



THE STANDARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

District On Board with 'SMART' Technology

This fall, the Deer Park School District's Management Information Systems (MIS) Department began training teachers on the use of SMART Boards for instructional use. Purchased through a federal grant, each school has received one of these interactive whiteboards, designed to enhance instruction and heighten student interest in lessons.

Used in more than 150,000 classrooms in the United States, as well as 75 other countries worldwide, SMART Boards are equipped with touch-sensitive displays that connect to a computer and digital projector to cast a computer image onto a large whiteboard screen. Teachers and students can control computer applications directly from the display by using their finger as a mouse, write notes in digital 'ink,' save their work, share assignments, surf the web, and even edit video using their fingers as

pens. Due to the large size of the board (a 77" active screen area), it is much easier for students to run programs by tapping on the board rather than using a mouse.

Dubbed "a kid magnet" by educators and parents alike, the SMART Board is easy to use and accommodates different learning styles. Research shows that students of all ages respond favorably to SMART Board use.

"SMART Boards are exciting additions to our District's technology resources. This interactive tool brings educational resources together to provide for enhanced instruction and student engagement in learning activities," stated Alison Rosa, Director of MIS. "Along with our District's fine suite of technology resources, SMART Boards provide our students with active learning opportunities and aid in our goal of enhancing student outcomes."

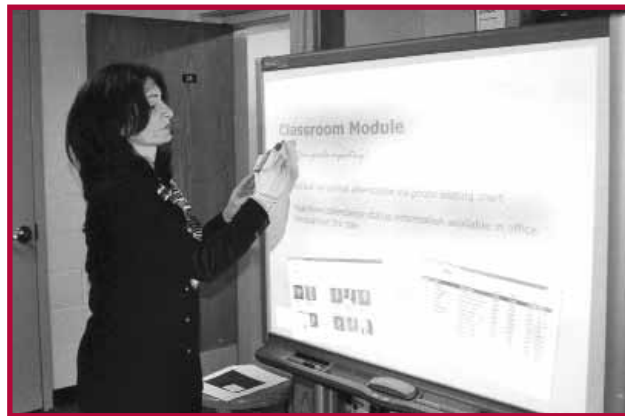
Since SMART Boards can be used with any software and allow students to share a large, interactive screen, they also help to maximize the District's existing technology and computer hardware. The boards can also interface with other peripherals, including video cameras, and can be used for distance learning as well, a resource that has grown into

a prominent part of the curriculum in Deer Park over the last several years.

Currently, the MIS Department's staff is training teachers in all schools to use and integrate the SMART Boards into their instructional activities. Teachers are developing lessons for all grade levels and in all curriculum areas, and they are anxiously "signing up" to use their school's board in their classrooms.

"SMART Boards turn every lesson into a hands-on, critical thinking, collaborative learning

experience," said Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino, "and serve as an important educational tool of the 21st Century."



Director of World Languages and ESL Gina Palasciano demonstrates a SMART Board for teachers during a staff development workshop.

Districtwide EXCEL Vote on March 20

The District is proposing a plan to use a NY State grant to fund capital improvement projects that will improve health and safety conditions and enhance education facilities at our schools. For more information, please refer to our website: www.deerparkschools.org. A special edition of *The Standard* will be mailed home later this month with additional information.

KNOW YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

THOMAS YOUNG

As a resident of Deer Park for 27 years, Board of Education Vice President Thomas Young has always felt the need to give back to the school system that has educated his four children. That is why 10 years ago he joined the Board and has been serving the Deer Park education community ever since.



“I work locally, so it was an opportunity to give back to the community and play an integral role in the life development of the children of Deer Park,” stated Mr. Young. “Through the years, I am pleased with the choices we have made, particularly those that allocate funds for programs that directly touch the students in the classroom. As funds become more difficult to obtain, it is imperative that we continue to support initiatives that directly affect students.”

Formerly the Chairperson of the Board’s Curriculum Committee, Mr. Young has seen Advanced Placement course offerings grow at the high school since he joined the Board of Education, and his hope for the future is that these opportunities will continue to grow. He believes that this can open greater post-secondary opportunities for Deer Park graduates to expand their college search and explore some of the country’s more prestigious higher-learning institutions. “Our goal as a Board of Education is to give students the tools to excel, raise the academic bar, and raise the expectations of our community,” he added, “so that we can all come to expect an even higher level of student achievement from Deer Park students and graduates.”

Another experience Mr. Young is very proud of is his involvement in initiating and expanding the District’s Inclusion policy, which benefits all students and serves as a model for other school districts. He is also proud of the cooperation he received while working with students and members of the site-based committee at Robert Frost Middle School to draft the school’s academic eligibility policy. He currently chairs the Board’s Safety Committee, but Mr. Young’s service to the community is not confined to the school district. As a practicing attorney for 38 years, Mr. Young has used his legal expertise to chair the Town of Babylon Board of Appeals and serve as counsel to the New York State Assembly, as well as counsel and judge for the Village of Lindenhurst. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Legal Aid Society.

Mr. Young and his wife have four children, one of whom is currently attending college and three who have graduated college. All are Deer Park High School alumni.

ROBERT MARINO

Although he was elected as the newest Trustee of the Deer Park School District Board of Education last spring, Robert Marino is far from new to Deer Park. A resident for 47 years, he graduated in the Class of '71 and his wife, Anna, graduated in the Class of '72. Their five children are all Deer Park alumni or current students. A field technician for Verizon, Mr. Marino began attending Board meetings 15 years ago because he felt a responsibility to be actively involved with his children's education, and now he remains a steadfast participant in the budget process.



“In an ongoing effort to balance forward-focused education with prudent use of public funds, I urge all community members to attend Board of Education meetings and take part in the educational process by joining a committee,” stated Mr. Marino.

Currently serving as Chairperson of the Facilities Committee, Mr. Marino has much he would like to accomplish in the District, including a revitalization of the older school buildings and improvement of the athletic fields. Admittedly, this presents a great challenge, as State educational mandates have risen drastically in recent years, calling for a more demanding curriculum which requires not only additional time and effort from staff, but new instructional resources and major curriculum re-writing. Mr. Marino is particularly proud of the fact that the Board has maintained nearly all of the instructional and extracurricular programs that make Deer Park a desirable school district while still presenting responsible budgets to the community through the years. “With rising overhead costs and unfunded mandates, passing a budget with nominal impact is indeed an accomplishment,” he noted.

Healthier Alternatives

Over the summer, the District adopted a Local Wellness Policy to promote a healthy lifestyle for students. The policy establishes guidelines for the nutritional value of meals and beverages served in the school cafeterias, as well as those sold in vending machines and through fundraising activities.

The Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program Reauthorization Act of 2004 established a Local Wellness Policy requirement for all districts participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Program.

The Deer Park School District's Nutrition Committee, which is comprised of students, parents, staff members, and Food Service representatives, developed the policy. The objective of the policy and the committee is to foster an environment where students are encouraged to make healthy choices for food consumption and promote increased physical activity.

The School District's food service provider, Chartwells, has been instrumental in implementing the Wellness Policy by providing many healthy food, beverage, and snack choices in the cafeterias. Students can eat a healthy breakfast consisting of juice, milk, cold cereals, bagels, and fruit. Lunches that are served are balanced with vegetables, protein, fruit, and grains. Students can consume 2% milk, 1% strawberry milk, 1% chocolate milk, or fruit juices for beverages. Students can also select snacks that have fewer



First graders enjoy fruit cups, one of the many healthy items on this year's menu at Deer Park's schools.

calories than traditional treats, ranging from 100 to 150 calories per portion size.

Vendors who provide snacks and beverages in machines for sale to students are also being held to higher standards and have been strongly encouraged to adhere to the District's Local Wellness Policy. Physical activity is promoted through regular recess time, physical education classes, and extracurricular, intramural and interscholastic programs. Building principals have also been informed to encourage fundraising (snack sales) activities to adhere to the Local Wellness Policy.

"The Deer Park School District understands the importance of promoting a healthy lifestyle for students," said Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Bancroft Burke. "Hopefully, students will adopt healthy lifestyle habits and make sensible choices that allow them to live long and productive lives."

MEALS MADE E-Z

District Adopts New Pre-Pay Lunch System

In November, the District launched the E-Z Meal Program at the May Moore Primary School, a system that enables a parent to pre-pay for meals served to their child in the school cafeteria.

The system works much like an E-Z Pass. Every student in the school is assigned a cafeteria meal account and parents can deposit money in the account for their children. Students present a picture identification card at the cafeteria cash register to access their account information. The account information for the student is updated every time their card is swiped at the cash register.

"The E-Z Meal system enables students to spend less time on the checkout line and more time to sit and enjoy their meal," said Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Bancroft Burke. "The E-Z Meal system also allows more students to be served in less time."

Students who are eligible for a free or reduced-price meal can be processed through the serving line with only the cashier having access to that information.

The District plans to implement the E-Z Meal system at the John Quincy Adams Primary School during the second semester of the 2006-07 school year. JFK Intermediate School is scheduled to have the E-Z Meal available by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. During the 2007-08 school year, the E-Z Meal System is scheduled to begin running at Robert Frost Middle School and Deer Park High School.



Students can pay for their meals with one swipe of a card.

NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES

EVA DEMYEN:

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Personnel, and Professional Development



Board of Education President Mike Oddo and Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino congratulate new Asst. Supt. Eva Demyen.

Eva Demyen has been appointed Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Personnel, and Professional Development. Ms. Demyen had served as the Deer Park School District's Director of Mathematics since 2003.

Prior to coming to Deer Park, Ms. Demyen served as Director of Math and as Department Head of Mathematics and Science at the Valley Stream Central School District. She also taught math at North Babylon High School, Bethpage High School, and Holy Trinity High School, among others, during her 30-year career in academics.

During her tenure as Director of Mathematics in Deer Park, the District has experienced steady improvements in student scores on standardized mathematics exams at all levels. Much of the success can be attributed to extensive tutoring, test preparation, homework help, and before- and after-school extra help programs developed by Ms. Demyen and Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino (predecessor of Ms. Demyen's new position) and implemented by instructional staff.

In her new position, Ms. Demyen will strive to enhance the K-12 literacy program, foster an environment that provides students with healthy choices and safe, secure surroundings, and refine evaluation, instruction, and supervisory programs in order to continue to progress and enhance Deer Park's learning community.

"As an integral member of the administrative team of this District, it is incumbent upon me to support the initiatives set forth by the Board of Education and our newly appointed superintendent, Elizabeth Marino. I welcome input from parents and students on academic endeavors and any other issues affecting the future success of our education initiatives," said Ms. Demyen. "Working collaboratively, the Deer Park School District will continue to be a District of Distinction, Pride, and Scholarship." Ms. Demyen, a resident of Babylon, is married with two daughters.

KATHLEEN GIGLIO:

Director of Science



Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Marino congratulates new Director of Science Kathleen Giglio.

Kathleen Giglio has been appointed as the new Director of Science. Ms. Giglio previously served as Director of Science in the Uniondale School District and possesses New York State certifications in biology, chemistry, general science, mathematics, special education and school district administration.

Prior to serving as Director of Science in Uniondale, Ms. Giglio was a K-12 Curriculum Associate for Science and Technology in the Jericho School District. She has taught secondary science for schools in Maryland and the Rochester, New York area, and also served as an assistant principal at both the middle school and high school levels in the Greece Central School District, which is also in Rochester.

"I'm pleased to be here and look forward to working together with my colleagues to further improve what is already a strong science curriculum for Deer Park students," said Ms. Giglio, who developed elementary and secondary science programs in Uniondale, reorganized the budget development for the science department in both Uniondale and Jericho, and served as a New York State Education Department consultant on the Living Environment (Biology) Regents Assessment.

Ms. Giglio is a member of both the Long Island and National Science Educators Leadership associations, as well as the Cornell Institute for both Biology Teachers and Biology Mentors, among other prestigious science and curriculum professional groups. A resident of Smithtown, Ms. Giglio is married with two children. She is also involved in her community as a Eucharistic Minister, a Cub Scout Den Mother and leads a 4-H Horse Club.

CIVIC STUDENT LEADERS

Deer Park High School sophomores Christopher, Josephine, Melissa, Dennis and Eric were selected to participate in “Civic Performance,” a humanities program at Stony Brook University. This public conference addressed issues central to the future of Long Island, such as the environment, sustainable development and youth at risk. Students learned about the problems facing communities and met the community advocates working to solve them. These students were chosen based on their demonstration of leadership and service.



Students selected for the Humanities program at SUNY Stony Brook with Deer Park High School Principal Nanine Cuttitta.

READYING STUDENTS FOR THE WORKFORCE



Students Deven and Jenny gave a presentation on Camp Business.

Since its formation in 1990, the Deer Park School Industry Advisory Board (IAB) has been assisting students within the community to gain valuable “real” career awareness and skills experiences for employment and life.

Among the highlights of the latest meeting, students gave a presentation on “Camp Business,” a summer program hosted by Long Island University and Commerce Bank where participants were given an overview of the business world, from how to effectively interpret *The Wall Street Journal* to employment interviewing tips.

IAB partnership coordinators Jill Perry-Eising and Scott Lieberman recently compiled data from a questionnaire submitted to members, identifying specific skills that Deer Park business students can focus on for future internship and employment opportunities with local businesses. The coordinators are also working with the different academic departments to help implement and strengthen programs to teach these skills.

“By strengthening the alliance between school administrators, educators, and students with community leaders, industry representatives and government officials, the IAB’s existence enriches the curriculum,” said Ms. Perry-Eising.

Additional Kudos to...

William, a junior at Deer Park High School, who was elected Vice President of SkillsUSA and FFA at Wilson Tech Dix Hills campus. William attended a leadership conference in December and will be responsible for supervising meetings and event planning for the campus.



Wai-jee, who has been nominated to compete in the National Principal’s Leadership Award (PLA) Scholarship Program. If chosen for the award, Wai-jee would be one of just 100 students nationwide to receive a \$1,000 PLA scholarship.



Deer Park High School’s 16 Academic Champions, who were recently honored at a breakfast by their department directors and chairpersons. They are: Wai-jee (Art), Jessica (Athletics), Matthew (Business), Jennifer (ELA), Jennifer (ESL), Joseph (Family/Consumer Science), Danielle (Guidance), Sherrygay (Health), Christopher (Math), Anthony (Performing Arts), Kristen (Physical Education), Melissa (Science), Ali (Social Studies), Kevin (Special Education), Robert (Technology), and Bianca (World Languages).

AROUND THE DISTRICT

MAY MOORE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Pictured are (Back row, l-r) Town Supervisor Steve Bellone, May Moore Principal Alicia Konecny, Legislator Lou D'Amato, and Deer Park Schools Superintendent Elizabeth Marino, along with students from the May Moore Primary School at the school's 50th anniversary celebration.

Students, teachers, and administrators at the May Moore Primary School celebrated the school's 50th anniversary this fall. Among the events commemorating this special occasion were an antique car show, a sock hop, hula-hoop lessons, and a visit to a makeshift ice cream parlor.

Students and faculty alike dressed for the occasion in fashion from the 1950s, including poodle skirts and black leather jackets. A time capsule that was buried in 1956 during the school's cornerstone-laying ceremony, in which May Moore herself placed a letter from her class, was opened. Letters from students describing the school and what life was like back then, two newspaper articles and a copy of the 1956 minutes from the Board of Education were among items also found inside the capsule. Contents of the capsule are currently on display at the Deer Park Public Library.

Special guest speaker George Capadonna, a former fifth grade teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in Deer Park, spoke about his experience teaching at the school in 1956. Town of Babylon Supervisor Steve Bellone and Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amato, himself a May Moore School graduate, presented special proclamations to Principal Alicia Konecny.



Kindergarten teacher Roni Arons and students enjoyed treats such as root beer floats at "Millie's Place", a classroom set up as an old-fashioned ice cream parlor.



Students learned the art of the hula-hoop in the school's gymnasium.

Letters From Lincoln

In December, pre-kindergarten students at Abraham Lincoln School and students at the Lincoln Learning Center refined their writing skills in a fun way for the holidays. The Pre-kindergarten students wrote letters to Santa and placed them in a makeshift mailbox in the school (pictured). The Lincoln Learning Center students accepted the letters and wrote personal reply letters to each youngster on behalf of Old St. Nick.



VIDEOCONFERENCING BRINGS SCHOOLS AND CULTURES TOGETHER

Videoconferencing can be a valuable tool for teaching students more effective communication and presentation skills, enable them to interact and share different perspectives with students at other schools, and even bring the larger global community directly into the classroom.

Alex Lima's senior Spanish language students at Deer Park High School recently tackled the latter, with a lesson they developed for Patty Eysser's first grade class at May Moore Primary School as part of the District's first intra-school videoconferencing event. Deer Park High School students sang Spanish songs, played counting and animal name games in Spanish, and interacted with their younger counterparts, all through the television monitor in "live" time. "The children were so excited to be part of this unique lesson. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn in the 21st century," noted Director of World Languages Gina Palasciano. "The videoconference is a wonderful enhancement to our traditional

learning experiences."

Technology teachers Regina Moraitis and Nick Cangero also used videoconferencing to enable several second

grade classes at John Quincy Adams (JQA) Primary School to interact with second graders at May Moore School. Students from both schools simultaneously viewed an online video of actress Amanda Bynes reading *The Night I Followed the Dog*. Ms. Moraitis (stationed at JQA) and Mr. Cangero (at May Moore) divided the youngsters into small groups at each school to compare and contrast human-like and dog-like traits, and discuss whether or not the characters exercised good safety rules and good judgment. Since they had the capability of seeing and hearing the other group on the video screen, the two groups shared opinions about the movie and gained an understanding of some of the things their peers across town were studying.



Students in Alex Lima's Spanish class conducted an interactive language lesson for first graders at the May Moore School.

From A to Z



Colleen Reha and her kindergarten students worked along with Padmoutie Singh in the John Quincy Adams Primary School computer lab to improve their Language Arts skills. The students concentrated on reading comprehension, reading fluency, the alphabet, vocabulary, and phonics using a program entitled "A TO Z."

During an Outbreak - Go to School

Deer Park administrators were among many school district officials throughout Suffolk County that participated in the pandemic influenza Point of Distribution (POD) Vaccination Clinic demonstration at Islip High School, sponsored by the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association and the Suffolk County Department of Health. The purpose of the exercise was to demonstrate how POD clinics would operate in the event of a public health emergency, where public health professionals, together with government officials, have

determined it necessary to offer medication and/or vaccinations to some or all Suffolk County residents.

Public schools are easily accessible to local communities, making them ideal locations for POD clinics. Local PODs would provide triage, education, medical screening, and, if needed, medications and vaccinations. Other POD locations are available in Suffolk County including the Suffolk County Community College campuses in Riverhead, Brentwood, and Selden. Additional sites are also being planned.

County Executive Congratulates 'DARE'ing Students

Fifth grade students at JFK Intermediate School recently graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. Suffolk County Police Officer Jeanne Osias worked with students to raise their self-esteem, taught them how to make decisions on their own, and helped them identify positive alternatives to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Upon completion of the course of study, the school held a DARE Graduation Ceremony. Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy (pictured here), along with other dignitaries and school officials, was on hand to congratulate the students, who made a pledge to make smart, safe, healthy decisions and stay away from drugs and alcohol.



Supporting the Troops



The Robert Frost Middle School Student Council collected items such as bed sheets, snacks, and bug spray to send to John Heeg and his Naval unit in Iraq.

Mr. Heeg is an eighth grade social studies teacher at Frost who is currently serving as a medic in Iraq. Some of the items pictured were donated by the Robert Frost staff and the Deer Park community, while others were purchased through the sale of gourmet lollipops by Student Council members.

AUTISM PROGRAM MAKING STRIDES

The District is conducting a program at May Moore Primary School to help educate students with autism through the use of behavioral and academic intervention services. Five students are currently enrolled in the class, which involves a host of intensive proactive and reactive strategies to break down the learning process, generalize real-life settings, and help these students acquire the skills necessary to understand language and interact appropriately with others.

Teachers Jenny Dixon and Colleen Scannell (pictured in L-R order), both highly trained in adaptive analysis and teaching students in a natural setting, help the children better decipher language, practice sounds, words, phrases, and ultimately reciprocal conversation. Children spend their entire day at May Moore learning to model the language and social behaviors of their non-autistic peers. With the help of aides and consultants from Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI), students also undergo occupational therapy and adaptive physical therapy. Parents and all home providers are constantly kept apprised of the progress made.

"The primary goal is to teach all of our students the communicative, learning, social and vocational skills necessary to become more independent," said Ms. Scannell. "Having these students in a hometown school setting versus an out-of-district program has been a huge plus. The interaction with each other and with their regular education peers outside of the classroom really helps."

The District thoroughly investigated the benefits of an in-house program, visiting providers throughout Long Island and mirroring many aspects of the Young Autism Program used at DDI. Characteristics of autism can be detected by monitoring a child's social interaction, communication skills, and behavior.



School news and photos compiled by Terry Gilberti, Michele Caro and Arlene Barlam.

Board of Education

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