



The **Lion's Pride**
Where Education Shines! of **West Islip Schools**



Official Publication of the West Islip School District

www.wi.k12.ny.us

February/March/April 2009

5K Fun Run: Making Strides in Celebrating Education and Community



Close to 800 residents participated in the West Islip School District Annual "Fun Run, Walk and Jogathon" on

Sunday, March 8th, which had its largest turnout to date. The event was sponsored by West Islip Drug Education (WIDE) and raised funds for the district's substance abuse educational programs.

Of the many participants who completed the 5K run, the first five participants to cross the finish line included students Patrick F. at 18:04; Nick M. at 18:41; Robert C. at 18:41; Mike S. at 19:08; and Ali F. at 19:56. Jim W. finished as the first adult at 20:29. Nick Grieco finished as first coach at 22:33. Udall's Chris M. finished as the first middle school student and his brother, Oquenock's Devin M., finished first for the elementary school division. Nancy Yost finished first teacher with her daughter Maggie (in her stroller). West Islip's Buildings and Grounds Director James



Board of Education member Sharon Biesel, Rich Hujik, Board of Education member Annmarie LaRosa, Chris Rummo, Kayla La., Maria R., Samantha R. and Joe R. participated in West Islip's 5K Fun Run on Sunday, March 8th.

Bosse came in at 27:23 for first district Administrator (with son in stroller). Linda Bergquist (Oquenock) clocked in at 28:23 finishing as first Special Education teacher. Bill Young was the first Security Guard to cross the finish line, and Annmarie LaRosa came in as first Board of Education participant.

Special thanks to: the custodial and grounds crew; volunteers including the district's PTAs, students (representing The National Honor Society, DECA, HS Student Senate, and the Earth and Outdoors Club), WITA, WIASA; and the entire West Islip community for making the run such a huge success.



The first five participants to cross the finish line at West Islip's 5K Fun Run were West Islip High School students (pictured l-r) Patrick F., Nick M., Rob C., Mike S. and Ali F..

To view more Fun Run Photos go to: www.wi.k12.ny.us

Anti-Bias Awareness Presentations

On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, Michael Zotto, former NYPD Detective and Advisor to the New York State Deputy Secretary of Public Safety, along with New York State Investigator Kim

August, presented an Anti-Bias Awareness Presentation to 7th and 8th grade students at Udall Road Middle School. On February 10th, they presented a similar program discussing many issues dealing with anti-bias and self-awareness to Beach Street Middle School students. Following the presentations, group discussions took place among students, teachers, counselors, administrators and the law enforcement officers.

"It's all about choices," said Officer Kim August. "You have the power to make the right choices. Surround yourself with good people

who can build your network of support."

"If you see someone being bullied, don't join in. Don't participate or encourage their behavior. Subtle messages can create big change.

"All you may need to do to stop someone from being bullied is to not react. Silence can be deafening."

-Officer Michael Zotto

Help that person being bullied and tell someone. If you think it's funny you are giving the bully power and encouraging their behavior. All you may need to do to stop someone from being bullied is to not react. Silence can be deafening," said Officer Michael Zotto.

"What I witnessed at today's assembly were young ladies and gentlemen who were focused and attentive, and concerned about the many sensitive topics discussed. It is my belief that inviting the law enforcement community

Continued on page 2

Community Summit

Tuesday, April 28th 7:30pm
at Beach Street Middle School Auditorium

The West Islip Summit Coalition will host its first Community Forum at the Beach Street Middle School Auditorium on Tuesday, April 28th, at 7:30 p.m. The Forum will provide information about the Summit, which is scheduled for later this year, while also allowing residents the opportunity to raise the issues that they feel are important to the future of West Islip.

The Summit Coalition, comprised of West Islip Board of Education trustees, school district officials, members of numerous community organizations and local business owners, has held several meetings to establish a mission statement, develop subcommittees, and outline the key issues and challenges facing West Islip.

During the Community Forum, local residents will not only have a chance to hear the goals of the Coalition and Summit, but they will also have an opportunity to meet with members of each subcommittee and get involved with the Coalition.

PAWS 2009 Dinner Gala



Pictured (clockwise from lower left): PAWS Secretary Katherine Fix, Gala Chairperson and PAWS Vice President Jamie Winkler, PAWS President Tom McAteer, Gala Honoree West Islip High School Principal Kenneth Hartill, PAWS Journal Chairperson Rachel Camillery, Dan Galasso (representing his late wife Honoree Cindy Galasso), PAWS Treasurer Mary Beth Jacaruso, Board of Education member Annmarie LaRosa and West Islip Superintendent Dr. Beth Virginia Blau.

PAWS (Partners Advancing West Islip Students) recently celebrated its Fourth Annual Dinner Gala on March 13th, at the Venetian Yacht Club located in Babylon Village. The honorees for the evening included West Islip Principal Ken Hartill, honored for his forty years of commitment and service to education, and Cindy Galasso, honored posthumously, for her outstanding contributions to the West Islip community.

In addition to the Gala dinner and dance, business-donated offerings were raffled to raise additional funds. Raffle donations were graciously received from POSH, Plessers, The Fitness Incentive, Drew Patrick Spa, IE Personal Training, and Suffolk Transportation Services.

Budget Public Hearing: May 12th, 7:30pm at Beach Street Middle School Auditorium

Bond Update

Bond construction will begin this summer with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2010. The majority of the work will be done during the summer months of 2009 and 2010. The following construction projects will begin this summer: replacing boilers in schools, construction of the artificial turf field and construction of new track, curbs and sidewalks. Masera Learning Center's major renovations will start this summer with additional work to be completed next summer.

College Fair

On March 26th, the West Islip High School Counseling Office sponsored a College Fair with over 100 colleges participating. In conjunction with the College Fair, College Awareness Day took place district-wide on March 26th to increase awareness of college choices among students at all levels within West Islip.



Bright Light Award

Udall Road Middle School Librarian Kathleen Chinkel is the recipient of the Suffolk Asset's 2009 Bright Light Award. Suffolk Asset is an association that strives to enhance teaching and learning in Suffolk County school districts through the use of computers and other educational technologies. Suffolk Asset promotes encouraging the integration of technology into the K-12 curriculum, ensuring that students are provided with the educational opportunities they need to prepare for the 21st century.

Mrs. Kennedy Receives Harvard Club Award

West Islip High School math teacher Melissa Kennedy has been named Distinguished Teacher of 2009 by the Harvard Club of Long Island, and was honored along with twelve Long Island teachers at the Harvard Club of Long Island University Relations Brunch in March. Mrs. Kennedy teaches AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC (by independent study), Pre-Calculus Honors, and the new Integrated Geometry course, and has taught for 33 years in the West Islip District. In 2007, she was named Suffolk County Math Teacher of the Year and she has been named to Who's Who in American Teaching. She also teaches AP Computer Science and coaches Mathletes, West Islip's competitive math team.



Anti-Bias Awareness Presentations

Continued from page 1

into our schools to speak with our students is a very effective means of providing them with real life issues facing society today and enabling them to express their thoughts about character building strategies," said program coordinator and West Islip Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Louis Zocchia.



Pictured above back row (l-r) Brandon W.r, Leanne S., Charlotte S. and Brianna P.; front row (l-r) Daria M., Madeline M., Morgan L., EJ S. and Dan D. participated in Udall Road Middle School's Anti-Bias Awareness Program.



Pictured above back row (l-r) West Islip Superintendent of Schools Dr. Beth Virginia Blau, West Islip Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Louis M. Zocchia Jr., Amy G. Nicole H., Chris H., Raymond S., Anthony R., Robert A., Sam I.; front row (l-r) Victoria I., Kelly S., Kaitlin K., Philip A., Kara D., Beach Street Principal Anne Shierant and Officer Michael Zotto participated in Beach Street Middle School's Anti-Bias Awareness Program.

Science Olympiad



On February 7th, West Islip's Science Team took home medals at the Science Olympiad which took place at Half Hollow Hills East High School. West Islip placed in six of the events, earning a 5th place medal in 'Forensics,' thanks to the efforts of Elena V. and Jennifer P. West Islip placed 8th out of 40 teams in Cell Biology, 10th out of 36 teams in Fossils, 12th out of 35 teams in Astronomy, 12th out of 37 teams in Chem Lab, and 14th out of 36 teams in Physics. Pictured above, (l-r) Jennifer P. and Elena V..

"Reflections" Winners

Students at Udall Road Middle School were awarded merit for their artistic accomplishments in the National PTA Reflections Program, which encourages students in grades K-12 to express their thoughts and feelings through the creative arts. The theme of this year's competition was "Wow!" Pictured (l-r) are award recipients Kaitlin M. for Visual Arts, Lilyan G. for Photography, Kathryn G. for Photography (which has been submitted for state judging), Eric B. for Literature, and Udall Principal Bernadette Burns. (Not pictured, Samantha L. for Visual Arts.)



Foreign Language Week

During the first week in March the district celebrated Foreign Language Week. Activities included cultural discussions, sampling of foods and learning about the lifestyles of other cultures. "Foreign Language Week was a true manifestation of linguistic and cultural celebration," said Director of World Languages Dr. Judith Toussaint.

Pictured right, students sample foreign foods during Foreign Language Week.



Students Attend Inauguration



On January 20th, four West Islip High School students attended the historic 2009 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. "This was such a wonderful opportunity for these young people to see firsthand the transition of power from one president to the next. This was a learning experience that they will remember for a lifetime. We are very proud of them," said West Islip High School Principal Ken Hartill.

Pictured (l-r) Jessica H., Jacqueline M., Natalia R. and Eric H..

Coin Drive for Compassion

The Character Education Committee at Bayview Elementary School celebrates a new character trait every month. March's trait was compassion, and during the month Bayview students and staff showed how much they care about others by participating in the Island Harvest Coin Drive.

Pictured (l-r) 2nd grade teacher Katherine Passamenti, Island Harvest representative Elisa Weick and students Taylor H., Jamie M. and Tommy L..



Chinese New Year at Oquenock Elementary

Mr. David Haas' third grade class at Oquenock Elementary School celebrated the Chinese New Year by welcoming the Year of the Ox on January 30th. Mr. Haas has celebrated the arrival of the Lunar New Year for the past eighteen years, and believes it is important to share and explore other cultures.



Pictured above (l-r) Mr. David Haas, Grace D. and her parents, Jill and John celebrate the Chinese New Year at Oquenock Elementary School.

West Islip's Athletic Hall of Fame

On May 16th, West Islip will induct this year's former athletic achievers into the West Islip Hall of Fame at Captain Bill's Restaurant in Bay Shore. "This is one of the most prestigious honors our athletes can receive. I want to thank the Hall of Fame Committee for their diligent work on this 6th induction ceremony," said Wayne Shierant, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation.

Hall of Fame recipients include: Lauren Afflixio, 1999; Beth Arikian, 1999; Brooke Birmingham-Da Silva, 1998; Amanda Buonora-Jung, 1989; Rob Boily, 1999; Harold Cannon, 1959; Sal Cintonino, 1982; Robert DeSano, 1961; Ken Ferry, 1966; John Flandina, 1998; Kevin Henry, 1986; Phyllis Kroll, 1962; Thomas Latronica Jr., 1974; Dr. Eraina McDonald, 1998; Ken Muller, 1970; Guy Pelling, 1974; Marty Rolnick, 1974; Ray Serva, 1967; Bill Small, 1999;

Cheerleading Champs

On January 31st, the West Islip High School Cheerleading team placed fifth in the Long Island Cheerleading Coaches Association Finals (LICCA) held at Suffolk County Community College.

Pictured front row (l-r) Carlie S., Captain Kristin D., Captain Sheila P., Annie L. and Jill S.; middle row (l-r) Elizabeth B. Emily S., Captain Julie W., Brianna R., Caitlin K., and Megan H.; back row (l-r) Coach Megan Ross, Maggie B. Lauren D. Lauren B., Coach Ariana Breitfeller, Victoria G. and Christen M.. Not pictured, alternates Sarah N. and Nicole H..



West Islip's DECA Competes

From March 3rd through March 6th, West Islip High School Distributive Education Club (DECA) students attended the 49th Annual New York State DECA Career Conference at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, New York.

Students competing in State events included: Timothy B., Marketing Mathematics; Jessica F., Marketing Mathematics; Jaimie D., Public Speaking Prepared; Amanda K. and Nora M., Travel and Tourism Management Team Decision Making; Ellen T., Sales Demonstration. Kevin K., Free Enterprise Economics and Heather R., Public Speaking Extemporaneous placed in the "top ten" finalists for their competitive event.

On January 7th, West Islip's DECA students participated in the Suffolk County Regional Competition held at Suffolk Community College in Selden. The students were accompanied by Chapter Advisor Diana Saadat and chaperones Joanne Hilbert and Christina Loggia. The competition involved over 1600 students from high schools throughout Suffolk County.

Students competing in County events included: Timothy B., Steve C., Robert C., Paul S., Liam B., Cameron E., Steven T., Bill H., Lauren J., Nora M., Kristen P., Jessica Z., Kelly V., and Christie R..

DECA members learn and develop important values such as civic consciousness, social intelligence, leadership development, and vocational understanding, which are instituted throughout the competition.

Students who were awarded Honorable Mention in their competitive events include Mike T., Accounting Applications; Heather R., Public Speaking – Extemporaneous.

Special Surprise Guest at Paul J. Bellew



Pictured clockwise (l-r) West Islip Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Joseph Stern (far left), Mrs. Janet Renganeschi and her fourth grade class, Stephanie N. (center dark jacket), Sergeant Ost's daughters Danielle and Kacie, Staff Sergeant George Ost (back right), Sergeant Ost's parents Barbara and George Ost, News12 Reporter Ken Grimball, News12 Cameraman Greg Corso and Stephanie's mother Kellie Neglia attended the surprise guest presentation at Paul J. Bellew Elementary School.

In February, Stephanie N. was nominated Student of the Week in Mrs. Janet Renganeschi's fourth grade class at Paul J. Bellew Elementary School. The nomination allowed her to invite a special guest to speak to the class. As a surprise to Stephanie, Stephanie's mother, Kellie, invited Stephanie's uncle, Staff Sergeant George Ost, who is back from Iraq for a brief stay, to attend as the special "surprise" guest. On February 23rd, Mrs. Renganeschi's fourth grade class, as well as a News12 reporter and cameraman, enjoyed a question and answer session with Staff Sergeant Ost, who is in the United States Army's Helicopter Unit in the 42nd Division.



Basketball Officials' Sportsmanship Award

West Islip's Varsity Boys' Basketball Team has been awarded the 2008-2009 Suffolk County Basketball Officials' Sportsmanship Award. The Suffolk County Officials' Association honored the team at their annual awards dinner on March 24th at the Watermill Inn. Pictured above (l-r) High School Principal Ken Hartill; Team Captains Joseph W., William K. and Nicholas G.; Basketball Coach Tom C. and Administrative Athletic Assistant Tim Horan.



Swimming Award

West Islip's Boys' Swim Team was recognized by the Long Island Swimming Officials' Association for demonstrating the top Sportsmanship in Suffolk County. Pictured above (l-r) Coach Robert Kollar, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation Wayne Shierant, Thomas V. Giancarlo C., Matthew R., Kamil S. and Coach Kristi Lee Schubert.

Girls' Winter Track Finishes First

West Islip High School's Girls' Winter Track Team was crowned League II champions in January. Senior Katie F. finished first in the 55 meter dash and sophomore Ali F. finished first in the 3000 meter run. Three school records were also set by Katie F. (7.69/ 55m dash), Krystyna O. (3:07.27/ 1000m run) and the team of Kate B., Stephanie S., Megan C. and Katie F. in the 4 x 200 meter relay (1:51.5). Congratulations to Most Valuable Athlete Katie F. and the entire team on a great season.

Lady Lion's Varsity Soccer 3rd in County

Congratulations to Lady Lion's Varsity Soccer for reaching the county title games, ranking 3rd in Suffolk County and 15th in New York State. "This year's team was so successful because everyone on the team contributed and their determination and athleticism allowed them to defeat the opposing teams," said Coach James Albert.

Honorees at the county dinner included: Katie F. for All Conference; Mikala W., Lexi P. and Paige E. for All League; Kasey E. and Jackie M. for All County; Jackie M. and Rebecca G. for All County Academic; and Jackie M. who received the Coaches' Association \$500 Scholarship.

Winter Sports Accomplishments

Wayne Shierant, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Recreation for the West Islip School District proudly announces the following students have received post season recognition for their participation in the Winter sports program:

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL: Coach Tom Cross - All League: Nick G. and Billy K.; All Conference: Nick G. and Billy K..

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL: Coach Chris Scharf - All League: Lindsay A.; All County Academic: Jackie M. and Olivia Z.; Team Award: New York State Scholar/Athlete Team.

VARSITY WRESTLING: Coach Nick LaGiglia - All League: Steve C. first place; Dan M. second place; Steve W. third place; Andrew N., Mitch P., and Greg F. fourth place. All County: Steven C. sixth place. Team Award: New York State Scholar/Athlete Team.

GIRLS VARSITY WINTER TRACK: Coach Chris Kaigh - All League: Ali F., Katie F.. School Records: Katie F.- 55m broke record twice; Krystyna O. - 1000m broke record twice; Kate B., Stephanie S., Megan C. and Katie F. - 4 x 200 relay. Team Award: New York State Scholar/Athlete Team.

BOYS VARSITY WINTER TRACK: Coach Nick Grieco - All County: David K. and Jeff G.; Large School County Champion 55 hurdles - David K. All County: Nick M. - Pole Vault. School Records: Chris P.- 800m; David K. - 55 Hurdles; Chris P. - Triple Jump; Joe M., David K., Jason B. and Steve D. - 4 x 200 relay; Joe M., Jason B., Steve D. and Chris P. - Sprint Medley.

GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING: Coach Tom Loudon - All League: Kerri F..

BOYS VARSITY BOWLING: Coach Paul Vecchione - MVP: Chris C..

BOYS VARSITY SWIMMING and DIVING: Coach Bob Kollar - All League: Rafal B., Giancarlo C., Collin M., James M., Thomas M., Matthew R., Kamil S., Thomas V., Derek W. and Kyle W.. Team Award: New York State Scholar/Athlete Team.

West Islip School District
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Community Summit Meeting: Tuesday April 28th, 7:30pm at Beach Street Middle School

Captree's Wellness Fair

Captree Elementary School held its 9th Annual Wellness Fair, sponsored by Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, on February 24th. Additional participants in the fair included orthodontist Dr. Tichler, All 4 Sports Gym, Sherry's Health Food Store, the West Islip Fire Department and Captree PTA. The goal of the fair is to foster good health habits in students, and to encourage students to make "healthy choices!"



Pictured (l-r) front row Jonathan Colascione, Luke A., Jillian C. and Adriane C.; back row Captree PTA President Naz Afzal, Captree School Nurse Trish Reimer, Good Samaritan Hospital Chief Administrative Officer Charles Bove, Good Samaritan Hospital Community Health Coordinator Briana Tutino and Good Samaritan Hospital Community Health Assistant Christine Martin participated in Captree Elementary's 9th Annual Wellness Fair.

Town of Islip Anti-Bias Committee

In March, Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan invited West Islip students to participate in the Town of Islip Anti-Bias Task Force Ambassador's Summit.



Local schools participated in discussions on ways students can bring anti-bias programs to their schools. Pictured above: Anti-Bias Task Force Chairperson Rabbi Steven Moss, Town Supervisor Phil Nolan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Louis Zocchia and West Islip students.

Community Reader's Day at Oquenock



Oquenock Elementary celebrated their Community Reader's Day on March 12th. Community members were invited to attend an assembly and then were assigned to classes to share their favorite book with students. During the assembly, students from Mrs. Cirasole's music class performed. Oquenock's PTA hosted refreshments for the event. Pictured above, Community Reader's Day participants including administrators, Board of Education members, students, family and friends.

Manetuck Fundraising Activities for Breast Cancer

Mrs. Laprarie's class raised money through bake sales and popcorn pops, to help find a cure for breast cancer. In doing so, the class learned how to market their products. They created banners, made announcements and sold their products. They raised \$1,115, breaking their previous goal of \$1,000.

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.

Be Aware of Graduation Date Change

The date of Graduation is Saturday, June 27th at 9am and not Friday June 26th at 7pm as listed on the calendar

You are cordially invited to attend the
**Dedication of the Paul E. Kirdahy
Elementary School at Captree**
on Tuesday, May 12th at 4:15pm

The dedication ceremony will be followed by a Cocktail Reception at Captain Bill's in Bay Shore from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Tickets are \$50pp. Please RSVP at 631-504-5620 by May 1st to purchase tickets to the reception. All proceeds will go to the Paul E. Kirdahy Memorial Fund.

Join Us to
Celebrate Education

on Tuesday, May 19th at West Islip High School
from 4:30pm-8:00pm

Over 30 exhibits will be on view for the community. Technology, Music and Art showcases will be on display and special presentations will take place throughout the evening. Refreshments will be provided by our PTAs.

Elizabeth McNamee Memorial 5K Run

Sunday, May 10th

Starting time is 9:00am for the 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk
and 9:30am for the 5K Run

Starting location: West Islip High School

West Islip Chamber Breakfast

In January, members from the West Islip School District attended the West Islip Chamber of Commerce 2009 Inauguration Breakfast held at Villa Monaco Restaurant with keynote speaker Congressman Peter King.



Pictured (l-r) Chamber of Commerce President Joseph DiPalma, School Board President George Smith, School Board member Annmarie LaRosa, Congressman Peter King, School Board Vice President Steven Gellar, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Beth Virginia Blau, Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President Raymond Rendina and Vice President of Programs Nancy Donohue.

PTA Founder's Day

West Islip Schools celebrated the anniversary of the founding of PTA in New York State, the largest and oldest volunteer organization working exclusively on behalf of children. Among the purposes of the PTA is to foster a closer relationship between home and district so that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of students. This month, the West Islip School District marked their PTA anniversary with a celebration at the High School, which was attended by over 200 guests, and presented a number of dedicated workers with the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.

National Geography Bee

Congratulations to W.I.S.E. Geography Bee District Champions, who participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee, sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The first place winner was James K. (grade 5) from Westbrook Elementary. The Second Place winner was Matthew M. (grade 5) from Bayview Elementary. The Third Place winner was Anthony R. (grade 5) from Paul J. Bellew Elementary.