

The STANDARD

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Passion for Participation:

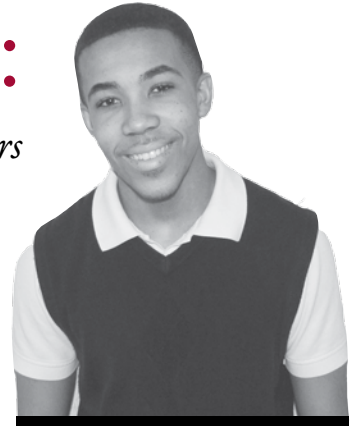
Junior Chosen for Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders

High school junior Alec Winters has been nominated to attend the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston on June 28-30. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the science director of the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists in Washington, D.C., invited Winters to represent New York based on his academic achievement, leadership potential, and passion for science and technology.

The Congress, an honors-only program, serves to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country who aspire to be scientists and technologists, and to help provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goals.

During the three-day Congress, Winters will join students from across the country to hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science winners discuss leading scientific research, to be advised by deans of the world's top tech universities, to be inspired by fellow teen science prodigies, and to learn about cutting-edge advances and the future of science and technology.

"I am very excited to participate," said Winters, who plans to major in music and minor in math and physics.



DECA Brings Home Trophies

At New York DECA's State Career Conference in Rochester, 26 DECA students from the high school competed against more than 2,200 of the brightest business students from across the state. Three Deer Park students – Peter Demopoulos, Shahan Mian and Joseph Sanchez – received trophies at the March event, which qualified them to compete at DECA's International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida, in late April.

"Qualifying for the international level of competition is a tremendous accomplishment for any DECA student, let alone three first-year members," said DECA adviser Gregory Menig. "This trip will be a tremendous learning experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives."

Seniors Recognized by National Merit Scholarship Program

Senior Aaron Zhang was recently named a 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program finalist, a prestigious designation given to only approximately 9,000 U.S. high school students annually out of a field of more than 2 million candidates.

It will allow him to pursue one of 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$33 million, to be offered later this spring by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which has held the academic scholarship competition since 1955.

A fellow outstanding Deer Park senior, Jonathan Wagner, was named a Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Music & Theater Highlights



Welcoming the First Cabaret Night

Members of the Deer Park Arts Council joined students, families and friends to attend the high school's first Cabaret Night, a project of the school's chapter of the International Thespian Society. The March 10 event was created and run by seniors Anthony Anello and Christina O'Toole, the chapter president and vice president. The pair recruited chapter members and arranged the show, in some cases writing the material themselves, as well as serving as joint masters of ceremonies for the evening. All of the performances, including songs, dances and short plays, were chosen, rehearsed and performed by the students themselves under the supervision of Dr. Jeff Dailey, the chapter's founder and faculty adviser.

"We came away filled with pride and admiration for the talents shared and initiative taken by the students," said DPAC President Ron Becker.



Frost's 'Charmless' Proves Charming

With Lavinia Roberts' comedy "Prince Charmless," the young actors of Robert Frost presented a festive frolic set in medieval times. Directed by Mike Moriarty, with set design and direction by Maria Giglio, the annual school play starred Ray Ugalde in the title role, beset by a veritable parade of princesses. Scott Surdi provided sound and lighting direction, while Allie Costanza served as student director.

"We were hit with many obstacles this

TOPS IN MUSIC EDUCATION

The NAMM Foundation has again recognized Deer Park for its outstanding commitment to music education, awarding the district with a Best Communities for Music Education designation. The annual survey, now in its 16th year, honors school districts that 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.

Community music programs have attracted increased attention this year due to a landmark study by Northwestern University brain scientists, whose research discovered new links between students in community music programs and academic success in subjects such as reading. Reports confirm that learning to play music can boost academic and social skills such as processing math and learning to cooperate in groups.

year, but the kids stepped up their A game and proved once again that the drama students of Deer Park are hard workers who are always intent on giving a great performance," said Moriarty.



Monstrous Musical Celebrates Predatory Plant

High schoolers sang their hearts out while trying to avoid the clutches of a predatory plant in this year's show-stopping production, the comedic monster musical "Little Shop of Horrors." The March performance starred Mauricio Montes as Seymour and Destiny Parsons as Audrey, with other major roles played by Joseph DeNoyior, Olivia Grizzle, Sam Henkel, Kate Keller, Jessica Orelus and Alec Winters.

Directing the Deer Park thespians for the 11th year in a row was James Henry, while set designer Eileen Cullinane took a final bow, retiring after 27 years of Deer Park theater. Other dedicated faculty contributors included music director Scott Abrams, assistant director Catherine Lubrano and choreographer Kristen Wallace, with sound by Catherine Thompson and lighting by Kyle McCourt. Student director Anthony Henkel also provided the program design.

Singing and String-ing at Winter Concerts

Seventh- and eighth-graders at Robert Frost presented a two-day series of winter concerts that displayed their growing mastery of their voices and instruments. Ensembles in the spotlight included the orchestra, directed by Maria Wingert; the chorus, directed by Youngsun Koh-Lee and accompanied by Eunsuk Cho; and the band, directed by Michael Livorno.

Meanwhile, young musicians at JFK worked hard to present their school's annual winter concert, which featured the JFK fourth- and fifth-grade orchestra, under the direction of Kathryn Attard, as well as the school's third-grade chorus, directed by Kristen Lombardo, and advanced band, directed by Louis Nicolosi. The string players, singers and band musicians practiced before school twice a week to prepare several selections that were performed in front of the JFK student body in the morning and for an audience of proud parents at night.



Artistic Talents

A 'Push' to the Top for Artist Mills

Senior Asante Mills was one of only 80 Long Island student-artists recognized for the recent "Long Island's Best: Young Artists at the Heckscher Museum" gallery show, chosen out of hundreds of submissions.

A comprehensive arts-in-education program integrating Huntington's Heckscher Museum and Nassau and Suffolk high school art classrooms, Long Island's Best encourages students to be inspired by works on display at the museum, using the experience to create their own original works of art. The process culminates in a juried exhibition, the only one on Long Island that provides high school students with the chance to see their artwork on display in an art museum.

Mills' stunning, colorful piece "Push," created from latex paint, rubber cement and cardboard, was inspired by Maria Robertson's 2012 installation "222."

Accompanied by his proud mother and his art teacher Derek Mainhart, Mills attended Heckscher's opening reception and awards ceremony in March, enjoying the opportunity to converse with viewers and fellow artists.

"Receiving direct feedback was the greatest personal gain for me, as I was able to interact with the audience as they experienced my piece," he said. "It was an honor to be a part of the show."

"Asante's art is already at a professional level, both in concept and execution," said Mainhart. "This will not be the last time you see his work in a museum."

Super 17 for SCALA

JFK's outstanding art program was honored again, with 17 students from grades three to five chosen to have their artwork matted, framed and displayed for three weeks in March at the annual Suffolk County Art Leaders Association Children's Art Show at Babylon's Old



Town Hall. Normally, each SCALA member school is invited to submit only five works of art representing the best from their school from kindergarten through eighth grade.

This is the third year in a row that JFK has participated in the SCALA show, held in cooperation with the Babylon Citizens Council of the Arts. The young artists, their parents and district educators attended a SCALA awards ceremony and reception at Old Town Hall on March 21.

Athletic Honors

Trio of All-State Falcons

Three high school student-athletes – sophomore Nick Fenton, senior David Hamil and junior Adam Zimmerman – recently earned All-State status.

Fenton, who has competed on the track team since the seventh grade, qualified for the NYSPHSAA Championships as part of an intersectional medley relay team. Fenton and his Section XI teammates earned third-place medals in the meet held Feb. 7 at Cornell University in Ithaca.

Hamil, 46-1 as a top Falcons wrestler in the 182-pound weight class, won in the Feb. 28 finals



of the New York State wrestling tournament in Albany.

Zimmerman, a member of Deer Park's bowling team since the seventh grade, won the NYSPHSAA's state bowling title on March 8 at

Strike 'N Spare Lanes in Syracuse as part of the Suffolk County All-Star team. It was the third championship in a row for Suffolk, and Zimmerman's 224.17 average was first overall.

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All About Elementary

May Moore Marks 100 Days with Outreach

May Moore kindergartners found a unique way to celebrate the milestone 100th day of school. As a cumulative project, the students collected more than 100 nonperishable food items to donate to the outreach program at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church to help hungry Deer Park families.

“I taught my class about giving back to our community,” said teacher Tammy Cotrone, who placed a grocery cart in her classroom. For every item the students brought in for the food pantry, they received a sticker and marked down the total number of donations on a chart, working toward a quickly surpassed class goal of 100 items.



History Made Fun with JQA’s Living Museum

Second-graders at John Quincy Adams completed their nonfiction unit of biographical study with the Living Museum. Each student chose a famous historical figure to represent and researched their person using both books and websites. During the three days of the Living Museum, two classes per day came to school dressed as their historical figure, then presented their information to parents and other students acting as visitors to the museum.

“This was a fun and exciting way for the children to gain experience in both research and public speaking,” said teacher Amy Smith.

Answering Big Questions at JFK Science Fair

At JFK’s annual science fair, more than 80 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders vied for prize ribbons in front of a panel of discerning judges. In preparation for the March 24 competition, each student used the scientific method to answer their “big question,” kept a journal, ran trials and tests, and developed a research-based answer to the question.

Six of these innovative projects – a first-place and second-place winner from each grade level – moved on to represent JFK at the Brookhaven National Laboratory Elementary School Science Fair on May 2.

