

SUPPORTING *Our Community*

At North Babylon, we are dedicated to providing our children with every opportunity to better themselves, and every day they continue to grasp each one wholeheartedly. We are constantly in awe at how our students strive to reach their greatest potential both in and out of the classroom. Since March, we have seen our

students exude tremendous resiliency and compassion for their fellow classmates, our faculty and staff, as well as our community. Each and every one of our students will undoubtedly make a huge impact on our world in the future. All of us at North Babylon Schools couldn't be more proud!

The Bulldog Cupboard *Responds to the Pandemic*

Since March, the district's food pantry, the Bulldog Cupboard, has grown exponentially in response to the pandemic, thanks to the commitment of our volunteers, donors and community partners. On average, the district has provided between 1,200 to 2,000 grab-and-go meals to over 500 families per day – an increase from 20-30 meals to 100 families per day before the pandemic.

Through our partnership with Island Harvest, we have been able to provide fresh produce and healthy meals to families in need within our community. In addition, many local community groups regularly

donated to our effort.

Simultaneously, from March 17-Aug. 30, our cafeteria staff prepared, packaged and distributed more than 175,000 meals as part of the New York State Summer Lunch program, funded through the United States Department of Agriculture.

The North Babylon community also benefited from a frozen turkey drive, organized by high school English teacher Joellen Mish. Thanks to our schools' collective efforts, more than 100 frozen turkeys were donated to the Bulldog Cupboard and distributed to families in need for Thanksgiving. Over 160 full



Thanksgiving meals were distributed. The pantry is open every Tuesday and Thursday night from 6-7:30 p.m. at the North Babylon High School.

New Outfits for the New School Year

In gearing up for the new school year, North Babylon High School English teacher Joellen Mish raised nearly \$1,600, with the community's help, to purchase new school clothes for some of our district's students in need. Community members also shopped for clothes on their own, inspiring individuals from across Long Island and from as far away



as New Jersey to do the same. Kind Friends Corp., a Long Island-based charity, also heard about the drive and donated 48 brand-new, large-sized backpacks and more than two dozen outfits, including socks, from the GAP. Eligible parents were contacted via email to obtain preferences for their child's new apparel based on sizes, favorite colors and styles. Outfits, consisting of one bottom, one top, a pair of socks, a jacket and backpack, were distributed to 68 students in our district over several days before school began. Leftover clothing and backpacks were donated to the Bulldog Cupboard to distribute as needed to families throughout the year.

Caring Closets Serve Our Students

Our community partnership with Staples has allowed us to open Caring Closets at each of our elementary schools and Robert Moses Middle School. Thanks to the company's donation of more than 300 bags of school supplies, our students now have access to pens, notebooks, binders and other items as needed throughout the day. The closets are also stocked with backpacks, on-the-go snacks and winter apparel, including hats, gloves, socks and scarves, for children in need.



North Babylon Public Schools

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LENDING A Helping Hand



Feeding Families and Supporting Local Businesses

In the spring, just a few weeks after the pandemic shut down local businesses, our athletics department recognized the importance of giving back to their community. The North Babylon High School baseball and girls soccer teams raised over \$1,500, which was used to purchase gift cards from local restaurants, supporting the community and local businesses. The softball and wrestling teams followed suit, raising more than \$800 and \$300, respectively. A number of North Babylon coaches also volunteered their time to help package, prepare and distribute meals to North Babylon families in need.



Additionally, in the spirit of the holidays, students wrote letters to Santa for Macy's Make-A-Wish donation program in December, helping to raise over \$2 million to help children across the country overcome critical illnesses.

important lessons that they learned with their classmates. In recognition of their efforts, the students were gifted a certificate of appreciation from the United Nations Foundation.



Stocking the Bulldog Cupboard

Our school community came together on Nov. 21 to collect nonperishable food items, health and hygiene products, as well as new hats, scarves and gloves, for families in need. The food and clothing drive, sponsored by the district's athletic department, has helped support the Bulldog Cupboard food pantry and our North Babylon community.

"It was wonderful to see so much support by the community for the community," Athletic Director Jason Friesen said.

Fifth Graders Raise Funds to Fight Malaria

In honor of International Human Rights Day, students in Staci Manning's virtual fifth grade class at Parliament Place recently raised \$1,132 to help children around the world. The funds were donated to the United Nations Foundation to purchase mosquito nets to help prevent the spread of malaria.



The campaign, Nothing But Nets, is the world's largest grassroots campaign, bringing together UN partners, advocates and organizations to raise awareness, funds and voices to protect vulnerable families from malaria.

Ms. Manning's students were inspired by the book, "Our Rights: How Kids Are Changing the World," by Janet Wilson, which taught them how small actions can make a big difference. To conclude their unit on "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the students created human rights T-shirts and shared the



Making a Difference With Make-A-Wish

North Babylon High School's Students for a Better World club hosted a sock drive in November and December during which they collected over 700 pairs of socks to donate to homeless shelters across Long Island. Members also recently sent more than 800 personalized holiday cards to eight different Long Island senior centers.

What's Next?
Our goal is to expand our resources and pantries to open a brick-and-mortar thrift store to benefit our community. The location would allow our students to learn important life skills, as well as offer job opportunities in the near future.