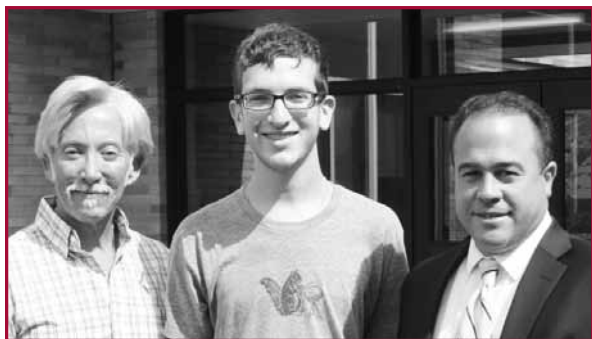


STEPS to Learning

EAST MEADOW SCHOOL DISTRICT

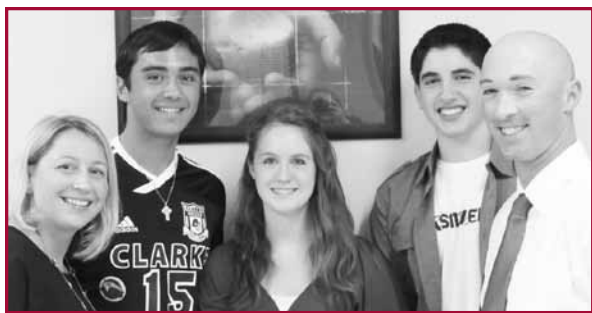
FALL 2012



East Meadow High School National Merit Semifinalist Harrison Zucker is photographed with, left, guidance counselor Victor DeLiso and, right, Principal Richard Howard.



W.T. Clarke High School National Merit Semifinalist Daniel Wang is photographed with Principal Timothy Voels.



W.T. Clarke High School guidance counselor Kara McMahon, National Merit Commended Students Alexander Evangelatos, Anna Cronin and Alexander Cavanaugh and guidance counselor William Palmer.



East Meadow High School guidance counselor Mona Allen, Commended Student Neil Khosla, guidance counselor Diane Hasimoto, Commended Student Akash Shetye, Principal Richard Howard, guidance counselor Joanna Silberman, Commended Students Harish Jeyasri and Harrison Tighe, guidance counselor Victor DeLiso and Commended Student Anson Wang.

High School Scholars Earn National Recognition

East Meadow High School senior Harrison Zucker and W.T. Clarke High School senior Daniel Wang have been named two of 16,000 semifinalists in the 58th National Merit Scholarship Program. They will compete next spring for a National Merit Scholarship.

The road to becoming a National Merit semifinalist, and then finalist, is highly competitive. More than 1.5 million high school juniors in approximately 22,000 high schools nationwide entered the 2013 National Scholarship Program by taking the 2011 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents one percent of U.S. high school seniors and includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

In order to become finalists, Harrison and Daniel must maintain their academic records throughout the school year, receive

recommendations from their high school principals and achieve SAT scores which are commensurate with their earlier PSAT performances. As semifinalists, they must also each submit an application and self-descriptive essay about their performance and leadership in school and community service activities.

In addition, the district is proud to announce that East Meadow High School seniors Harish Jeyasri, Akash Shetye, Harrison Tighe, Neil Khosla and Anson Wang, and W.T. Clarke High School seniors Alexander Cavanaugh, Anna Cronin and Alexander Evangelatos have been named Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. Being named a Commended Student recognizes that these seniors are among the top five percent of the students who entered the competition by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

DISTRICT MUSIC PROGRAM Receives Prestigious Citation

The East Meadow School District has been selected as a recipient of the New York State School Music Association's 2012 Presidential Citation Award. East Meadow is the only school district statewide to have received this distinguished honor twice and is one of only 18 school districts statewide to have received this prestigious honor in its 28-year history.

The NYSSMA Presidential Citation Award is bestowed on state school districts that are perceived as models for music education programs. The purpose of the award is to recognize school districts with outstanding districtwide music programs that stress high quality and which have support from the administration, parents and the community.

East Meadow Director of Music and Art Abby Behr remarked that the district is extremely grateful for this recognition. "An outstanding districtwide music program takes great teachers, excellent ensembles and support from the Board of Education, administration and the community," she explained.

**East Meadow Union Free
School District**

East Meadow, NY 11554

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A Message from Louis R. DeAngelo

Superintendent of Schools



Dear Community Residents,

The 2012-2013 school year is in full swing and our students and staff members have settled nicely into their daily instructional routines. With our school year well underway, I am proud to report that our district's tradition of student achievement continues, as highlighted throughout this newsletter.

With this new school year also came changes in three significant areas. Our schools are currently implementing the new Common Core State Standards into our already rigorous curriculum, designed to provide our students with instruction to render them 21st Century college and career ready.

Additionally, while certainly the East Meadow School District has always had an Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) program of staff evaluations in place, recent legislation prescribes that very specific components be incorporated into teachers' and principals' evaluations, including student achievement data.

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), which became effective

July 1, 2012, requires that all school districts in New York State have programs and procedures in place to encourage student civility, citizenship, character education, tolerance and the promotion of respect and dignity for all students. While our East Meadow schools have a strong tradition of providing programs for our students which promote tolerance and dignity for all, moving forward our schools will be doing still more to support this initiative. Pages three and four of this newsletter highlight some specifics of the programs in effect in our schools.

I continue to encourage and welcome the involvement of community members in our district, for this involvement and support is vital to the success of our East Meadow School District. Please accept my wishes for a wonderful autumn season; I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events involving our children and schools!

Sincerely,

Louis R. DeAngelo
Superintendent of Schools

East Meadow PTA Council

The East Meadow PTA Council (EMPTA), part of the largest child advocacy organization in the country, is comprised of the individual school units within the East Meadow School District. In November, members of the EMPTA Council will attend the NYS PTA Convention in Saratoga Springs. While there, members will vote on two important resolutions, both of which deal with the health and safety of children. The first resolution addresses the issue of improving regulation of air quality in indoor ice skating rinks, while the second vote is on reducing and eventually banning plastics which contain PVCs in schools.

By joining a school's PTA, membership dues help the EMPTA Council continue their important advocacy work. Thank you for your continued support through your membership.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Concerning Reassessments and Taxes

In May 2012, voters in the East Meadow School District approved a school tax levy increase of 2 percent for the 2012-2013 school year. The Board of Education and administration are aware that many residents have recently received their tax bills, and that some reflect a school tax increase higher than this.

Be assured that the school tax levy increase remains at 2 percent; this means that the district will receive 2 percent more in total tax revenue over last year. The school district will not receive more tax revenue than the official levy approved by the voters.

After voters approved the 2 percent tax levy increase in May, the school district submitted this information to Nassau County. A homeowner's total school property tax is NOT determined only by the district's tax levy; a number of other factors contribute to the total school property tax that are out of the district's control.

These factors include a change in your home assessment, the change in total assessed value for all properties within the East Meadow School District and the change in the adjusted base proportion. If all factors remain constant for the year, then a homeowner's school taxes will increase the same percentage as the tax levy increase (in East Meadow's case for this school year this is 2 percent). A shift in any of these factors - which again are out of the district's control - can mean a change in your school taxes.

If your actual tax bill exceeds the approved school tax levy, you may contact the Nassau County Assessor who can be reached at 571-3432. The explanation should provide the specific reasons why you are being taxed beyond the official school levy increase.



Danielle Betz



Kristi Deter

A Warm Welcome

The district and Board of Education welcome four new administrators to the East Meadow community. Danielle Betz joins the district as the new Assistant Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services. Ms. Betz previously served as the Assistant Director of Special Education at Saint Mary's Hospital for Children in Roslyn.

East Meadow also extends its welcome to Kristi Deter, Assistant Principal at East Meadow High School. Ms. Deter joins the district from the Port Chester School District, where she was the Assistant Principal of Port Chester High School.

Also new to the East Meadow School District is Janine Farinella, Assistant Principal at Parkway Elementary School, who previously served as Assistant Principal at W. S. Mount Elementary School in the Three Village School District. Finally, Barnum Woods Elementary School welcomes Amelia Olivera as its new Assistant Principal. Ms. Olivera joins the district from New York City where she previously served as Assistant Principal at M.S. 22.



Janine Farinella



Amelia Olivera

Steps to Learning (USPS521-400)

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East Meadow Union Free School District

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THE COMPLIMENT CORNER



Principal Gregory Bottari assists two students in announcing those who were recognized through Compliment Corner.

Following the Golden Rule is the order of the day at Barnum Woods Elementary School.

Each day, fourth- and fifth-grade safety patrol students report to the administration the individuals and groups of students who show respect, compassion, courtesy and good manners. The students who display exemplary behavior are recognized during a segment of the school's morning announcements called the Compliment Corner.

Certificates are given to individuals who have been recognized. The goal of the program is to encourage students to follow the Golden Rule in order to eliminate bullying and disrespectful behavior in the school.

Promoting Healthy Social-^③ Emotional Development

Meadowbrook Elementary School has implemented the Second Step Program, a curriculum which teaches students skills central to social and emotional development including empathy, problem solving and anger/emotion management. Students engage in role play, songs, group discussion and other activities based on a picture. The guiding theory behind the Second Step exercises is to teach students to identify emotions, to recognize the causes of emotions, to respond thoughtfully rather than impulsively and to manage intense feelings.



Meadowbrook students participate in a Second Step program at the beginning of the school year.

FOSTERING FRIENDSHIPS

Bowling Green's Goodwill Ambassadors, chosen by teachers for their compassion and kindness towards others, have been working diligently to assist students in fostering friendships. During recess, the ambassadors reach out to their peers and utilize skills to kindle on-campus friendships and social contacts after school. The positive feelings engendered by these contacts help to create an overall atmosphere of friendliness within the school. The fourth-grade ambassadors also assist with kindergarten and first-grade students during lunchtime.



Goodwill Ambassadors provide a helping hand to younger students during lunch.

In addition, select fifth-grade ambassadors work with REACH (Recognizing and Encouraging Accomplishments in Children) program classroom staff in the Bridges to Friendship program, through which students learn conversation and play skills.

The Tree of *Kindness*

At Parkway Elementary School, students are being awarded for their acts of kindness and respect toward their teachers and peers. This school has formed a Tree of Kindness in the school's cafeteria. Any student "caught" doing something positive is rewarded with a leaf, which they are then invited to hang on the tree. The beautifully painted tree is adorned with seasonal decorations, but the goal remains the same: at the end of the year, the tree's branches will be densely covered with leaves that resulted from kind acts toward one another.



Parkway students prepare to hang their leaves on the Tree of Kindness as a reward for displaying positive behavior.

Be the One

At McVey Elementary School, the Human Dignity Committee, comprised of administrators, teachers and parents, has been working with students to foster friendships and kindness toward others. Each class read author Kathryn Otoshi's "One," an award-winning book which addresses the issue of bullying in a creative and unique manner, to help facilitate discussion. The committee also created a bulletin board entitled "Be the One," decorated with colorful handprints to represent diversity at McVey.



McVey students, along with school librarian Ellen O'Neill (left) and Assistant Principal Harriet Alfano (right) display the school's "Be the One" bulletin board.



Hitting the Right Note

The following students have been selected to perform in this year's All-State Performing Ensembles at the NYSSMA Winter Conference held in Rochester, N.Y. from November 29-December 2, 2012. This competition demands the highest level of performance from each participant. Thousands of student-musicians from across New York State auditioned for this honor during NYSSMA's spring evaluation festivals. The district would like to congratulate the following students:

EAST MEADOW HIGH SCHOOL

Katelyn Ann Bent-Koerick	Soprano II	Mixed Chorus
Dharsan Chandrakumar	Viola	Symphony Orchestra
Julian Paykert	Trombone	Instrumental Jazz
Julian Paykert	Trombone	Symphony Orchestra
Louis Pollenz	Trumpet	Symphonic Band
Precious Sahagun	Soprano II	Women's Chorus
Samantha Schick	Soprano II	Mixed Chorus

W.T. CLARKE HIGH SCHOOL

Alexandra Leonardo	Piccolo	Symphony Orchestra
Patricia Lueken	Trumpet	Symphony Orchestra
Daniel Wang	Violin	Symphony Orchestra

ALTERNATES

Alexandra Calabro	Violin	EMHS
Tharshana Chandrakumar	Violin	EMHS
Justin Herman	Alto Saxophone	EMHS
David LoNigro	Snare Drum	EMHS
Nathan Siegelau	Snare Drum	EMHS
Jason Toledano	Double Bass	EMHS
Jacob Umansky	Jazz Bass	EMHS
Harrison Zucker	Baritone Saxophone	EMHS
Jacob Praga	Baritone Saxophone	WTCHS



STARTING A CHAIN REACTION

Woodland Middle School students pledged to treat each other with kindness after participating in a powerful character education assembly called Rachel's Challenge. During the presentation, speaker Eric Capehart challenged the students to look for the best in others, pursue dreams, choose positive influences, speak with kindness, and tell friends and family members how much they are loved and respected.

The assembly followed with a number of related activities in the classroom and the signing of a banner in the cafeteria.



By signing the Rachel's Challenge banner, Woodland students pledge to start a "chain reaction of kindness to others."

STOMPING OUT BULLYING

W.T. Clarke Middle School students are working to eliminate bullying.

During the month of October, the students participated in a variety of activities, which included the signing of a banner and character education assemblies. The month commenced with the signing of an anti-bullying pledge and a schoolwide stomping of feet during the advisory period to symbolize the riddance of bullying.



W.T. Clarke Middle School students "stomp out bullying" during the month of October.

2012-13 ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE TESTING SCHEDULE

NYS Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)

Monday, October 1 – Friday, February 8

NYSESLAT: Speaking
Wednesday, April 17 – Friday, May 17

Grades 3-8 English Language Arts
Tuesday, April 16 – Thursday, April 18

Grades 3-8 Mathematics
Wednesday, April 24 – Friday, April 26

NYSESLAT: Listening, Reading, Writing

Monday, May 6 – Friday, May 17

Grade 4 Science Performance Test
Wednesday, May 22 – Friday, May 31

Grade 8 Science Performance Test
Wednesday, May 22 – Friday, May 31

Grade 4 Science Written
Monday, June 3

Grade 8 Science Written
Monday, June 3

SECURITY HOTLINE

The East Meadow School District maintains a security patrol that provides surveillance of the district's buildings and grounds. If residents observe any suspicious activity on school property or around school buildings, they can report these activities to security by calling 852-7414 or 852-7415. All calls will be kept confidential.



EAST MEADOW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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