



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT AUTISM PROGRAM LEADS THE STATE

*Program Recognized as a Model for Effective Practices,
Awarded \$50K Grant*

The district has been recognized as a pioneer in special education research and instruction. As a result of its Autism Program, May Moore Elementary School has been named an Effective Practice School by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED). The district was awarded a \$50,000 grant, over a five-year period, from NYSED through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Program to expand and develop May Moore's highly-regarded Autism program.

Additionally, the school's program is viewed as a statewide resource in the area of special education, May Moore was named a New York State Effective Mentor School and Project Validated Practice School. This came following an evaluation by the Supporting Successful Strategies to Achieve Improved Results (S3TAIR) Project, which recognized May Moore's successes and advancements through in-district special needs student development and achievement. In recognition of this, the Administrative Coordinator for Best Practices and Research and Long Island Regional Field Facilitator for Eastern Suffolk BOCES Harold Dean visited the school to present the district with a plaque and banner. As one of 13 Effective Practice Mentor Schools in New York State, May Moore will serve as a mentor to an identified "Replication School."

"This is an honor not to be taken lightly, as it is



May Moore's special needs students, teachers, teacher assistants, support staff, and administrators were presented with a banner and plaque by Harold Dean of Eastern Suffolk BOCES (far right) for their recognition as an Effective Practice School and the district will receive \$50,000.

estimated that one of every 100 American children are diagnosed with Autism," said Frank Caliguiri, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services. "Our district is proud to be recognized as a model and to have the opportunity to shape such a valuable program in other communities, while continuing to nurture and enhance the program for children right here in Deer Park."

The district will receive additional annual funding to work with their paired mentee in order to begin the planning and implementation processes to replicate an autism program in their school

To view May Moore's Autistic Program showcase, please visit: www.s3tairproject.org/showcase/may-moore.

Students Take the Lead in Literary Competition

High school students Arianna Pantin and Janai Clark won the 2010 Honoring Our Future Leaders Competition, which was sponsored by Congressman Steve Israel. The students wrote essays inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, giving their personal interpretations of the speech and describing personal obstacles that they have overcome throughout their lives.

Arianna and Janai also had the prestigious honor of having their names read into the Congressional Record and were presented with an official proclamation from Congressman Israel. Pictured here, Advisor of the African American club Monet Cooper and High School Principal James Cummings congratulate Arianna and Janai on their accomplishments and recognition.



A Message from *Your Board of Education President*



Dear Residents,

Thank you for all of your past and present support. Our district continues to proceed on the right track. Over the last

three years our standardized test scores – including Regents exams are up; college placements are up; and our district's facilities, grounds and fields, and gyms have never looked better. This all happens because we as a community stand behind our school district and together we have supported the budget process over the past three years. We also have a staff, administration, teachers, clerical, and buildings and grounds crew who have all done a stellar job of making the Deer Park School District one of the best in New York State and a source of community pride.

Your Board of Education takes its educational responsibility to the students and its financial responsibility to the taxpaying community very seriously. Our district's finances have been given a clean bill of health by the State Comptroller and in annual external audits, which is why you didn't see Deer Park School District in the papers. In 2008-09 we had one of the lowest tax increases in New York State, and the corresponding budget resulted in a decrease in taxes. All while maintaining sound programs for students and realizing ongoing improvement.

In preparing the 2010-11 proposed budget, the Board and administration took a hard look at the economic outlook of New York State and the dysfunctional situation in Albany. The Governor is proposing a \$2.2 million cut in State Aid for Deer Park in the 2010-2011 school year, and we anticipate additional cuts in 2011-2012.

It's up to us to do what's right for our children. Through long-range planning the Board and

administration are making every effort to accurately project the fiscal environment for the next five years, and in the process, budgeting for the long-term so that we can preserve our fiscal health and continue to provide our children with a quality education at a manageable cost. It has been an enlightening experience and one that will leave our district better off moving into the future.

Every line item in the budget has been cut to the bone, without negatively impacting our program. We have applied some monies into the budget's capital line to ensure the safety of our students and upkeep of our school buildings. Additionally, we are continuing to apply reserves responsibly to control the tax impact and to ensure our valuable academic, extracurricular, music and fine arts and athletics stay in place. Lastly, this budget shows a reduction in full-time teaching staff by four positions, again without negatively impacting the classroom.

Our proposed 0.66% budget increase is once again very small compared to other districts, and the associated tax increase of 2.9% is comparable. Other districts on Long Island will propose larger increases with drastic staff reductions. Your Board and administration have already begun to seek ways of fending off those issues in the future years. As is happening in other districts across Long Island, the Board has formally asked the leadership of the Deer Park Teachers Association to reopen the contract to work together to find a way to keep the staffing levels in 2011-2012 secure, which is important to all of us. Unfortunately, while we appreciate their first offer, it provided a short-term solution with long-term financial consequences that we could not in good conscience accept on behalf of the community. I remain hopeful that we can continue to work together to find

the best solution to the issues we face in 2011-2012. As promised when I became your President, negotiations will not be done in secret or behind closed doors. Since salaries are the major part of taxes for the school district I have always believed, as does the Board of Education, that what we are negotiating should be out in the open for the public to understand. This should not be a surprise to any bargaining unit or any member of this community. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.

Despite a state mandated increase in the district's contributions toward retirement contributions this year, New York school districts (including ours) have made inroads to healthcare contributions and reasonable salary agreements with instructional staff, unlike in the neighboring state of New Jersey where the financial crisis, overall, is much more acute (they have an \$11 billion budget deficit).

Unfortunately, the local media would rather attempt to liken our situation to New Jersey in an effort to create negative headlines, rather than acknowledge the fact that New York taxpayers are generally more supportive of their schools systems (97% of NYS school budgets passed last year, as opposed to NJ, where routinely 25% fail). Quality school systems with supportive residents are the factors that make Long Island one of the most desirable places to live and raise a family.

Please be assured that the Board and administration will continue to operate in a responsible, and open fashion with the community. As always, we welcome your input, encourage you to read this, and future issues of *The Standard*, attend future Board meetings and please remember to vote on May 18th.

Good Luck and God Bless,
Dennis P. Ryan
President,
Deer Park Board of Education

A Table of Knowledge *at JFK School*

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School's special education students are utilizing the most advanced resources in instructional technology with the school's new SMART Table. Similar to a SMARTBoard, the SMART Table is an interactive surface that is the first of its kind, as it creates a multiuser interactive learning center. Within the classroom, students and teachers are interacting with the SMART Table to introduce, enhance, reinforce and expand lessons and curriculum topics. Activities are tailored for student success and adjusted to meet educational levels. Teachers have the ability to refine and redesign activities using the SMART Table, in order to maintain challenging and engaging classes.



Special Education students worked with the SMART Table in various applications, creating word sequences, combining number sentences and matching items.

STUDENTS USE TECHNOLOGY TO LEARN LANGUAGES

The district has implemented Rosetta Stone instructional technologies to benefit its English as a Second Language (ESL) and World Languages students. Rosetta Stone language learning software uses a combination of images, text and sound to teach vocabulary terms and grammar. Difficulty levels increase as the student progresses.

ESL students in grades six through eight at Robert Frost Middle School use the program in English to focus on image and word association. District students who are native to other countries and possess limited or no English language proficiency, use the program to reinforce basic language skills and vocabulary. As a result of the recent devastation in Haiti, the district has experienced an increase in enrollment of Haitian students who speak Haitian Creole, and the Rosetta Stone program has been instrumental in educating and acclimating these students to the school, community and the English language.



Through the district's World Languages Department, eighth-grade Spanish language students are utilizing the program for conversational vocabulary, and to practice pronunciations and advance their listening and speaking skills. This versatile, individualized program allows students to work independently and increases opportunities for additional practice time.

Due to student successes in classroom performance and on standardized assessments, the Rosetta Stone program is now being used at the high school, middle school and John F. Kennedy Intermediate School for students enrolled in French, Italian, Spanish, English and Chinese.

High School Student is a Fresh Face in Fashion

Senior Nicole Goh has been named a scholarship award winner by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) and Teen Vogue, through the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). Nicole is currently enrolled in FIT's Precollege Program and will be attending the school as a full-time student in the fall.

Deer Park High School offers students a diverse range of educational opportunities. As a result, Nicole was exposed to a variety of art and design curriculum topics, including Fashion Design and Fashion Portfolio. Throughout these courses she was motivated by Art teacher Rita Murphy (pictured to the right), who encouraged Nicole to expand her studies and nurture her creative talents by attending FIT's advanced program.

Based on her essay describing why she wants to be a designer, and her illustrations, which expressed her views on fashion, Nicole was awarded \$5,000 towards her college tuition and a sewing machine. Inspired by the architecture of New York City, Nicole created a comprehensive, vibrant portfolio filled with sketches, textiles and paper models.



Language Comes **ALIVE** for Deer Park Students

The district creates learning partnerships between its schools and students to enhance instruction and provide unique programs. High School World Languages students prepared detailed lesson plans and connected with students at John Quincy Adams (JQA) and May Moore Elementary Schools, using distance-learning videoconferencing to conduct foreign language classes.

Elementary students learned some French, Spanish and Italian through these videoconferences, as the high school students



JQA elementary students stood near the SMARTBoard, which was used to broadcast their foreign language videoconferences, and demonstrated how they interacted with the SMARTBoards during their lessons.

utilized webcam and SMARTBoard technologies. During the broadcast, the high school 'teachers' used visual displays, songs and dances to teach elementary students basic vocabulary terms used when describing colors, numbers, body parts and foods in these foreign countries.

As a follow-up to their distance-learning experience, the World Languages students visited the elementary schools to advance the youngsters' foreign language and cultural knowledge with interactive presentations and engaging songs and rhymes.



High school students crafted masks and posters filled with illustrations and words to teach May Moore Elementary students farm animal names and sounds.

SCIENCE GETS **GLUEY AND GOO**

John Quincy Adams Elementary second-grade students experienced hands-on Science Workshop entitled "Gluey & Goopy Chemistry." Scientists from the Long Island Science Center presented an interactive program in which students used simple household materials.

The student scientists applied their knowledge to concoct the sticky substance by combining additional molecules. During the program students articulated the unique chemical reactions.

The Long Island Science Center is a program that encourages student enthusiasm and stimulates discovery and creativity.

PARP IN DEER PARK

READING ACROSS DEER PARK



Whether it's Wacky Wednesday or Just Me and the Babysitter, Robert Frost Middle School seventh-grade students and John Quincy Adams Elementary second-grade students in Ms. Santa Maria's class read together and shared tales of teamwork and friendship.

Robert Frost Middle School and John Quincy Adams (JQA) Elementary students came together to celebrate the National Education Association's signature literacy program, Read Across America. The program focuses on motivating children and teens to conduct reading-themed events, develop partnerships to read, and seek out new literature resources. Frost students served as reading mentors to the JQA elementary students.

Seventh-grade students visited elementary second-grade students to connect through literature. Frost students selected various books to read aloud and elementary students chose their favorite picture books to share with their reading mentors. Together they discussed plot lines and character traits and described why they enjoy reading.

BINGO! for May Moore Students

Inspired by this year's theme "Pop Open A Good Book," students at May Moore Elementary School read an impressive 6,825 books during their annual PARP program.

Book BINGO served as this year's culminating PARP activity. Students received BINGO boards with 25 different colorful covers from popular children's stories, including *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *Amelia Bedelia*. Students from grades kindergarten through second participated in rounds of Book BINGO using the SMARTBoard as a visual aid. When book titles were called out, the various book covers were revealed on the school SMARTBoard and students marked the appropriate squares on their board with bookmarkers, completing game sequences. Students also received educational prizes, including a \$10 gift card to Barnes & Noble Bookstore and writing materials, as well as a PARP Certificate signifying their successful completion of the program.



May Moore students filled their Book BINGO playing cards as classic literary story titles were read during their PARP reading activities.

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Reading Rocks at JQA and Students Tally More Than 12,000 Books



Students met with storyteller LuAnn Adams and displayed some of the character props they used during their book performances.

John Quincy Adams Elementary students kicked-off their annual PARP program with a visit from Storyteller LuAnn Adams who performed a variety of stories from “The Mouse that Barked and Other Delightful Tales of Good Deeds and Second Chances.” LuAnn brought literature to life, engaging students in mini anecdotal skits – based on books they have read – that promoted teamwork and taught them life lessons. Students took on the roles of various characters and acted out scenes.

Following the lead of this year’s theme “Reading Rocks” students read more than 12,000 books. Throughout the program, teachers recorded the number of books the students completed in a reading log, collecting and graphing data on a weekly basis to compare the number of books read.

A Lesson on Flight & Freedom

Robert Frost Middle School students received a lesson in United States history and warfare from the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were America’s first African American fighter pilots who were trained in Tuskegee, Alabama during World War II. These men flew during a time when many people were under the



Middle school administrative team and teachers, including Associate Principal Gary Ramonetti, retired Deer Park teacher and program coordinator Betsy Hirsch, Curriculum Associate Celeste Archer and middle school teacher Seth Margolin, brought Tuskegee Airmen Victor Terrelonge and William Wheeler to the school, to enable students to gain insight into the history of the United States and the fight for equality during a time of war.

misguided impression that black men lacked the intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism to represent the U.S. in war, and they worked hard to overcome these negative stereotypes while facing the obvious challenges of combat.

The airmen spoke to students about the intense physical training and mental preparation in readying for war, as well as tales of discrimination and prejudice. They described the camaraderie of their unit and the people who risked social ridicule to support them and their heroic mission. By the end of World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen had destroyed or damaged more than 400 enemy aircraft, but just as important were their contributions in breaking down the racial barriers among the armed forces in the United States.

STUDENTS LEARN IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Abraham Lincoln Pre-Kindergarten students participated in an instructional and interactive winter workshop of educational tasks and activities. Special adults (parents, family members) were even invited to join them at various multidisciplinary stations designed to nurture a diverse range of skills.

Students practiced their mathematics skills by predicting, counting and sorting items. They played dice games to build number sequences and constructed a snowman in “Roll-a-Snowman.” They also exercised their hand-eye coordination through an “ice fishing” activity of matching the letters and numbers they hooked.

In an effort to “warm people’s hearts,” as a literacy lesson students wrote letters of appreciation and inspiration that were delivered to local community outreach organizations, including the Family Service League and local veterans hospitals. Applying their science knowledge, students examined the human heart by measuring their fists and comparing the ruler results to the size of heart diagrams.



Music Students Learn from an Army Pro



United States Army Field Band trumpet player Sergeant First Class John Altman demonstrated multiple musical arrangements to illustrate the importance of musical range and being a diverse artist.

High School student-musicians had the distinct opportunity to meet and perform with Sergeant First Class John Altman of the United States Army Field Band. A decorated trumpet player, Sergeant Altman taught a master class and focused on careers within the music industry, the steps he took and work he put in to become a successful musician. The day ended with Sergeant Altman instructing the Jazz Band ensemble.

The student-musicians also gained valuable insight into the audition process and preparation, while learning the benefits of networking and maintaining positive interpersonal relationships, not just as musicians, but colleagues in any organization. Sergeant Altman described his personal experiences as an aspiring musician and the desire he had to turn his passion into a career. He encouraged the students to become well-rounded, test their limits and explore a variety

of avenues in order to break into the music business. Sergeant Altman also stressed the importance of academics and encouraged students to achieve higher levels of education.

Joining the jazz ensemble, Sergeant Altman performed and instructed students on different techniques and styles. He reflected on the day's experiences, stating, "The students' enthusiasm and musical interests were inspiring; it is a testament to the high level of instruction they receive from their music teachers and directors. Exposing them to programs such as this gives Deer Park students a competitive edge in planning and preparing their academic and career futures."



District music students met with United States Army Field Band trumpet player Sergeant First Class John Altman as he discussed his triumphs and defeats in his quest to become a professional musician.

Student-Athletes Score in the Classroom

The district is proud to announce that seven high school winter athletic teams achieved New York State Scholar-Athlete status. In order to receive this designation a team must achieve and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 90 or better throughout the entire season.

In addition, the **Varsity Bowling team was selected as a Section XI Outstanding Sportsmanship Team** for their fair play and good sportsmanship during the heat of competition. What makes this award so genuine is that it is determined by officials and opposing teams.

At the middle school level, the **Robert Frost Kickline team, coached by Dena Hermanek and Dina Peragine, won the Long Island Kickline Association Championship and were named the Long Island Pom Champions.**

DEER PARK HS SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAMS:

Girls Basketball
Bowling
Boys Swimming
Girls Track
Boys Track
Kickline
Cheerleading

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

The district offers a diverse range of courses in which students can explore personal interests and learn through unique avenues. Two of these courses are Advanced Placement Art History and Advanced Placement Art Studio, which are instructed by Derek Mainhart who guides students through these educational opportunities. Both of these courses infuse curriculum and creativity and place students on an accelerated track for future endeavors with the potential to earn college credit.

Art History focuses on the humanities and builds a connection between the fine arts, literature and world history. Mr. Mainhart provides students with a new perspective on artwork as they research various periods of time and delve deeper into historical events by researching the artwork which framed the cultures and social structures. Learning beyond the classroom, students view the works of professional artists with visits to The Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as other iconic New York venues. As a culminating activity students share presentations on various artists and create a piece of personal artwork inspired by

their selected artist.

Advanced Placement Art Studio features hands-on learning with individualized student instruction from Mr. Mainhart. Students illustrate their passions through various mediums, including painting, drawing, watercolor and collage and utilize tools such as charcoal, oil paint, ink and erasers to create varied textures. Mr. Mainhart also encourages students to utilize their surrounding resources by drawing upon inspiration from the nature in the school's courtyard. By the completion of the course, students construct a comprehensive portfolio for colleges and employers, which demonstrates a progression of ideas and a deep breath of knowledge and technique.



High School Art Teacher Derek Mainhart displays a selection of Advanced Placement student artwork.

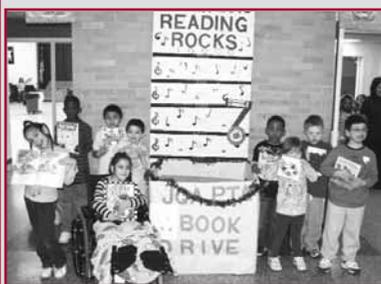
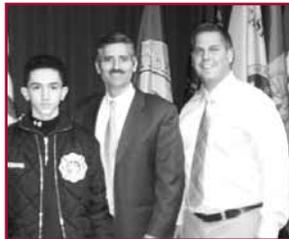
STUDENTS REACH OUT & GIVE BACK

More Than 6,000 Items Collected to Help Haiti

High school freshman Thomas Goemans spearheaded the mission and rallied his peers together to collect valuable medical and essential toiletry supplies to be distributed to injured and displaced victims.

Donation stations were set up in every district school, and as a result more than 6,000 items were collected. Students sorted and boxed the diverse group of items, which ranged from crutches, gauze pads and diapers to soap, toothpaste and combs. The Suffolk County Legislature also aided in the cause by donating the shipping for all of the care packages to reach Haiti.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy recognized the district for their Haiti fundraising efforts as Thomas and Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Edward Kemnitzer (pictured below) received a County proclamation for their impressive contributions.



A COZY COLLECTION FOR HAITI'S CHILDREN ORGANIZED



Students at May Moore Elementary School donated more than 2,000 stuffed animals for the displaced children of Haiti. To help increase the number of donations, May Moore partnered with a high school in upstate New York through a program called Project Stuffed Animals For Emergencies (SAFE). The schools' combined donations were brought to the United Nations, which then facilitated the delivery of the stuffed animals to Haiti. The students' goal was to provide Haitian children with a sense of security during this turbulent time in their lives, and the results were a huge success.

Each day students in Susan Steinman's class collected and sorted the stuffed animals placed in the drop-off locations throughout the school. They used a teddy bear graph displayed in the school lobby to tabulate the number of stuffed animals collected.

Providing Support for a Neighbor

John Quincy Adams (JQA) Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) sponsored a schoolwide book drive for the district's neighbor, South Bay Elementary in West Babylon. A fire left the school without academic supplies and Deer Park students, staff and community members came together to replenish the school library and provide important class materials. A variety of resources, including a diverse genre of books, educational magazines and writing tools, were collected and distributed to the students of South Bay. JQA special needs students are seen here alongside the filled donation drop box, displaying a sample of the items.

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Budget Vote will be held on
Tuesday, May 18, 2010
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Deer Park High School,
1 Falcon Place

High School Keep the Drive Team Rocks Long Island



District students and community members came together to perform a choreographed "mob dance" routine to live music while student-written lyrics spread the critical message on the dangers of drunk and distracted driving.

The videotaped event was submitted to Allstate's Act Out Loud competition for a chance to win a \$10,000 grant to expand the community's safe teen driving program. Deer Park High School is 1 of 20 schools nationwide, and the only district in New York State to be selected to participate in this competition.

Vote for Deer Park until May 21st at www.actoutloud.org to support the school, and link to Deer Park's Keep the Drive Facebook page to learn about past, present and future student-driven programs and initiatives.



Absentee Ballot Application

An application for an absentee ballot must be received by the district clerk at least seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be issued to the voter in person.

ABSENTEE BALLOT DEADLINE

No absentee voter's ballot will be counted unless it is received in the office of the District Clerk, 1881 Deer Park Avenue, Deer Park, by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Please visit the district and Board of Education websites regularly for updates and additional information on the 2010-2011 Budget.

www.deerparkschools.org
District Website

www.deerparkboe.com
Board of Education Website



School news
and photos
compiled by
Marissa
Sanseverino.

Board of Education

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