



# THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT



*Speech therapist Dana Hagan instructed students on the iPad ShowMe application as developers documented the lessons.*

## An "I" ON TECHNOLOGY

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School's self-contained fifth-grade class, led by teacher John Colford and speech therapist Dana Hagan, were part of a team of educators, administrators, iPad app developers and camera crew that came together to showcase what students have learned using the iPad ShowMe application.



The makers of ShowMe are in the process of creating a promotional video to illustrate the exemplary use of its application in schools, and JFK was selected for its successful integration of the program into the classroom. ShowMe is an interactive whiteboard that allows users to record words, write on the tablet, and import pictures to create an original and unique final product.



*During small group work, JFK Intermediate teacher John Colford executed differentiated instruction techniques using the iPad ShowMe application.*

To begin production, Mrs. Hagan was interviewed on how she utilizes the app during speech-language therapy, and how the tactile and phonic exercises benefit students. The class then engaged in small group work to demonstrate ShowMe lessons and reviewed previously recorded ShowMe projects featuring U.S. landmarks. Students also worked with Mr. Colford on a literary lesson, which focused on the parts of speech. The cameras documented the students' development throughout the session as they expanded their vocabularies and improved pronunciation.

Following the taping, students had the opportunity to review the footage and learn how the audiovisual equipment is used.

## College Fair

Students throughout the district attended the High School's 7th Annual College Fair in April. More than 100 schools, vocational training programs and military service academies were represented at this informative event, which also featured admissions test prep centers and financial aid organizations. Students and their parents had the opportunity to speak with educational professionals and discuss school-specific questions, including academic structure and campus life. In addition, various resources for the college search and application process, as well as helpful career information, were available.



*A Deer Park student spoke with a college representative and collected information at the district's annual college fair.*

# A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Residents,

The spring season is upon us, and our schools are vibrant with the sights and sounds of learning. Throughout the district, innovative instruction and cultural celebrations engage our students in core curricular areas.

Technology continues to be a focus in our approach to teaching and learning, and students of all ages and abilities are flourishing with the utilization of these advanced techniques. The diversity of our student body is represented in the world languages and fine and performing arts programs, which allow students to explore their creativity and demonstrate their talents while strengthening the school-community connection. Unique educational opportunities have afforded students the chance to participate and excel in academic

competitions, have their work showcased at regional venues, and start preparing for success in future endeavors.

Over the course of several months, the Board of Education, community and administration have worked collaboratively to develop a budget that supports our programs while maintaining our commitment to put forth a fiscally sound plan. As I reported in the last edition of *The Standard*, New York State school districts must adhere to a new tax levy increase cap, or garner a supermajority of voter approval (60%). While the baseline number of 2% has been used in describing this law, this number actually relates to an allowable growth factor, which is one of eight different factors that define each school district's cap. The budget edition of *The Standard* contains detailed information about the proposed budget for 2012-13.



I invite you to attend the May 8th Budget Hearing at District Office to learn about all aspects of the budget. The annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Trustee Election will be held on Tuesday, May 15, at Deer Park High School. Additional information, including voter registration information, can be found on page 8 of this newsletter and posted on the district website.

Sincerely,  
Eva J. Demyen

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## District Receives **Record Breaking** Energy Rebate

As a result of a multi-year initiative, the district has implemented and is now receiving both financial and environmental benefits from its energy efficiency upgrades. In April, the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and National Grid visited the district for a tour of the facilities and the multitude of projects completed. To date, the district has earned \$371,490 in rebates, the largest of any school district on Long Island, and was presented with a check from LIPA.

These energy savings will continue to grow and will be realized in the form of energy management systems, heat distribution systems, computer power management systems, water conservation, lighting fixture controls and renewable energy systems.



National Grid and LIPA presented district representatives with an energy efficiency rebate check. (Seated l-r) Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations Marguerite Jimenez, Board of Education trustee Donna Marie Elliott, Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen, Board of Education President John Gouskos, Board of Education trustee Keith Rooney, Plant Facilities Administrator Kirk J. Gostkowski; (standing l-r) Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Frank Caliguiri, LIPA/National Grid Account Executive Rob Scipioni, LIPA Chief Operating Officer Michael Hervey, Energy Solutions Performance Engineer Johnson Controls Thomas Lanzilotta and LIPA Director of Municipal and School Programs Walter Hoefler.

# Democracy in Action

The National League of Women Voters, Huntington division, visited district high school seniors to present them with "Vote 18." The interactive presentation educated the Class of 2012, many of whom are of the legal age to vote, on the importance of exercising their right to vote and the journey to universal suffrage in the United States. To conclude the program, students completed voter registration forms and are now eligible to vote in local, state and national elections.

In addition, the league announced that they would be sponsoring student Ishrat Ahmed at Students Inside Albany (SIA). The three-day conference brought together students from across the state to increase awareness of their responsibility in representative government, and to provide the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. SIA workshop topics included ethics, lobbying and media and allowed Ishrat to connect with politicians and observe how the government operates.

Ishrat was selected by the Huntington League for her outstanding essay and application submissions.



*The Huntington League of Women Voters (l-r) Judie Gorenstein, Brenda Reiss and JoAnn Alario-Paulsen congratulated Deer Park High School student Ishrat Ahmed on her selection to the Students Inside Albany conference.*

## A Mixing Bowl of Selections at International Food Island

The district recently celebrated the grand opening of the high school's new International Food Island. An innovative concept, students have the opportunity each week to sample a variety of ethnic-based foods that represent the diversity of the student body.

Traditional foods and delicacies from a variety of nations are featured on Food Island and provide a learning opportunity for students to connect with one another and expand their cultural awareness through cuisine. All of the foods are cooked in-house and nutritionally sound, allowing students to make healthy decisions when choosing their lunch each day. Food Island joins a plethora of unique and nutritious stations, including the smoothie café, salad bar, and Boar's Head deli station.

To enhance the cultural dining experience, themed student work from the World Languages and Fine Arts Departments will also be displayed for students to view.

## Students Take Center Stage at Conference

District performing arts students had the opportunity to attend the New York State Theatre Education Association (NYSTEA) Conference. Ten high school juniors and seniors were selected to participate based on their essays describing why they wanted to be part of this unique program, as well as monologues that they were required to prepare and perform.

Students chose interactive workshops of interest including Audition Techniques, Broadway Bound, Pop/Rock Styling Techniques, Fantasy Make-up, The Sound Mind and Body, Stage to Song, Musical Theater Dance, Glee Club Boot Camp and Intro to Stanislavsky. Throughout the educational weekend, the high school students engaged in workshops led by professionals in a



variety of fields, enjoyed artistic activities, and were invited to observe and participate in live performances.

Deer Park students Alex Stephani and Faith Ahmed excelled in a workshop that prepared students for success at competitive Broadway auditions. Due to their exceptional development and presentations, these students were asked to perform at the closing ceremonies.



# A Lesson in Baking for a Good Cause

Students at Robert Frost Middle School had the opportunity to help the less fortunate while learning important core educational concepts during a baking presentation.

King Arthur Flour Life Skills Bread Baking Program instructor Gina Ciancia was on hand to show approximately 160 seventh-grade students how to make two loaves of bread – one of which the students could keep and the other to be donated to a local soup kitchen. Math and science theories, as well as food safety and time management skills, were incorporated into the baking demonstration. Students Javairia Nadeem and Gulsum Camlira assisted Ms. Ciancia throughout the demonstration, from measuring the ingredients and kneading the bread to displaying the final products for other students to see. Ms. Ciancia explained how to make French and braided bread, cinnamon rolls and pizza dough.

Each of the students took the ingredients home to bake both loaves, bringing one back for donation. This community service endeavor was provided to the school for free, courtesy of King Arthur Flour. The donated loaves of bread will be given to Presbyterian Soup Kitchen and Ascension Lutheran Church.



Life Skills instructor Gina Ciancia of King Arthur Flour shows Robert Frost Middle School seventh-grade students how to properly create pizza dough.

# Students Perform as “Friendly Neighborhood Helpers”



John F. Kennedy Intermediate School general education and special needs students came together for a production of “Friendly Neighborhood Helpers.” Students performed an action-packed play that educated the audience on the important contributions of local service people and professionals.

Students took to the stage dressed as crossing guards, firefighters, police officers and doctors to illustrate each profession’s contribution to a community, acting in skits and employing their respective occupational skill sets. Through vibrant scenes and informative dialogue, the young actors described how these people help others every day and expressed appreciation for their dedication and work.

# SPRING INT

Each year, the district’s elementary schools participate PARP is a literacy-based initiative that expands students’ and parents to spend educational time together. Students projects, and develop a strong love of literature through s

# Catch a Good Book at JQA

At John Quincy Adams Elementary School this year’s theme, “Catch a Good Book,” encouraged students to read literature that appealed to their interests.



Buddy Reading Day worked to pair students with their peers in other grades and classes and allowed them to share their favorite books with each other and learn something new from their reading buddies. During this activity, students also took part in “Wear a Hat to Read Day,” for which they were asked to choose a hat that coincided with their book of choice.

As part of Buddy Reading Day, teaching assistant and resident author Darrel Clark visited classrooms to discuss his book *The Happy Frog* with students. He shared his experiences as an author, as well as the steps taken to complete the writing and publishing process.



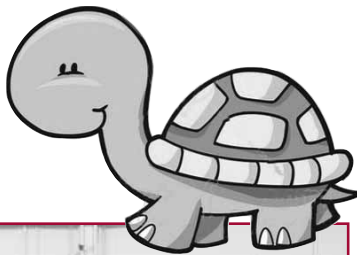
# 10 READING

in the Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program. The program provides an opportunity for students to track their reading time, complete writing activities and attend special presentations and assemblies.

## Animal Adventure Tales

Students at May Moore Elementary School kicked off the PARP program with an animated performance by award-winning author, storyteller, educator and musician Michael Caduto. Keeping with this year's theme "Wild About Reading," the program celebrated Native American culture through stories, song and dance in *Flying Turtles and Talking Bears*.

Students were introduced to a cast of humorous characters with unique personalities as they were immersed in the experience of traditional storytelling. Students sang along to the accompaniment of guitar and drums and danced to the rhythm of rattles. The vivid tales sparked students' imaginations and gave them a new perspective on nature and its inhabitants.



## Exploring Culture

The district culminated National Language and Culture Month with a Hispanic Heritage Festival. Robert Frost Middle School Spanish language and English as a Second Language (ESL) students organized the vibrant event, which featured a performance by professional flamenco dancer Sol y Sombra. Students sampled Latin cuisine and celebrated the people, landmarks and history of the diverse Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

In addition, the International Culture Club held its annual International Night, which was attended by hundreds of students and community members. Attendees enjoyed live music, demonstrations of martial arts and traditional dances from Peru, the Dominican Republic and Argentina. Students also performed international songs.

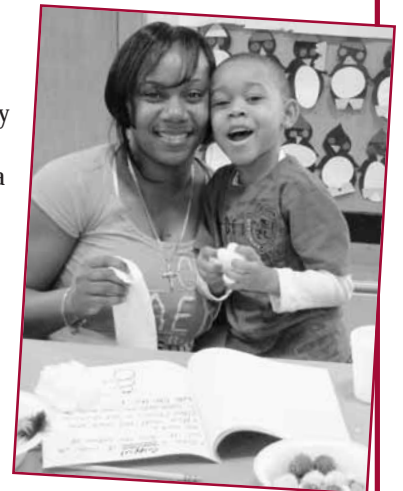


*Robert Frost students tasted Dominican, Salvadorian and Spanish foods from local restaurants and learned cultural dances at the school's Hispanic Heritage event.*

## Working Together with Heart

Students at the Abraham Lincoln School Pre-K Center were all smiles as they engaged in a heart workshop. The pre-kindergartners were accompanied by special grown-ups for their learning activities. The small groups completed a booklet entitled *You Gotta Have Heart!* which engaged them in literary, science and art lessons.

After reading about the heart and how it beats, students had the opportunity to listen to their grown-ups' hearts and observe how the beat changes following physical activity. The pre-kindergartners also made crafts, which required them to measure and count using rulers and blocks. The day provided students with a chance to build communication and teamwork skills as they received heart-healthy lessons.





# Music in Our Schools Month

Musicians from the John F. Kennedy Intermediate School Advanced Band had the opportunity to perform side-by-side with students from Deer Park High School's Wind Ensemble. The unique program provided younger student musicians with the opportunity to be mentored by accomplished high school musicians, which culminated in a special assembly that entertained the audience in the intermediate school gymnasium.

The district is known for its rich music program, and the event served as an excellent way to kick off March's Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM), which is a nationwide initiative to put the spotlight on music education. According to Dr. Jeff S. Dailey, Deer Park's Director of Fine and Performing Arts, the purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children, and to remind the community that school is where all students should have access to music. Not only is MIOSM an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and community, it also serves as a chance to display the benefits school music brings to students of all ages.



## Student-Artist Makes NYC Debut

Talented artist and high school student Jessica Curry was selected to have her work featured in a Manhattan exhibit. Her dynamic drawings and paintings are on display at 430 Park Avenue and can be viewed from the street and inside the building.

Jessica has taken advantage of a variety of district art class offerings, including Drawing & Painting and Advanced Placement Art Studio with teacher Derek Mainhart. In addition, she was enrolled at the Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts last summer, where she studied with Mr. Mainhart. When the New York City show is complete, her artwork will be relocated to the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at Long Island University's C.W. Post campus in Old Brookville.

## Presenting *Legally Blonde*



Deer Park High School presented the local premiere of the Broadway musical *Legally Blonde*, with music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin and book by Heather Hach. Based on the 2001 hit movie, the musical ran on Broadway for over 600 performances after it opened in 2007.

Featured in the show were students Michelle Rubino in the title role of Elle, the blonde who ends up accidentally at Harvard Law School, with Alex Stephani, Jesse Pimpinella, Megan Cain, Faith Ahmed and Saben Durio in leading roles, supported by 60 other student actors.

The performance was directed by teachers James Henry and assisted by Kristen Lombardo and Jessica Adamo, with Scott Abrams as music director.



# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

To support the district's expansive technology program, Instructional Computer Lab Teaching Assistants (TAs) are deployed throughout the district to assist in the various initiatives.

Six TAs, located in computer labs throughout five school buildings, work with staff and students on a daily basis to support the effective integration of software and equipment into classrooms. Tech TAs manage all school resources, including laptop carts, iPod Touches and document cameras, to ensure that they are available for teachers to use in lessons. During lab work, TAs educate students on ways to manipulate applications, improve keyboarding skills and create multimedia presentations. In addition, Tech TAs also have the vital responsibility of troubleshooting any technical issues or glitches in order to maintain seamless use.

These select TAs receive regular training to remain knowledgeable about the latest educational technologies.

## District Computer Lab Teaching Assistants

High School – Jean McCormick

Robert Frost Middle School – Nancy Connolly & Vivian D'Agostaro

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School – Linda Esposito

John Quincy Adams School – Shoba Singh

May Moore Elementary School – Michelle Artale



*Robert Frost Middle School Tech TAs Nancy Connolly and Vivian D'Agostaro explored the New York State CareerZone website, which is a resource they have introduced students to as part of their ongoing Career Power Point Projects.*

## Collegiate Student-Athletes

### Wake Forest University

Senior Jenai Davidson has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend and play soccer at Wake Forest University. Jenai will join the Demon Deacons this fall and continue her academic career at this prestigious academic institution.

Jenai and the Girls Varsity Soccer team made playoff appearances four years in a row, claimed multiple League VI titles, and competed in three Elite 8 tournaments. At the center midfield position, Jenai was a team leader and named an All-County selection during her junior and senior years.

A well-rounded student, Jenai's exceptional character on the field translates to her performance in the classroom, where she is a respected and accomplished student. Her exemplary work ethic and determined attitude push her to reach her full potential and encourage her peers to do the same.



*(l-r) Girls Varsity Soccer Head Coach Ian Kyranakis, Associate Principal Jeanne Regan, Lauryn Davidson (sister), Nicole Davidson (mother), Troy Davidson (father), Assistant Coach Greg Menig and Athletic Director Dominick Fontana joined senior Jenai Davidson during her letter of intent signing for Wake Forest University.*

### STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Senior Aaron Thompson has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend and play football at Stony Brook University. An excellent student, Aaron will major in physical therapy.

Aaron has helped lead the Varsity Falcons Football team to successful seasons which included playoff appearances. Individually, he has multiple All-County, All-Conference and All-Around selections, as well as a 2012 Zellner Award nomination for outstanding lineman in Suffolk County. In addition, Aaron was a member of the wrestling and track teams and is active in the community as a church youth leader.



*(l-r) Head football coach Ron Langella, strength coach John Furia, Kaylar Thompson (mother) and Athletic Director Dominick Fontana congratulated student-athlete Aaron Thompson on signing a letter of intent to play football at Stony Brook University.*

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

## FALCONETTES COMPETE AT NATIONALS

Congratulations to the Falconette Varsity Kickline team for being named Long Island Champions for High Kick and Pom by the Long Island Kickline Association (L.I.K.A.) at the Invitational Championship Competition. The two-time undefeated champions were coached by Kristen Smith and choreographer Samantha McIlwaine, and their winning kick routine was based on the film *Black Swan*, which inspired the costumes designed and crafted by the team and coaches.

Seniors Nicole Cito, Nicole Famighetti, Gabrielle Miceli and Kelsey Heyne led the team to advance to the national level and took second place at the Contest of Champions Competition in Orlando, Florida, for High Kick.



*The Varsity Kickline team placed second in the national Contest of Champions Competition held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.*

## 2012-2013 BUDGET VOTE

The annual School District Budget Vote will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Deer Park High School, 1 Falcon Place

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY

Deer Park residents are urged to vote in all school district elections. To cast your ballot in the May 15, 2012 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 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.

### VOTER REGISTRATION

Registration dates for the May 15, 2012 Budget Vote will take place on the following dates:

**Thursday, May 3, from 4 pm-8 pm**  
at JFK Intermediate School

**Monday, May 7, from 4 pm-8 pm**  
at Deer Park High School

**Wednesday, May 9, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm**  
at JQA Elementary School

**Thursday, May 10, from 9:00 am-1:00 pm**  
at May Moore Elementary School



*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