



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Career Learning EXPERIENCE

The high school hosted a day of advanced education for its students with a Career Day.

The freshman event kicked off with a group assembly and featured keynote speaker Jean Alerte, a Deer Park graduate and successful entrepreneur. Students then broke into small groups to tour job stations, which included approximately 50 representatives from a variety of industries. The ninth-graders took notes as professionals offered helpful information about their educational paths and specifics about their careers in diverse fields, including sales, finance, athletics, communications, technology, medicine and journalism. The interactive sessions provided students with valuable insight into areas of career interest and the chance to network with people established in those industries.



A group of high school freshmen met with two employees of Broadridge Investor Communication Solutions and learned about the various departments within the organization.



Two high school students spoke with Joanne Maiorana-Davis, banking vice president of First National Bank of Long Island, about the unlimited potential of successful women in the workplace.

Distance Learning Keeps Student on Sick Leave Connected at JFK



When fifth-grade student Steven was placed on long-term medical leave following surgery, his JFK Intermediate teacher John Colford implemented distance-learning technology to keep him connected to his peers and curriculum.

Every day, Steven used the communications software Skype to virtually connect with his special education class from his bedside during their morning meetings. At these meetings, which serve as an important tool for students to build recall and life skills, students review their “business cards,” describe the weather and highlight subject areas. In addition to watching and listening to lessons, Steven was also included in the activities of the day and actively participated during instruction by responding to questions.

In addition, Steven was able to enjoy read-aloud time when the school librarian visited the classroom. Web chats also facilitated the fifth-grader’s connection to his peers, teachers and staff.

“It’s very clear to see the spirit that Steven brings to the dynamics of the class,” said Mr. Colford. “The students loved interacting with him through Skype. It also allowed him to be included and to not fall behind simply because he is at home.”

To supplement classroom lessons, Mr. Colford sent home worksheets to Steven, who also received two hours of instruction from a teacher every night, along with his speech and physical therapies. Steven recently returned to school and seamlessly re-entered class thanks to the use of technology as an educational portal.

A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*



Dear Residents,

As we begin to thaw from the cold months of winter, our schools are blooming with educational advancements. Throughout the school year our teachers develop progressive lessons, which incorporate instructional technology tools in meaningful ways. As seen on the first few pages of this newsletter, these innovations are employed in diverse ways, creating simultaneous learning environments and transporting students to a foreign land where they are able to experience a live social studies lesson.

The high school continues to prepare students for success after Deer Park with a variety of proactive programs and workshops. Career Day, featured on page 1, provided a glimpse into the world of workforce opportunities for the freshman class, while members of the senior class are celebrated on page 8 for signing National Letters of Intent for being accepted into colleges and universities and becoming

members of their respective athletic teams.

When our students graduate from Deer Park they are representatives of our schools and community and embody the characteristics we foster during their time here. We work to develop characteristics of charity and kindness, and these characteristics can be seen through a multitude of student-led outreach programs. Throughout the district, students were inspired and motivated to help those in need and developed targeted fundraisers, drives and creative projects that provided critical support and supplies.

The backbone of our district is made up of the tireless residents who volunteer to serve on the Board of Education. As seen in the article below, one of our valuable trustees, Ron Wayne, has recently resigned, following many years as a key component of this influential group. I had the pleasure to work closely with Mr. Wayne during his tenure and would like to thank him for his

insights and innovations in the education of Deer Park students. I look forward to the return of former Board of Education trustee Al Centamore and his future contributions.

The collaboration between the Board, teachers and administration remains strong, and we will continue to work as a cohesive group as we excel through this school year and begin to prepare for the next. This includes the budget development process for 2013-14, which is well underway. I invite you to attend one of our public budget workshops to stay informed, ask questions and provide input. Meeting dates are listed in both the print and online versions of the district calendar. A strong partnership between the district and community is vital to our children's success.

Sincerely,

Eva J. Demyen

New Member, Same Mission on the Board of Education

Board of Education trustee Ron Wayne, who served the educational community for more than 16 years, has resigned from his post. Mr. Wayne has been instrumental in the district's fiscal planning and securing a solid financial standing. The district thanks Mr. Wayne for his years of dedication and commitment to the students of Deer Park and wishes him well in the future.

To fill the seat left vacant by Mr. Wayne's retirement, the Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Al Centamore. Mr. Centamore, a 60-year resident of Deer Park, is making his return to the Board of Education, having previously served as a BOE trustee for 16 years beginning in the late 1980s.



Board of Education trustee Al Centamore returns to the Deer Park Board of Education.

Skype Session with *America's Bravest*

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School students connected through videoconferencing technology with Deer Park graduate and United States Army Spc. Andrew Farquharson. Students were able to see and interact with Farquharson while learning about his deployment, military facts and life in Iraq via Skype.

Andrew's younger brother Matthew is a student in Marie Finley's class, and his peers wanted to express their thanks to those who serve our country. The class began a letter-writing campaign, sending messages to the men and women of the armed forces, local firefighters, first responders and police officers. Spc. Farquharson wanted to personally thank students on behalf of U.S. Army 6/8 Cavalry Squadron, 3rd Infantry Division, who were recipients of the letters overseas. The informative discussion supported the students' social studies curriculum and provided insight on topics of government, good citizenship and cultural literacy.

Farquharson enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 2010 and attended basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. before being assigned to Fort Stewart, Ga. in May 2010. He was deployed to Ninewa Province, Iraq from July 2010 to June 2011 and has received numerous awards for bravery and tactical skills, including the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Sniper Selection, Good Conduct Service Medal and Member of the Order of the Combat Spur.



Deer Park graduate and U.S. Army Spc. Andrew Farquharson connected with students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School utilizing Skype videoconferencing technology.

The Formula for Service

Students at John Quincy Adams Elementary School participated in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-A-Thon. Students completed the Math-A-Thon Funbook, practicing their mathematics skills and raised donations to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital.



Students at John Quincy Adams Elementary School worked through the St. Jude Math-A-Thon Funbook with the help of math lab teacher Marianna Grieco, combining academics with charity.

Under the guidance of math lab teacher Marianna Grieco, students were engaged in a variety of math lessons through both the written workbook and the online component. They applied their general math knowledge and solved varying formats of math questions, which incorporated problem-solving, puzzles and activities. More than 50 students took the challenge and raised more than \$3,100 to help the children and families of St. Jude.

A 'Snow' of Support

FOR SANDY HOOK

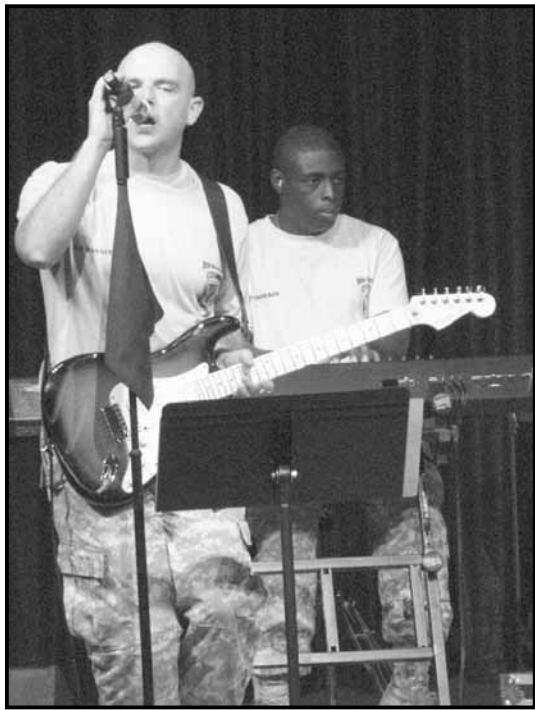
The art department at Robert Frost Middle School responded to a request from the National PTA and came together to support the community of Newtown, Conn.

The organization asked schools throughout the country to use their artistic talents to craft 3-D paper snowflakes to decorate the halls of the new school building, following the closure of Sandy Hook Elementary School. Art students went to work and created more than 100 beautiful handcrafted snowflakes with bright ribbon woven throughout the delicate patterns. The whimsical winter hanging art was sent to Newtown to welcome Sandy Hook students into their school.

In addition, middle school student Emily Mahon developed an outreach letter-writing campaign and during English language arts classes students penned personal messages of encouragement for Sandy Hook students.



Art students at Robert Frost Middle School displayed their 3-D paper snowflakes, which joined the thousands of snowflakes made by students across the nation to help turn Sandy Hook students' new elementary school into a winter wonderland.



Students enjoyed solo and duet performances by U.S. Army rock band The Volunteers.

An Army Strong Performance

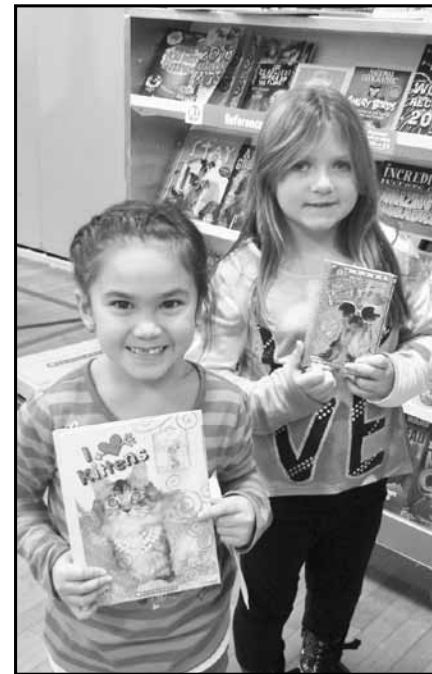
The music students and teachers of Deer Park High School were a captive audience for a unique concert featuring The Volunteers, a U.S. Army rock band from Fort Drum, N.Y. The band performed a variety of tunes that had everyone off their feet, clapping and singing along.

The talented ensemble – which included string, brass, percussion and vocal musicians – interacted with students throughout their set. The Volunteers are the rock component of the United States Army Field Band. Members described the mission of an Army band, which is to build morale throughout the country and entertain the troops, as well as share their experiences traveling around the world and training.

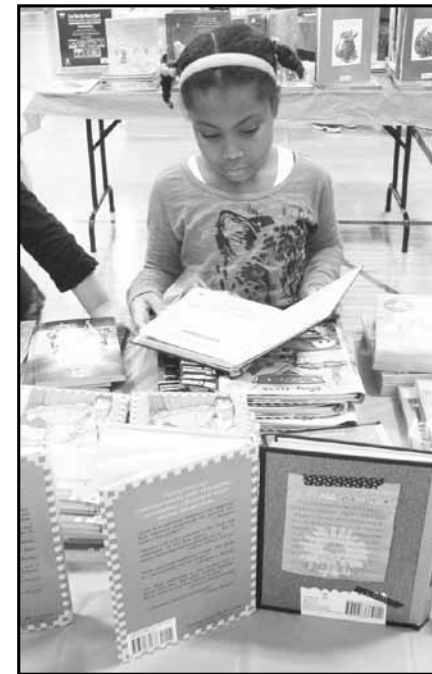
The United States Army Field Band has long been active in the community, and The Volunteers presented Deer Park students with an educational and entertaining production.



U.S. Army rock band The Volunteers filled the high school auditorium with classic beats during a private concert for students and staff.



May Moore Primary students perused the shelves and picked out titles that intrigued them during a recent book fair at the school.



May Moore students, excited about their literary finds at a recent book fair, skimmed the pages and tabulated their spending money.

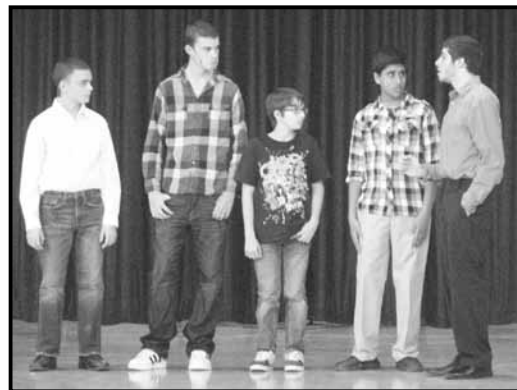
A Fair for Learning



May Moore Primary School hosted a book fair for students – one that took a multidisciplinary approach to a traditional event. Students had the opportunity to browse an extensive collection of reading materials and select the genres that interested them most. Examining fiction and nonfiction books, magazines, and graphic novels, students read plot summaries and author bios to choose their purchases.

In addition to building a love of literary works, students also engaged in monetary lessons. They were challenged to calculate their budget and the money they had available to spend, and add up the cost of each of their items to determine how much they could afford.

Students Shine in Act One



An ensemble of students worked off each other's energy in the dynamic format of one-act plays.

High school students entertained the community with the One Act Play Festival, produced by district teachers Michael Moriarty and Kristen Wallace. Students performed seven short plays, each directed by a student stage director who chose their respective casts from a talented pool of high school thespians.

The young actors met every day after school to rehearse scenes and perfect their roles in such artistically challenging plays as “The Lottery” by Brainerd Duffield, “The Most Dangerous Game” by Burton Bumgarner and “The Banana Trial” by Eddie Zipperer. The festival showcased the students’ diverse acting skills and took the audience on journeys to the darkness of mankind’s soul, the obstacles of romance, the silliness of human behavior and the bond of lifelong friendships.



Drama students set the scene during a performance in the One Act Play Festival.

Students Put Their Hearts Into Reading

John Quincy Adams Elementary School celebrated Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Month with a variety of literary events and activities. This year’s theme, “Put Your Heart into Reading,” was based on the character of the Tin Man from L. Frank Baum’s classic tale of “The Wizard of Oz.”

The program kicked off with a visit from performing arts students from the high school, who engaged the audience in a reader’s theater version of “The Wizard of Oz.” Following the presentation, reading teachers explained the goal of PARP to students. “PARP is about getting us extra excited about reading in the cold, cold winter!” teacher Lauren Corcoran enthused.

Each student received a commemorative button that illustrated the PARP theme, and teacher Elissa Martin described how students could participate. “During PARP, you will be doing a lot of fun reading activities at home,” she explained. “You can read to your sibling or dog and share your books in your favorite reading spot.”

In school, storyteller LuAnn Adams engaged students in an interactive program where she told stories and utilized puppets and visual props, which students controlled as the story progressed. Students and their families also enjoyed Pajama Activity Night, which included a performance from author Lee Knight and story time with JQA teachers.

The school set a reading goal of 10,000 books, tracked by a yellow brick road winding throughout the hallways.



Storyteller LuAnn Adams brought vibrant stories to life and introduced students to a new way to love literature.

Dental Health for Lincoln Pre-kindergarten Students

Abraham Lincoln School pre-kindergarten students learned the importance of dental health through an interactive program led by local dentist Eric Hanson.

Dr. Hanson taught students about dental characteristics and the stages of tooth development. Utilizing props, he demonstrated the ways to keep one’s mouth healthy, including brushing twice daily for at least two minutes, using proper flossing techniques and making regular visits to the dentist for check-ups.

In addition, students learned that healthy eating habits help maintain strong teeth. Dr. Hanson encouraged students to eat vegetables and stay away from sweets and soda. Students also became aware of how important teeth are to speech patterns and practiced articulating statements such as, “There’s magic in a healthy smile,” saying the phrase normally at first and then attempting to say it without touching their tongue to their teeth.

Following the presentation, students received a new toothbrush to bring home and practice what they had learned.



District pre-kindergarten students at Abraham Lincoln used oversized toothbrushes, dental molds and floss to learn how to properly clean and care for their teeth.

A Local Reach for Sandy Victims

High School students wanted to respond to the devastation Superstorm Sandy brought to their community and found a way to make a local impact. As Babylon residents continue to recover following the storm, students organized the Maroon Cross project, inspired by the Red Cross and playing off their school colors.



High school students ran the Maroon Cross project, which targeted local families who need assistance as they rebuild from Superstorm Sandy.

Led by teacher Kyle McCourt, students created a list of essential items that residents need for everyday living. The high schoolers launched a campaign and collected winter clothing and household items to donate to towns in Babylon. A variety of products were donated, including bottled water, cleaning supplies, garbage bags and canned foods, as well as bags full of coats, hats, scarves and boots. Students prepared the donations and loaded the packages for delivery and will continue to plan outreach efforts.

Robert Frost NJHS Collects Food for the Needy

Eighth-grade members of the National Junior Honor Society at Robert Frost Middle School came together to organize and assemble food baskets for those in need throughout their community.

A variety of nonperishable donations were collected from the entire school. Assisted by NJHS adviser Seth Margolin and teacher Tim Lamb, students sorted the donated food items into categories before filling approximately 20 baskets with complete, well-balanced meals. The baskets will be distributed to local Deer Park families to help during the winter months.



Piles of nonperishable foods filled a Robert Frost classroom as students created an assembly line to build nutritious meal packages.

"This movement is important because it keeps students active helping within the community," said Margolin. "It is a rewarding experience for everyone and students know they are making a difference."

Students in the TREND OF GIVING

The Fashion Club students at Robert Frost Middle School lent their trendy skills to the Giving Doll project. Giving Dolls, handmade cloth dolls sewed by volunteers, were created as a community outreach program to provide comfort and company to the young patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Students were inspired by this mission and wanted to participate. Led by teacher Cindy Adriaenssens, more than 60 Deer Park students came together to sew and craft the delicate tote bags that hold the doll accessories.



Robert Frost Fashion Club students dedicated their time and talents to the Giving Doll project.

Students Extend a Warm Hand to Those in Need

For the past 10 years, the school's Health Education Action Team club has organized an annual winter coat drive.

The donation drive was spearheaded by senior Kim Block, who has coordinated the drive for the last three years. The club was successful in its mission and collected more than 50 gently used and new coats to help keep local families warm. Led by Deer Park health educator and HEAT adviser Sherry Deacon, the coats were brought to Whitehouse Cleaners & Tailors in Bay Shore, where they were sorted, cleaned and then distributed to those in need.



The High School HEAT club displayed a variety of coats donated for the winter drive.

Teacher Spotlight



The district embraces the diversity which makes up its student body and Robert Frost Middle School English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher

Christy Freire has the opportunity to work with a unique portion of the student population. Students in Ms. Freire's classroom originate from places across the globe and are native Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Urdu and Bengali speakers, to name a few. All of these students enter her class ready to learn and share characteristics of their cultures.

In small group settings, students with similar proficiency levels engage in a collaborative learning environment. Ms. Freire infuses core subject areas with elements of culture and individual interests in order to heighten students' interest and make curriculum topics more relatable. Through a partnership with classroom teachers, Ms. Freire utilizes eBoards as a tool for students

to gain constant access to lessons and academic activities to practice their skills and apply them in their everyday life. Students are also introduced to instructional technology aids such as Smart Boards where they are able to master concepts through visual, audio and tactile learning methods.

Ms. Freire maintains a connection with students' parents and guardians, incorporating them in projects such as the construction of comprehensive family trees. In addition, Ms. Freire sends student photos and completed work to family members locally and overseas to share student progress and growth. Classes also work to introduce students to new experiences and include restaurant visits and museum exhibits that help students acclimate and develop as people.

Students Hit a Musical PEAK

Six district students were selected for the Suffolk County Music Educators Association's Parents, Educators And Kids (PEAK) Festival at Northport High School. These fourth-grade students attended a day of music activities with their parents. The intergenerational program allows students and parents to connect on an artistic level.

Festival entry was highly competitive, but thanks to the outstanding talents of Deer Park's young musicians and the leadership of teacher Catherine Lubrano, students and parents alike enjoyed this educational experience.

The district congratulates fourth-graders Diya Chabra, Casey Fonescda, Arianna Lerch, Sandra Patino, Alisson Ponte and Kimberly Robles on being selected.

Students Hit the Right Note

Throughout the district, student-musicians excel within their schools' programs and are being recognized by regional ensembles for their talents.

Four students were chosen for the 2013 Long Island String Festival, which featured the musical styling of Calvin Guyer and Noah Roff of the high school, Maya Kovic of Robert Frost Middle School, and Catie Wilkonski of JFK Intermediate School. Selection to a LISFA ensemble is a highly competitive process, based on superior scores at the annual New York State School Music Association solo festivals and school music teacher recommendations.

In addition, an impressive 23 fifth-grade students from JFK Intermediate have been accepted to the Eugene Reichenthal Recorder Festival. This festival is held in the spring and sponsored by SCMEA. All JFK students have the opportunity to learn the recorder in the third and fourth grades through musical instruction. Upon entering, fifth-grade students who excel on the instrument are invited to join the school's recorder band and thereby become eligible to participate in the recorder festival.

The district congratulates the following students and music teacher Gregg Romano for their hard work and success: Tahana Ahmed, Wendy Aparicio, Alexis Bell, Jamie Borah, Jack Brennan, Ryan Brown, Gabrielle Costa, Megan Curry, Diana Damian, Emily Destefano, Christina Diaz, Jenna Fisk, Jordan Galaor, Kalenna Guadalupe, Aramys Gutierrez, Brianna Hazoury, Danielle Izzo, Morgan Keular, Joseph Ortiz, Giavanna Pitragno, Alexa Skoubas, Alisha Suhail and Maya Vazquez.

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National Letter of Intent Signings

Full Scholarship

for Basketball Student-Athlete

Rome Jenkins has accepted a full scholarship to attend Concordia College in Westchester County. An elite athlete, Rome will join the Clippers Division II basketball team.

Rome has been a member of the Falcons boys varsity basketball team for three years and leads the successful squad as a captain. In addition, he has been recognized as an All-League and All-Conference player and was selected as an Alzheimer's All-Star for two consecutive years.



Rome Jenkins signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Concordia College and was joined by (l-r) father Ray Jenkins, boys varsity basketball coach John McCaffrey and Administrator for Athletics Dominick Fontana.

LAX Standout

Crystal Harris will play lacrosse at the University of Albany. Crystal is a four-year member of the girls varsity lacrosse team and is the starting goalie. As a field player and goalie, Crystal has worked hard to improve her skill sets and joined the Albany Elite Lacrosse Club team, allowing her to compete with the state's best athletes in tournaments such as the Northeast Challenge and Northern Rise.



Crystal Harris, joined by parents John and Maria Harris, is congratulated by varsity lacrosse coach Anthony Saccone (far left) and Administrator for Athletics Dominick Fontana (far right) for signing a National Letter of Intent to join the University of Albany's lacrosse squad.

An active member of the educational community, Crystal has participated in the Varsity Leaders Club, SADD club, Spanish Honor Society and International Culture Club and has been the recipient of Breakfast of Champions and New York State Scholar-Athlete awards. In addition, Crystal participates in Explorers at the 1st Precinct, which works to teach youths about the dangers of substance abuse and criminal activity.

Softball Player Hits an Academic Home Run

Sabrina Riley will play softball at Le Moyne College in Syracuse. Sabrina will join the Division II Dolphins squad next spring and has one more season left to excel in the district's athletic program. Sabrina shares her athletic and academic talents through the high school's National Honor Society, Varsity Leaders Club and Senior Class Club.

High school senior Sabrina Riley is joined by varsity softball coach John McCaffrey, mother and father Joy and Chris Riley, and Administrator for Athletics Dominick Fontana for her Le Moyne College National Letter of Intent signing.



Soccer Star Signs

Totianyu Guadalupe will play soccer for the 2011 NCAA Division II Champions at the College of Saint Rose. Totianyu is a three-year member of the district's varsity soccer team and plays for East Meadow United in a national league. She was a key member of Deer Park's 2009 undefeated squad and the 2010 league championship

team. In addition, she was named an All-Conference soccer selection and is captain of the track team, and was recognized with the Most Valuable Player Award. As an active member in the school community, Totianyu gives back through the Varsity Leaders and Community Service clubs.



Totianyu Guadalupe has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at the College of Saint Rose. Totianyu was joined by (l-r) coach Ian Kyranakis, mother Andrea Guadalupe, sister Kaleena Guadalupe, father Edward Guadalupe and Administrator for Athletics Dominick Fontana.



School news and photos compiled by Marissa Sanseverino.

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