

East Meadow U.F.S.D.

Memo to: Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr., Superintendent of Schools

From: David Casamento, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

COMMUNITY INFORMATION: February 5, 2018

Barnum Woods:

Barnum Woods held its annual “Hoops for Heart” event and its very first “Volleyball for Heart” event. Students practiced their basketball skills, with the younger children practicing their volleying skills. The boys and girls also learned about the hazards of smoking, the nutritional value of eating a well- balanced meal and why exercising every day is beneficial to your personal well-being. Barnum Woods raised \$11,842.00 this year, surpassing last year’s donations by \$4,600.00. Our top fundraiser was Molly Nadler who raised an unbelievable \$1,505.00. Samantha Platkin raised \$575.00, Mathias Osback raised \$565.00 and Gabriel Newman raised \$525.00. Barnum Woods and the American Heart Association are very appreciative of their efforts. Several of the children went above and beyond to collect donations raising over \$100.00 each. The Physical Education staff was very grateful to all the children and families of Barnum Woods for their outstanding efforts for such a worthy cause.

The students at Barnum Woods performed three concerts at Barnum Woods with one final concert on the stage at Woodland Middle School on December 14th. Under Ms. Coleman’s direction, the chorus sang five beautiful songs ranging from *Seize the Day*, from the musical “Newsies,” to holiday classics, such as *Winter Wonderland*. Mr. Schaefer and the Barnum Woods 5th Grade Band put on an exciting performance as well. Students in the band showcased their hard work and their musical talents. Pieces performed included *March of Freedom*, *Northridge Overture*, *The Nutcracker March* and a rousing rendition of *Jingle Bells!* The fifth grade orchestra also contributed a wonderful performance, under the direction of Barnum’s orchestra teacher, Ms. Mander. The orchestra pieces performed were *Entry of the Tumblers*, *The Abandoned Funhouse*, *Good Kings Marching* and *Russian Dance* from “The Nutcracker.”

A number of Barnum’s students were selected to participate in the All-County Division 1 Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Ensembles. Many fifth grade students were nominated for All-County by their school’s music teachers. Once nominated, a selection committee considered students from all over eastern Nassau County. Students were chosen to represent their schools based on their NYSSMA scores from the previous spring. The All-County Division 1 students had at least three rehearsals before performing in a concert at the Tilles Center at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University on January 7, 2018. The jazz band performed on January 14, 2018. Congratulations to the following participants from Barnum Woods:

Band:

Dave Alavanza
Brendan Cronin
Gabriel Newman
Jasmine Taveras

Jazz Band:
Judah Baroukh

Chorus:
Alexander Benfield
Justin Castillo
Kameron Kozlowski
Nichole Manalil
Maritsa Paul
Adam Quiles
Victoria Tokiwa

Orchestra:
Andrew Dungca
Emiliya Seit-Abdulla
Erin Stump

We are extremely proud of our talented musicians at Barnum Woods Elementary School!

On January 25, 2018 Barnum Woods hosted a “*Mindfulness* Summit” for members of the East and West Islip School Districts. The Barnum “*Mindfulness*” team was able to provide our educator friends a comprehensive overview regarding our school’s progressive initiatives with “*Mindfulness*” activities. Our Student Council “Executive Board” members were the stars of the presentation! As we continue on our journey to educate our elementary students and prepare them for the rigors and challenges of middle school, we are confident that our “*Mindfulness*/Growth Mindset” movement has already made a tremendous difference.

Bowling Green:

Mrs. Abshire’s fifth grade students at Bowling Green participated in “Hope for the Holidays.” This year’s theme was “Kindness Makes the World a Better Place.” The students raised almost \$1,800 to purchase gifts for families in the Bowling Green community. The students also organized “Jeans for Joy” to raise money for this cause. On Fridays, from Thanksgiving break until the December break, each staff member was allowed to wear jeans if they donated one dollar. Staff members also donated additional money to help “make a difference.” As another fundraiser, the students planned and organized “Cozy Day” for the entire school, which was held on Wednesday, November 23rd. Staff members and students donated \$1 each to participate in coming to school dressed in cozy clothing.

During the Hope for the Holidays project, the students experienced real life math. They were responsible for keeping a “checkbook.” They learned about deposits and withdrawals, how to budget their money, how to estimate money, and decide how much money they could spend on each family. When the budgets were finalized, the shopping began. With the help of Ms. Gallina, Mrs.

Chardavoyne, Ms. Wiking, Mrs. Schneider, Ms. Gayer, and students from Mrs. Abshire's class, gifts were purchased for forty-eight children. The gifts were sorted and wrapped at school. Holiday cards and tags were created by Ms. Gallina's third grade students and Mrs. Chardavoyne's fourth grade students. The Hope for the Holidays team also put together "School Surprise" baskets filled with arts and crafts to give to families. The gifts were delivered to the homes by Mr. Sacks, our school Social Worker, and Mrs. Koppel, a retired Bowling Green teacher. Once again, Bowling Green students and staff helped make the world a brighter place!

On Monday, November 27th, and Monday, December 4th, Bowling Green's K-Kids members met and created eighty-three ornaments for the C.A.S.A. Christmas Tree. The members attended the C.A.S.A. Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 8th and decorated the tree with the ornaments.

Bowling Green's K-Kids, Meadowbrook's K-Kids, members of the Builder's Club, and members of the Key Club caroled throughout the Salisbury neighborhood on Friday, December 8th, to raise money for the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center (KPTC). The students raised \$875. After caroling, everyone returned to Bowling Green for refreshments.

On Friday, December 15th, fifth grade students at Bowling Green participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in association with Hofstra University. Each fifth grade class sent two class champions to the Spelling Bee. The Spelling Bee, under the direction of Reading teachers Jennie Re and Ellen Kelter, was very competitive as the students competed for the title of "Grade Five Spelling Bee Champion." The Grade Five Spelling Bee Champion was Zachariah Srilapa from Mrs. Triolo's class, who correctly spelled the word "anxiety". The runner-up was Ebad Khan from Mrs. Kane-Pesant's class.

The Viscardi Ambassadors from the Henry Viscardi School visited with Bowling Green's fifth grade students on Wednesday, January 10th, to present Disability Awareness Day. The Viscardi Ambassadors is a club of boys and girls that visit area schools in the hope of breaking down the barriers that exist between the able-bodied world and the physically challenged. The ambassadors showed power point presentations about themselves highlighting their interests, their dreams, information about their disability, family life, and their experiences at Viscardi. After each presentation, the fifth graders spoke with the ambassadors to learn more about their interests.

Family Fun Night was held on Wednesday, January 31st, for the students in the fourth and fifth grades. The students enjoyed playing Bingo and winning a variety of prizes.

On Friday, February 2nd, Bowling Green's faculty, staff, and students wore red for National Wear Red for Heart Health and Wellness Day to help raise awareness about heart disease. Red dress pins were purchased by the staff, and the money raised was donated to the American Heart Association.

Bowling Green's students and K-Kids participated in the "Valentines for Veterans" program sponsored by Nassau County Legislator John Ferretti, Jr. The students constructed valentines that included messages of gratitude to the brave men and women who have served our country.

McVey:

The Spelling Bee buzzed at McVey. During the month of December, students in grades one through five participated in classroom spelling bees. Each class named one child a winner and on January 5th, the twenty-two top finishers in grades four and five participated in the school-wide Championship Spelling Bee. Consistent with the Scripps format, the students took a written vocabulary test and competed orally. The competition was fierce. In the end, fourth grader Michelle Hand was crowned the champion and thus, the McVey representative at the Regional Bee. Fourth grade student, Trevor Nguyen, was named the runner-up.

McVey is spreading the love for Valentine's Day! Throughout the month of February, thanks to the PTA, the children are decorating "Hearts of Gold" and making a difference for children with cancer at the Whip Pediatric Cancer Center at Memorial Sloan Kettering. The hearts adorn the bulletin board on Integrity Boulevard and in the school's main hallway, signifying McVey is committed to kindness.

McVey's PTA has been hard at work organizing numerous fun filled activities for the students and their families to enjoy. On January 3rd, some of the members of the Long Island Nets came to McVey and visited the students. Then on Saturday, January 20th, students had the opportunity to attend a Nets game and watch these players in action at the Nassau Coliseum. On January 13th, many McVey families enjoyed the spectacular *Disney on Ice Frozen*, also at the Nassau Coliseum. Finally, on Friday, January 26th, the PTA sponsored their annual Bingo Night. Students and their families had a chance to rock to the beat and enjoy family time. Go McVey PTA!!!

The singer and songwriter Jared Campbell visited McVey on January 29th. Through the power of music, Mr. Campbell conveyed messages of hope and kindness. He performed such crowd favorites as "*No Bullies Allowed*," and "*I Am Responsible for Me*." The students are still echoing his lyrics.

Meadowbrook:

Staff, students, and parents demonstrated their spirit of giving. Daniella Murphy, School worker, once again coordinated Meadowbrook's annual Holiday Giving Tree for families in need. During the first two weeks in December, Meadowbrook teachers and staff, purchased items on students "wish lists," adding extra joy during the holiday season. Over eighty gifts were distributed to needy families. The Kiwanis Kids exhibited their support for the families by encouraging everyone to wear their pajamas to school and donating a dollar. Students who participated were provided a snowflake, which was displayed on a bulletin board. The K-Kids raised over forty dollars. Staff and students also participated in the "Toys for Tots" program sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas McKeivitt.

The PTA Holiday Cookie Decorating Night was held on December 15th. Students in grades K-5 decorated pre-baked cookies with frosting and treats. While drinking hot chocolate and indulging in their decorated cookies, the students watched Frosty the Snowman. Additionally, Santa Claus arrived to join in the festivities, spreading joy and good cheer to all in attendance.

The Fifth Grade students in Mrs. Kasper and Ms. Stoessel's classes along with the Kindergartners in Ms. Riley and Mrs. d'Auteuil's classes created a "Kindness Rock Garden." Inspired by the Choose

Kind initiative from the book *Wonder*, students painted rocks with inspirational pictures, colors, and words. Sayings such as “Shine Brightly,” and “Be Yourself,” accompanied pictures of rainbows, smiley faces, and suns. These rocks were displayed in front of the school. They were designed to help brighten the day of students, parents, staff and passersby. Feel free to stop by Meadowbrook to enjoy our garden!

The fifth grade students in Mrs. Bouza, Mrs. Kasper, and Ms. Stoessel’s classes attended several exciting field trips. In November, they viewed the movie “*Wonder*.” Additionally, in December they attended a field trip to the Nassau County Museum of Art in Roslyn. Students viewed an exhibit entitled “Fool the Eye.” This exhibition included paintings, sculptures, and photos that included optical illusions. The students enjoyed discovering artistic styles and how one cannot always believe what is seen!

In January, students will be seeing a performance at the Tilles Center. The exciting percussion group Yamato – the Drummers of Japan will be performing. Students are looking forward to being inspired by the modern interpretation of an ancient musical art form. Special thanks to the Meadowbrook PTA Cultural Arts Program for funding this trip!

On Friday, January 9, 2018, Meadowbrook School held its annual spelling bee. Thirty finalists from the 4th and 5th grade classes participated in the spelling bee, which was coordinated by Ms. Valerie Kasper. Former Principal Susan Hyde served as the pronouncer, while Ms. Maria Balsamo and Ms. Deirdre Heiz were the judges. The intense competition lasted over twelve rounds with Tara Visvanathan emerged victorious over runner-ups, Raham Shinwari and Monica Bhatti. The winning word was “pestiferous.” Tara will now represent Meadowbrook in the Regional Spelling Bee at Hofstra University on Sunday, February 4th and Sunday, February 11th, 2018.

On Tuesday, February 12, 2018, the English as a New Language (ENL) students at Meadowbrook will celebrate the Chinese New Year. The ENL students along with the third grade, will guide a dragon dance parade throughout the school. The third grade students at Meadowbrook designed and painted the materials for the dragon with Ms. Ippolito. Our ENL students will participate in learning stations, where they will design musical instruments, decorate dragon puppets, crowns, and streamers for the parade. Dragons will be symbolic to scare adverse luck, all in an effort to encourage a prosperous new year at Meadowbrook School. Students will cheer, *Gong xi fa cai!*

During the month of February, the physical education teachers will be incorporating a Winter Olympics unit in recognition of the games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The objective is to instill in students the significance of the Olympic games, nationalism, teamwork, as well as to provide them an opportunity to practice a variety of "simulated" winter events such as curling, floor hockey, skiing and bobsledding. The 5th grade students will be collaborating to research and identify numerous flags from countries participating in the upcoming games.

Parkway:

Parkway School sponsored the U.S. Fund for UNICEF fundraiser in conjunction with our Halloween parade. The money raised makes a big difference in the lives of children worldwide. We are proud to report that many of our students participated in this worthwhile effort and we raised \$668.54.

Parkway’s Kammerman Fund donated gift certificates to help local families with their holiday preparations. The Kammerman Fund originated in the 1980’s in honor of the late Shirley Kammerman, the fondly remembered cafeteria monitor. The fund raises money through school wide read-a-thons and charitable donations. The Kammerman Fund continually helps Parkway children

have a brighter holiday season. We are happy to report that we were able to help many families this year.

Parkway classrooms participated in a Decorate the Door Contest. Classroom doors were decorated to reflect a Winter theme. The doors were judged by Administration from the Salisbury Center and one winner from each grade, K -2 was chosen. The winners got to watch a movie of their choice. Winners from grades 3 – 5 got to play a game in the gym. Everyone enjoyed participating in our Decorate the Door contest.

“Pennies for Patients” is an important fundraiser that Parkway participates in every year. It helps raise awareness as well as funding for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Each student receives a box that holds spare change. Each week, there is a specific theme that supports this cause.

On Tuesday, Jan. 9th, Parkway students attended an assembly called, Jeff Boyer Productions: Fun with Energy. Through carefully laid out activities, Jeff Boyer showed students that energy is what makes our world work while illustrating the laws and forces which govern the world around us. He brought students on stage for interactive demonstrations that entertained and amazed.

On Jan. 30th, our Kindergarten students attended a live performance of Goodnight, Moon at the Tilles Center for Performing Arts. This trip was part of the Enrichment Through the Arts Program. The children enjoyed seeing their favorite book come to life on the stage.

Back by popular demand, Jared Campbell returned to Parkway on January 31st to present us with his hit character education songs. The show consisted of super fun sing-a-long songs that described what it like to be a superhero at school everyday day. Being a super hero takes three things--respect, playing it safe and showing up to school ready. This assembly was enjoyed by all students.

Parkway continues to participate in Rerun Shoes, which was created to help people all over the world. Through our fundraiser, sponsored by the school’s PMT, gently used and unwanted shoes were donated to Parkway, and given a new life in other parts of the world. Rerun Shoes donates money for each pound of shoes that we collect. All monies raised are donated to Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Clarke Middle School:

Clarke Middle School students took a fifty, multiple choice history test in their social studies classes. The top twenty-three scorers were invited to participate in the fourth annual Clarke Middle School National History Bee, which took place on December 20, 2017 in the Little Theatre. The event was coordinated by Lisa Scully, English and Social Studies chairperson, along with the help of faculty members, Mr. Polley and Ms. Sanalidro. Of the students who attended the competition, four advanced to the next level, which consists of taking an on-line test to qualify for the Regional History Bee. The qualifying students are Claire Baek, Nick Espinosa, James Griesing, and Tristan Patel. Good luck to all!

Clarke students participated in the annual National Geographic Geography Bee. Twenty-five students competed in the event which was held in the Little Theatre. After four rounds of questions, five students were remaining: Timmy Anagnostos, Sebastian Ballesteros, James Griesing, Kyle Perlman, and Matthew Vo. In the end, Matthew Vo, a seventh grader in Mrs. Henry’s social studies

class, won the competition. He will now take an on-line test to see if he qualifies for the Regional State Bee in April.

To start the new year, students at Clarke Middle School all took part in the One Word pledge. One Word is based on a book by Jon Gordon. The premise is simple: Pick one word to guide and inspire you in the year ahead. While New Year's resolutions are often abandoned by February, One Word creates clarity and helps shape your year. During ELA class, all Clarke students brainstormed ideas for their one word. Words ranged from A -Attempt to Z – Zen. Once the students decided their one word, the students decorated colorful slips with their word. The words are displayed in the hallways of Clarke Middle School. ELA classes will also revisit the project and the words throughout the year to monitor their progress. In one word, this simple commitment was a huge SUCCESS.

W.T. Clarke Middle School students participated in an electronic survey during the month of January. Using a 5 point Likert scale, students responded to the statement, "Students have a voice at W.T. Clarke Middle School." Office 365 *Forms* application was utilized, allowing the students to respond easily and for data to be collected quickly. This is part of the school's PMT initiative.

On Friday night, January 19th the W.T. Clarke Middle School Student Government hosted its annual Winter Wonderland Dance. The middle school cafeteria was transformed into a "Winter Wonderland" as approximately 130 students danced the night away with their friends. The students posed for the paparazzi in a winter-themed photo booth and enjoyed snacks to round out the evening. The dance was a huge success.

During the last week of January, Clarke Middle School participated in The Great Kindness Challenge. The week consisted of several days of kindness-related activities, such as "Dream of Kindness Day," where all were encouraged to wear their pajamas to school, and "Crazy for Kindness Day, where all wore crazy hats or hairstyles. The week culminated in wearing a favorite team jersey or t-shirt with a Clarke logo, and bringing in an item for the "Soup-er Bowl Food Drive." We had fun, but we also spread kindness, not only in our own building, but also in our community. Students and faculty were also able to nominate a student who they feel is "The Kindest Kid at Clarke." The winner won a basket of great prizes.

ELA teachers from across the district collaborated and created a curriculum map that outlines the units of study, and the power standards and skills that are to be addressed. The mapping process also includes vertical alignment of standards and skills to ensure a proper transition and appropriate rigor at each grade level.

On Friday, February 2nd, at 6:30 pm in the W.T. Clarke Auditorium, the Jr. Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted the fourth annual Clarke's Got Talent Show. Great music, good fun and giveaways were all a part of this amazing show! Clarke's Got Talent is a school wide search for the young talent of W. T. Clarke Middle School. Over 95 students signed up to audition for the Talent Show and 38 student acts were selected to perform in the show.

Woodland:

Woodland Middle School hosted the National Geographic Geography Bee on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. This competition began at the individual class levels and was narrowed

down to twelve finalists. These finalists had the proud opportunity of representing each of their respective school teams. Students were able to demonstrate their knowledge of not only geography, but global events as well. During the school level competition, students and staff gathered to show tremendous support for the contestants. At the conclusion of the event, Samantha Nadler became the 2017 Woodland Middle School National Geographic Geography Bee winner. Olivia Fong and Robert Stahl were Woodland's second and third place finishers respectively. Congratulations to all our participants!

On December 19, 2017, fourteen middle school students competed in the school-wide Spelling Bee at Woodland Middle School. All contestants put forth great effort. In an exciting finish, eighth grader Stephanie Giles won the competition spelling the word tuberculosis. Sixth grader Sydney Reilly placed second place for a spot as the alternate. Giles will join other students from Long Island at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee, at Hofstra University, in February.

Mrs. Kasin's Business 8 students won First Place in the Stock Market Game, Long Island - Middle School Division. They will be recognized at an awards ceremony, to be held at Adelphi University on May 29, 2018. The winning team includes Antonio Catalano, Matthew Garzon, Samantha Lo, Rebecca Schary and Lindsay Solenski.

The Woodland community brought joy to others in need this holiday season. The Yorker Club donated over \$1800 worth of toys to the Ronald McDonald House. Yorker Club members, under the direction of Ms. De Sousa and Ms. McCormick, conducted a candy sale fundraiser in the fall to raise money. Students then shopped at Toys R Us to purchase the toys. On December 8, 2017, students loaded a truck bound for Ronald McDonald House of Long Island with their purchases. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of Woodland students, staff and clubs, the Holiday Gift Drive for Woodland Families was a tremendous success. Over 150 gift wishes were fulfilled for 14 families in our school community. Woodland staff came together to wrap and deliver the holiday gifts and good tidings to our families.

On Thursday, December 21, Woodland's faculty and staff took part in our 3rd annual "Ugly Seasonal Sweater Day" contest. This year, over 60 of Woodland's faculty participated in the event and raised over \$300 for the Woodland Families Fund. During their lunch periods, students were able to vote for the faculty member who they believed wore the best Ugly Sweater. The ballots were cast and counted, and the top three contestants were announced. After a close competition, the contestants with the highest total of votes were: Ms. McCormick (3rd Place), Ms. Theall (2nd Place), and Ms. O'Connor (1st Place).

On Friday, December 22, something extraordinary happened at Woodland. The Greek gods of Mount Olympus descended upon the school as students were welcomed to Camp Half-Blood. Sixth grade students and staff members brought to life the novel, *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. While the day's events were spearheaded by 6th grade English Language Arts teachers, the day was a collaborative effort that included all disciplines in a friendly competition of creativity, wit, strategy, skill, raw team work, with some very strange characters parading about the building. Preparations began roughly two weeks prior, with groups of students planning and transforming the four cluster English Language Arts classrooms into the cabins of the gods for Team Ares, Team Athena, Team Hades, and Team Poseidon, complete with illustrative flags. Other students represented their teams as garden gnomes frozen by Medusa herself, while others contributed and served snacks inspired by the novel at the Garden Gnome Emporium. Student groups designed, and constructed models of mythology-themed amusement park rides under the supervision of their science teachers. Still others participated in game

shows entitled, “It’s All Greek to Me,” “Olympic Family Feud,” or “I Should Have Vaporized My Math Teacher.” Each of the four teams partook in a fast-paced, competitive game of “Capture the Flag,” and also sponsored a Quest Team for a scavenger hunt which culminated in the discovery of Zeus’s infamous lightning bolt. Each of the events was either scored or judged by members of the Council of Cloven Elders. The Festival Games concluded with an awards ceremony in which all teams were honored for exceptional sportsmanship and effort. While the competition was very tight, Team Hades secured the trophy awarded for the most accumulated points.

Woodland Middle School celebrated a “Decades” themed Spirit Week from January 8 through January 12. Each day celebrated a different decade with school members demonstrating their enthusiasm by dressing up accordingly, from poodle skirts to rock & roll t-shirts to “flower power” outfits. On Friday, students engaged in Mix It Up Day. During lunch periods, sixth and seventh graders were assigned to different tables in the cafeteria. This encouraged interacting with others by participating in various games and raffles while decade-specific music played in the background. Throughout the day, eighth graders continued their year-long team building program. Students began with an activity called “speed chatting” which allowed them to get to know their classmates. Another favorite game was a rock-paper-scissors competition. Students also engaged in a mine field team building exercise, which required them to help teammates venture across a “mine field.” Finally, students worked on a STEAM exercise which tasked them with designing and building a structure and students ended their day with reflections on their team building experiences.

In order to assist Woodland’s eighth graders transition into high school this fall, on January 19 all eighth-grade students attended an assembly facilitated by their guidance counselors. Ms. Dumelle and Mr. LaRocca provided an overview of the scheduling process, informed them how to access the course offering book on the school district website and fielded general questions from the students. Over the next few months, counselors will be meeting with students to assist them with their individual plans.

On Friday evening, January 26, Woodland’s Winter Dance was re-defined by its hosts, The National Junior Honor Society. Members chose the theme “A Night in Hollywood” and decorated accordingly. Students strolled the red carpet while being greeted by swarming paparazzi flanking the hallways. They enjoyed both dancing in the gym, snacking and posing for photos in the cafeteria or in front of a choice of themed backdrops. Awards were given for Best Dressed, Best Celebrity-Look-a-Like, and Best Group. A great time was had by all! The fall semester students in grade 7 Home and Career Skills classes created hand-sewn and decorated drawstring bags which were filled with children's books and delivered to Nassau University Medical Center. These beautiful bags of books will be distributed to the children who are patients at the hospital as well as young children at their clinic. A personal note of encouragement and support was written by the students and included in each bag. This service-learning project for our students is an authentic and meaningful learning experience where our children apply their knowledge and skills to meet the genuine needs of others in their community. Along with learning to sew, this experience encourages personal growth and helps to foster empathy and civic responsibility in our students.

Home and Career Skills and Computer class students made Valentine's Day cards for the veterans at the Northport VA hospital. These beautiful Valentines will be joined with those from other Long Island students and placed on the veterans' meal trays and to decorate the hallway walls during the week of Valentine's Day. It is a great way for students to show their heartfelt

appreciation for the veteran's service and to wish them well.

Clarke High School:

W. T. Clarke High School is proud to recognize the **Students of the Month for December:** Art – Malorie Green, Business – Josh Dawson, English – Abishek Ravindran, Math – Anusha Siddiqui, Music – Justen Lopez, Physical Education/Health – Chris Stokum, Science – Andrea Fasce, Social Studies – Nick Caputo, Technology – Matthew Rubenstein, World Languages – Kailyn Anest.

On Tuesday, January 23, students and parents attended the 8th into 9th Grade Orientation. Members of our high school pupil personnel staff and guidance counselors provided an overview of the high school program and information to assist and guide students and parents in their transition to high school.

The Marching Band and students in the Art Department traveled to Disney World in Orlando, Florida between January 26 and January 29. The students in the band had the opportunity to attend workshops with professional musicians and perform in the Magic Kingdom, while the students in art worked with Disney artists and learned about the world of animation.

On Friday, January 26, students in our REACH program and Clarke Connections Club enjoyed the Winter Wonderland Dance, held in our cafeteria. The dance also included student guests from neighboring districts.

On Tuesday, January 30, the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and Dinner was held at the Chateau Briand. Students, parents and staff joined together with our Board of Education, Superintendent and Central Administration to honor over 60 new members.

The Guidance Department recently began to meet with students to schedule courses for the school year 2018-2019. The guidance counselors first visited English classes to discuss with students the scheduling process and to address questions related to credit requirements and elective courses. Subsequently, they began meeting with 9th grade groups, during the midterm week, to enter course requests. The counselors will be meeting with all students during the months of February and March.

Annually, students enrolled in Spanish are encouraged to enter the Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest. Aashini Shah was recently named the winner in the 2017-2018 contest, sponsored by Altice USA (formerly Cablevision). As part of her recognition, Aashini was presented with an iPad from Altice USA.

The W. T. Clarke Art Honor Society is once again creating a coloring book that will be distributed to pediatric patients and their siblings at Nassau University Medical Center. The goal is to provide a small box of crayons with each book, so each child will have something to distract them while they are in the hospital.

East Meadow High School:

Leilani Blakeman, a sophomore at East Meadow High School, has been chosen as this year's HOBY Ambassador. Leilani will participate with teens from around the country at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership conference this spring. This conference brings tomorrow's leaders together with today's recognized leaders in business, government, education and other professions to discuss present and future issues. Leilani was selected through a process that included faculty and administrators, who were unanimously impressed with her poise, confidence, insight and genuine concern for others. Ms. Blakeman is a very conscientious student who is involved in various extracurricular activities which she enjoys and values. In school, she participates in Theatre, Model Congress, Key Club, World Hunger Action Club, English Honor Society, Social Studies Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society and she is Chorus Treasurer.

Leilani's passion, however, is in performance. In addition to our music and theatre programs, she takes private dance lessons and is active in regional and community theatre. Her proudest moment was making it to the final callback for Young Cosette in *Les Miserables* on Broadway! We have no doubt that there will be many callbacks – and roles – for this talented, creative young woman, as she pursues a career in The Arts.

The Peer Leaders received training on Drug & Alcohol prevention. One of their training sessions was led by Detective Pam Stark of the Nassau County Police Department. Detective Stark presented on the Heroin and Opiate epidemic on Long Island. In January, the Peer Leaders participated in activities and had discussions with all freshman social studies classes on substance abuse prevention.

On January 8th, The National Honor Society conducted its Induction Ceremony at the Milleridge Inn Cottage. This year we inducted 131 students into the Honor Society. The Honor Society advisors are Kim Themistocleous and Evelyn Sideri.

The Junior Banquet was held on Thursday Feb 1st, at the Carlton on Eisenhower Park. The event was planned by class representatives Dean Lanza, Debra Jaffe, Leila Sayan, Jeffery Liu along with advisors Lisa Guerriero and Rachel Barry. It was a memorable and enjoyable evening for all.

The Nassau County Interscholastic Mathematics League (NCIML) gives students the opportunity to practice rigorous mathematics questions during competitions against other schools in the area. Scores are compared and schools are ranked based on their scores. The Math Team is a way for students to develop math and critical thinking skills, work as a team, and have fun while exploring challenging math problems! The top 5 students from each grade went on a field trip to SUNY Old Westbury, on Feb 2nd, for the Nassau Mathematics Tournament where they competed in person against other schools as a team.

On Feb 2nd, EMHS Got Talent is back for its 4th year. There were a dozen impressive acts including dance solos, dance groups, vocal solos, vocal groups, vocal duets and even rock performances. It was a fun event for all who attended.

Districtwide:

Music:

Congratulations to the 155 East Meadow School District students who were selected to perform in the Nassau Music Educators Association All-County Music Festival to be held in January 2018. All concerts took place at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts.

The EMHS and WTCHS Tri-M Music Honor Societies hosted the Division 4 All-county rehearsals at East Meadow High School on January 9, 10 and 11. The students helped prepare the rehearsal spaces and provide dinner for over 650 All-County students from around Nassau County, as well as the music faculty from representative school districts.

In January and February, students from the art and music departments from WTCHS and EMHS traveled to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. The WTCHS Marching Band performed in a parade on Main Street in the Magic Kingdom and attended a Disney Performing Arts Workshop at EPCOT Center. The art departments from both WTCHS and EMHS attended workshops in conjunction with Disney's International Festival of the Arts at EPCOT. Students from the EMHS Orchestra performed for a public audience at Disney Springs and also attended a Disney Performing Arts workshop at EPCOT. Approximately 260 students from both schools attended these trips.

Kindergarten students from around the district attended two shows at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post as a part of the Enrichment through the Arts program and its participation in the Tilles Center *School Partnership Program*. On January 30 students attended a performance of *The Runaway Bunny* and *Goodnight, Moon*. On February 9th students attended a performance of *Go, Dog, Go!* Students have been reading the books that these shows are based on in preparation for these performances.

On February 9th 28 students from Woodland MS attended an exhibit at the Hecksher Museum of Art as a part of the district's FC2 program. Students viewed an exhibition of art from the 1960's and 70's and made connections between art and math by examining shaped canvases of optical illusions.

On February 26th the EMHS Jazz Ensemble will attend a performance by the Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra at NYC's historic Village Vanguard. Students will hear some of the best jazz musicians in NYC perform in one of the most well-known venues in the history of jazz.

The East Meadow Music Department will be holding the annual District Music Festival from March 12-14, 2018. The Advanced Orchestras from all 5 elementary schools will combine to create one All-District Elementary Orchestra. These elementary students will perform under the direction of Ms. Joan Chiarello. The District Middle School and High School Chamber Orchestras will perform under the baton of Dr. Susan Davis from Queens College. The concert will also feature a performance by our newest ensemble, the All-District Acapella group under the direction of Jonathan Ross. The District Music Festival Concert will be held at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Art:

66 students district-wide were selected to have their artwork represented in this year's All-County Art Exhibition, which will take place in Roosevelt Hall at Farmingdale State College on Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 12 noon until 4:00 pm.

Students from throughout the district in Grades 1-12 had their artwork on display in the Patron's Lounge at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts. The exhibit opened on January 11th and remained open through February 4th, 2018. A reception to honor the student artists was held on January 17th from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The artwork on display featured a variety of media including collage, colored pencil, digital photography, and pastel. Congratulations to all of our talented young artists!

On Wednesday, January 10th, The National Art Honor Society put the finishing touches on the WTCHS Coloring book that will be donated along with a supply of crayons to the children's ward of the Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow. Their meeting was attended by local media and featured on News 12 the following day.

Throughout January, over 200 students from throughout the district attended the *New York, New York* exhibit at the Nassau County Museum of Art. By attending this exhibit, students learned about the many ways that New York City has been represented in art over the last century.

In early February, 164 students from various schools attended the *Fool the Eye* exhibit at the Nassau County Museum of Art. This exhibition includes artwork that incorporates optical illusions. Featured in this exhibition are 20th- and 21st-century artists whose work has explored illusion, including Salvador Dali, Janet Fish, Audrey Flack, Jasper Johns and others.

On February 2nd, 92 EMHS students from Ms. Siegel's English classes attended a show titled *Jabber*, at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post, as a part of the district FC2 program. This show "engages students in meaningful discussions on the judgments and assumptions we make based on each other's perceived differences. This story challenges stereotypes and encourages real conversation around race, religion and identity."

On Saturday, February 3rd the East Meadow School District Winterguard attended a competition at Hillsborough High School in New Jersey where they took 4th place. Their show this year is titled "Go for the Gold" and featured themes from the Olympic Games.

Athletics:

On January 11, 2018, Woodland student-athletes from the 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball teams and the 8th grade boys' basketball team, alongside their coaches, Patricia Burnside, Alexa Borresen and Mike Magee raised \$325.00 for the St Jude Children's Research Hospital through an afterschool volleyball tournament.

The Woodland and Clarke Middle School Physical Education Department will be raising funds throughout the month of February for the American Heart Association. The students will be playing basketball, jumping rope and having fun all while exercising their hearts and raising awareness of heart disease. Donations will be accepted through March 1, 2018.

The East Meadow girls track team took 2nd place at their conference championship meet at St. Anthony's on January 17th. Junior Katherine Marsh won the 1500 and 3000M races. Sarah Son won the 1500M race walk and Rachel Rose was tops in the 600M. The 4x800M team of Cosette Wrynn, Scarlett Espinosa, Isabel Marsh, and Alexia Moustakas were also victorious and are the #1 timed seed headed into the Nassau County Championships.

At the frosh/soph meet at St. Anthony's on Sunday February 4th, the girls had some excellent performers. Emily Lam and Lindsay Segal placed 3rd and 6th in the frosh 55 hurdles, while 8th grader Leslie Villafuerte was 2nd in the 1500 meters. Freshmen Carly Howell and twins Kelsie and Katelen Valdez each ran personal bests in the 1000 meters.

The East Meadow High School cheerleading program hosted a Section VIII competition on Saturday January 27th. Nineteen varsity and JV teams participated in the event. The East Meadow varsity squad had the highest score in its division while the JV team took 2nd place. The varsity team continues to prepare for the upcoming UCA National Championships in Orlando, Florida on February 10th and 11th, and the Section VIII county championship on February 24th.

The East Meadow High School boys bowling team completed their season with a 9-3 record and a conference championship. Bowlers James Gangi (192 avg.) and Chris Lee (196 avg.) earned All-Conference recognition for their outstanding performances.

The East Meadow High School girls bowling team won their conference championship this season with an 11-1 record, earning the team the #3 seed heading into the County Championships on February 3rd. Senior Alejandra Escobar (154 avg.) earned All-Conference honors. Senior Helen Doddato bowled a 582 series in the last match of the season to achieve All County status and an invitation to participate in the individual County Championship on February 10th.

The East Meadow High School boys winter track team captured their 5th consecutive conference championship at St. Anthony's on January 17th. The Jets had contributions in multiple events. Earning All-Conference honors in the running events were James Wagnac (55M), David Romaldo (55M), Anthony Squiciarino (55 HH), Jeremy Erman (600 and 1000M), John Meah (1000M), and Bryan Villafuerte (1600 and 3200M). Axel Torres (triple jump) and Brandon Love (pole vault, long jump, triple jump) also reached All Conference status in their events. Qualifiers will represent EMHS in the Nassau County Championships on February 6th.

Coach Pete Olenik has led the East Meadow High School girls' varsity basketball team to an 8-1 conference record to this point in the season. Senior Emily Shurina averages 19.2 points per game and gets things going on the offensive end for the Jets. Sophomores Danielle Hippner and Stephanie Sparkowski are tough defensively and lead the team in rebounds. Alyssa Yablansky handles the ball as the point guard, while senior Hannah Arbuse contributes on both ends of the floor. The team completes their regular season on February 9th and is looking forward to the upcoming playoffs.

On February 3rd, the East Meadow High School wrestling team had seven athletes qualify to compete in the Division I County Wrestling Championship at Hofstra University on February 10th. The athletes are: Anthony Gentile, Jack Coffey, Stephen Calderaro, Michael Antuofermo, Shawn Regan, Liam Laskowski, and Matt Mustakis.

On December 23rd The Clarke boys' basketball team had a unique opportunity to play a game at the New Nassau Coliseum. The Clarke Rams beat the Division Dragons 49-40 in a thrilling contest. The Rams are led by point guard Samir Pejcinovic. The boys' basketball season is going well and the team has continued to be competitive in each game.

On February 2nd, the Clarke HS Wrestling team had nine athletes qualify for the Division II County Wrestling Championship at Hofstra University on February 10th. The athletes are: Jordan Soriano, Gabe Cubero, Chris Gregory, Thomas Gregory, Aiden Yurdiga, Mike Forte, Sean Russell, Antonio Ianniello, Karl Bouyer. Three Clarke wrestlers are currently ranked first in the county at their respective weights, Justin Soriano at 106 lbs, Austin Carmen at 152 lbs and Karl Bouyer at 220 lbs.

Clarke HS boys and girls bowling both finished as county runner ups. Willie Bedoya led the Rams with a 208 average and Arianna Frachioni with a 160 average.

On February 3rd, at the Division Boys Swim Meet, two athletes qualified for the State Swim Meet. Justen Lopez qualified for States in the 100 Breast with a time of 59.74 and Min Chun qualified for States in the 500 Freestyle with a time of 4:50.02. The county qualifier meet is Friday, February 9th, with the championship on Saturday at the Eisenhower Aquatic Center.

The Clarke Cheer team has once again qualified for the UCA National Championships in Orlando, Florida on February 10th and 11th. The team will return from Nationals and prepare for the Section VIII county championship on February 24th.

The Clarke HS boys track team finished in 2nd place at the conference championships. Six athletes were awarded All-Conference honors. Javier Lopez (1000m and 1600m), Jonathan Melkun (1000m and 1600m), Alberto Rodriguez (1000m), Jasper Valino (55m), Michael Zanni (600m and the Triple Jump). David Stewart (Shot Put) Brandon McNally and Zachary Yurdiga, are 3rd ranked 4x800 and/or 4x400 teams. Qualifiers will represent Clarke HS at the County B Championships at St. Anthony's HS on Wednesday, February 7th.

The Clarke HS girls track team is having a strong season. Isabella Deleon is All Conference and Conference Champion (600m), and Claudia Perez and Kaylei Fanfan are All Conference (1500m race walk). The top relays are the 4x2 Erin Connolly, Brenda Hernandez, Britney Cardona, Paris Haddo and the 4x4 - Julian Vanegas, Juliana Goyzueta, Karina Romero and Isabella Deleon. These qualifiers will represent Clarke HS in the Nassau County B Championships on Wednesday, February 7th.

On February 1st, Clarke High School students Natalie Long, Emily Carman, Arton Dalipi and Antonio Ianniello and East Meadow High School students Jose Meah, Stephen Calderaro, Taylor Keicher, and Rachel Rose represented the school district at the 15th Annual Student-Athletes as School Leaders Conference at Hofstra University. The student-athletes learned how to become triple-impact competitors, influencing sport on three levels by working to improve oneself, teammates, and the game as a whole.