



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lady Falcons Win First County Championship

Deer Park's Girls Varsity Basketball Team won their first title against Sachem East in the Suffolk County Class AA Championship at Farmingdale State College. The squad defeated Sachem, 46-34, in the championship game to advance in the tournament to the Long Island Class AA final.

The Falcons made an impressive run for the county title, overcoming the challenge that no player on the team's roster had competed in post season play. The squad claimed their first league championship since 1978, and made their first playoff appearance since 2006. This is also their first county championship appearance and win in school history.

The team was led by a talented group of upper classmen who were determined to cap their careers with victory. Senior captain Nicole Alvarez described the work ethic and determination of her team, she stated, "Our team has been playing together since seventh-grade on school teams, travel teams and in the offseason. We were motivated to win and played our season game by game, achieving each goal and advancing to the playoffs, league and county championships."

Head Coach Mike Gennaro had confidence in his experienced team from the start, he said, "We prepared for the season by competing against the elite teams of the Island. Through these games we gained valuable experience and were ready for league play and beyond."



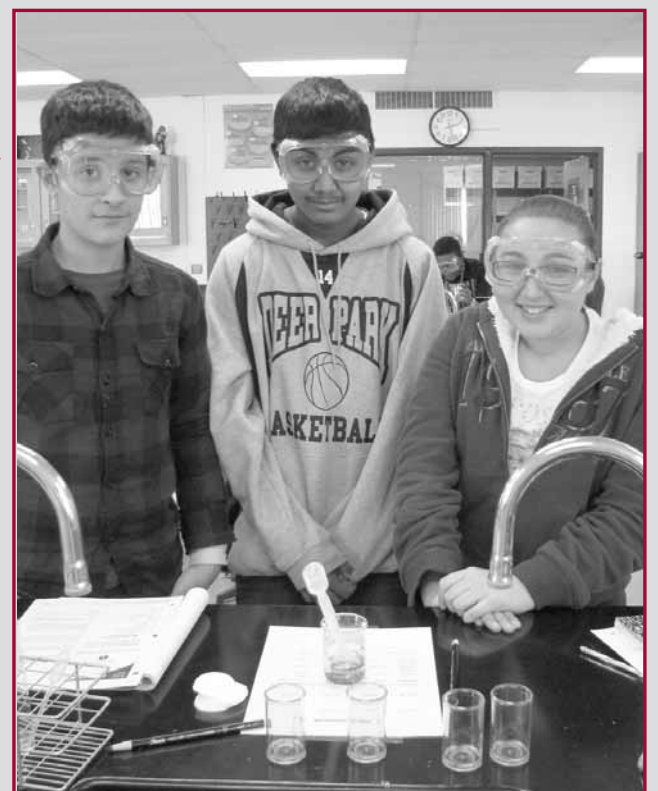
Students Learn the

SCIENCE OF RESEARCH

Robert Frost Middle School students have the opportunity to investigate the world of science through their enrollment in the school's Science Research course. The course is formatted to have students explore various topics using the scientific method. Students design and perform unique experiments and present and explain the findings to their peers. The interactive experiments use diverse elements including rockets, bridges, organisms, environmental science, chemicals and computers.

Through hands-on learning, students collect data, conduct experiments and record procedures in lab books. Students learn the scientific process and work in collaboration with lab partners to apply their knowledge. In addition, they have the opportunity to attend various competitions, including the Long Island Science Congress and the New York State Science and Engineering Fair.

The middle school course works to develop students' analytical skills for the advanced Science Research Program offered at the high school level.



Robert Frost Middle School students in the Science Research course measured liquids and formulated hypotheses prior to their experiments on water pollution.

A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*



Dear Residents,

As reported in our last edition of *The Standard*, this year has been a banner one for student achievement and district success. In and outside of the classrooms our students have continued to demonstrate what it means to have Falcon Pride. One item that is truly commendable is our 2011 Lady Falcons clenching the district's first girl's basketball county championship and the squad's first league championship since 1978. I extend my deepest congratulations to the team and their coaches for earning this honor.

In addition to the outstanding learning opportunities our students have been experiencing in the classroom, this winter our student-musicians connected to their craft through in-school workshops with professional musicians and recognized ensembles. These types of real-world learning opportunities not only help to strengthen the students' musical abilities, but also our district's already first-rate music program. Using the technological resources at their fingertips, our district students are

also becoming 21st Century learners and remaining up-to-date on curriculum items, as they are able to connect to learning and each other in new ways. Through videoconference, SMART Boards and laptop technology, our schools have been able to collaborate on and experience virtual learning opportunities, such as our world languages videoconferences detailed on page 3.

Just as the district works to ensure that we operate as fiscally responsible as possible, we are also working to make our schools as energy efficient as possible. Throughout the school year, the district's Buildings and Grounds crew will be working on facility and infrastructure upgrades districtwide, and aims to have all projects completed in a year and a half. These proactive measures, which will produce residual effects for the next 18 years, will generate an annual energy savings of \$555,000, with an approximate \$23,000 reduction in operations and maintenance costs.

Tuesday, May 17 marks an important day for our district – the budget vote for the 2011-2012 school year. The district's Board of Education and administration have been working to craft this year's proposed budget since early winter, and I wish

to assure you that, throughout the process, we were mindful not only of our commitment to providing our students with a quality educational program, but also of the financial impact one creates for our tax payers.

As we continue to find ourselves in a trying economic time, which has been made increasingly difficult due in part to Governor Cuomo's plans to reduce school districts' state aid allocations and put a tax cap in place for school spending, I must report that this year's budget process has been one of the most difficult ones to date. As we developed the proposed budget, we worked to ensure that academic excellence in Deer Park would remain not only next year but also for the years to come. In the upcoming weeks, residents will be receiving a copy of the district's budget newsletter. I encourage all residents to review this document carefully in order to make an informed decision on May 17.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of the Deer Park School District.

Sincerely,

Eva J. Demyen
Superintendent of Schools

BUDGET PLANNING

The Board of Education and district administration have been working to create a proposed budget for the 2011-2012 school year since early January. As this year's process nears to a close the district invites residents to continue to be a part of the process by attending the meeting dates listed below. All meetings will be held in the district office at 7:30 PM.

April 12, 2011 – Official Adoption of Budget

April 18, 2011 – Budget Available to Public
for Review

May 10, 2011 – Public Hearing

May 17, 2011 – Budget & Board of Education
Trustees Vote, 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
at Deer Park High School,
1 Falcon Place

The Foundation of Literacy in Foundations

The Foundations program implemented in the district's elementary schools was spotlighted for the community during a Board of Education meeting held in February. During the meeting, and with the help of their teachers, May Moore students from Patty Eysser's first-grade class and Deana LaPlaca's second-grade class provided an overview of the Foundations program and simulated several exercises they complete in their classrooms on a regular basis.

Foundations is a phonics and spelling program that focuses on skills such as print knowledge, alphabet awareness, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, decoding, vocabulary, fluency, and spelling, with critical thinking, speaking, and listening skill components as well. Foundations activities are incorporated into language arts lessons daily for at least 30-40 minutes.

Students use visual aids, instructional technology tools and letter boards to practice their skills and learn from one another. John Quincy Adams Elementary School Principal Jennifer Rodriguez was part of the team who worked to streamline the program into the schools. "I am extremely proud of my staff for embracing the Foundations program and teaching it with fidelity. The consistency of Foundations in grades K-2 will



District elementary students utilize the SMART Board and letter board during their Foundations literary lessons.

encourage district students to become active learners as they delve into the study of words and gain strong literacy skills to support them as readers and writers."

Partnering with members of the Board of Education and district administration, the students explained the five main components of being a successful reader and demonstrated the instructional tools being utilized during their spelling and reading lessons. The Board members and administrators had the opportunity to use magnetic letter journals and erasable gel writing boards included in the Foundations program and experienced some of the learning activities firsthand.



During their Foundations lessons, a John Quincy Adams Elementary student sounds out and spells words using movable letter tiles.

Language Across the District

District schools came together to explore language during the district's World Languages Videoconference.



High School World Languages students used Skype technology to connect with and teach district elementary students at John Quincy Adams.

High school students studying French, Spanish and Italian developed interactive lessons, which were Skyped to elementary classrooms at May Moore and John Quincy Adams Elementary.

World Languages students created posters, which were used as visual aids to introduce students to new languages through educational skits and songs. Elementary students participated in the lessons by answering questions and completing activity worksheets.

To culminate the World Languages program high school students visited the elementary schools and provided personal instruction on basic language curriculum.

Anti-Bullying Literary Lesson

May Moore Elementary students welcomed children's author and motivational speaker Kevin Bailey to the school. Students read his debut book, *Anthony Meets the Playground Bully*, from his multi-book series, and they had the opportunity to speak with the author.

The kid-safety story sparked conversations on what causes bullying and encouraged students to build confidence in one another through kind words.



May Moore Elementary students met author Kevin Bailey and Anthony, the main character in Mr. Bailey's book *Anthony Meets the Playground Bully*.

Students participated in the discussions, learning how to handle bullies and the positive steps they can take to be successful in life.

Following the presentation, students were able to meet the book's main character, Anthony, and use the animated figure as a reminder to be strong and independent people.

Arctic Adventures

Abraham Lincoln School pre-kindergarten students infused green efforts into their winter curriculum. Students in Laura Oddo's class collected empty milk jugs from their homes and recycled the materials to build an igloo inside their classroom.

More than 672 milk cartons created the igloo where students then met for their daily lessons. While inside the structure, students learned about winter weather changes, hibernation, Arctic habitats and animals. Students also used technology to connect with wildlife through a live video stream, viewing a bear and her cubs hibernating.

Following the winter unit, the Town of Babylon visited the school to pick up the milk jugs and transported them to the local recycling center.



Abraham Lincoln pre-kindergarten students helped construct an igloo made from used milk jugs. Students completed winter activities and learned about Arctic animals and habitats.



In conjunction with their winter unit, Abraham Lincoln pre-kindergarten students created artwork, went ice fishing for letters and numbers and read books on the Arctic while inside their milk-jug igloo.

A Quilt of History and Unity

Each year the Town of Babylon honors the traditions of Black History Month with a specific theme. This year the celebrations focused on "African Americans and the Civil War," and Robert Frost Middle School students joined the efforts by creating a quilt.

The students' project was based on African American quilting traditions and featured works from the Underground Railroad Quilt Code. Prior to and after the Civil War, African Americans designed secret messages in the form of quilt patterns, which aided slaves in escaping the bonds of captivity.

Students learned the meaning of various quilt patterns, shapes and colors, as well as the symbolism of each patch. During art classes, students created their



own patches by cutting and designing materials, which illustrated messages as seen in the original Underground Railroad quilts.

Once all of the patches were complete and sewn together, the quilt was displayed at Town Hall for its Black History Month exhibit.



Fashion in Focus

As a part of their curriculum the students in the high school's Fashion Marketing classes visited New York City for a walking tour of the famous Garment and Fashion Districts. The tour provided students with the opportunity to explore the growth of the fashion industry from Henry Hudson to the present.

Students had an all-access pass for a behind-the-scenes visit to a working factory's cutting floor, a designer showroom, and a sample sale. While at the sample sale, an intern explained to students how she obtained her job in the designer showroom and the skills and education needed to break into the world of fashion.

The hands-on field trip connected textbook concepts to real-life events and allowed students to learn the business of fashion.



High school Fashion Marketing students had the opportunity to visit iconic places in New York City's Garment District, including the Fashion Walk of Fame and Mood Fabrics, as featured on Project Runway.

A Network of Compassion

Working to spread the importance of showing others kindness and compassion, the John F. Kennedy Intermediate Student Government performed a character education play for students at John Quincy Adams and May Moore Elementary Schools. The play was adapted from the book ONE by Kathryn Otoshi and is part of a series of stories that deal with bullying.

JFK students worked together to construct costumes and learn their roles for the anti-bullying production. The play served to educate students in an effective and entertaining manner while connecting students districtwide. The program enlightened the district's younger students about the importance of standing up for what they believe and helped to unite all students in the effort to prevent bullying from occurring in the schools.



The students in John F. Kennedy Intermediate's Student Government, led by advisors Kristen Lombardo and Alexis Franzese, visited the district's primary schools to perform an anti-bullying play.

May Moore Students Receive a Well Visit

Dentist Dr. Eric Hanson visited May Moore Elementary School students in celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month. Sponsored by the American Dental Association, the goal is to help students develop good hygiene habits at an early age and get a jumpstart on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

Dr. Hanson encouraged students to brush their teeth regularly and have their parents schedule dental visits to ensure complete oral health. Students were able to view teeth molds and models and learned about the different types of teeth inside their mouths.

At the conclusion of the program students received personal care kits with toothbrushes and toothpaste so that they may practice proper cleaning techniques.



May Moore Elementary School students received toothbrushes and assorted personal care items from dentist Dr. Eric Hanson, who spoke with students during National Children's Dental Health Month.

MUSIC STUDENTS JOIN ELITE ORGANIZATION

The district inducted 17 students into the High School Tri-M Music Honor Society this winter. The district's newest members were selected for this prestigious international organization based on their musical ability, academic excellence and school involvement. The program is designed to recognize and reward students for their achievements, while inspiring their peers to excel at music and leadership. The goal is to increase student and school involvement with music and to build a stronger and more unified music program. The new inductees will be led by advisor and music teacher Mr. Abrams and will participate in a variety of community service projects and school performances throughout the school year.



Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (far right) attended a Board of Education meeting to present district Tri-M Music Honor Society students with legislative proclamations.

String Students Learn from the Pros

The high school hosted a private concert performed by the Metro Chamber Orchestra for Long Island string student-musicians. The professional ensemble played a variety of arrangements, which showcased each instrument and diverse genres of music.

Following the concert, the principal cello player in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Rafael Figueroa, facilitated master classes with advanced string students. Deer Park students had the unique opportunity to receive personal instruction from Mr. Figueroa, who provided musical insight and accompanied students throughout the lessons.



String music students joined fellow student-musicians to enjoy a concert performed by the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra at the district's high school.



A high school string musician learned the nuances of playing and performing from the principal cello player of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra Rafael Figueroa.

Deer Park's Music PROJECT

As a hands-on musical lesson district students had the opportunity to spend a day learning from the professional musicians of PROJECT Trio. The members of PROJECT Trio, Peter Seymour on bass, Greg Pattillo on flute and cellist Eric Stephenson, believe that there is a direct correlation between artistry and scholastic achievement.

The day began with an inspiring concert where students were introduced to the high-energy chamber music ensemble. Blending their classical training with an eclectic taste in musical styles, PROJECT Trio showed students the versatility of their instruments.

Groups of student-musicians, including the high school jazz band, the high school guitar ensemble, and flute players from grades 5-12, then worked with PROJECT Trio on selections of music that fused hip-hop, rock and pop with traditional instrumental music.

The day culminated with a community concert led by the members of PROJECT Trio, which showcased the students' new musical styling.





High school senior Dimitry Russ signed his official Letter of Intent to play football at Stony Brook University and was congratulated for his awarded scholarship by (l-r) Deer Park High School Principal James Cummings, Head Varsity Football Coach Ron Langella, Strength and Conditioning Coach John Furia, Assistant Varsity Football Coach and Health and Physical Education Teacher Dan Ferguson, District Administrator for Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation Dominick Fontana, and Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Jeanne Regan.

Senior Receives Scholarship to Stony Brook University

High school senior Dimitry Russ has signed a Letter of Intent to attend and play football at Stony Brook University this fall. Dimitry has earned a full athletic scholarship to join the Seawolves squad.

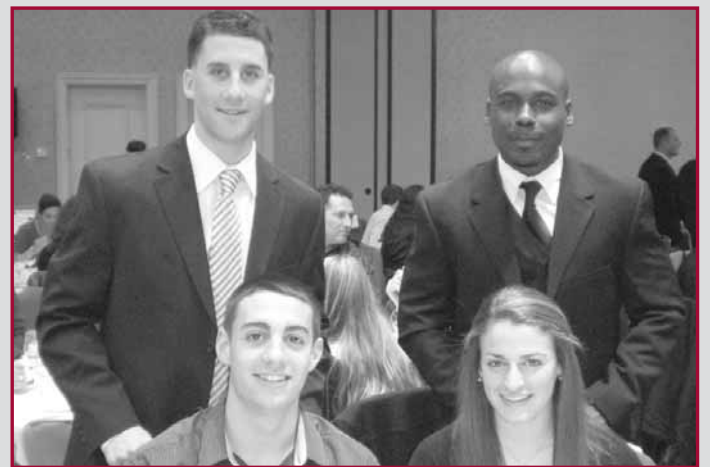
During his time with the Deer Park program, Dimitry led his team in successful seasons and served as the team's captain for the past two years. Section XI has also recognized Dimitry's talents, as he was named a Second Team All-State, All-County and All-Division selection. He also represented the district as a captain and starter in the PAL All-Star Game and played in the 2011 Outback Steakhouse Empire State All-Star Game.

An active member of the educational community, Dimitry is a member of the Varsity Leaders Club and African American Club and was honored as a Student of the Month and Breakfast of Champions recipient.

Seniors Lead By Example

High School seniors Christopher Ciuffo and Marie Racano were named the recipients of the 2011 Suffolk Zone Physical Education Award. Both students were selected for the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance awards due to their outstanding physical education achievement throughout their academic careers.

Physical education teachers nominated Christopher and Marie for this award based on their high levels of physical fitness, strong participation in school and community activities, evidence of leadership roles, community involvement and academic excellence.



High school students Christopher Ciuffo and Marie Racano were joined by Physical Education teachers (l-r) Michael Rossetti and Kevin Marner at an awards banquet for Suffolk Zone Physical Education leaders.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

High School teacher Joseph Sundermier has been named a "Distinguished Teacher of 2011" by the Harvard Club of Long Island. Mr. Sundermier has taught all levels of physics at Deer Park for the past 24 years. A driving force in the development of the Physical Sciences programs at the school, in the district, and in the region, he introduced the district's curriculum for AP Physics and has continued to develop it by introducing additional courses in physics.

Having maintained a long-standing relationship with Brookhaven Labs, Mr. Sundermier participated in the Lab Teacher Professional Development Program. The experiments he developed there have been published in the American Physics Association's journal, *The Physics Teacher*, and have been used across the nation.

Deer Park Class of 2010 Valedictorian and Harvard University freshman Thomas DiBenedetto nominated Mr. Sundermier for this award, saying, "Mr. Sundermier has

an atypical talent at transforming students into independent scholars. I wouldn't be where I am today without him. It takes skill to follow directions and successfully execute them, but it takes even greater skill to figure out your own directions - to discover an answer through independent means. This is the skill that Mr. Sundermier teaches and it has carried me to Harvard and I am incredibly grateful for it."

Superintendent of Schools Eva Demyen described Mr. Sundermier as an educational resource, she stated, "It is rare to find a scientist who combines intellectual brilliance with the ability to communicate his wealth of knowledge to students in a fun-loving and exciting nature." Noting his national reputation, she added, "We are honored to have such an esteemed teacher on staff."



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Are You Registered to Vote?

ELIGIBILITY

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 17, 2011 Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election, you must be:

- a citizen of the United States,
- eighteen (18) years of age or older (we encourage eligible students to vote)
- a resident of the Deer Park School District for 30 days prior to the vote
- registered to vote with the Suffolk County Board of Elections, or registered with the school district.

REGISTRATION DATES

Tuesday 5/3

High School, 1 Falcon Place
4:00 - 8:00 pm

Wednesday 5/4

May Moore, 239 Central Ave
9:00 - 1:00 pm

Thursday 5/12

High School, 1 Falcon Place
4:00 - 8:00 pm

Registration is required if you have not voted within four years in a general election or school election. For more information, please contact the District Clerk at 274-4013.

Please visit the district's Board of Education website at www.deerparkboe.com for additional budget information.

Pi Day

Robert Frost Middle School students celebrated the mathematics-themed holiday Pi Day with a school-wide fundraiser. Pi is

the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter and equals 3.14. Each year, March 14 is designated as Pi Day, representing the math equation, 3.14.

This year students organized a Pi event to benefit their peer, Karl Zaharia. Karl was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) in August 2010 and has fought hard to battle this disease and its effects on his body.

Students participated in penny wars, donating their change and vying for the opportunity to "pie" their favorite teachers and administrators. On Pi Day, the entire school gathered together to watch students throw pies in the faces of district staff.

The "sweet" event was a tremendous success and raised \$1,000 for the Zaharia family.



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 voter's absentee 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's Board of Education website at www.deerparkboe.com to obtain an absentee ballot.



*School news
and photos
compiled by
Marissa
Sanseverino.*

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