



The

Lion's Pride

Where Education
Shines!

of West Islip Schools



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Official Publication of the West Islip School District

September - October 2008

Lions Roar at West Islip Homecoming



On October 11th West Islip celebrated Homecoming festivities which included a parade, the introduction of the winners of the Mr. and Miss West Islip contest, a float contest and the exciting win against the Smithtown Bulls 33-0! Congratulations to Mr. and Miss West Islip's Bill R. and Allie M. first place winners (pictured below), Ray W. and Deanna J. second place winners and Aran O'G. and Alyssa F. third place winners.



Congratulations to the Homecoming float winners: first place (pictured below) Senior float theme "Where the Wild Things Are," second place Junior float theme "Alice in Wonderland," third place Sophomore float theme "Humpty Dumpty" and fourth place Freshman float theme "Wizard of Oz."



Christopher M. & Amanda P. Named National Merit Semi-finalists



National Merit Semi-finalists
Christopher M. and Amanda P.

Seniors Christopher M. and Amanda P. were recently named by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as semi-finalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Christopher and Amanda were two of the 16,000 semi-finalists named nationally who will be competing for 8,200 Merit Scholarships, worth \$34 million to be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship, semi-finalists must advance to the finalist stage.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships awarded through the program are underwritten by NMSC's own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals for honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

School Board Approves Captree School Renaming

On September 25th, the Board of Education unanimously approved the renaming of the Captree Elementary School to the Paul E. Kirdahy Elementary School at Captree. Dr. Kirdahy was the school's former principal and superintendent of the district. Thirty-four speakers signed up to comment, with the majority in support of the name change. The district is planning upcoming events to celebrate the renaming.

Bond Update

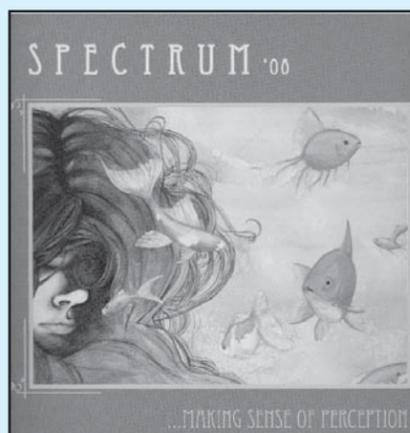
During the September 25, 2008 Monthly Planning Session/Special Meeting, the Board of Education approved a contract with Burton, Behrendt and Smith (BBS) to act as the architects for the community-approved \$22.7 million dollar bond project. Plans were developed and approved by the board, and were sent to the State Education Department on October 20, 2008. The district must wait for the state to act, which according to officials, may take as long as twenty-six weeks. Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2009.

Spectrum Wins Columbia Press Gold Medal



Spectrum, the high school's literary magazine, was awarded a gold medal by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in its 2008 competition. The publication received 938 of a possible 1,000 points for its overall rating. It was also awarded All-Columbian Honors for Design. In that category it received 333 out of 350 possible points.

Congratulations to advisor David Gershfeld, his entire editorial staff and to all student contributors.



Next Board of Education Meeting: November 13th, 8 pm at Bayview Elementary School

Letter to the Community from the Board of Education

As many of you may be aware, in a review of West Islip School District contracts, the Board of Education identified a situation which required immediate action. In 2002, the district entered into a contract with Meadowbrook Distributing Corporation, a Pepsi distributor, to provide exclusive pouring rights of Pepsi products in various vending machines located throughout the district for a period of ten years. In consideration for this right, Meadowbrook supplied the district with a new scoreboard for the football field, valued at \$10,000, and donated \$65,000 earmarked for gym equipment in our then new fitness center at the high school. The West Islip School District received the funds directly, as per the contract, and purchased equipment as prescribed.

While our initial research efforts encountered some early resistance, we eventually determined that the West Islip Coaches Association took responsibility for the vending operation and controlled all proceeds to fund their various activities. Insofar as the proceeds from the vending operation are district revenue, the district took control of the vending machines and will handle their administration and account for the revenues going forward. Our legal counsel, Thomas M. Volz, partner with the district's law firm Guercio and Guercio, LLP, has provided an opinion supporting this action.

The handling of vending operations by the Coaches Association appears to be the practice in place at least dating back to the term of a previous contract which was signed in 1998. It is our understanding that the Coaches Association was assigned the responsibility by certain administrators, in various forms of authority. We are continuing our investigation of this issue.

As indicated above, the vending operations and their proceeds are now under the control of the district. In addition, we have asked our internal auditor, Nawrocki Smith, LLP to conduct a forensic audit of the entire operation dating back to 1998 for the purpose of determining and verifying all the facts in this matter and to implement procedures to ensure that a similar breakdown in contract administration and financial controls does not occur again. These actions to date have the full support of your West Islip Board of Education.

When the audit is complete, we will inform the community of the findings.

BOE 2008-2009 Goals

On October 14th, the Board of Education approved the following goals:

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

GOALS: Implementation of capital improvements pursuant to the bond or alternative plans. Begin upgrades pursuant to the Energy Performance Contract. Improve communication down and up the chain of command to facilitate an improved management of resources. Select a new Director of Buildings and Grounds and use his input and recommendations to evaluate current practices.

FINANCE

GOALS: Expand the use of the Pay Schools on-line purchasing system to be used for all student fees. Research and analyze Point of Sale systems and develop a plan and time line for installation. Address any issues which may be raised by the state auditors. Review the legal and financial relationship between the Coaches Association and the school district. Review district contracts to assure compliance with all terms, and explore the feasibility of assigning "contract manager" responsibilities to a staff member.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

GOALS: Update the Code of Conduct, the Annual Professional Performance Review and Professional Development Plans. Create a panel of board members, administrators, parents and teachers to explore and recommend approaches to combat bullying. Develop a plan to modify AIS in an effort to build consistency among schools. Continue to implement modifications to the ELA and other elementary curricula, stressing best practices in literacy, differentiation, and integrated instruction. Submit all necessary applications to have the high school become an approved International Baccalaureate school and continue teacher training toward that end. Support and continue the district initiative to train staff in differentiated instruction.

TECHNOLOGY

GOALS: Continue to expand the capabilities and usage of Infinite Campus and the Emergency Calling System. Rollout wireless access and upgrade servers as budgeted. Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for technology services.

New Staff Joins West Islip School District



Dr. Magda Parvey has joined the district as the Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction. Parvey began her career teaching elementary education in New York City and later took a position as the Executive Director of the Children's Center at SUNY Brooklyn, where she instituted early childhood programs. Dr. Parvey continued her career in education, as Assistant Principal at Byram Hills Central School District in Armonk, New York, and as Principal at North Coleman Road Elementary School in Centereach, New York. Dr. Parvey graduated from Canisius College majoring in English and French, and received her Master of Science in Elementary Education, and Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and Technology from Adelphi University. She received her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Education and Policy from Fordham University. "My educational philosophy is grounded in the belief that learning should be student centered and engaging to all students. I have worked in elementary education my entire professional career. I am very passionate about quality education and I am very intrigued about a position in which my focus will be refining and shaping elementary curriculum," said Dr. Parvey.

Dr. Judith Toussaint has joined the district as the Director of World Languages. Toussaint began teaching language skills at Public School 117 in Jamaica, Queens. She continued her career in education as a foreign language teacher at East Hampton High School and Ross School in East Hampton, New York. Dr. Toussaint taught French and Spanish at the Frederick Douglass Academy VI High School in Far Rockaway, New York. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education at SUNY in Stony Brook, her Masters degree in TESOL at Adelphi University, and her Ph.D. in Education with a specialization in Teaching and Learning also at Adelphi University. "I believe that all students can learn, when given the appropriate learning tools, strategies, and a knowledgeable teacher. I also believe that quality teachers should be life-long learners, who see the necessity to constantly upgrade their skills," said Dr. Toussaint.



Sal Alaimo has been appointed as the new Assistant Principal at Udall Road Middle School. Mr. Alaimo has been in the district for eight years as a teacher and a coach. He began his undergraduate education at the State University of New York at Albany where he majored in History. After graduation he attended Hofstra University where he received a Masters Degree in Elementary Education. "I believe we learn in every facet of our lives whether it's in the classroom, on the fields or eating lunch with friends. I look forward to providing students with the opportunity to further their knowledge in a safe and healthy environment," said Mr. Alaimo.



Lisa Martinolich has joined the district as the new Assistant Principal at Beach Street Middle School. Ms. Martinolich began her teaching career at South River High School in Edgewater, Maryland as a health and sports teacher and assisted with administrative tasks. She continued her career at the Dwight-Englewood School in New Jersey as Dean of Students, and a Health and Physical Education Instructor. Ms. Martinolich is a graduate of Towson State University majoring in Health Science with additional focus on Secondary Health Education and Public Health. She received her Masters Degree in School Administration and Supervision from Johns Hopkins University. "I am very appreciative of the effort of those that have made me feel part of the West Islip school family. The staff at Beach Street Middle School has been terrific and I am thrilled to be joining them," said Ms. Martinolich.

Sarah Anker has joined the district as the Director of Public and Media Relations. Ms. Anker was formerly the Executive Assistant to Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Brian Foley and the Assistant to the town's Public Relations Director. Her professional experience includes graphic design, journalism, advertising and marketing. She has served on many community boards including the Mt. Sinai Civic Association, Mt. Sinai PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), and she is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for the Mt. Sinai School District. In addition to her professional experience, Ms. Anker has been an advocate for health and environmental issues. She is a member of Congressman Tim Bishop's Breast Cancer Advisory Board and Suffolk County's Cancer Awareness Task Force. Ms. Anker has received the Times Beacon Record's Person of the Year for the Environment Award and the New York State Senate Woman of Distinction Award. "I look forward to working with the staff, administration and the community of the West Islip School District. My experience as a PTO volunteer, children's health advocate and school board trustee will compliment my duties as the district's Public and Media Relations Director."



Nicole Schiano has recently been appointed District Clerk. Ms. Schiano started in the school district in 2006 assisting the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Louis Zocchia. Following her position as assistant, she pursued certification in court reporting. Her duties as West Islip's District Clerk include: attending and recording all monthly board meetings, coordinating the district-wide budget vote and maintaining records for the Board of Education. She has replaced former District Clerk Carolyn Cross who has retired. "I'm happy to be back in the district and I look forward to the upcoming year," said Ms. Schiano.

Welcome West Islip Elementary School Year 2008-2009



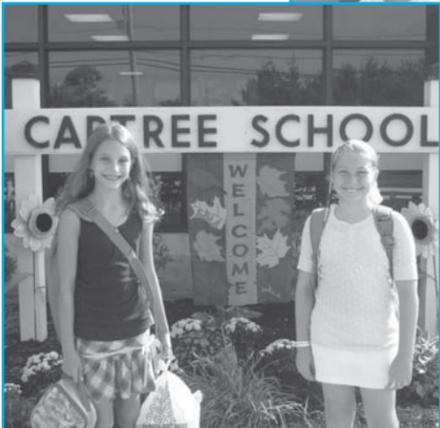
Pictured below Bayview Elementary Principal Rhonda Pratt and kindergartner Joey V. - all smiles on opening day of school.



Pictured above (l-r) Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Magda Parvey, Principal Dan Hunter, kindergarten teacher Kristen Fawess welcome students Lauren K., Thomas G. and Jake S. for the first day of school at Paul J. Bellew Elementary. School.



Pictured left Westbrook Elementary School teacher Jennifer Greenman and Principal Jack Maniscalco welcome kindergarten students Matthew E., Carly McC., Paisley N. and Jonathan T. on the first day of school.



Pictured above Ms. Lori Smith's 5th grade class prepares for the upcoming year at Manetuck Elementary School.

Pictured left Rebecca G. and Paige C. posed for a picture on the first day of school at Captree Elementary.



Oquenock Field Trip

Oquenock's 4th graders visited the Fire Island Lighthouse in October. Fifty-six students toured the lighthouse, took a nature walk and learned about the historic beacon.



West Islip Public Library Summer Reading Program

During the summer many West Islip elementary students participated in the library reading program. Pictured are Bayview's students proudly displaying their Certificates of Recognition (top row l-r) Hayley S., Josh P., John N., (bottom row l-r) Michael B., Ryan J. and Ashley A.



National Merit Commended Students

Seniors Daniel F., Sherilyn H. and Jacqueline M. were chosen as Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in its 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program.



Pictured (l-r) National Merit Commended students Jacqueline M., Sherilyn H. Daniel F. and Principal Ken Hartill.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2009 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

"The young people named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program are distinguished by their strong academic performance in this rigorous competition," commented a spokesperson for NMSC.

Students Named All-State in Music



Pictured All-State Music ensemble students (l-r back row) Douglas B., Cortlandt M., Matthew C. (l-r front row) Amanda H., Victoria A. and Amanda C..

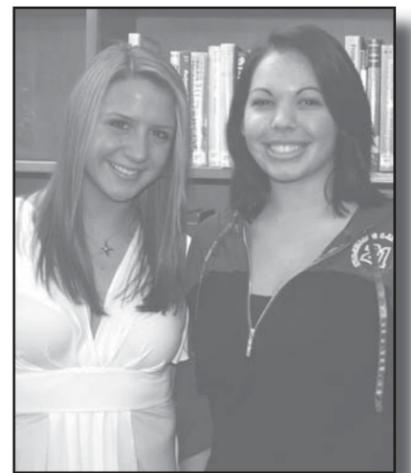
The New York State School Music Association recently named six West Islip High School students to its All-State ensembles out of the thousands who auditioned last spring. The New York State School Music Association (NYS-SMA) All-State

Conference will be held in Rochester on December 4-7, 2008. The students named are as follows: Mixed Chorus: Matthew C., Cortlandt M., Amanda C., Amanda H. (Alternate) Wind Ensemble: Douglas B., Matthew C. (Alternate), Victoria A.

Long Island Scholar Artists

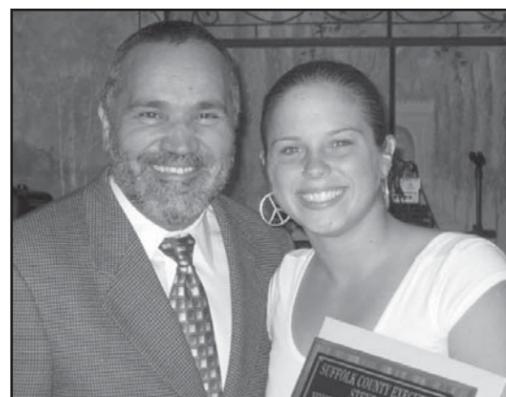
Seniors, Chelsea L. and Susan L. were named Long Island Scholar Artist Honorable Mentions for 2008-2009. Both young ladies challenge themselves with rigorous honors and advanced placement courses, while being members of a dance company and chorus and orchestra, respectively. They will be honored at a ceremony in the spring.

Chelsea and Susan have been members of the WIHSDC since its inception and have played integral roles in the growth of the company. Both dancers are also accomplished choreographers, showcasing their work in various places, including the WIHSDC Dance Concerts.



Long Island Scholar Artists Chelsea L. and Susan L.

Leslie B. Youth Achievement Award



On September 18th, senior Leslie B. was West Islip High School's Recipient of the Suffolk County Youth Achievement Award, presented by County Executive Steve Levy. Pictured left, Suffolk County Youth Bureau Director Louis Medina and award winner Leslie.

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New York Islanders Visit West Islip

On October 21st, New York Islanders Joey MacDonald and Thomas Pock visited Manetuck Elementary School to celebrate New York Islander Literacy Day, a program created to encourage young children to read. During their visit, the hockey stars read the book "Ice Magic" to the third, fourth and fifth grade classes. "Reading is so important in life. Everything you do in life includes reading. The better you can read, the better you do in life," said New York Islander Joey MacDonald.



Raising Awareness About Drinking and Driving

Amica Insurance presented West Islip High School with a check for \$500 to help promote a safe graduation season. This is the sixth consecutive year that Amica has joined forces with West Islip High School to create awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence. Pictured (l-r) Principal Ken Hartill, PTSA President Lisa Portantino, PTSA VP Barbara Seagraves, and Amica Insurance Representatives Marla Kluberanz and Nancy Richter.



Captree Elementary Students at Camp Quinipet

In September, fifty-one Captree students took a field trip to Shelter Island's Camp Quinipet to participate in the unique camp's "perceived risk obstacle" course. The main goal of the camp is to encourage self-esteem and promote working together as a team.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



On October 13th, the West Islip Girl's Varsity Volleyball team scored a 3-0 victory against Half Hollow Hills East, raising funds for Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a bake sale and 50/50 raffle.

BEACH STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL

Spirit Week

The week of September 22-26 and the evening of September 24th, Beach Street celebrated Spirit Week. With each themed day, students and teachers participated by dressing up. Themes included crazy hat day, favorite sports team day, tie dye day and Blue/Gold day. Spirit week was concluded with the Spirit Dance on Friday night.



Locks of Love

Once again, Beach Street will be taking an opportunity to help other children by participating in the Locks of Love program. Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to children under the age of eighteen who suffer from long-term medical hair loss, typically due to cancer and chemotherapy. The majority of all hair donated comes from children who wish to help other children. Throughout the year students will have their hair growth photographed and measured. In May, a date is set aside for all participating students to have their hair cut as a group, as a way of helping others.

Smencils at Beach Street Middle School

Mrs. Cossio's class has been selling Smencils, scented pencils made of 100% recycled newspaper, as part of their fundraising efforts to raise environmental awareness.

Attention Parents: Student Release Information

Under Title 45, US code, Part 99, The Right of Parents and Students, parents who do not desire release of student information to the public media must make that request in writing to District Publicist Sarah Anker. Mail your request to: West Islip Schools Administration, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795 or email to: s.anker@wi.k12.ny.us. Without notification, West Islip Schools will release and/or publish in the district newsletters, newspapers and other publications and on the website information relating to school achievements, programs, athletics, music and art events.

Bullying Awareness Task Force

One of the Board of Education's goals for 2008-2009 is to "create a panel of board members, administrators, parents and teachers to explore and recommend approaches to combat bullying."

If you would like to participate on the panel, to be chaired by Trustee Annmarie LaRosa, please complete this tear-off form and mail it to the Superintendent's office by November 14th.

Mail to: Superintendent Dr. Beth Virginia Blau, West Islip School District, 100 Sherman Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone number _____

College Scholarship Information

The college scholarship selection process has begun. Senior students will receive information in the mail regarding available scholarships. This information is also available on the district website.

Community Happenings

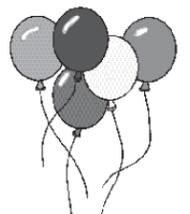
The next issue of The Lion's Pride Newsletter will feature a community section which will include articles from our local businesses, library, fire department, beautification club and other community based groups. Please email articles to: Director of Public and Media Relations Sarah Anker at s.anker@wi.k12.ny.us.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



Please join us for a
"Get Together"
 to welcome the district's new

**Director of Buildings and Grounds
 James Bosse**



on Tuesday, November 25th, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm,
 in the lobby of the Administration Building

We look forward to seeing you!

MRSA and Viral Meningitis Presentation

Presented by

Dr. Howard Balbi

Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Good Samaritan Hospital

Tuesday, November 18th 7:00 pm
 Udall Road Middle School Auditorium



Robotics Event Schedule:

- 11-6-08 Team 871 Kickoff & Raffle
- 11-8-08 Defensive Driving Course Fundraiser at High School
- 12-6-08 LEGO League mini competition
- 12-13-08 LEGO League mini competition
- 1-3-09 First Kick-off at Stony Brook

Boys' Alumni Soccer Game

The Billy Morris Memorial Game
 Saturday Nov. 29th, 10:30 am at the High School Soccer Field



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West Islip Schools Transportation Department Emergency Contacts

West Islip School Transportation Office - 574-3941
 School Security - 893-3347
 Suffolk Transportation - 665-3245 x4126

