terms and phrases. Each class also designed its own 'class seal' modeled after the Presidential Seal.



May Moore Principal Alicia Konecny (far right) and Associate Principal Jennifer Estrada (far left) with a class of students displaying their pins and certificates after voting.

Fine & Performing Arts PROJECT

PROJECT, a dynamic young musical group that is exciting audiences with their energy and innovative style, is coming to the Deer Park Schools! The group will teach its techniques for sound, jazz fusion, hip-hop, world and classical music to Deer Park High School musicians in class, before taking the stage with them on the evening of March 18. The community is invited to enjoy this concert at Deer Park High School.

PROJECT is well renowned for reaching new audiences through its performances and community engagement, providing access for the next generation of music lovers and creating a learning link between artistry and scholastic achievement.

The Melodies of Deer Park

The Deer Park School District's Department of Fine and Performing Arts would like to congratulate Michael N. and Bradley B., who have been selected to perform in two All-Eastern Honors Music Ensembles. Michael will be a member of the 350-voice All-Eastern Chorus and Bradley will be a member of the 150-member All-Eastern Orchestra. Deer Park's talented musicians will be showcased at Veterans Memorial Auditorium for the Performing Arts in Providence, Rhode Island on Sunday, March 15th. The top student-musicians were selected from 10 states and the District of Columbia.

The following Deer Park students continue to make music in the Long Island String Festival:

Toni Nicole T.
Noah R.
Bradley B.

Eric W.
Meghan H.
Kevin T.

Athletic Achievements & Awards

Deer Park Board of Education members, administration and community members came together to honor the District's outstanding fall student athletes. Eleven teams were recognized by the Section XI Athletic Association as New York State Scholar-Athlete teams, which means that as a group they maintained a grade point average of 90 or above throughout their entire athletic season. In addition, four teams were designated with the distinction of being named New York State Section XI Sportsmanship Team Winners, indicating that during competition, their fair play earned Deer Park teams the respect of their opponents, coaches and officials.

The following teams received New York State Scholar-Athlete status, as well as individual players earning All-State, All-County, Academic All-County, All-Conference and All-League awards

Varsity Football
Varsity Girls Soccer
Varsity Boys Soccer
Varsity Girls Swimming
Varsity Girls Tennis
Varsity Girls Volleyball

Varsity Boys Cross Country
Varsity Girls Cross Country
Varsity Cheerleading
Varsity Girls Kick Line
Marching Band

The following teams exemplify Deer Park's community spirit and pride, honored as New York State Sportsmanship Team Winners:

Varsity Boys Soccer
Varsity Girls Volleyball

Robert Frost Boys Soccer
Robert Frost Girls Soccer



School news and photos compiled by Terry Gilberti and Marissa Sanseverino.

Board of Education

Dennis Ryan, President • John Gouskos, Vice President
Rose Bruner • Robert Marino • Keith Rooney
Ronald Wayne • Frank Wilkinson
Lisa Brennan, District Clerk
Elizabeth Marino, Superintendent of Schools