



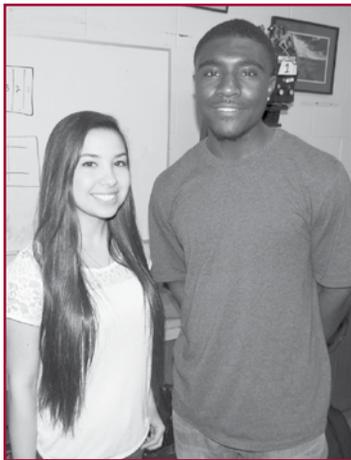
THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Photography Students Awarded Best in Show

Two dedicated photography students from the high school, Samantha Guttadauria and Julien Tucker, were named Best in Show at this year's Long Island Media Arts Show, held at Five Towns College in Dix Hills.

The LIMAS event, organized by Eastern Suffolk BOCES, provides a forum for high school students to present media projects and portfolios in a variety of fields, including photography, video, computer graphics and animation.



High school photography students Samantha Guttadauria and Julien Tucker won Best in Show awards at this year's Long Island Media Arts Show.

The awards for Guttadauria and Tucker in this annual competition, selected from among hundreds of entries from dozens of Nassau and Suffolk schools, highlighted Deer Park's emphasis on strong arts curricula.

EARNING DISPLAY AMONG 'Long Island's Best'

High school student Angelina Selkirk's remarkable work of art, "My Stars," was selected for the recent "Long Island's Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum of Art" gallery show. Selkirk was one of only 85 Long Island student-artists to be recognized, among more than 300 who submitted.

In Long Island's Best, a prestigious and comprehensive arts-in-education program integrating Huntington's Heckscher Museum and high school art classrooms in Nassau and Suffolk, school art teachers such as Deer Park's Derek Mainhart partner with Heckscher Museum educators to help students find inspiration in works on view at the museum. These chosen works serve as springboards for the students to create their own original artwork in various media. The program culminates with a juried exhibition, the only one on Long Island to provide high schoolers the opportunity to display their artwork in an art museum.

"My artwork was inspired by Joseph Constantino's photograph 'Guggenheim with Calder,' whose upward viewpoint reminded me of stars," said Selkirk, who attended a special opening reception and awards ceremony at the museum.



High school student Angelina Selkirk displayed her artwork, "My Stars," at the recent "Long Island's Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum of Art" gallery show.

Science Olympiad Medalists

The high school's Science Olympiad team placed 25th overall (out of 46 competing high schools) in the New York State Science Olympiad regional competition. Demonstrating the strength of Deer Park's STEM curriculum, two of the school's two-person teams medaled. The Circuit Lab team of Andreas Stamatakis and Aaron Zhang earned second place, while the Geologic Mapping team of Nicholas Martino and Zhang came in sixth place.



As part of the high school's strong Science Olympiad team, senior Andreas Stamatakis and junior Aaron Zhang earned medals at the regional competition.

Remember to  OTE • May 20, 2014

A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*



Dear Residents,

The 2013-2014 school year has proven to be yet another challenging one for Long Island school districts, but Deer Park continues to weather the storms – both literally and figuratively – and come out shining. Our pride remains strong, and our sense of purpose remains focused.

This school district has long aimed to educate the whole child. This holistic approach is reflected in the considerable success of our students, who continue to be honored for a wide variety of achievements, from prestigious artistic awards and diligent scientific research to remarkable theater performances and sports championships. Deer Park's children are not only talented, they work hard for their accolades – something we aim to encourage with a challenging

and enriched curriculum that is designed to develop lifelong learners. New methods of interdisciplinary instruction that responsibly reflect the Common Core Learning Standards, collaborative learning, and increased interaction between subjects and among different grade levels have all helped our students become more active and engaged in the educational process.

Our success can also be measured in the recognition given to our excellent educators, who have continued to smartly utilize grants to enhance their professional development and ability to offer students the most advanced instruction possible. The benefits of these grants can be seen through the extensive integration of technology into all aspects of learning.

Efforts to secure grants are one way in which the district operates

year-round to offset costs. When combined with a strategic balancing of state aid and reserves, and teamwork among our administration, Board of Education, teachers and staff, and community members, we were proudly able to present a proposed 2014-2015 budget that remained at the tax levy cap while ensuring all of the district's exceptional academic, athletic, arts and extracurricular programs are preserved.

With that in mind, I would like to remind you to vote in this year's budget and board election, to be held from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20 at the high school.

Sincerely,
Eva J. Demyen

TECHNOLOGY GRANTS SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING

The district was recently awarded two important technology grants that will enable Deer Park to purchase instructional technology tools that support enhanced teaching and learning.

The Western Suffolk BOCES Teacher Integration Awards grant for \$1,000 was given to Christopher Kauter, a social studies teacher at the high school, for "Using Mobile Technology in the Classroom," marking the sixth consecutive year in which Deer Park has had a teacher recipient of this grant.

Kauter, a cutting-edge educator who achieved Google Certified Teacher status last year, plans to use the funding to create mobile apps for his students to use both in and out of the classroom. "This allows us to break down the traditional classroom walls," he said, "and the students can learn on the go. The feedback from my classes has been

overwhelmingly positive."

In another exciting grant opportunity, JFK was awarded a TangerKIDS Grant, also for \$1,000, which will be used to create a green screen studio at the school, similar to the one May Moore recently established through a BOCES grant.

"The new studio at JFK will provide the technology for teachers and students to produce, edit and share organically created virtual content to support student instruction and the home/school connection," said Andrew Choi, district administrator of instructional technology. "We aim to have the same green screen technology tools available for when the younger students move up to JFK in the next school year."

"By implementing a studio with green screen capabilities, students could create instructional media and

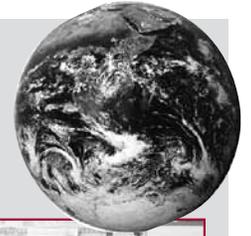


High school social studies teacher and grant recipient
Christopher Kauter.

communicate their new knowledge with their peers and the greater audience by using 21st-century technology," said JFK Principal Susan Bonner. "In addition, we are looking to use this studio to produce virtual newscasts created by the students to inform the community about JFK events and happenings, and we would like to use this technology to replace our morning announcements."

Celebrating Language and Culture

Primary and High School Students Explore World Languages Together



Celebrating both Language and Culture Month and National Foreign Language Week, senior world language students at the high school prepared introductory language lessons in French, Italian and Spanish for the benefit of younger students in the district. After participating in video conferences with students at John Quincy Adams and May Moore, they presented Language Exploration Days at both buildings. During these events, the high schoolers visited classrooms and used colorful songs, games and costumes as tools to teach and inspire the kindergartners, first-graders and second-graders concepts such as numbers and colors in the district's three world languages.

"These activities provide our high school students with the opportunity to create fun and interactive language activities for elementary students in our district," said Gina Palasciano, districtwide curriculum associate of world languages and ESL.



World Language students presented fun Spanish lessons to students at John Quincy Adams on Language Exploration Day.

Experiencing Black History Through Dance at JFK

While February is officially Black History Month, a chance to learn about the roots of African-American culture can be enlightening at any time of the year, as mesmerized JFK students found out during a performance at the school



JFK students participate in a traditional African "Moon Dance" during a cultural performance by the Phyllis Rose Dance Company.

by the Phyllis Rose Dance Company. The multicultural and multiracial company provided a celebratory tour of traditional and contemporary African and African-American dance and music. The costumed ensemble worked its way through a panoply of various historical dance techniques before engaging the students in a participatory "Moon Dance" from the African nation of Ivory Coast.

World Holidays Celebrated at JFK's Family Culture Night

English as a second language students from JFK gathered with their families and teachers for a Family Culture Night. Participating in "Holidays Around the World," the ESL students visited different tables to learn more about international celebrations.

Families sampled special treats associated with the various holidays while creating crafts specific to each of the global celebrations.



ESL students, teachers and families from JFK learned about international holidays at the school's recent Family Culture Night.



PROTEIN MODELING CHALLENGE

In a continued quest for excellence in science research, an ambitious team of high school students – David Golann, Ian Murray, Nicole-Ann Pagan and John Pawelko – competed in the Protein Modeling Challenge at Stony Brook University, placing 13th out of 30 teams. During the competition, hosted by Stony Brook’s Center for Science and Mathematics Education, the four young scientists displayed a model of a Ras protein that they had spent two months creating prior to the event. The team prepared by meeting once a week to learn how to build the model using 3-D modeling software. The students were also required to write an essay about the protein. In the other main phase of the challenge, the Deer Park team competed on-site to build an arginine finger model.



A science team from the high school consisting of (from left) Nicole-Ann Pagan, David Golann (with arginine finger model), Ian Murray (with Ras model) and John Pawelko competed in the Stony Brook University Protein Modeling Challenge.



May Moore students conduct a colorful chemistry experiment combining acids and bases at the school’s Add and Explore Fair.



May Moore students explore the properties of magnets at the school’s Add and Explore Fair.

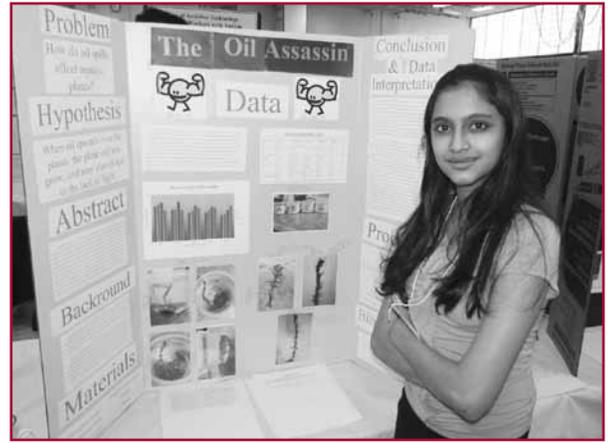
Discovering STEM Concepts at May Moore’s

Add and Explore Fair

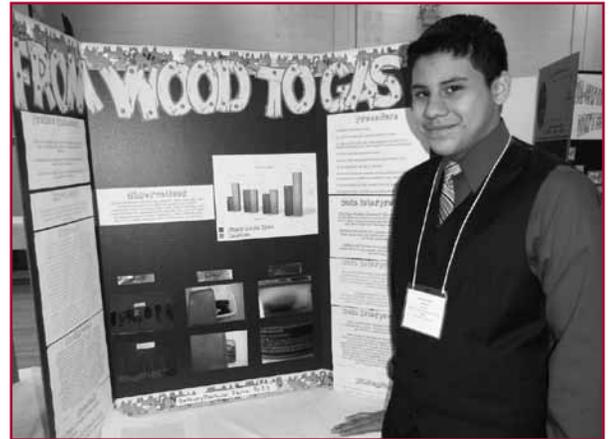
At May Moore’s Add and Explore Fair, students enjoyed a weeklong festival of measurement and discovery activities designed to make learning about science, math and technology concepts exciting. A variety of different exploration stations included “Bouncing Buoyancy,” where students designed tinfoil boats to test buoyancy; “Magnificent Magnets,” where they mastered the magic of magnetic attraction; using scales to measure weights and balance equations at “Balance Buddy”; shaping polygons with rubber bands at “Enjoyable Geoboards”; and “Radical Reaction,” where they explored how acids and bases react when combined in a colorful chemistry experiment.

Four from Frost Compete at Science and Engineering Fair

The middle school recently hosted the New York State Science and Engineering Fair, involving participation from dozens of districts and hundreds of high school and middle school students from across Long Island. Four of Frost's own young scientists successfully competed in the Broadcom Division of the STEM-oriented fair. Anthony Machuca researched ways to make fuel from wood, while Kirat Singh's research explored ways to create energy from sound. Tamara Beauchamp's work pertained to water purification. Fabiha Kahn, whose project involved experimenting with methods of oil removal from spills, placed for an award, which will be revealed at the NYSSEF award ceremony on May 21 at Jericho High School.



Frost student Fabiha Kahn placed at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair for her research project on oil removal.



Frost student Anthony Machuca's project at the New York State Science and Engineering Fair researched methods for making fuel from wood.

JFK Science Fair Inspires Ideas



Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade science fair winners at Deer Park's John F. Kennedy Intermediate School.

More than 100 third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students at JFK competed in the recent annual science fair, and all received a ribbon for their participation. A panel of judges chose three winners from each grade level based on presentation, information and creativity. "The science fair gives our students the opportunity to plan, execute and present ideas relating to the world around them," said teacher Joyce Carmen, chairwoman of the science fair. "It provides them with a deeper appreciation of the work of scientists and the value of their discoveries."

ATHLETIC ACHIEVERS

First Place for Frost Kickline

The Frost Falconettes kickline team won a first-place trophy in the high kick division at the Long Island Kickline Association Championships. The event featured 15 Long Island high schools and middle schools competing in 14 different divisions. The Frost kickline team also won second place in the pom division.



Emily Colquhoun, co-captain of the Robert Frost Falconettes kickline team, proudly displays the first-place trophy that the team won at the 2014 Long Island Kickline Association Championships.

All-County Senior Swimmers

Varsity swimmers John Pawelko and Brandon Peskett, both seniors, broke records competing at the Suffolk County championships held at SUNY Brentwood, earning All-County awards and qualifying to participate in the New York State championship swim competition in Rochester. Pawelko broke a school record when he earned first place in the 200-yard freestyle at the Suffolk County championship, qualifying him for the state championship swim meet. He also qualified for the county competition and made All-County in the 100-yard butterfly. At the county meet, Peskett broke his prior school record in the 100-yard backstroke, a performance which earned him All-County and qualification for the state meet.



Senior swimmers John Pawelko and Brandon Peskett earned All-County and state championship berths at the Suffolk County championships.

Recognizing Winter Athletes

With many athletes in attendance, 10 Deer Park High School sports teams were recognized at the school's winter athletic awards ceremony. Successfully balancing commitments to athletics and academics, seven of the teams – varsity boys basketball, varsity girls basketball, varsity boys swimming/diving, varsity girls track, varsity boys track, varsity cheerleading and varsity kickline – were honored as Scholar/Athlete teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, a recognition that requires teams to have at least five players and earn a cumulative team GPA of 90 percent or higher.

The varsity boys basketball team won the League IV championship and made it to the Suffolk County Class AA playoff finals, with Aaren Edmead earning multiple honors including Player of the Year and head coach John McCaffrey named League IV Coach of the Year. The varsity girls basketball

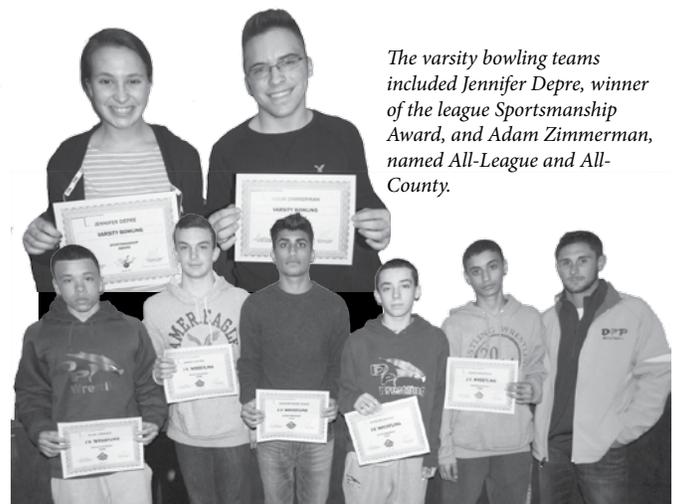
team also qualified for the Class AA playoffs.

Led by League IV Coach of the Year Mike McLaughlin, the varsity wrestlers – nine of whom were named All-League – won 19 dual meets this season en route to being voted Most Improved Team by the Suffolk County Wrestling Coaches Association, while the JV wrestling team earned their league's coveted Sportsmanship Award.

The varsity bowlers made it to the Suffolk playoffs, including Jennifer Depre, winner of the league's Sportsmanship Award, and state qualifier Adam Zimmerman; and the varsity boys and girls track teams boasted several All-Leaguers and

numerous Scholar/Athletes.

The varsity kickline team finished first in the kick category and second in the pom category at the Long Island Kickline Association championships, and first place in pom and second place in kick at the nationals.



The varsity bowling teams included Jennifer Depre, winner of the league Sportsmanship Award, and Adam Zimmerman, named All-League and All-County.

The junior varsity wrestlers earned their league's coveted Sportsmanship Award.



Teacher Spotlight

District science teachers David Knuffke and Jon Steigerwald were among only 42 Long Island teachers named New York State Master Teachers by the governor's office. The program, which began last October, recognizes science, technology, engineering and math educators who have demonstrated exceptional skills in mentoring peers and furthering their professional development, part of the state's mission to upgrade science education and assist students in preparing for careers in the STEM subjects.

Knuffke has taught AP biology and honors chemistry at the high school for a decade, after obtaining his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and education at Stony Brook University. "I focus on inquiry education," he said of his less traditional teaching method, which, he noted, keys into where science education is heading. "I train students how to ask questions and give them the tools they need to collect their own data."

Steigerwald, who teaches eighth-grade science at Robert Frost Middle School, has been at the district for nine years. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary science education at Dowling College, and an advanced certificate for school administration from Hofstra University. "Constant education" is what he cited as the basis for his honor. "I continually take a lot of workshops and pass on my tech knowledge to co-workers." As for his teaching style, he said, "I make it fun and relevant." He utilizes laptops for data collection, assessing students to address issues before testing.

Both Knuffke and Steigerwald emphasize the future of the teaching profession, and how skilled, knowledgeable educators are using new methods and technology

to improve learning for students.

"This is a singularly amazing time to be a teacher," said Knuffke. "We are provided with access to a technological palette that, if used properly, can fundamentally shift instruction. With a few clicks of a button, I am able to create and share materials with my students, colleagues and the entire world."



District science educators Jon Steigerwald and David Knuffke were among only 42 Long Island teachers named New York State Master Teachers.

Theatre in Our Schools



The district recently hosted the annual Long Island Theatre in Our Schools Mini-Conference at the district office, presented by the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. Showcasing the district's ongoing support for theater education, the event served as a networking opportunity and professional development resource for theater teachers at every grade level. The event's keynote speaker was Tony award-winning Broadway producer Stewart F. Lane, who gave an educational talk titled "What Schools Can Learn from a Broadway Producer." Other workshop presenters included Suffolk County Director of Arts in Education Carol Brown, Synergy Theatre Company director Tim Conlon and Theatrical Rights Worldwide executive Jim Hoar.



Broadway producer Stewart F. Lane gives the keynote speech at the district-held Long Island Theatre in Our Schools Mini-Conference.

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Deer Park: *A Showcase for the Fine Arts*

Frost Drama Club Has Fun in Ancient Rome

Ancient Rome was brought to comedic life in the annual play presented by the Robert Frost Drama Club. Clad in togas and armor, the school's thespians mined Craig Sodaro's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Colosseum," set in 30 B.C., for every ounce of humor during performances in the school's cafeteria.



Frost Drama Club students performed with comedic verve in the Ancient Rome-themed annual play.

'HAIRSPRAY' DISPLAYS TALENT

Audiences at the high school's recent annual musical were enthralled by the colorful costumes, fun dances and warmhearted social commentary of the school's production of "Hairspray," directed by James Henry. Based on the 1988 John Waters film of the same name, the musical featured a memorable set of songs reflecting the era of racial integration and TV dance programs, which were delivered with precision and verve by the Deer Park actors.



Students displayed their many acting, singing and dancing talents during the high school's musical production of "Hairspray."



Poetry Out Loud

Student Kayla Ruiz represented the high school by reciting poetry at the Long Island Poetry Out Loud competition at Stony Brook University.

For the first time, the district joined 15 other Long Island high schools in participating in the Poetry Out Loud contest at Stony Brook University. Representing Deer Park, Kayla Ruiz was one of 31 local high schoolers reciting poems at the event, a national program run by the National Endowment for the Arts. Ruiz memorized and recited poems by William Blake and Edgar Allan Poe at the Stony Brook competition.

JFK Student-Artists Display Work at SCALA

Fifteen gifted young student-artists at JFK had their work displayed as part of the Suffolk County Art Leaders Association Children's Art Show, held in cooperation with the Babylon Citizens Council of the Arts. This is the second year in a row that JFK's art program has participated in the SCALA show.



Student-artists at JFK showed off artwork chosen for display in the Suffolk County Art Leaders Association Children's Art Show.

Deer Park Again Named One of Best Communities for Music Education

The district has again been designated one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation. Now in its 15th year, this annual survey honors school districts which place exceptional emphasis on maintaining music education as part of the schools' core curriculum and highlights music's crucial role in students' academic skills and success. Only 376 districts out of thousands who applied from across the country were chosen in 2014 for this recognition celebrating commitment to music education for children.



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