



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

DPHS SCHOLARS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Four Deer Park students have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as Commended Students. **Michael P., Robert V., Justin W. and Christopher W.** are recognized for their results on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). They are among a national group of approximately 34,000 high scorers on the PSAT.

Although Commended Students do not qualify to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, they remain candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

In addition, **Robert A.** was named as an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, an academic competition that



Students (L-R) Michael P., Christopher W., Rob V. and Justin W. were announced as National Merit Commended Scholars, while Robert A. was named an Outstanding Participant in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program. Students are congratulated by Principal James Cummings after receiving their awards certificates.

recognizes outstanding Black American high school students. Robert joins a group of about 3,100 Outstanding Participants who are referred to colleges on their potential for academic success by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

A New Generation



The district recently installed cogeneration units at DPHS, using natural gas to produce electrical energy. See page 7 to read about additional capital projects that have improved our schools.

Ramping Up Recycling Efforts

The Deer Park Board of Education entered into a cooperative agreement with the Town of Babylon to enable recycling at every school. Recycling bins have been set up at every building for students and staff to discard recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, etc. The Town, which has an agreement with the district for the removal of all its solid waste, has agreed to pick up the bins for recycling and will sort out any recyclable materials that are accidentally discarded with the regular trash. The initiative is expected to save the district approximately \$50,000 and will be in full operation by the end of the calendar year.

In addition, the Board has prohibited the use of Styrofoam and non-biodegradable food trays. The Board continues to explore opportunities to operate the schools in a more efficient, environmentally friendly manner through solar power and other 'green' sources of energy.

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Deer Park, New York 11729

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A Message from *Your Board of Education President*



Dear Residents,

I would like to thank all of the community members who have showed their support through phone calls and emails regarding the direction of the district and the Board of Education. I also want to express my thanks to the community, Administration and Board for your collective faith in me as

President for my second year.

As volunteers elected to serve you and your children, we will continue to be student and community-focused first and allow the educational professionals (Administration, teachers) to chart the educational direction and delivery. As I said nearly one year ago, the Board is serious about our energy use, saving tax dollars, the well-being of our students and staff, and last, but certainly not least, the environment. We continue to move in the right direction, and in the last year, just look at what the community and the school district have accomplished:

An **Energy Audit** has been completed and our building systems (heating, ventilation, electrical) are running more efficiently, saving precious tax dollars and operating in a more environmentally conscious manner. The new recycling program is also in place (see story on pg.1).

Thanks to your support and the dedication of our Buildings and Grounds staff, **our buildings have never looked better, both inside and out** (p. 7). Our athletic facilities are safer, ADA compliant, and can now accommodate multiple sports. We also thank the PTA for the beautiful new playground at JQA. Additionally, the EXCEL projects to complete the upgrade of our fire alarms, technology wiring and hardware, and science lab renovations are close to receiving NYS approval. Once again, thank you to our community for supporting this much-needed state grant.

The administration and teaching staff have demonstrated a responsible vision with **our new reorganization** (pgs. 4-6). We have many new faces (curriculum associates) in our buildings and some familiar faces have transitioned to different buildings. We have a great teaching staff and strong teacher assistant staff. I feel as if all the pieces have come together and the new restructuring works in the best interest of our children.

A new **student information system** is about to be implemented and will allow parents to keep track of everything they need to know about their child, from attendance to scheduling. You will be receiving a

mailing on how to sign up for the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. It's a very good system and our staff will cooperate to help you get acclimated. This will be a big rollout, and your patience will be much appreciated during the learning process.

Under the leadership of our new Technology Director, we have purchased **130 new PCs and Mac Book computers, upgraded the memory in more than 200 existing computers across the entire district, and upgraded servers**, thereby reducing power consumption and the cost of future upgrades, while increasing the speed of the network and allowing students to maintain their portfolios as they move from one school to the next. We are also using new Rosetta Stone software and have installed 50 wireless access points across the various district buildings to allow students to work on their laptops in a mobile fashion.

Additionally, we are in the process of **redesigning our district website** (scheduled to be launched by January) to make it more user-friendly, and are integrating podcasting, wikis and various multimedia projects into the curriculum to enhance our students' 21st Century skills and give teachers the opportunity to post schoolwork for the community to view online.

A very positive **Financial Audit Report** (conducted annually) shows the district's overall financial health is in good shape and our bond rating is high. Furthermore, I'd like to dispel the notion that school districts and school boards are responsible for the high property tax issue you have been reading about in the media. Lawmakers in Albany must be held accountable for the unfunded mandates that have been dumped on local districts and the outdated laws that were instituted years ago to appease lobbyists rather than constituents. The media should, but usually fails to, report this.

We have a caring and dedicated teaching staff that strive to ensure our children receive the best education possible. Our staff need your support and the best way to help them is to be an involved parent. I ask all parents to become part of the education process. We can do this by attending parent-teacher meetings, checking that assignments are completed, and following our students' progress on the website and at home.

I wish you all health and happiness for the upcoming school year and I pray every student finds the success they are looking for.

Thank You and God Bless,
Dennis Ryan, 274-8891

Advancing Science Curriculum with Lab Upgrades

John F. Kennedy Intermediate School developed its newly designed science lab to increase hands-on student participation. Science teacher Nicole McAdam welcomed students into the classroom and reviewed safety rules to ensure proper procedures are always followed. Each student received their own lab books to keep accurate records, results and findings of the experiments they conduct. New lab tables facilitate an open, organized workspace to promote an environment of collaborative work.

Students also received an introduction to the new tools and equipment that they will utilize throughout the school year, examining beakers, eye droppers, measuring devices and thermometers. In their first class activity students used the balance scale, setting it to zero, and determining the mass of an object using gram cubes to weigh classroom objects.

The new JFK science lab will help students build strong lab skills and create a foundation for scientific methodology that will be practiced as they advance to the middle and high school.



John F. Kennedy students demonstrate the uses of their new science lab tools, including tweezers to transport weights and eyedropper to measure small amounts of liquid.

AN EXERCISE IN CHARACTER

District elementary schools have developed unique, extensive Character Education programs to instill quality traits and equip students with good decision making skills.

May Moore students were exposed to actor-singer-storyteller Lou Del Bianco's original stories and songs that illustrated the concepts of character in "Make A Good Choice." Honesty, responsibility, tolerance, effort and self-control were illustrated through Lou's experiences growing up. His relatable "crossroad" situations engaged students in interactive songs and stories demonstrating how individual character is tested in

various life events.

John Quincy Adams (JQA) students celebrated the character trait "respect" through authentic literature, specifically, *Stellaluna*, by Janell Cannon. Students connected with Deer Park High School drama students, led by Mrs. Lila Schmitt. Drama students reenacted *Stellaluna* and role-played characteristics of respect, even performing a "respect" rap song written by a high school student, tailored for the younger students.

Character Education programs will continue throughout the year to



Lou Del Bianco sings and dances with May Moore students during an exercise in tolerance.

facilitate an outlet for all grade levels to understand and relate to each other with positive attitudes.

STUDENTS USE THEIR CREATIVITY FOR CHANGE

Nine students represented the district in New York State Assemblyman Andrew P. Raia's "There Ought to Be a Law" Poster Contest. Students from John F. Kennedy Intermediate, John Quincy Adams and May Moore Elementary Schools were all honored for their winning posters. Through their creative posters, students proposed laws, some of which will actually be brought before the New York State Legislature in Albany for discussion.

Students at all three of these schools reflected on their everyday lives, examining topics and researching topical issues – both large and small.

After brainstorming possible solutions to everyday problems, students created informational and vibrant posters describing their law.

The contest spurred direct participation in the legislative process, as students learned how to draft a bill and how a bill becomes a law. Thousands of established laws are the result of ideas from ordinary New York State residents. Students were inspired by their drafted legislative proposals and the idea that they can positively affect all New Yorkers.



Deer Park students are congratulated by Assemblyman Andrew P. Raia for their winning New York State law proposals. Other district awards were given to Deer Park students who are missing from the photo.

MUSIC MAKERS SELECTED FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCES



These high school Fine & Performing Arts students were selected to perform in the 2008 NYSSMA All-State Conference.

Bradley B., String Orchestra
Dayna F., Mixed Chorus
Victoria G., Mixed Chorus
Michelle J., Mixed Chorus
Michael N., Mixed Chorus

Continuing the tradition of excellence, the following high school students were announced as members of Suffolk County's All-County ensembles and performing concerts.

Matthew E., Mixed Chorus
Courtney ., Mixed Chorus
Brian G., Mixed Chorus
Tahirina K., Mixed Chorus
Michael N., Mixed Chorus

Bradley B., Orchestra
Eric W., Orchestra
Michelle J., Women's Choir
Victoria G., Women's Choir
Dayna F., Women's Choir

TEAM APPROACH IS A FOCUS AT SCHOOLS

New Building Instructional Teams Created to Provide Greater Attention to Students, Staff at Each School

The district has restructured its administrative framework and as a result, new “Building Instructional Teams” have replaced the previous K-12 model. Although the total number of administrators serving Deer Park students remains the same, there is an enhanced focus on internal building level support for teachers with the goal of improving the delivery of instruction to students.

The new ‘redistribution’ of administrators allows for increased informal and formal contact time between teachers and their supervisors. This includes additional observations to enable administrators to more effectively track daily classroom progress. “The new organization really focuses more on instruction at the building level,” according to Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Personnel Eva Demyen, who points out that the new system allows for the same services as districtwide core subject directors without spreading individuals across all grade levels and buildings.

Under the “Building Instructional Team” concept, seven Curriculum Associate positions have been created, four at Deer Park High School (grades 9-12), two at Robert Frost Middle School (grades 6-8), and one at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School (grades 35). Each Curriculum Associate specializes in at least one of the four core disciplines: Science, Math, Social Studies, and English Language Arts, with a shared focus on business and technology at the secondary level.

The Curriculum Associates will work under the direction of their respective Principals and newly appointed Associate Principals. One Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment and one Associate Principal for Pupil Personnel Services and Building Operations each will serve the high school, middle school and the intermediate school. One additional Associate Principal for Elementary Education will serve both May Moore and John Quincy Adams Primary Schools (grades 1-2).

In this model the focus of building administration is on instructional delivery and student achievement.



Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino addresses members of her administrative team.

Subject area Curriculum Associates are in the schools on a full-time basis to oversee their respective disciplines and support teachers in classroom instruction and management. The Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment oversees instruction in all areas and as well as assessment preparation, scheduling, reporting and dissemination. The Associate Principal for Pupil Personnel Services and Building Operations is in charge of all student data and records, guidance, special services and discipline.

Four K-12 district-wide directors will remain in place for areas such as Fine and Performing Arts, LOTE and ESL (Languages other than English/English as a Second Language), Physical Education and Health, and Athletics. There is also a district-wide Administrator of Instructional Technology, and one Administrator for Special Education and another for Pupil Personnel Services, who will report to Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Frank Caliguiri.

“The challenge we faced was to use our administrators more effectively to support teachers in providing instruction that will enhance student achievement,” said Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino. “By realigning administrators into school instructional support teams, we are confident that the greater and more consistent administrative presence in the buildings will reduce discipline and building management concerns and increase academic performance.”

DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPALS

Deer Park High School and Robert Frost Middle School appointed new principals James Cummings and Eliana Levey. Both educators are established members of the Deer Park educational community who look forward to continuing and expanding their role within the district.



DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

James Cummings served as the Principal at Robert Frost Middle School for two years and prior to that was the Assistant Principal for five years. Mr. Cummings began his career in Deer Park as a Business teacher and Varsity Track Coach, receiving the 2001 Coach of the Year Award from the Suffolk County Coaches Association. He developed his administrative skills and set goals for Robert Frost students to improve their performance on state assessments and provide students with the foundation to excel in the high school by earning a Regents Diploma with Distinction. His successes at Robert Frost will drive his plans for high school students, educating them inside and out of the classroom.

Mr. Cummings is working closely with students and teachers on preparation, not only for examinations and term papers, but to build a foundation for students' futures, whether they be in college, trade school, or in a career.



ROBERT FROST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eliana Levey takes over as Robert Frost Principal, expanding her solid roots in the school. Ms. Levey began her career at Deer Park in Robert Frost where she was a seventh grade English teacher for six years and continued her career there serving as Assistant Principal for the past two years. Her focus as Principal is on instruction and strengthening the relationship between teachers and administration. Inspired by the impact she was able to have on students working with them inside the classroom, she also hopes to connect with the broader student body as their Principal.

Ms. Levey is in the process of evaluating and accessing established programs and using her foundation in the district to bring a fresh perspective.

New Assistant Supt. for Business & Operations Appointed

Marguerite Jimenez is the new Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Accounting from Bryant University, a Masters of Business Administration from Liberty University and received an Advanced Certificate in School District Business Leadership from Dowling College.

Ms. Jimenez is a Certified Public Accountant who worked in the field for 15 years before transitioning into a career as District Treasurer of the Kings Park Central School District, where she had been for over three years. She looks forward to a long, fruitful career at Deer Park and working with the Board of Education, administration and community in developing a sound budget and maintaining the fiscal integrity of the district.



ASSOC. PRINCIPALS RESTRUCTURING

As part of the district's administrative realignment, traditional assistant principal positions have been replaced with seven associate principal positions. An Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and an Associate Principal for Pupil Personnel Services will serve each of the districts three schools that enroll grades 3-12. An Associate Principal has also been appointed to serve at both May Moore and John Quincy Adams Elementary Schools (both grades K-2).

Kimberly Johnston serves as Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at Deer Park High School. Ms. Johnston has worked the last 12 years at Baldwin High School, the last three as Social Studies Chairperson. She has twice been named a Baldwin Teacher of Excellence.

Gary Ramonetti serves as Associate Principal for Pupil Personnel Services at the high school. Mr. Ramonetti has been an educator for 14 years serving as a science teacher, lead teacher, administrator, coach (soccer and wrestling), and advisor (Habitat for Humanity and Science Olympiad). He also launched a very successful science research program at Elwood-John H. Glenn High School.

Laura Melucci serves as Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at Robert Frost Middle School. Ms. Melucci has taught English Language Arts at Baldwin Middle School for the past seven years, has served as an Assistant Principal and Dean of Students for the Baldwin Secondary Summer School, and founded the National Junior Honor Society and served as advisor to the club at Baldwin Middle School. She has twice been honored for excellence in the classroom.

Stephen Moran serves as Associate Principal for Pupil Personnel Services at the middle school. Mr. Moran is a familiar face at Frost, where he taught special education for two years. Last fall he was promoted to serve as Assistant Principal at Deer Park High School. He began his career in Deer Park at Abraham Lincoln School where he taught for three years.

Kathleen Griffin serves as Associate Principal for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School. Like Mr. Moran, Ms. Griffin is a familiar face to the children of JFK School, having served as Assistant Principal there for five years. Prior to that she was an Assistant Principal at the high school for one year and taught at John Quincy Adams Elementary for nine years.

Shaun McLeod serves as Associate Principal for Pupil Personnel Services at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School. Mr. McLeod is also no stranger to Deer Park, having served as Assistant Principal at Deer Park High School for the past five years. Prior to that he served as a Social Worker at the high school, JFK, and John Quincy Adams for six years.

Jennifer Estrada serves as Associate Principal for May Moore and John Quincy Adams Primary School. Ms. Estrada began her career as an educator 10 years ago in Hempstead as a second and third grade teacher and as a reading specialist, having been awarded Educator of the Year honors. She later served as an Assistant Principal in New York City, where her school was acknowledged by Mayor Bloomberg for increased student achievement and parental involvement.

New Beginnings



Students arrived at their schools this September eager to meet their new teachers and principals. Pictured here, John Quincy Adams School Principal Kelly Diamond and district teachers greet youngsters as they arrive off the bus on the first day.



Capital Projects Completed

Several capital improvement projects have been completed or are underway to preserve and enhance school facilities for students and staff. These projects ensure a safe environment that is conducive to 21st Century learning, while protecting the taxpayer investment in our school infrastructure.

Districtwide Security

Completed:

Security Cameras: New interior security cameras have been installed, tested, and are operating at every school.

Ongoing

Security Cameras: Additional exterior cameras have been ordered and will be installed as they arrive.

Deer Park High School

Completed:

Boilers: Four high-efficiency boilers have been installed, reducing natural gas and fuel oil consumption (70% efficiency rating to 95% for a projected annual savings of \$450,000 per year, plus additional LIPA rebates). The recommissioning of six cogeneration units utilizes natural gas to generate electricity and reduces the amount of carbon emissions by 752 cubic tons (well within EPA safety standards).



Lockers: Hallway and gymnasium lockers have been painted, as needed.

Technology: Electrical sub-panels have been installed to accommodate technology network upgrades.

Classroom Flooring: Vinyl asbestos floor tiles in three classrooms have been removed and replaced with non-asbestos tiles.

Administrative Interior Renovations: New flooring (tiling, carpet) has been installed in the main office and guidance suites.

Display Case: A new hallway display case has been installed.

Ongoing

Light Sensors for Automatic Shutoff: Light sensors are being installed that will automatically turn off lights when a room is unoccupied, conserving electricity.

Robert Frost Middle School

Completed:

Art Room Renovations: New countertops, cabinets, and sinks have been installed in two art rooms.

Administrative Interior Renovations: New flooring (tiling, carpet) has been installed in the main office and guidance suites.

Ongoing

Gymnasium renovations: New gymnasium hallway doors will be installed later this year. Gymnasium bleachers are on order and will be installed toward the end of the school year.

Light Sensors for Automatic Shutoff: Light sensors are being installed that will automatically turn off lights when a room is unoccupied, conserving electricity. This will commence at the completion of the high school installation.

JFK Intermediate School

Completed:

Gymnasium Renovations: Floor of new and old gym have been refurbished and line painting and refinishing was completed.

Classroom Flooring: Vinyl asbestos floor tiles in three classrooms have been removed and replaced with non-asbestos tiles.

Administrative Interior Renovations: New floor tiles have been installed in the main office.

Ongoing

Gymnasium Renovations: New bleachers have been ordered for the older gym and will be installed in time for the start of the athletic schedule.



Boiler: One boiler is to be replaced and is scheduled for completion prior to heating season.

John Quincy Adams School

Completed:

New Playground: A new playground, equipped with child safety padding, has been installed.



Interior Classroom Renovation: Classroom restructuring (one room) to create additional instructional space.

Classroom Flooring: Vinyl asbestos floor tiles in three classrooms have been removed and replaced with non-asbestos tiles.

Administrative Interior Upgrade: An old rug was replaced in the Principal's office.

May Moore School

Completed:

Parking Lot Renovation: A new parking lot and driveway have been installed.

Cafeteria Flooring: Vinyl asbestos floor tiles in cafeteria have been removed and replaced (non-asbestos).

Administrative Interior Upgrade: An old rug was replaced in the Principal's office.

Ongoing

Lacrosse Field: A new lacrosse field is being installed. This field will primarily be used by the Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team and will alleviate scheduling conflicts with other teams. Also abuts Abraham Lincoln School.

Abraham Lincoln ECC

Completed:

Hot Water Heater: A new hot water heater has been installed.

Classroom Flooring: Vinyl floor tiles in one classroom have been installed (non asbestos).

Administrative Interior Upgrade: An old rug was replaced in the Principal's office.

Homecoming Highlights



Deer Park Falcons soared above the competition at Homecoming, winning the featured Varsity Football game against the Huntington Blue Devils by a score of 19-14. Uniting athletes, students, alumni and community members, High School Principal James Cummings was the Grand Marshal of the day's events, which were kicked off with a parade and float competition.

Each grade level designed and crafted their own float and featured it during the march through town. Led by Board of Education members, district administrators and Town of Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone, Homecoming King and Queen nominees were featured atop convertibles, while the dance team and members of the Marching Falcons entertained crowds of onlookers. Taking their final

lap around the varsity field track, the senior class float was announced as victorious and Brandon C. and Kristina W. were dubbed Homecoming King and Queen.

Board of Education President Dennis Ryan thanked everyone in attendance for the overwhelming support and encouragement that is shown for the athletes and district, specifically identifying Supervisor Bellone as a tremendous friend to the community. Supervisor Bellone, who cited the Deer Park district as one of the best on Long Island due to their high energy and spirit, announced that the athletic program will receive a \$125,000 grant from the Tanger Corporation to construct field lights in order to facilitate night game play.

Deer Park LAX Camp Raises Supplies For Students

The Deer Park School District hosted "Lax For Learning," a summer lacrosse camp run by Deer Park High School's female athletes. Varsity lacrosse players trained young, aspiring athletes, combining physical activity and community service. The girls worked one-on-one with camp participants, teaching fundamentals, skill work and showcased their instruction with game competitions.

Organized and led by High School Junior and Varsity Lacrosse athlete Monica W., the effort provided school supplies such as backpacks, notebooks, binders, textbook covers, pens, pencils, markers and folders, all of which were donated by lacrosse camp participants. With the help of district social workers Barbara Charity and Chenoa Mattila, Monica prepared back-to-school packages for Deer Park students in need.



High School Junior and Varsity Lacrosse athlete Monica W. (center) presents District Social Workers (L-R) Barbara Charity and Chenoa Mattila with an assortment of back to school supplies for Deer Park students.



School news and photos compiled by Terry Gilberti and Marissa Sanseverino.

Board of Education

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