



The West Hempstead Educator

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Summer 2014



HAPPY GRADUATION! Graduation is both a solemn and a joyous event, and the honored students throughout West Hempstead – like these kindergarteners – thought about the future, then celebrated.

Committee to Present Capital Project Recommendations

While May and June were filled with end-of-year learning and events, important tests, milestones and celebrations for students and staff, West Hempstead’s Building Better Schools Committee (BBSC) was closely studying the condition of the buildings and grounds where it all happens.

The BBSC, a volunteer advisory committee to the Board of Education, has taken on the job of looking at needed – and wanted -- repairs and improvements to all of the District’s facilities. By September, the committee is expected to present its recommended A-list of capital projects to the Board, that includes educational, structural and safety work that can be completed in a manner affordable to the West Hempstead community. Ultimately, the Board of Education will present a list of bond-funded projects for voter approval in January 2015.

The BBSC, comprised of stakeholders from the schools and community, toured all of the District’s facilities and conferred at meetings held through the spring and into the summer. They were advised on costs and tax impacts of the projects under consideration, and about state and federal mandates – many related to the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) -- that would affect their work. They studied the District’s buildings and grounds with eyes toward currently needed projects that would improve safety, security and learning, and projects related to replacement of outdated, high-cost, high-maintenance systems that could become necessary in the near future.

Projects likely to appear on the list include roofing and masonry, safety and security upgrades, some boiler and burner replacements, and updates to computer and science laboratories. Not all of the costs would be supported by property taxes: the District’s own EXCEL funding will kick in, state and federal grants and aid will also be applied to funding. For more information about the BBSC and meetings related to this work going forward, visit www.whufsd.com regularly.



Dear Community Members:

I trust your summer has been a good one thus far and that you are enjoying some well deserved “down time” with family and friends. May the remaining weeks continue to be safe and healthy ones for all.

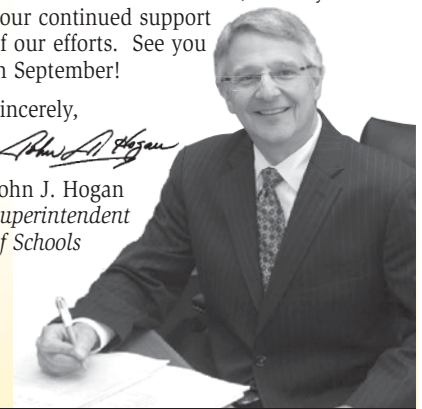
This summer edition of The Educator includes the following:

- A listing of our 2014 graduates and their plans for September.
- Information on our new administrators at District level, with Richard Cunningham becoming Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and John O’Keefe assuming the duties of Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations.
- Information on our Valedictorian and Salutatorian for 2014.
- Some background information pertaining to our Building Better Schools Committee, which has been charged by the Board of Education with investigating a possible bond proposal for the school District.

I trust you will find this information useful and resolve to partake in one or more of the school District’s many athletic competitions, cultural events or public meetings. You are most welcome! On behalf of the Board of Education and all of us in the school District, thank you for your continued support of our efforts. See you in September!

Sincerely,

John J. Hogan
Superintendent
of Schools



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Cunningham Named Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

West Hempstead's Deputy Superintendent Richard Cunningham, who has managed the school District's finances for almost a decade, was named Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction by Superintendent John Hogan.

Cunningham has taken on a growing academic leadership role in West Hempstead, especially in collecting and using student data to closely personalize instruction for academic success. In 2010, he served for several crucial months as WH Acting Superintendent after a fire damaged George Washington School.

"I'm delighted to appoint Rich to this important administrative post," said Superintendent Hogan. "His tireless dedication to West Hempstead, his expert educational insights, and his energetic and innovative leadership style are just some of the qualities that make Rich a great match for this job."

As Assistant Superintendent for Business and then Deputy Superintendent, Cunningham worked to put West Hempstead on sound financial footing -- despite funding cutbacks and a long period of recession. At the same time, he created new opportunities for staff and community participation in budget creation and continues to be a leader in West Hempstead's strategic planning process. He also led the development and



Richard Cunningham

implementation of the Academic Achievement initiative over the past few years, and managed District capital projects including the new library and a money-saving energy performance contract.

Cunningham began his education career as a science teacher in Hicksville, and after six years became a department chair in North Babylon. He joined the Kings Park District and moved up the administrative ranks to the finance office there before coming to West Hempstead in 2005. Cunningham earned his bachelor's degree from SUNY Albany, and holds two master's degrees from SUNY Stony Brook and Columbia University. He became a fellow of the New York State Leadership for Educational Achievement Foundation.

Cunningham has been a regional leader among Nassau County School Districts in the area of creating fiscal savings through shared services among school Districts. He was president of the business officials association and served with the State Government Relations Committee.

Of his new position, Cunningham says, "I'm looking forward to closely assisting the Superintendent as we continue the work of helping our children learn and grow, and build ever-stronger bonds with our community."

WH Moody's Rating Jumps Ahead Two Spots

Due to what Moody's Investors Service termed "improved and stable financial operations" and "conservative budgeting practices," the financial assessment firm has elevated the West Hempstead School District's bond rating from A2 to Aa3, a two point jump and a potential money-saver for the schools.

Moody's projected that the District's financial position would

remain healthy and strong "given management's conservative budgeting practices and commitment to healthy reserve levels." The service noted positively that West Hempstead has generated three years of operating surpluses due largely to astute transportation savings strategies. Moody's also cited the District's above-average demographics and strong public support demonstrated in recent budget votes.

New Business Official Brings Wide Experience to Post

John J. O'Keefe, a business official/comptroller who has held positions in both public schools and private industry, has been appointed West Hempstead's Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations.

O'Keefe comes to the District from the Sag Harbor Schools, where he was the Business Official, overseeing finances, budgeting, non-instructional staff, operations and maintenance, purchasing and transportation. While in Sag Harbor, O'Keefe was the 2013 recipient of the School District Business Leader Award from the State Association of Business Officials. Prior to his service in Sag Harbor, he was Director of Business Operations for the Cleary School for the Deaf, where he gained expertise in government relations, grant administration and cost-cutting. He was also financial controller for Mercy Home for Children, introducing administrative technology to improve operations.

Earlier in his career, he worked as a manager/director for several automotive companies, including Porsche, Jaguar, Audi



John J. O'Keefe

and VW, and he earned Jaguar's first ever Marque of Distinction Award as the top service professional in the nation.

"Our District is fortunate to have identified and engaged a business official whose philosophy meshes so well with our own," said Superintendent John Hogan. "In addition to being a skilled finance expert, Mr. O'Keefe operates from a perspective of clear mission and values, a good match for West Hempstead, where community involvement and shared vision have been so important."

Mr. O'Keefe holds a bachelor's degree in organizational management from St. Joseph's College, where he was valedictorian of his class and also earned his MBA; today he serves as an adjunct professor there. He received a second master's degree, in educational leadership, from C.W. Post. Interestingly, he maintained a perfect 4.0 average throughout his years of study! Mr. O'Keefe has certifications as a school business leader, and in advanced governmental accounting.

All Schools Celebrate "Moving Up" Milestones

The happy celebrations rang out all over West Hempstead, from the kindergarten center, to the elementary schools, to the middle school and high school, as students of all ages moved up and on to their next exciting educational adventure. They did so confidently, prepared and familiar with the different schools and academic expectations they would be experiencing come fall. Families gathered to recognize and applaud these rites of passage, and building staff and administrators smiled proudly and said farewell to the classes of 2014.



Chestnut Street School kindergarten graduation is the first milestone, and children have already visited their first grade classrooms.



Cornwell Avenue students are proud of their school, and proud to be moving on to the middle school.



Saying goodbye to George Washington School isn't easy, but students are ready to make the leap to the middle school.



Middle School graduates will enter the final four years of their West Hempstead academic journey in September, but in June they were celebrating all they had accomplished.



The graduates of the WHHS Class of 2014 are moving up to academic life at colleges and universities all over the country. Congratulations!

West Hempstead Applauds the Gre

Name	College/Military/Employment	Name	College/Military/Employment	Name	College/Military/Employment
Blessy Abraham.....	Nassau Community College	Joseph Cupolo.....	L.I.U. Post	Ashley LaMagna.....	Nassau Commu
Bryan Acevedo	City College of New York	Cydnee Davis	Monroe College	Karla Lara	Nassau Commu
Michele Addonizio.....	New York Institute of Technology	Darren Davy.....	L.I.U. Post	Justin Leal.....	Nassau Commu
Matteo Agudelo	Nassau Community College	John DeCurtis.....	Employment	Brian Lee	University of R
Tiffany Ally	Adelphi University	Robert DeMartino	Nassau Community College	Rosibel Lemus-Sagastume ..	Nassau Commu
Aileen Alvarado.....	Nassau Community College	Bryan Devito	Nassau Community College	Julio Leonardo.....	Military
Jessica Amiel.....	Nassau Community College	Amanda Dias.....	Stony Brook University	Mahely Licon.....	Nassau Commu
Isheoka Andre	Community College in Florida	Rachel Dickter	Queens College	Tommy Lin.....	University at A
Parsa Ashrafi	Stony Brook University	Vincent DiGiovanni.....	Nassau Community College	Cristina Liriano-Cepin	University of C
Kaitlin Augustine	Nassau Community College	Ryan Dinger	Nassau Community College	Stephanie Lombardo	Nassau Commu
Siddeeq Bacchus.....	Stony Brook University	Sandy Discua.....	Nassau Community College	Kara Lynch.....	Fairleigh Dickin
Alexandru Balan	Nassau Community College	Megan Donegan.....	Nassau Community College	Ariel Magana.....	Military
David Balogh.....	Army National Guard	Naomi Douglas.....	City College of New York	Ashley Magaraci	Florida Atlanti
Savannah Barnes	Nassau Community College	Rebecca Dunne.....	Marymount Manhattan College	Jennifer Maldonado	Adelphi Univer
Michael Barnett	Nassau Community College	Kristi Elefante.....	University of Scranton	Reina Maldonado.....	Dowling Colleg
Thomas Barone	Nassau Community College	Emely Estevez	Nassau Community College	Cameron Malloy	Nassau Commu
Hardvis Batista	Molloy College	Kathleen Feeley	Queens College	Robert Manuella	SUNY Oneonta
Andrew Benitez.....	Military	Benjamin Fernandez	Macaulay Honors College	Brandon Marquez.....	Five Towns Col
Oliver Benjoseph	New York University	Stacy Figueroa	Fashion Institute of Technology	Daniel Masliansky	SUNY Farming
Jacob Berkowitz	Washington & Lee University	Daniel Finegold	Binghamton University	Joseph Masset	Purdue Univers
Sabrina Bisono	The Art Institute of Philadelphia	Jamilex Flores.....	SUNY Buffalo State	Brandon May.....	Nassau Commu
Christine Blount	SUNY Canton	Cheyenne Fogg	University of Maryland	Dale McCabe	Nassau Commu
Nancy Bonilla.....	L.I.U. Post	Taylor Freiermuth	Nassau Community College	Dean McCabe	Employment
Nina Boria.....	Nova Southeastern University	Christopher Gabayan	St. John's University	Enrique McFarlane.....	Trinity Pawling
Binyamin Brun-Kestler	Nassau Community College	Ahjah Gage	Pace University	Lauren McMullen	Northern Illino
Nicholas Bruno.....	Nassau Community College	Samuel Gallo	Nassau Community College	Tess Meggett.....	St. John's Univ
George Bucceri	St. John's University	Katherine Galvez	Suffolk Community College	Jason Mero.....	Nassau Commu
Xavier Cameron.....	Adrian College	Yeritssy Garcia.....	University of California at Riverside	Michael Messiha.....	State University
Abigail Campbell.....	Nassau Community College	Bruce Gibbs.....	Jireh Academy	Anthony Messina.....	SUNY Farming
Yoldalyn Canela Vargas	Nassau Community College	Eric Gobindranauth.....	New York Institute of Technology	Kenneth Metz.....	Nassau Commu
Aliyah Canton	Towson University	Regina Gonzalez.....	University of Tampa	Yingyi Mo	University at A
Alicia Carelus	York College of PA	Aidan Grace	University of Dayton	Carolina Molina.....	Mount Saint M
AnneMarie Carlson.....	Nassau Community College	Angela Graci.....	Nassau Community College	Michael Mongelluzzo.....	Technical Scho
Thomas Castagna	Molloy College	Melissa Gross	Military	Justin Montalvo.....	Nassau Commu
Angel Castillo	Nassau Community College	Maria Gualavisi	Military	Mark Morel	Nassau Commu
Stephanie Cativo.....	Nassau Community College	Jessica Gutierrez.....	Adelphi University	Michael Mosca	University at A
Jhoel Centeno.....	St. Francis College	Wendy Hernandez	Nassau Community College	Terrence Moses.....	Military
Jini Chacko	University of the Sciences	Yuyan Huang.....	Stony Brook University	Sam Moskowitz	Yeshiva Univer
Jennifer Chaparro	Nassau Community College	Baltimore Iraheta	Nassau Community College	Gerard Napolitano	Queensborough
Woodie Cheu.....	Nassau Community College	Angelique Jabouin.....	City University of New York	Nicholas Narine.....	St. John's Univ
Jacqueline Christenson	Molloy College	Sarah Jaffer	Adelphi University	Shawianna Newman	Community Co
Nicole Christenson.....	Molloy College	Christian Jean-Louis	Becker College	Lee-Mary Njoku.....	University at B
Maria Christodoulou	Culinary Institute of America	Rasheen Johnson.....	Nassau Community College	Stephen Nurnberger.....	Nassau Commu
Danielle Cibrano.....	SUNY Buffalo State	Jace Jones	Nassau Community College	Meg O'Brien	SUNY Oswego
Morgan Cinnamo.....	Binghamton University	Alex Joy	Seton Hall University	Miriam Ortega	Fashion Institut
Joiyeux Clark.....	SUNY Delhi	Matthew Kallicharran.....	Hofstra University	Kyle Outmazgine	University at A
Kelvonte Colclough.....	Co-op Technical School	Katerina Kaporalis	Nassau Community College	Damian Ovalles	University at A
Colleen Corcoran	Nassau Community College	Ashley Keon.....	Molloy College	Leorichard Pascua.....	St. John's Univ
Roseann Cox	West Virginia University	Cristal Kharoufa.....	Nassau Community College	Misean Peart	St. Leo Univers
Richard Craan.....	Nassau Community College	Joseph Klein.....	Nassau Community College	Jason Penalzoa.....	Nassau Commu
Johnathan Cruz.....	Lincoln Technical School	Naz Koyuncu.....	Nassau Community College	Alexander Penello.....	Nassau Commu
Angela Cruz-Turcios.....	Nassau Community College	Abdul Kuyateh	University at Albany	Jessica Perciballi	SUNY Geneseo
Andrew Cunningham.....	John Jay College	Kassondra Laine	Nassau Community College	Akil Philip.....	Nassau Commu

Great Grads of 2014!

Military/Employment	Name	College/Military/Employment
University College	Camille Phillips	Binghamton University
University College	Hasnain Pirmohamed.....	Nassau Community College
University College	Angelo Pizzicarola	Nassau Community College
Rochester	Milton Ponce	Manhattan College
University College	Shawn Post	SUNY Farmingdale
	Brenda Raffles	California State University, LA
University College	Sean Regan.....	Nassau Community College
Albany	Manuel Reinoso Jr.....	Nassau Community College
Chicago	Marilyn Reyes-Vigil.....	Military
University College	Darren Reyna	Nassau Community College
erson	Aspenne Rhoden	University of Hartford
	Victoria Rimer	University of Albany
University	Brianna Rizvi	Molloy College
University	Alysia Roberts	University of Delaware
	Xavier Roberts	St. John's University
University College	Corey Robinson	Nassau Community College
	Jamie Rodriguez	Stanford University
College	Dimitry Rohrbach	Nassau Community College
Dale	Kerwin Romero.....	Army National Guard
University	Michael Rosen.....	SUNY New Paltz
University College	Dylan Roth.....	Albright College
University College	Atara Rubin.....	Nassau Community College
	Stephanie Ruscio	Hofstra University
	Stephen Salonga	SUNY New Paltz
University	Michael Sands	Kingsborough Community College
University	Nicholas Savarese.....	Nassau Community College
University College	Julia Scarlata.....	Nassau Community College
University at Albany	Brittany Schimmenti	SUNY Oneonta
Dale	Alexandra Schindler.....	University of Albany
University College	Rebecca Shortis	Nassau Community College
Albany	Adeel Siddiqi.....	Nassau Community College
University College	Darnell Smith	Adelphi University
University College	Thomas Smith	Nassau Community College
University College	Benjamin Socol.....	Suffolk Community College
University College	BrittAnnie Spuhler.....	SUNY New Paltz
Albany	Taryn Squicciarino.....	Anna Maria College
University	James Staines.....	Nassau Community College
University Community College	Donovan Steele.....	Pace University - NYC
University	Aziz Totah.....	Nassau Community College
College in SC	Andrew Treglia	Farmingdale State College
Ruffalo	Samantha Turk	Nassau Community College
University College	Sophia Uhl	SUNY New Paltz
	James Valerio	Farmingdale State College
	Jessy Vaquiz.....	Employment
State of Technology	Kayli Vazquez.....	Nassau Community College
Albany	Jessica Venditto	Nassau Community College
Albany	Micah Washington.....	Nassau Community College
University	Destiny Wickham	L.I.U. Brooklyn
University	Lionel Williams	Pace University
University College	James Wood.....	Nassau Community College
University College	Jimmy Zheng	University of Binghamton

Our Top Academic All-Stars

In the coveted first and second academic rankings in the Class of 2014 are two intelligent and talented young women who have West Hempstead cheering! They have excelled not only in class, but in extracurricular and service activities as well. Their ambitious post-high school plans will have them using their impressive gifts to the fullest.

Jamie Rodriguez Valedictorian



Jamie Rodriguez earned the honor of being the West Hempstead High School Class of 2014 valedictorian by successfully taking on an academic program filled with advanced courses and independent science research. She finished her four years with a grade point average of 104.775! Jamie's work was recognized with several awards for her outstanding presentations at the Long Island Science Congress, the Molloy College Science Fair, and the NSF High School Mathematics and Science Symposium at Dowling College. Our valedictorian is an athlete as well, being a vital member of the varsity soccer, basketball and softball teams.

But her leadership qualities extend to other activities too. Jamie served as co-president of both Student Council and the World Language Club, and treasurer of Key Club, at the same time working with many other clubs in the school. During her senior year, Jamie also led the National Honor Society as its president.

Using her innate patience and compassion, Jamie worked with other students as a peer mentor and helped after school as a tutor. It's not surprising that she served as a student liaison providing input to the District's Character Education Committee. Jamie will attend Stanford University in the fall to study physics with a concentration in astrophysics.

Morgan Cinnamo Salutatorian



Morgan Cinnamo is a maximum-effort student whose impressive 103.615 grade point average earned her the title of West Hempstead High School Class of 2014 salutatorian. Morgan has made it her practice to excel in academics, and also to devote herself to extracurricular activities and community service.

Throughout her high school career, Morgan's intellectual prowess was recognized with a variety of awards and honors across multiple subjects. The salutatorian was an active member of Students against Destructive Decisions, Key Club, Student Council, Mathletes, Model Congress and the National Honor Society.

In addition to her commitments at the high school, Morgan volunteered during the summer, helping out a community-in-need a few states away. After Superstorm Sandy, she was very involved with food and clothing drives to ease the losses of families in Island Park and West Hempstead. She truly thrives on assisting other people. Morgan plans to study neuroscience at the State University of New York at Binghamton in the fall.

WH Community Supports Grads' Goals

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nassau County
Jamie Rodriguez

Town of Hempstead
Morgan Cinnamo

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition
Amanda Dias

Nassau County Legislature Student Citizenship Award
Jessica Perciballi

NYS Comptroller's Achievement Award
Brittany Schimmenti

New York State Senator Dean Skelos Youth Leadership Award
Brian Lee

New York Assemblyman Brian Curran Leadership Award
Yeritssy Garcia

Nassau County Comptroller's Achievement Award
Rachel Dickter

West Hempstead Football Parents Club Scholarships in Memory of Kevin Colbert
Lionel Williams

West Hempstead Cheerleading Scholarship
Colleen Corcoran

Character, Courage and Commitment Triple C Awards
Kassondra Laine, Karla Lara

West Hempstead Community Scholarship Awards
Christopher Gabayan, Yuyan Huang, Jamie Rodriguez

West Hempstead Community Support Association Service Awards
Megan Donegan, Christian Jean-Louis, Jessica Perciballi

New York State Academic Excellence Awards
Siddeeq Bacchus, Jacob Berkowitz, Morgan Cinnamo, Benjamin Fernandez, Daniel Finegold, Christopher Gabayan, Jamie Rodriguez

Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union Making a Difference Scholarship
Benjamin Fernandez

Service Scholarship in Memory of Dusty Orlando
Dylan Roth

Anna Gallagher Memorial Scholarships
Blessy Abraham, Christopher Gabayan

West Hempstead Chamber of Commerce Award
Alexandra Schindler

Eli Krodman Memorial Scholarships
Siddeeq Bacchus, Abdul Kuyateh

Island Park Faculty Association President's Scholarships
Regina Gonzalez, Aidan Grace, Kara Lynch

SEPTA AWARDS Vocational Award
Michael Mongelluzzo

Awards of Distinction
Samuel Gallo, Brandon May, Dimitry Rohrbach

West Hempstead Rotary Club Student of the Year
Kristi Elefante

Ira Walter Memorial Scholarship
Cameron Malloy

The Janice Ricci Memorial Scholarship
Jessica Gutierrez

Joshua L. Brandon Memorial Award
Darren Davy

James and Ethel Barry Memorial Scholarship
Jessica Venditto

Cory Jill Roven Scholarship
Jessica Venditto

West Hempstead Lions Club Community Scholarships
Aidan Grace, Christian Jean-Louis

President's Volunteer Service Awards
Kristi Elefante, Christopher Gabayan

Utility Workers Union of America Scholarship
Benjamin Fernandez

Good Deed Award
Kristi Elefante

Island Park PTA Awards
Regina Gonzalez, Aidan Grace

Millennium Honda Outreach Scholarships
Yoldalyn Canela, Katherine Galvez, Abdul Kuyateh, Cristina Lirano Cepin, Lee-Mary Nyoku



American Physical Society Minority Scholarship
Jamie Rodriguez

AMR Travel Club Scholarship
Jamie Rodriguez

NYPD Reserve Association Scholarship
Jamie Rodriguez

NYPD Hispanic Association Scholarship
Jamie Rodriguez

WEST HEMPSTEAD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

WHEA President's Award
Benjamin Fernandez

WHEA Academic Awards
Siddeeq Bacchus, Morgan Cinnamo, Jamie Rodriguez

WHEA Service Awards
Amanda Dias, Dylan Roth

WHEA Special Achievement Award
Jessica Venditto

Danette LoForte Fox Memorial Awards
Christian Jean-Louis, Ashley Magaraci, Jessica Venditto

Natasha Vaduthala Memorial Scholarship
Siddeeq Bacchus

Elaine Gold Memorial Scholarship Awards
Morgan Cinnamo, Sophia Uhl

Stephanie Hulse Memorial Scholarship Award
Samantha Tur

WEST HEMPSTEAD ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

President's Scholarship
Blessy Abraham

Class of 2014 Attendance Awards
Brandon May, Dimitry Rohrbach

Science and Tech Standouts Win Competitions

Students Earn High Awards at Science Congress

The skilled science research students from West Hempstead High School brought back awards from this year's Long Island Science Congress at Saint Joseph's College. Students presented their projects to judges, describing their research, procedures, experimental findings and conclusions. Project proposals, scientific abstracts of their research, and attractive display boards illustrating the scientific method were also required.

West Hempstead's Matthew Kallicharran earned one of the event's highest awards, and attended an end-of-year ceremony honoring the top winners of the fair! Matthew's project was entitled "Genetically Engineered Regeneration in Non-regenerating Organisms." Jamie Rodriguez was recognized with a meritorious award, and Oliver Benjoseph, Daniel Brioso, Morgan Cinnamo, Daniel Finegold, Yeritssy Garcia, Perry Piatos, Alexandra Schindler and Kelly Valerio received Honorable Mention for their individual projects.

The Long Island Science Congress is a competition of student science projects sponsored by the Long Island Sections of the Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS). Over 300 students from more than 40 schools participated.



West Hempstead Middle School students excelled as they presented their science research at the LI Science Congress.

Middle School Scientists Show Promise, Win Awards

Students from West Hempstead Middle School successfully competed in the Long Island Science Congress at their level, also held at Saint Joseph's College. Students presented their research to a panel of judges and expounded knowledgeably on their goals, procedures and findings.

WH middle schoolers Neven Vaduthala, Jeffrey Schreck, and Thomas Cardello were presented with higher awards at a special ceremony in honor of the top winners of the fair! Gabriel Valle received an achievement award, Varun Dhir, Briana Bhola, and Somala Saba received Meritorious awards and LyLybell Teran, Kimberly Victor and Ed Doran each received Honorable Mention Awards. Over 250 students from more than 40 schools participated in the event.



High award winner Matthew Kallicharran, with Daniel Brioso, Morgan Cinnamo, Kelly Valerio, were all recognized for their work at the Long Island Science Congress.

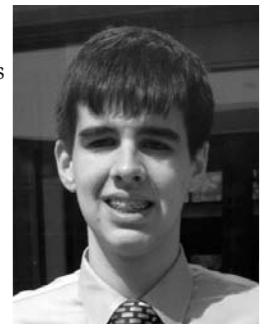


From left, Oliver Benjoseph, Perry Piatos, Alexandra Schindler and Yeritssy Garcia were among those who came home with awards from the LISC.

WHHS Student in Science Fair Top Ten

Liam Brew, one of West Hempstead's outstanding student scientists, was selected as a finalist at the Molloy College Science Fair, taking ninth place and a cash award in the competition and being honored at the closing ceremony.

More than 300 ninth and tenth grade students from Nassau County's public and private schools were given the opportunity to present their science research projects to judges. Their experimental designs and presentations were judged on scientific criteria. Liam's project was entitled, "Efficiency of Steam Engines and Model Locomotives."



Liam Brew

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen Brohm, *President*
Vincent Trocchia, *Vice President*
Jennifer Kurko, *Trustee*
Pamela Lotito, *Trustee*
James F. Mariano, *Trustee*
Carole Rilling, *Trustee*
Rudolf Schindler, *Trustee*

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

John J. Hogan
Superintendent of Schools
Richard Cunningham
*Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction*
John J. O'Keefe
*Assistant Superintendent for
Business and Operations*
Photos by Steve Orlando

West Hempstead District Highlights

WH Robotics Teams Make Playoffs

The West Hempstead High School robotics teams showed their talent during the Vex Robotics state championship competition: both teams made it to the playoff rounds and finished in second and eighth places!



During the exciting final round, West Hempstead's second place team came within one heartbreaking point of advancing to the national finals in Anaheim, California. The teams had spent countless hours since September building and programming their robots and practicing for the games -- applying engineering principles, science, and computer programming to create and build the custom robots.

Members of the WH second place Robotics team included Siddeeq Bacchus, Damian Kim, Kannan Rajendran, Eric Romano, and Daniel Schreck. Yuvaraj Dhir, Riya Kaushal, Maheen Khan, and Christian Mauge comprised the eighth place team. The highly competitive 10-hour tournament at Adelphi University had teams competing in matches that consisted of a 15-second autonomous period, followed by 105 seconds of driver-controlled play.



WHHS chemistry teacher Karen Perri, and AP students

High School Chemists Have the Right Mix

Six WHHS Advanced Placement chemistry students -- Daniel Brioso, Amanda Lombardo, Alex Umanzor, Elizabeth Egey, Maia Jones and Cristian Valle -- participated in the 2014 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad at Adelphi University. The competition was sponsored by the American Chemical Society and included contestants from 70 high schools.

The Olympiad singles out for participation and recognizes outstanding chemistry students and the achievement of their teachers.

Library Bond Re-fi = Taxpayer Savings

After working for close to a year to refinance the West Hempstead Library bond debt managed by the school District, the confluence of financial events for an optimal transaction could not have been better last May.

Then Deputy Superintendent Richard Cunningham reported that one advisor told him, "The District hit a trifecta by going out on a day when Fed rates are at an historic low, there are no other offerings out in the New York metro area on the eve of the Memorial Day weekend, and investors anticipate positive news from the afternoon Treasury Report."

Partly as a result of the timing of the Library bond sale, the

taxpayers of West Hempstead will save \$688,451.56 in property taxes over the next twenty years.

"This is great news!" Cunningham said, and is partially due to points the District gained in its Moody's rating about the same time (see page 2).

The Moody's Investors Service upgrade and the evidence they cited of conservative budgeting and financial planning for the future attracted a competitive group of bidders -- driving down pricing in the Library refinancing. The Library is responsible for paying the District rent equal to the annual debt service, now reduced.

If you suspect that your child has an educational disability, call the Director of Pupil Personnel Services at 516-390-3242.

To Learn More Visit Our Website www.whufsd.com for the Latest District News!