



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Macbooks Provide a Foundation for Innovation

Following the successful implementation of the one-to-one student laptop initiative for fifth graders at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School, the district has expanded the program to include sixth-grade students at Robert Frost Middle School. The district now employs approximately 700 Apple MacBooks, which both grade levels will utilize throughout the school year, to enhance curriculum and aid in research.

Personal MacBooks were distributed to all students at the end of September, at which time teachers began incorporating the instructional technology tools into their lesson plans.



Students now have the opportunity to explore academic websites, design interactive presentations and expand their general knowledge. In addition, teachers can streamline classroom activities through electronic assessments and encourage collaborative learning.

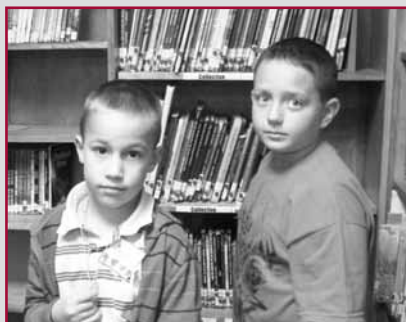
The current sixth-grade class was introduced to the laptops last year and will continue to advance their skills, while fifth-grade students are beginning to learn how to best use the latest educational resource provided by the district. Fifth-grade teachers completed Apple Training last year; this year, Robert Frost Middle School sixth-grade teachers became proficient with the software and applications prior to the sixth-grade distribution.

“As leaders in educational technology, the Deer Park School District is committed to developing the technological skills of our students,” stated District Administrator for Instructional Technology, Data Warehousing and Information Andrew Choi. “Teachers are seamlessly integrating the MacBooks into classroom lessons and bringing innovative concepts, images and information into our learning environment.”



*District Elementary School students work together to complete classroom tasks and organize personal portfolios.*

### ACTIVE LEARNING at Deer Park



*Students frequently visit and utilize the John F. Kennedy Intermediate School library, expanding their language skill sets and discussing literary works.*

**Change in School Closing**

As per New York State law, school districts must remain closed on the Monday following any major holiday that falls on a Sunday. In accordance with this regulation the Deer Park School District will now be closed on Monday, January 2, 2012, and will remain open on Friday, May 25, 2012.

# A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*



Dear Residents,

The fall season has once again been a time of exciting advancements and great accomplishments

for the Deer Park School District. This edition of *The Standard* features the cutting-edge technology employed by the district throughout all grade levels that prepares students for 21st century learning.

The key to our success is in utilizing these instructional technology tools as interactive resources to connect students with their curriculum. As you read the articles, you will see that our efforts to educate the whole student and the entire student body are realized from our advanced instruction. Specifically, we have expanded our Model Classroom Program and our

technology use into special needs classrooms. To support these goals, we have provided our teachers with workshop training that educates them on the techniques needed to seamlessly infuse these invaluable tools so that they enhance the teaching-learning process.

In addition to providing excellent pedagogy, we pride ourselves in creating a supportive and safe educational environment. Staff members have been trained in CPR and the use of AEDs. AEDs are strategically placed throughout the district in case of an emergency warranting its use. Our students and staff will engage in workshops aimed at preventing bullying and fostering a climate of equity and tolerance.

The district's Energy Efficiency Plan, as illustrated in the story on page 3, is fully functioning, optimizing operations and saving costs for the district and, ultimately, the taxpayer.

Special thanks to our Board of

Education Trustee Keith Rooney for spearheading the project along with our Plant Facilities Administrator Kirk Gostkowski and Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Marguerite Jimenez.

Despite the wet weather, we recently enjoyed Homecoming week in which the community came together to support students' athletic and artistic abilities. Our new bleachers and press box added additional fanfare. This event is always a highly charged kickoff to the sports season but trickles into the classrooms around the district setting a strong positive tone to the upcoming academic school year. I look forward to seeing you on the fields, in our schools, at special events or around town.

Sincerely,

Eva J. Demyen



*A special needs student at Robert Frost Middle School utilizes an iPad during a speech therapy lesson.*

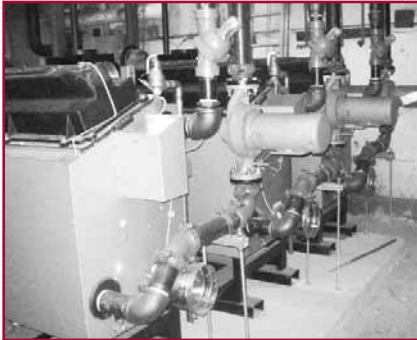
## iPad Technology Fulfills Special Needs

The district is at the forefront of integrating instructional technology tools into the curriculum. Most recently, the district's special education department introduced iPads into speech therapy sessions and small group work to enhance lessons and engage students.

Using SMART Board and SMART Table technologies, students work together, practice tactile learning and build social skill sets. Speech therapists throughout the district work one-on-one with autistic students on the iPad as they explore educational websites and utilize academic applications. During class, students interact with one another and collaborate on lessons, which are guided by technology-based programs.

# Mission Accomplished

## District Operating with Maximum Efficiency



*More energy and cost-efficient boilers were installed at John F. Kennedy Intermediate and May Moore Elementary Schools.*



*Light occupancy sensors placed in the high school classrooms will eliminate excess electrical costs.*



*New weatherized windows line the Abraham Lincoln School.*

The district has successfully implemented components of its Energy Efficiency Plan and the educational community is already benefitting, both financially and environmentally. To date, energy rebates have totaled \$331,000 and the savings will continue to grow, while students and teachers are enjoying a more environmentally-sound workplace.

District administrators and the Board of Education partnered with leaders in the environmental technology solutions industry to develop a multiphase energy efficiency plan. “It has always been our goal to execute a comprehensive energy plan that would benefit our residents and the world,” explained Board of Education trustee and Energy Committee Chairman Keith Rooney. “Through collaborative efforts we have accomplished this mission and have become a model for effective energy use in educational settings.”

Facility upgrades can be seen

throughout the district. Highlights include boiler replacements and new piping at John F. Kennedy Intermediate and May Moore Elementary Schools, as well as advanced boiler control systems at all schools. These units work together, along with cogeneration units, to regulate temperatures throughout the buildings and save on heating costs. To reduce electrical costs, lighting fixture retrofits were installed in all schools, as well as light occupancy sensors in all classrooms at the high school to monitor activity in the rooms and shut off lights when rooms become unoccupied. In addition, all of the schools were weatherized and Abraham Lincoln received new windows throughout the building for increased climate control.

“The inception and ultimate utilization of these upgrades illustrates the district’s dedication to improving our schools and

students’ educational experience,” stated Superintendent of Schools Eva Demyen. “As a result of our work, the district is able to save taxpayers money and re-appropriate funds to instructional and academic programs.”

The district’s Buildings and Grounds crew, led by Plant Facilities Administrator Kirk Gostkowski, began to implement these upgrades in the spring of 2011, and teams have worked throughout the summer to complete the majority of the projects. All work will be finished by the end of the fall, which includes the following:

- ***Energy Management Systems***
- ***Heat Distribution Systems***
- ***Computer-Powered Management Systems***
- ***Water Conservation***
- ***Lighting Fixture Controls***
- ***Renewable Energy Systems***
- ***Univent Radiators***

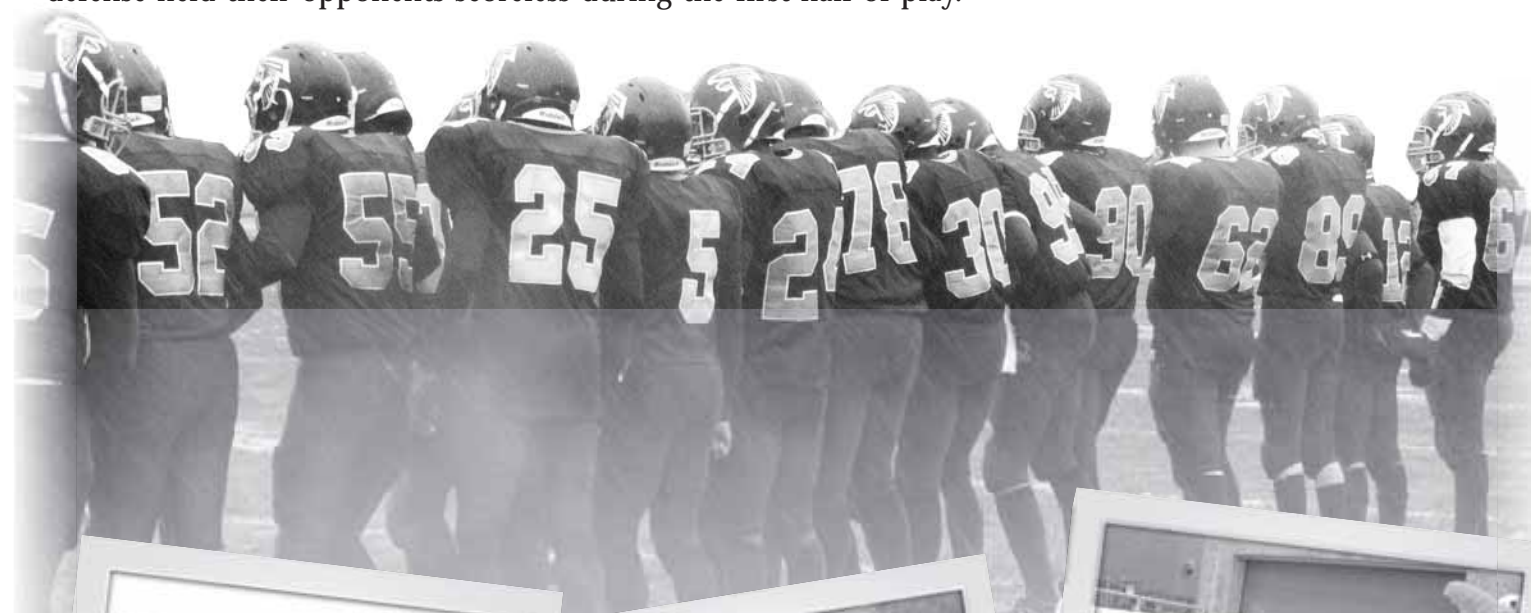


# HOMECOMING 2011

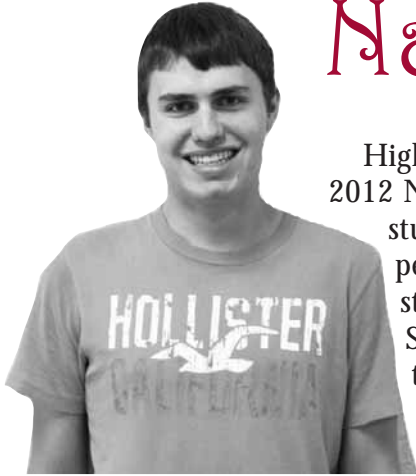
Deer Park Falcon pride ran deep during Homecoming festivities, which featured many athletic, artistic and community-oriented activities. Schools throughout the district celebrated Spirit Week, for which students showed their support for their respective school through contests, spirited clothing and motivational movements including pep rallies and assemblies.

The fierce weekend weather hindered the annual parade, but the high school floats were showcased in the school parking lot for fans to view. Each class came together to engineer unique floats inspired by this year's theme, "Pixar Movies." Seniors took first place for their *Finding Nemo* creation, however the other class floats impressed the judges, paying homage to the movies *Wall-E*, *Monsters Inc.* and *Up*.

Keeping with tradition, Homecoming King and Queen Vincent Vitale and Ginger Valle were nominated by their peers and crowned during the football game. The newly renovated stadium was decorated with maroon and white, and although the Varsity Falcons fell to East Islip, Deer Park's defense held their opponents scoreless during the first half of play.



# National Merit Scholar



*Kevin Tresselt, a Deer Park senior, represents the district as a 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program award recipient.*

High school senior Kevin Tresselt has been named a Commended Student in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Kevin is one of approximately 34,000 students nationwide who earned this honor, placing him among the top five percent of students who competed for this recognition. More than 1.5 million students entered the 2012 competition by taking the SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, placing Kevin in an elite group of academically talented students.

Academically, Kevin excels in the classroom as a member of the National Honor Society, Academic Team and was named an AP Scholar with Distinction. In addition, he is involved in a variety of extracurricular activities including Student Council, Varsity Leaders Club and Jazz Band.

## A UNIFYING EFFECT

Bold signs that read “Diversity, Respect and Dignity” lined the gymnasium of the Robert Frost Middle School. The eighth-grade class came together to experience a powerful workshop led by motivational speaker Paul D. Failla. A retired twenty-seven year veteran of the Suffolk County Police Department, Mr. Failla’s character education program combined humor, role-playing and storytelling to deliver a message of tolerance and human diversity.

Mr. Failla drew on real-life experiences and historic events that addressed many of the challenges and stresses young people face at school and in social settings. Through this interactive program, students built self-confidence, self-assuredness and leadership skills while gaining a heightened awareness of the impact made by their decisions on their own and others’ lives. The program encouraged students to build positive relationships with their peers and embrace the differences that make each of them unique.

Following the presentation, students reflected on the topics discussed and signed a “No Bully” banner, which will be displayed in the halls of the school.

## SCHOLARS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The district is proud to announce that its high school students have received 41 Advanced Placement (AP) designations. Throughout their high school careers, students have the opportunity to explore a multitude of AP courses where they are challenged to complete rigorous curricula and develop advanced problem-solving skills.

In addition to the academic opportunities AP courses provide to students, the successful completion of these courses and assessments can also result in college credits, preparing students for higher education and saving money on tuition costs.

Congratulations to the students who were named National AP Scholars (2), AP Scholars with Distinction (8), AP Scholars with Honor (6) and AP Scholars (25) based on their average assessment scores and the amount of exams taken by students.

## Fine & Performing Arts

On October 20th, a group of 15 members of the Deer Park community met with Director of Fine & Performing Arts Dr. Jeff Dailey to discuss the formation of the Deer Park Arts Council. This group will support all of the arts in and around the district. The next meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on November 17th in the High School Band Room. All are welcome to attend.





# TEACHER Spotlight

## *Studies of the Past and Present*

Throughout the district, teachers are developing and delivering instruction that both educates and entertains students. Robert Frost Middle School teacher Andrea Bodt has created a unique curriculum that infuses technology into her lessons and challenges students to take a hands-on approach to history.

Ms. Bodt's seventh-grade social studies students are equipped with the resources of a Model Classroom and benefit from the use of iPad Touches, MacBooks, SMART Boards and SMART Responders. Ms. Bodt begins many lessons by including a technology component that immediately grasps students' attention and elevates participation.

SMART Responders allow Ms. Bodt to administer tests effectively and receive results instantly. The data collected can then be analyzed and manipulated to target areas that require additional review and ensure better overall comprehension. Digital class presentations incorporate audio and video clips that support and illustrate key topics, while laptops connect students with up-to-date research and reference materials. In addition, Ms. Bodt's website serves as a comprehensive educational hotspot where lesson notes, homework assignments and support materials are posted to provide greater depth and breadth on topics covered in class.

To demonstrate their knowledge, the seventh graders will be working on a current events project throughout the school year that will culminate with a newscast. Students will build a portfolio that summarizes and critically responds to government, economic and political issues that are important to them, using English Language Arts active reading strategies. As a final project students will create "A Year in Review," video, which will feature the top stories of the year. Students will utilize Photo Booth and iMovie software to shoot, edit and present their informative newscast.

# THE POWER of Words

When *Good Morning America* launched its national campaign "Your Three Words," May Moore Elementary School joined the inspirational movement. The segment asked people, "How much can you say in just three words?" May Moore's students, teachers, staff and administrators responded with three words of their own that described who they are and what they believe in as a school.

Each person and department in the school's learning community created visual presentations that featured their unique "Three Words." The school produced a compilation video that spotlighted all of the submissions and artistic displays, which included motivational statements such as, "Read, Write, Think," "Hug a Book" and "Live Your Dream." To view the complete video, visit the school's webpage at [http://www.deerparkschools.org/our\\_schools/may\\_moore\\_elementary](http://www.deerparkschools.org/our_schools/may_moore_elementary).



*Classrooms at May Moore Elementary School described what they love about learning through Good Morning America's "Your Three Words" campaign.*



*May Moore Elementary students participated in Good Morning America's "Your Three Words" campaign by illustrating the goals they have set for themselves in education.*

\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
Postal Customer



*Eight new teachers (l-r) Nicholas Sepe, Tara McKennett, Edward Johntry, Vincent Amodio, Allyse Gulotta, Tamara Chyi, Cassie Dunn and Peter Haughwout joined the educational community of Deer Park for the 2011-2012 school year.*

## Meet the New Teachers

The district's newest teachers participated in an orientation program prior to the start of the school year to familiarize themselves with the mission, goals and resources of the district.

Administrators provided the eight new teachers with helpful hints on becoming successful educators and guided them through the necessary steps for designing effective lessons. A theme of preparation and planning was highlighted throughout the presentations, and in the workshops, teachers were encouraged to collaborate with experienced colleagues to gain insight and knowledge.

During the technology portion of the program, teachers learned how to infuse technology into the curriculum and streamline student information for easy access to biographical and academic statistics and facts. To ensure the health and safety of staff and students, the School Safety Officer described the proper protocol in emergency situations and ways to be proactive in safeguarding the building and those inside.

## SAFETY FIRST

A bright yellow bus parked in front of the Abraham Lincoln School served as a life-sized educational tool for pre-kindergarten students. Safety Sally, a bus safety program provided through Eastern Suffolk BOCES, visited students to educate them on the proper way to board, ride and exit the bus.

Instruction began with lessons on how to cross the street when waiting at the bus stop for pickup and at the end of the day for drop-off. Students learned the different bus signs and signals and the distance needed to walk in front of the vehicle. After climbing the stairs of the bus, carefully holding onto the handrail, students watched an animated video in which the characters illustrated how to behave on the bus during rides to and from school.

The hands-on transportation program concluded with a simulated emergency exit. Students practiced how to exit from the back door of the bus with the assistance of an adult and move to a secure area for further directions. The experience helped students become more comfortable when riding the bus and ensure that they are knowledgeable in bus safety.



*A class of Abraham Lincoln Pre-kindergarten students looks on as their classmates, with the help of Safety Sally, demonstrate the proper distance necessary when crossing in front of a school bus.*



*School news  
and photos  
compiled by  
Marissa  
Sanseverino.*

### Board of Education

John Gouskos, President • Frank T. Wilkinson, Vice President  
Donna Marie Elliott • Donna Gulli-Grunseich • Robert Marino  
Keith Rooney • Ronald Wayne  
Lisa Brennan, District Clerk  
Eva J. Demyen, Superintendent of Schools