



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

May Moore as Mentor

Since September 2010, May Moore Elementary School has served as a mentor to Bridgehampton School under the S3TAIR Project State Personnel Development Grant. Focusing on implementing a Response to Intervention (RTI) model, which Deer Park has successfully run in its buildings for several years, the administration and faculty have shared their time and resources to assist Bridgehampton in developing a model that supports students in need of academic or behavioral support. To this end, Deer Park has hosted several site visits, sharing their Learning Support Team process, holding classroom interventions in literacy, and making available the expertise of their staff.

Recently, May Moore Principal Alicia Konecny and the school's Learning Support Team hosted an extensive site visit for Bridgehampton School District educational professionals, including the school psychologist, RTI coordinator, reading specialist, special education director and teachers, to observe literacy intervention practices at various tiers according to their RTI model. The Bridgehampton staff will in turn share the resources and experiences they received at May Moore and implement the best practices into their own support model.

Faculty have shared their time and resources to assist Bridgehampton in developing a model that supports students in need of academic or behavioral support



May Moore students received individualized literacy lessons as Bridgehampton educators observed teacher practices in Foundations, Leveled Literacy Intervention, Double Dose and Reading Recovery as part of the Model School Program.



CLASS OF 2012 TOP TEN

Each year, the Deer Park educational community comes together to recognize its elite. District administrators, Board of Education members, guidance counselors and families attended the announcement of the top ten academically ranked students in the graduating class.

Everyone gathered in the high school library to share breakfast and learn about the outstanding accomplishments of students. Throughout the student countdown, counselors spoke about the students' work ethic, leadership skills and contributions to the district. Students were recognized for their various awards and accolades and shared their future collegiate and career plans.

- Kevin TresseltValedictorian
- Ishrat AhmedSalutatorian
- Casey McKenna.....Third
- Ahad ArshadFourth
- Joseph RoqueFifth
- Kayla DownsSixth
- Jean EtersqueSeventh
- Sarah Lombardo.....Eighth
- Philip ScarfiNinth
- Navneet KaurTenth

A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Residents,

The past year has once again proven to be a success for our district and community. As we review our accomplishments, the depth and breadth is impressive. Students took top spots in academic competitions, athletic teams competed at the regional level, artists had their work displayed at prestigious venues, and musicians had the opportunity to perform with professional ensembles.

Through the efforts of our administrators, teachers and staff, we have elevated our educational programs and become a model for districts across Long Island, as can be seen through our Model Schools grant (article on page 1). Technology continues to be seamlessly integrated into our core curriculum areas as we provide our students with the best possible tools to become independent, efficient learners. We also remain focused on responding to the wants and needs of our students and preparing them for the ever-evolving landscape of our economy and job market through the high school's expanded Senior Internship course.

During this challenging budget season, as a result of decreases in revenue and increases in costs through

unfunded state mandates, additional testing and scoring requirements and the loss in state aid for the current year, we are analyzing all aspects of our budget in order to present the community with a fiscally sound plan.

Next year will be the first in which New York State school districts and other municipal governments will be expected to propose budgets capped with a 2% tax levy increase. While law allows some items in the budget to be exempt from the tax levy restriction, it will certainly be a challenge to preserve the fine program that we have built here under this new law.

All districts are allowed to propose a budget with a tax levy increase exceeding 2%; however, this budget can only be adopted with a supermajority voter approval of 60% or higher. Proposed budgets carrying a tax levy increase of 2% or less will be subject to the traditional rules of school voting – budgets can be adopted with a simple majority of voter approval. However, unlike in the past, should the school budget be defeated twice, the budget moving forward must uphold the current tax levy, meaning there can be no tax levy increase. This would make it even tougher to improve or sustain existing programs due to increasing costs such



as the aforementioned mandates, as well as health insurance, utilities, and other operational costs.

Our district and Board of Education remains committed to sustaining the current educational and extracurricular program for students. The ongoing mission is to provide the best education possible under the new fiscal guidelines set for our taxpayers.

Please visit the district website at deerparkschools.org to review the latest Tax Cap Presentations, which include valuable information on this legislation and greatly influence the 2012-2013 budget. We also encourage community members to attend Board of Education meetings and Special Budget Workshop meetings to contribute to the planning process.

Sincerely,

Eva J. Demyen

DISTRICT & COMMUNITY RECOGNIZES BOARD

The community and district came together to thank Board members for their dedication to the schools and their students.

Superintendent of Schools Eva Demyen began the ceremony by describing the extensive work that Board members complete and the amount of time they spend contributing to the educational system. She described these individuals as

being more than volunteers who treat their role on the Board as a second job.

Each school adopted a Board member and created personal tributes in recognition of his or her efforts. Students collaborated on and presented projects at the Board meeting, among which were iMovies, artwork, letters, interviews and musical performances.



Students serenaded Board of Education member Donna Marie Elliott with a special song as part of Board Recognition Week.



Success Around the District

The *Skills of Life*

In its continual efforts to provide students with innovative educational opportunities, the district recently opened a groundbreaking facility for its special needs population. The Life Skills Center, located in the Washington School, features a multi-room design that simulates a home setting. Each room, including a kitchen, bedroom and living space, provides a platform for students to learn specific skill sets and encourages them to become independent problem solvers.

Throughout the school year, students visit the center to complete various activities. Robert Frost Middle School special

education teacher Laura Valente's class engaged in a food lesson. Students, with the assistance of speech teacher Christine Sokol, took a hands-on approach to making an ice cream sundae. They began by identifying the tools and utensils needed to create the sweet treat and then used key words to describe the ingredients. Building teamwork skills, students took on a variety of roles in gathering and setting tableware and practiced tactile learning by scooping their favorite ice cream flavors. They also reviewed proper table and dining etiquette and expressed their creative sides by decorating their desserts with a selection of toppings.



This hub of education allows students to take on everyday tasks in an interactive learning environment. Students have the ability to work to their full potential and assist one another through the process. Expanding the center's benefits districtwide, self-contained classes from John F. Kennedy Intermediate School will begin to utilize the center to enhance curriculum and development.



At a recent Board of Education meeting, the community came together to congratulate athlete Andrea Desvignes on her achievements. District representatives including (l-r) Head Coach Mike Gennaro, Assistant Coach Holly O'Donnell, Athletic Director Dominic Fontana and Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen presented her with a personalized game ball.

Athlete Scores Her **1,000th** Point

Wearing jersey number 1, varsity basketball player Andrea Desvignes scored her 1,000th point as a Deer Park Falcon. The senior standout hit a third-quarter jump shot and became the first athlete in school history to reach this milestone achievement. The team went on to defeat Comsewogue decisively, 53-37.

As captain, Desvignes leads the team in a variety of statistics, including assists, steals and points per game, and is considering her collegiate options and continuing her play at the next level.

Student to Compete in Regional Spelling Bee

Robert Frost Middle School held its first annual spelling bee as part of the Howard Scripps National Spelling Bee. Preliminary rounds began with a written quiz and fifteen standout spellers scored 100 and



advanced to the building-wide competition. Following an intense battle of words, Kailey

Curriculum Associate Lynn Winters congratulated Robert Frost Middle School student Kailey Tenn on winning the schoolwide spelling bee. Kailey will now compete at the regional tournament.

Tenn was named the winner. She will now participate at the regional level at Hofstra University along with 100 local competitors in a live tournament. If successful, Kailey will join students nationwide at the televised Howard Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.



World Languages National Honor Society students (l-r) Mehak Saim, Shayna Chow, Elfie Zamarit N. Tapia, Kara Swindell, Heather Lake, Navneet Kaur and Ishrat Ahmed tutor district ESL students as part of the study buddy program.

Languages of the World

In a community where students speak more than 20 different languages, the district boasts one of the most expansive and successful English as a Second Language (ESL) programs on the island. Effective language practices are employed across the district as teachers welcome students from around the world into their classrooms to receive a comprehensive education.

In order to expand the learning opportunities for ESL students, Curriculum Associate of World Languages & ESL Gina Palasciano has developed a tutoring program. Spanish, French and Italian Honor Society students, many of whom are bilingual, volunteer their time and expertise to provide tutoring services for the district's ESL students. The study buddy program provides students with individualized support in reading, writing, math and cultural lessons. Honor Society students utilize their foreign language skills to communicate with ESL students in their native languages and English to enhance curricular topics.

To keep their language skills sharp during summer recess, Honor Society students continue to mentor ESL students through Leap Frog backpack sessions to ensure they retain and refine their knowledge.

Realistic Fiction

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School fourth-grade students learned the art of literature through the reading and writing curriculum of Teacher's College at Columbia University. District teachers followed the published work of author and professor Dr. Lucy Calkins, entitled *Writing Fiction: Big Dreams, Tall Ambitions*.

Students explored the curriculum through various writing units in which they used different elements to create realistic fiction pieces that featured genre-specific characters, plots and scenes. To exercise these skills, students participated in lessons on the complete writing process by imagining stories they wished were true, developing believable characters, creating different leads to their stories, and writing powerful endings.

In order to showcase their work, fourth-grade students came together for a culminating Realistic Fiction Writing Celebration. Students were grouped together to share their writings with their peers and provide positive feedback to one another.



John F. Kennedy Intermediate School students were able to express their unique perspectives and creative ideas through the fourth-grade Realistic Fiction Writing Celebration.

EXTREME Water Safety

Students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School advanced their safety knowledge during the district's extreme water safety program. Fifth graders visited the high school swimming pool to participate in dynamic water activities. Students learned physical skills related to self-rescue for critical situations such as muscle cramps, exhaustion and sudden immersion into cold water.

While clothed, students entered the pool to simulate emergency scenarios and practice survival techniques, including floating, swimming, huddle positions, using clothing as flotation devices, and understanding the importance of lifejackets. Students also learned how to handle unusual circumstances, such as a submerged vehicle or capsized boat.



Lifeguards and physical education teachers assisted John F. Kennedy Intermediate School students as they practiced valuable survival techniques in the district's pool while fully clothed.



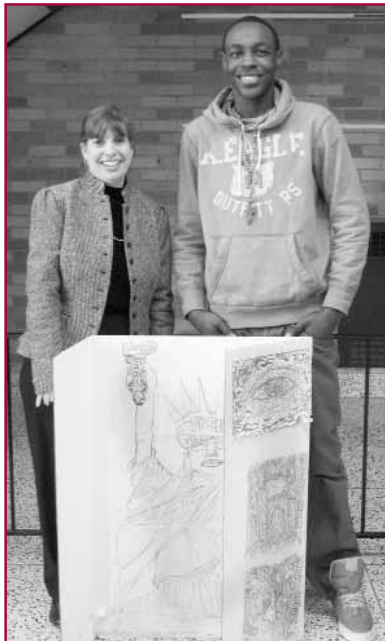
Following an instructional program facilitated by Aquatic Director Jeanne-Marie Kavanagh, a John F. Kennedy Intermediate School student inflated her pants using deep breathing underwater exercises.

Student Rocks the Competition

Robert Frost Middle School student Daniel Fisher was named a semifinalist in “Rock the Statue Green: A Transatlantic Art Contest.” District French language students participated in this worldwide competition, which celebrated the 125th birthday of the Statue of Liberty.

Students created inspirational work through various artistic media, including songs, essays, photos and drawings, while keeping the spirit of the environment at the forefront of their visions. Daniel’s detailed and expressive drawings, presented in poster form, infused green ideals and impressed the judges, who awarded him semifinalist designation.

The program was organized by the French Embassy, in collaboration with the U.S. National Park Service, Statue of Liberty National Monument and the American Association of Teachers of French, who hosted this Franco-American contest for K-12 students in both the U.S. and France.



Rock the Statue Green semifinalist Daniel Fisher showcased his artistic abilities and environmental awareness through his detailed portrayal of the Statue of Liberty and with the assistance of foreign language teacher Nancy Wolman.

A Conference for Change

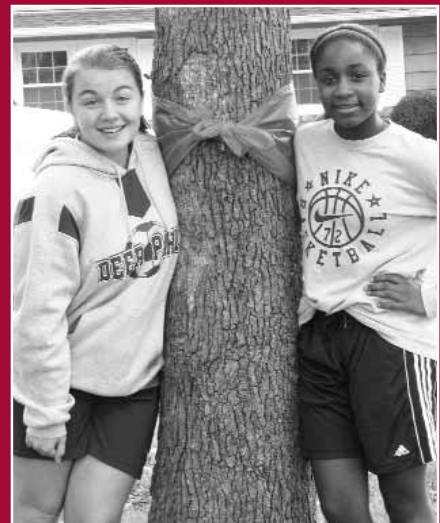
The high school Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club hosted a districtwide “Neighbor to Neighbor” conference that engaged students in a unique initiative. Ten students from grades five through eight were invited to participate in a series of workshops and activities to address current issues that young people face today. The goal of the daylong program was to create an awareness of these challenges and develop unified plans of action.

Workshops included bullying and its effects, strategies to overcome bullying, and the sharing of stories with those who have experienced bullying. In one workshop, groups expressed themselves by creating a series of skits, which they presented on a variety of topics including texting, social acceptance and peer relationships. The day culminated with each group creating a poster depicting what they had learned. Each piece will be displayed in the students’ respective schools for their peers to view, along with a certificate of participation.

Red Ribbon Week

The district works throughout the school year to ensure the safety of its students and educate them to carry out a healthy lifestyle. Recently, Robert Frost Middle School students participated in Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for students to make a personal commitment to live drug-free lives, with the ultimate goal of a drug-free America.

Throughout the week, students engaged in a variety of drug prevention programs such as Police Smart. Police Smart is facilitated by local law enforcement officers who speak to students on the devastating consequences of drug and alcohol use and draw from personal and professional experiences to impact the student audience. In addition, National Junior Honor Society and Student Council members created a visual display for their peers and community by placing red ribbons on the trees that border the school. During the week, students attended school wearing red to signify their dedication to the drug-free movement.



Red ribbons tied to the trees of Robert Frost Middle School symbolized the power of the district’s anti-drug movement.

The Arts at Deer Park

The district inducted 29 students into the high school's chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

The newest members of this prestigious international organization were selected based on their musical ability, academic excellence and school involvement.

Tri-M Music Honor Society is designed to recognize and reward students for their achievements while inspiring their peers to excel at music and leadership. Another goal is to increase student and school involvement with music and to build a stronger and more unified music program.

The 29 new inductees will join the current 11 members who will be led by advisor and music teacher Scott Abrams. Members participate in a variety of community service projects and school performances throughout the school year.

Across the island, Deer Park student-musicians participated in a variety of elite performances and concerts. Four students were selected for the Long Island String Festival and will join the organization's countywide ensembles. In addition, the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) and the Suffolk County Music Educators Association (SCMEA) All-County Music Festivals will include six Deer Park students who will join other division

central schools and perform in the chorus ensembles.

Seven of the district's youngest musicians were chosen to participate in the PEAK Festival, sponsored by SCMEA. PEAK, which stands for "Parents, Educators and Kids," is a special program for musically talented fourth graders in which students, parents and music teachers participate in a variety of musical workshops to hone and enhance students' skills and broaden their interests in music.



Students Noah Roff, Valerie Gerig, Julianna Diaz and Nicholas Dimodica represented the district at the prestigious Long Island String Festival.



Elementary students and their parents, attended the "Parents, Educators and Kids" musical workshop.

STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS



Student cellists prepared for a joint concert with Project Trio, honing their musical skills.

The professional musicians of Project Trio facilitated master classes for the student-musicians of Deer Park. Project Trio members Greg Pattillo, Eric Stephenson and Peter Seymour worked with students one-on-one and through group ensembles to prepare for a live community concert, which took place later that evening.

String and brass music students districtwide, including the High School A Cappella Chorus, High School Chamber Orchestra and flute, cello and bass players in grades 5-12, participated in interactive workshops. Through innovative instruction, students learned distinctive techniques and fine-tuned their theatrical performance pieces. The master classes also enabled students to explore their creative prowess and expand their musical repertoire by experimenting with diverse genres of music under the guidance of Project Trio.



Project Trio flutist Greg Pattillo worked with student-musicians on their solo performances for the upcoming community concert.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Teacher Receives Award in Education

High school earth science teacher Janet Werner has been named the Dowling College/News 12 Long Island Educator of the Month. Throughout her 34-year career in the fields of science and education, including the last 14 years as a teacher within the Deer Park School District, Ms. Werner has worked to inspire students through her innovative teaching techniques and positive perspective.

Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen identified Ms. Werner as a valuable member of the educational community, noting, "It takes a specific quality to have the ability to draw people in, and that is what she does every day."

Ms. Werner possesses a dedication to academia that surpasses classroom instruction, demonstrated by her efforts to stay ahead of the curve on current topics and themes through seminars and educational programs. Within the high school, she has expanded course opportunities for students by spearheading a college oceanography class (in conjunction with Stony Brook University) and an astronomy class, both of which are extremely popular within the student body. Working to develop well-rounded students, Ms. Werner has also held the position of advisor for a myriad of extracurricular clubs, including the Scallop Bowl, the Environmental Club and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), which hosts and sponsors a variety of island and districtwide programs and conferences.

Upon receiving this award, Ms. Werner described her



Dowling College Dean of Education Dr. Clyde Payne presented Deer Park teacher Janet Werner with the Dowling College/News 12 Long Island Educator of the Month Award. During the ceremony she was congratulated by (l-r) High School Principal James Cummings, Curriculum Associate for Science and Technology Samir Biswas and Superintendent of Schools Eva J. Demyen.

passion for education and stated, "It's not work when you love what you do."

Dowling College Dean of Education Dr. Clyde Payne visited Deer Park to present the award to Ms. Werner and capture video footage to highlight her accomplishments, students and school, which aired on News12. Dr. Payne shared that Ms. Werner was a standout selection. "Of all the nominations, she was overwhelmingly chosen as number one," he stated. "She is not just doing outstanding classroom work, but engages in more worldly endeavors as well."

Curriculum Associate for Science and Technology Samir Biswas, along with district administrators, colleagues and current and former students, nominated Ms. Werner for this award.

Fall Athletes Shine on the Field and in the Classroom



The Girls Varsity Volleyball team, along with other fall teams, received award certificates for their academic and athletic accomplishments.

Following a successful fall season, the district is proud to announce that eight teams have earned New York State Scholar-Athlete status. In order to receive this designation, the teams achieved and maintained a cumulative grade point average of 90 or better throughout the entire season. In addition, two varsity teams and the Robert Frost Middle School seventh-grade boys soccer team received the Sportsmanship Award for their respective leagues. These teams were selected for this award based on the recommendations of officials and opposing teams for their fair play and good sportsmanship on the field of competition.

On the field, four teams qualified for playoff competitions, with the Girls Varsity Volleyball team capturing the League IV Championship. Individual student-athletes on all teams were named to the elite All-County, Academic All-County, All-Conference, All-League and Academic All-League teams. Girls Varsity Volleyball player Jean Etersque was named the League IV Most Valuable Player, while teammate Julia Connolly was named the League IV Rookie of the Year.

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WORKING FOR HEALTHY HEARTS & OTHERS

The John F. Kennedy Intermediate School joined the efforts of the American Heart Association (AHA) to raise funds for the organization while promoting a healthy lifestyle for students. Since 2006, the school has participated in the "Jump Rope for Heart" and "Hoops for Heart" community service programs, which support life-saving research for heart and



blood vessel diseases and strokes.

During their physical education classes, students were educated on AHA research, which shows that the habits and choices developed in childhood directly influence whether or not a person develops heart disease later in life. Reducing the risk of many forms of heart disease can be as easy as maintaining a regular exercise routine.

Motivated by the health statistics, physical education teachers designated two weeks in January to help students learn about the importance of heart-healthy exercise. All students participated and became active in aerobic activities, which included Skip-Its, hula hoops, swing bars, straight bar ropes, jump ropes, long ropes, hopscotch and jumping lines. Through the generous sponsorship of students' family



members and friends, the school raised more than \$16,000 for the AHA. This year the school made its pledge in honor of fifth-grade teacher Dennis Maffei, who suffered a heart attack this winter.

Kindergarten Registration

**CHILD MUST BE 5 YEARS OLD BY 12/1/12
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

- Proof of Residence – 2 forms required (tax bill, lease, utility bill, residency affidavit if applicable)
- Parent/Guardian Identification (driver's license)
- Child's Original Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Custodial Papers (if applicable)

Please visit the Central Registration page of the district's website for more information at:
www.deerparkschools.org.

DATES:

Monday, March 5 –
Friday, March 9, 2012

TIMES:

JQA – 9:00 AM -
12:00 Noon
MM – 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

LOCATION:

Washington Avenue School
220 Washington Avenue
Deer Park, New York 11729

*Please call 274-4372 to
make an appointment.
No walk-ins.*

TAX CODE - 142

When filling out your State Income Tax Form, please be certain to fill in the Deer Park School District Tax Code number (142) in the appropriate space provided. School aid will be affected if the school district or code is incorrect or missing. You must enter the name and code number of the public school district where you were a resident on December 31, 2011. This information applies even if you were temporarily absent, if the school your child attended was not in your school district, or if you did not have children attending school.

REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION DEADLINE

In accordance with Education Law and Board of Education policy, all requests for transportation of children to private and parochial schools outside the district for the school year 2012-2013 must be submitted in writing by a parent, guardian or authorized representative (forms available in the District Office) postmarked no later than April 2, 2012. Requests should be sent to the District Transportation Supervisor located at 81 Lake Avenue.



*School news
and photos
compiled by
Marissa
Sanseverino.*

Board of Education

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