



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

High School Student Named a National Merit Scholar



Principal James Cummings congratulated 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student Erik Zimmerman.

High School senior Erik Zimmerman is an accomplished student within the district who serves as a member of the National Honor Society and World Languages National Honor Society, and has achieved Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction status by the College Board. In addition to his superior performance in the classroom, the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program has announced he is also a Commended Student.

Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students, in some 22,000 high schools, who entered the 2011 competition. The 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) served as an initial screening of program entrants.

In recognition of this honor, Erik received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which was presented to him by High School Principal James Cummings.

41 Students Receive AP Scholar Recognition

The district is committed to providing its students with educational programming that is both challenging and rigorous, and prepares them for the academic challenges they will face beyond high school. Through a diverse selection of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and assessments, students are able to accelerate their curriculum and potentially gain college credit.

As a result of their successful participation in these opportunities, the College Board has recognized 41 Deer Park High School students as earning 2010 AP Scholar status. These awards, which are divided into several categories, are garnered based on a student's performance on the AP Exams. Two students were National AP Scholars, the highest honor given by the College Board, after receiving an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Eight students were named AP Scholars with Distinction, an honor given to students who received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Eleven students were named AP Scholars with Honor for receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Lastly, 20 students were given the title of AP Scholar for earning scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Congratulations to these students for representing the academic integrity of the educational community.

Robert Frost Student Needs Your Help!

Robert Frost Middle School student Karl Zaharia was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) in August 2010. This disease has stopped him from doing some of the things that he really enjoys, like karate and playing hockey with his brothers and friends, because the treatments make him tired and weak.

To help save Karl's life, or the life of another, the district is hosting a bone marrow donor drive. Please give Karl the chance to get better by attending this important event - you could be the one! Visit the district's website for additional information.

BONE MARROW DONOR DRIVE:

Saturday, December 4, 2010

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Robert Frost Middle School
(in the gymnasium)

450 Half Hollow Hills Road,
Deer Park, NY

A Message from Your *Superintendent of Schools*



Dear Residents,

The 2010-2011 school year is off to a great start and our students have acclimated back to the classroom without pause or interruption. Even though we are only a few months into this school year, I am proud to say our students have already garnered recognition both academically and athletically. From our rising number of Advanced Placement Scholars to our talented Falcon athletes, our students continue to bring pride to the Deer Park community.

This year, we are continuing with our Model Classroom program that was introduced last year in all schools throughout the district. Under this program we have been able to create interactive learning environments for students that are equipped with technology-based instructional tools, including MacBooks, iPods, document cameras and SMART Boards. As technology becomes an increasingly important part of our students' daily lives, we are confident that this program will help to better prepare them to be successful learners in today's

global society.

Additionally, with a continued commitment to equipping our students with the latest technological resources, this year we are piloting a one-to-one laptop program for the fifth-grade students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School. The program, which has been dedicated to the memory of Class of 2007 graduate Kristin Green, is being called the "Kristin Green Apple of Our Eye Initiative." Partnering with Apple computers, we have provided each fifth grader with their own MacBook, which they will utilize through the year to conduct research projects and complete educationally focused assignments. More information on this program and the Model Classroom initiative can be found in the stories on page 3.

One achievement that I am most proud of to date was our district's ability to deliver on the promise we made to taxpayers last May, which was to keep the line on expenses to a minimum and adopt a proposed budget that carried a 2.9% tax rate increase. As you know, when we develop our proposed budget each year, we do so uncertain of our exact State Aid figures and the actual assessed value of homes

in our community. With good financial foresight, and despite the challenges these unknowns and the current economic difficulties created, the Board of Education and administrative team was able to follow through with our advertized tax increase and continue to provide students with a solid and comprehensive educational program.

In addition, the district continues to save money through facility upgrades. The recently installed energy efficient co-generation units have saved the district more than \$79,000 in just a few short months and will continue to reduce costs throughout the school year while maintaining our commitment to creating a green environment for students and the community.

In closing, I wish to encourage all parents and community members to continue to get involved in our school district. A strong home-community partnership is the foundation of this district and essential to our students' continued success. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Eva J. Demyen
Superintendent of Schools



(l-r) District Administrator of Pupil Personnel Services Mary Reynolds and Robert Frost Principal Eliana Levey practiced CPR procedure by utilizing interactive manikins.

Administrators Ensure Student Safety

District administrators came together for an administrative council retreat to prepare themselves, their buildings and staff for the start of the school year. Administrators discussed a variety of topics, including educational leadership skills, evaluation models and most important student safety.

Deer Park Aquatic Director and American Red Cross instructor Jeanne-Marie Kavanagh facilitated an American Red Cross Adult and Child Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillation (AED) training sponsored by the American Red Cross Schools and Community First Aid/CPR/AED program. The comprehensive training provided all district administrators with the knowledge and skills necessary to help sustain life and minimize the consequences of breathing and cardiac emergencies until advanced medical assistance arrives.

The program's content and activities combined online media and testing with physical skill scenarios, which helped district personnel learn how to recognize potentially life-threatening emergencies and make appropriate decisions and actions for rapid medical assistance, including how to use an AED.

MacBook Memorial

Further demonstrating its strong commitment to providing students with the tools necessary for success, the district is launching its latest initiative in instructional technology with an Apple MacBook program designed for fifth-grade students. This November, the students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School received a personal MacBook Computer, which will be used throughout the year to enhance curriculum and support lesson plans.

This program is dedicated to the memory of Deer Park School District Class of 2007 graduate Kristin Green and will be known as the “Kristin Green Apple of Our Eye Initiative.” Kristin, a valued employee of the Apple Company, was killed in a tragic car accident this past summer. An academic standout, Kristin’s passion for technology drove her success within the classroom and her career.

Prior to introducing the program to students, parents of all fifth-graders were required to attend a training workshop facilitated



by Apple professionals to review topics such as the Required Use Policy, MacBook Care and Internet Safety. Students began using their MacBooks in early November, after completing classroom training sessions. During the school year, fifth-grade students will use their MacBooks to conduct research projects, educationally-directed assignments and to design interactive presentations.



The district kicked off its one-to-one student laptop program “Kristin Green Apple of Our Eye Initiative” with a parent information night. Pictured here (l-r) John F. Kennedy Intermediate School Principal Susan Bonner and Board of Education Trustee Dennis Ryan presented the family of Kristin Green, mother Joanne Green, brother Sean Green and father Michael Green with a Certificate of Dedication.

A Model for Innovative Technology

Deer Park has developed and implemented the Model Classroom program and its resources in schools throughout the district. Model Classrooms were introduced in the district during the 2009-2010 school year and create an interactive learning environment for students, as they are equipped with technology-based instructional tools. All materials included in the program are available for district teachers to use in order to enhance their lessons.

Sixteen teachers were selected to lead the program after completing an extensive application process, which was reviewed by a committee, Superintendent of Schools Eva Demyen and District Administrator for Technology Dr. Jared Bloom. Prior to the start of the school year these teachers attended two days of intensive training and will participate in monthly meetings during the school year to review and enhance student performance. In addition, these teachers are required to facilitate a minimum of four professional development training programs in their buildings to mentor district staff on the proper way to utilize technology as a means of enhancing learning opportunities for students.

Located in the high school, Robert Frost Middle School, John F. Kennedy Intermediate School, John Quincy Adams Elementary and May Moore Elementary Schools, every Model Classroom contains a wide range of cutting-edge technology, including:

- * MacBooks
- * Document Cameras
- * Airliner/Slates
- * Video Camera
- * iPod Touchs
- * SMART Boards
- * Set of Smart Responders



Homecom

The district and community came together for the annual Homecoming weekend, which kicked off with festive parade. The streets were lined with students, graduates and residents who cheered for the marching band and school clubs, youth athletic leagues, school clubs, youth athletic leagues, community organizations, and local fire and rescue crews who paraded through streets in town.

Each class designed and crafted a float based on this year's theme, "Cities of the United States." The senior class took first place for their New York City skyline, which featured the city's iconic buildings, characteristics and even a live Lady Liberty.

The Keep the Drive Team thanked the community for their help in achieving first place in Allstate's national Act Out Loud competition, for which they received a \$10,000 grant. The team rode on a float that carried a demolished car from an accident and a supersized cell phone with





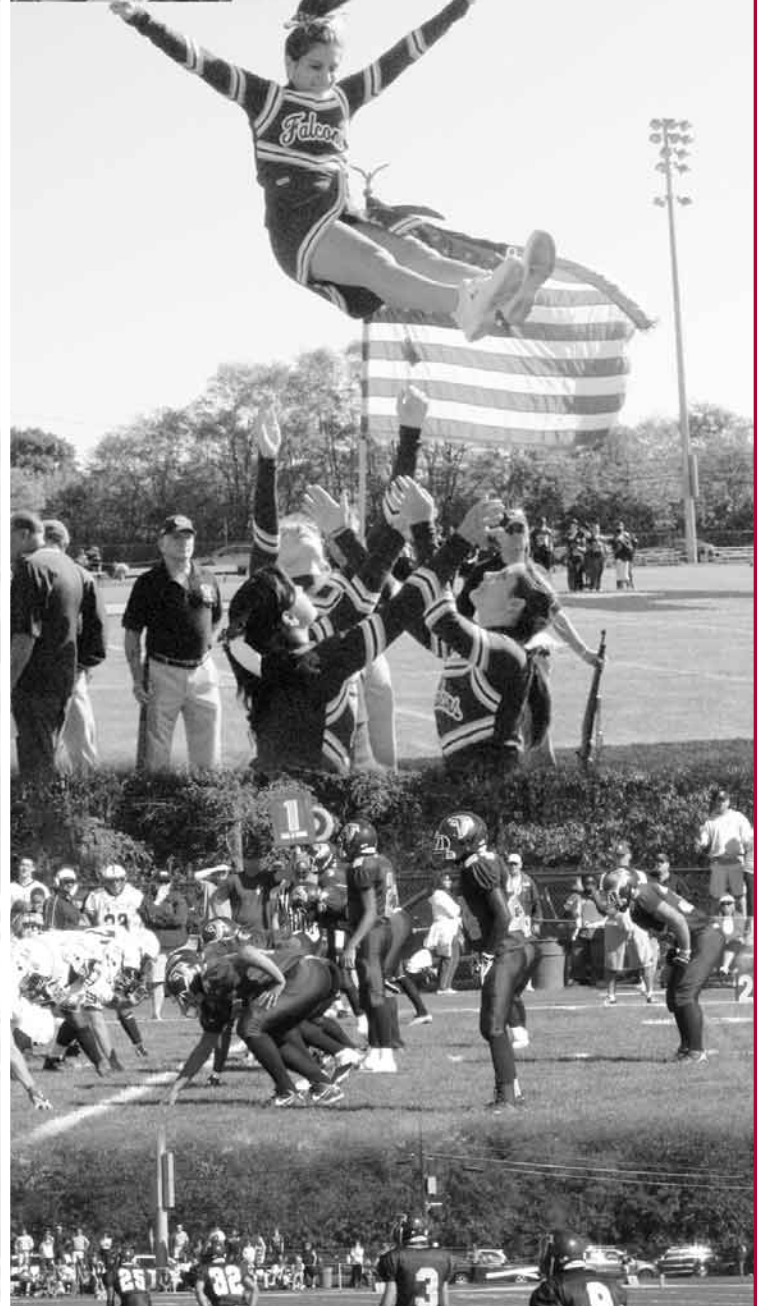
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messages of the dangers of distracted driving. The Catapult Team also unveiled their award-winning, pumpkin-flinging trebuchet, "The Dark Falcon."

Prior to kickoff, District Administrator for Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation Dominick Fontana helped the district honor Head Groundsman Phil Cortese, who was named Homecoming Grand Marshal for his dedication and superior work on the fields and facilities throughout the schools. In addition, public officials, including Suffolk County Legislators Steven Stern and Lou D'Amaro and Babylon Town Clerk Carol Quirk, showed their Falcon pride by attending the opening ceremonies. Members of the Homecoming Court were announced prior to game time, and Gina Tortorici and Troy Corbin were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.

The Varsity Football team capped off the successful festivities taking the field against Huntington and after a hard-fought battle claimed the 21-20 victory.



Robert Frost Student Body Finds *Strength in Good Character*

Robert Frost Middle School students participated in a Character Education Program focused on fostering traits of respect, responsibility, citizenship, perseverance and self-leadership throughout the student body.

The Character in Action workshop, Dare to Move, included a multi-media presentation that encouraged students to live their lives to the fullest in spite of their fears. Students were inspired by personal stories of teens throughout the country that have overcome physical, social, emotional and psychological obstacles to become successful students and people.

Dare to Move showed students that everyone will encounter hardships that will force them to ask questions, explore new options, make responsible decisions, and break free from their comfort zones. Students discussed how living courageously means standing up to bullying, encouraging those who need help, saying no to drugs and alcohol, and being a friend to those in need of one.

Throughout the presentation, students gained the confidence to move in a positive direction with their lives and take control of the challenges confronting them in order to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.



Kelsey and Michael Domeny of Camfel Productions engaged Robert Frost Middle School students in a Character Education presentation designed to challenge students to "Dare to Move."

Sixth Annual Deer Park Invitational Showcases Teamwork & Problem Solving

Students from 17 participating high schools took part in the Sixth Annual Deer Park Invitational, a postseason robotics competition sponsored by the School Business Partnerships of Long Island, Inc. (SBPLI), FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and the Deer Park School District. The daylong competition challenged students' engineering skills as they worked together to solve intricate problems and engaged in friendly competition.

At the event, students programmed their robots to compete on a 27-by-54-foot playing field setup in the high school's gymnasium and attempted to earn points by collecting soccer balls in goals. Additional bonus points were earned for each robot suspended in air and not touching the field at the end of the match.



The High School Robotics Team designed, built and controlled Robot 270 for the Deer Park Invitational.

Safety Sally Rolls into Town

The average elementary school-age child spends approximately 180 hours each year on a school bus. In order to ensure student safety during these trips, the district hosted the Safety Sally program for pre-kindergarten students.

Safety Sally, facilitated by Eastern Suffolk BOCES, is an interactive program that provides training on school bus safety and awareness aboard the safety bus mobile classroom. Students were instructed on all phases of school bus safety beginning with bus stop behavior and proper crossing and boarding. They also learned how to secure their seatbelts, along with the roles of the driver and passengers. At the conclusion of the program students simulated routine and emergency exiting procedures and viewed bus danger zones.



Abraham Lincoln pre-kindergarten students practiced emergency bus drills exiting from the rear of the Safety Sally bus.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

John Quincy Adams Elementary School teacher Keith Galea has integrated the instructional technology tools of the district's Model Classroom program into the first-grade curriculum. This is Mr. Galea's first year using the new technologies within the classroom and he has developed innovative ways for students to interact with the tools throughout the day.

The SMART Board and accompanying document camera are a way for students to display and share their work with classmates as Mr. Galea guides lessons. Instantly transposing information from a worksheet or assignment, students can present materials as well as work together on problem-solving activities.

The classroom set of iPod Touches helps to facilitate one-on-one and group work. A variety of applications allow students to complete literacy lessons and view science videos. By attaching a microphone accessory to the iPod Touch, students are able to create educational videos based on their written work, while Mr. Galea is able to present curriculum topics through audio-visual methods.

In addition, Mr. Galea has used the new technologies to introduce his students to peer-based learning. To assist English as a Second Language (ESL) students in learning the sounds of the alphabet, proficient students recorded themselves completing sound exercises on the iPod Touches and share the portable audio aids with ESL students.

The classroom MacBook serves as a hub for all educational projects and its software lets lessons come alive. Through iMovie, students have the ability to animate their words and illustrations with audio-visual presentations. Mr. Galea and students collaborate on the production and editing of student and class work content.

All of the upcoming and completed assignments, projects and curriculum areas are showcased on Mr. Galea's classroom eBoard. The eBoard is a valuable resource for students and parents providing review and supplemental information.



New Leader for Deer Park's

Physical Education & Athletic Programs

The district has appointed Dominick Fontana as the Administrator of Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation. For the past seven years, Mr. Fontana has worked in the physical education department and served as the Dean of Students at Richmond Hill High School in Queens. Additionally, for more than twenty years he has held the position of Head Coach for the Varsity Boys Baseball and Varsity Girls Softball teams at Valley Stream South High School.

In his new position at Deer Park, Mr. Fontana plans to bring a fresh perspective to the district's physical education

curriculum and athletic program. Prior to the start of the school year, he worked to revamp the physical education grading system, which now reflects daily assessments that are focused on teamwork, sportsmanship and participation.

Mr. Fontana plans to strengthen the connection between district athletics and community youth organizations to create a mentoring program that will build a solid foundation of successful athletes throughout the schools.



Students Put Their Fitness to the Test

High school students had the opportunity to test their cardiovascular endurance utilizing state-of-the-art athletic equipment. Exercise physiologists from JP Verdisco Exercise Health and Fitness Inc. created a Human Performance Lab in the school's gymnasium to conduct VO2 Max Testing on students. Students were instructed on the lab's components and uses, which consisted of exercise apparatus, an oxygen and carbon dioxide calculator and computer data analysis machinery.

Students rode a stationary bicycle set on various resistance levels while their aerobic activity was monitored and projected onto a connected television. Students viewed, in real time, the physical reactions of the cycling student

such as heart rate and O2/CO2 levels on the digital screen and discussed the results.

The program was designed to raise awareness of the benefits of cardiovascular health among Deer Park High School students and to help them understand fitness levels based on sport-specific and individual characteristics.



Student-athletes participated in VO2 Max Cardiovascular Testing to improve their endurance and performance based on scientific research.

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District's Youngest Students Develop Fire Safety Plans

Abraham Lincoln pre-kindergarten students received a potentially life-saving lesson on fire safety when Deer Park Fire Department fire fighters, rescue crews and EMT workers visited their school and spoke with students in celebration of Fire Safety Month.

Students learned the basics of fire safety, which highlighted the dangers of playing with matches, lighters, stoves and fireplaces. They discussed the importance of developing an emergency exit plan with their families and how to react if their homes, bedrooms or classrooms were affected by smoke or fire. The program concluded with a fire truck tour in which students had the opportunity to view the components of the fire truck, including the water hose and a variety of tools used for search and rescue.



Fall Fun at Deer Park Schools

Deer Park's Parent Teacher Associations sponsored the district's annual Pumpkin Patches at John F. Kennedy Intermediate, John Quincy Adams, May Moore Elementary and Abraham Lincoln Schools. During the autumn-themed events, students explored fields filled with pumpkins, haystacks and scarecrows to select their favorite squash.

Following the outdoor adventure, students returned to their classes and completed a variety of curriculum activities and creative projects related to their pumpkins. Pumpkins were measured and weighed in mathematics lessons, dissected and examined in science experiments and described and illustrated through literary exercises. All of the pumpkins were personalized with student drawings, paintings and designs and brought home for display.

Elementary students enhanced their fall curriculum by decorating class pumpkins. The Hewlynn Home and Garden Center, located on Deer Park Avenue, generously donated

one large pumpkin to each first-grade class at John Quincy Adams and May Moore Elementary Schools. Classes planned their artistic visions for the pumpkins and designed and executed a variety of autumn-themed creations. All of the class pumpkins were on display at the Hewlynn Home and Garden Center nursery.

Pre-kindergarten students in the Abraham Lincoln School invited a special person in their lives to share a day of autumn-themed projects and educational activities. Students set the scene by decorating the school's gymnasium with the pumpkin arts and crafts that they had completed in their classrooms. Seated at orange tables, students and their invited guests created Jack-O-Lantern jars using paint, construction paper and ribbons. To put their problem-solving skills to use, students constructed puzzles depicting fall landscapes and got active by playing ring toss with a black witch's hat.



*School news
and photos
compiled by
Marissa
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